

Merton Monthly

February 2023

{ Produced by the Village Hall }

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



Come & Join
the Party to
celebrate

*The
Clinton Hall's
25th Anniversary*

Saturday, April 29th
7pm - 12pm

Merton, Okehampton, Devon. Ex20 3EQ

Entertainment - Joy Machine

More details to follow

Free Entry

Made with PosterMyWall.com

All Saints Church



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

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



Dear Friends

Funerals are again in the news. There's a sense in which they are always in the news, given that people die the year round. But it can feel that at certain times there are more than others. Just recently I have been aware of seeing a number of people in quick succession at successive funerals. There are times when it feels like we are going to one after another.

But funerals per se have been in the news, particularly over so-called Direct Funerals, or sometime Simple Funerals, although Simple Funerals can be used in a number of ways. Some 'Simple Funerals', when you look at the details, are anything but simple! So to use the term Direct Funerals: these are funerals where a cremation happens with no-one present, there is no service, and ashes are given back to the family (or not) for them to do with as they wish. Sometimes a memorial event will happen at a later date; often nothing happens.

The tendency for this grew during lockdowns when we were not able to gather, and the idea has caught on. And, of course, it is cheaper. Funerals can be very expensive events! The attraction of a direct funeral is understandable. Apart from the cost element, a funeral can feel a demanding event to organise and get through. When you are struggling anyway, it can often feel the last thing you want to do. And naturally those dying often want to make it as easy as possible for those left behind.

But there can be things that are lost as well. Funerals have developed to help people cope with loss. There is pain to be faced, and often funerals are a structured way that help us begin to come to terms with what has happened. And that is not just for the immediately bereaved, but for the wider family too and also the community at large. Even if someone has been out of circulation for a while, because of frailty or illness or whatever else, they are not forgotten. Especially in villages, it is often amazing at how many turn out.

And that is not just to remember and celebrate a life well-lived. It is to mourn and let go as well. We need a space to say good-bye. Surely that was what we learnt from the lock-downs and the necessarily simple funerals. For many they didn't provide closure. And even with the best intentions of having something when we were allowed to, largely it didn't happen. Life had moved on, the moment had gone. Mostly we need something fairly soon after the death.

And funerals don't have to be 'religious' - even with clergy. They can be tailored to what you want. Each one is different - as it should be. And if cost really is an issue, please ask. Fees can be waived. And your local church is always available - it's part of the community and is there for anyone in the community. And you don't have to have a wake. Or if you do, often friends and/or family will help - they're desperate to do something!

So think it about it; talk about it with others. Don't cut short the grieving journey. It tends to come back to bite you later if you do. And if you want to talk it through with someone else, please do just ask. It won't tie you to anything.

Peace and blessing to us all,

Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints' Church & around

5 th Feb	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Local led)
12 th Feb	11.00am	Petrockstowe Chapel (Methodist led) – special service to celebrate Marriage
19 th Feb	9.30am	Communion
26 th Feb	9.00am	Communion (Huish)

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**



TARKA TREATS

The Clinton Hall, Merton

**Come and join us every
Thursday 11am -1pm (ish)**

Join us for a cuppa and some tasty treats. It's £3.00 for unlimited tea or coffee and cake. There will also be themed Thursdays throughout the year! Hope to see you there, Vicki and Julie.

A message from the Editor

Hi,

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

Since our last report we have played and won two more matches so should be near the top of the league. The results of the last two matches were **Merton 22–Chulmleigh 15** and **Merton 28–Okehampton 9**. The fixtures for February and March are:

Thu 2 nd Feb	Club Night	7pm
Mon 6 th Feb	High Bickington Away	2pm
Thu 16 th Feb	Club Night	7pm
Tue 21 st Feb	Colebrooke Home	2pm
Thu 2 nd Mar	Club Night	7pm
Tue 7 th Mar	Okehampton Home	2pm
Thu 9 th Mar	Chulmleigh Away	2pm
Thu 16 th Mar	Colebrooke Away	2pm
Tue 21 st Mar	Hatherleigh Away	2pm
Thu 30 th Mar	Club Night	7pm

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 February

Black Bag collection Thursday: Friday 2nd Feb, 16th Feb

Green Waste collection Thursday: 9th Feb & 23rd Feb

Recycling & Food Caddy: Collected every Friday.

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



Merton F C



Results:

Merton	0	Dolton	3
Merton	3	Braunton	3

Fixtures:

February

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

March

Saturday 4 th March	Merton	V	Lynton	14-30
Saturday 18 th March	Merton	V	Bideford 2nds	14-30
Saturday 25 th March	Merton	V	Kingsley Wizards	14-30

The Football Club would like to thank **L.J. Developments** and **Tarpaflex** for sponsoring the players warm up training shirts.

The Club would also like to thank **Alana, Kath** and **Colin** for helping out on match days, also to **Ron Down** for running the 150 Club.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

January 2023

£20-00 Shaun Hambley

£10-00 Luke Duston

Thank you from Conservation Communities



This Devon Wildlife Trust project has now concluded. It took place over the past two years, covering the parishes between Great Torrington and Hatherleigh, the aim was to generate wildlife records and increasing people's wildlife knowledge.



With your help we have generated over 2500

species records, these have now been collated by Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (DBRC) to produce Biodiversity Audits for each of the 11 parishes covered by the project.

To view the Biodiversity Audits visit: www.devonwildlifetrust.org/conservation-communities-project

Please do continue to send in your wildlife sightings to DBRC, they will continue to be very helpful for protecting our local wildlife into the future.

Also available on the Conservation Communities webpage:

- Video recordings of wildlife experts introducing us to a variety of topics.
- Training videos showing how to carryout a hedgerow survey.
- Species of the Month fact sheets.
- And, how you can submit your wildlife records to DBRC.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the project, keep up the good work!

Thank you to the following organisations who made the project possible:



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES



Devon
County Council

Continue Your Journey to a Wilder Community

Devon Wildlife Trust is continuing to offer support for groups, parish councils, schools, businesses, places of faith, and other communities looking to take part in projects that benefit both people and wildlife.

Whether you want ideas to help you get started or have an idea you want to get off the ground; our new **Wilder Communities team** are dedicated to offering bespoke advice and guidance for any community-led projects through meetings, resources, training, and ongoing support.

Get in touch by emailing: wildercommunities@devonwildlifetrust.org
or visit our webpage to find out more and follow our monthly Wilder Communities newsletter
www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wilder-communities

Mrs Betty Salmon

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs Betty Salmon on Saturday 7th January 2023. She is at peace. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 23rd February at East Devon Crematorium at 11.30am.

With love from her family.

Thank you for Christmas

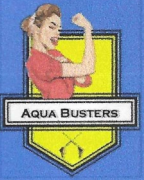
Thank you to everyone who helped us to be able to celebrate. It was great to be able to gather outside in The Square with all its decorations and sing carols. Thank you to all facilitated that: food and drink, music and sound, etc, etc.

Thank you too to all to all decorated the church. It was a treat.

Sadly, we couldn't manage the School Christmas service there, because of the weather. But we had a wonderful Christmas service.

Thank you all. Here's to Christmas this year!

Martin Warren



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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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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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