

Merton Monthly

May 2026

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

Committee Members: Michelle Stacey, Julie Stacey, Vicki Benson, Megan Hill and Dave Folland

Please send articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com by the 20th of May for inclusion in the June issue

STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE WONDERFUL COMEDY
INTO THE BREACH
GEORGE CROCKER
JOINS HIS VILLAGE
DRAMA CLUB TO LIVEN UP HIS LIFE.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TURNS HIS WORLD UPSIDE DOWN.

"A REMARKABLE AND HIGHLY ORIGINAL PIECE OF THEATRE"
BATH ECHO
**"DAD'S ARMY MEETS
THE VICAR OF DIBLEY"**
LONDON METRO
"THIS SHOW WILL MAKE YOU
LAUGH, CRY AND ENJOY A
DEBATE ON SHAKESPEARE"
STRATFORD HERALD

WWW.STRATFORDTHEATRECOMPANY.ORG.UK

Date for your Diary Friday 19th June. More details in the next issue.

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.



Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for May

***Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 14th May & Friday 29th May

***Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** Friday 8th May & 21st May

***Recycling & Food Caddy:** every Friday except **Saturday** 9th May & 30th May

*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

Thanks

After 12 happy years living in Clinton Gardens sadly my landlady had to sell the house to finance onward care for her mother. However, as some now know, you can't get rid of me yet! I am now unpacking boxes in my new flat in Tarka View but also wondering which box or bag such and such has ended up!

I have so many people to thank, from those giving me boxes and offering storage, to those who helped with the packing, umpteenth trips to the tip, moving the contents of a 3 bed house and garage out then moving a lot less back into my new abode, making the tea (very important for keeping the troops energy up), offering morale support or even looking out for suitable homes/flats to view. The list is endless! Thank you to all who helped, especially when I was a bit grumpy. Downsizing is not easy and my health took a nosedive last November and it all became a mountain to climb. My Merton family yet again stepped up and Thank You seems very inadequate, but from the bottom of my heart I am truly thankful.

Extra thanks to Maria (a miracle worker) and Lee, Maria, Steve and their family, Rachel and Julian. Wayne and Trevor who literally walked my washing machine from Clinton Gardens to Tarka View, Elaine and Gary who has the best working knees between us!. And still the help goes on, Maria again for unpacking and sorting out on the day I moved in and Jackie also for after the move unpacking. There are so many to thank, please forgive me if I've missed anyone out, I am grateful to all.

And now here I am in Tarka View which from my old house I watched being built and has given Merton and myself many valued new friends. If I have not introduced myself to those in Tarka view yet, the kettles on!

An extremely grateful Vicki Benson xx

From Merton Parish Council

The Parish Council are seeking the community's view on how to spend money allocated from the build at Tarka View and which is ringfenced for off-site provision or improvement of play space facilities with a focus on ages from 10 - 15. We have a well utilised playground next to The Clinton Hall with space to expand and would therefore look to spend the amount allocated, £22,781.49 on this site before the funding expires on the 25th August 2027.

We would be particularly interested in hearing the views of young people and their parents but everyone's opinion is equally valid and welcomed.

Please select the option that you would like to see installed.'

1. Covered seating – providing a covered seating with space for at least 10 people to shelter from inclement weather or sun.
2. Trampoline – This would be hard-wearing woven trampoline surface that is level with the ground and would be sufficiently large enough for all ages to use it safely.
3. Cantilevered swing – this swing option provides a large woven basket style sling that can accommodate several young people at a time and is suspended from an arm that allows it to swing in every direction from a central chain.
4. Other options? – What else could we do that can be funded fully by the monies available?

If considering this question has made you interested in being involved more closely, we have space for Councillors on the Parish Council.

If you have already completed the Facebook survey on the Merton Village page please disregard this, otherwise, please reply to the Parish Clerk via email – clerk@mertondevon.com



All Saints Church

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

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



Dear Friends,

It comes as a shock when events far away have an impact on us. We think they don't matter to us; we can watch dispassionately from a distance, mere observers of the TV screen. We may pass a few comments - mostly pretty cynical; we may laugh at the comedians' witticisms: but it doesn't really touch us.

Until it does. I have been struck how many people locally have had to deal with cancelled flights, or have had family/friends in the midst of it all in the Middle East. And then all of us have watched, some of us with alarm, the ever increasing price of petrol at the pump. It catches up with us quicker than we might expect. We see the impact of a world at war: of violence, of domination and force, of greed and revenge.

We have come to Easter, and it offers us a very different way. The king enters into Jerusalem – on a donkey, not a warhorse. Around him, the Roman Empire is not known for its gentle approach: the Pax Romana was no lovely-dovey affair, but ruthlessly enforced with the sword. And the religious authorities have a temple bristling with armed guards, ready to arrest Jesus when necessary.

In contrast Jesus comes riding on a donkey proclaiming a very different kingdom. It may be the way of love, but it is no push over. We see that in his disputing with the authorities; it is very apparent as he overturns the tables of the corrupt money-changers in the temple forecourts.

And yet it is still the way of love, the way of self-giving. The Way that leads to the cross.

It is tempting to see the cross as the place of defeat. But the gospel writers don't see it that way, and, as they write, it is clear that Jesus doesn't see it that way either. This is the place where the battle is won. Not even death can hold back the victory. It is the way of a very different kingdom. There is, as CS Lewis puts it in the Narnia stories, a deeper magic at work. A magic that this world just cannot comprehend.

And still it can't. Hence the conflict in the Middle East now. Hence the angst in our society. Hence the pain in so much family life and at work. Hence the upheavals in our communities and with our neighbours from time to time. We just don't get the way of love. Why should we have to endure the cross? Why should we take on suffering? But if we don't, there is no breakthrough to the life that lies beyond.

We can harangue the leaders of nations as they make crazy statements on the TV, but it begins with us. Each one of us. Here and now. Can we be prepared to embrace the way of the cross, the way of love, the way of self-giving? Or do we stay doing it our way, standing on our rights, looking to self?

Well other ways don't seem to work, do they? So why not? If we ask him, God will help us. And what a difference that could make in our homes, in our communities, in our country, in this world – and yes, in our churches. Resurrection life, here and now!

Happy Easter all,

Martin Warren

Services in Merton and Huish

Good Friday: 3rd April	2.00pm	Good Friday service (Merton)
Easter Eve: 4th April	8.00pm	Easter Vigil and Communion (Merton)
Easter Day: 5th April	9.30am	Easter Communion (Huish)
12th April	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
19th April	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
26th April	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

The Winter season has now ended and we are preparing for the Summer season. We finished in 5th position out of 7, a little disappointing but we avoided relegation!

Fixtures for May/June

DATE	DAY	TIME	HOME	AWAY
05-May	Tuesday	02:00	HALWILL S5S	
09-May	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
14-May	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
19-May	Tuesday	02:00		WICK (KNOCKOUT)
21-May	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
26-May	Tuesday	02:00	HARTLAND	
28-May	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
04-Jun	Thursday	02:00		WINKLEIGH B
10-Jun	Wednesday	02:00		HALWILL S5S
11-Jun	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
17-Jun	Wednesday	02:00		WESTWARD HO!
18-Jun	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
22-Jun	Monday	02:00		COLEBROOKE B
25-Jun	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
30-Jun	Tuesday	02:00		LANGTREE

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!

Shamwicks	10	Merton	0
Combe Martin	5	Merton	1
Merton	2	Lynton	3

All Games 2-30pm Kick Off

Saturday May 9th **Merton v Shebbear**

Saturday May 16th Merton v Combe Martin

YOUR LOCAL GYM

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

Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities

Rural estates have an essential part to play in alleviating the housing shortage facing Britain's countryside. As the largest private landowner in Devon, *Clinton Devon Estates*, has long championed the development of thriving, sustainable communities, shaping its business philosophy over generations.

In the 1800s, Mark Rolle, predecessor of the current Lord Clinton, oversaw the construction of numerous farms and cottages. These buildings continue to define the character of East and North Devon today, and his legacy endures through the ongoing work of Clinton Devon Estates. The family, trustees, and executive team remain committed to demonstrating that landowners can play a constructive role in addressing the rural housing crisis. This approach not only benefits society but also honours environmental responsibilities. Sustainable communities, in their view, should respect local history and landscapes, whilst providing features suited to the evolving needs of residents. It is vital to ensure homes are located appropriately and cater to a wide range of ages, requirements, and incomes. Clinton Devon Estates manages a portfolio of 230 residential properties, letting them to local people living and working in East and North Devon. In the coming weeks, the Estate will collaborate with tenants as the housing legislation adapts to the Renters Right Act 2025. This Act marks the most significant legislative reform since the 1980s, introducing updated legal arrangements that safeguard tenants whilst ensuring that properties are safe and comfortable.

Clinton Devon Estates takes pride in investing in its housing stock and responding promptly to tenants' needs. The Estate is fortunate to partner with skilled and dedicated contractors who contribute to maintaining and improving homes across the Estate.

With the government's commitment to build one million new homes over the next five years, rural landowners have a key opportunity to support responsible development. Clinton Devon Estates has participated in consultations for the East Devon District Council Emerging Local Plan 2020-2042 and will soon submit planning applications for residential developments in its communities. Throughout the consultation, the Estate has engaged with town and parish councils to present proposals and learn about local requirements. In response to the Emerging Local Plan, some communities are revising their housing needs surveys and neighbourhood plans. This collaborative approach ensures that future developments deliver maximum benefit to residents.

Clinton Devon Estates remains dedicated to providing homes for local families, allowing them to stay in the villages where they grew up. The Estate also supports businesses, offering them opportunities to establish and thrive in rural communities. For further information about the Estate's activities and available properties, please visit www.clintondevon.com

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

07956 951349
www.themilkcart.co.uk
themilkcart@btinternet.com

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Just a reminder this month. The Merton Monthly is produced by the Village Hall for the Parish.

Any articles within reason will be considered for inclusion.

As you will have seen in recent issues, I have covered areas I like to cycle and the occasional issues this runs into.

Local events, stories about how you came to Merton, items for sale. Advertise your business or services.

It would be a shame to see the Merton Monthly fade away, without your support, this may be the case.

Deadline as always 20th of each month.

E-mail articles to dave.folland@btinternet.com or post in my letter box at: Laburnum Cottage. Halfway between the Pub and the old Garage, now Boat Repairs.

I look forward to any contributions.

Many thanks Dave

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

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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!

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tel. no. 01409 281393
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*Loose Logs • Nets • Kindling • Kiln Dried
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Remember the deadline. 20th April to be included in the May edition.