

Merton Monthly

November 2021

{Also available at www.mertonmonthly.com}

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the 15th of November for inclusion in the Dec/Jan issue.

**4th
NOVEMBER**

10am til 12pm



THE CLINTON VILLAGE HALL

CUPPA & CHAT

**PLEASE COME ALONG FOR A TEA OR
COFFEE AND A CHAT MAYBE EVEN A
BISCUIT OR 2!**

**INFO@CLINTONHALLMERTON.CO.UK
01805603300**

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TORRINGTON TOWN HALL COMMUNITY FAYRE

Tuesday 2nd November 3pm – 7pm

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



Come and ask the experts at 'Gardening Question Time'

and

Mariners Away

Singers of Shanties & Songs of the Sea

We're inviting all the good people of Torrington and outlying villages to meet a host of charities and community groups. Come and get involved with your local community, find out what we can do for you and perhaps what you can do for us.

- Have a tour of the Town Hall!
- Meet over 25 local groups and societies
- Free refreshments and yummy snacks!
- Live music!

Contact Martin from Torrington 100 for more information on

07939 154436 or martin@ttvs.org.uk



Avon Christmas Showcase

Being held at

The Malt Scoop Inn

on

Wednesday 10th November

Come along anytime between 1pm and 5pm



**There will be gifts and stocking fillers to
purchase/order in time for Christmas**

**Get into the Festive spirit and enjoy a hot or cold
beverage with a complimentary mince pie**



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MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Last night (14th October) we had our first roll-up in nearly two years!

It was an enjoyable evening and we had three new prospective members, welcome to Steve, Vicky and Tyler.

Due to low numbers, we will not be competing in any leagues, it will just be a social evening on a fortnightly basis. Our next meetings will be on 28th October and 11th and 25th November from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

We are still looking to recruit new members. Please come to the Clinton Hall for an introductory session. We will supply equipment, just bring yourself!

If you prefer, contact Jeanie on 01805 601125 or Julie on 01805 603405 for more details.

We look forward to seeing you!

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for November

Black Bag collection Thursday: 11th November & 25th November

Green Waste collection Friday: 4th November & 18th November

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday

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

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

October 2021

£20-00 Tommy Palmer

£10-00 Steve Welch

Merton Monthly e-mail notification.

Do you prefer to get your Merton Monthly delivered or would you like an email version?

If you would like to continue having it delivered then that's great but, if an email version is your choice, please send an e-mail to dave.folland@btinternet.com Thanks for your support.

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,

COP 26 is upon us. Let's hope that when it's all over, we won't be saying, 'It wasn't much cop!' Because, doesn't it just matter!

Potentially it is a life-turning event. Maybe the most significant gathering ever. From this we could find ways to control the changes in the climate – or we could let it run away with us and bring catastrophe to many parts of the world, if not all of the world. And there's not much in between.

All that could make us feel totally helpless. We could so easily just give up – 'it's far too big for me to handle- I'll just go out for a round of golf!' We'll turn the telly off until it's all over – except for 'Strictly' of course.

But that is not the Christian stance. God in Jesus shows himself to be utterly committed to this world – this world that he has made and loves. He gives it his all. Nothing is held back. He is in the business of redeeming and renewing his world.

This is the place of hope. Not hope that sits back, and says 'it's going to be all ok.' But hope that in confidence joins in. Because God is in on the job, there is hope. And he invites us to be part of bringing it about. We are invited to be part of the project.

Hope is utterly realistic. It recognises there is a problem – a big problem. It doesn't pretend. And it knows that to fulfil that hope is going to take a lot. But it knows too that, with God on the job, it can be done.

Each of us is called to our bit. We may not be able to build new sources of energy, but we can choose where we get our energy from – even in these days of soaring prices. The care of our environment, the use of the car, the food we eat – we can all do our bit. How is God calling you to love his world? We start where we are – we can't start anywhere-else else.

Yours in hope,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints (and other church buildings.)

7 th November	9.30am	Peters Marland
14 th November	10.30am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Remembrance)
21st November	9.30am	Merton
28th November	6.30am	Huish (Advent Service)
	11.00am	Petrockstowe (Christingle Service)

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Phone 0330-606-0403

Access code 251417

Sunday Worship

Online

11.00am

www.torridgeteamchurches.org.uk

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

Remembrance in Merton: Nov 11th

With the school and Parish Council, there will be an Act of Remembrance in The Square (weather providing) on Remembrance Day itself. All available are invited to join.

**Act of Remembrance
The Square
Thurs 11th November
2.00pm**

Advent Service: Nov 28th

Having missed last year, we are once again having an Advent Service at Huish to start us on the road to Christmas. Forget Black Friday – there's no toys in the shops anyway! – or turkeys! This is the way to start off towards Christmas Day.

Not quite as lavish, we will still reflect the Advent spirit. So do come and join together for this special time.

**Sunday 28th November
6.30pm
Huish Church**

A message from the Editor

Hi,

Just a reminder from me, the next issue will be a double edition, if you have any Christmas or New Year messages please, either e-mail them to me or drop a note in my letterbox, many thanks in advance.

As always, if you have any items to include, please either e-mail me, dave.folland@btinternet.com or drop it in my letterbox at Laburnum Cottage, Merton, halfway between the Garage and Pub.

For up to date information check the Merton Village Facebook page, Clinton Hall Facebook page, or have a look at www.mertondevon.com

Until next month

Dave.

Merton and Petrockstowe Heritage Group

Dear Members,

The Heritage meeting on the 15th was well attended and very much enjoyed. It was really good to meet up again. The speaker for the evening Liz Shakespeare discussed her new book, The Song of the Skylark. She explained how she did her research and told us it takes her around 3 years to write a book and what makes her books more interesting is she uses real people.

The story centres around two children aged 7 and 9 yrs. sent as farm apprentices to a remote farm in Buckland Brewer. It may seem a harsh thing to do to our modern thinking but in the 1840s this was done to try and keep poor families out of the work house. Apprentices had to stay where they were sent till the age of 21yrs. so, they were virtually slave labour and farmers were compelled to take them or they could be fined. Unfortunately for Thomas and his sister Mary the farmer they were sent too was a very hard taskmaster and they eventually ran away. Unfortunately, they were caught and ended up being sentenced to hard labour in Exeter prison.

One of the good days during their time at the farm was going to Chapel on a Sunday and Liz brought in how much the Bible Christians gave comfort to the local communities compared to the church and ran Sunday schools to help children read etc. Thomas, Mary and all the family eventually emigrated to Australia.

Liz read extracts from her book which brought her talk to life. After questions she was warmly thanked by Roger Vooght.

The next meeting is on November 19th at 7.30 p.m. in the Chapel. Janet Few will be joining us again to talk on Women's Occupations from match sellers to munition workers.

Ann Luxton

annluxton@hotmail.co.uk



Merton F C



Fixtures:

Saturday 6 th November	No Game		
Saturday 13 th November	No Gamer		
Saturday 20 th November	Fremington A	A	
Saturday 27 th November	South Molton A	A	
Saturday 4 th December	Kingsley Wizards	H	14-30
Saturday 11 th December	Barum	H	14-30
Saturday 18 th December	S.A.S.	H	14-30

Results:

Merton	3	Kingsley Wizards	3
Hartland	5	Merton	0
Kingsley Park	5	Merton	3

Remember the deadline. 15th November to be included in the Dec/Jan edition.

Disappointed Resident

I have been putting this article off for sometime but having seen inside Merton square bus shelter this morning made me sit down and air my views.

Two piles of excrement!

I cleaned up the mess and disinfected the area, and two weeks earlier, had to remove a soiled nappy that had been discarded in the shelter. I cannot believe that someone would do that and expect others to clean it up. Quite honestly, foul and disgusting. The shelter is in constant use by adults and school children alike.

I was very confused with the decision to have a unnecessary cigarette butt box fitted which I assume, at a cost.

I feel this village has taken a downward spiral in the past year, with litter and unsightly pointless fencing, to stop people from entering a field, when there is a perfectly adequate gate fitted.

Come on let's get our village looking great again we can all do our bit!!



News from Rotary Club of Torrington

Our Rotary Club has continued to meet via Zoom, and soon hopes to return to meeting face-to-face at our Torrington Golf Club dinners- watch this space for news on that.

Rotary has supported the Torrington community and surrounding villages for decades, helping fund the Bickford Centre, Pannier Market hanging baskets, the Town Hall restoration, our Museum, the Defibrillators, our town gardens, Great Torrington Academy, the Silver Band and other clubs, and countless other initiatives. Our motto is 'service above self' - and our aim is to do this whilst having fun whenever we meet, be that when fundraising or at social events. We recently helped steward at the Cavaliers' Bonfire and Shebfest, both brilliant occasions, and we've held events not just in Torrington (Howe Hall, The Plough and at RHS Rosemoor), but also at Langtree, Merton and Umberleigh Village halls.

Whilst we're focussing on local projects this year, we continue to be regular donors to Shelterbox.

Torrington Rotary club has also given generously to North Devon Hospice, Children's Hospice Southwest, the Calvert Trust and Share Music Southwest, to name just a few Devon-based charities.

If you'd like more information about Rotary and our Torrington club, please contact us - new members of all age groups are welcome and you don't have to reside in Torrington. Likewise, if you know of a local need that we might help with, please let us know.

Email secretary@torrington.rotary1175.org

Make a start on your Christmas presents! Rotary Pop-Up shop in town square, Fri 12 –Tues 16 November, in aid of Torrington community projects.

Conservation Communities



Devon
Wildlife Trust

Great Torrington, Little Torrington, Merton, Huish, Meeth, St. Giles in the Wood, Beaford, Dolton, Dowland, Iddesleigh, Hatherleigh.

The Conservation Communities project is working with residents to discover, record and protect wildlife across 11 parishes between Great Torrington and Hatherleigh.

What wildlife have you spotted?

It is known that this area has been rich and diverse in wildlife, but we have very few recent records to show that this is still the case. We are calling on local people to telling us what wildlife they have seen. This can be something you think is common or an exciting, rare sighting that you have experienced. We are interested in old or new records of wildlife from Merton and surrounding parishes.

To tell **Devon Biodiversity Records Centre** what you have seen visit: www.dbrcc.org and follow the Wildlife Records link. (It takes just 3 minutes to make a record!).

Or email Jo: jpullin@devonwildlifetrust.org



Learn more about local wildlife?

To improve our wildlife knowledge and identification skills this project is providing training opportunities and events that will allow people to explore, record and help protect wildlife. This Autumn our focus is on hedgerows.

Are our local hedges in their best condition? Help us to find out

Here in Devon we can boast about our world class hedges, not only do they define our local landscape they are also hugely important for wildlife.

There are many benefits of a healthy hedge including food and shelter for wildlife, shelter and shade for livestock, wind protection for gardens and buildings, reduced water and soil run-off, flood prevention and to provide renewable energy in woodfuel.

Hedges are always changing and it isn't possible to keep them at exactly the same point indefinitely, managing them on a cycle ensures their health and long term survival. Various methods and techniques need to be employed to care for a hedge during its long and dynamic cycle and a hedge that is out of condition, thin or gappy, can be brought back into favourable condition with techniques such as hedge laying or coppicing.

We are asking people from the Project area to help assess the state of the hedgerows. We know where the hedges are, but we need your help to add information such as their height, width and the species they contain. We are launching a survey you can take part in, with a few simple questions. Brush up on your winter twig ID and join in! For more information visit the [Conservation Communities Project](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org) page at www.devonwildlifetrust.org



November hedge laying training for people in the Conservation Communities Project area (Torrington to Hatherleigh), this will be a day long course led by one of the county's experts from the Devon Hedge Group. Dates to be confirmed. To express interest email Jo: jpullin@devonwildlifetrust.org



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For any enquiries call 01805 603924

Coming soon.....

The Malt Scoop Inn Convenience Stop



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Pub, Restaurant & Bed & Breakfast

For any enquiries call 01805 603924

Opening Hours

Monday closed all day

Tuesday 3pm – 10.30pm*

Wednesday 12pm – 10.30pm*

Thursday 3pm – 10.30pm*

Friday 12pm – 12am*

Saturday 12pm – 12am*

Sunday 12pm – 8pm*

*depending on customer flow, hours may change

Food served daily

(takeaway available on anything on the menu)

Tea & fresh coffee also available daily

Now serving Cream Teas & Savoury Cheese Scone Teas available during open hours at £4.95 per person

Fish & Chips or Pie & Chips, eat in or takeaway available every Friday

(Fish is freshly prepared and cooked to order so please place your order no later than 6pm on a Thursday)

B&B rooms

I have two beautiful, recently decorated B&B rooms, so if you have family or friends wishing to come and visit you but you've no room, then give me a call and I can sort a competitive rate for you.

Local ingredients are used for our cooked breakfast.

Games

Pool table & Skittle Alley and a selection of board games available.

Beer Garden (at rear) – plenty of seating and a beautiful view



Well-behaved dogs welcome



Website www.themaltscoop.co.uk / facebook @themaltscoopinn

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 admin@clinton.devon.sch.uk

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

Freecycle/ For Sale

Any items for sale, or just looking for a new home, just let me know.

dave.folland@btinternet.com

Or drop a note in my letterbox at :

Laburnum Cottage, halfway between the Pub and the Garage.

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