



Warming up...

The long-awaited rise in temperatures is very welcome, but, what with all the rain, it does mean that we are expecting some adventurous *toads* and frogs to at least poke heads from holes...so it could mean an early start to the Toad Patrol. For more information, go to the village website (monyash.info) and click on 'Interests' to find the page about the patrol. If you would like to help with the patrol, new faces are always welcome; contact myself / or Judy – **07930 266 218 / 07967 64 81 36**.



While on the subject of roads, I am told that things are 'trotting along nicely' with plans to install some Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) on some of the village lampposts. You may have seen some details tied to the posts in question or even participated in the consultation. I hope to be able to report on the conclusions soon.

And warmer temperatures have certainly got the birds singing...I lead the first Birdsong Walk on the 22nd March this year. See 'Events' below, or go once again to our wonderfully informative village website, ('Interests').

St. Leonard's Church

15th March

at 10.00 am

A Service of Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday

led by Rev Carl Edwards.

Everybody is very welcome, as always

Mothering Sunday was an 'invention' by clergy during the 16th century, where people returned to their 'mother church' for a service to be held on the 4th Sunday in Lent, the mother church being either the church where they were baptised or their local parish church. If you did this, you were said to go "a-mothering".

In later times, when it was common for young people to leave home to work away, particularly young girls who went into service, they were given time off work to go "a-mothering" to the church, and some of them took the opportunity to visit their own mothers and families. So Mothering Sunday had really nothing to do with the biological mothers, it was, in fact, about church, but by the beginning of the 1900s this practice had very much died out.

An American lady called Anna Jarvis thought it would be a good idea to have a day specifically dedicated to mothers and that idea took off in America.

A lady from Nottinghamshire, Constance Penswick-Smith heard about Mother's Day in America and created in this country the Mothering Sunday Movement, and set about reviving the Mothering Sunday custom and over the years the two have become entwined, Mothering Sunday in church and the secular Mother's Day.

Heather

EVENTS this month of March:-

Monday 2nd

- **Beginners' Pilates, Class with Caroline.** 9.30 to 10.30am, the Village Hall. £8, 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
- **IYENGAR YOGA.** 5pm – 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. £9; email Dave: djs.abbotside@gmail.com.
- **Parish Council Meeting** - 7pm., 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 3rd

- **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. £8...other details as above.

Wednesday 4th

- **Mobile Library** – 11.15 to 11.45, The Square.
- **Hatha Yoga** – 5.30 – 6.45pm, Village Hall, with meditation, £10, with other details as above, under 'Pilates'.

– **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 5th

– **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. 9.30pm.

Friday 6th

– **Crafternoon**. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not, tea and natter is fine!

Monday 9th

– **Beginners’ Pilates**, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. £8. Other details, see ‘Pilates’ above, top.

– **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5pm – 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. £9 per session. Other details as above.

Tuesday 10th

– **Monyash Quilters Group, Village Hall**, 2 to 4 pm, other details as above.

– **Pilates**. Class with Caroline Webster. 6pm – 7pm, Village Hall. Other details: ‘Pilates’ above, top.

Wednesday 11th

– **Hatha Yoga** 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details see above.

Thursday 12th

– **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. 9.30pm.

Saturday 14th

– **Spring Litter-pick** – Join the team on the green at 10am to pick litter from roadsides; pickers and bags provided, (bring your own if you have pickers); we fan out along all routes...

STOP PRESS

Sunday 15th

– **Mothering Sunday – Service at 10am**, Saint Leonard’s Church, other details as above in featured notice.

Monday 16th

– **Beginners’ Pilates**, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. Other details see above, ‘Pilates...’

– **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5pm – 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. £9 per session. Other details as above.

Tuesday 17th

– **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 18th

– **Hatha Yoga**; 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details, see ‘Pilates...’

Thursday 19th

– **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. 9.30pm.

Friday 20th

– **Crafternoon**. 2pm – 3.30pm, in the Village Hall. Bring along a craft project – or not, tea and natter is fine!

Sunday 22nd

– **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. £10 per head. (**Free to Monyash Residents**). First walk of the year.

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+.

Monday 23rd

– **Beginners’ Pilates**, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. Other details see above, ‘Pilates’.

– **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5pm – 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. £9 per session. Other details as above.

Tuesday 24th

– **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 25th

– **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. Other details as above, (Sunday 22nd). Booking essential.

– **Hatha Yoga**; 6.00 – 7.15pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details, see ‘Pilates’.

Thursday 26th

– **Quiz Night** – The Bull’s Head. 9.30pm.

Sunday 29th

– **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. Other details as above, (Sunday 22nd). **CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD!**

Monday 30th

– **Beginners’ Pilates**, Class with Caroline. 9.30 to 10.30am. Other details see above, ‘Pilates’.

– **IYENGAR YOGA**. 5pm – 6.30pm, in the Village Hall. £9 per session. Other details as above.

Tuesday 31st

– **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 1st

– **Birdsong Walk with Simon** 9am. Other details as above, (Sunday 22nd). Booking essential.

APRIL

– **Mobile Library** – 11.15 to 11.45, The Square.

– **Hatha Yoga**; 5.30 – 6.45pm, Village Hall, with Yoga Nidra meditation. £10. Other details, see ‘Pilates’.

– **Monyash WI** - 7.30 - 10.00 pm, in the Village Hall, other details as above, (for March 4th).

Nature Notes – haring around

There do seem to be a good number of hares around the village this year, especially between Milkings Lane and the *National Nature Reserve* of Lathkill Dale, which has of course been extended in recent years, taking in the meadows around the half-ruined barn. All this land, (and some of the neighbouring fields on Monyash House Farm) restored to traditional hay meadow, is now a friendly habitat for these mysterious mammals. The other morning we saw some hares making their way towards the dale. As we reached the old barn, we found what was pulling them...two hares stood up on their hind legs and started boxing; the one who had approached then backed off and left the field. It used to be thought that boxing hares were males competing for a nearby female; in recent years it has been shown that, more often than not, the boxers are male versus female. She is either fighting off a male she is not keen on, or perhaps testing his fitness. The jills (or does) are only on heat for a few hours at a time – hence the urgency we saw of the jacks (bucks) making their way to where the jill had her favoured patch near the barn. It is also thought that the blows received stimulate ovulation in the female. The boxing and other antics are most obvious in March, when grass is short – hence ‘Mad March Hares’, but in fact this behaviour can start in January and continue through to August, hidden in the lush growth of Spring and Summer.

The other mammal that has surprised us recently is the stoat. Fere/Fern Dale has always been a good place to spot one of these agile creatures, but this is the first Winter that one has been seen there (and videoed) sporting an all-white pelt. This is when the stoat can be called an ‘ermine’. The further North in the country, the more the trend towards white in Winter, but I had only ever seen brown coated stoats in these parts before. The dazzling beast will be losing all the white with its Spring moult,

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Masthead drawing by Judy Corble. Printed on an Epson Ecotank printer at The Byways, Church Street, Monyash, DE45 1JH.