

Merton Monthly

February 2018

(also available online at www.mertondevon.com)

FAO Our Regular Newsletter Contributors

Over the last few issues quite a number of articles are being submitted that require a lot of editing, spell checking and formatting to make 'newsletter ready'. This means it is getting harder to get the Merton Monthly ready on time to meet the print deadline. Could we please make a reasonable request to our regulars to spend an extra 5 minutes polishing off your articles? Thank you.

Please send articles to either: dave.folland@btinternet.com or e.tidwell@hotmail.co.uk by the 20th of February for inclusion in the March issue.

The Clinton Hall Update from the Committee

The Clinton Hall Committee would like to apologise for the cancellation of the much anticipated evening with Big Al and the Wild Strawberries, which was scheduled for Saturday 27th January.

The band is on a break until March 2018 because two of the band members left. Big Al and his new members are practising and will be ready after March; we will look to re-book them when possible.

UPCOMING EVENT – 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On **Saturday 14th April** there will be a dinner and dance to celebrate 20 years of the hall being open.

Two Course Roast Meal and Dessert followed by dancing to the local Archive Band
Dress code smart/casual - no jeans
£20 per person

Limited numbers available so book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings can be made with any committee member, phone Janet Nancekivell on 01805 603271 or The Clinton Hall 01805 603300

Committee members include: Philip Collins, Janette Newell, Janet Nancekivell, Jeannie Sheppard, David Kirton, Kath Welch, Alana Mabon, Tracey Laughton, Kevin Stacey, Paula Soutinho, Kenny Heaman, Nick Ward.

For booking information please email info@clintonhallmerton.co.uk

WHAT'S ON DIARY – other info, where applicable, in newsletter

Every Monday	-	Craft Group, Clinton Hall,	1.30 - 3.30pm
Every Monday	-	Circuit Classes, Clinton Hall,	7.15 - 8.15pm
Every Monday	-	Kettlercise, Clinton Hall,	6 - 7pm
1 st Wednesday of the month	-	The Friendship Club, Clinton Hall,	2pm
Every Thursday	-	Kettlercise, Clinton Hall,	6.30 - 7.30pm
Thursdays	-	SMB, Clinton Hall	7-10pm
2 nd Friday of the month	-	Merton & Petrockstowe Heritage Group	<i>(dates in members' programme)</i>



All Saints Church

Team Rector: Revd Martin Warren, tel: 01409-281424
Team Vicar: Revd Susannah Metz, tel: 01837-810621



Dear Friends

I have a decision to make; February 14th – romantic dinner or ashes as Lent starts?

In case you haven't noticed on your calendar Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, clashes with Valentine's Day. Oh dear! It just doesn't seem to fit; Lent with all its emphasis on abstinence and repentance and Valentine's with its thoughts of pleasure and enjoyment. What a choice!

Maybe, though, they can go together. For the purpose of Lent is to draw us into a deeper relationship with God; to put other things aside and give ourselves to knowing God's love better, and expressing our love for him better.

And isn't that Valentine's too? To grow in love? To put other things aside and give yourself afresh to the one you love and who loves you. Maybe Ash Wednesday and Valentine's can go together – both a celebration of love.

It's only a problem when we see God as having a downer on us. So often we portray him as the one who wants to spoil things; to deny us the good things of life, to stop us doing the things we enjoy. What a gloomy picture of God, no wonder we shy away from Lent. However Christian experience has been the opposite. God wants to bless us and to give us fullness of life. He wants to move us on from dependence on things that don't really satisfy, to really enjoy the world in which he has placed us. He doesn't want to push us down but to lift us up.

So Lent can become not just one Valentine Day, but six weeks' worth of Valentine's Days that outdo Valentine's Day itself. Sounds amazing.

But still not sure about the romantic dinner v ashes!

Happy Ash Wednesday/Valentine's.

Yours,
Martin Warren.

Services at All Saints

4 th Feb	11.00am	Morning Prayer
11 th Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion <i>(at Huish)</i>
18 th Feb	9.30am	Holy Communion
25 th Feb	11.00am	Family Communion
4 th Mar	11.00am	Morning Prayer

Merton and Petrockstowe Heritage Group

For the first meeting of 2018 on January 12th the Heritage Group welcomed local boy John Crocker, who told us about his childhood growing up in Huish and Merton. He was born in 1947 during a very hard snowy and icy winter at Broadmead, a small holding belonging to the Clinton Estate.

Broadmead was originally a blacksmiths but when John's parents took over Clinton Estate put 29 acres with it. John's parents kept 17 cows which were milked by hand along with hens and geese. They also sold tobacco.

As the farm was right on the main road there were always people calling. It was a dropping off place for many deliveries such as parcels, medicines, plough shares etc, which would be picked up in due course. Butchers and bakers from local villages called every week and Merton Stores delivered groceries. Mr. Hannaford came from Chopes of Bideford and sold clothes.

John remembered the introduction of myxomatosis to cut down the rabbit population, and an infestation of cabbage white butterflies one year where the caterpillars decimated green crops.

During April and May Estate workers would have shooting parties to shoot rooks. John's mother would remove the breast meat and make rook pie.

When John's mother was a girl she remembered feeding elephant's biscuits as the circus stopped for refreshments on the way from Torrington to Okehampton and how gentle they were.

It was fascinating to hear all these stories and John was warmly thanked by Philip.

Next month's meeting **on February 9th at the Clinton Hall** sees Peter Christie returning and his subject is photographers of North Devon.

We are sorry to hear that David Marshall passed away just before Christmas. He was a founder member of Petrockstowe History Group and knew so much about the village. This was such a help when putting the Petrockstowe book together. Our thoughts are with his family.

Ann Luxton 01837 810728 - annluxton@hotmail.co.uk

The Merton Friendship Group

The Chairman, Mr. Roy Watts, welcomed us all to the January meeting; this was arranged as a party.

We had one visitor and we were all pleased to see Mary back again.

We played games; each member brought prizes and also brought a plate of refreshments. The spread was amazing, everything you could mention. It was a very good start to the New Year. There were 15 members present.

Our next meeting is on 7th February 2018 at 2pm where our speaker will be Mr. David Asteraki, at the Clinton Hall.

We will welcome any visitors or new members, so please join us.
Tea, Coffee and Cakes £2.50

Any questions make contact with Christine Wickett on 01805 603258

From Our Reader's

Barb Laughton held a private dinner party at her home recently and presented her Doctors, Alan Howlett and Asad Aldoori, with a cheque in lieu of 80th birthday gifts for Blake House League of friends.

My thanks for donations received and special thanks to Chris, Tracey and Nick for marking my milestone with such a memorable time. The celebrations went on forever.

Barbara



THANK YOU

David and Annette Asteraki {The Smithy} wish to thank all those people in Merton and beyond for their support during David's recent time in North Devon District Hospital.

Thank you for all your good wishes and get-well cards, thank you to all those people who offered and provided transport for Annette to visit the hospital, also offers of help to collect shopping.

We feel that we are very fortunate to live in such a caring community.

If you would like to add a letter, notification or comment on something in the Parish please email Dave or Elaine or letter box drop 9 Meadow Vale, Merton

LOST AND FOUND

*1 Pair of wellingtons
Green
Size to be confirmed by
claimant*

*If unclaimed in 3 months
they will be donated to
charity.*

Phone 01805 603052.

Blessing at Petrockstowe Village Hall

3rd March 2018 is Charles and Becky's blessing, the blessing will take place at 3pm.

Afterwards Roger Colombe will play music between 4-6pm. 6-8pm another band will play and from 8pm until finish there will be a disco.

We hope to see as many people as possible for the blessing that know Charles and Becky and for the celebration's afterwards.

For more information please call me on 07842340079.

John Clark

Freecycle / For Sale

For Sale - Drop side cot, two sleeping levels, new mattress and two fitted sheets - £40
Free - Pushchair, old but serviceable.

Ring Jill on 01805 603524, cot can be seen up and can deliver.

To place an advert please email
Dave or Elaine or call 01805
603575

Merton Short Mat Bowling Club

Unfortunately, we have slipped to 3rd position in the Charity League (Division 1) with 4 points and -6 shots, but we are still lying 2nd in the North Devon Afternoon Triples (Division 4) with 15 points and 73 shots and in the North Devon Evening Triples (Division 3), we are still in 5th place with 7 points and -2 shots.

On 7th December, our Christmas Dinner was held at The Bell, Monkleigh. The meal was excellent and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The fixtures for February are as follows:

FIXTURES				
Thu	01-Feb	07:00	CN	Club Night
Mon	05-Feb	07:30	CL	Winkleigh A Away
Wed	07-Feb	07:30	ET	Woolsery Wasps Away
Thu	08-Feb	07:00	CN	SINGLES 1ST ROUND
Thu	15-Feb	07:30	CN	Club Night
Mon	19-Feb	07:30	ET	Westward Ho! Seagulls Away
Tue	20-Feb	02:00	AT	Halwill Home
Thu	22-Feb	07:30	CL	Westward Ho! Sharks Home
Mon	26-Feb	07:30	CL	Wick Home
Wed	28-Feb	02:00	AT	Fremington Flippers Away

Unfortunately, due to a misprint in the last issue, our results were only partially displayed so I am repeating these together with December and January.

RESULTS				Merton	Opposition
Mon	30-Oct	CL	Westward Ho! Sharks Away	12	16
Fri	03-Nov	AT	Anstey Antlers Away	29	50
Thu	09-Nov	ET	Christ Church Home	26	30
Tue	14-Nov	AT	Winkleigh Typhoons Home	48	22
Thu	16-Nov	ET	Westward Ho! Seagulls Home	41	34
Fri	17-Nov	CL	Wick Away	3	36
Thu	23-Nov	CL	Winkleigh B Home	17	12
Thu	30-Nov	ET	Woolsery Wasps Home	56	23
Tue	12-Dec	AT	Hartland B Home	49	32
Thu	14-Dec	ET	Langtree Leopards Home	56	23
Tue	19-Dec	AT	Shebbear Acorns Home	33	31
Thu	21-Dec	ET	Holsworthy Rivers Home	38	39
Tue	09-Jan	AT	Ilfracombe Hawks Home	40	33
Fri	12-Jan	ET	Holsworthy Rivers Away	25	38
Mon	15-Jan	CL	Winkleigh B Away	10	16
Wed	17-Jan	AT	Halwill Away	33	36

Please note – there will be no club night on Thursday 1st March.

The **malt scoop** inn

Skittles team news

As team captain I wish to extend my unreserved thanks to all those that organised and participated in the skittles front pin competition at the Malt Scoop Inn, Merton.

My thanks to Becky for allowing the team to use the restaurant and provide the finger buffet food on her premises at no profit to herself.

The food was organised and prepared by Lesley Downie, Lyn Wharton, Jeanie Sheppard, Sam & Dave Horne. The buffet was a resounding success with many compliments from the skittles community that participated in the competition; their kind comments were warmly received by the catering team, especially Head Chef Lesley.

My thanks are also extended to the Malt Scoop Knobbelers (if that's spelt correctly) for their understanding after they were squashed up one corner of the bar area on what is normally a quiet night for them (mind you, it still did not stop Nobby popping up above the throng to deliver his wonderful brand of humour), thanks again lads.

I think I can safely say the event started off the run up to Christmas with a bang.

The new year has started off with a morale boosting win on the 8th January, more of that would be very nice but just the fact players have enjoyed a winters sociable evening is enough payment for Captain Keith, thanks to all.

All are welcome when we play home matches; it has to be better than watching the dreaded box.

If you require further information please contact Keith Wharton on 01805 603052.

The MALT SCOOP INN Pub, Restaurant & Bed & Breakfast

www.themaltscoop.co.uk
or call 01805 603924.

Open daily Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 12pm - 3pm & 6pm - 12am

Closed Tuesday daytime and reopens for drinks and food from 6pm - 12am

Friday 12pm - 1am

Saturday 9am - 1am

Sunday 12pm - 10.30pm

Food served daily 12pm - 2pm and 6pm - 9pm

Sunday Roast served between 12pm - 2pm and subject to availability 6pm - 9pm. We are taking bookings for Sunday Roast on 4th February.

RESTAURANT RE-LAUNCH with UPDATED MENU

We have a FREE taster session of all the new dishes that will be available; this is taking place on **3rd Feb at 7pm** where everyone is welcome

**Merton AFC 150 Club
Draw
December 2017**

£20-00 C Laughton
£10-00 R Langcaster

**Merton AFC 150 Club
Draw
Christmas 2017**

£5-00 S Wright
£5-00 P Harris
£5-00 R Down
£5-00 C Williams

**Merton AFC 150 Club
Draw
January 2018**

£20-00 D Kerton
£10-00 Nick Ward

Kid's Corner

Little Otters Pre-School, Merton

**Opening times: Term time
Tuesday 9am – 1.45pm
Wednesday 9am – 12.45pm
£3.75 per hour**



We aim to provide a safe and stimulating pre-school environment and to work within a framework, which ensures equality of opportunity for all children and families.

We believe that early years' education is much more than teaching sounds, colours, numbers and letters. It is about developing strong, curious and confident children. Our aim is to make learning fun and for children to enjoy learning as they start their journey in life.

Your child is entitled to 15 hours, funded, the term after they are 3 years old. We are also able to provide 2gether funding for 2 year olds.

*For more Information please contact the school on
01805 603357 or email
admin@clinton.devon.sch.uk*

Little Otters Parent & Toddler Group

Fun and stimulating activities for children aged 0-5 Years.

Activities available vary from messy play, story/singing sessions, small world play and much more!!

A chance for Parents/Carers to have a catch up while your children play in a safe environment.

A healthy snack & drink will be provided for the children & tea/coffee & biscuits for the adults.

Where - Merton Pre-School

When - Every Friday, 9am - 11.30am

Price- £3 per child, £4 per family (Under 6 months free)

Contact the school on 01805 603357

Clinton C of E Primary School, Merton

Spring Term Dates 2018

First Day of Half Term: Monday 12th February

Last Day of Half Term: Friday 16th February

Last Day of Term: Wednesday 28th March

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~ *Peter Bright* ~
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