

FREE

Issue 33, February 2022

MONACHORUM MATTERS

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Wild orchids in Zeal hedgerow

EDITORIAL

As we went to press the national news was telling us that last year was the warmest ever for our planet. Hard to believe when, as I write, I look out of the window and see dull grey drizzly weather, the ground is completely soaked and it feels really chilly. So I was pleased to find for the cover a picture of wild orchids in the photobank. It gave me a lift and made me realise that it won't be long now before we see wild flowers out in our hedgerows and we'll know Spring is on the way.

Also in the national news is information about the upcoming Platinum Jubilee. In our last issue, we included details of what we have planned and our hope is that we can involve as many of our residents as possible in the festivities. If you have any ideas that we haven't mentioned please let us know – contact the newsletter at the email address shown or talk to Sally Rowden of the Jubilee Group, call 82531.

Finally, another plea from the Editor – over the last 2½ years we have been lucky enough to receive many personal stories from present and former residents. Erica Eden has also provided some fascinating stories about people who lived here long ago. I know from the feedback I receive that our readers really enjoy these articles so do please keep them coming. And please send in your pictures from around the village – they really brighten up our pages.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE: 8 FEBRUARY

Our newsletter is printed by Burridge Printers of North Tawton

**YOUR LOCAL
DESIGN & PRINT**

 **bsharpdesigns**
- LOCAL DESIGN, FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES -

hello@bsharpdesigns.co.uk
bsharpdesigns.co.uk

 **Burridge Printers™**
digital • branding • packaging

hello@burridgeprinters.co.uk
burridgeprinters.co.uk

01837 82386

Upper Depot, Devonshire Gardens, North Tawton EX20 2ES

Find us  

COMMUNITY NEWS

MOBILE LIBRARY

The next visit is on Friday 4 February, stopping at Waie Cross between 13.15pm and 13.45pm. Sometimes one would really like a particular book: well, reservations are easily made on the mobile itself or by emailing the librarian at tiverton.mobile@librariesunlimited.org.uk. Reservations cost 85p, a reduced rate to the main library service in recognition of the fact that the mobiles can only carry a limited stock.

Tel: 0345 155 1001, devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/mobilelibraries

Apologies for errors in the visiting dates last month - here are the dates for the rest of this year: 4 Mar, 1 Apr, 29 Apr, 27 May, 24 Jun, 22 Jul, 19 Aug, 16 Sep, 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec.

Roy & Erica Eden
Phone:- 01363 82606

RAINFALL

Rainfall for December - 130 mm. Rainfall for 2021 - 1146 mm , 45³/₄ inches. The annual average for this area is 36 inches so last year we had at least 20% more rain than we should have.

SCS HOME MAINTENANCE
SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

For All Your Day to Day Requirements
From changing a light bulb to redecorating your home

No job too small and help available for any problems in and around the home

Kitchen Appliances - Sheds - Blinds
Supplied & Installed

Just Call SCS on
07591 180556
Email: terencewidmer@yahoo.co.uk
OR
0800 2465425
Email: admin@seniorcitizenservices.co.uk

GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
Including Plumbing, Electrical, Tiling, Painting & Decorating and more...

HOME SECURITY & SAFETY
Locks, Glazing, Outdoor Lighting, Key Safes, Grab & Safety Rails

LARGER WORKS
Kitchen, Toilet & Bathroom Modifications, etc...

MOVING HOME
We can assist and prepare everything for your move

"like sos but scs"

Call out rates from just **£15.00** (including 1 hour travel)

www.seniorcitizenservices.co.uk

Providing you are 65 and over, this service is available to you! Works are carried out by specialists and qualified staff all fully insured and DBS checked.

BATA Approved Trades
fsb MEMBER
AFA
ESN
Proud to Sponsor

Modern Methods - Traditional Values - Creative - Caring - Ambitious - Passionate

VILLAGE EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Every Weds	Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12 noon, Village Hall
Wed 2 Feb	WI, Village Hall 7.15 for 7.30pm
Sat 12 Feb	Village Market, 10.00 to 11.30am, Village Hall
Mon 14 Feb	Zeal Explorers Village Walk, 2pm at bus stop
Wed 16 Feb	Film night, doors open 7.00pm, film starts 7.30pm, see below
Sat 18 Feb	Quiz & Pasty Night at Village Hall, 7pm. Book with Jan Summers 82571
Wed 23 Feb	Bingo, Village Hall, doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm

FILM NIGHT

Our February film is 'The DIG', a biographic drama in which an archaeologist embarks on the historically important excavation of Sutton Hoo, in Suffolk.

In 1938, wealthy landowner Edith Pretty hires an archaeologist, Basil Brown, to investigate the mysterious mounds on her property in southern England. His efforts lead to a staggering find: while digging up a Viking burial site, he and his team discover a ship from the Dark Ages - a discovery that challenges the conception of British history to its very core. The impending World War 2 has an effect on this true story and the film illustrates beautifully the hard work of one dedicated, understated man. A lovely gentle film with good character studies, good acting and very human stories – 'The Dig' is real joy.

Carey Mulligan, Ralph Fiennes and Lily James star in this drama based on John Preston's novel about real-life history.

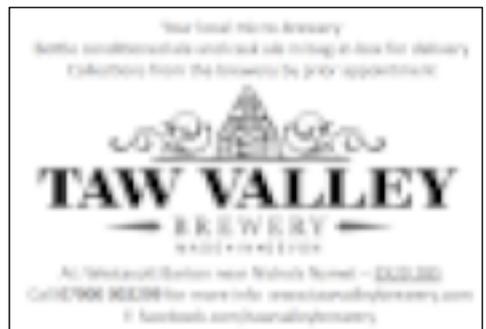
Wednesday 16th February, see back page



sew2treasure
Karen Hazel, BA (Hons) Textile Design and Fashion Diploma

Made to measure dressmaking
Alterations to clothing and soft furnishings
 bespoke Textile Design all things considered
Handmade fashion accessories

t: 01983 482037 www.sew2treasure.co.uk
e: kaz@sew2treasure.co.uk



Your local micro brewery
Quality award winning ales and cask conditioning at low cost delivery
Collections from the brewery by prior appointment

TAW VALLEY
BREWERY
WALSLEY

All Walsley Caskin near Walsley Road - 01226 882
Call 01906 862288 for more info www.tawvalleybrewery.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tawvalleybrewery



ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners

Christmas seems like a long time ago. However, I cannot let it pass without saying thank you to everyone who read lessons at the carol service and on Christmas Eve, and all who decorated the windows and tree. The church looked lovely and the services were well attended. Thank you, too, for the mince pies, mulled wine and coffee which were enjoyed after the carol service. The offertory was £95.30 and has been forwarded to the Children's Hospice Southwest.

On the second Sunday in December the Rev. Rowbottom dedicated a new purple altar frontal, communion veil, burse and pulpit fall to be used in Advent and Lent.

February rotas

February 6 at 10.00am

Old Testament
New Testament

4th Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Luke 5: 1-11

Sidesman
Altar Flowers 6th
Church cleaner

Family Service

Miss Lynn Warren
Mrs Becky & Jocie
Harvey
Mr Tony Brealy
Miss Margaret Harris
Miss Margaret Harris

February 13 at 6.30pm

Old Testament
New Testament
Gospel

3rd Sunday before Lent

Jeremiah 17: 5-10
1 Corinthisians 15: 12-20
Luke 6: 17-26
Sidesman
Altar Flowers 13th & 20th

CWE

Mr Robert Peck
Mrs Isabel Harris
Rev. D. Rowbottom
Mr Colin Crothers
Mrs Sally Rowden

February 27 at 3.00pm

Old Testament
New Testament

Sunday before Lent & Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34: 29-35
Luke 9: 28-36
Sidesman
Altar flowers 27th

BCP Evensong

Mrs Jane Hogg
Mr Colin Crothers
Mr Tony Brealy
Margaret Down

Reminder: Cross Country magazine. Payment of £6.00 is now due

Margaret (Churchwarden)

FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

We hope this year proves to be a better one as regards the pandemic and we hope we see no more restrictions. We are still awaiting news on when the Environment Agency intends to do the trawl of the lake, but think it will probably be in the spring now. No doubt we will see some hard frosts in the coming months.

It has been such a mild wet winter - things seem to be growing out of sync for this time of the year, but I am sure it will all eventually sort itself out. We have strimmed all the left-hand bank, which will soon be showing the wild daffodils and we hope to do the rest very soon. Over the Christmas period, it was good to see that Spence, one of our members, took his young son up there to try out the new rod he received for Christmas. I have had no reports of anyone else doing any serious fishing, although the weather has been mild enough.

We have spoken to Graham Vincent, who is going to construct the awning for Trevor's bench and, because it has been so wet, he has decided to start in early spring.

We have today sent a cheque for £100 raised from the sales of our calendars to MND (Motor Neurone Disease) and we would like to thank everyone who purchased a calendar and helped us raise the money. If you have not paid your subscriptions yet, please can we have them in by 15th February.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane

QUOTES FOR FEBRUARY

'You can't blame gravity for falling in love'.

Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist

'To love and be loved is to feel the sun from both sides'.

David Viscott, American psychiatrist and author, 1938 - 1996



SHELBY

Mandy Smith writes: For the last two weeks of December, I have been trying to capture this neutered boy who has been going round the village for at least the last two years on a raiding mission, into cat flaps and through open windows in order to fend for himself. Having done this very successfully, he is now very overweight and he has an injury on his back, which should be attended to.

With four white paws and a white triangle bib under his chin, he is very distinctive. He is a street wise, wily boy and all efforts with a cat trap have failed, only capturing my own animals including my dog 'Darcy'. Shelby has responded very well to my efforts of enticement and chatting with him and is now safely in my greenhouse. But I have yet to get close enough to put the scanner on him to see if he is chipped and has an owner out there. Gaining his confidence is a slow process but he is purring and paddling his feet with every indication that he desperately wants to be friends with me; my own animals have happily accepted his presence.

I will be happy to give him up to his rightful owner, but if nobody comes forward to claim him, he will remain with me for the rest of his days with 5-star heated accommodation in the greenhouse and meals on wheels. I had to put my other feral cat to sleep early last year, he had been with us for approximately 6 years, so I am used to dealing with this sort of scenario.

If you feel you may know who owns 'Shelby' please let me know; my contact details are Mobile: 07855 830668, Landline: 01363 82564.





MID DEVON Pest Control

For all your domestic,
commercial and industrial
pest control needs.

Free quotes available

Specialising in: **Ants, Beetles, Fleas, Flies, Mice, Rats, Wasps, Termites, Bed Bugs, Silverfish, and many more.**

100% fully guaranteed service

Member of the National Pest Control Association
Approved by the Health Protection Agency

www.middevonpestcontrol.co.uk

01326 370000

Head Office: www.middevonpestcontrol.co.uk



POWER TILING

Tiles provide your room with a decorative feature, adding an accent to walls or floors throughout your home.

We provide a high level of service from the first quotation to the moment of completion.

For a free quotation and consultation please call :

Jacob Pow on 07895 518140

gs gilbertstephens^{law}
SOLICITORS

**VEITCH
PENNY**
SOLICITORS

SPECIALISING IN:

- Agricultural Law
- Family Law
- Conveyancing
- Employment
- Civil Litigation
- Business Law



Contact Us Today To Find Out More:

01363 775566 / law@gilbertstephens.co.uk

Genuine Free Range Eggs at:

SERSTONE FARM

Come and collect
or call:
01363 82366



Jordan Clark
Director



Crediton Waste Removal

Commercial & domestic waste removal
Household waste
01363 82366

STREIFELL



Winkleigh Hand Car Wash
Open 7 days a week 8am – 6pm
Call 07848 689436



2 Churchill Gardens, Zeal Monachorum, Devon, EX17 6EG
TEL: 0779046 5017
Email: info@spencescaffolding.co.uk
www.spencescaffolding.co.uk

Have you an old air rifle
rusting in the shed?
I can buy it or refurbish it



Call Ken on 07749 329832

MARTIN DOWN - 07812 513383
GARDEN MACHINERY/ATV
SERVICE & REPAIR
NEW STIHL/VIKING MACHINES TO ORDER.
SECOND-HAND MACHINES
COLLECTION AND
DELIVERY
SERVICE AVAILABLE



DEVON THATCHING LTD
Rob Wilmott
CTTB Qualified Master Thatcher



rwthatching@aol.com 01837 83374
www.devonthatching.com 07790 412 079



Exterior painting, gutter clearing
Chris 07597968293
[01363] 881475

JOHN & EMILY HOOPER

Adapting to a Modern World

John Hooper, born in 1862 in Zeal Monachorum, was a blacksmith like his father and grandfather. The blacksmith's workshop was in Rattle Street and they lived in cottages, including Yew Tree towards the bottom of the hill. In 1889 John married Emily Cockram, a dressmaker from Nymet Rowland. They had 3 children: Robert John, Victor Gilbert and Cecily Joyce. John, a registered shoeing smith, worked alongside his father, also called John, until the latter's death, aged 70, in 1897.

From 1891, blacksmith's apprentices, or journeymen, were taken on; starting with James Stentiford from Zeal, followed by Edward Deem from Littleham, Mark Woodberry from Tiverton and Charlie Dennis from Marwood, who stayed in Zeal until his death in 1946. In 1917, during WW1 John, now aged 55, applied to the Crediton Rural Military Tribunal for an exemption in relation to the conscription of 'his man', Charlie Dennis, aged 36 (and married). John states that he has about 150 horses to shoe as well as the repairing of agricultural implements. He could not do the work himself and would have to close down if the man had to go. Charlie was granted conditional exemption and did not go to war.

The approach of the modern world came closer in small ways. By 1887, Zeal had a wall letter box with collections twice a day; for all other postal and telegraph services it was still necessary to go to Bow. But for John Hooper, diversifying into other activities meant that he could supervise his journeymen blacksmith while conducting new business. He was nearly into his 40s and perhaps he could see that the coming of the motorcar, and even the bicycle, could well reduce the amount of forge work. So, by 1901, a post and telegraph office was operating out of Yew Tree Cottage and John had been appointed sub-postmaster, with Emily as Post Office Assistant, while also selling groceries and, eventually, stationery.

In 1909 John was advertising Humber bikes for sale - "a reliable cheap machine safely used without apprehension of breakdown attendant on riding many low-priced bicycles. From £6.6s to £14 [juveniles £5.5s]". By 1914, there was another step forward when the Post and Telegraph Office became a Telephone Call Office; later with the fancy name Telephonic Express Delivery Office. Rumour has it that Emily, in controlling the telephone exchange, would like to listen in to calls - I guess that must have been a temptation for exchange operators everywhere.

The Hoopers played a significant part in village life. They were presented with a writing bureau and a framed address on their silver wedding, in 1914, at an "Irish Village" event. The Rector spoke of "the services rendered by Mr Hooper as churchwarden and how Mrs Hooper had been foremost in the great work of restoring the old parish church and collected nearly £40 for it". Mr W Pedler,

referred to “the esteem in which Mr & Mrs Hooper were deservedly held by the villagers, and promised to subscribe to another present for Mr and Mrs Hooper when another 25 years had elapsed if they and he were alive”. In 1918 Emily organised a sale of work in the Council School [now the Village Hall] which made £22 for St Dunstan’s Hostel for Blind Soldiers, which was a very contemporary concern with so many men coming back from the war with injuries, like blindness, often caused by gas in the trenches and battlefields. In 1925 Emily was the Secretary of the Bow and Zeal Monachorum District Nursing Association Committee. It employed a District Nurse who reported that, over the year, she had made 1672 regular visits, attended 7 midwifery, 4 maternity, 16 medical and 37 surgical cases. The NHS didn’t come into existence for another 23 years and so this astounding workload was funded from voluntary efforts and donations; this is to be applauded.

In 1935, when John was 73, fire broke out at the Rectory. The alarm being raised, villagers quickly assembled and the fire was practically extinguished with buckets of water before the arrival of the brigade. “Falling from a step ladder, Mr Hooper of the Post Office, sustained severe scalp wounds, necessitating the insertion of several stitches.” We never learn; there are 73- year-olds still shinning up ladders today, thinking they’re 21!

We know from newspaper reports of accidents that John had a car . The first report was in 1931 when “Mr Thomas Denner, aged about 56 of Cullompton, was crossing Fore-Street Cullompton and he came into contact with a car driven by Mr John Hooper, a postmaster, of Zeal Monachorum. Mr Denner sustained cuts on the temple and back of the head, and suffered from shock.”. Then in 1933: “A collision occurred at the Clock Tower, Exeter, between the Witheridge motor ‘bus, driven by Norman H Webber, and a motor car driven by John Hooper, Post Office, Zeal Monachorum. The car suffered the greater damage, and Mrs Hooper, a passenger, received a blow on the right eye and shock.” It seems likely that the car he was driving was the Vauxhall 12-6 which he advertised for sale for £175 in 1949 as “owner driven, 40,800 miles; giving up motoring”. *[See picture on following page]*

By 1942, things weren’t going so well and the Hoopers advertised for a working housekeeper at £1 a week for an “elderly couple”. I hope they found someone. John eventually moved to Kenwyn Nursing Home in Crediton where he died in 1952, aged 89; leaving to their son. Robert John Hooper, £4547 10 3d. Emily remained at Yew Tree Cottage, dying in 1958 aged 92 and leaving £1006 18s 2d. They are both buried in Zeal churchyard.

Erica Eden



LEFT: Photo 156 John Hooper blacksmith and postmaster. Outside the Old Rectory [now Heron Court]. Late 1940s/early 1950s. Photo by Biddy Smith.

ABOVE: Advertisement for a car similar to that owned by John Hooper.

CREDITON FOODBANK COLLECTION

A very Happy New Year to you all and let's hope that this year will be an improvement on the last few years. Because of you, the villagers of Zeal Monachorum, our Christmas collection was an astounding success. I kept back much of the tinned stuff because the supermarket boxes had been used right up until the first few weeks of December, and the shelves at the Foodbank were full. This has happened a few times over the years but this has been a blessing inasmuch as our contributions have been used to help fill up the shelves into the new year.

On my return from our Christmas away I found a card in which was a cheque for £50 and so our overall donation rocketed to £665. This was the most we have been able to hand over to the Foodbank and, as always, thanks go out to you for your continued generosity. If anyone who donated would like a Gift Aid form please let me know and I will forward it to you. 01363 82982.

At the January market, the first in 2022, it was cold and wet but the hall was buzzing again. The pink Foodbank Box was full to overflowing plus we had four big boxes and one huge box of soaps (thank you Chris); donations plus sales from the stall amounted to £20. What a great start to 2020.

THANK YOU FROM CHRISTIANS WORKING TOGETHER



FEBRUARY'S QUIZ

1. Southsea is a seaside resort in which English city?
2. How many stripes are there on a Greek flag?
3. What does 'prêt à manger' mean?
4. How many permanent teeth does a dog have?
5. According to Walkers, which is its most popular crisp flavour?
6. What is the name of the tower in London in which the bell, Big Ben, can be found?
7. What does CPR stand for?
8. Which meat is used in a Glamorgan sausage?
9. In computing, what does the acronym, WYSIWYG stand for?
10. What nationality was the artist Salvador Dali?
11. How many pillars or primary obligations are there in Islam?
12. In which sport do matches typically consist of six chukkas?
13. Which Greek hero led the search for the Golden Fleece?
14. How many elements are there in the Periodic Table?
15. In which year was the Euro introduced as currency? 1989, 1999 or 2009?

Minute Quiz

Can you name the nine countries that border Germany?

Answers for January

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 1937 | 9. William Hartnell |
| 2. Marie Curie for both Physics and Chemistry | 10. Turin |
| 3. Casino Royale, 1952/3 | 11. Blue Peter |
| 4. Dr No, 1963 | 12. Emma Radacanu |
| 5. Catherine of Aragon | 13. Your Song |
| 6. Aries | 14. The Shepherds |
| 7. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe | 15. The first female
Poet Laureate |
| 8. Laika | |

Minute Quiz answers

When you add the vowels to the countries you find;

1. Canada 2. Australia 3. Uruguay 4. Algeria 5. Estonia 6. India

THE WAIE INN

🌐 www.waieinn.co.uk

☎ 01363 82348

✉ info@waieinn.co.uk

📍 Deal Monachorum,
Dredon, Gosport, EX27 6DF



Breakfast: 9am - 12pm
Full Menu: 12pm - 9pm



- Indoor & outdoor seating available (Indoor table reservations to be made in advance where possible)
- Our Swimming Pool is available for family & bubble sessions at £30 per hour. Please call us to book.
- Waie 2 Play is open for advance bookings via the Booksy app - the link available on our website.
- Our skittle alleys, squash courts and pool & snooker tables are available to use. Please call us to hire our Multi Sports Hall.

Abigail's
Beauty Retreat



Beauty ♥ Massage ♥ Holistic

07565 768386

I'm not a fully qualified beauty therapist.
I offer a wide range of treatments with a friendly
professional service. I enjoy all aspects of my job, as everyday
holds something new. I look forward to welcoming you to my Salon.

abigailbeautyretreat@gmail.com

Lapford, EX17 6PZ

Why not advertise your
business in

**Monachorum
Matters**

For details contact
Ken Hogg 07749 32832

**Bytes
Computers**

WIPAC, WINDLE, LAW, COX, SIMON
100% Flat Fee
PC, Laptop & Apple - Repair & Upgrade
New & Refurbished Computers
Ongoing Support for Home or Business
Telephony & Servers - Broadband & VDSL Fibre-optics

www.bytescomputers.co.uk 01363 82842
help@bytescomputers.co.uk 07905 298739

ZEAL MONACHORUM W.I.

Our annual Christmas dinner, held at the Waie Inn on 1st December, was attended by all but two members and a good time was had by all, as shown by pictures featured last month.

Attendance at the January meeting was much depleted for various reasons. The speaker was new member Jess Standing, our very youngest recruit, who demonstrated the art of making dream catchers. For the competition, with help from Jess, we all made our own which was very enjoyable - see pictures below.

For our next meeting on **2 February** a member of the Air Ambulance will attend. As usual at the March meeting on the 2nd we will celebrate our birthday, but it is yet to be decided whether we go out or just enjoy a social evening with the possibility of fish and chips. Visitors are always welcome with the hope that, after three meetings @ £1 per meeting, they will decide to join us. Happy New Year to all from ZMWI.

Jan Brealy



*Above: industrious WI members
with their dreamcatchers.*

*Right: competition winner Sue
Carey.*

*Thanks to Erica Eden for the
photos.*



February is a great time to get ahead in the garden in time for Spring's arrival. Take a look at these tips on what needs doing in the garden this February, courtesy of Bow Garden Centre.

1. Prepare vegetable beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Once finished, cover prepared soil with sheets of recyclable black plastic to keep it drier and warmer ready for spring planting.
2. In raised beds, the soil warms up faster and water drains quickly, so they are ideal if you want to make an early start in the garden. Bow has new 'Vegepods' and raised bed kits, ideal for raised gardening.
3. Start outdoor sowings of early crops.
4. Chit seed potatoes - Bow has a wide range of varieties available.
5. If it's not too wet, you can plant out summer bulbs with gravel and bulb fibre underneath to stop them rotting when it's wet or pot them up and put them in the greenhouse to give them a head start.
6. Pot up containers, hanging baskets and pots with lovely spring bedding plants such as, Violas, Pansies, and Primroses. An easy way to cheer up areas with no colour.
7. Once they've finished flowering, prune winter-blooming shrubs like Viburnum, Skimmia, Daphne and heathers.
8. Keep roses and other flowering shrubs healthy by sprinkling slow-release fertiliser around the bases.
9. Net winter cabbages and broccoli to protect them. We have a full range of netting.
10. Continue to leave out food and water for the wild birds in your garden, particularly in cold weather, it's a good idea to check twice a day that there's plenty of food.

Bow Garden Centre is a great place for all your garden essentials: trees, plants, shrubs, bulbs, seeds and tools. We also have fish and pet supplies, Post Office services and a lovely welcoming Waterside Café.

www.bowgardencentre.co.uk,
01363 82438.



Bow Garden & Aquatic Centre

Grow Your Own!
Get a varied crop with our seed potatoes, and vegetables including, onions, asparagus, rhubarb & more...

Spring Bedding...
Start planning your Spring garden with our Violas, Pansies, and Primroses.

Big Winter Sale In Store Now!

Waterside cafe
Relax in our Waterside Café. Enjoy Full English Breakfasts, homemade lunch specials and Sunday Roasts.

Open Mon - Sat 9-5 Sunday 10-4.30
01363 82438 www.bowgardencentre.co.uk
EX17 6LA

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Despite awful weather on 8 January, both the market and the annual party were well-attended. At the market the Jubilee Group ran another of their 'challenges', this time a chance to win a bottle at the Hoop-la. It attracted a lot of attention and excitement and, because there were a number of bottles that hadn't been snaffled up, we ran it again at the party in the evening.

Pictured below, top left: a view of the market, top right: the Hoop-la challenge, bottom: the party feast.



Also, at the party we had a feast of food and some very enjoyable games. It became an actual Birthday Party – David Bowyer was celebrating and he offered to share with everyone a superb chocolate cake. Thankyou to everyone who came along and enjoyed the evening and special thanks to everyone who carried out all the tasks that go into such an event.

Our next event is on **Friday 18 February – a Quiz and Pasty night**. Starting at 7pm, teams of up to six people are invited to put their knowledge to the test. The price is £5 per head which includes a pasty and a glass of wine or soft drink. Wine and soft drinks will also be available on the night for a donation. Booking is **essential** – please call Jan on 82571, email jansummerszm@gmail.com.

VILLAGE WALK

We are becoming accustomed to getting wet on our village walks but I was surprised that five of us, and Nou the dog, were willing to do it yet again this month. We headed out to the Deer Park and on to East Leigh and back again in solid heavy drizzle but it wasn't cold or windy and it felt good to be out and about and having a good chat with each other.

We can't promise you that it won't be raining for our February walk but please join us if you can, 2pm at the bus stop on Monday 14 February.

*Hardy walkers
enjoying the rain!*



KELLAND DAIRY

Fresh, whole pasteurised and unhomogenised milk delivered to your doorstep.
Twice weekly refill into your own containers.

NO SINGLE USE PLASTIC

£1.45 per litre

Phone or email to enquire about setting up an account:
01363 779134,
milk@kellanddairy.co.uk

Check our website:
www.kellanddairy.co.uk



The Engineering & Technology Centre

www.etc.ac.uk

- Energy Efficiency Centre (ECC) & Centre for Energy Efficiency
- Renewable Energy & Energy Storage
- Robotics, Automation & Control
- Manufacturing & Production
- Manufacturing & Production

Engineering & Technology Centre, University of Northampton, Northampton, NN1 2BU

www.etc.ac.uk
01603 270000

Engineering & Technology Centre, University of Northampton, Northampton, NN1 2BU

Farming from the Hedge

One of my Christmas presents was a book by Jeremy Clarkson the former Top Gear presenter, expert on motoring and a columnist in the Sunday Times. The book, “*Diddly Squat, a year on the farm*”, gives a glimpse of his first year of being a farmer and some of the problems he faced.

He encountered oceans of red tape, unpredictable weather, objections from N.I.M.B.Y.s, a world-wide Covid pandemic and his own staggering lack of knowledge on how to “do” farming. Instead of writing about cars, he wrote a column about his Lamborghini tractor which he bought for £40,000 second-hand from Germany; the 270 horse-power turbocharged diesel is so big he needed a new barn costing £26,000 but it does run on red diesel.

His new venture in growing crops was a problem because he didn't know wheat from barley. He bought 68 north country mules (sheep) which he describes as vindictive. He takes a swipe at the muddle-headed progressives in the left-wing media who exploded with joy recently as they explained that farmers will soon be getting government subsidies but only if they filled igloos for the newts with down, and knit woolly jumpers for the trees.

It is a hilarious bedtime read which will appeal to farming people, but it does have some good ideas from someone new to “this farming malarkey”. I hope his T.V. work pays well.

AS **Andrew Symons**
GROUND CARE & GARDEN MACHINERY

Brands You Can Trust!

Committed to Groundcare

ATCO METESIA FERRIS GreenMech HONDA Husqvarna Kawasaki TIGA

Lords Meadow Ind Estate - Crediton - EX17 1FB - 01363 720430
Visit: andrewsymons.co.uk

ZEAL MONACHORUM VILLAGE HALL

presents

CAREY
MULLIGAN

RALPH
FIENNES



WWII looms, and a well-to-do widow hires a self-taught archaeologist to excavate strange mounds on her estate. When they make a historic discovery, the echoes of Britain's past resonate in the face of its uncertain future.

WEDNESDAY 16th FEBRUARY

DOORS 7 P.M. STARTS 7.30 P.M.

TICKETS £4.00