



*Happy Christmas
and all Good Wishes
for 2012*



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Milton Damerel Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs Roberta Jackson Tel: 01409 261196
 Westfields, Venn Green E-mail: miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk
 Milton Damerel, EX22 7NP



Councillors: Grace Millman (Chairman) 01409 261251
 Gareth Piper (Vice Chairman) 07966558385
 Rose Haynes 01409 261577 Stephen Moyse 01409 261151
 Edgar Pett 01409 261277 Richard Piper 01409 261114
 John Webb 01409 261301

Regular Parish Council meetings have been held on the third Wednesdays of September, October and November 2011. The dates of the next three meetings are 14th December 2011 (if required), 18th January 2012 and 22nd February 2012. The agenda for all meetings is displayed on the notice boards no later than the Thursday before the given date.

Planning Matters. The Parish Council has been consulted on a planning application for alterations and an extension at Glendene and an application for an extension to the leisure centre entrance at Woodford Bridge Hotel & Country Club.

Winter Roads. The Snow Warden scheme provides the Parish with a supply of road salt/grit to be used on the Parish roads which are not part of the Devon County Council salting network. The Parish Council has agreed to join the scheme this winter. Community volunteers are being recruited, registered and trained by the Parish Snow Warden, Cllr Edgar Pett. The roadside salt/grit boxes will still be available for self-help but the salt/grit is ONLY for use on the public highway. Geoffrey Cox MP was contacted regarding the use of red diesel by volunteers on winter roads and guidance on the subject from HMRC which he provided can be found on page 19.

Affordable Housing. Efforts continue in the background to try to progress a scheme for Milton Damerel but funding difficulties at these times of constraint will inevitably hamper progress.

The Annual Return and accounts of Milton Damerel Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2011 have been satisfactorily audited and certified by the Audit Commission. Copies have been displayed on the three parish notice boards, in turn during September and October, but if anyone needs any information they should contact the Parish Clerk.

Setting of the Annual Precept. At the November meeting members considered the grant applications received from Parish organisations before finalising the budget for 2012-2013 and completing the application for the parish precept. Parish Councillors are pleased to inform parishioners that the precept will remain at £2350 for a fourth year. This equated to £13.19 per band D property during 2011-2012.

Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council has agreed to provide Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs for children from birth up to and including Year 6 at Primary School as at 5th June 2012. See article on page 14 for full details. Please submit applications to the Parish Clerk, by 31st December 2011, using the application form provided with this newsletter.

A notice of the temporary closure of the road from Thornbury Mill to Gidcott Cross, except for access, from 12th to 16th December 2011 between 7.00am and 6.00pm each day has been received by the Parish Council due to drainage works being undertaken. Diversions via Bason Cross will be signposted.

The Constituency Boundary Review has been subject to a 12 week consultation ending on 5th December. Details of the proposals are available on the Boundary Commission website but the aim is to reduce the number of constituencies and MPs in Parliament and to include a similar number of electors in each constituency. It is proposed that Torridge District will be split between three constituencies with Milton Damerel in a new constituency with Bideford and Bude.

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.

Greetings for a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all parishioners from the Chairman and Councillors of Milton Damerel Parish Council and the Parish Clerk.

Roberta Jackson
 Parish Clerk 18th November 2011



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Andrew & Tina Prop of Worden Farm on the birth of their daughter, **Daisy**, born on 16th August 2011

To Mike Kirby on winning reserve champion at Liskeard Show with '**Sticky Willow**'

To Liz Kirby on award of '**Local Producer and Best Specialist Retailer**' in the North Devon Food & Drinks Awards 2011 (picture below)

To Terry & Marie Fairbrother of Rosemead, Milton Town, who celebrated their Silver (25th) Wedding Anniversary on 28th December

To Rosemary Daniel of Woodford Farm, who was recently awarded her PGCE from UWE, Bristol.

To David Fairbrother on gaining the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Silver award

To Steven & Kate Moyse of Old Trafford Venn Green with the birth of daughter, Sophie Ellen, 8lb 6ozs. 15th October 2011.



GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

Goodbye & Best Wishes to:

Phoebe Overy, who has moved from Darland, Venn Green to live at Halwill Junction

John & Lynne Sheridan & family, who have moved from St Nectan's, Whitebear Cross.

Kim Herbert & family, who have moved from Town Farm.



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Wednesday, 14th December

Late Night Shopping in Holsworthy

most of the **town's shops and businesses are open** on this fun evening.

Also in the Memorial Hall.

Santa's Grotto in the Square (NatWest Bank)

Event organised by Holsworthy Chamber of Trade

Please give your local businesses your patronage this Christmas

Chapel News – December 2011

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 Revd Meg Slingo

Well, here we are and Christmas is almost upon us. So who is Christmas for? Well, Christians around the world will be celebrating and remembering that Christmas is about "Immanuel" God with us.

Christians will be reflecting back on the birth of Jesus who we remember left heaven and came to earth for all people, of all ages, backgrounds and cultures. The shepherds when they heard the news came down the hill into Bethlehem to visit Jesus. The contrast between the different groups of people who came to see Jesus after he was born are striking. These shepherds were Jews and would have known the promises of the Messiah. God gave a verbal message through the angels to the shepherds and this message was full of Old Testament imagery. For example "town of David", "Saviour," "Christ the Lord".

However, the Magi, (Wise men) were more than likely astronomers who were far removed from the roots of the Shepherds and were not Jews. Tradition says the Magi had to travel hundreds of miles to find Jesus. God used a sign, a star to speak to them as this was something they would have culturally understood.

As the world prepares to celebrate Christmas and the New Year 2012 my prayer is that God in Jesus may touch your spirit, your heart, that you may know "Immanuel" God with you, that you will experience *a sign* this Christmas that will stay with you into the New Year and beyond. The Good News of Christmas is that in and through Jesus, God touched the earth as a human. The Good News continues that we as humans we because of Jesus can also touch God. This is what the shepherds were so excited about. This is why the Magi travelled hundreds of miles.

I pray we can all say along with the writer of Luke Chapter 2:14 " Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests"

Rev Meg Slingo

CHRISTMAS – We wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We will be joining our Anglican friends for the **United Parish Carol Service** on **Wednesday, 21st December at 7pm** in Holy Trinity Church.

Our **Carol Service** will be held on **Sunday, 18th December**, when Mrs Nancy Hall-Tonkin will be joining us for morning service at 11am.

On **Christmas Day** everyone is invited to Lake Chapel for **Family Service at 10.15am**.

"TEA & CAKE" AFTERNOONS – The September 'Tea & Cakes' saw a steady stream of visitors during the afternoon and the funds raised were donated to funding the Samaritan Fund Christmas Boxes. (see separate report).

HARVEST FESTIVAL – The week-end was a success with £522 being raised for our property fund. The chapel was generously decorated with a wonderful variety of flowers, fruit, vegetables, groceries, etc., which were auctioned by James Morrish from Kivells on the Monday evening. Revd. Phillip Wagstaff, from Okehampton, and David Ley of Langtree led the thanksgivings on Sunday morning and Monday evening respectively and brought interesting and challenging talks. As always there was a delightful selection of food for the bring and share supper. Thank you to everyone for your support.

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER 2011 TO FEBRUARY 2012

DEC		JAN		FEB	
4 th & 11 th	Mrs Lilian Luxton	1 st	Christmas Flowers		
		8 th	Service at Lake	12 th & 19 th	Mrs Phyllis Piper
18 th	Mrs Sheila Daniel	15 th & 22 nd	Mrs Niggy Southey	26 th	Mrs Joanne Carter
25 th	Service at Lake				
		29 th & 5 th Feb	Mrs Gwyneth Johns		

Please note: During the winter months we ask that the flowers are left for 2 Sundays, as in the cool the arrangements

stay fresh.

BIBLE STUDY – We are now concentrating on the book of Isaiah and the many prophesies it contains. We are also delighted that Rev Meg Slingo joins us on some evenings to aid our discussions. We are ecumenical, '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.



"OPEN CHAPEL" – The chapel is open on the **2nd Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.30pm to 5pm** for anyone wishing just to drop in for a chat, a cuppa or just to sit quietly.

Prayer Requests - A secure prayer request box is located in the old schoolroom door, just to the right of main chapel doors, for deposit of prayer requests; such requests will be prayed about by the person(s) opening the box and kept in strictest confidence.

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 will be delighted to welcome more young people looking for activities on a Sunday morning – just come along and join in with your school friends

There is no Sunday Club on the last Sunday of the month, when we all join together for Family Service, as detailed below.

Family Services:

Christmas Day

25th December

Circuit Service @ Lake

29th January

Mr David Lewis

26th February

Pastor Chris Bourne

CHURCH COUNCIL – Our Autumn meeting concentrated on many administrative obligations – the annual returns on condition of our property and our finances for the year ended on 31st August 2011. The mandatory forms were presented and adopted and duly signed!

We have continued to look at the future, both in terms of our fellowship and being part of the local community, and the future of our buildings. Our new Bideford and Shebbear Circuit have agreed a Circuit Mission Statement and priorities for action, and we looked at our part in working on these. There were many contributions of ideas, mainly about maintaining and upgrading our premises, posted on the 'Ideas' board; these were collated for linking to the schedule of property maintenance and repairs prepared by Roger Daniel, property steward, and our caretakers. With a substantial schedule of maintenance and repairs, and many ideas to consider, further work is needed to decide on schemes for submission for approval. In advance of the next Church Council on 16th February, there is an open meeting for everyone to come along and discuss the ideas on **Thursday, 2nd February at 7pm in the Schoolroom**. You are welcome to come along and join in the discussions.

GRAVEYARD RECORDS – Sarah & Steve Weal, our caretakers have undertaken a 'winter project' to record all the gravestones in the graveyard. From this, a most professional layout plan has been constructed and every grave plot numbered, which we hope to display for anyone visiting the cemetery to view. In addition, each grave stone has been photographed and the inscriptions recorded, and catalogued by location and by names. Sarah & Steve have been asked to write an article for the next Newsletter describing the project and the interesting backgrounds they have found whilst researching on the web, at the Records Offices, etc.. Any enquiries can be made direct to the caretakers and we will be ensuring the records can be accessed by enquirers. We are most grateful to them for the completion of this important record.

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

Our Steward: Lilian Luxton (Tel: 261355), Our Church Council Secretary: Grace Millman (Tel: 261251)

**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**

**St. James Parish Church
Abbots Bickington**

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Richard Dorrington

Tel: 01409 241411

Holy Trinity News - Autumn 2011

The small army of volunteers have continued to keep the church yard tidy and jobs such as installing a water butt and reseating some grave stones have been carried out. Hopefully there will not be too much to do over the winter months so we will publish some more working party dates in the next newsletter. The work really has made a difference and the little extra jobs have been completed on top of just keeping on top of the grass.

Anne and John Binns
Church Wardens
261381



Seasonal Photos

We are always interested in seasonal photos from around the area to appear on the front page of the newsletter.

So get snapping and send them to

photos@miltondamerel.com

Christmas Carol Service



The date for the United Parish Carol Service has been set for the December 21st at 7PM. Tea coffee and mulled wine will be served afterwards. Please come along and help to make this a big festive celebration.

Father Christmas

*will be visiting
Blackberry Farm*

Saturday, 17th December

*to enjoy our Carol Singing
and bring his sack of goodies!!*

Please come along at 2.30pm

CAROL SERVICES

**SUNDAY, 18TH DECEMBER @ 11AM
MILTON METHODIST CHURCH**

**20TH DECEMBER AT 7.00 P.M
ST. JAMES', ABBOTTS BICKINGTON**

Beacon Methodist Church Coffee Mornings Last Thursday of each month

**10am – 12 noon
Chapel hall**

Warm welcome to all!

Thornbury Church

There will be a Carol Service at Thornbury Church (currently meeting at Cookbury because of on-going renovation work, on Sunday 18th December at 3.30 p.m. All are warmly invited to come.

The Christmas Star



May the Light that shone
from the Christmas Star
On that night so long ago
Fall on you this Christmas night
and set your face aglow.
May it shine from your eyes.
May it rest in your mind.
May it burn in your Spirit bright.
May the Peace it spoke to a weary world.
Bring joy to your heart tonight.

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Junior/Youth News

Monster Club

Monster Club has started up after its summer break. On Friday 2nd December we are making cards & Origami with Aiden. There will also be music and drumming with special guests coming along. There will be a bring and share tea. Look out for details of our annual Christmas/New Year Party!

Sunday Club Trip to Freedom Centre

We went to Barnstaple Freedom Centre at half term. This is a very busy church which provides food and food parcels for needy people, clothes, washing facilities and training. There is also a gym where people can learn fitness instruction. Computers are available to help find employment. It reminded us of Dr. Who's Tardis, being moderate on the outside and spacious inside. It is open from 12 noon until 4 in the afternoon but also has the facility to provide shelter during really cold weather. We saw the food warehouse filled with tins of beans, rice pudding and everything you can imagine. Roughly 30-60 people are given meals daily which amounts to approx. 13, 000 meals per year.

We thought it was really good work. We had made sweets to send with Sunday Club which were really appreciated and we received a nice letter to say so. Our church also sent a box of groceries at Harvest Festival. It was good to see it being put such brilliant use.

Sheila and Jasmin.

Shoe Box Service

Brandon, Sheila and Jill were all able to attend the Shoe Box Service held at Black Torrington Church on Remembrance Sunday afternoon. The church was warm and welcoming and well over 100 boxes were gathered there including 10 from Milton Damerel. We had managed to raise £86.00 at the last Tea and Cake afternoon and the Sunday Club helped make the shoe boxes up. During the service, led by the Rev. Kathy Roberts we were asked to each hold a shoebox whilst a prayer was said and a candle was lit. We prayed particularly for those children who would receive a box. Some local children helped out with readings. Rev. Meg told the very moving story of Vanya, (see below). After the service we enjoyed the friendly chat over tea. Finally if you buy any shoes in the next few months please could you let us have the box as it has been difficult this year to get enough shoe boxes! Thank you.

Sheila Daniel

Shoe Boxes

We made shoe boxes for people who are in need of daily life things and stuff to play with, but no chocolate or anything that won't last long. With the toys they don't want anything with batteries. The age groups were 2-5 girls, 2-4 boys, 10-14 boys, 10-14 girls, 5-9 girls, 5-9 boys. They get sent to places like Africa and Asia to help needy people.

Brandon.

Vanya's story

Little Vanya is just four years old. Sadly he has no mother or father. Home for Vanya is a tiny hospital ward deep in the chilly city of Mogilev in the country of Belarus. Vanya has cerebral palsy which limits his movement and breathing and so he spends his days in a cot. When the OCC team delivered Vanya's shoe box the two children who share his room had their mothers with them, but Vanya was alone. His eyes were empty and he was listless. A team member gave Vanya a friendly teddy bear from his box and gently stroked his face. Though he is unable to speak his big brown eyes lit up with delight and his beaming smile spoke more than words ever could. The team said: 'We had the absolute joy of spending a little time with him, holding his hand, blowing some bubbles over his cot and watching him cuddle into the teddy bear!'

Diary dates for Bradworthy Primary Academy, December 2011

Thursday 1st Dec Christmas Craft Fayre in the School 1.30pm

Saturday 3rd Dec Switching on the lights in Bradworthy,
The Choir and Brass band will be performing at 4pm

Thursday 8th Dec Bradworthy Brass Group will be performing
in Atlantic Village 6.30 - 7.30pm

Friday 16th Dec Carol Service to be held in the church AM



FRESH Christmas Pudding and Praise



3.00 p.m. on Saturday 3rd December

Finishing no later than 6.00 p.m.

At Milton Schoolroom

Come and help make stars, sheep, kings, crowns and much more!

Tea will be served around 4.30 p.m. and will include Christmas Pudding!
Followed by Carols and Nativity using the newly made crafts and props

All ages welcome! A fun afternoon is promised!

The use of red diesel by farmers undertaking snow clearance and gritting work

Following correspondence with Geoffrey Cox MP on the above matter, the Parish Council felt the information provided from HM Revenue & Customs, as below, would be of interest to the wider community.

European Union and UK legislation limits the type of activities that can be undertaken by vehicles fuelled on red diesel - which is subject to much lower rates of tax than road fuel. Schedule 1 of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 lists the categories of 'excepted vehicles' - that is, vehicles that are entitled to use red diesel. Schedule 1 includes excepted vehicle categories for 'Tractors', 'Snow clearing vehicles' and 'Gritters'. The 'Tractors' category states that, to be able to use red diesel on the public road, the vehicle must be used solely for purposes relating to agriculture, horticulture, forestry or the cutting of road verges; the 'Snow clearing vehicles' category says that a vehicle is an excepted vehicle when it is being used, or going to or from the place where it is to be or has been used for the purpose of clearing snow from public roads by means of a snow plough or similar device; and the 'Gritters' category says that a vehicle is an excepted vehicle if it is constructed or adapted and used solely for the conveyance of machinery for spreading material on roads to deal with frost, ice or snow.

In effect, the law allows any vehicle with a snow plough fitted to clear snow from public roads while fuelled on red diesel, but only a purpose built or adapted vehicle can be used to spread salt/grit. We do not consider a tractor towing a gritting cart to be an 'adapted' vehicle because the gritting cart can easily be removed; nor is gritting an activity within agriculture, horticulture, forestry or verge cutting. Further information about which vehicles are entitled to use red diesel can be found in Notice 75 - 'Fuel for road vehicles', which is available on www.hmrc.gov.uk

While we have a responsibility to ensure that the law as set out above is enforced, we also recognise that, in extreme circumstances where the safety of the public is endangered, a pragmatic approach is needed. That is why, for brief periods during each of the last two winters, we relaxed our enforcement of the law and announced that tractors on public roads clearing snow or gritting to provide access to schools, hospitals, a remote dwelling, or communities cut off by ice and snow were entitled to use red diesel. The relaxation of enforcement of the rules took place because weather conditions were significantly worse than normal UK winter conditions. If such extreme conditions recur, we will again consider a relaxation and publish announcements as appropriate on www.hmrc.gov.uk

The issue of whether farmers could be allowed to use their tractors fuelled on red diesel to carry out tasks for the community on a charitable or goodwill basis is one in which the Economic Secretary to the Treasury has taken an interest. She has asked HMRC to undertake a review, and we are therefore looking to see whether a relaxation of the rules could be introduced which is consistent with EU law and which does not undermine our enforcement and compliance responsibilities.

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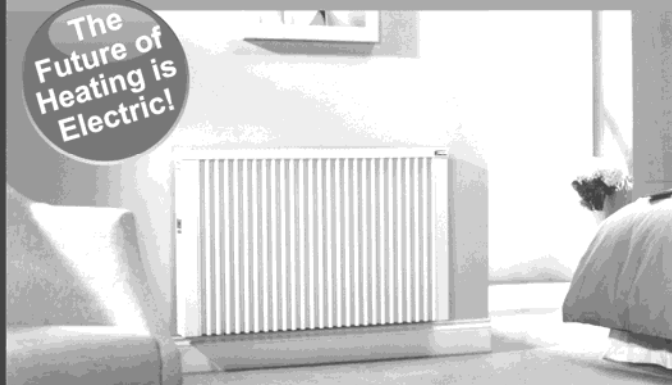
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The Milton Damery Gardening Society

SHOW REPORT

The Garden Show in September was another success with 36 people entering 166 items for the judges consideration and considerable effort was necessary to separate the entries into first, second and third.

A special award for the heaviest Kelsae onion was won by Ken Parnell with his 1.8kg (4lb) specimen whilst Kaya Kirby won the Best Childrens category with a well constructed 'garden themed picture' using natural materials.

The Banksian Medal is awarded to the person scoring the most points overall in all categories, this was won by Roger Daniels though he only beat Liz Kirby by one point.

Best in Show is decided by all the judges jointly and was awarded to Sheila Daniels for her 'Vase of Flowers' which contained at least 15 different varieties from around her garden.

The day was rounded off with several groups enjoying cream teas or cake followed by the raffle draw for numerous prizes ranging from a luxury hamper to bottles of wine.

AUTUMN MEETINGS

Our first meeting after the summer break was on October 5th when we welcomed Michael Gee who some 30 years ago led the campaign to reintroduce the Mazzard (Devon Cherry) to the county, to achieve this he propagated new stock then planted an orchard at Landkey.

Subsequently he wrote a book on the subject and started a society called Orchards Live and is still involved with various projects both local and national, he illustrated his talk with slides showing initially the ancient trees that he found in isolated places on farms from which he obtained material to graft new trees and concluded with shots of the netting going over the tree at harvest time.

In November Trevor Wiltshire gave a very interesting illustrated talk on Cyclamen which included his many travels to Turkey and elsewhere to gather and catalogue new varieties.

He explained that he initially worked in banking but became jaundiced with the services being offered and changed career to become, amongst other things, the superintendent of the rock garden at RHS Wisley.

Trevor is the International Registrar of Cyclamen Species so it is his responsibility to catalogue any new varieties discovered hence his extensive travelling, he brought a selection of plants with him many of which were purchased by members.

WINTER PROGRAMME

On December 7th the society will welcome Richard Fulcher of Pine Cottage Plants at Eggesford who is a highly qualified very keen plantsman and holds a National Collection of Agapanthus.

He has launched several new varieties which he has bred himself and we can expect a highly interesting talk incorporating his experiences.

Being close to Christmas home made mince pies will be provided.

To avoid the worst weather we take January off and although we presently have no event arranged for February there are several ideas being considered.

March sees a visit from Roger Clark a well travelled gardener with world wide experience who was estate manager at Greenways, the home of Agatha Christie, for 13 years.

Garden Society meetings are on 7th December at 7-30pm and 1st February 2012 7-30pm



Christmas Biscuits

Sparkling Vanilla Christmas Cookies



Ingredients

140g Icing Sugar sieved
1tsp Vanilla Extract
1 Egg Yolk
250g Butter, cut into small cubes
375g Plain Flour, sieved

To Decorate

200g Icing Sugar, sieved
Edible food colouring, optional
Edible gold and silver balls
Approx 2m thin ribbon cut into 10cm lengths

Tip the icing sugar, vanilla extract, egg yolk and butter into a mixing bowl, then stir together with a wooden spoon (or pulse in a food processor until well combined). Add the flour and mix to a firm dough. Shape the dough into two flat discs and wrap in clingfilm. Chill for 20 mins. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5 and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about the thickness of two £1 coins. Cut out Christmassy shapes (use a cutter if you like) and place on the baking sheets. Using the tip of a skewer, cut a small hole in the top of each cookie. Bake for 10-12 mins until lightly golden.

Lift the biscuits onto a wire rack to cool. Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with a few drops of cold water to make a thick, but still runny icing. Colour with edible food colouring, if you like. Spread it over the cooled biscuits, decorate with edible balls and thread with ribbon when dry.

Makes Approx 20

Gratton Vineyard

In May 2008, after dreaming about it for 20 years I planted my vineyard in Gratton. To be truthful I planted one vine, a demonstration – the other 199 were planted by friends and neighbours who kindly offered help. The varieties are Siegerrebe (white) and early Pinot Noir (red) and had been grafted onto a rootstock which is disease resistant to root pests like phyloxera that devastated the French vineyards in the 19th century. The choice of vine was made allowing for the height above sea level -140 metres – to ensure the vines would ripen in good time. At sea level these vines will ripen in late August but will be delayed by about 3 weeks on account of the height. Vines such as chardonnay would not ripen at this height before the poor weather arrived.

The first fruits are usually taken in the 3rd growing season but I decided to wait until the 4th as this should yield a better quality crop. So, after nurturing the vines for 3 seasons (2008 was the first) I planned the first harvest. In the spring this year the weather was superb and I counted about 14/15 embryonic bunches per vine – so all looked set for a fine crop. However, in June and July when the weather turned autumnal the rot set in. This is the time when pollination takes place by wind. The appalling rain just swept the pollen to the ground and little pollination took place. Consequently the crop was negligible – I gathered 1 litre of white juice and 5 litres of red juice! The commercial growers in the region fared no better with many of them importing grapes from other parts of the country to keep their commercial business going. Well let's hope for a better vintage next year!

David Fisher



Christmas Santa Competition

Children, count *all* the santas faces on this newsletter. Some are easy, some are sneaky, so look at *all* the adverts too!!

First one to email their correct answer to santa@miltondamerel.com will win £5.00

A big thanks goes to Tracy Dunmore who has resigned from the newsletter group.

Tracy was responsible for the youth news and contributed to other sections for many years as well as distributing the newsletters in her area.

The newsletter group appreciate all the work she has done.

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Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee in Milton Damerel 2012



Nobody could accuse Milton Damerel folk of not planning in time! There was a meeting in the Parish Hall on 7th September, and a good crowd were there to start making plans. It was decided that Milton Damerel would mark the Diamond Jubilee with takes place from 2nd -5th June with a Big Lunch on Sunday 3rd June in the Parish Hall for families and that there would be a Celebration for Children on Tuesday 5th June, also at the Parish Hall. The idea for a tapestry/collage to commemorate the occasion is also to be taken forward and Lesley has written a piece about that below. Discussions are ongoing about a Thanksgiving service. Three groups were then set up to plan for The Big Lunch, the tapestry and the children's activity. The Parish Hall Committee has very kindly waived the fee, for hiring the hall, the Parish Council is to provide children in the parish with a medal, and the Big Lunch will be a ticketed event thus self-financing. This leaves us however with a need to raise some money to pay for the children's activity and also for insurance for the two events. There will be therefore some fund-raising required over the next few months and we very much hope that you the readers will support these events to make for a truly lovely and memorable parish celebration.

It is not too late to become involved if you missed the inaugural meeting – if you would like to help (and we shall be asking for help nearer the time of course!) please contact Janet Fisher on 01409 261882

Wall Hanging for the Diamond Jubilee

Following the Public Meeting on 7th September, to discuss the celebrations for the Queens Diamond Jubilee, a small group decided to form a sewing group to make a Wall Hanging. Anne Binns 261 381, Mel Richardson 261 353, Lesley Self 261 294. If anyone is interested in contributing with just a little sewing or embroidery, please contact any of the above. The sewing can be done in the comfort of your own home.

Even if you can't sew would you like to be part of the Wall Hanging experience, by having your house name embroidered on it – for just a small charge, please contact any of the ladies named above.

Fund-Raising Events

Coffee Morning at Westfields, Venn Green (*Home of Roberta & Mike Jackson*) Thursday 8th December 10am to Noon Bring & Buy, Raffle *ALL WELCOME with all proceeds towards Parish celebrations*

Coffee Morning at Little Derworthy Farm, (*home of Anne and John Binns*)

Friday 20th January 10.00 a.m. to Noon. Bring & Buy, Raffle. *ALL WELCOME with all proceeds towards Parish Celebrations.*

'Spring Fling' family evening in March 2012 – more details to come – watch this space!

Look out for posters giving further information about the above events and PLEASE, PLEASE, SUPPORT THEM!!!!

Many thanks, the Milton Damerel Diamond Jubilee Group

Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

Milton Damerel Parish Council at their meeting on 21st September agreed to provide Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs to children for the celebrations in June next year. All children from birth up to and including Year 6 at Primary School as at 5th June 2012 and who live in the parishes of Milton Damerel or Abbots Bickington are eligible. In addition any child of the eligible age who does not live in the parishes but who has a parent living in Milton Damerel or Abbots Bickington will also be eligible. To register your child/children for souvenirs please complete the application form delivered with this newsletter. The form should be completed and returned or the information may be emailed, to the Parish Clerk by 31st December 2011 whose contact details can be found on page 2 of the newsletter and on the application form. For a baby born after this date please contact the Parish Clerk with a late application.

Roberta Jackson, Parish Clerk.

CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE !!!**Ingredients:**

2 cups flour
 1 stick butter
 1 cup of water
 1 tsp baking soda
 1 cup of sugar
 1 tsp salt
 1 cup of brown sugar
 Lemon juice
 4 large eggs
 Nuts
 2 bottles of wine
 2 cups of dried fruit

Can you help to solve a puzzle, on Saturday 29th October my wife and I returned home from a shopping trip only to find a bottle of Californian white wine on our rear door step, there was no note though one may have blown away.

Who left this bottle and what had we done to deserve it – any answers ???

Thanks, Bill Wrighton, Northtown Farm.

Method:

Sample the wine to check the quality.
 Take a large bowl, check the wine again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.
 Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
 Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again
 At this point it's best to make sure the wine is still ok. Try another cup just in case.
 Turn off the mixerer thingy.
 Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.
 Pick the fruit up off floor.
 Mix on the turner....
 If the fried druit gets stuck on the beaterers just pry it loose with a drewscraver.
 Sample the wine to check for tonsisticity.
 Next sift two cups of salt. Or something.
 Check the wine.
 Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
 Add one table.
 Add a spoon of sugar or somefink. Whatever you can find.
 Greash the oven.
 Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.
 Don't forget to beat off the turner.
 Finally, throw the bowl through the window.
 Finish the wine and wipe counter with the cat.
 Go and buy cake!!!!!!!!!!

Bingle Jells !!!

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Putford W.I.

The October meeting of the WI was held at the home of member, Mrs. Mary Martin. During the business part of the meeting members discussed venues for the Christmas dinner. They also discussed the forthcoming skittles against Frithelstock WI which took place at Milton Damerel parish hall and which Putford won. Speaker for the evening was Gillian Merchant who brought along salt dough and showed members how to make Christmas tree decorations and plaited rings to hang over the door. They are then baked in a slow oven, painted and varnished. When stored in an air tight tin they will keep for years. Members had a go at making them and Gillian judged them, giving Kath Stevens and Jacky Berryman nine points each. This made for a very interesting evening. Flower of the month winner was Margaret Wooldridge.

At the November meeting we made cards, and on the 18th December we have an outing to see The Sound of Music in Barnstaple. The Christmas dinner will be at the Inn at Ashwater on 5th December.

As Putford Chapel is closed at present, the WI is meeting in members' homes on the second Monday in the month. For further information please contact Mrs. Mavis Lewis

On 01409 241049.

**The Bell Inn****Monkleigh****Bideford****Devon EX39 5JS****Telephone 01805 938285.**

The Bell Inn at Monkleigh is a 400 year old, thatched, Grade 2 listed pub which has recently been refurbished and re-opened.

The Bell Inn has an extensive menu to suit all tastes, food is locally sourced and freshly cooked, and is available every lunch time and evening, there also a carvery with 2 freshly carved meats roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire puddings and gravy available every Sunday.

Tuesday evenings is Steak Night only £6-95

Wednesday evening's Fish and Chips night £5-95

Thursday evenings Curry and a drink £6-95

They are offering a very good traditional Christmas menu, (4 courses for £14-95) throughout the month of December.

At the Bell Inn you can enjoy a great pint of real ale, deliveries are made on a daily basis from local, regional and national breweries so you have a grand selection of beers, you will also find a warm welcome for "man's best friend".

Next summer they are planning a real ale festival show casing the best of the local breweries in Devon and Cornwall, there will be entertainment and a hog roast, the event will be held in the newly landscaped patio and garden.

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 Tel : 01409 240138 Email: humphreysweep@mac.com

is

I have met a gentleman who acts as a volunteer for the RSPB or the RSO taking photos and cataloguing the birds in this locality, does anyone have any contact details for him, I would like to get in touch on behalf of the Garden Society as I am sure the range of birds would be quite fascinating for our members including me

Many thanks, Bill Wrighton

MILTON DAMEREL & DISTRICT OVER 60s CLUB

The last Summer trip for 2011 was a visit to Paignton. All the trips were well supported and will re-start in April 2012.

At our next meeting on Tuesday, 6th December, bookings will be taken for the Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, 13th December at The Royal Hotel, Bideford, followed by Christmas shopping in Barnstaple.

As normal there is no meeting in January, but we start the New Year with our New Year's Party on Tuesday, 7th February, with music and games, and a 'bring & share' tea.

New members always welcome – regular club meetings on 1st Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall (except January).

Enquiries to:

Mr Les Yelland – Chairman; Mrs J Daly – Secretary; Mrs June Vanstone – Treasurer.

Appledore Book Festival 2011

I feel that the Appledore Book Festival is less well known than it should be. For those of who love books and reading, it is a real treat to go and listen to authors talking about their work and have an opportunity to ask questions, buy their books and get them signed. The Festival happens in the last week in September, this year that fell between 24th September – 2nd October. Michael Rosen, who was the Children's Laureate, and is a children's poet opened on the first Saturday with a terrific performance of some of his poems which involved the whole audience in St. Mary's Church, both child and adult. Afterwards he signed books for the huge queue which waited patiently for him as he chatted to each child (and adult!) Amongst other authors appearing at the Festival, were Penny Vincenzi, Josceline Dimbleby, Peter Sissons, Virginia Nicholson, William Nicholson and local authors including John Riddington Young who is the North Devon Hospital's senior surgeon. Tickets are available on line and from Appledore addresses, and are very reasonable at around £8.00. So look out for next year's festival details, online from around the end of June and for brochures at local outlets and places like RHS Rosemoor.

Janet Fisher.



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GARDEN REFLECTIONS

MY POOR LITTLE PLUM.

A Victoria plum I planted 6 years ago has had a sad life, when 2 years old it was snapped off by a rogue cow, after it had regrown to what looked like a tree a gale snapped it off but it again grew back with some training to form a short tree.

This year it set a crop of some 40-50 plums which I expected to pick when I returned from a holiday in August but they had all disappeared off the tree and the ground without even a stone left, I couldn't believe that anyone had taken them all but initially it looked that way.

A little later when working in my field I disturbed a Roe Deer which my wife immediately decided was the culprit, I then discovered that deer do enjoy plums which on the tree are at tabletop height for them, so if your crop has disappeared don't assume the neighbours are to blame.



WHERE HAVE THE GOOSEBERRIES GONE??

Sometime earlier in similar circumstances my well laden Gooseberry was stripped just as the fruit ripened, what could have done this without breaking a single branch, any suggestions would be gratefully received.

A HIDDEN MENACE.

Towards the end of last summer we noticed the display from one of the two pots framing our front door was disappointing in comparison to its twin, I only discovered the cause when I removed the plants it was apparent they had hardly any root and I knew immediately what the culprit would be and lo and behold what little root was left was riddled with vine weevil grubs.

In September I noticed that three strawberry plants I had in a grow bag were drooping even though the compost was wet, when I touched the first plant it fell off in my hand and again the roots were riddled with vine weevil.

In both instances the affected plants were well above ground and the adult who cannot fly must have climbed up to lay its eggs, in the case of the strawberries which were on trestles the climb was some 3' and the only defence would have been grease on the legs.

The grubs are near impossible to kill even with drenching so it is important to keep an eye open for adults and kill them before they have a chance to lay eggs.



An adult vine weevil which can be treated with various pesticides including Pravado 'vine weevil killer'

WINTER TASKS.

During any dry spells of at least 3 days take a light cut off lawns, without these odd winter cuts the grass will just get long and wet making the first cut next year very difficult even impossible for some mowers.

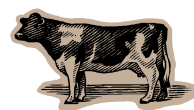
Service your mower and other equipment, if you send them away to be done make sure the engineers know you must have the machine back within a month in case the opportunity to mow does arise.

Commence winter pruning whether it is fruit trees needing controlling or reshaping, cutting back leggy shrubs, reducing HT/Floribunda roses by at least a third or just removing the dead foliage off herbaceous, woody material should be disposed of in a fire or green bin whilst lighter foliage can be put on the compost heap.

Glasshouses and polytunnels should be cleaned inside and out to let in the maximum amount of light and remove any debris which could decay and encourage diseases or harbour over wintering pests.

Any lingering weeds can be treated with herbicide on dry days, the chemical will take a lot longer to work but I have found a better kill is achieved when the absorption rate is slow.

Bill Wrighton MIHort



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Community Self-help & Snow Warden Scheme

The Parish Council decided to sign up for the Snow Warden Scheme and the provision of salt for use on parish roads and pavements. **Councillor Edgar Pett (Tel: 07811 889457)** is our nominated Snow Warden and will be the point of contact.

Several parishioners have been contacted with a request for them to volunteer to look after an area of potential problem should severe weather – snow or very low freezing temperatures – occur over the winter months. Each has been requested to come along to a short training event at the Parish Hall on 23rd November – so that each can be designated a registered volunteer, which is essential for cover under Public Liability Insurance taken by Devon County Council to include the spreading of salt by volunteers.

Salt in 25kg bags will be delivered by DCC to one point in the parish and will then be distributed under the direction of the Snow Warden, for use by the volunteers in their proximities. Devon County Council will ensure all grit bins are filled at the start of winter and may replenish thereafter if able to.

The Parish Council have identified the locations within the parish for which we hope there will be a volunteer – these are hills and steep inclines. For the stretch of road from Gidcott Mill to Gidcott Cross, Shebbear Parish Council have offered to run their salt spreader to Gidcott Cross, for which we are very grateful.

Volunteers will be advised and encouraged only to go out and spread salt if individually each considers it is safe to do so, and they are able to follow guidance issued at the training. The overriding consideration will always be their personal safety.

Please note: in the same manner that Devon County Council Highways is unable to guarantee the primary salting routes will be kept accessible at all times, the Parish Council cannot be held accountable for keeping all parish roads accessible during all weather situations. In good faith we have elected to join the Snow Warden scheme and to benefit from the local availability of salt to spread on public roads and pavements, but cannot be held liable for keeping access open.

Should the need arise, in the first instance please contact the Snow Warden on the telephone number stated above. If this fails you can contact the Parish Council Chair, Grace Millman, (07970792557) or the Parish Clerk, Roberta Jackson (261196).

This is the first year of this new scheme. We will be reviewing, after winter, how well the new arrangements worked, (assuming we have weather conditions which warrant actions by the volunteers!) and will revise our arrangements for future years, if needed. We will be pleased also to receive your comments, after winter, on how well the arrangements worked.

Don't forget

to find and keep your Emergency Plan to hand and ready to refer to should there be extreme or difficult situation(s) ... and also to display the reverse 'H' in your window if you are requiring assistance.



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

Our AGM was held on 12th September and the Parish Hall accounts for year end, August 2011 is shown in this months Newsletter. Our Hall Hire rates remain the same, £5 per hour Main Hall with Kitchen, £6 per hour, if the Skittle Alley is used for extra space/room only. £10 per session for the Skittle Alley.

The Parish Hall received a donation from the family of Lloyd Piper. This money was used towards a new UPVC door to the Skittle Alley.

The Committee agreed for the Hall to be used free of charge for the Celebrations of the Queens Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June and Tuesday 5th June.

We have recently found that the Skittle Alley and the Kitchen roof leak in heavy rain. Both are being monitored and hopefully both will be repaired when we find where the water is coming in. (We need agile young men on the committee who are willing to help when the above incidents occur.)

EVENTS REPORT.

WALK Wednesday 24th August 2011. 5.00pm to 7.00pm. At John & Christine Buckpitt, Moor View Farm. An enjoyable walk and the weather stayed very pleasant. A lovely social chat at John and Christine while having our pasties. A good profit of £146. Thank you very much John Christine David and Peter.

WHIST DRIVE Friday 16th September 2011. 8.00pm. Thanks to Sara and Roger. Profit £51

MACMILLIAN BIG COFFEE MORNING 30th September 2011. 10am to noon. Held at the Parish Hall. Thank you, to all who came. A donation of £200.00 was forwarded to them.

BEETLE DRIVE Friday 21st October 2011. 7.30pm. Thanks to Mary Carter. Fun evening, Profit £75 Highest points Bethany Bellew 171, Joint Second Valerie Carter and Caitlin Poole 138.

FUTURE EVENTS**All Proceeds for the Parish Hall unless otherwise stated**

CAROLS AROUND MILTON DAMEREL Monday 19th December 2011 7.00 pm. Meet at **Venn Green.** All welcome, move onto Holsworthy Beacon (in a few cars) then the green at Holy Trinity Church, finishing at the Parish Hall for Coffee tea and Mince pies. Collection Box for Jubilee Celebration Funds.

COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 16th January 2012. 7.30pm. At the Hall, new members welcomed.

COFFEE MORNING Tuesday 14th February 2012 10o/c to Noon. At Peter and Lesley Self, Tor View. Bring and Buy. Raffle. All welcome.

FUN SKITTLES Saturday 17th March 2012 7.00pm. Fun for all the Family. Doors open at 6.30 for a practice. Teams of two. £2.00 Adults, £1.00 Child, 11 years of age and under. BYO Beer/Wine. Refreshments will be on sale.

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 Mrs Joyce Daly 259 115

Linedancing. Every Tuesday, 7pm to 8.30pm. £2. Small group, more members welcomed. 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

Milton Damerel Parish Council Meetings. Usually 3rd Wednesday of each month. 7.30pm. Enquiries, Parish Clerk, Mrs Roberts 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, during the Skittle season.

HALL BOOKINGS & Treasurer:- Mrs Lesley Self 01409 261 294 (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 7.00pm to 8.30pm £2.00 per session
Tel: Lesley 261294 or Mary 261248

Please note while in the Doctors surgery, I picked up a copy of **Heart Matters** issued by the **British Heart Foundation**. It had an article, covering four pages on the benefits of **Linedancing**. *Any dancing improves balance, flexibility and posture, *As an impact exercise, It'll help keep your bones strong, *You'll build strength and tone up your muscles, *It'll improve your coordination, *Remembering sequences will give your brain a workout, *Mastering moves will boost confidence, *A great stress reliever. Because you are smiling and laughing a lot of the time, it lifts your spirits. Something that's very important for the Winter months. *Lastly a good social, that could improve your mental health.

So there you go, COME LINEDANCING, we'd love to see you.



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Thank you to all our customers for your support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

MILTON DAMEREL PARISH HALL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END AUGUST 2011

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOMEHALL BOOKINGS

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Skittles	£400.00	£335.00
L.Dancing	£218.00	£322.00
60,s Club	£88.00	£88.00
F. Practice	£72.00	£26.00
Computer Course		£120.00
Farmers Market/Walk	£30.00	£75.00
Fund Raising Group/Fete	£45.00	£100.00
MDGarden Society	£35.00	£120.00
Meetings Etc/P.C.	£175.00	£78.00
C.Party		£20.00
Party/Whist Drive	£305.00	£45.00
Polling	£80.00	£115.00
		£1,448.00
<u>FUND RAISING</u>		
W & W/plus Wine	£733.50	£511.00
W.Drive (Profit only)	£144.80	£260.00
F.Skittles (Profit only)	£57.00	£177.20
C.Morning/T.Top	£338.70	£212.35
Beetle Drive(Profit only)	£47.00	£192.00
Walk		£200.00
Kitchen Open Eve		£69.00
		£1,321.00

EXPENSES

Insurance		<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
EDF		£604.39#	£479.48
Water Rates		£350.18	£244.27
Fire Protection		£47.52	£18.69
Repair/Dec.		£35.40	£34.66
C.C. Of Devon		£28.26	£5,288.26
Grass Gutting		£18.00	£18.00
Donations		£20.00	
New Cutlery		£10.00	£10.00
Broken China		£552.55	£552.55
T.D. Council		£67.25	£67.25
		£170.75	£170.75
		£1,113.75	£6,883.91
W & W/Wine		£263.92	£215.12
Licence		£42.00	£42.00
F.Skittles			£51.15
W.Drive			£63.00
Beetle Drive			£10.00
Walk			£14.00
		£305.92	£395.27

P.H.TOTAL
EXPENSES

£1,621.55

£7,279.18

#Actual
Insurance
Paid
£423.13

Insurance refund	£181.26	181.26
China(Broken paid for)		£67.25
Cooker (Sold)		£50.00
Hire of Tables		£40.00
Grants	£150.00	£3,450.00
Donations	£230.00	£250.00
Interest	£1.62	£0.23
<u>P.H. TOTAL INCOME</u>	£3,331.88	£6,923.03

20010/11 Income **£3,331.88**
20010/11 Expenses **-£1,419.67**
Profit **£1,912.21**

Nationwide Acc.	£4,018.97
Float.	£15.37
TOTAL	£4,034.34*

B/Fwd August 10	£2,122.13
Profit	£1,912.21
TOTAL	£4,034.34*

***TOTAL Includes £500 in trust from Milton Damerel Bowling Club.
To be held until 24th January 2013 for any future Bowling Clubs
being formed.**

Assets as at 31st

August 2011

Value of Parish Hall £249,431 as per Insurance Policy 20/02/11
Contents £5595

Invoices outstanding	36	S.Daniels	£30.00(PAID 4/9)
	39	B.Wrighton	£80.00(PAID 4/9)
	40	Mr.Nelson	!!
	42	W.Bridge	!!CANCELLED

Also Profit from Walk 24th August to be added

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

by

Carolyn D. Tyson

All I want for Christmas
Is a bit of peace and quiet
I don't want tips on hairstyles
Or on little black dress diet's
Or how to stuff a turkey
With some chestnut puree stuff
There's one whole month to go yet
And I've blumming had enough

And then there's all the shopping
Traipsing round the decked out mall's
And Frosty Flipping Snowman playing
Drives me up the wall's
The kid's all throwing tantrums
Mum's just let them run about
If I was Father Christmas
Rest assured, they'd all get nowt!!

All I want for Christmas
Is some turkey for me dinner
Throw in some sprout's and taties
And to me you've got a winner
But Deliah keeps cropping up
In every flipping place
The newspaper, the telly
When I sleep, I see her face

She stuff's a turkey with a goose
In that, she stuffs a pheasant
Meanwhile "This Morning" shows me how
And when to wrap my presents
And Deliah keeps harping on
'Bout how to glaze me carrots
I'm quite surprised we've not been taught
To marinate a parrot!!

All I want for Christmas
Are some memories of old
When snowflakes fluttered silently
In frosty sky's so cold
When Santa's sleigh flew past the moon
Amongst the stars so bright
And Sis' and I could hear his bells
As he came Christmas night

The smell of coffee on the stove
Log's crackling in the grate
And waking up at 5 am
When no more could we wait
And racing down in dressing gown's
To present's round the tree
And shrieking with unbridled joy
"Get up Dad, quick he's been"

All I want for Christmas
Is to be that child again
Re-kindle all my childhood dreams
If any should remain
But all I get is Deliah
She's making cranberry jelly
And promises of old repeats
To watch on Christmas telly

Give me back my Christmas
With traditions I remember
Don't overload me with that stuff
From half-way through September
Give the kid's a Christmas
Of the kind that you can't buy
And let them hear old Rudolph's bells
As Santa's sleigh flies by.



PC 4936 – Andy Moakes }
 PCSO 30099 - Raquel Rowe }
 PCSO 30103 - Beverley Harvey }

Police Co-ordinators

Holsworthy Pol. Station
Tel: 08452 777 444

Strawberry Bank:
Gratton:
Whitebear & Fore Street
Venn Green:

Local Co-ordinators

Roger Copp - Tel. 261681
Edgar Pett - Tel. 261277
Edgar Pett - Tel. 261277
Mike Jackson - Tel. 261196

New Police NON-Emergency Number

With effect from 5th September 2011 our new police “non-emergency” number changed to **101**.

The old eleven digit number **04852 777 444** will still work for the next twelve months but the new number is much easier to remember.

This new number was first piloted in 2006 as a partnership between the police and local authorities. It has continued to operate since then as a police non-emergency number in Wales, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and Sheffield as a partnership between the police and the local council. Police forces across England and Wales are now rolling out 101 as the new police non-emergency number - the number to call when you want to contact your local police but when it's less urgent than 999. This new number will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and is due to be adopted by every police force in England by early 2012. It can be used for everything that the old number was used for, including making contact with Holsworthy Police Station

Christmas Postal Scam

This particular scam seems to crop up every Christmas and people can very easily be caught out as there are now so many different parcel delivery companies. As it has been confirmed by Royal Mail and Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the scam we just can't understand why the authorities don't just close the number down, so please be on your guard.

“A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call”. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655. For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website: <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Holsworthy Woods

Everyone who uses Holsworthy Woods, be it for their own recreation or walking dogs please be careful and do not leave anything of value in your vehicle and nothing on show. Unfortunately, over the last couple of weeks a number of vehicles have been broken into and even trivial articles of little value have been taken. Police officers are regularly patrolling the this area and other public use areas and patrols have been increased because of the recent problems. If you see anything suspicious please call the police with as much detail and descriptions as possible.

Security of Property

With the darker evenings now with us again it is perhaps timely to re-assess your security measures as nationally crime levels seem to be on the increase although this is not impacting on the Parish, although a few of the surrounding villages are suffering. Be aware that gardens can also be sources of theft. Ensure that access gates are locked, install locks on sheds and outbuildings and make sure all valuables are stored in secure areas. Ladders left lying about can provide a burglar with easier access to an unopened upstairs window. If they need to be left outside please use a lock and chain to make them secure. Make sure and garden tools, trailers and gardening machinery is also safely locked away and that all windows are locked when you're away from your home.

Finally, as this will be the last Newsletter before Xmas, we would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a very happy Christmas and please remember to take extra care to protect and secure presents and property over the festive season.

Rural Policing Update

- Theft from motor vehicles at Cookworthy Woods, Holsworthy Woods, and Halwill. Please make sure not to leave valuable things in your vehicle.
- House Burglary at Holsworthy Beacon where by a wallet was taken with some cash.
- Theft occurred at Brandis Corner were mixed coins and car key was taken.
- On different occasions, thefts of motor vehicles at Bradworthy where motorbikes were taken and later found on the bottom at Mill Road Bradworthy within the last two months. Try to make sure that you've secured your bikes - either you can use a chain or try to find a place that you can safely store it. Please be vigilant.

Press Release regarding loan scam

A member of the public had been a victim of loan scam. The victim paid money through bank to bank transactions. The fraudsters phoned the victim and, pretending to be from 48hrFinance.com, wanted a partial amount to be paid first to an account and promised the victim that they will have it back plus the loan. The 48hrFinance.com had been used and they have been alerted to this scam. They are aware that their name was used and apparently AS A RULE THEY DO NOT CHARGE AN UPFRONT FEE.

Christmas

Empty your car before someone else does

This is a seasonal campaign to urge Christmas shoppers to be aware of the thieves preying on vehicles. Please keep your windows closed and doors locked, and put valuable things away from sight.

New Non-emergency number 101

- For information and advice.
To report a crime.

Minicom - 01392 452935

Textphone for the hard of hearing and speech-impaired.

999 EMERGENCY

If life is threatened, if people are injured, if offenders are nearby, if immediate action is required.

Text 80999

If your are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

PCSO 30099 Raquel Rowe
Holsworthy Police Station



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 Star
 Gaspar
 Mary
 Swaddling clothes
 Gold
 Melchior
 Wise men
 Herod
 Myrrh
 Worship
 Holy
 No room
 Inn
 Ox



The newsletters group members are:

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Lesley Self	petles@talktalk.net	261294	Regular contributors and features

Letters, comments, news and articles, etc., can be emailed to 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 17th February 2012

WHAT'S ONa selection of local events in Holsworthy and North Devon

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Cinema - Bridesmaids	Wednesday, 7 th Dec @ 7.30pm	Holsworthy Memorial Hall Tel: 01409 254185 www.holsworthymemorialhall.co.uk
Cinema – To be advised	Wednesday, 7 th Jan & 1 st Feb	
Cinema - One Day (based on best selling novel)	Wednesday, 7 th Mar @ 7.30pm	
Holsworthy Band Christmas Concert	Sunday, 4 th Dec @ 7.30pm	H.A.T.S. Tel:01409 253826 www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk
Panto – SNOW WHITE	Monday, 23 rd Jan to Saturday, 4 th Feb	
Rotary – Annual Popular Variety Show	Thursday 15 th to Saturday, 17 th Mar Booking at Coodes from 20 th Feb	
Events and contacts for other venues in North Devon		
	Films, Live Events – Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Regular & Special Workshops for Children and Adults	The Plough, Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624 www.theploughartscentre.org.uk
Exhibition – Original Gifts	Friday, 2 nd Dec to Tuesday, 27 th Dec	
Potted Panto	Tuesday, 13 th Dec & Wednesday, 14 th Dec	
Planet of Sound Christmas Party	Friday, 23 rd Dec @ 8pm	
Film – The Adventures of Tintin	Wednesday, 28 th Dec to Friday, 30 th Dec @ 3pm	
Film – Puss in Boots	Monday, 13 th Feb & Wednesday, 15 th Feb	
	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 Box Office: 01271 324242 www.northdevontheatres.org.uk
Queen’s Theatre Panto 2011 – Snow White & Seven Dwarfs	Tuesday, 13 th Dec to Monday, 2 nd Jan	
Barnstaple Amateur Operatic Society – HMS Pinafore	Wednesday, 8 th Feb to Saturday, 11 th Feb	
North Devon Gang Show	Thursday, 16 th Feb to Saturday, 11 th Feb	
Joseph & His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat	Tuesday, 20 th Mar to Sunday, 25 th Mar	
Swan Lake	Friday, 30 th & Saturday 31 st Mar	
Bob the Builder	Sunday, 1 st Apr	

Thursday 1st December Hatherleigh Silver Band (who were at the Fete) 8.00p.m. at St. Mary's Black Torrington. Tickets £5.00 in advance or £6.00 on the door which include very good refreshments! 01409 231581, or 01409 231234, or 01409 231231

Friday 2nd December Grand Opening of the 14th Annual Christmas Tree Festival and concert by Bradworthy Baroque Choir in Bradworthy Church 7.30 p.m.

Craft Fayre, Bradworthy	1 December	1:30pm	7
Hatherleigh Silver Band - Torrington	1 December	8pm	27
Christmas Tree Festival - Bradworthy	2 December	7:30pm	27
FRESH Christmas Pudding and Praise	3 December	3pm	7
Switching on lights, Bradworthy	3 December	4pm	7
WI Christmas Dinner	5 December		16
Diamond Jubilee Coffee Morning	8 December	10am	14
Bradworthy Brass Band @ Atlantic Village	8 December	6:30 - 7:30pm	7
Church Yard clean up	9 December	2pm	
Over 60s Christmas Dinner	13 December		17
Late night shopping Holsworthy	14 December		3
Father Christmas, Blackberry Farm	17 December	2:30pm	6
WI outing - Sound of Music	18 December		16
Carols around Milton Damerel	19 December	7pm	20

Diamond Jubilee Coffee Morning	20 January	10am	14
Coffee Morning	14 February	10am	20
Fun Skittles	17 March	7pm	20

Carol Services

Bradworthy carol service (no further details)	16 December	AM	7
Milton Damerel Methodist Church	18 December	11am	6
Thornbury Church	18 December	3:30pm	6
Abbotts Bickington Church	20 December	7pm	6
United Parish Milton Damerel Holy Trinity	21 December	7pm	6

Regular Events

Open Chapel	2nd Thursday afternoon 2:30 - 5pm
Bible Study	Mondays 7.30-9pm
Putford WI	2 nd Monday of each month 7.30pm
Mobile Library	Tuesdays – each fortnight 2pm
MD & District Over 60s Club	1 st Tuesday of each month (not Jan) 2.30pm
Line Dancing	Tuesdays 7-8.30pm
Gardening Society	1 st Wednesday of each month (not Jan) 7.30pm
Parish Council meetings	3 rd Wednesday 7.30pm
Coffee Morning – Holsworthy Beacon Methodist Church	Last Thursday of each month 10am
Methodist Morning Service	Sundays 11am
Parish Church Holy Communion	4 th Sunday of each month 11.30am

December 2011

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Prune fruit trees and anything else needing reducing or training including hedgerows.

Dig up any Dahlias/Chrysanthus you want to save or blanket them with a deep layer of straw and hope they survive.

Clean out any drainage trenches and generally clear up leaves especially off lawns which can be suffocated by them.

Cut logs if you use them.

January 2012

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Put your feet up and read seed catalogues to plan for the Spring.



February 2012

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

If we get a dry spell treat any build up of moss and algae with Armillatox.

Those with heat in their glasshouse can start sowing early seeds especially veg.

Take any opportunity to mow lawns.

If the ground conditions allow start digging vegetable plots and shrub borders.