

MERTON MONTHLY OCTOBER 2011

The Clinton Hall

Committee

Chair - Tracey Laughton; **Vice Chair** - Amanda Andrews;

Secretary – vacancy ; **Treasurer** - Janet Nancekivell.

Judi Higton – **Bookings Secretary**

John Luxton – **Caretaker**

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

WHAT'S ON DIARY – further info in newsletter

Every Monday	- Pilates, Clinton Hall, 7pm
Every Tuesday	- Zumba Fitness, Clinton Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 5 Oct	- Friendship Club, Clinton Hall, 2pm
Saturday 8 Oct	- Harvest Supper, Clinton Hall, 7pm
Wednesday 12 Oct	- Public Meeting to discuss Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm
Friday 14 Oct	- Merton History Group, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesday 25 Oct	- Parish Council Meeting, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 29 Oct	- Games Night, Clinton Hall, 7.30pm



THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE MORNING ON TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER
(but we hope you supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 30 September)
We will be back again in November



HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 8th October

7pm for 7.30pm

The Clinton Hall

Tickets £6

Available from Janet Nancekivell

01805 603271



Many, Many thanks

Many thanks to everyone who gave their time on Bank Holiday Monday for the Refreshment Rota at the Dog Agility Day at the hall and to those who made cakes for us to sell. Your time and effort is much appreciated. The hall made over £400 profit, thank you the hall will benefit from your time.

Have you some spare time for the hall?

I hope that you will have noticed we have had the windows painted at the hall?

With this in mind the hall and grounds could do with a tidy up ready for the winter. The jobs are small but would spruce up the building no end. It's not hard work but time consuming for our small committee.

If you feel that you could spare an hour or so please can you contact one of our committee members that look after the maintenance of the hall and show your interest to lend a hand. Please contact Julie 01837 810898, Kevin 603417 or Amanda 804584.

We will appreciate any help and look forward to hearing from you.

Games Night at The Clinton Hall

With the winter months drawing in we thought it would be nice to meet once a month at the hall for a 'Games Night'. This will be a very informal evening and everyone will be welcome from 7.30 pm on Saturday 29th October 2011.

Come along and have a game of skittles, snooker or table tennis using the halls facilities. Perhaps a game of cards, Pictionary, Draughts whatever you fancy, just bring along the game.

There will be a small bar, tea and coffee will be available. Admission will be 50p each. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information please contact Amanda Andrews on 01805 804584 or Tracey Laughton on 603658.

Evening Helpers at The Clinton Hall

Do you have a spare evening once or twice a month? The hall is manned by volunteers from 6.30 - 8.15 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The job is not complicated it's a case of manning the Reception desk to give people access to the halls facilities. If you would to help out please e-mail Jill jill.malcom@virgin.net or ring her on 603990 with your details. We look forward to hearing from you.



Every Monday night
at the Clinton Hall
7pm – 8pm
£4 per session

All Saints Church

Church contacts

Anglican: Martin Warren, tel: 01409-281424

Susanna Metz, tel: 01837-810621

Methodist: John Leach, tel: 01837-810591

From the Team Rector

I am just off on retreat. (By the time you read this, I will be back again!) A few days on Caldey Island across the Bristol Channel. A few days of space and time to think and pray and just be. Bliss! All on an island, away from the traffic, and the phone and everyday things. Wonderful.

Not that I don't like being here and things I do. I love it. Nowhere like Devon! It's a great place to be. But every so often you need that space to stop and look at where you are going.

That's what retreat is all about. They say you need to retreat to advance.

Actually we all need it at some point. We can get caught up in the sheer routine of life. Even holidays can be so busy, that there is no space to stop and reflect. And you don't have to go off to an island. You can find a space where you are: a special place out in the woods, a special view. Somewhere you can BE alone for a bit and not disturbed, (don't forget to turn off the mobile phone!)

And even better if we can do it each day – just a few minutes. A walk down the lane, lying in the bath – even sitting on the loo!

The mother of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, had 15 children. Can you imagine it! Her special space to think and reflect and pray was when she threw her apron over her head. It was a clear sign: Do not disturb.

Where is your place and time?

Yours, Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints

2 nd Oct	11.00am	Morning Prayer
9 th Oct	10.00am	Harvest Celebration
16 th Oct	9.30am	Holy Communion
23 rd Oct	11.00am	Family Communion
30 th Oct	11.00am	Team Service

Harvest Celebrations

Harvest Supper: Sat October 8th, 7.30pm
Clinton Hall

always good for food and fun

Harvest Service: Sun October 9th, 10.00am
All Saints' Church

Give thanks to God – that's fun too!

Torrige Guild of Ringers

Every year, the local guild, which consists of ringers from across the villages, meet for a social. Inevitably it includes a bit of ringing. This year, they have asked to come to Merton. So if you hear the bells ringing out on Thursday evening, October 20th, that's what it is. It's lovely that they want to come to Merton, so soon after the bells have been restored. Welcome to you all.

Churchyard Maintenance

Following on from a meeting with the District Council's Tree Officer, the Churchyard Fund Committee met recently and agreed an application of intended works to the trees be prepared and forwarded to Torrige District Council. This will include some replacement planting of local tree varieties as well as removal of the one green Yew tree nearest the porch, as not only is it not a very good shape but it has grown so much that it is hard to carry a coffin past. We will ask if we can trim the yew trees every year or two to maintain access down the path and in time we hope to reduce the size of them when we can get to it, they have grown so high and large that trimming them needs ever longer step ladders. We want to keep them and their cone shapes as long as possible.

There is also a very large pine tree on the field boundary which looks at risk; if it blows over like its companions have some years ago it is likely to damage headstones. We are considering removing it before the winter storms win their relentless battle. Any of your thoughts and comments are, as always, welcome.

Huish Church

Our annual candlelit service will be held at Huish Church on Sunday November 27th at 6.30pm. Refreshments to follow. Everyone welcome.

Friends of All Saints Church

A big thank you to Colin Newell, Steve Papworth and Cedric Askew for laying a new floor in the bell tower at All Saints Church. It is looking very good and very safe. The wood is now being ordered for the floor above which needs to be laid to soundproof it. We do appreciate everyone who gives their time so freely to help keep the church open. The next event in the church will be the Harvest Service on Sunday 9th October at 10.00am. It is hoped to get a working party to decorate the church for this event. If you would like to help or can supply anything to use for the decorating i.e. greenery flowers, etc. please contact Wendy Askew 01805 603425 or any other member of the committee.

Wendy Askew Secretary to the Friends of all saints Church and Bell Fund.

Bell ringing – are you a bell ringer or are you interested in learning to ring. Please in the first instance give your name to Wendy Askew on 01805 603425. It is hoped to get some training organised in the near future.

ZUMBA FITNESS

every Tuesday 7pm - 8pm. £5 per session. Wear comfortable clothing, trainers, bring a drink and have some fun!



FREEDOM of MERTON

At last the DVD we have been waiting for is here, and a great record of that wonderful day it is too. In full colour with sound (and Tim's Speech!) Professionally shot and edited, lasts 32 minutes. Shows the march through the village, the ceremony in the square with the children from school and march over to the hall, speeches before the food and the gifts, including the scroll - which was not the one Big Al was reading from in the square as it was far too nice to risk getting wet or damaged but was framed and now hangs in Regimental Headquarters along with the wooden key plaque made from oak salvaged from Great Potheridge. Several copies were picked up at the coffee evening on 16th September and hopefully by the time you read this I may have delivered a few of the many on order. If you have not had yours then do drop in to Barometer World or Mowhay where I have copies for all ordered and a few more if anyone would like to get another for friends, relatives, ex Mertonians or Ex Coldstream Guards etc. could make a good Christmas present as well.

Drop in or contact me at work 603443 or home 603656

Philip Collins

Next **Quiz** at **The Malt Scoop**, on Saturday 8th October at 8.15pm
in aid of Devon Air Ambulance
Draw prizes always welcome.

The Friendship Club

At our first meeting after the summer break we welcomed Lydia and Shirley to the Clinton Hall on Wednesday 7th September. Lydia and Shirley are staff members at the Barnstaple store of J. Sainsbury and came to tell us about the history of Sainsburys and a little about the hectic reality of modern day food retailing.

Shirley was the historian and began her tale with one John James Sainsbury and his new wife Mary Ann opening their first store at 173 Drury Lane, London in 1869. J.J. had served an apprenticeship in general chandlery, understood ordering, stock control and accounting and also had his own strong ideas about quality and service – ideas that, as Shirley showed, were to define the success of Sainsburys into the next century. Shirley told us how the area around

Drury Lane was a very deprived one in the 1870s. J.J. believed that the impoverished Londoners who were his customers deserved good quality food at affordable prices and this he set out to provide.

Dairy products were a special focus in J.J.'s first store and Mrs Sainsbury sought to produce and sell the best butter in London. J.J. made sure of his milk supply by utilising the service of the railways to supply and deliver milk by the churn. J.J. may have also been revolutionary in the area of auto-vending when he established a 'mechanical cow' to vend milk for a penny when the store was closed.

J.J. opened his second shop in Islington in 1873 and more followed rapidly. These shops were becoming distinctive, characterised by the tiled walls and floors once so familiar to many of us of a certain age. J.J. also employed store managers to oversee each shop and a hierarchy of positions to see to the smooth running of each store. The most humble of these was the egg boy who had to 'candle' each egg to check its freshness.

By 1883 food bearing the Sainsbury name was on the shelves of each branch bringing uniformity and reliability to the produce.

Shirley next told us of the changes brought about by the 1st World War and here the story was a familiar one. The call up of men led to a greater recruitment of women. By the end of the war there were 39 women employed in management positions.

When J.J. Sainsbury died in 1928 there were 128 Sainsbury stores nationwide.

Shirley gave us a few dates that help tell the story of the direction of retailing in the late 20th century; 1950 saw the first self-service store open in Croydon but counter service didn't disappear until 1984. It took more than a century for Sainsburys to reach Devon - a store being opened in Exeter in 1976.

Lydia explained some of the strengths of Sainsburys as an employer. The training scheme, administered from regional centres, provides certified courses generally recognised in the industry as GNVQ equivalent. Before taking questions, Lydia completed the presentation with the wonderful irony of the return to counter service for speciality products—because the customers seem to prefer it!

Our thanks to Shirley and Lydia for their excellent presentation and the provision of some additional snacks to accompany the delicious tea and cakes.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 5th October at 2pm** in the Clinton Hall when Mrs Penny Warren from Shebbear will be talking on Textiles. You will be very welcome. Admission is £2 to include remarkable refreshments.

Friends of The Clinton School

Our annual shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway will be on Sunday 20th November 2011. The coach will leave Merton at 8.30 am and will make pick up's en-route. Don't miss out on a chance to do some Christmas shopping and catch up with friends. To book your seat/s contact Tracey Laughton on 01805 603658. Tickets are £12 each, book now to avoid disappointment.

Jo Craker

Winners for August - 150 Club

£40 - K. Winsor; £10 - B. Shambrook; £5 – W. Stanley; £5 H. Harris; £5 J. Stoneman

Merton Post Office and Shop

How is your Gift Voucher saving scheme coming along? Perhaps you forgot to start saving but would like to have given vouchers for presents. It's not too late to hand an order in. The vouchers are an ideal gift as one voucher covers a number of shops. You can also order Argos and M&S vouchers too. Please ask for more information.

**Foreign Currency available to order, 0% commission. Euros 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.

Tracey Laughton.

Merton History Group

Our meeting on Friday 9th September was taken by our member and North Devon native, Roy Watts, who concentrated on his life in and around Huish and Merton.

Roy's grandfather, we were told, was a shepherd on the Clinton Estate. Roy's father, Fred Watts, was born in 1906, went to school in Huish and was taught by Annie Friend, a name we should remember. Fred left school to learn blacksmithing. He moved on to work at Home Farm which was managed by Mr Papps. Fred's next move took him to the clay works where he worked as a blacksmith. He then returned to Home Farm as a horseman. Roy remembers being told that the herd of 100 cows had to be milked and the milk delivered to Petrockstowe Station to meet the 8.30am train.

In 1938 Fred was called up into the Home Guard. Roy recounted being told how there was an alert sent out that the Germans were invading at Westward Ho! Fred was despatched to halt the invasion armed with a wire rope and a pick axe handle. Comic as this seems now, the incident suggests how ill-equipped the brave men of the Home Guard were in the early years of the war.

Roy was born in 1944. In his early years he was taught at Merton School by Evelyn Friend, sister to the aforementioned Annie. Roy remembers being taken by bus to school, Emily Hookway being the driver. Roy had a good friend in John Crocker who he played football with in the area outside the school (now the village square) and on the main road. Roy also remembers the riotous playground game of Fox and Hounds where the unfortunate fox, with odds stacked against them, must have longed for the bell and resumption of lessons. Roy remembers school milk in one-third pint bottles and dinners being delivered from Hatherleigh. Another long suffering teacher remembered by Roy was Miss Law, who retired to be replaced by the far more formidable Miss Davis. Fortunately, Roy stated, he was spared the wrath of Miss Davis as he was soon to move on to Torrington School.

The young Watts appeared to be an enterprising individual. At ten he was the principal mole catcher at Home Farm, Mr Sarson, the manager, paying Roy by the tail.

In his boyhood Roy remembers mobile tradesman who brought essentials to the village. Before the arrival of domestic electricity the radio was powered by an accumulator cell, exchanged weekly for a fully charged one. Lamp oil was delivered and the agents of several insurance companies were a familiar sight. Mr Singh was a regular, bringing clothes for sale. The postman was Ernie Westlake. Roy also remembers tramps passing through the village, often ex-servicemen who had not adjusted well to civilian life. Many residents treated them with compassion. Roy remembers a daily bus service in the 1950's driven by Fred Mitchell that was a return service between Okehampton and Torrington. The bus was garaged at Petrockstowe. Roy also reminded us of the crash at the Meeth crossing involving a train and the Saturday night bus. Fortunately there were no serious injuries.

On leaving school Roy was determined to farm and worked at Towel Farm. He did a day release course at Bicton College. Tiring of farming, he worked for local builder Raymond Skinner and then for Harris's before starting up his own company.

Roy played football for Merton and Petrockstowe winning honours with both. He remembers one exceptional pre-season friendly on 23rd July 1985- Roy still has the specially printed programme-when Merton took on the mighty Torquay United. Merton were the unlucky losers by 12 goals to nil. Going on recent reports Kenny Heaman's men might do better!

Roy came close to national fame one Sunday morning years ago when he found a bag. He handed it in to the police thinking no more about it. He was later told that the police had been searching through the villages for the bag as it belonged to a doctor and contained dangerous drugs. The incident made the papers but the discovery was credited to 'John Watts'!

These were just some of the incidents Roy shared with us but reading about them misses the point that it's the way Roy tells 'em! Our great thanks to Roy for his careful preparation and delivery.

Please join us for our next meeting which is to be on Friday 14th October at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall when Mr Paul Jennings will be talking about an Air Crash in Merton. Members £2, visitors £4.

Mike Madders

Merton Parish Council.

Thank you to all who attended the coffee evening on Friday 16th September in the Clinton Hall. It was lovely to see so many there and hope you enjoyed seeing the preview of the DVD of the Freedom of the Village event. It was also nice to see the photos supplied by parishioners. This event was organised and funded by the Parish Council as a "Thank you" to all who helped in any way and made the historical event such a great success. DVDs can still be purchased by contacting Philip Collins.

The Parish Council held a meeting in the hall on Tuesday 6th September. Main items discussed included new rules for tree management in a conservation area. It appears if work is to be done on any trees in a conservation area an

application needs to be made to the Tree Officer at Torrridge District Council giving six weeks' notice. The Affordable Housing has now been passed. A snow warden has been appointed from the Council and he will attend a training session and be responsible for organising salt supplies. A welcome pack, containing useful names and contacts, has been prepared by the clerk for new residents in the village. A review of the Parish Plan shows some items have already been achieved. Mr and Mrs Madders have volunteered to keep the flower bed at the top of the village square tidy. A letter of thanks was sent to them. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations were discussed and it was agreed to call a public meeting to discuss parishioners' ideas on this. A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 12th October at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall. Please come along with your ideas.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Clinton Hall on Tuesday 25th October 2011 at 7.30pm.

Wendy Askew; Clerk to Merton Parish Council.



The Future Generation) Youth Group Update.

On Friday 2nd September we had a sponsored sleepover at Baxter Hall from 9pm until 9.30am the following morning with breakfast cooked by Graham and Julie. We had a giant Cluedo game before settling down for the night. This has helped us to raise about £250 towards our future outings.

On Friday 7th October we will be meeting at Baxter Hall from 7-9pm. There will be the usual hall activities plus a second chance for those who made clay figures in January to paint them (this is your last chance or they will just be glazed!)

We will be having a Bingo Night on 15th October which will be open to everyone as a fund raising venture. Please bring along family and friends to help make this a successful night.

Doors open 7pm, Eyes down 7.30pm.

There will not be a meeting on Friday 21st October as we will go on an outing on Thursday 27th October (during half term). This will be either swimming or bowling and we will talk about it at the meeting on 7th and make our decision.

There will not be a meeting on Friday 4th November as we will be supporting the Firework Night at the Recreation

Ground on Saturday 5th November. Times and more info next month.

There will be a meeting on Friday 18th November (details to be confirmed) and then on Saturday 19th November there is the annual Skittles competition in Petrockstowe. We will be putting forward a team or two, so if you are interested talk to Caroline.

We will be going Christmas shopping in Barnstaple on Saturday 3rd December, so put the date in your diary NOW. On Friday 16th December we will be going to see Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs at Queens Theatre in Barnstaple. This will be open to members and non-members of TFG including all villagers, friends and family. If you attend with parents or guardians, no consent form will be required but these will be supplied for those attending unsupervised. Please see the separate information about this trip and reply ASAP.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Bingo Night! Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe Saturday 15th October 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</p>
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Torrington Rotary Club

Next Business and Networking Breakfast on Saturday, October 8th, 2011 at 8.00 a.m. at The Black Horse, The Square, Torrington Cost: £5

If you run your own business, work from home or are simply interested in expanding your business and professional contacts, do come along to our next **Business and Networking Breakfast on Saturday, October 8th, 2011 at 8.00 am at The Black Horse, Torrington.** This will be our seventh breakfast in the last two years, providing a service that is appreciated by local businesses and individuals working from home. We run the Breakfasts as a local community service and there are no charges or commitments other than paying for breakfast. If this interests you, please register or ask for further information by e-mail on torringtonrotary1.btinternet.com or from **David Nainby 01271 379016 or 07817 000586** or **Charles Moore (01805 601319 or 07796 306879).**



BPAG - Torridge Rough Sleeper Outreach Registered Charity No 1084843
 10 Forches Avenue, Barnstaple, EX32 8ED
 email: bpag-gateway@hotmail.co.uk
 Tel: 01271 371499 Manager, Office and Fax
 01271 343111 Client Support Team

Progress Through Partnership

To whom it may concern,

I am the Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker for Barnstaple Poverty Action Group (BPAG).

BPAG offer help to individuals and families who are in crisis and are in need of emergency help and support. I specifically work across Torridge with people who are rough sleeping or homeless, to support them and help improve their situation, and would appreciate your help. I need to hear if you think there is anyone rough sleeping in your area, so that I can assist them, or alternatively if there is any way in which you think you could help with BPAG. Please would you let people know that I am working in this area, and pass on my contact details. If any group or individual wishes to have a chat, or receive more information about my role, or that of BPAG please do not hesitate to contact me so we can arrange a meeting.

BPAG also offers the Gateway service at the Parish Rooms, Barnstaple, on Tuesdays. The Salvation Army, Ilfracombe, on Fridays and The Parish rooms, Westward Ho! on Mondays. The Project allows individuals access to a hot meal. They can also access support and advice on a wide range of issues such as benefits and accommodation, together with clothing and bedding etc.

I fully appreciate your support; your help allows BPAG to continue to provide a service which is much needed within the local community. For that BPAG are most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Abi Mandeville On behalf of BPAG

07814524935 a.mandeville@bpag-encompass.org.uk



THEATRE TRIP - SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS - FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER

TFG Youth Group is planning a trip to see Snow White at the Queens Theatre, Barnstaple on Friday 16th December for the 7pm performance. We want to open this up to all living within the Clinton Ward and hire a 52 seater coach for the outing. Arrangements will be made for pick up/drop off at each village location. The cost to members of TFG is £5 and all other seats will be £14. If you would like to come along, please complete the tear off slip below and return with a deposit of £5 per person by Sunday 30th October 2011 to TFG Youth Group, c/o Rose Farm, Petrockstowe, Okehampton, EX20 3HQ. If you have any queries or questions, you can contact Fiona on tfgyouth@gmail.com or 01837 811749.



 Please reserve me seats at £14 each and seats for a TFG member at £5 each.

I enclose £..... as a deposit (cheques made payable to TFG Youth Group).

Name

Address

.....

Contact Number

E-mail address

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.