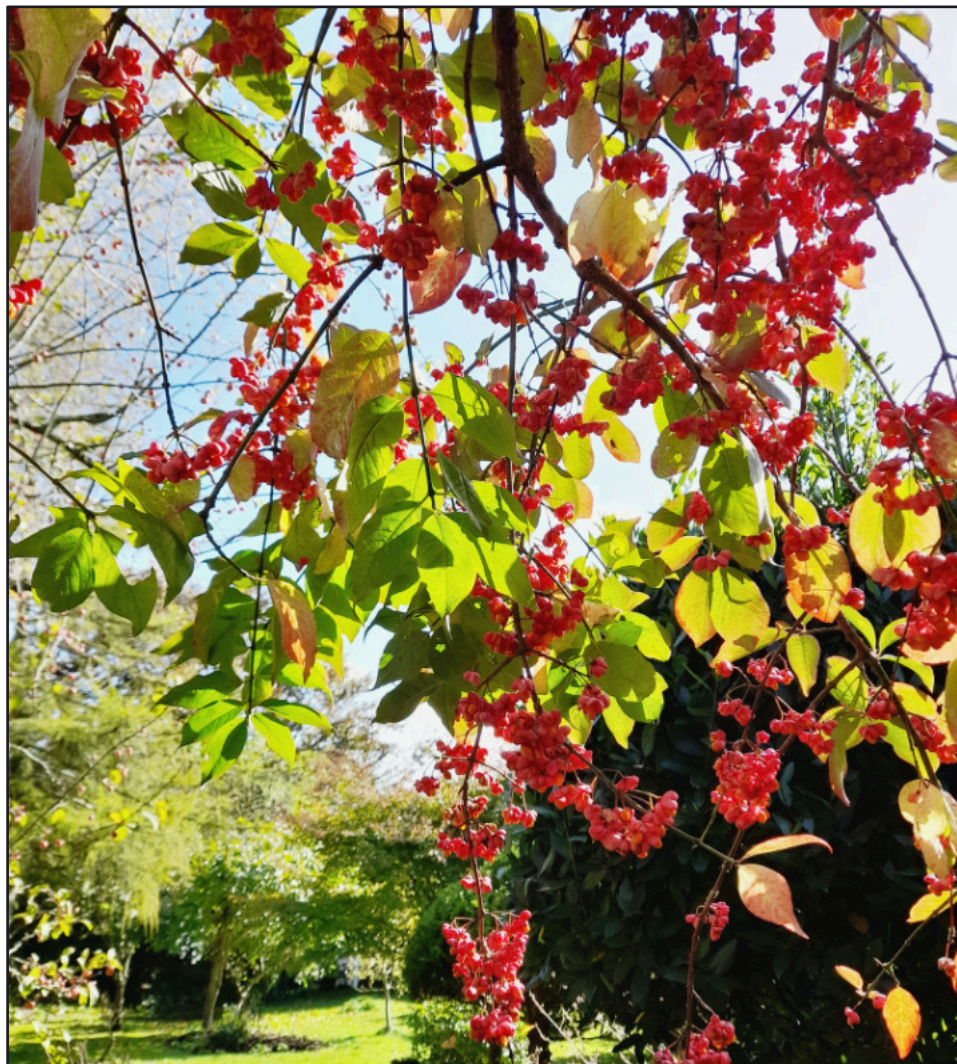


MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 67, December 2024

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Spindle Tree fruiting in Monk's Croft garden—Jane Hogg

EDITORIAL

December means Christmas; a time to remember all those volunteers who distribute the magazine each month. To Susie Bostock, who took over from Tina Bowyer; she collects over 240 from Burrridge's and hands them out for distribution—to Margaret Harris, Martyn Down, Lois Hamilton, Sally Rowden, Tony Brealy, Colin Crothers, the Chandler family, Mandy Smith, Tina Bowyer and Ken Hogg. A big thank you to you all.

The Magazine Committee met recently; the minutes are posted on page 22. One item discussed was finance and it was agreed to save some costs: a thinner paper should be tried. We hope you find it just as easy to read and please send comments on it to the e-mail below! Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee welcomed. Ruth Friend, who has agreed to represent the rural part of our community. A Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to everybody! The deadline for the January edition is Friday 6th December.

Mike

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NOTICES and EVENTS

Christmas Fair Saturday 7th December What would you expect to see at a Christmas Fair? Cakes and puddings for sale, a tombola, games, biscuit decorating, raffle, candle making, refreshments, fresh produce, mulled wine, and even a festive photo booth. All in Zeal Monachorum Church from 2-4pm on 7th December. Don't miss it! We look forward to seeing you there. If you are able to donate items for any of the stalls it would be very much appreciated. Please contact either Tina Young 07788188862 or Becky Harvey on 07841027617

The amateur rainfall reading for October was 131mm. *Margaret Harris*

Sally Rowden is very grateful to all who bought flowers from her gate this summer and who generously donated to this year's chosen charity, 'Farms for City Children', set up by local author Michael Morpurgo. The total amount collected was £100 and will be given to them soon as we have been invited to the farm to see how a typical day runs. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Hazel Wainwright and Sally would like to send out a huge thank you to everybody who contributed knitted and crocheted poppies for the Remembrance display on the village green and to those who helped put it all together. Please continue making poppies, if you are able, for next year! Many thanks.



Foodbank The annual Christmas house-to-house collection will be taking place between 2nd—6th December. More details are on page 23.

Village Hall

Wednesday 11 December

Saturday 14 December

Saturday 18 January 2025

@gmail.com

Bingo doors 7pm eyes down 7.30 £5

10-11.30 Village Hall Market

7.30 Village Hall Cheer Up January Party

WINKLEIGH MORRIS DANCERS

If you were visiting The Waie Inn on a sultry evening in July this year, you may have been amused, or bemused, by a colourful performance by Winkleigh Morris dancers. We were well supported by some enthusiastic locals who even joined in!

Last year I attended a Morris taster session after enjoying a talk on the history of Morris Dancing at the Zeal Monachorum WI given by Colin Andrews, whom some Zeal residents may remember. I took to it like a duck to water despite being surprised at the amount of exertion involved; it certainly warms you up on a cold winter's evening!

Initially I was a little nervous, learning the dances and terminology, and co-ordinating hands, feet, sticks and hankies. Happily, the Side, as a group of Morris Dancers are known, were very welcoming and extremely patient. Winkleigh had eight new joiners last year, both a challenge and a blessing for them in equal measures, I'm sure. I found it absorbing and fun. No-one takes it too seriously and we can have a laugh if we don't get it quite right, but there is much rejoicing when we do!

From May to September, mostly on Tuesday evenings, we danced at characterful local pubs in beautiful Devon villages. I also took part in the Swanage Folk Festival and the Winkleigh Fair. Most nerve wracking of all was performing centre stage at the Dartmoor Folk Festival. Andy and Naome, our dog, joined in many of the events and we have all made new friends.

Winkleigh Morris was formed in 1990 when the landlady of the former Winkleigh Hotel arranged evening classes on Morris dancing for her regulars and anyone interested in having a go. We perform a variety of dances from Cotswold, with hankies and sticks, to Border, with rag coats. We're a mixed Side with ages ranging from 10 to 80+.

We are always pleased to welcome new dancers and musicians, no experience of Morris is required. Practice runs from October to April on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9:30pm at Winkleigh Community Centre, followed by a visit to one of the local pubs. See our website www.winkleighmorris.org.uk for further details if you would like to find out more or join in the fun.

Maria Richardson

Pictures overleaf courtesy of Maria Richardson



Exterior painting, gutter clearing

Chris 07597968293

[01363] 881475

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ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

President Jan welcomed members. The minutes from the October Meeting were read, approved and signed. Jan then had the unenviable task of delivering the tragic news that our secretary, Jan Hollingsworth, had passed away on the afternoon of 6th. She has been and will carry on being missed for some considerable time. As we had 60 Christmas crackers to make for our Tinsel Tea event to be held on 1st December, business matters were dealt with swiftly. Our monthly meeting in December will find us enjoying time together at the Waie Inn for our Christmas dinner. And then, it will be 2025!! Jan Brealy

St PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners, The first four Sundays in December encompass the season of Advent. Advent means coming, for Christians it is a time of penitence, preparing ourselves for the Birth of the Holy Child. The altar vestments are purple and we do not have altar flowers. Sometimes we lose sight of this with the hustle and bustle of cards, presents, Christmas dinner, parties and not least for the younger members of the family Father Christmas. In church we have an Advent Wreath, a circle of greenery with four coloured candles and a larger white one in the centre *The Christ candle*. Each coloured candle represents the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary, one candle is lit each week with the Christ candle being lit on Christmas day.

Christmas at St Peter's. Many of us have heard the good news of the Christmas story many times but it appears as new to us as when we first heard it. We begin with a service of lessons and carols on Sunday 22nd December at 6.00pm. A collection will be made for a children's charity. The service will be followed by mince pies, mulled wine or coffee/tea if you prefer. We continue on Christmas Eve, celebrating with Christmas Communion at 9.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us, if you are new to or visiting the parish for the festive season come along and make yourselves known and share our worship at this special time.

As we are still in the season of Advent the church will be decorated with greenery for the carol service, flowers can be added for Christmas Eve. The church decorating will take place on Saturday 21st: if you are able to help, please come, we can always use extra pairs of hands.

The rotas for December; the readings for Year C begin:—

1st December at 10.00am Advent 1

First reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16
New Testament	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Gospel	Luke 21:25-36
Sidesman	
Church Cleaner	

Family Service
Mr Tony Breal
Miss Lynn Warren
Mrs Tina Young
Mr Colin Crothers
Margaret Down

There are no Altar flowers in Advent and the Altar vestments are Purple

8th December at 6.30pm Advent 2

Old Testament reading	Malachi 3: 1-4
New Testament reading	Philippians 1: 3-11
Gospel	Luke 3: 1-6
Sidesman	

C W E
Mr Graham Rounsley
Mr Robert Peck
Celebrant
Mr Tony Breal

22nd December at 6.00pm Advent 4
Readings and readers to be arranged

Sidesman

Lessons and Carols

Mr Colin Crothers

24th December at 9.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

Old Testament reading

Isaiah 9: 2,6-7

Mrs Jane Hogg

New Testament reading

Titus 2: 11-14

Mrs Susan Down

Gospel

Luke 2: 1-14

Celebrant

Sidesman

Mr Tony Breal

Altar Flowers

24th, 25th & 29th

Margaret Down

Thank you. As we come to the end of 2024, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have worked so hard for and supported the church in any way during 2024. Following the untimely death of our vicar Robert our PCC has undertaken the essential tasks to keep our church running as normally as is possible. We continue to pray that a vicar will be appointed soon.

Our readers, flower arrangers, cleaners, sidesmen, bell ringers, churchyard grass cutters, key holder. All these helpers give of their time freely and are vital to the smooth running of our church. I would also like to thank all who give regularly to church funds either weekly, monthly, annually, and all who support our fundraising activities. Income is essential to fulfil our commitments, we make regular payments to the Diocese, Cadbury Deanery, the North Creedy West Mission Community, Utilities, Insurance, Churchyard Maintenance. Our financial year ends on the 31st December. If you would like to become a regular supporter of the church financially, you can contact either me or Becky our treasurer.

Church rotas. I am now preparing the flower, reading and cleaning rotas for 2025. Please consider joining our team of volunteers, my contact number Tel: 82204, we can never have too many helpers.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmastime

Margaret (Churchwarden)

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A PLANTSMAN IN ZEAL—Contd.

Terry came to us very well connected. He personally knew Sir Peter Scott. Most years there was an expedition to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. One year, they were constructing a special habitat for Ratty—our common Water Vole. On another there were raptors practising the avian equivalent of circuits and bumps, periodically dive-bombing birds feeding on the Severn Estuary salt marshes. We watched them repeatedly stoop, to the consternation of the waders who rose in a cloud, squawking vociferously.

Another friend was John Gallagher. He held the Victoria Medal of Horticulture; there are only 63 holders at any one time, representing Queen Victoria's 63 year reign. He was on the committee of the RHS and lived in his parents' house in Dorset. We made frequent visits; his speciality was, of course, Magnolias. A visit there in spring was a delight.

There was a yearly pilgrimage to Leckford. After many years retirement, there were still old colleagues to visit, even though the wildfowl collection had long since gone. There too were plants to see: the Killarney Strawberry Tree he planted, now the largest in England; a climbing Hydrangea, at least 100 feet up a Redwood and flowering magnificently. He showed me his room at the Abbas, almost hidden behind a bank of Wisteria and took me on a tour of the John Lewis golf course.

After years of being catered for at the Abbas, he had to learn to cook when he retired. He bought books and followed the instructions. One of his specialities was home-made pasta; he never bothered to buy the ready-made Italian variety. Just up the road was a retired Vicar, Ben Habberton, at The Old Rectory. He had been an Anglican missionary in Africa and his wife, Monica, having had servants, had never learnt how to do anything. Ben lived out of tins; when his wife was away visiting her relatives in East Anglia, Terry would wine and dine him on home-cooked meals he much appreciated.

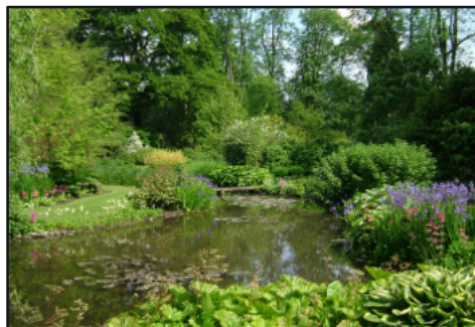
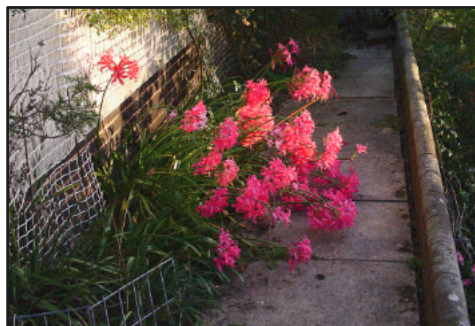
We both owned dogs and used to go together to Dartmoor with them. When at last he turned 90, he announced he would say goodbye to it, but alone. He went to Belstone and walked up along the ridge above Taw Marsh. Turning to Steeperton, he visited Little Hound Tor, walked to the top of Cosdon, then down to the Taw and back to his car. A few years after, like his father before him, he did everything he wanted to do on the last day of his life. His life-long friend, a fellow bantam breeder, had come to stay on his 94th birthday; they had been down to visit a colleague on the Penwith, Cornwall. That evening, he rang to complain the whiskey needed drinking and invited me over. He went to sleep with a smile and never woke up, November 2005.

Mike Russell



Above—Hoggets’ eastern side.

Below, top left—Nerine Zeal Giant; bottom left—Lackford water garden



Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre

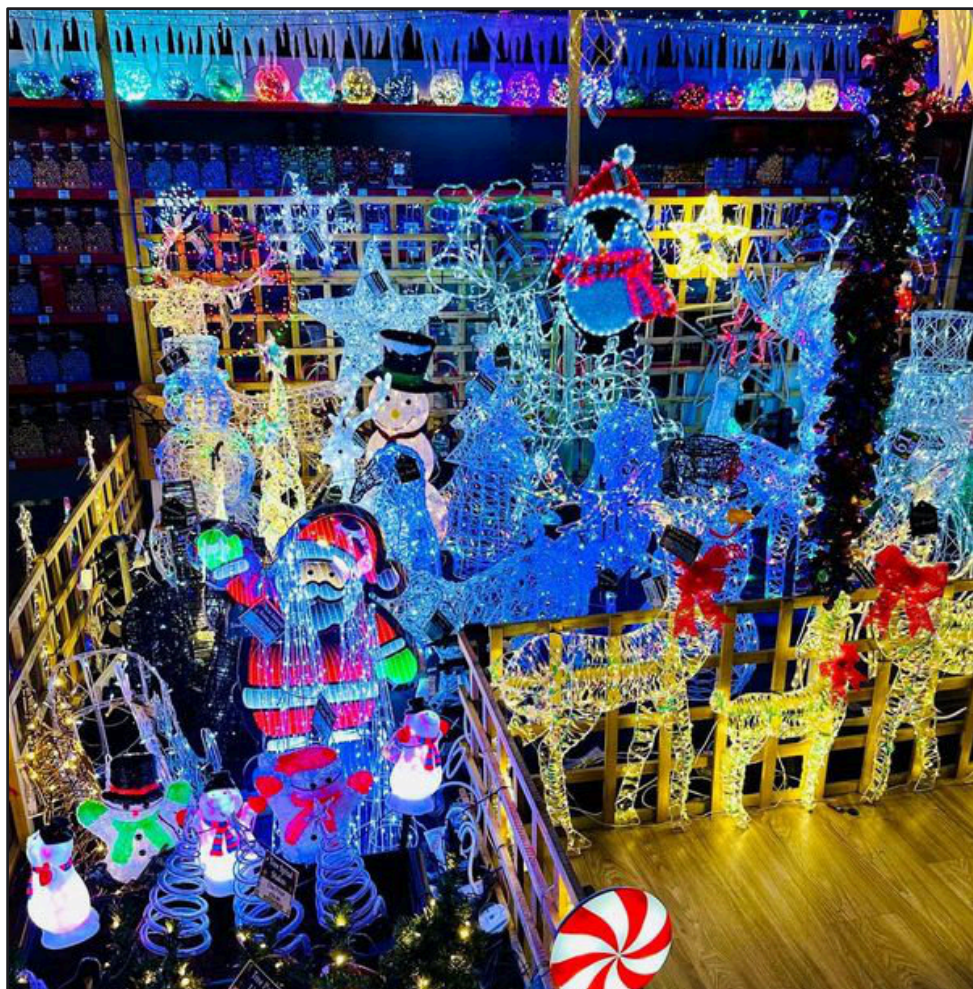
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DECEMBER GARDEN ADVICE

from Bow Garden Centre

Continue to enjoy the beauty of your outdoor space while preparing for the year ahead with December gardening jobs, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre;

1. Add more Winter colour such as cyclamen, violas, pansies, and wallflowers to brighten up your garden.
2. Watch out for pale blotches and fuzzy grey mould on leaves of winter-flowering pansies that can be symptoms of downy mildew. Remove infected leaves as soon as discolouration appears.
3. Use fleece for frost protection wrapping around less hardy plants and insulate greenhouses with bubble wrap.
4. Continue planting trees, shrubs and hedges (Bow have an expanded selection in store, including many evergreen).
5. During Winter pruning remove mummified fruit that remained on branches, and continue checking supports and ties of cane fruit, grape vines and fruit trees trained against walls.
6. Clear debris to prevent slugs and snails from setting up home in damp conditions! However it is important to leave some cover for other wildlife.
7. Get pruning wisteria, roses & Japanese maples to help improve their growth next season.
8. Harvest holly with berries for making Christmas garlands & wreaths. Stand them in a container of water until you're ready to use them.
9. Buy a pond heater to prevent ice forming, leaving an air hole free for toxic fumes to escape.
10. Take care not to let leaves accumulate, especially around alpine - they will die if left damp for long. Cover bare patches around clumps with gritty compost to encourage regrowth.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of Devon-grown plants. 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. Bow also has lots of Christmas inspiration including gifts for him, her, children and pets, plus an expanded range of Christmas Lights, Decorations, and Christmas Trees!

www.bowgardencentre.co.uk, 01363 82438.

@gmail.com

FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All We have been given £500 from MDDC Community budget Fund to purchase a generator; we will have electricity on site for our new club house. A big thank you to our District Councillor Mrs Margaret Squires for arranging the grant.

Margaret Down of Beer Farm asked if she was too old to go fishing, as she now required a hobby after retiring from farming. We said you are never too old to learn to fish. She came to the lake and had her first lesson and I think enjoyed it. We sat for a while just watching the Kingfisher doing aerobatics around the lake. We then put line to water, I think she enjoyed the tranquility as well as getting a bite and getting a fish. Fish don't bite so quickly in the colder water in the autumn, but eventually we all had a hand in landing a nice common carp. She has agreed to come back, excuse the pun but I hope she gets "hooked". Anyone else in the village who would like to take up fishing, please give us a call.

There is a lovely picture of Harry Bishop, Rob & Jean Peck's Grandson; I just feel when I see pictures like this we as a club have achieved the thing we started to do for young and old and for all the village to enjoy. If fishing is not your thing then just come and relax in special natural surroundings—I just can't stop wishing Nick Tyler could see this: it's 17yrs since we had our first club meeting with him in the village hall. It seems so long ago.

A reminder about the rubbish at the lake: by all means bring drinks to the lake, but please take bottles and cans home with you: we cannot recycle if they're binned. Happy Christmas to all members and villagers and a healthy New Year. Tight lines,

Ken and Jane



Left: Harry Bishop fishing—Pics Ken Hogg

Right: Margaret Down being coached by Jane Hogg; her first catch was a common carp.

NOTES FROM WOOTTON TOP

At the time of writing these few lines we are having a beautiful old fashioned autumn, cool mornings, wonderful sunrises and warm sunshine during the day, it went a long way to help with the dreaded clocks going back.

On the farm its been a month of paperwork and inspections! TB testing (thankfully clear) veterinary herd health plan, Johnne's screening BVD testing, red tractor inspection, (apparently our disinfectant was out of date!) climate check inspection, veterinary inspection for sheep licences, and now for the big Arlagarden online form to sell our milk, just the norm for modern day farming. I remember my dad saying," in the 60's the churn lorry driver took off the lid of the churn and had a sniff of the milk and said that'll be alright boy!"

Its getting to the time when you get asked, are you ready for Christmas yet, most reply got all the presents just need wrapping then I'll be there but to a farmer getting ready for Christmas means ordering the animals feeds and needs before, during and after the Christmas and New Year holidays so that when the mills are open the deliveries can be made on time.

I could write a book on the strange things you get asked on a farm. I remember organising a bonfire for charity and made a large bonfire of tree tops etc. As usual, the British weather supplied heavy rain but we decided to carry on. When the cars arrived I was amazed to see a nice one pull up and a pair of red stiletto shoes got out and went out to the muddy bonfire site. When the not so red shoes came back she said "if you knew it was going to rain you should have had the bonfire in the barn!!!" It may have been a bigger bonfire than planned if we had.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.
Graham and Ruth

There must be rain coming! Cows on Wootton Top—courtesy of Ruth Friend.



@gmail.com

ON THORNE FARM

By the time you read this, all the stock will be housed for winter across 3 farms & calving should be nearly over. At Thorne Farm we will have our 12month old breeding heifers who will have Gallagher the Aberdeen Angus bull in with them. All the stock are checked at least daily, bedded with clean straw & fed silage.

We use a monitoring system for our cows called SenseHub - it is a sensor mounted on a neck collar which detects changes in their mobility/steps & how often they ruminate/chew their cud. We will be busy artificially inseminating the cows to get them pregnant again for next year, cows come into 'heat/bulling/cycling' every 21 days. As they are ready to be inseminated, their activity increases, which their sensor detects. We are then alerted; so this helps detect cows ready to be inseminated which we may not spot ourselves, though we can often see them bulling as they are pacing around the shed, being mounted by other cows.

The sensor also tells us if the cow is not eating as she should & alerts us to early stages of illness, such as mastitis or stomach problems, or that she may be about to calve. During this year it has helped detect 6 cows, who, as they have approached calving have suffered a torsion or twisted womb. Vets do not know why some cows get this; the remedy is to roll the cow over to untwist the womb - not an easy task with 600kgs+ to roll!

We will know our TB test result from November & have a better idea of how long we are likely to be under restriction for - 2 clear tests 60 days apart are needed for us to freely trade again.

Do get in touch if you have any questions
Will & Jo

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Harvest Supper in October raised just under £280. As promised the food was delicious and it was agreed that those who made it had excelled themselves. While the ghost stories were not close to home our storyteller did intrigue by telling of north doors in many churches whose purpose was to let the devil out. Today these are mostly hidden or blocked up but he thought he'd seen signs of one in St Peter's; so if you see people staring at blank walls on the north side of the church you'll know why.

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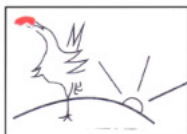
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SALLY MAREIKE at BOW

When Sally Mareike arrived in Bow a year ago, she brought with her a lifetime of creativity, a profound love for nature, and an open invitation for others to experience the joy of working with clay. Sally has become known locally for her hand-building pottery workshops, intricate, nature-inspired ceramics, and the calming effects of her healing sessions.

Sally's journey as a potter began over 30 years ago. She's been inspired through her global travels, having lived in Zimbabwe, Hong Kong and the UK. Sally discovered the beauty of nature's textures and contrasts, which now infuse every piece she creates. In her studio off Marsh Lane, Sally uses traditional hand-building techniques—pinch pots, slab building, and coiling—to craft her unique stoneware ceramics. Impressed with natural textures like leaves, ferns, shells, and even weeds, her pieces invite you to touch and explore. Oxides and glazes are used to add colour, leaving some areas unglazed and raw, giving each item an earthy, tactile feel.

The latest inspiration comes from the coast. Her Rockpool and Seaside Collections incorporate shell and fossil impressions with intricate 3D details, creating pieces that feel as timeless as the natural world itself. Alongside these collections, her Creamware, Beehive, Autumn Leaf, Fern Leaf, and Meadow designs bring warmth and nature into homes. Her work is available on Etsy and locally at Makers Mart, Exeter and Chagford Market on Friday mornings until end of December. There are other stockists further afield that you are welcome to ask Sally about.

For those interested in learning the art of pottery, Sally offers hands-on workshops that are both educational and fun for all ages. Each Friday afternoon, she hosts sessions for home-educated children, while school holidays feature family workshops. She also offers private classes and workshops for friends or family groups, creating a memorable experience that's perfect for bonding and learning something new together.

But Sally's work with clay goes beyond art; it's also a pathway to healing. Many clients find her pottery workshops to be calming and even transformative. This is because working with clay has a grounding effect, releasing endorphins and even drawing out physical toxins, making each session a nourishing experience for body and mind.

If you're curious to try your hand at pottery, explore her ceramic collections, or experience relaxing healing sessions, Sally warmly invites you to contact her from the details below.

Phone 07795 418878

sallymareikeceramics@gmail.com for pottery enquiries

sally@sallymareike.space for healing information

Sally Mareike Ceramics on Etsy <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SallyMareikeCeramics>

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Sally Mareike




All pictures courtesy Sally Mareike

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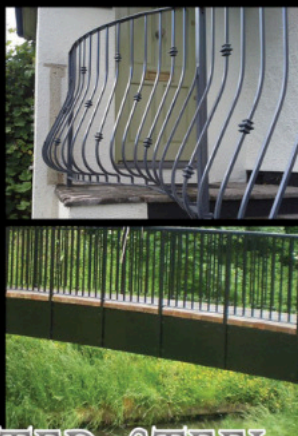
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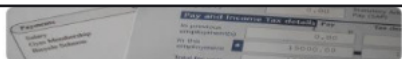
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MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 30th October. Present:- Mike Russell Editor, Ken Hogg Chairman, Jane Hogg Secretary, Tony Brealy, Maria Richardson Treasurer and Ali Birch-White

Ken thanked everyone for coming and handed over to Mike who outlined his vision for the magazine saying it needed to be non-political and just for the villagers to enjoy reading about the past and present activities in Zeal Monachorum. Mike thanked Jan Summers for all the good work she had done and said as no-one had come forward to replace her he said he was "Hobsons choice". Maria said that Jackie Watson had shown an interest in taking over the role of Editor; Mike said he would continue at present. The magazine this month was 24 pages of interesting stories, 11 regular contributors with 8 1/2 pages of adverts and he thanked Ken for his input in getting the farmers involved. Mike said we are all volunteers and deadlines are important. Burridge Printers need the magazine asap to give them 2 weeks to produce, in case they are very busy, so that they can guarantee the magazine is printed for us in time to distribute before the month begins.

Mike's editorials had asked for feedback and Andrew Chandler has said MM was a good source of info, but suggested the PC should underwrite any losses. He also commented the Team needed refreshing. Erica Eden commented that Mike should not have changed her words in editing her submission. He said she had to keep it short and to the point. She said it is important that new people in the village know who she is. Maria said Erica probably just wanted new people to put a face to a name.

Maria said the magazine was £60 short each month and thought the PC should help with the shortfall. Ken said he would ask the Council Chairman if it could be put on the next council agenda. Mike is looking into getting thinner paper which would be cheaper by £40. Ali said that no youngsters had shown an interest in getting involved with the magazine. Maria asked if we should do some sort of survey to find out what people wanted in their magazine., but no consensus emerged. Ken asked Tony to do a history page for the magazine and to write a story about Leslie Delaspee who lived at Monk's Croft: he had served as the Queen Mother's piper.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.

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UPPER YEO & TAW MDDC—councillor's report

October 2024

The Household Support Fund (HSF) has been extended for a further six months, from 1 October 2024 until 31 March 2025 including: Direct Awards(Energy Voucher) for pensioners that we've identified that we believe do not qualify for the Government scheme but may suffer hardship.

Single people £250

Couples £300

Single person and couple letters will be directly issued to residents. Direct award pensioners must collect their voucher from 'CHAT'. Those receiving the Direct Award can also apply to the 'full scheme'. Applications need to be made, if successful a household could get vouchers up to £400 for 'food and energy combined' For more information please search for Mid Devon resident's financial support for the link.

Community Risk Register. The aim of this new Community Risk Register is twofold: to allow MDDC to keep track of the key risks within its borders and identify to put in place mitigating actions to either directly or indirectly reduce risk likelihood or impact; and second, to give the MDDC Resilience Officer a structure as to where our highest risk communities are located to more proactively engage with those communities, and put in place community emergency plans in partnership with Devon Communities Together. The completed Community Risk Register will be taken to the Towns and Parish's on the 20th of November by MDDC Resilience Officer Lewis Dyson

Residents' Survey. Residents in Mid Devon are being urged to share their views about services provided by Mid Devon District Council. A new residents' survey is now open and we are encouraging you all to take part, to share your views and priorities for your council. Please search for Mid Devon residents' survey for the relevant link. Natalia Letch

CREDITON FOODBANK

The Crediton Foodbank are trying something a little different. They are aiming to give each family a "Christmas In A Bag" with the focus on Christmas. The shelves are looking healthy so they will not run out. They hope this will mean they have a bit of everything instead of 100+ boxes of mince pies This would mean donating a strong bag filled with all items for a client. There is a QR code that takes you to the relevant page on the website, or via this link:—<https://creditonfoodbank.org.uk/christmas-in-a-bag-2024>

The annual collection will take place between 2—6 December. Times are difficult and we do not expect everyone to take this up. If you do wish to donate, I know many of you have in the past had a preference to donate money. And no matter how small it will be greatly appreciated. If you have already donated or do not wish to be disturbed, please place your copy of this newsletter in your window or porch to let us know. Those of us making the collections are licensed and will be wearing badges. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and may God Bless you all.

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