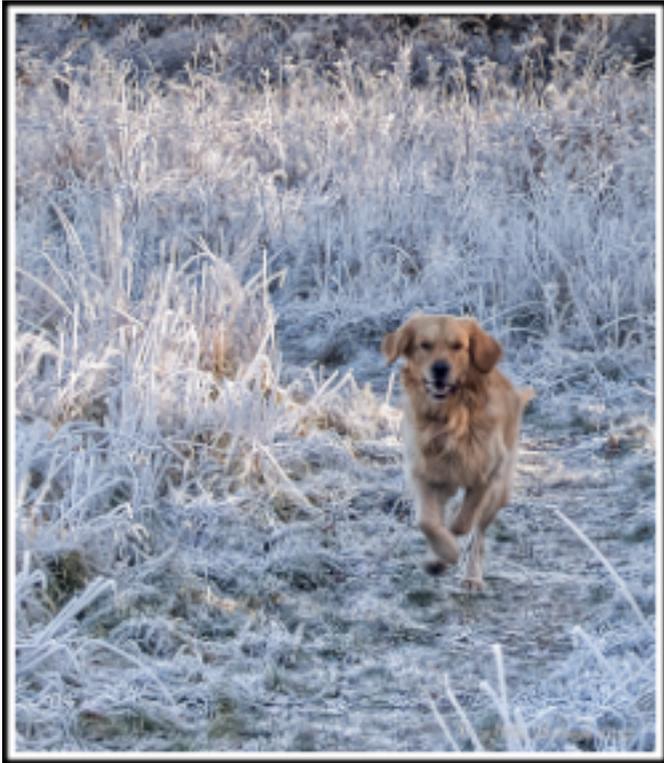


# MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 56, January 2024

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*A frosty walk - thank goodness for fur coats.  
Thanks to Mike Bostock for this super picture.*

## EDITORIAL

Well, here we are in 2024 and it doesn't feel like 12 months have passed since we last saw in the New Year. This is a Leap Year so anyone born on February 29 can celebrate a 'proper' birthday this year. I read, too, that over 40 national elections are being held in 2024 so it is expected to be an unusually busy election year with seven of the top ten most populous countries going to the polls. There is another notable event later this year – on October 2, 2024, there will be an annular solar eclipse. 'The moon will pass before the sun during this eclipse, creating a "ring of fire" effect in the sky. Unlike a total solar eclipse, the moon will not completely cover the sun, resulting in a unique and beautiful display' – perhaps you heard it here first. Lots to anticipate.

However, one thing is sure – life will go on here in Zeal and, hopefully, we will still be producing our monthly newsletter to inform and entertain you. So, keep your cameras at the ready to capture those scenes of village life which give pleasure to so many. And tell us your stories – I'm often told that these are what people most enjoy in the newsletter. Whatever the year brings we in the Editorial Team hope that it is a happy and healthy one for you.

### DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE - 8 JANUARY

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### VILLAGE EVENTS IN JANUARY

Wed 3 Jan	WI – 7.15 for 7.30pm, Village Hall.
Fri 5 Jan	Mobile Library, 1.10 - 1.45 pm at Waie Gardens
Mon 8 Jan	Village Walk, meet 2pm at the bus stop.
Wed 10 Jan	Bingo at Village Hall, doors open 7pm for 7.30, entry £5
Sat 13 Jan	Market, 10 – 11.30am at Village Hall.
Sat 27 Jan	Cheer Up January party at Village Hall, see page 5

### Rainfall

Rainfall for November was 173mm, nearly 7 inches! What a lot of rain.

### Mobile Library

The Mobile Library will sadly be closing at the end of February 2024 but it will be in Zeal 5 January, barring breakdowns and other catastrophes]. Do come and enjoy this wonderful service maybe for the last time as, at time of going to press, we're waiting to hear if it will come on 26 Feb.

### Dog Fouling

I have reported this several times in recent months but it appears there are still people out there who allow their dog(s) to foul footpaths in our village. Most recently, this has been noticed in the churchyard. Quite apart from being unsightly and unpleasant, dog mess can cause serious health problems, particularly for children. If you live in our village and you walk your dog here, please be considerate to others and take pride in the area you live in: ensure you clear up after your animal and deposit the rubbish in a suitable bin.

### The Village Christmas party

This was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended - thanks to David Bowyer for the picture on the right.

Ken, Jane, Graham and Ruth would like to thank everyone who came and the generous donors of raffle prizes. We'd like to send a special thank you to the Waie Inn and all their staff for the amazing food and wonderful decorations. We will do it all again next year.



# JANUARY QUIZ

A guest presenter this month has kindly provided the following questions to test your knowledge. Answers on page 14.

1. What percentage of your bones are in your hands and feet?
2. Which is the human body's heaviest organ?
3. Who invented the cat flap?
4. Who was the first person to ascend Everest?
5. Which country has the longest coastline?
6. Which country has the deepest hole?
7. Which country has the largest inland island?
8. Which country has most islands?
9. If you dropped a feather and a hammer on the moon, which would land first?
10. What do rods, perches, chains, and poles share have in common?
11. What is the most successful predator in the animal kingdom in terms of hits/catches per strike/attempt to kill or capture prey?
12. Which country is the reigning tug-of-war Olympic champion?
13. Which five new sports are being included in the 2028 Olympics?
14. Which is the lightest element in the periodic table?
15. Who, so far, has been the only person to win the Nobel prize for both physics and chemistry?
16. How many countries border France?

## FISHING CLUB CHAT

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all members and villagers. Unfortunately, we have no angling pictures as we don't have a waterproof camera! Sorry we do not have a great deal to report due to the wet and cold weather and not many anglers have braved the elements.

We would like to thank Adam Huntington Whiteley, who has been working on siting our new cameras in strategic positions. We have had some difficulty, due to the availability of strength of signal in the area of the lake. As soon as the weather improves and we get a good stretch of decent weather we will once again make an attempt to trawl the lake, taking out the small fish and passing them on to other clubs. This improves our oxygen levels in the lake. In the next few days, we are going to contact John Lethbridge to do a final trim around the lake before spring.

The calendars this year have sold very well and we only have 3 left. Thank you to all who have bought these this year. We split the profits between the club and a different charity each year, this year it is the Fishermen's Mission which supports families of fishermen lost at sea. This helps bring in funding for the lake, without which we would find great difficulty in running the club.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane

# VILLAGE HALL NEWS

## AGM

Our Annual General Meeting on 27 November saw an amazing number of people attending. 40 Zeal residents came along to find out about our plans for the hall and, more encouragingly, to offer to help with the fund-raising events that we need to run to keep the hall solvent. After the business was conducted, we enjoyed cheese, biscuits and wine over which lots of new connections were made. Thank you to all who came and to those who offered their support.

A new committee was elected which was ratified at the following general meeting. Committee members are: Erica Eden, Chair; Jan Summers, Secretary; Mike Bostock, Treasurer; Members: Simon Allanson-Bailey, Martyn Down, Sue Down, Margaret Harris, Peter Heal, Claire Lewis, Delia Wainwright.

## Dates for your new 2024 diary

The committee has been busy planning a programme of events for the coming year, and those in the first three months are listed below:

Wednesday 10 Jan:	Bingo - doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm; £5
Saturday 13 Jan:	Market - 10-11.30am
Saturday 27 Jan:	Village Hall Cheer up January Party -7pm; £2
Saturday 10 Feb:	Market - 10-11.30am
Wednesday 14 Feb:	Bingo - doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm; £5
Saturday 24 Feb:	Quiz & Pasty - 7pm
Saturday 9 Mar:	Market - 10-11.30am
Saturday 16 Mar:	Flower & Craft Show – 2pm
Wednesday 20 Mar:	Bingo - doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm; £5

## Village Hall Cheer up January Party

After the success of last year's party, we want to give you a great time again, so here is the date for your diary - Saturday 27 January 2024, 7pm. Please come and make the party go with a swing, bring a plate of food to share and your own drink & glass. Admission is just £2 and the evening will include a Grand Draw and entertainment. Everyone is very welcome, there is no need to book - just come along. For more information contact 01363 82571

Did you get presents at Christmas which you don't need? The Village Hall would appreciate them as draw prizes or to sell. Re-gifting creates a circular economy and is so much better than sitting in a drawer taking up space. Contact Jan Summers on 01363 82571.



# ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

*A happy new year to you all from St Peter's Church*

A new year, new beginnings, resolutions made and broken: as we begin 2024 our church may have to make adjustments to its services following the untimely death of Robert. However, we can be certain that all our services will continue including our second Sunday Holy Communion service. At this moment I do not have the details of who will be coming to lead our service in January, but I will let you know in due course.

Below is the rota of duties for January.

<b>Jan 7 at 10.00am</b>	<b>Epiphany/Baptism of Christ</b> All Age Worship (lay led)	
Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1-5	Mr Colin Crothers
New Testament	Mark 1: 4-11	Mrs Tina Young
	Sidesman	Mr Tony Brealy
	Flowers	Mrs Sally Rowden
<b>Jan 14 at 6.30pm</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>C W E</b>
Old Testament	1 Samuel 3: 1-10	Mr Graham Rounsley
New Testament	Revelation 5: 1-10	Mr Robert Peck
Gospel	Matthew John 1:43-51	President
	Sidesman	Mr Colin Crothers
	Altar Flowers 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Miss Lynn Warren
	Church Cleaner	Mrs Sally Rowden
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>No Service</b>	
<b>Jan 28 at 3.00pm</b>	<b>Epiphany 4</b>	<b>BCP Evensong</b>
Old Testament	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20	Mrs Jane Hogg
New Testament	Mark 1: 21-28	Miss Lynn Warren
	Sidesman	Mr Colin Crothers
	Altar Flowers 28 Jan, 4,7, 11 Feb	Miss Margaret Harris

On December 2 we held our Christmas Fayre in Church. Thank you to everyone who ran the stalls, donated items and who came along and supported us. A special thank you to Margaret Harris for her magnificent cakes. The sum raised was £520. The full balance sheet is on display at the back of the church.

**Finances** January 1 is the beginning of our new financial year. A regular income is a real benefit to the church. If you would like to make a donation by weekly envelope, monthly or annually by standing order or join the Parish Giving scheme or, if you are new to our parish and would like to support the church, more details are available by contacting our treasurer Becky, Telephone number 07841 027617

## Cross Country Magazine

The cross-country magazine serves the North Creedy West mission community where we can keep up to date with what is happening in our 9 sister churches. The year begins in February, if you would like to continue to receive or would like a copy by either hard copy or via email, please let me know by 15 January, then I will order the number that is required. The annual cost is £6. Payment by February please, which can then be forwarded to the mission community treasurer Andy Epstein.

*Margaret (Churchwarden)*

## CREDITON FOODBANK CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2023

Before I report on the House to House Christmas collection, I would like to thank all who donated food and money in November. Everything donated helps enormously each week, and those who work and volunteer are always so very grateful for your help.

Now what can I say but WOW! On Friday 8th December I had to put down the back seats in our car to accommodate all the boxes that were to be taken to the Foodbank, these were full of your donations, amounting to over 345 items. And, as I write this, £1,361 has been collected. But it doesn't stop there. The Pink Box was overflowing when I left the Village Market on 9th December not just with food but also with gifts. When I got home there was yet another delivery.

Your generosity is overwhelming. I hope you realise what you do when you give. It isn't that you are just handing over some food or money and that is it. No, it goes much further than that. You are throwing a life line to someone who may be living in a desperate place at this time, someone who cannot see a way forward living day by day, someone who may not realise that there are people out there who genuinely care. **Thank you.**

**WHERE GOD GUIDES GOD PROVIDES. I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**



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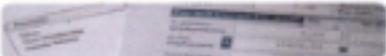
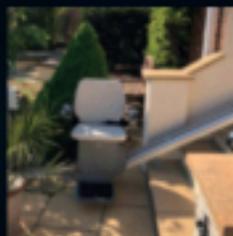
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# ZEAL MONACHORUM WI



A free drink, courtesy of the WI, followed by swiftly delivered Christmas Fayre got our December WI meeting off to a really good start. Huge thanks, once again, to the Waie Inn for looking after us so well. After the usual President's prezzies, Hazel Wainwright, assisted by Tracey Allis entertained us with "Play your Cards Right" where the participant had to decide whether to go higher or lower after the initial card was revealed. Many failed but others guessed correctly and were presented with a prize.

Former member Susie Bostock was photographer for the evening and she has captured the group at the start of the evening, see above. I am delighted to announce she will be rejoining us in the New Year together with four others. Also, pictured right, is new member Lesley, a British Sign language teacher, assisting the hard of hearing at the annual WI Carol service in Exeter Cathedral. Wishing one and all a very happy Christmas and healthy 2024. And, remember, new members are always welcome.

**Jan Brealy, President**



# Bow School Swimming Pool

## Would you like to help?

We need more volunteers to help us for the 2024 swimming season so that we can keep our wonderful pool up and running for our children and our community.

**LIFEGUARD** Help us by becoming a lifeguard. The pool committee would pay for a week-long National Pool Lifeguard Course (NPLQ). You will then be a fully qualified lifeguard and ready to volunteer during the swimming seasons. Please note that you will need to be a confident and strong swimmer to be able to pass this course. More information about the course can be found in this link: <https://www.rlss.org.uk/national-pool-lifeguard-qualification>

**POOLSIDE HELPER** Help out at the poolside by taking payments for the swimming sessions and assist with tidying up afterwards.

**For more information and to join our friendly team, please contact Jennie 07940 505021**



A quote for the New Year...

‘Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours,  
and let each New Year find you a better person’

*Benjamin Franklin, American polymath*

## Garden advice courtesy of Bow Garden Centre.

1. Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch.
2. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already. Turning the soil will expose pests to hungry birds, helping you keep your pest population under control.
3. Protect any tender plants with fleece or take them into the greenhouse.
4. Prune Apple and Pear trees while they are dormant, between leaf fall and bud burst, and apply Winter tree wash and pheromone moth traps. Now is a great time to do this.
5. Use this time to carry out any repair work in your garden. Fix fences, garden gates and furniture now, ready for the Spring.
6. Take a walk around your Winter garden, and look for gaps where you could add some Winter colour.
7. Plan, plan, plan! Whilst you've got some time spare, take a minute to plan your garden for Spring time planting. Bow Garden Centre have a large selection of seeds and bulbs in store to choose from, so you can start planning now.
8. Get your propagation needs now - such as seed compost, plant pots and trays. Be prepared so that you are ready to get ahead for the season.
9. If you have planted potatoes in planters take them into the greenhouse to avoid them getting frost damage.
10. Continue to provide food and water for birds. It's particularly hard for them this time of year with the cold weather conditions and reduction in the number of food sources accessible to them.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of trees, plants, shrubs, bulbs, and seeds. Also plenty of gardening tools, garden buildings and everything you need for gardening, plus fish and pet supplies, a lovely warm, welcoming Waterside Cafe, and Post Office services too

[www.bowgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.bowgardencentre.co.uk),  
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# ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

The last Parish Council meeting was held on November 30th. There was a good turnout considering the bitterly cold evening.

There was one vacancy on the council. Joss Birchwhite had put his name forward for cooption. This was approved by the meeting. We are sure he will do much to help the parish. It was also necessary to elect a member of the Parish Council to sit on the village hall committee as a vacancy had occurred. Peter Heal's name was put forward and he agreed to stand.

During the open forum the subject of Parish Council members being approachable through their email addresses was raised. Mike Bostock was present and agreed to put them on the parish web site. So, if anyone wishes to contact members, the web site is where they should be. It may take a little while.

Requests to update local footpaths and especially the replacing of stiles with more accessible gates were forwarded to the district council.

There was a request read out from Bow Parish Council requesting that we make over some of our 106 money allocation to them for the extension of their new cycle track. They pointed out that this facility was available to children living in Zeal Monachorum. It was decided that, as we were in the process of trying to obtain some of this money for the replacement of the fishing hut and the shelter for the Jubilee Seat, now was not the time to make a donation.

Complaints were made about the persistent excessive amount of rubbish being left around the bin at Wootentop, even though the bin was emptied every week. As with most areas, the amount of rubbish discarded out of vehicles seems to be increasing. It doesn't make a good impression of the parish. Any suggestions? There were 3 planning applications to consider, 2 were recommended for approval. For the addition of solar panels at Hayne a vote of no comment was passed.

The next meeting will be on January 25th 2024 at 7.00pm.

Rob Peck. Chair.

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## Upper Yeo & Taw MDDC councillor's report. November - December 2023

MDDC launched a **Residents' Survey** to help their financial department decide the most important public services they must support in their future budget. Please take part in the survey in [Let's Talk Mid Devon](https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/residents-survey-2023/survey_tools/residents-survey-2023)  
[https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/residents-survey-2023/survey\\_tools/residents-survey-2023](https://letstalk.middevon.gov.uk/residents-survey-2023/survey_tools/residents-survey-2023)

The new **Mid Devon Leisure Hub** is now open online where casual or regular users can book and pay for one off sessions or classes, join groups or sign for membership in all 3 Leisure Centres directly through the Mid Devon Leisure website or mobile app. For example, to book an activity in the Crediton Lord Meadow Leisure Centre go online:

<https://middevonleisure.com/lords-meadow-leisure-centre/>

Draft **Pets & Animals Policy** and **Homes Safety Policy** went out for tenants' consultation from 18<sup>th</sup> November. The consultation closed on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and both policies will be presented to the Homes PDG January meeting. You can view both the draft policies on the consultation hub: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/mid-devon-housing/your-community/consultation-hub/>

### Cllr Natalia Letch

#### Answers to quiz on Page 4

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. 51%                       | 11. The dragonfly   |
| 2. The skin                  | 12. Britain   |
| 3. Isaac Newton              | 13. Cricket, softball, flag football, squash and lacrosse           |
| 4. Sherpa Tensing            | 14. Hydrogen  |
| 5. Canada                    | 15. Marie Curie   |
| 6. Russia                    | 16. 7 in Europe: Spain, Luxembourg                                  |
| 7. Canada (in Lake Huron)    | Belgium, Italy, Monaco, Germany, Switzerland, and 10 if you include |
| 8. Sweden 267,000+           | French Guiana, Brazil & Surinam                                     |
| 9. Both at the same time     |   |
| 10. They are units of length |   |

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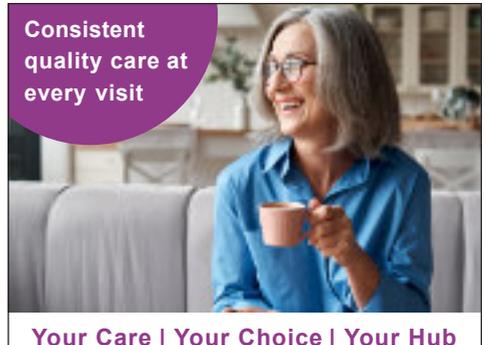
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**Tel: 01363 82414**  
Mobile: 07785540248

Homefield  
Station Road, Bow

## CONTACTS

- Local Parish Council: Chairman: Rob Peck. Tel. 07967 009872,  
email:robpeck366@gmail.com
- Village Hall: Chair: Erica Eden. Tel. 01363 82606  
Secretary & bookings Jan Summers. Tel. 01363 82571
- Mid Devon  
Councillors Natalia Letch, email: natalia.letch@gmail.com  
Stuart Penny, email: stuartpenny765@gmail.com
- County Councillor: Margaret Squires, Tel 01363 84337  
email: margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk
- Parliament: Mel Stride MP. Tel. 01392 823 306  
Email: [mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk)
- Newsletter Editor: Jan Summers. Email: [zmon.news@gmail.com](mailto:zmon.news@gmail.com)

### Details of some nearest services

- Post Office: Bow Aquatic Centre, Bow, Crediton.EX17 6LA  
Tel. 01363 82438. Email: [info@bowgardencentre.co.uk](mailto:info@bowgardencentre.co.uk)
- Library: Belle Parade, Crediton. EX17 2AA Tel. 01363 772 578  
Closed Weds
- Primary schools: Bow: Station Rd, Bow, Crediton. EX17 6HU  
Tel. 01363 82319  
Lapford: Eastington Road, Lapford, Crediton.  
EX17 6QE Tel. 01363 83292
- Secondary school: Queen Elizabeth's School, Western Road, Crediton  
EX17 3LU. Tel. 01363 773 401
- District Council: Mid Devon DC, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane,  
Tiverton. EX17 6PP  
[www.middevon.gov.uk](http://www.middevon.gov.uk) Tel. 01884 255 255  
Email: [customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk)  
Waste & recycling: [www.middevon.gov.uk/  
residents/recycling-rubbish](http://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/recycling-rubbish)
- County Council: Devon CC, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2  
4QD. Tel. 0345 155 1015 [general enquiries]  
Email: [customer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk)  
Care Direct: Tel. 0345 115 100
- Highways: Tel. 0345 155 1004
- Hospiscare: Tel. 01392 688000 for services and support  
Local shop: 129 High Street, Crediton; 01363 774836
- Devon Voluntary Action: [www.devonva.org](http://www.devonva.org) Tel. 01404 544 045

Defibrillators: these are located on the West wall of the Village Hall (nearest to Churchill Gardens) and at the Waie Inn



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Mary Finnigan (Client)

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[www.haynedevon.co.uk](http://www.haynedevon.co.uk)