

FREE

Issue 24, May 2021

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Zeal Monachorum from Serstone Cross

EDITORIAL

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Following the announcement of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh, and with the agreement of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and the Church of England, on Saturday 10 April at 12 noon a single bell was tolled 99 times. Throughout his life he was dedicated to Her Majesty the Queen and to the many interests of which he was Patron. His legacy of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has benefitted bell ringing through service and activities of young people.

Despite several recent articles there are still problems with some dogs and their irresponsible owners. We still see dog mess in our lanes; just recently, an owner was seen walking away from a deposit left in the road by her dog. Also, in Fishing Club news on page 17, there is a story about a dog disturbing cattle. While many dog owners act responsibly, clearly some are failing to show consideration for others and, given the stories alluded to, it seems they are people who live in this beautiful village. To those I make this request: please don't be so selfish, take responsibility to clear up after your dog and keep it under close control on a lead.

On a more positive note, life is beginning to get back to normal. The Mobile Library (page 3) and Zeal Explorers (page 24) are back this month, the Waie Inn welcomes visitors again and Hayne will be open for the National Gardens Scheme, (page 5). Let's get out there and enjoy all that the month has to offer.

DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE: 8 MAY

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OUR MOBILE LIBRARY IS BACK!

Stopping at Waie Cross 1.15-1.40pm on the following Fridays:

**14 May, 11 June, 9 July, 6 August, 3 September,
1 October, 29 October, 26 November.**

You will be able to board the library in your household bubbles and choose your books. To make sure there are enough books to go around borrowing will be limited to 5 books per person. Borrowed books can now be returned although they will be quarantined before lending to anyone else. Please wear a mask, use the hand sanitiser and follow social distance rules.

If you haven't used the mobile library before, why not try it? It's FREE. You can join on the mobile without any hassle, borrow books immediately and there are no fines if you return them late. The librarian, Kate [masked in photo], is knowledgeable and really helpful with suggestions if you want them.



For more information call 0345 155 1001 or visit www.devonlibraries.org.uk

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.

RAINFALL

Rainfall for March was 60 mm, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

CREDITON FOODBANK

I hope you have all had a very Happy Easter. The sunshine and the spring flowers have certainly given a real boost to our spirits, even the snow and hail looked beautiful in the sunshine.

Donations once again during March and into April have been left at the door, and as always, were received with sincere thanks. It has been a real delight to receive all that has been donated and a big THANK YOU for those items given from the weekly updates. The Easter Eggs and chocolate treats were particularly welcomed by young and old.

At the end of Easter week a donation was given of four boxes each containing 280 Cadbury's Oreo cream eggs. Thank you so very much, and because there were so many we were able to share them amongst a number of foodbanks and a residential home in the area. It is always a joyous feeling when we can spread our good fortune with others not so fortunate. With your generosity, long may we continue to spread that loving feeling, letting people know that we care. Many Blessings

PS The pasta mountain is now rather depleted – if you can help to restock it, it would be very much appreciated.

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HAYNE OPEN GARDENS
for National Garden Scheme; Sunday 2nd May 2 - 6 pm
Live Music, Teas, Coffee and Cake available

Admission: Adult: £5.00 Child: Free

**Please PRE BOOK your slot with NGS website for
COVID SAFETY <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/33522>**

**Dogs on leads welcome*



This year Hayne is opening its gardens a month early; just as lockdown is lifted come and enjoy the freedom of walking around the enchanting gardens. New planting in the walled garden includes espaliered crab apples, tulips galore, wisteria, lupins, tree peonies and Piet Oudolf style perennial planting.

New this year: come up to the top field where Ronstan is growing fantastic organic veg watered with spring water from our borehole.

Tim, Milla and Emma have been working hard over the winter to give Hayne Walled Garden a transformation with new planting and landscaping. We have also created a flower cutting patch growing seasonal sustainable british flowers.

Highlights: will include Nigel's Perennial Plant Stall, Ronstan will be selling veg plants and Milla & Emma will be selling hand tied bouquets of Hayne's home grown cut flowers.



SALE/GIVE-AWAY OF ANYTHING & EVERYTHING

Our prayers were answered – Good Friday, April 2, saw clear blue skies and bright sunshine all day long. Despite a cool breeze, out came tables, chairs, gazebos and goodies and, most importantly, people in search of bargains. Pictured on these two pages are all the stalls, and some of their stalwart visitors.



Eager shoppers in Eastern Rd



Tina's stall, Gissage Hill



Alan & Judi, Gissage Hill



Elm Cottage, Western Rd



Martyn's stall Eastern Rd



Susie, Gissage Hill



Oldlands, Western Rd



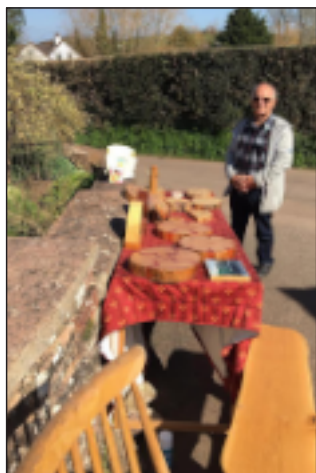
Mandy, Gissage Hill



Erica, Town Hill



Moira, Town Hill



Richard, Town Hill



Beam Ends, Western Rd



Dave & Helen, Eastern Rd

*Becky & Eleanor in Churchill Gardens,
overdone the shopping perhaps?*



QUOTE

"I'm glad I am alive, to see and feel the full
deliciousness of this bright day"

William Allingham, poet



ST PETER'S CHURCH

We are now back in church for worship and the list of services and rotas are set out below. In May we move from Easter towards Pentecost, an important day in the Christian calendar. So, on the fourth Sunday, instead of evening prayer, we are having a Common Worship Eucharist and the Rev. Anthony Geering will be the celebrant.

Beginning on 2 May, we have a short informal family service; it will be about 35 minutes long, and is for all ages from 1-100. The other services will, at the moment, remain the same.

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 all the current guidelines.

Church rotas for May 2021

2 May at 10.00am

First reading
New Testament

Easter 5

Acts 8: 24-40
John 15: 1-8
Sidesman
Flowers 2nd & 9th
Cleaner

Family Service

Mrs Becky Harvey
Mr Tony Breal
Colin Crothers
Mrs Hazel Wainwright
Mrs Susan Bostock

9 May at 6.30pm

Reading 1
New Testament
Gospel

Easter 6 & Rogation

Acts 10: 44-48
1 John 5: 1- 6
John 15: 9-17
Sidesman

C W E

Mr Robert Peck
Miss Lynne Warren
Rev D. Rowbottom
Mr Tony Breal

23 May at 6.30pm

First reading
New Testament
Gospel

Pentecost

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Acts 2: 1-21
John 15: 26-27, 16: 4-15
Sidesman
Flowers

C W E

Mr Colin Crothers
Mr Tony Breal
Rev Anthony Geering
Mr Tony Breal
Mrs Susan Bostock

New Vicar

I am pleased to report that following the interview in February the [Rev. Robert Gordon](#) was offered the post of vicar for the West Creedy Mission Community, which he accepted. He comes to us from Tiverton. Although he will not be living at Morchard Bishop he will be able to use the Rectory for an office and a place to stay when necessary. He will continue to live at Witleigh. His wife, Steph, is the vicar of the Exe Valley group of 9 churches. He will be licensed on 14 July at a venue to be announced and we look forward to welcoming him to Zeal.



Don't forget, on the third Sunday of each month, **take away cream teas** will be available from the church porch between 3.00 – 4.00pm. We will be offering two scones with clotted cream and a choice of raspberry or plum jam, cost £3.50. **Orders will be taken on Saturday (day before)**; please state your jam preference when placing your order. Contacts: Margaret Harris 82251/Margaret Down 82204.

Margaret

FARMING FROM THE HEDGE

As I write this article on Easter Monday, northerly winds are keeping spring on hold. All that is required is frost-free nights, a few showers and warm sun, and winter will be at an end.

Birds are busy already, gathering materials to build their nests. I have heard more **pheasants** calling than I have for years, **skylarks** singing over the open countryside bringing joy to us who stop and listen, numbers are definitely increasing. Both these species are ground nesting; could the increase in numbers be as a result of fewer badgers?

Hedgehogs are now coming out of hibernation and also appear to be more plentiful; perhaps the balance of nature is being restored. A welcome summer visitor, swallows, have arrived with two spotted at Westhayes on the 2 April, 5 days earlier than last year.



Skylark

Barn owls have been seen and heard adjacent to the farmyard in recent weeks, I think they may have taken up residence in the new owl box erected last summer.

The farm bird count took place in February organised by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, recording which birds and numbers you see on one particular area of the farm in 30 minutes. **71% of Britain's countryside** is looked after by farmers, land managers and gamekeepers, so this count is giving a vital snapshot of the state of the nation's farmland birds and helping to ensure the survival of cherished bird species like **skylarks, yellowhammers, corn bunting and grey partridge**. It also gives an insight into the impact of conservation methods. A report of the count will appear in Monachorum Matters when available.



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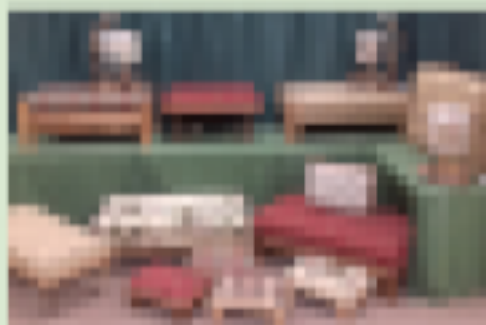


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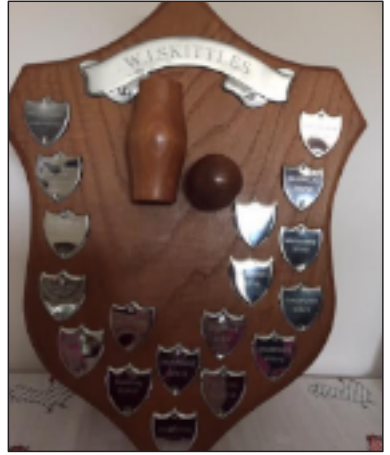
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ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

Well, here we are again ladies, a month on and still no idea when we will be in a position to meet again as an Institute. Good news in respect of skittles - I have been in contact with the WI Skittle league organiser, Joan Lee, and we have been declared winners of the shield for the last season played. Players will remember that we won all the matches with the exception of the very last one, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. I have the shield in my possession and, as soon as the “non-essential shops” are open again, I will endeavour to have our name etched upon it. Well done one and all.



Regarding subscriptions which are due 1 April, I cannot, in all honesty, expect members to pay anything at all until we know when we may legally use the hall. When things return to some form of normality we will ask for only £22.40 (as advised in last month's magazine). To date, we have fourteen members wishing to continue, with three new members wanting to join when we can meet as usual. This means we should be able to have a skittle team if the league starts up again.


I was contacted by a County Advisor the other day and we could, if we so desired, meet in the garden in a group of six, if only for a chat and a cuppa. We could therefore accommodate two lots of six in two sessions, bearing in mind not all members would find chosen dates convenient. Watch this space for further information regarding that.

Again, I wish you all the very best of health.
Jan Brealy, (President ZMWI)

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MY LIFE IN THE NAAFI by Stephen Watkins

Part 4 – The Med and the Far East.

After Romania we were due to sail to Venice for some cultural R&R but the unrest in Yugoslavia began and we had to spend some time close to Dubrovnik. You could hear the artillery in the distance and see the occasional flash. Sometimes a gunboat would come out to take a look at us. I was a designated upper deck first aid comms runner and can remember one night being able to see the faces of the gunboat crew as they passed so close by. Venice was a complete contrast to the relative stress of the preceding month or so. It was the first time I had ever visited and was in awe of my surroundings. One day, I stood and watched a street artist paint for a while. I ended up buying the painting and it is hung in my lounge at home.

A Royal Navy deployment to the Mediterranean wouldn't be complete without a visit to Gibraltar, which I visited many times. We all walked up the rock and took in the views, visited the military caves, walked across to Spain for a day, watched in hysterics when a seagull pooped in Dave Woods pint of Stella from a great height, and experienced the horrors of a bottomless jug of Sangria.

In 1995, HMS Fearless was in a major refit so we reduced to a skeleton crew and I was living in quarters at HMS Nelson. During the summer the 50th anniversary of VE Day celebrations took place at Southsea. I was asked to help at the reception for dignitaries at Southsea Castle, having spent the afternoon serving tea to veterans at the main celebration on the common. What struck me was how grateful the veterans were for the very presence of NAAFI and how pleased they were it was still going strong.

In 1996, I was officially made a Trainee manager after a period of unofficial training. This meant that I would be guaranteed to be on board for the deployment of a lifetime, the Far East, to cover the handover of Hong Kong to China. We sailed in early January 1997 and stopped in Greece before transiting the Suez Canal. I had never realised how narrow some of the stretches are and we would have barbers and traders coming on board selling their wares on the flight deck.

Whilst away, we visited some places I had only ever dreamt of visiting. In Goa, I took a few days leave and travelled with some Petty Officers. We stayed in a hostel and visited markets and restaurants off the beaten track. In Kota Kinabalu, I joined a tourist trek to the summit of Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia. The tour was timed so that you could watch the sun rising and could see the islands appearing from the horizon – a magical sight.

Another visit was to Brunei where the British ex-pats were glad to see us. There were restrictions on alcohol consumption due to strict Muslim laws, but the other side of the coin was there were no drink drive laws either as the local population

was not permitted to consume alcohol. When attending a party, conveniently a bring a bottle or 2 party, we were offered lifts back to the ship which we politely declined in favour of the sobering but much safer long walk.

My birthday that year was spent in Singapore. We went to Raffles Hotel for the obligatory Singapore Sling before having a party at the dockyard sports facility pool. It rains every afternoon in Singapore and is accompanied by a massive thunderstorm. I had to be dragged from the pool as I didn't realise the danger of being in water in a storm! There was also a retirement party for Harry who had worked most of his life in Singapore for NAAFI. This saw Charles Hill fly over from the UK to join all the staff of the various ships that were docked in Singapore at the time. It was more of a feast or banquet to be honest, with dishes such as suckling pig and so on.

My mess had an official mess dinner whilst alongside. It was my first real taste of Senior Rate traditions such as how to pass the port, etiquette for leaving the table and so on. I had to borrow a cummerbund from Steve Appleby, and he also gave me a quick rundown on what NOT to do! Steve was the king of trying to catch you out with things like asking for a left-handed screwdriver or a glass hammer, but I was wiser by now and survived the event unscathed.

When it came to the ceremony to hand over Hong Kong, we didn't even see land. We stayed out at sea and were on standby in case of civil unrest. When the ceremony passed without incident, HMY Britannia sailed past all the guard ships and gave the order to 'Splice the Main Brace'. This is a nautical term from the time of sailing ships, and means to celebrate with a drink, usually rum. It caused momentary panic as we were not sure if we had enough rum!

We were off the Maldives when I took advantage for the first time of 'hands to bathe'. This is, essentially, when marksmen scan the horizon for sharks whilst the ship's company goes for a swim! In I went but, not being a strong swimmer, I panicked when I turned to see that the ship was moving away from me, but I managed to make it back. I didn't do that again.

Next month – Back to Blighty and my first managerial posting

FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Steve is supporting Exeter City Community Trust's 'Man v Fat' initiative. Despite some serious health issues he has raised sponsorship by covering 26 miles walking/running/jogging. He has exceeded his target but would welcome further donations. To donate on line, visit:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=StephenWatkins&pageUrl=4>

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FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

It is with regret that we have to ask that no-one enters the field before the Fishing Lake **other than in a vehicle**. The farmer, whose field we have to cross to get to the lake, has told us of a recent incident where the cattle were spooked by a dog, causing them to break out of the field and escape up the lane towards Loosebeare. The field is, at present, housing a bull and other cattle. The farmer has made it quite clear that no-one, especially those with dogs, should be walking in the field while there are cattle present.

On other matters, we have now purchased the ends for Trevor's bench and David Bowyer, when he has time, is going to complete the construction and finishing touches. Graham Vincent has kindly agreed to build a cover to protect the bench from bad weather and it will be positioned near a fishing swim allowing anglers to take shelter when the weather is bad so that they can continue to fish. It can also be used by anyone visiting the lake and wanting to take advantage of viewing the wildlife and maybe get a photograph of our kingfisher.

The weather is up and down at the moment, we seem to get four seasons in one week. During the better weather the lake was fishing well, with large carp moving on the surface, but with this sudden drop in temperature they will probably go down to the bottom again.

Rupert Dodge and his boys have kindly offered their services to carry out repairs on our fishing platforms. Work will start as soon as the weather improves.

Tight lines

Ken & Jane



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I was asked if I could restore this Teak garden bench which had been painted. I needed to sand the paint off and make several repairs before bringing it back to life with two applications of Teak Oil. My pictures show before and after.





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A Quiz for the month of May - Relationships

1. What relation is Zara Tindall to Prince Edward?
2. Who was Judy Garland's famous daughter?
3. What relationship do Richard and Jonathan Dimbleby share?
4. Who is the husband of Prunella Scales?
5. Who is Dan Snow's father?
6. Whose father is sporting event promoter Barry Hearn?
7. Can you name the March sisters in age order?
8. What is the relationship between Boris Johnson and Dilyn?
9. What relation is Pippa Matthews to Prince Louis?
10. What is the family link between Joseph and Reuben in the Old Testament?
11. Whose son is Shaun Wright Phillips?
12. What is the relationship between Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny?
13. What relation was George V to Queen Elizabeth II?
14. What was the family link between John F Kennedy and Robert F Kennedy?
15. What is the link between Kristoff and Sven in Frozen?

Minute Quiz

- If you write out every U.S. state in alphabetical order, which states come first and last?
- The states begin with 19 different letters of the alphabet. Can you name a state for each?
- When the states are all written out in full, how many letters of the alphabet are never used?
- Which two American states contain the letter 'x'?

Answers for April

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Postman Pat delivers the post | 9. Nautical Mile |
| 2. Sir Alex Ferguson | 10. Lever Brothers, now part of Unilever |
| 3. Fungus | 11. Afghanistan |
| 4. Thomas | 12. Batsman dismissed first ball |
| 5. Wood Louse | 13. Beatrix Potter |
| 6. 2, Jack of Spades and Hearts | 14. Ciabatta |
| 7. Vienna | 15. It is not connected to another bone |
| 8. Arsenic and Zinc | |

Minute Quiz answer suggestions

Smog, brunch, podcast, blog, fanzine, mizzle, motel, hangry, chortle, webinar, blog, skort, Brexit, Romcom.....

PUB TALES - NORTH STAR INN

Many of us are looking forward to pubs re-opening and might feel a family reunion such as the one in this story 99 years ago is just what we've been missing.

From the Western Times 30 November 1922 : “Recently mine host of the North Star had a visit from 4 brothers, whose united ages reached the respectable total of 313 years. Their names were John, George, William and Thomas Martin, whose ages were respectively 83, 80, 79, 71. They were boys together in the old-world village of Zeal Monachorum. They reminded Mr G Snell, the landlord, of the old sign that used to swing at the corner of the house bearing these lines:

*We will go into Old Snell's
And have a drop of his good liquor
'Twill help us up the hill the quicker
If we tarry till night come on
The North Star will light us home.*

The old sign has been down now for many years, but it was still fresh in the memory of these old veterans.”

I believe the men were all born in Thelbridge to George, an agricultural labourer, and Mary. Over the years they lived and worked as agricultural labourers on a number of farms including Serstone, Higher Week, Loosebeare, Aller, Higher Wallens and also away from the parish; presumably wherever work could be found. William and his wife Jane remained in Zeal Monachorum; two of their sons, George and Charles, were killed in WWI and are on the pulpit War Memorial in St Peter's. John died in 1925 and William in 1924. I haven't been able to find the deaths of their brothers George and Thomas.

The North Star Inn, formerly known as the Manor's Inn, was built in 1437 making it one of the oldest in the county. The Snell family became landlords in the 1720s and remained so until the 1920s. In 1928 the building was very badly damaged by fire but it was rebuilt and continued as a pub until about 1957.

Erica Eden



Archive photo no. 451.

*North Star Inn in the
early 1920s?*

*Charlie Dennis's two
daughters behind and
right.*

*Photo provided by
Tony Brealy*

May Garden Advice from Bow Garden Centre

It's May; warmer days and longer evenings are ahead of us. Summer is definitely on its way! It is time to start getting back into lawn mowing, as the lawn will love the warmer temperatures. It's also time to start planting out your bedding. Take a look at these tips on what needs doing, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre;

1. It's time to start planting out your summer bedding plants once all danger of frost has passed. Ensure that bedding plants are deadheaded regularly to keep them flowering all summer long. If baskets have been grown in the greenhouse, harden the plants off by bringing them outside during the day and under protection at night.
2. Open your greenhouse vents and doors on warmer days and on even hotter days you could also damp down your greenhouse to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.
3. Watch out for late frost and protect your tender plants – place them in sunnier spots or against a wall. For even more protection, cover plants with a double layer of fleece when frost is forecast.
4. Earth up potatoes, and plant any maincrop or 2nd earlies you still have.
5. Now is the optimum time for pruning your hedges, but make sure to check for nesting birds before you start trimming. Prune each stem individually on young hedging and only use shears if you have an established hedge.
6. Keep on top of watering –it is super important to keep plants irrigated. Use saucers under pots with thirsty plants and ensure new hedging is watered regularly during the first year to ensure you have a beautiful blossoming garden for summer.
7. In the warmer months ponds can quickly fill up with algae and pondweed. Keep on top of this regularly by sieving out excess weed and keeping pond pumps and filters clean and UV bulbs changed.
8. It is time to start looking after your spring bulbs for next year. Resist the temptation to cut the foliage when the flowers have died, let it die back and you will be rewarded with an even better display next spring.
9. Dahlias and hardy annuals that have been grown under glass can be planted into the garden at the end of May. Ensure that your plants have been hardened off and that they are planted into pest and weed free soil.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an extensive range of plants, tools, propagation equipment, pots, greenhouses, plants, seeds and everything you need for gardening, plus pet supplies and Post Office services. Contact us on 01363 82438, www.bowgardencentre.co.uk,



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ZEAL EXPLORERS

Like many others, Zeal Explorers were recently let loose on the surrounding countryside after the easing of some COVID restrictions. The morning of April 12 brought rain and hail, but the afternoon was sunny and glorious and we took full advantage of the weather. We headed down to Tucking Mill bridge, from where we set off southwards across the fields towards Serstone Cross. As we reached the lane, our intrepid reporter took this photo; we also looked back to see Zeal spread out before us (see cover picture). Having crossed the lane to the field opposite, a completely different view to the west awaited us – the scenic contrast is striking.

From the lane we continued south along a bridleway to Sutton Farm, then left along Jackie's Lane back towards Serstone. Here we turned east for a few yards, before taking the lane that heads north towards Down St Mary. Some 100 yards along, we took a footpath, heading west, which took us back to Tucking Mill and home. What a delightful walk with the scenery all dressed in bright colours by the sunshine.



Judi, Sally, Maggie the dog, Jackie, Ruth. Picture by Jan Summers

We know that several families have recently moved into the village and there's no better way of learning about one's surroundings or meeting new friends than walking the lanes and footpaths around Zeal. Everyone is welcome to join our walks which take place on the second Monday of each month. We meet at the Church car park at 2pm.

Our next walk will be on **Monday 10 May**. If the rule of six is still in force we can easily break into smaller groups. We look forward to seeing you.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council had a Zoom meeting on the 22 March, attended by all Councillors, Margaret Squires the County Councillor and one member of the public.

The new “20’s Plenty” signs have now been up for a few weeks. May I sincerely thank those who have slowed down and ask those who haven’t to try and do so. Living as I do at the bottom of Town Hill, I can see those who have noticeably slowed down. I previously advised that I had written to Councillor Hughes, who is the County Council portfolio holder in charge of Highways, asking him why we cannot have a 20mph statutory limit. Despite a reminder I have had no response. However, I hope to shortly have a meeting with the relevant officer for this area to discuss speed monitoring which is being carried out and pot holes. In some parts of the parish they are a total disgrace, notably Burrow Lane.

The Council has approved a contribution to the Church towards the cost of repairing the path to the lower entrance of the Church by the new notice board.

At the meeting it was noted that recently fireworks were let off to celebrate a birthday. I was asked to remind villagers that whenever possible, would they please give advance notice on social media or on the village notice board so that pet owners can take precautions where necessary.

On the subject of pet owners I am disappointed to report that “dog poo” bags are being thrown into the old gateway and hedge just past the 30mph sign on the Bow road. Quite frankly this is thoughtless, disgusting and unnecessary. There is a bin on the junction with the road to Waie Inn which I would ask dog owners to use. The Council will look at the purchase of a further bin to go by the 30mph sign, but Mid Devon Council are unlikely to contribute towards the cost of purchase, or emptying it, which means a volunteer will be required to do so on a regular basis. If you can help, please let me know.

The Council has been considering whether we might be able to assist in the provision of allotments in the village. There is certainly some interest but the main difficulty has been identifying a site. If anyone has any ideas or can help please let Ken Hogg or myself know.

The next meeting will be in early May. This should be the annual meeting but currently rules are unclear whether this will be Zoom or not, as the latest Government guidance is awaited at the time of writing. Notice of the meeting will be published in the usual way on the notice board and on the PC website www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk. The Clerk can be contacted on zmpcouncil@gmail.com and myself acchandler@btinternet.com

Andrew Chandler, Chairman
07831 167728

SPRING PICTURES

By the time this newsletter reaches you the daffodils will be well and truly over and the lambs will have grown. So here are two views to see you through until next spring . . .

The daffodils overlook the fields between Zeal and Lapford, pictured by Sally Rowden from the top of Gissage Hill.

These lambs were very curious but I think they thought we were coming to feed them. Picture by Jan Summers, taken at Foldhay Cross.



This picture, submitted by Tony Brealy, shows Baron's Wood bridge, looking downstream. According to the inscription on the side of the bridge, it was erected in 1862, and it spans the water course that eventually runs into Gissage Lake. The water course continues down to Nymphayes where it joins the River Yeo.



Here are some riddles to get you thinking . . .

1. What gets bigger when more is taken away?
2. What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?
3. I'm as light as a feather, yet the strongest person cannot hold me for five minutes. What am I?


Answers on back page.

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Village Hall:	Chairman Ken Down. Tel. 01363 82204 Secretary & bookings Jan Summers. Tel. 01363 82571
Mid Devon Councillor:	vacancy
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
Newsletter Editor:	Jan Summers. Email: zmon.news@gmail.com

Details of some nearest services

Post Office:	Bow Aquatic Centre, Bow, Crediton. EX17 6LA Tel. 01363 82438. Email: info@bowgardencentre.co.uk
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
Devon Voluntary Action:	www.devonva.org Tel. 01404 544 045

Riddle answers: 1. A hole. 2. Your right elbow. 3. Your breath