



MERTON MONTHLY

MARCH 2011

(You can also view the Merton Monthly at www.mertondevon.com)

The Clinton Hall

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The Clinton Hall



COFFEE MORNING AT THE CLINTON HALL

Tuesday 1 MARCH, 9.00am to 11.30am



WHAT'S ON DIARY – further info in newsletter

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Wednesday 2 March | - Friendship Club, 2pm, Clinton Hall |
| Tuesday 8 March | - Parish Council Meeting, 8pm, Clinton Hall |
| Saturday 12 March | - Malt Scoop Quiz, 8.15pm |
| Tuesday 22 March | - Friends of All Saints Church AGM, 7.30pm, at All Saints Church |
| Tuesday 26 April | - Clinton Hall AGM |
| Tuesday 5 July | - Freedom of Merton |
| Saturday 16 July | - Vintage Rally, Clinton Hall |

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

March

Services at All Saints

6 th Mar	11.00am	Morning Prayer
13 th Mar	10.00am	Village Worship
20 th Mar	9.30am	Holy Communion
27 th Mar	11.00am	Holy Communion

Services for Ash Wednesday: March 9th

10.30am	Holy Communion at Buckland Filleigh
7.00pm	Holy Communion at Petrockstowe

From the Registers

Funerals: Our prayers for the bereaved

4 th Feb	Sid Bolt
10 th Feb	Daisy Horn

Lent Series

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

A Christian response to creation

Wednesday evenings through Lent

Starting Wed March 16th

7.30pm

Petrockstowe Village Hall

Speakers: Archdeacon of Barnstaple, David Ursell,

Penny Warren,

Prof. Tim Gorrige, Martyn Goss

Advance Notice: This year we hope to hold our Mothering Sunday Service, on 3 April in the Clinton Hall at 10.30am .

All Saints AGM will take place on Monday 11 April at 7.30pm in the Church. Everybody is most welcome to attend.

From the Team Rector

Time to get counted! Line up, line up! One, two, three..... fifty-five million, three hundred and twenty two thousand, nine hundred and eighty one...

Yes, it's census time again. That decade ritual of accounting for everyone under your roof on one particular night. (Better make sure it's the right person – or you could be in trouble!) How many Jedis will there be in the UK this time round?

There was a census in the Bible on one occasion. King David took it to find out how many people he could call on to fight. And he got in big trouble over it as well. He had got just too keen on accounting for everything and thinking that he could have every situation taped.

There's two problems there. First you can get just too attached to what you have got. I want to know exactly how much money I have got; where all my belongings are and so on. Never let the lawnmower out of my sight. And so easily we can lose sight of those involved. In the end, life is not about possessions but people.

And then, too, we can never cover for every eventuality. We really can't. Something happens that we could never have foreseen. Dare we trust that ultimately it's not just up to us? That life is quite a bit bigger than our tiny world? It's called faith. And in the end, we are all invited to exercise it.

Have a happy census night. But don't count on it!

Yours,

Martin Warren.

Friends of All Saints Church AGM will be held in the Church on **Tuesday 22nd March** at 7.30pm. This is an open meeting for everyone to attend and we welcome anyone who is interested to see what has been achieved in the last year and what will be planned for the next year. We are always looking for new ideas to fundraise as there are still lots of things to do in the church. Please come along, and thank you for your support over the last year.

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

Merton Short Mat Bowling Club - Results

Merton Afternoon Charity League

24th January – Merton 16, Bradford & Cookbury 16

27th January – Merton 6, Wick 29

County Competitions

Chris & Roger White and Graham Heaman played in the last 32 of the triples. They won three games to win the group. They won two more games and in the semi-final, lost to Uptontery, 9 shots to 8.

Note For Your Diary

The Graham Heaman Triples, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Rainbow Pre-School, will be played at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 19th March, starting at 1.30 pm. Spectators welcome.

Winners for 150 Club for January 2011

£40 - Jake Shambrook; £10 - Adam Wickett; £5 - Paul Harris; £5 - Tom Parish; £5 - Peter Harris

Next **Quiz at The Malt Scoop**, on Saturday 12 March at 8.15pm
in aid of Devon Air Ambulance
Draw prizes always welcome.

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

Merton Post Office and Shop

Many thanks to those who purchased Valentine's cards, chocolates and flowers from our shop. Mother's Day cards and chocolates are on sale. Bunches flowers can be ordered from the shop. Please ask for a leaflet.

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



Merton Football Club

Results:	Merton 2 (scorer N. Delaune)	Braunton 0
	Equalizers 1	Merton 2

This result has put the first team in the semi final of the Arlington Cup and will be playing Woolacombe away on March 19th.

Second Ream Results:	Week St Mary 4	Merton 1
	Merton 4	Bude 5

The club has lost another helper in Sid Bolt. Sid used to cut the field and keep it tidy. You never had to ask, he would just do it. He was very reliable and will be sadly missed on his ride-on mower and little white Honda pick-up.

Rainbow Pre-School

The children are back after a relaxing half-term and will be learning about Spring and Easter this term. Fundraising this term...



We are running a Mother's Day Raffle for a chance to "win a beautiful bouquet of flowers delivered to your mum". Tickets are available at pre-school or speak to Karen Palmer or Paula.

Easter Morning - Friday 8th April at pre-school - come along and have a morning of fun with tea/coffee, cakes, lots of activities and a bouncy castle.

Big thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts last term, we raised over £400 from the Halloween Party, Christmas Hamper and a kind donation from Torrington Cavaliers to improve the outside play area.

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

Rainbow 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 come and visit us 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 you can have coffee & biscuits too!

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

At our meeting on Friday 11th February we heard Mr Brian Frazer-Smith, who gave us an illustrated talk on his father's early missionary/agricultural work in Morocco and his later, vital role in wartime London.

We learned how Charles Frazer-Smith possessed a uniquely inventive mind that was used by the military to develop ideas for concealing useful small equipment. Some of these were compass, maps, rations, messages, guide-lights and even pieces of radio equipment. They were hidden in everyday items like hairbrushes, shaving brushes, cigarette lighters, fountain pens, cotton reels and even matches. These secret items could be vital to air crew behind enemy lines or to escapees in POW camps.

Charles Frazer-Smith's WW2 work was the basis for the "Q" character of James Bond fame and the life story of this North Devon man deserves to be more widely known.

Our largest audience to date appreciated this talk from Brian Frazer-Smith, which was followed by light refreshments.

Our next meeting is at the **Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe on Friday 11th March** where we are guests of the Petrockstowe History Group. Dr. Todd Gray from Exeter University will be speaking on 'The Lost Heritage of Devon over the last 500 years'. Start time 7.30pm. Cost £4. You are very welcome to join us.

Mike Madders

Merton Friendship Club

At the meeting of the Friendship Club Mrs P. Jackson from Abbotsham joined us to talk about her 'life on a plate'. Mrs Jackson, who was born in Kent, went to Catering College when she left school. When she left catering college her first job was in the catering department at BBC Television Centre. Whilst at the BBC Mrs Jackson was also involved with catering at outdoor events including Silverstone, Wimbledon and the Golf Tournament in Scotland; she told us that working in the mobile kitchen was like working out of a huge removals lorry.

After the birth of her first son Mrs Jackson joined the London Fire Brigade. When she finished her training she was deployed at Heston in West London where she was the only woman on the watch. Heathrow Airport was on also on the patch. As the result of a family move to Abbotsham Mrs Jackson transferred to Bideford Fire Station where she worked until she gave up the Fire Brigade when her second child, a daughter, was born.

Following the birth of her third child Mrs Jackson became Chairman of the Abbotsham Allotments Association. The land for 40 allotments was provided by Mr Rick Turner of The Big Sheep. In addition to the allotments there is also a communal area where everyone helps out, the produce grown here is sold in The Real Farm Shop at The Big Sheep and also supplies the Visitor Restaurant there.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon which ended with our usual excellent tea and cakes.

At the next meeting Mr Rendell will talk about Dartmoor Prison and our speakers for the meeting in April are Mr & Mrs Howard Mills from Fernwood Nursery at Peters Marland.

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.

FOR SALE

Two 4 x 6 double divan beds
& two single beds for sale,
plus mattresses.

Please contact either
Diane Nancekivell on
01805 603453 or Janet Nancekivell
on 01805 603271
if interested.

Locally produced Dorset Lamb Available Now!

Traditionally slow grown on grass for less fat
and more flavour.

Whole or Half lambs, butchered and packed
ready for the freezer.

Half a lamb £65. Whole lamb £130 (average
carcass is 21kg)

If a whole or a half is too much why not get
together

with some neighbours and share one.

Contact Mike & Mary Ford 01805 603176.

Merton Parish Council next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th March** in the Clinton Hall at 8.00pm. Everyone welcome to attend. A brief outline of the minutes of the last two meetings included planning applications for affordable housing and open market houses for the Clinton Devon Estates. There were also planning applications for replacement windows at Thatchings, planning applications for alterations for camp site, drying facilities and static caravans for employees etc at Great Potheridge. All were approved by the Councillors with some reservations. A sum of £375 had been received from the Harvest Supper for the Play Equipment. A sum of £250 had also been received for the Play Equipment from Chris Laughton's 40th birthday party. A request had been made for signage on the Merton to Beaford road indicating unsuitable for HGV's. Preparations for the forthcoming Freedom of Village event in July are well underway.

Wendy Askew Clerk to the Parish Council

Do you fancy yourself as a voice for your local community? Stand as a Councillor. In May elections will be held for the District Council and Parish Councils in the Torridge area. If you are interested in standing and serving your community there will be local events held at Holsworthy Memorial Hall on Monday 7 March at 7.30pm, Torrington Town Hall on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30pm and at Bideford Riverbank House on Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm. Go along and find out more. You can also find out more by visiting the website at [www.torridge.gov.uk/make a difference](http://www.torridge.gov.uk/make-a-difference)

CHARITY BARN DANCE
IN AID OF PARKINSON'S UK IN NORTH DEVON
SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2011. 7.30-11.00 P.M.
AT ALVERDISCOTT VILLAGE HALL.

A vital element in the treatment of Parkinson's is to exercise and keep fit. This dance, organised jointly by Torrington and Barnstaple Branches of Parkinson's UK, is to raise money to pay for professionally run physiotherapy classes, available to all Parkinsonian's living in North Devon and Torrington.

This dance follows our extremely successful one of last year, with the same format namely dancing to the Bloater Town Band, caller John Blackburn; with entertainment during the interval by the Bideford Youth Pipe Band. Tickets are £8.50 with a Bring and Share Supper, limited numbers. Tickets from :- Anne and Keith Hughes 01 237 475168; Jennie Bliss 01 271 814159 and Ian Parson 01 805 601517.



The Future Generation) Youth Group Update -
On Friday 4th March **there will NOT be a meeting.** There are no leaders available on that night.

On Friday 18th March we will be at Baxter Hall from 7-9pm making Mother's Day cards and also decorating photo frames with buttons and shells.

On Friday 1st April there will be a meeting at Baxter Hall from 7-9pm. This will be a Chill Out evening.

On Friday 8th April we will be having another Bingo night that will be open to all. Doors Open at 7.00pm with Eyes Down at 7.30pm. It will finish at approximately 10.00pm. Please come along if you can and bring your friends and family. There will be refreshments, a raffle and tuck shop.

During the Easter break, we hope to be going to Woodlands as requested. More details nearer the time.

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.

Rotary Wine and Wisdom Quiz 2011

Our Wine and Wisdom 2011 will be held at Langtree Village Hall on **Saturday March 5th** and will **start at 7.30pm prompt.** There are spaces for 28 teams and early booking is advisable. This can be done by either phoning me on 01805 624495 or Mike Bridgman on 01409 261321. Teams will comprise six players. The price per person is £6 and this will include some bread, fruit, cheese and wine. There will be a raffle on the night and all proceeds will go to local or national charities. There will be ten rounds and they are largely general knowledge based. It's a bit of fun and also a chance to do some good.

Bob Brewer

Great Torrington and District Care Forum

Great Torrington and District Care Forum is a network for all those working in health, welfare, caring and religious areas in the Torrington area. Over thirty local caring group belong to the Forum.

The Forum meets monthly for a working lunch, usually on the second Wednesday at the Bluecoat's Children's Centre in Torrington. Members can meet informally over lunch on a one-to-one basis and afterwards in an open forum where they

exchange information, concerns, future ideas or plans and news and view. The Forum also welcomes guest speakers from caring groups.

When necessary, the Forum acts as a pressure group to support a wide range of improvement initiatives in Torrington and the surrounding district. In its twenty four year existence it has proved its value in bringing caring groups together to support each other and the local community.

For more information, contact either Jill Ruston (Secretary) on 01237 474529 or David Nainby (Chair) on 01271 379016 or david.nainby@btinternet.com

Some special days in March:

1 March	-	St David's Day
5 March	-	St Piran's Day
8 March	-	Shrove Tuesday
9 March	-	Ash Wednesday
14 March	-	Commonwealth Day
17 March	-	St Patrick's Day
18 March	-	Red Nose Day
20 March	-	Spring Equinox
26 March	-	Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race

If you would like to include anything in the Merton Monthly, please let Tracey Laughton have copy by the 20th of the month OR send direct to the editor, Trevor Higton at The Old Vineyard, Merton or by email – jtt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk

Entries received after the 20th 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.