

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 54, November 2023

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*Some of the visitors enjoying the recent Harvest Supper - see report on Page 4. (Picture by David Bowyer)*

## EDITORIAL

It's easy, in these times, to imagine that nothing much changes apart from the weather but of course, that's not true. While we miss those who have passed or moved away, we have welcomed a number of new residents and it's really good to see that some have already joined in some of the events run here in Zeal.

In this month's issue there is a thought-provoking piece by Erica Eden, Chair of our Village Hall Committee (Page 5). In it, she comments on what makes our village so special and makes a plea for people to come to the AGM of the hall and to consider joining the Management Committee or helping out in other ways. A further request for volunteers can be found in the Parish Council report on Page 14.

*'Use it or lose it'* is an often-repeated truism and never more so than in a small community like ours. It's also well-reported that volunteering is good for our health and well-being. We must all accept that no-one goes on forever and, if we value what we have here on our doorstep, I urge everyone to, at least, take the first steps to find out what is involved in joining village groups and then consider what they might do to help our community continue to flourish. I guarantee that, if you put yourself forward for any organisation, you will be welcomed with open arms.

### DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: 8 NOVEMBER

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### VILLAGE EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

- Wed 1 Nov Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12. Come along and enjoy a bit of company over a hot drink and a biscuit.
- Wed 1 Nov WI – 7pm at the Waie Inn, skittles and light supper – see page 11
- Wed 8 Nov Village Hall Bingo doors open 7pm, Eyes Down 7.30pm entry £5
- Sat 11 Nov Market, 10 – 11.30am at Village Hall
- Mon 13 Nov Village Walk, meet 2pm at the bus stop.
- Mon 20 Nov Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm, archive exhibition, wine & cheese
- Fri 24 Nov Mobile Library 1.10-1.40pm Waie Cross
- Mon 27 Nov Bow Historical Society, 7pm - AGM, Social evening & Supper, Speaker Mark Norman on Devon Folklore. All welcome.  
More details 01363 82468 or Erica 01363 82606

### Thanks

Hazel and Sally would like to thank everyone who has been so busy recently knitting and crocheting an amazing number of poppies for our Remembrance display on the village green. We have been utterly amazed at the response to our request. As I write this, a small team of villagers are assembling the poppies together and I trust that, as you read this, you can see the display as you drive or walk by. We would like to thank Cathy, in particular, for her wise advice on this project and for the literally hundreds of poppies she has made. Thank you.

**Rainfall** September rainfall - 93mm

### Mobile Library: Good news, for now!

Devon County Council's Scrutiny Committee met in September and it was agreed that the matter of mobile libraries be sent back to the cabinet to reconsider its decision to axe them. They are tasked with getting precise figures on leasing rather than buying new vehicles, reducing costs through crowdfunding or sponsorship, and making sure that alternative provision of library services is in place before any services are taken away. So, make the most of the mobile while we have it! If you have never used it before, why not give it a try? You can just turn up and start to borrow books straightaway.

**'Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.'**

*Albert Camus, French Philosopher and writer.*

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

### Village Hall Harvest Supper

Anyone who likes food was in the right place at the Harvest Supper, a choice of 6 hotpot style dishes followed by even more desserts, all outstandingly good and homemade by committee members and supporters. Many thanks to the cooks and to everyone else who made the evening go with a swing. Lesley Rogers, a new resident in Zeal and also an expert on British Sign Language, provided a fun challenge based on BSL. It was certainly challenging for some people but nonetheless much enjoyed by all present. The “not a normal quiz” was a different sort of challenge involving trying to identify whether weird and wonderful statements were true or false, it felt like the more weird and unlikely they were the more likely they were to be true! Alan Hollingsworth was the winner so beware of telling porky pies in his presence as he’s very likely to see through them. Thanks to David Bowyer for the photos shown here.



LEFT - our stalwart kitchen team, Tracey & Delia, with a wonderful choice of main courses. Many of our visitors just had to sample more than one - and why not when they were so good.

BOTTOM - a superb array of puddings plus cheese and biscuits to round off a really good night.



## **November Market**

Sat 11 Nov 10-11.30am. Why not clear out unwanted toys, games, puzzles, outdoor playthings to make room for Christmas; sell them at the village market, call Jan on 01363 82571 to book a table - no charge, just provide a decent raffle prize.

## **VILLAGE HALL AGM**

Most people who live in Zeal love the place for its beautiful countryside, ancient history, friendly people and particularly the sense of community. This comes from those who commit themselves to volunteering and helping, giving their support by turning up to events, buying raffle tickets etc. for the various village organisations, the WI, St Peter's Church, the Fishing Club or the Village Hall.

Here are just a few reasons for coming to the AGM...

- To see the new archive exhibition about the Hall - 173 years old
- To find out what's been going on and what's planned for the future
- To air your views on what's good and what's not so good about the Hall and tell us what activities you would like to see
- To exercise your vote in person for the Committee
- To stand for the Committee of Trustees which runs the Hall
- For the wine, cheese & biscuits afterwards

I've been privileged to work with a fantastic group of Trustees since I became Chair last December. All of them contribute so much in the way of ideas, and in practical ways by running events and activities, looking after the building and much more. It can be very rewarding, satisfying, occasionally tricky, and certainly keeps us on our toes. We try to only ask Trustees to do what they want to do and remember that they all have other things in their lives.

There are vacancies for new trustees to join us; you don't need to have any special skills or experience. However, we do need a treasurer and assistant treasurer - our finances are not complicated and don't require someone with financial qualifications. Support and training are available.

Not everyone wants to be on a committee and so we're also looking for people who would help out on an occasional basis at their own convenience – maybe as part of a working party to do a bit of maintenance; keeping the playgrounds tidy and weed-free; assisting at an event etc.

**Do ring me 01363 82606 or email [reden@rocketmail.com](mailto:reden@rocketmail.com) for a chat with no obligation.**

So, feel good about contributing to our community spirit. You will be welcomed whether you've lived here for years or have only just moved in - come along to support your village hall.

*Erica Eden*

**Chair Zeal Monachorum Village Hall Committee**

## NOVEMBER QUIZ

As this is the first quiz prepared by our new compiler, it includes questions on 'firsts' – good luck.

1. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize?
2. Who was the first American to orbit the earth?
3. Who was the first female Prime Minister of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka)?
4. What was Cliff Richard's first No 1 single?
5. In 1947, U.S. Air Force Officer Chuck Yeager was the first man to achieve what?
6. What was the name of the first dog in space?
7. Which Olympic first occurred at the 1900 Summer Olympic Games held in Paris?
8. Who was the first African American U.S. Secretary of State?
9. What was the name of the first car that the Ford Motor Company made available to the public?
10. Who played the first Bond girl?
11. In which decade did the first wheel clamps arrive in Britain?
12. Which actor was the star of the first talking movie?
13. Who, in 1975, became the first black player to win the Wimbledon Singles Title?
14. What was the first Sherlock Holmes tale?
15. What is the first word in the Bible?

Answers on Page 17

## CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you very much to those who donated food and money during September. The Foodbank sends thanks to those kind people who donated online during the time I was away on holiday at the end of September; this helped to cover the most urgently needed items. Thank you also for donations given at the Village Hall on 7th October; every single thing is appreciated.

Christmas is just around the corner; it seems just a short time since I was writing this for Christmas 2022 and now, here we are in 2023! We think especially of families with little ones and of the elderly, many of whom live alone. This last year has been particularly difficult for so many; including those who never expected to be in such a situation. If anyone is in need of help, remember it is available to you; contact Fiona, the Foodbank coordinator on 07740 202721. I realise that, for some, making a donation may be hard but I also know that all that is given to the Foodbank is given with love.

This year we will hold the 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas house-to-house collection in Zeal Monachorum, for those who are in need. This is usually carried out in the first week of December, Monday to Friday and, all being well, we do not anticipate a change to this arrangement. The December newsletter will give more information and definite dates. Many Blessings to all who give, wherever and whenever it is given - thank you.

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# ST PETER'S CHURCH



Dear Parishioners,

2023 is flying by and we are already into November - the month of remembering. On the 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate All Saints Day, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls, a day to remember all the faithful departed. On the 12<sup>th</sup> we remember all who gave their lives in the two world wars and conflicts around the world since. The group remembrance service this year is being held at Bow Church at 10.45am. We will be having our Common Worship Eucharist on the 12<sup>th</sup> as usual and during the service we will have an act of remembrance for the fallen of Zeal Monachorum.

## Rotas for November

### **5 November, 10.00 am 4<sup>th</sup> before Advent**

Old Testament reading Micah 3: 5-12  
Gospel reading Matthew 24: 1-14  
Altar flowers 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>  
Church cleaner

### **Family Service (lay led)**

Miss Lynn Warren  
Mr Colin Crothers  
Mrs Susan Down  
Mrs Becky Harvey

### **12 November at 6.30 pm**

Old Testament reading Amos 5: 18-24  
New Testament reading 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18  
Gospel reading Matthew 25: 1-13  
Sidesman  
Altar flowers 19<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Mrs Jane Hogg  
Mr Robert Peck  
Rev Robert Gordon  
Mr Tony Brealy  
Mrs Susan Bostock

### **26 November at 3.00pm**

Old Testament reading Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24  
New Testament reading Matthew 25: 31-46  
Sidesman

### **Christ the King (lay led)**

Mrs Becky Harvey  
Mr Tony Brealy  
Mr Colin Crothers

*Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of our worship.*

## **Christmas Fayre 2 December from 2 – 4pm in church**

There will be a number of stalls including Cakes, Produce, Fancy goods, Books and bric-a-brac, Tombola, Raffle and games. If you are able to provide items for the various stalls it would be very much appreciated. Contact me Tel 82204 or any one of the PCC members. Please come and join us for this important fund-raising effort, your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Cakes** Margaret Harris has again kindly offered to make her delicious Christmas cakes which will be available at the Fayre, 6x3 inch cake £6, 6x6 cake £12.00. Orders please by 15 November.

**Harvest Festival.** The offertory at the service was £95.50 which has been donated to the Farm Community Network. At the service Robert dedicated the new kitchen which everyone agreed will be a real asset to us. Thank you to all who came and shared in this happy occasion.

Best wishes

*Margaret* (Churchwarden)

# A Reminder -



## LOCAL ELECTRICITY DISCOUNT SCHEME (LEDS)

The Local Electricity Discount Scheme, or LEDS, offers residential, commercial and community properties closest to RES wind farms an annual discount off their electricity bill.

LEDS at Den Brook was launched in May 2014 and offers properties within 2.3km of the turbines an annual discount (currently worth £135.00 p.a.) which is paid direct to their electricity supplier. Eligible properties were contacted in 2014, but those moving in since then may not know about the scheme (which is NOT a means tested grant). Further details about LEDS can be found here: [www.res-leds.com](http://www.res-leds.com)

The Portal asks for a Unique Reference Number which is obtainable by Email at [leds@res-group.com](mailto:leds@res-group.com). They will then check your eligibility. If you do not have internet access, ring 0141 404 5555. Office Opening Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am - 2.30pm

It is important to register on the website by November in order to qualify for the payment which is usually made in February each year. All unclaimed grant monies are transferred to the Den Brook Community Fund for use by local community groups.



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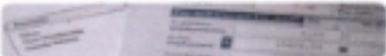
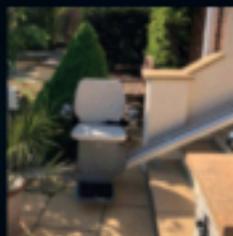
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# FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

Firstly, it has not been a very good month for us, 3 massive trees down on the lake, problems with vandalism, plus I had to put Teal, my trusty springer, down. My grateful thanks to all our neighbours and friends, without them we wouldn't have got through it. I would also like to thank all our neighbours and friends who helped us with the clearing of the debris on a work party day, they all worked so hard.

Special thanks to Den Brook, for their generous donation of £1,000; this will enable us to fit solar-powered cameras at the lake. Thanks also to Adam Huntington Whiteley for all his help in arranging the installation.

Despite all of the upheaval and the fallen trees, people have still been managing to fish the lake. Pete Henshaw landed an almost record roach – well done to him.

I'd like to remind all members that calendars are now on sale at £8.00, all photos were taken by the Zeal Monachorum Photographic Group. Proceeds will be divided between the fishing club and the Fishermen's Mission. Also, if anyone is interested don't forget to order your tickets for the village Christmas dinner and dance at the Waie on 8th December; all are welcome, please contact us on 07749329832 or 01363 82400.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane

—ooOoo—

## ZEAL MONACHORUM W.I.

It was Zeal WI's turn to host the WI Group Meeting this month with nearly 60 people attending from the five local Institutes. There were a few hiccups: our President was ill and the speaker cancelled at the last minute but the Committee, Vice-President, Delia Wainwright, and members dealt with the challenges. A new speaker on flower arranging was found - Lesley from Heart of Flowers Okehampton - who was very interesting. Subsequently the visitors were very complimentary about the good time they had, which had included a supper of homemade soup and desserts. The competition, a flower arrangement, was won by Coldridge WI.

Zeal's monthly meeting fell in the same week. Dr Paul Cleave gave a fascinating talk on WWII recipes and cooking. He brought a large collection of books and memorabilia from the period for members to look at. The oldest cookery book competition was won by Jackie Watson with a handwritten recipe book from 1879.

The November 1st meeting will be at the Waie Inn for skittles and a light supper starting at 7pm. Our Christmas Dinner is on 6 December.

## November Garden Advice from Bow Garden Centre

With the glow of Autumn colours and leaves falling, a lot happens in our gardens in November. Take a look at these tips on what needs doing in the garden this November, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre

1. Plant Tulip bulbs now, making sure they are covered with at least twice their depth of soil or bulb fibre.
2. Insulate your outdoor containers to protect from frost, using bubble wrap or fleece.
3. Plant Shrubs, Trees, and Fruit trees; before the ground becomes too cold & wet (we have an expanded range now in).
4. Prune Roses to prevent windrock/ root damage by pruning them by one-third to half of their height.
5. Cut down perennials, allowing you to clear any weeds found, then mulch the surrounding soil with bark or Strulch Mulch.
6. Cover empty vegetable beds with well-rotted organic matter during the colder months to improve soil nutrition.
7. Plant up a colourful display of Autumn/Winter bedding.
8. In case of increasing rainfall raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging.
9. Keep on top of leaf raking and keeping your pond clear of all debris.
10. Continue to supply wildlife with food and shelter as they can struggle at this time of year.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, with a range of Devon-grown plants, plenty of bulbs, seeds, gardening tools, garden buildings and everything you need for gardening, plus fish and pet supplies, an award-winning Waterside Cafe, and Post Office services.

Bow also has lots of Christmas inspiration including gifts for him, her, children and pets, plus a range of Christmas Lights, Decorations, and Christmas Trees.

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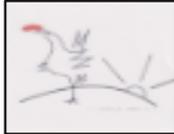
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## ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

The last Parish Council meeting was held on 28th September. Before starting the meeting, councillors stood in silence to pay our respects to the late Ken Down. He was a Parish Councillor for 40 years, 25 as chairman, tremendous devotion. Both members of Mid Devon and County council sent their apologies. This was obviously unavoidable but nonetheless disappointing as we needed advice on several matters.

The following issues were discussed:

- ~ The shelter for the Jubilee seat is now in place and paid for. The Clerk agreed to continue pursuing 106 funds for the project. The next target is refurbishing the seat.
- ~ A request was made to the Highways Dept to repair the broken village sign at Hayne. Concern was raised about the number of over large lorries getting stuck in the village. The Clerk agreed to ask the Highways Dept to re-install the original restriction signage at Stopgate Cross.
- ~ We had been informed that the seat at Wootton Top had now completely collapsed; the Council agreed that we should provide a replacement.
- ~ People in the village had informed the council that there was, from time to time, excessive anti-social behaviour in the form of cars racing through the village. Usually, late Friday evenings and early Saturday mornings. We agreed to request an occasional police presence when we next see the County Councillor.
- ~ It has been suggested that safety outside the village hall would be improved by the presence of Road Wardens during events. Two volunteers were approved by the council and are now awaiting training.
- ~ A member of the public had requested that all parish councillors should make their email addresses available. There were many problems of privacy and potential scamming raised. It was thought there may be a way round this and the idea will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The council is now one member short. If anyone feels they can help please put your name forward for co-option to either myself or the clerk. It is not time consuming, we meet on 6 evenings each year, and it would be healthy to have some fresh ideas. The next meeting is on Thursday 30th November at 7.00 pm.

Rob Peck, Chair  
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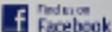


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# Den Brook Community Fund

**The Den Brook Community Fund invites local Charities, Community Groups and Not-for-Profit organisations based within the five parishes below to apply for grants to assist with funding for Capital Projects.**

The deadline for receipt of applications for this “round” of funding is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2024** and as a guide, it is envisaged around £35,500 will be available for allocation by the late winter period and the amounts available to each parish are likely to be –

Bow - £7,000

North Tawton - £19,000

South Tawton - £2,400

Spreyton £2,600

Zeal Monachorum - £4,800.00

An “Easy Guide”, Full Terms and Conditions and the Application Form are available by e-mail from [denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com](mailto:denbrookcommunityfund@gmail.com) or from North Tawton Town Council Office, 14a The Square North Tawton EX20 2EP

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*The Den Brook Community Fund is administered by representatives of Bow, North Tawton, South Tawton, Spreyton, & Zeal Monachorum Town and Parish Councils.*

## Answers to Quiz on Page 6

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Marie Curie, 1903                                   | 8. Colin Powell           |
| 2. John Glenn, 1962                                    | 9. Ford Model T           |
| 3. Sirimavo Bandaranaike                               | 10. Ursula Andress, 1980s |
| 4. Living Doll, 1959                                   | 11. 1980's                |
| 5. Breaking the Sound Barrier                          | 12. Al Jolson             |
| 6. Laika   | 13. Arthur Ashe           |
| 7. Women took part in the Olympics for the first time. | 14. A Study in Scarlet    |
|  | 15. In                    |



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## CONTACTS

- Local Parish Council: Chairman: Rob Peck. Tel. 01363 82366,  
email: [robpeck366@gmail.com](mailto:robpeck366@gmail.com)
- Village Hall: Chair: Erica Eden. Tel. 01363 82606  
Secretary & bookings Jan Summers. Tel. 01363 82571
- Mid Devon Councillors: Natalia Letch, email: [natalia.letch@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.letch@gmail.com)  
Stuart Penny, email: [stuartpenny765@gmail.com](mailto:stuartpenny765@gmail.com)
- County Councillor: Margaret Squires, Tel 01363 84337  
email: [margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.squires@devon.gov.uk)
- Parliament: Mel Stride MP. Tel. 01392 823 306  
Email: [mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mel.stride.mp@parliament.uk)
- Newsletter Editor: Jan Summers. Email: [zmon.news@gmail.com](mailto:zmon.news@gmail.com)

### Details of some nearest services

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

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



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