

FREE

Issue 23, April 2021

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Daffodils at Hayne

EDITORIAL

This month I bring you news that the Editorial Group has successfully secured grants to help cover the cost of producing the newsletter. Since early last year, with successive lockdowns, some of our advertisers have not renewed their adverts because they have been unable to operate. This has had an impact on our income but, thanks to the Den Brook Community Fund and a Government Support Grant we have received around £1800, which will keep us going until life gets back to something like normal.

The Den Brook fund is the subject of an article by Mike Bostock on page 21 and I urge readers to give some thought to his request. Also this month we are lucky to have lots of photographs, both new and very old, covering a wide range of topics, from school days to plants; thanks to everyone who contributed. I'm sure you'll find something of interest.

Finally, if you haven't already read about it on Facebook, there are details of an event on Good Friday that will hopefully get us out and about round our village. Read all about it on Page 4. Whatever you get up to this month, may we wish you a Happy Easter as we look forward to the easing of Covid restrictions.

DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE: 8 APRIL

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ZEAL MONACHORUM COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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Jan Summers 01363 82571

Sally Rowden 01363 82531

Jackie Watson 01363 82263

Mandy Smith 07855 830668

DEFIBRILLATORS

We have two defibrillators in the village, located at the following sites:

Village Hall - on the west wall (nearest to Churchill Gardens)

Waie Inn - on the wall by the entrance to the soft play area/swimming pool.

RAINFALL

Rainfall for February was 104 mm, 4 inches.

MOBILE LIBRARY

There are no visits at the time of writing but you can 'Choose and collect'; phone 01363 772578 or visit www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/creditonlibrary.

TWENTY'S PLENTY



As reported last month by Parish Council chair Andrew Chandler the village now has several signs encouraging speedy drivers to slow down. Here are some pictures of them in situ.

We urge all drivers to be more considerate of pedestrians and pets while driving in our village.



SALE/GIVE-AWAY OF ANYTHING & EVERYTHING

Join in this Zeal Monachorum event from doorsteps and garden gates
Good Friday 2nd April 2021
[if wet, the day after]

A location map of sellers will be posted on the notice boards in advance.
Those householders who want to be shown on the map please contact
Erica 82606, reden@rocketmail.com by 28 March.

Even if you are not on the map you can still take part, but it will help potential
‘customers’ to know where to look for goodies.
Opening times are up to the individual householders.

**Participants, both browsers and householders, are personally responsible for
following the COVID rules in place at the time.**
PLEASE WEAR A MASK, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
and TAKE/USE HAND SANITISER
Please be courteous and wait your turn

Remember to have some cash to pay, and sellers to have some change.
The idea is intended to be uncomplicated and not involve much effort but to bring
the community “socially distanced” together in small numbers in the open air.
Let’s hope Good Friday will bring good weather.

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FARMING FROM THE HEDGE

Timely reminder to all who use public footpaths for walking their dogs. Cattle will be going out into the fields now that spring is with us. **Young cattle** going outside for the first time in their lives will be inquisitive of walkers and dogs, some will be nervous and are likely to take fright. Any group of cattle will act as a mass; their weight and speed can be a dangerous combination so approach with care.



Over the past year it has been sad to hear of the death of walkers in incidents with cattle on footpaths across farmland, and devastating for their families. When **walking in the countryside** it is wise to try and read the body language of animals when entering their territory.

Spring also brings new born lambs; sadly, in the last year, there has been a dramatic increase of **dog attacks on flocks of sheep**. Dogs are completely unpredictable when faced with something they have not seen before. It is best to assume that your dog MAY chase and attack other animals, it's in their nature. You should always keep your animal under **close control** (on a lead for peace of mind), especially if you cannot trust your dog to obey your command.

Some people are unaware of how they should behave on footpaths through the fields which are a **farmer's workplace**; dogs that are neither on a lead or under close control but are straying across fields, are in danger of fouling the grass the farmer is growing for their livestock, or the crops which will eventually be food for humans to eat.

Tennis balls thrown for dogs to chase are frequently lost in long grass and end up in swathes of grass when it is cut. This is chopped for winter feed by a forage harvester and can cause serious stomach problems for farm animals.

Please do not allow dogs to jump into water troughs to cool down, they are there to provide clean water for animals to drink.

Another serious problem is the **disturbance to wildlife** by out-of-control dogs, especially for ground nesting birds between March and July. Alas, this has been exacerbated by the increase in numbers of dogs and walkers on footpaths in local fields during lockdown.

Respect and common sense applies to all when walking in the countryside, as in most other aspects of life. Please take extra care to avoid any serious or unpleasant incidents in our parish.

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

April Garden Advice from Bow Garden Centre

It's April, and Spring has well and truly sprung! The month of April brings with it a whole host of jobs to keep you busy in the garden and, fingers crossed, some lovely weather to go along with it. There's plenty to sow and grow in your garden, but there's lots more to do besides planting out. Take a look at these tips on what needs doing, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre:

1. Apply a general-purpose fertiliser to borders and beds. Use Miracle Gro feed on shrubs, farmyard manure around trees and rose feed on roses. Roses are greedy plants and will really benefit from feeding as they come into growth.
2. Plant Summer-flowering bulbs, if not done already. Use a bit of gravel in the bulb hole and bulb fibre to ensure good drainage to prevent bulbs from rotting.
3. The warmer weather will quickly affect moisture levels in your soil – mix water storing granules with compost to improve water retention in containers.
4. Prepare beds for the growing season. Dig in at least a 5cm layer of compost, and work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as 6x, Growmore, or fish, blood and bone.
5. If you haven't done so already, cut back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants to make way for new growth.
6. Honeysuckle and Clematis will be putting on growth now, so tie new stems to train them along their supports.
7. Protect fruit blossom from late frosts by covering them with horticultural fleece on cold nights.
8. Continue deadheading spring bulbs and bedding, so they don't waste energy setting seed.
9. Clean ponds, and then add aquatic plants such as Waterlilies and Irises.
10. Make good use of April Showers... attach guttering to sheds and greenhouses and install water butts. Rainwater is much less harsh on plants, as it doesn't contain the chemicals that tap water does.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including a much expanded range of plants, plus tools, propagation equipment, pots, greenhouses, plants, seeds and everything you need for gardening. We are open during lockdown for all essentials, including pet supplies and Post Office services. Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is just 10 minutes from Zeal Monachorum. EX17 6LA. www.bowgardencentre.co.uk, 01363 82438.





ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

We are now moving forward and are expecting to hold all future services in church. If we are unable to meet in church safely we will continue to hold our worship on zoom. If you would like to join us contact me and I will send you an invitation.

Our Easter Common Worship Eucharist will be on Saturday, 3rd April at 5.30pm. As all of the churches in our Mission Community are not able to have their services on Easter Day we have, over the last few years, held it on Easter Eve. I very much hope that we will have a Happy Easter Celebration, something we were unable to do in 2020. All the necessary Covid 19 guidelines will still have to be met: face coverings, hand sanitiser and social distancing.

The church will continue to be open on Wednesday mornings between 9.30am – 12.30pm for private prayer. Please use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church and observe all the current guidelines

Church rotas for April 2021

Saturday April 3rd	at 5.30pm Easter Eve	Common Worship Eucharist
First reading	Acts 10: 34-43	Mr Andrew Chandler
New Testament	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	Mr Colin Crothers
Gospel	John 20: 1 - 18	Rev D. Rowbottom
	Sidesman	Mr Tony Brealby
	Flowers	Miss Margaret Harris
	Cleaner	Mrs Becky Harvey
April 11th	at 6.30pm Easter 2	C W E
Reading 1	Acts 4: 32-35	Miss Lynn Warren
New Testament	1 John 1: 1-10; 2: 1-2	Mr Robert Peck
Gospel	John 20: 19-31	Rev D. Rowbottom
	Sidesman	Mr Colin Crothers
April 25th	at 6.30pm Easter 4, lay led	Evening Prayer
First reading	Acts 4: 5-12	Mrs Sally Rowden
New Testament	John 10: 11-18	Mr Colin Crothers
	Sidesman	Mrs Marian Quick
	Flowers	Mrs Isabel Harris

Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia

Flower arranging for Easter Eve will be from 10.00am on Saturday 3rd April.

Church Electoral Roll update. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is being held in April. The Electoral Roll is updated annually before the APCM. If you would like to be included on the Church Electoral Roll please contact Gavin, the roll officer, **Tel. 82531**; closing date Monday 5th April. As a member on the Electoral Roll you are able to vote at the annual meeting and be eligible to become a member of the PCC who make decisions on both the life and upkeep of our lovely church building.

Parochial Church Council Meeting 2021

The Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council will take place on Wednesday, 21st April at 7.00pm., probably on zoom. If so, details will be available from the secretary. This is an opportunity to hear reports of activities in 2020 including the presentation of the audited accounts, churchwarden's report on the fabric of the church and churchyard, the bell ringer's and Deanery synod report. We elect our churchwardens. Anyone who is both on the church electoral roll and electoral roll of the Parish is able to nominate and elect the churchwardens. Anyone can attend the annual meeting, but only the church electoral roll members can vote to elect the PCC members, who then elect their officers. Nomination papers are available from the secretary.

Our PCC is small at the moment, so please consider becoming a member and help spread the load. We are proud of our lovely church which has served the parish for many years and will continue to do so with your support.

Thank you. On behalf of the Parochial Church Council I would like to say a sincere thank you to the members of the electoral role for the continued response to the appeal sent to them by the Churchwarden.

Take away cream teas. On the third Sunday of each month, from April to September, take away cream teas will be available from the church porch between 3.00 – 4.00pm. Orders will be taken on Saturday (the day before).



Two scones, cream and strawberry/ raspberry jam £3.50. You will need to state your jam preference when placing your order.

Contacts: Margaret Harris 82251/
Margaret Down 82204.

Margaret

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YOUNG FARMERS

Isabel Harris has turned out a couple of Young Farmer Carnival photos, featuring herself and Trevor Rounsley. She tells us: "Bow Young Farmers would enter the local Carnivals, starting with Crediton in early October and later Okehampton, Hatherleigh and Dolton. We were fortunate that K J Stoneman at Copplestone would lend a tractor, unless someone had a new one to drive."

"The photo entitled 'Cider Drinker' was inspired by The Wurzels. Judging took place along Western Road and, in the background, you can just make out Queen Elizabeth School. Trevor was turning the handle of an old root chopper."

"The photo taken at Okehampton was entered as 'A Farmers Dream'. The farmer, reading his Farmers Weekly, and his wife were on a tropical island. I was dressed up as a Hawaiian maiden, complete with grass skirt and floral garland. I spent most of the time feeding the farmer with grapes. Trevor would often recall this Carnival, as he had to help someone change a tyre at Stopgate on the way and had to explain why he was dressed like he was!"



**Crediton Carnival
1976;**

Theme: 'Cider
Drinker'

L-R: Rachel Tapp,
Martin Jarvis,
Isabel Dockings
(now Harris),
Susan Dockings,
Stephen Jeffrey,
Trevor Rounsley

**Okehampton
Carnival, 1975;**
theme: 'A Farmer's
dream'

L – R:
Trevor Rounsley,
Isabel Dockings,
(now Harris)
Martin Jarvis.

Just look at Trevor's
sideburns - were they
real?



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ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

Greetings to all WI members past, present and future. What a time it's been. No meetings since our birthday in March 2020. Recently, discussions aplenty regarding staying on as a member or not. An increase in subscriptions has been the main topic of dissent, here and nationwide it seems. Our current treasurer decided it would be a grand gesture to refund last year's subs, it was agreed by the current committee only to be shot down in flames upon the receipt of a missive from on high advising this was not constitutionally allowed; we obviously were not alone in our thoughts of reimbursing. However, we are permitted to offer a reduction from the total of this year's subscription by asking members to only pay the amount that National (NFWI) take - £12.10 and County (DFWI) - £10.30 take from the whole. A carrot of sorts!! This reduces the coming years subs from £44 to £22.40. (This equates to approximately £1.87 per week).

I am pleased to announce that two members have each recruited a new member to join Zeal WI. This is grand news as I have received notification from six members that they will not be re-joining. I can fully understand their reasons, which are varied. We will be a depleted group and goodness only knows when we will be able to meet up again for our monthly meetings in the village hall.

Annual subscriptions should be paid on April 1st but I am not entirely sure how and when these will be collected. I write this on 18th February, too late for the March issue, perhaps by the April issue things will have improved.

Best wishes Jan Brealy (President ZMWI)


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Quotes

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks GO.

There is only one rule for being a good talker – learn to listen.

Christopher Morley, American journalist, novelist and poet.

MY LIFE IN THE NAAFI by Stephen Watkins

Part 3 – It's not all sun, sand and beer.

When we returned to HMS Fearless we conducted several drills such as gas mask testing and Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defence (NBCD) training. To test your gas mask, you had to walk into a chamber of gas and if you could taste pear drops, your mask didn't fit properly. As an upper deck first aid team member, part of the training required me to wear a rubber suit in 40° C heat on the upper deck for several exhausting hours. We just hoped we never had to do that for real.

Over the years I made several trips to the Caribbean, one memorable stop-over was Guyana. We were met by plush modern vehicles and escorted by armed guards to local hotels. On arrival at the Georgetown Hilton, women were begging for food and trying to push through the cordon to get to us in the hope we would donate. Some carried their dead children as if to demonstrate their need. This was probably my first experience of abject poverty, and it was heart-breaking. We were there to deliver a large aid package and for this, HMS Fearless was awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

On one visit to Curacao, I was 12th man for the cricket team. I ended up playing for Curacao as they were short of players. We were astounded at how old they all were and the pitch was a dustbowl. There was talk of us going easy on them but the Fearless team was all out for just 22 runs, a total that Curacao easily reached.

On another visit, this time to Bermuda, Paul and I went for a Sunday walk. After a while, we were stopped by a guy on a moped and asked if we liked cricket. He then rode on ahead and sent a car to pick us up which took us to a local game. Like England, Bermuda is split into counties, each one named after an English county. This game was Somerset v Warwickshire. We were invited into the President's tent, told that we were his guests, and everything was complimentary - beer, sandwiches and cakes! We had a wonderful day.

On our return to the UK we were met by our families who were allowed on board for a day at sea. My parents had brought my grandfather who was eager to see what life was like on board ship. He and I had always been close but my time at sea brought us even closer and I would often stop off and stay the night on my way home for leave. We would pop down to the Working Men's Club in Stoke Sub Hamdon, Somerset where I would be grilled by his friends about where I had been and what I had been up to. Many of them were D Day veterans, just like my Grandad. He was in the 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and if I remember correctly, he landed in France on D-Day +6. As a surprise, I had arranged with the Royal Marines to take all of us out on a Landing Craft Unit. We managed to get him into it and as soon as we hit the water, his face lit up. It was an incredible feeling, experiencing this with my father and grandfather.



Pictured above L - R: my grandfather, Lesley 'Charlie' Andrews; me; my father, Gary Watkins, former landlord of the White Hart in Crediton.

Several deployments to the Mediterranean followed, one of which saw us visit what was then the USSR. We sailed through the Dardenelles, the scene of an infamous naval battle during WW1. We held a remembrance service to honour the dead before heading for Sevastopol in the Crimea. We were greeted by thousands of people as it was unusual for the Royal Navy to enter a Soviet port. We were only allowed ashore in uniform so that we could be easily identified.

Only being allowed to exchange £10 of local currency, we all thought we would have no cash left within minutes, but it transpired that this was a huge amount to the local people. Some of us began loading bags of canned drinks and chocolate to hand out to the children. A simple gift of chocolate and coke was apparently worth a month's wages on the black market and this left some parents overcome with joy. Some of them chased us down the street and tried to give it back saying it was too much. This really made us realise how much western society takes these things for granted. Vodka and Armenian brandy were readily available to us in the local bars at around 15p a bottle, caviar on melba toast went well with it; it was astounding how inexpensive these treats were compared to home. One evening though, as we walked down a street we saw a queue nearly 500m long; the butcher had just received a delivery, the first for a month and meat was rationed. This was 1991 and none of us could believe what we were seeing.

We sailed from the Crimea to Constanta in Romania where we were to assist with the humanitarian aid delivery. What we witnessed was horrific. The institutions had been abandoned by the authorities, in fear of reprisals following the overthrow of Ceausescu; patients in care homes and children in orphanages had been left to care for themselves and each other. But while there, we were able to find time to gather clothes and toiletries to donate to those in need. Throughout my time in the NAAFI, I have seen some awful sights, but also some truly beautiful places.

Next month – The Med and the Far East.

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FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All


Not a great deal to report this month, mainly because the Covid regulations have prevented our usual day ticket anglers from coming due to the restricted distance that people can travel. Normally, at this time of the year, we would see visitors from Wales.

On the subject of maintenance, John Lethbridge has replaced the post on the main gate and also the handrail across the cattle grid. Our thanks go to him. We hope that the water will soon begin to warm up and we can enjoy this month with some good fishing. We are also hoping to start some refurbishing of the fishing swims. Please be careful as they are quite slippery at the moment. We intend to make them safer by putting a chicken wire covering over the surface of the wood.

Tight lines

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CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you. During February and the beginning of March you have continued to be so incredibly generous giving bags and bags of food and toiletries plus £50. With the money donated I was able to buy those weekly needs at the time when they were needed most. We are helping to keep those shelves stocked as we join with people in other areas around Crediton.

You may not have been able to see the weekly (give or take a few days) updates around the village, but when Chris the Foodbank Coordinator first did this, she was amazed at how quickly people rose to the occasion, and because it worked so well, it has continued. She thanks everyone and says you are all helping to keep the Foodbank functioning at a time when numbers continue to rise.

Is there a particular area in our society where the Foodbank is needed? **NO**, absolutely not. Those people who have been used to giving, as you are, are finding it very difficult to be in the position of having to ask for help; they have been hit very hard. Difficult to believe, but true. So, thank you for your perseverance. Many Blessings to you all.

THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP

David Bowyer

**East Foldhay, Zeal Monachorum,
Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DH**

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New Website: www.davidbowyer.co.uk

***Always happy to give advice
on all things made in wood***

I was asked to make a little broom cupboard for outside a property as there was so little space inside to keep brooms, mops, buckets, window cleaning gear and an assortment of cleaning materials.

Following an idea of what was required I came up with this sturdy, waterproof cupboard, tall enough for the tallest broom, with some shelves to keep bits and bobs on. It is now painted to match the property.

If you have something in mind to make or repair, please give me a ring.





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QUIZ

1. What is the occupation of the character Patrick Clinton?
2. To which famous football manager is the term 'hairdryer' connected?
3. What type of organism is yeast?
4. What was the first christian name of the late Sean Connery?
5. Which small creature in our gardens is actually a crustacean, related to crabs and shrimps?
6. How many one eyed Jacks are there in a pack of 52 cards?
7. What is the capital of Austria?
8. Which two elements in the Periodic Table end in the letter 'c'?
9. Which is longer, a nautical mile or a mile on land?
10. Which multi million pound company did Lord Leverhulme begin in 1886?
11. If you list all the countries of the world in alphabetical order, which one comes first?
12. In cricket, what is a golden duck?
13. Which writer lived in the Lake District at Hill Top Farm?
14. Which type of bread is named after the Italian for a slipper?
15. Found in the throat, what is unique about the Hyoid bone?

Minute Quiz

A Portmanteau is a new word formed by blending two others together,
for example Oxbridge, from Oxford and Cambridge.

How many other examples can you think of?

Answers for March

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. The hippopotamus | 8. Oxygen |
| 2. 18 th Century – 1758 | 9. Coca Cola |
| 3. Seven | 10. Tomato Soup |
| 4. Berne | 11. West Virginia |
| 5. 6: white, red, blue, orange,
green, yellow | 12. A Doctor of Philosophy |
| 6. Paddington Bear | 13. A baby newt |
| 7. Billund, Denmark | 14. Amazon |
| | 15. Scafell, Snowdon and Ben Nevis |

Minute Quiz Solution

There have been 5 British Monarchs whose name has only been used once:

Stephen, John, Jane, Anne and Victoria

DEN BROOK COMMUNITY FUND

The fund is a direct consequence of the construction of the Den Brook windfarm. the first mention of which I can find is back in May 2004 when Renewable Energy Systems UK Ltd (RES) applied for the erection of a guyed anemometer mast. This progressed to an application to erect 9 wind turbines in November 2005. There ensued numerous costly legal battles to try to prevent the placement of the turbines but, in any event, construction began in 2015, although various challenges to the operation in respect of the site conforming (or not) to the noise conditions continued until 2018.

As part of the deal, RES agreed to contribute £36,000 per annum (index linked) to the local community plus a further benefit in the form of a Local Electricity Discount Scheme (LEDS). The balance of any money that did not get taken up by LEDS would be donated to the community fund. The management of this fund was to be undertaken jointly by the five affected town/parish councils (Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton and Zeal Monachorum).

The implementation of the scheme was unusual in that it was not to be managed by a third party as was the norm and this was not without significant problems. Agreeing on apportionment was the main issue. Trying to get five councils to agree on the split was a complete nightmare, to put it mildly. During this fractious time, I was chairman of the fund committee and it fell to me to steer the various members towards a consensus. Everyone wanted a bigger slice of the cake! We continually failed to reach agreement, time was slipping by and, in the end, RES issued a deadline. This helped to concentrate minds, and, at the 11th hour, agreement was reached. The agreement was that 20% of the fund would be split equally and the remaining 80% on a proportional basis according to population. Zeal Monachorum, with its population of 413 had 7.99% of the 80% proportional split plus one fifth of the equally divided 20%.

Once the wind farm started generating power, the money was donated and the Den Brook Community Fund Committee set about establishing an algorithm to weight the applications for the grant according to their benefit to the community. The stated benefit titles are Legacy, Energy, Equal Opportunities, Health & Wellbeing, Disadvantaged, Voluntary & Community and Local Employment. The fund has issued over £150,000 in grants. The portion of the fund allocated to Zeal Monachorum so far is £20,483.69. "*Monachorum Matters*" has benefitted as has the Parish Council's provision of defibrillators. We have also contributed to *Bow CIC Burston Meadows*.

There is still £12,834.89 available. Retention of the fund is dependent on its use, if it is not used then it will be reclaimed by RES. "Use it or lose it" - so start thinking of projects with a community benefit for which we can apply for funding. Our Parish Council wants to hear from you!

Mike Bostock

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE - SAVE THE PLANET PLANT TREES

What a wonder: 4800 native trees being planted on land at Hayne through a Forestry Commission scheme. That's a lot of trees and, I guess, quite a lot of aching backs for Tim Herniman and his helpers, (see picture on next page)

According to the Woodland Trust, when it comes to climate change, native woods and trees are one of the best way to tackle the crisis. Trees help clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and provide habitat to over 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity and, importantly, absorb and store the carbon dioxide emissions that are driving global heating. In December 2020, the government pledged £3.9 million to drive tree planting in order to meet its commitment to increase planting to 30,000 hectares per year across the UK by 2025.

The Woodland Trust is giving away hundreds of thousands of free trees to schools and communities and is opening applications later this spring for autumn 2021 delivery. All kinds of different groups, such as resident associations; sports clubs; parish councils; scouts; guides and many more can apply. You don't need to belong to an official organisation. You could even set up a group for the purpose of planting, but you must be not-for-profit. The most important thing is that your group is willing to take on the planning, planting and care of the saplings.

So, this is a good time to work with others in our community to plan for planting trees. For Community groups, the land needs to be accessible to the public. The local community must be made aware of plans to plant and be happy for planting to go ahead. The community involvement needs to be more than just being in sight of a public footpath or an annual open day. An award of trees to be planted on private land, such as large gardens or paddocks, would be unlikely unless there is genuine public access. Of course, individuals can plant trees on their own land and there are other options to explore than the Woodland Trust.

You won't be surprised that I feel the need to harp on about peat again and its relevance to tree planting: the poor condition of UK peatlands results in the release of carbon equivalent to 5% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions every year - more than the annual emission from all HGVs on UK roads. If restoration efforts are not increased across the UK, then the resultant degraded peatlands ***will emit twice as much carbon as tree planting would capture*** if the Committee on Climate Change's UK forestry target aims were met. Any carbon capture benefit from new woodlands would, therefore, be cancelled out if peatland continues to be dug out and restoration efforts stay at their current levels.

So plant a tree AND kick that peat habit!

Erica Eden



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SEEING RED

While walking in February, Sally and I came across this beautiful fungus. It was growing in the moss on a fallen branch located just off the footpath in the field in Beer Lane. As you can see, the beautiful colouring means that it really stands out.

Neither of us had come across it before but we identified it as a Scarlet Elf Cup or Cap. According to Wikipedia 'The edibility of the fruit bodies is not clearly established, but its small size, tough texture and insubstantial size would dissuade most people from collecting for the table. The fungus has been used medicinally by the Oneida Native Americans, and also as a colourful component of table decorations in England'.

If our readers have seen any other unusual plants around our village, please let us know – send details and pictures to zmon.news@gmail.com

Jan Summers



QUOTE:

If April showers should come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May.

Buddy de Sylva, American song writer

A TALE OF A VERY OLD WINDOW

In 2002 local historian Ann Adams, who lived at Hayne, wrote a book entitled 'Zeal Monachorum: A Devon Rural Parish, 1086-1801'; she was helped in this by Mike Russell. On page 31, she mentions '14th Century traceried window in a building then being demolished at Nymphays.' This building was in fact an old cottage known as North Yeo and it wasn't demolished.

The traceried window, measuring 19" x 12" (which we were told was a hare skin window) was found in the cob wall in the roof space when the cottage was made waterproof. This was done by Alf Howard and workmen from Morchard Road in approx. 1962, using galvanised iron so that farm machinery could be stored.



The wooden window remarkably has survived for possibly 800 years. It was always kept on a beam in the woodshed but over the years became separated into two halves.

One evening, I was about to throw another log on the fire when, luckily John was able to identify the missing half in my hand as part of the window!

I was able to let Ann know that the window was in still existence at Nymphays before she passed away.

GERALD FRIEND

March's newsletter about schooling has resulted in a photo being provided by Gerald Friend of Wootton Top. Gerald used to run the farm which is now managed by Graham & Ruth Friend with their son, Martin. He has provided the names of almost all of his classmates and also where they lived.



Archive photo no.116: School pupils and teacher 1938.

Front row l-r: Joe Vicary, Michael Westcott, John Down, Norman Webber, Cecil Yelland.

2nd row: Margaret Down, Sylvia Webber, Doreen Webber, Lily Tonkins, Amy Mears, ? Tonkins, ? Down.

3rd row: John Westcott, Norman Vicary, ? Down, Doris Greenslade, Pat Bolt, Gerald Friend, Fred Tonkins, Arthur Elston.

Back row: Mrs Richards, Arthur Down, Hilda Bolt, Lily Bellinger, Alice Bellinger, Bernard Tonkins, Muriel Greenslade

Where they lived: Mrs Richards lodged at North Star Inn;
Arthur Down lived at Great Wootton (his 2 brothers are also in the photo);
Hilda & Pat Bolt lived at Elm Tree cottages;

Lily & Alice Bellinger, evacuees, lived with their Grandma in Western Rd;
Bernard, Lily, Fred Tonkins & brother lived at Loosebere Cottages;
Muriel [a teacher] & Doris Greenslade lived down Town Hill [now known as March Cottage];

John & Michael Westcott lived at Great Foldhay;

Norman & Joe Vicary lived at Week Farm;

Arthur Elston lived in Western Road;

Margaret & John Down lived at Thorne Farm;

Sylvia Webber lived it is thought in Monks Cottage;

Norman Webber lived down Town Hill;

Gerald Friend lived at Wootton Top Farm.

Picture and details provided by Gerald Friend



Gerald has obviously done a lot of work on the school picture, and perhaps this was a way of passing the time during his quarantine over the past year. At the beginning of 2020 he lost his wife and, soon after, his only sister so it's been a lonely time. He tells us he stood outside the house giving all the names and details to Ruth, his daughter-in-law, who was inside and she wrote them down.

He hasn't changed a bit from the school photo when he was 8, and he's not bad for 90/91! Look carefully and you will see his black and white cat (on the right) which would often accompany him on his daily walk. He was five when his family moved to Wootton Top, where there have been five generations of Friends.

Thanks to Erica Eden for the picture of Gerald.



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