



Merton Monthly

December 2020 / January 2021

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the 15th of January for inclusion in the February issue.

Christmas Celebration



Monday 21st December
from 6pm
The Square, Merton

Carols, Christmas Story, Community Spirit

Food available through Devon Food Co.

Organised through the church.

NB. Subject to current restrictions

WHAT'S ON DIARY – other info, where applicable, in newsletter

Every Monday	-	Circuit Classes, Clinton Hall, 5-30pm - 6-30pm
Every Wednesday	-	Kettlercise, Clinton Hall, 9-30am
Thursday		Cuppa & Chat 9-30 — 2-00pm



All Saints Church



Team Rector: Revd Martin Warren, tel: 01409-281424

Team Vicar: Revd Susannah Metz, tel: 01837-810621

Methodist Minister: Rev Liz Singleton, tel: 01837-52302

Dear Friends,

Every blessing to you in these times,

Martin Warren

Services at All Saints (and other church buildings.)

As you will be aware, church buildings have had to be closed for services once again as part of the lock-down. We hope to be able to resume services again into December, but things could change at any point. So please do check: give a ring or go to the churches website.

So in hope:

December 6 th	11.00am	Peters Marland
December 13 th	9.00am	Huish
Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Merton (Christmas Midnight – a bit earlier!)
December 27 th	10.00am	Petrockstowe

Alongside this, we continue our online and phone presence

Sunday Worship Online

11.00am

www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

(or, of course, any other time of your choosing.)

Dec 13th Christingle Service

Dec 20th Carol Service



Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Phone: 0330-606-0403

Access code: 251417



Supporting Refugees at Christmas.

We are still planning on doing a trip to the Refugee Centre in Plymouth this Christmas. As we have for the last good few years. And it will be just as needed this year – if not more so.

So if you have **clothes** that can be reused – especially men's – then please pass them on. Also **bedding, kitchen utensils** (not electrical please, unless certified), and **basic toiletries**.

Like so many other organisations, the Refugee Centre has had to close its doors during lock-down. And when it could open, access was limited. However the centre has kept contact with those seeking its support throughout this year. It's not perfect, but then what is at the moment. But it has kept going. And that's really good news for those needing help.

So as we can, let's bring a bit of Christmas cheer. We've done a great job in the past. Let's continue to show that we care – even when things are hard.

Do drop off items at The Rectory, or give us a ring to make alternative arrangements. Thank you.

Martin and Penny Warren (tel: 281424)

Christmas Messages

Christmas Greetings to
my Merton friends
Keep safe and Healthy
during 2021



Barbra Laughton



Tony and Linda Hunt
would like to wish every-
one Christmas Wishes.
Here's hopefully to a
much better 2021. XX



Wring House

As we won't be sending
Christmas cards this year — we
wish all our Friends and indeed
everyone in Merton a Happy &
Healthy Christmas & New Year. Again, many
thanks for all the help we've received and
hope this terrible time will soon pass.
Sadly Con is still unwell.

Margaret & Ron



My warm wishes for Christmas and the year ahead to the whole Parish and especial-
ly my dear friends and neighbours.

My belated, but appreciative thanks to any / all who may have sent us cards and
messages when we lost Barry last New Year's eve. t am at peace that he has started
a new life with Jesus, his Saviour, whose Birthday we are about to celebrate,
{perhaps without so many distractions this year, we shall be more aware of who we
are celebrating.}

Every blessing everyone.

Christine Wright



Hopefully we can celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on Monday the 21st December from 6-00pm
onwards, in the Square by the Church.

Christmas music, some food & mulled wine.

Perhaps {who knows?} we may be able to sing some carols under our masks.

Please come along & celebrate Christmas together as a village.

We will put posters up to let you know.





From Judi & Trevor (Higton) at The Old Vineyard

By the time you read this we should be en route to pastures new (fingers crossed and providing we can co-ordinate solicitors, completion dates and removal companies). After living here since 1986 it will be a huge wrench to leave



Merton, and Devon, especially having discovered many years ago that my roots are from Devon - Coombe Martin on my mother's side and Exeter, Budleigh Salterton and Teignmouth on my father's.

From early beginnings at Eastbeare, where we lived the 'good life' (typical incomers! I remember a local farmer saying "there's more to farming than meets the eye" and how right he was) with ducks, chickens, geese, some Gloucester Old Spot pigs and 2 heifers and a bullock, to a move to Downes House and then being lucky enough to buy a plot of land and build our own house, we have felt a real part of the community. Between us, we've served on the Parochial Church Council, been a school governor, served on the hall committee, been part of the wildlife group, edited the Merton Monthly and worked at the Clinton Hall.

Over the years we've seen changes in the village, people come and go, and have many amazing memories - Merton's first (and only) Balloon Festival - the vicar was photographed going up in a hot air balloon on Ascension Day (what a scoop for the local reporter that was); the church bells being stolen and then found and returned; a civil war re-enactment battle held at Great Potheridge; the Olympic torch coming through the village; the Freedom of Merton given to the Coldstream Guards; the summer fayres and Vintage Rallies and so many events held at the village hall - various tribute bands and theatre performances - and who can forget Johnny Cowling, who came twice, or Maxi & Mitch who performed at the old village hall (now three lovely houses) and came back to celebrate the new village hall, the Dolton & District French Twinning Association and the delicious Normandy lunches cooked by many local friends, Winkleigh Morris's national competition weekends and their dance displays in the car park, the dances and suppers, cream teas and quizzes, parties and weddings, and lately the breakfast rolls, coffee, cake and soup lunches providing the village with a little bit of normality during these current strange times.

This is such a fabulous village and we're going to really miss it all. But family and grandchildren call. The South Downs of West Sussex are not Dartmoor and Exmoor and the coast there is not the extraordinary varied coastline here - but.... it's all new, it's a challenge and a new part of the country to explore (not to mention the babysitting duties that we'll willingly do!)

So, finally we say farewell, au revoir and an enormous thank you, to one and all, for being our friends and for making our life here so happy.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

December 2020

£20-00 Dennis Petherbridge

£10-00 Steve Welch

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

Xmas 2020

£5-00 Aud Elworthy

£5-00 Brian Harris

£5-00 Tony Hunt

£5-00 Richard Gooding

£5-00 Lynn Wharton

£5-00 Sandra Bunn



A message from the Editor

Hi,

Here we are once again under lockdown, I'm working through the double issue and wondering where the last twelve months have gone?

Found a very useful phone app, "What 3 words" Some one has mapped the whole planet and divided it into 3 metre square blocks and given each block its own unique 3 word code. The emergency services are using this to help locate people after collisions or injuries. Once it is downloaded you don't need a phone signal for it to work, as long as you have battery life you can work out where you are if you need help.

Here is a link to the website. <https://what3words.com/>

As I finish off the last issue for this year I will end by wishing all our advertisers and readers a very Merry Christmas and hopefully a much better Peaceful and Happy New Year.

Until next year

Dave.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

November 2020

£20-00 Shaun Hambley

£10-00 Mary Ford

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for December

Black Bag collection Thursday: 10th December & 24th December

Green Waste collection Thursday: 3rd December & 17th December

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday **No collection Christmas week.**

Check the TDC calendar at: [Torridge District Council](#)

January collection details on page 11



TORRINGTON AND DISTRICT MEN'S SHED.

PLEASE DON'T BIN IT DONATE IT.

If you have any unwanted usable timber especially unwanted decking timber, or working electrical woodworking tooling including hand tools Can you please consider donating it to the Shed, collection will be available Free of charge.

The Shed is a registered charity in Torrington that undertakes community projects for the benefit of all, more detailed information can be found on the internet, and for those that do not have that facility give Keith a call on 01805 603052 and I will be more than happy to help.

For More direct contact give Dave Davies a call on 07759783001 who will also be more than happy to help.

Regards Keith Wharton.

Merton AFC

Due to the lockdown football has been cancelled until December 5th or longer.

Our last game had to be abandoned due to our goal keeper Steve Wright breaking his leg. He has had his operation, and the Club wishes Steve a full and speedy recovery.

Fixtures for December

Depending on lockdown ending.

Saturday December 12 th	South Molton	H	14-30
Saturday December 19 th	S.A.S	H	14-30

Merton AFC Quiz

1. Who played for Scotland Youth, could have signed for Man Utd, but played professionally for Swindon Town and then for Merton FC. Who?
2. Who played for Merton when 14 years old, winning a cup medal and then played professionally for Plymouth, Walsall and Torquay? Who?
3. Who captained a side in a Charity match with England and Tottenham and QPR player Gerry Francis, as manager against Plymouth Argyle. This Merton player won Man of the Match Award. The Award was presented by Prince Edward. Who?

Answers on page 11

Kath & Alana would like to say a **"Big Thanks"** to everyone who has supported us over the past months, we will keep doing it while you still want it!

Hope you all have a great Christmas.

Stay safe! Lots of Love xx.



From December 5th there will be a Christmas Tree outside the Clinton Hall. Everyone can write a message on a Christmas card {or tag} to friends or family that will be absent this year.

The children can make a decoration or card, etc.

Have fun!!



Remember the deadline. 15th January to be included in the February edition.

Merton and Petrockstowe Heritage Group

Dear Members,

As we are experiencing another lock down let's hope by Christmas, we can visit loved ones and enjoy the festive time together.

The Torrington 100 project film on how Petrockstowe coped with Covid during the first lock down is progressing and those of us that contributed have been lucky enough to have a sneak preview. The film editor has done a very good job so far but we await the final version. Hopefully then we shall all be able to have a get together to see it. I suspect if the film was being made now our views would be slightly different as its autumn going into winter and not spring into summer which made the first lock down more bearable.

It would be nice to think we could resume some of our meetings again next year. On behalf of the Chairman, treasurer and myself have a very happy Christmas. Keep safe and well.

Ann Luxton

Ann Luxton 01837 810728—annluxton@hotmail.co.uk



The Gym at Clinton Hall

The Gym is now open, for joining details please contact Alana Mabon on 07444 725 278 or by email: alana@amfitnessservices.co.uk or check out details on Facebook @thegymatclintonhallmerton

Merton Monthly e-mail notification.

If you are not all ready on the mailing list, would you like to be notified when the next issue of the MM is available to view online?

If so, please send me an e-mail requesting your name to be added.

Send to dave.folland@btinternet.com

Thanks for your support.

HOME FROM HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

One Northern Devon in conjunction with one of the key partners, Northern Devon Healthcare Trust, have been inspired to build on the brilliant community response to the Covid-19 pandemic where members of the community supported those with no support network around them. This fantastic response was recognised in regional and national media. One Northern Devon and the network of 'One Communities' are keen to build on this to provide support to those that are discharged from hospital who have no support network from friends or family around them.

Would you like to help reduce the fear and anxiety that vulnerable patients feel when they return home from a hospital stay? Can you be that neighbourly friendly face to provide a helpful and warm welcome home? Full training is provided and you control how often you volunteer.

**Make A Difference
Today**

**Would you like to
find out more
about being a
Home From
Hospital
Volunteer?**

**Contact Your
Community
Developer**

**Sophie Hatch on
sophie@ttvs.org.uk
or 07939154436**

Agrimotors

Merton Garage, Shop & Post Office

Shop & PO current opening hours

To be reviewed early spring

Monday - 09.00 - 13.00

Tuesday - closed

Wednesday - 09.00-13.00

Thursday - closed

Friday - 09.00-13.00

Saturday - closed

Sunday - closed

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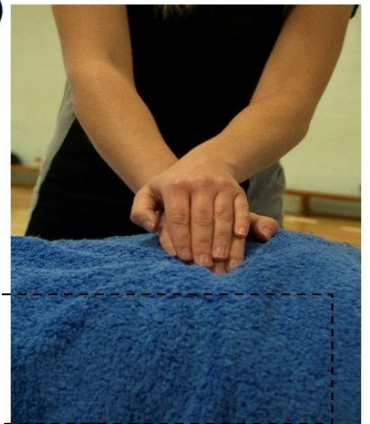
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Advertising space is available throughout this newsletter, please contact The Clinton Hall at: - info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

Small adverts to full page are available, please contact us for more details.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Malt Scoop Inn

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Saturday – 3pm – 10pm / Restaurant 6pm – 9pm

Sunday – Bar 12pm – 6pm / Restaurant 12pm – 2pm

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603924

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Please note during these unsettled times opening hours could change.

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and Lots of Board Games

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MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

As with all other sports activities, our season has come to an abrupt end!

The league decided that as various clubs were at different stages of the competition, it would be fairest to abandon the results entirely which was rather disappointing as (for a change) Merton were doing reasonably well!

Of course, the social distancing rules also meant that our AGM and End-of-season Dinner also had to be cancelled.

As we have no idea when we will be starting again, there will be no more reports until we return to some form of normality.

A Note from the Editor.

Would be possible for any clubs or organisations to give me at least a month's notice of any events, longer if possible so I can place details in more than one month's issue. This would give our readers have a chance to purchase tickets and make a note in their diaries. This may also help to get more people to attend local events.

Many thanks.

Dave

Hopefully as the lockdown is eased things will begin to get back to whatever the new normal is, I am hoping to see some new items being sent for inclusion in future editions of the Merton Monthly.

If you have any suggestions please send them to my e-mail: dave.folland@btinternet.com, or drop them in my letterbox at Laburnum Cottage, Merton, half way between the Pub and the Garage.

I look forward to hearing any comments you may have.

Dave



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Merton Monthly Advertising.

Advertising is available in the Merton Monthly.

For further details please contact: - The Clinton Hall, e-mail: -

info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming advertisers old and new to our newsletter.

Little Otters Pre-School, Merton

Opening times: Term time

Monday - Thursday 8-45am – 3-30pm



We aim to provide a safe and stimulating pre-school environment and to work within a framework, which ensures equality of opportunity for all children and families.

We believe that early years' education is much more than teaching sounds, colours, numbers and letters. It is about developing strong, curious and confident children. Our aim is to make learning fun and for children to enjoy learning as they start their journey in life.

Your child is entitled to 15 hours, funded, the term after they are 3 years old. We are also able to provide 2gether funding for 2 year olds.

For more Information please contact the school on 01805 603357 or email theclinton@alumnismat.org.

Little Otters Parent & Toddler Group

Fun and stimulating activities for children aged 0-5 Years.

Activities available vary from messy play, story/singing sessions, small world play and much more!!

A chance for Parents/Carers to have a catch up while your children play in a safe environment.

A healthy snack & drink will be provided for the children & tea/coffee & biscuits for the adults.

Where - Merton Pre-School

When - Every Friday, 9am - 11.30am

Contact the school on 01805 603357

Merton AFC Quiz Answers

1. Jimmy Allen
2. Joe Broad
3. Kenny Heaman

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for January

Black Bag collection Thursday: 7th January & 21st January

Green Waste collection Thursday: 14th January & 28th January

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday

Check the TDC calendar at: [Torridge District Council](http://www.torridge.gov.uk)



Merton Village on Facebook

If you are on Facebook for local information and help during the ongoing Coronavirus outbreak take a look at MertonVillage, ask to join and find out a lot of information and assistance.

Be safe, take care, and don't go out if you have no need to.

D

W

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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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