

Merton Monthly

October 2025

*{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 October for inclusion in the November issue

QUIZ? NIGHT!

**The Clinton Hall Quiz Night
Saturday 15th November, 7.30pm**

**£2.50 per person,
teams max of 6
Family Friendly**

**To book your place email:
info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk
or call 01805 603 300**

**Clinton Hall
Merton
EX20 3EQ
Bar Open**



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.

Harvest Celebration

**Sunday 19th October
11.00am**

***All welcome.*
Refreshments to follow**

Message from the Editor.

Please accept my apologies for the confusion caused by the error in the September issue concerning the dates of collection of Black bag refuse and Green waste recycling. I can't say I need to go to Specsavers as I have recently been. However, I have had a look at the calendar I downloaded from Torridge District Council website and have adjusted the layout in this October issue. Hopefully it is right this time.

I would like to thank Steve Papworth for uploading the Merton Monthly to the Merton Village Facebook page and kindly pointing out the error.

Hopefully too many people did not put the wrong bags or bins out because of my error.

Could I also remind contributors that the deadline is **20th** of each month for the 11 issues we produce. As of the next issue any contributions received after the 20th will be considered, but more likely to be carried to the next issue.

Dave

The Coldstream Coffee Pot

Merton's Community Coffee Morning is back today. Over the last 3 years as Tarka Treats we have seen our little coffee morning evolve from a handful of people with coffee and biscuits to a busy community coffee morning with a buffet. We have celebrated, a jubilee, the Coronation and VE Day amongst many others and had a lot of fun in the process.

However this takes a lot of work and with holidays and illnesses, it has been hard to deliver a coffee morning at times, so we have decided to take it down a notch and go back to old school coffee and cake.

Today we are relaunching Merton's Community Coffee Morning and our new name is The Coldstream Coffee Pot. There will be unlimited hot drinks and cake for a suggested donation of £3.00. And don't worry there will still be the odd themed morning so Vicki still gets to raid her fancy dress box! Never been before? Why not join us today and remember we will also have the new mobile shop Amy's Pantry here at The Clinton Hall every week too.

We look forward to seeing you all again!

Run by the community, for the community!

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 October

Green Waste Collection: 2nd October; 16th October & 30th October

Black Bag Collection: 9th October & 23rd October

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,

It is raining! And has been for weeks it seems now. Remember back to the Bank Holiday at the end of August. Amazingly hot. A day for the beach and being in the water. Definitely summer. And the next day? It was like a switch was thrown – and we were plunged into autumn. Now, I know we needed the rain and it certainly has made a difference – but it was the speed of the change that got me, and I think many of us. One day it was summer, the next autumn. So sudden.

It made me think of those sudden changes that come to us, and how we cope with them. The moment a diagnosis is made; when a death is announced; the day you are made redundant. We immediately think of the negative changes, the losses. But the gains can be equally dramatic and just as challenging: you've won the lottery; 'will you marry me?'; the news of a pregnancy. Suddenly life is turned upside down and the world looks very different. It takes a lot of adjusting, and sometimes we never fully adjust.

Because the world is now different. What we thought was secure and firm has proved not to be. And if that isn't, then what else isn't? Is anything secure? We begin to suspect we know the answer to that question, but we don't want to face it if at all possible.

I am struck reading through the Psalms of the Old Testament – the song book of the Bible – at how often the writer describes God as a Rock or a Refuge. Certainly he (it was almost undoubtedly an 'he', if not quite a few 'he's) seems to be facing a lot of challenging situations both personal and national. Often things seem to be taking a sudden plunge and everything is going awry. The world as he knows it is falling apart. It isn't what he thought it was. Just what is happening? And he expresses his feelings about it all. The psalms are great examples of open and honest prayer.

And it's not that he comes to a point of understanding. He doesn't a lot of the time, and nor do we. But he does come to a place of trust. Whatever the seismic changes that are happening in and around him, God is a rock that stands firm. Here is a refuge that is safe whatever else might be going on.

I think of the old hymn 'Rock of Ages'. It tells us of a place that is secure. And where it is safe to let go of everything else. That's a good thought as we go deeper into autumn. Even the trees let go of their leaves, knowing that it is safe to do so. Indeed in the face of winter, that is actually the best option to be able to come through to spring again. Maybe we can learn from the trees.

Every blessing to you in this autumn season,
Martin Warren

Services in Merton and Huish

5th October	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
12 th October	11.00am	Harvest (Petrockstowe)
19 th October	11.00am	Harvest Celebration (Merton)
26 th October	9.30am	Communion (Huish)

Service by Phone Sundays at 4pm

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



MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

On 27th August we hosted the finals of the Merton Charity League Summer Afternoon Triples.

The Challenge Cup was between Westward Ho! Sandpipers and Colebrook Blackbirds. This was won by Westward Ho!



The League Final was between Langtree Harriers and Colebrook Avocets, with Langtree being victorious.



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	Bovey Tracey	12
Shebbear	2	Merton	0
Merton	3	Kingsley Park	5

Home Fixtures

Saturday October 25 th	Merton	v	Bideford 2nds
Saturday November 8 th	Merton	v	Braunton
Saturday November 15 th	Merton	v	AFC Dumnonii
Saturday November 22 nd	Merton	v	Geogham & Croyde
Saturday November 29 th	Merton	v	Shamwickshire

it's good to see our helper on home games. Sophie had a good tournament in the World Cup.
Keep up the good work for Merton and Juventus Devon.

Merton AFC 150 Club Draw September 2025

£20-00 Sean Hambley

£10-00 Jack Kirby

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.

On the A386 between
Hatherleigh and Torrington

24 hour access
Ample free parking
No joining fee

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

Flexible membership options

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



HEARTY BREAKFAST

29th November 2025

9-11am

£8 per breakfast

Booking preferred please call or email

01805 603 300

info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

**Raising funds for
Devon Air Ambulance
& North Devon Hospice**

From your Parish Council

Autumn is definitely upon us and with it will come more windy days. Why the forecast? Well, because it is noticeable that more litter is finding its way onto the Village streets and into the lanes.

The lack of care at times by the recycle van has been reported to Torridge District Council but can we ask residents to try to contain the waste that goes out on recycle day, and if you see some litter, and are able, that you might pick it up and pop it in a bin. It is not just the look of the village, but also the risk to our wildlife.

On to happier things. After the success of last year, the Christmas Tree Festival will once again be running at All Saints Church over the Festive period. The Parish Council will be funding the event and as such there is no cost to any family, business, community group or individual who would like to decorate one of the 12 Christmas trees (lights are supplied).

The festival will run from Monday 15th December through until after Christmas Day and will be a wonderful backdrop to the Community Carol Service to be held on the afternoon of Sunday 21st December followed by refreshments.

So, this year can we all think about some form of public display from Christmas lights, decorations or trees visible to those passing so that we might spread a little cheer, and if you have some extra decorations why not contact the Clerk to book a Christmas Tree in the festival.

The Parish Council also has some funding that came from the developers of Tarka View and is ring-fenced spending for additional provision at the Playground next to The Clinton Hall.

We have begun the task of finding a company to supply and fit a purpose made meeting shelter that would protect against the elements and when those plans are ready, we will circulate them for consideration. The park has just been serviced with the equipment now in tip-top condition so we hope families will continue to enjoy the facility, although can we ask that the benches are not moved as they are often found in areas where they pose a risk to users of the swings.

One last thing, we are approaching Winter and this can be an isolating time for those living alone. So perhaps check on a neighbour every now and then, a cheery face, a little conversation over a cuppa, or an invite out can make all the difference.

Cllr Neil Littleales. Chair.

Village Allotmenters

There are many keen growers and gardeners in the village but I notice that we do not have a any community garden allotments. Is this something that residents would be interested in? If so can you let me know and I will prepare an approach to the Clinton Estate (I have a contact) for consideration of some land. I will wait for any interested parties before going any further. Drop me a message on Facebook or text on 07722 321838. Neil Littleales

Neil.



IN AID OF:



HEARTY BREAKFAST

SAT 29 NOV 9-11AM

Clinton Hall, Merton, Okehampton EX20 3EQ

Come and join us for the most important meal of the day, and help us raise vital funds for both North Devon Hospice and The Devon Air Ambulance Trust

Farm Fresh Local Milk

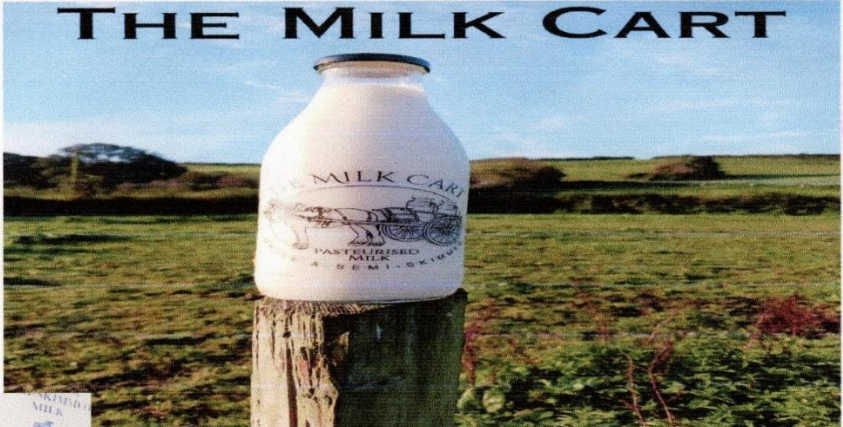
Every Tuesday

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



f

Little John's House.

Many will remember John and Tilly Kimber. For many years they lived in The Square here in Merton. They were involved in setting up Little John's House in Romania, initially to care for 'Little John', but then for other orphans who were effectively abandoned by the then Communist regime. Little John's House continues to provide quality care for special needs children and young people.

John and Tilly's daughter Mags Zaharia-Kimber continues the work from Torrington. Recently she and a small group embarked on the Thames Path Challenge to raise much needed funds. They walked in memory of John Kimber who died and Mags' son Alec who died in an accident in Romania. Both died last year. Wonderfully they completed the 100km from Putney to Henley inside 24hours. Quite an achievement.

A small group here walked in parallel from The Square to Yarde and back. Not quite the same distance, but in support.

If you would like to support Mags and her team and donate to the work of Little John's House, search for **Little John's House online** and go to the giving page.

Martin Warren

PS Mags got awarded the British Empire Medal by King Charles in the summer. Congratulations Mags. You deserve it.

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
Interior * Exterior * Commercial * Domestic
Also guttering and down pipe cleaning

~ **Peter Bright** ~

THATCHER

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

 **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



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 October
to be included in the November edition**