

Merton Monthly

December 2025/January 2026

{Produced by the Clinton Hall Charity Number 1204870 A Not-for-Profit Business}
Committee Members: Michelle Stacey, Julie Stacey, Vicki Benson and Dave Folland

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the **20th** of January for inclusion in the February issue



THE CLINTON HALL

The Clinton Hall would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Here's to a great 2026



Merton AFC



The Football Club would like to say a BIG Thank you to **Ron Down** for his time and effort he has put in for the Club in running the "150 Club" for many years.

The "150 Club" will be taken over by Dan Paddon who is a member of the Football Club.

You can call Dan on **07989292295** if you wish to stay in.

The Clinton Hall

The Clinton Hall is run by volunteers to enable the hall to be there 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.

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

Skittle Alley

Full day £55-00

1/2 Day £35-00

£8-00 hr

Kitchen

Full Day £50-00

3/4 Day £40-00

1/2 Day £30-00

1/4 Day £15-00

Sports Field

Full Day £50-00

1/2 Day £30-00

Conference Room

Full Day £80-00

1/2 Day £45-00

£8-00 hr

Changing Rooms

Full Day no Showers £20-00

Full Day with Showers £30-00

1/2 Day no Showers £10-00

½ 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.

THE COLDSTREAM COFFEE POT



**EVERY
THURSDAY
11-1PM**

**THE CLINTON HALL,
MERTON, EX20 3EQ**

**ALL WELCOME
MERTON'S
COMMUNITY COFFEE
MORNING
RUN BY THE
COMMUNITY, FOR THE
COMMUNITY
IT'S A SUGGESTED
DONATION OF £3 FOR
UNLIMITED HOT
DRINKS AND CAKE**

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for December

Green Waste Collection: 11th December

Black Bag Collection: 4th December & 18th December

Recycling & Food Caddy: every Friday

The dates are subject to change for Christmas, New Year, other Bank Holidays and adverse weather conditions. We will announce any changes via our website @ [Torridge District Council](#) and social media



All Saints Church

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

Curate: Catherine Duff, tel: 07717-209484

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



Dear Friends,

There is a wonderful scene in the Shrek 2 movie. Shrek and Fiona are off on their honeymoon – with Donkey! ‘Are we nearly there?’ asks Donkey. And again, ‘Are we nearly there?’ And again...and again..... Every parent’s been there! We just can’t wait! ‘Are we nearly there?’

Whether it’s Christmas, a birthday, exam results, a holiday or whatever else, we just can’t wait. Let’s have it now... please! It has been epitomised in the slogan ‘Take the waiting out of wanting.’ Forget the waiting! You can have it now! Instant gratification.

Of course, living in an area like this, we know that isn’t true. Seeds are planted in the spring; the harvest is brought in the autumn. It takes time. The farmer – and the gardener – has to wait for their crop to grow and mature. It doesn’t all happen at once. We have to wait.

And there are definite pluses about waiting. It often makes us value whatever it is that much more. To get something instantly can suggest that really it’s not worth that much. If we can get it now, that we can always get it whenever we want it. It’s just on tap at any moment. There’s no value in it. The strawberries in summer that I have waited so many months for taste just delicious. But if I had strawberries every week through the winter – well, it’s just another strawberry!

To wait gives us time to prepare. Those 9 months of pregnancy gives us a chance to adjust in mind and home as to the change of life that is on the way. Though I don’t think anyone is really prepared for the birth of a child! It is so utterly life-changing. But you can do so much, and that makes a huge difference.

Waiting gives us the chance to appreciate. What is this thing that we are waiting for? What is its significance? Why does it matter? It is why we build in opportunities for engaged couples to reflect on what marriage is all about before the wedding day. Use the waiting time to think about what is happening.

Earlier this year we went on holiday to Italy. We could have flown. So much quicker – and probably cheaper as well. But we went by train. Well, it’s better for the environment. And you avoid those awful airport lounges. But there was something else. There is something about the journey. It’s not just the destination, but also the journey to the destination. It connects up here and there; it gives time to anticipate and adjust. And there is so much on the journey as well. It’s not just in the arrival. It’s worth the wait.

You know where we are going with this. Yes, Christmas feels to rush in on us earlier each year – and it’s not just about getting older! The adverts are up and going from the start of November. The shops are full of Christmas things and Christmas songs around the supermarkets. Somebody described it as the Tinsel Tunnel. By the time we actually reach Christmas we are exhausted. Advent is all about waiting. Indeed the word means ‘coming’. It hasn’t arrived; it is still coming. We have to wait.

Take time, if you can, to wait, to appreciate, to value, to journey. God doesn’t rush it. It took hundreds of years for Jesus to come – but he did. The waiting was worth it. And still we believe it’s worth it. Even more so, since the promise of Jesus’ coming was kept. We can wait; it is safe; God can be trusted.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas - and savour the waiting,

Martin Warren

Care Services

Sun 14th Dec 6.00pm Huish

Sun 21st Dec 3.00 Merton
including the family

Refreshments to follow on each occasion

Services in Merton and Huish

7 th December	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
14th December	6.00pm	Carol Service (Huish)
21st December	3.00pm	Carol Service (Merton)
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Crib Service (Petrockstowe Hall)
	7.00pm	Christmas Night Communion
Christmas Day	9.00am	Communion (Huish)
	10.30am	Family Service (Petrockstowe)
28 th December	11.00am	Carols and Communion (Petrockstowe)
4 th January	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
11 th January	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
18th January	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
25th January	9.30am	Communion (Huish)

Service by Phone Sundays at 4pm

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

From the Registers

Wedding: Congratulations!

Oct 25th Steven Edwards and Alex Hornsby

Christmas Tree Festival

Come and enjoy the displays and be in the place
From Monday 15th December through to Christmas
Merton Church

Carols with the School amongst the trees

Monday 15th December
2-30pm





MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

Having lost the first two matches, things looked up a little on our third match against Halwill Shunters, Merton scored 21 and Halwill 11. We will be taking a short break over the Christmas period, see below for the fixtures for the next two months.

Fixtures for December/January

Date	Time	Home	Away
4 th December	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
11 th December	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
18 th December	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
19 th December to 7 th January		NO BOWLS	
8 th January	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
13 th January	02:00	Beaford Beacons	
15 th January	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
22 nd January	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
27 th January	02:00	Colebrook Blackbirds	
29 th January	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	

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

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Home Fixtures

Saturday December 6th Merton v Lynton

Saturday January 3rd Merton v Bradworthy

Saturday February 7th Merton v Combe Martin

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw November 2025

£20-00 Tony Hunt

£10-00 Ron Down

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

Seasons Greetings!



Margaret and Ron of Wring House would like to wish all their Friends a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Christmas Greetings to my Friends, Neighbours and the Whole Parish.

I pray you will all be Truly Blessed as we celebrate the coming of THE LIGHT of the World, JESUS.

It occurred to me This week, it's so appropriate that, Christian or not, so many people love light at Christmastime, and JESUS IS THE LIGHT of LIFE, coming into the dark World (as demonstrated by Halloween the celebration, by some, of darkness and death.)

(Thank you for your encouragement to light up the Village, Neil.)

May our hearts be open to the LIGHT of our SAVIOUR JESUS this Christmas.

Every Blessing everyone.

Christine W



designed by freepik



Bunny & Julie

wish all our friends and neighbours a Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Help us measure the impact of a rural estate

Stakeholders of Clinton Devon Estates include:

- Dog walkers, cyclists, horse riders and ramblers
- Commercial, farm or residential tenants
- People attending events or talks on the Estate
- Businesses operating from within Estate boundaries
- Project partners or contractors
- Suppliers to the Estate

Researchers at the University of Exeter are working with Clinton Devon Estates and the Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust.

We want to hear from stakeholders on how well you think the Estate is managed for nature, local people and the wider community.

Taking part involves

10 minute online survey - use the link or QR code below.

There is also an option to register for a short online interview.

All research data will be held in confidence by the University of Exeter and only reported anonymously.

Survey closes: 19 December 2025



University
of Exeter

Centre for Rural
Policy Research

Share your views at:

sites.exeter.ac.uk/ruralestatevalues/survey

Reviewed by the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, University of Exeter: Reference Number 129221





Merton AFC 150 Club Draw December 2025

£20-00 John Lancaster

£10-00 Ron Down

£5-00 Tabetha Paddon

£5-00 Robbie Nancekivell

£5-00 Chris Williams

£5-00 Ian Windsor

£5-00 Mary Ford

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for January 2026

Green Waste Collection: 8th January & 22nd January

Black Bag Collection: **FRIDAY** 2nd January 15th January & 29th January

Recycling & Food Caddy: every Friday, **except Saturday** 3rd January

The dates are subject to change for Christmas, New Year, other Bank Holidays and adverse weather conditions. We will announce any changes via our website @ [Torridge District Council](#) and social media

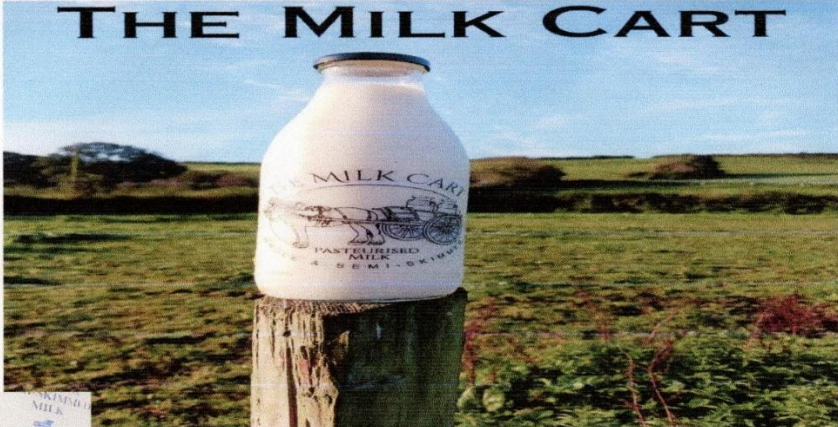
Farm Fresh Local Milk **Every Tuesday**

Reduce Re-Use Recycle

Buy a glass bottle or bring your own container

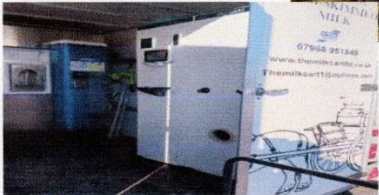
THE MILK CART

MILKSHAKES



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





Christmas collection dates below are only relevant if they fall on your normal collection day			
Mon 22nd Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Tues 23rd Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Weds 24th Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Thurs 25th Dec	Mon 22nd Dec	No Collection	No Collection
Fri 26th Dec	Tues 23rd Dec	No Collection	No Collection
Mon 29th Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Tues 30th Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Weds 31st Dec	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	No Collection
Thurs 1st Jan	One day late	One day late	No Collection
Fri 2nd Jan	One day late	One day late	No Collection

There will be no garden waste collections between Monday 22nd December 2025 and Sunday 4th January 2026.
Collections will start again Monday 5th January 2026.

w/c = week commencing
Check your online calendar at:
torridge.gov.uk/collectiondates

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

Decorating



Painting & Decorating Specialists
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~ **Peter Bright** ~

THATCHER

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Enquiries/Bookings: Sadie Humphreys

07776 076553

devonfoodco@gmail.com



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



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!

GRASCOTT FIREWOOD

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

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



Remember the deadline. 20th January to be included in the February edition