



# Milton Damerel Newsletter

Spring Edition



*Daybreak over Dartmoor*

*Bill Wrighton*

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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

Parish Council meetings will be held on 21 March, 18 April, following the Annual Parish Meeting, and on 16 May which is also the date of the very short Parish Council AGM when the Chairman for the year is elected by the Councillors. The agenda for all these meetings will be displayed on the notice boards no later than the Thursday before the given dates. All meetings are open to the public and press. Time is set aside at all meetings for public comments.

Planning Matters. The Parish Council has been consulted on a planning application for a rear extension at 11 Beech Park and three applications for solar photovoltaic array, at Beacon Farm, Holsworthy Beacon and at Worden Farm and Higher Woodford Farm, Milton Damerel.

Road Closure. The Parish Council has been informed by Devon County Council that the A388 through Milton Damerel will be closed from Worden Cross to Shop Cross overnight from 7pm to 7am each day from 5-7 March for patching works.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 April 2012. All residents are cordially invited to attend.

Ricky McCormack, Head of Operational Services with Torridge District Council will speak on the plans being made to recycle more different types of plastic and to explain what happens to all the items collected each week from the green boxes. Ricky is very enthusiastic about his job and we are pleased that he has agreed to speak to us at this year's Annual Parish Meeting. Local organisations will be invited to give their reports to the community and there will be opportunity for public comments. Light refreshments will be served at which time there will be the opportunity for informal discussions.

Diamond Jubilee Children's Souvenirs Applications have been received by the clerk from 32 children of eligible age which stated in the last newsletter as *all children from birth up to and including Year 6 at Primary School as at 5 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.* If there are any new residents moved into the parishes, any new babies born or anyone who has not yet applied please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible. The Souvenirs will be presented at the Children's Jubilee Tea event being organised for Tuesday 5 June 2012.

The Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme operated by Devon County Council Highways was set up to allow a local representative to inspect and organise minor maintenance of public rights of way and to promote walking in the parishes. Milton Damerel Parish Council has applied to join the scheme and Mike Jackson has agreed to be the Parish P3 Co-Ordinator. A ring-fenced grant based on the length of public rights of way in the parish is provided by the County Council to pay for any minor work needed whilst the parish will still have the backup of the County Rights of Way Officers and the P3 Liaison Officer when larger works are needed.

Freedom of Information. 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.

Roberta Jackson  
 Parish Clerk  
 10 February 2012



### CONGRATULATIONS!

**To Kevin Hookway & Hazel Cholwill** of The Beeches, Holsworthy Beacon on the birth of their son, **Calum Paul** on Christmas Day.

**To Mike Jackson** of West View, Venn Green, who has been awarded a **Certificate of Excellence** by Devon and Cornwall Community Watch Association following his nomination in the 2011 Co-Ordinator of the Year Category for his work with Neighbourhood Watch.

**To Roy Palmer** of Strawberry Bank who celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**To Sam Horn**, who has been selected to be an Olympic Volunteer.



### GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

#### Welcome to:

**Graham & Christine Boxall, and Mrs Emily Sloman**, who have moved into **The Old Rectory**  
**Kevin Hookway & Hazel Cholwill**, who have moved into **Beech House, Holsworthy Beacon**  
**Robert & Tricia Stennet**, who have moved into **West Willow, Milton Town**  
**Julian & Katie Allin, William and Harriet** who have moved into **Darland, Venn Green**

#### Goodbye & Best Wishes to:

**Mrs Bishop** who has moved from **The Old Rectory**  
**Phil & Mary Rawlinson** who have moved from **West Willow, Milton Town**.



### CONDOLENCES

To her family on the recent loss of the late **Dr Wendy Lawrenson**, who lived at **Halse Park, Gidcott**.

Bake Sale in aid of Sport Relief. It will be in Bradworthy Memorial Hall on 10th March from 10.30-1pm.

I really need lots of help from people to donate cakes/scones/anything home-baked and raffle prizes so I can raise lots of money for Sport Relief. They can be brought into Bradworthy School or to me at Higher Woodford Farm, Milton Damerel or brought along on the day!!

Thanks for your help. Cara Phillips Age 10

*All residents are cordially invited to attend the*

### Milton Damerel ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held at Milton Damerel Parish Hall on Wednesday 18 April at 7.30 pm

The speaker will be

**Ricky McCormack**, Head of Operational Services for TDC

Who will speak on the recycle of more different types of plastic & to explain what happens to all the items collected  
 Members of the community will be able to ask questions

*Local organisations will present their reports*

THIS IS YOUR MEETING - PLEASE COME

*Light Refreshments will be served*

## Chapel News – March 2012

*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*

Hello Everyone,

So, here we all are almost into Spring. New life. New Beginnings. Christians around the world are also into the season of Lent. This is a time used in preparation for our Greatest Christian Festival *Easter*.

Why do Christians celebrate Easter?

Well, Christians remember that Easter is about Jesus and that Jesus can change people, if we let him. Easter is about forgiveness and new life, eternal life. Christians accept the fact that we have all done things wrong in our lives at one time or another. Jesus came to put things right. He left heaven for a reason and became a man. He understands what it is like to be human! Jesus died and came alive again so that each one of us can be forgiven for our mistakes; Jesus came alive again so we can be changed but we have to allow this to happen.

How easy do you find it to forgive? Perhaps there is someone you need to forgive today why not give it a go you might be surprised at the results.

I pray this Easter you may know God's love for you found in Jesus that you may embrace the forgiveness offered to you at the cross on Good Friday and be able to own the gift of new life that Easter day is all about.

God bless you,

Revd Meg Slingo

**LENT** - The Bible Study group will be following a 5-week Lent course, starting on **Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm** in the Schoolroom. The title of the course is '**Handing on the Torch**', sourced from the renown York Courses, and looks at some of the reasons why Christianity is growing at immense pace in Asia, Africa and Latin America, but struggles to grow in the West. Our group is normally augmented by friends from other villages and churches and we invite anyone who would like to explore the topic to come along. Each evening will include a short CD audio recording in the style of a radio programme, (commentators being Archbishop Sentamu, Clifford Longley, Rachel Lampard, Bishop Graham Cray and Dr David Hope), and discussion prompted by commentary and questions presented in a personal booklet. Even if you miss the first session, pleased to see you for the 4 remaining sessions!

**EASTER SUNDAY (8<sup>th</sup> April) – BREAKFAST from 8.30am** in the Schoolroom. Activities and Pancake Breakfast. Easter Day Service at 11am lead by Rev Meg Slingo – A warm welcome to everyone to both or either!!

Concert at 7.30pm – arrangements still to be confirmed, please look out for notices – hope to hold an Easter Songs of Praise with accompaniment by Silver Band and other artistes.

**“TEA & CAKE” AFTERNOONS** – will commence this year on **Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm to 5pm** in the Schoolroom. The usual format is being planned – stalls, tea and cakes – with donations and proceeds being shared between the parish Diamond Jubilee Celebration Funds and a charity. We will be pleased to offer 'stall space' to anyone wishing to take one – please contact Sheila.

*Drop in at any time for tea, chat, retail therapy, calorie-busting cakes – we look forward to seeing you!!*

**SUNDAY CLUB & FAMILY SERVICES** – We are very grateful to those who have offered to help with Sunday Club, so that it can still continue (and comply with Safeguarding good practice). The Sunday Club will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, The last Sunday each month is Family Service for everyone (all ages!) Where there is 5 Sundays in the month there will be an extra Sunday Club! Sunday Club is at 11am, joining with the morning service until about 11.20am, when we then go to our own activities. 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 and make some new friends!

### **Family Services:**

**25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Mrs Julie Spencer**

**29<sup>th</sup> April**

**Mrs Nancy Hall-Tonkin**

**27<sup>th</sup> May**

**Mr Trevor Sillifant**

**CHRISTMAS** – A grand total of £239.61 has been forwarded to Action for Children from the collections at the Chapel Carol Service (£165.61) and United Parish Carol Service (50% of the collection - £74.00). A letter of appreciation has been received.

## CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN FOR THE MONTHS OF MARCH TO MAY 2012

MAR		APR		MAY	
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Joanne Carter	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Grace Millman	6 <sup>th</sup>	Service at Lake, Shebbear
11 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Tracy Dunmore	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Sarah Weal	13 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Anne Poole
		15 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Valerie Carter	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Lilian Luxton
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Sally Piper	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Valerie Harris	27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Sheila Daniel
		29 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mary Carter		

**“OPEN CHAPEL”** – The chapel is open on the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** – Two meetings in February, firstly an open meeting for wide-ranging discussions on our future and maintenance and repairs requirements, and then the Church Council to receive the recommendations from the open meeting, have re-affirmed that the majority of people would like to stay in the Chapel buildings here in Milton. There are some major works required, some of which have come out of the recent Quinquennial building report, and we are very grateful the legacy received last year will enable us to plan for the works.

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

### Father Michael Reynolds

The Rector has been with us at Holy Trinity for 25 years and will be retiring in April this year. Of course he also serves Hollocombe and Holsworthy. There will be a farewell service and events on Easter Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2012 predominantly at Holsworthy, with a service at 11.30 followed by a bring and share lunch. All parishioners will be most welcome.

Services this spring will take place at the usual time of 11.30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month but the Easter Sunday Service at Holy Trinity Milton Damerel will be earlier at 10.15 and will be Father Michael's last service at Holy Trinity.

### Church Yard Garden Working Party

A big thank you to all who helped last year and a big Please to you all again and anyone else who could spare some time and manual effort to attack the vegetation in the Church Yard and keep things under control. There will be three afternoon sessions this spring, these are:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30 PM

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00 PM

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00 PM

### **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**

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

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Richard Dorrington

Tel: 01409 241411

## Recording Milton Damerel Methodist Chapel Graveyard

Our recording of the graveyard and gravestones was prompted by our concern that during the previous two winters some of the inscriptions are being lost due to frost damage. Also there are very limited surviving records for the earlier burials.

It has been a very rewarding and interesting project and has hopefully provided a useful resource for others.

When the original Chapel (now the Sunday School Room) was built in 1836/37 there was no graveyard. In fact on the 1840 Tithe map for Milton Damerel it shows a house and garden between the road and the chapel.

The first phase of the graveyard was established sometime before 1876 and went down as far as the copper beech tree.

During the 1890's the graveyard was then extended down to the lower graveyard gate. This was after the opening of the new chapel in 1892.

The graveyard was extended further during the 1940's to what it is today.

One of the headstones that has suffered greatly from the effects of the weather belongs to John Oliver Braund aged 22. Although some of the inscription has been lost the words "drowned in the Thames" are still legible. This intrigued us to find out more.

Using the good old internet and searching some choice family research sites and newspaper archives we found, although he was born and raised in Milton Damerel he had in fact moved up to Marylebone in London and was working in a very large department type store.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1881, six days before the annual university boat race, he, along with thirty nine co-workers were engaged in rowing trials on the Thames at Chiswick. His boat along with two others were swamped due to worsening weather conditions and he and six other people perished.

As well as the gravestone inscriptions we have recorded the other memorials inside and outside the chapel.

There is a foundation stone (North wall exterior) that was laid when the new chapel was built dedicated to Susan and Hatton Rattenbury.

The Rattenburys' were big in Milton Damerel for over one hundred years from the 1700's to the mid 1800's. There were several branches of the family and they either owned or rented property around the parish – Ley Farm, Buttermoor, Woodford Bridge, High Cross, Millton Mill to name but a few. But back to Hatton and Susan (Susannah).

Hatton was a local farmer. Also for a time a Churchwarden and was a juror on the Court Leet (a sort of parish council but with more clout).

In 1802 he was granted leave to build a dwelling. Some of his house survives today in what is now Chapel Cottage and Higher Cottage. The census returns show it was known as Rattenbury's Cottage/House for at least sixty years.

Susan and Hatton are commemorated on the foundation stone for the work and support they gave to help establish the Methodist Church here.

They lived their later years in Holsworthy with their son and are buried at Bodmin Street Chapel in Holsworthy.

If anyone would like to see or know more, copies of everything we have found are available at the Chapel.

Steve and Sarah Weal.

## Walking Parish Footpaths

Following on from the successful walk which was held last September, it has been agreed to hold these walks on a regular basis. We have teamed up with five other local parishes, Holsworthy Hamlets, Bradworthy, Sutcombe, Pyworthy and Pancrasweek with the aim of arranging two walks in each of these parishes over a twelve month period. Walks will be on the second Monday of each month commencing at 10.00 am and aiming to be back at the start point for midday. The start points will be published in the newsletters, as below. The aim is for a sociable amble rather than a brisk walk with a view to checking out the state of the footpaths and identifying any problems. Everybody is welcome and dogs will need to be on a short leash when crossing fields which contain livestock. As parts of the routes may well be muddy, boots or wellingtons are recommended footwear.

12 March	Milton Damerel - starting at Parish Hall
9 April	Pyworthy - starting at Village Hall
14 May	tba
11 June	Bradworthy - starting at The Square
9 July	Chilsworthy - starting from East Vognacott

For further information please contact Michael on 261196 or Robert on 254211

## Junior/Youth News

**Forthcoming Events for Monster Clubs (All 5pm – 6.30pm; July to be confirmed)****Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March****Fencing demonstration and participation with foils****Decorate a pot and plant up****Sow seeds for garden****Fish fingers and chips for tea. £1 entry****Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April****Medieval Knight night.****A visit from Knights where you will be making helms****and princess hats, trying on costumes****Playing archery. Bowling.****Making chocolate Spring nests.****Jacket potatoes for tea. £1 entry****Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May****If field available we will be playing rounders.****Gardening****Hot dogs for tea. £1 entry****Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June****Olympic Games themed Monster Club, hopefully on field****Pizza and Pasta for tea £1 entry****Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> July****Swimming at Woodacott****Tea provided £2 entry****Sunday Club**

We are very grateful to those who have offered to help with Sunday Club, so that it can still continue. The Sunday Club will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, The last Sunday each month is Family Service for everyone (all ages!) Where there is 5 Sundays in the month there will be an extra Sunday Club! Sunday Club commences at 11am. We will be delighted to welcome more young people looking for activities on a Sunday morning – just come along and join in with your schoolfriends and make some new friends!

**Newsletter Group**

The Newsletter Group reports some recent changes:

Janet Fisher has regretfully needed to resign from the Group, we say thank you so much for all her contributions, the searching out of diary dates, etc., and her most capable organisation of the Farmers' Markets. **Thank you, Janet.**

Nicky Martin joined the group in December and will contribute on school news and recipes, in addition to general features and articles. **Welcome to Nicky.**

David Taylor joined the group in February and has taken on the Treasurer's duties. **Welcome to David**

We have also some changes to our volunteer distributors – Sarah Harper has delivered newsletters in the Strawberry Bank /Crossways area since its first edition in 1999, (in addition to being one of the editors for the first 6 years), and is now taking a well-earned break. **Many thanks, Sarah.** Edwina Hale, of Distant Point, has volunteered to take on these deliveries.

Phyllis Piper, of Parkfield, Whitebear Cross, will be delivering newsletters for Fore Street along the main road to Horrelsford and the Whitebear areas, replacing Tracy Dunmore.

\* \* We are 'on the hunt' for new members for the Newsletter Group – if you think the newsletter is a good thing for the parish, please think about offering to join the group, we do need 2-3 new members! Speak to any of the current members – contact details are on the final page. \* \*



**LENT COURSE**  
**'HANDING ON THE TORCH'**  
**5-WEEKS**

Starting on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February  
 Milton Schoolroom at 7.30pm  
 Just come along & join us!

**Milton Damerel Methodist Church**

**Afternoon Tea & Cakes**  
**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
**3pm – 5pm**  
**Stalls**

Drop in for tea, chat,  
 retail therapy & calorie boosts.  
 Proceeds for Diamond Jubilee Celebrations &  
 Charity

**Easter Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April**  
**From 8.30am**  
**Activities**  
**All welcome!**

**Easter Songs of Praise**  
**Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.30pm**  
 (Look out for details)

**Beacon Methodist Church**  
**Coffee Mornings**  
**Last Thursday of each month**  
 10am – 12 noon  
 Chapel hall

Warm welcome to all!

**FRESH**

**Café Style**

**With Mark Shepherd**  
**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm**  
**Lizzy's Larder**  
 All welcome!



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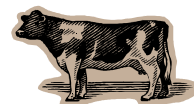
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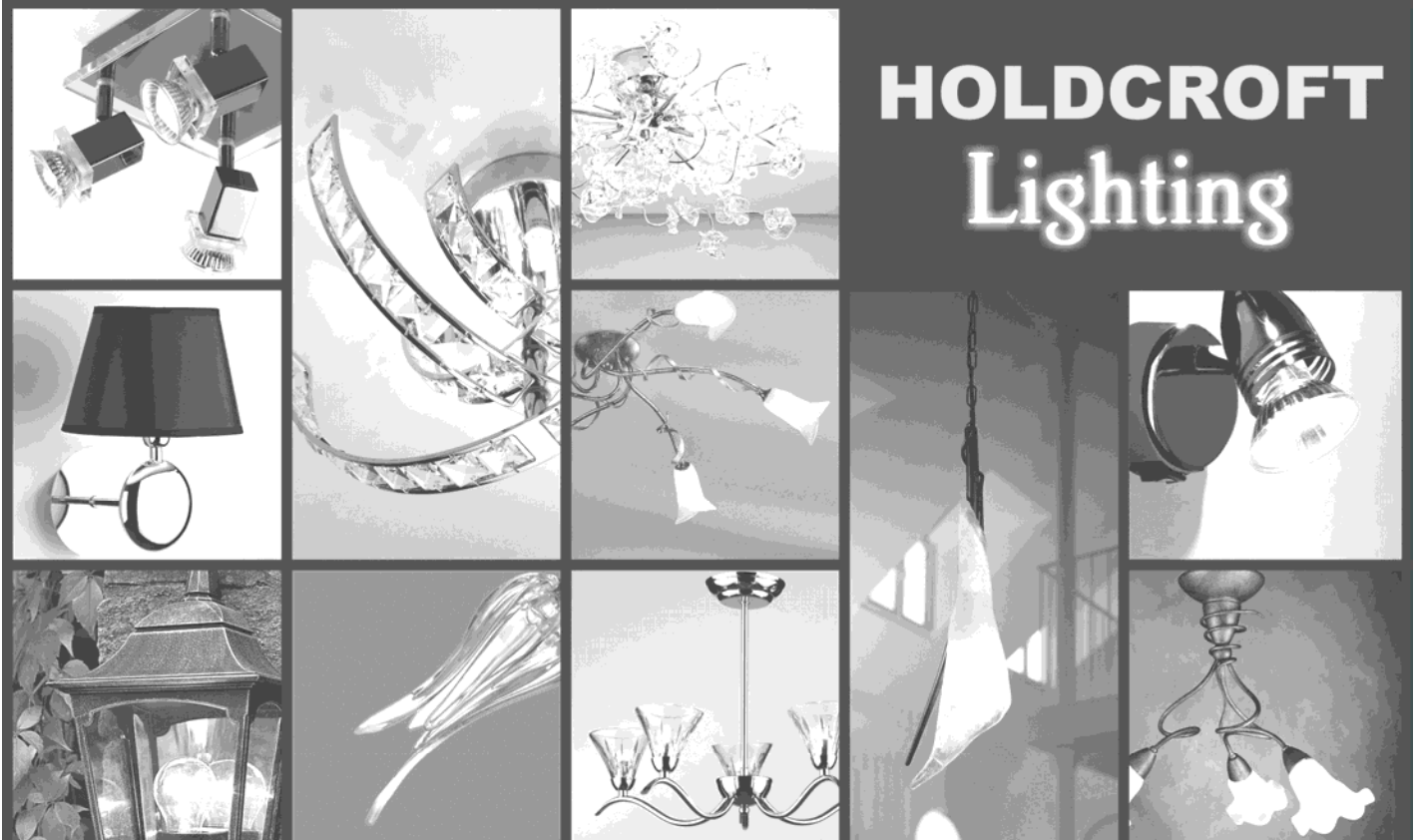
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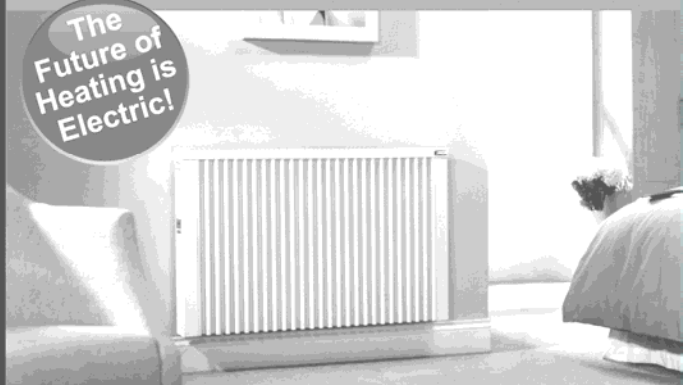
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## HOME SALES ON THE RISE?

February is the time of year when the surveying profession put their heads above the parapet to give their views on what they think will be the housing trends for Spring onwards. The current atmosphere amongst my surveying and estate agency friends and contacts seems to be one of cautious optimism. They themselves look at national trends and the signals sent out by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. It is heartening to see that their expectations for the next quarter are as high as they have been since May 2010.

One of the factors which sways them is that the Stamp Duty holiday for first time buyers will come to an end on 24 March. From that date first time buyers will have to pay 1% stamp duty on properties worth between £125,000 and £250,000, and a number are therefore trying to complete their property transactions within that timescale. There has also been activity because of the mild weather in the period just before the icy spell in February, and that has got the house-hunters outdoors looking. It has therefore been what many would describe as a reasonably bright and busy start to the year. That seems to be bucking the general economic trend.

The first time buyer is often the important link in the chain of property transactions. When they get on the housing ladder, it enables other property owners to consider buying better properties for themselves, but they cannot sell unless they have a buyer. That vital link has been missing from many potential property chains over the last 18 months, and that has seen the depression within the housing market.

The first time buyer therefore needs to be encouraged to enter the market, but that is easier said than done. The statistics show a rather dismal picture. We now see about 200,000 first time buyers in the UK. This may sound a lot, but the figure prior to the financial downturn in 2008 was a much healthier 500,000 a year.

Deposits of considerable size have now to be put down by any buyer, making it even more difficult for people wanting to get onto the property ladder for the first time. They cannot generate equity from property they do not yet own, and therefore have to save, beg or borrow to get the money together before they can even get a mortgage. That has seen the average first time buyer's age rise to 33. The Council of Mortgage Lenders' figures indicate that the average deposit is now 20% of the value of a property. Taken as a country-wide average, that now means that the typical deposit throughout the UK is £26,000. In a depressed economic area like the South West, that amount is more than many people have in their pay packet each year.

An effect of this, therefore, is that an entire generation has effectively been prevented from getting onto the housing ladder. Those that do get onto the ladder have, in large measure, had to borrow or be gifted money from friends and family to get their deposit money.

As for house prices, the overall picture in the last year was one of stagnation. The average house price in 2011 was £205,269. Overall there was a rise in values in England by 0.5% with London prices increasing the most to 4.4%.

**Busbys** has the Law Society's kite mark of excellence for conveyancing, the **Conveyancing Quality Scheme**. You can be sure of expert help from our property team, who will be more than happy to help. Contact **David Helman** or **Ian Osborne** on **01288 35 9000**

**John Busby, Busbys Solicitors, Bude & Holsworthy.**

### Fete 2012

This year because of the Diamond Jubilee it was decided to leave the fete for a year.

We do plan to resume festivities in 2013 and are still looking for volunteers!!

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## Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Planning for the Parish Celebrations to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II have continued with meetings of the Lunch, the Children's Tea, and the Wall Hanging Groups, and we hope to finalise much of the detail at the full planning group meeting on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

The fund-raising events have been successful - thank you to Roberta & Mike Jackson and to Anne & John Binns for holding coffee mornings, to the brave Carol singers, and to Mr David Watkins for a generous donation. To date £322.06 has been raised. District Councillor Bob Hicks has also allocated £300 for the Milton Damerel with Abbots Bickington celebrations from his Community Grants fund. Many thanks to all who have supported and for funds still to be received.

You will soon be asked to subscribe to a **Diamond Jubilee Quiz** with several interesting questions on matters Royal. This is a further fund-raiser, which we hope you will purchase and submit your answers. Please look out for the Quiz sheets.

More details on the Thanksgiving Service, followed by the Big Jubilee Lunch to be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and the Children's Jubilee Tea with fun and games to be held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June will be widely circulated in late March. Please note these dates in your diary / on your calendars and plan to come along to make these really festive, community occasions for the Diamond Jubilee. Tickets for the Lunch will be available for sale soon.

The Parish Council have received 32 names of children eligible for the Diamond Jubilee Souvenirs - please contact the Parish Clerk if there are eligible children (see last Newsletter) in your household who have not been included on the application requests.

Contact Grace Millman about the Big Lunch (261251), Mel Richardson about the Children's Tea (261353), and Lesley Self about the Wall Hanging (261294).

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### Schmallenberg Virus

A virus that causes miscarriages and birth deformities in farm animals, though it is not known to affect humans, has been confirmed, lambs at premises in six English counties have tested positive for the Schmallenberg virus – and for the first time in the UK, a cattle sample has also tested positive.

Animals that have the virus and become pregnant have either miscarriages, stillbirths or offspring with deformities such as a twisted neck, brain abnormalities or contracted limbs. There are mild symptoms of the virus in other adult animals – a few days of fever, low milk yield, loss of appetite, and sometimes diarrhoea – but these cannot be easily distinguished from other common illnesses. It mostly affects sheep but can also enter cattle or goats.

The Schmallenberg virus is believed to be carried by midges, it surfaced in the Netherlands and Germany in August 2011, and since then on hundreds of farms there and in Belgium. The microbe is difficult to detect in adult animals, and is apparent only when they gestate. There is no known treatment or vaccine.

According to DEFRA, it is likely the disease has been here since the autumn, carried via insects blown across the channel. DEFRA anticipates more cases will appear and has asked for vigilance from vets and farmers.

Update. Counties now effected = 12 as of 21st February

### Notes on the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands are a group of 740 islands, in the South Atlantic pretty much on the same latitude South as the British Isles are North. The two main Islands East and West Falkland form the majority of the land mass which is around the size of Wales. In addition South Georgia, 800 miles WSW of the Falkland Islands and the South Sandwich Islands, a further 500 miles SSW of South Georgia, make up the British South Atlantic Territories.

The Falkland's climate is similar to the British Isles, although summers are less warm and winters slightly cooler, the two big differences are the wind, there is nothing between the Antarctic and the Islands so the wind is always the dominant factor, the Islands have no trees. Attempts have been made to plant some in Stanley and at Mount Pleasant, the military base, these trees turn out to be just stunted bushes contorted by the winds into odd shapes about 2-6 feet high. The other difference to the UK weather is its unpredictability, if you ever thought the UK weather was changeable, believe me it's nothing to what happens almost every day in the FI, all seasons in one morning is a relatively quiet day.

The capital of the FI is Stanley, (not Port Stanley), a nice little town on the banks of Stanley Harbour. It has a lovely red brick cathedral, a few restaurants and hotel, some gift shops, for the tourists and a Waitrose. Well almost a Waitrose, the Falkland Islands Company is one of those organisations that has been a key business in the development of the FI, they provide everything, own much of the land and seem to have control of very much of the Islands economy. The FI Co are licensed to sell John Lewis good in the FI, hence the Waitrose tag.

The Stanley is the main settlement of around 1000-1500 inhabitants, the remaining settlements are quite small with only a few homes around the two largest Is. Over time travel on the islands has developed, originally most people would have got around by boat, every settlement has a derelict jetty, after the FW in 1982, the military and Falkland Island's government built roads between the main settlements, effectively dirt/gravelled tracks, there is also an air service between the major settlements and to get between east and west Falkland and the larger of the other Islands.

The economy is now quite varied, sheep farming is still a major part of the Islanders income although the land is quite poor, stocking rates are about 1 sheep/5 acres, not quite the same as in Devon. The waters around the Islands are rich in fish stocks and many companies trawl the areas, purchasing licences from the FIG. Oil is also thought to be in the seas around the South Atlantic, many companies are searching for the oil which is there but so far no reserves have been found which can be economically exploited.

I first experienced the Falkland Islands late in 1982, I was serving on HMS Diomedé, a Royal Navy frigate, undergoing maintenance at Portsmouth. As the Falklands War progressed and we neared the end of our maintenance we readied to sail South, joining HMS Illustrious and HMS Liverpool, and arriving in the Falklands Total Exclusion zone, just as Maj Gen Jeremy Moore was accepting the Argentineans surrender on board HMS Antrim. I would like to think it was the arrival our own small task group which influenced the Argentineans decision to surrender but I suspect not.

As the first peace keeping patrol in the Islands we spent much of our time at sea patrolling around the Islands, exercising with our other ships still operating in the area. In the 5 months in the area, I managed an afternoon ashore in San Carlos and an Afternoon in Port Stanley, (everyone called in Port Stanley then). Stanley has changed a little, the town has grown out towards the West but is still instantly recognisable from my afternoon stroll in 1982. Our ship also made a passage to South Georgia a stunning Island with glaciers, mountains, deep blue seas and deep blue skies. We anchored in Cumberland Bay just by the whaling station at Grytviken. It had only been closed 4 years the old buildings were still intact and had been used as shelter or vantage points during the retaking of the Islands by the Royal Marines. In one of the sheds with the debris of war still around, was a poem chalked on the rusty corrugated iron wall of the shed. It began

'If I should die think only this of me, that there some corner of a foreign field which is for ever England...'

256 British Service men died in the action to re-take the FI from the Argentineans and approx 650 Argentineans and 3 Islanders. Many of the Argentineans are buried in the Argentine cemetery some way between Mount Pleasant and Darwin, over half the graves simply say 'A Soldier of Argentina'.

In 2010 I returned to the South Atlantic on HMS Portland, our tasking was as the Atlantic Patrol Ship (South), our role was to be a British presence in the South Atlantic, West Africa and South America, the duty lasted 7 ½ months with a majority of this in the Falklands. This time there was far more opportunity to get ashore and though 4 months is a long time to be around a very beautiful but desolate part of the world it was a very enjoyable and amazing place to visit once more.

John Binns

### An Opportunity of a Lifetime by Anne Binns

John set off on a seven month South Atlantic deployment on HMS Portland in April 2010. His hopes of flying home for a couple of weeks mid deployment were soon to be shattered. The only way we were going to see each other in this time was if I flew to the Falklands. The ship only had one week alongside where we could get together. A long way to go for one week and with flights costing £2200 return it would have been beyond consideration. However the RAF enable dependents to fly as 'indulgence passengers' if there are empty seats available, for a notional cost of about £400. They took some persuasion to let Jo go as an indulgence passenger as she was technically no longer a dependent. The flight took 19 hours with a short stop at Ascension Island. Not only did we have to endure the long flight but they expected you to check-in four hours before departure and this was after a drive to RAF Brize Norton.

Mount Pleasant airport is a complex which incorporates the military base that was built after the conflict. We were met by an RAF colleague of Johns who drove us two hours across wilderness to the Malvinas Hotel in Stanley. John was to join us two days later.

Stanley resembles (as Jo put it) a Legoland settlement. You have a green house with a red roof, a yellow house with a blue roof and so on.

Whilst on an expedition to look for penguins at Gypsy Cove we realised that we were not going to get back in time for Johns arrival. Luckily we met a helpful man who was in the Falklands Defence Task Force, he had met John on board the ship at a meeting. John was the only crew member to have been there in 1982. He quickly rang through to the Hotel to instruct John to collect us from Gypsy Cove. No penguins were to be found but we did see York Bay which is still cordoned off with 'Danger Mine' signs. This was where the Argentinians arrived when they first invaded. A beautiful stretch of beach so dangerously polluted. Our new found friend told us how at ten years old he was imprisoned by the Argentinians in the village hall at Goose Green (a settlement the size of Venn Green) along with the rest of the residents. They were all held at gun point and at one time were taken outside to be shot then given a reprieve. A radio that they hid under the floor enabled them to communicate with the British forces until they fought to secure their release. The Argentinian prisoners were held in cattle sheds which we later visited. The letters POW still visible on the sheds today.

We had been told that Sea Lion Island (the most southerly nature reserve) was closed but we were informed that as the staff had been out there and all was well we could fly there the next morning. We were the only guests there. The Falkland Island government air service is the islands main transport. Our journey involved two landings to deliver the mail at settlements along the way. Amazon parcels in abundance we noticed.

The wildlife was amazing and had no fear of humans. We got up close to three ton elephant seals, watched sea lions playing out their courting rituals and of course penguins were in abundance. Dolphins frolicked in the waves as they broke on the shore and birds of prey followed us wherever we went. It was a unique environment to see.

The Islanders are fiercely British with a cultural difference that is difficult to explain. They continue to fear Argentinian invasion and their respect for the armed forces is evident.

The following poem I found quite moving and sums up the Falkland Isles

Far away from the hustle and bustle  
lies a barren and beautiful land  
One of few places left on earth  
where nature is still in command

The wildlife is amazing  
with penguins seals and birds  
So stunning it will leave you  
completely lost for words

The weather here can change so quick  
from sun to rain to snow  
But the thing you will remember  
is how strong the wind can blow

The natives are so friendly  
and British through and through  
So grateful to the forces  
for everything they do

People come and people go  
but the one thing that we pray  
Is that the Islands will remain unspoilt  
and keep their charming way

So when its time to leave these shores  
to travel many miles  
Don't forget this piece of heaven  
known as the Falkland Isles





### The Bradworthy Inn.

The Bradworthy Inn, a family run, traditional 16th century coaching inn offering a selection of real ales, beers, wines and spirits. Situated on the square in Bradworthy, this is the great place to enjoy a meal or a drink, children and dogs are welcome.

They offer an extensive menu for both the bar and restaurant, using fresh local produce whenever possible. There is a quiet beer garden and courtyard, ideal for relaxing on a summer's day.

The pub is also home to a coffee shop, open from 10am Monday to Saturday, offering a selection of teas, coffees, homemade cakes, buns, cream teas, baguettes and other light snacks.

Bradworthy Inn is run by local family, Rob and Pam Johns with their daughter and son-in-law Robyn and Gareth Pengilly, and ably assisted by younger son Toby. The staff are welcoming and offer excellent customer service with a friendly smile.

The restaurant has recently been completely refurbished and can seat up to 50 diners. They have varied lunch and evening menus, using fresh local produce whenever possible. You will also find a selection of meals on their specials board which changes regularly, children are catered for with their own menu selection. Don't miss the Sunday carvery, which includes a choice of three meats and seven vegetables.

#### Opening Times:

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, 5.00pm to Midnight Monday to Thursday.

12 noon to 3.00pm, 5.00pm to 1.00am on Fridays.

Open all day from 12 noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

They do get busy so booking is advisable – Telephone 01409 241222



### Christmas Santa Competition

The number of Santas in the December edition was 17.

As there were two entrants with the correct answer it was decided to award them both £5. Congratulations to :-

Rebekkah Ley Moyse and Carwyn Nilsson

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# GARDENING TIME

It may have been a mild winter at least until the last few weeks but I don't seem to have achieved half of what I wanted to get done in the garden though I suspect that is true in March of most years, a lot of the backlog is due to finding two new jobs for every one I complete.

Longer, milder days should give us a chance to catch up not least with cutting back and pruning which needs completing before the sap starts to rise and if you didn't complete digging over during the winter make sure you get it done before mid-April.

If you can get hold of some rotted manure then spread it over the ground before you dig it, up to a 6" depth will improve the soil condition and provide nutrition for existing or new plants.

If you left dead foliage on plants to give them some protection then it should now be removed so it does not inhibit new shoots which will start to develop in late March

Mow lawns at the earliest opportunity even if you have to raise the blade right up then start cutting regularly reducing the height by a little each time and unless you have a mulching deck on your mower you should collect the grass mowings which can suffocate new growth.

## VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Potatoes should be chitting now ready to plant early varieties at the end of March, ground and weather conditions permitting, if you haven't started any it is still worth getting seed, there are usually some left in the shops and chitting them even if only for a couple of weeks in a cool, frost free light place will still produce a good crop.

Toward the end of March some veg. can be sown outside e.g. cabbage, onions, parsnips, peas etc. but only if the soil is dry enough to be friable and has warmed up.

In a glasshouse with a little heat or in a light position in the house a whole range of vegetables can be sown ready to plant out at in April when conditions should be ideal, the list of varieties is extensive so consult the back of the seed packet which has instructions on when you can sow.

The seed packet also gives instructions on whether the seed should be covered with a layer of compost or vermiculite and how thick it should be, there are a few seeds that must not be covered but keep the surface of the compost moist and place black polythene or a sheet of glass and newspaper over them.

## BEDDING PLANTS

Many varieties of summer bedding plants can be sown now, as a very approximate rule of thumb I allow 8 to 10 weeks from sowing to planting out (6 to 8 weeks for veg.).

One of the main plants in my summer bedding display are Impatiens (Busy Lizzies) but for the last couple of years they have performed badly looking stunted and generally unhealthy which I had assumed was due to poor weather conditions but I should have known better.

Apparently a new strain of Downy Mildew has developed which only attacks Busy Lizzies, this is an airborne disease which also survives in the growing medium, there is no treatment currently available, plants grown from seed and planted in fresh compost are clean but can soon become infected from floating spores.

The disease does not affect New Guinea hybrid Impatiens but these do not perform as well outdoors, you don't need to stop planting bedding other types e.g. Petunias, Geraniums, Begonias etc. are unaffected by this disease which is specific to Impatiens.

## HAPPY GARDENING

BILL WRIGHTON.

### FRESH



The last FRESH, held in early December at the Schoolroom, unfortunately clashed with Bradworthy 'Switch On' celebration, which meant most families were away from the village and numbers attending were less. Even so, those who came along had a very good time making costumes and pieces of scenery to use later in the Nativity Story. Tea included Christmas pudding and Rev Meg led the carols and Christmas story, after tea. Some were able to dress up in the costumes and became angels, shepherds, kings, etc. Daniel (Dunmore) very bravely offered to play the piano for the carols and did a really brilliant job. We lit our candles and sang "Away in a Manger" to finish a lovely event.

**The next FRESH** will be café style at Lizzie's Larder, Blackberry Farm shop. A relaxed afternoon, led by local vet, Mark Shepherd, which will be for all ages and include tea. Start time **4pm on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March...** *we would love to see you there!*

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## SOCIETY NEWS

2010

Last December we were entertained by Dick Fulcher a most interesting and instructive speaker who set up Pine Cottage Plants at Eggesford where he holds one of the National collections of Agapanthus involving 400 different varieties.

He illustrated his talk with a slide show of his plant spotting expedition to Turkey and having bought a large selection of young plants wound up the evening helping members to select the variety that best suited their garden and aspect.

2011

There was no meeting in January whilst a cold night in February saw a very good turn out for a practical demonstration of tool and machinery maintenance given jointly by our own Edgar Pett and Dave Lavis of DMP Garden Machinery at Bradworthy.

The evening kicked off with a short film made at Edgar's premises demonstrating grinding and sharpening methods using a variety of tools none of which could be operated safely in the Hall the fire risk was too high!!

Dave had brought various pieces of equipment and ably demonstrated the safe method of working with chain saws and the various safety clothes available to prevent harm to the operator.

Members had brought along a variety of blunt tools some of which Ed sharpened on the spot others he took away for more serious treatment.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

Our next meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> sees a visit from Roger Clark an RHS registered speaker living at Bovey Tracey.

For 13 years Roger was head gardener/nursery manager at Greenway Gardens the estate of Agatha Christie and has also worked in South Africa, Tasmania and California.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> Howard Wills from Fernwood Nursery at Peters Marsland will be talking to us about Sempervirens (Houseleeks) bringing a selection of plants with him which members are welcome to purchase at the end of the evening.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a film showing various problems in members gardens along with some practical tips on various gardening tasks.



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## NEWSLETTER FINANCES

The Group reports on the finances for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The financial statements are set out below

	£.	£.
<b>Receipts during 2011:</b>		
Advertising (to June 2011 edition) <sup>NOTE</sup>	384.00	
Advertising (Annual payments from September 2011) <sup>NOTE</sup>	896.75	
Personal donations	30.00	
Grant – Parish Council	100.00	
Fund-raising: Coffee Morning	55.00	
Cider & Pasty Walk	114.00	
Subscriptions for Newsletter	<u>77.00</u>	
		<b>1656.75</b>
<b>Payments during 2011:</b>		
Printing	864.00	
Cider & Pasty Walk – expenses:	<u>65.90</u>	
		<b>929.90</b>
<b><u>Net gain for the year</u></b>		<b><u>726.85</u></b>
<b>Funds in hand at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011:</b>		
HSBC Treasurer's Account.....	697.75	
Cash & Cheques held .....	<u>73.50</u>	
Total		771.25
add net gain for year		<u>726.85</u>
<b><u>Funds in hand at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011</u></b>		<b><u>1498.10</u></b>
Represented by: HSBC Treasurer's Account	1354.35	
Cash & Cheques held	<u>143.75</u>	
		<u>1498.10</u>

**NOTE:** During 2011, the Newsletter Group revised the terms for advertisers, requesting an annual (non-returnable) fee at the commencement of the year, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Funds in hand at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011, therefore, include the advertising revenue 'in advance' for 2 editions – March & June 2012, valued at £445.

The Newsletter has continued to be favoured with the support of several advertisers, from within the parish and neighbouring parishes and towns. The Parish Council kindly increased its annual grant to £100, and loyal supporters have come along to our fund-raising events and also given personal donations, and we have a few subscribers from outside of the parish. The various forms of community support enable the continued delivery of approximately 220 copies, free of charge, to each household in the parish and in Abbots Bickington.

Regrettably one advertiser failed to honour an agreement and the Group has been unable to recover £40 owed from 2010, despite several approaches.

We record our sincere thanks to all our supporters and to those who deliver your newsletter to your doorstep, and to Nicola Wrighton for independently examining our records and accounts.

## **MILTON DAMEREL PARISH HALL NEWS**

### **Charity No. 281123**

A Parish Hall meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012. We welcomed a new Committee Member, Nicky Wrighton, of North Town Farm. We are always looking for new members, with new ideas and any help in running the Parish Hall.

The problem with the leaky roof is still being monitored. We thought we found where the rain came in, but unfortunately a leak is still there, when it's been raining heavy and the wind is in a certain direction. Also due to the very cold spell, we had frozen condensation melting in the roof space, which, once again, caused a leaky ceiling. If a builder/handyman is interested in looking at the roof, to give us some advice and an estimate for any repair/improvements, it would be appreciated.

A light in the Skittle Alley has been replaced and a second one is being 'temperamental'. This will also be replaced if necessary.

### **EVENTS REPORT.**

**WINE & WISDOM Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011.** Profit £311.03 (less Alcohol Licence £21) A very enjoyable and noisy evening. An excellent turn out, with 10 tables. Di Snow's table, came 1<sup>st</sup> with 87 points, well done. We, who shall be nameless, came bottom, again.

**CAROLS AROUND MILTON DAMEREL Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011.** It was a good evening, weather wise as well as turnout. With background music, the Carolling group were in hearty voice for singing. We thank every one who came to their door and appreciated our presence. Donations of £64.56 was gratefully received for Jubilee Funds.

**COFFEE MORNING Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012.** At Peter and Lesley Self, Tor View. Profit £90 Thanks to all who came.

### **FUTURE EVENTS**

#### **All Proceeds for the Parish Hall unless otherwise stated**

**WHIST DRIVE Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012. 8.00pm.** £2.00 per person.

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

**WINE AND WISDOM Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 7.30 for 8.00** £5 per person. Teams of 6. Couples and Singles welcomed, we can make up teams on arrival. **Please Book** any number below.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING. Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 @ 7.30 New Committee Members Welcomed**

**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.

### **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 Joyce Daly 259 115 (June 2012 Meeting :- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. )

**Line dancing.** 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: [billwrighton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billwrighton@hotmail.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, during the Skittle Season.



**PUTFORD W.I.**

We started the year of 2012 by taking our husbands out for a meal at The Bradworthy Inn, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Then at the end of January our members went to the HATS pantomime to see Snow White.

In February we met once again at the home of one of our members – we were joined by the V.C.O. June Shepherd-Blandy, who had the unpleasant task of closing our Institute, after going for more than 80 years, due to falling numbers and other problems.

*Our condolences to members at Putford on the closing of their Institute – and we trust you will find ways to keep your friendships alive!*

---

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

The first meeting of the year was on 7<sup>th</sup> February, the Annual Party, with bring and share tea and a mini 'nibbles and wisdom'.

Meetings will be held, as usual, on the 1st Tuesday of March, April and May, at the Parish Hall at 2.30pm. (Please note the June meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, due to Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday).

At the March meeting we will discuss the programme of monthly summer coach trips, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting in April through to September.

New members very welcome. Enquiries to: Mr Les Yelland – Chairman

Mrs J Daly – Secretary

Mrs June Vanstone - Treasurer

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*From The Holsworthy Post Looking Back*

.. A news item from 12<sup>th</sup> January 1952. (12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 edition)

For six hours on Monday men from the village of Milton Damerel struggled to pull a cow from a 30ft deep well hole while they watched it growing weaker as it floundered in four feet of muddy water at the bottom. Late at night when they had almost given up hope, they hauled the animal to the surface with the aid of a winch on the back of a break-down lorry loaned by Mr G G Watkins. The cow struggled to its feet and walked away, uninjured except for cuts and bruises. The property of Mr William H Johns, of the Post Office, Milton Damerel, the cow (a six year old Shorthorn) had wandered on to a sheet of corrugated iron covering a well-hole in one of Mr John's fields at Venn Green, and had crashed through to the bottom of the pit.

....and yet another item from 10<sup>th</sup> February 1962 (9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 edition)

A meeting of Milton Damerel Parish Council was held in the Schoolroom and presided over by Mr G G Watkins. It was agreed to purchase a notice board for the purpose of fixing council notices. All councillors were in favour of building new council houses at Beacon.

I had extracted these articles, intending to include them in the Newsletter, asking if anyone in the parish remembered the first event. However, it was soon relayed to me that one of our eldest residents was actually involved in the rescue, so I called on Ken and Pat Parnell, of Kenmar, Venn Green, and we had an interesting hour of reminiscence on this and many other memories about the parish. Ken & Pat lived in one of three cottages, thatched, which were sited in the garden of the more recently built bungalow, Mandor, at Venn Green. Ken was at that time working on the construction of Yelland Power Station. He recalled arriving home from work, in the dark, to see lights (fairly limited in those days) in Mr Johns' field, which is now owned by the Gifford family of Whitebear, adjacent to Bernard & Carol Jenkins' bungalow along Derworthy Lane. As reported the well was 30 feet deep, probably about 5 feet across and another neighbour, Dougie Walters, who lived at Tor View was down in the well with the cow. In addition to the owner, Ken recalls Frank Sanders and possibly Mr Carter of Moor View were assisting, and Mr G Watkins of Worden Farm. [ At that time East View Cottage, Derworthy Lane, was Mr William Johns' home, he was known as Tailor Johns and was also the postmaster and the Post Office was located in his home. (Mr John's daughter-in-law, Mrs Thelma Johns, is still a resident of the parish). Mr Gordon Gay Watkins was a cousin of the current owners of Worden Farm, he was a Parish and Rural District Councillor for many years.] Ken also recalled that he was nearly thrown in to the well, when the ropes were tightened.

....And then Ken was able to pick up on the second news article – he was the carpenter commissioned to make the Parish Council notice board, which was located at Venn Green, and we think it may still be in use today at either the Parish Hall or Horrellsford Garage – it was moved when the road widening scheme was completed at Venn Green.

Thank you to Ken & Pat for sharing these memories.

(Little changes over time – in recent times the Parish Council provided a notice board at Holsworthy Beacon and housing remains high on the agenda with our ambitions to have some affordable housing in the parish!)

Grace Millman

## Chocolate Easter Nests

### Ingredients

- 100g butter, cubed
- 1 tbsp cocoa powder
- 50g milk chocolate buttons
- 75g golden syrup
- 4 Shredded Wheat
- 36 mini chocolate eggs



### Method

1. Put the butter into a medium bowl, then add the cocoa powder, chocolate buttons and golden syrup. Microwave on high for 1 minute 30 seconds, or until melted, then stir to mix everything together.
2. Hold 1 Shredded Wheat over the bowl and squeeze in your hand to crumble it in. Repeat with the other 3 Shredded Wheat. Stir to mix evenly.
3. Line the patty tin with 12 paper cake cases and put a generous tablespoonful of mixture into each of the paper cases. Press the centre of each nest with your fingers to make a slight dip, then arrange 3 mini chocolate eggs in each of the dips. Chill for 30 minutes before eating.

### Chef's tip

For this recipe you'll need a 4.5cm wide, 2.5cm deep 12-bun patty tin (a small fairy cake tin) and 12 paper cake cases.



## RAG RUG MAKING (My Hobby) By Lesley Self

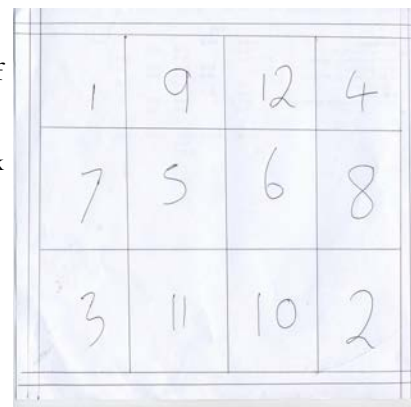
Its difficult to say when Rag Rug making started. Its been mention in the 1800. Rag Rugs were mainly made by the poor, out of old unwanted clothes, when no money or new material was available to cover floors. Once a Rag Rug was made, it would find its way around the home. In the best place first, by the bed or as a hearth rug. It would then finish up by an entrance door, for those dirty boots and shoes. Recycling is not new.

Around 1890 to 1910, Rag Rugs experienced a period of popularity, influenced by the 'Arts and Crafts' movement. More elaborate designs were being made. As time went on, preferences change and Rag Rugging was on the decline, although it stayed an interest to some people. So the tradition has been carried forward to today.

There are different ways of making Rag Rugs. Prodding, Hooking, Weaving and Plaiting. These are the ones that I know of and have tried. I prefer to Hook and have made several Hooked Rugs over the years.

Rag Rugging is a fairly cheap hobby to take up. In the past, Hooking was done on old hessian sacks, as these were widely available. Now of course, sacks are not used any more for carrying goods, so are hard to come by. The hessian base material can be bought from any Material shop. The 'hook' also needs to be bought, from a Craft shop, unless you have someone who could convert an old screwdriver/tool into a hook. The material to make the rug, is, as times gone by, any of your old unwanted clothes or any unwanted material. The other item you really need, is plenty of time.

To start a Rag Rug, or a Wall Hanging if that is what you want it to be. (Not too large for a Wall Hanging, as it will become quite heavy). Decide on the size and cut the hessian slightly larger. If using a sack, it will normally make two rugs. Turn the edge of the hessian in and tack all around the edge. This will ensure that it will not fray, while working on it. Then decide on your design. Not too adventurous, for your first attempt. Shapes works well for a beginner. Draw your design on the hessian, the turned edge is the underneath. I normally work a couple of rows around the edge to make a 'picture' looking rug. Cut your material into roughly ½ inch strips (just over 1cm, if your not as old as me) It doesn't matter if its not straight. Hold the hessian, as best you can. You will find your own way of working as you get going. Push the hook through the hessian and hook onto one end of the strip of material and pull the end through. Move along two threads of the hessian and push the hook through again and pull up a loop, about ½ inch. Continue doing this, making sure that the material is close underneath. When you have come to the end of the strip, this should be on top of the hessian. Start a new piece of material by pushing into the same hole that you have just finished in. You must not work continually in the same area, but backwards and forwards, as the hessian will get tighter as you work. If you have a design and work from left to right, the design to the right will become compressed and out of shape. (Hope this is clear, see diagram)



Two of my finished rugs.



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

*Police Co-ordinators*  
} **Holsworthy Pol. Station**  
} **Tel: 101**  
}

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**

## Neighbourhood Watch Report

With the worst of the winter weather hopefully now behind us many people will be turning their thoughts to holidays so it is perhaps appropriate to bring to your attention a police service which has not received a great deal of publicity – **The Keyholder Registration Scheme.**

Through this scheme you can nominate a responsible person for the police to contact should your home or business come to their notice. The person's contact details will be registered on a confidential database maintained by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and can be accessed 24 hours a day, all year round.

### So who should join?

Even if your premises have a **monitored alarm** you can also join the Keyholder Scheme to cover incidents which affect your premises but would not activate your alarm and therefore alert the emergency services. For example, a flood caused by a burst water main. You should also join the scheme if you have an audible-only alarm which is not monitored by a third party. Where there is no alarm, the emergency services will have a point of contact should something happen.

### What are the benefits?

A rapid response to problems at your property.

Authorities can quickly notify you of any impending danger such as flooding.

Your information will be kept secure and will only be available to the emergency services.

Your information can be easily updated.

You can indicate your preferences for emergency repairers who we could call if we are unable to contact you.

### How to join?

You will need to telephone **0901 470 0440** to register your details and give the following details:

Name of premises (plus URN number if there is a monitored alarm)

Full name, address, postcode and telephone number together with full contact details for the nominated contact person.

Any hazards at the address, such as toxic substances, dogs or other pets, ponds, swimming pools.

Your preferences for emergency repairs should these be necessary such as glazing, locksmith other.

There is a charge involved with the scheme. The calls cost 60p per minute with a maximum cost of £5 – Users only have to call again if they wish to update any details and once again every two years to ensure your entry is kept live on the system – which of course will incur an additional cost. It is the cost of the calls that covers the cost of the service.

### Weekly Crime Figures

The weekly results sheets are now being produced and sent out on a regular basis again, following the temporary disruption which occurred when the police unit transferred its office from Barnstaple to Exeter a few months ago. If anybody who is not receiving these sheets would like their names adding to the list, please let your co-ordinator have your email address.

## Rural Policing Update:

Theft that was reported recently at Holsworthy are as follows:

- Heating Oil at **Bridgerule**
- Copper cylinder at **St Giles on the Heath**  
Honda Quadbike TRX 420 FA9 DEL from 2009 serial no. 1HFTE37E6A4100170 with rear independent shocks and rear disc brakes and heating oil at **Bradworthy**
- Catalytic Converters at **Clawton**
- Honda Quadbike 450 HFTE35UX94201346 TRX4205FM9 and sprayer spinner at **Brandis Corner**  
4 x Nat West Money Boxes and Victorian Silver Plated Tea Pot at **Broodwoodwidge**

## Honesty Boxes

Numerous reports have been received on thefts from honesty boxes. Further action will be taken if anyone is caught stealing.

## Bridgerule and Sheepwash

In recent weeks early deliveries of milk, bread, cheese, etc. have been reported stolen.

Please be vigilant and don't hesitate to ring the Police on 101 for non-emergency.

## New Non-emergency number 101

- For information and advice.  
To report a crime or an incident.

### 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 you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired

PCSO 30099 Raquel Rowe

Holsworthy Police Station



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 freesia

fuchsia  
 geranium  
 honeysuckle  
 jasmine  
 lilac  
 lily  
 marigold  
 narcissus

nasturtium  
 primrose  
 rose  
 snowdrop  
 sweetpea  
 tulip  
 violet

The newsletters group members are:

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Rose Haynes	rose@grawley.co.uk	261577	Regular contributors and features
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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 11th May 2012

**WHAT'S ON .. .....a selection of local events in Holsworthy and North Devon**

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Cavaleri Quarter	Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	St Mary's Church Black Torrington details 01409 231598 or email <a href="mailto:bill.smithers@utdsl.com">bill.smithers@utdsl.com</a>
Barnstaple Concert Band	Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> May	
The Meier Group	Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	
Parson Jack Russell Animal Art and Photography Exhibition	Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May	

**Holsworthy .....**

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
<b>Cinema - One Day</b> (based on best selling novel)	Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar @ 7.30pm	Holsworthy Memorial Hall Tel: 01409 254185 <a href="http://www.holsworthymemorialhall.co.uk">www.holsworthymemorialhall.co.uk</a>
<b>Rotary – Annual Popular Variety Show</b>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar Booking at Coodes from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	H.A.T.S. Tel:01409 253826 <a href="http://www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk">www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk</a>
<b>Chilsworthy Chapel Play</b>	Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April	
<b>Knicker Lady (One Woman Show)</b>	Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> April	
<b>'Allo 'Allo</b>	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May	
<b>Model Exhibition</b>	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 10am – 4pm	Holsworthy Community College
<b>Events and contacts for other venues in North Devon ....</b>		
	<b>Films, Live Events – Theatre, Music, Visual Arts, Regular &amp; Special Workshops for Children and Adults</b>	The Plough, Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624 <a href="http://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk">www.theploughartscentre.org.uk</a>
<b>Animation Workshop – Fishy Tales (Age 5-7)</b>	Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April 10am – 12.30pm; 2pm- 4.30pm	
<b>The Fisherman's Friends at RHS Garden Rosemoor</b>	Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April 8pm	
	<b>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</b>	Queen's Hall Theatre, Barnstaple Box Office: 01271 324242 <a href="http://www.northdevontheatres.org.uk">www.northdevontheatres.org.uk</a>
<b>Joseph &amp; His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat</b>	Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> Mar to Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	
<b>Swan Lake</b>	Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> & Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	
<b>Bob the Builder</b>	Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	

## What's on Diary

			Page
Bake sale for sport relief	10 March	10:30am	3
Walking parish footpaths	12 March	10am	6
Church yard tidy up	16 March	3:30pm	5
Whist Drive	16 March	8pm	20
Fun Skittles	17 March	7pm	20
Tea and Cake afternoon	24 March	3 - 5pm	4
FRESH café style	25 March	4pm	8
Diamond Jubilee Meeting	29 March		13
Church yard tidy up	5 April	4pm	5
Easter Pancake Sunday breakfast	8 April	8:30am	8
Easter songs of praise	8 April	7:30pm	8
Walking parish footpaths	9 April	10am	6
Annual parish meeting	18 April	7.30pm	3
Church yard tidy up	27 April	4pm	5
Wine and Wisdom	28 April	7:30pm	20
Walking parish footpaths	14 May	10am	6
Walking parish footpaths	11 June	10am	6
Walking parish footpaths	9 July	10am	6

## Regular Events

Open Chapel	2nd Thursday afternoon 2:30 - 5pm
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)
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
Coffee 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

### March 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

### April 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					

### May 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		

Mow.

Sow seeds indoors and out checking instructions on packet.

Plant early potatoes late in the month.

Complete cutting back and clearing up debris.

Treat algae on any surface with Armillatox or similar.

Clean out drains and drainage ditches.

Treat moss in lawns and rake out.

Feed lawns and borders.

Direct sow vegetable seeds in well prepared soil.

Plant mid and late varieties of potatoes and ridge up earlies as soon as they show through and keep them covered.

Apply herbicide when weeds start to grow.

Keep regularly cutting lawns down to the mowers lowest setting.

Ridge up mid and late potatoes.

Make late sowings of several veg. varieties, see packet instructions.

Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month.

Areas of grass containing wildflowers may be cut towards the end of the month.

Formal hedges can be trimmed.

Society dates:-

March 7<sup>th</sup> 7-30pm

April 4<sup>th</sup> 7-30pm

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-30pm

## GARDENERS DIARY

Prevailing weather conditions may alter the timing of certain tasks