

Welcome to new neighbours

Len & Olive Smith at Arden
David & Sandie Sixsmith at Westfield
Michael & Carol Dean at Fairway
and Adam, Rachel and family at Sunny
Meadow

Births

Congratulations to Sallie, Steve, Alice,
Katie & Matthew Jago on the safe arrival
of baby Samuel.

Milton Damerel Parish Council

Forthcoming meetings

Thursday 24th October -In the Chapel Hall
Thursday 21st November -In the Chapel Hall

Clerk-

Elizabeth Ilett
Milton Mill Farm
Milton Damerel
EX22 7DN

Tel 01409 261440
Fax 01409 261186
E-mail miltondamerel@freeuk.com

Chairperson -Janet Elliott

01409 261422

Councillors

Charles Bellew
David Dyer
David Kirby

01409 261214
01409 261412
01409 261314

David Poole 01409 261282
Pauline Palmer 01409 261451
Philip Reed 01409 281213

The building of the bus shelter at Crossways is now well underway and will soon offer much needed protection from the elements for those waiting for the bus.

Following a number of complaints regarding damage made by heavy goods vehicles at Crossways, Devon County Council has now agreed to relocate the existing "Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles" sign from Crossways to Whitebear Cross on a trial basis. It is hoped that this will rectify the problem.

The Parish Council Financial Audit has been completed with no matters arising. The audited accounts are available for inspection at Milton Mill Farm on weekdays between 10am and 4pm from 11th November to 22nd November 2002.

Thank you to everyone who contacted me with locations of Japanese knotweed. The details have been collated and passed to the Environment agency. They have informed me that Devon County Council will be concentrating on eradicating this plant from roadside verges over the next three years. Any plants on privately owned land are the responsibility of the landowner or tenant. The plant is susceptible to a range of herbicides including glyphosate and treatment during late summer and autumn appears to be the most effective. It will take at least three years of herbicide treatment before it has been eradicated so persistence is the key. Remember you must contact the Environment agency before using herbicides in or near a stream, river or pond that discharges to or is fed by a watercourse or groundwater. If you decide to dig up the plant you must burn all the material and thoroughly clean your implements afterwards to prevent its spread, alternatively you can dispose of the material by prior arrangement with your local landfill. A booklet (P05969) with more detailed information is available from the Environment agency on 0845 9333111.

We are pleased to advise that Westcountry Ambulance service have now appointed a Liaison Officer for the First Responders scheme. A new committee will need to be set-up to deal with the administration, finance and every-day running of the scheme. If anybody is interested in joining this committee please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Ilett

P A R I S H H A L L N E W S

MILTON DAMEREL PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

We would like to thank all who responded to our request for a fridge and cutlery.

A fridge is now installed in the kitchen along with a good supply of decent cutlery.

The hall is used for many functions and we give below a scale of our charges.

PRIVATE PARTY	PARISHIONER	£20.00
	non-PARISHIONER	£25.00
WEDDING (all day)		£40.00
CONCERT/WHIST DRIVE		£12.00
SKITTLES	BIDEFORD LEAGUE	£3.00
	HOLSWORTHY LEAGUE	£6.00
BOWLS		£6.00
	MEETINGS per hour	£2.00
SIXTIES CLUB	per Quarter	£15.00
CHILDREN'S PARTY		£10.00
CHRISTENING TEA		£10.00
FUNERAL TEA		£10.00
Per Hour	PARISHIONERS	£2.50
	non-PARISHIONER	£3.00
Table hire (each)		£2.00
Chair hire (10)		£2.00
SHOULD A BAR BE USED AT A	FUNCTION AN EXTRA	£5.00
	WILL BE ADDED	
TO BOOK TELEPHONE	LESLEY	261294
	Or CHRISTINE	261593

The hall will hold 175 close-seated audience or 200 people and nineteen skittlers.

Monday – Friday 9am to 1am. Saturday 9am to 12 midnight.

You may or may not be aware that we have just undergone a major re-build to the end wall of the hall. This has caused a deep hole in our finances. The hall committee organise functions and socials to raise monies. We are always looking for new ideas, also new members to help. So, if any of you out there is interested in joining our committee, regardless of age or gender, please contact one of the committee members.

DAVID POOLE	261282	CHRISTINE BUCKPITT	261593
LESLEY SELF	261294	CHARLES BELLEW	261214
FRANCIS HEARN	253239	BILL & JANET CARTER	261262
CHRISTINE COOK	261310	MARGARET FISHLEIGH	261207
NORMAN WEBBER	261365	LLOYD PIPER	261280

**MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR**



AUTUMN 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 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)

VISIT OF THE FAITH MISSION TEAM

It was a delight to have so many of the parish come along to one or more of the Faith Mission day time and evening events, and the children who came along for the Holiday Bible Club. The programme over the three weeks provided something of interest for all ages and there is more to come for kids.! Stephen & Joanna are returning on **SATURDAY, 7th December with a CHRISTMAS ROADSHOW, starting at 10am and ending at 12 noon.** Fun and games centred around the Christmas Story. If you enjoyed the summer holiday club don't miss out!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Those of us who were able to make one or more of the events over the week-end were absolutely delighted with the spectacular displays that had been arranged during the Friday. A very large thank-you to every-one for the gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables and groceries; to the families who took responsibility for one of the window displays; to those who attended the "after school event" – mums and young people; and those who finished up in the evening. There is a tremendous amount of skill and talent which was admirably used to great effect. Thank you Every-one!

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

Children's Hospice South West has been supported in the Autumn with two events:

The Local Young People made two colourful wall hangings, which were presented to Lavinia Archer, the Hospice's local representative. Lavinia showed excerpts of a video "A Little Bit of Heaven", which shows children at the Hospice and the work with them and their families.

Tracy Dunmore organised the "Butterfly" Sale and writes the following:

"Each year during the last week of September, the Children's Hospice South West have a Butterfly week (a time to raise awareness and extra money). One of their representatives visited Milton Damerel Youth Club and we were asked to sell some butterflies for them. It was decided that we would have a sale outside Sanders Garage on Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th September. We also sent a box of butterflies to Bradworthy School, who somehow managed to sell the whole lot and raise £50.00. (A great start!). On Saturday we set out our stall nice and early and did a very steady trade. We were soon flooded with offers of help from Youth Club members and their Mums. The sale was great success and we raised a grand total of £205.27. I have since received a letter of thanks from Children's Hospice South West, and would like to add my own thanks to every-one who either helped on the stall or gave very generously, and also to Sanders garage for making it all possible." Thank you Tracy for organising the sale in our community.

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN for the months of November and December 2002

3 rd November	Mrs W Carter	1 st December	Mrs C Fishleigh
11 th November	Mrs W Millman	8 th December	Mrs V Harris
17 th November	Mrs O Turner	15 th December	Mrs R Sharp
24 th November	Mrs F Hearn	22 nd December	Mrs D Colwill
	29 th December		Mrs P Overy

Thank you to every-one on our rota for the variety of arrangements and plants provided each week – they really do enhance the chapel and help us to marvel at Creation and God its maker.

SUNDAY CLUB PROGRAMME: The programme arranged for November & December

November

Fishy Stories

- 3rd - The Jonah Story
- 10th - "Having a Whale of a Time"
Quiz & Competitions
- 17th - Fishers of Men – a Mighty
Catch + Crafts
- 24th - Family Service
with Mr Peter Parsons

December

Christmas is Coming!

- 1st – Preparations and Crafts
- 8th – Songs and Preparations
for next Sunday
- 15th – Christingle Service with
Rev David Wheeler
- 22nd – Christmas Cooking
Candlelit Carols in Afternoon
- 29th - Games

Sunday Club from 11am – 12 noon each Sunday is FREE and OPEN to all local Young People.

Dates for your Diary / Calendar:

1ST December – OUR CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

Mr Ernie Rich will lead our morning service at 11am

Advent Gospel Special at 8pm with the Stowford Meadow Singers and elocutionist Mrs Joan Sussex.

7th December – CHRISTMAS ROADSHOW – see above

15th December – CHILDREN'S CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at 11am; Families Welcome; Collection for Children's Hospice South West.

22nd December – PARISH CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE in the Chapel at 3pm; Collection for NCH.

3rd January – ANNUAL FAMILY PARTY at 5pm for games and tea for young people. Parents and friends welcome at 7pm. Come and join in! NO charge.

Afternoon Friendship Club – look out for notices in the New Year advertising this new club.

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. A bible study and prayer meeting is held every Monday evening in the Schoolroom – come along if you wish to pray with us.

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)

Lizzy's



Larder

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

Lizzy's Larder is pleased to announce, that due to your local support,
the shop will remain open

Every Saturday from 10_{am} to 1_{pm}.

(Up to and including Saturday 28th December 2002.)

We stock a wide range of fresh, frozen and preserved produce including: -

Lamb, Chicken, Duck, Venison, Trout

Seasonal Fruit and Vegetables

Bread, Cakes, Puddings, Flans

Pickles, Chutneys, Jams, Honey

Free Range eggs, Quail eggs, Cream

Plants etc.

We also stock locally made Arts, Crafts and Gifts.

Why not order your weekly produce?

Avoid disappointment on limited perishable stock items.

A stock list is now available.

Orders can be collected between 10_{am} and 4_{pm} every Saturday,
(a delivery service may be available on request).

If you can't make Saturday, you can even shop by appointment on
Sunday or Monday and if we don't stock what you want, let us know
and we will happily find it for you.

Full details of our supply and buy policy is available on request.

Tel: - 01409 261440

Fax: - 01409 261186

Experienced Local Bookkeeper

offers a comprehensive and confidential
bookkeeping and secretarial service.

Including: -

Preparation of VAT returns, Bank reconciliation
Cashflow forecasts, Draft Accounts, Problem solving
Invoicing, typing, etc.

All types of business provided for.
Specialist knowledge of Farm Accounts.

Excellent References available

Would you like to know more about computers?

Whether or not you have your own computer, I can offer training
and support for all ages, Internet access, E-mail set-up, retrieval
and monitoring service, Microsoft office training, picture
publishing, problem solving, etc.



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

The River Waldon in Milton Damerel, The Valleys, The Bridges and Fish

By George Harris

Many people say 'the problem with old people is that they are always reminiscing about the past and seem unable to let it be'. The problem for the old people is that the memories of their young days is still very good and they become the obvious comparison with many of today's events and features. Such was the situation a few weeks ago when a 'County Fisheries Officer' phoned to ask if it was all right for them to come to 'electro-fish' a short stretch of the Waldon not far from the bridge. I had to tell him that time marches on to the point at which we had sold the block of land adjacent to the river. The new owners were our neighbours the Cobbledick family of Langadon in Sutcombe parish. The Devon Fisheries have used this site for monitoring fish life in the river for several years; every other year, or maybe every third year I wouldn't be sure because time goes by so quickly.

Before reminiscing further it is worthwhile looking at the name Waldon. Some authorities suggest that the name comes from the old English Weala-land meaning land occupied by Britons or serfs. (Presumably Celts left behind at Waldon and Walland when the Anglo-Saxons ethnically cleansed most of the area). It also means that the celtic name of the river was lost, in which circumstances it adopted the name of the farm.

My earliest recollections of the Waldon River are from attending Milton School from 1924-25 to 1930; when walking homewards we used to look over the bridge parapet to see how many fish could be seen darting about or just facing upstream with gills gently waving to maintain station. Excepting when the cows were standing in the river for shade, and to get away from biting flies, the water was clear and the stony bottom was quite clean.

Because of age and the need for exercise, I find myself walking this road again and I usually look over the parapet in the hope of seeing a bird or a fish but to date without any success. The river now is more overgrown with ash trees and hazel bushes to such an extent that only on very sunny days does enough sunlight penetrate to see the bottom at all clearly. The stony bottom is less clean than it was seventy years ago but it is much better than it has been for about the last thirty years.

I recall that in those early years there used to be 'land waters'-floods in modern parlance-as often as happened in recent times and not really surprising that a lot of the valley is flooded because most of the single arch bridges are scarcely big enough to take the water even at bank height. From home we could tell how deep the water would be at Milton Mill by which particular areas were covered with water. There were many occasions when we were collected from school, or from Milton Mill depending I suppose on whether it was still raining. There was one time when the floods were quite deep and one of the workmen was sent to get us by horse and cart and with a carriage umbrella. Usually father came with the Chevrolet tourer-hood up of course. We, my brother, two sisters and I piled into the car and we usually found room for Joyce and Jack Daniel whose parents lived and farmed North Town. I remember particularly because they were so

well mannered; a bit more than a mumbled 'Thanks', head down and gone. A little later in the journey we should be reminded that the good manners of Jack & Joyce were an example worth emulating.

Quite right too!

In retrospect the river floods no more often now, than it did nearly three quarters of a century ago. In those days the valley bottom was not so very much different – wetter away from the river which acts like a big open ditch and in some areas a good deal wetter; wet enough to grow thatching rushes which were cut with a scythe and used to thatch ricks of hay, and stacks of corn sheaves, before the time when big sheds were put up to cover crops and livestock. Clumps of withies (willow) dotted around were quite a common sight. The summer grazing was of inferior quality, some grass among the sedge and rushes, even some cotton grass in wetter parts. Marsh orchids, knapweed and hard-heads (plantain), were present in quantity but little else of quality except a few red clover plants.

Now long after my brother and I took on the farming in 1944 we bought a bunch of cattle for grazing and with them was an in-calf cow. Not long after we put her with our own herd so that she would be seen more often. In due time she failed to appear with the milkers and could be seen standing on her own in the rushes not far from the river. On arriving at the scene it was obvious that she had a calf hidden in the sedge and rushes. She was a Devon crossbred with traditional type horns pointing forwards. As we arrived she backed off a few yards and lowered her head; a moment or two later Edgar and I were beating a remarkably hasty retreat as she rushed at us, and we then knew why she had been sold in-calf. A horse and cart enabled us to get close enough to put the calf in a sack with its head outside and onto the back of the cart. She followed without any fuss and since I can't recall any further incident I am uncertain as to her subsequent home.

My memories cover a period of about seventy-five years, rather less than half of them before the mechanization and intensification of all aspects of farming had such dramatic effects on environments such as the Waldon River and its valley. In the early years, the thirties and the forties, farming was in a depression and good farming was scarcely possible. It was the era when horses still provided whatever power was required on the farm except for manual work which was of course crucial, as any examination of the range of hand tools used would prove – probably more a case of 'mind blowing' by today's standards. When fertiliser was applied in the valley, if any was applied, it was quite likely to be basic slag thrown off the back of a butt using a fire pan. Any draining done was with pick and shovel and mostly repairing choked old drains.

Everything changed with the coming of the bulldozer, the J.C.B type digger, and the chain saw probably from the early nineteen fifties. For people of my generation this new mechanisation did not come soon enough because we had already done a lot of draining work using picks and shovels, and although working hard, making a second class job compared to that which was easily achieved with the new and more appropriate machinery.

The country wanted the agricultural industry to maximise its food production and gave subsidies to assist in achieving it. Good farmers want every acre to be capable of producing a good crop every year but inevitably there will be some areas that would be better left to nature because of difficulties with water

levels, or maybe too little soil over clay. A further difficulty, often experienced when a reseed was undertaken, was that the old rushy pasture was so full of weed seeds that unless, or until, good management had overcome that problem the resultant pasture was little different than the original.

It is claimed that because of draining and hedge removal there is a more rapid run-off and rivers flood more quickly. I believe this is only marginally true. Rivers reach bank height a bit quicker but after that it depends totally on how heavy the rain is. If statistics were available I would expect them to show that there has been little difference in flooding recently compared to fifty years ago. What they may show would be that weather patterns are affected by unusual sunspot activity. Older people than me used to believe much more in the influence of the moon on our weather – for example:-

*Saturdays moon (new) comes once in seven years,
Comes once too soon.*

I confess to scepticism about that one.

It is easier to believe that the biggest disaster that the river suffered in centuries, perhaps millennia, happened as a result of the intensification of agricultural production and in particular the establishment of very big herds of cows and very big pig units producing vast quantities of effluent and smaller quantities of very potent silage effluent. The effect was that a few decades ago river life was almost wiped out. The evidence of the harm being done to the river was easily recognised by anyone who walked close by because the bottom became covered by a coating of fibrous material making it difficult to see the bottom. At one junction of a tributary there was a nasty looking scar of a whitish deposit that was obviously associated with animal urine, probably from pigs.

Even at this time there were herons, usually a couple working the valley, which indicated that a worthwhile quantity of their kind of food was available. The day came when in the course of normal stock inspection a heron was seen with a fish in its beak. This bird was some twenty or more yards from the river and appeared to be playing with this fish, which was around six inches or a bit more. A subsequent stock round went over this area when it was observed that the heron had not eaten the fish-perhaps it was already dead, or nearly. From that time the herons left the valley, or more precisely that part of the valley, which came within sight of that part we were farming and none were seen for several months.

It is interesting to speculate on the effects of such dramatic changes to their environment. Not being a fisherman it means looking at the impact of such on the bird life. I have long held the view that what is happening in the area where the species breeds is critically important. An example which up to the present time looks relevant has happened on this farm over the two summers of 2001 and 2002 a colony of swallows here were capable of rearing from 70 to 100 young which mostly stayed in the area of the farm until it was time to migrate when a jamboree attitude seemed to prevail as the whole crowd flew excitedly around the nesting places and the farm area as if fixing its position. The next morning they had gone. Well before this time it was a common sight to see a big group of swallows, anywhere from twenty to forty or more, quartering a field where part of the sheep flock were grazing, and feeding on dung flies. They flew at about eighteen inches above ground level and into the breeze or wind; on reaching the far side they flew

back at normal height and started another feeding run. There were plenty of dung flies and the shepherd usually had a close escort of three or four birds whether Walking or riding on an A.T.V.

During the epidemic no cleaning was allowed until the first birds had left the nests. Because there were very few second or third broods, there was a much lower total number reared, but even so with no stock on the farm a shortage of their diet was bound to happen. The big question was how would the swallows react? The answer was that as soon as a group of between say twelve and twenty formed up they left here to look for better feeding grounds. This poses another question; will they come back next year to this farm or to another? This year, 2002, not more than two thirds of the average of previous years has nested. Half of the farm was stocked with sheep making it fairly certain that there is an adequate food supply and yet the family groups have behaved exactly as last year and moved off early in small groups. Very surprisingly the four young swallows of the last hatch of the year left the nest on Sunday 25th September and drew comment for their behaviour on 28th September and the next day they had gone.

Getting back to the river and the low lying ground in the valley there were several species of birds relatively common in the nineteen twenties and thirties which are not there any more. The moorhen is a good example – often seen in the mill leat in the late twenties, I can't remember seeing one since that time. Curlews and Lapwing or peewits, were not very numerous but a few of each species were breeding in the area during the first half of the twentieth century. The curlew, which produces that marvellously, haunting call, is a real loss. The lapwing was said to be the farmers' friend because it ate the small snails, which were host to the liver fluke parasite. But it also gave pleasure by its wonderful flight manoeuvres when flying in flock. These were a common sight in Milton during the autumn and winter months up to the nineteen seventies since when, because of reduced numbers, they stay nearer to the Torridge estuary.

I recall very clearly a conversation with our late neighbours Wenty and Queenie Jollow soon after they had occupied their new home at Twinaway around forty years ago. Some early guests complained that they couldn't get to sleep. After assuring their hosts that it wasn't anything to do with the bed, they said there were probably two reasons; firstly, coming from a city they could not get used to the silence of the countryside, and secondly sometimes the twittering of the lapwing roosting on the pasture close by made falling asleep impossible. There must have been a lot of lapwing still visiting Milton in the nineteen sixties. Dippers were seen in the Waldon and one of its tributaries several years ago. Wild duck and kingfishers have been residents for most of the last century; the duck bring out a brood almost every year while anyone is rather lucky to see the kingfisher, which is usually just a flash of colour as it speeds by. The ubiquitous heron breeds somewhere locally and appears everywhere there is water with a prospect of fish either wild or ornamental. This account would not be complete without mentioning a white African stork, which came to the Waldon valley for four days and maybe longer. This happened several years ago, possibly ten, when this area had a light dusting of Saharan sand, which was enough to colour the rainwater tanks, a rusty brown shade. The violent winds, which took the sand high into the sky also took up a white stork and dropped it with the sand dust. It was around and clearly visible when doing the stock round for four days, and one wonders what became it eventually.

One interesting though long past activity concerning fish; and nearly all West Country Rivers was that of poaching the odd salmon for the main dish when they came up river to spawn. The stories of the skirmishes with the water bailiffs must be legion among a generation, now fast diminishing in number. I doubt that the taking of some spawning fish led to the present day situation in which they look like becoming an endangered species in the wild state. A few questions put to the Rivers and Fisheries Authority might help us all to better understand a rather obscure subject unless you're a fisherman. They may include: -

When shall we again see mature fish in the Waldon?

Will salmon ever again make the spawning run?

How clean is the river at present?

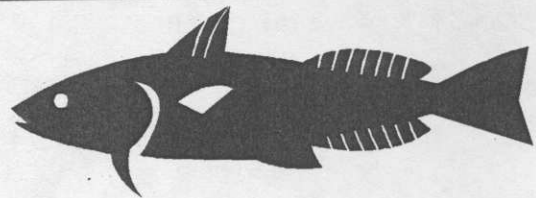
What changes are worth noting from 10yrs-20yrs-30years ago?

Are fishponds any kind of substitute?

David Hoskin the Fisheries Officer carried out a routine check on October 8th 2002 and his findings are interesting as shown below: -

SPECIES	AGE GROUP	1995	1997	1998	2002
Salmon	0+Yrs (Fry)	14	13	0	7
	1++Yrs (Parr)	1	1	1	1
Brown Trout	0+Yrs (Fry)	6	0	0	5
	Larger Trout	9	11	5	22

Thank-you George, a really enjoyable article.
Can any of you remember fishing in the river?
How about writing a fishy tale for the next newsletter.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
TO COME ALONG TO A CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING at TOWN FARM, home of JANET & JOHN ELLIOTT on FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER
10.30 until 12 noon
bring + buy and raffle
all proceeds will go towards the newsletter

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Coffee Morning at Gratton Farm



We would like to give a special mention to Margaret and Clifford Fishleigh who generously opened their home for a coffee morning to aid funding this newsletter. The morning weather started grey but that did not put off the early birds, by ten thirty two rooms were full and later arrivals took seats in the garden, which by now was in glorious sunshine. Judging by the chatter, the time was not wasted – many people had not seen their neighbours for many a month, thus, the coffee morning provided a chance to catch up on what had happened and the news of the moment. Apparently, one or two did not reach their homes until around 2 p.m.!!!

Thank you, Margaret and Clifford for providing the refreshments and the venue for a lovely morning and thank you to Francis Hearn who took control of the raffle and money side for us. The end product was a handsome sum of £81.60, which goes a long way to paying for the printing of this Autumn edition newsletter. Thank you all for coming along and making the morning a success.

Have you any stories to tell about Gratton Farm we wonder?
Do you have fond memories of people who once lived there?

If you have, please pass them on to us and we can share them with our neighbours at a later date.

We would like to extend our thanks to a growing number of sponsors who wish to remain anonymous. The cost of this newsletter is approximately £5.00 per page, if enough people came forward to sponsor a page, it would be a great relief to us. We are happy to give our time, etc. free – but if we have provision to finance the printing each edition, it will make a huge difference.

Businesses, large or small are welcome to advertise, place your items for sale or wanted with us, share your thoughts or ideas – it is your newsletter.

Please have items to be included in the next newsletter ready by 20th January next year. Thankyou.



INTERIOR DECORATOR

Friendly efficient service
for all your Decorating needs
including special paint effects

JANEY KIRBY
01409 261314

VARIEGATED THOUGHTS

A few years ago a supply company, every Christmas, sent an unsolicited gift. One year it was a top of the range gold plated ballpoint pen, the next year a leather cufflink and stud box embossed with its insignia. Another firm in the same industry would always send a leather covered desk diary.

Prompted, no doubt, by the difficulty in deciding what to send each year that would not be the same as the previous year, the first company last November wrote saying that instead it was its intention to donate a fairly large sum of cash - equivalent to the amount it spent every year on gifts to companies at Christmas time - to a children's charity. Without exception this was received with applause for its philanthropic good sense. All the recipients had sufficient pens and cufflink boxes.

Shortly after, the second firm followed suit and discontinued the annual desk diary in exchange for a donation to another charity. Both declared the amounts donated in their quarterly magazines - this leading to a desire by each, not to be seen to be cheap, increasing their donations each year to date - good for the charities.

It strikes me that this idea should be extended to those people to whom we give gifts each year.

I am writing to my four grandchildren to explain that they will not get the usual gift this year but that I will donate the value of the gift to a charity of their choice, and to let me know which charity they select.

Since, as with most children these days they have sufficient resources from over-indulgent parents - my daughters and their husbands - and in truth want for very little, they fall into the same category as the business men's need for pens and cufflink boxes. In any event, their 'needs' are usually driven by clever marketing aimed at making it an embarrassment to not have whatever is being thrust upon them - but more on that subject another time.

I wait with interest the response from my young, 'would be' future philanthropists.

Paws

Line Dancing

Every Wednesday evening in the
Parish Hall

7.30 - 9.30

£1.00

Come along and be sure of a
warm welcome

Sew'n Sews

Come and join in on 3rd Thursday of the
month, 1.30 to 4p.m. Bring your sewing or
knitting and meet friends for a get together.

Tea and biscuits served - 50p towards our
newsletter

Tel: Lesley on 261294
For further details

Food for thought sent in by
Val Goodwin

'First they came for the communists and I did not speak out -
because I was not a communist'

'Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out -
because I was not a Jew'

'Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out -
because I was not a trade unionist'

'Next they came for the Catholics and I did not speak out -
because I was not a Catholic'

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.'

Pastor Niemoeller, Political prisoner of the Nazis

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS TO:

- * Free all prisoners of conscience, detained because of their peacefully held beliefs, ethnic origin, sex, colour, language, religion or sexual orientation.
- * Ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners.
- * Abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment.
- * End extrajudicial executions and 'disappearances'.

Amnesty International UK
99-119 Rosebery Avenue
London EC1R 4RE
Telephone 020 7814 6200
Fax 020 7833 1510
www.joinamnestynow.org.uk

Putford W.I.

For the August meeting members went to Tavistock for lunch then on to visit Endsleigh House and gardens. On a lovely sunny afternoon we enjoyed a leisurely walk around the extensive grounds.

The car treasure hunt and cream tea held at Dunstable Farm earlier in August raised £350 for the Bob Johns leukaemia fund and £73 for the W.I.

In September we visited Dartington Glass at Torrington. After lunch in the restaurant we toured the factory to see how the glass ware was made.

After the usual business meeting in October Mr Brian Hooper from South West Water talked and showed slides on water conservation. He also donated two draw prizes, a watering can and a gardening book. Hostesses were Mrs R. Taylor and Mrs Dawe. Competition was a piece of China.

Anyone interested in joining the W.I. can contact Mrs M Lewis at 241049 or Mrs M Martin on 261204.

RAW PIPER & SONS

AGGREGATES

Sand, Stone, Cement, Dry
Concrete mix, Gardening Grit,
Various chippings including coloured
Collected or delivered
Tel: 01409 261439



Builders Merchants, Timber, Electrical
Plumbing Supplies
Bathrooms & Kitchens



PHC BUILDING SUPPLIES
STIBB CROSS, LANGTREE, TORRINGTON, DEVON EX38 8LJ

Tel: 01805 601204 Fax:01805 601561

BUS SHELTER

As you are probably aware the bus shelter at Strawberry Bank is now complete and ready to shelter any wayward travellers.

Our thanks to everybody involved. Their enthusiasm to build, and generosity to give materials, gives you faith in the human race.

Our special thanks go to:

Mr. & Mrs. Piper and family for blocks, sand and mixer.

Mike Bridgman for donating the roof.

Jeremy Horn (P.H.C.) for giving the timber

Andy Harper for being designer, foreman, labourer.

Jim Woodhouse for expertly laying the blocks.

Janet & John Elliott for excavating the bank and all others including the children Steven Gliddon, Ben Woodhouse and Lawrence Harper for carrying buckets of water and keeping us amused. Not forgetting Sarah for supplying endless cups of tea and home made cakes.

Thank you all from David Kirby



Thank you David and members of the Parish Council for the big effort you made to bring people together and oversee the building of the bus shelter through from the planning stage to completion, not forgetting the hard labour!!!

From grateful children and friends.