



It has been a fabulous start to Spring,

this year and the earliest ever start to the Toad Patrol; we might normally see the odd toad or two venture out on a warm evening in February, but we never thought we would actually *start* the patrol as early as the 24th of that month, with the road signs going up the next day. As I type this, we are just about at the end of the migration of toads, frogs and newts for 2026, helping female toads back across or along Rakes Road towards their territories; the males (of which there are many more than females) hang around at the mere for weeks and the strange thing is we never see them leave, or see any flattened on the road...

St. Leonard's Church

5th April at 10.00 am a joyful Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion

26th April at 10.00 am our usual 4th Sunday service of Holy Communion

Easter at St. Leonard's: I am sure there are quite a few of our residents, particularly those who are new to the village, who have never been inside our ancient church and are completely unaware of the 900-year-old gem in our midst. We will be serving tea and cakes in church on Easter Sunday and Monday between 1.00 and 3.00 pm so please do take the opportunity to wander in and visit us, look around the church and enjoy the Easter flowers.

As usual, we will have the Easter branch in church and we invite you to write a message to hang on the branch. It could be a message of thanks for family and friends, in memory of a loved one, in fact whatever you wish. The branch will be there until Ascension Day, 14th May. We would very much appreciate a small donation.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Peak National Park. To mark the occasion, Derby bell ringers are to ring in every church in the National Park on the **17th April**. They will be ringing at St. Leonard's at 4.30 pm on that day. Do listen out for them. **Heather** [I imagine it will be fairly hard not to hear them! – Ed.]

EVENTS this month of April:-

- Wednesday 1st** – **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. £10 per head. (**Free to Monyash Residents**). Weather permitting. Advance booking needed: **07930 266218**, call/text/WhatsApp. A stroll through the village, up a green lane and down a dale, to listen for birds, with tips on ID, but mostly for pleasure. Meet on the green. 2 hours+.
- **Mobile Library** – 11.15 to 11.45, The Square
 - **Hatha Yoga – with meditation** 5.30 – 6.45pm, Village Hall. £10, cash on the door/ by bank transfer. 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: 07831 720810 /email: carolinewebster2@gmail.com
 - **Monyash WI** - 7.30 - 10.00 pm, in the Village Hall, the first Weds of each month, with guest Speaker and competition. A small, friendly group and new members always welcome.
- Thursday 2nd** – **Quiz Night** – as The Bull's Head, 9.30pm.
- Friday 3rd** – **Crafternoon**. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project –or not! Tea and natter is fine!
- Sunday 5th** – **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
- Easter Sunday** – **Church Service at 10am**, Saint Leonard's Church, other details as above in featured notice.
- Monday 6th** – **Beginners' Pilates, Class with Caroline**. 9.30 to 10.30am, the Village Hall. £7, cash on the door/ by bank transfer. 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: 07831 720810 /email: carolinewebster2@gmail.com
- **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. To book a place & for all enquiries, email Dave: djs.abbotside@gmail.com.
- Tuesday 7th** – **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, Village Hall. £7. Other details as above, 'Pilates'.

- Wednesday 8th** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Might move to Thursday, as the 8th is Judy's birthday! Text near the time.
– *Hatha Yoga* - 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details see above.
- Thursday 9th** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull's Head. 9.30pm.
- Monday 13th** – *Beginners' Pilates*, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. £7. Other details, see 'Pilates' above.
– *IYENGAR YOGA*. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
– *Parish Council Meeting* - 7 pm. Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend this public meeting. There is 10 minutes for 'Public Speaking' at the start. See village website and noticeboard for agenda.
- Tuesday 14th** – *Monyash Quilters Group, Village Hall*, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.
– *Pilates*. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm, Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Wednesday 15th** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
– *Hatha Yoga* 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details see above.
- Thursday 16th** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull's Head. 9.30pm.
- Friday 17th** – *Crafternoon*. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project –or not! Tea and natter is fine!
- Sunday 19th** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
- Monday 20th** – *Beginners' Pilates*, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. Other details see above, 'Pilates'.
– *IYENGAR YOGA*. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Tuesday 21st** – *Monyash Quilters Group*; Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.
– *Pilates*. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm, Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Wednesday 22nd** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
– *Hatha Yoga*; 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details, see above.
- Thursday 23rd** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull's Head. 9.30pm.
- Sunday 26th** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
– *Church Service at Saint Leonard's* 10.00 am – a service of Holy Communion,
- Monday 27th** – *Beginners' Pilates, Class with Caroline*. 9.30 to 10.30am in the Village Hall.
– *IYENGAR YOGA*. 5.30 – 6.45pm, in the Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Tuesday 28th** – *Monyash Quilters Group* - Village Hall, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.
– *Pilates*. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm, Village Hall. Other details as above.
- Wednesday 29th** – *Birdsong Walk with Simon* 9am. Other details as above. Booking essential.
– *Hatha Yoga*; 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details, see above.
- Thursday 30th** – *Quiz Night* – The Bull's Head. 9.30pm.
- Friday May 1st** – *Crafternoon*. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project –or not! Tea and natter is fine!

Call for Volunteer Befrienders

The Farming Life Centre's (FLC) Befriending programme is calling out for more volunteers to help run the service. The FLC, a farming charity based in Bakewell, sees befriending as a key part of its aim to support farming and rural life in the Peak District. Donna, who runs the programme, is currently looking for volunteers to help in Eyam, Tideswell, Ashford and surrounding villages. Donna says "Anyone can be a rural befriender, you just need to be reliable and caring, with a few hours to spare each month. If you can offer some company to those in need of a listening ear, we would love to have a chat with you."

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Donna on donna@thefarminglifecentre.org.uk or 07777 168 857

Nature Notes – A multi-use home...

The other day I was sat in the sunshine on the bench which is set in a bit of sun-trap at the front of The Byways, when, above my head I saw a queen 'Tree Bee' fly into the birdbox which my eldest brother had made from a miniature whisky cask and fixed on our South-facing wall. It reminded me that I had better give it a clear-out, as I had seen a Blue Tit investigating it a few days earlier. This is the kind of job best done in early February, but there we go... Bumble bees will investigate all kinds of holes in their search for a nest-site; they are drawn to old mouse burrows in particular, but Tree Bees, as the name suggests, like hollows in trees. A few days later, then, I put the ladder up and fetched the box down; I knew wasps had made their papery nest inside and, I thought, filled it almost entirely with the cellular structure. On opening the back door, I heard an angry buzzing and the queen Tree Bee appeared, amongst a tangle of old moss...and flew away. So, she had chosen this as a nest after all...I could have kicked myself, remembering that I had not seen her fly out! Was it too late? I carefully hauled out all the bedding – moss, damp mud, straw, bailer twine (!) and wasp-paper – and examined it on our small garden table. Overhead, the queen bee had returned and was circling the gap in the creeper, where the box had been, so I quickly shot back up the ladder and replaced it on its hanger. Within a few seconds, she had popped back inside through the entrance hole. On returning to the bird/wasp bedding, there in the midst was a neat little waxy parcel of fresh bee larvae. I hastily repackaged this with some of the drier moss and feathers and posted the small bundle back into the bird-box, with a, "Sorry, your majesty!" Fingers crossed no damage was done and she has indeed forgiven my bungling. The box has been used, in their turns, by Blue Tits, Sparrows, Wasps and now Bumblebees...I shall hopefully report back when the cute little ginger-black-and-white worker bees emerge...They are very attractive bees, Tree Bees, only recently arrived into this part of the country, so look out for them.

Monyash Newsletter: Editor, Simon Corble – email corblesimon@gmail.com; call or text **07930 266218**;
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