

FREE

Issue 10, March 2020

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



St Peter's Church at sunrise, by Ali Birchwhite

VILLAGE EVENTS - MARCH

Every Weds	Coffee morning in Village Hall, 10.30 – 12 noon.
Wed 4 Mar	WI: Birthday meeting, 7.15 for 7.30pm
Fri 6 Mar	Mobile Library, 1.15 – 1.40pm at Waie Cross
Sat 7 Mar	Quiz & Pasty Night, 7.30pm. Book with Jan Summers, 82571
Mon 9 Mar	Zeal Explorers, 2pm at bus stop
Wed 11 Mar	Bingo, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm
Sat 14 Mar	Market, 10.00am – 11.30am
Weds 18 Mar	Film Night: 'The Good Liar', doors open 7pm, film at 7.30pm
Sat 28 & Sun 29 Mar	Garden open for NGS: Monks Croft, Western Road, 12 noon – 5pm, teas and draw

ACTIVITIES AT THE WAIE INN

MON: Walking netball, 6-7pm;
Walking football, 8-9pm.

TUE: Aqua Aerobics, 7.30 – 8.15pm.

WED: Circuits, 9.30 – 10.30am;
Aqua Aerobics, 11.45am –
12.30pm.

THU: Kettlebell/dumbbell training,
9.30 – 10.30am.

**No need to book any of the above –
you can just turn up.**

NOTE: Sat 11 April: fireworks for a
wedding party at around 10pm



Zeal Monachorum Village Hall

QUIZ & PASTY NIGHT

Sat 7 March, 7.30pm

Teams up to 6 people, £5 per head to include pasty and first drink.

Book teams and pasty needs with Jan Summers 01363 82571

EDITORIAL

I've been mulling over what to put in our Editorial this month and, on looking through the magazine of a neighbouring village, I noticed they had an index. So this month I'm giving that a trial run – please let me know if you'd like to see this every month.

Jan Summers, 82571

INDEX

	Page No		Page No
Activities at the Waie Inn	2	Personal notices	4
Church news & services	6	Quiz	19
Crediton Food Bank	7	Report from Zeal Archive	15
Fishing Club chat	10	Tower Sounds	13
Mobile Library	13	Village Hall News	4
Norman Vicary's memories	20	Village events	2
Parish Council report	23	Zeal explorers	25

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE: MARCH 8

Our newsletter is printed by Burridge Printers of North Tawton.

YOUR LOCAL
DESIGN & PRINT

 **bsharpdesigns**
-LOCAL DESIGN FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES-
hello@bsharpdesigns.co.uk
bsharpdesigns.co.uk

 **Burridge Printers**
-digital - branding - packaging-
hello@burridgeprinters.co.uk
burridgeprinters.co.uk

01837 82386
Upper Depot, Devonshire Gardens, North Tawton EX20 2ES
Find us  

PERSONAL NOTICES

A huge 'thank you' to our lovely friends and neighbours for your thoughts, offers of help, cards, yummy baked goodies, wonderful meals and daily visits since my accident. We feel so lucky to live in this caring community. Thank you all.

Hazel & David Wainwright.

Please would all recipients of the monthly Cross Country magazine ensure that I receive their annual dues; I am still several short for last year. The proceeds go towards funds to help all churches in the Diocese. Tony Brealy kindly delivers so please ensure that he either collects your £5 or it is given to me directly. Thank you.
Sue Bostock.

Parish Giving Scheme

We now have all the paperwork for this and I have delivered the forms to those who wish to donate regularly; the scheme is open to anyone living in the Parish. All money collected and Gift Aid comes directly back to St Peter's.

Our church is a central part of the village whether you use it for worship or just like having a beautiful historic building right in our midst. Its upkeep takes a lot of money and it would be such a shame to see it fall into disrepair. Any amount you feel you can give on a regular basis is a help and makes a huge difference to us. There are forms in the church or please contact me on 82341.

Sue Bostock

The Waie Inn would like to advise residents that on Sat 11th April there will be a few fireworks for a wedding party at around 10pm. Please ensure your pets are safely tucked in.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

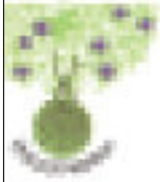
March 7 sees another opportunity to test the memory as well as the little grey cells with our next Quiz Night. Teams of up to 6 people are invited to join us and the cost is £5 per head, which includes supper and your first drink of wine or cider; further drinks can be obtained for a small donation which will be clarified on the night. Soft drinks will also be available. The evening starts at 7.30pm. Our Quiz Master will once again be Alan Summers, ably assisted by his glamorous assistant Jan. The half-time refreshments comprise meat or vegetarian pasties, and we will have a draw with some special prizes.

Please make your booking **by 1 March**; we need to know numbers in the team and your choice of pasties. Contact Jan Summers on 01363 82571.

Future events: Spring Flower and Home Craft Show: **Sat 4 April**
Big Breakfast, **Sat 20 June**

More details in future issues of the newsletter.

Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat, 9.30am-1pm
07932 083623



¹⁰ "Largest Water," *in* *ibid.*, 10.



◆◆◆◆◆ ◆◆◆◆◆





ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWS

Our Christingle Service in January was well attended and I was able to send £37.00 to the Children's Society. For the first Sunday in February, celebrating Candlemas and Plough Sunday, we were delighted to have Rev. Jane Lucas taking the service; her sermon was enlightening and pertinent. We all enjoyed coffee and biscuits after the service - a big thank you to Jane and we look forward to welcoming her in the future. We finished February with Pancake Praise: more next month.

March sees us well into Lent, and Sunday March 22nd is Mothering Sunday. Normally this would be an evening service but we have moved it, for this month only, to 10.00 am so that our younger members have the opportunity of coming and collecting a posy to give to their mums.

We have a couple of fund raising ideas in the pipe line, but all suggestions will be gratefully received. Have a good month.

Susie

FLOWER ROTA

No flowers in Lent

SERVICES AT ST PETER'S IN MARCH

1 March	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Worship Group
Lent 1	O/T reading	Genesis 2:15 – 17; 3: 1- 17	Lynn Warren
	N/T reading	Matthew 4: 1-11	Tony Breal
		Sidesmen Welcome	Marian Quick
		Offertory	
8 March	6.30pm	CW Eucharist	Rev David Rowbottom
Lent 2	O/T reading	Genesis 12:1 – 4a	Gavin Rowden
	N/T reading	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	Colin Crothers
	Gospel	John 3: 1-17	Rev David Rowbottom
		Sidesmen Welcome	Tony Breal
		Offertory	
15 March		No service	
22 March	10.00 am	Mothering Sunday	Worship Group
Lent 4	O/T reading	Exodus 2: 1-10	Becky Harvey
	N/T reading	Luke 2: 33 - 35	Susan Bostock
		Sidesmen Welcome	Marian Quick
		& Offertory	
29 March	10.30am	Passion Sunday MCE	Lapford
5 April	10.00 am	Palm Sunday	Worship Group
	O/T reading	Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a	Lynn Warren
	N/T reading	Matthew 27: 11 - 54	Tony Breal
		Sidesmen Welcome	Marian Quick
		Offertory	

CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you all who have already donated this month and we haven't even had the village market yet. There is a list of items that the Foodbank is in special need of at this time. If you do intend donating this month these items are: tinned vegetables (including sweetcorn but not baked beans), tinned ham, corned beef, rice, custard, cereals (not porridge), coffee, sugar, UHT milk, toilet rolls, washing powder tablets (these are easier to divide up), washing-up liquid. At present they have an abundance of pasta.

The Foodbank co-ordinator has given me the Annual Foodbank Report for 2019 and once again Zeal Monachorum features twice. In total 1,859 people have been supported compared with 1,454 in 2018. Christians Working Together also refers clients to Neighbourhood Friends, Age Concern, Splitz, Exeter Community Energy, Navigate, Journey Counselling and Memory Cafe. They take people to GP appointments, psychiatrists, Devon Recovery Learning Courses, Walking for Health, and to Citizens Advice when individuals are too anxious to go alone. Christmas hampers were given out to every family or individual who came to the Foodbank in December and to about 20 others, which included people in our immediate surrounding area.

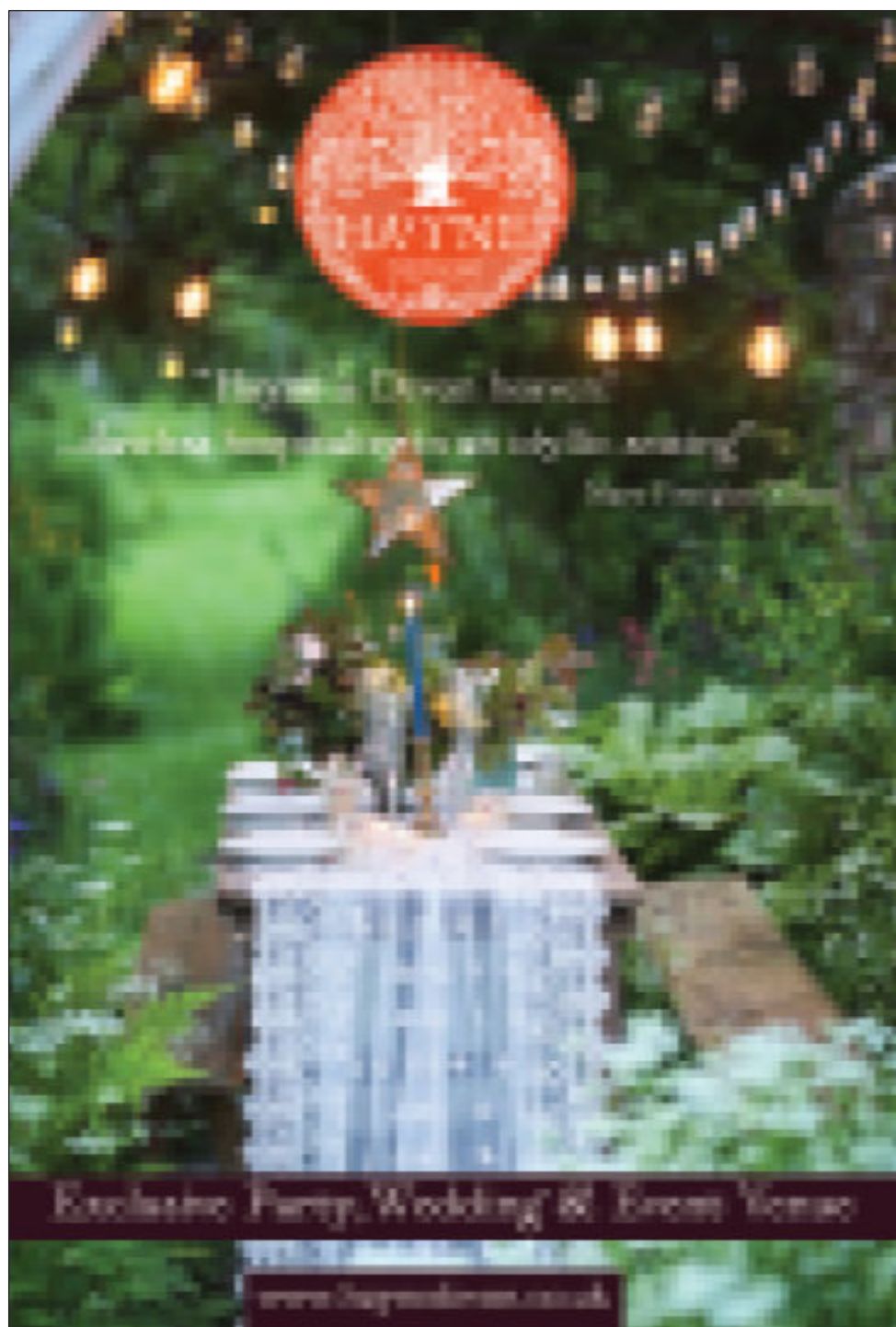
The co-ordinator's words at the end of the report tell us that donations from local people have been incredible and to pass on thanks to those who regularly donate food and/or money and that the Foodbank only exists and operates because of your kindness. Thank you everyone - Zeal Monachorum Matters!

01363-773377

Wistaria Dental Practice

Caring Family Practice
Full range of clinical and cosmetic treatment
Including dental hygienist and dental health education service
Sympathetic treatment of anxious or nervous patients
Payment plan available
Michael T Bostock BDS, MGDRCG, LDSRCS
Western Road, Crediton, Devon EX17 3LT
www.wistaria.co.uk

New patients welcome



Haytne. Elwood. how wide?

...and the night sky is a soft, glowing, smiling.

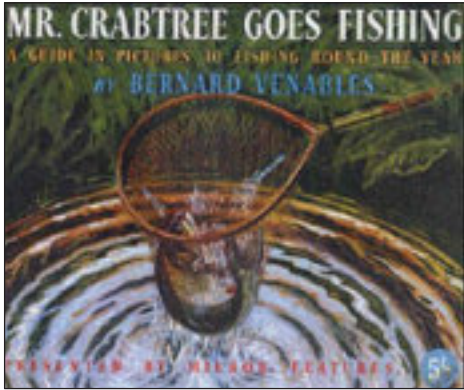
More Christmas lights.

Exclusive Party, Wedding & Event Venue

www.haytne.com

FISHING: THE CONTEMPLATIVE MAN'S RECREATION

The challenge, for me, is not to catch a fish. It is to be able to cast and land a fly – one that I have tied, to imitate the insect hatch at the time – exactly where I want it on the water. That spot on the shallow pool on the far side of the stream, where the water moves slowly, out of reach of the main current, overhung by a sloping bank where the trees above cast a deep shadow. Being surrounded by the gentle sounds of flowing water, with only the blue flash of a kingfisher or the bobbing head of a dipper for company, would be my idea of heaven. Waiting to see what might lie beneath the water; what might be tempted to take that fly – minnow or monster – is what keeps fly anglers coming back, season after season. It is also the only time



you can stand, waist deep in cold water, waving what is effectively a lightening conductor of a stick in the air without being viewed as the local idiot.

I grew up with the books of 'Mr Crabtree Goes Fishing' and Izaak Walton's 'The Compleat Angler'. From the age of six, when I caught my first perch, I was hooked on fishing. Over the years the purist in me has come out, and nowadays I prefer split cane rods and trout flies tied with traditional patterns, some of which were first used over a century ago.

Fishing is not, as my wife will attest, a particularly engaging spectator sport, but it is good to go fishing with a like-minded friend, to swap stories of our successes and failures during a lunch of thermos-cold coffee and soggy sandwiches. At these times it is more usual to compare notes on our 'long distance releases'- a euphemism for 'I'd hooked my biggest trout.....but it spat the fly out!'

It was while attending a casting session some years ago with a friend that I first heard about South West Fishing for Life (SWFFL). Fishing for Life (FFL) provides fly fishing sessions for all those who have experienced breast cancer. Sessions are offered, free of charge, through the support of South West Lakes Trust, Bristol Waters, various fisheries and small local authority grants, augmented by fundraising events organised by volunteers. As well as learning to cast and land fish, members learn to tie their own flies; learn about the insects they are trying to imitate; how to tie knots (that won't come adrift just as you hook a trout!) and the conservation of their environment – all under supervision from qualified coaches. Begun in 2008 by Gillian Payne, FFL now holds sessions all over the country and in 2013 SWFFL was honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services.

The arm movements involved in casting a fly rod have been shown to be beneficial in building up muscle in those with, or recovering from, breast cancer. Apply this therapy when surrounded by water and beautiful scenery and you have a very worthwhile cause, one that I was keen to become involved with - to share my knowledge, experience and life-long love of fishing. Through the expert guidance

of Sally, fishing co-ordinator for all FFL groups, I now swell the ranks as a qualified and licenced Level 2 coach, proud to wear my pink SWFFL cap each month.

I have been impressed – and moved – by the courage, commitment and enthusiasm of the ladies I have coached. They turn up each month, regardless of the weather, on some days when even I might have had second thoughts about it. I cannot begin to understand what they and their families have been through. I do know though, that these sessions provide a much needed break from their usual routines, a time away from hospital visits or treatment, a time to relax with others who are going through similar challenges, to talk, or not, about their experiences, to laugh or cry - to do something for themselves which can only enhance their well-being. Ending a day's session with someone, who has never even picked up a fishing rod before, being able to take home a fish they landed themselves, gives me a great feeling of satisfaction.

There is, of course, great sadness when one of the ladies does not return, but with this comes the joy expressed by a new member upon landing her first trout. SWFFL provides a very worthwhile service, both to those suffering this dreadful disease and to their friends and families, allowing them the chance to forget their problems for a short time, to enjoy the fresh air in beautiful countryside and maybe to bring home a freshly caught trout for dinner.



SWFFL Ladies at Hatchlands

I knew that I had helped SWFFL achieve one of its aims – to promote a healthy life-long interest – when one of these ladies said to me ‘I went fishing last week and used that technique you showed me, even though’ she added ‘I didn’t catch anything.’ I still felt chuffed.

Fishing is like Marmite – you either love it or hate it – there is no middle ground. For me, fishing is time spent quietly in pursuit of the perfect cast. It is, as Izaak Walton said ‘*The Contemplative Man’s Recreation*’.

Paul Haynes

If you would like more information about South West Fishing for Life (SWFFL) contact details are: <http://www.southwestfishingforlife.org.uk>

This article by one of our members replaces our usual Fishing Club Chat, which will return next month. Tight lines.

Ken & Jane



Pioneer Country Crafts

Handcrafted Furniture & Decor
Traditional Rustic Furniture
and Accessories

Just Open

Antiques, Light
Furniture
and More

Call us now

800-888-8888

Visit our website at
www.pioneercountrycrafts.com



TOWER SOUNDS

Hi there, I'm Chris Jones, and I've worked very happily at the Waie Inn since 2003. During these years the Burrows family have expanded and developed the business into a unique holiday village and this year they will be celebrating their 40th anniversary - congratulations.

However my passion is music and I have worked every Monday at Newton Abbot Community Hospital radio station for the last 6 years. Tower Sounds is a small station with 9 presenters (all volunteers) making a very happy team. We present good quality shows with a great variety of music and facts. I never thought that my dream as a shy teenager would ever come true, but it really has. The first few shows I did were nerve racking but they couldn't have been too bad as I am still there spinning the discs.

I broadcast on Mondays between 12 noon and 3 pm. The first hour is spent talking about current events and local history, with music from the 50s up to the 80s built into the chat. From 1.00 to 2.00 pm. it is the turn of the golden era of the big bands, and the music of the 20s and 40s, with jazz and music from people like George Formby and Vera Lynn.

The third and final hour from 2.00 to 3.00 pm. includes more interesting facts, particularly about Newton Abbot through the years from 1800 to the present day, and includes great music appropriate to the decade. My new show will start on Saturday 8th of February, 12.00 to 1.00 pm, and will be called 'The Sounds of the Caribbean'; the music I will be playing includes Reggae, Ska, and Rocksteady. I do hope you'll tune in to listen and enjoy: www.tower-sound.org

MOBILE LIBRARY

Next visit of the Mobile Library: FRIDAY 6 Mar 2020

Stopping only at Waie Cross 13.15-13.40

Borrowers can join immediately on the mobile library, no ID needed, borrowing books is FREE, no overdue charges for returning books late.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY SERVICE -
YOUR USE HELPS KEEP IT FOR OTHERS WHO NEED IT!

Blueberry Hill Market Garden

Fresh produce delivered,
chemical and plastic free,
and very local!

Contact:

blueberryjacqui@hotmail.co.uk
07932 083625

Pet Beds By Mandy

Elegant & bespoke with velcro
removable covers, paw print
fleece backing & duvets, all washable

Prices from £10;

for no obligation viewing

Contact: 07855-830668

mandymitzi2@gmail.com



LAPFORD CROSS

MOT, SERVICE CENTRE & CAR SALES.

Lapford Devon EX17 6QT

Tel: 01363 83373

Our professional workmanship is available in all of the following disciplines:
MOT class 4 & 7 (motorhomes & transits)

Servicing
Diagnostics
Air-Conditioning
Car Sales
Tyres
Exhausts
Batteries

We offer courtesy cars for your convenience, subject to availability.
BSI Accredited Diagnostic Technicians

www.lapfordcrossgarage.co.uk

the
Good Garage Scheme 

IF YOU CAN CREATE SOMETHING FROM STEEL IN YOUR MIND, THEN WE CAN FABRICATE IT IT



HANDCRAFTED STEEL SOLUTIONS

call 01837 89225 or 07592 725 753

web: www.handcraftedsteel.co.uk Facebook: Handcrafted Steel Solutions
or message: dave@handcraftedsteel.co.uk

ZEAL MONACHORUM'S OBELISK MONUMENT

Have you wondered what the obelisk monument near to the telephone box commemorates? The story begins in April 1887 when a meeting was held in Zeal School to decide how Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on 20 June should be celebrated. It had already been decided to have a day of festivity, but there was also a proposal to provide a better water supply to the village. At this time, most water came from wells and many people had to go as far as a mile before they could get water to drink or use for household purposes. Moreover, the quality of the water could be poor. Mr R Davy of Burston, a surgeon at Westminster Hospital in London, thought that 'the water supply at Zeal Monachorum was, and had been for many years, very defective; and he, for one, would like to see an improved system of supplying the inhabitants with good and pure water. He was ready to do his share, and would give the sum of £300 towards that object and, as the question of dinner had already been decided upon, he would make it 300 guineas, with the understanding that the first sum of £300, should be solely for the water scheme'. His offer was received with loud applause, and a committee was at once formed to carry out the project, and to try to raise the rest of the money. It was calculated that it would cost £500. As soon as Mr Davy's offer had been made known there was great rejoicing in the village, and some merry peals were rung on the church bells.

Over the following months plans were drawn up as follows: That supply works should commence at a well sunk about 150 yards from the eastern end of the village, where water pure and abundant was found at a depth of twenty-five feet, whence it rises to within 14 feet of the surface in ordinary seasons. Over the shaft are erected pumps and pumping gear and a circular pump-house, for use in exceptionally dry seasons, when the water remains at or just above the 25 foot level. From the shaft the water is carried by socket pipes, laid in a cutting of 8ft to 14ft deep to a reservoir 40ft by 16ft by 6ft deep, built of the local stone laid in cement, and capable of holding 15,000 to 16,000 gallons. From this reservoir, which is covered in by a stonework arch, mains of cast socket pipes with wrought-welded branches are laid throughout the village, the latter terminating at convenient positions in cast-iron ornamental wall fountains, with all the necessary paraphernalia of sluice valves, flush pipes, etc. Contractors included Tony Brealy's grandfather, Joseph Brealy, who constructed the reservoir.

On 14 August 1888 the works were finished and the village celebrated. Triumphal arches, adorned with banners, suitably inscribed were erected by the villagers under the direction of the Committee which was assisted throughout by the ladies of the village. Venetian masts, flags and evergreens were in abundance, and the inhabitants in all the bravery of holiday attire enjoyed the bright sunshine and the successful achievement of their promised water supply. A short thanksgiving service was held in the church after which a procession was formed, headed by the North Tawton Brass Band, and marched to the new reservoir. Speeches were made,

and an adjournment then took place to the centre of the village where a handsome granite column, the gift of the villagers, has been erected behind one of the stand fountains, and which bears the following inscription: "This water supply was the Victorian Jubilee gift of Richard Davy, Esq, of Burston, to this village 1887". The Rector, Rev ET Allen, who was an indefatigable Chairman of the Committee, called upon Mr Wreford, in the absence of the donor, to make the gift to the village. This was done in a few suitable words. Cheers were then given for her Majesty; Mr Davy; the Committee; the ladies and the contractors who were separately named and thanked. The next move was to a field at the Rectory Glebe where athletic sports and other amusements quite as pleasing, such as the discussion of a plentiful provision of tea and cakes, and so on, were indulged in and a happy evening spent.

Today we turn our taps in our homes on to an endless supply of water and it can be difficult to imagine having to fetch and carry from a well every drop you need for drinking, washing and all the other household tasks. Contaminated wells had been blamed for the cholera outbreak of 1866 when 15 people from Zeal died.

The new water supply still had to be fetched from the taps but at least it was safe to drink and would have transformed people's lives. From the 1905 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map, I can identify five taps placed around the village but there may have been more. A former resident Walter Mears recalls "I lived at Gillhouse Cottage [replaced by a bungalow recently renamed *Skymoor*] until I was 10, when my Mother died in 1946. We would get water from the tap at the water monument next to Sachristan Cottage, there were other taps around the village. The reservoir had to be pumped every Sunday morning, Fred Brealy was one of those who did that." Mains water was installed in Zeal in the mid 1950s.

Erica Eden

Sources: Express & Echo 22 April 1887; North Devon Journal 22 March 1888; Western Times 15 Aug 1888. (See next page for archive photo)

While we're on the subject of water . . .

RAINFALL FOR JANUARY: 94mm

And a couple of quotations . . .

'March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers',
English proverb

'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the dark'.

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations.

Archive Photo No. 353 Crossroads 1914 from Vivian Foster

The obelisk is a grade II listed monument in the conservation area and contributes to the distinctive street scene in the centre of the village with the telephone box, church gate and thatched cottages. The lettering on the obelisk is now hard to read but the Parish Council is exploring getting it cleaned and re-inking the letters.



THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP

David Bowyer, East Foldhay, Zeal

Monachorum, Crediton, Devon, EX17 6DH

Tel: 01363 82782 Mob: 07802 759284

Email: info@davidbowyer.co.uk



In between larger jobs, I make all manner of smaller items. Shown here are a pair of Squirrel feeding boxes in treated timber and a heavy duty wall cabinet with a front opening door to insulate an outside water tap.

THE VALET MASTER

- SERVICE: ALL MAKE CARS
- DRIVE: YOUR OWN CAR
- NO: UNLIMITED MILEAGE
- NO: UNLIMITED
- SERVICE: ALL MAKE CARS
- DRIVE: YOUR OWN CAR
- NO: UNLIMITED MILEAGE
- NO: UNLIMITED



THE VALET MASTER

007 507 1 12 00 12 4 12



THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP

THE BODY SHOP



THE BODY SHOP

MID DEVON Pest Control

For all your domestic, commercial and industrial pest control needs.

For all your domestic, commercial and industrial pest control needs.

www.middevonpestcontrol.co.uk

01392 844444

www.middevonpestcontrol.co.uk



POWER TILING

THE POWER TILING

THE POWER TILING

THE POWER TILING

QUIZ

1. What is Mardi Gras?
2. What is the capital city of Qatar?
3. Which turning point in history occurred in 44BC on 15th March, the Ides of March?
4. In the book 'Tarka the Otter' which bird is Old Nog?
5. What is Tasseography?
6. Which footballer holds the record for the most headed goals in the Premier League?
7. Why do the Welsh celebrate their patron saint on March 1st?
8. To what do the numbers in '20/20' vision refer?
9. What is a polymath?
10. In which storybook would you find the March Hare?
11. What is the Zodiac sign for February 19th to March 20th?
12. Sir Allen Lane was on a train from Exeter in 1934 and found he had nothing suitable to read. Which company did he conceive as a result of this?
13. What is the family surname of the sisters in Little Women by LM Alcott?
14. Which position has Sir Lindsey Hoyle recently taken up in Parliament?
15. The March Equinox is on March 20th. What does Equinox mean?

Minute Quiz

Which towns are noted for: a) an almond tart, b) a broken meringue dessert, c) a currant pastry, d) a whole smoked haddock, e) a pork pie

February's answers

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kirkwall | 9. 1955 |
| 2. Friday 8 May is VE day | 10. Belgian |
| 3. TS Eliot | 11. The Dambusters |
| 4. Running barefoot | 12. 15 |
| 5. 'Excellent cheese' | 13. 2 |
| 6. Burma | 14. Nike |
| 7. Internet | 15. Will comply |
| 8. Greenish blue | |

Minute Quiz Answers

A sight for sore eyes. Water under the bridge. As deaf as a post.
On its last legs. Time is Money.

NORMAN VICARY – MEMORIES OF LIFE IN ZEAL

The late Norman Vicary, who died 10 years ago, lived all his life in Zeal and was well-known and liked by many current residents who have fond memories of him. His daughter Barbara Pincombe has kindly given us permission to include his written memories and we plan to include several episodes over the next few months, the first of which deals with his early life as a boy living on a farm . . .

Part 1 – the early years

In 1918 my father, Reginald, purchased Higher Week farm from a Mr Baker. The farmhouse had been burnt down some years previously and a new one built. It is believed that my sister, Elizabeth, (now known as Betty) was the first baby to be born in the new house.

I came into the world on Sunday 14 May 1928. My early memories are vague but I do remember, at the age of about four, driving my pedal car into the duck pond and getting quite wet. Instead of sympathy I got a good hiding; today it would be called corporal punishment. Did it do any good? I don't know, but I do know that I kept clear of the pond for a long time. I wonder if that tells us something.

Father was, for his day, quite a modern farmer. His first tractor was a second hand Avery; it was too clumsy to be used for field work, so it was used to drive a big saw bench. His first car was a Clino (French), and he then went on to Morris Cowleys. I well remember our first new tractor: a Standard Fordson, delivered one Saturday. It had to stand, unused, for a week until Steve Martin from Norrington's of Exeter came to instruct us how to start it.

Father used to milk the cows by hand and take the milk into Exeter in time for Vicary's Dairy, run by my brother and sister, to sell the morning supply. The dairy, opposite the Odeon in Sidwell Street, was destroyed in the Exeter blitz.

Harvesting played a major part in the farming year. First the hay harvest: the grass was cut and left to dry in the wind and sun, after turning several times with a machine called a Tedder. The grass was then taken to a point near the field entrance and put into a stack or, as Devonians call it, a rick. When finished the rick would be thatched and kept for winter fodder for the animals. The harvest tea was quite an occasion: Mother would bring out the tea basket filled with all the food, including gooseberry pie. To this day when I smell fresh hay I think of gooseberries. To liven up the day the lads would chase the maidens around the hayrick, wrap some hay round a girl's neck and give her a whacking great kiss. This was a pleasant custom, intended to make the hay sweet.

Between the hay and corn harvests the hedges would be trimmed, not by the great machines of today but by the farmer and his men using billhooks. Hedge

trimmings were often used to make beds for the corn ricks. The corn was cut first, in olden days by a sickle and later by a reaper. It was then gathered into sheaves and ties using a few lengths of the straw. The self-binder came along in the early 1900s; this was early mechanisation at its best. Usually pulled by three horses it cut, gathered and tied the corn into neat sheaves which were dropped in tidy rows as the binder cut its way around the field.

The harvesters then went round the field and stooked (or in Devon, stitched) the sheaves, which were left to air dry for several days. When the sheaves were judged to be dry they were carted from the field to the rick yard, often known in Devon as the 'moo platt'. The ricks were built in two neat lines to await the threshing machine later in the year. Threshing day was quite an occurrence: the previous day everything was prepared – coal and water for the steam engine, empty sacks etc. at the ready. When the contractors arrived (in this area it was Elston & Cann of Morchard Road) the threshing machine was pulled into place by the steam engine, the engine was connected to the thresher by a long belt and the job of separating the grain from the corn commenced. Today as one travels in the countryside it is quite normal to see huge heaps of ugly black sausages; not nearly as pleasing to the eye as the neat ricks of hay and corn we used to see.

Next month: School days and some of the businesses in Zeal



JONATHAN WOOD Ltd

Veterinary Surgeon

'Ropasden', Barnstaple Cross, Creddon, EX17 2DP.
Barnville Nurseries, Doxley, Exeter, EX3 5EU.

The practice has been providing veterinary services for
Companies, Equine and Farm animals for over 50 years.

- Mobile veterinary clinic
- Separate cat and dog waiting areas and kennels
- Hydrotherapy and rehabilitation
- Digital x-ray, ultrasound and ECG
- Consultations by appointment



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

01363 772319

Visit our website or follow us on Facebook for more information.

www.jwoodvet.co.uk



GET EVERYTHING YOU NEED FROM
A REAL GARDEN CENTRE!

TOP QUALITY PLANTS,
COMPETITIVE PRICES, HELPFUL
FRIENDLY STAFF AND GREAT ADVICE!

www.homeleigh.co.uk/food/home/
Barnsley Cross, Crediton EX17 2EH
Tel: 01363 713110

FAMILY OWNED, FAMILY RUN

HOMELEIGH
GARDEN CENTRE

Parish Council News

The meeting on 30 January started with some silent time to reflect on the sad passing of our District Councillor, John Daw. At the time of writing I am unclear on the method or timescale for a replacement.

Two members of the public were present for the Open Forum; one commented on an article in a previous issue of the newsletter which was noted. The other, who has fairly recently moved into the village, expressed concern about vehicles **speeding** in the village - an ongoing discussion point at our meetings. It has been suggested that we have '20's PLENTY' signs and flashing speed lights, together with an emphasis on the need for a 20mph speed limit. If the County Council continues to ignore our pleas, we may have to consider using our powers regarding traffic calming and highway signage and "go it alone" to introduce initiatives to reduce the dangers from speeding vehicles. **Meanwhile I ask again that all residents set a good example by driving at no more than 20 mph. Also I remind those on foot: please wear reflective clothing so you can be seen.**

The Parish representatives on the **Den Brook Community Fund** are Rob Peck and Sally Rowden. The Parish has a grant allocation of nearly £4k pa and projects to utilise these funds are needed. (www.den-brook.co.uk). I am pleased that one local project has put in an application for funding. But there is plenty left for the next round for which applications must be submitted by the end of March.

A request for the provision of **allotments** has now been formally received. The Council will now need to consider what steps it needs to take to make this request a reality, one of which will be the identification of a suitable site. Do you have any land available for a Parish Allotment?

At the meeting in November the Council agreed to investigate "cleaning" of the **Water Memorial Obelisk** situated by the phone box. This has prompted a petition of 18 names asking the Obelisk be "cleaned and renovated so the lettering is visible" A background of the history has also been provided by our village historian, Erica Eden. The Obelisk is in a conservation area and is a listed monument. Before any work is undertaken the Council has asked the Clerk to confirm with the appropriate authorities what we are able to do. The Council will consider the matter further at its next meeting.

Finally the Council is reviewing whether street lighting in the village is adequate, please let us know if additional lights are needed and where.

All meetings are published on the notice board by the bus shelter (or on the Village Hall Board) or on the PC website www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk. The next meeting will be held on the 26th March 2020 at 7.30pm. The Clerk can be contacted on zmpcouncil@gmail.com and myself acchandler@btinternet.com

Andrew Chandler
Chairman



Exterior painting, gutter cleaning

Chris 07597968293

[01305] 483479



2 Church Street, Broomfield, Essex, S11 1EL

TEL: 01780 481217

Email: info@spencescaffolding.co.uk
www.spencescaffolding.co.uk

Jonas Durr
Director, Sustainability



Crediton Waste Removal

Commercial/Industrial waste removal
Household waste removal
Construction waste

STRENGTH

Man&VAN

Call Handy Van

**01837
811172**

DEVON THATCHING LTD

Rob Wilmott

CITB Qualified Master Thatcher



rwthatching@aol.com
www.devonthatching.com

01837 83374
07790 412 079



General Garden Services

For all your planting, weeding, pruning,
and digging

Ground clearance, hedge laying and
woodland maintenance

Call John Leitch
Tel 01711 686752



MARTIN BOWEN-THOMAS

EXPERIENCED BUILDING & REPAIR
SERVICES AVAILABLE

NEW BUILD, RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS

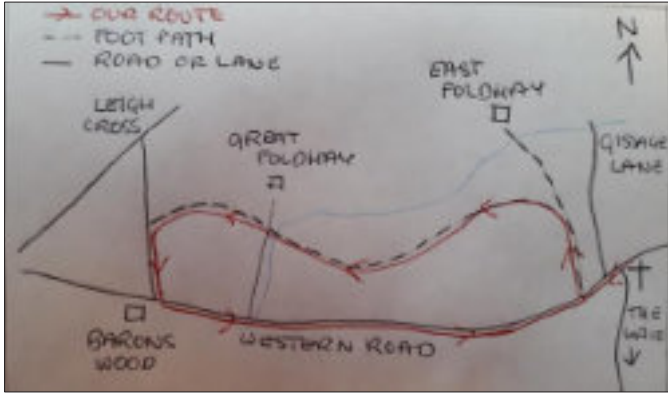


REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

COLLECTION AND
DELIVERY
SERVICES AVAILABLE

ZEAL EXPLORERS

A group of seven hardy walkers plus Teal the dog and 2 year old Reggie, who was in a back pack, met up at the church all keen to make the most of the glorious sunshine - a rare break in the wet and gloom of this winter. Off we set along Western Road to the Elms, where we followed the footpath across the fields towards East Foldhay. Before we reached the river we turned west towards Great Foldhay and tramped across some very muddy paths to the lane which leads to Leigh Cross. From there we stuck to the lanes south towards Barons Wood and back along Western Road to Zeal. Our route is shown in the map below.



The lanes were very icy which proved tricky for walking, but we survived unscathed and returned home after a very enjoyable two hours. Special congratulations to Becky who carried Reggie most of the way, except when he wanted to splash in the puddles!

Our next walk is on 9th March meeting at the church car park as usual. Just an early warning: the April walk will be on the 6th as 13th is Easter Monday.

The intrepid walkers are shown below in a group selfie, left to right: Jane Hogg, Sally Rowden, Ali Birchwhite, Joss Birchwhite, their son Alex, Judi Hollingsworth, Becky Ringrose and son Reggie.



CONTACTS

Local Parish Council: Chairman Andrew Chandler. Tel. 07831 167 728
Village Hall: Chairman Ken Down. Tel. 01363 82204
Secretary & bookings: Jan Summers. Tel. 01363 82571
Newsletter Editor: Jan Summers. email: zmon.news@gmail.com

Mid Devon Councillor: to be advised
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

Details of some nearest services:

Bow Medical Practice: Iter Cross, Bow. EX17 6FB Tel. 01363 82333
email: D-CCG.BowMedicalPracticeEnquiries@nhs.net

Post Office: Bow Aquatic Centre, Bow, Crediton. EX17 6LA
Tel. 01363 82438. email:
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 Tel. 01884 255 255
email: customerfirst@middevon.gov.uk
Waste & recycling:
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
Care Direct: Tel. 0345 115 100

Highways: Tel. 0345 155 1004

ZEAL MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL

presents

THE GOOD LIAR

A BRITISH SUSPENSE DRAMA

**READ
BETWEEN
THE
LIES**



**UNFOLDS AS A SERIAL
CONMAN, WHO
PURSUES WEALTHY
WOMEN, BUT HIS
LATEST PREY IS NOT
AS EASY AS HE FIRST
THOUGHT. IT HAS**

**BECOME A GAME OF “CAT & MOUSE” WITH
THE ULTIMATE STAKES!**

Starring

HELEN MIRREN; KENNETH McKELLEN;



RUSSELL TOVEY; JIM CARTER

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH

Doors 7 P.M.

Starts 7.30 P.M.

TICKETS £4.00

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OKEHAMPTON MOVING PICTURES