

FREE

Issue 20 January 2021

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Snowy scene by David Bowyer

EDITORIAL

We have a bumper issue for the first newsletter of 2021 (yes I know most of you will see this before the end of December, but it's still the January issue!).

Thanks as always to all our contributors, some of whom have not previously sent in pieces for publication. This month, as well as all our regular articles, we have news of the proposed development at the Butts Park chicken sheds (pages 20/21), more pictures and stories from intrepid photographer Mike Russell (pages 13/14), farming related snippets (page 11) and the first in a fascinating history of one man's involvement with the NAAFI - the Navy, Army and Air Force Institute (pages 8/9). We also welcome back a gardening page on page 7, which will be a regular feature produced by Bow Garden Centre. As always, we try to include something of interest to all our readers so do please keep your stories and pictures coming in.

The picture on the front cover is a prime example; just over a year ago I asked for pictures of winter scenes and I had lots of very good photos as a result. This month's cover features one of those and more will feature in subsequent months. I have some good shots from Erica of the last time we had snow here - March 2018. No room this month, but I hope to fit them into the February issue. I don't know what the forecast is for January but there are scientists who say that this type of winter weather might be coming to an end because of global warming. So if we do get snow this winter - make the most of it. But do stay safe and well.

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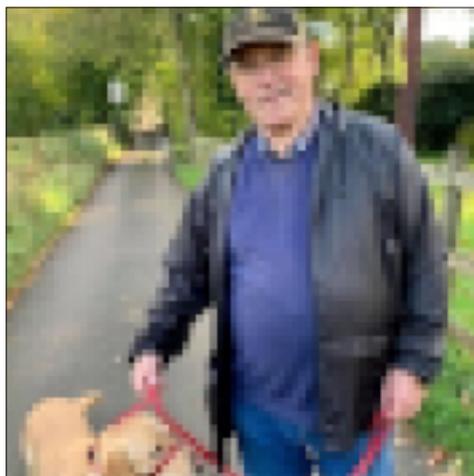
Upper Depot, Devonshire Gardens, North Tawton EX20 2ES

Find us  

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREVOR ROUNSLEY

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Trevor Rounsley, on Friday December 11. There can be few people in our village who didn't know Trevor – he was always out and about walking dogs around our lanes, and he always had a cheery smile, a wave or a story for everyone. He will be sadly missed.



MOBILE LIBRARY

The first Mobile Library visit of 2021 will be on Friday January 22 at the usual time 13.15-13.40. Other dates are:- 19 February, 19 March, 16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 9 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 and 29 October, 26 November. For information on borrowing protocols during the pandemic go to www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries

Erica, phone:- 01363 82606

VILLAGE HALL

It was really disappointing to have to cancel the market scheduled for December. At this stage we still have no idea when we will be able to resume but as soon as restrictions are eased we will be up and running again - watch this space and the bulletin board!

RAINFALL

Rainfall for November was 82mm.

RUBBISH COLLECTION

Collection dates for the Christmas period and early January are as follows:

Mon 21 Dec	Blue food waste caddy and brown garden waste bin (for subscribers only)
Weds 30 Dec	Recycling, black bags, food waste (2 days later than usual)
Weds 6 Jan	Blue food waste caddy and brown garden waste bin (2 days later)
Tues 12 Jan	Recycling, black bags, food waste (1 day later)
Mon 18 Jan	Back to normal - Blue food waste and brown garden waste bin

www.middevon.gov.uk/do-it-online/waste-and-recycling/collection-day-lookup.

@gmail.com



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

A happy new year to you all from St Peter's Church.

As I write this in early December Christmas is still some way off. But we are looking forward, firstly to the new year and secondly to the Covid 19 vaccine roll out beginning across the country giving us hope of a more normal 2021. We very much hope that a regular pattern of worship and fellowship will be able to be held. In January we have two services arranged and below is the rota of duties.

January 10, 6.30pm	Baptism of Christ	C W E
Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1-5	Mr Tony Brealy
New Testament	Acts 19: 1-7	Mr Gavin Rowden
Gospel	Mark 1: 4-11	Rev D. Rowbottom
Sidesman		Mr Colin Crothers
Altar Flowers		Mrs Margaret Down
Cleaner		Mrs Sally Rowden
January 24, 6.30pm	Epiphany 3	BCP Evensong
Old Testament	Genesis 14: 17-20	Mrs Sally Rowden
New Testament	John 2: 1-11	Mr Colin Crothers
Sidesman		Mr Tony Brealy
Altar Flowers		Mrs Sally Rowden

Thank you to everyone who has offered their help for the coming year.

As we come to the beginning of a new year I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who participated in any way to the life of the church in what was a very unusual year, altar flower arranging, church cleaning, churchyard mowing and tidying, together with all who supported the church financially through the Parish Giving Scheme, by annual donations or weekly envelopes.

Cross Country

The Cross Country magazine serves both the North Creedy East and North Creedy West mission communities. The year begins in February and it contains news from each of the eighteen parishes. If you would like to continue to receive or would like a magazine by either hard copy or via email please let me know by 15 January, then I will order the number required. The annual cost is £6, please make payment by February so that it can be forwarded to the mission community treasurer.

A meeting of the Parochial Church Council is being held on Wednesday, 13 January at 7.30pm in church.

Margaret

Pictured right: Dr. Mike & Mrs. Susie Bostock receiving their retirement gift of an olive tree presented by St. Peter's Parochial Church Council, in recognition of their many years' work as Church Warden and Treasurer respectively.



CHRISTMAS 2020 FOODBANK COLLECTION 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Zeal Monachorum, you have given over 40 bags of goods - everything that will be needed to make Christmas special for so many, plus cash donations of £375. We have been a part of something big this year. Generosity has known no bounds and the Foodbank has been overwhelmed with donations. It is said all of us are only two pay cheques away from poverty and there are so many who have sadly found that out this year.

Thank you, two words we use for so many reasons: when someone passes the salt at the dinner table, when someone pays a compliment, when you are given a present you have always wanted. We say it because that is the right and proper thing to do and it can seem enough. When so many people give because they want to make other people's lives better, people who are not in a position to be able to help themselves, then thank you does not seem enough. I can't think of anything else except perhaps **THANK YOU** with bells on and hundreds of people will be clapping, with smiling faces and laughter on Christmas Day because of the part you have played. From Christians working together, God Bless you all.

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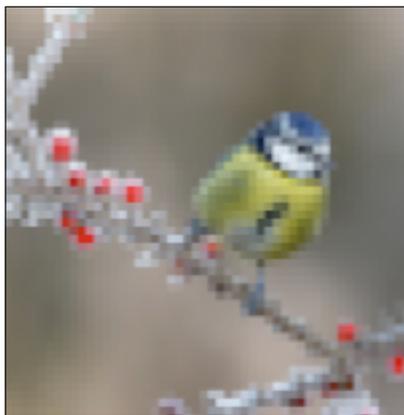
Prepare your garden for growing with January jobs from Bow Garden Centre

Being the middle of Winter, many assume that you can press pause on garden jobs until the days begin to lengthen, however there are plenty of jobs that need to be done in the garden to give you a great head start for the coming year. Take a look at these tips on what needs doing, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre:

1. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already. Turning the soil will expose pests to hungry birds, helping you keep your pest population under control. The frost will help to break down the clods of earth, making your job easier when it comes to planting in the Spring.
2. Prune Apple and Pear trees while they are dormant, between leaf fall and bud burst. Now is a great time.
3. Protect any tender plants with fleece or take them into the greenhouse. The porosity of fleece makes it much less prone to over-heating and wet conditions than polythene covers.
4. Use this time to carry out any repair work in your garden. Fix fences, garden gates and furniture now, ready for the Spring. Why not build some raised beds, perfect for planting throughout Spring and Summer. You'll be so busy planting you'll be pleased these jobs were done now.
5. Plan, plan, plan! Whilst you've got some time spare, take a minute to plan your garden for Spring time planting. Bow Garden Centre has a large array of seeds in store to choose from, so you can start planning what you are going to plant now.
6. Get your propagation needs now - such as seed compost, plant pots and trays. Be prepared so that you are ready to get ahead for the season.
7. Continue to provide food and water for birds. It's particularly hard for them this time of year with the cold weather conditions and reduction in the number of food sources accessible to them.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials, including an expanded range of plants, plus tools, propagation equipment, pots, greenhouses, plants, seeds and so much more. The Waterside Café is open 7 days a week, and serves breakfast, delicious daily specials, scones, sweet treats and quality coffee.

Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre is just 10 minutes from Zeal Monachorum. EX17 6LA.
www.bowgardencentre.co.uk, 01363 82438.



Zeal Monachorum resident featured in a new book commemorating 100 years of NAAFI.

Stephen Watkins, 49, from Zeal Monachorum is set to be featured in a new book commemorating 100 years of the Navy, Army, Air Force Institute: 'NAAFI, by Land & Sea'. Following a 9 year career at sea on board HMS Fearless and HMS Cardiff, as well as a short spell on board HMY Britannia, Stephen was asked to commit some of his extensive memories to print as part of the 100 year celebrations of NAAFI.

Stephen had served as a NAAFI Manager during the first Gulf War, and was on board HMS Fearless when it made a historic visit to Sevastopol when Ukraine was still a part of the Soviet Union. He was also a member of the fleet overseeing the peaceful handover of Hong Kong to China. He served in the Adriatic too, taking part in various humanitarian efforts in Africa and the Caribbean. During his career, Stephen visited over 300 different ports all over the world, including those in the Mediterranean and Arctic Circle. More recently, as a veteran, Stephen felt honoured to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph, London.

It was at the Cenotaph, 2017, that the idea for the book was first mooted by the person who compiled it, Sue Lowe. She had already produced replica cap badges and brooches which were well received by veterans and it became clear that many veterans loved the rich and diverse history of the service. Several of the cap badges were bought by the production team of the BBC drama 'World on Fire' to be worn by the cast during filming. The book was officially sanctioned and Sue began contacting people who wished to contribute as well as making several trips to NAAFI archives in London.

As this was the first book Sue had ever compiled, the process was a very steep learning curve for her, presenting many challenges. However, after almost 2 years of painstaking research, the book is now ready and is on sale from 9th December 2020 via eBay. All profits from the sale of the book will go to the NEA.

About NAAFI.

The Navy Army & Air Force Institutes' Big Birthday is in December 2020. NAAFI is a much-loved organization with its history firmly embedded in the British armed forces. Its origins can be traced as far back as the 1800s with various ways of supplying troops. Major Harry James Crauford of the Grenadier guards wasn't happy with the supply chain, so he consulted his colleagues, Captain Lionel Fortescue and Surgeon Captain Herbert Murray Ramsey, a medical officer of the Scots Guards. They formed the Canteen and Mess Cooperative. On the 26th of March 1915, Brigadier General SS Long of the War Office, released a statement outlining the constitution of the already established Expeditionary Force Canteens (EFC, est Feb 1915). On the 1st of January 1916 the Canteen and Mess cooperative

society was renamed as the Army Canteen Committee (ACC). EFC was now ASC/EFC (Army Service Corps). Just over a year later The Royal Navy joined the ACC and in June 1917 it became the Navy and Army Canteen Board (NACB).

Following the Armistice in 1918 the government decided to tackle the future of service canteens, on the 30th March 1920 two government committees were set up to study the issue. NAAFI was officially established on the 9th of December 1920. On the 1st of January 1921 the new organisation started trading and all of the lessons learned from previous attempts now resided in NAAFI's hands. In the years to come they would set up warehouses, grocery shops, sports shops, bakeries, clothes shops, bars/clubs and even produce Christmas catalogues with toys for children, not forgetting the legendary NAAFI Tea.

Within this new organisation the military side became the Expeditionary Force Institutes (EFI) and the women's unit became ATS/EFI; the Naval Canteen Service (NCS) continued to run canteens aboard ship. All staff were in full uniform with NAAFI caps and shoulder badges, and various types of overall were worn with the NAAFI crest embroidered. NAAFI now had 3 stable arms to serve the British military forces at home, abroad and on ship - a fully functional scalable organization as flexible as our British military forces during war and peace.

Throughout the years, NAAFI has been the service that has kept the armed forces and their families supported, providing all the facilities needed to give them a bit of home wherever they served. Services included small boats which supplied ships and replenished stocks, tented shops on exercises and operations, and even bespoke built clubs to fit units stationed in key military locations around the world, not forgetting the NAAFI Wagons, which are still a vital part of the service today.

After WWII, support for the men and women who served with NAAFI was limited and the Old Comrades Association (OCA) was set up for the EFI soldiers returning from the front; later the NCS would join them. This was primarily to foster comradeship, with the added objective of assisting where needed. Even when, years later, POWs, returned the OCA was there to support them. The NCS EFI Association (NEA), has its 75th Anniversary in 2021. Every year the NEA takes part in Remembrance parades, and members attend the AGM at the Union Jack club in London.

Updates on the sale of the book, can be found on these social media channels:

www.facebook.com/NAAFIByLandSea , <https://twitter.com/S L 77>
[https://www.instagram.com/naafi by land and sea](https://www.instagram.com/naafi_by_land_and_sea)

NOTE: Next month we start the story of Stephen's life in the NAAFI.

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With the current social distancing regulations we have 5 tables available inside the premises and 3 outside, weather permitting.

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We look forward to seeing you soon!



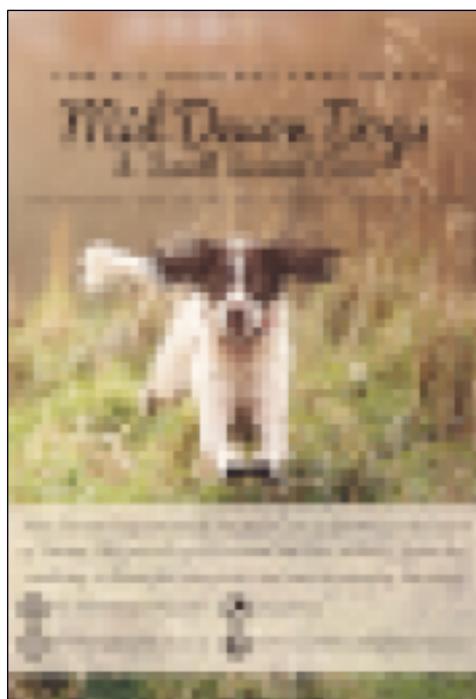
Look out for further information regarding extended opening hours.

Further details and bookings contact Ashley or Harriet:-

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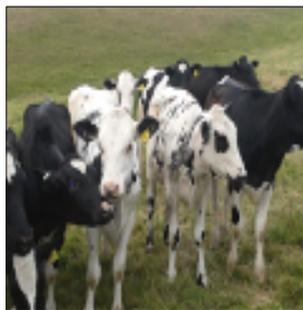
Top Dog: A new world record price of £20,000 for a working sheep dog was set at Skipton (Yorkshire) online sale in October, a tricoloured bitch, Henna made top price with the four year old going to a Powys farmer.

T.B. Incidents in England are at their lowest since 2007. Nearly 31,000 cattle were slaughtered in England last year because of T.B. But a sequence of recent studies has brought hope to farming families, another vaccine on the way!

2020 Harvest survey results: wheat yields down 18% on 2019; winter barley down 18%; Spring barley down 6%. Arable farming forms the foundation of the British food system, delivering some of the nation's staple food. Food prices are sure to increase in the coming months.



Harvest 2020



August 2020

Britain's self sufficiency is only 64% of what is needed to feed our population, it has been around 64% for the last 20 years.

Five Million Children grew their own potatoes last year taking part in the “Grow your own potato project”. The project started in 2005 with over 10,000 British primary schools joining in helping pupils learn where their food comes from by getting their hands dirty!

UK farmers remain among the lowest users of antibiotics in Europe.

Rugby Fans might be interested to know that world renowned international referee Nigel Owen is the newly appointed President of the National Federation of Young Farmers clubs.

Our exit from the E.U. and the Common Agricultural policy - with this comes the opportunity to radically overhaul the agricultural subsidy system.

A new scheme, “environment land management” (ELM), will be introduced over the next seven years to reward farmers for delivering public goods for public money, few details as yet on how this will be achieved!

Sorry farmer readers you know all this I expect!

Happy New Year

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ROUND THE BEND—IN PICTURES

I have walked around the block for many years. It is a circuit of about two miles. The weather, light and colours are never just the same: there might be something interesting to snap, so a camera comes along, whichever one has a charged battery, mostly small compacts for portability. Today's auto-everythings have the same philosophy as those original Kodaks, you take the picture, they do the rest. It is not always so, a compact camera is like a small puppy: to get the best, you do have to remind it who's the boss!



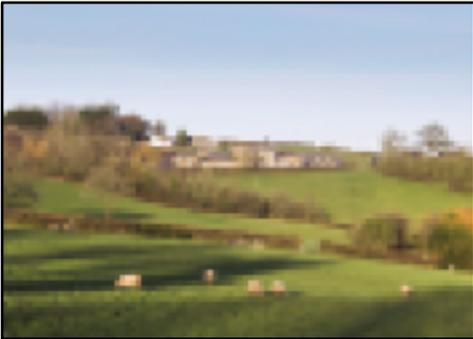
Thistles, contra-jour, September 2020

changes with the season and makes the same place different. We are so lucky to live somewhere such as here. Well, at least that's my excuse to bore everyone with endless images, all photoshopped to bits.

The only feature insisted on is some manual control because, as YouTube photographers say, it is not the camera but the scene that is important. Recently, a fellow villager looked at my wobbling behind with me bending low enough to get the camera's positioning right. "It's directly into the sun", he said and was told "I know". Having spent forever doing what photographers call *contra jour*, just because it's different, when you get it right, it works. The result has a drama all its own. It is about the light, how it



Left: St Peter's, November 2006; right, Town Hill, November 2019



Top left: Chestnut on The Green. Right is Tuckingmill; taken when building work in 2014 at West Waie showed it from the gates.

Middle: long arms are needed for views toward Hayne Bridge and the reverse, 2020, spring and high summer.

Bottom: The Waie, from a gateway now opposite to Hayne's entrance, January 2014. The month after, February, sheep were stranded by a flooded Yeo near Hayne Bridge. All led to safety soon after this was taken. Next time, more pictures—Mike Russell

A Quiz for the New Year

All the questions this month are connected to colours

1. What does the saying 'Richard of York gave battle in vain' help you remember?
2. What colour is a baby zebra?
3. Which colour was the first blazer, worn at St John's College, Cambridge?
4. How many aeroplanes normally fly in a Red Arrows formation?
5. In which country is Mateus Rosé wine produced?
6. What colours are the 4 stars on the New Zealand flag?
7. Which colour is the Tour de France cycle jersey for the best sprinter?
8. What colour is a Clanger from the TV series?
9. What colour does litmus become when dipped in acid solution?
10. Which river was a hit song for Jeff Christie in 1970?
11. Of whom did Baroness Orczy write a play in 1903 which then became a novel?
12. Who sang about a Lady in Red in 1986?
13. Who was Jacques Clouseau's animated friend?
14. What was the name of the snooker tv programme in the seventies?
15. What are the three true primary colours?

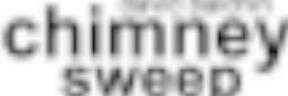
Minute Quiz

Find a three letter word and insert it between the letters given to make another word

OC ___ ON TH ___ ING CA ___ ET
M ___ Y R ___ INE

Answers to the Christmas Anagrams

1. Partridge
2. Bethlehem
3. Brussel Sprouts
4. Christmas Tree
5. Jingle Bells
6. Santa Claus
7. Christmas Eve
8. Presents
9. Mistletoe
10. Brandy Sauce




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ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BRAINTEASER

I first met Mike **Creedy** at a school reunion back in 2010; I was not in his year group so didn't know him. When I entered the room, he **flew** over to me and introduced himself, saying 'Ta **Ma** really good of you to come'. I was always known as Ma at school, but was completely poleaxed that he knew my nickname.

The 10 years since that first encounter have been good for him. Now having the appearance of a rather **torrid** gentleman, he looks like a prosperous **yeoman** farmer, rather than the school teacher he is. We meet from time to time for a **walk, ham** sandwich and a drink at a country pub. The tavern that he prefers has a somewhat **taw**dry décor but the food is OK and they serve a decent wine. The walls in the main bar are painted a deep red **above** yellow textured panels, and it always make me think of a bawdy house.

At our last meeting I got there first and a few minutes later Mike **darted** in and announced, rather breathlessly, that he had an exciting **tale** to tell. He has been promoted to be Head Teacher at a school in **Totteridge** in London. Not only that but he will have an **executive** role in the running of other schools in the area. All in all, his promotion will **culminate** in a considerable improvement in his fortunes, so I suggested he could afford to buy me lunch, and he readily agreed.

His news rather **side-lined** my own, but eventually I was able to tell him that I am moving to a new area where I'll be able to **ply my** trade with more success than hitherto.

The rivers are, in order of appearance . . .

First paragraph: Creedy, Lew, Tamar, Axe

Second paragraph: Torridge, Yeo, Walkham, Taw, Bovey.

Third paragraph: Dart, Tale, Otter, Exe, Culm.

Last paragraph: Sid, Plym

And just because you're probably groaning, how about this joke . . .

Why did the Pirates have to go into lockdown?

Because the Arrrrr rates had risen!

And a quote to finish . . .

'The only thing I take seriously in the newspapers nowadays is fish and chips. Even that I take with a pinch of salt'.

FISHING CLUB CHAT

Happy New Year to all. Last year was a very trying time for everyone. But it is amazing that we now have "light at the end of the tunnel". We thank all the medical people who have developed the vaccines.

The weather has now deteriorated and is much cooler. We had intended to do a lot more work at the lake to repair some of our swims and run the mower around, but we are going to have to wait for a longer drier period before we can go forth to attempt these tasks. I think the carp have gone much deeper due to the cold weather and obviously the lake will not fish so well.

I am sorry to remind you guys but it will soon be time to renew annual fees. They will be the same as last year, adults £45 and juniors under 15 £16 for the year.

We have sent off £100 to Cancer Research from the calendar sales, thank you to all who purchased one. We would like thank everyone in the village and all our members who have supported us through this year. For next year, we will be relying on the Environment Agency for further Covid instructions, but we hope that 2021 will be a better year.

Tight lines.

Ken and Jane



Ken & Jane Hogg's new venture – HOGWASH – is doing very well. They specialise in refurbishing old tools for house and garden. If you need to replace something in that line, they are the go-to guys.





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NEW BEGINNINGS FOR BUTTS PARK

Butts Park has been rearing poultry for many years but now will have a new role to play in the village. Built in 1974 it has reared several million chicken. Initially they were table birds but in the last 20 years it has produced pullets for the egg industry, taking in day-old chicks and sending them to their laying farms at sixteen weeks.

John and Elizabeth Moore bought the farm at the turn of the century and ran the rearing business in three sheds. They retired in 2012 and subsequently sold the residential house and the southern poultry shed. That building is now home to a hi-tech engineering firm.

Simon and Carolyne Allanson-Bailey moved to the village in 2014 and bought the remaining two poultry houses. They have been rearing pullets since then, and have been proud of the many beautiful birds destined to go on to their new homes. Looking at the business in the last year, it was apparent that the site would have to be expanded to retain its place in the modern poultry industry. This was a route that did not appeal and they decided to apply for permission to replace the chicken house with residential homes.

After careful consideration, they produced a design based on a farmhouse and yard, which they hoped would be sympathetic to the look of the village. This format was approved by the planning department in November and it is expected that demolition and construction of the five homes will take place in the next year. An artist's impression of how the completed site will look is shown on the next page.

Currently Simon and Carolyne are decommissioning the site and have a wide range of items for sale, which might be of interest to many people including farmers, those who have domestic chickens and others. Some items (farmyard drinkers & feeders) are pictured on the right but also available are assorted wood and steel, heaters, feed bins, a 50KVA generator, shelving, waterpipes, solar pv, etc. Anyone interested in any items can contact Simon on 07557 743583 or, if his car is on site, please call in.





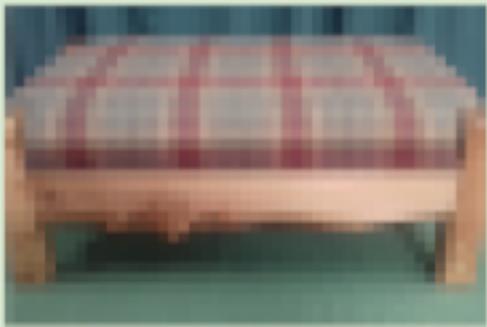
Butts Park - the old and the new





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council had a further Zoom meeting on the 23rd November. I regret I was unable to attend and Chair the meeting. I would like to thank the Vice Chairman, Rob Peck, for doing so. Two planning applications were considered; namely for an extension to Napleton House and for the erection of a timber building for Bow Scouts. In both instances the Council recommended approval.

A member of the public expressed frustration that PC recommendations regarding the erection of a storage building on land near Hayne Bridge were subsequently ignored by MDDC when making their planning decisions. Concern was expressed about an apparent lack of a wild-life survey and access to the public footpath. The council agreed that Devon County should be approached to replace the stile at Hayne with a gate.

The PC was asked if planning applications could be advertised more widely, as some parishioners had expressed concerns that they were not always aware of them. It was suggested that applications could be listed in Monachorum Matters. This is an area that I will look into but I should say the MDDC have to publish all applications in accordance with the law which includes sending details to the PC. (this has been a little unreliable of late) Also a notice must be posted by MDDC outside the land of any application and posted to owners of adjoining property. I find this a useful way of spotting new applications.

I am not convinced that publishing in this magazine will be helpful, as sometimes the application will have been considered by the time it is published. I will look to see whether we can put up details of applications as they arrive on the PC notice board by the Bus Shelter (now beautifully refurbished by David Bowyer). I would like to stress that the PC has no powers at all as far as planning is concerned. We can recommend and that is as far as it goes as MDDC are the sole arbiter.

Denbrook CommunityFund. The council was informed that Zeal Monachorum's balance stood at £14,000 and as mentioned in the past, we need to come up with some capital projects to make use of this money. The deadline for the next round of bids is Jan 31st 2021, and for the following round it is July31st 2021. If anybody has any ideas that this grant can be used for, please let me or any Councillor know.

Finally, the PC also approved a grant of £500 towards the upkeep of the Church graveyard. The Church remains the main landmark in the village and without PC and other villager support, the upkeep of the ground around the Church would not be possible.

All meetings are published on the notice board or 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

THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP

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*Always happy to give advice
on all things made in wood*

I was asked to design, make and install this oak bookcase into an alcove within a stone wall, with adjustable shelves allowing for electrical sockets and a television aerial socket. The vertical plinths at the bottom each side, hide some pipes! This what I made and fitted.



HOMONYMS

These are words with the same spelling but a different meaning . . .

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
6. There's no time like the present to present the present.
7. I did not object to the object.
8. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
9. You were right about taking a right turn at the lights.
10. They were too close to the door to close it.
11. Her favourite fruit is a date whilst out on a date.
12. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer.
13. I had to crane my neck to see the crane in the water.
14. The wind was too strong to wind down the sail.
15. After a number of injections, my jaw gradually got number.
16. Upon seeing a tear in the painting, I shed a tear.
17. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
18. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

CLIMATE EMERGENCY - SAVE THE PLANET

SIX NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS WORTH MAKING & KEEPING

Buy only peat-free compost: you *can* garden successfully with it. Tell the garden centres to stop stocking peat-based compost. A voluntary target set by the government in 2011 to end peat use by amateur gardeners by 2020 was missed; by 2019 peat still made up 44.6% of retailer compost! Eighty per cent of peatlands in the UK are damaged and release millions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year. Peatlands are really important: they trap carbon, reduce emissions, help to tackle climate change, control flooding and provide homes for an array of wildlife.

Use the car less: Set a target and try to reduce from last year's mileage.

Donate to the charity WaterAid: It is our good fortune to have clean water always available, unlike so many people in the world. WaterAid has teams in 28 countries across the world, working with partners to transform millions of lives every year by improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene. This January, go 100% pure and drink nothing but water. Just Water. Start your year with some positivity, by taking part in the ultimate detox whilst also raising money to give others the gift of clean water. Getting sponsored for this challenge means the benefits will extend far beyond just you - you'll help reach the 1 in 10 people around the world who don't have access to clean water. More on the website www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/events/just-water

Buy less/ Reduce your consumption: Spend your money where it will benefit, or do least harm, to the planet and environment. Shop local and reduce your online deliveries.

Replace incandescent and halogen bulbs with LED: Identify the fittings and sizes you need and try to buy one or two each month.

Recycle your real Christmas tree: Shred it yourself and use for mulch, or put it in (or alongside) your brown garden waste bin, or take it to a recycling centre when you're passing.

Erica Eden

Helpful Bee

I'm your helping hand, for cooking, cleaning, shopping, gardening or just company. CRB checked, loyal and trustworthy, references available.

Contact: 07999 714288



Exterior painting, gutter cleaning

Chris 07587968295
[08.06] 881475

Schooling in Zeal Monachorum Part 3 1874-1902

In 1874 John Clemmow came straight from St Lukes Training College to be schoolmaster, and soon after Maria Haskings became infant teacher. In 1875 at their first Inspection 94 children were present of which only 32 in Standards and 8 infants had qualified by number of attendances to be presented. Infants had been withdrawn to a room elsewhere, risking loss of grant if this was discovered. One sympathises with Clemmow who found the schoolroom very close and crowded in hot weather, as the school was only half the size that the village hall is now.

At the 1876 Inspection 59 children were present in Standards. However, Clemmow failed to earn any grant for them because the Inspectors considered that he was “in much need of efficient help”, and they declined to regard Miss Haskings in this light. The Inspectors also “twigged” that the infants were “taught” in a separate building under an un-certificated teacher and gave no grant for the 16 infants. Unsurprisingly Clemmow stayed only long enough to get his Parchment [teaching certificate].

It had been noted for years that the size of the school was inadequate and, finally, in 1876 a new classroom, 21 foot by 16 foot, was built costing £75 15s. This extended the building to the east, as can be seen in the current village hall, and meant the school could accommodate 91 children. A new and simple fee scale was adopted – 1d per head per week, no family to pay more than 4d in all. Teachers were paid an annual salary (£60 in 1873), which would be supplemented by a grant depending on the number of children attending and the results of the Inspections.

In October 1876 John Edwin Barnes was appointed schoolmaster. He had been sacked from Molland and his record at Zeal was as poor as it later was at Throwleigh where he took the job on a Mistress’s salary. It’s a wonder he lasted 9 years at Zeal. At an Inspection, grammar and geography was taken by 40 children but received only 4 passes in each. The school was doing badly throughout with arithmetic unsound in all classes. In 1879 the Inspectors reported “Fairly in reading and writing, spelling weak, arithmetic very poor in 1st and 3rd Standards... The infants ought to have a more efficient teacher.” Consequently, the School Board sacked Miss Haskings and appointed Fanny Grant as Infant teacher in 1884.

With the coming of Walter Prideaux in 1885, the school turned a corner. He set unusually high standards in every aspect of the conduct of the school, and at last, the Infants had an excellent teacher in Miss Fanny Grant. She lived in the village with her widowed mother for many years and was greatly respected. Eventually she was teaching the girls in a separate room and the Inspectors noted that they were doing well under a diligent and intelligent mistress.

In 1885 there was the first distribution of money prizes from the Hole's Charity endowment, totalling from £2 10s downwards annually for those making over 400 attendances in the year. In 1887 36 children had 400 attendances; I suppose that attendance in the morning and afternoon were counted separately. Nonetheless, even attending on 200 days would be a challenge for most children, with the competing needs of family, poverty and agricultural work. When Walter Prideaux left in 1891 he was presented with a clock, which demonstrated the high esteem in which he was held.

His successor Peter Colliver Hodder was a beginner and got his Parchment after his second Inspection. He carried on Prideaux's good work with excellent reports for the newly-introduced Drawing and a commendation from the Inspectors for the Standard work.

In 1894 new offices (toilets) and a playground were finally provided more than 22 years after schoolmaster Read [who had only lasted a year] had begged for a playground. He had seen these as an absolute necessity to counteract complaints from nearby properties about damage and rowdyism. Locals complained bitterly about the boys' habit of filling the village letter box with stones so there was no room for letters. At the time, Read had no response from the school's managers to any of the points raised. It's not known whether the letter box continued to be filled with stones by the boys!

In 1895 John Rowe was appointed schoolmaster and did well in his 2½ years. He was followed by John Drought, aged 52, who kept up the good standards. He noted an occasion when 'Only 35 children present – oats cutting. Even little children, who are no earthly use, are allowed to stay at home on all such occasions. No-one interferes!'

Henry James Foord was appointed schoolmaster in 1901 and maintained the unusually high standards of his predecessors. He objected strongly to a Barnardo representative who wanted the children conscripted to collect funds around the village which, in his view, "exposed them to temptation and bringing them under a pernicious influence". The Reverend Edwin Thomas Allen, clerk to the School Board and attendance office for many years, made a practice of a monthly sweet distribution to deserving pupils. In 1902 it became a Board School for 108 children with an average attendance of 40 including infants.

Erica Eden

To advertise in MONACHORUM MATTERS

contact: KEN HOGG 07749 329832



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