

Merton Monthly

August 2022

{ Produced by the Village Hall }

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

MOBILE POST OFFICE VAN

I have had a number of complaints because the mobile Post Office van that should attend Merton in The Square every Thursday between 1:30 and 2:30 has not turned up for a number of weeks.

This is not something that is under the control of the Parish Council, as the visit is arranged by Post Office Ltd., however, I have managed to talk to a number of people about the service.

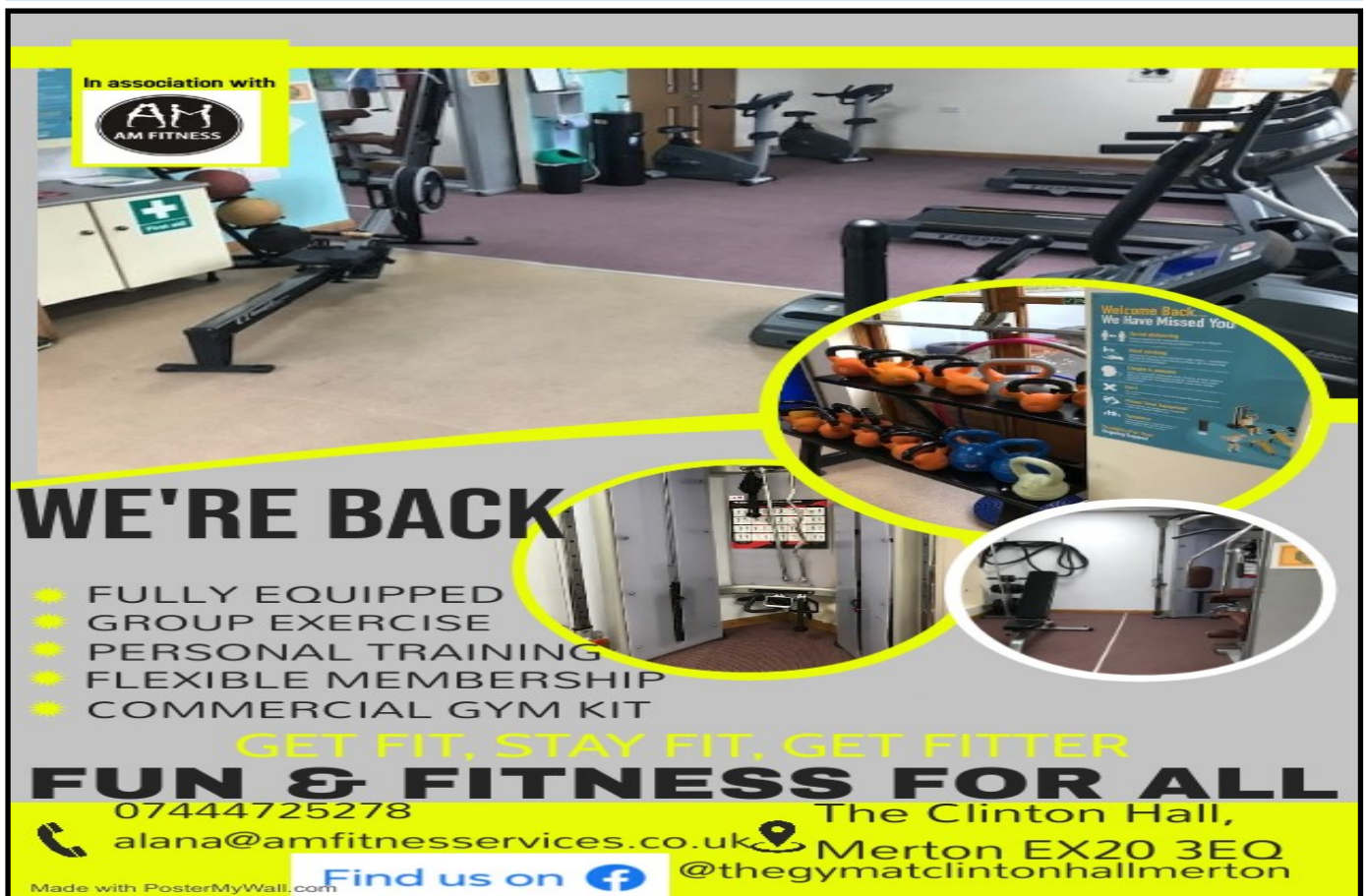
The Manager at Woolsery Post Office, who run the van, has explained that there was a serious mechanical problem with the van. I thought we had an arrangement where he would let me know by e-mail if the van wasn't coming, but he explained that as the van serves so many villages, it would take him a lot of time to notify everyone, so he only notifies Post Office Ltd. if the van isn't running.

I then spoke to my contact at Post Office Ltd., who assures me that the mechanical issue with the van has been escalated to the highest level, and he believes the issue has now been solved. However, there is no mechanism for notifying everyone, although the Woolsery Manager apparently posts on the Woolsery Facebook page if the van isn't going to run.

Therefore, I have joined this Facebook group, and if I am notified that the van isn't running, I will make an appropriate post on the MertonVillage Facebook group.

Steve Papworth

Chairman, Merton Parish Council



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All Saints Church



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

Methodist Minister: Rev Chris Jackson, tel: 01837-5230



Dear Friends,

We were looking to replace a lawnmower. Would an electric one do the job? It seemed a good question to ask – to us at least. But not to everyone apparently. We were somewhat pole-axed by being confronted with the vehement question: ‘Why wouldn’t you want a petrol machine?’

And that in the middle of a heatwave, with temperatures like we have never seen in this country. Climate change rampant! And human activity – including petrol lawnmowers have contributed to it.

It is all about making connections. And so often we fail to see the link. One news-reporter observed that using fans during the heat-wave used more power, which has to be produced, and then feeds back to make climate change worse. It was a good observation. We are all connected. It is something, sadly, none of those wishing to be prime minister of our country seem to have thought important enough to highlight. But then the environment doesn’t get a vote, does it.

The Bible has a little word which we often baulk at – and that’s sin. Sin is primarily about those connections. It’s not really about the things we do or say in themselves. It’s their impact. That’s the problem of sin. The journey I had to make in the car was necessary – but it has a knock-on effect in the CO₂ I have put in the air. The word I said, totally innocently, sows hurt in another person, causing them to bite at yet another. And so on and so on. Everything is connected. None of us is an island.

Repentance is then to acknowledge that connectiveness, and that of ourselves we can do so little to overcome it. (It may well, of course, be too to recognise the wrongness of the action in the first place – and to say sorry.) And then to put ourselves in the hands of him who can make a difference, and who can in us can make that difference begin to happen. It’s a new way of living.

Peace and blessing to us all,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints’ Church

7 th Aug	9.30am	Peters Marland (Communion)
	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel
14 th Aug	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel
21 st Aug	9.30am	Communion
28 th Aug	9.00am	Huish (Communion)

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Ring 0330-606-0403. (You will be asked for an access code: 251417)

News from Clinton Hall

Every Thursday 10 to 2

*Cuppa,
Chat &
Create*

The Clinton Hall



Info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk
01805 603 300

All proceeds for the hall upkeep/maintenance

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Macmillan Coffee Morning



Macmillan Coffee Morning
Clinton Hall, Merton

1st October 2022

More details to follow soon!

A message from the Editor

Hi,

My apologies for the delay in publishing this issue, only I could go down with a bad chest infection in the middle of a heat wave!

After a day's work, a little bit of food, then bed was the only place I felt like going. Hopefully I've seen the latest bug off, and it should be back to normal.

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 SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

We are a small but friendly bunch. As with most clubs, we suffered greatly from the lock-downs over the past two years. Unfortunately, the current number of members no longer enable us to play in the leagues. We would dearly like to build up our membership again, but in the meantime we will continue with our social evening roll-ups on a fortnightly basis. Our schedule for the rest of the summer will be:

Thursday 7th July 2022

Thursday 21st July 2022

Thursday 4th August 2022

Thursday 18th August 2022

Thursday 1st September 2022

If you wish to try out the sport, or just come to watch, 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!

Bell ringing in Merton

When I moved to Merton in 2008, the bells at All Saints church were in the process of being re-hung, thanks to much fundraising within the community. The story of how the bells were stolen and recovered is now well known and well documented.

I was told that when the bells were eventually back in action, there would be plenty of bell ringers keen to ring them.

The bells were eventually back in action in 2010, but the expected rush of ringers did not materialise. Today, we have a group of 5 ringers (which is unfortunate, as we have 6 bells!).

Holidays, sickness, and other appointments all serve to interfere with attendance, so it is not uncommon to have to cancel the weekly ringing practice on a Wednesday evening, due to lack of ringers.

It seems a great pity that, having raised a lot of money to have the bells re-hung, they are not getting the use that they deserve. So I am pleading with everyone in the parish (and beyond) to think about taking up ringing as a hobby.

You don't need to be strong (although a few burly chaps to handle the heavier bells would be useful), and you do not need to have any particular skills or attributes to take it up. If you can count to six, you have all you need.

It is mild exercise, suitable for all ages. In fact, there have been several new ringers in Petrockstowe who were still attending Merton school – some of whom came and helped us make a full band during the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations..

It is also a social activity, as there are guilds and associations of ringers who organise both social evenings and competitions. In both cases, it gives ringers the opportunity to meet ringers from other towers, as well as the chance to ring the bells at those towers.

So come on, people of Merton, come and help the bells of your parish church ring out! We practice every Wednesday (when we can) at 7:30. Come along and give it a go. If you might consider coming along, feel free to give me a call on 603198 to talk about it.

Steve Papworth

Hog Roast at the Clinton Hall

It was nice to see the Village Hall arranged this event, but such a pity very few people attended the event. Great food, drinks and fun and games were had by all that attended.

After the events for the Jubilee celebrations it would have been nice to have seen some more people attending.

I would like to thank those people on the Committee that worked so hard to arrange the event and hope that other things will be arranged.

I expect there would be a lot of people would be disappointed to lose access to the well equipped hall, but, if you can't be bothered to make use of it, please don't complain when it is no longer available for you.

A disheartened parishioner

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for August

Black Bag collection Thursday: 4th August & 18th August

Green Waste collection Thursday: 11th August & 25th August

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday.

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

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

July 2022

£20-00 Sandra Bunn

£10-00 Dave Stanton



Rotary Club of Torrington.

Torrington Rotary Club focuses mainly on serving the local community but also looks out to the wider world to offer support to those in need in less developed parts of the world.

Recently the Club has financed at modest expense the building of an energy-saving stove at Biwanga Primary School in Uganda. Many homes and schools traditionally cook over a simple wood fire. This is slow and greedy on wood which is more and more in short supply and which eats into natural woodland. We are no strangers to wood-burners but the building of wood-burning stoves is quite a recent innovation in a number of African countries. Building a stove of clay or brick in which wood burns more slowly and in which heat from the wood remains to keep up the cooking temperature is a step forward which is well worth supporting.

Our club is actively seeking new members... people who enjoy socialising and also helping those less fortunate. Rotary is a worldwide network, so there's lots of opportunities to meet fascinating people from all walks of life.

If you'd like more information about us, or would like to come to dinner and meet us, please see our website <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1069> or contact Rotarian David Large david@ashley-manor.co.uk



Rotary woodburning stove Uganda

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.

Remember the deadline. 15th July to be included in the August edition.

Species of the Month

August— Kestrel



Conservation Communities -Torrington to Hatherleigh

Help build up a picture of the wildlife in our area by telling

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (www.dbrc.org.uk) about the species you have seen.

Kestrels are one of the smaller birds of prey, slightly smaller than a pigeon. Females are brown, with dark bands on the tail. Whereas males have a grey head, a more gingery back with a paler underside.



Kestrels are most often observed hovering. They have the ability to keep their head totally still, even in strong winds. They have fantastic eyesight and use it to look for their prey – small mammals.



Did you know?

- Their favoured prey are field voles.
- They like to hunt over open countryside.
- Kestrels can see ultraviolet light, meaning they can detect urine trails of small mammals.
- Kestrels don't build a nest, but use holes in trees or cliffs.
- Their eyesight is excellent and can detect tiny movements whilst hovering 20m up in the air.

Decline in Numbers

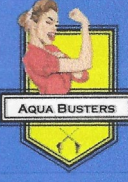
Kestrels are on the birds of Conservation Concern Amber List. Their decline is thought to be due to changes in land use, amongst other factors. Kestrels have a high mortality rate. Of the 5 eggs usually laid, only one is likely to survive for 2 years, when it reaches breeding age. Starvation, collisions, poisoning and disease are factors.

Although the species had a small recovery when pesticide use reduced in the 1980s, there has been a decline over the last 15 years, the cause of which is unknown.

Why DBRC need to know about kestrels in this area:

By sending in your sightings of kestrels, you can help us put them on the map and contribute to our knowledge of where these birds are.

Having kestrels in the area can also tell us about other species. It's likely that there is a good population of small mammals in areas with kestrel records, which often suggests a diverse habitat.



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