

Congratulations to Lisa Sanders and Simon Braunton on the birth of William Sanders Braunton.

Born at Barnstaple Maternity Unit on his Mum's birthday, January 3rd 2003 at 7.25 pm, weighing 6lb 11oz.

Sincere apologies to Linda Gliddon of Foxgloves and Bridget Millman of Mulberry House.

We forgot to mention in the last issue that these dear ladies celebrated their 40th birthdays in 2002 !

Milton Damerel Parish Council

Forthcoming meetings - **Thursday 20th February** -In the Chapel Hall
Thursday 20th March -In the Chapel Hall
Tuesday 29th April -AGM in the Parish Hall

Clerk- Elizabeth Ilett
 Milton Mill Farm
 Milton Damerel
 EX22 7DN

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Chairperson - Janet Elliott 01409 261422

Councillors Charles Bellew 01409 261214 David Poole 01409 261282
 David Dyer 01409 261412 Pauline Palmer 01409 261451
 David Kirby 01409 261314 Philip Reed 01409 281213

Arrangements are being made for the **Annual Parish Meeting**, which will be held on **Tuesday 29th April** at 7:30pm in the **Parish Hall**.

We are pleased that our new community police officer, PC Bluett, is able to attend this meeting to speak to you about any policing issues that you may have. Although Milton Damerel is considered to be a very safe place to live, he will also be giving out details of a new scheme designed prevent crime and to make the community even safer.

After a break for refreshments, the Council will hold its Annual Parish meeting, and for those who wish to stay, there will be an opportunity for any member of the Parish to put questions to the Council.

We hope that you will be able to attend this meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

Liz Ilett

MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE



February 2003

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 want 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); David Poole (Tel: 261280)

Thank you! Our Christmas activities raised nearly £400 for charity. The Children's Hospice South West benefited by £168.93 from the Christingle Service - £105.80, and the Carol Singing at Woodford Bridge - £63.13. The Parish Carol Service collection raised £225.68 for NCH Action for Children. Thank you to every-one who helped with these activities and to every-one who generously contributed to the collections.

YOUTH ALPHA **Are you 10 years or over?? This is for you.**
 Youth Alpha is used in many churches as a Confirmation class – it offers the opportunity to ask questions and form your own opinions! Come along on the 3rd Sunday of each month – 11.20am in the Schoolroom or join us in the chapel at 11am. See Sunday Club programme below.
A time to chill out; to chat and discuss; and have fun
Spiritual; Faith Works; Radical

SUNDAY CLUB PROGRAMME: The programme arranged for February & March

<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
"The Lost"	"Variety"
2nd - The lost coin and art work	2nd – Scrap Books, catch up session
9th – The lost son (make a book)	9th – Bad brothers a quick look at with video
Joseph and family	16th – Drama practice and youth alpha
16th – A lost house and youth alpha 2	
3	
23rd - Family Service with Mr David Ley	23rd – With Mums in mind, Crafts
	30th – Mothering Sunday Family Service

Sunday Club from 11am – 12 noon each Sunday is FREE and OPEN to all local Young People.
 Youth Alpha for 10 years and over – see above

FRIENDSHIP CLUB - Last Monday of every month - 2.30pm to 3.30pm
The first meeting of the Club was held on 27th January and we look forward to seeing more coming along. The February meeting falls during half-term week, so a welcome to all age groups. There will be supervised activities for children on this occasion. The guest speaker is Mrs Jan Wheeler, and she will talk about "from PE teacher to Minister's wife", which we are sure will contain some interesting, and possibly amusing, insights. Tea and chat.

“Jesus Rediscovered” - A 5-week course for Lent, starting on Monday, 10th March at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom. The format will be a short audio tape, followed by plenty of opportunity to discuss and debate. Warm welcome to any-one who would like to join us on these evenings.

“Are you a singer?” “How are your vocal chords?” “Would your household like you to show-off your talent elsewhere?” We have an idea to start a singing group to take part occasionally in special services and we are looking for interested persons. Look out for posters advertising the arrangements.

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN for the months of February and March 2003

2 nd February	Mrs A Johns	2 nd March	Mrs W Carter
9 th February	Mrs A Piper	9 th March	Mrs W Millman
16 th February	Mrs D Wooldridge	16 th March	Mrs G Palmer
23 rd February	Mrs B Sanders	23 rd March	Mrs F Hearn
		30 th March	Mrs C Fishleigh

Dates for your Diary / Calendar:

7 th March	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Michael's, Shebbear @ 7.30pm Speaker: Rev Marion Proud
12 th /13 th April	Shebbear Circuit Rally Week-end
20 th April	Easter Sunday : Family Service – 11am Gospel Special: Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir @ 7.30pm Chairman: Mr Peter Parsons

Extracts from an article found on web site of another church:

Churches have Grand Entrances - Don't let them put you off!

Churches have big facades - Don't let that put you off!

Churches are full of people you don't know – They're harmless, don't let that put you off!

Church services do not require an induction course or a degree to understand they're very easy to understand.

If your afraid you won't know when to stand or sit etc don't be! Just follow everyone else.

You can leave as you like, you don't have to stay the whole time!

If you have questions to ask about your beliefs and want to talk to someone a Church Service is one great way to do this.

Please do not let the tradition and what you think you know about the Church put you off developing a relationship with God. Christianity is not about Church but about God, the Father Son and Holy Spirit.

We pray regularly for the concerns within our locality – for those who have been in hospital or unwell at home, for those bereaved, sad or anxious, and for our community. We also thank God for all the good times and happy occasions, the good news and successes for those in our village.

Useful Contacts:

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)

PUTFORD W.I.

The speaker for December was Mrs P Vanstone who showed us how to make Christmas table decorations. We also went to Bridgerule for our annual Christmas dinner then onto a garden centre to do some Christmas shopping.

The January meeting of Putford WI was held in the Methodist Chapel Hall and was presided over by the President, Mrs M Lewis. There was no speaker and after the business was completed members had a most enjoyable and filling meal with a bring and share supper. Then it was time for three quizzes set by programme secretary Mrs S Woolridge, which made a good start to this year's programme of events. Winner of the competition for the prettiest piece of Christmas wrapping paper was Mrs R Taylor, Second Mrs M Martin, Flower of the month winner was Mrs L Dawe.

We are a very active group of women who would love to welcome new members for more information please telephone:

**Mavis Lewis on 01409 241049 or
Lorna Dawe on 01409 241279**

D & I BRIDGMAN & SON

NEWTON ST. PETROCK

TEL: 01409 261321

FAX: 01409 261520

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Bradworthy Young Farmers

I'm sorry I missed the last newsletter, the last time I wrote was in the August 2002 edition when we were getting ready for Bradworthy Carnival and Holsworthy Show. I'm pleased to say we gained prizes at each - Bradworthy a 3rd prize for Best in Class and joint 1st at Club Cubicle with Clawton YFC in the Holsworthy Show.

To be honest, both were not to our usual standards, we were unable to put much time and effort in, due to the show being at a very busy time for us being been later in the year. The same applies with the Bradworthy Carnival.

Later in the Year, however, a bit more time was spent for Holsworthy Carnival and we won best in class - First prize and also the presidents Cup for 'Original Idea' with our float - Bradworthy YFC joins the Property Boom! We were really pleased, especially with good competition from at least seven other Young Farmer Tableaux.

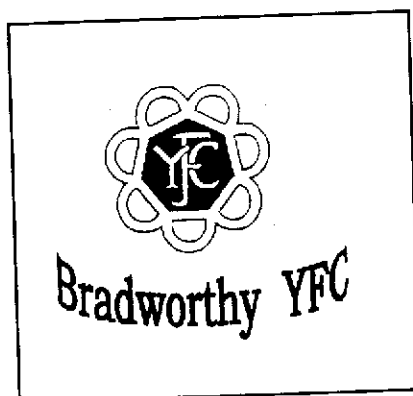
Since then we have also competed in all of the Young Farmer Competitions and a Bradworthy YFC written Pub Quiz team have made it through to now compete at National Level, and myself & Phil Merrett competed at the County YFC round of After Dinner Speaking.

In September we organised an 18 mile wheel barrow push from Bude to Bradworthy - via Holsworthy to raise funds for Holsworthy Hospital. I have so much gratitude to everyone for supporting it, our members firstly for braving the challenge, and to all of you that gave generously and supported us in raising nearly £2,500.00! Thank You all so much!

We are currently practising for the Tarka Group Pantomime, which is on the 2nd of March at the Parkhouse Centre, Bude. I can't give too much away, all I can say is from my point of view the whole thing is very, very scary! Details and tickets are available from our treasurer Jon Cleave 01288 331262/07812 602704 and with four clubs competing I'm sure it will be entertaining to watch. Also, if enough interest is expressed, we may even do a local repeat performance, perhaps even at Milton's Parish Hall?!.....

For any more information on Bradworthy YFC, please speak to our Chairman Roland Ley 01409 261380/07968 814678 or Secretary Becky Snow 01409 261425/07813 955330 who will be pleased to speak to you. We now have 67 members the 2nd biggest club in Devon, and still going stronger!

James Poole



The Lesson



Learning to ski! That phrase hung over me like the Sword of Damocles for years. I had no desire to learn to ski, I hated snow and was afraid of heights. In fact there was nothing about the idea that held any appeal. I liked hot sun and lazy days sitting by a pool eating and drinking. So for years, when the subject was raised, I would say to my husband, "You go Dear. I'll stay at home with the children. Or better still take the children and I'll just stay at home. I won't mind being left on my own". However, typically manlike, he refused to go alone and kept muttering that he knew I would enjoy it if only I was prepared to give it a try. So for years we continued to holiday in countries with hot climates and each winter my hubby would get a wistful longing expression each time Ski Sunday came on the television. How I learned to **HATE** Ski Sunday

Inevitable the years rolled by, the children grew up and left home, our 25th wedding anniversary loomed in the following December. Neither my husband, nor myself, liked parties so what could we do, that was special, to celebrate? What present would my beloved most like I wondered? And that's where you've guessed it, I thought of SKIING. Well I told myself, it's only for a week, surely I could survive seven days, it doesn't last for ever. Also a Christmas holiday did have one very big plus going for it. It would mean having the first Christmas away from home, ever. I wouldn't have to stay chained to the cooker and sink for three days. Auntie Doris and Uncle Fred would have to get some other mug to feed them. At this point I now think I was entering into the first stage of mental decay. It is the only logical explanation for what was to follow.

Sitting in a warm room, in a comfy armchair, with a Vodka and lemon in one hand, the whole idea seemed possible. Why NOT me? Other people do it and enjoy it. Another Vodka and I was getting quite enthusiastic. After all I was quite fit for my age (well 45 is young these days) and all you have to do is go UP and DOWN. Can't be that difficult, so in an alcoholic haze I decided to be a martyr and go.

The very next day, giving myself no time in which to back out, I booked a week's skiing at a resort in Italy. I knew nothing about snow conditions, grades of runs, distance from lifts, or even about the possibility of no snow at that time of the year. But that didn't matter my husband would have his skiing holiday. The same day I also booked an evening course of three beginners lessons at the nearest Dry Ski Slopes. C & A was then visited for skiing suits, gloves etc. but we decided to hire skis and boots at the resort. That was the easy part, I hadn't actually had to do anything yet and it was really quite exciting. There was also the chance for a bit of one upmanship on my part and to drop casually into a conversation about holidays that I planned to go skiing. Friends and colleagues of similar age, looked at me with new respect (I think it was respect, looking back in retrospect, it could have been pity!)

Our first two hour lesson, on the dry slope drew near and the nights became very dark and very cold. The thought of turning out of a warm cosy house and driving for miles, just to spend a couple of hours being terrified or frozen to death, began to have no merit at all. What had I done, I asked myself? Why was I doing this to myself? What had happened to the bravado I had some months ago? Vanished, I suspected, With the Vodka bottle and tea is a poor substitute.

If I hadn't have paid for the holiday and lessons I would definitely have 'chickened' out. As it was I have a very thrifty nature and it was only the idea of losing all that money that actually persuaded me to get into the car. But get in the car I did and as the slopes drew nearer so I became more terrified. I began to feel physically ill and my stomach was doing unmentionable things. My other half, not being used to me so quiet, kept asking if I was ok and wasn't I looking forward to the lesson? "Yes", I

managed, through gritted teeth. At the same time thinking I must be mad, why wasn't I at home knitting like any other self-respecting middle-aged lady. By that time 45 was no longer young but almost bordering on the infirm. I tried not to let husband see how terrified I was as I did not want to spoil his fun. Anyway it was only the dry slope and not the real thing, that was weeks in the future. Perhaps I would be a natural and take to it like a duck takes to water, or perhaps you won't a little voice in the background was saying more persistently. You can guess which one I believed. Still I could dream and would it not be marvellous if I was another budding Franz Klammer (or his female counterpart)? Well eventually we arrived at the slopes and the moment of truth had to be faced.

The first part of the lesson was quite easy. We were fitted out with skis and boots and shown how to fit one to the other. This was all done in a nice warm hut, ok so far. I managed to get into those Frankenstein boots, you are expected to wear, after a bit of a struggle. Then we all clumped round to the beginners slope carrying our skis and poles. The skis, naturally, kept coming apart and I really needed at least three pairs of hands to hope. However, with my husband's help, I arrived already exhausted and the lesson hadn't really started yet. We then had to fit these ungainly planks of wood (or is it plastic now?) to our feet and walk about to get used to the feel of them. Our instructor was joking of course, fall about was more the order of the day. Next came exercises to give us confidence in our skis and boots. One was to lay back on the skis and pull yourself up with your stomach muscles and boots. After producing two children and soft living my stomach had long since forgotten it was supposed to have muscles. I lay there giving a wonderful imitation of a beached whale while the rest of the class, including hobby, did it to perfection. The instructor eventually had to help me up otherwise I might still be there.

If I thought the exercises were bad the next part of the lesson soon proved me wrong. We progressed to the dreaded side step. Marvellous, apparently for getting you out of trouble on a particularly nasty bit of a mountain - that's if you are daft enough to allow yourself to be found on a nasty bit of mountain. The perfect side step is very easy, it involves standing sideways to the slope with your skis parallel, the knees are bent forward and pressed sideways into the slope, and the uphill edges of your skis press into the slope and keep you from sliding. You then work your way up the slope by taking small steps sideways. Now I can assure you that you have not lived a full life if you haven't side stepped up a slope for at least an hour. Not only did I have non existent stomach muscles but also what felt like wet string for legs. I never did manage to side step correctly. I knew all the theory but my skis did not. They tended to develop minds of their own and refused to stay parallel. All they really wanted to do was to hurtle down the slope taking me with them. This meant I did twice as many trips up as anyone else. "Trying to get in more practice", I laughed when the instructor asked me why I kept sliding down the slope instead of going up like everyone else. He was not amused at my answer and resorted to shouting at me each time my skis started to slide. My confidence, which had never been high, now hit rock bottom with a thump. Well even bad things must end and by the end of this first lesson I could, with difficulty, fit on my boots and skis, side step part way up a slope and occasionally ski down without falling over. This I considered an achievement.

The next lesson was a long way off and after the boots were removed and I was sitting in a warm club house drinking a soothing mixture of something alcoholic things didn't look nearly so black and I couldn't have been that bad, could I?

The drive back was very different from the one down, now I was a completely changed person. No longer was I silent. I laughed and chattered gaily, because like Julius Caesar, 'I came, I saw. I conquered - well perhaps a slight exaggeration. But next week was a long way in the future..... or was it?

Written and sent in by Edith Scott
of Milton Damarel



Spring /summer newsletter & programme of events

Welcome back - we hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and are full of enthusias for Youth Club Activities planned for the Spring & Summer!

A well attended (many thanks to Youth Club members) 1st meeting of the year was held on t 17th January to discuss ideas and prepare an agenda for forthcoming events. Ideas were plentiful and the following programme was produced.

Programme of events

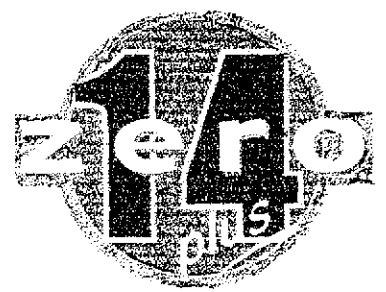
- Fri 17 January Meeting to discuss programme for Spring/Summer events
- Fri 31 January Craft evening - Glass painting, bring along a glass object of yo choice to be creative (plus an extra 50p towards materials)
- Sat 15 February Trip to Plymouth by coach, shopping/dry slope skiing booked f 11am
- Fri 28 February Make-up evening, bring along your own make-up, ha accessories etc.
- Fri 14 March Fund-Raiser evening! Parents/Grandparents etc. Please com along to help us raise funds. An evening of games, chess & quiz night. Bring along a small plate of food and a good evenin should be had by all!
- Fri 28 March Roller blading/swimming....yet to be arranged - further details t follow.
- Fri 11 April Easter Cooking... Probably with chocolate~yum!
- Fri 25 April Ten-pin bowling - Harlequins in Bude Drivers will be needed.
- Fri 9 May Talent & Karaoke Evening.
- Fri 23 May Treasure Hunt &BBQ ... Further details to follow.
- Fri 6 June First Aid evening & Quiz.
- Fri 20 June Sports night - Woodford Farm and did someone mention wellie throwing?
- Fri 11 July Beach Party... Further details to follow.
- Fri 26 July Trip out ... to be arranged.

A plea ~ at least one parent & one parent helper well be needed on each Youth Club Activity. Please let either Sheila (tel: 261466) or Bridget (tel: 261647) know which evening you will be best able to offer your expertise. The Youth Club needs your help!

Normal Youth club times 7-9pm unless other wise informed.

PS Well done to all the Youth Club Members who took part in Holsworthy Carnival. The float 'Changing rooms!' was a great success and a credit to you all





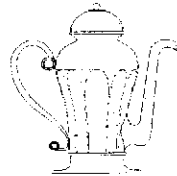
First for Children in Devon

First for Children in Devon

- Q. Does your Community need an out of School Club/holiday Playscheme?
- Q. Does your Community need a Pre-school Playgroup/Nursery?
- Q. Have you ever thought of becoming a Childminder?
- Q. Would you like to work with Children?
- Q. If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then Zero 14 plus can help.

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For free, friendly advice



Coffee Morning

Grateful thanks to Janet & John Elliott for holding the last coffee morning at their beautiful home. It was a real treat to be in such elegant surroundings and was a great success raising £54 in total towards the next newsletter. Thanks once again Janet & John and I hope your cream carpet survived! Watch out for details of the next coffee Morning.

Mrs Jones and her little daughter Karen were outside the church watching all the comings and goings of a wedding. After the photographs had been taken, everyone had driven off to the reception and all the excitement was over, Karen said to her mother, "why did the bride change her mind, Mummy?" "How do you mean, change her mind?" asked Mrs Jones. "Well," said the child, "she went into the church with one man and came out with another"!

The 1840 Tithe Act & Some Incidentals attaching thereto.

For a person who does not enjoy ales and beers as much as wine the subject of this article may seem a bit surprising. It came to the front as a result of looking at some particular aspects of parish history, and pondering on how much history there was in the field names and remembering that there was an excellent record of these in the Tithe Schedule of 1840 compiled by William Routley of Kilkhampton, the appointed valuer. He listed almost every nook and cranny and where possible gave the fields their proper names. I say where possible because I suspect that when he was looking at a field covered in thistles and the owner or occupier did not come up with the proper name he may have said lets call it 'dashley field'-there are one or two such examples.

Field names, where they still exist often point to a different use than in modern times. Unfortunately field names have been lost at an alarming rate in the past fifty years because of hedge removal and the need to have bigger fields. The loss continues because of the over-riding requirement that every field must be identified by ordnance survey numbers when subsidy payments are made for crops or for set-aside.

The three words chosen are Town, Malthouse and Hop Garden. The word town is familiar to all but it still has a shaded meaning, even today when in Milton it refers to only one place – Milton Town - which to me means Town Farm but maybe not to everyone.

In Old English town was tun – a homestead, an enclosed place, a village. In the context of the 1840 schedule it meant the buildings and cottages belonging to a farm. In the 21st century it means a place much bigger than a village and much smaller than a city or manufacturing conurbation. It's meaning has thus significantly changed. It is realistic to say that Holsworthy and similar towns were more important to the rural areas in which they are sited in times past because they were the places where producers sold whatever they produced and obtained their supplies to run the farms and country crafts. Presently an increasing proportion of fatstock is transported away from the district and all the milk. The small town is much more a service centre.

The following list of field and sites in the parish with the word 'town' as part of their description includes the area of land covered in acres, rods and poles and a classification – arable at meadow. Most land was classified as arable because meadowland was rated higher than arable for tithe.

At Milton Town

Higher Town Place	arable	2 – 2 – 18
Town Place	arable	2 - 13
Lower Town Park	arable	2 – 3 – 13

At Venn

East Above Town	arable	3 – 0 – 28
West Above Town	arable	3 – 0 – 04

At Worden

Little Above Town	arable	2 – 12 – 21
Great Above Town	arable	3 – 1 – 13

At Ley

West above Town	arable	4 – 0 – 21	
Homer Above Town	"	5 – 0 – 38	Town-Homer-West

At Whitebear (Smales')

Higher Inn Town	meadow	1 – 2 – 20	
Middle Inn Town	arable	1 – 2 – 20	
Inn Town Meadow	old pasture	1 – 0 – 31	

At East Wonford

Above Town Orchard (twice)		0 – 1 – 7	and 0 – 1 – 35
Above Town (twice) arable		1 – 0 – 31	and 0 – 3 – 38 arable

At Gidcott Chapel

Old Town	old pasture	1 – 2 – 25	(old indicates not presently a pasture)
Old Orchard	arable	1 – 3 – 32	

An obvious comment must be the close similarity of acreages of fields and orchards indicating and confirming that at most of these sites there were two and more often more than two tenants or leasees and showing that when first established land was shared equally.

Another observation must be made in relation to Whitebeare and the use by Willam Routley of the word "Inn". I cannot convince myself that his is an error and must conclude that there was an inn serving the community there where there were six holdings apart from three at Madjey Ford's Whitebear, and a number of craftsmen plying their trade.

It is worth commenting that there are two communities in the parish where the term town is not found. – West Wonford and Derworthy both of which had manor status at some time. At West Wonford there was at least four separate holdings but each is believed to have had its own yard and building with the only shared facilities being 'rights of way' and the small village green where chaps and maidens met up, and did whatever youngsters do at such times. Derworthy was probably farmed as a single unit. These two examples lend credence to the view that the shared facilities were the chief reason for the use of the term town in most hamlets in the early 1800's and before.

Man has always, or very nearly always, had a real liking for alcohol no matter from what source it was obtained, and they are many, but principally from grain or fruit. Drinking alcohol is mostly a communal indulgence when people seek company, and derive much pleasure from it.

The churches saw a way of making some money to finance some essential repairs to church property. The churchwardens organised the brewing of a quantity of ale for sale at the time of the Church Revel, or as some people called it; the Church Ale. I expect a 'blind' eye was turned toward the few who drank too much, it was regarded as being in a good cause.

Following the civil war many churches were found to be in very bad condition. In 1674 the Rural Dean of Holsworthy 'presented' several local churches for serious

deficiencies including Milton where he said "The Church of Milton is supported by posts, the churchyard annoyed with beasts, and a garden encroaching....."

To brew a quantity of ale the church wardens needed a malthouse where the barley could be sprouted. In Milton parish in 1840 there are two sites recorded from field names indicating that here were two malthouses. It is not at all surprising that one should be near the church at Milton Town Farm.

The fields there are listed:-

Map no. 1192	West Malthouse Meadow	ch.arable	1 - 0 - 38
" 1193	East " "	" meadow	1 - 1 - 37
" 1199	Lower " field	" arable	2 - 1 - 37
" 1200	West " "	" "	1 - 0 - 38

The second site was at Chases' Grawley:-

469	Lower Malthouse meadow	arable	1 - 1 - 1
470	Higher " "	"	1 - 0 - 31
470a	Garden in Malthouse meadow		

It should be noted that 5 of the 6 fields are very close to being 1 acre each – an appropriate size to support the active manor theory of an earlier time. The question is posed 'why at Grawley'? Apart from the response from locals living in that part of the parish of why not?, there are many possibilities. Maybe a church warden lived there; it is not for the ancient manor of Gidcott. Sir Simon Leach owned Newton manor and owned farms on the Milton side of the Torridge. The brewhouse could have supplied inns at Whitebeare, Tor View (Venn Green) or Woodford Bridge.

Some of the legislation enacted down through the centuries give some clues as to the time scale regarding the brewing business. In 1267 there was an Assize of Bread and Ale which gave local courts the power to decide the price of each on the basis of true local costs. More than two hundred years later in 1495 a Licensing Statute gave J.Ps the power to supervise and to suppress sellers of alcoholic drink. There was obviously an ongoing problem because in 1529 legislation was passed for suppressing breweries attached to ecclesiastical organisations. This was followed in 1552 by an Act giving J.Ps additional powers to license and to suppress.

Church Ales continued to be held for more than 200 years after this date but the event may well have become Church Revel because the ale would have been replaced by beer. Hops, an important ingredient which had been common usage for the continent of Europe for centuries past was introduced into Kent around 1400 from the Netherlands. It may have taken awhile for hop-growing to spread across England but with support from the church its progress westward may well have been speeded up. That is took on in Kent is certain because E.Hastel, the historian of Kent, states that a petition was presented to Parliament in 1442 against the hop plant, which was termed 'a wicked weed'. Even by 1552 not enough hops were home-grown and some privileges were given to hop grounds to encourage production in the hope of reducing the importation of rubbish masquerading as hops. How many hops were grown in Milton we'll never know but the 1840 Tithe Schedule lists three sites:

At Ley	No. 666	Hop Garden	arable occasionally	0 - 1 - 18
	No. 121	" "	" "	0 - 0 - 38
At Shapton's				
Whitebear	No. 788	Hop Garden Meadow	pasture	1 - 1 - 11

It would be surprising if there weren't more hop gardens a century earlier especially if Professor Bradley was right when he stated in his publication "The riches of a Hop Garden Explained" in 1729."for every ground that was ever esteemed before worth a shilling an acre per annum is rendered worth thirty, forty, fifty, or more pounds a year by planting hops judiciously upon it.....

Many difficulties were experienced by church communities over a long period, probably two or three centuries and they ranged from disreputable ministers who drank too much themselves, some even obtained money by extortion from their parishioners; they sometimes engaged curates not up to the job and this at a time when everyone was obliged to attend church. In addition there was always the vexed question of the payment of tithe.

It is not very surprising that a few revels got a bit out of hand when some of the participants may have said that a good time was had by nearly all. The story I like is told by the Rev. Warne in his book 'Church Society in the Eighteenth Century and concerns a Consistorial Court case in 1765.

The churchwardens presented the Rev. Samuel May for several failings, but chiefly for what happened on a Revel Sunday. He was charged with walking out of the morning service on 1st July 1764 and while still wearing his surplice went into the Public House in Church Town to search for people who should have been in Church. Then, at Evening Prayers, he left his desk and bawled aloud to all strangers in the church to immediately leave their seats and to leave the church. Those who were slow to obey he violently laid hold of and pulled and pushed them out.

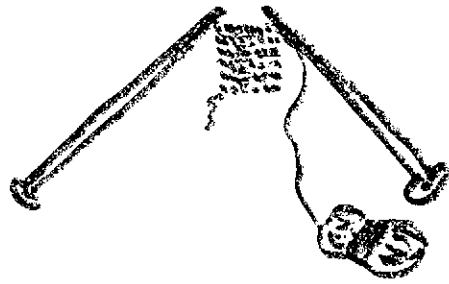
His explanation of such unseemly behaviour for an officiating minister was that for nine years he had experienced profaneness on Revel Sunday with fighting, bloodshed, drunkenness and rioting. Services in church had been marred by laughter, talking aloud, running from one seat to another, and keeping rightful parishioners out of their seats. On a recent Revel Sunday two fellows were so drunk that they fell out of their seats and agreed to end it by boozing. The others came out of their seats to see fair play instead of parting them and all the while the parson was in the pulpit in the midst of his sermon.

Obviously the younger people of the district know that Rev. Sam May could be provoked and who could tell what would happen. Poor Samuel admitted to the court that in trying to stop "this wicked revelling" he had overstepped his authority and he had to pay the costs of the suit. The story has a better ending because we are told the Rev. Samuel May succeeded his uncle and became rector and patron of the parish of Roborough.

Just a few field names and a walk into history.

George Harris





Sponsored Knit-In

Come along to the annual knit-in supporting the North Devon Hospice

Every year around this time the North Devon Hospice organise a sponsored knit-in and we are all invited to take part. We meet up with our double knitting wool and a pair of size 8 or 4mm knitting needles, cast on 20 stitches and knit as much as we can in garter stitch for two hours. Along with any money donated, the strips are all sent off to the hospice where they are stitched together to make blankets. This year, it will be held at Mount Pleasant on Tuesday 4th March between 2pm and 4pm, sponsor forms can be obtained from me on 261433. If you fancy coming along for the tea and company, you will be most welcome. In the year 2000 we raised £90.50, we skipped a year due to foot and mouth disease and last year we raised £27.50. Please feel free to make a donation even if you can't come along on the day, the hospice ask for all money collected to be paid to them by the end of March. Edna.

Millennium Banner

If you went along to the Millennium Luncheon or Social and have not signed the banner and wish to do so, please make arrangements with Lesley on 261294 as the banner is currently being embroidered and nearing completion.



WINE AND WISDOM

Milton Damerel Parish Hall Committee are holding a wine and wisdom evening on 15th March in the hall.

Teams of 6 people - please arrive at 7.30 for 8 o'clock start - £3.50 each person.
To book your team telephone Lesley on 261294 or Christine on 261593

Grateful thanks to all sponsors who have made this publication possible, for all donations and help with distribution. This newsletter will reach 180 homes from Woodford Bridge to Holsworthy Beacon including Abbots Bickington

It pays to advertise, to place your ad. please contact either Sarah Harper, The Crossways, Milton Damerel on 261473 or Edna Mortimer, Mount Pleasant, Milton Damerel on 261433

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**Whether or not you have your own computer, I can offer training
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**It is never too late or too early to learn.
You will be amazed what the 'W.orld W.ide W.eb' can do for you.**

For more information, please contact: -

Elizabeth Ilett

**Milton Mill Farm, Milton Damerel
Holsworthy, EX22 7DN**

Tel: - 01409 261440

Fax: - 01409 261186

E-mail: - ilett@freeuk.com

VARIEGATED THOUGHTS

At the end of the last 'Variegated Thoughts' I touched on the world of marketing. At one time if you wore a 'T' shirt with an emblem across the chest you looked strikingly out of place wherever you went and were probably receiving some benefit for it. My brother who many years ago funded the airfare for his daughters to accompany him on his world tours, in return for displaying a well known Australian bank on his suitcases, was ahead of his time. Everyone is now expected to advertise for free and to pay through the nose to boot. Many firms such as Nike, Adidas, Guinness, Next, Benetton, charge high prices for the goods that you will advertise for them every time you wear or use them.

Years ago a major washing powder producer declared that it washed 'whiter than white', yet years later that 'whiter than white' has been improved on with more 'advanced' products. How much 'whiter' can 'whiter than white' get?

The fashion industry has to keep declaring that a different 'look' is the 'in' thing in order to keep its tills ringing, but when you have lived long enough you see the 'brilliant new designs' churned out to the ever so gullible public again. Flared trousers spring to mind.

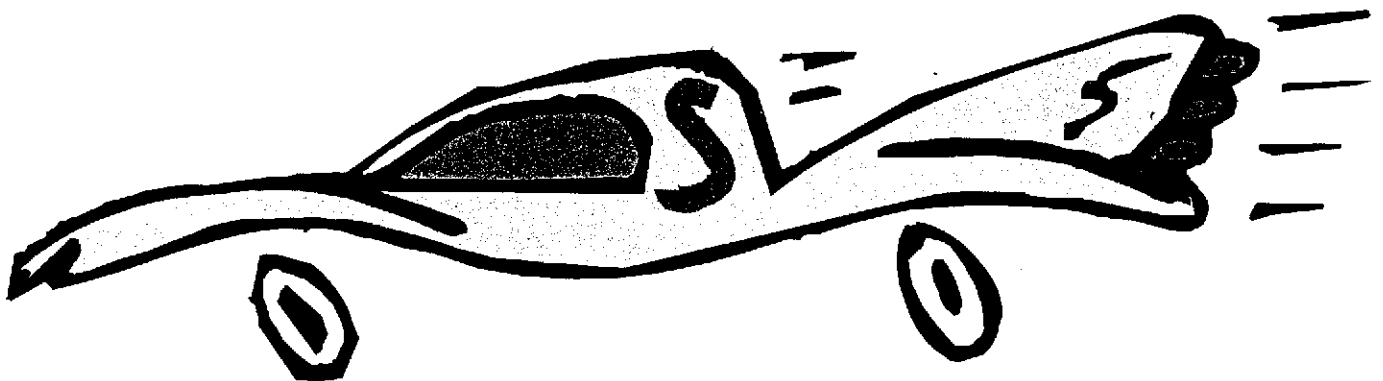
There is a certain immorality about this process, particularly when it plays upon emotions such as embarrassment - 'are you embarrassed by your mobile?' - making the recipient feel obliged to go out and buy the product to save face. The inherent dangers of advertising the car that goes from 0 - 100 m.p.h. in .05 of a second, whilst appealing to the macho man or woman, need no explaining.

Progress in technology has a very valid place in society and its benefits sometimes are plain for all to see. It does appear to me that previous generations of schoolchildren have coped very well without having a mobile 'phone glued to their ear. I was recently in a restaurant when a young man was texting another on a table on the other side of the restaurant. Where will it stop?

Techno companies must continue to be innovative to carry on in business, and for the few benefits this research will have it will almost certainly bring a load of dross that they need to sell to the gullible or 'embarrassed' with it.

The shareholders and the money men (a subject perhaps for another time) upon whom society appears to depend so much, demand ever increasing productivity which means ever more forceful marketing.

Paws



Lizzy's



Larder

Milton Mill Farm, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy, EX22 7DN

Open Every Saturday

from 10^{am} to 1^{pm}.

(Or shop by appointment any day)

We stock a wide range of high quality, locally produced, fresh, frozen and preserved produce including: -

Beef , Lamb, Chicken, Duck,
Venison, Trout, Pheasant
Seasonal Fruit and Vegetables
Bread, Cakes, Puddings, Flans
Pickles, Chutneys, Jams, Honey
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Freshly laid, Free Range eggs
are available each day at the
farmgate. 60p for ½
doz or £2.50 for a tray of 30.

Tel: - 01409 261440

A family of tortoises went onto a cafe for some ice cream. They sat down and were about to start when Father tortoise said. "I think its' about to rain, Junior, will you pop home and fetch my umbrella?"
So off went Junior for Father's umbrella, but three days later he still hadn't returned. "I think, dear," said Mother Tortoise to Father Tortoise, "that we had better eat Junior's ice cream before it melts."
And a voice from the door said, "If you do that I won't go!"



Cats Protection



Cats Protection is the UK's oldest and largest feline charity, actively helping and rehoming cats all the way from the Shetland Islands in the North to Falmouth in the South West.

Our work involves the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of needy cats and kittens. We provide shelter, food and veterinary attention to all in our care until we can find them a home. We maintain a strict non-euthanasia policy - cats are never euthanased, except on veterinary advice.

Over the last 75 years, our organisation has experienced phenomenal growth, reflecting the fact that the cat is now the UK's favourite pet, with 7.7 million domestic cats. CP currently has a large voluntary Branch fostering network and 30 permanent Shelters. Ninety percent of our work is carried out by a dedicated network of 5,000 volunteers who spend over six million hours each year on cat care.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees drawn from the Council, itself elected by the membership.

A site has been acquired at Chelwood Gate, East Sussex, to create a National Cat Centre comprising a 200 pen Shelter and Visitors' Centre.

Our main aims are:

1. To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens, rehabilitate and rehome them where possible.

- Each year, we help over 170,000 cats and kittens.
- Each day, we rehome 150 cats and kittens, which amounts to about 60,000 annually.

Over the past five years, this means:

- Reuniting approximately 20,000 lost cats with their owners.
- Rescuing and rehoming over 350,000 cats.
- Helping to provide veterinary treatment for 265,000 injured cats.

2. To encourage the neutering of all cats and kittens not required for breeding.

Did you know that a female cat could be responsible for over 20,000 descendants on five years?

Cats Protection supports neutering as the only effective way of reducing the vast numbers of unwanted cats and kittens in the UK.

- We maintain a £3 million annual neutering scheme for cats with owners on low incomes nationwide.
- In 1998, we launched the country's first mobile neutering clinic. Purchased with lottery funding, the clinic is designed to help needy cat owners in the Preston area.

3. To inform the public on the care of cats and kittens.

- Helpline:- We provide advice to the public through our Helpline, which receives an average 600 calls daily. While our Helpline advisors cannot provide specific veterinary or legal advice, they offer general information on a range of subjects from behaviour to quarantine. Helpline also assists callers wishing to adopt a pet from us, or who must give up their pets for various reasons. You can phone our Helpline on : 01403 22 19 19. Or, to learn what Helpline's Most frequently asked questions and answers are visit our website on: www.cats.org.uk
- Education:- We distribute colourful and informative curriculum based school packs designed to educate children about animal welfare - particularly that of cats. Each year, these packs are used by over 10,000 primary, and 3,000 secondary, schools. If you are a teacher and would like to receive a pack, please contact our Helpline on 01403 22 19 19.
- Cats Protection's Veterinary Newsletter:- This highly respected newsletter keeps veterinary professionals abreast of the latest in clinical feline news.
- Leaflets:- We offer a comprehensive array of literature on every aspect of cat care. To receive your free copy of any one of our leaflets, please phone our Helpline or visit our website: www.cats.org.uk

To become a supporter, to make a donation, or to sponsor a cat cabin, please call our Freephone number 0800 917 2287.



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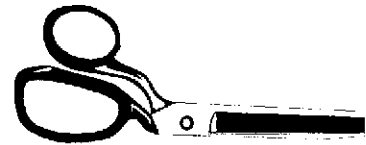
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Line Dancing

Every Wednesday evening in the Parish Hall

7.30pm – 9.30pm £1.00

Come along and be sure of a warm
welcome



Sew'n sews

Come and join in with Lesley at Tor View the third Tuesday of each month,
bring your sewing or knitting and meet friends for a get together.

1.30 pm – 4pm

Tea and biscuits served - 50p is all that is asked
(to aid funding our newsletter).

Tel: Lesley on 261294 for further details



The Samaritans

e-mail: 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 790 9090 or 01271 374343

C.A.B.

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