

MERTON MONTHLY



2011

The Clinton Hall Committee

Chair - Tracey Laughton; Vice Chair - Amanda Andrews; Secretary – Anne Papworth;
Treasurer - Janet Nancekivell.

Judi Higton – Bookings Secretary John Luxton – Caretaker

Telephone 01805 603300 E-mail: clintonhall2004@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.clintonhallmerton.co.uk

The Clinton Hall

At the AGM held on 26th April, Tracey Laughton was elected Chairman, Amanda Andrews as Vice-Chairman, Anne Papworth as Secretary, and Janet Nancekivell was re-elected as Treasurer. Other committee members are Diane Nancekivell, Steve Papworth, Louise Scantlebury, Julie Harris, Kenny Heaman, Dennis Twomey and Tracey Hancock. We welcome Sue Phillips as a returning committee member.

Representatives of pre-school and SMB are asked to attend each committee meeting, names of these reps to be advised.

Bill Brown and Jan Sharpe both resigned from the committee due to personal commitments. The new committee would like to thank them both for their hard work on behalf of the hall and also for their offer of continued support when needed.

Please remember that the Hall is for the benefit of the whole village, and any events staged are for YOU. Without your support, the Hall would cease to run, so thank you for supporting our events in the past, and please come along to any future events – they don't work without you!

If you do not feel you want to commit to being a committee member, but would like to offer help, please contact one of the committee as detailed below.

Evening rota – Diane Nancekivell 603453 diane@nancekivell.co.uk

Bar rota – Amanda Andrews 804584 amanda_jane_andrews@hotmail.co.uk
or Diane Nancekivell as above

Stage rota – Tracey Laughton 603658 tracey@merton.eclipse.co.uk

Coffee morning – Janet Nancekivell 603271 janet@nancekivells.com

We are always open to new ideas, so if you have something you would like to see held at the Hall please let a committee member know – or indeed become a committee member yourself, the more the merrier. We always have fun when arranging things for you and many hands make light work.

Coffee mornings are still held regularly on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 9.00 –11.30. Come along and catch up with old friends, and meet new ones. Next one to be Tuesday 7th June.

Committee meetings are generally held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have any issues you would like to be raised, please advise a committee member and we will be happy to raise this on your behalf.

We hope to see you all soon.



COFFEE MORNING AT THE CLINTON HALL

Tuesday 7 JUNE, 9.00am to 11.30am



WHAT'S ON DIARY – further info in newsletter

Wednesday 1 June	- Friendship Club, Clinton Hall, 2pm
Friday 10 June	- Merton History Group, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 18 June	- Malt Scoop Quiz Night, 8.15pm
Monday 27 June	- Parish Council Meeting, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday 5 July	- Freedom of Merton
Saturday 16 July	- Vintage Rally, Clinton Hall
Sunday 31 July	- Open Gardens at Merton
Monday 29 August	- Dartmoor Dog Agility Summer Show, Clinton Hall <i>from 8am</i>

All Saints Church

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

What do we make of predictions of the end of the world? There were major news stories about the preacher in the States announcing Judgement Day. But it seems we are all still here.

There's a local story about St. Petrock from 1500 years ago – appropriate as he is especially remembered on June 4th. He had returned from a long journey to Rome, and was almost home to his monastery at Bodmin. He had reached Newton St. Petrock, only to be stopped by days of rain. Sounds like Devon! On one day he was convinced that God had assured him that tomorrow would be fine, and they would be able to continue their journey.

It wasn't, and they couldn't!

Petrock was so mortified that he had got prophesy wrong – the Met Office hadn't moved to Exeter in those days! – that he turned round and journeyed again for another 7 years. Quite some penance!

It does make us think. How do we react when we get something wrong? Do we just laugh it off, or do we take it seriously? And how do we treat those who get it wrong? Just ridicule, or support – for in the end, we all make mistakes - don't we?

Yours,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints

5th Jun	6.30pm	Evening service with Rev. John Leach, Methodist Minister
12th Jun	11.00am	Village Service
19th Jun	9.30am	Holy Communion
26th Jun	11.00pm	Family Communion



CAKE & SCONE BAKERS WANTED !

THE VINTAGE RALLY AND SUMMER FAYRE

REALLY NEED YOU !

We would be most grateful if you could bake a cake[s] to sell in the café and tea stalls at this year's vintage rally. We also need fresh scones for the provision of Devon Cream Teas.

To get organisation under way please let us know as soon as possible what you can provide. Tim Horner is compiling the list and you can contact him on 01805 603441 or email: horners4@btinternet.com

FREEDOM of MERTON

Tuesday July 5th 2011

Witness possibly the greatest civic event in the history of Merton. Come along and see members of the Coldstream Guards along with the Coldstream Corp of Drums, who will march through the Village from Clinton Gardens at 12 noon. The march will take them down the Main road and into the Square for a troop inspection followed by a short ceremony. Merton Parish Council will be presenting The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards with the Freedom of the Parish of Merton.

Programme;

12.00 noon Military Parade marches off from Clinton Gardens

12.15pm Military Parade enters and forms up in the Village Square

12.22pm Inspection

12.42pm Ceremony

13.05pm Military Parade marches off

Invited guests will then gather in the Clinton Hall for refreshments.

Ladies of the village have been busy sewing 500metres of bunting especially for the event; this will undoubtedly be a sight to behold. Please take a look at your house and garden, trim your hedges, cut your grass, clean your windows, polish your brass knockers, sweep your drives and adorn your houses with union flags and red, white and blue. This is a day for the Village to celebrate and commemorate the long link with the Coldstream Guards.

Whilst we may not match the display of the recent Royal Wedding between Kate and William, we can certainly put on a good show for our esteemed guests. The Press and Media have also been invited, so it would be good to show the Village at its very best. Pupils at the Clinton School will have a ring side view in the Square, along with invited guests, including members of the Exeter Association of the Coldstream Guards (Old Boys). Parking is planned on the football pitch for general public, with reserved areas around the Clinton Hall for VIPs.

We also plan to have the event documented with a professionally produced DVD of the event, together with photographs taken by Faith Woodhouse. On the same evening The Band of the Coldstream Guards will be in concert at Exeter Cathedral 7.30pm start - tickets available from 01392 665885

Please note there will be no members of the public allowed in the Square during the ceremony, or vehicles. Spectators can watch from inside the Church yard (behind the railings - entered via Grange Lane below Agrimotors), from inside Ron Down's grassed area (behind the telephone box), on the pavements either side of the Main road and the raised grass area adjacent to the wooden bus shelter. The main road will be closed during the march through the Village, so spectators can line the pavements. Traffic should be allowed past once all Troops are assembled in the Square.

The Ceremony may request three cheers for the Guards by all those present; this will be carried out in the true 17th Century manner, with the words "Hip Hip"- "**Huzzar**" so please do your best to respond in this way in your loudest voice.

Enquires: Wendy Askew Clerk to Merton Parish Council or Philip Collins



OPEN GARDENS AT MERTON

SUNDAY JULY 31ST

1PM – 6PM

Admission £5 per person (under 16s free, but no unaccompanied children please!)

8pm Songs of Praise at All Saints Church

With The Stowford Singers

Everyone Welcome

Admission is by programme only – for sale on the day at the Church Lych Gate, on the square.

Merton Friendship Club

The meeting held on 4 May was very well attended. Our speaker was Mr David Ogle of Abbotsham, who, with slides, gave us a very interesting talk on the “Cape to Cape” Tour. This was the Plymouth/Dakar Challenge, which he completed, his interest in cars shared with eight or ten other friends.

The idea of driving an old MOT failure Citroën 4000 miles to Banjul in The Gambia seemed perfect and was completed in three weeks.

David supports the Macmillan Cancer Appeal, for which he and his wife are hoping to raise £1000. Last year they both raised £1000 for Northam Lodge with the Rotary Club. As a club we donated to the Macmillan Cancer Appeal; tea and cakes were donated by Pat Watts.

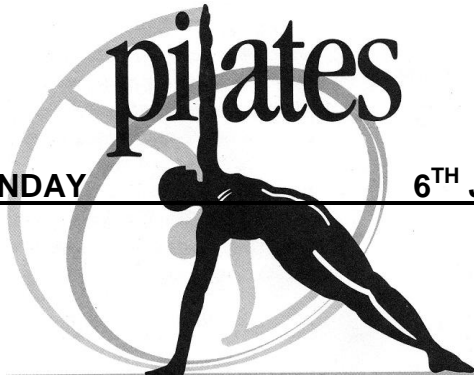
The speaker for the next meeting on 1 June will be from the Devon County Association for the Blind. For our July meeting we will be visiting a farm.

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.

Winners for 150 Club for April 2011

£40 - R Down; £10 - S. Wright; £5 – J. Tucker; £5 – P. Harris; £5 – L. Harris

Next **Quiz** at **The Malt Scoop**, on Saturday 18th June at 8.15pm
in aid of Devon Air Ambulance
Draw prizes always welcome.



NEW CLASS STARTING MONDAY

6TH JUNE, 7.00PM – 8.00PM

Sarah Dellor our new Pilates instructor is looking forward to welcoming you to her class on Monday 6th June at 7 pm. She will be starting with the very basics and progressing from there so please do not worry if you have never done Pilates before. She asks that you wear comfortable clothing and people generally do the class bare feet or with socks on. Please bring a small towel (hand towel size) and a scarf (not a woolly one!) this will be used to tie around your ribs to show you how you are breathing. You will be asked to fill out a form for the first time you attend, medical bits and bobs etc!!!

The class is for an hour and the cost is £4. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th June 2011.

The Friends of The Clinton School

The Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers have now finished. Please pass any remaining vouchers to a parent or put in the collection boxes in the school entrance. Thank you.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Bag2School scheme, we raised £165 for our school.

The Annual Football & Netball Rally will be held at school on Sunday 3rd July starting at 10am. We will be serving bacon rolls, cake and drinks from the hall kitchen. Tuck shop also available. Come along and support our teams!

Jo Craker

Vintage Rally & Summer Fayre

Sat 16th July

11am-5pm

The Clinton Hall

Falconry display Fire Service display Fairground rides

Vintage vehicle parades Torrington Town Band

Vintage bus & Rolls Royce rides

Bouncy Castle Grand Draw Refreshments

Stalls & much more!

Entrance £2/adult £1/child (school aged)

Merton Short Mat Bowling Club

At our AGM Julie Stacey stood down as secretary so Linda King will be our contact from now on. Her email address is linda@littlewood-cottage.co.uk

Merton Post Office and Shop

Father's Day is on Sunday 19th June so it would be great if you came and took a look at the cards and chocolates that we have on sale for your special 'Dad'.

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.

We would like to 'welcome' all the new people that have recently moved in to the village and we look forward to serving them in our Post Office, Shop and Garage and wish you much happiness in our village.

Tracey Laughton.

Torrige Natters

Well election fever has come and gone for another 4 years at Torrige. I have really enjoyed travelling around the whole Ward meeting many of you again and some new faces over the 3 weeks before the election. Sorry to have missed you if you were out when I called (a good job some of you were out or it would have taken 6 weeks!) The one major topic of conversation was A.V. and as I expected from my canvassing chats it was not supported. On election day I travelled around the 6 Polling stations in the Ward and attended the gruelling count at Bideford College, returning home at 5 a.m. for a few hours sleep. I feel it is part of a candidate's role to see the Polling system is carried out as we would expect. We have an electoral system to be proud of; a sincere thank you to all those involved in maintaining our statutory right to vote in secrecy. Whether the cost of Polling Stations in our rural area is justified now anyone can vote by post is worth asking, after all we all share the cost as tax payers. For anyone who likes figures, this Ward had a 55% turn out resulting in 712 valid votes with my majority being 436. Thank you for your continued confidence in me (or perhaps it was a case of better the devil you know!)

As my 3rd term of office begins I can look forward to lengthy late night meetings, rushed meals, many discussions getting nowhere much, hours of travelling to Bideford through all weather on your behalf, as well as attending the 5 Parish Council meetings as often as other meetings allow – and I'll enjoy almost every minute of it. Big issues coming up are the Holsworthy Live Stock Market, which I discussed with many farmers on my travels and welcome more comments if anyone has a view point; Torrington Swimming Pool and of course Highways re snow and salt bags, pot holes, etc., not forgetting planning as always. One aspect in your Ward is the duplication of work by the 5 Parish Councils; it might be sensible to consider joining together the Parish Councils in some way and reducing overall costs and making stronger representation to District and County. I hope to look at this idea and see if it is worth considering. We all need dreams and one of mine is that all our services are more effective, positive and inclusive giving you the residents of Torrige a service that is helpful, friendly and informative – even if you do not get the result you want always!

Philip Collins your Torrige District Councillor for this the Clinton Ward of Little Torrington and Taddiport, Merton, Petrockstowe, Buckland Filleigh, Huish and Peters Marland.

01805 603443 work 01805 603656 home or prc@barometerworld.co.uk

Merton History Group

Our meeting on Friday 13th May was led by two of our own members, Doreen Tolley and Barbara Jones. Both are long-term residents of Merton, Doreen having lived in the village since 1937 when she was a year old. Barbara and Doreen were able to work together to provide us with a remarkable account of Devon village life in the mid-20th Century. They told of events and institutions that were fading then and are now long-gone, yet also telling some of the story of how Merton began to modernise after the Second World War.

One early event that Doreen recollected occurred in the winter following the outbreak of war. Doreen's father, William Marles, went to war with the Devon and Dorset Regiment leaving Doreen and her mother without wood for heating and cooking. A keeper forbade Doreen's mother from collecting wood. Fortunately Lord Clinton heard of the plight and made sure that the family had wood to burn for the duration.

On his return from war Mr. Marles organised the billiards hall which shared premises with the Reading-Room. According to Doreen he kept things orderly, not tolerating bad language or unruliness! The Reading-Room is now a private house joined on to the old school building where Doreen went to school. You may have read the rules of the Reading-Room – preserved in the Clinton Hall. Nationally, the reading-room movement was of great importance to literacy and democracy before public libraries were instituted.

Doreen has a wonderful series of photographs recording her time in the guides. She remembers learning camp-craft and camping in a wooden caravan over summer weekends. The caravan was sited in the Rectory Gardens, now Merton House. One of the photographs shows Lady Baden-Powell talking to the guides as they sat on the wall that surrounds the village square. The guides seem remarkably unfazed by their distinguished guest!

Doreen and Barbara were also very good at picking out significant historic detail. Electricity became general in the village in the late 1940s but there was no street lighting until the 1970s. She clearly remembers where the village pumps were located and a water-diviner working to trace submerged water-courses. In the 1940s-50s Merton had a range of shops and businesses remembered clearly by Doreen, making the village almost self-sufficient – just as well as Doreen remembers only a single weekly bus service during her childhood. Popular entertainments at the old village hall were whist-drives, dances and the weekly film-night.

Then, as now, heavy snow brought its problems. My memorable image from Doreen's account is of a Nurse Greatorex being taken by tractor to a confinement at Pretty Top. We hoped it was a model with a cab and a heater!

Barbara and Doreen provided us with an excellent account of the village as it was and how it has become the place we know. This was oral history at its best and it was an evening really well spent.

Our next meeting is on Friday 10th June 2011, 7.30pm at the Clinton Hall. You will be made very welcome if you can join us.

Merton Parish Council . There is one vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option. If you would like to be considered please contact the Clerk as soon as possible Wendy Askew Parish Clerk 01805 603425

Merton Parish Council - Handy person required to look after the flower bed and bus shelters in the square. The hours and wages to be decided depending on experience: Please apply to the clerk Mrs Wendy Askew on 01805603425 for more details.

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL a précis of the minutes of the AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Merton Parish Council was held in the Clinton Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2011 at 7.30pm

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting including two new councillors and County Councillor Andy Boyd.

A surprise presentation was then made to the clerk marking 40years as parish clerk. A beautiful bouquet of flowers and a Dartington Glass candle holder engraved were given in appreciation of her work. The clerk thanked all those present for this wonderful gesture.

The Councillors signed their acceptance of office.

Chairman's Report: Councillor Horner reported on the square. This along with the Freedom of the Village event has created a lot of work. The repairs to the square were recorded as work in progress. Councillor Horner thanked the Councillors for their work and support during the year. Councillor Horner also thanked Brian Nancekivell who had been chair and a very active member of the Parish Council for many years and Jan Sharpe who had been on the Council for many years for their work and support. Both had decided not to stand for re-election this time. He also thanked John Luxton, Wendy and Cedric Askew for their voluntary work keeping the flower beds tidy.

Presentation and Adoption Accounts for year ending 31st March 2011. The clerk presented the accounts and explained the payments made. This year a total of £600 was awarded to local organisations including Churchyard Fund, Merton Football Club, Friends of the Clinton School, Rainbow Pre-school, Friendship Club and the Clinton Hall. The balance in the current account is £1913.57 and in the deposit account is £4969.69. Mrs Jill Letheren will be asked to do the internal audit and then the accounts will be sent to the Audit Commission for final auditing. The accounts can be viewed by prior appointment with the clerk.

Clinton Hall Report: Councillor Brown gave a report on the Clinton Hall. He reported that the hall is still very busy this year. The outside has been re-landscaped. A vote of thanks to the Clinton Hall Committee, staff and helpers was proposed. It was noted that the hall is the envy of the County.

Church Yard Fund Report. Councillor Collins reported that the Churchyard Committee fund had a respectable balance up to last year. The grass continues to be cut by David Rabey and Steve Jennings and is looking good. There is a closing balance of £2335.

Co-option Mr Paul Scantlebury asked to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council. It was proposed by Councillor Down seconded by Councillor Phillips and all agreed to this.

Election of Officers: Chairman: Councillor Tim Horner Vice Chair: Councillor Phillips

Hall Committee Rep: Councillor Papworth. Churchyard Committee: Councillors Collins, Down and Papworth

AOB: There was no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

List Merton Parish Councillors: Tim Horner (Chair), Mark Phillips (Vice chair), Ron Down, Phillip Collins (also District Councillor), Paul Scantlebury, Steve Papworth and Bill Brown.

Thank you – I would like to thank everyone involved in giving me the lovely Dartington glass candle holder and beautiful flowers to mark 40 years. It was a complete surprise and left me speechless, (A rare thing for me!). I have had a great time working with lots of very nice people during this time and hope to continue for a little longer, so thank you to everyone past and present on the Parish Council for your support. **Wendy Askew**



(The Future Generation) Youth Group Update - In half term, on Thursday 2nd June, we are going to Widemouth Bay for a BBQ, sandcastle competition and games on the beach. Consent forms and details have been sent out and should have been returned. Because of this, there is no meeting on Friday 3rd June.

On Friday 17th June there will not be a meeting as no leaders are available.

The first meeting in July will be on Friday 1st and will be a games evening at the Recreation Ground from 7-9pm. It will be at Baxter Hall if the weather is bad.

On Friday 15th July we will be having a Wii competition evening at Baxter Hall from 7-9pm.

We need to plan for the summer holidays. Meetings will be on 5th and 19th August. If there is somewhere you want to go in the summer holidays, let one of the leaders know and we will see if it is possible.

The youth group is open to anyone of secondary school age living within the Clinton Ward (Buckland Filleigh, Huish, Little Torrington and Taddipport, 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.

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 Higton, by email – jtt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk, or delivered to The Old Vineyard, Merton, or to Tracey Laughton. Copy received after that date may not be included. Your co-operation is appreciated.