

FREE

Issue 36, May 2022

# MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



*Ken & Jane Hogg's garden, open for the National Garden Scheme  
on a beautiful day in late March, photo by David Bowyer*

## EDITORIAL

For all the latest details on what's happening and when for the Jubilee Bank Holiday see pages 10 and 11. Our July edition will be a special commemorative issue featuring lots of photographs and news about the events so please take photos and send them in immediately after the weekend to [zmon.news@gmail.com](mailto:zmon.news@gmail.com). We think some residents will want that edition as a keepsake, so we will revert to our high quality paper and so we are considering asking for donations towards the printing costs; there will be more details in the June issue.

Now for news of the Village Hall. The recent survey found a majority of residents voted against a new build but desired substantial changes to the existing hall. We now have a comprehensive 'shopping list of wishes' and a sub-group of the Village Hall Committee to refine this list and gather ideas. Any substantial work will take some time, not least because we will need to apply for grants, but we will keep you informed as we progress and, before too long, we hope to hold another public meeting to present the ideas, to give everyone a final say on the refurbished hall.

Finally, a plea from the Editorial Group of the newsletter. We are very much in need of a Finance Officer who can take control of money coming in and out of the account. As with so many things in recent months, the cost of paper has soared, and advertising has decreased; this has forced us to change the paper we print on to cut costs. If you can help us manage our financial affairs, please contact Jan on 82571.

### DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE: 8 MAY

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## RAINFALL

The rainfall for March was 56 mm.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

Mobile Library Fridays **29 April and 27 May**, stopping at Waie Cross between 1.15pm and 1.45pm. For all ages, join and borrow books immediately, ID not necessary. No overdue fines. To find out more: Tel: 0345 155 1001, [devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries](http://devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries)

## BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 25 April 7.30 - Tony Gale - 'The Copplestone'

Monday 23 May 7.30 - Simon Dell - 'The Georgian Improvers of Dartmoor'.

Everyone welcome - visitors £3. Bow Village Hall EX17 6HU. Note: lifts may be available from Zeal, contact Erica 01363 82606.

This isn't solely a Bow society but one for the surrounding districts including Zeal. A number of Zeal residents are members and meetings are open to anyone who is interested in local history.

## SUMMER SHOW

Margaret Harris sent in a reminder that the show will be held on Sat 6 Aug and will be open to the public during the afternoon. The schedule will be included with the June issue of Monachorum Matters.

## VILLAGE EVENTS IN MAY

Every Weds	Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Wed 4 May	WI, Village Hall 7.15 for 7.30pm
Mon 9 May	Zeal Explorers Village Walk, 2pm at bus stop
Sat 14 May	Village Market, 10.00 to 11.30am, Village Hall
Fri 27 May	Library Van, 1.15 - 1.45pm at Waie Gardens

## QUOTES

'It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world'  
*Desmond Tutu*

'Sometimes you don't get what you want because you deserve better'  
*Anon*

## THE MAY QUIZ

1. The word 'pram' is a shortened version of which word?
2. Which glands in the human body are situated directly above the kidneys?
3. What sort of pan is a skillet?
4. Who or what is Samuel Whiskers?
5. Vermilion is a shade of which colour?
6. Which is the UK's biggest commercial port?
7. Which breed of horse is best known from the Spanish riding school in Vienna?
8. Which two football teams have the name 'Wanderers' in their titles?
9. Who is the current Duke of Lancaster?
10. Ivan is the Russian equivalent of which English name?
11. In athletics, which is the only throwing event not in the decathlon?
12. What does an anemometer measure?
13. Which town in Belgium has the same name as a London Railway Station?
14. What is the full name of the FA Cup?
15. What is the UK's largest rodent?

*Answers on Page 13*

## COMIC RELIEF 2022

Sadie Lyon and Isabel Harris thank all those people who generously supported the Comic Relief stall held at the March Village Market, which made £163.60. As well as the sale of homemade cakes and preserves, there was a chance to win prizes. Two hampers were won by Ian Ringrose and Jan Hollingsworth; Guess the Weight of the Red Nose Cake was won by Ian Ringrose, whose guess of 1.35g was only 10g out, and Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar, which was won by Sally Rowden, who was only 7 out with her guess of 403.

A special mention to Ken Down who donated three home-made wooden items which sold after the event. Julia Hill correctly guessed 26 out of 27 of the Famous Names, with Alison Birchwhite coming a very close second. A list of the correct names and presentation of prizes will be made at the May Village Market.

Apologies for the misprint in the Crediton Courier, where Sophie Lyon was written instead of Sadie .





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## ANDY'S BRAMBLE JUNCTION

My interest in railways goes back to when I lived in London as a child. My Nan lived next to Stewarts Lane Engine Shed, which was the main Shed for Victoria Station. Dad used to take me over to look at the engines being repaired and my interest continued when we moved to Bracknell in Berkshire. At the age of 12 my mates and I spent some of our summer holidays at Reading Station watching the heavily loaded trains going to and from the West Country, Wales and the Midlands, taking notes and numbers from the trains as they passed.

This fuelled my interest in model railways and my ambition to have my own loft Model Railway. So far I have built 4 model railways in 00 gauge but I've always had to curtail the building, mainly due to house moves for various reasons; I never really got beyond the stage of putting down the track and wiring up the layout in any of them.

Having settled in Devon for 26 years, my first build in the loft of our house was less than successful as the temperature variations led to numerous track repairs etc. But once I sold my business and had more time on my hands, I relocated my layout to the garage where the conditions were more favourable. I have spent the last 3 years building what is now called Bramble Junction [my wife's idea] and I have laid the track and wired the layout with a degree of success. I am now bringing the layout to life by adding scenery and other items. My grandchildren insist on having animals, fields, trees and hedges, a challenge for me as I have never before done scenic modelling. The main excuse for my lack of experience in this area is that I have fingers the size of pork sausages, but with the help of YouTube I will carry on regardless!

Some of my collection of models date back to my school days and I have, over the years, slowly built up my assortment of rolling stock to its current size comprising over 40 locomotives, 60 coaches and 75 freight wagons. I have often given in to my weakness for engines and rolling stock when visiting Toy Fairs, despite being told on numerous occasions not to get any more and concentrate on the scenery!

A picture of part of my layout is shown on the next page. If anyone would like to see my collection, Bramble Junction will be open as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations **Thursday 2 June, from 10am to 3pm**; find us at Bramble Barn, near the bottom of Gissage Hill.

**Andy Smith**

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*A picture of some of Andy Smith's rolling stock at 'Bramble Junction'.  
Visit Bramble Barn, Gissage Hill on June 2, between 10am and 3pm.*

## **ZEAL MONACHORUM W.I.**

The April meeting was our AGM and from this I am delighted to share with you that we now have new members, making our total membership 26. Please come along and visit our plant stall in the village hall on market day 14 May; good healthy plants from Devon gardens.

As mentioned in last month's issue, the WI is hosting a Jubilee tea on Saturday 4 June; we are asking all guests to arrive promptly at 3pm. During the afternoon we can enjoy a little light entertainment; what will it be, you won't know if you don't come! The afternoon will finish at 5pm.

We cannot stress enough the urgency in booking your seat/s as we can only host 60 people. When booking please advise if you have any dietary restrictions; gluten free has already been registered. There are three points of contact for you to book your places: Jan H on 881088, Jan B on 82563 and ZM Community Facebook. **THE DEADLINE IS 15TH MAY.** If you do have to leave a message, please don't forget to state if you have dietary requirements.

## FISHING CLUB CHAT

A huge thank you to Andy Smith, Andy Richardson, Daren Hardesty, Joss and Ali's son Alex and Colin Crothers - I couldn't have managed without them as they helped re-build the damaged awning over the late Nick Tyler's bench; see photo below. Also, thanks to Pete Henshaw for rebuilding our resident scary scarecrow, preventing the cormorant from stealing our fish. Thanks also to Mike Russell for taking pictures of the damage after the storm.

The open day of our garden and the lake was a great success with two wonderful days of weather, raising nearly £1000 for the NGS. We thank John and Barbara Pincombe, Joss and Ali Birch-White, Andy Richardson, Darren & Vanessa Hardesty, Isabel Harris, Lynn Warren and Sally Rowden for their help in manning the car park, taking people to the lake and serving teas. Thanks also to Margaret Harris, Jan Summers, Isabel Harris, Sally Rowden and Tina Bower who provided wonderful cakes, to Kenny and Margaret Down for the use of their farmyard as a parking area and signs. Thanks to Emma Rosenbaum who sold her beautiful cards in the summer house. Thank you to all who provided bottles for the tombola and Maureen Franklin-Smith for manning the stall as well as everyone who came to support us and the NGS. It would not have been possible without all of you and your contributions. Ken was in charge of walking around the lake informing people of its origin with Teal and Jane swanned around the garden chatting all day. Pictures of the Open Garden are shown on the cover and the next page, thanks to David Bowyer.

Tight lines

### Ken and Jane


*The enthusiastic working party, L - R: Ken Hogg, Andy Richardson, Andy Smith, Alex Birchwhite, Colin Crothers, Darren Hardesty.*










# THE WAIE INN

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## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

2 – 5 June 2022

It's getting ever closer – here is our comprehensive guide to all the events scheduled for the Jubilee Bank Holiday from 2 – 5 June. You can remove these pages and keep them for reference.

### Zeal Monachorum Platinum Jubilee Front Gate Competition

If you would like to take part in the decorated house or gate competition, don't forget to register with Ali Birchwhite at [millardals@aol.com](mailto:millardals@aol.com) or ring her on 07753 749714 by **Saturday 21 May 2022**. NOTE: Only registered households will be judged and appear on the map. The prize - a lovely family hamper – will be awarded at the Big Jubilee lunch on Sunday 5 June.

Even if you do not wish to enter the Front Gate Competition, please feel free to put up some bunting etc. to help the village celebrate in style!

### The Jubilee Beacon - 9pm on Thursday 2 June 2022

A free finger buffet for village residents will be available at the Waie Inn from **6.30pm**, followed by a commemorative tree-planting at around 8pm. This will take place on the front lawn at the Waie Inn and the planting will be done by some of our oldest residents. After that, we will all walk up Town Hill together to see the Beacon being lit at about 9pm by the winners of our poster competition, this will be in Drummer's field, behind Churchill Gardens.

If you need transport up the hill please contact **Jan Summers, 82571**, no later than midday on 2 June.

### Zeal Monachorum History Exhibition 2022 - Thursday 2 & Friday 3 June, 10.30am to 5.00pm

FREE ENTRY - drop by for 5 minutes, an hour or as long as you like. Will you find yourself, your relatives, your ancestors, your house, your favourite walk or just enjoy charming, quirky photos and snippets of history about the parish, such as the origin of the name? Maybe you have an old photo or something else of interest about Zeal Monachorum which you could share for the exhibition? If so, get in touch with Erica 01363 82606, [reden@rocketmail.com](mailto:reden@rocketmail.com)

As part of the History Exhibition, Isabel Harris is calling on all farmers past and present - anyone who wishes to send her a brief history of their farm or former farm. Please send details together with any relevant documents or photographs of interest to the address below. She asks that you scan your photos and send with any written information via email to [nymphayes@btconnect.com](mailto:nymphayes@btconnect.com), or post to her at Nymphayes Farm, Zeal Monachorum, Crediton, Devon. EX17 6DT. She is also willing to collect, copy and return any photographs or documents. Please contact her on 01363 82343 by **21 May**.

## Door-Step/Garden Gate/Yard Event - Thursday 2 June (or Friday 3 June if wet)

Give away / sell / raise funds for charity – anything and everything. Start now to put to one side the clutter you no longer want [one person's junk is another person's treasure], grow plants, make items for sale etc. Householders can decide for themselves whether to give away, sell, or raise money for a good cause. Opening times will be between 10am and 3pm according to the individual house-holder. Those taking part who would like to be shown on a location map to be posted around the village must contact Erica on 82606, email: [reden@rocketmail.com](mailto:reden@rocketmail.com) at the latest by **Sunday 29 May**. People can still participate regardless of whether they are on the map.

An extra attraction will be worth a visit on this day - take a rare opportunity to visit the Bramble Junction railway – see story on Page 6.

## Jubilee Family Fun Dog Show -1.30pm, Friday 3 June at the Waie Inn

For this family-friendly event, there will be 11 fun classes including:

1. Fabulous Fella
2. Prettiest bitch
3. Best puppy up to 1 year
4. Golden Oldie – best dog over 10 years
5. Best 6 legs
6. Best trick/talent
7. Best child handler
8. Dog Egg & Spoon (dog on lead/adults)
9. Dog Egg & Spoon (dog on lead/children)
10. Consolation class, for dogs who haven't won anything,
11. Best in Show (all 1<sup>st</sup> Rosette winners)

*[no dogs in season please]*

We are very grateful to Tuckers Country Store, Creditor for sponsoring the show, and to Sara Thurgood who will judge the classes. £1 per entry and rosettes to 4<sup>th</sup> place. This promises a great afternoon's entertainment so come along and support or just enjoy the fun even if you haven't got a dog.

## WI Jubilee Tea Party - Saturday 4 June 2022, 3pm at the Village Hall

Numbers are limited to 60 so please book early for this event, see page 7 for all the important details.

## Big Jubilee Lunch – from 1pm on Sunday 5 June

The Big Jubilee Lunch in Churchill Gardens will round off our village Jubilee celebrations. Please bring your own food and drink, but please do not bring glasses. Plates, plastic glasses and cutlery will be provided as will tables and chairs. We hope also to have some musical entertainment to help things go with a swing.

**Finally folks, please come to the market on 14 May to cast your vote for the children's poster competition and children, don't forget to get your entries into the box at the Village Hall by April 30.**



*Sowing the seed*

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

In May we move through the Sundays after Easter toward Pentecost which falls on the first Sunday in June. On this Sunday (5 June) we are having a special service to celebrate our Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the usual time of 10.00am. On the second Sunday evening in May at our Common Worship Eucharist we will welcome back our vicar Robert after his illness. He is looking forward to being able to meet everyone after his enforced break.

## Church rotas for May 2022

### 1 May at 10.00am

First reading  
New Testament

### Easter 3

Acts 9:1-6  
John 21: 1-19  
Sidesman  
Flowers 1 & 8 May  
Cleaner

### Family Service

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

### 8 May at 6.30pm

Reading 1  
Gospel

### Easter 4

Acts 9: 36-43  
John 15: 9-17  
Sidesman

### C W E

Miss Lynn Warren  
Rev Robert Gordon  
Mr Tony Brealy

### 22 May at 6.30pm

First reading  
New Testament

### Rogation Sunday Service

Joel 2: 21-26  
John 16: 26-33  
Sidesman  
Flowers 15 & 22 May

Mr Graham Rounsley  
Mr Ken Down  
Mr Tony Brealy  
Mrs Susan Down

Flowers 29 May & 5 June - Mrs Isabel Harris

On the 29 May at 10.00am, a Mission Community Eucharist is being held at St Andrew's Church, Colebrooke.

**Church repairs.** Since the beginning of March we have been able to do some of the much needed repairs and improvements. The tower louvres have been repaired, the church paths have been edged and resurfaced, work to repair and repaint the rainwater goods and fascia boards has just been started as I write this copy. A grant from the Denbrook Community Fund enabled us to do the paths. As soon as we receive the necessary permission an area in the church car park wall and the west gate pillars are also to be repaired.

Beginning in May, on the third Sunday of each month, we are again offering **take-away cream teas** served from the church porch between 3.00 – 4.00pm. **Orders will be taken on Saturday (day before) or earlier if possible**



We offer two scones, clotted cream and jam for only £3.50. Choose either strawberry or raspberry, please state your preference when placing your order. Contact Margaret Harris, 82251 or Margaret Down, 82204.

This was very successful last year and contributed a total of £666 to church funds. With your support we will make it an even greater success in 2022

*Margaret (churchwarden)*

## CREDITON FOODBANK

Thank you to all who donated to the Food bank during March/April: ten bags of food plus cleaning materials and £40.

Much needed items at present are : Blue UHT milk which is given out each week to all families who have young children so is always a priority item, tinned custard, fruit juice, jam, washing up liquid, toilet rolls, tinned meatballs, pasta (not spaghetti or lasagne) and cereals.

These are very difficult times for many people and all donations are very much appreciated. As we all know, gas and electricity prices are continuing to rise. The Food bank has always tried to help with heating and electricity where needed. For those already struggling to make ends meet these extra costs are an extra worry. If those of you who already give cash donations are agreeable, I would like to hand that money over specifically for this purpose and any money taken on the stall will go towards the same.

If anyone would like to make personal donations, you can make a bank transfer by going on [www.creditoncongregational.org](http://www.creditoncongregational.org) for bank account details and put as a reference 'fuel payment'. The generosity of Zeal Monachorum is truly overwhelming. THANK YOU

### Answers to quiz on Page 4.

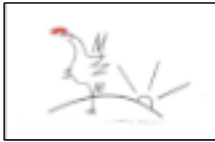
- |                                    |   |                |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Perambulator                    | 2. Adrenal Glands                               | 3. Frying pan  |
| 4. A rat in a Beatrix Potter story | 5. Red  | 6. Felixstowe  |
| 7. Lipizzaner                      | 8. Wolverhampton and Wycombe                    | 9. The Queen   |
| 10. John                           | 11. The hammer                                  | 12. Wind speed |
| 13. Waterloo                       | 14. Emirates Football Association Challenge Cup |                |
| 15. Beaver                         |   |                |



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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council held its most recent meeting on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. There were no electors present and there were no planning applications to consider.

Peter Heal, District Council reported that changes to **black bin waste collections** (reported in the last newsletter) have yet to be finalised.

I can now confirm that a consultant has been appointed to assist with preparing drawings and making the Planning Application for consent for the replacement canopy to the **Jubilee Seat**. Further, I have received an offer to re-furbish the seat. I would hope that both these jobs will be completed by the end of the summer.

Last month, I mentioned that MDDC is starting a revision to the **Local Plan** for the years 2033-43. This is an important process and the PC has already made a preliminary submission. The Council is of the view that provision should be made for community facilities such as allotments and a new village hall. These may, or may not, be linked to the provision of further new houses. We are talking about a timescale of between 10 and 20 years and, of course, the village will be given the opportunity to discuss any proposals in a Public Meeting as they develop. Any development proposal can be contentious, with some believing there should never be any new development, whilst others may feel that carefully considered growth can be the lifeblood of the village.

My thanks go to the members of the working party who have planned a fantastic series of events to celebrate the **Queen's Jubilee** in June. Full details have been published and I urge you all to support the events and meet other villagers, maybe for the first time. (See pages 9 and 10).

The Council received reports that some **footpath stiles** are either damaged or, in one case, almost unusable. Please report them to the clerk if you notice any and he will pass the comments onto DCC.

This year we had very **severe gales** resulting in a number of **trees** coming down. Unfortunately, one of them disrupted power and telephone services for several days in the Western Road area. My thanks to the village hall for opening its doors to assist with phone charging, hot water etc. Global Warming may well increase the frequency and intensity of these storms and we should all be prepared. Owners are responsible for trees on their property and should consider taking professional advice if they have any doubts about their trees, A word of warning, do not assume you are insured, not all policies cover storm damage.

**Monachorum Matters** has proved to be a real success, but Covid has affected advertising revenue and printing costs have increased substantially. The Parish Council believes this is a Community Project worth supporting but only if there is a sustainable business plan to control income and expenditure. The Council has offered financial support for this year whilst it works with Monachorum Matters on a plan for the future. Advertising is the lifeblood of the magazine and to all those who are advertising, a big thank you, and to those local businesses not yet featuring in print, why not give it a try? Just contact the editor.

This will be my **last report as Chairman** as I intend to stand down from the council at the annual meeting on the 26 May. It has been my pleasure to be involved and as I am generating a vacancy, I would urge you to consider being co-opted onto the council. Generally only 4 meetings or so a year and it is important that we, as a village, have a voice. You need to be over 18 and existing councillors would love to see some younger candidates. Please contact myself or the clerk if you are interested and would like to know more.

The **next meeting of the Council** will be on the 26 May in the Village Hall. This will be the annual meeting and also the annual parish meeting. Representatives of the church, village hall, Monachorum Matters and WI are also invited. The notice of the meetings will be published in the usual way on the notice board and on the PC website [www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk](http://www.zeal-monachorum.co.uk). The Clerk can be contacted at [zmpcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:zmpcouncil@gmail.com) and myself [acchandler@btinternet.com](mailto:acchandler@btinternet.com)

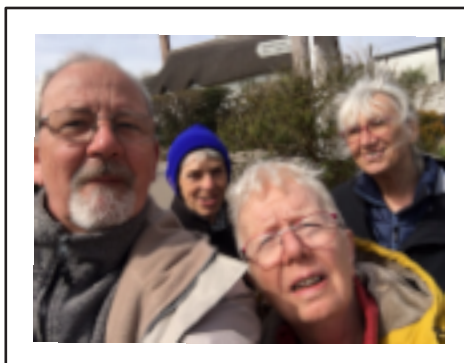
**Andrew Chandler**  
Chairman 07831 167728

## **ZEAL EXPLORERS**

Our April village walk was bright and sunny but the wind was still bracing as we left the village past Beer Farm down the meadows and through the woods to Lower Week. Not too much mud and certainly drier than last spring where you pass the beautiful ponies in the field.

Our climb back up to the village was a discovery of several spring flowers nestled in the hedgerows, especially the star-like purple Vinca and the first early purple Orchids. Together with beautiful primroses lining our route, it was an uplifting sight for us all.

Please join us on May 9 for our next walk, meeting 2 pm at the Bus Stop.



## CLIMATE CATASTROPHE - SAVE THE PLANET - RUBBISH

Normally, I am reluctant to write about waste as, in the reality of the climate crisis, it can feel unimportant. Some actions to reduce emissions can seem really hard; but, with waste, it is possible for individuals to make a big difference relatively easily.

It seems likely that Mid Devon District Council will move to a 3-weekly collection of our rubbish for landfill or incineration. Usually, this causes a big outcry; but I wonder whether that's really valid in these circumstances. I suspect that many are in agreement that we would like our council to reduce its spending in this area and spend our taxes on more productive and useful things than rubbish disposal.

However, in a trial of 3 weekly collections of rubbish, it was found that the amount of rubbish had been reduced by a significant amount and recycling increased:

- Urban Sack area of the trial reduced their non-recyclable waste by 24%
- Urban Bin area of the trial reduced their non-recyclable waste by 44%
- Rural Sack area of the trial reduced their non-recyclable waste by 6%
- Rural Bin area of the trial reduced their non-recyclable waste by 30%

What can we do to prepare?

- Check that anything that can be recycled is going in the right box and not just in the rubbish bin;
- Use a dustbin and not sacks, as that seems to help with making a reduction;
- Check what can be recycled. Checking on Mid Devon's website, there seems to have been an increase in the types of recyclable items.
- Ensure that all food and garden waste goes in the blue or brown bins [or, better still, are composted at home]. If these items are sent to landfill they will decay and create methane.

Once you've done the above, carry out an audit of what is going into your dustbin; quantify it by weighing and/or counting how many bin bags. Involve everyone in the household. Perhaps enlist the help of children [none in the household? See if there are any locally who's parents will lend them out!]. They often know more than adults about this subject and care about their future on the planet. Once you know what you are throwing away, and how much, set some targets. For example, you could aim to reduce your rubbish by a quarter within a month; maybe challenge friends and neighbours to do the same and make it a competition.

Check if you can change shopping habits. My rubbish seems to be mainly plastic that can't be recycled - so now I try to buy products like dishwasher and washing machine detergents which come in cardboard; I save plastic hand-wash and other liquid detergent containers, and get refills for them from, for example, the Green

Shop or Stevie Bs; I've reduced the number of plastic bags I use for food storage by reusing ones from food shopping. I recalled how when I was a kid the inner bag of cereal packets were always used for picnics and sandwiches, so I'm again saving them as they work well for storing vegetables in the fridge; In the supermarket, if I'm buying, for example, just a few loose apples, then I don't bother with a bag at all as I have realised that I just throw it away when I get home.

**Erica Eden**

*EDITOR'S NOTE:* Why not share your ideas for recycling, reusing things and reducing waste by sending them in to the newsletter? It might help more of us to protect and care for our environment.



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## May is an exciting time in the garden with new blooms, longer evenings & summer just around the corner!

1. Plant up your summer bedding plants once all danger of frost has passed. Keep deadheading them regularly to help them flourish all summer long.
2. Clear and replace spring bedding from borders when it fades, and fork in a general fertiliser.
3. Protect less hardy plants from late frost by positioning them in elevated sunnier spots, and use fleece when frost is forecast.
4. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any main-crop or 2<sup>nd</sup> earlies still remaining.
5. Now is the optimum time for pruning your hedges but make sure to check for nesting birds before you start trimming. Prune each stem individually on young hedging and only use shears if you have an established hedge.
6. Keep on top of watering during dry spells – invest in a water butt to collect any rain water if you don't already have one. Using saucers under pots with thirsty plants and ensuring new hedging is watered regularly during the first year will help ensure you have a beautiful blossoming garden for summer.
7. Start mowing the lawn more regularly, and apply lawn feed; you can also compost some of your cuttings.
8. Keep on top of weeds, and hoe your beds regularly, as well as using preventative weed killers such as 'Resolva' weed preventer.
9. Protect plants from slugs using natural friendly alternatives such as 'Lava-Lite No-Slugs' or 'Plant Grow Slug & Snail'.
10. Plan a garden project now such as a patio, shed or summer-house. Get your new garden furniture and BBQ now in time to enjoy them for the summer.

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