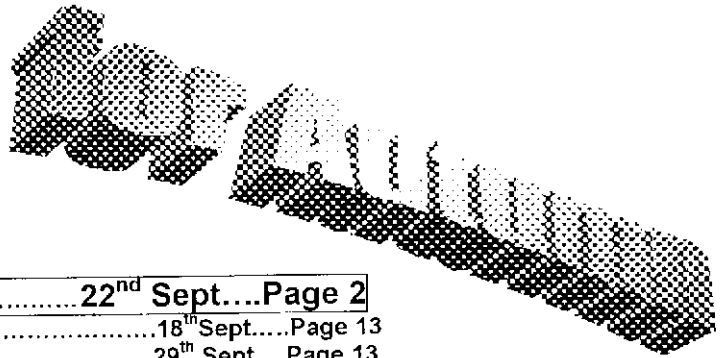


Milton Damerel Newsletter

September 2006 (21st Edition)

What's On



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SCARECROW
COMPETITION
...still to be arranged



LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS
for WHEN, WHERE & HOW!

The Newsletter Group members are:

Member:	Tel: no: /
	E-mail:
Sheila Daniel	261466 sheilamdaniel@hotmail.com
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Margaret Stannard	261486

Key area:

Children & Youth News
Regular contributors and features
Regular contributors and features
Treasurer & Fund-raising
Advertising

We hope to announce two additional members for the Group in the next edition, Letters, comments, news and articles, etc., can be e-mailed to mdnews@freeuk.com or to any of us individually. Our correspondence address is Chapel View, Milton Damerel, EX22 7PB. *Please, please, please ...*

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 on parish residents.

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

The deadline for submissions of articles and advertisements for the next edition is Friday 3rd November

Milton Damerel Parish Council

Clerk- Anne Binns Tel 01409 261381
Little Derworthy E-mail Anne-John@dsl.pipex.com
Milton Damerel
EX22 7LH

Councillors Charles Bellew 01409 261214 Richard Piper 01409 261114
Edgar Pett 01409 261277 Gareth Piper 01409 261616
Rose Haynes 01409 261577 Grace Millman 01409 261251
Michael Kirby 01409 261440

The parish council have met three times since the last newsletter. Occasionally planning applications are received and these need to be dealt with before the date of the next meeting. This means that we have to hold an extra meeting to deal with that application. We therefore met twice in July. For each meeting the posters and agenda have to be put on the notice boards to advertise the meeting. This is to ensure that everyone is informed and can therefore attend if they wish.

In June the parish council decided to give the parish hall an additional grant of £50.00 towards new doors. They had to raise a substantial amount of money earlier on in the year for new windows and now have the expense of new doors.

In June I attended a workshop about parish plans and gained an understanding of the importance of developing a plan for Milton Damerel. (See separate article).

At our last meeting Edgar Pett was co-opted to join the council to fill the vacancy created by Sarah Harper. We look forward to him joining us at the next meeting.

In the past there has been little interest in applying to fill vacancies. The last two vacancies have however received more than one applicant. We are all grateful for the interest shown and though only one applicant can be successfully appointed we would like to encourage parishioners to apply for further positions. After all the parish needs your commitment to ensure its future.

On the 3rd August I met a stranger at my door asking me to call the fire brigade. The roadside grass had been set alight by what was believed to be a discarded cigarette. By the time I had made the call and driven down the road below Little Derworthy the fire had spread along the roadside and was spreading up the bank. With a shovel we took it in turns to beat out the flames. The fire was out by the time the fire brigade arrived. If it hadn't have been for the passer-by raising the alarm the hedge could have been badly burnt. In light of this incident I feel that we all need to be cautious about the dry state of the grass at the moment as incidents like this can easily arise from simple carelessness.

In June the internal auditor visited and did not raise any issues concerning the Parish Councils accounts. They have now been sent off to the external auditor and are available to anyone wishing to inspect them.

Planning applications have been received for Halse Park, Higher Woodford farm and Rose Cottage and one for the eight houses at Town Farm has been received and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Anne Binns Clerk

Would you like to influence the future for Milton Damerel?

Do you have ideas about how the Parish should be in 5 years or 10 years?

Can you offer to help with compiling a Community Plan?

Would you like to know more?

Come along to the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on 22nd September

We need representatives of all age groups and status from within the Parish to form a steering group to direct and lead the work to produce a Community Plan.

Please see opposite for more details

Community Plan

What is a community Plan?

A community plan is firstly a profile of our parish. It is an analysis of the demographics of the homes, the people, businesses, transport, leisure facilities and open spaces. Secondly it is a needs analysis of what will make our community a healthy and sustainable place for all inhabitants., eg., is there affordable housing so young people can live in the village? Thirdly, it is an action plan that aims to turn what we need into what we have. It looks ahead for around five years To sum it up, a community plan gives expression to the future hopes and ideas of the parish.

Why does Milton Damerel need one?

Because it puts us in a much better position to influence local and national government as our future is determined. It also puts us in a better position to attract funders for parish projects eg. refurbishment of the parish hall, a play area. The Parish Council first identified the need to write a community plan after some of the local children asked for a play ground. It became apparent that any funding body would expect that a Community Plan had been carried out before any grants would be considered.

How much will it cost?

The Community Council of Devon are contracted to administer a fund for parish planning. Awards are made up to £2500. Or 75% of the cash cost. The parish council is expected to contribute only 5%. Any volunteers time can be costed 'in kind' (up to 20%) which means that the more volunteers we have the less cash we will have to find. It is expected that Milton Damerel will be able to write a successful plan for minimal cost but this can only be achieved if we receive offers of help from parishioners.

What is the first step?

The first step is to hold a public meeting where it is hoped we can form a steering group of interested people. Help and support is available from support officers from the district council and Community Council of Devon's fieldworkers.

The steering group ideally needs to represent a cross section of the community so do not think that you do not have anything to offer!

It is our intention therefore **to hold a public meeting on 22nd September at 7.30 in the Parish Hall.** Please attend and get involved. By getting involved you will be saving the parish money!

Police Community Support Officers

As community support officers, our role is to provide a highly visible presence, mainly on foot patrol within the community to help lower crime and present residents with an opportunity to raise concerns or ask us questions.

- Dealing with problems and issues that arise within the community
- Liaising with outside agencies and many other community groups, enabling them to provide us with valuable information.
- Becoming familiar faces to all, and within the local schools, so that children feel able to inform us of any issues or concerns they may have; also to allow them to put their ideas and opinions forward to make the community a better place for everyone
- Creating links between the Police and the community providing an approachable, friendly valuable point of contact.

The two of us, along with the Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC5984 John Shepherd, will be covering 23 villages/parishes liaising with neighbourhood watch co-ordinators and youth workers to help provide a valuable community resource.

If you wish to contact us, please telephone 08452-777444, giving the main switchboard our name and shoulder number.

PCSO 30099 Raquel Rowe & PCSO 30103 Beverley Harvey



Reasonable Rates
Ring David Seggons
01409 241702

Advertisements

Conditions of acceptance. Orders for insertion of advertisements in this newsletter are subject to approval of the members who may refuse or alter any copy. The newsletter and its 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 description Act 1968 - All traders are reminded of the need to ensure that goods offered for sale by advertisements comply with all relevant provisions of the above mentioned Act.



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Graham Johns & Donna-Marie Parrish on their recent marriage;

To Lizzie Daniel on passing her driving test ... "Has any-one seen her? She is never at home now!"

Mike Kirby had a fantastic start to his showing season winning the Supreme Champion of the show and receiving the Prince of Wales cup for the best exhibit. at Liskeard, with his Aberdeen Angus heifer "Top Totty". She was also Native Beef Champion at Liskeard & Woolserly shows and was awarded two 1st's at North Devon Show. Mike's Limousin X steer "Black-eyed Pea" won the Commercial Beef Championships at Liskeard and Woolserly.

Rose Haynes has been winning many classes with her Hampshire Down sheep:

Devon County - 2nd, 3rd & 3x4th's

Royal Cornwall - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

The Royal - Highly Commended

Mid-Devon - 2nd

Launceston - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Woolserly - 2x1st, 2x2nd, 3rd

Champion - Any other native breed

North Devon - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 2x4th

Honiton - 2nd

Okehampton - 1st, 2x2nd, 2x4th



GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

Good-bye and best wishes to:

Jason & Marie, Molly and William who have moved from Lorocrest

A warm welcome to

Frost family who have moved into Milton Town Cottage

David & Dendy Baybutt who moved into Distant Point, previously Lorocrest.



MOVING ON & UP

As a new school/college year begins we hope that those who have recently received exam results have been pleased with the outcome (how about letting us know, so that we can add your congratulations on this page for our next edition?) and we wish every-one moving up years at school or moving on to college, university or to take up a new job, every success in their new ventures. Best wishes to Jessie Bayliss, David Fairbrother, Laurence Harper, Bradley Howells and Fraser Smith who left Bradworthy School at the end of the summer term and will be joining Holsworthy College in September, and to Becky Dunmore, Jasmine Harper, and Ben Woodhouse who left Holsworthy College in the summer.



CONDOLENCES

It was with tremendous sadness that we received the news of Stephen Poole's death on 12th June 2006. He was known to so many of us, having been brought up on the farm at East Wonford, and attended Bradworthy & Holsworthy Schools, and then joined his parents on the farm. We extend our deepest sympathies to Nicola, his wife; Lucy, Marie and Adam, his children; Anne, his mother; and Jeanette, Helen, Richard and James, his brothers and sisters (and their families); and to his many friends. At the funeral service, Nicola asked that we all recall our memories of Stephen, and write them down (with photos, mementoes, or whatever), so that she could collate them into a scrapbook about Stephen that she can share with the children as they grow up. It would be a most fitting tribute about Stephen and his life.



THANK-YOU

Nicola and family of the late Stephen Poole would like to sincerely thank every-one who sent messages of sympathy and for all the kindness and support received, A collection of over £1,000 was taken for Milton Damerel Chapel, Church and Parish Hall.

Amy Bellew was asked to give a report on pony club activities....

HORSEY TALK

We have been very busy going to all types of events. We belong to our local pony club, Tetcott and South Tetcott; we are looking forward to pony club camp next week. It is being held at Duchy College, over six days.

Southcott farm, Winkleigh, on 6th August, was the venue for our P>C> one day event. This is dressage, show jumping and cross country; the combined lowest score wins. Rebecca and I went double clear show jumping and cross country and finished on our dressage score in the 2'9" class. I came 6th on Rey Bean and Rebecca won it on Milford Chocolate Buttons.

Sue Tribble is an excellent organiser of P C training rallies and we have enjoyed several of these recently and hosted one for 32 members at Court Barton recently.

Summer holidays sees all the area P C competitions which qualify clubs for national P C Championships at three levels – novice, intermediate and open. We have enjoyed representing our club at novice level at all disciplines. We were in the same team at each event and were very pleased with our horses to be placed 4th out of 25 teams in the show jumping. The eventing was great fun and out of 18 teams we came 4th. Rebecca was 3rd individual in her arena and I was 2nd in my arena with Rey Bean. Each time we were one place off qualifying for the novice championship in Cheshire, so Mum was relieved as its such a long way! Suzie Mc George represented our club in the open level eventing and dressage very well.

We are now aiming for Tiverton P C Two day event – this involves steeplechase at speed and roads and tracks along with the normal One day event disciplines. We hope to have a team for our Pony Club. September sees the Junior Area tetrathlon competition at Bicton. This involves pistol shooting (Catherine Tribble and Rebecca are hot shots!), swimming, cross country running on foot and cross country riding on your horse. We have a team of three with Georgina Barrington of Pyworthy; it should be four with the best three scores counting. Georgina is a fabulous tetrathlete and also does modern pentathlon like you see at the Olympics, with fencing as well. She has represented Great Britain and travelled abroad with her sport.

This is a snapshot of what's available through your Pony Club.

and some more Horsey Talk....

Susi McGeorge writes ...

Having finished my GCSEs in June, I dedicated my time to competing my horse, Toyd Cinnamon. Up until this time I had been competing at Pre Novice level eventing – a combination of dressage, show jumping and cross country, with the jumps being approx. 1m in height. But my aim this summer was to compete in some Open Novices and Junior Regional Novices (jumps approx. 1.10m in height).

My first event after the exams was at Nutwell Court near Exeter, where I competed open Pre Novice, and after a good dressage and double clear, I finished 5th. The next event I did was Stockland Lovell, where I competed in my first Junior Regional Novice, having had one of the few clears cross country I came 10th, which out of a class of 40 I was thrilled with. From there I went to the Pony Club area dressage where our team came 8th, followed by the Pony Club area eventing at Civenor – again Novice level – and despite only having a team of 3 instead of 4, we ended up 4th, where I also got 6th place individually.

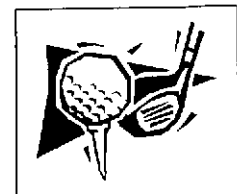
So far the eventing season has been going well for me with some earlier placings in the year as well. But it hasn't finished yet as I'm planning on competing at Hatherleigh Novice, Highclere Open Pre Novice, Mount Ballan and Monmouth Open Novices in Wales before finishing the seasons's eventing at Stonar Schools Novice in Wiltshire.

....more successes for the Mc George's....

It has also been a good season so far for some of the horses and ponies we have bred with 2 of last year's Connemara foals (Damerel Dancer and Damerel Diamond) performing well in show classes. Damerel Dancer came 1st and won championship at the The Southwest show, with Damerel Diamond coming 3rd, and subsequently coming 2nd at the Connemara Breed show in Malvern. Perhaps the highlight so far has been the 2 most recent performances of Ramiros Secret (a homebred event horse) who came 4th in his first advanced event at Ashton-le-Walls and an outstanding 6th at The Gatcombe Intermediate Championships last weekend.



...and not to be outdone by his sister, ...or the horses... Anthony (McGeorge) having just turned 11 is doing well at his own chosen sport ..Golf.. He is a member of Holsworthy Golf Club and has been the youngest member of their North Devon Junior League Team all season. He is already playing off a handicap of 17 (well below his father) and has had a number of good results at club level as well as coming 2nd in the regional final of the National HSBC Wee Wonder competition and 4th in the under 13 age group of the Golf Foundations South West finals.



The Youth Club

Whilst writing this the club has closed for the summer. This year the decision was taken to close early because of the busy lives of all of us involved. We did manage to meet together for the Annual BarB-Que at Widemouth Bay. Again we enjoyed a lovely evening and a beautiful sunset. With the good weather the beach was more busy than usual with many swimmers and surfers taking advantage of the conditions. We hope to meet with Lizz Prangle, Ecumenical Youth Worker, possibly mid-September, to look at the viability of the Youth Club continuing during the winter months.

Lizz Prangle Ecumenical Youth Worker

Lizz, as the appointed Full-time Rural Ecumenical Youth Worker, was welcomed to the area over the week-end of 5th & 6th August, with an event in Shebbear Village hall on the Saturday evening and a Special Welcome Service of Commissioning on the Sunday morning. Lizz will spend her first few weeks meeting key people and youth within the area, including our village, to find out the areas of need for youth activities and support, and draw up plans meeting these. We wish her well as she starts her work on 14th August. Any-one wishing to contact Lizz, please call Sheila Daniel or Grace Millman (contact details on front page)

FUN & GAMES

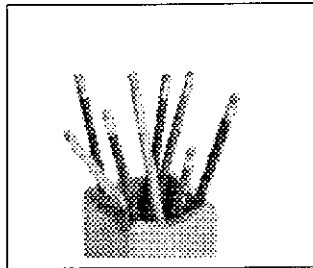
So far this summer the weather's been great but just in case it changes, here's a few ideas for pencil games to play.....

- * Get an adult to draw a large alphabet letter on some paper for you. Now see if you can create an animal from it.
- * How about trying to draw the back view of a person for a change. It's harder than you think!
- * With a friend or group of friends, each write down as many pairs, eg shoes & socks, bread & butter, etc., as possible in 10 mins. See who can think of the most pairs.
- * Funny people – again with friends – the first person draws a head, then folds paper down leaving the neck showing. The next person draws the arms, etc., down to the waist and folds paper down, and so on, so on, until page filled. Finally unfold the paper and see your funny person!
- * Game for the car – write down the letters of the number plates of the first 6 cars you see. Now make the letters into as many words as you can.

A	D	A	M
M		A	
S		D	
T		R	
E		E	
R		T	
D		S	
A		M	
M		A	

Here's some for you to try..

Can you fill the gaps to make a word; there's no limit on the number of letters used



M	I	R	R	O	R
A					E
N					T
C					S
H					E
E					H
S					C
T					N
E					A
R					M

You could make up your own word games!

Interested in a Village Fete for 2007? – see the flier insert for how to register interest and support!!

Do you need a gardener or handyman?



Contact Flowerbed Ed
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Youth & Family Entertainment

Date & Time	What's On	Notes
THE QUEEN'S THEATRE, BARNSTAPLE		For more info and details of other events, contact the BOX OFFICE: or www.northdevontheatres.org.uk
Tuesday, 29 th August to Saturday, 2 nd September @ 7.45pm. Thursday & Saturday Matinees @ 2.45pm	MAGIC OF THE DANCE with many Irish Dance World Champions and some of the finest exponents of modern American tap dance	Family tickets available
Saturday, 23 rd September @ 7.45pm	THE LEVELLERS In Concert	£16.50 – all seats
Sunday, 24 th September @3pm	GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND	£15.00 – all seats
Saturday, 30 th September @ 7.45pm	FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS Song & Dance Music from 50's, swinging 60's & the 70's.	Family show with Family ticket - £46.00 Also seats £15.00 or £13.00.
PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT 14 th December to 7 th January 2007	SNOW WHITE & THE 7 DWARFS Pantomime	Call 01271-324242
HARTLAND PARISH HALL		Tel: 01237-441761
Saturday, 7 th October @ 7pm	PERSEUS & THE GORGON'S HEAD Puppet Crafts Latest Family Show	£15 Family ticket

MILTON CHILDREN IN DANCE SHOW

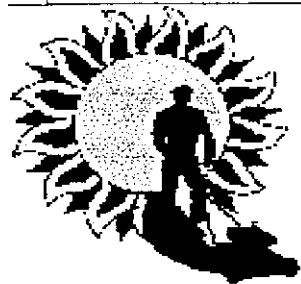
On Sunday, 2nd July, four Milton children, Tia Woodhouse, Jasmine Wrighton, Bobby Fairbrother and Daniel Dunmore took part in the Rainbow Dance Show at the Hats Theatre, Holsworthy.

It was an extremely hot day and the children were dropped off at 10:30 am for final rehearsals. The performance started at 3pm, after a few technical hitches they began. The performance also included children from Halwill, Bradworthy, Kilkhampton and Holsworthy.

They all performed Ballet, Dance, Tap and Disco.

The children all coped very well with the extreme weather conditions, probably better than the audience.

At the end of the show the children were presented with certificates and for their hard work, some even got medals such as ; Bobby Fairbrother (gold medal) and Daniel Dunmore (gold medal) **Well done !!!**



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My Adventure to Viet-Nam Written by Niggy (Anita Southey)

Inspired by God

Part 1: How I came to be Vuong's sponsor and get to meet him.

It was around the end of April 1999, about 6 months after the death of my dear husband, Ivan. One morning amongst my mail there was a letter from a charity called "Plan International". It was asking, "Would you sponsor a child?" I sat thinking, "Would I?", "Could I?", after all I've got Ali to care for. Hmm, that's a poor excuse. I prayed to our Lord and asked Him that He might give me a sign. Three days later I received an identical letter. Now it wasn't just "Plan" asking me, it was God too. I phoned "Plan" right away and after several forms to be filled in my pack arrived, there was also a photo of Vuong.

By now it was the end of May. I let the Lord guide my first letter to this far-away little boy who was six years old, with a strange name to my ears. I had been told that under no circumstances was I to mention any religious beliefs, which I personally found quite difficult.

Vuong and I wrote (and still write) backwards and forwards to one another as often as possible. Sometimes Vuong would send me a picture that he had drawn at school. After the first year of writing, as the bottom of each translated letter, Vuong would write "When you come see me?" So in November 2004 I started to look into going to visit Vuong in Viet-Nam.

I needed at least £1,000 to cover my expenses. I prayed long and hard about my need to raise this amount of surplus cash. At the end of March 2005 a letter arrived from D.S.S. with a cheque for £200. (This was for underpayment over the last few months.) I looked up and said, "Well Lord, that's a great start" and with various donations from family and friends, by July 2005 I had £970, plus the £200 I had saved, a grand total of £1,170. I bought my first ever passport, sent for a visa, booked my flight, bought a coach ticket for the return trip from Heathrow, put aside money for my lift to Heathrow from home, and paid travel insurance. This left £240. I would need the rest in American Dollars which came to \$420. I put aside \$75 for the journey to Vuong's village (about £45). This paid for a translator and an air-conditioned seven-seater car, with driver for the whole day on a 150km round trip. At this point, knowing that apart from breakfast I would have to feed myself, I realised I needed a bit more cash. So I sold some bits of furniture and then had enough for spending money.

Then came the hardest part, the real start of my adventure, I took my son, Ali, to the respite centre, where I was to leave him for 10 nights. The longest I had left Ali before this was 3 nights, or on the odd occasion four, but I was only ever a phone call away, not the other side of the world. I hugged and kissed Ali good-bye, then sat in my car and cried. I got home and checked and re-checked that I had packed everything, prayed for Ali and myself, and cried some more. I arranged a 3a.m. alarm-call, and went to bed. I must have slept, as the next thing I remember, the phone rang.

Part 2: Travelling Companions

Well the great day had arrived. Roger Daniel, my lift to Heathrow, called to collect me at 3.45a.m., and off we went. When we arrived at Heathrow at the dropping off point Roger couldn't stop as parking was very expensive, so I paid him and said goodbye. "Hmm". "Well Lord what do I do now?" I looked round and there sorting out her back-pack was a young girl looking at me with a beaming smile. I asked if she could help me as I had never been to an airport before and that it was my first flight. In a lovely Australian twang she answered, "Sure thing. Follow me." I said "God bless you." and sent up a quick "Thank you" to the Lord. She smiled at me and said "I'm a Christian too." Her name was Claire, bless her. She took me all through the check points. She couldn't get over the fact that it was my first trip anywhere and it was all the way to Viet-Nam on my own, but, as I said to Claire, "It was OK, for as a Christian, I had God with me." I was glad at last to be on the plane

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AND SUPPORT
NEEDED TO
MAKE IT A
REALITY FOR
EVERY-ONE!!

My Adventure to Viet-Nam (continued)

I was so pleased the young man I'd booked my flight with had suggested that I book a window seat. What an amazing feeling flying high above the clouds. I had always thought that clouds were flat, but no, some looked more like mountains that you could step out onto and climb. Some were like fairytale castles and up close the clouds are really white. When it was just blue sky everything down on the ground looked like dinky toys and the view of the earth's landscape was just amazing.

I quickly made friends with the lady sitting next to me and her name was as lovely as her. She was called Crystal. She was on her way home to China, where she is a school principal. She had been to England on an advanced English course. We chatted about this and that. She wanted to know all about my son Ali and of course about Vuong. She too was amazed that it was my first flight to anywhere and that it was all the way to Viet-Nam, and on my own. Again I explained that I was a Christian and that I had the Lord with me. (Hallelujah!) Crystal was also a Christian. We shared some prayer time and did our best to include the Indian lady, the other side of Crystal. She had only a little English, but we got by and looked after one another.

On arrival at Kuala Lumpur we said our goodbyes. Crystal pointed me in the right direction for my next flight. There was a 4 hour wait. A lot of people were sleeping, but I was too excited to sleep. I watched as planes landed and took off and wondered how such enormous things could stay up so high and seem to float along in the air. I also thought how clever the pilots were. I mean to say there are no white lines or signs up there.

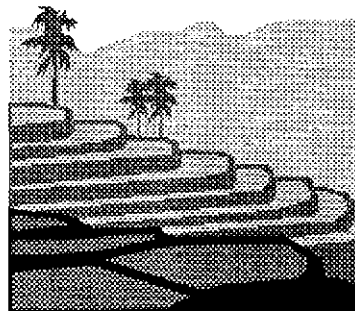
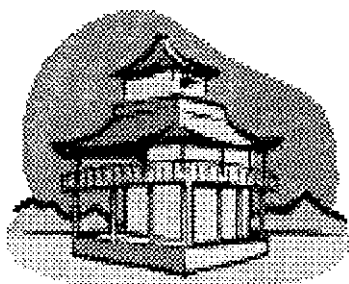
I boarded my plane for Hanoi at 11.30am. The Lord had blessed me with another Christian companion on that flight too. Her name was Yuza. She worked in Malaysia for a media company and she and some other colleagues were on a 3 night break in Hanoi, paid for by their bosses, for all their hard work. Just before landing we had to fill out a Viet-Nam entry permit, (Yuza helped me to fill in mine), without it you cannot go through customs. We had a short prayer and said our goodbyes.

Well, here I am in Hanoi Airport, Viet-Nam. I asked a steward for help and he very kindly took me out to the taxi rank, spoke to the driver and off I went, 45 minutes to the hotel, arrived at Hotel Galaxy, my home for the next six nights. I was tired and very hot (outside temp 34°C) but still excited. I was totally amazed when a very pretty girl looked and smiled at me and said "Mrs Southey?" "How lovely" I thought, it made me feel quite at home. I was shown to my room. It was a pleasant room, with bathroom. The man showed me how to work the air conditioning. It was wonderful, as since I had left the airport the temperature had reached 39°C. I had a most welcome shower, then a cup of tea, and sat on my bed to dry my hair. I must have crashed out as I woke 2 hours later, got dressed and wandered down to the foyer where I met a group of Australian ladies. They were going walkabout and along to the market. I asked if I might tag along. One of the ladies called Margaret befriended me. The market was heaving. I have never seen so many bags, shoes, fans, knickknacks and material, all in one place in all my life. At the end of the market was food. I thought it best not to ask or venture there as they do eat cats and dogs in their diet, also raw fish and fish heads, "ugh".

Two of the ladies showed me where to buy sealed imported bottled water. It is so hot in Viet-Nam you drink 3 to 4 litres a day as well as your regular drinks. I stood and watched while men were given a shave and hair cut on the roadside, with the mirror nailed to a tree. I bought some pigmy bananas from one of the basket sellers, tried one, it was delicious. I shared the rest among those that had their whole home in a carrier bag. I had various walks around Hanoi and a wonderful ride in a "cyclo" for over an hour.

Then on the Saturday of my adventure I went to see the water puppetry theatre. There were eleven puppeteers and an orchestra in this most amusing and graceful puppet display. The puppeteers were hidden a bamboo curtain and the display is given in an enormous pool of murky water. This is to conceal any of the poles and mechanisms that operate the puppets. The puppeteers now wear waders, as for many years they suffered a host of water-borne diseases. There are many stories of where this art form came from, but the most believable is that it started with farmers in the rice fields. The farmers carve the puppets from water-resistant fig tree timber. This puppetry was virtually unknown outside Viet-Nam until the 1960's. Our performance consisted of puppets depicting pastoral scenes and legends. One scene tells of a battle of a fisherman and his prey. It is so well done the fish looks almost real. There are dragon scenes with fireworks and a boy with a flute riding a buffalo. It was truly amazing.

To be continued in the next edition of the Newsletter.



Milton Damerel .. 50 years on

Walk No: 2

On an unsettled summer evening (yes, we have had at least one!) about 15 of us set off with walking sticks and brollies (at least a few were prepared!) from Chapman's Green for the second of our walks. You will note that we did the walk in "reverse" to the direction used in the 1951 record!! The pace was very leisurely, with much discussion along the way, and several memory trips as we recalled childhood and youthful days in the countryside. We were joined by one person hopeful of taking up residence in the parish. At Milton Mill we had a summer thunder shower and managed to find shelter under the trees. Mike & Lizzy Kirby conducted a mini tour into their garden, to show us the quarry, so hidden from the outside but making a glorious backdrop to their garden. Then up the hill and a visit to the Parish Church - and the old harmonium organ still operates with the billows, worked by the organist's feet - and on to the chapel for a welcome sit down with BBQ and drinks. Thank you to all who came along ... and all helpers for transport to Chapman's Green, barbecuing and serving the refreshments, and contributions of food and drinks for the evening. The net proceeds for the evening were £67.69.

The publication "Milton Damerel - 50 years on" was written in 1951 by Seymour Marks on behalf of the Parish Council, is set out below in original text, ... now updated in 2006 for the Parish Newsletter, additions in bold italic text --- following the evening community walk from Chapman's Green to Milton Town, including the Parish and Methodist Churches..

Milton Town to Chapman's Green

Every manor had its mill, from which the Lord received revenue, and to find this we return to and pass the Town Farm, down the hill between two bungalows (Springfield and Pentreve) of recent erection, to Milton Mill on the left, with two modern cottages at the entrance to North Town on the right, the latter a farm of ancient lineage, being recorded in 1612 as Milton Myttal Northtowne

The first of 4 new houses has been built just to the west of Milton Town. The two cottages at the entrance to North Town now converted to one picturesque residence.

The present mill was reconstructed in 1827, and was in operation within living memory. There was probably a water-wheel at each end of the operating machinery, but all this has disappeared, though the lower mill-stone is still in position. For some reason or other the lect serving the mill makes a circular course by way of North Town, where it is crossed by a bridge. The residence, originally thickly thatched, is now tiled and considerably reconditioned. Opposite the front door (which is at the back) is a quarry, from which the stone for the chapel was excavated. Two cottages above it have now disappeared.

A farm shop now operates from Milton Mill.

A turn in the road passes the end of the lane leading to East Wonford and Down, which we must visit on foot later. The bus passes a much-reconditioned house, and further on West Wonford Cottage. The bend just beyond is the site of a cottage where lived, before it disappeared, an old woman reputed to be a witch who could turn herself into a hare. It is said that many sportsmen tried to shoot the hare, but always missed, until someone suggested that a gun loaded with pieces of silver would be more successful. This was tried, the hare was hit but disappeared; next morning the witch was found in her cottage porch with a broken thigh. (cont. below).

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...This is not the only memory of witchery in the parish. There was at least one other old woman who was invested with the evil eye that would affect cattle, turn milk sour and such-like tricks. To counter-act the wiles of the witch recourse was had to the White Witch, or Wise Woman, who lived in Exeter, who, from all accounts, did a thriving business in the County.

Although a bus service was reinstated again a few years ago, there is no service now apart from a "dial and ride" facility that can be booked from Tamar Community Transport. A glorious garden is attached to one of the houses at West Wonford Cottages which is occasionally opened for charity.

We have only a few hundred yards to go to be in the area of the third manor in the parish, that was granted to Ruald Adobed. The three manors in the parish were surrounded in early days by waste lands, so-called forests which were retained by the King for hunting, but in 1204 the Devon farmers asked for all such land to be thrown open for common use, a request that was granted on payment of 5000 marks. In the course of the centuries all common lands were enclosed by the landowners, except for one small piece known as Chapman's Green, over which the owners and occupiers of West Wonford, and possibly others, still have certain rights.

Passing a modern residence, which is now the Manse for the Shebbear Circuit, we reach Chapman's Green and the main road already traversed.

The modern residence is The Elms, which ceased being a Manse in the late 1950s, and is now privately owned and a haulage business is based there. Before reaching the main road, a bungalow was built in about 1960 on the right hand side.

The Church, dedicated to the Holy trinity, is ancient, fragments of it being Norman, though it may be much older as the Saxons living in Devon had become christianised long before the arrival of the Normans. Entrance is by the south door, in front of which are three tall cypress trees. The door is very old, and the wrought-iron hinges, among the finest in North Devon, are the original work of the local blacksmith, being the same age as the surviving sanctuary knocker, the use of which was forbidden in the reign of James II.

The interior is mainly Early English (fourteenth century). In 1908 the granite pillars being nine inches out of the perpendicular, and likely to fall down, Mr Wiffen, of Holsworthy, undertook the difficult task of setting them upright, which he did with complete success.

In 1879 the upper part of the tower fell down, but it was not until 1891 that restoration was taken in hand. The tower was rebuilt from its foundations with the original stones, and the work was completed by April 7th 1893, by Mr James Slee.

Prior to 1879 there was a gallery at the west end for the choir and orchestra and the seating was box pews. All this was done away with, and in 1902 the flooring and reseating was carried out by Messrs. Slee and Ellis. The surpliced choir was now accommodated within the screen, and a harmonium replaced the orchestra. John Hancock was choirmaster for many years. Of early days there is an old rhyme:

*One from Woodford, one from Ley,
One to sing, and one to play,
And one more that I can tell
Besides the man that tolled the bell.*

The one to play had a flute to pitch the tune.

The stairway to the rood over the screen was near the pulpit, which is seventeenth century. On the font are indications of the hinge and lock for the cover ordered by Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1236, to prevent the holy water being taken away as a remedy against witchcraft and sorcery.

The roof of the chancel is new, but in the nave and aisles the Early English wagon or barrel roofing still survives.

Of the three bells the tenor is dated 1658, the first 1758, and the second undated; they were rung in 1913.

The coat-of-arms over the north door is that of Charles II, 1664.

It was the custom in the early nineteenth century for the farmers to wait in the porch after service on Sunday morning for the Rector, who was the only person in the parish to have a newspaper, to read out the current market prices for the week.

There is only one tablet on the interior walls, that to the memory of William James Holman, son of a former Rector, and who was killed in the Second great War. There is no indication of any other memorial tablet on the walls, and no information available as to why this unusual condition should be so.

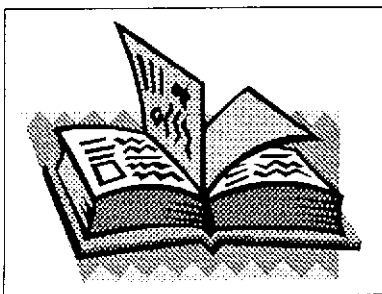
The lighting in early days was from candle-holders of crossed strips of metal, but in 1950 electric lighting was installed. power being supplied from a portable generator.

The rector of Milton Damerel is also responsible for the services at the daughter church at Cookbury, and have therefore to be held on alternate mornings and evenings with Milton.

A Sunday School is held at Milton, and once a month a meeting of the Mother's Union at the rectory.

The north door is now closed, but a path at one time led from it to the Manor House, which stood just on the other side of the present hedge. Only the uneven surface of the ground indicates the site.

The Church is now the responsibility of the Rector of Holsworthy and there is a service once a month. There is no Sunday School or Mother's Union.



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We now provide a full catering service from small dinner parties to large buffets designed especially for the rural community.

If you don't feel like cooking then we have a large selection of meals, pies, puddings and cakes homemade in our farmhouse kitchen.

Real Food from a Real Farm shop

Come and see our stand in the food and drink marquee at Holsworthy Show on Thursday 24th August

As well as selling our produce, we will be serving organic cream teas, homemade cakes, flans & homemade lemonade.

You can also see our Angus heifer "Top Totty" (Native & Supreme Champion at Liskeard 2006 and Native champion at Woolsery 2006) and our Limousin X steer "Black-eyed pea" (Commercial Champion at Liskeard 2006 and Woolsery 2006) who will be exhibited in the cattle lines and commercial beef classes during the day.

PARISH HALL NEWS

The Parish Hall Walk held on 17th June for Macmillan Cancer relief in memory of Bill Braunton was a very enjoyable and pleasant event. We walked on the lanes and public footpaths from Moor View Farm, Derworthy, through Matcott Farm and Youlden Farm returning via Five Lanes to Moor View. The weather was a little bit on the warm side and having tea on the lawn at Moor View with its spectacular views, finished the afternoon off a treat. Monies raised for the Macmillan trust were £115.

Painting week held on 26th June onwards was a failure as we had no outside help offered. Some painting has been done. We have been informed that we may be entitled to a grant for a disabled toilet, so the painting of the toilets has been put on hold.

AGM to be held on Monday, 18th September at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall; New committee members welcomed.

A Whist Drive is to be held on Friday, 29th September at 8pm for a 7.30 start.

Line Dancing Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9pm. £1.50. Tel: Lesley 261294.

The Hall is available for hire at reasonable rates. Under new licencing laws the hirer, who will be selling alcohol, must apply for a Alcohol Licence from Torrington District Council, at an extra cost of £21 at least 2 weeks in advance.

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST
Coffee Morning @ Methodist Schoolroom
Saturday, 30th September from 10.30am
Bring & Buy Stall.
Please support this worthwhile charity.

Milton Damerel & District 'Over 60' Club

Since the last Newsletter, we have had two successful outings, the first one to Teignmouth and the second to Dartmouth, both popular venues. We were blessed with fine weather; both trips were enjoyed by members and supporters.

For our August meeting we had a guest speaker from North Devon Library & Records office. Mr Geoff Green gave us an informative talk about the various library services, in a pleasant and humorous manner. He also showed us on screen, a selection of old time celebrities and we enjoyed trying to remember who they were. Also memories were evoked when he opened his 'Memory Box' with a collection of bits and pieces from our younger days, causing much laughter, also poems about our age group; all making a happy and pleasant afternoon.

Meetings are held in the Milton Damerel Parish Hall on the first Tuesday of each month commencing at 2.30pm.

New members welcome, details from Mrs P. Overy, tel: 01409-261332.

PUTFORD W.I.

Seven members attended a fashion show and cream tea at the Edinburgh Wool Shop in Torrington and later enjoyed looking around the shop, with most people making small purchases. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The W.I also held a Car Treasure Hunt and Cream Tea plus stalls at the home of Mary and Colin Martin in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and local charities.

It was a great success, raising a good sum of money. Twelve cars took part and we were blessed with a dry afternoon.

A quote heard on the BBC...
" Polish dentists have been drafted in to help 'fill gaps' in the NHS. "

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NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

Chapel News - September 2006

Newsletter Number Thirty-Eight

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.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB UPDATE – This small group meets on the last Monday afternoon each month 2.30pm till 3.30pm, except every third month, there will be no Monday afternoon meeting but a Saturday coffee morning. The June Coffee Morning raised £65 and donations also made in the collecting box. Future dates:

Saturday, 30th September Coffee morning for Children's Hospice South West at 10.30am.

Monday, 30th October- Guest: Karen of Faith Mission

Monday, 27th November TBA

HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEK-END

This year's celebrations are planned to be a Family Service at 11am on Sunday, 8th October, with Mr Roy Harris of Torrington, accompanied by Jessica Withey. On the Monday evening we will follow our usual pattern of a Buffet Bring and Share Supper at 6.30pm, before the Harvest Thanksgiving at approx. 8pm, and then the customary sale of produce. We look forward to welcoming anyone wishing to come along to any of the events, and the chapel will be open on Friday, 6th for the bringing of gifts of flowers and produce, and arranging the displays.

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, 27th August **Mrs Rosemary Brown** from Okehampton

Sunday, 24th September **Mr David Ley** from Langtree

Sunday, 29th October **Mr Peter Parsons** from South Petherwin

Sunday, 26th November **Mrs Margaret Knapman** from Langtree

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY – Normally meets every Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Schoolroom; open to all Christians of any denomination.. We will be delighted to welcome along any-one interested in exploring the Bible. Currently we are following a study on Women in the Old Testament. If any-one 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 – During the summer months we have called on many in the parish, with a questionnaire, seeking your views on the role the churches should have in the area and trying to find out how we should/could be improving what we do in our services and using our facilities. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you for the first time and also to meet up again with friends and neighbours that we rarely see. We are still delivering and collecting surveys; if we have been unable to collect your questionnaire, please contact us to arrange collection, or drop in to Horrells Ford garage for our collection; if you have not been approached but would like to see one of the survey questionnaires and comment, please contact Sheila Daniel or Grace Millman. Thank you to those who have responded – all your replies have been very helpful and we will give more detail in the next newsletter

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN for the months for September to November

SEP		OCT		NOV	
3 rd	Mrs Tracey Dunmore	1 st	Mrs Joanne Carter	5 th	Mrs Gladys Palmer
10 th	Mrs Sheila Daniel	8 th	Harvest Festival	12 th	Mrs Eunice Hearn
17 th	Mrs Gwenyth Johns	15 th	Mrs Grace Millman	19 st	Mrs Valerie Carter
24 th	Mrs Phyllis Piper	22 nd	Mrs Petula Sanders	26 th	Mrs Ruth Sharp
		29 th	Mrs Niggy Southey		

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday, 17th September – Harvest Festival at Woodacott @ 2.30 & 6.30pm Mr Peter Parsons

Sunday, 24th September – Harvest Festival at Beacon @ 11am Mr Roy Sambles

+ 6.30pm Mr R Dennis; **Monday @ 7.30pm HF + supper** – Rev John Henry

Sunday, 8th & Monday, 9th October – Harvest Festival (see above)

Saturday, 21st October from 2.30pm to 4.30pm Discussion – "Evil in the World"

Sunday, 3rd December at 7.30pm Gospel Special: stowford Meadow Group with Eric Moore,

For further information contact:

Rev David Wheeler, our Minister on Tel: 281262 (or via the stewards). Alan Andrew, Rural Lay Worker, on Tel: 281321.
Our Stewards: Marjorie Colwill (Tel: 281214); Sheila Daniel (Tel: 261466); Lillian Luxton (Tel: 261355);

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

Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 1st October at 3pm

Decorating of the Church on Friday 30th/Saturday 31st – please contact Janet Elliott 01409 -281744
Everyone Welcome

Recent work completed in the Church has included the provision of a ramp, making it easier for wheelchair users and disabled persons to enter. Fire extinguishers have been acquired and as required in the quinquennial inspection, Raymond Jones has been engaged to undertake some remedial works.

St. Peter's Church, Thornbury

WINE & WISDOM

Saturday, 7th October 2006

Bradford Village Hall

£4 per person; teams of 6

To book a table please call Liz on 01409-261312

TARKA COUNTRY CRAFT & FOOD FAYRE

Saturday, 21st October 2006

Bradford Village Hall

Starting at 10am

Lots of local produce and stalls.

Refreshments available throughout the day

More details from Liz on 01409-261312

All proceeds from these events in aid of the Church

Ron Atkin and Ann Fawssett Atkin's Exhibition at The Beaford Centre.

The 2 founders of The Gnome Reserve have been invited to have a joint 3-month exhibition of their paintings at The Beaford Centre. Ron is a graduate of Loughborough College of Art and The Royal Academy of Art, Ann of Brighton College of Art and The Royal Academy of Art - where they met in 1958.

Their exhibition at Beaford has run from 23rd June and continues until the end of September. It is part of the celebrations for The Beaford Centre's 40th birthday.

Ron's half of the exhibition will be on the theme of collectors while Ann's paintings and prints are of Arcadian landscapes inhabited by fairies - which can also be seen and purchased at The Gallery at The Gnome Reserve and Wild Flower Garden.

Ron and Ann's paintings are totally different in style as well as subject - which is most unusual for painters living together for so many years - for example Robert and Sonia Delaney whose paintings became so alike that most people would be unable to tell who painted which of their works.

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As well as Kitchen & Utility worktops made from solid Beech, Oak or Ash.
Also 2nd Fix Carpentry, Skirting Boards, Architraves, Dado Rails etc.

All pieces are made in solid wood, using either soft or hardwoods which are locally sourced & grown wherever possible.

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For more information.

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A silver lining to every cloud?

Paddy's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma. After being unconscious for nearly six months, she wakes up and sees that she is no longer pregnant, frantically, she asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, "Ma'am, you had twins! A boy and a girl. The babies are fine now, however they were poorly at birth and had to be christened immediately - your brother came in and named them". The woman thinks to herself, "Oh no, not me brother...he's absolutely clueless!" Expecting the worst, she asks the doctor, "Well, what's my daughter's name?" "Denise," says the doctor. The new mother is somewhat relieved, "Wow, that's a beautiful name, I guess I was wrong about my brother....I like Denise." Then she asks, "What's the boy's name?"

"Denephew"

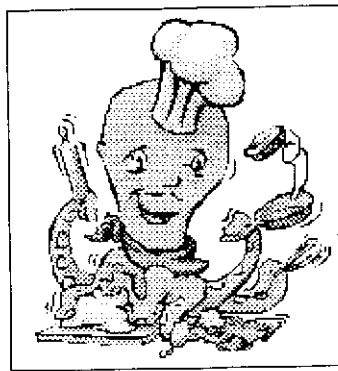
Limerick: from Lesley Self

We have a dog called Roxy,
Poorly he has been,
He's seen the vet,
We had to get,
Some expensive medicine

Have you a limerick for our next edition? ... Please send it in.



Correction: A resident kindly pointed out that our report, in the last edition, *Milton Damerel 50 years on*, on the Hancock family, could be interpreted that the hut of the clock repairer was located on one of the bungalow sites - it should be noted that the hut was actually located on the road from Crossways to Thornbury. Sorry for any confusion.



Raisin Crunchies

This recipe is suitable for children to make (under adult supervision) and eat, no adults needed for that!!

- 4oz Margarine or butter,
- 1 tbs Golden Syrup,
- Handful Raisins
- 3 dsp Drinking chocolate,
- 1/2 lb Digestive biscuits,
- Chocolate for melting

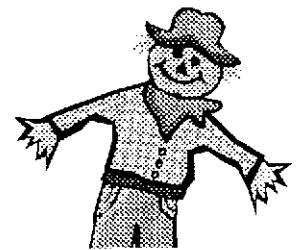
Melt margarine or butter, golden syrup and drinking chocolate together.

Crush biscuits and add to the mixture. Add the raisins, Mix well. Spread over a shallow greased baking tin. When cold cut into pieces and drizzle with melted chocolate.

(Adult supervision needed for the very young when melting ingredients)

VILLAGE FETE A resident has suggested we should hold a Village fete next year. We need to start planning the event now - so please use the enclosed flier to let us know your ideas for competitions, stalls, children's activities etc. and what you and your family are able to contribute, eg organise a stall or competition, help with the overall organisation, etc.. We're sure it could be a great event with your support!!!

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LOOK OUT
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the SCARECROW
competition we
hope to organise in
the Autumn.
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