

MONACHORUM MATTERS

FREE

Issue 58, March 2024

The newsletter for Zeal Monachorum and St Peter's Parish



Sent by the Zeal photo group, in memory of Bill Quick and Ken Down.

EDITORIAL

Thanks to Mike Russell for our delightful cover photo which shows Bill Quick and Ken Down chewing the fat at Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee celebrations. It serves as a poignant reminder that, in the last few months, we have now lost both of these Zeal stalwarts who spent their whole lives in this village. They are both much missed and our condolences go out to their families. Sadly, Graham Vincent has also passed away.

Another long-lived village resident - Tony Brealy - has been persuaded to tell some of the stories of his life in Zeal; the first one is on page 5 and describes his father's post round. We hope to have more of these reminiscences in the coming months.

Parishioners will no doubt be aware that, after an absence of some months, the Jubilee seat has been restored and is back in its place near the Village Green. On Page 16 & 17 Erica Eden tells the story of the seat with pictures of it in use.

As we move into March, with the weather feeling more spring-like, we welcome back the Spring Flower and Homecraft Show which will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 16 March. All the vital details - the schedules and the all-important rules - are included on Pages 12 & 13.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE - 8 MARCH

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COMMUNITY NEWS

VILLAGE EVENTS IN MARCH

- Tues Mar 5 **Coffee morning is back - 10.30 at the Village Hall**
Wed 6 Mar WI Birthday celebration, 7.15 for 7.30pm at the Village Hall.
Sat 9 Mar Market, 10 – 11.30am at the Village Hall; have a clear out and book a stall to raise money.
Mon 11 Mar Village Walk, meet 2pm at bus stop.
Sat 16 Mar Spring Flower and Homecraft Show, see page 12 & 13.
Weds 20 Mar Bingo, Village Hall doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 7.30pm; last session until September.
Mon 25 Mar Bow & District Historical Society – see below.
Thu 28 Mar Parish Council, 7pm at the Village Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Sat 27 April – Big Breakfast. Save the Date

THE LAST MOBILE LIBRARY

A majority of the regulars turned up to thank the librarian and her colleagues for the wonderful public service the village has received over at least 60 years. It was a sad leave-taking. Pictured below, regular users Delia Wainwright and Kayleigh Panchal make the most of the last visit. (Picture Erica Eden).



DONATION

Naomi Harvey has donated £10 to Devon Air Ambulance following sales of her hand-made soap and cards at the February village market – well done to her.

RAINFALL

Rainfall for January - 108mm.

BOW & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday 25 March 7.15 for 7.30; talk by Erica Eden on the History of Zeal Monachorum School. Bow Village Hall, EX17 6HU. Membership £15 visitors £4. Enquiries 01363 82468 or Erica 82606

FREE – FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

The Village Hall has 3 pallets to offer to anyone who would like 1 or more, plus bags of hardcore - mainly stone and some concrete. Contact Jan 82571.

A QUIZ FOR EASTER

1. Easter always falls between which two dates?
2. What name is given to the Sunday before Easter?
3. What happens to clocks in the Spring?
4. Where is the most popular Easter parade held each year?
5. In 1948's lavish musical *Easter Parade*, who stars opposite Fred Astaire as ambitious chorus girl Hannah?
6. Who wrote the song '*Easter Parade*'?
7. In England, what is the name of the fruitcake with marzipan balls traditionally served at Easter?
8. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on the cake in the previous question?
9. When was the first Cadbury's Creme Egg sold in the UK?
10. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?
11. Easter Island belongs to which country?
12. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
13. Who wrote *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*?
14. In what Disney film does the inquisitive rabbit Thumper feature?
15. Hazel, Fiver, Bigwig and Blackberry are four plucky rabbits looking for a new home in which classic Richard Adams novel?

Answers on Page 9

QUOTE

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life.
S.D. Gordon, American author and Lay Minister

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TONY BREALY REMEMBERS...

There will still be a few people in the village who remember my father, Fred Brealy. He was the Postman in and around the village for 43 years. He first got the post round when he was 22. I don't know if any interviews were involved but his father and the Post Master, John Hooper, were life long friends.

The Post Office at that time was in Yew Tree Cottage (now the home of Susie and Mike Bostock) in Gissage Lane, also known as Rattle Street. His post round was the western half of the village covering the following route:

- From Rattle Street to number 6 Western Road
- Up the footpath between Napleton House and The Elms and down to East Foldhay (formerly the property of the Bowyers, now Youngs).
- On to Loosebeare and then down the track to Stopgate (then two houses).
- Back up towards Zeal he turned into the footpath leading to Nymphayes Farm
- Leaving Nymphayes farmhouse, he turned into the Down St. Mary road to North Yeo Farm which is now a barn.
- Across the fields to Middle Yeo (then two cottages - but no bungalow).
- On to Lower Week and onwards to Yeo Mill.
- Over more fields to Oak Tree Farm, which was then called Wales Farm.
- Across the road into Merryfield Farm.
- Across more fields to Tucking Mill Farm.
- Up Tucking Mill Hill turning right onto Town Hill
- Left at the top of Town Hill turning right onto Rattle Street and the Post Office.

All in all, a nine-mile walking post round.

Coincidentally, when I left Zeal Primary School to go to North Tawton Secondary School, Dad also re-located jobs and was based in Bow Post Office, which provided him with a bicycle for his post round which was now 16.5 miles. This new round included all of the above plus the Burston Inn (now the Co-Op), Silver Street, (just up the road on the right opposite what is now Bow Garden Centre). From Silver Street, across the main road turning into Hampson and Broadnymet Farms and their cottages. Back towards Bow turning left into Burston Manor, Lower, Higher and Great Burston, Burston Cottage (then called Tin Villa, it sported a tin roof)! From here on to Reeve Castle, Wootten Top Farm, down to Great Wootten (now a deer park) delivering to what was then four cottages, on to Great Foldhay and Barons Wood. Turning right into East Newton, Leigh Cross, down to the Quest. Up the North Tawton Road to Manns Newton, from here, back to base in Bow.

Dad knew the birthdays of the village children and always carried sweets to hand out on their day. He also carried biscuits just in case he had to placate an unfriendly dog! Only in the latter years did he receive one week's paid holiday! Not only, but also, after his daily post round he worked on farms. During harvest time, farming goes on until nightfall. This meant his working day lasted from 6 am starting with the post round, ending at the farm often at 10pm or later.



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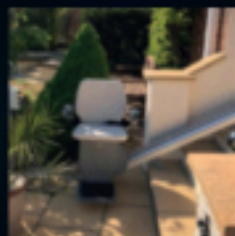
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FISHING CLUB CHAT

Hi All

I wanted to thank all members who turned up to our last meeting; it was quite successful and we aired many points. We discussed one of the main things we require is to raise some funds for the club. We are about to make an application to Den Brook for a new boathouse as, after 14 years, the old one is falling apart. All the boys built it with recycled materials. We have also decided to have a quiz evening at the Waie Inn, date to be arranged. We discussed putting the fees up to £60 for next year, and day tickets up to £7 for adults and £5 for juniors to help boost the club funds. We require extra funds to maintain the new cameras.

Our hearts and thoughts are with Marion Quick and the family after the tragic loss of our good old friend Bill, we'll miss our morning encounters at the lake. Without the generosity of the family, we would not have this wonderful facility.

Tight lines

Ken and Jane

EDITOR'S NOTE: I received this letter with a request to include it in this issue.

Dear Editor,

I refer to the "Fishing Club Chat" article in issue 57 (Feb 2024) of MM. The article, which referenced the club's insurance claim, stated that "*they* [the Angling Trust] *felt they were not able to pay out.*" That statement is incorrect in implying Angling Trust chose not to pay the insurance claim. Angling Trust is not an insurer but the national governing body for angling in England. While member clubs do benefit from an inclusive insurance package (provided by a third-party insurer) amongst the many other benefits of membership, the Angling Trust has no role whatsoever in deciding whether a member club's insurance claim is paid or not. That decision rests solely with the insurer. In this rare instance, where the insurer had declined the claim, Angling Trust staff did all they could to challenge the insurer and argue the member's case. Regrettably the insurers would not change their position. A disappointing outcome all round.

On a personal level, I wish the angling club all the very best for the future but felt it necessary to set the position straight on the published mis-statement.



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ST PETER'S CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

March this year will encompass much of the season of Lent and closes with the glorious celebration of Easter.

This a very important season in the church calendar

and we look forward to seeing our Christian family at our worship. We will be joined on Maundy Thursday by worshippers across our Mission Community. A lent group is being held at The Ark, Lapford on Monday afternoons at 2.00pm. Rev David Rowbottom will be leading it, the subject is Women of Holy Week.

Our services for March

March 3 at 10.00am	Lent 3 (Lay led)	All Age Worship
Old Testament reading	Exodus 20: 1-17	Miss Lynn Warren
Gospel reading	John 2: 13-22	Mr Colin Crothers
	Sidesman	Mr Tony Brealy
	Church cleaner	Mrs Susan Bostock
March 10 at 6.30pm	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	CWE
Old Testament reading	Numbers 21:4-9	Mrs Tina Young
New Testament reading	Ephesians 2: 1-10	Mr Robert Peck
Gospel	John 3:14-21	Rev Matthew Tregenza
	Sidesman	Mr Colin Crothers
March 24 at 3.00pm	Palm Sunday (lay led)	Evensong
Old Testament reading	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Mrs Jane Hogg
Gospel	Mark 11: 1-11	Mrs Becky Harvey
	Sidesman	Mr Colin Crothers
March 28 at 7.00pm	Maundy Thursday	Holy Communion
Old Testament reading	Exodus 12: 1-4,11-14	
New Testament reading	1 Corinthians 11: 24-26	Mr Colin Crothers
	Sidesman	
March 31 at 9.00am	Easter Day Communion	
Old Testament reading	Isaiah 25: 6-9	Mr Robert Peck
New Testament reading	Acts 10:34-43	Mr Graham Rounsley
Gospel	Mark 16: 1-8	Preb Anthony Geering
	Sidesman	Mr Tony Brealy
	Altar Flowers at Easter	Margaret Down

Flowers for Easter Church decorating will take place on Saturday 30 from 10am. If you would like to join our small band please do.

It is with much sadness that I mention the deaths of Mr Bill Quick whose funeral will have taken place at St Peter's church on Tuesday, February 20, and Mr Graham Vincent whose funeral was held at the Devon and Exeter crematorium on Thursday, February 22. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. A more detailed report will be included in the April issue of Monachorum Matters.

Church Electoral Roll update. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is being held on April 24. The Electoral Roll is updated annually before the APCM. The revision begins on March 8th and closes on April 8th. If you would like to be included on the Church Electoral Roll please contact Tony, the roll officer **Tel. 82563** for an application form or collect one from the table in church. As a member on the Electoral Roll, you are able to vote at the annual meeting and be eligible to become a member of the P.C.C. which makes decisions on both the life and upkeep of our lovely church building.

Margaret (Churchwarden)

—ooo0ooo—

CREDITON FOODBANK

Isn't it lovely to be able to welcome the spring flowers into our gardens and along the lanes? There is nothing better! It seems they just put a smile on our faces and we can look back on the cold, wet days we have experienced, and look forward to Easter knowing that Summer is on its way. Hallelujah!

The Foodbank Co-ordinators and Volunteers continue to work very hard trying to make sure the bags that are given out to their service users cover all their needs. It seems numbers are still rising every week, which means, of course, that as the food comes in it very quickly goes back out again. So, it is a big thank you to those who so faithfully give, whether it is at the Village Market, or deliveries which I am able to collect, and of course at Supermarkets.

Everything is needed at this time, however there are items that constantly run out very quickly, and these include: small bags of sugar, jars of instant coffee, hot chocolate, tinned carrots, sweetcorn, custard, rice pudding, fruit, toilet rolls, washing up liquid, long life fruit juices and fruit squashes to name a few. **A BIG THANK YOU INDEED**

Answers to quiz on Page 4

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. March 22 and April 25 | 9. 1971 |
| 2. Palm Sunday | 10. Lily |
| 3. They go forward. | 11. Chile |
| 4. New York | 12. Germany |
| 5. Judy Garland | 13. Beatrix Potter |
| 6. Irving Berlin | 14. Bambi |
| 7. Simnel cake | 15. Watership Down |
| 8. 11, one for each of the apostles | |

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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

After many months of research into priorities, costs and tradesmen for the refurbishment at the hall it is with great pleasure that the Management Committee can say that we have made a start on our programme of improvements. Following our success in securing a grant of £7100 to improve energy efficiency we have brought the ceiling insulation up to current standards and, though visitors will be unable to see the effect, we certainly hope that they will be able to feel it.

You will be able to see that the hatchway between the kitchen and the hall has been lowered making it much easier to transfer things. We hope it won't be too long before the new window shutters are in place – they will also improve the comfort in the hall. However, there is a great deal of expensive work to be done on the fabric of the building which will be carried out throughout this year. Our constitution states that *'the Hall shall be held upon trust for the purposes of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Zeal Monachorum and the neighbourhood ... with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants'*. The trust allows us to use the funds of village hall for only those purposes and for maintenance, upkeep and insurance.

Village Market Saturday 9 March 10-11.30am. Contact 82571 to book a stall to raise money for your favourite charity or to sell stuff from your spring clear out.

Saturday 16 March Flower & Homecraft Show. Entries to Village Hall between 10am-12 noon, open to public 2.30pm. Do check out your garden or make something to enter, and if you haven't anything, then come in the afternoon to admire the wonderful exhibits, some of which will be sold at the auction. Schedule next page or www.zealmonachorum.org.uk/village-hall.html

Wednesday 20 March - Last Bingo session until September. Come along for a fun evening with good prizes. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

FILM FESTIVAL

On Saturday 28 September the Village Hall is planning a Festival of Short Films by independent film-makers, amateur or professional. We would therefore welcome submissions or suggestions for films, please contact Erica 82606 or chair@zealmonachorum.org.uk

Do you, or someone you know, have old cine film featuring Zeal Monachorum and/or local people, perhaps tucked away in a box somewhere and maybe without the equipment to play it back? It's good to save old photos for posterity and while film is not so straightforward to rescue, it may be possible to restore it and give it a new life. Please get in touch if you would like to see what's in the archive.

Erica 82606.

COFFEE MORNING: These have been missed by some and we plan to start again on Tuesday Mar 5 at the usual time of 10.30. Come along for a bit of chat with a cuppa and a biscuit or three.

Spring Flower and Homecraft Show

Saturday 16th March 2024

All entries to Hall – between 10 am and 12 noon

Open to the public 2.30 pm

Admission - Adults £1, Children Free

Refreshments available

3.00 pm Prize Giving

followed by AUCTION & DRAW

PRIZES

Silver Cups for the most points in Flower and Homecraft Sections

Best in Sections Rosettes for one exhibit

Rosettes for all Children's Entries

COME AND JOIN US

RULES

- All exhibits must be in the Village Hall ready for judging by 12 noon on the day of the show. The Hall will be open between 10 am and 12 noon.
- Judging will take place between 12pm and 2pm when the Hall will be closed to the public.
- No competitor may enter more than two entries in any one class.
- Exhibits must not have been shown in a previous Zeal show.
- The decision of the judge is final. Judges have the power to withhold prizes should the exhibits or number of entries be, in their opinion, unworthy of it.
- The committee will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur in connection with the show.
- All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor in their garden or allotment. In other sections, the exhibits must be the individual work of the exhibitor.
- Points for cups: 1st 3 points, 2nd 2 points, 3rd 1 point.
- In the case of an exhibitor winning two prizes in a class, only the highest counts towards the cup.
- The committee shall decide on any matter not covered by these rules.

SCHEDULE

Flowers

1. 3 Trumpet daffodils – yellow
2. 3 Trumpet daffodils – white
3. 3 Large cup daffodils – any colour
4. 3 Small cup daffodils – any colour
5. 3 Double (1 Head) daffodils – any colour
6. 3 Jonquils, multi headed – any colour
7. 3 Miniature daffodils
8. 3 Tulips
9. 3 Grape hyacinths
10. 3 Polyanthus
11. 3 Pansies
12. 3 Miscellaneous daffodils – not covered by the above
13. 3 Stems spring flowers – not covered by the above
14. 1 single specimen bloom – any type
15. Spray of flowering shrub
16. Arrangement of flowers in a jug – any size

'In joy or sadness, flowers are our constant friends'

Cookery & Handicraft

17. Simnel cake
18. 3 Easter Biscuits
19. 3 Savoury Scones
20. Jar of Jam
21. Jar of Lemon Curd
22. Photograph – Nature with caption – maximum size 6" x 4" (A5 21cm x 15 cm approx)
23. Photograph - A Pet with caption – maximum size 6" x 4" (A5 21cm x 15 cm approx)
24. Handmade Easter Card – maximum size 6" x 4" (A5 21cm x 15 cm approx)
25. A collage/picture made from recycled material - maximum size 12" x 8.3" (A4 30cm x 21 cm approx)
26. Bird box or Bug hotel
27. Decorated welly boot
28. An item of needlework eg knitted, crochet, stitched etc
29. Decorated Hard Boiled egg

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



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JUBILEE SEAT

We are fortunate that Frank Howard was born at the house at Stopgate Cross just within the Zeal boundaries and his attachment to the village meant that he generously gave the original seat to commemorate the 1977 Silver Jubilee, having first presented an identical one to Queen Elizabeth for Buckingham Palace. Here is the original seat occupied by Frank Howard (left) and Rev J Godek.



The seat had been well-loved and used and had a special place in everyone's hearts, young and old. Over the years wear, tear and damage affected the seat until a point was reached where good repairs became difficult to do and the 2012 Diamond Jubilee was approaching. Roy, Frank's son, had helped his father to make the original and he offered to make a replacement incorporating the original crown and leaves with some design improvements to help with durability. In the workshop he found some duplicate parts for the seat which he then incorporated into it along with his own addition which is seen when one looks up. He did the work for considerably less than the actual cost, kindly donating materials and labour in memory of his Mother and Father.

Time passed and the seat again needed some considerable TLC which David Bowyer has recently undertaken. Our heartfelt thanks go to him for all the amazing work he has done. The pictures on the following page show the seat being prepared for restoration and restored to its home.



The seat, in pieces, in preparation for revarnishing and reassembly by David Bowyer



David Bowyer,, Trevor Packham and Ken Hogg just after the seat was replaced.

ZEAL MONACHORUM WI

After January's minutes were read, approved and signed, our February meeting gave way to a discussion regarding ideas for our 70th birthday in March. The committee will supply a savoury first course, some members will make puddings while others will contribute towards a hamper which would be a raffle prize.

A full hall for the meeting delighted our speaker, Ron Hill. Accompanied by his wife, Edwina, he amazed us with the varieties of shrubs and plants he grows that thrive on Dartmoor. Examples were passed around for us to examine and there was much scribbling as notes were taken for future reference.

April is our AGM where a new committee is formed together with officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Please remember, visitors are always welcome, this includes gentlemen. We just ask for £1. Ladies contemplating joining may attend three meetings @ £1 a visit after which it is hoped they will decide to join.

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ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council meeting was held on 25th January, at which we had a report from Margaret Squires, our county council representative. After the usual discussion about our potholes, she gave an insight into the finances of the council. You won't be surprised to hear that it is under extreme pressure, but at least the council appears to be solvent. One of the biggest demands is the number of children in care, over 900 at the moment. A significant reason for this is the dire shortage of foster parents; there may well be people in this parish who could give this some thought.

One of the few powers a parish council has is to provide allotments. In this we have failed, after a couple of false starts. If anyone would provide a parcel of land for allotments it would be an enormous asset to village life.

As you will be aware, the Jubilee Seat is now back in place at long last. Councillors wished to convey their thanks to David Bowyer who has spent many hours in restoration at no cost. (See report and pictures on Page 16 & 17)

The council particularly wants to install some memorial to the late Ken Down and it was decided that a seat with plaque would be suitable. Ken spent much of his adult life as a parish councillor and also on the village hall committee. With this in mind our village hall representative was asked to enquire whether the committee would be prepared to make a contribution and perhaps place the seat outside the refurbished hall. This we considered apt, particularly as the hall is where Ken went to school.

January is the month when we set the annual precept. This comes from the council tax to the Parish Council. In the recent past any increase has been kept to a minimum. Our finances have been severely diminished in the last year, mainly by the cost of the Jubilee canopy and the rebuilding of the church wall. This is, I think, the largest capital expense this parish council has made to date. After much discussion it was agreed to raise the precept by 10%, meaning that every council tax payer would be paying an extra £5.04 per year.

The meeting ended at 8.05. The next meeting will be on March 28 at 7.00 p.m.

Rob Peck, Chair.

SURVEY

A survey on Rural Services is being conducted by Mid Devon DC; comments are invited by 1 March 2024.

The on-line link is: **Rural Services Survey | Let's Talk Mid Devon**. To request a printed copy of the survey, call 01884 255 255. It can be returned by post / delivered by hand to Forward Planning, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PP.



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Make the most of your garden this March

1. Once the weather has warmed, it's a great time to mix in a soil improver to your soil & mulch around the top to help boost plant growth for the coming year.
2. Beware of overnight frost and be sure to protect any tender plants with fleece or by taking them into the greenhouse.
3. Keep on top of pruning climbing plants and tidying up Winter shrubs. March is a great month to prune varieties such as Sambucus, Buddleia, Hydrangea or Fuchsias.
4. Prune Rose bushes from mid-March, making sure any dying or diseased stems are removed as well as shoots which have become damaged. Fertilise soil well with organic compost and rose feed to their base.
5. The first lawn trims, lawn feeding and lawn weeding should start in March during dry weather to encourage healthy lawn growth through the year. Top tip – Leave a patch of lawn to grow & sow in wild flowers for a mini meadow area that the wildlife will love!
6. Bare patches in your lawn can attract weeds so re-seed now, and regularly water to repair these patches and prevent any new weeds from becoming a problem for your lawn.
7. Continue deadheading Spring flowers and any remaining Winter bedding so they don't set seed.
8. Once the soil starts to warm up again, you can start to plant early varieties of seed potatoes, shallots and onion sets in your vegetable garden. Later seed potatoes require a little more chitting.
9. Prepare your vegetable garden – Dig compost or well-rotted manure into your vegetable beds to prepare for the growing season ahead.
10. Protect new bulb shoots from insects and slugs with our pest control range including, natural and organic products.

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SUSTAINABLE CREDITON

Sustainable Crediton (www.sustainablecrediton.org.uk) is a group concerned about the growing climate and ecological crisis, aiming to help our communities to live more sustainably. We'd be delighted to welcome new supporters from Zeal Monachorum. We have interesting projects on the go:

- Community Larder at Crediton Library, sharing surplus food for free,
- Textile group - upcycling used fabric into Tote bags and other items,
- Repair Café – helping people mend and re-use serviceable items,
- Woodland Management and Tree Care teams,
- Pollinator Project, encouraging insects & biodiversity with flower plots,
- Community Allotment at Barnfield, growing food to share,
- Climate Action Group (starting arts activities); a new Library of Things project...

Email us at info@sustainablecrediton.org.uk, if you are interested, or just drop in to see us at our hub: The Sustainabubble, North Street, Crediton EX17 2BT. Open first and third Saturdays of the month, 10:00 -1:00. Or come to our March events:

- Sat 2/3/24 10-1.00 'Everlasting Tulips' textile group at the Sustainabubble
- Thurs 14/3/24, 7.30pm. Talk on Swifts, at Crediton Congregational Church
- Sat 16/3/24 10-1.00 Bird-themed activities at the Sustainabubble
- Sat 23/3/24 Repair Café at Elephant on the Green café

In aid of Devon Air Ambulance Trust
at The Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum, EX17 6DF

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**Saturday 13th April 2024
Doors open 7pm**

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Gaming brief at 7.30pm

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