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Lesley Self		261294	Regular contributors and features

Letters, comments, news and articles, etc., can be emailed to mdnews@freeuk.com or to any of us individually. Our correspondence address is Chapel View, Milton Damerel, EX22 7PB. We want to hear from you with letters for inclusion, topical issues, features you like and also changes to improve the content and style for future editions. We also need every-one to let us know special birthdays, births, anniversaries, and other congratulations. Also tributes to parish residents.

To advertise in this newsletter contact Margaret on 01409 261486 for more details.

Milton Damerel Parish Council

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 Westfields, Venn Green E-mail mikeandroberta@clara.co.uk
 Milton Damerel
 EX22 7NP

Councillors Gareth Piper (Chairman) 07966558385
 Charles Bellew 01409 261629 Rose Haynes 01409 261577
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Since the report was written for the last newsletter there have been three meetings. Held on the regular third Thursdays of November and January with an extra meeting on the 3rd January to deal, primarily with a planning application which had to be returned sooner than the scheduled meeting.

Planning applications received during this period were for Kites Cottage, Woodford Farm and Kittabear. An application for Agricultural Determination was received for East Wonford Farm.

Following the parish footpaths walk and his own survey, the DCC Rights of Way Warden has informed the Parish Council that works are to be carried out to fit two new stiles, fix a gate and handrail and re-erect two signs. We are grateful to all those involved in these tasks.

PCSO Raquel Rowe attended the January meeting and reported that the Neighbourhood Watch start up was slowly making progress and has agreed to attend further meetings on a quarterly basis so we look forward to seeing her again in April.

The issue of road safety was raised at the last meeting, in particular, with regards the safety of horses and riders. All road users are urged to take great care on the roads, especially on the narrow lanes and to be aware of what might be on the road, round the next bend, be it tractor, car, bike, horse or pedestrian.

Parish organisations have received their 2006 grants and the precept for 2007-2008 was completed in November. This is the money collected with council tax that is paid to the Parish Council to fund the Council and enable it to make grants to support local organisations. The Parish Council's contribution to the Parish Plan project has been agreed and the funding application for the remaining bulk of the cost has been completed.

The annual audit of Parish Council accounts to the year ended 31st March 2006 has been successfully completed and the accounts were displayed on the Parish Hall notice board in December.

Finally a word of thanks to Anne Binns who retired as Parish Clerk at the end of November after over three years in the post. I hope that I, as the new clerk, can continue to serve as well as Anne did.

Roberta Jackson
 Parish Clerk

Making your mark in local elections

2007 is Local Election year. Councillors stand for re-election every 4 years. Any casual vacancies that arise during the 4 year term are usually filled by co-option. There are 7 seats on Milton Damerel Parish Council. Should more than 7 candidates be nominated to stand for election then voting would take place on **Thursday 3rd May 2007**.

Parish and Town Councils provide a line of communication between the community and District Council. Parish Councillors are there to listen to the concerns of the community. Parish Council meetings are open to the public. The meetings are advertised on the parish notice boards at the Parish Hall and Horrellsford Garage for the three days prior to the meeting.

Parish and Town Councils depend on local people taking an interest in what happens in their communities. Whatever their background, local people standing as councillors can bring a wealth of knowledge and community understanding into the local team. Parish and Town Councils are exactly the same, whether large or small they are there to understand and represent the community needs and to provide or support local services.

To find out what is involved in being a Councillor contact the Parish Clerk for more information. The Notice of Election will be published in early March when Nomination forms will be available from the Parish Clerk or Torridge District Council.

Electors should ensure that their name is on the Electoral Register so that you can support your community and vote. Copies of the Electoral Register are kept at TDC Manor Offices in Holsworthy and by the Parish Clerk. It's your right to vote so don't miss out. If you vote you choose who will take decisions on your behalf.

Roberta Jackson
 Parish Clerk

PARISH PLANNING

The steering group has met on three occasions since September and an application for grant funding from the Community Council of Devon was submitted in late January. The Parish Council and our County Council Councillor have also committed funds to our project to have a local plan for Milton Damerel.

We have looked at the steps required over the next 12 months and drawn up a draft timetable of the activities we will need to complete, including some research on the profile of our population, compiling a questionnaire for all households to contribute their views on what is important for the village, and then collating all this into an Action Plan.

At our meeting on 9th February we were delighted to report the grant application has been successful and funds should be issued in the next two weeks. We also agreed the overall aim and objectives for the project, namely:

“...The aim is for the community of Milton Damerel to participate in producing a parish plan. The purpose of the plan is:

- to compile a “snap shot” of the parish now, which will be a historical record for the future – a community profile**
- to consult the community and find out what people value, want to preserve or change, and empower them to achieve these**
- to find ways to improve the parish and the lives of those who live and work here and agree how to make it happen – an action plan**
- to produce a document that will be:**
 - useful for local projects and a point of reference when seeking funds or assistance from outside agencies**
 - a reference source for statutory bodies when drawing up policies and making decisions that affect the parish...”**

We hope this is a readable, understandable statement and will be pleased to receive any comments on it. We also began our thinking on what needs to be included in a community profile, such information as the nature of our population, facilities and services, which we want to finalise at the next meeting, together with discussing the types of questions to be included in the household questionnaires.

We anticipate the project will start in March, and our next meeting is on Friday, 2nd March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Each step during the year will be widely publicised and seeking the involvement of everyone, - clubs, businesses, young and older people, special interest groups, etc.-, and will include open events, probably at the Parish Hall.

Anyone wishing to join the steering group will be most welcome; please contact Anne Binns (tel: 261381) or Grace Millman (tel: 261251). There will be several opportunities for volunteers to be involved, as, for the grant funding, we need to show a significant contribution of voluntary assistance. So please let us know if you can assist or join the group.



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Ken Parnell of Kenmar, Venn Green who celebrated his 80th Birthday on 10th January

To Phyllis & Alan Piper of Parkfield who celebrate their Ruby Wedding on 1st April

To Alison Carter of Derworthy Cottages who celebrates her 40th birthday on 7th May

To Lizzie Daniel of Woodford who celebrates her 18th birthday on 9th May

To Sam & Emily Horn of Sunny Meadows, Venn Green; Sam has been selected to play for the Devon Under17 Hockey team, and Emily has been selected for the Under14 Hockey team. Both girls also play for Bude Ladies Hockey team. Well Done Girls!!

To Naomi Elkins of Heddon Moor Cottages on qualifying to attend Crufts on 8th March (see Youth News)

To Niggy & Ali Southey of The Beeches who were the winners of the Santa competition in the last edition



GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

A warm welcome to:

Darren & Michele Groves, who have moved into The Grange at Milton Town

Ken & Joan Hatchard, who have moved into Glencoe at Venn Green

Ron & Jackie Wright, who have moved into Three Fields at Venn Green

Graham & Marion Bennett, who have moved into Jonleen at Strawberry Bank

Youth & Family News

Both youth clubs and the Sunday club met for the first time since the Christmas break at the annual party. The party was held on Saturday 26th January at 3pm at the Milton Schoolroom. We started with dancing and the music was good, especially "Crazy Frog". When all my friends had arrived, we played games like musical statues, sleeping lions, but musical chairs was my favourite, as I drew with Lucy Poole and we both won sweets! Later on, at around 5pm, we had tea, with lots of yummy food.

Overall it was a brilliant party and lots of fun!

By Daniel Dunmore, with just a tiny bit of help from his sister, Christina.



Monster Club Garden

Milton Monsters will be having their own garden area at the Chapel. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help, please ring Sheila Daniel, Tel: 261466

Gifts of plants would be most welcome, please contact Tracy on 261501.

Budding "Jamie Olivers"

We will shortly be taking delivery of a new cooker at the Schoolroom: anyone interested in cooking for the Monster Club, please ring Sheila.

PROGRAMME FOR MONSTER CLUB

(5 – 9 Years)

15th March – Craft & Sport
19th April – Beetle Drive
10th May – Gardening & Games

PROGRAMME FOR

SENIOR YOUTH CLUB

29th March – Sports Outing
26th April – To be decided
24th May – Chip Shop Crawl

SPRINGTIME ANAGRAMS

FOLIFADSD	RTESAE GSEG
ICHTOECA	MBASL
KICSHC	ULPSTU

Answers on Page 9

An update from the Ecumenical Youth Worker – Lizz Prangle....

Happy New Year to you all!

The New Year is a great time to reflect on all that is past and make plans for the year ahead and it seems the work of the project is no more immune to this than the rest of us!!

2006 saw the birth of the projects work and consequently the re-launch of Milton Damerel's Youth Group, a trip to Delirious and a youth leaders training day, both in Exeter. I spent many evenings visiting youth groups that were already established and generally meeting allsorts of people in hope to gain a clearer picture of youth work in the area. On top of this the project joined forces with North Devon Youth Services in Torrington to deliver an extensive survey among young people to develop an accurate view of youth work in the area and the needs of the young people who access it. This was a very major piece of work, and, very exciting. Unfortunately, responses were very low and we have been unable to draw any conclusions from the research. On a positive note, and, now looking into 2007, we hope to re-launch the needs analysis survey *** and try to deliver it slightly differently in order to get a greater response. If you do come across a paper version of the survey, please fill it in and return it, your thoughts and opinions are important. Equally, if this is the first time you have heard about the needs analysis survey, and you wish to take part, please feel free to contact me, alternatively, go to www.shebbearyouth.org.uk and follow the link and you can take part online.

So, what does the future hold? Early in January we will see the first ever North Devon Christian Youth Workers Network where anyone involved in Youth Work in any form, in North Devon can get together share resources, ideas and support. We will also see the start up of a new youth club in Black Torrington (subject to a planning meeting on the 19th January) and a trip to the Christian Resources Exhibition in Exeter on the 26th of January. If you want any further information on any of these events please feel free to contact me or visit the website for more information. Beyond January there are many thoughts and ideas in the planning process, so do, watch this space.

Thank you for all your support in 2006 and I look forward to meeting and working with even more of you in 2007!

***..... all young people (11 – 16 years) in the area are encouraged to take part in the survey. You may have opportunity to access the survey online in Holsworthy & Torrington schools or, alternatively, use the link detailed above. Please ensure your views are taken into account by going online and giving us your ideas on your needs.



Naomi Elkins writes about her qualification for Crufts...

I started doing agility with my sister's dog about 3 years ago. We go to lots of shows during the year. In January 2007 I received a letter from Crufts, saying that I have qualified for Crufts because I came in the top 3 in Young Kennel Club at Chippenham. On 8th March I will be taking my sister's dog, Crystal, a German Spitz, to Crufts to compete against other children between 6 and 11.

Congratulations and Well Done!

MESSY CHURCH !!

Saturday, 26th May 3.00 – 5pm

An opportunity for the family to come together

Celebrate and Worship

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The annual visit of Santa Claus, sponsored by the Parish Council, saw several families come to the garage on a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon. A few carols were sung and Father Christmas was greeted with "Jingle Bells". All children had opportunity to meet Santa Claus and some had their photos taken with him and the sleigh and pony kindly provided by Santa's helper. A collection box, normally located on the garage counter, for Children's Hospice South West, was circulated. (see also the news about the prize draw sponsored for the Children's Hospice by Horrexford Garage).

Chapel News – March 2007**Newsletter Number Forty**

We extend a very warm welcome and invitation to any-one wishing to come along to our regular services/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.

COMMUNITY SURVEY – We were delighted with the number of responses to our survey distributed in the summer – thank you to everyone for taking the time to answer the questions. We have tried to summarise the answers and comments received from 42 respondents, which were:

Apart from one “not interested” response, all confirmed their awareness of the Chapel in the village, with 19 visiting for special services, etc., 9 visiting for worship, 2 to visit family graves, whilst 11 did not visit and were unlikely to.

Only 3 respondents did not consider the village’s churches to be important/significant part of the community, whilst many provided positive comment on their purpose within the community. Generally, most expressed there would be a sense of sadness if either of the churches closed. Several comments were made on the role the churches should have in the community, such as bringing people together, supporting those with needs, lonely, in despair, etc., and providing services and encouraging community spirit.

A few proposals were made on how the churches could be helpful. 36 positively responded that they felt able to contact the church or someone of the church, whilst 20 responded they would be unlikely to come to church if the style was different. It was noted there may have been some confusion on the question about Alpha course, but possibly up to 10 had responded positively; similarly on discussions about Christian matters. 9 respondents already receive MAP**, 7 indicated would like to receive and 21 declined the offer.

From the responses and comments we have agreed the following actions:

Services:

- Rev Wheeler will be developing “more inclusive” worship for services led by him, that is encouraging those present to join in and offer prayers, volunteer to read, discuss and ask questions about the readings or sermons, choose hymns, etc. It is emphasised all this will be voluntary, at the behest of those present, and an opportunity to ‘feed in’ if would like to do so.
- To advertise the weeknight events in our area for those looking for opportunities to meet and worship, other than Sunday services, namely, Bradford Village Hall on Thursdays @ 7.30pm with fortnightly Communion services starting on 25th January, and Trinity Rock on the last Friday of each month at Lake @ 7.30pm. These are open to any-one of any or no denomination

Opportunities for Discussions:

- In light of interest in an Alpha course, Sheila Daniel will contact Newton St Petrock and Putford on the idea of running a course jointly for the 3 parishes and to consider starting a course in September. **Whether you responded to the questionnaire, please contact Sheila if you are interested in joining an Alpha course and please look out for the publicity on Alpha.**
- With publicity on Alpha to advertise “Discussions on Christian matters” which will be led by our Minister, Rev David Wheeler, and welcomes anyone interested in talking about such issues as Evil in the World.

Use of our Premises for Community:

- A garden area in the graveyard, involving the Milton Monsters club, and a garden seat to be provided, for those visiting graves or just passing.
- Coffee mornings to continue on the last Saturday quarterly, and to include a speaker/visitor/special interest on each occasion
- More promotion of the Friendship Club, the opportunity for meeting together once a month for “a cup of tea” and to hear about some interesting adventures, experiences, etc., and to support Children’s Hospice South West with the bring and buy stall.

** MAP is the Magazine and Plan published by the Shebbear Methodist Circuit, in February, May, August and November, containing many articles on Christian views, current affairs, events in the Circuit, etc and includes the lists (plan) of Sunday services and preachers for all the chapels

FRIENDSHIP CLUB UPDATE – This small group now meets on the third Monday afternoon each month 2.30pm till 3.30pm, except every third month, there will be no Monday meeting but on the last Saturday of the month, a coffee morning from 10.30am.

We met on the 3rd Monday in January, when we came along with our favourite readings and were treated to poems and favourite pieces from ‘Wind in the Willows’ and ‘Peter Rabbit’ amongst others. This was much enjoyed and we shall do something similar for our February meeting (19th February). We shall also have guests Peter and Maureen Ellis from Black Torrington with us.

On Saturday, 31st March, we have our first coffee morning for the year to raise money for the Children’s Hospice South West. Richard Hannaford, of the Household Cavalry, will be a guest and will be pleased to share some of his experiences of his time in Afghanistan. Please come along and meet with Richard – he would be happy to answer your questions on the situation out there. There will also be a ‘Bring and Buy’ stall.

Monday, 16th April our special guest will be Mrs Rose Peard of Little Torrington

Monday, 21st May speaker to be arranged

Chapel News – March 2007**.....Newsletter Number Forty****SUNDAY CLUB & FAMILY SERVICES**

Sunday Club meets on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month and Family Services are held on the 4th/last Sunday

Sunday, 25th February

Rev “Yemi” Jaiyesimi, Shebbear College Chaplain

Sunday, 25th March

Rev Pat Crow, from Winkleigh

Sunday, 29th April

Rev David Wheeler, our Minister

Sunday, 27th May

Sunday Club Anniversary – the annual occasion when we celebrate with the young people and show our support for their part in the life of the chapel. Please join us in this service for all the family.

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY – Normally meets every Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom. We will be delighted to welcome along any-one interested in exploring the Bible. For Lent we will be following a 6-week study entitled “Building Hope for the Future”, starting on 26th February. If anyone wishes for us to pray for them or about local concerns, please feel able to contact one of the Stewards...or even better, come along on a Monday evening.

CHURCH COUNCIL – We have met on 2 occasions and in addition to looking at the results of the Community Survey, which is reported above, we have made progress with some of the property matters raised in the quinquennial surveys reports, discussed how we can use £1,000 made available to each chapel in the Circuit from the legacy of Bob Kipkiss, and approved the financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2006.

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN for the months of March to May

MAR		APR		MAY	
4 th	Mrs Petula Sanders	1 st	Mrs Eunice Hearn	6 th	Circuit Rally
11 th	Mrs Valerie Carter	8 th	Mrs Valerie Harris	13 th	Mrs Ann Poole
18 th	Mrs Grace Millman	15 th	Mrs Margaret Fishleigh	20 st	Mrs Lilian Luxton
25 th	Mrs Gladys Palmer	22 nd	Mrs Phoebe Overy	27 th	Mrs Sheila Daniel
		29 th	Mrs Mary Carter		

For further information or help please contact:

Rev David Wheeler, our Minister on Tel: 281262 (or via the stewards).

Alan Andrew, Rural Lay Worker, Tel: 281321 Lizz Prangle, Ecumenical Youth Worker, Tel: 05602521090

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday, 8th April 7.30pm Gospel Special: Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir

Sunday, 27th May 11am Sunday Club Anniversary

Church News ...

Abbots Bickington – The Candlelit Carol Service was well attended, the church being full, and £161 was raised for Church Funds.

Please note in your diary a preliminary date:

A Garden Fete on 4th August to be held at Bluebell Cottage (the home of Charles and Elizabeth Bellew) for Cancer Research and Abbots Bickington Church

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Milton Damerel

Rector: Father Michael Reynolds Tel: 01409 253435

Services : Holy Communion taken by Father Reynolds on 4th Sunday every month at 11.30am

Pan-fried pheasant with wilted spinach and caramelised onion sauce

Rose Haynes

Preparation time less than 30 mins Cooking time 10 to 30 mins

Ingredients

For the onions

½ onion, finely chopped
30g/1oz butter
2 tbsp red wine
½ stock cube
salt and freshly ground black pepper
knob of butter

For the pheasant.

1 pheasant breast
salt and freshly ground black pepper
a little oil, for cooking
1 clove of garlic, chopped
sprig of thyme

For the spinach

handful of spinach leaves
knob of butter
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. To cook the onions, melt the butter in a saucepan over a medium heat.
2. Add the chopped onions and stir occasionally. Allow the onions to caramelise slightly.
3. Add the red wine and crumble over the stock cube. Cook for two minutes until the liquid has reduced.
4. Finish off the onions by adding a knob of butter to the pan.
5. To cook the pheasant, preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Heat a sauté pan with a little oil.
6. Season the pheasant breast with salt and pepper and place into the pan, skin-side down.
7. Cook for about two minutes until the skin is golden brown. Turn the breast over to cook the other side for one minute.
8. Add the thyme and chopped garlic to the pan. Place the pan into the preheated oven for 4-5 minutes until the breast is cooked through.
9. Pan-fry the spinach leaves with a knob of butter.
10. Season with salt and pepper.
11. Serve the pheasant breast on the caramelised onions with the pan-fried spinach.

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"MILTON SCHOOL DAYS"



In approximately 1839 a village school was built at Fore Street cross on the left-hand side of the road which leads towards Shebbear. This school was destined to be in use for only 32 years. In 1876 the Charity Commissioners were informed that the trustees of the school wished to dispose of the building as the school had for 5 years been totally disused.

I was amazed to find a photograph of this building in the archives in the early 1990s. Although the building itself looked disused and not the best condition it is hard today to believe the school ever stood there as there is no sign of it whatsoever! Young Jack Curtis, who lived just across the way at Cross Cottage was one who attended this school. He only had a short amble across the road each morning. Stanley Walters from Northtown Farm was Jack's best pal at school. His sister, Eunice, used to tell us that if Jack wasn't there, Stanley refused to stay at school.

In those days the village children would congregate in the middle of the road, which was just a rough track, in order to play marbles and other games. I can imagine the clatter of hobnail boots as the village children hurried down Fore Street to get to the school on time!

It was stated in the history file at Holsworthy Library that this school 'has been disused owing to the erection of other schools under a School Board in the Parish.' I've never heard where these schools were situated so if anyone out there has any idea I'd be interested to know for inclusion in the newsletter.

It was in the early 1900s that the village school first started up at the Methodist Schoolrooms and there it stayed until 1972, when Milton lost its school and children were bussed to Bradworthy.

More about the school in future newsletters. I would be really pleased to have your old school memories whether you were at Milton or not.

Sheila Daniel

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Update

There has been a considerable delay to receiving the membership packs which has put a temporary hold on the setting up of the scheme. We are hopeful that the problems have now been resolved and that all residents who have already indicated a desire to join will soon be receiving their packs. If there are any other residents who were not able to attend the meeting last year and would like to join or any further information (no membership fee is involved) please contact your respective co-ordinator:

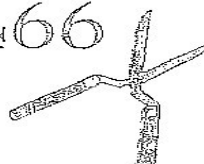
Strawberry Bank - Roger Copp - Tel. 261681

Venn Green - Mike Jackson - Tel. 261196

The areas of Whitebear/Horrellsford and Gratton are not yet covered by the watch scheme. If there is anybody from these areas who would be interested in taking on the role of co-ordinator for your respective area would they please contact either Roger or Mike for further information or PCSO 30099 Raquel Rowe (Tel. 08456 567842) who is overseeing the scheme.

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Answers for Spring Anagrams

1. Daffodils
2. Easter Eggs
3. Chocolate
4. Lambs
5. Chicks
6. Tulips

The Rules—His

Women, learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down.

Birthdays, Valentines, and Anniversaries are not considered by us to be opportunities to see if we can find the perfect present . . . again!

Sometimes we are not thinking about you. Live with it.

Sunday = sports. It's like the full moon or the changing of the tides. Let it be.

Don't cut your hair. Ever. Long hair is always more attractive than short hair. One of the big reasons guys fear getting married is that married women always cut their hair, and by then you're stuck with her.

Ask for what you want. Subtle hints do not work! Strong hints do not work! Obvious hints do not work! Just say it!

We don't remember dates. . . .Period!!

Most guys own three pairs of shoes - tops. What makes you think we'd be any good at choosing which pair, out of thirty, would look good with your dress?

Yes and No are perfectly acceptable answers to almost every question.

Come to us with a problem only if you want help solving it. That's what we do. Sympathy is what your girlfriends are for.

A headache that lasts for 17 months is a problem. See a doctor.

Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument. In fact, all comments become null and void after 7 days.

If you won't dress like the Victoria's Secret girls, don't expect us to act like soap opera guys.

If you think you're fat, you probably are. Don't ask us. We've been tricked before!!

If something we said can be interpreted two ways, and one of the ways makes you sad or angry, we meant the other one.

Let us ogle. We are going to look anyway; it's genetic.

You can either ask us to do something or tell us how you want it done. Not both. If you already know best how to do it, just do it yourself.

Whenever possible, please say whatever you have to say during commercials.

Christopher Columbus did not need directions, and neither do we.

The relationship is never going to be like it was the first two months we were going out. Get over it. And quit whining to your girlfriends.

ALL men see in only 16 colours, like Windows default settings. Peach, for example, is a fruit, not a colour. Pumpkin is also a fruit. We have no idea what mauve is.

If it itches, it will be scratched. We do that.

We are not mind readers and we never will be. Our lack of mind-reading ability is not proof of how little we care about you.

If we ask what is wrong and you say "nothing," we will act like nothing's wrong. We know you are lying, but it is just not worth the hassle.

If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear.

Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you are prepared to discuss such topics as navel lint, the shotgun formation, or monster trucks.

Foreign films are best left to foreigners. (Unless it's Bruce Lee or some war flick where it doesn't really matter what they're saying anyway.)

BEER is as exciting for us as handbags are for you.

Thank you for reading this; Yes, I know, I have to sleep on the couch tonight, but did you know, it's like camping.

www.miltondamerel.com

Milton Damerels' own website has been running for over a year, but sadly its under used. While most of the site is about the area in general, there is a forum where everyone can contribute to. Sections currently include:

For Sale / Wanted / Swap / General Discussions / Whats On / Farming / History and many others.

Recently an entry in the history section said...

"Hello Folks. My name is Mike Hill, Son to Norman and Olive Hill and brother to Jackie and Marguerite. We lived in 'Pentreve' from around 1956 until 1967(give or take a year or two), and all attended the school in the schoolroom next to the Chapel. We also attended the Chapel and Sunday School. Dad worked at Horrels Ford Garage for all that period until we moved to Tavistock. I have many fond memories of those years although I was at Totnes from 11yrs, boarding at King Edward V1 Grammar School.

I remember many of the people who lived in the village but would imagine many have left and others moved in due to the falilitation of travel these days. Mum died in August last year, having contracted cancer of the lung the preceding November but Dad is still living in Barnstaple. Can anyone remember our family and if you want any information about those days, please feel free to contact me on my E-mail address. "

Perhaps you know Mike Hill. If you do, visit the site and perhaps catch up with him, or add a reply to the website.

From Citizens Advice.....

Have your say on Post Office changes, Citizens Advice urges public

How would you be affected if your local post office closed? Citizens Advice is giving people a chance to have their say on the future of the post office network through an online survey, launched today (4th January) on the national charity's website www.adviceguide.org.uk

The quick and easy survey asks about the Post Office services people use, what they value about post offices and how the community they live in would be affected if their local branch were to close.

Other questions aim to find out how often people use their post office, how easy it would be to get to another branch, and where they would go to get the same services if their local post office was no longer available.

The answers will help shape the charity's response to the government's consultation on the future of the post office network.

Citizens Advice social policy officer Tony Herbert said: "People often say that post offices play an important community role. We want to find out whether this is really true, and if so, what people think that role is. We also want to hear what, if anything, people really value about the post office – do post offices really provide a unique service, or could what they do be done equally well by a range of other providers? The results of the survey will also give us a clearer idea of who would be most affected by the loss of local branches, and what impact on their lives would be – from the additional costs in travelling further, to any extra inconvenience.

We can't escape the fact that for the network to remain viable, some changes to the way services are provided are inevitable. But we want to make sure that, as its review gets underway, the Government does not lose sight of the role of the post office at the heart of the community. We want to see a post office network that meets people's needs. Our survey will provide ordinary people with the opportunity to make sure their opinions are "heard".

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Newton St Petrock Male Voice Choir

The choir celebrated their 55th Anniversary with a concert at Newton St Petrock Baptist Church in early December.

On 6th January they sang at Ashreigny Methodist Church and they are currently rehearsing to celebrate South Molton Male Voice Choir re-union on 24th February at South Molton Methodist Church. They are also preparing for their visit to Milton Damerel Methodist Church on Easter Sunday (see Chapel News).

The choir were saddened to receive the news of the sudden death of Rev Lionel Lewis, until very recently a member of the choir. At the funeral service on Saturday 27th January at Lake Chapel, Shebbear, the choir were honoured to join with others in singing a choral version of "When I survey the wondrous Cross".

Putford W.I.

December – 12 members met for our Christmas lunch at Merry Harriers on 4th December, which was very enjoyable. Our president, Liz Darling, then presented the yearly awards:

1st and Cup..... Mary Martin

2ndMarion Wooldridge

3^dMargaret Wooldridge

Flower of the Month Cup Liz Darling

After Christmas Shopping in the afternoon we all met up again for our monthly meeting. Sandra Huxtable was our speaker and gave an excellent floral demonstration on Christmas Arrangements, one of which she kindly donated as a raffle prize.

January – We met on 8th January after the business, we had our usual 'Bring and Share' supper and get-together. We all enjoyed a musical quiz prepared by one of our members.

We now have a busy few months preparing for our group meeting in April, which entails entertaining about 80 people from other W.I.s.

...and we now have 4 members who have joined "The League of friends" of Barnstaple Hospital' and man the Tea Bar on occasional Sunday afternoons.

For further information on our W.I. please contact Mavis Lewis Tel: 241049.

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Village Fete

This year we are planning on holding a fete, however we are not sure of the date at this time so keep an look out for notices around the area for details.

We would like to see things such as tractor rides, coconut shys, bric a brac, raffles etc. But we can't do this on our own so we need your support. If you can offer a stall to sell your own goods, assist on stalls for raffle or can do small tractor rides etc please get in touch.

If you would like more information call either Rose 261577 or Terry 261161

Lizzy's Larder

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Weather or not....

Another weather saying from our local weather watcher...

"If the wind is in the East on Candlemass Day (2nd February), it stays in the East till the 2nd of May".

Actually this year the wind was North to North east – we shall watch with interest to see what it brings!

Did you notice that the December edition's weather prediction (sharp frost in November...) turned out to be correct – well most of the time!

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST

Penny Sanders of Horrellsford Garage is delighted to report that the Christmas Draw held at the garage for Children's Hospice South West raised £244.00. In addition the collecting tin contained £166, and the total sum of £410 has been forwarded to the Hospice. Thank you everyone for your support.

The Main Draw Prize winners were Hannah Moon, who won a mini music centre, and Josie Pomeroy, who won pub meals at Langtree's Green Dragon and the Union Inn at Stibb Cross. Congratulations to both.

Viruses and Spyware

If you're a computer user and spend any time surfing the internet you could leave yourself exposed to small programs that automatically install themselves on your PC. To understand the difference you have to understand what a Virus and Spyware is and does.

Virus: A program created to cause disruption by deleting files or causing errors within the computer. At worst, a virus can render a computer unusable by clearing the 'brain' of the PC, thus the computer can never start.

Spyware: Mainly designed to monitor your internet activity to offer you a better 'experience' by learning your surfing habits or hobby, e.g., if you look for fishing items, then the Spyware will direct you to fishing websites—even if you were looking for something different. However, in extreme cases the Spyware will monitor your keystrokes so when your typing in your online banking details this information is then relayed to a criminal somewhere in the world.

What you can do

Installing a good quality Anti Virus will stop viruses getting into your system, however a lot of the 'free' programs available on the net unfortunately let many viruses onto the system so you must buy cover to protect yourself. Sadly there are very few Spyware applications to protect the user. In my experience some of the 'free' Spyware programs actually allow Spyware to happen, and Anti Virus programs are not currently able to handle Spyware removal efficiently.



So, how do you know if you have Spyware? Simple. Odd things happening, you go to a website that you hadn't planned on going to, extra toolbars within Internet Explorer (eg, MyWay, MySearch, Hotbar), or the computer generally feels sluggish.

To prevent Spyware is relatively simple. Don't visit 'dubious' sites, when you want to trial a new software package, check to see if it comes with 'paid for advertising', and avoid using Internet Explorer. Firefox is another web browser which does not allow

automatic installations of programs that cause havoc, whereas IE allows programs to install automatically without user intervention.

A good place to visit if you're concerned with Spyware is www.spywareguide.com and run their online free scanner. It may not clear every nasty on your PC, but it will deal with the most common.

Letters and correspondence

Milton Damerel Church

I live next door to Holy Trinity and I find it sad to see such a fine old church being under used, but I also realise that we live in an age where the church is no longer considered to be the thing to do on a Sunday.

I drive many thousands of miles around the South West and I see many churches boarded up and forgotten or converted into a home or business.

How sad it would be that our 14th century church is lost for our future generations.

But rather than just talking, we have to be doing and that's why I have started going to church.

I was worried that I didn't know the words, what 'to do' and thought it was going to drag on for hours.

Actually, it lasts for around 30 minutes, we sang hymns I remembered from school and I have to say that for someone that has never been to church for 40 years, I enjoyed it.

So I ask everyone to consider going to church.

Think of it as 6 hours community service a year, or think of it as being a part of Milton Damerel life for the last 700 years.

Terry Fairbrother

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Our sincere apologies – the report from Mrs Phoebe Overy was omitted from the last edition ... this report includes for last quarter and the current quarter.

MILTON DAMEREL & DISTRICT OVER 60 CLUB

Our outing in August was to Seaton via Otter Nurseries for refreshment and shopping. Seaton was breezy but dry and most people enjoyed the sea air and a look around the town. The more adventurous took a train ride. A good day out in good company.

The September trip was to Lynton and Lynmouth with a stop at Trelawny (Ashford) gardens on the way and a meal at The Pelican on the return journey.

In December we had the Christmas Dinner at Cousins, in Westward Ho! And shopping in Barnstaple afterwards.

He first meeting of the year was on 6th February, with a Bring and Share Tea and presents. Mr Jeff Green from North Devon Library and Records Office was our speaker. A pleasant afternoon.

The next meeting is on 6th March at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall when we hope to have a Slide Show.

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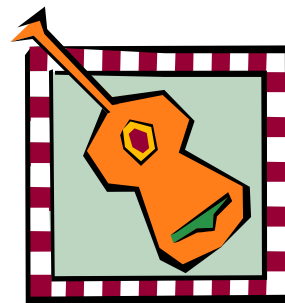
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An invitation from Edgar Pett.....

Have you a hidden talent? Could you join in an entertainment event?

Before I became a member of the Parish Council, I began to feel that perhaps someone should try and do something to bring our community closer together. After reading different points of view in the Holsworthy Post, I felt the parish was in danger of becoming split.

I have suggested that a social evening may be a way of people getting together to know other members of the parish; to this end I am going to pin a leaflet on the door at the garage, asking if anyone has a hidden talent and would like to entertain the parish on such an evening. If anyone has any ideas or would like to talk to me, please phone Edgar on 01409-261277



Parish Hall News

The Parish Hall committee had a meeting on Monday 12th February 2007. Charges for the use of the hall can be seen in the notice box on the outside Parish Hall wall or inside on the notice board. We are always looking for new committee members. We hold about four meetings a year. Our next meeting will be held, Thursday 10th May 2007 at 8pm

Future Events:-

Whist Drive Saturday 24th May 7:30pm for 8pm £1.50 per person

Wine and Wisdom Saturday 28th April. 7:30pm for 8pm £4 per person, Teams of 5.

Couples and singles welcomed, will make up teams as necessary

Line Dancing. Tuesdays, Please telephone to confirm time—Mary 261248



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Whats on Diary and Family Entertainment

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Parish Plan Meeting	Friday, 2 nd March at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall	3
MILTON DAMEREL & DISTRICT OVER 60 CLUB	6 th March at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall	14
Whist Drive	Saturday 24 th March 7:30pm for 8pm Parish Hall	15
Coffee Morning—Friendship club	Saturday, 31 st March	6
Local Elections	Thursday 3 rd May 2007.	2
Plant Sale Holsworthy	Saturday 12 th May 10am at the Holsworthy Youth Centre	11
Friendship Club	Monday, 21 st May	6
Putford WI Group Meeting	April	12
Friendship Club with guest, Mrs Rose Peard of Little Torrington	Monday, 16 th April	6
Wine and Wisdom	Saturday 28 th April 7:30pm for 8pm Parish Hall	15
Line Dancing	Tuesdays	15

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
FILM: "Night at the Museum" (PG)	Saturday, 3 rd March @ 8pm	The Plough, Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624 www.plough-arts.org
"The Sooty Show" Suitable for children aged 3 plus	Sunday, 4 th March @ 1.30pm & 4.30pm. Family Ticket £28.00	Queens Hall Theatre Box Office: 01271 324242
The Youth Theatre presents.. SWEENEY TODD the musical thriller by Stephen Sandhelm	Wednesday, 7 th to Saturday, 10 th March @ 7.30pm Some scenes not suitable for young children	The Plough, Torrington
FILM: "Miss Potter" (PG) Special Mothers day Screening	Sunday, 18 th March @ 3pm & 7pm	The Plough, Torrington
SPECIAL WORKSHOP: "Physical theatre + Clowning" for 13 – 18 year olds	Saturday, 24 th March 2pm – 4pm	The Plough, Torrington
"PETEZA's CRAZY CIRCUS SHOW plus CIRCUS SKILLS WORKSHOP	Tuesday, 10 th April @ 4pm 10am – 3.30pm	The Plough, Torrington
"THE LITTLE MERMAID" Ideal for children 4 yrs+ and their families & Drama Workshop for 6 – 8 yrs	Wednesday, 11 th April	The Plough, Torrington
SPECIAL WORKSHOP: "The Quest" A play in a day for 8 – 12 yrs	Thursday, 12 th April 10am – 4pm Performance @ 3.30pm	The Plough, Torrington
SPECIAL WORKSHOP: JUNK MUSIC WORKSHOP Make music and Play in a Band using recycled	Tuesday, 17 th April 10am – 4pm 3.30pm sharing with friends and family	The Plough, Torrington
BREKETE PAN-AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM ENSEMBLE AFRICAN MASK MAKING WORKSHOP	Thursday, 26 th April @ 8pm Tickets: £9.50 and £2.50 5 – 7pm Book with your tickets	St Brannocks Church, Braunton Book tickets: tel 01271 814082 In Church Rooms at above
BREKETE PAN-AFRICAN DANCE & DRUM ENSEMBLE FAMILY DANCE WORKSHOP	Friday, 27 th April @ 7.30pm 5.45 – 7pm Book with your tickets	Clinton Hall, Merton Tel: 01805 603587
SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA Quality handmade gifts, child friendly workshops	Saturday, 28 th April 10am – 4pm Adults: £1.00 Children free	Powderham Castle, Exeter
EXMOOR FOLK FESTIVAL Storytellers, Comedy Acts & Music	Friday, 11 th May to Sunday, 13 th May	Tel: 01805 603380
BOOGIE NIGHTS 70s MUSICAL	Monday, 14 th May to Saturday, 19 th May For details contact theatre	Queens Hall Theatre, Barnstaple

Advertisements

Conditions of acceptance. Orders for insertion of advertisements in this newsletter are subject to the approval of the members who may refuse or alter any copy. The newsletter and the members:- a) accept no liability for any loss or damage caused by an error or inaccuracy in the printing of any advertisement. b) Shall not be liable for any loss caused by the failure of the advertisement to appear on any particular day, in any specified position or page or by its failure to appear at all, and they reserve the right to refuse to continue its publication regardless of terms and conditions of any order or contract. Trades Descriptions Act 1968—All traders are reminded of the needs to ensure that goods offered for sale by advertisements comply with all relevant provisions of the above mentioned act.

To advertise in this newsletter contact Margaret on 01409 261486 for more details.

The deadline for submissions of articles and advertisements for the next newsletter is 4th May 2007