

# MILTON DAMEREL NEWSLETTER August 2002

## Milton Damerel Parish Council

**Forthcoming meetings** - **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July** - In the Chapel Hall

<b>Clerk-</b>	Elizabeth Ilett Milton Mill Farm Milton Damerel EX22 7DN	Tel 01409 261440 Fax 01409 261186 E-mail <a href="mailto:miltondamerel@freeuk.com">miltondamerel@freeuk.com</a>		
<b>Chairperson</b>	-Janet Elliott	01409 261422	Pauline Palmer	01409 261451
<b>Councillors</b>	Charles Bellew David Kirby	01409 261214 01409 261314	David Poole Philip Reed	01409 261282 01409 281213

We received a number of applications for co-option, following the vacancy for Councillor, which the Council considered carefully. We are pleased to advise that David Dyer has accepted the position and we look forward to welcoming him to his first meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in the Parish Hall. It was exceptionally well attended and Steve James, who is a first responder and paramedic from Bude gave an excellent and informative speech, which was very well received. A number of people are eager to sign up to the scheme and we are currently making preparations with the Bude group to bring the first responder scheme to Milton Damerel. Although training of the personnel and ongoing maintenance of the equipment is provided free of charge by the Ambulance service, the initial cost of purchasing a life saving kit, which is £5000, will need to be raised by the Community. Donations towards this are already being received, and we are looking at grants that may be available to help towards the cost. If anyone has any ideas or can help in any way with the fundraising, I would be grateful if you would contact me.

The Queens Golden Jubilee weekend was a huge success. 119 members of the community attended the lunch and fun day on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. After a spectacular 4-course lunch, there were games, fun and entertainment, which was thoroughly enjoyed by people of all ages. On the evening of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, Kelvin Isaac entertained another good crowd. There was a superb buffet, games and dancing which left everybody totally exhausted but equally exhilarated. A souvenir magazine is available by request and please contact me if you would like one.

The Environment agency is currently working hard to eradicate Japanese knotwood from roadside verges and I would be grateful if anyone has spotted any of these invasive plants in our parish, if you would contact me with details of the location, when you saw it, and an idea of the number of plants (e.g. 1 or 2, about 20, or too many to count).

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Liz Ilett*

### Welcome to new Neighbours

We would like to express a warm welcome to our new neighbours at Milton Mill Cottage, West Wonford. Roy & Rosemarie Taylor & their son Ashley.  
Also at Higher Venn. Ian & Dawn Hale & their children Natasha, Dolton & Jordan.

## PARISH HALL NEWS

The parish hall committee have three future events to tell you about and a couple of special requests.

From time to time cutlery is needed in the hall, if anyone has any spare knives and forks surplus to requirement the hall would be most grateful.

Also, a fridge in good working order would be very useful. If you are able to donate either of these items, please contact one of the committee members as listed below.

Francis Hearn	01409 253239
David Poole	01409 261282
Bill Carter	01409 261262
Janet Carter	01409 261262
Christine Cook	01409 261310
Christine Buckpitt	01409 261593
Lesley Self	01409 261294
Edna Mortimer	01409 261433
Margaret Fishleigh	01409 261207
Norman Webber	01409 261365
Lloyd Piper	
Charles Bellew	01409 261214

The re-building of the hall end wall is due to start around the middle of August and will hopefully be complete before the hall bookings begin during September.

## COUNTRY WALK



On 7<sup>th</sup> September a Country Walk is planned for all to enjoy.

The walk will start and end at Tor View, Venn Green.

The cost is £3.00 Adults and children go free.

A buffet tea and squash will be offered at the end of the walk.



## CREAM TEA AND TABLE TOP SALE

On 28<sup>th</sup> September there will be a Cream Tea and Table Top Sale and raffle in the hall.

The time – 2-4 pm. Sellers 1pm. To book a table, tel: Lesley 261292 or Christine 261593.

Cream Teas will be £2.50

Tables are £3.00



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Parish Hall Annual General Meeting will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> September at 8 p.m. in the hall. All are welcome to attend.



### **COFFEE MORNING**

Margaret Fishleigh has kindly offered to hold a **Coffee Morning** in her home at **Gratton Farm** to boost the funding of this Newsletter.  
**Please come if you can on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2002**  
**between 10.30 and 12 noon**

### **Milton Damerel Over 60 Club**

The June outing was to Paignton on a glorious Sunny day. On reaching the town members went their various ways, some gentlemen to explore the delights of the Pier and have a successful flutter on the machines. A group of ladies went on the steam railway to enjoy the scenic route to Kingswear. Two ladies made a Bee line for a Restaurant overlooking the Harbour where they sat on a sunny balcony having a leisurely lunch and watching the boats in and out of the Harbour. Quite a few members explored the wide variety of shops and found a place to sit and relax before returning to the coach for the journey home. Enhanced by the weather, it was a thoroughly good day.

Several members attended the annual Strawberry Tea given by The Rotarians last Saturday and enjoyed both the tea and the entertainment which was by The Sundowners. We take this opportunity of thanking the Rotarians and everyone involved in making the afternoon a success.

Outings are open to non-members if seats are available.

**The club meets on the first Tuesday in the month in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm.**  
**For enquiries please telephone Francis Hearn on 01409 253239**

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### **Church Coffee Morning**

The annual coffee morning at the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy took place recently to raise money for the Holy Trinity Church in Milton Damerel. Thanks to our usual troop of volunteer helpers the morning went extremely well with a steady stream of people in search of coffee, biscuits and a chance to sit and relax with friends. The stallholders reported good sales of jumble, produce, cakes, bric a brac and books.

All in all an enjoyable time and a healthy profit of £257.52 was raised. Thanks is extended to all those who made it possible and we look forward to the next time.

### **PRIVATE TUITION OFFERED**

Private tuition offered, free of charge, in English, Maths, Handwriting and other subjects for Junior school age children by retired School Teacher. Please telephone for details.

**Valerie Goodwin 01409 261624**

## PUTFORD WOMENS INSTITUTE

The meeting for May was held in the Sunday School Room. The speaker was Mrs Wheatley from Bideford. She gave us a cookery demonstration, making salmon pate and lemon cheesecake, both of which were sampled with a cup of tea at the end of the meeting.

We also discussed the resolutions for the IGM held in Brighton in June. The two main ones being the support for local abattoirs and a stricter control on the importation of foodstuffs.

For the June meeting, we visited Dunstaple Dairy Ice Cream factory at Holsworthy Beacon. The proprietor, Tom James told us how he started the business three years ago with his wife Joanne and the progress they have made to date. We were then given a tour of the factory followed by an ice cream.

***We would also like to bring your attention to a charity fund raising event we are organizing on 11<sup>th</sup> August at Brambles, Dunstaple Farm. It will take the form of a car treasure hunt followed by a cream tea, or just come to the cream tea and stalls if you prefer. The money raised will go to Bob Johns Leukaemia Fund. Cars move off from 2pm.***

The Putford WI meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at Putford chapel School Room. For more information, contact Mavis on **241049** or Mary on **261204**.

### Poetical Thoughts sent in by Val Goodwin of Heddon Moor

Bear and forbear-be patient and endure  
Epictetus (Erasmus) 1573

Blessings brighten as they take their flight  
T.Puller 1732

Everybody's business is nobody's  
business  
Aristotle

Good fences make good neighbours  
E.Rogers 1640

One nail drives out another  
Aristotle 1314

If you want peace you must prepare for  
war  
Vegitius

A soft answer turneth away wrath  
Wyclif Bible 1395

I do not know whether I was then a man  
dreaming I was a butterfly or wether I am  
now a butterfly dreaming I am a man  
Chung Tzu 320bc

Parting is all we know of heaven and all  
we need of hell  
Emily Dickenson 1866

Let us ever negotiate out of fear but let  
us never fear to negotiate  
J.F. Kennedy 1961

The stag at bay with the mentality of a fox  
at large  
Bernard Levin 1970

We all labour against our won cure, for  
death is the cure of all diseases  
T. Browne 1843

## Bradworthy Young Farmers

Bradworthy YFC have been as busy as ever over the last couple of months. Since I wrote last we have done very well at Devon County Show, I hope some of you will have had the opportunity to visit the YFC tent at the show and see our work. Bradworthy came 4<sup>th</sup> with our exhibit out of 26 which we were really pleased with as we haven't entered the show before and we were new to it.

We also came third at club-of-the-year county finals, again another good result. The two clubs above us had both been in the finals before and had obviously got well prepared as their presentation was far better than our novice attempt! I did feel though that Bradworthy had achieved easily as much as them and now we know what the competition is about I think we could do better next year. Lets hope we get to the finals again!

In June we enjoyed a beach night with Clawton YFC, and were fortunate to have a good evening without rain! We met at Widemouth Bay, both clubs taking part in football, volleyball, sandcastle building competitions and went back to Holsworthy for food, (it may have been dry but wasn't quite BBQ weather!)

Another inter-club event we held with Buckland Brewer in June was a Pool, Darts & Skittles Evening. In January we challenged them to Football & Hockey so this was their challenge back. They invited us to the Coach & Horses at Buckland Brewer and we had a very good night although shamefully we lost the skittles, individual darts and doubles pool!

Eccleshall, the Club we stayed with in April, came down to us in early July for the return exchange. We took them to a YFC disco at Bratton Clovelly on the Friday night after a BBQ which we all enjoyed and it was a great way to catch up with the Staffordshire Young Farmers! On Saturday we took them to Wadebridge and cycled down the Camel trail, spent a day in Padstow before returning to Bradworthy and Bideford to end the night. Surprisingly enough, several tired young farmers went to the Tarka Group Rally and had a good day. Bradworthy came second overall, with Sarah Merrett & Jonathon Cleave winning trophies for most individual contributions. Well done them!

We are now preparing for Bradworthy carnival (which will be over by the time you read this!) And the Holsworthy show, again hoping to see you all there! If you come to the show, please take the time to visit the YFC tent and see some of the things that we all get up to! If you want to know anything more about Bradworthy Young Farmers, YFC in general and/or are interested in joining then please don't hesitate to contact me or Phil, we will be more than happy to speak to you!

**James Poole (Chairman) 01409 261282 or 07866 322696**  
**Phil Merrett (Secretary) 01409 241382 or 07813 674069**



# MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-THREE



SUMMER 2002

We extend a very warm welcome and invitation to any-one wishing to come along to our regular meetings/clubs. Just come along to any events/clubs you see advertised, or if you would to know more or have an introduction, please contact any of the leaders. If you find the times of our activities and services inconvenient then you will be given a warm welcome by other congregations within the Shebbear Circuit. For further information contact:

Marjorie Colwill (tel: 281214); Sheila Daniel (Tel: 261466); Lillian Luxton (Tel: 261355)

### VISIT OF THE FAITH MISSION TEAM

The Team are basing themselves in the Schoolrooms at the Chapel and can be contacted there on any matters. They have been in and around the village since 15<sup>th</sup> July, visiting many houses and leaving a leaflet of the whole range of activities until 2nd August. We really hope that you found something of interest in the programme and have or will come along to one or more of the sessions. All of the day-time and evening events are described in the leaflet, and we emphasis these three

**Calling all young people .....** The **Holiday Bible Club** for the beginning of the school holidays, each day from 10am to 12 noon, starting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July for 5 – 12 year olds. Also for the family a **Family Fun Day** at Woodford Farm on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July.

The programme also incorporates the return of the **Culm Valley Crusade Choir** on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm – please note the earlier time for the Summer Gospel Special.

The Faith Mission will lead our family services on 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July, and there will be a concluding family service **on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August for prize-giving and thanksgiving.**

**SUNDAY CLUB ANNIVERSARY** – On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June the Sunday Club held their Anniversary. Time has certainly moved on with respect this annual event. Some of us can remember when it was held over a week-end, Sunday & Monday, with 4 special services plus tea and games on the Monday afternoon and evening. In those days this would have been a great community event, family and friends turning out in force to support the children who had been well rehearsed for the previous 6 weeks. Come the day, the “scholars” would be immaculately turned out in their best clothes, polished shoes and not a hair out of place. With knees knocking they would recite their “piece” and sing rousing songs. The invited speaker would also be on top form with something very special as a story for them and perhaps even a word for the adults too.

This year the Anniversary was the week-end following the Queen’s Jubilee, a hard act to follow. We decided to take the topic of “**Peace**” as our subject. After all we have experienced 50 years of peace in our country. That’s something to be thankful for!. Of course after 11<sup>th</sup> September we realise how fragile the world’s peace is. So will our children grow up to live in peace? For a week or two before the Anniversary Sunday, we discussed with Sunday Club members how they felt and how they experience peace. We came to the conclusion that peace doesn’t necessarily mean quiet or still. You can still be at peace whilst playing and having fun with friends.

It would be impractical to expect weeks of practise in to-day’s busy world and the leaders would not have time either, but we do our best to prepare. Most people would be surprised just how work goes into such an event - hours of searching for songs, drama, readings and so on. With Jubilee preparations going on as well it gave some of us quite a busy time.

Mrs Sue Griffin from North Tamerton was our guest speaker and took part in the presentation with the Club. Highlights of the Anniversary were the 3 sketches –

- ❖ the story of the two donkeys, which told of how two donkeys had to learn to share and help each other;
- ❖ the three little pigs was a parody of the well-known children’s story with a twist – two of the pigs had built on the wrong things to find peace and happiness, but one little pig had built her life on the “rock” and nothing could destroy her peace of mind. She was safe from the wolf!, and finally ...

- ❖ the much loved story of the Good Samaritan told by Jesus was acted out by the young people. The Samaritan set aside prejudice to help a person in need.

Could these stories help give a clue as to how we can achieve peace with others and in our own lives? Sue summed up by reminding us of some of the sayings of Jesus about peace. She reminded us that Peace-makers aren't those who sit on the fence and let life go by but those who get actively involved – like Bono of the rock band U2. He sometimes makes himself unpopular because he is prepared to stand up for justice in the world.

I would like to thank the following members of the Sunday Club who helped bring a smile with their enthusiasm, freedom and exuberance .... And not a frilly frock to be seen! Thanks to Heather, Sabine, Rosalind and Iain Sharp, Bradley Hawkes, Chloe and Ben Woodhouse, Liz Daniel and friend Danielle Millman, who came to help on the day. Also to the Vallance family for their continued support, and to our adult helpers – Ruth Sharp for playing the organ and piano, Ashley for accompanying on the guitar and helping with the practises, and especially to Tracy for singing, "Love can build a Bridge", so beautifully. Another popular song included was "A little peace" one of the better Eurovision Songs!

We thank those who came to support us although it would have been nice to have had more of the community there to hear and encourage the children. After all, they do deserve to be heard, tomorrow's world depends on them.

If you feel you could offer support and help to the young people in anyway please get in touch. The children will be taking part again on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> August. (see advertisement), and would love to see you.

Sheila Daniel

#### **SUNDAY CLUB PROGRAMME:**

	August	September
The month's topic:	<b>Children are Special</b>	<b>Happiness is?</b>
	4 <sup>th</sup> - Puzzles & Songs	1 <sup>st</sup> - Club
	11 <sup>th</sup> – Good News Sunday Children's Hospice	8 <sup>th</sup> – Cooking – happy food!
	18 <sup>th</sup> – Always popular - games old & new	15 <sup>th</sup> – Family Service with Mrs Gill Daniel
	25 <sup>th</sup> – Craft Morning	22 <sup>nd</sup> – More of your favourite games
		29 <sup>th</sup> - Crafts
	Sunday Club is FREE and OPEN to all local Young People.	

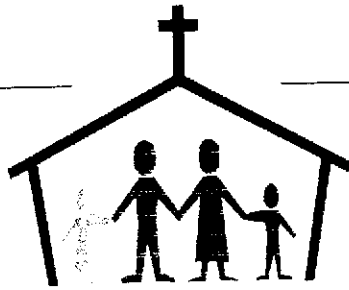
#### **Chapel Flower Plan for the months of August & September 2002**

4 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs M Carter	1 <sup>st</sup> September	Mrs R Daniel
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs D Poole	8 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs A Johns
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs L Luxton	15 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs A Piper
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Mrs G Palmer	22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Mrs D Wooldridge
		29 <sup>th</sup> September	Mrs B Sanders

**Date for your Diary / Calendar: Harvest Thanksgiving Week-end** – Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> & Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2002. Guest Preacher: Rev. Patrick Crow; Morning Service @ 11am; Band Concert on Sunday Evening @ 7 pm; Thanksgiving Supper & Sale on Monday Evening @ 7pm.

**We pray regularly for the concerns within our locality – for those who are unwell, sad or anxious – and thank God for good times and happy occasions.**

"Give your burdens to the Lord; He will carry them" and "Praise God in all things"  
Our Minister is Rev David Wheeler and he can be contacted on Tel. No: 281262.  
Alan Andrew, Rural Lay Worker, supporting rural communities and individuals within this area, can be contacted on Tel. No: 281321.  
Roger Daniel, our local visitor, will call on any-one who is lonely or ill, or would just appreciate a visit. (Tel: 261466)



**GOOD NEWS SUNDAY**  
11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2002 @ 11am  
at Milton Damerel Methodist Church

**GOOD NEWS SERVICE**  
**LED BY REV. DAVID WHEELER**  
With Special items by Local Young People



**Special Guest Speaker: Lavinia Archer**  
**Children's Hospice South West**

Come and hear of this wonderful work with children and their families; How did it all begin?; How to become a friend of the Hospice; The new Narnia Garden; etc.  
The offering will be donated to Children's Hospice.  
*Come to Hear some Really Good News*

### **THE SAMARITANS**

e-mail: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

You are now able to contact the Samaritans by e-mail. Their mailbox is read every day of the year by a group of trained volunteers – all using the pseudonym "Jo". Callers are offered absolute confidentiality and do not lose the right to make their own decisions. Alternatively you may telephone 0845 7909090 or 01271 374343.

### **C.A.B.**

The Citizens Advice Bureau telephone numbers are Bude 01288 354531 & Bideford 01237 473161.

### **THE RESOURCE CENTRE**

Holsworthy's Resource Centre will be open throughout the Summer Holidays on Saturday Mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm. There you can find an Aladdin's cave of varied and interesting bits and pieces suitable for all sorts of craft activities. Memberships are £8.50 for individuals and £17.00 for groups, in my experience this has been extremely cost effective.

They are always on the lookout for new supplies for the scrap store, so if you have a by-product that you think can be recycled contact Sally on the telephone number below.

The Workshop Bus is now up and running as an extension of the Workshop, Toy Library and Scrapstore. Workshops can be arranged for all ages and groups, for information contact Sally or Karen at the Family Workshop Resource Centre on the number below.

Just to Clarify, the Resource Centre/Family Workshop & Scrap Store are all situated at the Community Centre, North Road, Holsworthy Devon EX22 6HJ

**Tel:01409 254272**



## Milton Damerel Youth Club

Our Youth Club has been very busy since the last Newsletter. There was a Treasure Hunt and BBQ kindly held at Catherine and Charles Bellew's beautiful home. We all had a brilliant time walking across the fields, into the woods and along the river answering questions and collecting flowers, leaves etc as we went. Some of us, not mentioning any names, had to go around a second time because they were still looking for the answer to the first question, at the end of the walk! Thanks to all those who patiently waited along the river's edge for someone to fall in so that they could save them and everyone else who helped! We ended off with a game of rounders and a tasty BBQ.

One evening we had Special Guests. The Line Dancing ladies, of Milton Damerel Fame, came and gave us a demonstration, encouraging everyone to join in. It was great fun and most of us found out that we had a left and a right foot, contrary to belief! Yee Haa! Thanks Youall! Mr Cartwright also visited with his Medieval Jousting/ fighting equipment which was very interesting, a big thank you to him as he went beyond the call of duty and returned home to fetch one of his owls for us to meet.

There were games in Bideford park followed by chips, I understand this was a good evening. An evening where the Youths created using glass paints was enjoyed.

Ah yes about the Chip Crawl, we really did only go around Bude once it is just that some chips needed extra tasting to make sure we made the right decision. Yum we must do that one again! Sizzles, at the top of the town, won the certificate, by a majority vote, as being the best chips in Bude.

We spent an evening with Sheila & Roger at Woodford Farm. We made and flew kites which was great fun. Then we finished up eating vast amounts of pizza. Thanks to Sheila & Roger Daniel.

The last Youth Club of the season was at the Chapel Room where we were visited by the Resource Centre. It is amazing what you can do with Bubble wrap & plastic bags also tin cans, wire and a few beads! We made bangles & jewellery, little bendy people and much more. I was fascinated in how much, so called, rubbish can be transformed into an heirloom! It certainly got me thinking and with a recycling shed on my door step, watch out!

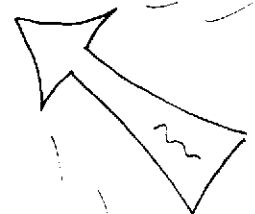
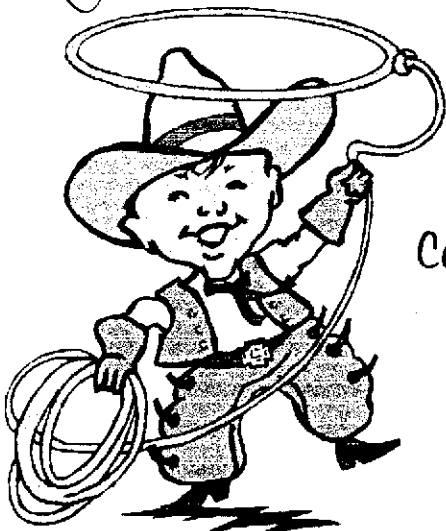
Well that's about it until September, thanks to all who have helped and attended Milton Damerel Youth Club, See You Later!

## Line Dancing

Every Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall

7.30 – 9.30 £1.00

Come along and be sure of a warm welcome



**A SOCIETY WEDDING AT MD 322 YEARS AGO.**  
**PERHAPS THERE WERE A FEW PROBLEMS EVEN THEN.**  
**By George Harris**

Most people addicted to history find interest, and derive much pleasure, from quite trivial items of recorded events long past. Usually a train of enquiring thoughts is set in motion which can be put together to give a better picture of the way things were at that time. Such an item is in the Bishops' Transcript of the Parish Register for Milton Damerel in 1680 and it reads:-

1680 Marriages

April 29      Chasty, John and Susanna Tombs  
 June 8        Lang, William and Mary Drew

February 24 Fortescue, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Agnis Dennys

Very little research is needed to correct the transcription error that Mrs. Agnis Dennys should read Miss Agnes Dennys, or the modern form, Miss Agnes Dennis, and to recall that in those days a year was the same as a farmers' year-going from Lady-day to Lady-day. (March 25) Also that long ago, titles were not much used unless you really were somebody special, or there was a need to identify a particular person such as a widow. A few examples are given which illustrate the point, and are taken from the Parish Register and the Bishops' Transcripts (not identical!)

Burial	1620 November 13th Dene	Mary d (dau) of Thomas minister
Burial	1624 December 10th Pethericke	Paule s (son) of Paule
Burial	December 25th Cole	John ye elder

item included      All do receive the communion according  
 to law as for as per me Thomas Dene rector ibidem

Marriage	1666 February 19th	Chapman	Richarde rector & Mrs. Elizabeth Crosse.
Burial	1677 July 16th	Brown	Susanna widow
Burial	March 9th	Chapman	Richard minister of this parish
Marriage	1677 May 17th	Arcscott	John Esquire & Prudence Dennis
Baptism	1680 November 25th	Cottle	Danyell base s of Mary
Burial	1686 October 9th	Dene	Humphrey gent
Burial	1692 May 31st		Nicholas Dennis esquire

The question then follows 'what more can the parish register tell us about the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Milton Damerel? Firstly that no entries were made in the register between 1637 and 1663, these years covered the run up to the Civil Wars when King Charles 1 was in dispute with his Parliament for not providing enough funds to carry through those policies which he believed to be essential; and there was much disquiet among his subjects because of his insistence on church doctrines in the face of increasingly (Puritan or) Protestant thinking; it included the years of the Civil War after which many priests lost their 'livings' because they were judged to be too catholic; the years when Oliver Cromwell ruled as a military dictator – a sort of benevolent puritan substitute-monarch he may have argued but that is a view which the Irish would certainly not accept. The monarchy was restored in 1660 after which event many priests were given back their livings. Quite a number of Protestant priests and preachers, refused to sign the Act of Uniformity which put a different set of churchmen out of work. Similar hardships applied to the estate of the owning aristocracy and squirearchy, who because of their support for the Royalist cause lost their manors for several years.

Although the recording of marriages, baptisms and burials were not kept a very great deal was going on. There are the Protestation Returns of 1641 after Parliament organised a 'protest' against the possible imposition of an arbitrary and tyrannical government [shades of a European referendum] The Milton list is made up of 92 male parishioners of which just six signed which suggests that it was a 'Vestry ' document. The six who signed were Thomas Bradford, Rector; Tobias Bligh, Constable; Abraham Hobs + Churchwarden; Thomas Vigurs, Walter Williams+ and William Rattenbury all overseers but because of the + against Walter Williams it is assumed that he was also a Churchwarden.

From the 92 surnames 63 are different from each other and it is doubtful whether there are as many as ten still applicable to families in the parish at the present time.

If the entries of Marriages, Baptisms and Burials are averaged for those years between 1663 and 1680 which were completed, it will be seen that baptisms and burials were about the same at just under eight baptisms & and a d bit over seven burials with marriages being solemnized at the rate of three in a two and a ¼ years.

The variations in 1677 & 1680 were sufficient to warrant closer examination. The burials, 11 in 1677 were spread throughout the year and included Richard Chapman, minister of this parish, and formerly referred to as 'rector' when he was married eleven years earlier. Of the 14 burials in 1680 there were burials in every month except July and August, but more significantly three members of the Hobbs family are listed, James on Feb 2, Susanna on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and Joan on May 31 and two of the Williams family, Anne on June 18<sup>th</sup> and John on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>.

This information is clearly especially relevant to the item which triggered the initial interest- the marriage here in Milton Damerel of a member of one of the best known families in the county to the daughter of a twice elected Member of Parliament for Barnstaple, who owned a small estate in this parish. In normal circumstances this would have been a 'society wedding' and Milton Damerel would have been the place to be for all the gentry for miles around. Late February is not a date likely to be chosen for a gay celebration whatever considerations had to be reckoned with, so it is most likely that an epidemic running its course dictated a quiet ceremony giving minimal risk of contracting, or of spreading, the infection whether it was plague, small-pox, typhoid or some other disease. A look at other parish registers would help to establish the extent of the problem, but it is known that plague revisited the county several times. At the end of the Civil War in Barnstaple plague 'raged for nearly a twelve-month' from the summer of 1646 to March of 1647 and Pilton records show an increase in burials of six times the normal.

What is known and what can be readily gleaned from sources available about the families of this marriage and which are relevant to the local district?

We have long known that Nicholas Dennis was one of two Members of Parliament for Barnstaple in 1660 and 1661, and that he had a small estate at Derworthy in Milton Damerel. He was born in Ilfracombe in 1616, and graduated at Oxford after which he became a barrister. In 1660, the year of his election as a M.P. he was declared a freeman of Barnstaple, and he was subsequently appointed Deputy Recorder there.

By his first wife Jane he had three daughters, Jane, Agnes and Prudence, and two sons; one died shortly after he was born, and Thomas, born in 1651, was buried in 1674 the same year as his mother. All the children were baptized at Barnstaple and his wife and son were buried there. Prudence, the youngest daughter born in 1657, married John Arscott, a well known local squire; in Milton church on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1677. This marriage explains how Derworthy came to be owned by John Arscott, and then by John Arscott Tickel around 1840, the time when the tithe map and schedule were created.

Agnes born in 1654, was the bride of Henry Fortescue who together were the reason d'etre for this essay.

{In 1683 Derworthy was mortgaged by Assignment of the Lease for £50. by

Harris of Hayne to Nicholas Denys of Derworthy Milton Damerel Esquire}

Nicholas Dennis married again but the P.R. shows that Mary, his second wife, was buried at Milton in 1678. It is probable that he was living at Derworthy then because we are told (T.D.A. vol72 Members of Parliament for Barnstaple 1492-1698) that Nicholas subsequently had the remains of his first wife Jane, and his son Thomas, removed to Milton Damerel.

Reference to the Tithe Schedule revived the memory of some unusual field names at Derworthy and Parsonage which may have relevance to Nicholas Dennis's time as owner. Two largish fields, for those times, were named Higher & Homer Brickfield – 12 acres each, and Homer and Lower Dowerland of 7, and 5 ½ acres respectively. Both names are probably unique in Milton parish.

At parsonage there is a Nicholas Coppice of about ¾ acre; and less likely to have any connection; a Nichols plot of similar acreage.

Henry Fortescue, the bridegroom on that February day lived at Buckland Filleigh in the mansion which came to the Fortescue family through marriage in 1454. Henry's father John Fortescue married Thomasine Prideaux daughter of Humphrey Prideaux of Soldon; lord of the manor of Holsworthy and of many other manors in the west-country. There is a rather special monument to the memory of John Fortescue at Buckland Filleigh Church which reads:-

To the memory of John Fortecue Esquire,

Son and heir of Roger Fortescue Esquire who departed this life 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1655 aet 55

Though age to autumn quickly turned my spring  
My ruddy cheeks to paler white did bring  
Though soon my naturell heat grew cold and damp  
And death betimes put out my vital lamp  
Yet shall this monument be still the same  
Each painted scutcheon shall proclaim my name  
So that posteritie which never knew  
Shall read and say, here lies a Fortescue  
See then how fickle and how frail we be  
Whose statues are less given to change than we.

Historically the seventeenth century is remembered because of the civil war and people living in the parish would have witnessed the opposing armies passing through. As good an account of the military action then is given by W.J. Leeson Day in his history of 'Holsworthy' written for The Devonshire Association series, 'Parochial Histories of Devonshire'. The relevant paragraphs are included here.

On the site of Messrs. Peters' offices, formerly stood the old "Market Inn," which was demolished many years ago. The licensee, Petherick, otherwise "Mortal Rags," was a character who is still remembered by some of the older inhabitants.

The "Canal Inn," that stood a little north of the canal bridge at Chisworthy, can be remembered by some of the parishioners.

**Military.** In 1612-3 there were two companies of trained or untrained soldiers at Holsworthy, under the command of Mr. John Arscott and Mr. Simon Weeke.<sup>1</sup>

In 1638 it is recorded that Holsworthy, Hatherleigh and Torrington, had been burdened with the army longer than any other part of the county.<sup>2</sup>

*The Civil War (1642-1646).* Holsworthy's experiences during the Civil War were not pleasant. Between 24th and 29th April, 1643 "Barnstaple and Bideford sent 5,000 Foote and 500 Horse to Holsworthy." These (Royalist) troops were engaged in a fight before Launceston, and were defeated by the Parliamentary army under Captain Chudleigh. The Royalists, however, generally had the upper hand at that time in the West, as Sir Ralph Hopton had the best infantry in his astonishing Cornishmen.

The troops engaged in the battle at Stratton did not apparently pass through Holsworthy.

"In January 1646 a body of undisciplined Royalist troops had occupied Holsworthy and from that position scoured the district, eating up the produce and committing the greatest excesses." Another writer records that at that time "a body of horse soldiers had almost ruined it (Holsworthy) by their plunder, quarter and fiering their household stuffe."

Sometime between the 12th and 18th February, 1646, Prince Charles (afterwards Charles II) then at Launceston, went from there to Holsworthy (which was the headquarters of Goring's Horse), but he retired westward before Sir Thomas Fairfax's troops. Fairfax had, in February, 1646, defeated Hopton at Torrington. Fairfax with the whole of his army, and apparently Cromwell with him, marched on Holsworthy and occupied it on 23rd February, when his troops were welcomed by the inhabitants with "much cheerfulness"—which was not surprising.

The Prince retired further west and fled to Scilly on his way to France, and the war soon ended.

The following entry in the Hartland Church Registers at a little later date is significant :

"1647-8 Spent on 20<sup>die</sup> souldiers w<sup>ch</sup> came from  
Hollsworth y xiiij *d*  
Paid Charles Dayman for preserving of  
the chalice from the troopers .. .. 13s. 4*d*."

<sup>1</sup> *Hist. MSS. of the Duke of Somerset*, 15th Report, Parts VII and VIII, p. 62.

<sup>2</sup> *Cal. of State Papers, Domestic*, Chas. I, by Bruce, 1869, p. 512.

Parliament appointed 12 May 1646 as a day of solemn thanksgiving for the 'taking in' of several garrisons in the north of the county when the war was over and won.

Two west-country families with estates little more than ten miles distance from this parish were mainly responsible for restoring the Monarchy; they were the Moncks of Potheridge in Merton, and the Grenvilles of Stowe in Kilkhampton.

General George Monck had experience of duty under King Charles 1st until 1643 when he was taken prisoner by the Parliamentary forces, and subsequently worked for them in Scotland. He was rewarded by King Charles 2nd in 1660 by being created Duke of Albemarle and Captain General. He was made Governor of London in the 1665 Plague, and Admiral in the Dutch War 1665-7.

King Charles 1st had intended creating Sir Bevil Grenville an Earl but Sir Bevil died in the battle of Lansdowne so the honour went to Sir Bevil's son John who became Earl of Bath, Viscount Grenville of Lansdowne, and Baron Grenville of Kilkhampton and Bideford. The Earl tore down the old Manor home at Stowe and built a magnificent new mansion a short distance away. George Monck and John Grenville were cousins but the Grenville family did not have sufficient financial resources to maintain such status as they now enjoyed, and because of this difficulty many sinecures were granted to the earl including Lord Lieutenant of Devon & Cornwall; Captain & Governor of Plymouth; Lord Warden of the Stannaries; Governor of Pendennis Castle; High Steward of the Duchy of Cornwall; Rider & Master of Dartmoor Forest; Groom of the State and First Gentleman of the Bedchamber of King Charles 2nd; and 3000 pounds from Stannary Revenues.

The earl could not ensure such generous patronage from the successor to King Charles 2nd, and he was not to be a favourite with King James 2nd. The result was that in little more than 50 years the great Palladian mansion had been pulled down and everything sold. There were locals who had seen the site a cornfield, then a great mansion, and back to cornfield, again during their lifetime. That is hard to believe, but *that's life*.

These are many events recorded from the seventeenth century about which we may say the same and - *that's history*.



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## LETTERS

*David Dyer sent in this feature for us to think about, if you have any views put them on paper and we will try to feature them in the next newsletter*

At a service last year in Southwark Cathedral organised by the Anglican Society for the Welfare told the congregation that when it comes to animal welfare issues the church needs to be given 'a good talking to!' He was, of course preaching to the converted, but so often Christians have failed to face their responsibilities in caring for God's creation or have not spoken out to protest against cruelty and the exploitation of animals.

The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, (ASWA) is committed to making church members aware of animal issues and putting them on the Church's agenda. We teach that God so loved the cosmos-the whole of creation and not just human beings. As the Archbishop of Canterbury has written, "Humans and animals occupy this planet together and our lives are interwoven. We need to love and respect God's creation and practice love and compassion towards animals."

Christians believe that God has given us dominion (not domination) over creation and therefore a duty of stewardship and love. Jesus taught the need to care for animals and of God's love for them and I am pleased to see an increasing number of churches holding animal blessing services and individual Christians protesting against hunting, animal experimentation and live exports. I have done so myself, and yet in many churches animal issues are never raised and animals are rarely mentioned in the prayers or teaching.

ASWA publishes a magazine twice a year with contributions from, among others, scientists and theologians. We also produce pamphlets on animal issues. Our two most recent publications, both by Committee members are Thinking about Vegetarianism by the Revd Hugh Broadbent and Foxes and Hunting with Hounds by Sir Andrew Bowden.

Just over 70 years ago, Bishop Herbert Henley Henson of Durham reprimanded one of his clergy on becoming a Master of Beagles. He wrote:

"I feel that it is owing to my position and to yours that I should tell you that the announcement causes me both surprise and distress... Personally, I incline to agree with the Dean of St Paul's (Dr. Inge) that 'to take pleasure in killing our helpless cousins in fur and feather seems to me to be a disgusting relic of barbarism'... I should be lacking in my duty if I did not remonstrate with you on action which seems to me inexpedient and unfitting".

The Church may appear to have been silent in the hunting debate although along with other bishops I signed a Boxing Day letter in The Times and the Revd. Professor Michael Bannerman has written a paper weighing the arguments. Nevertheless, I regret that there has not been more quality debate and the whole issue has become politicised. Perhaps this was inevitable because if hunting with hounds were a working class pastime like cock fighting and hare coursing, it would have been banned long ago.

Proponents have largely given up the argument that fox hunting is an effective method of pest control and look to human rights and 'way of life' arguments. But I would argue that gaining pleasure from killing sentient beings cannot be pleasing to God and that as the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth, so morality evolves. Bishop Henson wrote of "a rapidly growing number of thoughtful and humane persons, who cannot reconcile sports, which inflict suffering and death on animals, with the principles of Christ's religion". Seventy years later the time has come to ban hunting once and for all.

Dominic Walker, Bishop of Reading. Chairman of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of animals.

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## HOW WE FUND THE NEWSLETTER.

Raising the money to pay the printing costs of our newsletter is a huge problem. So far, we have had donations from supporters, a limited number of people wishing to advertise, grants from the Parish Council and Torrington District Council, coffee mornings and the revenue from sewing with Lesley.

The most recent help is by way of individuals sponsoring a page, or maybe half a page in each issue.

As the newsletter progresses and grows in content the higher the printing costs.

We have now got a band of people willing to deliver which has eased the distribution.

At this present time funds stand at £36.37, the last edition cost £105.84 to print.

It is impossible to continue in the same way without adequate money ready before printing and delivery.

We are open to suggestions, please come forward with any ideas you may have.

One possibility is to print fewer copies, forget about delivery and leave the newsletters at the garage for you to collect and make a donation. This is not ideal, as the intention was to reach everyone within the Milton Damerel boundary, 180 homes.

Please telephone Sarah on 261473 or Edna on 261433 or leave a note in our letter boxes at the Crossways or Mount Pleasant, we await your suggestions!

### RING AND RIDE TIME TABLE

#### AUGUST

THURSDAY	8th	OTTER & BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY	£3.50
FRIDAY	9th	TAVISTOCK	£2.50
MONDAY	12th	HOLSWORTHY a.m.	£2.00
TUESDAY	13th	TRURO	£3.50
WEDNESDAY	14th	LAUNCESTON & SUPERMARKET	£2.00
WEDNESDAY	21st	LAUNCESTON & SUPERMARKET	£2.00
TUESDAY	27th	HOLSWORTHY p.m.	£2.00
FRIDAY	30th	TAVISTOCK	£2.50

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