

MERTON MONTHLY

JANUARY 2010

The Clinton Hall

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The Clinton Hall

We wish all our readers a very
Happy Peaceful and Prosperous New Year

Bring & Buy Sale at The Clinton Hall, Merton **on Saturday 30th January 2010 - from 10.30 – 12.00**

TEAS COFFEES AND BREAKFAST ROLLS WILL BE SERVED

This is being held as part of the Western Morning News 150th Anniversary Grassroots Challenge, supporting older people in need across the West Country. All proceeds will be DOUBLED by Devon Community Foundation. Please come and support this event. If you have any items to donate please bring to Clinton Hall week Commencing 25th or ring 603441 for collection. We will be collecting old ink cartridges and mobile phones to be recycled for the charity.

Helpers Wanted.

As you can see we have offered to host the Bring and Buy sale at the Hall. This is part of a county wide fundraising event supported by the Western Morning News. Please can you offer to help?

Bring a cake to be served or sold. Ask friends to donate items and come and support us.

If you can help on the day please ring me on 6034421 or drop me an e mail there will be lots of work pricing items and setting out in tables plus serving teas etc Tim Horner. horners4@btinternet.com

What's On Diary – *further details of events in body of newsletter*

- Sat 16th Jan 2010 - Malt Scoop Quiz Night, 8.15pm
Thurs 28th Jan 2010 - Parish Council Meeting, Clinton Hall, 8.00pm
Sat 30th Jan 2010 - Bring And Buy, Clinton Hall, 10.30am (see above)

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

Services for January 2010

3 rd Jan	11.00am	Morning Worship
10 th Jan	11.00am	Community Service
17 th Jan	9.30am	Holy Communion
24 th Jan	11.00am	Family Communion
31 st Jan	11.00am	<i>Holy Communion (at Langtree)</i>

The Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church was again well supported with 17 trees as well as other decorations. There was such a variety of trees including the memory tree, a tree decorated in pink baubles and tinsel (to celebrate the birth of a grandchild), a tree with teddy bears, a nativity scene, a sitting room scene with Father Christmas delivering his presents, a village scene with skaters, three trees made from small pieces of fir tree and bay tree (as a result of recent flower arranging classes) and of course the lovely traditionally decorated trees. The windows were also decorated. Thank You to everyone who supported this project and made the church look so beautiful for the Carol Service.

Merton Post Office and Shop

**Foreign Currency available to order, 0% commission.
Euro's on demand service**

Travel Insurance

Car Insurance

Home Insurance

Mobile Phone Top-ups

Devon Air Ambulance Lottery

Handmade cards to order

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.

Thanks to everyone who took part in our Air Ambulance Christmas Draw. It raised £13 this year.

Short Mat Bowls

The Merton Short Mat Bowling Club's Winter Tournament was held at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 28th November 2009 and was sponsored by Clinton Gates.

Wick were lagging slightly in the first and second rounds, but started to pull ahead in the third and confirmed their lead in the fourth, being the only club to win all four matches. The second and third place were close. Both clubs won three and drew one round so final positions had to be based on match points. Chulmleigh had 14 points and so secured 2nd place, whilst Beaford were awarded 11 points and made it into 3rd place,

A good day was had by all and we look forward to meeting everyone again at our next tournament. Thank you all for your support. (*photographs, hopefully can be viewed online at www.mertondevon.com*)

MALT SCOOP NEXT QUIZ – SATURDAY 16th JANUARY 2010 AT 8.15PM

Draw prizes welcome

The quiz held on Sunday 20th December raised £88 for the Air Ambulance

MERTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Results: Merton 2 Braunton 3
 Buckland Brewer 1 Merton 6
 Merton 2 Clovelly 2
 Bradworthy 1 Merton 3

Both teams remain in mid-table; with more than half of the players teenagers this is good for the club.

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of Merton Parish Council. A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at 8.00pm. **Present** were Councillor Horner (chair) Councillors Laughton, Nancekivell, Sharpe, Down, Phillips and Collins. There were also ten parishioners and PCSO Sandra Brown. **Apologies** were received from Councillor Scantlebury. Councillor Horner welcomed the parishioners, PCSO Brown and councillors

The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Councillor Laughton all agreed.

Matters Arising:

50. Play Equipment – It was reported that some money has been raised by the Harvest Supper to be put aside for repairs or replacement of any play equipment as it becomes necessary. It was suggested a site meeting should be arranged with Torridge District Council to see if anything requires attention now. Councillor Laughton would be available for this.

51. Public Speaking – Mr Robin Julian spoke on the safety aspects of the proposed new bus stop. It was decided at the discretion of the chairman to ask the Councillors to discuss the issues of a new bus stop and then Mr Julian would be allowed to speak on behalf of the parishioners present once this discussion had taken place.

52. Bus Stop - A site meeting had taken place between Councillors, Mr Mike Newcombe Devon Highways and PCSO Sandra Brown to see the viability of a new bus stop outside Tanglewood. A letter was read from Mr Mike Newcombe setting out the safety aspects of a bus stop. He also reported on the possibility of providing a footpath from Clinton Terrace to the village via the grass verge and a bus stop in a dedicated pull in by the entrance to Trefusis Terrace/ Clinton Gardens. This could be investigated further when the proposed affordable houses are built in this area. He reported that it could be possible to have a bus stop at Tanglewood on the way into Torrington but the bus stop on the opposite side of the road would need to be further down the road for safety reasons. It was pointed out that the distance from the existing bus stop to a

new bus stop would be 240 metres in the Torrington direction and 170 metres in the opposite direction. He reported that the resulting signage and road markings would affect the rural nature of the village. There is also the possibility of extra bus shelters in the future. The councillors discussed all these points in great detail and they also put forward their concerns on safety if the bus stop was too near the entrance to Back Lane, this had been classed as a safe area to cross when the school did a travel plan. Concerns were also raised at the cars parked along the main road which may encroach on the bus stop area or push car parking nearer the corner at the top of the road. PCSO Brown was invited to speak, but felt unable to comment on the road safety issues as this was a matter for highways. She asked if parishioners were aware of the ring and ride service.

Mr Julian was then asked to speak on behalf of the parishioners. He spoke of the need for this additional bus stop due to passengers' inability to walk to the existing one. Reference was also made to the car parking on the road. He felt that the Councillors were not taking all the aspects into consideration and did not feel there would be safety aspects of the bus stopping and vehicles overtaking.

A proposition was then made by Councillor Laughton that the village does not need an extra bus stop at this present time. This was seconded by Councillor Nancekivell and all councillors present agreed. A counter proposition by Councillor Sharpe for a bus stop with a proper lay-by at the end of the road to Trefusis Terrace was not seconded. It was suggested this was a consideration for the future.

53. PCSO Sandra Brown spoke to those present on the crime rates and how best to get hold of the police. It was also noted that the Neighbourhood Watch was not active at the moment. Mr Jeff Craythorne has offered to take over the running of this and the officer will liaise with him. PCSO Brown left the meeting at 8.55pm. Many of the parishioners also left the meeting.

54. Village Square – a) Land Registry -Councillor Collins reported on the Land Registry issue in which a small discrepancy needs to be resolved on the exact boundary of the square. He will follow this matter through with the solicitors. A refund of £10 was received for the Land Registry fee. Cheque issued for £50, fee only £40. This will be banked in the Parish Council account. b). Enhancement – This is still ongoing, discussions with Highways, and further investigations into costs etc will be made.

55. Affordable Housing -Outline drawings from Clinton Devon Estates of six affordable houses and three open market plots were discussed. The affordable houses were given full support by six of the councillors present and one abstained. Councillor Phillips and Councillor Sharpe declared their prejudicial interest and left the room. The open market plots were discussed and were given full support of four of the remaining councillors with one abstention. Councillors Phillips and Sharpe returned to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to send a letter of support to Clinton Devon Estate.

56. Telephone Box – Correspondence had been received from BT after a misunderstanding on their part it was reported that the Council wished for the telephone box to remain with its working telephony in tact. The usage will be monitored by BT.

57. Bonfires – Correspondence had been received from Mr Brian Bunn concerning bonfires in the village. He reported that a clause in his insurance had pointed out the liability of residents to ensure bonfires are not lit within 100 metres of a thatched property. This was discussed fully and Councillors felt that an article should be put into the Merton Monthly asking for parishioners to show common sense and consideration when lighting bonfires especially near thatched properties. This was proposed by Councillor Laughton seconded by Councillor Phillips and all agreed.

58. Correspondence had been received from Devon County Council on issues raised by a site meeting with Councillor Collins. It was reported that erosion of ground at Tythecombe Lake was the landowners' responsibility. It was reported that the Lengthsman would be asked to clear debris from the side of the road in this area to help prevent flooding of the road. The curb stones along the houses up from the Malt Scoop will be raised when funds available. The Highways Dept. will see if they can deal with the wash off from Bounsells Lane and also investigate if the fall of the highway at the bottom end of the lane would lend itself to extra drainage being installed when funds are available. The Highways Authority is responsible for the horizontal surface of the footpath from the village to the sawmills. This can include any structural issues or obstructions in the form of overgrown hedges, leaves etc. Any concerns must be passed to the highways dept. so that they can investigate and take the appropriate action. **59. A planning application** had been discussed outside of normal council meeting for extension to 12 Meadow Vale. Councillors were concerned for neighbours privacy and the project not in keeping with rest of bungalows. This was passed to the planning department.

60. Councillor Down reported a complaint of overgrowth on the hedges outside Clinton Terrace. The clerk was asked to write to Clinton Devon Estates.

Councillor Down left the meeting at 9.50. **61. Precept** – After much discussion it was proposed by Councillor Nancekivell to keep the precept to £4000; this was seconded by Councillor Sharpe; all agreed. It was proposed by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Councillor Collins all agreed that £1500 from the present budget should be moved from the current account to the savings account to build up a sum for repairs to the square.

AOB 62. Councillor Collins spoke of his wish to arrange regular meetings with Devon Highways and the local Parish Councils to discuss the many concerns Councillors have of the state of the roads etc. It was agreed to write to Mr Joe Deacy to get this arranged. Councillor Collins is happy to co-ordinate these meetings which could be held in various venues within the Clinton Ward. **63.** There were no cheques for signature and no further business to discuss.

The next meeting date was set for Thursday 28th January at 8pm.

Councillor Horner thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

Planning for the future of Northern Devon

North Devon Council and Torrridge District Council are working together to prepare a joint 'Core Strategy' that will determine how, where and when our communities future needs will be met. This important document, that will eventually replace the Torrridge District and North Devon Local Plans, will establish the vision for the areas future and set delivery objectives for the next sixteen years.

In January 2010 the Councils will invite all interests to comment on plans to deliver more homes, jobs and improved infrastructure across northern Devon. The draft Core Strategy will be subject to public consultation for a six-week period commencing on 21st January 2010. It is vitally important that everyone with an interest in the areas future shares their views on the Council's draft proposals and submits comments to either Torrridge District or North Devon Council by 5th March 2010. When published the draft Core Strategy will be available on the Council's websites: www.torrridge.gov.uk/ldf and www.northdevon.gov.uk/corestrategy, at Council offices and in local libraries.

Some of the proposed developments include:

- New schools and health centres
- New sports provisions and open space
- Tackling climate change
- New transport infrastructure
- 21,600 houses - 10,700 houses in Torrridge, 10,900 houses in North Devon
- 13,000 new jobs - supported by 35 hectares of employment land in Torrridge and 85 hectares of employment land in North Devon

PROGRESS SO FAR

The Core Strategy has been developed as a result of evidence gathering including considerable consultation. The first consultation began in 2006 to identify key planning issues. Results were reflected in the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report that was subject to consultation during November 2007 – January 2008. Since then wide-ranging engagement has taken place with local communities, key organisations and service providers. Comments from these consultations have been taken into consideration in preparing the draft Core Strategy.

CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION - From the 21st January 2010 to 4th March 2010

As part of the Core Strategy consultation, the following exhibitions have been arranged in Torrridge.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Tuesday 26th January	14:00 – 20:00	Village Hall, Halwill
Wednesday 27th January	14:00 – 20:00	Clinton Hall, Merton
Thursday 28th January	14:00 – 20:00	Town Hall, Bideford
Tuesday 2nd February	14:00 – 19:00	Village Hall, Woolsery
Wednesday 3rd February	14:00 – 19:30	Howe Concert Hall, Torrington
Thursday 4th February	14:00 – 20:00	Market Hall, Holsworthy
Tuesday 9th February	14:00 – 20:00	Windmill Lane, Northam

Additional events will be held in North Devon at South Molton (21st January), Fremington (25th January), Barnstaple (29th January, 5th and 20th February) and Ilfracombe (6th and 21st February).

Further information on the progression of the Core Strategy, including consultation arrangements and other issues related to the Torrridge and North Devon Local Development Frameworks are presented in a "LDF Newsletter". The newsletter, which is published periodically is available on the Torrridge Core Strategy website: www.torrridge.gov.uk/ldf

If you have any questions about the Core Strategy or the Torrridge Local Development Framework please contact us:

Email: corestrategy@torridge.gov.uk Telephone: 01237 428700

In writing: LDF Team, Torrridge District Council,
Riverbank House, Chanters Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 2QG

All published information relating to the Core strategy will be made available through the Council's websites: www.torrridge.gov.uk/ldf and www.northdevon.gov.uk/corestrategy.

Merton Friendship Club

The December meeting was our annual Christmas Lunch. In previous years we have gone to a local pub or restaurant, but this year we decided to hold it in The Clinton Hall with Yeory doing the catering. The Meeting Room was decorated for the occasion and we had an excellent four course meal in relaxed surroundings. After lunch Mrs Jane Wickett gave us a very interesting talk about her experiences on safari in Kenya accompanied by some stunning slides. Jane talked to us about a Cultural Village where the three tribes who live there love to meet visitors and entertain them; however visitors should be aware that the local people do not like their photos taken without being asked. The women do all the plastering and thatching on the mud houses which are their homes, while the men keep the cattle, goats and sheep. All of them are very good at improvising, even making shoes out of old car tyres, and most of them can speak English. Jane also talked about the Nyakio School which provides

schooling for 170 children up to the age of 13 in a very poor area. Jane did some fund-raising for the school and enough money was raised to build a kitchen, a valuable asset, as a school dinner is the children's only meal a day consisting of maize and cabbage. We saw slides of the 'Big Five' safari animals – lions, elephants, rhinos, buffalo and leopards, and learned some interesting facts about them. Did you know that White rhino graze on grass but Black rhino graze on bushes, and that the black ones are more dangerous and will charge vehicles. That an elephant's udder is between its front legs and that more people are killed by Cape buffalo than by any other animal. Jane told us that the female buffalo live in herds but the males live on their own and apparently are very grumpy – no change there then. We also saw slides of many of the other animals including the rare Kudu – a type of antelope with spectacular horns.

Our first meeting of 2010 will be on the 6th January at 2pm in The Clinton Hall and will be our New Year Party. If you would like to join The Friendship Club please contact **Christine Wickett 01805 603258**.

Rainbow pre-school

Last term was full of festive fun, as the children celebrated Christmas. We had our nativity play which was Gorgeous, Father Christmas found time to come to our Christmas party, and lots of fun was had by all.

We return to Pre-school on Tuesday 5th January and our topics this term will be Spring time and mini beasts!!!

Rainbow run sessions every week day morning in the Clinton Hall. We also have a mother and toddler session on a Friday morning. For more information please contact us on 01805 603119. Julie Bromhead.

Friends of The Clinton School

December is a lovely month in the school, where the children and family and friends enjoy the festive season.

The children did a lovely play 'Jesus Christmas Party' on the evening of

Tuesday 8th December there was many a person with a tear in their eye!

This followed by the Friends Christmas Fair and official opening of the Computer Suite which was opened by Mr Tony Hunt. Mr Hunt was asked to open the suite as recognition for his hard work in organising the Vintage Rally without this event it would have taken a lot more fundraising events to raise enough funds for the project.

The fair was its usual success and a wonderful evening that raised more funds for the school. Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended the event.

The children also enjoyed their Christmas Party day on Thursday 17th December. Mrs Weeks and Mrs Paddon cooked a great Turkey dinner followed by games and a visit from Father Christmas.

In the last week of term the children in Streams have welcomed Mrs Walsh as their new teacher whilst Mrs Bolton is on Maternity leave.

Congratulations to Ashgrove Christmas Lights

Congratulations to Pat and Roy Watts on their successful win of the NDJ Christmas Lights competition. Enjoy spending your vouchers!

Torrington Rotary Club

**Next Business and Networking Breakfast on Saturday, 30th January, 2010 at 8.00 a.m.
at The Black Horse, The Square, Torrington**

Cost: £5

Following our successful, buzzy Breakfast in October, we are running the next Business and Networking Breakfast on Saturday, 30th January next. Elliot Forte of Business Link will be our speaker.

The Breakfast aims to provide a service to anyone in the Torrington area who runs their own local business, works from home or enjoys living in North Devon whilst working for companies further afield. If you enjoy sharing ideas with others and value networking as part of your work, this is the Breakfast for you.

If this opportunity interests you, simply sign up or find out more about the Business and Networking Breakfast by leaving your contact details at torringtonrotary1@btinternet.com or phoning Charles Moore on 07796 306 879, David Nainby on 01271 379016 or Mike Squire on 01805 622195.