

Merton Monthly

August 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 August for inclusion in the September issue



Sunday August 16th \ 10 AM - 2 PM \ Merton, Devon
Free Entry & Free Parking



**Vehicle Exhibits \ Food & Craft Fair \ Refreshment Stalls \ BBQ \
Face-Painting \ Bar \ Fun for all the family.**

If you would like to exhibit or trade with us please email - iamcarrieann29@gmail.com

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.

TARKA TREATS



**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 £4 FOR
UNLIMITED HOT
DRINKS AND SOME
TASTY TREATS.

Black Bag & Green Waste Collections for August

***Green Waste Collection Thursdays:** 6th August & 20th August

***Black Bag Collection Thursdays:** Friday 13th August & 27th August

***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

August Summer Round Up – Clinton Devon Estate

It has been a hot start to the summer, but our forestry team work hard to produce timber, whatever the weather. Here's a snapshot of how this land-based team are rising to the challenges and making the most of the long summer days.

Last winter presented a challenging planting season, with prolonged wet weather followed by a rapid transition to warm spring and summer conditions. Tree losses from this year's planting have so far been moderate, and we continue to monitor how they establish over the coming months.

Timber harvesting has now been completed across Beam, Vans, Cleeves and Huntshaw at the north end of the estate. Timber markets have remained relatively slow this spring, resulting in higher volumes of timber at roadside than would typically be expected.

Harvesting work is currently ongoing at Blinsham and will, in due course, move on to Langtree and a number of outlying blocks in the Petrockstow area.

We have also recently invested in an upgraded deer larder, improving both storage and transportation of deer carcasses. This supports our ongoing efforts to sustainably manage a growing population of red and fallow deer across the Heanton Estate, helping to minimise the resulting pressure and damage to both forestry and arable crops.

And finally...the Estate bids farewell to students Lilly-Ann Osmond, who returns to Harper Adams University after a successful rural surveying placement; Stevie Mears, who heads back to Southampton to complete his Business Management and Finance degree; and Ned Mills, who has completed his Ranger apprenticeship in East Devon with the *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust* and will begin rural surveying studies at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, next month. We wish them all every success.

Kate Ponting, Community Engagement and Countryside Learning, Rolle Estate Office 01395 443881 - mail@clintondevon.com - www.clintondevon.com

Message from the Clinton Hall Trustees

Following a significant increase in the rabbit population, Clinton Hall has, after careful consideration, appointed a licensed pest control operator to humanely manage and remove rabbits from the site. This action is being taken in response to injuries sustained on the football pitch.



All Saints Church

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

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



Dear Friends,

Summer holidays. A time of rest and refreshment. Well, for some at least.

Farmers are often flat out at this time of year as the harvest is gathered in. Hedges are to be cut, and much else.

Though this year with prolonged dry periods does mean it doesn't all have to be done today. And any involved with the holiday business certainly don't get much of a break. Holiday lets have to be cleaned and prepared. And of course, shops and hospitals, etc just carry on.

But even so, the pace of life generally slows a bit. There's a general feeling of relaxation. The summer weather mostly has something of a soporific effect on us. The news is often a bit less intense. We pause a bit before picking up again in September.

Rest is so important. We are not designed to be creatures that just keep going. If we try to, burn-out is almost inevitable. And sadly we see it happening all too often, be it in schools, the health service, industry, and yes, the church.

Go back to the beginning and we see rest built in to our way of life. For most of us, sleep takes up a third of our day. Not bad for a start. Then look at the description of creation the Bible gives us: 6 days of work, 1 day of rest each week. The idea of a working week and a day off spread from the people of the Bible to the whole world. It sounded like a good idea! A weekly day of rest.

And holidays too. Originally, they were holy days. But that wasn't because they were intensely religious. They were gifts to society – a break from the everyday, a chance to come together, a chance to feast, a time to be refreshed and renewed.

And yes, within those times there was worship too. Unlike us now, they were all religious societies. But that has its benefit too. For worship helps us know that there is something bigger than us. That whatever the pressures of everyday life, worship can lift our eyes and help us see that maybe there is more to life. It can put us in touch with a god who assures us that, with him, we are secure in his hands. It reduces our anxiety; it increases our trust.

So make sure this summer you have some rest at least. Even build it into your life, such that come September, you have a habit of rest. Enjoy the time to pause, to pull back from the everyday, to immerse yourself in a book or a view or a leisure activity. And, as so many do, do drop into a church – it doesn't have to be for a formal service, although don't let me stop you – but just for some time apart. Pause, breathe, be refreshed, and may we be ready for the weeks and months to come.

Have a wonderful summer.

Every blessing to you,

Martin Warren

Services in Merton and Huish

2 nd August	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
9 th August	11.00am	Morning Worship (Petrockstowe)
16 th August	9.30am	Communion (Merton)
23 rd August	9.30am	Communion (Huish)
30 th August	3.30pm	Summer Service (Huish) – followed by tea

Service by Phone Sundays at 4pm

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



MERTON SHORTMAT BOWLING CLUB

We had a poor month in June, having lost 3 away matches on the trot; Westward Ho 9 – 20, Colebrooke B 9 – 20 and Langtree 9 – 26, but we have won all our home matches during July; Westward Ho! 25 – 16 and Colebrooke B 17 – 13. The Winkleigh B scheduled for 14th July was postponed to 18th August.

Fixtures for August

Date		Time	Home	Away
04-Aug	Tuesday	02:00	LANGTREE	
06-Aug	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
13-Aug	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
14-Aug	Friday	02:00		HARTLAND
18-Aug	Tuesday	02:00	WINKLEIGH B	
20-Aug	Thursday	07:00	CLUB NIGHT	
27-Aug	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



🏆 ● 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.

Upcoming Events in the Parish.

Food and Craft Fair at The Clinton Hall

Sunday August 16th

Sunday September 20th

Sunday October 18th

Sunday November 15th

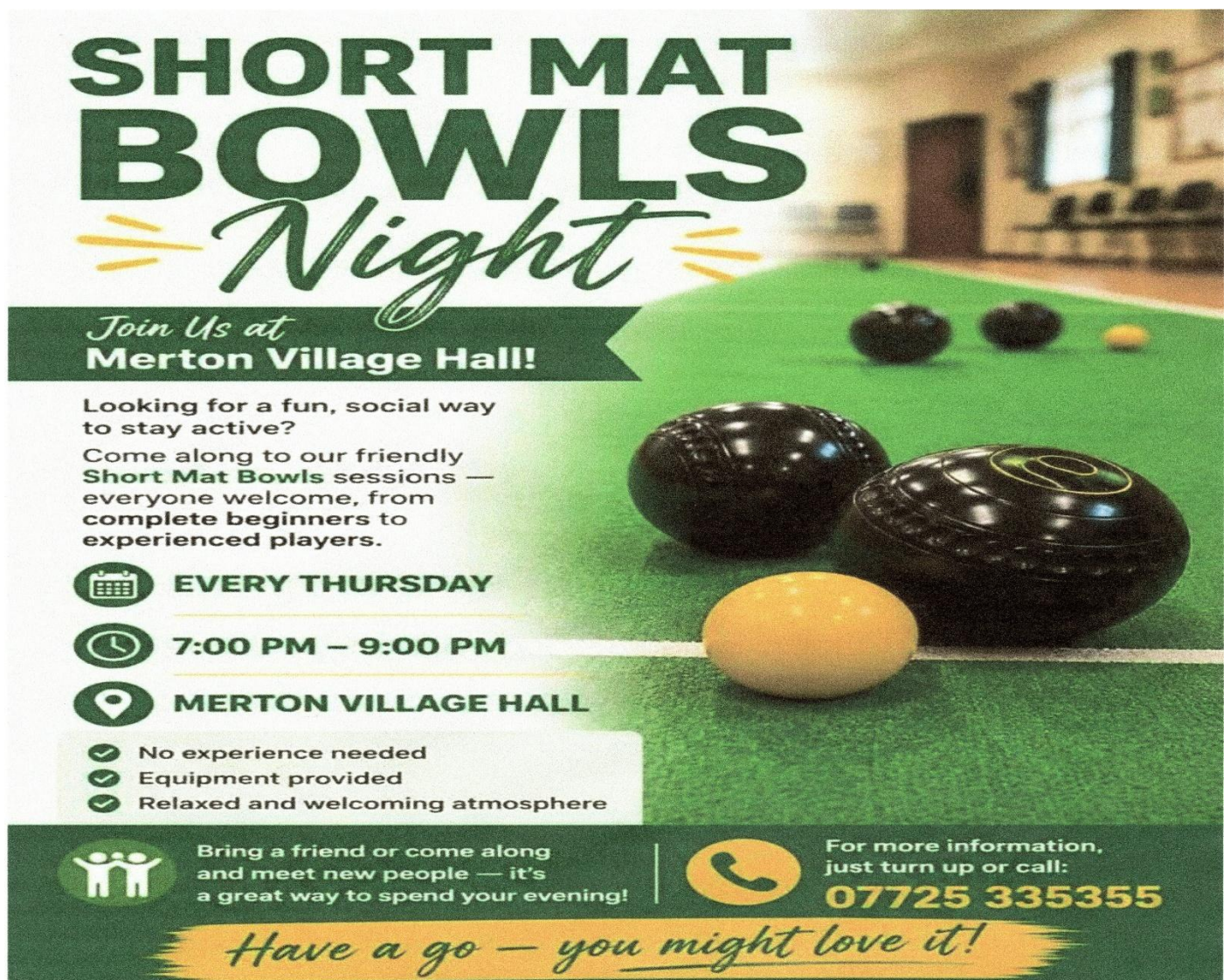
Sunday December 6th

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

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

A promotional poster for 'Short Mat Bowls Night' at Merton Village Hall. The background is a green bowling mat with several black and yellow bowls. The text is in green and yellow, with a mix of bold sans-serif and cursive fonts. It includes details about the frequency (every Thursday), time (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM), location (Merton Village Hall), and a list of benefits like 'No experience needed' and 'Equipment provided'. It also features a phone icon and a call to action to 'Have a go - you might love it!'.

SHORT MAT BOWLS Night

Join Us at
Merton Village Hall!

Looking for a fun, social way to stay active?
Come along to our friendly **Short Mat Bowls** sessions — everyone welcome, from **complete beginners** to experienced players.

 **EVERY THURSDAY**

 **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

 **MERTON VILLAGE HALL**

- ✓ No experience needed
- ✓ Equipment provided
- ✓ Relaxed and welcoming atmosphere

 Bring a friend or come along and meet new people — it's a great way to spend your evening!

 For more information, just turn up or call:
07725 335355

Have a go – you might love it!

Merton Parish Council



The Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the second Monday of the month, 7:30pm at the Clinton Hall meeting room. All are welcome to come along and have an opportunity to put any issues or ideas to the Councillors. If you would like more involvement and would like to be part of the decision making and improvement of Merton, then consider joining as a Councillor. We currently have three vacancies and would welcome new voices at the table. At the moment we are relying on the continued service of just five volunteer Councillors and with elections due next year, and the planned replacement of our District Council with a far less local system, we must ensure that we have enough Councillors to keep decisions about Merton in our hands and not merged with other Parishes or lost completely. If you would like further information please contact our Parish Clerk, Kerry via email clerk@mertondevon.com, or speak with any of your Parish Councillors.

Playground Update-

At our latest meeting the Council made a resolution to progress the extension of the play area next to the Clinton Hall, that it currently leases, utilising S106 (developers) funding available from Torridge District Council. The recent community consultation provided a majority vote for the provision of an in-ground trampoline that will add the elements of balance and bounce to the play areas activities. The council had sought four quotes from certified installers and after much discussion awarded the work to TK Play, a local company based in Frithelstockstone.

In addition to the provision of the trampoline that has a bounce space of 2.5m x 1.5m and the required safety fall surfacing, the council moved to purchase new seating to replace the current wooden benches. The new seating will be a colourful addition and is constructed using recycled plastic bottles, it is very strong and durable. The next stage is to finalise funding, and once purchase orders are completed the installation can begin, this is likely to be towards the end of September.

Village Maintenance

- The Parish Council has been approached regarding the overgrown hedges and grass verges throughout the village, many of which are beginning to inhibit the use of footpaths. Can we all look at any hedge / verge that we own or have control of and trim them to not only allow free passage but also to make the village look a little tidier. At this time of the year a light prune is all that is required to ensure that any nesting birds are not disturbed.

On that note, many of our roadside hedges and paths are the responsibility of Devon County Council and can be reported directly to them, including a host of other highway maintenance issues at devon.gov.uk – Roads and transport - Report a problem.

The Parish Council is responsible for cutting some of the grass verges on behalf of Devon County Council and we also have responsibility for maintaining the Play Area and The Square, we are considering putting this work out to tender, to keep everything cut, weed free and the rain gulleys in the Square free from debris and silt.

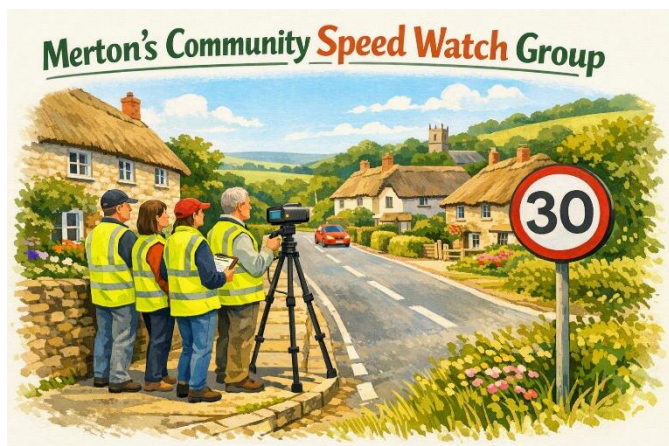
Road Safety

– A parishioner has raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles travelling through the village in excess of the 30 mph limit. We have raised this with Devon County Council, who are still to come and repair / replace the speed warning sign at the southern end of the village. In all likelihood we will be asked for evidence and the only way that this can be achieved is by protracted and proactive involvement in our **Community Speed Watch** scheme currently run by Julie Finch. If you would like to know more about the scheme and how to volunteer have a look at the website www.communityspeedwatch.org

Of course, we can all help by ensuring that our own vehicle speed and use is not a danger or disturbance to others. The Council will be looking at any options available to make the road through the village safer, but we are limited by the Highways Authority at Devon County Council and as such we have contacted our County Councillor Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin to ask for support in this matter.

Councillor Neil Littleales
Chair.

Merton's Community Speed Watch Group



At Julys Parish Council meeting, a parishioner expressed concerns about the speeds of the traffic through our village.

Merton has a Community Speed Watch group which was paused due to various reasons and did not have enough volunteers.

Happily those reasons are now behind us and we will begin our sessions again. In order for us to carry out numerous sessions, we are in need of some more volunteers. If you can spare a couple hours a month and would like to join us, please contact Julie Finch, my email address is julie.finch899@btinternet.com.

You will need to pass an online test and have some practical training which is carried out by Julie Finch, the group coordinator.

We hope to start our sessions again in September.

Biking Update

Well, after my last report, when I had spokes break and ended up with a 7 mile walk instead of ride, I can report that the bike was returned to the supplying dealer, after speaking to the manufacturer the offending wheel was returned as they thought there could be a problem with the actual hub.

After 5 weeks I finally got a call to say that the bike was ready for collection. When I did that I was told that the manufacturer had decided to send a new wheel instead of rebuilding the old one. I was asked to return after 6 weeks so the dealer could check that all was ok.

I've been out on the Tarka Trail, trying to rack up some miles, still not 100% trusting the new wheel, but so far all seems ok.

It was nice to see that the verges along the trail have been trimmed, and the tree that was slowly falling across the trail near Watergate has finally been sawed back, I'm not good at limbo!

I'm not complaining about the weather, but the shady areas along the trial and the tunnel at Landcross were really nice to get to.

Just debating if I want to upgrade the cable discs to full hydraulic, near miss by the Boat yard, car coming out of the Beaford junction not looking made me test the brakes to their full extent, and yes they felt lacking. Still I am still riding, trying to venture to other areas, but that can wait until the bike is back from its next check up.

Util thxt issue, safafe riding!

Dave

STOWFORD (YOUTH) CAMP

A Youth Camp coming under the umbrella of the West Devon Methodist Circuit. Martin explained all about in last months Merton Monthly on the All Saints Church page.

On the Saturday teatime I wombled down to the Hall with my walker, to see if I could catch anyone to ask if they were getting on with their new venue.

Catching someone was no problem. I was warmly welcomed by the people at the outside Reception table, given a chair offered a cuppa and even given a pudding as they were eating their tea.

To my astonishment, I learned that the Camp started 50 years ago in the 70's, around the time I became a Christian as it happened.

I was invited to stay for the evening's music and teaching time, which I happily did. I was amazed at the reaction of the younger children in particular, to the Biblical teaching. (They can start going to Camp from 10 years.) A number of them didn't really seem to be listening, fidgeting, moving around a bit. But on 2 occasions they were asked to write down their reactions to something, and later similarly, they all responded and clearly had been listening and taking in despite appearances.

The session finished about 8 o'clock, after which they were free til bedtime, to do any of a great number of activities and games. (They had a water fight on the field in the afternoon and got truly soaked.)

The Leaders and Volunteers were all delighted with the venue. The all on site facilities met their need brilliantly, as the previous site of recent years, had them moving to field, to school, to hall.

One of the Reception Ladies drove me and my walker home. She was staying at the pub, being an older lady, and was delighted with her "Lovely" accommodation, and Becky's Kindness.

So all good for Merton.

Talking to the Circuit Minister, I suspect that, GOD willing, the Camp will be back next year for this annual event.

Christine Wright



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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

Or drop a note in my letterbox at :

Laburnum Cottage, halfway between the Pub and the Garage.

Remember the deadline. 20th August to be included in the September edition.

GRASCOTT FIREWOOD

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