

Merton Monthly

February 2025

{ Produced by the Clinton Hall Charity Number 1204870 A Not for Profit Business }

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

The Clinton Hall

The Clinton Hall is run by volunteers to enable the hall to be the for the whole community near and far. If you feel you could help in anyway no matter how big or how small, we welcome you. Often we have events that require help in the kitchen, behind the bar or help with set up and tidy up from various events. There's always plenty of gardening and tidying up outside to be done also. If you can spare anytime please contact Michelle on 01805603300 or info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

We love to support our local football team, especially on home matches. We open the bar, serve hot drinks, and put on food for the players at the end of the match. If you could help with cooking chips or running the bar on a Saturday afternoon, then we would love to hear from you.



"Your Parish Council Needs YOU"

More details on page 9 . Parish Clerk – contact Kerry at clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com

Thank you!!!!

Thank you all so much for the work and effort into the Christmas Tree Festival in the church. It was a very magical time. It felt quite bare afterwards!

Thank you especially to Neil and Kerry for masterminding it all. You even seemed to enjoy it as well. And to all who sponsored the trees, decorated and just came to see. We do hope you enjoyed it.

And it was great to see so many at the Carol Service as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to those who contributed to the event and then to the refreshments afterwards.

Have we started a tradition?

Hire Rates for the Clinton Hall

Whole Hall Hire {Not inc Outside Sports Facilities}

Weekend (8am Friday—12pm Sunday or 12pm Friday—8pm Sunday) £500-00

Full Day Hire (8am—12am) £250-00

1/2 Day Hire (6hrs) £135-00

Main Hall

Full Day £120-00

3/4 Day £90.00

1/2 Day £65-00

£11-00 hr

Kitchen

Full Day £50-00

3/4 Day £40-00

1/2 Day £30-00

1/4 Day £15-00

Conference Room

Full Day £80-00

1/2 Day £45-00

£8-00 hr

Skittle Alley

Full day £55-00

1/2 Day £35-00

£8-00 hr

Sports Field

Full Day £50-00

1/2 Day £30-00

Changing Rooms

Full Day no Showers £20-00

Full Day with Showers £30-00

1/2 Day no Showers £10-00

1/2 Day with Showers £15-00

Children's Parties (ending before 6pm)

Stage Hire

£25-00 set up by the Committee only.

Up to 4 hrs Main Hall & Kitchen (no cooking) £45-00

Up to 4 hrs Main Hall & Kitchen (with cooking) £55-00

For a combination of rooms or specific times/requirements, please contact the Hall for a quote.

E-mail info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

Telephone 01805 603300 if no answer please leave a message on our answering machine, which will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Advertising Rates for the Merton Monthly

Within parish boundary

1/8 page – Business Card £25-00

¼ page £35-00

½ page £50-00

Full page £100-00

Outside Parish boundary

1/8-page Business card £30-00

¼ page £40-00

½ page £60-00

Full page £110-00

These rates are for 11 issues, from May to April. Local Clubs/Organisations please contact the Editor.

Lost & Found free. Items for sale usually 2 issues free depending on advert size.

One off adverts please contact dave.folland@btinternet.com for pricing.

TARKA TREATS



**EVERY
THURSDAY
11-1PM**

The Clinton Hall, Merton, EX20 3EQ

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

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

Tarka Treats is a community run event for
the community.

YOUR LOCAL GYM

Run **BY** the local community,
FOR the local community

Treadmills, Bikes, X trainer,
Rower, cable cross machines,
multi gym, free weights
and much more.

A not-for-profit business
Registered Charity No. 1002372

On the A386 between
Hatherleigh and Torrington

24 hour access
Ample free parking
No joining fee

Flexible membership options

The Gym @ Merton, The Clinton Hall, Merton EX20 3EQ
info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk 01805 603300

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for February

Black Bag collection: 13th Feb & 27th Feb

Green Waste collection: 6th Feb & 20th Feb

Recycling & Food Caddy: every Friday

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

Merton Mobile Service Post Office

Merton Square Wednesday 15-00 — 16-00

For more details click this link

[Merton Mobile Service Post Office®](http://www.merton.gov.uk) | [Okehampton](http://www.merton.gov.uk) | [EX20 3EE](http://www.merton.gov.uk)



All Saints Church

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

Curate: Revd Catherine Duff, tel: 07717-209484

Methodist Minister: Rev Chris Jackson, tel: 01837-52302



Dear Friends,

I have just come off the phone to someone wanting to arrange their wedding here. There was a wonderful sense of excitement in the conversation. It was just bubbling over and was very catching. There is always something delightful about a marriage couple with their hope and enthusiasm for all that lies ahead. It is such a great privilege to be involved with so many over the years. Each one is a miracle.

For just think of the realities that are out there. We know full well that so many couples don't make it. Marriage break-up is common place. And yet others keep on going. My uncle has just died. He and my aunt were married for over 66 years. Friends of ours have just celebrated their silver anniversary. (Congratulations to them both!) There are miracles happening every day.

So forget the water into wine. Look to that couple whose wedding Jesus was at. (Read the story if you like. It's in John's Gospel, chapter 2.) We know absolutely nothing about them. And yet we do – because we have been there at weddings. We have seen the hopes and dreams that that day encapsulates. We have seen the love of two people for each other. We have shared in the support and delight of the friends and family around them. Maybe we too have been that couple.

How on earth can there be any sort of commitment of two people to each other for all the years ahead? They have no idea what life will throw at them. They have no idea what might happen tomorrow. They have no idea really of what the other person might turn out to be like. It is a complete act of faith. It is a miracle that anyone does it all.

And yet we do. By our hundreds and thousands. Every day, in every generation. And even when it doesn't work out, so many give it another go. Love is just such an extraordinary miracle. It just keeps popping up again and again. Like the spring flowers, it seems you just can't keep it down.

Now isn't that God's love? You just can't keep it down. Whatever mess we get into, however much it seems there is no more wine, God is still there. He hasn't given up on us. In the title of a book from a few years ago: Love wins.

Thank God it does.

Every blessing to you all,

Martin Warren.

Services in Merton and Huish

2 nd February	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
9 th February	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
16th February	9.30am	Morning Prayer (Merton)
23rd February	9.30am	Communion (Huish)



MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

Unfortunately, we lost our first match against Colebrooke away 20-17 and our next match against North Tawton home had to be postponed, so there is nothing to report. The fixtures for December and January are as below:

Date		Time	Home	Away
Wed	04-Dec	14:00		Halwill Shunters
Thu	05-Dec	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	12-Dec	14:00	High Bickington Barn Owls	
Thu	19-Dec	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	09-Jan	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	
Thu	16-Jan	14:00	Colebrooke	
Thu	23-Jan	14:00	Langtree Harriers	
Thu	30-Jan	19:00	CLUB NIGHT	

Welcome to our two new members Mike and Carol and their two lovely dogs.

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!





Merton F C



Results

Merton	0	Combe Martin	4
Fremington	4	Merton	1
Merton	0	Woolsey	5

Home Fixtures

February

Saturday 8 th	Lynton	2-30
--------------------------	--------	------

March

Saturday 1 st	High Bickington	2-30
Saturday 15 th	Morwenstowe	2-30
Saturday 22 nd	Braunton	2-30

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw

January 2025

£20-00 Ron Down

£10-00 Stan Friend

Item for sale

Large Adjustable ironing board in good condition or exchange for smaller one in good condition. Offers.

Call Christine

01805 603611



Hello my name is Sophie.

I love football.

I play for Juventus academy u11s and I have the opportunity to go to Turin Italy and play in a world cup against teams from around the world.

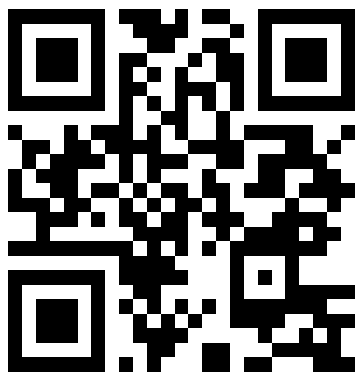
To help raise the money to get me there I plan to run the 685 miles from my house to the Allianz Stadium Turin before June 2025.

To track my miles, I will be using City play while I train.

If you feel you could spare some money, I would be really grateful.

My GoFundMe link is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-to-send-me-to-play-at-the-word-cup-italy>

Or alternatively there will be collection tins at Merton football matches and tarka treats.



From Your Parish Council

Well, here we are then in 2025, and let me first, on behalf of the Parish Councillors, wish you all a happy and healthy year ahead.

The Christmas Tree Festival was enjoyed by many with over 150 voting slips deposited by those enjoying the 12 trees of the festival and the larger Church tree. The decoration of the trees was superb with some extremely inventive themes, from The Cats to the creative skills of the Sewing Group, the children of every year at The Clinton School to Tarka Treats, and who could forget the Malt Scoops with Devon the dog as the tree topper!

The most talked about of all was the tree decorated by everyone, a tree dedicated to the memory of those no longer with us and beautifully thought out by Linda and Tracey on behalf of Taw and Torridge. This tree brought everyone together in writing the stars to place upon its branches and reading those already there, we most definitely needed a bigger tree!

In total, with the very well attended Christmas Carol Service donations the total raised was £450. A good sum to help towards the much-needed repairs for the church at the heart of our village. Thank you.

Our first task for the New Year was to meet to decide upon the Parish budget for 2025, and this lengthy task was certainly a meeting for much debate and scrutiny of our accounts. We are always conscious of the need to use public money well and it would have been better to have had members of the parish attend to put forward ideas for expenditure or events, or just to put a view forward to help us conclude our business. Eventually all figures tallied we have submitted a precept (the amount of money requested by the Parish Council from its residents) request that will show a 20% reduction in the amount paid by each household. This reduction is achieved by the Council's planned use of some reserves and the increase in households from the new development at Tarka View.

If you would like to know more about the budget or the Council's finances and processes, they will be available on the website www.mertondevon.com.

We are still looking for two more Councillors and would welcome any Parishioner who feels that they would like to have a say in how the Parish is run. We meet six times a year so the commitment is as little or as much as you want to make but it will always be valuable. If you are interested, please contact either me or the Parish Clerk.

This year will mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) and across the Country villages, towns and Cities are planning ways to celebrate the end of the Second World War. It would be amazing to get everyone together on the 8th May 2025 to mark this occasion. So, get your thinking caps on and if you are interested in helping, please contact us.

An official page with ideas for the National event can be found at www.veday80.org.uk

Cllr Neil Littleales – Chair. Contact me at cllr.littleales@mertondevon.com

Parish Clerk – contact Kerry at clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com

****Check out the notice board in The Square's bus stop or follow us on Facebook****

www.facebook.com/MertonParishCouncilDevon

Farm Fresh Local Milk

Every Tuesday

THE MILK CART

MILKSHAKES

Reduce Re-Use Recycle

Buy a glass bottle or bring your own container



Every Tuesday **The Milk Cart** will be at Clinton Hall, Merton bringing you local fresh milk and milkshakes in our self service vending machine

www.TheMilkCartLtd.co.uk



Free to collect



Description: Wood veneered old but in very good condition ergonomic office desk, plus leather swivel office chair, now surplus to requirements - desk is already dismantled and is 160cm long, 110cm wide and 74cm high.

Please contact 07769905442

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.

POUND-WISE BOOKKEEPING SERVICE
Tanglewood, Merton, Okehampton, EX20 3EA

FOR THE SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS



- ✓ Accounts
- ✓ VAT
- ✓ Tax Returns
- ✓ Payroll



01805 603405 or 07970 541448
julie@pound-wisebookkeeping.co.uk

**D
W**

Decorating



Painting & Decorating Specialists

Interior * Exterior * Commercial * Domestic

Also guttering and down pipe cleaning

~ **Peter Bright** ~

THATCHER

Wheat Reed – Water Reed
Tel. 01837 810148 (Petrockstowe)

GRASCOTT FIREWOOD

tel. no. 01409 281393
email: info@grascottfirewood.co.uk
website: www.grascottfirewood.co.uk

Loose Logs • Nets • Kindling • Kiln Dried
Local & Sustainable



Devon Food Co



Event Catering Specialist

*Corporate Hospitality, Street Food, Festivals,
Weddings, Markets, Private Parties and More ...*

Enquiries/Bookings: Sadie Humphreys

07776 076553

devonfoodco@gmail.com



Events by night in
our quirky vintage
converted catering
trailer and day
events with both
trailer and/or
professional
gazebo

We can provide a
bespoke service
for your event too!



TORRIDGE VOLUNTEER CARS

Admin Volunteers + Drivers

Do you have time on your hands? Would you like to help your Community?

Our **Admin Volunteers** staff our office in Bideford **one** morning a week (Mon – Fri between 09:30 and 13:00, excluding public holidays)

Our **Volunteer Drivers** take passengers to appointments etc, for which expenses are paid.

If you have the time and would like to help, please call the office for a chat.

01237 237140

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