

FREE

Issue 40, September 2022

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



It's blackberry time again

EDITORIAL

As I write this in mid-August the extremely hot weather has ended abruptly with heavy showers and thunder storms. The rain has come not a moment too soon, with gardens and fields looking distinctly parched. But at least we can say we have had a summer this year.

This month the newsletter includes lots of reminiscences of times past including its very own history as remembered by Isabel Harris, see Page 11. Margaret Down has the second instalment of her childhood at Higher Burstone Farm on Page 14 along with some great pictures from the archive. And another story from Cathy Cook on Page 13 about times spent with her Grandfather.

We can also look forward to some great social events in our Village Hall this month with the return of Bingo on the 14th and a Quiz Night on the 17th, and looking ahead to next month, we have our Harvest Supper on 1st October. Both the Quiz and the Harvest Supper need to be booked so don't delay – call Jan Summers on 82571.

Finally, this month, I can report that we have several new advertisers. We are grateful to all those who advertise in Monachorum Matters and we hope that they will find new business through our newsletter.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE: 8 SEPTEMBER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

RAINFALL

The Rainfall figure for July was 7mm. This low figure hasn't broken the record, in May 2020 we had 6mm and June 2018, 0mm. Records began in 1996. Thanks to Margaret Harris

MOBILE LIBRARY

After August Monachorum Matters went to press we were told that the Mobile's August visit was cancelled due to maintenance. However, we are hopeful that all will be back to normal for its visit on **Friday 16th September** stopping at Waie Cross 13.15 - 13.40. Further information contact Devon County Council

0845 155 1001 www.devon.gov.uk/libraries

Roy & Erica Eden

Phone:- 01363 82606

NEW POST COLLECTION TIMES

Since August 15 our afternoon postal collection has been withdrawn. The postbox is now only emptied by the delivering postman or woman each day. Collections will take place no earlier than 9.00 am, Monday to Friday, and no earlier than 7.00 am on Saturdays. If your mail needs to go, get it there early.

VILLAGE EVENTS IN AUGUST

Every Weds	Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Wed 7 Sept	WI, 7.15 for 7.30pm at Village Hall, open to all, see Page 4
Sat 10 Sept	Market, 10.00 - 11.30am at Village Hall
Sat 10 Sept	Ride & Stride for Devon Historic Churches Trust, details Page 8
Mon 12 Sept	Zeal Explorers Village Walk, 2pm at bus stop
Wed 14 Sept	Bingo, at Village Hall, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm
Fri 16 Sept	Mobile Library, 1.15 - 1.45pm at Waie Cross
Sat 17 Sept	Quiz Night, 7.30pm at Village Hall, details on Page 7
Sun 25 Sept	Harvest Festival Service at St Peter's, details on Page 8

QUOTES

Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted.

David Bly, American politician

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you sow.

Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, poet & travel writer

ZEAL MONACHORUM WI



*Jan Hollingsworth and Lynn Warren enjoying Jackie Watson's (centre) garden.
Picture by Erica Eden.*

August was members' night for Zeal WI and what a lovely evening ensued; the committee is not involved and just go along with instructions received after members have decided what to do. Member Jackie Watson generously opened her garden for the evening where we enjoyed Pimms etc. On being invited to partake of nibbles we encountered a delicious and varied array enticingly displayed on the table. The evening was delightful and relaxing, sitting in a beautiful garden providing lots of interest.

Croquet had been made ready, unfortunately our desire to "chat" won hands down so, perhaps Jackie, we could do this another time? Grateful thanks to all non-committee members for providing such delicious delights and for arranging a splendid evening.

Our September meeting is OPEN TO ALL VILLAGERS. Our speaker, Peter Brewer, will demonstrate how to use a defibrillator, together with other potentially life-saving techniques. Please feel free to come along at approximately 8pm. Tea/coffee and a biscuit for £1 will be offered, and there will be a Bring and Buy stall. New members, of which we now have two, are always welcome.

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

FLOWER, PRODUCE & HANDICRAFT SHOW, 6 August

A welcome return for our show, and the Village Hall Management Committee thanks exhibitors and everyone who supported it and helped to make it such a success. The winners in each section are listed below – well done to all, and thanks to David Bowyer for the pictures showing each of the displays.

Vegetables:

1st Martyn Down 17pts
2nd Ken Down 10 pts
3rd Isabel Harris 9pts
BEST IN SECTION: Runner Beans
exhibited by Margaret Harris

Flowers:

1st Sue Down 13pts
2nd Sally Rowden 12pts
3rd Marion Quick 10pts
BEST IN SECTION: Gladioli
exhibited by Sue Down

Handicraft:

1st Isabel Harris 10pts
2nd Margaret Down (Thorne) 5pts
Joint 3rd Sally Rowden, Jean Peck, Erica Eden, 3pts
BEST IN SECTION: Crochet exhibited by Sally Rowden

Potatoes in a bucket:

1st Darren Hardesty 5lb 6oz
2nd Marion Quick 4lb 15oz
3rd Rob Peck 4lb 6oz

Tallest Sunflower:

1st Poppy Harris
2nd Sue Down
3rd Kirsten Harris



More pictures on next page



QUIZ & PASTY NIGHT, 17 September 7.00 for 7.30 start

We have a new quiz-master for this event – our Mid Devon Councillor, Peter Heal, has offered to run this as a fund-raising event with the profits going to help support Monachorum Matters. As usual we will have pasties as well as wine or cider included in the entrance price of £5 per head, with teams of up to 6 players per table. You will be able to acquire further drink supplies in return for a donation and, as this is a fund-raiser, we would appreciate you taking advantage of this offer rather than bringing your own drinks.

Please book your places as soon as possible, but no later than **Sat 10 September**, contact Jan Summers on 01363 82571, email: [jansummerszm at gmail.com](mailto:jansummerszm@gmail.com)

HARVEST SUPPER, Sat 1 October, 6.30 for 7.00

Our ever-popular Harvest Supper is back. Regulars will know that we supply an excellent meal comprising home-grown produce (much of it donated), home-prepared salads and good quality local cold meat, rounded off by delicious home-made puddings. We also have a good raffle and some entertainment – what’s not to like? We ask you to bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses, but we are able to supply soft drinks.

These evenings are always an enjoyable social event so, if you haven’t been before, why not come along? Tickets are £9 per head. Please book your places as soon as possible with Jan Summers on 01363 82571, email: [jansummerszm at gmail.com](mailto:jansummerszm@gmail.com)

BINGO Our sessions start again on **Weds 14 September**. Come along for a great social evening and the chance to win prizes. Entrance fee is £5 per head, doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm.

FILM NIGHT returns in October – more details will be given in the next issue of Monachorum Matters.



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this item for the September issue of Monachorum Matters in early August, we are experiencing a very hot and dry time. While perfect for harvesting, it is an extremely difficult time for feeding our livestock with parched farmland. Winter stocks are already being used and there's not much likelihood of significant rainfall to replenish the land.

September will see the start of the new academic year with some starting school, or moving to senior school, some going to university or college and some starting their new life in work. We wish them all well on whatever path is theirs.

In September, the Church marks the Season of Creation. Prayers are said for the works of nature and the preservation of the environment. This will climax for us on the 25 September on which our **Harvest Festival** falls. As a church we come together to give thanks not only for the harvest of field, garden and sea but also for the wonderful countryside in which we are lucky enough to live. A collection will be made and donated to the Farm Community Network. After the service we will have bring and share refreshments. The church will be decorated on the Saturday and items given for display will be available for a donation after the service, any money raised will be added to the collection

Come, ye thankful people, come

Church rota for September 2022

Sept 4 at 10.00am

Old Testament
New Testament

Trinity 12, Creation 1

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Luke 14: 25-33
Sidesman
Altar Flowers 4 & 11
Church cleaner

Family Service (lay led)

Mrs Jane Hogg
Mrs Becky Harvey & Jocie
Mr Tony Brealy
Mrs Hazel Wainwright
Miss Margaret Harris

Sept 11 at 6.30pm

Old Testament
New Testament
Gospel

Trinity 13, Creation 2

Exodus 32: 7-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15: 1-10
Sidesman
Altar Flowers 8 & 25

C W E

Miss Lynn Warren
Mr Robert Peck
Rev Robert Gordon
Mr Colin Crothers
Mrs Marian Quick

Sept 25 at 6.30pm

Creation 4

Readings and readers to be arranged
Sidesman

Harvest Festival

Mr Tony Brealy

From the Registers Baptism 7 August Poppy Jennifer Harris. We welcome Poppy to our Christian family. Poppy is the daughter of Jeffery and Kirsten and granddaughter of John and Isabel.

Devon Historic Churches Trust Day. Saturday, 10 September. The Devon Historic Church's Day is the major fundraising day for the Trust and it incorporates the annual **Ride and Stride**, a day when anyone can take part in fund raising for our historic church buildings. Any money raised through sponsored events is divided between the Trust and a church of your choosing. Sponsor forms can be downloaded from the Trust's website for anyone who wishes to take part. See below for a piece on this by Isabel Harris.

September 18 sees our last **take away cream teas for this year**, available from the church porch between 3.00 & 4.30pm. **Please place your orders anytime, but no later than 9.00pm on Saturday (day before)**, Two scones, clotted cream, raspberry/strawberry will be the jam choices this time, only £3.50. Please state your jam preference when placing your order.

Contacts: Margaret Harris 82251/Margaret Down 82204

Margaret (Churchwarden)

DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The Devon Historic Churches Day and 'Ride + Stride' on **Saturday 10th September**, is a great way to raise money for our church. Of the funds raised, 50% is returned immediately to St. Peter's and 50% goes to funding grants for the maintenance of our Devon Churches. In the past, St. Peter's has benefited from a DHCT grant towards maintenance of the building. Zeal Monachorum has supported this event for well over 20 years with parishioners raising sponsorship money from cycling or walking to neighbouring churches on the day, and also holding various raffles at past village markets.

THIS YEAR, in memory of Dr. Christopher Maycock, who was the co-ordinator for the Cadbury Deanery area for many years and who sadly died earlier this year, the Harris Family of Nymphayes Farm will be serving Afternoon Tea between 3.00 - 6.00pm. Plenty of parking for cars, bicycles and horseboxes for those who may like to 'go round the block' first to visit nearby churches, before returning for tea. ALL WELCOME, including dogs (please keep on leads and clean up after your dog, as this is a working farm adhering to strict farm assurance rules). For catering purposes and to reserve your place please telephone Isabel on 01363 82343, email nymphayes@btconnect.com or Facebook Zeal Monachorum Community Group. No admission charge but donations gratefully received.

Pictured right: Dr. C Maycock presenting the duck dinner to the lucky winner of the raffle in 2016.



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THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

As many village residents know, the Village Newsletter in its current form has been going for just over three years but its predecessors extend back quite some years. In issue 202 in February 1996, Isabel Harris wrote about that publication. She has sent me a copy of that issue but, unfortunately, I cannot reproduce it in a readable form. However, the following piece is based on what Isabel wrote at that time:

The newsletter began in 1978 to replace the Parish Magazine and to keep the Parish informed of Church services and events. The first newsletters were typed on stencils and copies were made on a duplicator. However, from July 1983 to December 1984 Isabel was allowed to use the photocopier of the company she worked for. Isabel then writes:

“From January 1985 to January 1986 we were back to the duplicator. No, I hadn't been sacked for spending too much time on the photocopier – I was taking a pregnant pause! On my return to work I found a very old duplicator in the office basement, and sometimes I wish I had left it there. It took ages, typing the stencils and turning the handle to churn out copies which, compared to photocopies, were often messy and illegible. Then something wonderful happened.... Mr & Mrs Bowyer from East Foldhay kindly offered to photocopy the newsletters on their machine here in the village. I don't know if they knew what they were letting themselves in for but since February 1986 we have been most grateful to David & Tina for their generous offer.

I would drop off the master copy into their post-box located opposite Thorne Farm's entrance on Rattle Street. A few days later, their daughter, Lucy, would deliver the bundle of newsletters to me at Nymphayes on her pony, where I sorted them and delivered them round to the different volunteers who kindly delivered them throughout the parish.

Later on, when my son, Andrew, became a postman and was delivering post in the parish, he would often come back saying "Mum, I don't know why you bother, the number of newsletters I see, just left where they were delivered, and apparently never read"!

I like to think it is the publishing side of the family coming out in me. After all I am related to probably the most famous publisher in the country - Sir Allen Lane, the founder of Penguin Books and most notable for being taken to court over his publication of 'Lady Chatterley's Lover'!"

***Editor's note:** Thank you Isabel for digging out your old newsletters and for giving us this piece of history.*

FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

As you know, we have now fitted the new bench in memory of Trevor so pop along and have a look. It's in a perfect setting, a lovely place to sit and contemplate. We have done a lot of work on the swims recently, but there is still more to be done. Unfortunately it takes time as some of our work party are on holiday.

We have had a meeting with Callum, our Environmental Agent, who is planning to trawl the lake, taking out all the small fish in early January. The lake is fishing very well. Jane and I had a good couple of hours the other day landing two 10lbs carp, see photos on the right. The tench are now growing on well. We also had a number of new enquiries for membership, two of which are from Bow.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane



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business in Monachorum
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**Ken Hogg,
07749 329832**

GONE FISHING

Here is another of Cathy Cook's stories about memories of her childhood in Zeal.

Once, when I was with Gran and Granfer for the day, Gran was busy filling the copper and I was entrusted into Granfer's care. He had a plan! We were going fishing. The day was looking up, there was no-one and nowhere I ever wanted to be other than with my Granfer. He got everything ready that we would need - a large jam jar tied with string for a handle, a stick for a rod, string tied on the end for the line and last, but not least, a bent nail at the end for the hook. All prepared we waved Gran goodbye and set off up the road toward the 'new' bridge over the main road. We climbed through the railings and made our way to the shallow area of the river where the animals would come to drink. There, in the gently moving water where the minnows swam, Granfer carefully laid the jar.

We sat down and he showed me how to hold the rod, we had to sit very quietly and still, "watch the end of the rod" he told me and I did. I watched and watched, waited and waited. Nothing. All the while Granfer sat beside me, puffing away on his pipe. Birds sang, he would whisper their names and show me where they were, animals grazed, and still we sat. Eventually he moved and said it was time to go home. First, we had to check 'our catch' and then take it back to show Gran before bringing it back to release again. I hadn't caught anything, so I was confused then amazed as he gently lifted the jam jar out of the water and showed me the minnows inside. How beautiful they were.

We strolled home hand in hand, Granfer carrying the jar and me, my rod. Gran was still very busy and she did not want us under her feet. She did not see our minnows. Granfer smiled, his twinkly mischief smile and led me to the shed. We went over to the copper. He told me we needed somewhere safe for the fish until Gran could see them. Chuckling, he emptied the jar into the copper, then he lifted me up and there they were, our minnows, swimming around inside.

Gran returned to the shed, she looked at Granfer and me, walked over to the copper, looked inside and she was cross, very cross! She ordered Granfer to stop his devilment and remove the minnows from her copper and take them back where they had come from, NOW! As contrite as he could be, because he thought it was a grand prank, he began under Gran's watchful eye to retrieve the fish. He certainly had more trouble catching them this time. With all the minnows safely back in the jar, Granfer and I returned to the river and let them go, none the worse for their adventure.

Editor's note: *Thanks very much for your stories Cathy, I'm sure quite a few of us can remember days like this. Do keep them coming and if anyone else has stories of their early life that they are happy to share, do please send them in to the newsletter at the address shown below, or call Jan Summers 01363 82571.*

HIGHER BURSTONE - THE WORKING FARM 1947

Higher Burstone was a 70-acre farm sold off from the Reeve estate of 180 acres. Art Steer [Sue Down's Dad], had worked there since leaving school, he left in the late 1950s. He could plough with horses as well as lots of other jobs. Art was a good rabbit trapper. I remember going around the farm in the early mornings to attend the traps, pick up the rabbits, pounce* them and reset the traps, taking the rabbits back to the farm shed. They were sent to Wides of Morchard Road when the eggs were collected and on to London by train.

**to pounce it, clean it or skin it*

Milking by hand was done by Dad, Mum and Art with the Tilly lanterns hung on the beams for light. Milk was put in churns, cooled and put out on the milk stand to be collected by Bert Arscott for the Ambrosia milk factory at Lapford. In winter the lanterns were used for light when feeding animals and shutting in the poultry in the orchard safe from Mr Fox!

March - lambs were born, cows calved, corn and root crops for winter feed were sown with a horse drawn drill.

May - grass seed would be sown, walking up and down the field using a 'fiddle' which got its name because it was like playing one. Then the seed was covered with soil by drags. Later, some beef cattle would go to Bow market, lambs would go to Copplestone slaughter house. Cattle were sold for £20-30 and lambs for £5. Sheep were sheared and the fleeces tied into bundles to be collected by the Wool Board.

June - Hay harvest time. These were good days for village children; they would come with sticks to catch and kill the rabbits and get one to take home to eat. I remember we used the horse and the hay pole to make ricks in the fields - the horse pulled hay in a grab to drop on top of the rick. For the corn harvest a binder made sheaves which were put in stooks to dry and ripen the corn. When the corn was dry the sheaves were loaded on a cart drawn by one of the horses to make ricks in the farm yard. These had to be thatched so that they kept dry until winter. A steam thresher would arrive along with the neighbours to help thrash corn. It took about 10 men for the different jobs. The corn provided oats for horses and cows and wheat for poultry and sheep.

October - was the time to pull mangles, turnips and cabbage for cows and young stock in winter until the grass grew.

Christmas - geese, ducks and chickens were killed and plucked for Christmas and more cream was made and sold. About 10 Christmas puddings were made boiled in a big furnace, mince pies and a cake were made, the cake was decorated with a snow scene with snowman, Father Christmas and some holly. In later years there was piped icing for decoration.

In the new year, it started all over again for another year's work!

Margaret Down née Squire

On the next page is a selection of photos from the archive depicting the period that Margaret writes about. Thanks to Erica Eden for contributing them.



Higher Burstone in the 1950s, photo John Welsby

From the album of Betty Vicary comes this shot of an unknown woman in a cornfield with an impressive collection of rabbits – doesn't she look pleased?



Here is a shot of East Foldhay in the 1940s; this comes from Marcia Squire (no relation to Margaret as far as we know).

CREDITON FOODBANK

A big thank you to everyone who donated for the month of July, thirteen bags have been delivered containing food, which included some tasty treats for young and old, toiletries, household cleaning needs and two large boxes of washing pods. I must add a thank you also for the £40 donated. Because of the increasing rise in almost everything, the money will be used where it is most needed and, as mentioned before, will include help with household fuel payments.

It was very uplifting when a new volunteer asked “did this delivery come from Tesco’s”. I said “no it came from Zeal Monachorum”. “Oh! Yes we’ve heard about Zeal Monachorum. It is amazing so much from just a small village”. Yes, your generosity is amazing and received with love.

The new email address for the Foodbank is help@creditonfoodbank.org.uk. This will enable anyone needing help to go straight to them. Also, you can check out their new website which highlights the enormity of the situation.

AIR BEE ‘N’ BEE



This Echinops plant attracts dozens of bees at around this time of year. I took this picture last summer when the grass was greener than it is now, but the bees are just as busy and plentiful this year. Jan Summers

September Garden Advice from Bow Garden Centre

1. This is an ideal time to plant new shrubs and trees, or move existing ones. They will get a flying start for next spring, having all winter to settle in.
2. Roses, including climbing, rambling and standard, should be pruned down to just above a 5-leaf shoot, once they've finished flowering. Prune late-summer flowering shrubs and any dead or diseased growth. Give evergreen hedges a final trim to ensure they are in good shape for autumn.
3. Now is the time to use winter tree wash to remove insect debris, dust and wax which insects use to secure their eggs. Suitable for use on all plants, but particularly evergreens, it removes contaminants from the leaf surface to increase light exposure and encourage photosynthesis. Also use 'Seal & Heal' to seal any tree wounds and protect pruned branches against ingress of diseases and harmful pests such as coral spot and silver leaf. Use greasebands & moth Pheromone Traps on trees as a pest barrier for fruit trees – these pesticide-free grease bands & traps are ideal for organic gardeners and effectively trap moths and other insects.
4. Refresh hanging baskets, pots and borders with colourful autumn bedding.
5. Repair any brown-looking grass and patches on your lawn now, using 'Patch Repair', lawn & turf dressing, grass seeds, and lawn feed, all available in-store. Scarify off heavy moss or thatch.
6. Keep your garden looking tidy by gathering up leaves from lawns and pathways now. Use a garden vacuum or rake, and leaf collector to help make the job easier.
7. Rain is great for your flowers, but it encourages weeds too! Continue tackling weeds with weed killers (including some natural alternatives) or weeding tools such as 'Weed Slice' or weed burners, designed to make the hard work of tackling weeds easier.
8. Now is the ideal time to be planting perennials, bulbs and seeds so that they flower in time for spring next year (but save tulip bulbs for Oct/Nov planting).
9. Cover your pond using a pond net to protect it from leaves falling. Debris can result in algae and sludge which may reduce oxygen levels and harm your fish. Pond vacuums also help to maintain a clear healthy pond.
10. Clear out your greenhouse and clean the glass to increase the amount of sunlight coming in. Remove any pests and disinfect inside your greenhouse. Get bubble wrap and greenhouse heaters ready for winter.

Bow Garden Centre stocks all your garden essentials: trees, shrubs, bulbs, and seeds, tools, garden buildings and everything you need for gardening, plus fish and pet supplies, a welcoming Waterside Cafe, and Post Office services.

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Full Menu: 12pm - 9pm (8pm on Sundays)



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I'm Philip of PGLive

I'm a solo guitarist with my own backing and singing harmonies. I play well-known songs at events including weddings, parties, dances, and outdoor events. I cover a wide range of music including The Eagles, Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Queen, Elvis Presley, Elton John, John Denver, Van Morrison, Roy Orbison, George Ezra, The Beatles, plenty of country hits and old-time ballroom music.

For your next event contact me on:

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