

FREE

Issue 15 August 2020

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*Sophie Bates with Lily's puppies - story page 6*

## EDITORIAL

As we go to press more establishments have reopened and, it is said, life is beginning to get back to normal. But everyday life is still different for many of us, probably will be for some time. However, lots of lovely things have been happening here in our village and some of them are reported in this newsletter.

Following our request for news and pictures of lockdown activities we've received some wonderful pictures – see cover and page 6; thanks to all who sent in contributions. One of the things that makes our newsletter special is the wealth of stories and anecdotes that you, the readers, have sent in. Lots of people have told us how much they enjoy reading these stories and I'm sure there must be more out there so please keep them coming in.

Two features that will be welcomed back are the Mobile Library and the Village Walk; details of both are on page 14. Recently I have been asked when the Village Hall will reopen. We have received specific detailed guidance from Action with Rural Communities in England (ACRE) and we need to ensure that we are following their recommendations. So for now the Hall will not reopen, but we hope to have more positive news next month. Stay well and stay safe.

### DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE – 8 AUGUST

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## WILD FLOWER QUIZ - ANSWERS



1. Stitchwort



2. Honeysuckle



3. Red Campion



4. Navelwort



5. Foxglove



6. Yellow vetch



7. Speedwell



8. May Blossom



9. Cranesbill

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# LOGO QUIZ ANSWERS

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



## THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who has left such generous donations for flowers at our gate over the last few weeks, and to those bringing their own lovely flowers and vegetables. In no time at all, we have received enough to add to money carried over from last year, to send £100 to ELF and £50 to Crediton Food Bank. We will continue to collect for the Food Bank into this month as we feel it is a particularly needy cause at the moment. With thanks to you all again.

Sally

## RAINFALL

The readings we give are taken by a local amateur rain watcher and refer only to Zeal Monachorum. These records were started in 1998.

Rainfall for the month of June was 150mm / 6 inches. What a contrast to May!



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# LOCKDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

## LILY AND FAMILY

Early in lockdown Lily's first litter of puppies - all 11 of them – took up much time and attention in the home of the Bates family. Everyone played a part in helping to raise the canine family, including daughters Darcey and Sophie. It was quite a different first experience of rearing pups with everything done via video link and online but it was a very special experience nonetheless. All 11 puppies went off to their new forever homes at the end of April.

The photo below shows proud Mum Lily feeding her babies, while on the right Darcey is pictured taking one of the pups for a socialisation walk.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

One of the members of our Editorial Group, Tony Breal, recently celebrated a significant birthday (one with an '0' in it).

On behalf of Zeal residents we'd like to send belated congratulations and good wishes to him. Tony is pictured on the right, with wife Jan, at his celebration party and I'm assured that he did not eat the whole cake himself.

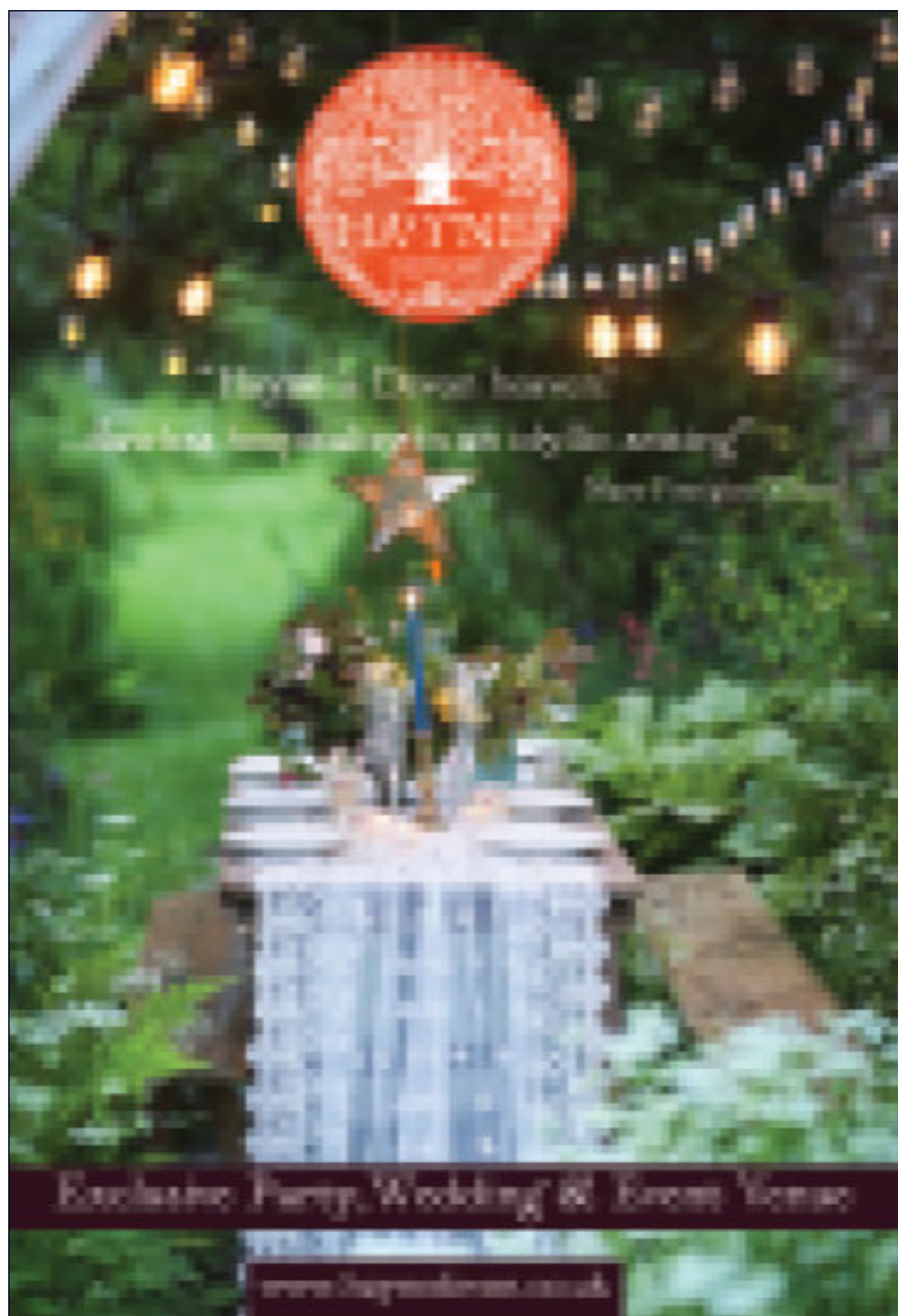


Like many of us Margaret Harris has been making the most of lockdown, putting in the hours in her garden - shown here are some of the results of her efforts.



Still with the Harris family, here is a good example of 'upcycling' ...


Some years ago Jeffrey Harris took an old oil tank and cut it in half. Into the two halves he planted potatoes and, judging by this picture, his potatoes are very happy.



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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council has not met since before lockdown and at the time of writing (early July) I have no information when our meetings will start again. The annual meeting due in May could not take place and I expect that we will now wait to hold the meeting in May 2021. However, life has not entirely stopped and I have received varying communications from villagers. Although current planning applications have been on hold, I have made comment to MDDC regarding the implementation of existing consents where concerns have been raised with me.

Lockdown has really demonstrated an amazing Community Spirit in the village. I would like to thank all the volunteers who put their names forward to help with shopping and other chores during this period. There are too many names to mention, but special thanks to Jackie Watson for instigating a list of volunteers. I am profoundly grateful on behalf of other “vulnerable” households like myself who simply would have struggled without the volunteer help. I have now made new friends in the village who volunteered to help in a village where they had fairly recently moved into. The village even has its own Facebook page. I believe there is now a spirit in the village that did not exist before. Perhaps we need a special event when safe to do so, when the village can come together and build on our new friendships. I would like to thank Sally Rowden for taking the initiative in creating the book swap in the telephone box. I rarely read, but finding interesting books to suit my taste helped me and many others to find ways to pass the time when outings away from home were so restricted.

The Community Spirit was further demonstrated on VE day with spontaneous celebrations taking place (from a safe distance) all around the village. The Waie Inn may have closed during lockdown, but many of us have regularly enjoyed a takeaway meal to help break the monotony of cooking every night.

The Parish Council agreed that it was important to keep information flowing during lockdown to assist residents and even amuse them. A new notice board (beautifully made by David Bowyer) now sits on the green area outside the church. This will become the new village notice board so look out for any notices regarding PC meetings. I reserve the right to organise the board to ensure we have relevant and current information. Generally advertising will not be permitted so if you wish to advertise I would direct you to this magazine. This board should be the focus of Community notices and I would encourage its use rather than the various and somewhat untidy use of telegraph poles.

Thanks to some dedicated work by Jan Summers, Monachorum Matters has continued to be published. The Parish Council agreed that it was appropriate to cover the costs of printing during lockdown and application has been made to the Denbrook Community fund for assistance, although their initial response has not been very favourable. Advertisers have been given a period of free advertising during lockdown as we know many of them have been struggling too.

All meetings are published on the notice board or on the PC website [www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk](http://www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk). The Clerk can be contacted on [zmpcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:zmpcouncil@gmail.com) and myself [acchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:acchandler@btinternet.com)

**Andrew Chandler**, Chairman

## FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

The lake is really fishing well; there have been some nice fish landed - carp, roach and rudd, almost specimen size. We have benefitted from the last lot of heavy rain and the South Down stream is now running again, giving us a good through flow of water into the lake, which is keeping oxygen levels high. Jane had a wonderful sighting at the lake - a pair of Kingfishers flying into the trees on the island, probably feeding youngsters.

It was good to see Ian and Becky Ringrose of Napleton House introducing their two children, Reggie and Archie, to a fishing experience.

This is what the fishing lake is about - encouraging younger members and villagers to visit. It is always there for anyone to just enjoy the peace and tranquility.

We hope you are all managing to stay safe in these uncertain times.

Tight lines

**Ken and Jane**



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*.... and this is the result.*





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## AGE CONCERN CREDITON

We have continued to offer new and different services in response to Covid-19. Having had to close our Day Centre, into which we formerly transported clients on weekdays, we now have our experienced trained staff calling those same clients daily to keep in touch with them to help prevent anyone becoming too isolated. For some of them, or any other older people who need such help, we also shop and/or deliver prescriptions daily to Crediton and the surrounding villages. On Fridays, we deliver around fifty portions of free fish and chips to those clients and on Tuesdays we deliver a freshly-cooked hot two course lunch. We have now resumed house cleaning and other services visiting clients in their homes using PPE.

Our staff can be contacted in working hours for advice, help or information. Please call if you would like to do so or point others whom we may be able to help in our direction. Office hours are: 8.30am – 3.30pm, Monday – Friday.

Age Concern Crediton is on 01363 775008 or [info@ageconcerncrediton.co.uk](mailto:info@ageconcerncrediton.co.uk)

## ZEAL MONACHORUM COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

**Registered with Mid Devon and Devon Community Contacts.**

**Coordinator: Jackie Watson**

The Zeal Monachorum Community Support Group is offering help to self-isolating and shielding villagers with shopping, prescriptions and other emergency supplies. The government's shielding programme was paused on 31st July, including the delivery of food parcels and medicine to those who qualified. But many people will continue to be anxious about stepping outside again and adjusting to the changes, and some people may still have to self-isolate. Therefore, the Zeal Monachorum Community Support Group continues to offer support to anyone who needs it.

### **IF YOU NEED HELP WITH SHOPPING OR PRESCRIPTIONS PLEASE PHONE:**

Anne & Tony Hubery	01363 82683	Jan Summers	01363 82571
Sally Rowden	01363 82531	Jackie Watson	01363 82263
Mandy Smith	07855 830668		

They will arrange for a driver from the village to help you. Please let us know if you think a neighbour might need help.

Coordinating team: Karen Hunt, Sally Rowden, Jan Summers, Jackie Watson.

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER CONTACTS AND DRIVERS!!!**

## MOBILE LIBRARIES

**Devon Mobile Libraries will be back on the road but not quite as we know them for now.** We will be bringing books to you in Zeal Monachorum on **Friday 24 July 2020 Waie Cross 1.15-1.40** and 4 weekly, as usual, after that:

**21 Aug, 18 Sep, 16 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec.**

To make sure that customers and staff are safe, we will only be offering a new type of contactless service for the time being. It's called Choose & Collect: A free delivery of up to 5 books or audiobooks per person selected by staff based on your reading preferences.

- You collect from your usual mobile library stop
- Selections available for adults and children.

How do I make sure I get a Choose and Collect delivery?

Even if we rang you to offer you your first delivery, we regret we can't do this every month. You must contact us to order again. **Order at least 1 week before the mobile library visits your village or stop. Email or telephone the library where your Mobile Library is based to make an order - Tiverton tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk Tel: 01884 244644**

Remember to **tell staff you are a mobile library customer** when you contact us. You can list authors or titles which you would like, and if those books aren't available at Tiverton, the librarian will take them as guidance for substitutions. New customers are welcome, just mention you wish to join the mobile library. We will bag up your books ready for collection, they will have already been issued to your library card to reduce contact.

Please use our hand sanitiser station and follow social distancing rules when you collect and return items. All returned items will be quarantined for 72 hours. We can only deliver pre-ordered selections for now, and regret that staff can't check the shelves for items while you wait during this phase of reopening. Items will be collected and returned at the entrance of the mobile library. You won't be able to enter the vehicle to browse or choose for yourself. We look forward to seeing you again, please be patient while we get used to this new way of working.

**\*\*If you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms please don't come to the library.\*\***

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/documents/22055/395587/Mobile+Libraries+Choose+and+Collect+Information+Sheet.pdf/f2dbcb78-997b-4e72-a2b0-f963c844408b>

*Devon Libraries [Edited by Erica Eden]*

## ZEAL EXPLORERS

Also returning this month is the walking group; the next walk is on **Monday 10 August**, meet at the bus stop at 2pm. For details call Sally, 82531

# QUIZ

1. What is a nine-darter?
2. What do the letters 'RP' stand for?
3. From where does Marmite take its name?
4. Where were you born if you are a Novocastrian?
5. Whose official residence is The Mansion House in London?
6. Which building is known as the Ship of the Fens?
7. A skulk is the collective noun for which animal?
8. In a standard pack of playing cards which king is the only one not to have a moustache?
9. Which seaside football team is called 'The Cherries'?
10. How many Royal Parks are there in London? 8, 10 or 12?
11. Florence Nightingale's sister was called Parthenope, the old name for which other Italian city?
12. Which three words have been used to advertise Rice Krispies since 1932?
13. Which Zodiac sign is represented by a Lion?
14. What is the opposite of evergreen?
15. If I have a cucurbit in my garden, what do I have?

## Minute Quiz

There are 11 capital cities worldwide which begin with the letter 'K'.  
How many can you name?

## Answers for July

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The second full moon  | 8. Appalling, shocking   |
| within a calendar month  | 9. Head, Thorax, Abdomen |
| 2. Iran                  | 10. A sundial            |
| 3. A Rank                | 11. Red                  |
| 4. London                | 12. Old Father Time      |
| 5. Intelligence Quotient | 13. Uruguay              |
| 6. Riga                  | 14. A recession          |
| 7. Chocolate             | 15. Hare                 |

## Answers to the Minute Quiz

leg, arm, ear, gut, rib, eye, gum, lip, toe, hip, jaw



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## CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you - your giving for the month of June has been amazing, there was only one week when I wasn't able to make a delivery BUT there was a week when I made two. God is Good.

When I took donations in recently there was no one in the Foodbank to take delivery but the Church secretary told me to take it through. I had eleven bags of much needed goods and she asked me had I collected them from Tescos. I told her no, from the village. She was amazed and said they are so generous. The previous week I had taken in £50, donated by those who bought the flowers at Sally's gate, a different charity most months and for a couple of months it is the Foodbank.

Obviously I cannot give you a list of what food or necessities will be needed in August because it changes week by week and quite often day by day. I can say the most received items seem to be baked beans and soup. Items which all people need and so stocks run down quickly are: sugar, long life milk blue top, cereals, tinned vegetables, tinned meat meals, pasta sauces, tinned fruit, tinned custard and rice, biscuits, toiletries, dog food. When I am given an update of needs from Chris the coordinator, I will pin notices around the village. For anyone new to the village - welcome, I hope you will be happy here in Zeal. All who wish to donate, at what is a very difficult time for so many, you may bring them to Kentmere, Waie Gardens (second on the right with the Waie Inn ahead of you). Alternatively if it is easier, Jan Brealy at North Star House (top of the hill opposite the phone box) is always willing to take in donations.

AGAIN -THANK YOU

'Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see'

*Mark Twain*

## ACTIVITIES AT THE WAIE INN

Open for business as usual.  
Takeaways continuing with full bar  
menu and daily specials.

Indoor eating – booking of table is  
preferable. Additional daily Brunch  
menu available from 9.30am-midday

Swimming pool opening on 25th  
July – although pre-booked hourly  
slots only.

Sports Hall/Squash courts resuming  
from 25th July – with family/bubble  
members only.



## BELOVED RESIDENT

### Many Mourners at Zeal Monachorum Funeral - Miss Lucy Hopkins

This was the headline in the Western Times in June 1935. It went on to say "Lucy Hopkins was highly respected and held in affectionate regard by a wide circle of friends. She took a deep interest in the children attending the day school, and the senior scholars lined up by the church entrance, carrying posies of flowers, which later they dropped on the coffin." Nearly 100 named people attended the funeral from Zeal, surrounding towns and villages as well as from London and Wales. There were at least 30 floral tributes with messages, often using her nickname "Hoppy". This was an intriguing article, it's not often that so many people turn out for a funeral and it was clear that she really was held in great affection. It seemed worth looking further at who she was.

Hoppy was born in 1853 in Zeal Monachorum, the seventh of 14 children of Samuel Hopkins, a cordwainer [shoemaker], and his wife Mary Ann, nee Edworthy. Five of her siblings died in childhood. The 1861 census shows that she was at school, age 7; so will have learnt to read and write. By the 1871 census she was working as a servant for Richard Westlake at Great Foldhay.

I had noticed that Betty Vicary\* aged 15 was one of the main mourners, despite not being related. We are fortunate that Betty wrote down her memories of living in Zeal, including about Hoppy who she obviously dearly loved. From Betty we learn that in her younger days Hoppy had worked for a doctor and his wife and was nanny to their little girl and went with the family to Bermuda; I would guess in the 1870s. That must have been an incredible adventure for the daughter of a shoemaker, at a time when to travel as far as Exeter was believed to give you something to talk about for weeks. Hoppy came back to England when the girl went to boarding school. She had managed to save £30, a fortune in those days, but a fellow who promised to marry her went off with her money, with which she had intended to buy a house, and she never set eyes on him again. Hoppy didn't trust men after that and never married.

By 1880 Hoppy had secured a post as a cook; working in a large Georgian house on Lower Erith Road, Torquay, for the Honourable Mary Georgina Boileau, the 44 year old spinster daughter of a baronet. I wonder how she had learnt the necessary cooking skills? The Hon. Mary had frequent visitors from London, so I expect the standards for meals would be high. It feels like something from Downton Abbey. I noticed that the Hon. Mary's family also had connections to Bermuda; so maybe it was through mutual connections that Hoppy was recommended for the job.

During her time in Torquay the Western Times reported that John Allen, a man of middle-age and a tailor, was charged with stealing a purse containing money from the person of Lucy Hopkins, a domestic servant. She was on the pier and observed the prisoner press close to her, and afterwards missed her purse. The article was found upon him by PC Grills as Allen was attempting to escape from the pier. At his trial 6 weeks later he pleaded guilty to stealing a purse containing 3s 2½d.

The Court took into consideration that he had already been imprisoned for 6 weeks, and sentenced him to a further term of 6 weeks with hard labour. This may seem harsh for a relatively small theft, but was in line with the sentencing at the time.

By 1891 Hoppy had returned to Zeal Monachorum and was living with her unmarried brother, Samuel, and her widowed mother. Her mother died in 1914 aged 90 and her brother in 1919 aged 74.

Betty's father, Reginald, was a farmer at Higher Week and had let Hoppy graze her pony in his fields. Betty writes: "When she heard the new baby had arrived she took quite an interest in me and eventually had quite an influence on my life. When I was a few months old I had a very bad attack of bronchitis and, as my mother had gone to stay with her sick mother at Chulmleigh, Hilda and Miss Hopkins nursed me day and night and, by all accounts, saved my life.

When I was about 4 or 5 Hoppy came into my life much more. She was a remarkable old lady very tall and upright, always wore long dresses which had high necks, with fancy braids. I can remember one night she was undressing and hooks and eyes got caught up and she couldn't get her dress off, we both laughed until we cried, I thought it was so funny."

"Hoppy lived at Elm Cottage, on Western Road. It has a small kitchen with an oil stove and a living room with an open fire. Both had cobbled floors. To clean them she sprinkled them with water and used a hard broom. She had a wonderful collection of china on a big dresser, a complete willow pattern dinner service, 6 sets of jugs large medium and small. One set used to give me the creeps the handles were like snakes. All were washed at regular intervals. An uneven wooden staircase led to the bedrooms, one large room with a four poster bed and a single bed and a very sloping wooden floor. Drinking water had to be fetched in a pitcher from a tap in the village and rain water was caught in a water butt collected from the roof of the cottage. There were 2 sheds for washing and toilet. She had quite a big garden and grew veg and flowers with a stable for her pony at one end. I always slept at Hoppy's cottage and visited the farm each day after school.

Hoppy set up a little business with the horse and a cart and a high trap transporting coal from the station and taking passengers to and from the stations or to the doctors at Bow. This included Miss Hortop, the school teacher, who would return home to Northam at weekends by train. I used to go miles with Hoppy sitting in a kind of well made by her skirt, if it rained she had a heavy rug, one side being water proof so all that could be seen of me was my head which came to about her waist".

In 1918 the Representation of the People Act was passed which gave the vote to women over the age of 30 who were householders, the wives of householders, occupiers of property with an annual rent of £5, and graduates of British universities. Hoppy is on the electoral register from 1921 which shows the changing times during her interesting life.

*\*Betty Vicary was the sister of Norman and Joe; she was born at Week in 1920 and died in 2012.*



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# THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP

David Bowyer, East Foldhay, Zeal Monachorum,

Crediton, EX17 6DH

Tel: 01363 82782 Mob: 07802 759284

Email: [info@davidbowyer.co.uk](mailto:info@davidbowyer.co.uk)

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

During the last few months, I have been busy in the workshop designing and making all manner of things made of wood, from storage boxes, first aid boxes, Foldhay Apple boxes in two sizes, Squirrel feeding boxes, patio herb gardens made from pallets, gates, rustic benches, cold frames, Village notice board, potting tables and refuse/recycling cabinets, house signs in oak, as well as refurbishing the church bench and repairing furniture, see pictures below.

*If you would like pictures of any of the above items that I have made, as I don't have, at present, a Village Workshop Website, please drop me an email so I can send you pictures of what you might like me to make for you. Or, if you have something in mind, please contact me with your ideas.*





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