

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 69, February 2025

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*The lane towards Hayne after a hoar frost, courtesy Mike Russell*

## EDITORIAL

As a photographer—for many more years now than I care to admit!—I am asked about picture copyright and privacy. The general guideline is, please be sensible. Yes you are able to photograph strangers, but only in public spaces or with a landowner's express permission. Always ask if you may use others' children as your subject. You should not publish anything in any way malicious, either by intent or accidentally, without the permission of those in the image. Nor should you use your images to denigrate activities of which you may disapprove; these are things a bit like dog owners, allowing their pets to defecate in public spaces without picking it up: they are at least anti-social practices and at worst a civil invasion of privacy. If you have not the courage to put your name to pictures you take, do not publish them!

That said, let us all hope for a year full of better photogenic weather than the last one. The amateur rainfall figures kindly supplied by Margaret Harris shows we had a wetter year than the Met Office website allows. Deadline for the next issue is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Mike Russell.

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## NOTICES and EVENTS

**Reminiscences** Crediton Library are building a collection of memories from people living in Mid Devon. Volunteers chat with people at the library, in their own homes, at care homes and anywhere else people feel comfortable. The sessions can be about any memories you'd like to share. Typically, we start at childhood and move through key life events, but if there are specific things you'd like to talk about, we'd love to hear it! All chats are audio recorded, transcribed and added to an online collection for everyone to enjoy.

A part of the project is a 'Drop In' on the first Tuesday morning of each month. Everyone can drop by ; there is usually a set theme to begin with, but conversations can veer off anywhere! If you are interested, please call 01393 772578. Or e-mail:

[crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:crediton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

This project has been made possible thanks to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

### Village Hall

Saturday 8 February 10-11.30am

Wednesday 12 February

Saturday 22 February

Saturday 22 March

Local Produce market .

Bingo 7pm for 7.30pm tickets £5.

Quiz and pasty. 7pm for 7:30pm. tickets £7.

Spring show. Entries to Hall 10 am - 12 noon

Public opening 2.30 pm. Classes on page 14.

For more information tel 01363 82606 or e-mail [reden@rocketmail.com](mailto:reden@rocketmail.com)

**Bow & District Historical Society** Monday 24 February 7.15 for 7.30pm speaker Professor Levi Roach on Aethelred the Unready. Bow Village Hall EX17 6HU. Everyone welcome, annual membership £15 visitors £4. Enquiries 01363 82468.

**Amateur rainfall reading** courtesy of Margaret Harris. Rainfall for 2024 1267mm, 50 and three quarters of an inch. Not the wettest year since records began, that was 2012 when we had 55 inches. Average rainfall for this area is 36 inches.

**Village Walk:** starting at 2pm from the bus stop, Monday 10 th February.

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## NOTES FROM WOOTTON TOP

Well, the winds in the middle of December certainly packed a punch and we lost quite a few trees, sadly many large oaks and we will be chain sawing for many days, tidying up and replacing fences. We have already tilled a few trees as replacements. Thankfully over Christmas the weather was warmer and calm so that people could travel to their families safely without danger. It was great to meet up with so many of you over the past weeks. with so many events organised in the Village, both new & old faces and great community spirit, it made the month special for us both.

On the farm quite a few births happened over Christmas; the one photographed below is a Normande bred heifer. These are proving highly popular, due to their low maintenance and quality of milk. We have received enquiries from people up north as to purchasing and what we think of them so hopefully there will be more about in the future.

A while ago we had an inspection visit for the dairy, they looked around and asked if I could make the building airtight, I replied you don't mean airtight do you? 'Yes' he said 'it would keep out the flies and insects'. I replied the cows and myself would soon suffocate! He said 'Don't be silly you can leave the doors open to let the air in!' Good old red tape and rules hey! All the best for 2025 .

Graham & Ruth Friend.





## FISHING CLUB CHAT

**Hi All** I hate to start with the weather, but we have had some horrendous gales and drenching rain. I am afraid to say that it has taken its toll down at the lake and Pete and Mark are attending to the chainsawing of the fallen trees. Our work party is going to be making progress with the repairs as soon as the weather improves. Personally I can't wait to see some bright sunny days, I don't mind if they are chilly at least we can get some fishing in. Anyone who wishes to give us a helping hand, please don't hesitate to give me a ring. I hate to remind you all, but the fees need to be paid by the end of February. Seniors £70, juniors £16 and day tickets £7. Tight lines

Ken and Jane

## ON THORNE FARM

We sadly failed our last TB test and are awaiting results from the next one. All the stock are housed & enjoying sanctuary from the weather—either in loose housing & bedded with straw—or the milking cows are in cubicles on a bedding of soft sawdust which is refreshed every day. Most of the calves are weaned: we have 30 still on milk twice a day, the older ones are eating a diet of a wheat pellets, hay & silage—whilst the milking cows are fed a ration of grass silage, maize (sweetcorn, but the whole plant as well as the grain), hay, rape seed & minerals.

We have a vet/nutritionist who comes every month to check the condition of our cows and they make any changes to the diet that may be needed. Most of them are now ready for breeding again—usually around 60 days after they have calved—Gallagher the Aberdeen Angus Bull is with the heifers at Thorne & we artificially inseminate the milking cows at Down St Mary.

Luckily we did not suffer any major damage from the first two named storms of the year; we are hoping for a favourable spring to help our winter wheat grow, although at least one field has failed due to the wet autumn.

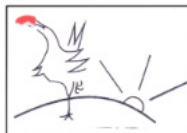
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# St Peter's Church

**Dear Parishioners** I write this item in early January after a night of very heavy rain, it appears 2025 has begun as in 2024. Christmas seems like a long time ago; however, I cannot let it pass without saying thank you to everyone who read lessons, made the mince pies and choc bars, mulled wine and coffee for the carol service, which were enjoyed after the service and all who came and shared in this joyous occasion, The service was led by the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Rev Andrew Beane. The offertory was £220 and has been forwarded to the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Thank you to all who helped by decorating the windows and tree. **Below are the February rotas:—**

<b>February 2nd at 10.00am</b>	The presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) All age worship (Lay led) Malachi 3: 1-5 Luke 2: 22-40	Miss Lynn Warren Mrs Jane Hogg Mr Tony Brealy Miss Margaret Harris Mrs Jane Hogg
Old Testament Gospel Sidesman Altar Flowers Church cleaner		
<b>February 9th at 6.30pm</b>	4th Sunday before Lent Isaiah 6: 1-8, 9-13 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11 Luke 5: 1-11	CWE Mrs Becky Harvey Mr Robert Peck Celebrant Mr Colin Crothers Mrs Susan Down
Old Testament New Testament Gospel Sidesman Altar flowers	9th & 16th	
<b>February 23rd at 3.00pm</b>	2nd before Lent Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-25 Luke 8: 4-15	BCP Evensong Mrs Tina Young Mrs Isabel Harris Mr Tony Brealy Mrs Marian Quick
Old Testament Gospel reading Sidesman Altar flowers	23rd February, 2nd March	

Refreshments are served after the 10.00am and 3.00pm services.  
Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of our worship.

**Church electoral roll** 2025 sees the complete renewal of the church electoral roll which happens every 6 years. This is a legal requirement and will take place from Monday, 3rd February to Monday 7th April in preparation for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting being held on Wednesday, 23rd April 2025 at 7.00pm. Application forms will be available from and returned to the electoral roll officer Tony Brealy or can be collected from the table in church.

**Churchwardens' meetings** The churchwardens meet monthly with the Rural Dean Prebendary Matthew Tregenza. These meetings are held to bring together the plans for our immediate future within the Mission Community. The position for a vicar for the North Creedy West is being advertised and we pray for that someone will be called to work among us soon.  
Best wishes Margaret (Churchwarden).

# ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

Our WI meets on 1st Wednesday of each month. However, since the 1st January was New Year's Day, it was not a good idea to hold the meeting on that day! The second Wednesday was reserved for Bingo night; therefore we found ourselves meeting on 15th.

As we are never too sure what weather may be afforded us during winter months we decided a social gathering would be appropriate, thus avoiding a speaker making what could be a perilous journey. With weather still on our minds, the speaker for our February meeting will be one of our own members, Lesley Rogers, giving us a lesson on the basics of British Sign Language.

March will see us celebrating our 71st birthday. This could take the form of a bring and share supper or perhaps a visit to a pub. Please remember, you do not, as with some clubs, have to wait to be invited to join a Women's Institute; you are very welcome to come along for three meetings @ £1 per visit before making up your mind whether to join or not. We don't leave the men folk out either. If there's a particular subject that catches your attention, then please do come along, also for £1. You will get a cuppa *and* a biscuit!!

Jan Brealy.



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# A QUIZ FOR FEBRUARY

By Jan Summers

- 1 What is February's birthstone?
- 2 Name the two horoscope signs in February?
- 3 The 'Alpha Centaurids' appear in early February – what are they?
- 4 Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne on February 6th in which year?
- 5 February is the only month which can pass without a full moon – true or false?
- 6 Who did Meg Ryan marry on Valentine's Day in 1991?
- 7 Which well known classical author was born on 7th February 1812
- 8 What happened in Britain on the 15th of February, 1971?
- 9 Which famous horse race was first held in Liverpool on the 26th February 1839?
- 10 Which treaty, creating the EU, was signed on the 7th of February 1992?
- 11 Which English singer, born on the 17th of February 1991, is known for the songs "Galway Girl", "Perfect" and "Shape of You"?
- 12 Which soap opera was first broadcast on BBC One on 19th February 1985?
- 13 In which Italian city is Romeo and Juliet set?
- 14 Which Roman god is always represented with a bow and an arrow?
- 15 What is a 'love apple'?

Answers are on page 19



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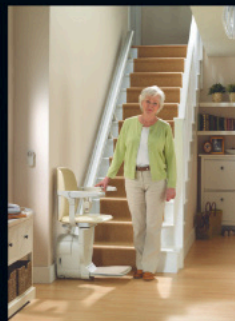
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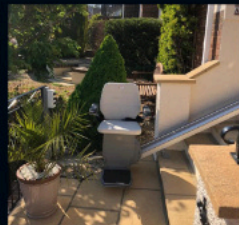
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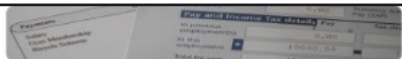
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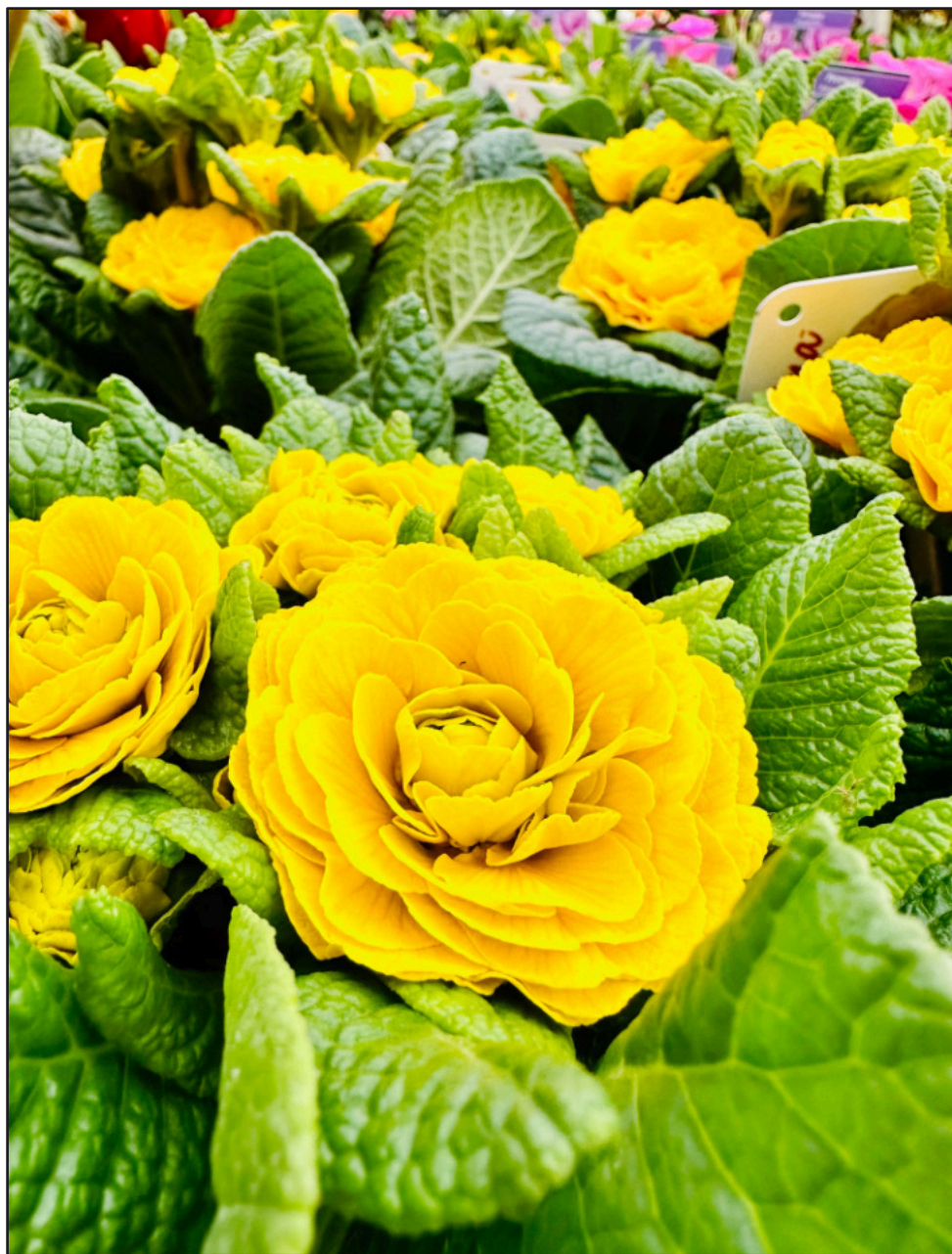
## FEBRUARY GARDEN ADVICE

Start preparing your Spring garden with these essential gardening tips for February, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre;

1. Prepare vegetable beds, removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Once finished, cover prepared soil with sheets of weed-control membrane to keep it weed-free, drier and warmer in preparation for Spring planting.
2. In raised beds, the soil warms up faster and water drains quickly, so they are ideal if you want to make an early start in the garden.
3. Start outdoor sowings of early crops.
4. Chit seed potatoes - Bow have a wide range of potatoes available.
5. Plant out Summer bulbs if it's not too wet, with gravel and bulb fibre underneath to stop them rotting, or pot them up and put them in the greenhouse to give them a head start.
6. Pot up containers, hanging baskets and pots with spring bedding plants. Bow has a beautiful selection including, Violas, Pansies, and Primroses.
7. February is a great time to prune deciduous trees & shrubs before new growth begins. Don't forget to remove any damaged or dead branches to encourage healthy shoots.
8. Keep roses and other flowering shrubs healthy by sprinkling slow-release fertiliser around the bases.
9. Cut down ornamental grasses left standing over the winter, before fresh growth appears.
10. Continue to leave out plenty of food and water for the wild birds in your garden, particularly in cold weather conditions, where it's a good idea to check that there's plenty of food twice a day.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of Devon-grown plants in an all-weather undercover area. Also, plenty of bulbs, seeds, gardening tools, garden buildings and everything you need for gardening, plus fish and pet supplies, an award-winning Waterside Cafe, and Post Office services too.

[www.bowgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.bowgardencentre.co.uk), 01363 82438.



*Picture courtesy of Bow Garden and Aquatic Centre*



## VILLAGE HALL

**Spring Flower and Homecraft show** Section 1: Flowers [Please note, leaves are permitted]. 1. 3 Trumpet daffodils, yellow 2. 3 Trumpet daffodils, white. 3.3 Large cup daffodils of any colour 4. 3 Small cup daffodils of any colour 5. 3 Double, 1head daffodils of any colour. 6.3 multi-headed Jonquils of any colour. 7. 3 Miniature daffodils. 8 3 Tulips. 9. 3 Grape Hyacinths. 10. 3 Polyanthus or primroses. 11. 3 Pansies. 12. 3 Miscellaneous daffodils. 13. 3 Stems spring flowers – not covered by the above. 14. 1 Single specimen bloom of any type. 15. Spray of a flowering shrub. 16. Flower arrangement in a jug. 17. Polyanthus (only those seedlings distributed Oct/Nov 2024)

**Section 2: Homecraft.** 18. Jar of Marmalade. 19. Savoury flan. 20. 3 Fruit Scones. 21. 3 Chocolate brownies. 22. Jam filled Victoria sandwich. 23. Photograph: nature with caption, not exceeding 210mm x 148mm in size. 24. Photograph – sign(s) of spring not exceeding 210mm x 148mm in size. 25. An item of needlework knitted, crocheted, stitched etc. 26. An item made from recycled material(s) 27. Decorate, colour or paint the template of an Easter egg [available as below]

NB All classes are open to adults and children but will be judged separately except for Class 27 which is for Children only. Rules are available tel. 01363 82606, reden@rocketmail.com and on <http://www.zealmonachorum.org.uk/village-hall.html>

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## HORACE GRAHAM BARBER

Who's Horace Graham Barber? some of you will be asking. Well, if we said he was the chap who had kept the ostriches at Serstone, some of you will immediately remember him.

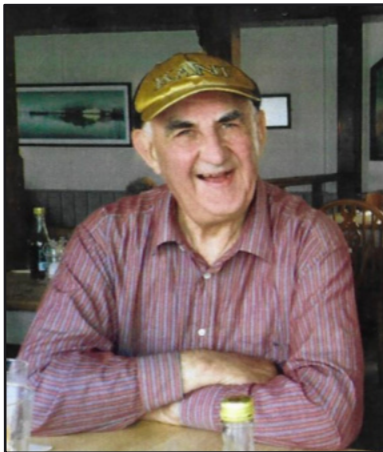
Graham and his wife, Margaret, were the proud owners of The Megray Herd of British Blondes. He was a founder member and former chairman of the South West Club and also served on the Society Council and won the Society National Herd Competition.

At one time he owned The Arrow Restaurant at Bow, and operated a coal and fertiliser business from The Old Ambrosia Factory at Lapford. Eventually, moving with his family to Ellicombe, Morchard Road, he built the popular fishing lake there, installed the solar panels and let out several converted units to various businesses which are now managed by his widow, Margaret.

His daughter, Tracey, read a very moving and amusing tribute full of memories which the congregation laughed and cried through. Daughter Fiona, gave a reading entitled 'Your Spirit- a Tribute to my Father' and son, Ian read the poem 'Beyond the Rainbow's End'. Graham was obviously well thought of by the number of mourners who filled the chapel and stood outside in the winter sunshine. Afterwards, back at The Waie Inn people continued to reminisce, looking back through family photos and sharing memories of a truly remarkable man.

RIP Graham, a good neighbour and friend.

The Harris Family, Nymphayes.



*Horace Barber 27 / 12 / 1947—2 / 12 / 2024.*

*Photos Isabel Harris.*



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## MARTYN TUCKER

A sad time for all to remember and reminisce the memory of Martyn Tucker, who tragically died following the quad bike accident which took place on the B3220. Martyn, affectionately known as 'Windy Tucker', because of the controversial Den Brook Wind Turbines which cover some of his farm between Bow and North Tawton, was a well respected and popular farmer particularly known in country circles. He had kept and bred, or partly owned, several Point-to-Pointers over the years, the most famous being Fishy Story.

We were in a 1/3rd share partnership in a horse called Bob Along Mahler, which won a race at High Bickington back in May 2018 (see picture below). We have always known Martyn and his family just as we know the other injured passenger, Shirley, who I went to Sunday School with at Morchard Bishop. It was only a few days before the accident that we were all enjoying a delicious Christmas Dinner for EHSC at Burrington Village Hall. Martyn and I entered the Christmas jumper competitions, Shirley was selling raffle tickets and Hazel, Shirley's Mum came over to enquire after my Mum and my health following my slight facial stroke. I remember saying to Hazel, "you never know what's around the corner" and see what has happened!

Martyn leaves behind his 2 sons, Duncan and Colin, grandchildren and his 99 year old Mother whose birthday was New Year's Eve. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. If anything good has come out of this it is that some people have gone out and bought a helmet. Please wear it. You wouldn't ride a horse without a helmet.

Isabel Harris.



*Geoff Gillard, Martyn Tucker and John Harris. Picture from Isabel Harris.*

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# CHRISTMAS PARTY

The village Christmas party held at the Waie Inn in December was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Christmas meal supplied by the Waie was amazing, as usual and the Black Dog Doodah Band was brilliant, with a cameo appearance by Ken on the drums. The raffle was well supported and we made a large donation to the Children's Hospice, Little Bridge House, Barnstaple.

We are already planning 2025's Christmas party, which will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, so plenty of time to mark in your calendar. The photographs below were taken by Ruth Friend.

Ken, Jane, Graham and Ruth.



Quiz answers—see page 8:

- |   |                   |     |                |
|---|-------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1 | Amethyst          | 9.  | Grand National |
| 2 | Aquarius & Pisces | 10. | Maastricht     |
| 3 | Meteor showers    | 11. | Ed Sheeran     |
| 4 | 1952              | 12. | Eastenders     |
| 5 | True              | 13. | Verona         |
| 6 | Dennis Quaid      | 14. | Cupid          |
| 7 | Charles Dickens   | 15. | Tomato         |
| 8 | Decimalisation.   |     |                |



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