

MERTON MONTHLY

july 2008

The Clinton Hall

Linda Mason – Chairperson Jan Sharpe - Secretary Janet Nancekivell and Ann Rabey – Treasurers
Judi Highton – Bookings Secretary John Luxton – Caretaker Telephone 01805 603300
E-mail: clintonhall2004@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.clintonhallmerton.co.uk

The Clinton Hall

Please note - July and August the hall will only be open in the evening on Mondays and Wednesdays

(In the foyer there are two examples of chair covers which were used recently for a wedding – they are available for rent or purchase – please have a look at the details and if you know of anyone who is thinking of having a wedding reception, anniversary dinner or party at the hall please tell them to get in touch)

Fathers Day Lunch

A lovely afternoon was had by all as we sat down and enjoyed a 4-course Sunday Roast. Our thanks to Trevor and Judi for organising the event, buying all the food and most of all cooking it. It was lovely for the hall committee to have a non committee member organise the event to raise funds for the hall. It helps lighten the load of the committee, although we did help under instruction from Trevor. Our thanks also to the other non committee members who helped with the washing up etc.

Friends of The Clinton School

You should have received a letter through the door asking for help for Saturday 12th July. Our thanks to those who have replied to say you are able to help, we will be in touch very soon. It's still not too late to reply, there will be so much to do before the event, during the event and of course, the worst bit, clearing away, especially when we have tired children around our feet, so if you could spare an hour to help with anything we would be very grateful.

Please contact **Tracey Laughton 603658** or **Janette Newell 603604**.

Merton Vintage Rally and Summer Fayre Saturday 12th July 2008

The Friends of the Clinton School in association with The Clinton Hall are holding the first Vintage Rally & Summer Fayre on Saturday 12th July at The Clinton Hall, Merton – an event if it proves successful we hope may be the first of many.

We have over 70 vintage / classic vehicles booked in, including cars, tractors, motorcycles and even the original Merton School Bus (a Bedford OB 1949) which was in service from 1962 to 1973. Anyone who remembers their school bus journeys fondly (and even those who don't!) can come for a nostalgic ride on the old school bus. We hope that this event will bring in people from all over, especially outside the school community.

Attractions on the day will include craft and trade stalls, car boot, BBQ, Hot pork rolls, Cream Teas, Bouncy Castle, majorette demonstration, ice creams, a Grand Raffle and much more to entertain everyone.

Friendship Club

On Wednesday June 4th our guest speaker was Debra, a fire fighter from the Bideford Fire Station. She told us what to do in the case of a fire and what not to do. She told us about different kinds of fire alarms, including one for the deaf, which can be kept under your pillow at night.

On July 2nd, Mrs Elaine Weeks is coming to see us arranging our flowers and to give us some help.

For the August meeting we are not quite sure what we are going to do. We think we might go on a picnic, perhaps to Bude.

Rose Holman

<u>Forthcoming Events</u> <u>at The Clinton Hall</u>	
6 Sept	Comedian 'Jonny Cowling'
4 Oct	Ceilidh Band (TBC)
5 Dec	Casino Royale Evening

To book phone Tracey on 01805 603658 or the Hall on 603300

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All Saints Church, Merton.

Clergy: Rev'd. Martin Warren - 01409 281424.

Services in July.

- 6th July - Morning Prayer at 11am
- 13th July - Community /Own Service at 11am
- 20th July - Holy Communion at 9:30am
- 27th July - Family Service with Holy Communion at 11am

The Faculty is now in place and we can proceed with the restoration of the bells giving our lovely old church its voice back again. If you would like to be involved in any way, speak to Wendy Askew, Mike & Mary Ford, any member of the Bell Fund Committee or any of the Friends of All Saints. Anybody and everybody is very welcome - it doesn't matter whether you normally come to church or not.

Look out for the Church Stall at The Vintage Rally and Summer Fair on 12th July. All proceeds from the stall will go to The Bell Fund.

Mike & Mary

Sunday 13th July at All Saints Church, Merton
at 8pm

Hatherleigh Silver Band

Tickets £5, including Wine & Nibbles from 7pm onwards.

Tea, Coffee & Soft Drinks available.

Contact Mary Ford 01805 603176.

Raising funds to improve the heating & lighting in the Church (Winter will soon be here!)

Merton Post Office

You will have heard all the publicity about the Post Office Card Account being stopped - yet another knife in the village post offices back! Please continue to support us as you have been doing, we appreciate it even if the government fail to do so!!

In the meantime if you are planning a **Foreign Holiday** please remember that you can get your foreign currency from us for **0% commission**. All you have to do is complete the pre-order form, bring it in to us and we have the money for you, and if ordered before lunch time it is normally back the next day. Any leftover spending money can be brought back in to exchange for sterling. It's as easy as that. We also do travel insurance, come in and pick up a leaflet. **Tracey Laughton**

Rainbow Preschool

Last month was full of mixed emotions. Our Playleader, Anne Drayton, left to pursue her career at another Nursery, near Holsworthy. Anne had been at Rainbow for many years, and had done a marvellous job and helped countless children on their path to school and the big wide world. The Committee, parents and children would like to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** and to wish her well.

On the 24th June we went on our Playgroup trip to the Milky way. The children had a great time, seeing all the animals and attractions. Our last day will be the **23rd July** and the first day of the autumn term will be the 4th Sept. We hope everyone has a happy and safe summer. Some changes to sessions and staff are in progress and we will update you in the next edition of the Merton Monthly. You can contact Rainbow on **01805 603119**.

SMB

The Merton Short Mat Bowling Club's Summer Tournament was held at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 28th June 2008. Unfortunately, our sponsor, Bond Bowls of Crediton was not able to attend. The winning team was Mutterton. They were the only club to win all four matches making them clear leaders. The second place was awarded to Anstey who won three matches and drew one. Third place went to Exeter Nomads who won three and lost one. A good day was had by all. Julie Stacey has photos of the winning teams.

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Winners of the 150 Club for May

R Down	£40
L Harris	£5
E Stoneman	£5
R Gooding	£5

Are you aged 11 - 18?

Would you like to meet with your mates and do stuff?

Do you want to go Paintballing? **Ice Skating?** The Cinema?

There will be an Open Meeting at Baxter Hall, Petrockstowe on Thursday 10th July at 7.30pm, to discuss how, what, where and when.

Come along and have your say. Bring your mates with you. Anyone from Petrockstowe, Merton, Peters Marland, Little Torrington and anywhere in between is welcome.

Following the recent article in the Petrockstowe News, the above meeting has been arranged. Also needed are people interested in helping to organise and run this group for youth in Petrockstowe and the surrounding areas. Please do your best to come along and to encourage 11 - 18 year olds to attend. Abbey Durrans from the Youth Advisory Service will be there to advise and assist along with Councillor Phil Collins.

This is a great opportunity to support the teenagers and young adults in the area. If you can't make the meeting but can offer your services, please call Fiona on 01837 811749.

Merton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th June at 8pm in the Clinton Hall. Apologies: Cllrs Sharpe, Down, Laughton and Collins. Present: Cllrs Horner (chair) Nancekivell, Scantlebury and Phillips. The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated.

Matters Arising: Update of the Square, Mr Mansfield has met with members of the Parish Council on site. It was suggested that the old tarmac in the entrance to the square should be dug out and new tarmac laid and graded back to the hard surface and feathered into the gutter at the side. The gutters will be cleaned out and repaired where necessary. The existing surface will be rolled with a large mechanical roller. The cobbles will eventually be lifted cleaned and re-laid when more funds are available. Upon receipt of the quote it is hoped some of this work can begin. It was agreed by Councillors present that the work can go ahead without another meeting providing a reasonable quote is received. A Parishioner has asked that the drain at the bottom of the square is inspected when this work takes place.

Tarka Trail – A letter has been received from the Clinton Devon Estates in reply to the Councils request for a footpath from the village to connect up to the Tarka Trail. A positive response was received and Clinton Devon Estates are looking into possible sites. This item will be included on the next agenda for further reports.

There were no parishioners present so there was no public speaking time.

Post Office - It was reported that the village Post Office is safe at the moment. This is very welcome news.

Recycling Shed - The recycling shed was being taken away by Torridge District Council who felt there was no need for it any longer and suggested that it had been used recently by businesses for their recycling rather than ordinary householders. Cllr Horner managed to secure the shed for storage for the Clinton Hall. **Please note it is no longer a recycling shed so nothing should be left outside.**

Loan for Clinton Hall - The hall committee no longer needed the short term loan whilst waiting for the grant money as they had managed to obtain a short term loan elsewhere. It was discussed how the councillors would be able to discuss such issues in a normal council meeting as they are Trustees of the hall and therefore would have a prejudicial interest. Legal advice will be sought from Torridge District Council and a dispensation obtained if appropriate.

Cllr Scantlebury has enquired about the cost of setting up a website for the Village. The clerk was asked to contact the CCD to get advice on how other Parish Councils have set up websites and funding available. This will be included on the agenda for the next meeting. It is important that the village and its facilities are promoted.

Parish Plan – The clerk reported that the Parish Plan has now been printed and will hopefully be distributed soon. The steering group will meet to organise this.

Road repairs – A reply had been received following the complaints made to the Devon Highways concerning the road to Tythecombe Lake and the gate entrances on the main road following the recent resurfacing. The gateways will be addressed and the by-road is now due for repairs.

Rural Housing Seminar – Cllr Horner reported on the recent Housing Seminar which was attended by Princess Anne. It appears there is money available for affordable housing but Cllr Horner was uncertain whether it would apply to the needs of Merton because the proposal of six houses may be too small. This would be investigated further. AOB. The footpath from the village to Lower Lodge is again overgrown and complaints have been received. The clerk was asked to contact Torridge District Council. It was also requested that the verge at the top of the village by the planter should be cut when the verges in the village are cut. At present this area is cut by a parishioner on a voluntary basis. A complaint was also made that the tree on the left hand side verge on the exit from Trefusis Terrace is obscuring the vision of the main road. This will be investigated.

It was suggested approaching County Councillor Rawlinson for funding towards the repairs of the village square from his DCC funds. The clerk will send a letter.

Cheques were signed for Internal Auditor, Printing of the Parish Plans, and Devon County Council for administration for the Parish Plans.

The clerk was asked to get forms from the bank for the new councillors to become signatures.

It was agreed to organise the **Bell Fund AGM for Thursday 24th July** at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall. Everyone is encouraged to come along.

The next Parish Council meeting will be **Thursday 9th September** 2008 at 8pm

There being no further business to discuss Cllr Horner thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Wendy Askew, Parish Clerk

Parish Plan – The Parish Plan has now been printed and will delivered to you all soon. Please take time to read it and feed back your comments to the steering group. The steering group have spent many hours (voluntarily) investigating and compiling the results of your questionnaires and your comments and involvement in any future projects which may materialise from this will be greatly appreciated.

Wendy Askew - Secretary to the Steering Group

Merton Bell Fund – The AGM has been arranged for Thursday 24th July at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall. If you have any interest in the Church Bells please come along.

Wendy Askew - Secretary /Treasurer

Friends of All Saints Church. The next meeting will be held in the Church on Tuesday 8th July at 7.30pm. Please come along - this will be mainly to organise the Flower Festival. All ideas welcome

Wendy Askew - Secretary/Treasurer

DIARY DATES

July 8 th	Flower Festival Meeting – All Saints Church
July 12 th	Village Summer Fayre and Vintage Rally
July 13 th	Hatherleigh Silver Band, All Saints Church
July 24 th	Bell Fund AGM
August 23 rd	Flower Festival – All Saints Church (for 3 days)
Sept 6 th	Comedian Jonny Cowling
Sept 9 th	Parish Council Meeting
October 4 th	Ceilidh Band (TBC)
Dec 5 th	Casino Royale Evening

If you would like to include anything in the Merton Monthly, please let Tracey Laughton have it by the 20th of the month or send direct to Trevor by email – jtt@downeshouse.freeserve.co.uk

The Merton Monthly is typed by Tracey Laughton/Yvonne Toop
and edited by Trevor Highton.

Entries received after the 20th of the month may be refused. May we please request that all articles or advertisements submitted for publication are supplied with a name and contact number.