



The March of the Bots...

It is both funny and disturbing to discover local journalism being replaced by Artificial Intelligence. It is the only explanation for the bizarre article in the Derby Telegraph, or at least the online version, this week. 'Monyash was selected as a top location for holidaymakers due to its outstanding crime rates...' Really? Do tourists roll up to witness drive-by shootings? **No:** 'This is a hidden gem of a village with a remarkably low crime rate of 12.05 crimes per 100 thousand people, making it the 32nd safest village in Derbyshire.' Well, that's reassuring. I pity the 33rd. Anyone who believes it to be 'hidden' should try crossing Church Street on a Saturday. The very next sentence: 'It is famed for its five ponds, 20 wells...but it is also located perfectly in the rolling hills of the stunning Lathkill Dale.' Where do we even begin to correct that? And how can a dale have 'rolling hills'? Normally, I would simply scroll through and see what pretty pictures they have chosen to illustrate, but I had to read on: 'While all around the steep dale sides soar above walkers – some containing trees...' I could be wrong about the AI factor, it could simply be extremely sloppy research and writing, but it has the ring of not being wholly written by a human, or not one who has ever been to Monyash. Another photo caption reads: '...This is a tree covered in moss on all sides.' Any idiot can see it's *ivy!* Which is where I strongly started to suspect at least some non-human 'hand'.



Soon, I suspect, we'll get so used to most things being the product of AI, it'll simply be taken for granted along with all the inaccuracy, but, for now, we live in interesting times. Judy spent two hours on the internet and on phone calls last Saturday, trying to renew our car insurance; I could hear her losing her cool with a chat-bot, 'YEEES!...NOO!!' And then another voice came on the line: 'Hello, how can I help you today?' Then Judy, very flat and sceptical: 'Are you a human being?...' Poor lady at the insurance company had the misfortune of having an American accent. She must spend much of her day convincing people of her own reality. I hope that is good for her in some profound, existential way. Meanwhile, the real news is all on **Rakes...**

Rakes Road Closed by Church Lane

Rakes Road will be closed at its junction with Church Lane on July 30, 8:00 AM - Aug 1, 5:00 PM. I think this means that Church Lane will still be accessible from the direction of the village centre. It is for Severn Trent water to carry out a new installation.

Rakes Road Land for Sale

Exactly opposite Fere Mere, the small plot of land is for sale, by auction on July 22nd (with Bagshaws). The guide price is £75k, even without any planning consent...

EVENTS this month of July:-

Sunday 30th June – Birdsong Walk with Simon 9am. £7.50 per head. Free to Monyash Residents. £7.50 per head. Advance booking needed: **07930 266218**, call/text/WhatsApp/knock on. **Last of the year.** Meet on the green. 1½ to 2 hours, in all.

Monday 1st – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. £8. Beginners welcome. To book a slot, email Dave:djs.abbotside@gmail.com.

– **Parish Council Meeting** 7pm. Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend the public meeting. There is 10 minutes for 'Public Speaking' at the start. See village website and noticeboard for agenda.

Tuesday 2nd – **Monyash Quilters Group**, – **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, A friendly group of ladies with a wide range of creative talent who love making beautiful quilts and anything crafty. Drop into one of our weekly meetings to see what we do and if we can tempt you to join.

– **Pilates**, Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. £7. Caroline is a fully qualified yoga and Pilates instructor. If you would like to reserve a place or find out more about Pilates or Yoga, contact Caroline on **07831 720810** or email: **carolinewebster2@gmail.com**

Wednesday 3rd – **Monyash WI** - 7.30 - 10.00 pm. Inc. the AGM. Monthly meetings in the Village Hall, the first Weds of each month (except August), with guest Speaker and competition. A small, friendly group and new members always welcome.

Thursday 4th – **Hatha Yoga** 7.15 – 8.30, with Yoga Nidra meditation. It's Election Day, so not sure where it will be...
– **Quiz Night – The Bull's Head.** Starts around 9pm.

- Friday 5th** – *Tea and Tots* – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup**, aimed at babies and pre-schoolers, for local families and friends to get together for a cuppa, chat and play! Whilst we are aimed at preschool ages, anyone is welcome to pop in and join us. Tea coffee, snacks and a variety of toys are provided. £2 per family; parents are responsible for their children whilst there.
- *Crafternoon*. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not! Tea and natter is fine!
- Monday 8th** – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above
- Tuesday 9th** – **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm. As above.
- **Pilates**. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. As above.
- Thursday 11th** – **Monyash School Sports** – in the afternoon on the playing field.
- **Hatha Yoga** 7.15 – 8.30, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details as above for **Pilates**.
- **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 12th** – **Tea and Tots** – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup**, other details as above.
- **Messy Church**. 3.15 – 4.45pm. At the Methodist Chapel & Hall. Messy Church is straight after school, £2 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Usually the 2nd Friday of each month).
- Monday 15th** – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above
- Tuesday 16th** – **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm. As above.
- **Pilates**. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Thursday 18th** – **Hatha Yoga** 7.15 – 8.30, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details as above for **Pilates**.
- **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 19th** – **Tea and Tots** – 9 – 11am Village Hall. **Playgroup**, other details as above.
- *Crafternoon*. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not! Tea and natter is fine!
- Monday 22nd** – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above
- Tuesday 23rd** – **Last day of School at Monyash**.
- **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.
- **Pilates**. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in Flagg Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Wednesday 24th** – **Mobile Library** – 11.15 to 11.45, The Square.
- Thursday 25th** – **Hatha Yoga** 7.15 – 8.30, Flagg Village Hall with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details as for **Pilates**.
- **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. As above.
- Friday 26th** – **No Tea and Tots**, as it’s Summer Hols.
- Monday 29th** – **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above
- Tuesday 30th** – **Monyash Quilters Group**, Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.
- **Pilates**. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm in Flagg Village Hall. Other details as above.

Barn Close Farm Shop, adding more lines...

The farm shop at Barn Close Farm, a short walk from the village centre, is open 7.30 to 7.30. It has an honesty box system; card payments accepted. I hear that **Derbyshire Oatcakes** have now been added to the list of local produce along with the home-grown lamb, burgers, shanks and other goodies, including honey, ice cream, biscuits, jams, chutneys, sausages. I had a second bash at making my own Derbyshire Oatcakes last week, from an ancient recipe, which includes lines such as, ‘take a noggin of lard’ and ‘as much salt as may be had between the thumb and three fingers’ – which was nowhere near enough, in my case. Local butter is better than the lard, by the way and, after a disastrous attempt two years ago, turning out a soggy, nan-bread-non-bread, I am happy to report that I cracked the craft this time around. Judy’s dad’s cast-iron frying pan was the perfect size, shape and feel and probably made in Derbyshire! Or near enough. When I work out what I did right, I might share the recipe here. It is simple enough!

House Martins and their Nests.

Sad to report that one of the House Martin nests nearing completion at the school was destroyed recently. No one knows who the culprit was, but if you have children it might be worth reminding them that these remarkable birds fly all the way from South of the Sahara to spend their Summers with us and have to dodge all kinds of perils along the way. Like nearly all insect-eating birds, they are declining drastically in numbers. Their nests are traditionally taken as a blessing on a house (or school) and, of course, it is illegal to disturb them in the breeding season.

Nature Notes – *A Butterfly Hotspot?*

Judy and I have been roped in to carry out a survey of butterflies in a 1km square that, along its Eastern edge, takes in the green and the mere, along with Cross Lanes and some of the Tagg Lane flowery verge. It’s one of a number of randomly chosen sites, part of a ‘Wider Countryside Survey’. Reading the round-robin emails we now get, I read that Lathkill is something of a treasured butterfly hotspot within the county, both for numbers of species and numbers of individuals counted on the regular survey there. We saw the first Common Blues the other day, in both Fern Dale and Lathkill; their caterpillar’s favourite food-plant is the Birdsfoot Trefoil, which itself is looking beautiful, with orange and yellow pea-like flowers. This small butterfly is an arresting, almost electric blue on the upper wing, while the under has a delicate pattern of dots in varied colours.

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Masthead drawing by Judy Corble. Printed on 100% recycled paper, at The Byways, Church Street, Monyash.