

# Merton Monthly

March 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](mailto:dave.folland@btinternet.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of March for inclusion in the April issue

**Clinton Hall  
Merton. EX20 3EQ**

# QUIZ

## Night

£2.50 per person  
Max 6 per team

**SATURDAY  
28TH MARCH  
7.30PM START**

**BAR OPEN**

*Book your place or just turn up  
Call 01805 603 300  
Email: [info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk](mailto:info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk)*

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dave.folland@btinternet.com) for pricing.



### Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for March

**\*Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 5<sup>th</sup> March & 19<sup>th</sup> March

**\*Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** 12<sup>th</sup> March & 26<sup>th</sup> March

**\*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**

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



Dear Friends,

It's that time of year again. We are into Lent. And this year, it coincides with Ramadan as well. Both periods of giving up things, periods of reflection and spiritual focus. I was once in the Holy Land during Ramadan. The Muslim coach driver was ducking beneath a window to avoid his father. Sensibly he had been in a café to get some food so as to be able to drive safely – his father wouldn't have approved of him breaking the fast. We felt like co-conspirators with him!

So what are you giving up this year? Not chocolate again! Actually the whole point of giving up isn't simply to give up something. Although that can be good in itself. It helps us manage our addictions. And don't tell me you don't have any! We all do, even if it is only Sudoku as one of mine. But the bigger point is to free up time: time to reflect on life, time to go deeper in our care of each other and the world around us, time to grow in spiritual terms. It's a bit like a spring clean of our inner lives.

And because Lent leads up to Easter, it is often a time to reflect on the life of Jesus. And in particular the weeks and days as he approached his death. Just who is this person on whose life we base our calendar and holidays? What kind of person is it that changed the history of the world despite being killed off at such a young age? Just what was he like that so many people through the centuries have said they want to follow him?

Maybe this Lent, you might have a fresh look at the person of Jesus. Why not read through one of the Gospels: Mark's the shortest, Luke's got the best stories; John's got the most interaction; Matthew is the one we are focussing on in church this year. Take your choice.

Or why not see the story instead? 'The Chosen' is a film series we are showing on Sunday evenings from 8<sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm. Series 5 tells the story of the days before Jesus is crucified. The story is told through those around him. If you like, it fills in what the backstory might have been for Peter, for Judas, for Mary Magdalene, for Pilate. So come along, if you would like to. It's at Langtree Parish Hall. A little way to go, I know, but it's a good set of films. Each episode is about an hour.

Whatever you do, we can all use Lent to stop for a bit and think about our life in this world. It could be life-changing. Not just for you, but for those around you too.

Happy Lent everyone,

Martin Warren

### **Services in Merton and Huish**

|                              |               |                                |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March        | 11.00am       | Morning Worship (Petrockstowe) |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March        | 11.00am       | Morning Worship (Petrockstowe) |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> March</b> | <b>9.30am</b> | <b>Communion (Merton)</b>      |
| <i>Mothers' Day</i>          |               |                                |
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b> | <b>9.30am</b> | <b>Communion (Huish)</b>       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March       | 11.00am       | Family Service (Petrockstowe)  |
| <i>Palm Sunday</i>           |               |                                |

**Service by Phone**      Sundays at 4pm

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



## MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

Things have been a little quiet over the Christmas period, we played Beaford Beacons and won 20 to 12. As we approach the end of the season we are now in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

### Fixtures for February/March

|      | Date                 | Time | Home                   | Away             |
|------|----------------------|------|------------------------|------------------|
| Wed  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | 2:00 | Halwill Shunters       |                  |
| Thu  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Tues | 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 2:00 | Colebrooke Chaffinches |                  |
| Thu  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Tue  | 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 2:00 |                        | Langtree Hawks   |
| Thu  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Fri  | 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 2:00 |                        | North Tawton     |
| Wed  | 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 2:00 |                        | Halwill Shunters |
| Thu  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Thu  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Mar  | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Thu  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar |      | NO CLUB NIGHT          |                  |
| Thu  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar | 7:00 | CLUB NIGHT             |                  |
| Thu  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar | 7:00 | 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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Home Fixtures

All Games 2-30pm Kick Off

|                                 |        |   |              |
|---------------------------------|--------|---|--------------|
| Saturday March 14 <sup>th</sup> | Merton | v | Braunton     |
| Saturday March 21 <sup>st</sup> | Merton | v | Bideford     |
| Saturday March 28 <sup>th</sup> | Merton | v | Lynton       |
| Saturday April 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Merton | v | Lynton       |
| Saturday May 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | Merton | v | Georgeham    |
| Saturday May 9 <sup>th</sup>    | Merton | v | Shebbear     |
| Saturday May 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Merton | v | Combe Martin |

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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  
Flexible membership options

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

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

## More Tarka Trail Adventures.

As many of you know we are lucky to live near the Tarka Trail. I have spent many happy hours cycling and walking along it over many years.

But what about the more forgotten piece of the Tarka Trail?

The short section from Petrockstowe Station to Meeth. Yes, it is less well maintained much more rustic and wanders through the trees. Part way along you can then go off to see the old clay pits and walk through more woodland.



The view of the lake is beautiful and well worth the time it takes to get here. On my last visit it was nice to see a couple of swans swimming around as well.

Looking around it is amazing to see how nature has reclaimed what was a working clay pit not that many years ago.

It is great to see that in certain areas Devon Wildlife Trust has placed benches so people can have a seat or enjoy a picnic, even just sit and take in the scenery for a while.

For this part of the Trail I would suggest you wear stout footwear as it can be a bit wet and muddy in places, but well worth the walk or ride.

Hopefully as we head towards the Spring the weather will begin to get a bit better, I think everyone is getting a bit fed up with all the rain we have been getting recently. Well perhaps South West Water will be happy with the reservoirs being filled back up.

I'll leave it at that!

I'd like to take a chance to thank the workers who finally rebuilt the crossing on the Trail going towards Dunsbeare as well, it was a long wait, but, the work has finished and the results are amazing, new fence either side and the new culvert pipe buried in with lovely stone work, it looks as if it had always been there.



I dread to think how much this work has cost, but, at least the Trail is once again open for all to enjoy.

Of course I like to make some comments. This time, dogs off of leads, on one of my latest rides I've had to hit the brakes for dogs running across the Trail, I agree the Trail is for everyone and I have no issues with that at all. But, if a young child was riding a bike would they be able to realise what was about to happen as an owner calls their dog and it just runs all over the place? Just saying.

At the same time it amazes me that some walkers seem to be so surprised when a cyclist comes along and they have to move over a little bit, I am happy to use my bell, but as I wear hearing aids some of the time I do realise that cycle bells are not always heard. There are many signs along the Trail reminding people, Walkers, Cyclists, Runners and Horse Riders to share the Trail with everyone.

Finally, I stopped at one of my favourite spots, Beam Weir, it was looking a little vicious on this visit. I don't think I would of liked to be in there. I don't think the pictures below does it justice.



That's it for this time. Safe riding.

Dave

*Farm Fresh Local Milk*

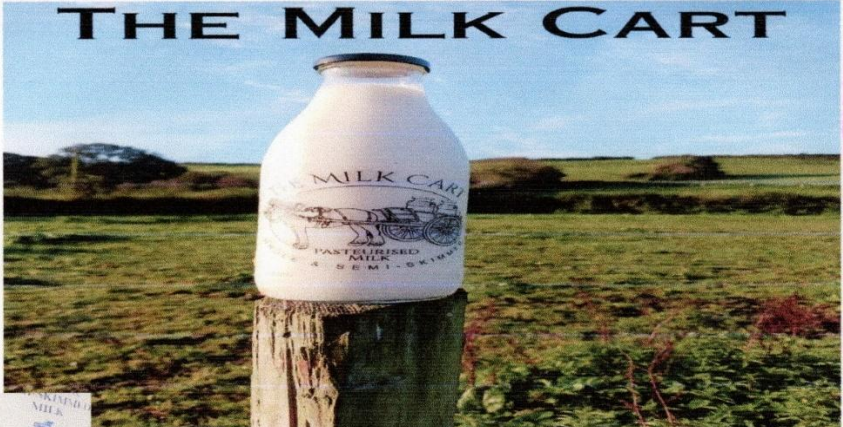
**Every Tuesday**

**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](http://www.TheMilkCartLtd.co.uk)

f

**Freecycle/ For Sale**

Any items for sale, or just looking for a new home, just let me know.

[dave.folland@btinternet.com](mailto: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



**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**

~ **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](mailto: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!

**GRASCOTT FIREWOOD**

tel. no. 01409 281393  
email: [info@grascottfirewood.co.uk](mailto:info@grascottfirewood.co.uk)  
website: [www.grascottfirewood.co.uk](http://www.grascottfirewood.co.uk)

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



Remember the deadline. **20<sup>th</sup> March** to be included in the April edition.