

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 66, November 2024

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*Rob Peck's grandson, Harry Bishop, with his catch at Zeal Fishing Club.*

## EDITORIAL

Margaret Harris tells us it has been a wet September and, too, it has been a colder one than of late. The north winds of early October have sent our summer visitors, Swallows and House Martins, home to Africa and winter is coming. We haven't had any long spells of snow to photograph for many years now and hopefully temperatures will stay mild.

This edition sees a welcome input from farmers, and some new additions to the livestock in the parish, Mule Gimmers from the Lake District. Graham Friend tells us about them on page 7. More stories gives more variety and more content for you. Putting everything together is done as contributions are received; the earlier you can send, the better! As always, any feedback is welcome, please e-mail the address at the foot of each page spread. The deadline for the next issue is Thursday November 7th. Miss the deadline and your contribution will not be printed .

Mike

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# NOTICES AND EVENTS

## ST PETERS'S

**Christmas Fayre** 7<sup>th</sup> 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. Light refreshments will be available—a time to have a cup of tea and a chat! If you are able to provide items for the various stalls it would be very much appreciated. Contact no 07788 188862, or any one of the PCC members.

As custodians of our lovely historic church and its surroundings we are responsible for keeping the building in good repair and maintain the worship both for now and the future. Please come and support this important fund-raising effort, your support will be greatly appreciated. Margaret Harris has again kindly offered to make her delicious Christmas cakes for sale: 6x3 inch cake £6, 6x6 cake £12.00. Orders please by 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Rainfall:** Courtesy of Margaret Harris, the September amateur rainfall reading was 138mm, five and a half inches!

## NOVEMBER

- 18 — Village Hall AGM, including the election of the next year's committee. All resident adults can vote. See page 22 for details.
- 25— 6.45 for 7.30pm Bow & District Historical Society AGM followed by Social, Supper and Speaker - Paul Cleave on Traditions of Tea, Stories of Devonshire Cream Teas & Hospitality. Bow Village Hall. Everyone welcome. £12 book by 18 November: ring 01363 82468.

## DECEMBER

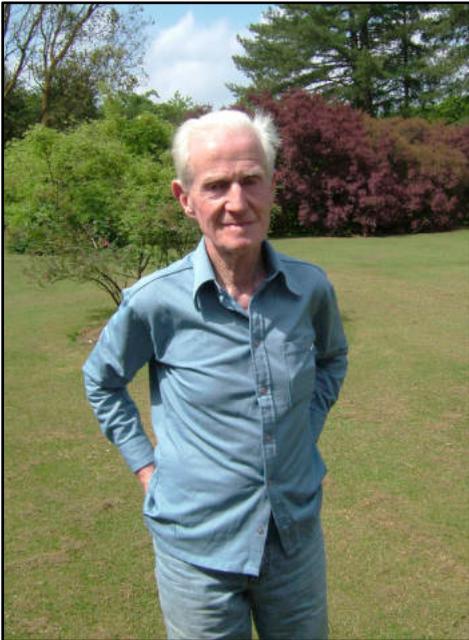
- 6 — Christmas party at the Waie, with *music!*
- 8 — Zeal WI afternoon tea at the Village Hall, 3—5pm. Entrance by ticket.
- 9 — Village Walk, starting 2pm at the bus stop.

## ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

Unadulterated chaos is probably the best way to describe our October meeting! Two visitors, 20 plus members playing skittles with 3 or 4 onlookers made for a busy and noisy evening. A little bit of essential business, a little skittling with a half time break for supper then finishing the skittling. November will see us making preparation for our tinsel tea on 1st December. Please look out for posters for full information

Jan Brealy

@gmail.com



*Terry Jones at Longstock*



*The garden at Hoggets*

## A PLANTSMAN IN ZEAL

**Terry Jones** came to Zeal in the summer of 1971. Born in Knutsford, Cheshire, he had been to school at Sedbergh, in Cumbria. There, running across the nearby Howgill Fells, he developed a lifelong interest in plants and birds. He began work before the war as Curator of Wildfowl at Longstock, where John Lewis [the founder of Waitrose] had a major collection. After war service—he hated the sea, but volunteered for the navy because he reckoned on seeing more wildlife—he returned to Longstock and helped lay out the Water Gardens, planting up some of it.

At 60 he was retiring, leaving an all-found residency at The Abbas for Hoggets, the double plot he purchased here in Zeal. With no pond planned, he decided instead to make a new breed of Bantam, Belgian Blues, which he always kept in houses beside his garage. A founder member of The Belgian Blue Society, these he exhibited at shows throughout the South West. Little and bye, he became well known as the village executioner, willingly wringing necks for those who were too squeamish to despatch their elderly hens.

His main hobby, however, was gardening. Just as he bred his own strain of bantams, so he pollinated his own hybrid plants. Those distinct enough from their parents, yet spectacular enough to warrant keeping, he named with the prefix 'Zeal'. The pale yellow Rhododendron pictured here is one such: Zeal Doubloon, it has a hose-in-hose flower, but the colouration from the single flower of its dominant parent.

His plot consists of mostly heavy clay. Some of the plants he wanted to grow required a free draining sandy soil; he made a terrace for them, spending time collecting buckets of local river grit, which was used to lighten and help drain an otherwise soggy patch of ground. The result was a place for Tulipa Sprengeri, the red tulip pictured below.

More next time.  
Mike Russell

*Opposite, top:*  
*Zeal Doubloon*

*This page:*  
*Tulipa Sprengeri*



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# AUTUMN AT BLUEBERRY HILL MARKET GARDEN

It's certainly been a year of change at Blueberry Hill!

2024 began with an expectation that the garden would be handed over to other people to run. Despite meetings and advertising locally and further afield, there just wasn't enough interest in the scheme. This meant that a solution had to be found that would enable the business to continue whilst functioning more efficiently in terms of time and costs. So, unfortunately, after 17 years, the deliveries had to stop.

The upside is that the produce is now available on site for anyone who would like it. There is a lovely display of vegetables and seasonal fruits in the 'shelter' there. To ensure a good variety, there are items grown by Michael Thorne in North Tawton and Anthony Thorne in Stockleigh Pomeroy as well as produce from Blueberry Hill.

For anyone who does not know the garden, we are situated about half way along the road to Bow, on the right. There is a conspicuous sign! I am there most mornings, but so that people can use the self-service system at other times, I am giving out the gate code to those who would like it. If this is of interest to you, please just come to see me once during a morning so I can show you how it all works.

As for the garden itself, it's still productive. Runner beans are coming to an end, but there are cabbages, turnips, kale, carrots, tomatoes, grapes, apples and squashes. Soon to crop will be celery, leeks and chard, and we've sown winter crops too, such as spinach, pak choi and salads.

We look forward to meeting you soon!  
Kind regards  
Jacqueline

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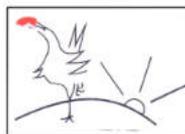
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# FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with our bid from the Denbrook Fund for monies to replace our aging clubhouse, but have been requested to apply again next year. We have also made a request to Mid Devon Community fund for monies to purchase a generator for the lake, which will enable us to have electricity on site. More interestingly we have had the young members again catching lots of good sized fish. We would also like to congratulate young Danny Magarotto, who (see picture below) landed himself a 19lbs common carp when his dad took him on a trip to Darracott fishing lakes. Well done Danny what an amazing fish.

The calendars are selling very quickly (£8 same price as last year) so please let us have your orders asap by ringing us on 07749329832. We are hoping to carry out some more work very soon and still have a winter competition for our juniors.

Tight lines  
Ken and Jane



## NOTES FROM WOOTEN TOP

By the time you are reading this I'm sure the daylight hours will be shortening and a real sense of autumn will be upon us. On the farm most of the tilling and harvest will be completed in the faith that another harvest will be gathered next year? Genesis Ch8 V22 says seedtime and harvest will not cease! It doesn't promise a bumper harvest or an easy one, but a harvest will be received.

Our new breeding stock of North Country Mule Gimmers have arrived from Penrith Auctions, just north of Lake Windermere and seemed to have settled in well enjoying the quality of Zeal Monachorum grass hopefully for the next few years [see below].

Where does our food actually come from, was a question a school teacher from a northern city school posed. He had never actually seen a cow in the flesh. On entering our dairy I let him try a cup of full fat fresh milk, ice cold from the bulk tank. He could not believe how rich and creamy it was and said it was delicious. When he entered the parlour to see the cows milking it soon dawned on him where the milk had just come from, saying did that milk I had, just come from *them*. When I confirmed this he went a funny colour swallowing hard.....I didn't want to further spoil his breakfast by telling him where his egg came from!

Sadly having travelled back from London to Bristol on the M4, the lack of animals and crops was highly evident, being replaced by thistles, docks and stroil like it had been abandoned. This may mean our food will have to come from much further afield in the future and it was a pleasure to be back in the West Country, seeing green fields and roaming animals, crops and vegetables once again. We truly live in a privileged part of the world and we all should be so grateful.

Here's to a good winter, all the best, Graham and Ruth Friend.



## QUIZ FOR NOVEMBER

- 1 What are the two zodiac signs for the month of November?
- 2 What is the birthstone for November?
- 3 What is the birth flower for November.
- 4 Bonfire Night is celebrated on the 5th of November, but in which year was the Gunpowder Plot?
- 5 What happens in the US on “the Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November”?
- 6 The national Remembrance Sunday ceremony is held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall in London. Who designed the Cenotaph?
- 7 What day is celebrated on 1 November by the Roman Catholic Church?
- 8 In which city was John F. Kennedy assassinated on November 22, 1963?
- 9 On which day in November is Saint Andrew's Day?
- 10 N in the NATO phonetic alphabet is November, how many other letters are represented by months of the year in this alphabet?
- 11 Which famous actor born in November is known for his roles in ‘Titanic’, ‘The Wolf of Wall Street’ and ‘The Revenant’?
- 12 What name is given to the month-long moustache-growing event in November each year to fundraise for charity?
- 13 What officially opened for the first time on November 17, 1869?
- 14 What was the name given to the famous speech made by Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863?
- 15 Who was declared head of the Church of England in November 1534?

Answers on Page 16

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# St PETER'S CHURCH

November is a month of remembering. On the 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate All Saints Day, 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 Colebrooke Church at 10.45am. We will be having our Common Worship Eucharist on the 10<sup>th</sup> as usual and during the service we will have an act of remembrance for the fallen of Zeal Monachorum.

## The Rotas For November.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** at 10.00 am 4<sup>th</sup> before Advent Family Service (lay led)

Old Testament reading	Deuteronomy 6: 1-9	Miss Lynn Warren
Gospel reading	Mark 12: 28-34	Mrs Jane Hogg
Sidesman		Mr Colin Crothers
Altar flowers	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Susan Down
Church cleaner		Mrs Becky Harvey

**10<sup>th</sup> November** at 6.30 pm Remembrance Sunday

Old Testament reading	Jonah 3: 1-5, v 10	CWE	Mrs Tina Young
New Testament reading	Hebrews 9: 24-28		Mr Robert Peck
Gospel reading	Mark 1: 14-20		Celebrant
Sidesman			Mr Tony Brealy
Altar flowers	17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>		Miss Margaret Harris

**24<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm** Christ the King (lay led)

Old Testament reading	Daniel 7: 9-10,13-14	Mrs Becky Harvey
New Testament reading	John 18: 34-37	Mr Colin Crothers
Sidesman		Mr Colin Crothers

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

**Harvest Festival.** The offertory at the service was £77.00 which has been donated to the Addington Fund. Thank you to all who came and shared in this happy occasion as we gave thanks for the bounty of field and garden.

Best wishes  
Margaret (Churchwarden).

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# ON THORNE FARM

August is the busiest time of the year for us. We have had over 100 calves in the last 3 weeks & we having been bringing cows back from their 2 month holiday at Thorne Farm ready to give birth. Between milking & feeding calves we are checking the stock out in fields & preparing sheds ready for winter accommodation

Harvest has been challenging due to the changeable weather. The last of our crops to take in is around 100 acres of maize, left to harvest in September/October. Just now hedges are being trimmed to encourage them to thicken & provide a habitat for a variety of wildlife.

If you have any questions or topics you would like us to talk about, please let the editor know, the e-mail is on the bottom of the page.

Will & Jo Jones



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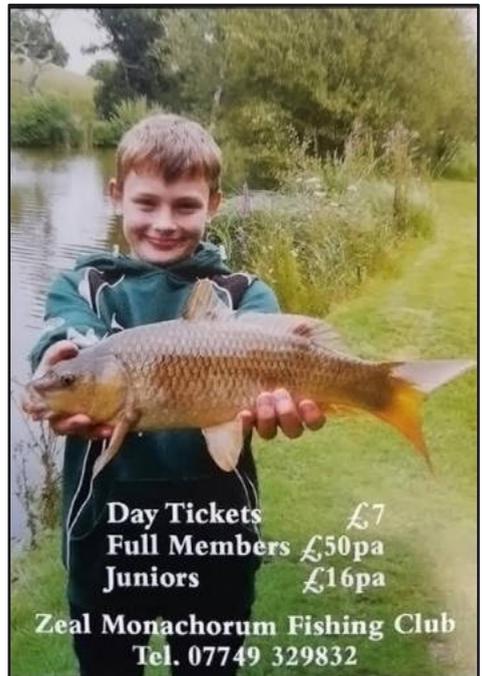
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# NOVEMBER GARDENING



**As November arrives, it's an important time for preparing your garden for Winter and planning for the Spring ahead. 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 (Bow 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 [a proprietary mulch with slug repellent].
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 this time of year.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of Devon-grown plants in a new all-weather plant area. Also, 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 too. Bow also has lots of Christmas inspiration including gifts for him, her, children and pets, plus an expanded range of Christmas Lights, Decorations, and Christmas Trees!

[www.bowgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.bowgardencentre.co.uk), 01363 82438.

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# **ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL**

Our latest meeting was held on 26th September. There were no apologies, all councillors were present along with representatives from the district and county council.

During the open forum questions were raised about wheelie bins being left out on the road/pavement all week. The Mid Devon councillor present confirmed that householders were obliged to remove the bins after collection.

Councillors were kept up to date with a meeting held in July with the Highways Officer, who now has charge of a staggering 36 parishes . Many potholes. He had explained that on the DCC website there was a link showing a map of all road problems reported to them, along with information on when repairs are likely to be undertaken, but the dates could be fluid !

During a discussion with our Mid Devon councillor the subject of heating allowance was raised. Those on pension credit will still receive the heating allowance. The council think there are many who are eligible for pension credit and are not claiming. If in doubt there is a phone number on the MDDC website that will help with the process of seeing if you are eligible, which needless to say is not straightforward.

The Clerk reported that the new Parish Council website was up and running. The councillors were pleased with the layout. In theory anyone who wishes to view P.C. minutes/agenda can see them on the website. The e address is:—

<https://zealmonachorumparishcouncil.org.uk>

There was a report on the latest Denbrook meeting. Zeal Monachorum fishing club had put in a bid for a new hut. This was postponed to the next meeting as more information was required. Our allocation stands at £6,400.

Three planning applications were discussed and successfully resolved. The meeting closed at 8.15.pm. The next meeting will be held on 28th November at 7.00. pm.

Rob Peck .  
Chair.

# UPPER YEO AND TAW MDDC councillor's report September 2024

**Mid Devon Leisure swimming pools** are converting chlorine based indoor pools at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre and Exe Valley Leisure Centre to electro-chlorination using salt. Using salt is cleaner, safer and offers a more soothing swim to enjoy. Salt chlorinated pools outperformed chlorine based pools in every aspect related to health, cleanliness, and body benefits. We are getting special pieces of equipment called a salt chlorine generator. Our leisure centres are now being run on 100% renewable electricity, boosted by the solar panels on site.

MDDC has started creating the Community Risk Register. This has a timeline and will be shared further with Towns/Parishes. The final version is due to be ready in April-May 2025. The provisions will be reviewed annually.

**Winter Fuel Payment** Government have changed the rules with regards to Winter Fuel payments—from now only people getting Pension Credit are eligible for the payment. Now the key factor is to apply for the Pension Credit if you have not done it earlier. It is believed that only 57% of those eligible have applied. Check your eligibility, you may be surprised! Pension Credit, as well as the Winter Fuel allowance, is not paid by MDDC but by DWP. However, MDDC is happy to assist filling forms for those not familiar with online applications. If you need a supported application over the phone or face to face. Call MDDC on 01884 255255. You can contact Chat, Navigate or CA as well. Please be sure you get everything you are eligible for!

**Landline goes digital** BT started consultations in our area about replacing landline with digital connection. The consequence of that may be a complete isolation in case of the main power cut, if you do not have good mobile connection. This can be quite serious issue for our remote rural areas. It is particularly dangerous for vulnerable people whose health depends on the ability to be in touch with emergency services. Some people have special vital treatment 24/7 and will need 100% guaranteed power supply. In some cases a portable electricity generator may be a solution. Even if you have less critical special needs, like you are visually impaired and need big buttons on your telephone, you need to discuss it with your line provider as your old equipment may not be digital. So, if you have special needs, please contact BT or other providers before the changes come to your house. Alternatively, contact local Authorities, MDDC or your Parish Council, and ask for help. No one should be left unattended!

Cllr Natalia Letch

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## Answers to the quiz on page 8:

- 1 Scorpio (October 24 – November 22) and Sagittarius (November 23 – December 21)
- 2 Topaz
- 3 Chrysanthemum
- 4 1605
- 5 It's Election Day
- 6 Edwin Lutyens
- 7 All Saints' Day
- 8 Dallas, Texas
- 9 30th of November
- 10 None (just November)
- 11 Leonardo di Caprio
- 12 Movember
- 13 The Suez Canal
- 14 The Gettysburg Address
- 15 Henry VIII

Quiz courtesy of Jan Summers

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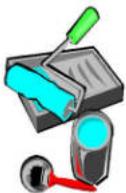
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# VILLAGE HALL

## November Dates

- 9 — Village Hall Market 10-11.30am Collect your free flower “plug plant” to grow on in a pot and enter in the 2025 Spring Flower Show.
- 13— BINGO doors 7pm eyes down 7.30. £5.00
- 18— Village Hall AGM & Slide Show 7.15 for 7.30pm

Every Wednesday Village Hall Coffee Morning 10.30-12 All welcome

## Village Hall AGM & Slide Show

Zeal Monachorum Village Hall was bought by the Community in 1956 and became a charity and a Trust. At the AGM on 18 November 7 for 7.30pm those who live in the Parish can nominate and elect the Trustees who sit on the Management Committee who are all volunteers. The Committee usually meets in the evening 6 times a year for about 1.5 hours. Unlike some committees, the work done mostly involves practical action which is appreciated by the community and consequently can feel very rewarding.

Some Trustees are retiring after long service and new people are needed to replace them. If you would like to know more about what the role entails do contact me for a chat - with no commitment. People can be nominated and indeed can self nominate on the evening but if it's done in advance the ballot paper will need less amendment. Regardless everyone is welcome to come and hear what's happened this year and about future plans. There'll also be the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. After the business part of the evening a complimentary glass of wine & cheese will be served followed by a slide show of archive photos over 50 years of village life up to the present day.

## Festival of Short Films

Putting on a Festival of Short Films was an ambitious project and it was difficult to know in advance whether anybody would turn up; in the event over 40 people attended and packed out the hall. The films were curated by Julian Kemp, himself a film-maker, and varied in theme and length from a few seconds to 15 minutes. The audience was asked to vote for their favourites and the winners were Things We Do for Love directed by Alyn Sparkes and Two Feet Tall directed by Andy Robinson. The applause at the end was enthusiastic and it was generally agreed that a 2nd Festival next year would be welcomed. The event raised over £260 for the Village Hall. Thank should be given to all members of the Film Group who worked so hard to make it happen: Gavin Rowden, David Bowyer, Julian Kemp, Daz Hardesty & Vanessa Bond.

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Erica Eden

Village Hall Chair 01363 82606 [reden@rocketmail.com](mailto:reden@rocketmail.com)

## CREDITON FOODBANK

This last month has been one of much giving from Churches to the Foodbank. It has been a bumper Harvest. The Foodbank has benefitted greatly to the extent that I have been able to pass on deliveries to Lapford Foodbank which has helped them enormously. It is a season of giving and sharing, we thank God for His providing.

I am in the process of arranging the 16th Annual Christmas house to house collection, and I thank Jan Brealy for once again so kindly stepping up to help to make sure this happens. Also Nicola who has offered to help where she is able. The collection date is still to be confirmed. Hopefully it will be as usual in the first week of December.

I know we are living in difficult times but if you are able to donate however small it will be greatly appreciated. If you are not able to donate or are already donating elsewhere please will you put the Newsletter in a place where it can easily be seen. In a window or porch so that we do not need to disturb you. I know many of you have preferred to donate money and of course that is perfectly fine. For those of you who are new to the village we will be licensed and will be wearing badges. I will need to fill in financial forms to send to Mid Devon Licensing Department setting out what has been collected whether it be foodstuffs or money and I need to have it signed off by a legitimate Accountant.

Many Blessings to you all at this Christmas time and Thank you to all who have donated food and money so generously during the year.

Lois Hamilton

[@gmail.com](mailto:lois.hamilton@gmail.com)



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