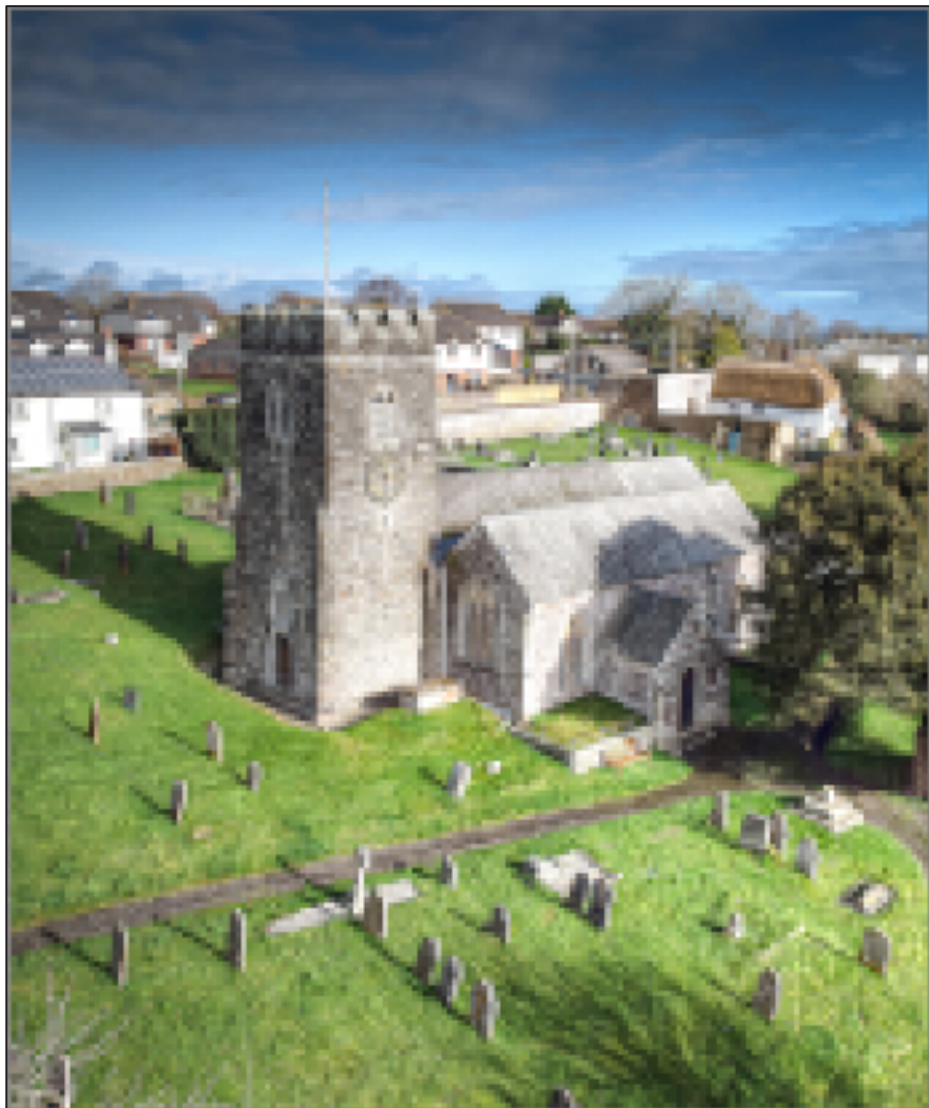


FREE

Issue 22 March 2021

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*St Peter's Church from above, by Mike Bostock*

## EDITORIAL

I'm starting this month with a note to myself: don't write about the weather! Why? Because last month I mentioned in this column that the weather had been dry. By the time the newsletter was distributed, Storm Christoph had dumped a month's worth of rain in various parts of the country, and it feels as if it hasn't stopped raining since.

But the days are getting longer now and, once you start seeing snowdrops and crocuses, you know that the primroses can't be far behind and, before you know it, the trees will start producing green shoots.

In this month's issue we have the last of Mike Russell's beautiful pictures taken around our village (pages 16 and 17). We also have the second episode in Stephen Watkins story of his life in the NAAFI (pages 8 and 9). Thanks to Ken Down for an interesting piece on the Red Tractor logo which applies to meat (page 13), and Mandy Smith tells us on pages 24 and 25 about her lockdown activities, plus, of course, we have all the regular features.

I'm always grateful for the variety of stories and pictures that people send in to the newsletter, and I think they show what life is about in a small village like ours. Do please keep your offerings coming; if we can't fit it in to the next newsletter in we'll always try to include it in a later issue.

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE: 8 MARCH**

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## THANKS FROM GEOFF ROWLAND

Geoff would like to thank everyone who sent condolence cards and phone messages following the passing of his mother Marian, as well as everyone who came to her funeral. Geoff says he was very touched by the care and concern shown by everyone, both for him and his sister Janet who, at the time of writing, is still in hospital but is improving.

## RAINFALL

Rainfall for January was 160mm, 6¼ inches in 'old money'.

## HELP WANTED

**Ann Tyler** would like to find a gardener/handyman to do some of the heavier outdoor work, possibly including fencing. Contact Ann on 01363 82267.

## ZEAL MONACHORUM COMMUNITY SUPPORT

If you need help, for example with shopping or collecting a prescription, or even if you would just like a chat, please call one of the following people:

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

## DEFIBRILLATORS

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

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

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

## SEE AND BE SEEN

It seems that lockdown has resulted in many more people walking around our village, and why not? It is such a beautiful area to walk in. But please – if you are walking late in the day or in poor light, make sure that you can be seen. Ideally, wear a high vis jacket or light-coloured clothing. If you are walking in the dark remember to carry a torch with you.

### WALKERS:

You may be able to see vehicles approaching, but it's not always easy for drivers to see you, make sure you are visible, especially in the dark.

### DRIVERS:

Please cut your speed through the village; be aware that there might be people and animals in the road.



## COMMUNITY NEWS, continued

### MONACHORUM MATTERS - AUDIO

Erica Eden, Susie and I have collaborated to produce an audio version of Monachorum Matters for one of our visually impaired residents. As we have established a system for this now, we intend to repeat this on a monthly basis.

If you know of anyone in the village who would benefit from an audio version of the magazine please let me know (contact details below).

If you know someone who is visually impaired please remember that they may qualify for assistive technology in the form of USB book readers, amongst other gadgets. Crediton Lions also provide articles from the Crediton Courier as well as other magazine articles downloaded from the RNIB. If that is of use please contact Karen Todd at [karentodd@talk21.com](mailto:karentodd@talk21.com) or Eric Parkes (01363 82878).

**Mike Bostock**

[mike@yew-tree.co.uk](mailto:mike@yew-tree.co.uk) or 01363 82341

### MOBILE LIBRARY

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

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## The Village Workshop has a new website

David Bowyer tells me that he has a new website to show most of what he has either been making or refurbishing in his workshop during the last year. He usually includes a picture of a recent project in his advert, but now you can go to his website and see larger pictures by clicking on them.

On his site you can also follow what happens at his Off-Road Centre and read about his involvement in the Amateur Radio scene. David has had an interest in Land Rovers for many years. He is an active member of the Land Rover Series One club and, from time to time, you will see him pottering around the village in his 65 year old Series One Land Rover which he is hoping to take to Land Rover shows this year when we are allowed to get out and about again.

David's website was built by Mike Bostock who, like David, has given up his day job and is now doing the things that he enjoys which he didn't have time to do before retiring. Also, like David, he is a keen photographer, has a digital SLR, a Drone with a camera and knows his way around a computer.

If you are thinking of having a new website why not drop an email to Mike Bostock whose Webmaster's address is on David's website [www.davidbowyer.co.uk](http://www.davidbowyer.co.uk)

### THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP

David Bowyer, East Foldhay,

Zeal Monachorum Crediton, Devon,

EX17 6DH

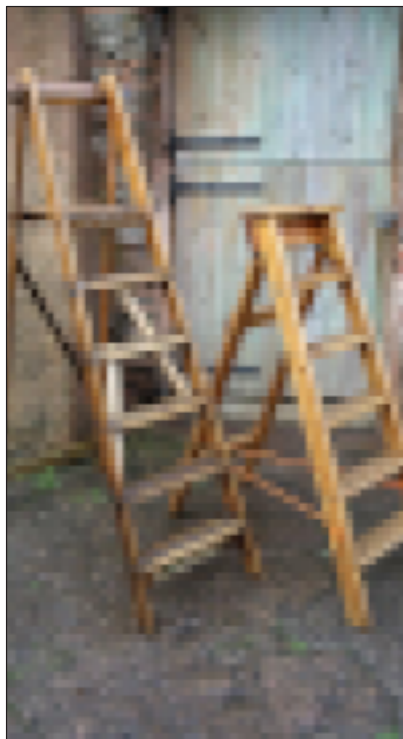
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*Always happy to give advice  
on all things made in wood*

It's nicer to use a pair of good wooden stepladders than lightweight aluminium ones; wooden stepladders feel sturdier to use. But age and use can make them very unstable and dangerous to climb on. I can take stepladders like these apart and re-assemble with new fixings and a coat of varnish to give them a new lease of life.



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## SPRING GARDEN PREPARATIONS

Spring will soon be here, and we start seeing more colour appear in the garden. Our spring bulbs that we planted back in autumn have bloomed and are cheering up our borders, whilst the spring bedding is thriving. The month of March is the perfect time to really prepare your garden for the growing season ahead, so take a look at these tips on what needs doing, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre:

1. Prepare your vegetable garden – dig compost or well-rotted manure into your vegetable beds to prepare for the growing season ahead.
2. Cover prepared soil with sheets of recyclable black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.
3. Prune climbing plants and tidy up winter shrubs. March is a great month to prune varieties such as Sambucus, Buddleia, Hydrangea or Fuchsias.
4. Prune rose bushes from mid-March, making sure any dying or diseased stems are removed as well as shoots which have become damaged. Fertilise soil well with organic compost and add rose feed to the base of plants.
5. Service the lawnmower, to ensure it is ready and the blades are sharp. The first lawn trims, feeding and sanding should start in March during dry weather in order to promote healthy lawn growth through the year.
6. Bare patches in your lawn can attract weeds so new turf or re-seeding now along with good watering will repair these patches and prevent any new weeds from becoming a problem for your lawn.
7. Continue deadheading spring flowers and any remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed.
8. Once the soil starts to warm up again, you should also start to plant early varieties of seed potatoes, shallots and onion sets in your vegetable garden. Later cropping seed potatoes require a little more chitting.
9. Make the first outdoor sowings of hardy vegetables such as spinach, covering with cloches or fleece.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of plants, plus tools, propagation equipment, pots, greenhouses, plants, seeds and so much more. We are open during lockdown for all essentials, including pet supplies and Post Office services.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is just 10 minutes from Zeal Monachorum. EX17 6LA.





# MY LIFE IN THE NAAFI by Stephen Watkins

## Part 2 – I go to sea.

My first weeks on HMS Fearless threw me ‘in at the deep end’; when I underwent intense operational sea training. This included a swift introduction to ‘Thursday’ war where training scenarios were incredibly realistic: ballast tanks were flooded to make the ship list, water and smoke poured into the passageways, theatrical makeup was used on casualties, charges made the ship shake as planes flew overhead. The training was hard, but did exactly what it was intended to do, and our actions became instinctive. We all knew what to do if it happened for real.

Just before Christmas, we had a little light relief - a few days in Rotterdam before leave began. This was my first time abroad as an adult and although it was ‘just Rotterdam’, it felt amazing that I was following my dream of travelling. I had learned a huge amount about myself in a very short space of time. My dad often says that I went away a boy but, after a few weeks, I came home a man.

Just a few weeks after Christmas leave, HMS Fearless was sailing for Norway. In preparation for the trip there was a period of storing (*stocking*) the ship. This was when I began to learn how to use every nook and cranny. Space was precious and stock had to be stowed safely and securely before setting sail.

My manager, Steve Appleby, a Falklands veteran and a highly experienced manager, soon realised that I was neither small nor agile and so we would usually persuade my mate, Paul Wilkinson, to get into the smaller and tighter spaces. We quickly bonded well as a team; Steve recognised our individual strengths and Paul and I would go on to work with Steve on HMS Fearless for several years.



*Pictured left to right:*

*Steve Watkins,  
Steve Appleby,  
Paul Wilkinson*

Winter training with the Royal Marines was an amazing experience and I repeated this deployment again, several years later. Sailing through the narrow Norwegian fjords surrounded by snow covered cliffs and mountains was spectacular. We visited Narvik and Trondheim, sailed into the Arctic circle through sea ice, saw the Northern Lights as well, and took part in beach landings.



After a couple of months back in the UK, we headed to the Caribbean; talk about weather extremes. On our way there, a big storm hit during the night. Next morning, I was on the upper deck with my bacon roll and cup of tea watching bananas float past and flying fish jumping out of the water between them; a Fyffes banana ship had lost part of its cargo in the storm. We stopped at Beef Island in the British Virgin Islands and anchored. I can remember being transfixed at what seemed to me to be this tropical paradise. As I was taking in the view, a large ray left the water and rolled just in front of me – an unforgettable sight.

We were going to have a ship's Banyan, essentially a beach party - a welcome break after a long voyage across the Atlantic. We loaded beer onto a Landing Craft Vehicle (LCV) and set off for the beach. The chefs had built a BBQ, so we found some shade nearby and set up the bar. A few days later I volunteered to go on drug patrols with the Royal Marines. At about 3am I was woken up by the Colour Sergeant, to whom I had been allocated, asking if we could sneak some beer on board. Half a dozen of us quietly spent the next hour or so stuffing crates of Grolsch and Red Death into the voids. We sailed after breakfast and that night we met up with the others and tied up in a row at sea. The music, BBQ and bar made a welcome sight and we had passing yachtsmen stopping for a chat and a burger.



The following night, we found a small beach on Van Dyke Island, and anchored off shore. We were all in combat gear and were warmly greeted by the local police. The beach had a small hotel, police station and a bar, allegedly owned by Phil Collins; the bar manager ushered us over and we spent the rest of the day drinking. As the day rolled on, Foxy, the bar manager, said he had just spoken to Phil Collins and he had paid our bar bill and suggested we had dinner. Bonus!

*Pictured above with a pile of beer, Doug Reekie and Brian Nugent*

We were making our way back to our boat when we were ushered into the only other bar on the beach, the hotel. Again, we were told drinks were on the house and I was shoved behind the bar and asked to mix a NAAFI cocktail. I called it 'Poison' because I was far too drunk to know what I was putting in it but I do remember it was green, (Crème de Menthe I think). The hotel offered us all a burger each which we ate whilst walking back. Next morning, I woke up with water lapping at my feet, face down in the sand with a half-eaten burger in one hand and a glass of something green in the other. I felt rough, but what a day.

*Next month – It's not all sun, sand and beer*



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## FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

I would like to start this month's chat by thanking all the club members and villagers who have donated money for the remembrance bench for Trevor Rounsley, who will be sadly missed by all. If anyone else wishes to donate money, please make cheques payable to Zeal Monachorum Fishing Club.

Other news - we have carried out a substantial amount of coppicing of willows and alders surrounding the lake. As soon as the rain stops and we have a long period of sunshine we intend to refurbish all the fishing platforms. Anyone is welcome to walk around the lake, but if you travel there by car, please do not park in front of the main gate as this prevents access for both anglers and farmers.

Finally, we are reorganising our members list; if you haven't paid the fees by the end of March, you will now have to fish on a day ticket at £5 per day.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane



A timely quote . . .

"March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil."

— Sara Coleridge, *The Garden Year*. . .

and one from Monty Don in his latest book:

‘and the robin still sings and the roses still flower’.

## THE WAIE INN

Please check our Facebook page, or phone **01363 82348** for up-to-date information.  
Takeaway meals are available from: 5 - 8pm, Mon - Sat,  
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# FARMING FROM THE HEDGE

## (fireside this month)

The Red Tractor logo has been around for 20 years now. I thought it might be good to refresh the mind to what **THE RED TRACTOR** represents:

**The Red Tractor logo is a mark of quality food you can trust:**

We insist on rigorous production standards from farms to pack, e.g. we don't allow growth hormones or antibiotic residues in your meat; just good quality food at its seasonal best.

**We know where all Red Tractor food and drink comes from:**

Every stage of the journey is checked. Our systems ensure that all food can be traced right back to the original British farms.

**Red Tractor farmers care about their animals:**

We visit every farm and only skilled people are allowed to look after livestock. Our standards mean animals have suitable space and the right food and water to ensure they're healthy. Our vets only prescribe medicines when animals are ill.

**Red Tractor farmers care about the countryside:**

Their land is their office and their home so they want to look after it! Fertilisers and pesticides are used only when necessary to keep crops healthy and always in a manner that reduces the risk of pollution and impact on wildlife.

**The flag in the Red Tractor logo tells you where your food has been born, grown, prepared and packed:**

Every stage of the journey is checked. Our systems ensure that all food can be traced right back to the original British farms




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## ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this article we are still in lock-down and not as yet able to hold worship in Church. I will still include the rota for March so we are ready if it is announced that we can resume. Any changes will be either sent by email or posted on the church gate.

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

You will note that we have changed Sundays with our CWE as Mothering Sunday falls on the second weekend. Below is the Church rota for March 2021.

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm**

Old Testament  
New Testament

### **Mothering Sunday**

Exodus 2: 1-10  
Luke 2: 33-35  
Sidesman  
Church Cleaner

### **Family Service**

Mrs Becky Harvey  
Jocie Harvey  
Mr Tony Brealy  
Mrs Jane Hogg

### **No Flowers in Lent**

### **March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6.30pm**

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Gospel

### **Passion Sunday**

Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Hebrews 5: 5-10  
John 12: 20-35  
Sidesman

### **C W E**

Mrs Susan Bostock  
Mr Gavin Rowden  
Rev D. Rowbottom  
Mr Colin Crothers

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

Old Testament  
New Testament  
Gospel

### **Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9  
Mark 11: 1-11

### **Evening Prayer**

Mrs Sally Rowden  
Mr Colin Crothers  
Rev D Rowbottom  
Mr Tony Brealy

Sidesman

If we are unable to meet in safely church we will continue to hold our worship on Zoom. If you would like to join us please contact me and I will send you an invitation. Tel: **82204**

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

**Thank you.** On behalf of the Parochial Church Council I would like to say a sincere thank you to the members of the electoral role who responded so generously to the appeal sent to them by the Churchwarden.

**Take away cream teas.** On the third Sunday of each month from April to September take away cream teas will be available from the church porch between 3.00 – 4.00pm. More details in next month's Monachorum Matters.

**North Creedy West Mission Community** I am pleased to announce that a priest has shown an interest in the vacancy. He was to be interviewed at the end of February. We may have more news next month.

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council is being held on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm.

*Margaret*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council had a Zoom meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, attended by all councillors, Margaret Squires the County Councillor and one member of the public.

Villagers are welcome to join these meetings although, currently, we can only do this by Zoom. Provision is made at the beginning of all meetings for members of the public to make a statement about anything on the agenda or any other matter.

Further to what I said last month regarding speeds in the village, the council has ordered a supply of "advisory" 20mph signs which I hope will be in place by the time you read this article. I have written again to Councillor Hughes, the County Council portfolio holder in charge of Highways, asking him why we cannot have a 20mph statutory limit. I will advise you of any response. In the meantime let us all play our part in keeping speeds in the village down for the safety of all of us.

A separate article is being written about the Denbrook Community Fund for the April issue. Please think carefully about how it could benefit you or the village, as projects are needed to take up Zeal's share of the fund.



The Council has set its precept from the Community Charge for next year, and agreed no change to this year. The next meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and will be published on the notice board and 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)

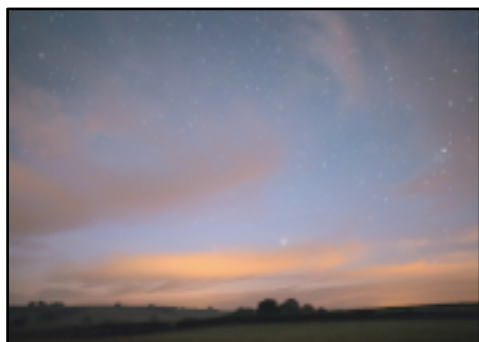
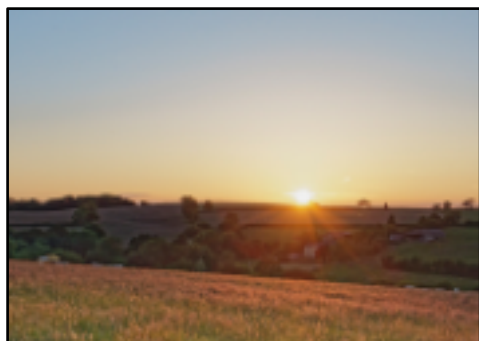
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## ROUND THE BEND—IN PICTURES



*Top: left, hoarfrost, looking towards Great Wootten December 2010; shortly after it snowed, the road to Foldhay Cross next day. Middle: turning grass 2011 and sheep 2020, on the same field, through the gate seen open below left. Last, a hay meadow, Gilhouse Farm, June 2016. **Opposite page**, top left: sunset over Foldhay; right, early autumn at the same gate, 2020. Middle left, 1:00am looking northeast; the brightest star is Capella, with Perseus' Mirfak middle right, June 2017. Next right, Wootten Top from near Gilhouse farmhouse 2003. Below them, a foggy Serstone in 2013 and Zeal in 2020. Bottom row: Sheep beside Western Road, 2010 and it being resurfaced, 2017. As Sergeant Pepper said, I hope you have enjoyed the show—Mike Russell.*



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**WILLIAMS & WILKINS**  
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## QUIZ

1. The name of which animal means River Horse?
2. In which century was Halley's Comet discovered?
3. How many books make up the Chronicles of Narnia?
4. What is the capital of Switzerland?
5. How many different colours are on a Rubik's Cube?
6. Which storybook character was portrayed on 2 fifty pence coins in 2019?
7. In which country is the original Legoland theme park?
8. What is the most abundant chemical in the human body?
9. Which is the parent company for Costa Coffee?
10. Which is the most popular soup in the UK?
11. Of which US state did John Denver sing in 'Country Roads'?
12. For what qualification is PhD an abbreviation?
13. What is an eft?
14. Which one of the world's longest rivers is also the name of a large company?
15. If you complete 'The Three Peaks' which mountains have you climbed?

### Minute Quiz

How many English Monarchs since 1066 are unique for the reason that their christian name has only ever been used once?

### Answers for February

- |                                |                                    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Bangkok                     | 9. Rachel                          |
| 2. Decimalisation              | 10. Hawaii                         |
| 3. Crediton                    | 11. A heavy, dark bread            |
| 4. Diesel-engined road vehicle | 12. 6                              |
| 5. The Railway Children        | 13. The Isis                       |
| 6. Bookkeeper                  | 14. Whisky is not made from grapes |
| 7. Pie Corner                  | 15. The current Dr Who             |
| 8. 1950s                       |                                    |

### Minute Quiz

There are 16 land locked countries in Europe. How many did you know?  
Andorra, Armenia, Austria , Belarus, Kosovo, Czechia (Czech Republic), Hungary, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Vatican City.



## SCHOOLING IN ZEAL MONACHORUM Pt 4 – 20<sup>th</sup> century

In 1903, Devon County Council took over the running of the school and it became known as a Council School. Thomas O. Hocking became school master and stayed until December 1909. He was succeeded by Miss Edith Maud Truscott with infants' mistress, Miss Fanny Grant. There were 40 pupils on the register and average attendance was 37.9. They were followed for a short time in 1919 by Miss Hilda Doige and infants' mistress Miss Hannah Carpenter. By 1923 it was Miss Gertrude Hortop and infants' mistress Lucy Sampson. Luckily, we have the accounts of several Zeal residents who, between them, have some fascinating memories.

**Muriel Greenslade**, born in 1918, recalled that: "Miss Hortop used to travel every Monday from Northam to Morchard Road, where she was met in a pony and trap by Miss Hopkins of Elm Tree Cottage. During the week, she lodged with Mrs Leach in the cottage opposite the top church gate. On Friday, she would go back to Northam for the weekend. Miss Hortop put my name forward in 1933, aged 14, as a monitress. Shortly afterwards, Miss Hortop retired. I sat no teaching exams, but gained teaching experience from Miss Hortop. A young man was sent for a while to act as temporary head while the post of head was advertised. My first month's wage as infants teacher was £1.00. There were no classroom assistants and I remember keeping a well stocked supply of spare pants in case of accidents.

Lessons were the 3 'R's, history, geography, religious education, nature studies, PE and games. The girls took needlework and handicrafts and the boys fretwork. The school day ran from 9am – 4pm and all the children walked to and from school.

Looking at the old school building today, the main hall would have been divided into two. The lower half, nearest the church, was the infants' class and their playground; the girls' toilet was where the gents is now; the girls' cloakroom was the room behind the stage. A wall would have run right along the front of the playground. The top half of the hall and the playground belonged to the senior class; the boys' toilet was where the ladies' is now; the boys' cloakroom was in what is now the kitchen. Buckets for toilets were emptied by the school caretaker.

In the school there was a 'tortoise' stove, and in the infants' class a tin oven built over the outlet pipe of the stove. The village children all went home for their dinners, but the farm children brought their own. Pasties etc. would then be warmed up. Every day, one of the local farmers would send in milk and I would always make cocoa for the children before going home for my dinner. Each child brought in a ha'penny per week to cover the cost of buying tins of cocoa and sugar.

In those days, children would have been expected to behave – the older children being left in charge during the teacher's absence. I cannot remember any cane, but the ruler was used across the palm of the hand by the Head Teacher and was recorded in the log book. When I was 18 or 19 years old, I was put forward as a

supplementary teacher and left Zeal School. I was presented with a dressing table brush and comb set when I left.”

**Queenie Cockwill**, born in 1915, wrote of Mr Carter Pedlar of Reeve Castle, one of the school governors, who always wore a grey bowler hat and rode a bike: “He presented books each year to the scholars who passed their scripture exams. In addition, one of the ladies, Miss Gorle, who lived at Napleton brought a large box of sweets which were given for good behaviour and attendance. Each child had a small bagful.”

**Betty Vicary**, born in 1920, remembers “Miss Hortop’s mental arithmetic. She used to say ‘now I shall know how well you learnt your tables’. I quite liked that lesson, but hated history. She also taught the girls sewing and knitting. We made a complete layette and had a baby doll and bath and learnt to test the water with our elbow. The boys did woodwork, they had to put castors on a wooden box and fix a hinged lid, inside was a tray for us girls to use for the baby, complete with pins, powder etc.

She would set work for us to do then sit at a high desk to keep an eagle eye on us. One day she couldn’t believe her eyes, a boy called Charlie Rounsley couldn’t wait until break time so when he thought she wasn’t looking, took out a greasy pig’s tail from his desk, and had a good lick, he wasn’t quick enough ‘Charlie what have you got there?’ ‘Nort Miss’ says Charlie, so she sent him home to wash and the rest of us laughed our heads off, but Miss didn’t think it was funny and told us to be quiet.”

**Fred Elston**, born in 1926, remembers “Betty Vicary coming to our home to take me to school when I was about 3½ years old. During my final years at school Miss Hortop used to line us all up in the mornings and fire general knowledge questions at us. Each time you got a right answer you moved up one, or if you were wrong had to go down one. I enjoyed these sessions, probably because I was good at it.”

In 1937 the school changed to Juniors only, the seniors being transferred to North Tawton. Betty’s brother **Norman Vicary**, born in 1928, remembers that during his school days attendance was strictly monitored, and woe betide anyone who stayed away without a good excuse. Nothing escaped the eagle eye of Mr Hall, the Attendance Officer, who called monthly to check the register.

Muriel Greenslade said that the London school master who accompanied the evacuees was ‘troublesome’ expecting to ‘take over’ at the school. Zeal’s teacher had other ideas and finally the London teacher was ‘housed’ in the Church Room.” Zeal Monachorum School closed in 1956.

### ***Erica Eden***

**Note** There are a number of other current Zeal residents who also have memories of their time at Zeal school, but most haven’t been recorded yet. I’m hoping that this piece might inspire them to write down their recollections for a future issue of Monachorum Matters.





**Archive photo 42 Zeal Monachorum School 1937:**

*Front row:* 3rd left Joe Vicary, 5th left Norman Vicary;

*Second row:* 2nd left Doris Greenslade, 3rd & 4th left Bolt sisters,  
5th left Rachel Fry, 6th left Margaret Down ?;

*3rd row:* 1st left Fred Elston, 3rd left Mary Fry,  
4th left Mary Webster/Webber, 6th left Dorothea Fry,  
7th left Edna Vicary;

*Back row:* 1st left Bob Burrow, 1st right Ronald Sloman.

*As always I welcome any additional information about the photos - Erica*

## **CREDITONFOODBANK**

Thank you all who have continued to donate during this latest lockdown. There is still a great need and there are times where there are spaces on the shelves, hence the notices around the village having to be changed.

Tinned meals of all kinds are always needed, I am told curries are particularly popular, also sauces for use with rice and pasta. Rice is very low at present and there is always a need for the following basic essentials: sugar, milk, jam, coffee, tea, items we use every day but don't realise they can become luxuries when you have nothing or very little. Zeal Monachorum - thank you for your continued loving kindness to those in need. Many Blessings.

## FAIR WEATHER COMMUNITY WOMBLING

Starting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, to make my daily walks worthwhile, I set a target of completing at least 5 miles (10,000 steps) per outing. I have a Pacer App on my phone which keeps a record of how far I've walked. I decided to use the time walking within the parish boundary to collect the rubbish that has been left in the hedgerows. Since being recently closely shaved they have revealed even more hidden detritus. With Darcy, my Cavalier companion, by my side and a grabber and bags in my pockets we have clocked up over 38 miles around the village and collected 20 bags of rubbish.

By deciding to put 'Pandemic Positive Action' into play and performing useful activities I have:

- Made headbands with buttons for local hospitals and care homes, to save the ears of nurses & doctors when wearing masks;
- Made scrubs bags for RD&E;
- Made and sold masks - donating over £500 to various animal charities;
- Done weekly shopping for a lady at Burston who is shielding;
- Turned locally donated apples into pies for the food bank;
- Made jam and chutney, proceeds of sales donated to animal charities.

My activities keep me upbeat, forward thinking and glad to have my health and creative abilities to help others in a small way. Great Partying ahead, I'm looking forward to catching up with family & friends when allowed!

**Mandy Smith**

Underground, overground, wombling free,  
Wombling activities doing extra that's me.  
Making a space in the bag for my find  
For trash that everyday folks leave behind.

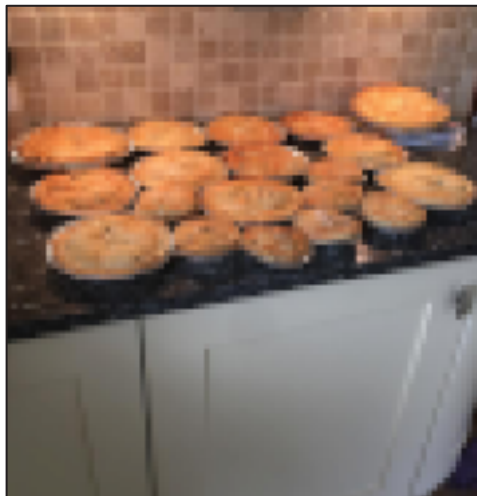
Wombles are organised, I work on my own,  
Others wave as I set off to roam.  
Leaving the countryside tidy & clean,  
Everyone out there can see where I've been.

With bottles, cans, packets and plastic galore  
Why oh why can't people lift them off the floor?  
Masses of baler twine too heavy to carry,  
wrapped round a gate, when I'm in a hurry.

Elusive pot hidden, a rainbow to find  
Think before you chuck, I'd like to remind  
Hurting our wildlife so don't act blind  
Be more sensible, we are mankind.

Eating up miles along countryside lanes  
Furry companion, she never complains  
Fair weather wombling the way to go  
Exercise, fresh air, giving healthy glow.

Open that car window and stop - just think  
Take rubbish home, then have a drink.  
Order a stick grabber off eBay, press go  
If you don't try it .... you may never know.



*Just a few of the goodies Mandy has made in her 'spare' time.*

# CLIMATE CATASTROPHE - SAVE THE PLANET - DEVON

Our planet – the only place we can call home – is warming, and the warming is accelerating. Globally, 2010-2019 was the warmest decade since records began in 1850. 2019 was the second warmest year on record and 2020 is on course to be the hottest. This warming is causing more extreme storms, droughts, heat waves, melting ice, ocean acidification and rising sea levels.

Catastrophic events in far parts of the world such as the fires in Australia, the destruction of the Amazon rain forest or melting icebergs are sometimes so removed from our own experience in Devon that it's hard to see and act on the challenges in our own environment. However, I can set out a few of the facts relating to Devon:

- In comparison to 1961, south west England now experiences almost 10% more rainfall each year. Winters have got wetter and summers have got drier; the South West receives 28% more precipitation in autumn, almost 16% more in winter and approaching 9% less in summer.
- Relative sea level in south west England has risen by approximately 25cm since 1916.
- Exmouth has recorded a temperature increase of 1.05°C since 1900 and Ilfracombe 0.64°C.

If we continue emitting Green House Gas as if it's "business as usual"; by the end of the 21st century, the central estimate of change of Devon's average summer temperature is projected to increase by 5.6°C and average winter temperature by 3.4°C, in comparison to the 1961-1990 average. Compared to the same period, average winter precipitation is projected to increase by 28% whereas average summer precipitation is forecast to decrease by 44%.

Relative sea level is very likely to rise by more than 43cm but less than 90cm.

Although these numbers may seem small, the knock-on effects from them will be substantially larger and disrupt our current quality of life. As the climate continues to change, the scale and frequency of impacts will increase. The science is clear: we are in a climate emergency and need to act now to reduce carbon emissions to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C.

Recently I discovered that a range of public, private and voluntary organisations from across Devon came together on 22nd May 2019 to form the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group; to declare a climate and ecological emergency and to endorse the principles of the Devon Climate Declaration. The Devon Climate Emergency project aims to create a resilient net-zero carbon Devon where people and nature thrive. Membership includes among others: all of Devon's local

Authorities, including Devon County and Mid Devon District Councils; Environmental organisations - Devon Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural Devon; Research institutions - Devon's universities, The Met Office; Health organisations; Business - NFU; Utilities - South West Water, Western Power. This is a powerful and influential group which could achieve change; together, its members have developed a Devon Carbon Plan.

That plan has been out for consultation with the people of Devon since last December. Regrettably there was no information available locally until the end of January. The closing date for responses to the plan is 15<sup>th</sup> February; so well before you will get to read this. Nonetheless, I would encourage you to have a look at: [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk) and if you have any thoughts there will be nothing lost in sending a message to DCERG with your views about the proposals. This plan will continue to evolve and a Citizens Assembly appears to form part of the way forward. You can also contact your representatives on the Parish, District and County Councils and other organisations such as the NFU with your opinions about the plan. There is not space here for me to detail the DCERG proposals, though I may try to look at them at a future date.

***Erica Eden***

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