



Merton Monthly



December 2022 / January 2023

{ Produced by the Village Hall }

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



Clinton Hall

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee I would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy New Year.

2023 is a special year for Clinton Hall, it's hard to believe that it is 25 years since it opened, the Committee are planning an event in April. Any other suggestions can be emailed to the hall, info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk or a message left on the phone, 01805 603 300, or a note dropped in the letterbox. Watch out for updates in future issues of the newsletter and on Facebook.



Don't forget the Hall offers many things, rooms to hire, games to hire, and of course, not forgetting the Gym, please contact the Hall should you need any further details.

Celebrate Christmas with Carols, food & wine in Merton Square on 16th December at 6-00pm



We would like our Church to look festive this year, so, if you could help to decorate a window or somewhere in the Church it would be much appreciated.

Please help!

Ring Janet 01805 603 271

Or Judy 01805 603 038 {for times.}

All Saints Church



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

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



Dear Friends,

Yes, Christmas is coming. It is almost upon us once again. And it may well feel a very different one. We are conscious of rising prices, be it the cost of electricity or food in the shops. We may already be planning to cut back on what we give in presents, or send in cards, or events we might go to. Or even in how far we travel to see friends and family. And some will be feeling uncertain as to job prospects as well. And that is all without the shadow of war behind us. It doesn't make for a very festive feel, does it?

But maybe that will cause us to refocus. After all the first Christmas wasn't a great razzmatazz. It was a child being born to poor parents in a pretty poverty-stricken environment. A stable isn't where you will choose to spend this Christmas night, I imagine. And those they spent that first Christmas Day with were social outcasts in from the fields. Probably not the company you would choose to have around your Christmas dinner table! Could be a bit smelly, and pretty uncouth. (Shepherds are a very different breed today!)

It is a story of God coming to be with us in all the upheavals of life. It is a story not of glitz and expensive plastic gifts, but of ordinariness and companionship. The presence of God is his present.

As we know that presence with us, we can share it then with others. Time given to another, the listening ear, the little gift that tells them they are not forgotten, the support of a food-bank or equivalent. The list is endless. But it is these things that matter - and will last. It is here that we are in touch with eternity.

I always love that moment after the midnight service when I am on my way home. It is dark and still. There is mystery hanging in the air. Everybody is asleep, and, it feels, is unaware of the movement of God. But creation and the angels know, and stand and hold their breath. Celebrations may or may not follow later in the day. But here is where heaven touches earth, and new possibilities are opened up.

Peace and blessing to us all in this Christmas period,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints' Church & around

4 th Dec	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Christingle)
11 th Dec	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Methodist led)
18th Dec	9.00am	Communion (Huish)
<u>Christmas</u>		
24th Dec (Sat)	7.00pm	Christmas Night Communion
25 th Dec	10.30am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Family Service)
1 st Jan	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Local led)
8 th Jan	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Methodist led)
15th Jan	9.30am	Communion
22nd Jan	9.00am	Communion (Huish)
29 th Jan	10.30am	Petrockstowe Chapel

Service by Phone

Sundays at 4pm

Ring 0330-606-0403.

You will be asked for an access code: (251417)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Carol Sing-along

Friday 16th December

6.00pm

Merton Square

(undercover if wet)

Come along and sing along!

Refreshments available.



Christmas Greetings and love to all my friends still in Merton and to anyone that remembers me! No cards this year, but a contribution to Birmingham Children's Hospital. Let us all hope and pray that 2023 shows some signs of improvement!
Jill Malcolm xx

In the frightening and chaotic world the Lord Jesus, whose birth we are about to celebrate,. Says ...Be not afraid, I go before you and am with you. And so I wish the whole parish, not least my friends and neighbours who have been my help and blessing in my infirmity over the past 5 months, a Truly Blessed Christmas.

Christine Wright



Tony and Linda Hunt would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year..



Merry Christmas and Happy, Peaceful New Year to friends, neighbours and my skittles friends 🎁. 🌲 🎁 From Barb Laughton.



Wring House

Margaret & Ron would like to wish all our friends and the newcomers to Merton a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year, also many many thanks for the help we've received.



Ho! Ho! Ho!

Happy Christmas
and Best Wishes for the New Year!
From Eileen and Allan Davison

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

Christmas Draw 2022

£5-00 Lyn Wharton

£5-00 F Diemert

£5-00 R Nancekivell

£5-00 R Elworthy

£5-00 Aron Baker

£5-00 Liam Ellis

News from Clinton Hall



*Autumn is here,
time for...*

Tarka Treats
Thursday @ the Clinton Hall
11am - 1pm'ish

Enjoy a brew with friends

A message from the Editor

Hi,

Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year for the Carols in the Square.

Until the next issue I'll sign off wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

You may notice that I've left the calendar for Torridge recycling in this issue. It has all the dates for the start of the new year as well as the remainder of this one.

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 year

Dave.



MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

We have played two more matches in the Charity Afternoon League and our success continues. We won against High Bickington 17 to 9 and Chulmleigh 22 to 15. Our schedule for the next two months will be:

Thu	8 th Dec	Club Night	Home	7 pm
Tue	13 th Dec	Hatherleigh	Home	2 pm
Thu	5 th Jan	Club Night	Home	7 pm
Mon	16 th Jan	Okehampton	Away	2 pm
Thu	19 th Jan	Club Night	Home	7 pm
Mon	25 th Jan	North Tawton	Away	2 pm

We would dearly like to increase our membership in order to enter more leagues and build on our recent successes. If you wish to try out the sport, or just come to watch, you will be given a warm welcome. Please come to the Clinton Hall on any club night 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 December

Black Bag collection Thursday: 8th Dec, 22nd Dec

Green Waste collection Thursday: 1st Dec & 15th Dec

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday.

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

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for January

Black Bag collection Thursday: Friday 6th Jan, Thurs 19th Jan

Green Waste collection Thursday: 12th Jan & 26th Jan

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday.

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



Merton F C



Results:

Merton	2	South Molton	4
Merton	3	Kingsteignton	0
Morwenstowe	0	Merton	4
Putford	4	Merton	3
Merton	3	Georgeham & Croyde	4

Fixtures:

December

Saturday 3 rd Dec	Merton	V	Dolton	14-00
Saturday 10 th Dec	Merton	V	Kingsley Wizards	14-30

January

Saturday 7 th Jan	Merton	V	Braunton	14-30
Saturday 28 th Jan	Merton	V	Combe Martin	14-30

February

Saturday 4 th Feb	Merton	V	Northam Lions	14-30
Saturday 25 th Feb	Merton	V	Putford	14-30

The Football Club would like to say a big Thank You to their match day sponsors.

Ron & Margaret Down

The Bull & Dragon

D W Decorating

And everyone that is in the 150 Club.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

November 2022

£20-00 Dave Griffiths

£10-00 Henry Nicholson

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

December 2022

£20-00 C Crocker

£10-00 Ron Down

Species of the Month

December — Redwing



Conservation Communities - Torrington to Hatherleigh

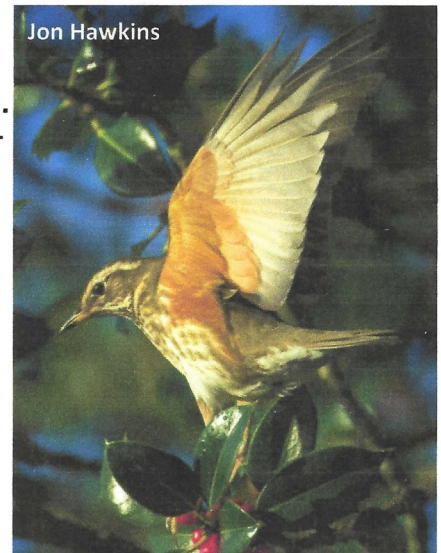
Help build up a picture of the wildlife in our area by telling

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

Redwings seen in Devon over the winter are usually from Scandinavia or Russia. They migrate to the UK in autumn to feast on berries in hedgerows, favouring hawthorn and rowan. Once the berries have all gone, they can be seen searching for earthworms on the ground. They stay throughout the winter, heading back to their summer breeding grounds in spring.

Did you know?

- The redwing is the UK's smallest true thrush.
- They are often seen in large flocks, sometimes mixed with fieldfares or other thrushes.
- The migratory flight made twice a year, of 500 miles across the North Sea, is a dangerous journey for a small bird!
- 8.6 million redwings visit the UK in the winter.



Redwing and Fieldfare

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redwings are our smallest true thrust, measuring 21cm from beak to tail. A similar size to a song thrush. • They have a distinctive creamy eye stripe (supercilium). • The rusty-red underwings help when identifying redwings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldfares are bigger than redwings. Similar in size and shape to the mistle thrush. • They have a distinguishable grey head and back. • Fieldfares have a long, black tail, that you can spot, if looking at a mixed flock. |
|---|--|

Why DBRC (www.dbrc.org.uk) are asking you to tell them about redwings in this area: Redwings favour open countryside, but they will also venture into gardens, particularly if the weather is harsh. This makes it a great bird to try and spot over the winter as you may see them out of your window. With all migrating birds, keeping track of their numbers not only helps us keep track of the health of our local wildlife, but also helps to track changes across the planet.

Remembering your Faithful Friend this Christmas

Christmas may be a time to remember family and friends - but Dogs Trust Ilfracombe is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The Canine Care Card is a free service, which helps to ensure your dog's future, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis or moving into a care home. This can often be a great concern to some people, who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen. Therefore, by signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks for you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to www.dogstrust.org.uk and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will then write to you, to confirm when your application has been processed.

Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if needed, your dog will then be welcomed, loved and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the Canine Care Card, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Ilfracombe's Supporter Relations Officer, Stan Charles-Jones, at Stan-ley.charlesjones@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01271 817716.

Here is a link to the leaflet as well. [Canine Care Card | Dog Care | Dogs Trust](#)

Around the Village

I recently decided to take a walk down to post box at the Sawmills/Council yard.

From my house to the school was fine, after that I found the path to be too narrow as many of you that know me will realise that I am not the slightest of people, the hedges are grown out and the banks at the base of the hedges have spread right out taking up most of the pathway.

After Richmond House it was not bad going, until I went around the sweeping bend and heading down the final straight before the post box, one drain cover in the path slightly dropped, not too much of a problem, however, further down a second drain, severely sunk on the outside and tipped up at the back edge is certainly a big trip hazard. I just wish I had the thought to take a couple of pictures.

I do hope that the recent petition started will be successful and help persuade the Royal Mail to place a new post box for the village.

I do appreciate the work the Parish Council is doing to try and get a new post box placed, but the last posting on Facebook did not seem to be too hopeful in the short term anyway.

Perhaps if more people were to complain about the paths and the post box something could be done about it.

Dave Folland

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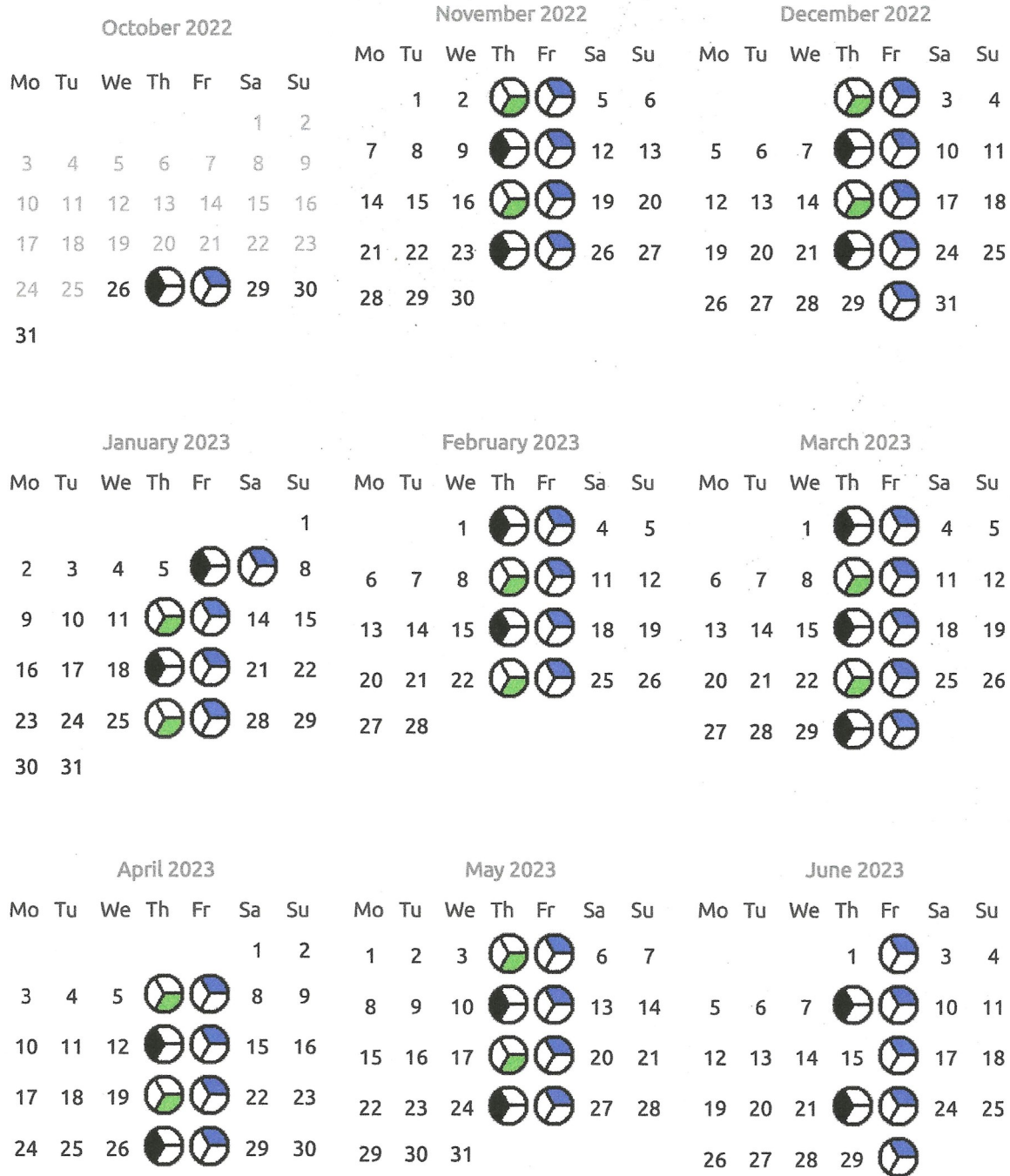
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@thegymatclintonhallmerton

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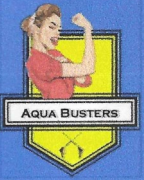
Recycling dates

Key:  GardenBin  Refuse  Recycling



If you have access to the internet, you can get a version of this calendar for your own area from the following website: - [Find your collection dates | Torridge District Council](#)

Just type in your address and hopefully it will work for you. It's handy to check as well as collection dates do change at short notice.



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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.

D

W

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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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