

Issue 5, October 2019

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Harvesting in progress - picture by Susie Bostock

ZEAL MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL

presents

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EDITORIAL



For the past month the lanes and fields have been buzzing with tractors bringing in the harvest and those of us who grow them, have been picking and enjoying our vegetables and fruit. Trees are laden with apples and in the hedgerows blackberries are ripening - what a wonderful time of year this is. It's reflected in some of the stories we have for you this month and some of the upcoming events - we hope you enjoy reading about them.

For our first few issues we have been offered pictures for the cover, most of which have been of Zeal. Now, I know that it's a bit early to be thinking about the 'C' word (Christmas), but we'd like your help with a suitable picture for the December issue. It doesn't matter what it is but it needs to represent the season and, ideally, it needs to be portrait, not landscape (i.e. taller than it is wide), and we need it by 1 November. So please, search your albums and cameras and send in your pictures to: zmon.news@gmail.com.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 1

VILLAGE EVENTS - OCTOBER

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Every Weds | Coffee morning in Village Hall, 10.30am - 12 noon |
| Weds 25 Sept | Bingo, doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm |
| Weds 2 Oct | WI, speaker: David Fields on 'Mind', 7.15pm for 7.30pm |
| Thur 3 Oct | Parish Council, 7.30pm |
| Fri 4 Oct | Mobile library, 1.05pm at old shop, 1.30pm at Waie Cross |
| Sat 5 Oct | Harvest Supper, 7pm. Adults £8, children £4, tickets Jan S 82571 |
| Weds 9 Oct | Sophie Lyons' Bingo at Waie, eyes down 7.45pm |
| Sat 12 Oct | Market, 10.00am - 11.30am |
| Sun 13 Oct | Darren Chandler's Charity run. |
| Sun 13 Oct | Harvest Festival Service, 5.30pm |
| Mon 14 Oct | Zeal Explorers, 2pm at bust stop |
| Weds 16 Oct | Film night, 'Fisherman's Friends', doors open 7pm, film 7.30pm |
| Weds 30 Oct | Bingo at Village Hall, doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm |
| Sat 2 Nov | Hallowe'en party, see below |

HALLOWEEN PARTY, 2 NOV, 7pm

All are warmly invited to this event; fancy dress optional BUT there is a prize for the best costume. Admission £8 adults, children 6-12 yrs free; includes 3 course meal; please state special diets when booking. Tickets Jan Brealy 01363 82563.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

On Sat 5 October, from 7pm, we hold our annual Harvest Supper and this is a really good evening: lovely home grown and prepared food, convivial company and almost on your doorstep. The menu comprises cold meats and salads for the main course and a choice of home-made puddings. Cold drinks will be supplied on the tables but guests are welcome to bring their own alcoholic drinks and glasses. The cost is £8 per adult and £4 for children of primary school age. Booking essential:

Contact Jan S on 01363 82571, or email jansummerszm@gmail.com



Our Flower, Produce and Homecrafts show on 17 August was a great success with lots of entries and lots of interest in what was produced. The prize winners, pictured left, are: Richard Carey - best in show homecraft; Martyn Down - Vegetables; Margaret Down (Beer) - best in show, onions and gladioli; Margaret Harris - potatoes in a bucket; Marian Quick - flowers and homecraft.

The trophies and rosettes were presented Mrs Rose Barker who was born and lived for many years in the village. The judges were Angela Searle and Eddie and Pat Sherwood.

The chairman, Ken Down, thanked all who had exhibited, together with all who had come to support the show. Special thanks were expressed to Margaret Harris for her work and members of the hall committee who had acted as stewards or helped in any way in making sure the show was a success.

Pictured opposite - some of the exhibits being admired.



MOBILE LIBRARY

A record 14 readers visited the mobile library when it stopped in Zeal during the summer holidays. Just 11, in whole or part, could be squeezed in to the photo below. Much excitement, many books borrowed, new bedtime stories - and that was just the adults! Next visits: Fridays 4 October and 1 November:

Stopping at: the LAYBY NEAR OLD SHOP 13.05 - 13.25
and WAIE CROSS 13.30 - 13.50

Please support your library service:
Your use helps keep it for others who
need it.

More info from Devon Libraries
www.devonlibraries.org.uk

Erica Eden
Phone: 01363 82606



WAIE INN ACTIVITIES

Badminton: Monday evenings
6.30-8pm, Parent & Child £5,
additional children £2.50,
Adults only £4.50.
(details on our Facebook page)

Walking Football: 8-9pm

Open Netball: Weds 7-8pm for
intermediates/good players; contact
Nicola or Sue 01363 82348

Walking Netball or 5-a-side football:
contact Waie direct (01363 82348),
dates will be organised dependent on
interest.

Weekly on Tuesday evenings there is an
open Water Aerobics session in the
swimming pool from 7.30-8.15pm



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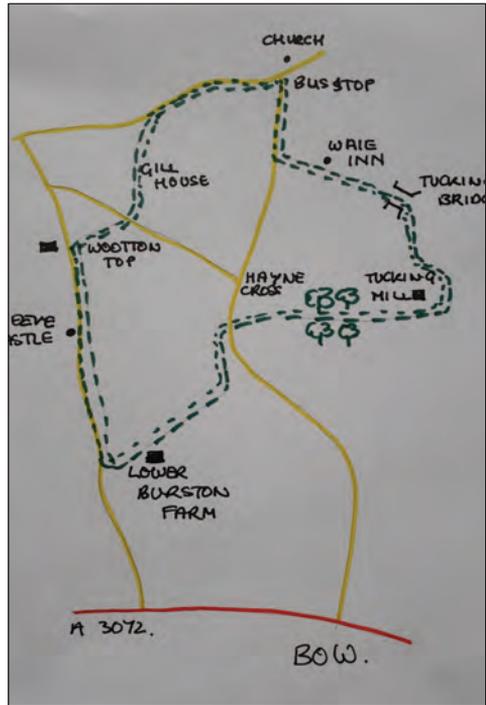
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ZEAL EXPLORERS

Sunshine and much chatter was the theme of our last walk. A good sized group of us, plus Teal the dog of course, enjoyed a lovely walk down past the Waie to Tucking Mill. From there we followed the bridge path, crossed the fields and walked through the woods to Hayne Bridge. We cut across more fields towards Lower Burston Farm and back up the lane past Reeve Castle to Wootton Top Farm. We followed the footpaths past Gillhouse to join Western road and back into the village. Our route is shown in the map on the right.

These walks are taken at a pace to suit everyone and rarely take longer than an hour and a half. Our next walk will be on Monday Oct 14th, meeting at the bus stop at 2pm.



Pictured left to right: Jackie, Joss, Ali, Sally, Judi with Teal the dog, Karen, Lynn; picture by Jane Hogg.



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CHURCH NEWS

We said our goodbyes to Lindsey on August 11th. The occasion was marked with a small presentation of a planter of herbs and a garden voucher. We then enjoyed a wine and cheese evening where Lindsey was able to say goodbye to her friends in Zeal. We wish her and Laurie well for their retirement.

Unfortunately Evensong on Bank Holiday Sunday was cancelled as no-one was available to take the Service. We will do our best to continue with the pattern of 3 services but bear with us if, some months, this is unsustainable.

Sunday October 13th at 5.30pm is Harvest Festival. We have made it a slightly earlier time to encourage families to come and to take into account school next day. We will be decorating the Church for Harvest on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th. All are welcome to help and all gifts of food are very welcome; non-perishables go the Crediton food bank and perishables to the homeless shelter in Exeter. As winter approaches I will be collecting again for this worthy cause and delivering clothes and gifts to the shelter. Ruck sacks are always welcome as are sleeping bags, socks and toiletries. Please remember those people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

We would welcome fund raising suggestions; we have our normal Advent Fayre and Summer Fete but we'd be grateful for ideas for other events. Could you help? Please get in touch. Have a good month.

Susie

FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER

29th September - Hazel Wainwright

6th and 13th October - Lynn Warren; 20th and 27th October - Marian Quick

3rd November - Margaret Down

CREDITON FOODBANK COLLECTION

Even though there was no Market in August I'd like to extend a big thank you to all who donated food and money. A large box of much needed foodstuff was left with Jan Brealy and, on my return, a black bag was left on my doorstep full of toilet rolls and another bag contained food and money amounting to £50; your generosity is overwhelming. So if you have the heart to donate it can be done at any time during the month, not just on market day. If you would like your donation to be picked up, ring Lois on 01363 82982 and a time convenient to you will be arranged.

Thank you and God Bless

Services at St Peter's in October

6 October	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Worship Group
Trinity 16	O/T reading	Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2; 1-4:	Lynn Warren
Proper 22	N/T reading	Luke 17: 5-10	Tony Brealy
		Sidesmen Welcome	Marion Quick
		Offertory	
13 October	5.30pm	Harvest Festival	Worship Group
		Readings may be as per service sheet	
Trinity 17	O/T reading	2 Kings5: 1-3;7-15c	Colin Crothers
Proper 23	N/T reading	Luke 17: 11-19	Gavin Rowden
		Sidesmen Welcome	Tony Brealy
		Offertory	
20 October		No Service	
27 October	6.30pm	BCP Evensong	Worship Group
Last in Trinity	O/T reading	Jeremiah 14: 7-10: 19 - end	Graham Rounsley
Proper 25	N/T reading	Luke 18:9-14	Becky Harvey
		Sidesmen Welcome	Tony Brealy
		Offertory	
1 November	TBA	All Souls	Down St Mary
3 November	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Worship Group
All Saints	O/T reading	Daniel 7: 1-3; 15 - 18	Lynn Warren
	N/T reading	Luke 6: 20- 31	Tony Brealy
		Sidesmen Welcome	Marion Quick
		Offertory	

ZEAL ARCHIVE

Pictured below, Zeal Monachorum Junior School, about 1950, closed in 1956.
Still a few familiar faces around the village - who haven't changed a bit!

*Back row: Billy Folland, Michael Palmer, Jenny Mears, Betty Mitchell,
Penny Andrews, Lewis Quick, Michael Keenor, Mrs Miller (the teacher)*

*Second row: Sheila Webber, Trudy Cox, Rose Rounsley, Muriel Cox,
Monica Keenor, Shirley Cox*

*Front row: Bill Owen, Anthony Breal, Alan Rounsley, Ken Down,
Raymond Bolt [Photo no 6 from Marjorie Breal].*

Erica Eden, Phone: 01363 82606



PERSONAL NOTICES

Sally Rowden says 'due to everyone's huge generosity, we have already raised £50 on the flowers at the gate for the Lullaby Trust, and £50 for the Devon Air Ambulance, and we are now collecting for ELF (Exeter Leukaemia Fund)'.

Ken Down is still guarding the gravel removed from the boules court at the Village Hall but he would be happy to see it go. Contact Ken on 01363 82204 to make an offer and arrange collection/delivery.

Jan Summers reminds all householders who use oil for heating that we have an oil buying club in the village. By buying in bulk we achieve lower prices and save some tanker journeys into the village. Orders are placed monthly during the winter and the minimum order is 500 litres, but you can order more if you want to. Contact Jan on 01363 82571 or email: jansummerszm@gmail.com.



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COMING HOME (3)

My most vivid memories of my time in Devon always concerned events of which I had little or no experience as a boy growing up in London in the 1940s and 1950s. For example, the village bakery where Sid worked was a wonderful, magical place, full of strange gadgets and smells, and always stiflingly hot.

Once a week, buns and lardy cakes were baked, and my uncle would let me observe this ritual as long as I kept out of the way. Uncle Sid always gave me a hot bun straight from the oven, and I would impatiently juggle with it before I could bite into the sweet, spicy dough. Absolutely delicious! The buns were even more delicious topped with Auntie Rae's blackberry and apple jam and a generous dollop of clotted cream.

At the bakery I was fascinated by the skill that Uncle Sid exhibited, and the speed with which he produced hundreds of loaves. After making the dough in the early hours of the morning, the next stage was to shape the bread. First, he scooped a lump of dough from the proving trough, weighed it, then he put it through what looked like a small mangle which moulded a shape that fitted a bread tin. This was repeated until a large work table was full of many bread tins which were left to prove. After proving the tins were carefully deposited in a coke-fired oven, using a long-handled paddle. This was a very professional operation requiring the use of much skill to ensure that the ash never once dropped from the cigarette clamped between Sid's lips.

Then, wiping his hands on the front of his slightly off-white apron, he went to the outside yard and shovelled coke into the oven. Returning to the bake house, another wipe of his hands on his apron, and he was ready for the next operation. The bread, by the way, was delicious

I also promised to tell the story of how Sid ended up with a cow's horns through the windscreen of his car: we were in the car travelling along a lane near Thorverton when, with no warning, a herd of cattle emerged from a field and we were right in the way. Judging by the reaction of the offending animal, it was more startled than we were, but only slightly. I'd like to have been there when the insurance company received that claim.

Alan Summers

RAINFALL FIGURES

July 42 cm; August 76 cm

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GARDENING NOTES

'I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers' L.M. Montgomery

Despite it being October, there is still a lot we can do outside in the garden in dry weather. There will be dead heading of the untidy Phlox, Michaelmas daisies, Salvias and Japanese anemones once they are past their best, but safest to leave Penstemons and Hydrangeas alone until the spring to help protect them from the frost. There could still be plenty of crab apples or quince to harvest to make jelly or Rowan berries if you can get them before the blackbirds. Don't forget the hedgerow harvest of hips, haws and blackberries and continue to pick Dahlias and Chrysanthemums for as long as possible.

However, the best thing about this time of year are the crisp new mornings and the beautiful autumnal colours around us. The days will be shorter but this is a good time to jot down which annuals or perennials have done particularly well this year and also to make a note of those that need moving or splitting, to plant out perennials you have grown on from cuttings and to plant out bulbs for a spring display. Planters near the house can be filled with winter bedding plants on top and a succession of spring bulbs underneath, planting tulips at the bottom, daffodils and hyacinths in the centre and shorter iris, crocus and snowdrop nearer the top. One pot like that could see you through to April or May.

As always, there are many new varieties of bulb coming on to the market for us to try but Tulip 'Fire Wings' has particularly caught my eye – a vibrant open flower of red and yellow. I hope to 'borrow' an idea from RHS Rosemoor and absolutely fill a galvanised container with bulbs to try and achieve the spectacular flowering effect they had this spring.

We shall also be starting off sweet pea seeds in old toilet roll inners in the greenhouse and let them slowly mature over the winter ready for planting, tube and all, in the garden in early spring. Sweet peas are really hardy and this year they galloped away and I noted that we picked our first sweet pea bunch on June 7th and continued to do so until September 10th although the effort to water them every day during that period was considerable. We save seeds each year from the brown, dried out pods on the old plants and are always amazed at the variation of colour we get the following year.

Any soft or brown apples can be left out for the blue tits and other fruit eating birds. A steady food supply for the overwintering birds will help them prepare for the cold weather ahead. Keep bird baths clean and topped up and continue feeding the hedgehogs until certain they are safely tucked up until next spring.

We are interested to hear from you about the birds you have seen in your gardens throughout the year and would be grateful for your feedback. For example, did you see or hear the cuckoo this year, or a jay, or kingfisher, waxwing or an owl? Please let us know what you heard, where you were and roughly the date and time of day.

I love the seasons as they roll on and will enjoy putting the garden 'to bed' for another year but we will be back in the March magazine to kick off the new spring.



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FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All,

The weather is now starting to cool down and hopefully we'll get a bit more rainfall. As you may have noticed, the brook alongside the lake has been dry for some months. Luckily the spring within the lake keeps a nice comfortable level.

We have been carrying out a lot of work at the lake: clearing swims and strimming. Jane, me and my friends Phil Steane and Mike Russell have been very busy; we have managed to fit in a bit of fishing here and there. Jane landed a 12lb carp, floating crust, Phil Steen an 8lb carp, myself a specimen roach and an 8lb carp. See pictures below. The juniors have also been fishing very well and we will be happy to see new members.

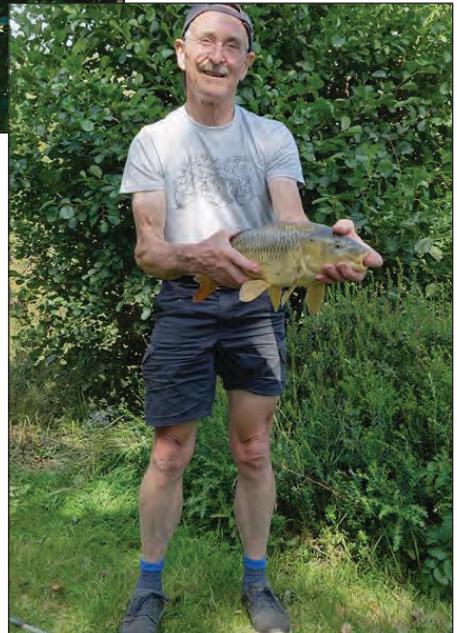
One of our members recently passed away and he has donated some of his fishing tackle for the use of our junior members. We thank his wife very much. We have also had a donation from Julia Johnson, ex-wife of the late Selwyn Johnson, who was one of our original members, we are also very grateful to her.



Pictured left: Ken with his 8lb carp

Below: Phil with another 8lb carp

(Or was it the same fish??)



We are pleased to announce the fishing club calendar is now ready and the price will be the same as last year at £7 per calendar. Please call us on 01363 82400.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane

QUIZ

1. In which year did Tiger Woods win his first Open Championship?
2. Which product has the Royal Mint recently decided to discontinue?
3. What is the capital town of Wiltshire?
4. Which hymn writer wrote 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'?
5. How much is a second class stamp at the moment?
6. By what name is the young tennis player Cori Gauffe usually known?
7. Which classic novel did Boris Pasternak write in 1957?
8. Which popular garden flower is attributed to Father Francis Cupani?
9. Who has been chosen to appear on the new £50 note?
10. How many hearts does an octopus have?
11. What does the word 'Petrichor' describe?
12. Which famous person has the middle name 'de Pfeffel'?
13. What does 'VAR' stand for in football?
14. What are the 2 previous names given to New York City?
15. Who was executed in the great hall at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587?

Minute Quiz

Find 5 flowers in these anagrams;

ADILAH HODCIR INPUL LIFADDDFO ANGEBIO

Here are the answers for September's quiz:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Stockport | 9. Plenty |
| 2. Butterflies and Moths | 10. Blenheim Palace |
| 3. In the window | 11. His left foot |
| 4. Jacob | 12. Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms |
| 5. The Duchy of Cornwall | 13. Geraint Thomas |
| 6. Palladium | 14. President Nixon |
| 7. Obadiah | 15. In Alaska. It is a wind |
| 8. Leicester | |

YOUNG FARMERS

When I joined Bow and District Young Farmers Club, Zeal Monachorum Village Hall was the venue for meetings, which were held every other Tuesday and advertised in The Gazette. Almost every meeting had a guest speaker or a visit; I remember an evening visit to Dartmoor Prison Farm, where the staff explained they fed their cattle at night because it seemed to make them calf during the day.

Members entered numerous competitions including Public Speaking, Brains Trust and Quizzes. I can remember being caught out by the question "Are the horns of the Polled Galloway in front or behind the ears?" Of course the answer is "neither because a Polled Animal has no horns"!

Bow YFC belonged to the North Tawton Group consisting of Okehampton, Beaford, Winkleigh, Lewdown, Ashreigney and North Tawton and these Clubs all competed against each other at the Annual Group Rally. As well as the usual cookery and craft sections, there were various other classes ranging from identification of milking machine parts to a farm and farmhouse class, when a boy did a girls task and a girl did a boys task. One year I had to thread a baler and didn't have a clue whereas the boys had to separate an egg (probably not politically correct these days). Some members went on to represent Devon at County and National level in some competitions.

Each year we would enter a carnival float and travel to Crediton, Okehampton, Hatherleigh and Dolton. But October was the most enjoyable month for me as the first Monday in the month was always the Produce Show, when Zeal Monachorum Village Hall was groaning with exhibits. There were classes for cookery and handicrafts, bales of hay and straw in the playground together with roots and samples of grain in the hall under the tables. The standard of competition was extremely high and numerous local businesses sponsored the event. It was a very popular evening for members and their families, often with standing room only. Many friendships were made through Young Farmers and it is good to meet up at the Reunion Dinners

This photo on the next page was taken in the Hall at the September 1982 AGM. It shows the President, Mr William Pickard, in front with glasses, who died on 13th August aged 92 years; he had been associated with the Club for over 60 years.

The photo features several people well known in the village including: Paul Quick (on stage far right, in a blue jumper), Andrew Quick (behind Mr Pickard's right shoulder) both of Loosebeare and from Nymphayes, Isabel and John Harris (seated to the left of the lady in the white jumper) and Margaret Harris, second row far right). Alan Quick of the Crediton Courier is seated in the front row, 6th right. Don't they all look youthful?

Isabel Harris



HARVEST

At the time of writing we are nearing the end of the harvest season and, overall, it has been good weather with some quality feed stored for the animals to see them through the winter. With quality grass this year the animals have been content and healthy, which is always great for them and for the farmer.

What does harvest mean for us in the South West? It could be barley, wheat, oats or tall maize, or possibly fields of swede or other vegetables. It could be the sheaves used to thatch Devon cottages, or timber for building or logs. We also have a thriving fishing industry. Farmers also produce milk, butter, cream, cheese, beef and lamb, and we could include lamb's wool.

We have some of the best hedgerows in the world full of wild flowers, wildlife, berries. In our rolling countryside fields of grass and meadow flowers flourish, helping to minimise soil erosion. All around us is a sea of trees – oak, ash, hornbeam and many others.

We can't see it but our reservoirs are collecting fresh water from the hills; the sun gives us solar power and the windmills harvest yet more energy. In the orchards apple trees are laden with fruit for eating and for producing the famous Devon ciders. And while all this is going on bees are collecting pollen for delicious honey.

When you put it all together, what an amazing collection of things are harvested right here on our doorstep. Tourists come from all over the world to experience and enjoy what surrounds us every day. It just shows that the South West can rightfully claim to complement the environment, while producing quality, sustainable local food from a beautiful part of the world. Enjoy it all.

Best wishes from **Graham and Ruth Friend** of Wootton Top Farm.

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WALK & TALK

On a sunny Sunday in early September an excited bunch of around 25 Zeal folks set out to follow our very own pied piper, aka Tony Brealy around the village. His mission was to tell us about people and places he had known, and he pointed out sites where cottages had once nestled and told us about their residents. He took us to one of the highest points in the village where, still in existence, is a building that housed the pump – the main water source in the village, built in approximately 1887. The pump was connected via underground pipes to a reservoir on the eastern boundary of the village hall, which is also still in existence, albeit sealed and very overgrown.

Tony had lots to tell us about the Village School, which he attended, and which is now the Village Hall. He pointed out where there had once been a door which opened onto a step out to the road; health and safety forced the removal of the step and the door, and they were replaced by openings at each end of the building. The step found a new life as a lintel over a doorway at Thorne Farmhouse in Bow. Recycling is nothing new it seems. The archive picture on Page 10 shows Tony as a lad along with school mates, some of whom still live in the village or nearby.

This was a very interesting talk, enjoyed by all, and Tony has promised to do another one so, if you missed it this time, look out for the new date. We also hope to have a regular feature on village history, the people who once lived here and the events that are remembered down through the generations. Pictured below are Tony and many of his audience, including Teal the dog, who gets everywhere.



LETS GET CRAFTY! *Some ideas for Autumn*



Autumn is the season when loads of colourful leaves are swirling around in the breeze. They're **great** for arts and **crafts** – collect some before they get too dry and crackly, and get creative! Try out some of our favourite leaf **crafts** and have a go at making your own out of leaves or other materials which can be crafted to look like leaves. **Creative ways to use Autumn leaves**

- leaf doodling.
- clay leaf prints.
- leaf printing.
- leaf painting.
- leaf crowns.
- a leaf wreath.
- Fabric leaf bunting
- 3D leaf bowls
- leaf art with chalk pastels.
- Leaf flower arrangements
- Fabric leaf bags



Autumn is also a great time to visit craft shows. Below are listed some useful Devon dates for your Diary.

The Creative Craft Show Exeter
Westpoint 26 Sept to 29 Sept 2019

Brixham Craft Market 28th Sept 2019

South Brent Craft Event 6th Oct 2019

Warm up to Christmas
Tavistock town hall 9th Nov 2019

Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market
16th Nov 2019 to 19th Dec 2019

Watch out for additional Christmas Markets leading up to Christmas. Please let us know of any craft shows that you have been to that you think readers might be interested in.
karenhunt1962@outlook.com



PARISH COUNCIL

Last month I stated that the next meeting would be on the 3rd October. This meeting is still planned but an Extraordinary Meeting was called on the 19th August to consider 2 planning applications where it was thought that there might be local interest. Members of the public were present and concerns were raised regarding both applications. The first concerned proposals to erect a storage building on land just south of Hayne Bridge and the second, to convert outbuildings into four holiday lets at Napleton House.

In the first case, having heard from the floor, the council considered the proposal was far too large for the size of the holding and resolved to object to the proposal.

In the second case concerns were expressed by the public about the need for such holiday lets and possible disturbance with occupants returning late at night. Environmental concerns were expressed as it is believed that bats are present in the buildings. Councillors did not consider that the conversion was out of scale as the site covers some 2.5 acres and parking can be amply provided on site. However, councillors shared the environmental concerns and stated that whilst they could support the application it was subject to a full environmental impact study being undertaken.

Councillors also discussed an application for a store room extension at the new leisure centre at the Waie Inn. It was noted that this would be within the existing excavated area and councillors resolved to support the application.

As the meeting concluded, the chairman, Mike Bostock announced that he would be resigning from the council. Mike has put in an immense amount of work into the PC, most notably providing and setting up a website, being a vital part of the Denbrook Community Group and being instrumental in the provision of 2 defibrillators in the village; this on top of his work for the church and running a busy dental practice. Mike will be sorely missed. The Council will elect a new chairman at its next meeting in October. In the meantime as vice chairman I will take on the role of chairman.

A notice regarding vacancies on the council will be put up on the notice board. If you are interested in joining the council please don't wait, look us up on the website, speak to a councillor or the clerk. We are still looking for women councillors who are currently under represented. All meetings are published on the notice board by the bus shelter or on the PC website www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk. The next meeting will be held on the 3rd October at 7.30pm.

Andrew Chandler

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KELLAND DAIRY - HOW IT STARTED.

Dairy farming has played a significant part in the farm activities of the Poole family, and there is a nice connection with Kelland Dairy and Zeal Monachorum.

John Poole, my father, continually tells his grandchildren how he and his brothers had to milk 3 cows by hand before walking 2 miles to school at their home farm near Torrington. My father met and married a Zeal girl: Marcia Squire, from East Foldhay, and so they set up home and started their farming days there. Back in those days this would have meant producing milk in churns that would end up at Ambrosia in Lapford.

In 1971, they moved to Lower Burston farm near Bow, which is in Zeal parish. The following year I was born and I inherited the farm passion at a young age. Cow numbers had climbed to 70 by the mid- 1980s and another farm relocation was needed. So when I was 14 we went to Easton Barton at Lapford, which was when I started to acquire an interest in Dairy farming.

Over the following years, cow numbers increased to around 200. In 2002, the chance came up to buy a substantial part of nearby Kelland Barton from the family of my wife Rebekah. Her grandfather and father had run a dairy herd at Kelland until 1995.

From then, the aim was to build numbers up to 300 over the next ten years, but we struggled to achieve this aim, mainly due to major health issues with the cows. In 2012, we reluctantly decided to stop milk production and take some thinking time to decide whether to commit to the substantial reinvestment needed to fund wholesale milk production.

During this period I had time to consider developing a system that, first and foremost, is better for the cows and their health. We set up a small scale system that allows the cows to spend most of their time grazing contentedly in fields, and we are able to milk them out in the fields.

So Kelland Dairy was born. We aim to deliver to local people wholesome grass produced milk which has nutritional benefits for the consumer, together with massive improvements in the health of our herd.

Andrew Poole

'Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons'

Jim Bishop

CHARITY RUN

A few months back I did a run to raise funds for the children of Yemen who are fighting starvation and poverty. Now I am doing another run to raise funds for something closer to home – our local churches.

The church is a vital part of many communities, and people rely on them for solace and to meet people. The basic function of the church is to be involved in every facet of life for the believer, and this was demonstrated by Christ. The church today must live up to its true purpose – meeting the needs of people with help from the people.

I will be doing my run on Sunday 13 October and my 35 mile route will take me to the churches at: Chumleigh, Lapford, Coppleshon, Crediton, Colebrooke, Spreyton, Bow and finally Zeal. Donations can be made to me at the Waie Inn, or on-line on my justgiving page. Thank you for your support.

Darren Chandler



Blackberries overlooking Zeal, by Ali Birch White

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