

# MERTON MONTHLY

## FEBRUARY 2010

### The Clinton Hall

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# The Clinton Hall

### Aerobics is back!

If you want to get fit for the summer come along to The Clinton Hall on a Monday night 7 pm– 8 pm. £3 per session. Bring a drink and towel and have some fun as well as getting fit.

### Thank You

Our thanks to Mike and Sheila Watson for allowing villagers to use 'sledging field' this year. We had a great time and are sure it will have happy memories for all concerned for many years to come.

### And Another Thank You

Pat & Roy Watts would very much like to thank every one for the kind comments, and for every one who supported the switch on of our Christmas Lights at Ashgrove House on 1st December, and for those who visited since, and of course for the generous donations now totalling £168.00 which is for the Church Bell Appeal. Also we must thank all those who helped in any way, especially Father Christmas, and hoping he finds time to be available again this year!

### Omitted from last month's copy ...

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Many thanks for your understanding over the past few weeks (in 2009). Back to normal now in 2010. AND I'M NOT RETIRING!!

Alan and Eileen Davison

**NEXT MALT SCOOP QUIZ – SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 AT 8.15PM**  
Draw prizes welcome

**All Saints Church, Merton** Clergy: Rev. Martin Warren, Tel.: 01409 281424.

### **Services for February**

7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00am	Morning Worship
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00am	Community Service
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.00am	Family Communion

### **Ash Wednesday: Feb 17<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am	Holy Communion at Newton St. Petrock
7.00pm	Holy Communion at Petrockstowe

## **From the Team Rector**

Well, the snow has all gone. (Of course, we could have another lot by the time you read this!) The fields are all green. The normal service of mud and muck is resumed. We've had a proper winter; the children had an extended Christmas holiday and we've all had a bit of fun.

Not everyone of course. For some it has meant they weren't earning anything, especially in the building trade and when milk tankers couldn't get through; for others there were missed hospital appointments; for some they felt trapped in their homes. Hopefully, though, no-one was overlooked. (If they were, do say, and as a community we can make sure it doesn't happen next time.)

But a few got terribly stressed about a few days of snow. The supermarkets one Saturday seemed to be experiencing panic buying. Most of us can make do for a day or two. And all that panic about exams. What a rumpus! It felt like we couldn't relax, and let things take their course. Everything had to be sorted – and right now.

And life just isn't like that. I think I really learnt that spending hours at airports waiting for flights. I knew we had learnt it as a family, when soon after we hit the traditional bank holiday queues on the M5, and the children – they were then – never moaned. Amazing.

Of course, there are still times when I get up-tight, but I am sure that sense of a greater power helps. I am safe in God's hands, and whatever happens, I can trust him. Jesus said on one occasion: 'Don't be anxious: trust in God, trust in me.' I am sure it helps.

Yours,

Martin Warren.

## **Thank you...Thank you...Thank you....Thank you**

We were overwhelmed by people's generosity – and the Refugee Centre was thrilled. Thank you so much. It really has made a difference.

Duvets, bedding, towels, clothing, tins of food, toiletries, etc, etc. There was so much. It certainly wasn't going to get in one car. Very kindly, Shebbear College loaned us a minibus to take it all down to Plymouth. It certainly needed it. And then a very friendly Sainsbury's delivery man helped with the unloading, along with helpers at the Centre.

It'll be a wonderful help to those who find themselves dumped in Plymouth by a pretty unsympathetic bureaucracy, and show that we do care about those who have had to flee some pretty harrowing situations.

Thank you to you all.

## **Merton Post Office and Shop**

What a month January turned out to be!! As the Village Shop and Post Office we were delighted to be of use during The Snow.

We kept people going with supplies and even when Torrington had no milk, our delivery still managed to get through and we were able to supply customers.

It's times like that when I realise how essential it is to have a village shop for everyday essentials.

At one point it felt like we had our old sorting office back as we were holding so much post for our regular customers as the Postman was unable to provide his usual efficient service!! I am sure we will look back on those few days as good times when everyone pulled together to make things happen!!

If there is something that you would regularly buy that we don't stock, please ask us and we will see if it is viable for us to sell.

**Tracey Laughton**

## **Rainbow Pre-School**

**Free taster sessions at Rainbow pre-school. We are offering Free taster sessions to new children in the area!!!**

Rainbow operates from the Clinton Hall ,Merton every week day morning. We have purpose built facilities with indoor and outdoor play areas, qualified and friendly staff and lots of fun!!

Our mornings are full of activities to keep little minds and hands busy, together with free play and story time.

We also run a Baby and Toddler session on Friday mornings so why not give us a call and come and enjoy a chat and a chance to meet other mums.

Our number is **01805 603119**.

**Julie Bromhead**

### **Friends of Clinton School**

Our next fundraising event will be an Off The Peg Fashion Show on **Friday 19th March** in The Clinton Hall. More details to follow in next month's issue.

Models required for this event. If you fancy an evening modelling on the catwalk and fit within the following criteria: Age 18 or over, 5'3" - 5'8", size 10 - 18 - then please give Janette Newell a call on 01805 603604.

**Jo Craker**



#### **Strictly Ballroom . . .**

Anyone who would like to join our ballroom dancing group at the Merton Hall at 6.45 pm on Wednesdays is welcome to come along. This is not a dance class as we're not teachers, more a dancing club where we can help people who can't do as much as us. Also there are probably people out there who know a lot more than we do and can help us. There will be no charge but naturally donations to help towards the hire of the hall will be welcome and any surplus will go in a pot to be used to finance an occasional ball if there are enough people interested. For more info ring **Bob Harrod on 01805 623485**.

### **Merton AFC – 150 Club Draw**

Winners for December 2009 :£40 – R Gooding; £10 – Pete; £10 – T Gosden; £5 – J Tinsold; £5 – T Skinner

Extra Christmas Prizes: J Hudson, J Harris, A Andrews, J Luxton, N Harris, E Stoneman, S Bolt, B Bolt, C MacConinchie, S Winsor, A Broad and D Paddon.

### **TFG**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February we are holding a Self Defence session at the normal time of 7-9pm at Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe. Mark Tomlinson is coming along to show us how to protect ourselves from personal attack. The cost will be £1 for the evening and we will have the Tuck Shop which is open to anyone between 7-0pm.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February (during half term) we are going Ice Skating at the new artificial ice rink at Let's Go in Barnstaple. We will leave from Petrockstowe at 11am and call at villages as required on the way. After skating we will go into Barnstaple for lunch/shopping, returning home at around 3.30pm. The cost for skating and transport will be £5 for TFG members and £7 for friends who can join us if we have spare places. Consent forms are available from Fiona at the contact details below.

In March we will be holding an Easter Bingo evening (date to be confirmed) and all the prizes will be CHOCOLATE related. This will be open to friends and family as well.

Hope to see you soon

Fiona [tfgyouth@gmail.com](mailto:tfgyouth@gmail.com) 01837 811749 07794 821856

### **Need more volunteers? Baffled by CRBs or the New Vetting and Barring Scheme?**

The Devon Association of CVS are offering time and expertise on a range of volunteering issues to small (income under £40k) community and voluntary groups in your Parish. You may want to find out more about the Vetting and Barring Scheme or help with recruiting more volunteers – if so, we can help! You will also be able to access regular updates on volunteering issues and have the opportunity to link in to local networks if you want to. Interested? We would love to hear from you. Contact Jenny Fish, County Co-ordinator by email [jennyf@torridgecvcs.org.uk](mailto:jennyf@torridgecvcs.org.uk) or telephone 01237 471136 and a local worker from Torridge CVS (TTVS) will arrange to come and see you.

**Jenny Fish, Member Services Co-ordinator**

TTVS, 14 Bridgeland Street

Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QE

Working Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am to 5:30pm 01237 471136

Working Hours: Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm 01805 625614

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### Training Dates for Your Diary

#### Emergency First Aid

**Thurs 25 Feb 2010, venue to be confirmed, full day.**

*A chance to get your certificate!*

**£40.00 pp (members) £50.00 pp (non members)**

#### CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

**Early 2010, Bideford, full day.**

*A chance to get your certificate!*

**£40.00 pp (members) £50.00 pp (non members)**

### From the Spinal Injuries Association

*“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”*

#### **Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010**

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 80 suppers taking part in England and Wales. In 2010 we want to double that figure and ensure we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, “The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives.”

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

### **WANTED...**

If you have any used jam/preserve jars, complete with lids, please don't throw them away. Give us a ring and we will come and collect.

Judi or Trevor, 01805 603325



If you would like to include anything in the Merton Monthly, please let Tracey Laughton have copy by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month or send direct to the editor, Trevor Higon at The Old Vineyard, Merton or by email – [jtt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jtt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk)  
Entries received after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month may be refused. All articles or advertisements submitted for publication should be supplied with a name and contact number.

**We would love to have contributions from the village – recipes, holiday stories, gardening tips, birthday/anniversary greetings, congratulations, etc.**