

Happy Easter



MERTON MONTHLY

APRIL 2011

The Clinton Hall

Bill Brown – Chair; Dennis Twomey – Vice Chair; Jan Sharpe – Secretary; Janet Nancekivell – Treasurer
Judi Higton – Bookings Secretary John Luxton – Caretaker
Telephone 01805 603300

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The Clinton Hall

Clinton Hall AGM

Tuesday 26th April 2011 – 7.30pm

The Clinton Hall is unfortunately losing some longstanding members of the committee at the next AGM and is appealing for new members to come and join the running of this great facility.

The hall is there for the use of the village of Merton, various user groups and the surrounding areas and it would be great to have representation from these to come and join the committee.

We are very lucky to have such an accessible asset on our door step and any input you can give would be greatly appreciated in the continued success of the hall. We look forward to welcoming you at the AGM.



COFFEE MORNING AT THE CLINTON HALL

Tuesday 5 APRIL, 9.00am to 11.30am



WHAT'S ON DIARY – further info in newsletter

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| Tuesday 26 April | - Clinton Hall AGM |
| Friday 29 April | - Royal Wedding Celebrations, Clinton Hall, 5pm |
| Tuesday 5 July | - Freedom of Merton |
| Saturday 16 July | - Vintage Rally, Clinton Hall |



ROYAL WEDDING KNEES UP!!!
TO CELEBRATE THE ROYAL WEDDING
FRIDAY 29TH APRIL 2011
CLINTON HALL MERTON
FROM 5PM TILL LATE
BAR - DISCO – BBQ - BRING AND SHARE TEA
THE MORE THE MERRIER!!

All Saints Church

From the Team Rector - Martin Warren, tel: 01409-281424

My sister's delighted! She's off to see her daughter working in China over Easter – and four days are public holidays, so they don't need to come out of her leave quota. Good on you William and Kate, for giving us another day off!

So what's it all about? A chance for more street parties and village celebrations? A dry run for the Diamond Jubilee next year? Maybe there is more to it than that with it being a national celebration of a marriage – and of marriage in general. What's so special about marriage? Two people getting together – actually normally now, already got together – both gooey with love. Come on, where's the real world?

But no, it is about the real world. For here is the hope. A hope of security and commitment. Not just an arrangement that shares the bills and a bed, or even one for bringing up children. It's not just a convenient set-up until something better comes along.

This an expression that life is ultimately about people, and not just plans; and that at the heart of that is commitment and not just convenience. And this is true not just for two people – be they young or old – but also for our society at large. It's why marriage is so important to us all, whether married, single, widowed, divorced or remarried.

So celebrate April 29th. It is a moment of national significance.

Yours, **Martin Warren.**

Services at All Saints

3 rd Apr	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Special <i>(at the Clinton Hall)</i>
10 th Apr	10.00am	Village Worship
17 th Apr	9.30am	Holy Communion
24 th Apr	11.00am	Holy Communion for Easter

Church Annual Meeting

Monday 11th April, at 7.30pm in the Church All are very welcome to attend. If you would like to be on the church's membership list (Electoral Roll), please contact Judi Higton.

Lent Series
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
A Christian response to creation

 continues
Wednesday evenings through Lent
7.30pm
Petrockstowe Village Hall
Apr 6th: Martyn Goss, 'Sustainable Climate'
Apr 13th: Penny Warren: 'Pilgrims in Creation'

Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Monday – Wednesday

9.00am/ 7.00pm Holy Week Prayers around the villages
check in church for where

21st Apr: Maundy Thursday

6.30pm Celebration of the Last Supper (Peters Marland Hall)

22nd Apr: Good Friday

2.00pm Worship for Good Friday (Merton Church)
7.00pm Worship at the Cross (Petrockstowe Chapel)

23rd Apr: Easter Eve

9.00am Holy Week Prayers (Petrockstowe)
9.00pm Easter Vigil (Newton St. Petrock)

24th Apr: Easter Day

5.45am Sunrise Service (Thornhillhead Chapel)
8.45am Easter Communion (Huish)
11.00am Easter Communion

Friends of All Saints Church

The AGM of the Friends of All Saints and Bell Fund was held in All Saints Church on Tuesday 22nd March 2011 at 7.30pm. The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated.

Rev Warren reflected on the previous year. The dedication of the Bells at the Harvest Service was one of the highlights of the year. Other events included coffee morning at Pat and Roy's, stall at the Vintage Rally, Flower Festival and Songs of Praise, Harvest Supper at the Clinton Hall, Christmas Lights at Pat and Roy's, Christmas Tree Festival and Carol Service.

Janet Nancekivell (treasurer) presented the accounts. Grand total in both accounts amounted £2555.01. This amount was amazing and everyone was thanked for their hard work in raising all this money.

Proposed expenditure includes new bell ropes, improved lighting along the path, and repairs to the heating and lighting in the church. A quote has been received for the lighting. Philip Collins will contact TDC to see if planning consent will be required for the lighting on the path. It was suggested that maybe the trees along the path should be cut back as well. Election of officers; Chair –Martin Warren, Vice chair- Brian Stacey, Secretary -Wendy Askew, Treasurer: Janet Nancekivell. Future fundraising was next on the agenda: Ideas were discussed at great length. It was finally agreed to a coffee morning at Roy and Pat's on Saturday 28th May 2011. Open Gardens in the village on Sunday 31st July 2011 A sub committee of Roy, Brian, Janet Nancekivell and Eileen will arrange this event. The Harvest Supper is planned to be held in the Clinton Hall in October (date to be finalised), with the Harvest Songs of Praise in the church on the following Sunday. A Christmas Coffee morning with stalls at the hall in December and Christmas Tree Festival in December with the Carol Service on Monday 19th December at 7.00p.m. More details on all these events will be published nearer the dates. Pat and Roy have decided not to do the Christmas lights this year but were thanked for their work in previous years. It was also decided not to have a Flower Festival this year. There was no further business to discuss everyone was thanked for coming to the meeting which closed at 8.50pm with a prayer.

Wendy Askew, Secretary to the Friends of All Saints Church and Bell Fund

Merton Short Mat Bowling Club - Results

Merton Afternoon Charity League

Albury & Shute Triples Competition

Brenda Duance, Ivan Duance and Richard Goaman played at Hartland. They won both group games and beat Morwenstowe in the Mat Final. Doreen Tolley, Larry Bignell and Graham Heaman played at Westward Ho! They also won their group and beat Braunton in the Mat Final. Both triples then played at Woolsery in the last six, Graham's triple beat Richard's 9 to 6 to win the group, but lost to Winkleigh in the final, 10 to 3.

Merton Evening Charity League

Merton was due to play Hatherleigh on 10th March, unfortunately due to lack of players, Hatherleigh had to forfeit the match so Merton were awarded 2 points.

MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING **CLUB**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CLINTON HALL

WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL 2011

07:30 PM

On 17th March, Merton played Sutcombe away and won 21 to 9.

Graham Heaman Triples

The event took place at the Clinton Hall on 19th March with all profit going to the Rainbow Pre-School.

The winners of the 2011 tournament were Gordon Leonard and Sally O'Neill from Woolsey SMBC accompanied by Julie Stacey from Merton SMBC. The runners-up were Jeanie Sheppard, David Kirton and Linda King, all from Merton SMBC.

Winners for 150 Club for February 2011

£40 - Bill Brown; £10 - S. Packer; £5 - I. Cockwill; £5 - B. Bolt; £5 - J. Hudson

Next **Quiz at The Malt Scoop**, on Saturday 23rd April at 8.15pm
in aid of Devon Air Ambulance
Draw prizes always welcome.

Rainbow Pre-School



Easter Morning - Friday 8th April from 9.30am at Rainbow pre-school, Merton - Everyone welcome! Come along and have a morning of fun with tea/coffee, cakes, lots of Easter activities and a bouncy castle.

Future fundraising activities include Wine & Wisdom, Rainbow Pre-School Reunion (all welcome) and a Family Camping Trip (all welcome) - details to follow!

Rainbow Pre-School is open on Monday and Friday from 9.15-12.45pm at the moment until numbers pick up. So please support your local pre-school, come and have a look at our fantastic facilities. If you want to arrange a visit please call Karen on 01805 603119.

Every Friday we have a very active Mother & Toddler Session from 9.30-11.30 am where you can meet other mums and have coffee & biscuits too whilst the children play!

Merton Parish Council A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Tuesday 8th March 2011 at 8.00pm. Items discussed included more information on the planning applications for affordable housing as requested by the members of the public present. Councillor Collins explained the planning procedure and it is hoped a decision will be made by Torridge District Council shortly. Preparations for the Freedom of the Village on Tuesday July 5th are going well and repairs to the square are in hand and due to start quite soon. Councillors were given nomination papers to complete to stand again as Parish Councillors. It was decided not to have a meeting before the elections in May so the next meeting will be on 11th May at 7.30pm which will be the AGM followed by an ordinary meeting. **Wendy Askew Parish Clerk**

Merton Post Office and Shop

Foreign Currency available to order, 0% commission.

Euro's on demand service Travel Insurance House Insurance
Car Insurance Home Insurance Mobile Phone Top-ups

Devon Air Ambulance Lottery

Newspapers and Magazines can be ordered

Dry Cleaning Service and hire of Carpet Cleaning Machine

Join our Gift Voucher Saving Scheme

Stamps!

Flowers can be ordered

Greetings Cards

Boxes of Chocolates

Need to withdraw CASH from your bank account? We may be able to help.

All this and more from your Village Post Office and Shop

Tel 01805 603200

Coldstream Guards- Freedom of the Village, Tuesday 5th July 2011

Arrangements for granting the Freedom of the Parish to the Coldstream Guards to be held on Tuesday the 5th July are progressing well. Please do keep the day free - it will be quite a spectacle, with 100 uniformed Guardsmen, who will be bearing arms and escorting the Colours, including the corps of drums, members of the Exeter Association of Coldstream Guards along with other VIPs, including The Queen's representative, The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, The High Sheriff, Mayor of Torrington and other civic guests. It will be the largest such event Merton has ever held, we think!

The Parish is particularly honoured that the Guards plan to bring their Colours - The Queen's Colours and The Regimental Colours (these are very special silk flags now used only on exceptionally important ceremonial occasions) - children from the Clinton School will have a ring side position. Nearer the time we hope to have a programme for the event. You are most welcome to come and see the march through the village and ceremony in the square - you are sure to hear it everywhere in Merton!

The Guards will commence their march through the Village at 12 noon and the event will end around 1.30 pm when invited guests and the Coldstream Guards will retire to the Clinton Hall for some refreshments. The police will be closing the A386 for short periods during the event and requesting some areas are clear of vehicles - more details to follow.

It is anticipated that the TV and Newspaper media will be around to report this grand event and it would be lovely to have the village looking extra special and clean. If you are planting out, how about a red white and blue theme this summer? A few ladies are beginning a major project of sewing bunting to adorn the village - so - if you are able to help in any way (cutting/ironing) and/or have a sewing machine and wish to lend a hand please contact Eileen Davidson on 603233.

We will also need help hanging it so any offers will be welcome nearer the big day. We are also looking for volunteers to help with car parking, stewards, a work party to clear the larger pebbles from the square, litter tidy up etc. Also if there are any registered first aiders who could be on hand we would be grateful. Any offers of help please to Philip Collins 603656 **Tim Horner Chairman, Merton Parish Council**

Easter Wine & Wisdom

at Peters Marland Hall on Friday April 8th

7pm for 7.30pm start.

Teams of 6 @ £4 per person.

Entries by 6th April to Trish Ward 01805 601245

Friends of Clinton School

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids and Tesco for Schools & > Clubs vouchers again this year. There are collection boxes in the school entrance or you could give vouchers to a parent. Thank > you. **Jo Craker**

Merton History Group

On Friday 11th March the Merton History Group joined with the Petrockstowe Group at the Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe to hear Dr. Todd Gray of Exeter University speaking on 'The Lost Heritage of Devon' over the last 500 years. Dr. Gray showed photographs and illustrations from several archive sources to support his talk. He showed us how the fight against disease in towns like Exeter and Plymouth had led to the narrow streets being widened to let in light and air. He introduced us to long forgotten amateur artists whose lovely little water colour paintings and charcoal sketches have left us with accurate images of 19th century Instow and Bideford. He reminded us of the losses inflicted by warfare in

Devon's towns and ports from the Civil War to the present day. He even dared to help Devonians regain some lost heritage when he produced evidence that a certain meat pasty was first made and enjoyed in Tavistock! Careful who you tell that to!

Todd Gray is the author of several books on the history of Devon and is a renowned expert on his subject. The audience much very appreciated his easy to follow style of presentation and his eagerness to prove that history can be hilarious! You are most definitely invited to our next meeting at the Clinton Hall, Merton on Friday 8th April at 7 30pm. The speaker will be Danielle Wooton the Finds Liaison Officer for Devon talking about Devon Finds. **Mike Madders**

Merton Friendship Club

Mr Paul Rendell kindly joined us for the March meeting to talk about the history of Dartmoor Prison. In the 1790s Thomas Tyrwhit decided to try and tame part of Dartmoor by turning it into a farm. He also built his own residence, Tor Royal, just outside Princetown. However, conditions on the High Moor were not suited to farming and he built the prison instead to house French and American prisoners of war. In addition to the prison there were four Parole towns, Tavistock, Okehampton, Crediton and Ashburton. It was here that the captured French officers had their lodgings. They were only allowed out of doors during the hours of 7am – 7pm and they were not allowed more than one mile from the centre of the town; if they broke the rules they were taken back to the prison. The soldiers from the prison were made to work twelve hours a day to reclaim Dartmoor and this included drainage and building walls. The Parish Church in Princetown was also built by the prisoners. The French were responsible for the building itself and the Americans did all the woodwork and stained glass. Conditions inside the prison were grim. Dartmoor was built to house 5000 but at the height of the war there were 11,000 in there and disease was rife.

As late as 1850 Britain was still sending convicts to Australia but when that stopped Dartmoor was used as a civilian prison. Originally it was a Category A prison, housing murderers and rapists but it is now a Category C prison for petty crime, carrying sentences between two months and two years. There used to be a prison farm which is now closed and up until 1970 gangs of prisoners were used to mend potholes in the roads. It was only thirteen years ago that the prison went onto mains water.

The meeting ended with usual delicious refreshments.

Mr & Mrs Howard Mills from Fernwood Nursery at Peters Marland will join us in April and our speaker for May is Mr David Ogle who will talk about the Plymouth to Dakar Challenge

The club meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm in The Clinton Hall, new members are always welcome. For more details please contact Christine Wickett – 01805 603258.



THE DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

The Devon Air Ambulance flew its first mission on 27th August 1992 and since that time, thanks to the support of the people of Devon, the service has continued to grow and develop.

Accidents and illnesses happen and the quicker emergency medical treatment can be administered to a sick or injured patient, the better the chance of recovery. With so many remote locations in the county, Devon's Air Ambulances prove their worth time and time again. It costs £4 million to keep both helicopters airborne, with all of this being raised by the community and friends of Devon, as the service is totally independent of government support.

DAAT's very own weekly Lottery is a bedrock income and last year helped keep the helicopters airborne by donating back just under £700,000 back to the charity! To participate in the DAAT Lottery, you can join at your local lottery Agent at **MERTON POST OFFICE** where they act as one of the local Agents or if you prefer, you can pay by either standing order or cheque, just ring **01392 469886** or download an application form at www.daat.org.

So, go on, have a flutter...and rest assured your £1 a week entry is truly making a difference to help keep an essential lifesaving service flying!



Easter Bingo!

Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe

Friday 8th April

Raffle, Refreshments & Tuck Shop

Doors Open 7.00pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm

Any queries, contact Fiona on 01837

811749 **All proceeds to TFG Youth Group**

MARLAND MEATS

Finest Quality Meats from Traditionally Reared Animals
GRAHAM & TRISH WARD (J L WARD & SON)

We have a small herd of Red Ruby Devon & Aberdeen Angus cross cattle,
All reared at Coombe Farm, Peters Marland.

We supply ready frozen mixed cut boxes of Approx 8kg (17lb)
Or Taster Box of Approx 2.5kg (5lb)

The meat is matured in our new approved cold store
and butchered personally by Graham.

Meat can be collected in person or we can deliver if to your doorstep.
Phone 01805 601245 to arrange.

Parkinson's UK, Torrridge Branch
SPRING FAYRE AND COFFEE MORNING
SAT. 16TH APRIL 10-1 P.M. WEARE GIFFARD VILLAGE HALL,
To be opened by Dr. Tom Candler.

Every year Parkinson's UK run an awareness week, to expand the understanding of Parkinson's. This year the Torrridge Branch, based in Bideford but covering the whole of Torrridge, is running a major Spring Fayre and Coffee morning at Weare Giffard, during this awareness week. We will have a large range of stalls; comprehensive information on Parkinson's, and lovely coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits. Above all it will be a very social gathering, where you can sit and chat and meet folk. Please support this event. We are on the number 70 bus route – 10.45a.m. from Torrington; and 9.45 or 11.15 a.m. from Bideford.



The Future Generation) Youth Group Update - On Friday 18th March we made Mother's Day cards. We hope the mums enjoy them!

On Friday 1st April we will have a Skittles and Pizza evening. We will be getting teams together for the Skittles tournament on **Saturday 16th April.**

On Friday 8th April, we will be holding another Bingo fundraising evening. Please come along and bring friends and family. The last one we had was great fun!

On Friday 15th April we will be going to Woodlands for the day. Consent forms have been sent out and need returning by Friday 8th April at the latest. The cost is £5 for members and £11 for non-members.

On Saturday 16th April we hope to be putting in a team or two for the skittle tournament at Baxter Hall.

On Friday 6th May we will be having a fun quiz evening for members only. Prizes for the winners!

The Annual Fun Run is taking place on Friday 20th May and we will be supporting this and running a tuck shop. More details nearer the time.

We will have an outing in the half term. Destination yet to be decided.

Advance warning that on Friday 17th June there will not be a meeting as no leaders are available.

The youth group is open to anyone of secondary school age living within the Clinton Ward (Buckland Filleigh, Huish, Little Torrington, Merton, Peters Marland and Petrockstowe). We try to keep the cost to £1 for hall meetings and £5 for outings and raise the rest of the costs by fundraising and donations. We meet during term time on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, and have outings during the holidays.

For more information or if you have any queries, please contact Fiona on tfgyouth@gmail.com or 01837 811749.

Do you want to raise funds for your club or organisation at no cost to yourselves? Then **Megadraw 2011** may be just what you need. Torrington Rotary Club offers voluntary organisations in the Torrington area the opportunity to take part in Megadraw, 2011. This is a North Devon draw with major prizes which will be drawn next November. By selling Megadraw tickets, you can raise funds for your own organisation. All the funds raised by the sale of Megadraw tickets are kept by your own organisation for its own purposes.

Torrington Rotary Club simply provides the tickets and the paperwork. Barnstaple Link Rotary Club has printed the tickets, obtained the lottery licence, arranged the prizes and will organise a spectacular draw night in November.

There is no catch. All that is asked is that you register the receipt of tickets provided, return the counterfoils of sold tickets and return unsold tickets. You keep the proceeds for the benefit of your organisation.

Megadraw is organised by Rotary as a service to voluntary organisations in the local community. If you are a leader, secretary or treasurer of a local organisation and are interested in this opportunity, then contact David Nainby (Torrington Rotary Club) on 01271 379016 or 07817 000586 or by e-mail at david.nainby@btinternet.com. He will be pleased to provide you with more details and arrange for the handing over of Megadraw tickets.

Editor's note – just a reminder that copy for inclusion should be received by the 20th of the month, either direct to the editor, Judi Higon, by email – jt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk, or delivered to The Old Vineyard, Merton, or to Tracey Laughton. Your co-operation is appreciated.