

# *Merton Monthly*

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



*All Ladies*  
are invited to a  
*Pimms Afternoon*



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July | 2-5pm  
Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe  
Raising funds for Clinton School PTA  
Cash only donations gratefully received  
(Over 18s only)

### **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 July

**\*Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 9<sup>th</sup> July & 23<sup>rd</sup> July

**\*Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> July & 30<sup>th</sup> July

**\*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

### **Sweet Chestnut Blight in Devon: Heightened Risk and New Controls**

A new outbreak of sweet chestnut blight in South Devon this spring raised concerns about the health of local woodlands. Although the disease has been recorded in the UK before, this outbreak is more significant because the fungus is now reproducing in a way that generates airborne spores, greatly increasing the risk of wider spread. There is no chemical control and the disease has had a devastating impact in North America, where it virtually wiped out native sweet chestnut populations. Closer to home, there is growing concern that it could also affect neighbouring oak trees, potentially extending its ecological impact beyond a single species.

In April, the government introduced restrictions across a demarcated area including the Beer and Clinton Estates. These measures affect landowners, contractors, and anyone involved in woodland management, but are vital to help prevent further spread of the disease.

Under the new controls, anyone planning to cut sweet chestnut trees must notify the Forestry Commission in advance, while strict restrictions apply to the movement of potentially infected material, including timber, woodchip and bark. Those working in or visiting the countryside should be aware of the symptoms, including remain vigilant for signs of infection, reporting any suspected cases promptly.

Trees infested with sweet chestnut blight can show dark, sunken bark cankers that may girdle stems and branches. Other symptoms include brown, wilted leaves that remain attached, bright brown bark on young branches, with orange fruiting bodies that may produce orange tendrils in damp conditions.

Up-to-date guidance on identifying the disease and complying with control measures is available from GOV.UK and the website [www.rhs.org.uk/science/help-our-research/check-a-sweet-chestnut](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/help-our-research/check-a-sweet-chestnut) explains how members of the public can help monitor the spread of sweet chestnut blight across Great Britain by reporting tree health observations to Forest Research via the TreeAlert platform.

Sadly, further sweet chestnut blight has been confirmed in the region and further outbreaks are a reminder of how quickly tree diseases can evolve and spread. Protecting sweet chestnut trees will require vigilance, cooperation and prompt action from everyone involved.

*Kate Ponting, Community Engagement and Countryside Learning, Rolle Estate Office 01395 443881 - [mail@clintondevon.com](mailto:mail@clintondevon.com) - [www.clintondevon.com](http://www.clintondevon.com)*



## **All Saints Church**

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

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



Dear Friends,

You may wonder what is happening at the Hall at the beginning of July. Tents will appear. Lots of people. Is it another wedding party camping out? But the arrival of a whole bunch of youngsters will scotch that idea! Don't worry they won't eat you! Maybe another school exchange group? No, it's the week-end. Could be guides and scouts? But no uniforms.

**For the weekend of July 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, Stowford Youth Camp will be on site.**

Stowford Camp started many years ago on a farm over towards Ashwater, called Stowford. Hence the name. Then it was on the farm and in a field. Everything was under canvas, and it was a major operation – and on occasions very muddy. One year it was so wet, they moved into the local hall – and never looked back. For the last few years, Stowford Camp has been at Halwill, split between the village hall and the local primary school. Merton will be a whole lot easier with being all on one site.

So welcome, Stowford Camp, to Merton.

But what is Stowford Camp? It is an action-packed weekend full of fun activities, water fights, teaching and worship made accessible to each age group. The youth camp is run through the West Devon Methodist Circuit, (which includes Petrockstowe and Hatherleigh) and led by a team of local youth workers and volunteers. Youngsters from age 10 upwards can camp for the week-end. Younger children can join in activities on a daily basis. It is not just church based: people of any or no faith background are welcome.

And to reassure, the play area and the gym and still full accessible. To get to the gym, you will need to come via the reception tent. Thank you for bearing with that.

If you know of any who would like to be part of the weekend, please let them know. All are very welcome. Booking is through the website: [westdevonmethodists/youth/activities/stowford-camp](http://westdevonmethodists/youth/activities/stowford-camp). (If there are concerns about cost, please ask.) And if you just want to say hello and see what is happening, do come to the reception point on the side of the field.

Every blessing to you,  
Martin Warren

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

|                       |         |                                    |
|-----------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> July  | 11.00am | Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)     |
|                       | 6.00pm  | Prayers for Healing (Petrockstowe) |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> July | 11.00am | Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> July | 9.30am  | <b>Communion (Merton)</b>          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> July | 9.30am  | <b>Communion (Huish)</b>           |

**Service by Phone**      Sundays at 4pm  
Ring 0330-606-0403. (You will be asked for an access code: 251417)



## MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

We won our first match of the Summer season, Merton 17 – Halwill S5S 14, but we lost heavily against Wick in a Knock Out, Merton 9 – Wick 24

### Fixtures for June/July

| DATE   | DAY       | TIME  | HOME         | AWAY         |
|--------|-----------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| 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     |
| 02-Jul | Thursday  | 07:00 | CLUB NIGHT   |              |
| 07-Jul | Tuesday   | 02:00 | WESTWARD HO! |              |
| 09-Jul | Thursday  | 07:00 | CLUB NIGHT   |              |
| 14-Jul | Tuesday   | 02:00 | WINKLEIGH    |              |
| 16-Jul | Thursday  | 07:00 | CLUB NIGHT   |              |
| 21-Jul | Tuesday   | 02:00 | COLEBROOKE B |              |
| 23-Jul | Thursday  | 07:00 | CLUB NIGHT   |              |
| 30-Jul | Thursday  | 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



## Preseason Friendlies

**Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Kingsley Warriors**

**2-30 Kick Off**

**Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Equalizers**

**2-30 Kick Off**

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## 🏆 ● MERTON FC – PLAYERS WANTED FOR 2026/27 ● 🏆

Merton FC, proudly competing in the North Devon League, are looking to strengthen the squad and welcome new players ahead of the upcoming season.

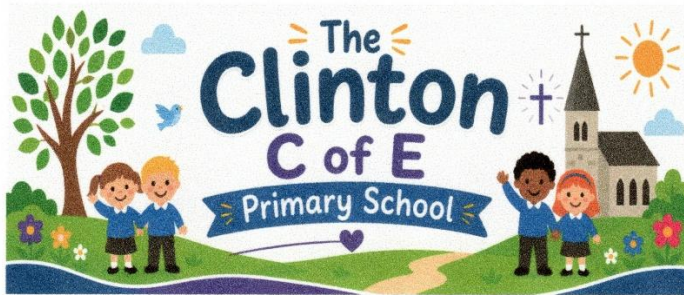
Whether you're an experienced player, returning to football, or looking for a new challenge, we'd love to hear from you.

- ✓ Competitive North Devon League football
- ✓ Friendly club environment
- ✓ Opportunities for players in all positions
- ✓ Pre-season preparations starting soon

If you're interested in joining The Blues and being part of the next chapter at Merton FC, get in touch with us via Facebook message or speak to any current player or committee member.

New players are always welcome.

● 🏆 MERTON FC  
North Devon League  
One Club. One Goal. Class act.



### International Day of Play

This month we celebrated the International Day of Play which included 31 extra minutes of play. All children from Nursery to Year 6 joined in.

*International Day of Play is a time to celebrate the power of play. It's a time to raise awareness about how central play is to every child's development and well-being.*



### Out of School Achievements

Sid, Percy, Betty and Louie took part in the Buckland Brewer 2k run. Well done!



### Character Recognition Certificates

15th May  
Harry, Malachi, Olivia, Grace and Morley

12th June  
Theo, Louis, Frankie and Eleanor

### Kingfishers

We have getting creative in class making a structure for baby bears chair and testing its stability.



### Swallows

We had a visit from South West Water to talk about how to keep our sewers clear and what we can and can't put in the toilets and drains to help to ocean.



### Little Otters Nursery

In our outdoor learning we learnt about the lifecycle of a sunflower.



## **Upcoming Events in the Parish.**

### **Food and Craft Fair at The Clinton Hall**

Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>

Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>

Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>

Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>

Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>

Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>

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If you have any upcoming events please let us know well in advance we are happy to advertise them here for you.

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

Or you can drop a note in my letterbox at : Laburnum Cottage, halfway between the Pub and the Boatyard  
{The old Garage}

Alternatively you can send a message to The Clinton Hall at [info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk](mailto:info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk)

## Appeal for Information.

Hello from Lincolnshire! I'm hoping that someone reading this will be able to help me find some information relevant to your local area.

Some time ago I bought two antique wood carving see pics below. A label on the back tells me it was made by a William Spicer, a member of the Huish & Merton Home Arts & Industries Association (HAIA). This association was formed as part of the Arts and Crafts Movement (think William Morris) to develop the skills and satisfaction of rural workers. There were hundreds of classes formed up and down the country, most commonly held in the evening and more so in the winter. Some of which became financially profitable, but the main objective was their social value.

I would love to find more about William Spicer. He would have been an adult in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Where did he live/work, does he have descendants in the area? Equally I'd love to know more about the Huish & Merton HAIA. Where was the workshop? Does anyone have any other pieces from these classes or info about the exhibitions? I'd love to hear from locals who could answer these and related questions.

Perhaps there is a local history society that may know something? Thank you in anticipation, I'm grateful for any information.

Best Regards

Dr Joel Warburton

[joelwarburton@gmail.com](mailto:joelwarburton@gmail.com)

Lincoln



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01805 603300**



## 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**

### 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.

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

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~ **Peter Bright** ~

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