



**Wishing all our readers  
A Very Merry Christmas  
and a  
prosperous New Year**



*Picture: Steve Neal*

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|               |  |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Parish Clerk: | Mrs Roberta Jackson<br>Westfields, Venn Green<br>Milton Damerel, EX22 7NP                          | Tel: 01409 261196<br>E-mail: miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk  |
| Councillors:  | Grace Millman (Chairman)<br>Gareth Piper (Vice Chairman)<br>Rose Haynes<br>Edgar Pett<br>John Webb | 01409 261251<br>07966558385<br>01409 261577<br>01409 261277<br>01409 261301<br>Stephen Moyse 01409 261151<br>Richard Piper 01409 261114 |



Public Rights of Way Before the November meeting a public meeting and presentation was held by Mrs Smith, a Public Rights of Way Officer with DCC who is working on the Definitive Map Review of public rights of way in Milton Damerel. Mrs Smith gave a very interesting and informative presentation on the work she is doing in the Torridge area to bring the definitive map up to date. It is only since the 1949 Act that County Councils have been responsible for recording public rights of way which include footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways also known as green lanes. There has not been a completed review of the public rights of way since 1950 when many of the 25 paths in the parish at that time, were considered unnecessary and closed leaving the seven paths we have today. Public rights of way evidence forms have been left with the clerk should anyone wish to make any representations to the review by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Highway Issues have featured at recent Parish Council meetings and it was very helpful that our County Councillor Alison Boyle was able to arrange a parish visit by the Devon County Council North Area Highways Engineer Mr Joe Deasey, when many highway issues were raised with him as he was driven around the parish. Mr Deasey explained that there was only funding to repair safety defects and short term patching on the country lanes. County funding for highways is based on the size of the population not on the length of the road network. Holes less than four inches deep and one foot in diameter were not considered a safety issue. He did agree that various repairs would be done on the parish lanes but 'rough' road surfaces would not be improved at this time. He advised that resurfacing repairs that have been done on the A388 came from a different part of the budget.

**Verge Cutting** Mr Deasey agreed that this year's verge cutting was done earlier than the guidelines and the contractor has been re-instructed. Next year verges on the lanes will be cut later and only once, other than locations where safety issues arise. Parishioners are also reminded that hedges should not overhang the highway.

Winter Services on Devon's Highways was outlined in a letter received in September. It informed the Parish Council that the primary salting route through Milton Damerel is the A388 and the road at Holsworthy Beacon to Anvil Corner. Devon County Council is responsible for 8000 miles of roads in the county. The primary salting routes represents 21% of Devon roads carrying 70% of traffic and accessing 86% of the population including settlements over 500. Secondary salting routes are the additional network that will be treated during periods of extended freezing accessing settlements over 100 providing reasonable access to a further 10% of the population. The only secondary route in the parish is at Holsworthy Beacon, northwest towards Sutcombe. For self help in bad weather salt/grit bins are provided at known trouble spots and bags of salt/grit have also been deposited on verges. Due to funding constraints it is unlikely that any further bins will be provided in the parish. The existing bins are to be fitted, inside the lid, with notices advising on usage of this expensive asset. One tablespoonful or 20gms per square metre is the usage guidance 'for use on public roads only'. It also states that 'over use will result in salt being used too quickly'. A telephone number and reference number will be included to report empty bins.

Travelling in Winter is a leaflet which explains Highways winter service and the salting of roads. Download it from [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk) (Click on Transport & Roads, then Roads, then Winter Travel and Travelling in Winter)

Mobile Library Service will be off the road from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010 until the New Year when the new improved service will operate to a new schedule. Some stops have been removed and other stopping times extended to allow increased browsing time. From Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January the mobile library will stop in the car park at Lizzy's Larder, Venn Green at 2.00pm for 45minutes every fortnight but it will no longer stop at Strawberry Bank.

District Timetables for the new mobile library routes can be downloaded from [www.devon.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.devon.gov.uk/libraries).

**Setting of the Precept** At the November meeting members considered the grant applications received from parish organisations before finalising the budget for 2011-2012 and completing the application for the parish precept. Parish Councillors are pleased to inform parishioners that the precept will remain at £2350 for a third year.

Planning There has been no new planning applications for consideration and there are no applications outstanding.

Freedom of Information In line with the publication scheme adopted by the Council in January 2009, requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act should be sent to the Parish Clerk. Some information can be made available by email free of charge but paper copies will be charged at 10p per A4 side.

And finally as 2010 draws to a close the Chairman and Councillors of Milton Damerel Parish Council and the Parish Clerk would like to wish all parishioners a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Roberta Jackson,  
Parish Clerk,  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2010



### CONGRATULATIONS!

**To Trophy and Prize winners at the Bradworthy & District Ploughing Association Match** held at Venn Green in September, including Charles Bellew, Gareth Piper and Vicky Pett.

**To Emma Stannard and Kieran Jacques** of Prospect Place on their engagement on 4<sup>th</sup> September

**To Stephen Moyse** of Rossmay, Venn Green, who celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> September, and to **Stephen & Kate** (Richardson) on their wedding on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

**To James Stannard** of Bridge Cottage, Fore Street on passing his driving test

**To Rose Haynes & David Taylor** 2nd place in the Hampshire Down Sheep National Flock Competition, Small Flock section.



Breeder's Association



### GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

**Farewell and best wishes to:**

**Dave Miller & Sue Shuff** who have moved from Meadowside, Woodford Bridge.



### OUR SYMPATHIES

**For those who been bereaved recently including:**

**Marjorie Colwill** of Oxenpark, Gidcott, on the sad loss of her husband, **Desmond**. Desmond, originally from Boyton, moved to Oxenpark on his marriage, took on the farm and held several offices within the Methodist Church, where he was a loyal, kind and dedicated member. Our condolences also to their 4 daughters.

**Kevin, Stephen, Gareth & Paul Piper** on the sad loss of their father, **Lloyd Piper** of West Wonford. Lloyd was a resident of Milton Damerel for the whole of his life, born at Park House, and then moving to West Wonford on his marriage to his late wife, Mary, where he farmed for many years. He played football for Milton Damerel, was a churchwarden for many years, and a Parish Councillor, and was respected for his kindness and loyal support.

**Phyllis Piper, Mark & Sue, Richard, Gill & Ryan**, of Parkfield on the sudden loss of a husband, father & grandfather, **Alan Piper**. Alan was also a life time resident of the parish, born at Park House (brother to Lloyd and to another brother and 4 sisters). He was known for his interest in motor-bikes, and as a milk lorry driver for Torridge Vale Dairies. With Phyllis he founded the business now known as R A W Piper & Sons, and he will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

**Les & Terry Yelland** of 9 Beech Park, Holsworthy Beacon, on the sad loss of a wife and mother, **Peggy Yelland**.

## Chapel News – December 2010

*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 contact shown at the foot of the page.*

### A message from Rev Meg Slingo.

As we all begin to think and prepare for Christmas, I wanted to share some of my reflections with you at this seasonal time of year. When the Son of God reached out to the world, he did not stand on the outside looking in. Through becoming Immanuel God with us, he immersed himself into what he had created. The culture he was born into moulded his life, and went on to affect every part of him. Jesus coming into the world brought a change within the Godhead. The Son of God emptied himself to become a baby and experience first hand what it meant to be a human being.

Sometimes we think of the incarnation as God coming along side us and identifying with us. But this is just one side of the story. Jesus came to change and transform lives. As our lives are changed and transformed from within by God, this brings with it a new and deeper reality of Immanuel, God with us, God in us through his Spirit. This change goes on to bring about a change within our communities. We, then as God's people can welcome the outcast, for example, and have love for our enemies in ways that perhaps we could not before. Remember Jesus left heaven for a season, so that we could have a new relationship with the Father, Jesus left heaven, the Son of God changed so that the world could change too.

One more note, I am and have been walking around the village delivering leaflets which say something about myself and about the life and witness of the chapel. If anyone has not received a leaflet and would very much like one please phone me. 01409 281 262

I pray that all of us have a deeper encounter with Christ this Christmas,  
God Bless,

Rev Meg.

**CHRISTMAS EVENTS** start on **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** with **A Christmas Concert** presented by **The Appledore Singers** in the Chapel @ 7.30pm. **Messy Church** for all the family will be held in the Schoolroom from 4pm – 5.30pm on **Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**, ... and on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> December** from 4pm **FRESH Christmas Praise** meets at Woodford Bridge Hotel & Country Club. **The United Parish Carol Service** will be held at Holy Trinity Parish Church on **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**. There will be a **Christmas Family Service** at 11.30am on Christmas Day and another **Christmas Family Service** at 11am on Boxing Day at the Methodist Church. Please see separate adverts and be assured of a warm welcome at all of these events.

**“TEA & CAKE” AFTERNOONS** – Our get-together, at the end of September, raised funds for Children's Hospice South West and Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is the organisation which collects shoe boxes, filled with a variety of small gifts, to be distributed in Eastern European, African and Asian countries – whilst the items for each box are kindly given, there is a charge to be paid for each box and the money raised was used to pay these fees plus make a donation to the work of the charity ( also see Junior / Youth News). Afternoon Tea & Cakes will resume in March.

**HARVEST CELEBRATIONS** – A very successful week-end! The decoration of the chapel for harvest was completed on the Friday, with numerous gifts of produce and flowers, admirably arranged and displayed. There was a good attendance for the Sunday morning service, at which Rev David Hull, the chaplain of Shebbear College, preached, and we were delighted to welcome some new faces. A hearty buffet tea was enjoyed on the Monday evening to start the final events. This was followed by a presentation, by Mr Courtney Drew on behalf of the Milton Monsters, to representatives of the Freedom Centre, Barnstaple, of a large box of vegetables of items grown in their garden. The representatives gave a short insight to the tremendous work they are doing with the homeless in Barnstaple. Courtney then led a short thanksgiving service. The auction of produce was ably conducted by James Morrish, on behalf of Kivells, and there was a final cuppa, before struggling home with all the purchases! A grand total of £ 529 was raised for chapel funds. Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the week-end.

**SUNDAY CLUB & FAMILY SERVICES** – The Sunday Club continue to meet each Sunday morning, joining in with the morning service until about 11.20am, when we then go to our class. We do a wide variety of activities, including crafts, drama, cooking, songs, watch DVDs and have a good time together. Sunday Club is free and open to any children / young people who would like to come along. There is no Sunday Club on the last Sunday of the month, when we all join together for Family Service, as detailed below. Contact Sheila (Tel: 261466) for any further details.

Family Services:

**26<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Mrs Helen Potter**

**30<sup>th</sup> January**  
**Mr David Pett**

**27<sup>th</sup> February**  
**TBC**



Please also see Junior News for details of other activities for children / young people.

**BIBLE STUDY** – We are 'self-led', very informal, enjoy a joke together, and appreciate the contribution each person brings along to increasing our understanding of the Bible and our faith. We are currently studying the Gospel of St John. We would be delighted to welcome any-one wishing to join with us. Contact Sheila, Tel: 261466.

# CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2010 TO FEBRUARY 2011

| DEC              |                     | JAN              |                        | FEB              |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Sheila Daniel   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Christmas Flowers      | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Anne Poole    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> |                     | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Circuit Service @ Lake | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Joanne Carter |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Christine Poole | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Mary Carter        | 20 <sup>th</sup> |                   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas Flowers   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> |                        | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Lilian Luxton |
|                  |                     | 30 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Anne Poole         |                  |                   |

As last year, during the winter months, the arrangements stay fresh for at 2 weeks and so we are asking that arrangers leave the flowers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. **A big THANK YOU to all ladies** who volunteer for the rota of flower arrangers – the variety of colours, flower material used, and the design of arrangements is inspirational and adds greatly to our services.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** - We have had 2 meetings when we have discussed facilitating prayer requests and prayer time for our community, alternative ideas/visions for the future of our property, received reports on ongoing activities and made plans for future events (many of these are reported on elsewhere in the newsletter). Autumn meetings are also the time when we concentrate on property and financial matters, as annual returns for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August have to be signed off for submission to District and Central offices. The quinquennial property survey was due to be completed this year, but has yet to be undertaken. From these survey reports there are normally recommendations about urgent, essential and 'could do' maintenance and repairs, which we then plan to complete as finances permit; so in its absence we have not been able to compile a programme of works. The financial statements, which had been independently examined, were approved and it was agreed to review the graveyard fees, which had not been revised since 2000. We also agreed to hold our Sunday services in the Schoolroom, a warmer environment (!), during January to March.

The next **Church Council meeting** is planned for **Friday, 18th March 2011 at 7.30pm** in the Schoolroom.

## CONTACTS –

For further information or help please contact:

Rev Meg Slingo, The Manse, Shebbear, Beaworthy, EX21 5SH (Tel: 01409-281262 or 07814 725944)

E mail: [megslingo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:megslingo@hotmail.co.uk)

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

## Holy Trinity Parish Church, Milton Damerel

Rector: Father Michael Reynolds

Tel: 01409 253435

### Services:

**Holy Communion taken by Father Reynolds  
on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month at 11.30am**

## ‘ F R E S H ’

*A Fresh Expression of Church in the Community*

Fresh 'Harvest' was held at Lizzy's Larder, Blackberry Farm, in October. We were delighted with the turn out. Lizzy made us all very welcome and provided excellent refreshments, following a short Worship time led by David Pett from Pipers Pool, Launceston. David works on behalf of Local Anglicans (Cof E) and Methodist churches to look at new ways of being Church. Everyone enjoyed joining in together and singing some harvest songs. Rev Meg Slingo also helped alongside David.

The next Fresh will be held on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, meeting in the reception at Woodford Bridge Hotel & Country Club for 4pm. See separate notice under Local Events.

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH UNITED PARISH CAROL SERVICE

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm**

A joint Parish Carol Service will take place at Holy Trinity Church on the evening of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Bradworthy choir will be in support. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there, teas, mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards. The Church path will be lit for the evening, the Service starting at 7PM and the heating will on before hand but do bring a warm coat just in case.

The usual Communion Service at Holy Trinity on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month falls on the 26<sup>th</sup> December this year but will not take place; instead there will be a short Family Service at 11.30 on Christmas Day.

The 5 yearly building inspection took place in November; we await the surveyor's findings a little nervously and hope the list of critical repairs is not too long. An update will follow in the next news letter.

John & Anne Binns  
Church Wardens  
Tel: 01409 261381

## **St. James Parish Church** **Abbots Bickington**

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Richard Dorrington  
Tel: 01409 241411

You are cordially invited

To come along to

## A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Presented by

*The Appledore Singers*

At

Milton Damerel Methodist Church

On

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm

Refreshments to Follow

Proceeds for Chapel Funds

Abbotts Bickington Church Carol Service on  
Thursday 16th December at 7.00pm.



‘FRESH’



## CHRISTMAS PRAISE

AT WOODFORD BRIDGE  
HOTEL

ON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12TH

MEET IN RECEPTION

AT 4 pm.

ACTIVITIES & CAROLS.

FOLLOWED BY  
REFRESHMENTS

## *Father Christmas*

*will be visiting*

*Horreelsford Garage*

*On Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December*

*to hear our Carol Singing*

*Please come along at 2.30pm*

St Peters Church  
Thornbury,

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**

Coffee Morning 10.30 til 12 noon.

Cakes, raffle, warm mince pies, coffee &  
friendly faces - please join us if you can.

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Carol Service @ 6.30 pm,  
followed by refreshments.

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

CAROLS ON THE GREEN  
from 7 pm.

Come and join us for some carol singing,  
followed by Mulled wine and mince pies  
Everyone welcome.

**Beacon Methodist Church**

**Coffee Mornings**

**Last Thursday of each month**

10am – 12 noon

Chapel hall

Warm welcome to all!

## MESSY CHRISTMAS



FOR ALL AGES  
IN MILTON DAMEREL  
SCHOOLROOM  
ON  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 11th  
4 pm TILL 5.30 pm

CREATIVE FUN, COOKING  
& CAROLS

Christmas Family at 11.30am at Holy  
Trinity Church on Christmas Day

## JUNIOR NEWS

### Monster Club

Dates for future Monster Club:

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 5 – 6.30pm - Lots of Christmas Crafts

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> January from 3.30pm New Year Party with Kelvin

Back in February – will let club members know date closer to time!



### Drumming

We have recently acquired a drum kit, which has proved a big 'Hit' during the summer holidays, when several local children took the opportunity to try them out. This would not have been possible without the skilful help of Thomas Vallance, who has been learning drums for 3 years and has shown great patience in passing on simple techniques to the budding young drummers! All the children did really well and showed much potential. A special presentation was held in the Schoolroom with tea for those who took part plus families. Rev Meg Slingo presented Thomas with a thankyou gift and Thomas presented prizes to each of the following who took part – Brandon & David Kirby, Daniel Dunmore, Cara & Ellie Phillips, Sam Martin, Aiden Casserly and Emily Hare. Alice Hare, Tia Woodhouse, Jasmin Wrighton and Rosalind & Beverley Sharp received special prizes for showing extra potential. We are pleased to hear that some are to continue drumming with Thomas's help.

### Piano Lessons?

Are you interested in learning to play the piano? This is an invite to all ages!!

Our piano in the Schoolroom has been recently tuned and isn't often used. Anne, who teaches piano at Bradworthy School is prepared to teach here provided there's enough interest. She would need to organise suitable times for everyone, so if you are keen, please contact Sheila ( Tel: 261466), who will pass on details to Anne.

### Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

This charity is celebrating it's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, during that time millions of shoe boxes, filled with presents, have been taken to impoverished children in Eastern Europe, Asia & Africa. We were pleased to be able to take 20 filled boxes to the special Shoe Box Service at Black Torrington Parish Church on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. They were added to boxes collected elsewhere, over 180 had been collected. We really want to say a big thankyou to all the adults and children who met in the schoolroom during the half term holiday to wrap and pack our boxes, and to those who gave items for the boxes.

# DRIVING LESSONS

L

**Clive Humphreys**

*Government approved  
Driving Instructor*

**01805 601569**

**The Oaks : Stibb Cross : Torrington**




### **EGDAW COMPUTERS**

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01409 241452 or 07888775755  
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[mark@egdawcomputers.co.uk](mailto:mark@egdawcomputers.co.uk)



## SHOW

The autumn programme of events was given a flying start by the extremely well attended Garden Show on 11<sup>th</sup> September, the 43 categories attracted 215 entries an increase of over 35% on last year.

Mick Power won the special trophy for the largest Kelsae onion with a 1.4kg (over 3 lbs) specimen whilst Roger Mitchell won the Banksian medal with 30 points based on 3 for a first down to 1 for third.

Kaya Kirby won several prizes in the children's categories and was judged to have made the best entry winning an enormous bar of chocolate and an award certificate.

The best in show trophy was awarded to Ken Parnell whose winning marrow, which weighed in at 10 kg was judged to be the most outstanding entry.

An enthusiastic crowd turned out after the judging to view the entries, enjoy light refreshments, applaud the award winners and witness the raffle draw.

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Peter Cantrill of Dayspring Plants gave the organizers a mild panic in October when he was 15 minutes late arriving but made up for his tardiness with a wonderful display of very good looking herbaceous plants which he proceeded to describe in depth.

Not surprisingly the well attended meeting showed considerable interest in all the plants that Peter described as standing wet, cold or windy conditions, he left a lot lighter than he arrived after numerous plants were purchased by the audience.

November featured a talk by Robin Julian who has for many years managed a large Victorian glasshouse in the south east growing Peaches, Apricots and Nectarines.

He described the trials and tribulations of producing perfect prize winning fruit which certainly sounded very succulent.



## FUTURE MEETINGS

The last meeting of the year is on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and although a casual get together with mulled wine and mince pies one of the committee members, Nicola Wrighton will do a short demonstration of simple wreath making.

There is no meeting in January but on February 2<sup>nd</sup> we are looking forward to a talk by Joanna Mitchell the head gardener at Hartland Abbey who promises to be a very interesting speaker.

### GARDEN & WOODLAND MAINTENANCE

**T.P. Martin**

**Fire Wood Supplies**

**All forms of vegetation control  
from Lawns to Woodland**

**NPTC Qualified and Fully Insured.**

**Tel: 01409 254921**

**Mobile: 07810 761393**

### The Barn Cattery

East Wonford, Milton Damerel, Holsworthy

- Resident Proprietors
- Choice of indoor or outdoor pens
- 'Cats only' Establishment
- Special rates for long stay
- Collection/delivery service
- Only inoculated cats accepted
- Heated chalets for individual or families



Inspection invited

**Tel: 01409 261105**

**[www.barncattery.com](http://www.barncattery.com)**

## Useful Information about Coping in Winter

Following the difficult times experienced during the very cold and snowy times over the last 2 winters, there has been much info released about what to do..... so here are some useful references and extracts from some of them...

### Travel during cold weather – ice and snow

- See the Parish Council report on page 2 about plans for salting roads, some further advice:
- Listen to weather forecasts and warnings so that you know when bad weather is expected
- Avoid non-essential travel, particularly at night when temperatures are lowest
- Allow extra time for your essential travel and reduce speed when driving
- Never assume a road has been salted and remember a treated road should not be considered “safe”
- Give snowploughs and gritters plenty of room .. and do not park where it may prevent gritters from treating salting routes
- Ensure you have adequate food and supplies available if likely to be snowed in for a few days
- Grit bins are provided on roads not normally treated, not for private land or driveways.
- Always ensure you put your safety first when spreading salt, ensure you can be seen by other road users. Use the recommended amount when spreading salt – there is no benefit from excessive use.

Useful reference: [www.devon.gov.uk/transportandroads](http://www.devon.gov.uk/transportandroads) and go to page about extreme events conference, which lists factsheets and other references about roads, school transport and social care.

### Clearing Snow & Ice from Pavements & Public Spaces

This guide is designed to help people act in a neighbourly way by safely clearing snow and ice from pavements and public spaces:

#### **Q. Will I be held liable if someone falls on a path I have cleared?**

**A.** There is no law preventing you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your property, pathways to your property or public spaces. It is unlikely that you would face any legal liability, as long as you are careful, and use common sense to ensure that you do not make the pavement or pathway clearly more dangerous than before. People using areas affected by snow and ice also have responsibility to be careful themselves.

#### **Q. What can I do to help clear snow and ice from pavements and public spaces?**

**A.** The following is practical advice from highway engineers – it is not a comprehensive list.

- Start early: it is much easier to remove fresh, loose snow compared to compacted ice that has been compressed by people walking on it
- **Do not use hot water.** This will melt the snow but may replace with black ice, increasing the risk of injury
- **Be a good neighbour:** some people may be unable to clear snow and ice on paths leading to their property, etc., or such conditions may impede their access in and out.
- If shovelling snow, consider where you are going to put it, so that it does not block people's paths, or block drainage channels. ( This also applies if mechanically clearing snow on the roads and at cross roads). Make a pathway down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on, and then shovel the snow from the centre to the sides.
- Spreading some salt on the area you have cleared will help to prevent any ice forming. Table salt or dishwasher salt will work, (but avoid damaging grass or plants). A tablespoon for each square metre is recommended. Please do not use salt from salting bins needed for keeping roads clear! If no salt available a little sand or ash can be used to offer grip under foot, but will not have the same de-icing properties.
- Use the sun to your advantage – removing the top layer of snow will allow the sun to melt any ice beneath – however you will need to cover any ice with silt to prevent re-freezing overnight.
- Particular care and attention should be given to steps and gradients to ensure snow and ice is removed and you may need to apply additional salt.

### **MILTON DAMEREL & DISTRICT ' OVER 60's ' CLUB**

The final Club coach outing for the year was a visit to Minehead via Exmoor in September on a lovely sunny day and much enjoyed by everyone.

There will be a Club meeting in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December and the members' Christmas Dinner at Country Cousins, Westward Ho! on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, followed by Christmas shopping in Barnstaple. As normal, no meeting in January, but on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011, we meet for the New Year's Party.

Our usual meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month (except January) in Milton Damerel Parish Hall at 2.30pm. New members welcome. Details from Mrs Iris Fry (tel 261322), Secretary, Mrs June Vanstone (tel 261285), Treasurer, or Mr Les Yelland, Chairman

## **CONSERVATION – *Some thoughts on the subject by a farmer***

There are many different reasons why people are interested in conservation, a term which may be described as the action one is prepared to take, or support, in an effort to safeguard some 'natural' features of the countryside, which are part of our experience. It is quite distinct from any effort to create examples of country life as lived by past generations, and distinct from action which seeks to keep the countryside exactly as it is, an impossible proposition, which in any case nature would never allow. 'Natural' is used in a general context since almost everything in the country is in its present form because of man's endeavours to control his environment.

It probably helps toward a better understanding of the views expressed if the extent of the experience of the writer can be ascertained, because it is from this bank of experience that is drawn the basic material of attitudes and convictions.

My early recollections go back to the mid to late twenties (1920s) and suggest the more important features of farming in west Devon, at that time, were of very low prices for livestock and produce; farmers having to take what they were offered. Increasingly it was more difficult to earn a living and with little or no profit the industry was in a depressed state. The horse was the most important animal on the farm providing the power for field work, for hauling manure, feeding stuffs and other requisites from the nearest railway station to the farm, and still for many farming families their means of transport either in the saddle or in the gingle or trap.

Because of the isolation people were self-sufficient to an extent not easy to envisage in this more affluent age. In many homes cooking was done on the open hearth fire or in the cloam oven, which had to be pre-heated with faggot wood; a scorching hot task for the womenfolk of the house. Men did a heavy manual job, particularly in carrying fodder to stock and could often be seen under great bundles of loose hay or weighed down carrying baskets of pulped roots around the farmyard.

Harvesting was a marvellous affair of family endeavour, all hands being brought to action. At hay time the grass was usually cut in the early morning before the heat of the day so that the team of horses was available for turning and raking the drying crop, and later still for carting the dry crop to the mowhay. Except when the barometer was at 'set fair' the crop was 'poked', that is, set up in tiny round stacks about four feet in diameter, which kept it safe against all but the heaviest rain and helped to 'make' it into good hay. This operation called for as many hands as could be mustered, boys, girls and sometimes neighbours if they were not likewise occupied on their own crops. Unless immediate rain threatened it would be surprising if the custom of making the hay 'sweet' was not observed. A wisp of hay was twisted into a ring through which a boy hoped to kiss the girl of his choice after a chase through the loose hay and among the pokes.

What a far cry this is from the mechanised haymaking of today, when except during the loading of bales on to trailers it is quite usual to find only one man working in the hayfield. The scream of the modern grass cutters plus the roar of the tractor, driven as fast as the operator can effectively steer it, makes conversation impossible and for safety reasons the fewer people present the better. The modern balers eat up the heavy crops at a rate of up to ten tons or more per hour, regularly turning out their neatly tied, tightly packed, convenient to handle batches of bales. Instead of relying on horses and men the farmer has long since become dependent on the machinery manufacturers and the fuel oil companies.

This illustrates the profound effect of scientific development on agriculture. Over a period of about thirty years we have seen the change from a picturesque way of life, with all its manual skills and some hardships too, to a highly mechanised and in some cases automated food production businesses.

The most rapid and significant changes occurred in the forties and fifties when from a national viewpoint there was an absolute need for maximum food production. Government encouragement to farmers in the form of grants and subsidies enabled them to modernise and mechanise, to improve many acres of marginal land and generally achieve more of the potential of the land they farmed. The best farmers will always prefer a field of good grass to a waterlogged pasture abounding with rushes and weeds with its high liver fluke risk to livestock, or a field of corn where there was nothing but scrub before. To clear, successfully drain, plough and cultivate such land and finally bring home a worthwhile crop gives a real sense of achievement probably not so different from that sought by the earlier farmers who first hedged in our fields. Occasionally in our enthusiasm to improve our farms we take in small areas of difficult land to find after a few years that no worthwhile economic contribution has been achieved. This is not reason enough to stop developing such areas but rather suggests that better initial assessments of the potential of these marginal acres should be made, including alternative uses. The availability of special purpose contractors' equipment, such as drainage machinery and bulldozers, which can be hired at reasonable cost has made it possible to effectively improve the drainage of large areas of most farms. There are still thousands of acres in this part of Devon which drainage would greatly help but it is work unlikely to be undertaken without considerable help and encouragement from a central authority.

With better drainage systems the removal of many hedges was a logical step toward efficient production, allowing the economic use of bigger farm machines and appreciably reducing the maintenance costs of keeping up and trimming hedges by the smaller number of people available to do the work.

The Devon earth bank hedge is of much less value to present day farmers than to his forbearers. In an earlier age they provided firewood for the hearths and ovens of farmhouses and cottages, smaller paddocks of a size more appropriate to the stock numbers kept, and as fences were adequate for the indigenous breeds of sheep and cattle. Today the most useful hedges are those regularly machine-trimmed and having fairly short thick growth. Because of

the breeds of stock now kept at a higher density it is usually necessary to protect the hedge with barbed wire or electric fencing to such an extent as to make a fence without the hedge. This takes no account of the value of the hedge as a windbreak, which is quite important.

Hedgerow trees tend to be a nuisance, particularly around arable fields, frequently causing lodging of corn crops because of the wind currents around them and because of the obstructions they make for hedge trimmers. With the exception of beech, the usual hedge shrubs will not grow in the shade of trees, which in practice means that the area shaded by the tree becomes its weakest part as a fence. The chain saw is the instrument which has made a new situation where ever there are trees. It is now fairly easy to have all of a large tree ready for the fireplace in a few short hours, and one cannot be other than anxious about the long term effect of cutting so many of the hardwoods for timber, logs or just because the land is being developed agriculturally. No real problem exists at the present time but must arise one day if no oak, ash, or beech are planted or are allowed to grow naturally.

One event which was very important for agriculture and also important in the context of conservation was the near annihilation of the rabbit by myxomatosis. The spread of this disease assisted by farmers in an effort to rid their farms of the most destructive and expensive pest farming has ever had was regarded by many non farming people as a cruel and unworthy episode. With plenty of opportunity to observe rabbits in all stages of the disease the conclusion reached was that given the choice of being caught by the two fore legs in a gin trap or contracting myxomatosis it would be the latter without hesitation. The result of the rabbit plague was dramatic and interesting in the way it affected what is termed the balance of nature. The most important consequence was the disappearance of the trapper, with his cart load of gin traps, who caught many animals besides rabbits; certainly more foxes than the packs of foxhounds, and in fact no animals or game birds moving about the countryside were safe when trappers were in action. However since myxomatosis there are more foxes and badgers, and many more pheasants and partridge. Even the buzzard whose main diet was rabbit is still with us in most valleys. One other pleasing effect was that good crops could be grown right up to the fence.

Most people are concerned, and properly so, about the use of chemicals in agriculture in most of their applications, as heavy dressings of fertiliser, as sprays to control weeds, as seed dressings for disease control, and as pesticides. Their selective use is essential to good farming and they are usually too costly to be used indiscriminately. It is also probably true that farmers are quick to condemn, and to stop any system of farming or the use of any substance which has a damaging effect on the land or on the farm livestock.

It is certainly true that everyone of us reckons that there will always be wood pigeons coo-ing in the fresh leaved trees, buzzard hawks wheeling above the valleys in the summer sun, rooks tumbling about in a storm steaked sky, and winter winds whistling through the bare trees.

Perhaps this is the real danger, that unless we do something positive to keep it that way it just might not happen.

*Written by the late George O. Harris of West Wonford*

### Streusel Topped Mince Pies

Rich and filling with a lovely crumbly nutty topping. Makes 24.

**1** Roll out a 1x500g pkt of sweet shortcrust pastry and cut out rounds 8cm in diameter to put in 2 x 12 greased shallow bun tin.

**2** Put a 1tsp mincemeat into each pie.

**3** Rub together 75g butter with 175g SR flour, add 75g of brown sugar and 75g chopped pecan nuts and mix together.

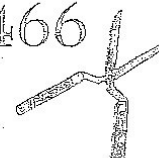
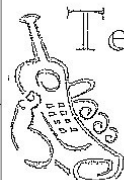
**4** Top each pie with the mixture and bake in oven at 190 C/375 F/ gas mark 5 for 25-30 minutes.

Can be made early and put in a freezer container layered with greaseproof paper, defrost before eating.



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## PARISH PLAN ACTIONS FOLLOW – UP



### Regrettably .....

Only a couple of negative items to report this time:

- There is no further update on progress with the affordable homes proposals.
- There were no responses to Mike Jackson's invitation to contact him if YOU have an interest in cycling and would like to have something organised within the parish... However it is still not too late to contact Mike (Tel: 261196) if you meant to respond but forgot to do so !!!

For more information on the Parish Plan 2008 – please refer to the Plan delivered to every household. If you have recently moved into the Parish and have not seen a copy, please contact Grace Millman (Tel: 261251) for your household copy. The Plan is also displayed on the web-site [www.miltondamerel.com](http://www.miltondamerel.com)

Please contact any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk (contact details are shown on Page 2) about any issues in the Plan, with offers of volunteering to take forward some of the tasks in the action plans, or to let us (or the Chairman or any member of the Parish Hall Committee) know any activities / clubs you are interested in. It is your Plan – the ambitions in it will only materialise with your help!

## Parish Emergency Plan

The distribution and collection of a questionnaire continues. The planning team thank those who have assisted so far. The aim is to complete a draft plan for consideration by the Parish Council early in the New Year.

' In the meantime, all natural disasters have been postponed for at least six months.'



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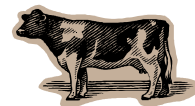
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# A1

## Cattle Services

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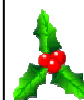
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#### Fare car F8

The above scheme issued a revised information leaflet and notice of revised fares from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Fare Car can be used by anybody of any age to travel within the designated area (Milton Damerel being one of the villages served) at the times it runs to travel to designated drop-off (and pick-up) points in Holsworthy & Launceston. The cost per single trip to/from and between Holsworthy & Launceston is £3.50. To book a seat, a day's notice in advance is required, by telephoning 01409 259160 between 10.00 and 15.30 Monday – Friday (not Public Holidays) and between 10.00 and 13.30 on Saturdays. Copies of the leaflet are widely available ( see parish noticeboards) and can also be obtained by telephoning DevonBus (01392 382800) or by e-mail [devonbus@devon.gov.uk](mailto:devonbus@devon.gov.uk)



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**Pay and Display car parks in the run-up-to Christmas on the following dates** – please check at each town's car parks on the dates below (not all public car parks are included).

#### **BIDEFORD**

**Saturday 11th December**

#### **TORRINGTON**

**Sunday 5th December**

**Saturday 18th December**

**Friday 24th December**

#### **HOLSWORTHY**

**Wednesday 8th December**

**Wednesday 22nd December**



**A thought for New Year**

**Look backward with gratitude**

**Look forward with hope**

**Look upward with confidence**

## It's a Small World

In 1971 I was a student pilot on the Army Flying Course at Middle Wallop in Hampshire. The first phase of the course involved learning to fly a conventional aeroplane, before going on to fly helicopters. The reason given for this was that it is easier to learn to fly fixed wing aircraft first as opposed to rotary wing aircraft from the beginning. In reality, the Army did not want to waste money on expensive helicopter hours in order to find out that the budding pilot was, in fact, wholly incapable of learning to fly in the allotted time frame. (It is said that, given enough bananas, it is possible to teach a monkey to fly. But the MOD did not have many bananas in those days.)

After having narrowly avoided being grounded through an inability to safely take off and land in the correct order I found myself on the rotary wing phase. Here, I was trying to fly a machine that looked as if it had no business whatsoever of being in the air. The fixed wing aircraft had simplicity, an aerodynamic shape, style and grace and it resembled a bird: it looked as if it belonged in the air. The helicopter, on the other hand, consisted of a great many different parts – all moving in opposite directions and none of them with any particular avian properties - but all seeming to be looking for somewhere convenient to crash. If I had found difficulty in mastering the first then no wonder that I struggled even more with the latter.

My first instructor on helicopters was an ex Royal Air Force pilot. He was different to the other instructors in that he was not old, bold and an ex WW2 pilot, as most of them were, but he was quite young. He walked with a very noticeable limp, and he had difficulty getting into and out of the helicopter. Also, he carried a cushion upon which he sat when in the aircraft. He was disabled as a result of a flying accident, and had been medically discharged from the Royal Air Force. I was never quite sure if his difficulties in getting into the helicopter resulted from his accident or a reluctance to get into the air with me.

Eventually, after twelve hours of frustration on his part and what seemed like twelve years of terror, sweat and tears on mine, he got out of the aircraft. He was convinced, he said, that I was hell bent on destruction, in which case I should achieve this alone – he would rather stand on the ground and watch. Luckily, I proved him wrong, and his patience and understanding paid off because I managed to pass the course and survived to fly a few thousand hours on Army helicopters over the following twenty odd years. My instructor left Middle Wallop before I completed the course and I lost contact with him. It was said at the time that he would travel up to London once a year (in his E Type Jaguar) to prove to a Royal Air Force medical board that his disability – as a result of the aircraft accident - had not changed and he was, therefore, unable to regain his flying category. Later in the day he would appear before a civil medical board to prove that he *could* fly, albeit in a limited capacity, as an instructor!

Anyway, to the point of this story. I was prompted to write it after having read the piece in last December's edition of the Newsletter "*A Chivenor based Hunter jet crashes at Milton Damersel*". This related to an aircraft that crashed near Sutcombe on 7 August 1959, the pilot, Flying Officer Anthony Barnetson, having ejected after losing control. The Hunter came down about 200 yards from Youldon Farm, not far from John Millman and one of his workers, Albert Cornish. In fact, pieces of wreckage hit the ground close to Mr Millman. The pilot came down by parachute in trees near West Putford. Unfortunately, his ejector seat failed to separate and he was badly injured by the impact with the ground. Flying Officer Barnetson survived the accident but spent some time recovering at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

If Tony Barnetson ever reads this I hope that he will see the irony of the fact that one of his most troublesome students now lives a mile or so away from where his career as a jet pilot came so abruptly to an end!

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
For loving, sharing, giving, and not to put away,  
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

## WINTER GARDENING.

I am writing this article whilst trapped indoors by wet weather, last night we had horrendous amounts of rain and I can see the River Waldon has covered my front field, we have done well it must be a year since it last rose to this extent and the field is after all a water meadow, a natural flood plain preventing worse flooding elsewhere.

Keen gardeners spend much of the winter stuck indoors planning for next year, I have browsed through my seed catalogue ordering those items I always grow plus a few others that take my fancy, either new varieties or plants that I have perhaps grown from cuttings previously.

This year my wife and I have decided we will try a few plants we haven't grown for a very long time so I am ordering Snap Dragons and Sweet Williams both of which make long lasting cut flowers and for some general bedding we are giving Mesembryanthemums (Livingstone Daisies) and Tagetes (Signet Marigolds) another try.

I have been buying from Wallis Seeds in Chelmsford for a number of years, they do not produce a colour brochure but describe the varieties very well, give you an idea of the number of seeds you can expect in a packet and their prices are competitive.

## IN THE GREENHOUSE

If you have a greenhouse do open the doors and windows whenever the weather allows to get a change of air and to dry the building out.

Moulds and fungus especially Botrytis thrive in damp conditions and are further encouraged to develop by plant debris left lying around, one of the first things I learned in horticulture was to always remove dead leaves and cut stems from the glasshouse so they cannot go rotten and to sweep/rake the floor at the end of summer.

I am overwintering a few plants in the glasshouse with the very minimum of heat, just frost free which along with no water being splashed about should mean my Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, Solanum and Marguerites survive until March when I will give them a little more heat and some water so they produce shoots I can use as cuttings.

## OUTDOORS

The majority of leaves have now fallen and any that were not blown away in the gales must be raked up particularly where they are lying on lawns, left to rot they will suffocate the grass creating a bare patch.

Leaves make wonderful compost, called leaf mould which is like peat, but take two years to rot down so I always add mine to the normal heap putting grass mowing over them which speeds up decomposition and vastly improves the final material.


If you use a weedkiller around the garden the chances are that it is based on Glyphosate the active ingredient in Round-up, Clinic etc, this chemical works by being absorbed into foliage which transfers it to the root which it kills over a period of weeks.

Glyphosate has no effect on the soil and biodegrades rapidly on contact with the ground.

Because it only works through foliage it cannot harm plants which are not green so where plants have completely died down for the winter leaving weeds you can treat these with no harmful effect on the dormant plants, for instance given a dry day I will spray over my Asparagus bed so it is clean to start next year.

These products may say that they do not work in cold conditions but as long as they are applied on a dry day we found that they work most effectively albeit slowly taking up to 6 weeks for the weeds to die but with a better kill than in the summer.

It may seem inconceivable with the present weather but do take any opportunity of a dry day to mow lawns which seem to keep growing these days until at least January.



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## Farmers' Market

The second Farmers' Market in recent times was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November starting at 10.00 a.m. There were nine stalls selling cheese, plants, jams, and crafts and cards. It started slowly but we had a steady stream of people coming in to sample some mulled wine (a driver's version was available!) buy some Christmas cards and do some early shopping for those who have not yet started their Christmas shopping! There were some lovely things to buy and taste and we served bacon butties, tea, coffee and mince pies to keep the November chill out. At least it didn't rain like it did in the week before or indeed for the last one when some people had to be pushed out of the car park!

Thank you to everyone who supported us. Proceeds of £83 will be divided between SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association which does much valued and unsung work with our service personnel both serving and out of the services, and Farm Crisis Network who do such magnificent work in our rural communities.

Janet Fisher, Newsletter Group.



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**What do monkeys sing at Christmas ?**

Jungle Bells, Jungle bells.. !

**Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters ?**

They both drop their needles !

**What's Christmas called in England ?**

Yule Britannia !

**What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas ?**

Thanks, I'll never part with it !

**Why is a burning candle like being thirsty ?**

Beacause a little water ends both of them !

**What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree ?**

A pineapple !

**What do you give a train driver for Christmas ?**

Platform shoes !

**What did the big candle say to the little candle ?**

I'm going out tonight !

**Whats happens to you at Christmas ?**

Yule be happy !

**How long does it take to burn a candle down ?**

About a wick !

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*Please call in for a menu or telephone for further details.*



## The Devil's Stone Inn,

### Shebbear.

The Devil's Stone Inn in Shebbear is a traditional pub. Originally a farmhouse, it was converted to a Coaching Inn in the seventeenth century, it is reputed to be one of the 12 most haunted pubs in Britain.

The food is good home cooked grub, delicious and not expensive, a traditional menu of home cooked food from local produce, they do an excellent Sunday Roast, all freshly prepared. There are also real ales to enjoy and a very good wine list.

The pub was refurbished some years ago and has a warm and welcoming feel about it, exposed beams, open fires & flagstone floors add real character to the pub.



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E - Mail [ClaireSheridan6@Hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ClaireSheridan6@Hotmail.co.uk)

**MILTON DAMEREL PARISH HALL NEWS****Charity No. 281123**

As always, the Hall is available for hire, £5 per hour with Kitchen. £10 per session for the Skittle Alley.

At our AGM on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010, we agreed to include another charge for the Hall with use of the Skittle Alley as an extra room only. This will be £6 per hour. This new charge will take effect from 1st January 2011. No repair work or improvement is pending at the moment. This will be discussed at our next meeting. We have a change of Officers. Our Secretary Mrs Sara Lawes has resigned because of other commitments and Mrs Kate Moyse has been elected. Mr Edgar Pett has also resigned. Mr Gareth Piper has joined the Committee. All other Committee Members remain the same.

All has now been dealt with following the inspection by Torridge Licensing Office. A Hirers Agreement has been drawn up and everyone who Hirers the Hall will need to sign this Agreement. We have also produced a TERMS AND CONDITIONS notice for the hiring of the Hall. A copy is attached to the Agreement, also copies can be seen at the Hall.

**EVENTS REPORT.**

**COFFEE MORNING Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010. 10.00am to Noon.** At Peter & Lesley Self, Tor View, Venn Green. Went well, thank you to all who came with a profit of £111.90

**WHIST DRIVE Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010. 8.00pm.** Enjoyable evening, thanks to Sara and Roger Lawes. Profit £43.00

**BEETLE DRIVE Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. 7.30pm.** Another good evening especially for the children. Kate Moyse had the highest score 144, for the Adults and Heidi Horn the highest 134, for the Children. Profit £47.00

**WINE & WISDOM Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010. 7.30pm for 8.00pm** A really good evening. A lot of comments at Farmers Market the following day, saying how enjoyable it was. Also some, still found questions too hard, but liked the variety. I forgot to include David our question master and his good wife Chris, in my thanks at the end! I did apologise later, David and Chris return to Milton Damerel from their home in Dulverton each wine and wisdom we have and the Parish Hall Committee are very appreciative. We made an excellent profit of £227.09. Many thanks to all.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**WHIST DRIVE Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010. 8.00pm.** £2.00 per person. Please come along if you like to play Whist.

**WHIST DRIVE Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January & 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011. 8.00pm.**

**FUN SKITTLES Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011. 6.30pm for 7.00pm.** £2.00 Adults, £1.00 Child 11 years and under. Refreshments will be on sale. BYO Beer/Wine

Our next **PARISH HALL MEETING is on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011. 8.00pm.** New Committee Members will be welcomed.

**Regular Events at the Parish Hall.**

**Milton Damerel and District Over 60 Club.** 1st Tuesday of each month, 2.30pm. New Members Welcomed. A social afternoon. Enquiries Mrs Iris Fry, 261 322.

**Linedancing.** Every Tuesday, 7pm to 8.30pm (Changed from 9.00pm) Small group, more members welcomed. **Our charge is now £2.00.** Enquiries Lesley Self, 261 294 or Mary Carter, 261 248

**Milton Damerel Gardening Club.** 1st Wednesday of each month (February to June and October to December). 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Enquiries Mr Bill Wrighton 261 738. Email: [mdgs1@live.co.uk](mailto:mdgs1@live.co.uk)

**Milton Damerel Parish Council Meetings.** Usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. 7.30pm. Enquiries, Parish Clerk, Mrs Roberta Jackson, 261 196.

**Skittles**

Milton Damerel Men, Milton Damerel Ladies, also Thornbury Men, Skittles Teams, play for the Holsworthy Skittles League, at the Parish Hall.

**HALL BOOKINGS & Treasurer:-** Mrs Lesley Self 01409 261294 (If not available any of the following numbers). **Chairperson:-** Mrs Mary Carter 261 248. **Secretary:-** Mrs Kate Moyse 261 151.

**LINE DANCING****At Milton Damerel Parish Hall****Tuesdays 7.0pm to 9.0pm****£2.00 per session****Tel: Lesley 261294 or Mary 261248**

### Volunteer Garden Service for the over-60s

The Torridge Volunteer Garden Service has been set up to offer basic gardening support to people aged over 60 who have no one to help them maintain their garden, and cannot afford to pay for a commercial gardener. The service is supported by the TorrAGE Neighbourhood Links project, which is funded by the Big Lottery and managed by TTVS. We are currently looking for volunteer gardeners from across Torridge, and are particularly keen to hear from volunteers in the rural parishes. The service aims to have volunteers operating at a very local level to avoid travel expenses and keep costs to a minimum. Service users will be asked for a small donation to help with the maintenance of equipment.



Volunteers will carry out basic gardening tasks, such as lawn-mowing, weeding and pruning. If you are interested in volunteering, or are aged over 60 and need help with your garden, please contact Anna or Linda on 01805-622666.

### Putford W.I.

For our October meeting we met in the Chapel Hall where we were welcomed by our President, Mrs. Mavis Lewis. During the business part of the meeting we made our final arrangements for the Christmas Dinner at Holsworthy Golf Club. The speaker for the evening was Rosemary Cook from Umberleigh, on Willow Baskets. She brought along a selection of baskets of different shapes, sizes and textures and demonstrated how she made them. She has been doing this for seventeen years. The speaker was thanked by Viv Talbot, hostesses for the evening were Margaret Wooldridge and Lorna Dawe.

The November meeting was our A.G.M. when once again we met in the Chapel hall and were welcomed by our President, Mrs. Mavis Lewis. She also welcomed June Shepherd -Blandy, a county representative. There were two changes to our committee. Our new Secretary is Lorna Dawkins and our new Treasurer is Marion Wooldridge. Mavis Lewis remains President for another year. Instead of a speaker two of our members showed us how to make beautiful Christmas and Birthday cards. We were all pleased with our efforts. Mavis Lewis thanked Kath Stevens and Mary Martin for an enjoyable evening. Hostesses for the evening were May Taylor and Lorna Dawkins. Flower of the month was won by Margaret Wooldridge.

All meetings take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in Putford Chapel hall. All are welcome and further information can be had by contacting Lorna Dawe on 241279.

### **D & I BRIDGMAN & SON** NEWTON St. PETROCK

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### Alpha

There will be an Alpha course starting in January taking place at the Union Inn in Stibb Cross on Tuesday mornings. Alpha is for anyone and everyone who wishes to know more about the Christian faith, whether church goes or not. It is a chance to ask all those questions you never dared to ask before and also a chance to hear the inspirational Nicky Gumble who started Alpha off. If anyone is interested then please contact Martin Warren on 01409 281424.



**PC 4936 – Andy Moakes** } **Holsworthy Pol. Station**  
**PCSO 30099 - Raquel Rowe** } **Tel: 01409 259461**  
**PCSO 30103 - Beverley Harvey** }

*Police Co-ordinators*

*Local Co-ordinators*

**Strawberry Bank:** **Roger Copp** - Tel. 261681  
**Gratton:** **Edgar Pett** - Tel. 261277  
**Whitebear & Fore Street:** **Edgar Pett** - Tel. 261277  
**Venn Green:** **Mike Jackson** - Tel. 261196

### Neighbourhood Watch Report

Sheep worrying is again on the increase and has become a serious problem in the Northam Burrows Country Park area. Whilst this is someway outside our immediate vicinity our own Parish does face the problem from time to time. It is therefore timely to remind people that if they are exercising their dogs, please keep them under control and on a short leash when walking through fields where there is livestock.

The area of Holsworthy Beacon is still without a co-ordinator. If anybody would be interested in taking on this position or would like any further information about what is involved would they please contact any of the existing co-ordinators or PCSO Raquel Rowe.

With NHW now firmly established in four of our hamlets it is felt that it would be beneficial to expand the scheme to include the whole of the Parish. Whilst we understand that many properties are somewhat isolated we feel that they can still benefit by receiving the periodic messages which we and the police issue, when there is a problem or something of a concern happening in our area. We ask nothing in return apart from your vigilance and good neighbourliness. Also, we are still able to advise that we are continuing to operate without the need for a membership fee. So, if anybody would like any further information or like to be included, and we very much hope that this will be the case, will you speak to one of the co-ordinators. Because of the physical size of the Parish it would be of particular help if somebody from the outlying hamlets would be prepared to act as local co-ordinators in their particular areas.

The alarmed padlocks which were mentioned in the last letter have been bought by a number of people and the feedback so far is good. With the security of outbuildings and other property becoming evermore important these seem to provide a good solution to secure outbuildings and sheds etc. The lock is weather-proof, security key operated, supplied with batteries and comes with a 1 year warranty. The alarm siren is rated at 110dB and the price of £12 seems to be good value for some peace of mind. They can be obtained through the PCSO's or if anybody would like a demonstration, please contact your co-ordinator.

We are now being provided with weekly crime statistics which are compiled by the NHW office at Bideford from information supplied by the police. These cover the three areas of Bideford, Holsworthy and Torrington. Whilst we are still a very low crime area, it is still never-the-less interesting to see what is happening nearby and then take suitable precautions when the need arises. We are able to pass on this information ( by email only at the present time ) to interested parties and if you would like to be included or just see a sample, please contact your co-ordinator.

As this will be the last newsletter before Christmas, it is timely to remind people to be careful when out shopping and leaving articles in the car. Please take extra care to make sure that anything left in the vehicle is locked in the boot, out of sight and that the car and boot are locked. This may seem like stating the obvious but when you look at the vehicle crime statistics, which are on the increase at the moment, many opportunist thefts are in fact due the vehicles being left in an unsecure manner.

Also, at this time of year, all sorts of scams seem to come into play with the sole intention of trying to get hold of your bank or credit card security details. Please be vigilant and remember that the banks and building societies do not ask you for this information as they already know it. If you have any doubts what-so-ever with whom you might be dealing, always ring them back on a telephone number which is known to you and not a number provided by the enquirer. There is also a useful slide show on the Parish web site concerning an ATM scam. Please take a few moments to look at it under forum/NHW.

Finally, we would like to hope that everybody in the Parish has a safe and very happy Christmas and New Year.

## Rural Policing Update

### Rural crime since last report

#### Thornbury

Theft of a Wessex flail AF120 grass topper/lawn mower in olive green.

#### Holsworthy Beacon

Burglary - copper piping worth £400 was stolen, occurred between 14<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

#### Bridgerule

An I For Williams trailer 6' x 4' with ramp tail gate, wire with mesh sides and a red honda quad bike 350cc were stolen.

#### Hollacombe

Burglary of various scrap metals (pipes) and yellow cable strippers were stolen in the area.

#### Milton Damerel

Theft of an aluminium 12' extendable ladder.

#### Pyworthy

Two Albion saddles were stolen, the burglary occurred on the 22-23rd of September.

#### Milton Damerel

The following items were stolen in the area: two plain bridles, a cob sized bridle, Saber 17" medium fit saddle, Ideal 18" wide fit saddle, Albion 17 1/2" wide fit leather girth saddle, Rambo 6' 6" water proof rug and a breast plate. The burglary occurred on the 16-17<sup>th</sup> of September.

#### Bridgerule

Theft from a motor vehicle, stolen a disc cutter and chain saw.

#### Halwill

A silver Graham Edwards trailer 8' twin axle model FB208 was stolen on the 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> of October.

On the following day 1350 litres of red diesel was reported stolen in the area.

The majority of these items were circulated on the community messaging as soon as it was reported to the Police. I would like to advise anyone who receives the community messaging, that should the items be seen and match exactly to what was described on the community messaging to immediately ring the 08452777444 or the emergency number at your discretion.

Remember:

The theft of possessions occurs to obtain cash or items that can easily be sold on. By marking your possessions you will deter thieves, decrease the opportunity for it to be sold on and increase the ability for thieves to be caught.

More information can be found at [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/marking](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/marking)

PCSO 30099 Raquel Rowe & PC 14936 Andy Moakes Holsworthy Police Station 01409259461

Non Emergency Number 08452777444 Crime Stoppers 0800555111

E-mail [Raquel.ROWE@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Raquel.ROWE@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk) [andrewmoakes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrewmoakes@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

### **Your local police station:**

Holsworthy Police Station  
Well Park, Western Road  
Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6DH

Opening hours: Mon 8am –1pm  
Weds 8am -2pm, Fri 8am –1pm  
General enquiries: 08452 777 444

PCSO 30103 Beverley Harvey & PC 4936 Andy Moakes

# Christmas Word Search

ANGELS BABY BETHLEHEM DECORATIONS  
 DONKEY FRANKINCENSE GOLD HOLIDAY  
 JESUS JOSEPH MARY MYRRH  
 PRESENTS PUDDING SANTA SHEPHERDS  
 SNOW STOCKING TREE TURKEY

P Y D J O S E P H V H E U U P V N A  
 E T U E M A P L D H V X L R B Z D Y  
 B G U N C Q H U E U M G L E E O C S  
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The newsletters group members are:

|                   |                              |        |                                   |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Tracy Dunmore     | dunmorehom@aol.com           | 261501 | Children & Youth News             |
| Janet Fisher      | janetcfisher@btinternet.com  | 261882 | Regular contributors and features |
| Rose Haynes       | rose@grawley.co.uk           | 261577 | Regular contributors and features |
| Grace Millman     | grace.millman@btinternet.com | 261251 | Treasurer & Fund-raising          |
| Margaret Stannard | maggiestannard@yahoo.co.uk   | 261486 | Advertising                       |
| Terry Fairbrother | terry@remedy-it.co.uk        | 261775 | Newsletter Compiler               |
| Lesley Self       | petles@talktalk.net          | 261294 | Regular contributors and features |

Letters, comments, news and articles, etc., can be emailed to [mdnews@miltondamerel.com](mailto:mdnews@miltondamerel.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.

## 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 18th Feb 2011

## WHAT'S ON ..

.....a selection of local events in the Holsworthy and neighbouring villages....

| WHAT?  | WHEN?   | WHERE?   |
|--|---|--|
| Holsworthy Band Concert – Christmas Carols   | Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm   | H.A.T.S Theatre, Holsworthy<br>Tel: 01409 253826<br><a href="http://www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk">www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk</a>                 |
| “ Cinderella “ Pantomime   | Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January<br>Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January – Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30pm |  |
| Carols for All with David Robinson & the Pyworthy Choir  | Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December @ 7.30pm  | Black Torrington Methodist Chapel  |
| Contacts for other events / venues in North Devon ....   |   |  |
| Films, Live Events – Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Regular & Special Workshops for Children and Adults  |   | The Plough, Torrington<br>Box Office: 01805 624624<br><a href="http://www.plough-arts.org">www.plough-arts.org</a>                               |
| Miracle Theatre present Beauty & The Beast from Mars   | Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December @ 7.30pm  |  |
| Film (12A)   | Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> December @ 3pm & 7pm  |  |
| Drama, classical music, opera, children's shows, popular music (including rock, jazz, folk and roots), contemporary dance, ballet, amateur shows, visual arts and community events |   | Queen's Hall Theatre, Barnstaple<br>Box Office: 01271 324242<br><a href="http://www.northdevontheatres.org.uk">www.northdevontheatres.org.uk</a> |
| Pantomime 'Aladdin'  | 10 <sup>th</sup> December – 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2011 at varying times and not all days – see web-site for details and booking               |  |

## USEFUL WEBSITES

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Devon County Emergency Planning Service | <a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/safetyemergencies.htm">www.devon.gov.uk/index/safetyemergencies.htm</a>                               |
| Devon & Cornwall Constabulary           | <a href="http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/SiteInformation">www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/SiteInformation</a>                               |
| Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service  | <a href="http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/devonfire">www.dsfire.gov.uk/devonfire</a>   |
| Disaster Action                         | <a href="http://www.disasteraction.org.uk">www.disasteraction.org.uk</a>   |
| Environment Agency                      | <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a>   |
| Floodline                               | <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods">www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods</a>                 |
| HM Coastguard                           | <a href="http://www.mcga.gov.uk">www.mcga.gov.uk</a>   |
| Highways Agency                         | <a href="http://www.highways.gov.uk">www.highways.gov.uk</a>   |
| Local Resilience Forum                  | <a href="http://www.dcisprepared.org.uk">www.dcisprepared.org.uk</a>   |
| Met Office                              | <a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/sw/sw_forecast_weather.html">www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/uk/sw/sw_forecast_weather.html</a> |
| South West Ambulance Service            | <a href="http://www.swast.nhs.uk">www.swast.nhs.uk</a>   |
| UK Resilience                           | <a href="http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx">www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx</a>                                   |

## What's on Diary

|   |                           |         | Page |
|---|---------------------------|---------|------|
| Gardening Society                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | 7.30pm  | 8    |
| Monster Club – Christmas Crafts           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 5pm     | 7    |
| Whist Drive                               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | 8pm     | 20   |
| Coffee Morning – St Peter's Thornbury     | 4 <sup>th</sup> December  | 10.30am | 6    |
| Christmas Concert – Appledore Singers     | 5 <sup>th</sup> December  | 7.30pm  | 6    |
| Messy Christmas                           | 11 <sup>th</sup> December | 4pm     | 6    |
| FRESH (at Woodford Bridge)                | 12 <sup>th</sup> December | 4pm     | 6    |
| Carol Service – Abbotts Bickington        | 16 <sup>th</sup> December | 7pm     | 6    |
| Carols for Father Christmas at the Garage | 18 <sup>th</sup> December | 2.30pm  | 6    |
| Carol Service – St Peters Thornbury       | 19 <sup>th</sup> December | 6.30pm  | 6    |
| United Parish Carol Service               | 21 <sup>st</sup> December | 7pm     |      |
| Carols on The Green – Thornbury           | 21 <sup>st</sup> December | 7pm     | 6    |
| Christmas Day Family Service              | 25 <sup>th</sup> December | 11.30am | 6    |
| Christmas Family Service                  | 26 <sup>th</sup> December | 11am    | 4    |
|   |                           |         |      |
| Mobile Library starts at Blackberry Farm  | 4 <sup>th</sup> January   | 2pm     | 14   |
| Monsters Club New Year Party              | 15 <sup>th</sup> January  | 3.30pm  | 7    |
| Parish Hall Meeting                       | 17 <sup>th</sup> January  | 8pm     | 20   |
| Whist Drive                               | 28 <sup>th</sup> January  | 8pm     | 20   |
| Family Service                            | 30 <sup>th</sup> January  | 11am    | 4    |
|   |                           |         |      |
| Gardening Society                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February  | 7.30pm  | 8    |
| Fun Skittles                              | 26 <sup>th</sup> February | 6.30pm  | 20   |
| Family Service                            | 27 <sup>th</sup> February | 11am    | 4    |

## Regular Events

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Bible Study  | Mondays 7.30-9pm   |
| Putford WI   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month 7.30pm              |
| Mobile Library                                     | Tuesdays – each fortnight 2pm                            |
| MD & District Over 60s Club                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (not Jan) 2.30pm   |
| Line Dancing                                       | Tuesdays 7-8.30pm  |
| Gardening Society                                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month (not Jan) 7.30pm |
| Parish Council meetings                            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7.30pm                         |
| Coffe Morning – Holsworthy Beacon Methodist Church | Last Thursday of each month 10am                         |
| Methodist Morning Service                          | Sundays 11am   |
| Parish Church Holy Communion                       | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month 11.30am             |

## Missing local events?

*Always check on location by visiting the page number as not all events are in Milton Damerel*

Why not detach this diary from the main newsletter and put it somewhere where you can see it, perhaps on your fridge or on your pin board.

### December 2010

| S  | M  | T  | W  | Th | F  | Sa |
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### January 2011

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### February 2011

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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    |    |
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |