

# The Montacute Village Magazine



Pics. Len Copland

March 2020

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

**VILLAGE AGENT:** Catherine Holloway. 01823/07968 521746  
cath@somersetccc.org.uk

**BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Heather Andrews 423137  
Sec. Ruth Shoemark 823095 Treasurer Mrs Joyce Williams

**BRIDGE CLUB:** Dave Fox 822845

**CARNIVAL CLUB:** Anoushka Musson 07734413801

**CROQUET CLUB:** Chair Bill Brown 825353

**VILLAGE DIARY:** Kaye Harper 824537

**GARDENING CLUB:** Chair Nic Laycock Nic.laycock@btinternet.com  
George Stephens gstephens45@btinternet.com

Chris Bevan-Davies christinebdmhc@gmail.com 829744

**VILLAGE HALL** Chair Roy Littlefield rslbs@btinternet.com 827794

Bookings Kaye Harper (Hak71@btinternet.com) 824537

Web <http://montacutevillage.wordpress.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Montacutevillagehall>

**MAGAZINE:** Editor Bernard Bevan-Davies 829744

bcbevandavies@gmail.com Sec/Treas. Janet. Littlefield/

Roy Littlefield janet.littlefield@btinternet.com

**PANTOMIME:** Dir/producer Christine Saint 822814

**PRE-SCHOOL:** Leader Melanie Wilkins 822022

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Chair Christine Saint 822814 Parish Clerk  
Sarah Moore, 24, High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS 822455  
(clerk\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk)

**POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO)**

Mathew Whelan Beat Manager PC Stefan Edwards Phone 101 or  
see Police website

**SONGTIME:** Donna McNeil 07856 589 581

**ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH** : Churchwardens Gordon Rendell 4  
South Street, 822329 Margaret Messervy 822292

Rev. Annie Gurner 824167 (revgurner@btinternet.com)

**STAX AND POST OFFICE**: Nigel, Myrtle and Louise Hann, South  
Street 822645

**WOMENS' INSTITUTE**: Lucie Jones 824561 lujo35@uwclub.net  
Kaye Harper 824537 montacutewi@btinternet.com



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## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

What a wonderful show. The Panto was as well-planned, well executed, well practised, and as well learnt as ever. It was raucous, funny and tender, all at the right times. Well, nearly. The costumes were just 'aaaaamazing'. Such talent in our village. Do you know, I'm looking forward to next year's already. Some excellent pictures are scattered (technical need) through the magazine but all are from Len Copland, of the Western Gazette I thank him for his generosity. On behalf of everybody who sat enthralled, singing, cheering, booing and laughing, thank you.

On Thursday evening I attended a presentation of the proposed housing development in the field below the allotments. It is planned to build 25 three to four bedroom houses, bungalows and some 'social' housing. You will see here in the Magazine one resident's response. There were others, most raised the traffic, schools and facilities issues. The event was hosted by BoonBrown of Alvington, BA20 2FG . I think I will be including many more articles representing your views in the future. Please let me have them, by email, phone or letter.

And now, the moment you've dreaded....Our distributors will be calling on you soon to collect your donation, of £3.00, to the Magazine. This is for the year, some ten editions. I hope you enjoy them.

*Bernard Bevan-Davies* Ed.

The Monks House      01935 829744

bcbevandavies@gmail.com

May I have any entries for the next edition by **MARCH 25th**

## NOTES FROM ST CATHERINE'S

We have lost another of St. Catherine's stalwarts; Margo Hann, who has served us tirelessly for many years. For decades she was the person associated with the floral displays in the church and always had her finger on the pulse of what was going on.

Again for many years she served as one of our Synod representatives with Keith, a position that always seemed difficult to fill, it not appearing to be one of interest or excitement; nevertheless, a most important office concerned with the running of the area's churches on a spiritual level. She will be sorely missed as one who used common sense and with a most friendly countenance.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1967 a most significant day in my life was when Rev. Richard Beechey proposed me as Vicar's Warden, There used to be a system where one warden was proposed by the Vicar and one by the People, who was known as the Peoples Warden. This, soon after, was changed to both Wardens being proposed by the parish; a system that is presently in operation. In these 53 years I've served with 6 Archbishops of Canterbury, 6 Bishops of Bath & Wells, 7 Archdeacons of Wells and 10 incumbents. Reg. Bevan was the last Vicar of Montacute and when he retired we went into plurality with Odcombe, Brympton and Lufton under Rev Archie Dean. Now we are joined to Stoke, Norton, Chiselborough, West and Middle Chinnock and awaiting a new incumbent, hopefully for not too much longer.

Don't forget the clocks go to British Stupid Time on 29<sup>th</sup> March !

*Gordon Rendell*

## GARDENING CLUB

Our speaker for our February meeting gave us an illuminating view on what it is like to garden on a larger scale than most of us do. With 13 gardeners under her control and an area of 88 acres to care for Jan Lomas showed us pictures of the beautiful and productive garden in Cheshire that she manages for the Duke of Westminster. There were gorgeous borders and lovely vistas looking over the surrounding countryside. Not one but several rose gardens grace the garden as well as formal topiary and informal wild flower meadows.

Jan told us about the productive walled vegetable garden of 2 acres run by just one gardener using organic principles. As well as providing produce and fresh flowers for the family when they are in residence it also supplies other estates owned by the family in true country house tradition. Tree pruning at the back of a wide border needs a cherry picker not a ladder and dumper trucks were in evidence not only wheel barrows.

It isn't just the plants that need attention. When a bit dropped off a stone dragon it was Jan's responsibility to drain the water feature it lived in, find the piece and make sure it was properly repaired. On the occasions when the gardens are opened to the public there is the inevitable health and safety risk assessment to do beforehand.

Always in a situation like this the head gardener must take the wishes of the owner into account. This applies even if their ideas of colour schemes don't necessarily coincide! Jan said she feels fortunate that "Her Grace" as she refers to the dowager duchess takes a real interest in the garden as well as the current Duke and Duchess do.

And the title of the talk? Well what do you give to someone who is one of the wealthiest people in the country for his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday present? The answer had to be a show garden at one of the RHS flower shows which won a silver-gilt medal. "Not bad for a first attempt" as Jan said.

The gardening tip for March is quite simple. Just get out and enjoy the way everything is coming back to life in the garden. But keep an eye out for weeds and slugs as they are coming back to life as well.

On 10 March we will be back in the village hall and have a talk about the plight of the hedgehog. Even if you are not a member please do come along to hear what we can do to help one of Britain's favourite animals.

*Susan Laycock*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9<sup>th</sup> June : Gardening Club (Members & Guests) visit to Southwood Farm, Cotleigh. Half day visit from 2:00 PM (own transport)

7<sup>th</sup> July : Gardening Club (Members & Guests) visit to Bicton Botanical Gardens. All day visit, coach departs The Borough 9:30 AM

*George Stephens*

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## CARNIVAL

What can I say? 2020 is bringing unusual weather. Cold spells and some mild temperatures, but so much rain ! Let's hope all the rain falls now, giving us a dry, warm June for the Church Fete on the 6<sup>th</sup> June and the Carnival on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to being at our favourite, local, Montacute House.

The Carnival Committee are like swans, very calm and sedate on the water but paddling like mad under the surface. Success is in the planning !

We are excited to hear who the Prince and Princess will be this year, the Guest to crown them and the Judges for the Carnival. What will be the theme for the Window Trail? All will be revealed in due course.

Just a quick mention of the Village Pantomime. Another colourful, fun packed production. Congratulations to the whole team. There was some new talent among the cast and all together an exceptional, entertaining show was performed.

*Jackie Fox* 822845

## VILLAGE HALL

We are proposing to start a 50/50 Club to raise a regular sum for the continued maintenance of the Hall.

We would encourage 100 people, paying £1.00 per week, to join us. This would generate a useful amount for the Hall, as well as offering £200 per month in prize money.

We hope this is something that will prove to be a popular way of supporting our well loved Village Hall.

Please look out for further details in due course.

## MONTACUTE HOUSE

A lot has been happening over the early months of this year other than the filming for The Spanish Princess. The large National Portrait Gallery full length portraits have migrated down one floor to the Upper Clifton Maybank corridor from the main gallery. They now really look outstanding with their own lighting as you can get up close and see such fabulous detail of these over 400-year-old paintings. The migration of the portraits now means we can allow light into the gallery and the curtains have been removed to give back the stunning views from the oriel windows. On a clear day, looking North East, you can see Alfred's Tower at Stourhead!

The overflow car park seems to be holding up with its new surface as we were able to keep all traffic off it for nearly a month. Some dry weather would really help however to bind it together (wishful thinking).

Talking of the weather, we sadly did lose some trees in the park in the gales, notably two ash trees from the Ash avenue.

We go back to our summer opening hours on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: shop, reception garden and café 10 – 5 (House 11 – 3.30)

So, what is coming up in Spring?

**Mother's Day** 22<sup>nd</sup> March we have a special Elizabethan welcome running at 11.00, 12.30 and 2pm celebrating motherhood in history. (don't forget great gifts and cards available in our shop)

**Farmers Markets** 28<sup>th</sup> March 25<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 – 2.00 old stables (market entrance is free but please enter through reception)

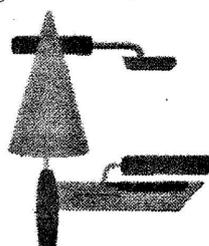
**Tulips** (hard to put a date on this but around the end of March) lovely tulips in tubs and in the borders, a total festival of colour.

**Search for Shaun the Sheep** all of April and May, flock to Montacute House, pick up a trail map, find Shaun around the garden answer some questions and pick up a small prize (£1-50 per trail)

Check out our website for more details.

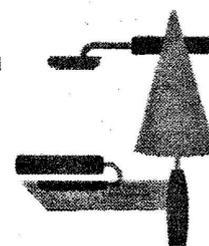
Now where did I put my binoculars, and which way is Stourhead again...

*Grahame Meaden* – Senior Visitor Experience Officer,  
Montacute House



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## A WORD FROM THE VICAR

Climate change action is very much on peoples' minds so I was delighted to hear this week that the Church of England has committed to become carbon neutral by 2030. Montacute Church are ahead of the curve in that we are already registering for the A Rocha **eco-church** awards – we made a start last month by undertaking a wide ranging audit of our building, land, teaching and encouragement of lifestyle change. First steps may seem modest – starting to manage parts of our churchyard in support of the environment (a species audit, composting facilities and selective margin planting etc to support biodiversity) but we hope to gather momentum in seriously reducing our carbon footprint as time goes on.

As we enter Fairtrade fortnight (24<sup>th</sup> Feb-8<sup>th</sup> March) we are also underlining our commitment to being a Fairtrade church by developing a local directory and hosted a Fairtrade goods stall on Sunday. The primary school this week used one assembly to look at the sustainable growing of 'Divine' cocoa within rainforests of Sierra Leone, to complement their Forest school learning.

During Lent the Church of England is encouraging everyone to consider their individual contribution to alleviating climate change over 40 days with their **Care for Gods Creation** campaign – see #livelent for the app or [www.churchofengland.org/livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent) to sign up for daily suggestions.

As usual, members of the church have organised a **Lent lunch: Thursday 27th March** at the Village Hall – all proceeds *Smiletrain*.

ODCOMBE VILLAGE CHURCH

CHARITY LUNCH

ODCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY, 14TH MARCH

12 – 2

ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

The Lent Discussion group will be looking at ***The Bible Course*** – a video based overview of the whole Bible. So if you always wondered how this amazing book all fits together, historically and theologically, then this is for you. We will meet on Tuesdays at 7.30pm-9pm starting 3rd March in All Saints Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon (opposite Fleur de Lys pub –car park at rear) details/invitations in church.

***Everybody welcome.*** There will also be an afternoon Lent course meeting on Tuesdays at 2.30-4pm at the Baptist church.

Care for Creation and Justice for the Poor are two of the 5 Marks of Mission. The other 3 are

- ❖ To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- ❖ To teach, baptise and nurture new Believers
- ❖ To respond to human need by loving service

Although we have not received any applications for the Rectors post yet (being re-advertised in March), the ministry of the church continues across the Benefice, and I am most grateful for the support of our worship and pastoral teams and **all** the other volunteers who exercise their love of God through serving the church and their neighbours.

We are currently midway through an ***Alpha*** course at The Prince of Wales, a Messy Church event for families was held on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>, Open the Book teams continue to visit All Saints regularly (always

looking for volunteers !) and we are currently exploring the appointment of a trained families and children's worker to support our work in schools and more. Abbi, our youth minister intern, is currently

working at the Hamdon Youth Club and Stanchester school and being very effective in supporting teenagers and encouraging an exploration of Christian Faith.

Our **Church Annual Meeting** is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm – do come and hear about the life of the Church, the programme of improvements planned for the building, and have your say about how you think we could more effective in serving this village.

We look forward to the Holy week and Easter special services in April, VE day celebrations, the Parish Weekend at Lee Abbey, Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative and the visit of **Bishop of Bath and Wells** in May, then the church fete later on. I have been granted some study leave to undertake some research into rural churches that are flourishing in Somerset and so will be away for a few weeks in the Summer and hope to return with some helpful ideas.

Meanwhile if anyone would like to talk to me about a special service or any matter of faith, please be in touch

***Every Blessing,***

*Rev'd Annie Gurner*, Parish Office, 1 Castle St, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RE 01935 824167 [revgurner@btinternet.com](mailto:revgurner@btinternet.com)

## MONTACUTE CHURCH SERVICES. MARCH

All Sunday services at 9.30am, unless indicated otherwise. **Prayer for the Village** every Monday 8.30am

(all services have hymns and readings and are followed by refreshments)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion

March 8<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer

March 15<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion

March 22<sup>nd</sup> (0930 crafts) **10am** United ***Mothering Sunday*** service (with school choir)

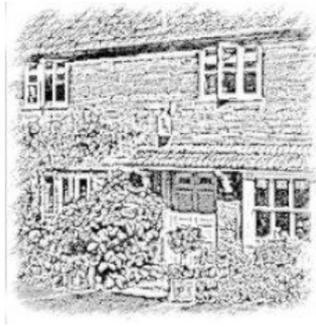
March 29<sup>th</sup> **10am** United Benefice Communion at West Chinnock church

More details on Benefice website: [www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org)

## JULIETS

It may have been February Fill Dyke but that did not stop eight Juliets from gathering at the Kings Arms as usual for our monthly dinner event. However there were a few absentees and we wish them all a speedy recovery so that we can enjoy their company again next month. If you are a single lady of `superior` age and would like to join us for a chat and a meal, then come along at 6.45pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Kings Arms where you will be made most welcome.

Contact *Margaret* on 824377 or *Vi* on 826687



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Family Tree Genealogy:

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## PARISH COUNCIL

I would like to express my sincere apologies to the post office and the garage for the article regarding the electricity and gas top-ups. I was unaware that both places in Montacute provided this service and it was not my intention to take any business away from either the post office or the garage but to assist residents on where they can get their top-ups now that the Co-Op are no longer providing this service.

Of course, it is much easier and convenient for residents living in or close to Montacute to get their top-ups in the village rather than travelling to Norton so please make use of this valuable facility in the village.

### **ALLOTMENTS**

You may have noticed that we have cut down some trees inside the fence line at the front of the allotments. The parish council were not removing these trees for the sake of it; these trees were self-seeded Ash trees which were causing damage to the other trees along this fence line. At the last meeting it was discussed to plant some new trees in their place which would fruit yielding and are appropriate for the allotment site.

### **GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT – INVITATION TO TENDER**

The grass cutting contract for the recreation ground, play area and allotments comes to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The new contract will run for a three-year period starting on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Any expressions of interest to tender should be made to the Parish Clerk at the contact details at the bottom of this article.

### **DONATION TOWARDS DEFIBRILLATOR ACCESSORIES**

The Parish Council would like to thank Montacute Post Office for the generous donation of £186.50. Nigel, Myrtle and Louise Hann have expressed that they would like the money to go towards defibrillator supplies such as the pads.

The money was raised by donations from the Post Office's Christmas lights in the yard and the knitted Christmas puddings, Santa hats and snowmen which were made by Gill and Peter Turner of Charlton Adam. Once again, thank you. Your donation is very much appreciated.

## **YEOVIL HALF MARATHON**

Yeovil Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 29th March between 9:00 and 12:00. As in previous years there will be road closures in and around Montacute House and the road to Yeovil. More information about the event can be found on [www.yeovilhalf.com](http://www.yeovilhalf.com) and full details of the road closures can be found at <https://one.network/?tm=115976899>. There will also be advance event information signs deployed approximately 3 weeks before the event.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECT**

Somerset County Council's Adult Social Care team have implemented a new website [www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk](http://www.somersetcommunityconnect.org.uk)

Some of the key things on the site include:

- A directory of Micro-Providers - the growing network of small-scale, often single-person, care providers who can help with care at home.
- A list of drop-in events being run by a huge range of community and voluntary organisations in your local area
- Information about support for carers
- Help to access equipment through the county's two Independence and Advice Centres
- A directory of registered home care and care home providers

## **CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.**

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Village Hall except for August and December. Parish Council meetings are open to the press and public so residents are welcome to come along and listen to what we have to say. There is also a short public session at the beginning of every meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.15pm.

Contact details: *Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk*  
24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS  
Email: [clerk\\_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk_montacutepc@hotmail.co.uk)  
Telephone: 01935 822455  
Website: [www.montacuteparishcouncil.com](http://www.montacuteparishcouncil.com)

## HOW TO HELP SOLVE A LOCAL PROBLEM

There is still an opportunity to be positive and to do something which so many residents in the village are concerned about – speeding traffic through our village.

Join a very small team of local residents willing to give an hour or so, to use speed cameras to deter vehicles travelling through the village at more than, sometimes a lot more, than 20 mph. Thank you to those who have come forward, so far.

Moaning about the problem is one thing. Doing something about it is ‘one small step’ which will make the difference.

Local speeding is not imaginary. A recent nationwide survey showed that three of England’s top ten areas for convicted speedsters as a percentage of local licence holders, are in South Somerset, and near Montacute. These drivers inevitably drive away from their own locality. Montacute may well be where, ignoring 20 mph signs, they break the law.

Please contact George Stephens if you can contribute in a small but important way to make living in Montacute more enjoyable, and much safer.

Contact [1georgestephens@gmail.com](mailto:1georgestephens@gmail.com)

## WINDMILL FARM

We bought two more Oxford Sandy & Black boar piglets on February 2nd called Cupid and Valentine. They are cute and are loving their food and ark, however they are not potty trained like the previous 8 pigs we have bought. Pigs have an instinct of cleanliness, they will excrete outdoors in one corner of their pen, but these two just seem to excrete anywhere they want, including their ark! So cleaning out their ark has been a daily routine.

Our large and little pig duo are looking more even in weight and will be next to the abattoir; the large one has got a bit boisterous and does not approve of the little pig having a body guard during meal times! Therefore, more fresh pork will be available from March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Now that I have my trailer certificate, mid-February I got to drive our second batch of pigs to the abattoir, with Dad as passenger as I am still not great at reversing. We tried some new products like pork burgers, gammon, streaky bacon and gluten-free sausages, and a lot has sold out quickly. However, the back bacon, streaky bacon and gammon will not be available until March 5<sup>th</sup>, due to the 2 week curing process. We have improved in relation to not getting the pigs overly fat, as last time they were very heavy, by weighing food and putting into individual feed bowls.

In addition, we have taken one of our beef animals, which was the Blonde D'aquitaine breed, to the abattoir to get the meat back to sell. This will be interesting as although we are beef farmers, we never end up eating our own meat. Fresh meat will be available from March 11<sup>th</sup> and frozen shortly after.

This week we have been milling the wheat and barley that has been grown on-farm, to feed to the cattle. This makes it more digestible for the animal to take all the nutrients and is added to their ration, in addition to grass and maize silage with a bit of concentrates.

I have also started looking at universities, I think it will be important for me to get a degree so in the future I have it to fall back on if needed. The two universities I am most interested in going to are the

Royal Agricultural University and the University of Reading (has agricultural research taking place on the University's farm).

Young farmers went on a tour around Lely milk robots on 19<sup>th</sup> February, these robots milk one cow at a time and can detect illness or whether the cow is on heat (meaning they are fertile and will conceive if inseminated). Conventional parlours are still good, however farmers are going into robots as it takes away routine milking that takes hours out of the day, so it reduces labour, but the farmer can still check-up on the cows and have more time to do so. 60 cows can be put with a robot and the cows can go in to be milked when they want, and are fed a programmed amount depending on what the cow needs.

*Bridgette Baker*



SAVE THE DAY....FRIDAY MAY 8TH



# MONTACUTE'S VE DAY CELEBRATION

Decorations.. Music.. Entertainments.. Hog Roast

and much more

See Next Month's Edition For More Details



# AUCTION OF PROMISES

28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020

7.00PM. VILLAGE HALL

Auctioneer: Mr Clive Farahar.

Tickets £4.00 to include wine  
and delicious savouries. Pay at  
the door or see posters for  
purchase points.

*Please support your Village  
Hall.*

See over.....

- 1) PHELIPS ARMS - £20 Voucher for food & drink**
- 2) CROWN & GLORY - Wash & blow dry or shampoo & set  
in your own home**
- 3) THE JOCKEY CLUB - A day at Wincanton Races**
- 4) THE OCTAGON THEATRE - Two tickets**
- 5) YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB - Two tickets**
- 6) FACETASTIC - £25 Face painting voucher**
- 7) HAYNES MOTOR MUSEUM – Ticket for 2 adults & 3  
children**
- 8) WESSEX WATER – Basket of prizes**
- 9) CHRISTINE SAINT – Hanging basket (winter or summer)**
- 10) ROY LITTLEFIELD – DIY services for a day**
- 11) GARY HELLIER – Carpet clean**
- 12) KAYE HARPER – 10 inch Christmas cake**
- 13) TV MUSEUM – Family ticket (2 adults & 2 children)**

- 14) GREENSLEEVES - £15 Voucher**
- 15) ANN GIHON – Foot soak, facial & shoulder massage**
- 16) MONTACUTE TEA ROOMS – Country tea for 2**
- 17) THREE WISHES SHERBOURNE – Lunch for 2 & glass of wine**
- 18) WOOKEY HOLE – 2 Adults & 2 child tickets**
- 19) BRISMORE – Lunch for 2**
- 20) SARAH MOORE – Painting**
- 21) VINCENT BAKER – Farm visit and picnic up to 10 people**
- 22) CHARMAINE – Manicure**
- 23) KINGS ARMS – Lunch for 2**
- 24) SARAH WHITE – Pet portrait**
- 25) CHURCH – Bells**
- 26) GOULDS BUTCHER - £10 Meat voucher**



## The Phelips Arms

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**Tuesday 17th March - St Patrick's Day pub quiz @ 8pm.  
Teams maximum of 6. £1 entry fee per person.**

**Saturday 21st March - Live music by "Good Knight Hall" A Bristol based duo - professional acoustic musicians and singers/songwriters. Easy listening original songs and soulful recreations.**

**Sunday 22nd March - Sunday carvery for Mother's Day - please phone 01935 822557 to book a table.**

**Friday 3rd April - Cocktails Night! 6pm - 11pm. Choose for a selection of 12 scrumptious cocktails.**

## BAPTIST CHURCH

We had an international focus at MBC during February – Jenny and David Mewes telling us of their work with BMS in China. By invitation from a hospital there, they have offered their skills over many years in Hospital Management and in Teaching English, in that complex and challenging environment. Now retiring from service, Jenny and David enjoyed an overnight stay in the village, complimenting the Phelips Arms on their hospitality. They have promised to visit again to have time to explore Montacute House, so we are doing our bit for tourism!

We will have enjoyed the African Drums of Sharon Stone at Messy Church

We are trying our best to move with the times and continue to expand our **Website**, still work in progress, do please tell us if you find it useful! [www.montacutebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.montacutebaptistchurch.org.uk).

Throughout LENT, every Tuesday in March, 2.30 – 4 p.m. will be **Ecumenical Bible Studies** provided by Churches Together in England, 'Opening the Scriptures – Setting our Hearts on Fire'. EVERYONE welcome to join us. We will be enriched by each others' participation on this theme.

Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> – our monthly **COMMUNITY LUNCH**, 1 p.m., (£5) Please book with Ruth Shoemark, 823095, come to enjoy a meal, and good company, and hear our speaker Luke Rees, a young man on placement with Yeovil Baptist Church for a few weeks this spring. Please don't feel alone in the village – you will find friends old and new!

### **Preachers for March:**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Pastor Heather Andrews	Communion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Alan Blake	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Trevor Goss	
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Pastor Heather Andrews	Mothering Sunday
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Mrs Thelma Clark	

**Words to reflect on:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> is also marked as Yeovil's Half-Marathon run, which passes through Montacute around 9.45-10 a.m. In the past we have stood at the church gate waving energetic family and friends as they speed past, with some banter, and occasional jostling. I am reminded of the Bible's question in **Galatians 5:7** 'You were **running a good race**. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying **the truth**?' The verse before reminds us that Jesus has an answer to that: 'The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.'

God bless,

*Heather Andrews*

Pastor, MBC

E-mail: [heather.andrews721@gmail.com](mailto:heather.andrews721@gmail.com)

## FRIENDS OF HAM HILL

"The Friends of Ham Hill is the charity supporting activities and conservation in your local country park. We help to raise funds for special projects, educational activities and events in the Country Park. In 2019, we funded the new Woodland Playzone, the Roman Treasure Trail and the Tree Planting. Our funding comes from all those who pop their change into a collection box, bought a calendar, came to the pub quiz or from the activities undertaken at the fayres and events we attended this year. Donations also have been given by local businesses, community organisations and clubs that enjoy the park and who are great supporters of the Friends.

We recognise that everyone has a choice of which charities and good causes they support and we want to say a very big **THANK YOU** for supporting us in 2019. Alongside the Rangers and the South Somerset Countryside Team, we have some ambitious plans for 2020 to make Ham Hill Country Park better than ever. We will keep you posted through local publications, community notice boards and social media, so keep an eye and ear out.

If you want to know more about our activities, follow "Ham Hill Country Park" on Facebook or email is at [HamHillFriends@gmail.com](mailto:HamHillFriends@gmail.com)"

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SMAT NORD Caravan Towing Extension Mirrors. Set of two. Excellent condition. £40 new.

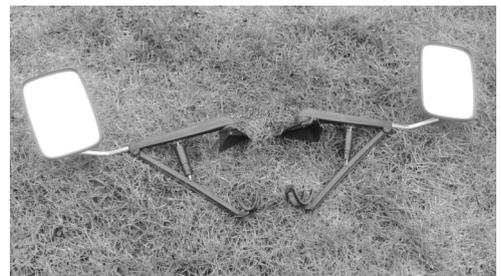
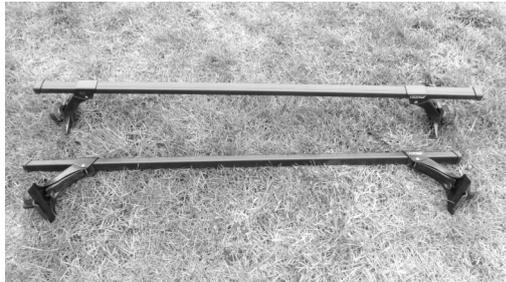
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SWIVEL CHAIR. Suitable for desk. Good condition. For sale £10.00

THULE SquareBar Evo Complete Roof Rack system with classic steel square bars with locks and key. Black polymer coating. £150 new.

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Buyer collects



Reclamation materials in Montacute - free to a good home!



Beautiful Bridgwater tiles - mainly double Roman, some pantiles, terra-cotta pipes (see picture).

Medium sized metal water tank which could be used as a planter. Wood of various lengths and widths.

Also large vintage metal trunk.

Please contact

[jmccubbin61@gmail.com](mailto:jmccubbin61@gmail.com)  
(mailto:[jmccubbin61@gmail.com](mailto:jmccubbin61@gmail.com)) to  
arrange a viewing.

## VILLAGE AGENT

March brings a stirring of energy. You can hear it around you in the bird song and see it with the early excited anticipation of the summer months ahead.

Mother's Day was traditionally a time to return to the Mother Church, to your family and your roots. A time to reflect and feel grateful for the support you have received and the beautiful world around you. Today mindful reflection and gratitude for even the smallest things has been proven to increase your mental well being, and an important way to feel good – try 5 minutes of this type of thinking when you wake up in these lighter mornings, it's a great positive start to your day!

CCS Somerset Agents are also all around you to help you to get the most out of your life. Village Agents work with anyone who asks for support and can be found in your parish magazine and website and on our website [www.Agents.somersetagents.org](http://www.Agents.somersetagents.org)

Carers will support you if you are over 18 and are looking after someone in an unpaid capacity whether that's your child if you are their Carer, partner, relative or friend – lots of advice and support options can be found at [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or by calling our freephone helpline 0800 3168 600. We have a new Carers Group starting in Yeovil on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the new beautifully refurbished Samaritans building Marley House, follow the Samaritans signs on Manor Road from opposite the entrance to the Octagon theatre.

Community Agents will support you with a referral from Adult Social Care (call Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224) or may work direct from your local doctor's surgery. And finally, our transport agent is working on transport solutions for the whole county.

To find out more pop-in to any of our Talking Cafes – free drop in's – and meet one of the CCS Agents who can set you up with the right support for you. See below for your local Talking Café:

**Chard:** Chard Library, Holyrood Lace Mill, Holyrood St. Every Monday\* 2pm - 4pm

**Langport:** The Angel, Bow Street Every Monday\* 10am – 1pm

**South Petherton:** South Petherton Library, 3 St. James St Every Friday 10am – 12 noon

**Holloway**  
flowers and

**Yeovil:** HomeFirst @ Yeovil Hospital, in the Canteen Every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm



**07968521746**

**[cath@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:cath@somersetccc.org.uk) Cath** We

have a team of Community Agents and Village Agents across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community. Please visit [www.somersetccc.org.uk](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk) and [www.somersetcarers.org](http://www.somersetcarers.org) or call me to find out who can advise you.

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## **Montacute TV Radio Toy Museum**

**'Teens through the Time warp' – A new exhibition** about growing up in Weston-Super-Mare from the 1950's onwards.

Developed by North Somerset Museum and North Somerset Youth Service put together by young people who conducted over 50 interviews exploring individuals' experiences of being a teenager. It covers various areas of life including entertainment & technology that is enhanced by the nostalgic collection of Montacute Museum. Walk back in time from the birth of TV and radio to the modern day, the museum is like a Tardis, opening up inside to reveal an unexpectedly immense number of displays, probably the largest collection of toys, books, annuals, jigsaws and games related to TV and radio programmes. Large Sci-fi & Super-Hero sections.

### **Tearooms -Garden & bright conservatory**

#### **Light lunches, Afternoon & Cream teas**

Museum & tearooms open: 10th April-6th May, 25th May- 2nd June, mid-July-Sept, & Oct half-term. See website for actual days & times.

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## POST OFFICE

February is always a dreadful month anyway, it's dreary, cold dark & nasty but it was made even worse because I lost my wonderful Auntie/ Godmother. She fought the Big C well.

As from 23rd March (My Birthday !!) the price of postage goes up ( NOT OUR FAULT !!!) Please find attached ( hopefully) some of the new prices, we should have new price lists in the office with all the prices in soon. As we said in the last magazine... WE DO GAS & ELECTRIC TOP UPS, not just for British Gas but most of the other companies too !!

The zoo, sadly has some news that is not good, and that for reasons that we do not know, Harald the Alpaca passed away on the 22nd of February so because he was so full of mischief & nonsense the field is very quiet without him and we miss him very very much. The ponies are quiet, muddy, fed up with the weather as are the walking sponges ( sheep), who are quite happy to stay in every night with everyone else !! Why not with food, water & a comfy bed !! Down at base camp the ducks are thinking about starting to lay, the chickens are laying, because there is nothing else to do apart from run from the chicken sheds to the goat shed to find somewhere different to lay !! I do have two new baby lambs Clyde and Hugo, both still on the bottle at the moment but will become established lawnmowers in the future !! They have bought a little bit of fun to an otherwise rubbish month...

On that note, on behalf of all of us we would like to thank you all for your kind messages of sympathy, cards, letters & flowers given to us after the death of our Dear Sister-in-law & Auntie. Margo will be sadly missed by us and all her friends in the village. Thank you so much also to Gina and all the Ladies for the floral arrangements in the church in memory of Margo, they were beautiful.

*Nigel, Myrtle, Louise & Andy xxx*

## Royal Mail **1st Class and 2nd Class**

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	250g	£1.64	£1.40
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	750g	£2.95	£2.48
<b>Small Parcel</b>	1kg	£3.70	£3.10
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<b>Medium Parcel</b>	1kg	£5.90	£5.20
	2kg	£9.02	£5.20
	5kg	£15.85	£8.99
	10kg	£21.90	£20.25
	20kg	£33.40	£28.55
<b>Includes compensation up to</b>		<b>£20.00</b>	<b>£20.00</b>

Prices are exempt from VAT.

## MARGO HANN

We would like to thank all those who attended Mum's funeral, for the donations and all of the messages of sympathy sent to us. Mum was very much part of village life, being involved in many Clubs and Church activities over many years. She will be sadly missed by us and many of you in the Village. Special thanks to Susan Laycock for taking the funeral services, the Church Wardens, Ken Sherring, Gina Fisher for organising the flowers in the Church and Nigel Irish, of Irish and Denman Funeral Directors, for all their help.

*Niki and Sue and all Margo's family.*

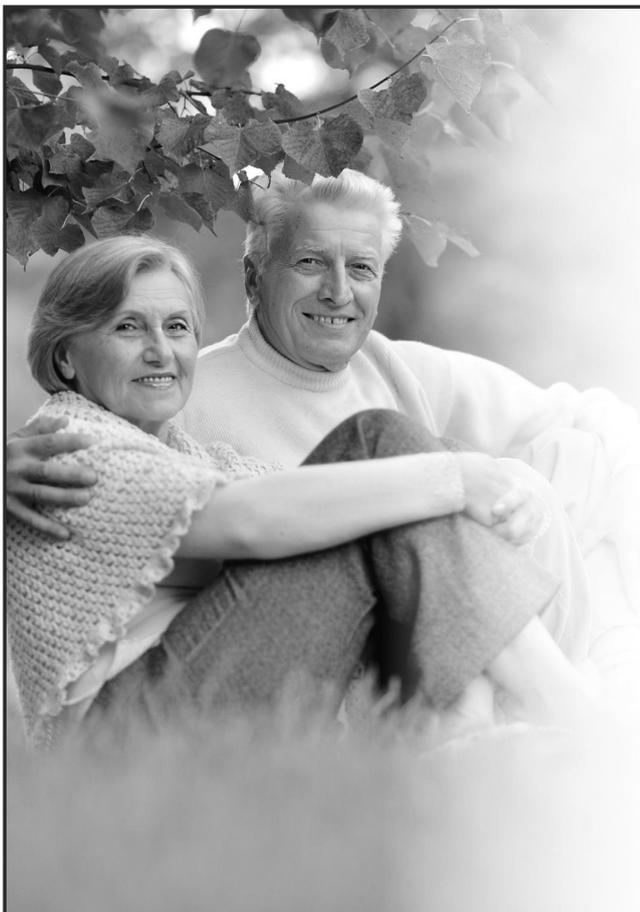
## THE PINK PALACE SEWING STUDIO

Do you like stitching in all its forms? Would you enjoy sewing with a friendly group of like minded people in a warm, relaxed atmosphere? The Pink Palace Studio is a lovely garden room dedicated to stitching with crafting tables and plenty of plugs for sewing machines for up to 8 people. We are starting a Wednesday Group and if you would like to come on your own or bring a friend you are most welcome. We are a friendly club and our ethos is to share skills and ideas as well as having workshops every so often to broaden our minds. Commencing at the beginning of April we will meet alternate Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.

For further information and to come and see the studio and have a chat with a cup of coffee and homemade cake please contact:

email: [thepinkpalacestudio@yahoo.com](mailto:thepinkpalacestudio@yahoo.com) \*\*\* Phone or text:  
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*Jayne English*



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## ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

The Christmas holidays now seem a distant memory. We began our new term with the wonderful news that we remain to be a 'Good' school under the new Ofsted framework.

*'All Saints Church School is a happy, safe place for pupils to learn. Staff know pupils well and want the best for them. One staff member, whose views reflected the views of many, told the inspector that it was a privilege to teach the pupils they have at the school. Pupils think equally highly of staff. They know that staff are there to help them keep safe and achieve well. Christian values underpin the family feel of the school. The school's close ties with the local church help to achieve this.*

*Staff have high expectations of pupils. They work hard to support pupils well. Relationships are strong, and everyone values each other's contribution.'*

*Nathan Kemp (Ofsted HMI Lead Inspector)*

The spring term is well and truly underway! Everyone has settled back into their routines and signs of our whole school daffodil planting day are beginning to show themselves around the school grounds.

Our staff and pupils have been out and about visiting various places of interest this half term. As part of the topic 'Art on our doorstep' Class 3 visited the Willow and Wetland Centre in January. A fantastic day of learning was had by all. The children learnt about the different types of willow and how it is processed. They saw people making baskets and coffins out of willow and also saw how charcoal is made. The children brought home a big bundle of willow so that they could make their own dreamcatchers in their classroom.

Class 3 has also been creating some amazing art at school! based on a French artist, Helene Michel-Donadieu. Their piece of collage artwork was created using a layered effect.

The children have also been combining their learnt skills of painting, collage and drawing to produce a picture of a famous building. An overlay of a famous building, drawn by the pupils on acetate, was then placed over the top of their original painting. The final results were stunning!

This term's Year 6 topic, 'The Battle of Britain' has enabled staff and children to totally immerse themselves within the past. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Year 6 went to Nothe Fort in Weymouth for a WWII evacuation experience. During the day the children learnt about rationing, how to wash clothes by hand, how to use a mangle and what life was like as a child at school (with a very strict Head teacher). The children also experienced running to an Anderson shelter when hearing the siren. It was a fabulous day which helped to reinforce a half term's learning.

Best wishes

*Mrs Sharon Bowditch*, Head Teacher      01935 826626



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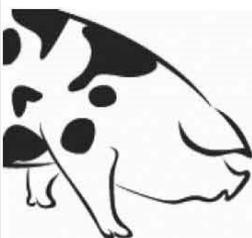
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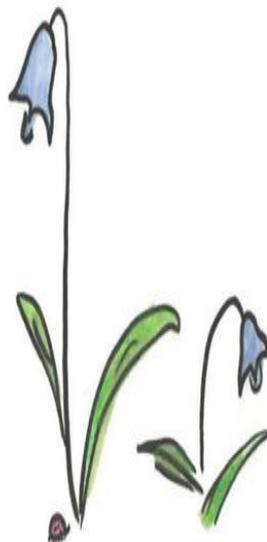
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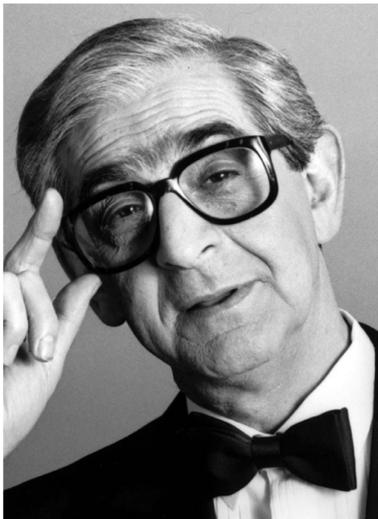


- ⊗ Contact Ellen or Tim:
- ⊗ 01935 827800
- ⊗ 07908 309940
- ⊗ 07500 893340
- ⊗ Reclaimed807@gmail.com

# MONTACUTE CHARITY QUIZ

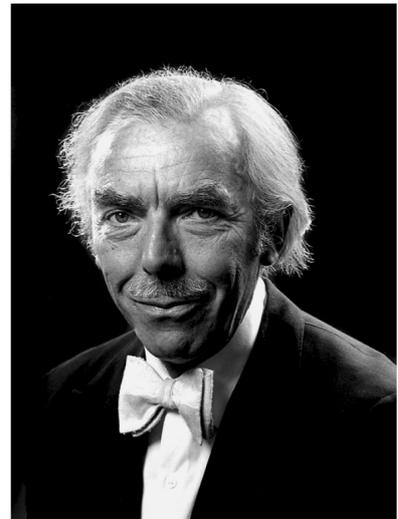
**\*\*\* Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March \*\*\***  
**In Montacute Village Hall**

**This month's feature round...**  
**Comedy Writers**  
(Barry Took died this day 2002)



Over £10,000  
raised for  
charities

Doors open  
7:40 pm



**Quiz starts 8.00 pm SHARP**

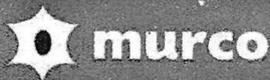
**10.30 pm FINISH**

**NO BAR - Bring your own refreshments – No Corkage!**

***Booking Essential***

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## N.I.M.B.Y

Not in my back yard please or in this case opposite my front garden!

I am referring to the proposed new build development of 25 + houses at the western end of the village adjacent to Mason Lane.

I hate the thought of my green and pleasant view being replaced by a mini estate of houses bringing to an end my twilight viewing of the wonderful sunsets from my garden bench. You could say my viewpoint is as selfish as the get rich quick scheme embarked on by the land owners and you might say we desperately need more houses and you might be right. But I look on Montacute as one of the few unspoilt villages that as yet is not blighted by these ill fitting adhoc blocks of new build houses that ruin the charm and quaint character of the archetypal English village. The employed architects put invites to a consultation meeting through the doors of the Mason Lane residents & a few on nearby lamp posts practically ignoring the other 98% of the Montacute residents, so my partner & myself copied a few more and posted some through letter boxes & asked the post office to put one up as well as the local Co- Op. It was good that we did for we the Mason Lane residents were not alone when we attended the village hall between 5 & 7pm on 27th of Feb to see what they are contemplating. It was good to see some of our fellow Montacuteans and few folk from Stoke who have an interest and may share our objections to the development after all when you give these developers ONE FIELD for 25+ houses you might be making it easier for more and more similar planning permissions getting through. That's more people, more cars, more traffic at the Cartgate junction, more traffic through the village, more accidents at the T junction, more pressure on school places etc etc. The planning application to get principle agreement for a development goes in next week no doubt things will move a long at a pace. The plan showing 25 plots will probably bear no resemblance to what will actually be proposed by a

greedy unsympathetic developer who will want to see some profit from every inch of the green and pleasant field. They will probably want to shoe horn 40 plus houses in like sardines of which a percentage have to be for social housing. Well we will keep you updated on the situation and urge any you who share our concerns to object in any way you can to the planning application.

*C & L , Mason Lane Montacute.*

1<sup>5 7</sup> 3<sup>8</sup> 8<sup>3 2</sup> 5<sup>6</sup> 7<sup>1 5</sup> 9<sup>8</sup> 2<sup>7</sup> 1<sup>1</sup>  
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## VILLAGE DIARY

### March

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Institute 7.30pm Village Hall

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Garden Club 7.30pm Village Hall

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting 7.15pm Village Hall

Weds 18<sup>th</sup> Juliet's meeting .45 King Arms, Vi 826687 or Margaret 824377

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> VE Day meeting 7.15p. Village Hall

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Promises Auction Village Hall 7pm

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Charity Quiz at Village Hall – start 8pm sharp

### April

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Institute 7.30pm Village Hall

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Easter Bingo, Village Hall, doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7pm.

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Garden Club AGM 7.30pm Village Hall

Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Juliet's meeting 6.45pm Kings Arms, Vi 826687 or Margaret 824377

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting 7.15pm Village Hall

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Women's Institute, St Georges Day Dinner 7.30pm Village Hall

Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Village Hall Coffee Morning 10am to 12 midday.

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Charity Quiz at Village Hall – start 8pm sharp

### May

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Women's Institute 7.30pm Village Hall

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> V.E. Day Celebrations

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Garden Club visit to Brimsmore

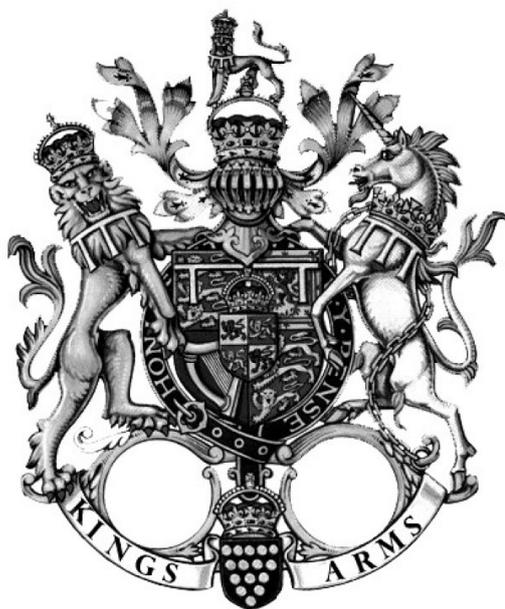
Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Parish Council meeting 7.15pm Village Hall

Weds 20<sup>th</sup> Juliet's meeting 6.45pm Kings Arms Vi 826687 or Margaret 824377

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Charity Quiz at Village Hall – start 8pm sharp

Please contact Kaye Harper at 17 Hyde Road, Montacute, tel:- 824537 or email [hak71@btinternet.com](mailto:hak71@btinternet.com) with details of your events. Hopefully this will stop major events in the Village clashing over dates. Thank you.

# *The Kings Arms Inn*



*Kings Arms Inn,*

*Montacute,*

*Yeovil,*

*TA15 6UU*

*[www.theKingsArmsInn.co.uk](http://www.theKingsArmsInn.co.uk)*

*Tel. 01935 822255*

*MUSIC*

*QUIZ NIGHT*

*With Mr Jukebox*

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March*

*8:30pm Start*

*Jackpot Rollover Pot*

*Lunch 12pm - 3pm*

*Dinner 6pm - 9pm*

*7 days a week*

*Mothers Day*

*22<sup>nd</sup> March*

*Don't forget to book  
your table for  
Mothering Sunday.*

