



*Happy Christmas
and all Good Wishes for 2017*



View from the side of Holy Trinity Church across the fields, T Fairbrother

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Milton Damerel Parish Council
 Parish Clerk: Lorraine Buttery
 3 Sunset Heights, Shebbear
 Devon, EX21 5BN

Tel: 01409 282956
 E-mail: miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk

Councillors:

Stephen Moyse (Chairperson)	01409 261151	Richard Piper (Vice Chairperson)	01409 261114
Rose Haynes	01409 261577	Jim Richardson	07866 406977
John Webb	01409 261301	Grace Millman	01409 261251
Gareth Piper	07966 558385		

Meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month. The agenda for all meetings are displayed on the notice boards and available on the Milton Damerel Website, no later than the Thursday before the meeting. The minutes are posted to the website as soon as they have been approved at the following Parish Council Meeting. Members of the public and press are always welcome, time is set aside for comments but they may not take part in discussions at any other time.

Annual Grants: Grants for 2016/2017 which were agreed at the meeting held in November 2015 were remitted to: Milton Damerel Parish Hall, Milton Damerel Newsletter, Milton Damerel Parish Church and Milton Damerel Gardening Club. Requests for 2017/2018 annual grants were considered at the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th November. Successful applicants will be notified by post.

Councillor Robin Julian has attended several meetings throughout the year and continues to work hard for the constituents in his area. He was an avid supporter of Holsworthy and Bideford hospitals not losing any Community 'Beds' as such was delighted with the recent decisions. There has been some considerable financial cut backs throughout all departments of Devon County Council. In particular Devon's roads are still suffering. Complaints regarding pot holes and poor surfaces are reported regularly by the Parish clerk and Councillors but if you have any concerns regarding road conditions you can email csc.roads@devon.gov.uk or report directly on to Devon County Council website. The more residents that complain the more likely notice will be taken.

The Annual Return and accounts of Milton Damerel Parish Council for the year ending 31st March 2016, have had an internal audit and have been returned from the Audit Commission, all was in order. Copies have been displayed for two weeks on the Parish Council notice board but if anyone needs any further information please contact the Parish Clerk.

Planning matters: There have been very few applications over the last three months approved applications were the re-location of the 1.8m fence at the Oaks and for an agricultural dwelling at Moorview Farm. Two applications received after the recent Parish Council agenda was printed is for 'the formation of hardstanding at 2 Downs View and a proposed new extension at St Martins, Gidcott, both will be discussed by the Parish Council.

Details for all planning applications are available on Torridge District Council website; applications to be considered by the Parish Council are stated on the Agenda for Parish Council Meetings. If residents have any objections or concerns regarding an application they can convey them in writing either by post or email to Torridge District Council planning department, you can also inform any Councillor or the Parish clerk As there is now a strict 21 day consultation period it is imperative that you get your comments to the relevant department as soon possible.

The step Back in Time Fund for young people still has a balance of £183.02 Grants can be made from this fund to help young people of the Parish undertake special activities, such as volunteering at an event at home or overseas. Applications in writing can be sent at any time to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk, outlining the project for which the grant is requested.

Town and Parish Fund: This is an annual grant available to two or more Parishes that join forces to apply for a grant for a specific project. The amount awarded is equivalent to £1.10p per elector. For the funds that are available for the financial year 2015/16, your Parish Councillors unanimously decided to once again join forces with Sutcombe Parish Council, in a joint effort to obtain the funding to keep the Parishes verges and hedges cut. This application was successful and some cutting was carried out in September but funds were limited, as such not as many lanes were cut as the Parish Council would have liked. Devon County Council do not carry out this work except on main highways. Your Parish Councillors unanimously agree that the safety of their residents is of paramount importance.

No further funding from Devon Highways was forthcoming

The Laptop and Projector purchased with the 2013/2014 TAP grant has been used on several occasions by local organisations. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to use the equipment.

Venn Green Bus Stop: No decision has yet been given by Devon County Council, your Parish Council will keep reminding Julie Pepworth that we are waiting for a decision that was promised for early October.

Community Defibrillator (AED): Your Parish Council have been successful in obtaining a Grant from Torridge for the purchase of two defibrillators. These will be sited at Sanders Garage and the workshop opposite the factory in Holsworthy Beacon. A training session in 'Life Support' (CPR) and the use of the AED will be given by myself in January. This is a very worthwhile session further details are Advertised in the newsletter.

Finally as 2016 draws to a close the Chairman, Councillors and Parish Clerk of Milton Damerel Parish Council wish all Parishioners a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

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, paper copies will be charged at 10p per A4 side. Copies of the recent Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes are available on www.miltondamerel.com

Lorraine Buttery Parish Clerk 18th November 2016

I have been a volunteer for the Royal Life Saving Society for over 40 years, teaching life saving to all ages, this includes Community Life Support, first aid and drowning prevention. I have tutored and mentored life Saving Instructors and trainer assessors.

I am the Royal Life Saving Ambassador for the South West region.

This year the Society celebrates its 125th Anniversary, as part of the celebrations the

More....

.....Commonwealth Division is awarding 125 certificates of merit chosen from the Commonwealth, I was fortunate enough to be nominated by Devon and it is a great honour to be chosen as a recipient. On the morning of 22nd November the certificates will be presented by HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO the RLSS Commonwealth President, in the Royal Overseas League, St James Street. On the same day I have been invited to attend an evening reception at Buckingham Palace hosted by HM Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Lorraine Buttery, Parish Clerk



CONGRATULATIONS!

- To Stanley & Joyce Blight** of Sunny Meadows, Lower Grawley who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5th September
- To Neil & Lizzie Stevens** of 1, Fore St on the birth of their 2nd son, Leighton, on 1st November
- To Sabine Sharp** of Lower Grawley on being awarded a Master of Arts (Gender, Sexuality & Culture) by University of Manchester. She continues her studies in Manchester for a Doctorate
- To Julian Allin** of Ruby View, on being awarded a 1st Class Honours Degree in Environmental Resource Management
- To William Allin** of Ruby View on gaining a scholarship for Shebbear College
- To Terry & Marie Fairbrother** of Rosemead, Milton Town, who celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary on 28th December



GOOD-BYE & WELCOME

Good-Bye & Best Wishes to:

Geoff Jones who has moved from Higher Walland
Sylvia Simms who has moved from Windy Nook, Gidcott
Clive & Sandy Read who have moved from Chapel Gidcott
Trevor Chambers who has moved from 2, Fore Street



Welcome to:

Colin & Shirley Barber who have moved into Millrose, Venn Green
Richard Beckley & Emma Murphy who have moved into 7 Beech Park, Holsworthy Beacon
Steve & Joyce Greenslade who have moved into Higher Walland

Corrections for errors in addresses for:

Malcolm & Katherine Swiggs the address is East Wonford Farm Cottage,
 Ryan Piper & Becs Arkless and Milla Jane the address is Sunny View

Apologies for any inconveniences caused to you and your neighbours!



OUR SYMPATHIES

For those who been bereaved recently including:

Family and friends of the late **Sidney Parkes** of Brook House.
 Family and friends of Ken German, who was a resident of Milton Damerel, mainly at Littlejohns Cottage

We have been asked to advise you of a change of home name, Moorview Cottage is now called Sparrow Cottage

Chapel News – December 2016

CHAPEL FLOWER PLAN for the months of December, January & February

4 th & 11 th December.....	Mrs Christine Poole
18 th December & 1 st January.....	Mrs Phyllis Piper (Note: No service – 25 th December)
8 th & 15 th January.....	Mrs Valerie Carter
22 nd & 29 th January.....	Mrs Sally Piper
5 th & 12 th February.....	Mrs Grace Millman
19 th & 26 th February	Mrs Valerie Harris

LATE SUMMER CONCERT – was held on 1st September with talented pianist Rhys Wynne-Jones, entertainer from Woodford Bridge Country Club. A truly amazing concert, with all styles of music, classical, popular, film themes, etc., enjoyed by all who came, followed by a savoury buffet supper in the schoolroom. Our thanks to all who brought food for the supper. £225 was raised, which was shared between our two Churches and the Parish Hall, £75.00 to each. Rhys was also thanked for offering to entertain us and making no charge.

TODDLER GROUP COFFEE MORNING – was held in the Schoolroom on 3rd September and £119.69 was raised for Toddler Group funds, enabling purchase of some new 'ride ons'. Full report under Junior News.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – a successful Harvest Festival & celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the Chapel was held over week-end of 9th & 10th October. Decoration of the chapel was completed on the Friday with displays arranged in all windows and at the front the large table was laden; everyone's contributions were very much appreciated. A service of celebration on Sunday morning was led by Mr Courtney Drew – we sang one of the hymns that was also sung at the ceremony in 1891 and Courtney recited one of his poems specially written for the occasion. A Harvest fruits cake made by Sheila Daniel was cut by Lilian Luxton, assisted by Gareth Poole, her grandson. Coffee followed with a slice of the cake.

We had an enlarged attendance for the Monday evening, with several friends associated with the chapel over the years coming along to join in the celebrations. It was good to chat and renew old friendships, and make some new friendships, during the bring and share tea. It was also good to meet Revd Richard Freeman (Rector of Bradworthy and for Milton Damerel) and his wife and for Richard to lead the time of thanksgiving. James Morrish, of Kivells, conducted a 'prompt' auction of the produce and flowers (he had another engagement to attend in Exeter!). Total funds raised were £610.54, which are allocated to the Property Funds. Thank you to all who came along and supported over the whole week-end.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES – At our Family service in October we filled shoe boxes to send to children overseas. The table was laden with gifts of hats and warm gloves, pencils, soap and toothpaste, small toys and games. We thank all who kindly gave items for this. 13 boxes were completed and have been taken to Black Torrington Church for collection.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – This was held in the Methodist Church on 13th November with members of the Mid Torridge branch of the Royal British Royal Legion in attendance. The standard bearer was Luke Francis. Roy Harris (Torrington) ably and sensitively led the service which greatly enhanced by Alan Randall's technical skills, with overhead projection and suitable and moving illustrations on the screen. Four wreaths were laid, under the Roll of Honour plaque in the chapel; the Methodist Church wreath was laid by Richard Hannaford, formerly Corporal in the Household Cavalry; young William Allin also laid a wreath. Ruth Neal gave a short explanation of the Kohima Epitaph, which she also read. Capt James Innis read a short passage of scripture. The organist was David Ley and his wife, Cathy, sang a lovely solo. The service was followed by cups of tea and coffee, giving everyone the opportunity to chat together. This really was a very moving commemoration. The collection amounting to £144.03 has been donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Our thanks to all involved and for your support.

CARETAKERS' COTTAGE – Extensive improvements have now been completed at the Caretakers' Cottage. The Rayburn has found a new home and the open grate is now able to be used. We hope to have new caretakers very soon. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped during this time with keeping the Chapel tidy and those who have been involved with work at the cottage.

CARETAKER'S POSITION

Anyone interested in the Caretaker's position and cottage, etc., can obtain details from Kivells, Holsworthy. Tel: 01409 259548

BIBLE STUDY – At present we are continuing with a study based on the prophet Amos, but an Advent Study to prepare us for Christmas is to start on **Monday, 28th November**. During the winter months we are meeting at 2.30pm on some Mondays, so that those not keen to come out on winter evenings have an opportunity to join in. We are an ecumenical group and we welcome anyone wishing to join us – as times may change between afternoons and evenings please telephone Sheila Daniel (01409 261466) to confirm when we are meeting.

CHRISTMAS 2016 – Our Family Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 18th December at 11am, with Mrs Debbie Stokes. Collection during the service for Action for Children. Coffee and Mince Pies to follow.

FAMILY SERVICES – All-age worship held at 11am on the last Sunday of each month. (except December this year). All are welcome to the services which for this quarter will be:

1st January 2017

New Year Family Service

Locally Arranged Service

29th January 2017

Mr Tim Aldridge

Chaplain of Shebbear College

26th February 2017

Pastor Chris Bourne

(Okehampton)

SEW 'N' SEWS – a new group for everyone interested in sewing, knitting or any kind of needlecraft. Five of us met together for our first meeting in October. Everyone brought along an ongoing piece of work and quickly got to know one another around the table in the chapel kitchen. We all have a common interest in our needlework and perhaps in the future will be able to work on a project together. So far we have been given bags of wool and a large box of buttons, now we just need some ideas for using them. Thanks to those who gave these. Our December meeting is planned for the 10th from 2.30pm finishing by 5 o'clock. (We also hope to support Holy Trinity Church Christmas Trees Festival on the same afternoon). There is a small charge of £1.50 to cover electricity & refreshments. We welcome fellow sewers and knitters to join us; for more details contact Barbara – 01805 601651 or Sheila 01409 261466).

AFTERNOON TEA & CAKES – The next Tea & Cakes will be held on **Saturday, 25th March 2017** from 3pm – 5pm. The proceeds will be donated to the project supporting Holsworthy Community College Youth Worker, Jonathan Schnarr, for his work in the College.

CONTACTS – For further information or help please contact: Our Minister: (currently vacant so please contact any of the stewards): Lilian Luxton (Tel: 261355), Roger Daniel (Tel: 261466), Katie Allin. Property Steward: Sheila Daniel (Tel: 261466),



***We wish every-one in the Parish a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas
and a Happy and Blessed New Year***



News from Holy Trinity Church

As another year draws to a close we reflect on what we have achieved through the year.

We started the year with what we thought was a daunting project- raising more funds to achieve our goal of £12,500, our minimum contribution levy for the lottery funding towards the church roof restoration. We have been supported in our efforts by you the people who live in Milton Damerel and for that we thank you very much. Our end of year figure now stands at nearly £9000, with another £1000 pledged when we get the Lottery funding. A recent donation was for £1,000 from the Alan Evans Trust fund. **With £2,500 still needed we can't afford to rest on our laurels.**

Our application to the lottery submitted at the beginning of this year was decided on in September but unfortunately though the application met the criteria for lottery funding the repairs were not considered urgent enough to be successful this time. This is disappointing but I suppose we must spare a thought for the places in a worst state than Holy Trinity! Having spoken to the National Lottery their advice was to re-apply so we have re-worked the application and it was submitted at the end of Oct with a decision by Mar 17.

Saturday 10th December there will be a Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Trinity Church.

Trees, or such like, will need to be in place before then. So come on put your craft hat on and surprise us with something beautiful, outrageous, colourful, and interesting the choice is yours.

We want you to show your tree decorating skills

They can be assembled in church from Monday 5th December to Thursday 8th December.

Telephone Roberta (261196) to arrange a time to bring in your tree, also to give details of height and if you will require power for lights, but LED battery lights would be preferred as power points are limited.

The Festival will be open to visitors on Saturday 10th of December from 2pm – 5pm for viewing, voting, (small prize) and festive refreshments. Children come and 'Find the hidden Christmas trees' around the church. **All donations will be towards the Church Roof Restoration Fund.**

This then follows on to our Carol Service to be held on Tuesday December 13th at 7.30pm

A traditional service finished off with mulled wine and mince pies yummy mmm

Church services up to the fourth month is as follows:-

December 4 th	11.30 am
Carol Service Dec 13	7.30pm
December 18 th	9.00 am

January 15 th	9.00 am
--------------------------	---------

February 5 th	11.30 am
February 19 th	9.00 am
March 5 th	11.30am

Our first service of 2017 will be on the 15th January, the Service on 1st January will at Putford in celebration of St. Stephen and a Joint Benefice Service.

Please check the church notice board for announcements and alterations.

Church Gardening A reminder that gardening through the winter months is held on the Friday before the 3rd Sunday service.

The all important *Gardening Dates for the next three months will be*
December 9th - January 13th - February 17th

We can't give enough thanks or sing the praises too loudly to the people who join us for the church gardening sessions. Everyone these days is in a hurry with little time to spare so it is even more gratifying that you give up your precious time to keep the village churchyard looking so neat and tidy.

It does not go unnoticed and I am told it is the envy of other churches in the benefice and in further parts of the country. Time after time visitors to the church mention the churchyard, they say how nice it is not to have to wade through tall grass to reach graves of loved ones. Some people have pleasure sitting on the bench and enjoying the tranquillity of the churchyard. They all say what a pleasure it is to visit Holy Trinity.

Give yourselves a pat on the back.

Work has progressed on rejuvenating the shed; the old one was falling down. We are pleased to say that the new shed incorporates a toilet cubicle for use when the church is open for services or functions.

It will be completed and open in time for the Christmas Tree Festival and Carol Service

We look forward to seeing you all during the Advent season and in 2017

From us all at Holy Trinity - ***We Wish Everyone A Very Happy Christmas***

Isabel



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Holy Trinity Church, Milton Damerel

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Sat. 10th December
2pm to 5pm

Come to the Church to **VIEW** the Trees & decorations, enjoy **REFRESHMENTS** & **VOTE** for the tree **LIKED** the best.

*A prize will be given for the most **LIKED** tree*

Individuals and Local Organisations are invited to display Decorated Christmas Trees

Please contact Roberta on 01409 261196 for more information and to book a place

ALL DONATIONS GOING TO THE CHURCH ROOF FUND

 **Saturday Church**
- where no one is too young or too old -
Presents
The First Christmas with Michael Mouse
Saturday 10th December 2016
10.00 a.m. at Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall.



We have Christmas activities and refreshments to share with you.
Bring your friends and family.
Familiar faces are always appreciated, but if you haven't been before, be assured of a warm welcome.

Join us again on Saturday 14th January 2017,
and enjoy our New Year activities.

Contacts for further information:
Morag 281800, morag@amlobley.plus.com
Liz 261312, liz@kingsfordfarm.plus.com



Building the church together!

Saturday Church meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month

Holsworthy Beacon
Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, 11th December @ 3pm

Given by

The Stowford Meadow Singers

Followed by a Tea

Warm welcome to Everyone

COFFEE MORNING

Last Thursday of each month
(not December)

10am – 12noon
Chapel Hall

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MID TORRIDGE BRANCH

WILL BE HOLDING THEIR

ANNUAL BINGO EVENING

AT SHEBBEAR VILLAGE HALL

ON SATURDAY 3RD OF DECEMBER. 2016

DOORS OPEN 6.30 PM EYES DOWN 7.30 PM

A GRAND DRAW AND AMPLE PRIZES WHICH INCLUDES CHRISTMAS DINNERS

CONTACT JIM INNISS ON 01409 221 715 FOR INFORMATION.

Milton Damerel Methodist Church

ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 18th December @ 11am

With Mrs Debbie Stokes

Coffee & Mince Pies to Follow

Collection for Action for Children

PILATES...

...has started again after a short break whilst

Di Sluggett took time out
to take care of her husband, Chris,
who has had a very serious operation.

Chris is slowly improving.

Methodist Schoolroom
Mondays 11am – 12noon
Enquiries to Di Sluggett (281637)

ABBOTTS BICKINGTON CHURCH

A Carol Service will be held at Abbots Bickington Church on
Tuesday 20th December at 7.00pm. All Welcome.

Happy Birthday!

Once upon a time, in a village not so unlike our own, lived a family – mum, dad and little Joe. Joe was growing up fast and every day he and his mother would walk through the shops to the village school.

Now it was nearly Joe's birthday; he would soon be eight, and like most seven-year-olds he was keen to let his mum know what he wanted for his birthday. Every day, as they walked to school, they passed a small toy shop. It was one of those old-fashioned toy shops where everything is made of solid wood. Yet there, in the window, was the most beautiful train Joe had ever seen. It was modelled on the Flying Scotsman, it was sleek, you could see inside the two carriages and in the main tender you could even see the special corridor that was added.

Of course, Joe never missed an opportunity to hint at what he wanted for his birthday. Every day he would run on and press his face against the window and when his mum caught up he would say, 'Wouldn't that make a wonderful birthday present!' His mum would smile and reply, 'Yes, dear – now come on, or we'll be late for school!'

He told all his friends at school about the train – and, of course, about his birthday. The weeks seemed to drag by as his birthday came closer; and every day as they walked to school, he wished and wished for the train, and reminded mum that it would make a great birthday present.

Finally, the week of his birthday arrived. He would be eight on Friday – just a few more days and it would be his birthday. Joe's excitement grew with every passing day and every time they walked past the shop he would say, 'What a great present that train would make for someone who was going to be eight!' Mum, by this time, only smiled.

Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday ... each seem longer than the day before and then on Thursday ... tragedy struck! As they went to school, Joe as usual ran on to the toy shop and there was the train – GONE! He couldn't believe! He was speechless! He walked the rest of the way to school in a kind of daze.

He told his friends what had happened but they all laughed, 'Don't you see,' they said, 'Your mum's bought it for you and she's probably taken it home to wrap it up!'

'Of course!,' said Joe and could hardly contain his excitement.

Like most young boys, that night Joe found it difficult to sleep – he was so excited and there seemed to be a great deal of noise coming from downstairs. He turned one way and then the other and he listened to the Church clock chiming the hours. Nine, ten, eleven and midnight ... eventually he must have fallen asleep because he was woken sharply by mum.

'Hurry up, Joe, we've all overslept! Mrs Jones next door is going to walk you to school!' In no time, Joe was up and washed and dressed and was eating his toast as he walked to school alongside Mrs Jones. He arrived at school just as the bell went and he rushed in. It was nearly playtime before he remembered what day it was – HIS BIRTHDAY! But something was very odd. No one had said happy birthday – there were no cards on his desk (as there usually were for a birthday). Then he remembered all the noise the night before. 'I know,' he thought to himself, 'they are giving me a surprise birthday party.' So, he played along.

Over playtime and lunch, no one said anything about his birthday and when Mrs Jones picked him up from school he didn't say a word. When he arrived home mum said, 'Joe, I'm really busy tonight, your tea is on the table; could you take it up to your room and don't forget to do your homework.' 'O.K. mum', said Joe, and went to his room.

Over the next hour or so, Joe could hear all sorts of noises and the smells of cooking wafted through the house. Sausage rolls, baking pastry and cakes and the occasional popping of a balloon! He just couldn't wait. He went to his wardrobe and found his favourite jeans and shirt (the one he looked cool in) and dressed and waited until they came for him.

He heard the first car arrive on the gravel about an hour later; quickly followed by a procession of slamming car doors and excited voices and shortly after, the music began. Joe sat on his bed, his excitement barely contained; any moment now they would come and fetch him and 'Surprise! Happy birthday!' So, he waited ...

He heard and smelled the food being served and the games being played ... still, he waited ...

He heard the laughing and the fun ... the clink of glasses and the explosions of party poppers ... still, he waited ...

He listened as the party quietened down and the music became softer ... still, he waited ...

Then he heard the first cars starting to leave ... soon all had gone home and no one had remembered Joe. He put on his pyjamas, hung up his clothes and went to sleep ...

And every year, as we celebrate a birthday, we often forget whose birthday it is. We are caught up in the buying of gifts, the meeting of family and friends, the joys and the challenges – nothing wrong in any of that – but we forget the main reason for the festive season. Perhaps, this year, you might remember Joe (which is, of course, a shortened form of Jesus).

God bless,

Richard

JUNIOR /YOUTH NEWS

Baby & Toddler Group

A Coffee Morning was held on 3rd September for Milton Baby & Toddler Group, when we said farewell to four of our regular attenders. Freya, Taiya, Sophie and Ryan are now happily settled at their schools. They were presented with books by our helper, Debbie, who has also left the group to return to work. Debbie was presented with a gift of plants as a thanks for all her help and hard work with us. £119.60 was raised, which has helped us replace old 'ride ons', with nice new ones, which the children love. We have also been pleased to welcome new children into the group and celebrated our 3rd anniversary on 8th November with a party.

New families are very welcome – we meet on Tuesday mornings, 10.30am – 12.30pm, a small charge of £1.50 per family is made to cover electricity, etc.. With Christmas coming up we shall be making lots of glittery, gluey creations. We have a large selection of toys, books and puzzles. Snack time and song time are very popular.

Thanks also for gifts recently received – we are always pleased to receive these.

Holiday Club

We would like to wish the young people who attended Milton Damerel Holiday Club this year a Happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you, your friends and any new comers in the New Year.

The young people enjoyed the events organised over the summer holidays and particularly the Carnival session, face painting, cooking, and the Tarka Pottery session. A big thank you to all the parents and helpers for your ongoing help and support in making the Holiday Club a success.



First Aid Saves Lives

Would you know what to do if a person collapsed in front of you??

Learn Basic Life Support and how to operate a defibrillator. This will include instruction for Adults, Juniors and Infants. Two hour session to be held at Milton Damerel Parish Hall on **the 6th January 2017 at 7pm.** This is free of charge and will be presented by a fully qualified Instructor, small donations to the Royal Life Saving Society would be appreciated



We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

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Home Library service

Did you know that anyone who is unable to visit a library can receive a free home library service?

Devon Libraries Home Library Service is a partnership between Devon Libraries and the Royal Voluntary Service.

Royal Voluntary Service 'Books on Wheels' Volunteers bring a selection of books, large print, DVDs, CDs and audio tapes to people in their home on a regular basis. Royal Voluntary Service run 'Books on Wheels' services across the nation, which deliver 110,000 books every year.

For people who enjoy reading or listening to a recording, but can't get out of the house –those who through ill health, injury or disability cannot visit a library, or are too frail to carry heavy books - our home library services offer a vital link to the local library. There is no charge for this service.

Specially trained and security checked Royal Voluntary Service volunteers discuss with the client the sort of books they would like to read. There is a wide range of fiction to choose from plus information books on many popular subjects. Particular authors and titles can be requested free of charge. The volunteer is also a friendly person and a useful check on the safety and well-being of older or vulnerable people who are confined to their homes. This free service offers a chance to have access to the library service on a regular basis. The volunteers always wear RVS identity cards when visiting.

Large print books and audio books are available for people with visual impairment.

For more information and to register for this free service, please contact: 07786 635 163 or email jacqueline.cleaver@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

SUPERFAST BROADBAND & MILTON DAMEREL

The Parish Council & Newsletter Group have been approached by 'concerned residents' about the lack of intention to deliver improved Broadband capability in Milton Damerel.

Reference to the Connecting Devon & Cornwall website <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/where-when/> shows there is a corridor basically to the south and north and along the A388 main road from Holsworthy Beacon to Stibb Cross where there are no plans to address broadband – it is designated as 'out of programme'. Areas around us, such as Sutcombe, Newton St Pet-rock & Thornbury are already in the programme under categories of live, coming soon or under consideration!

The advice given to residents by broadband providers is that the best way to get this addressed is to get as many people as possible in this area to register their interest on the Openreach website – link is: <http://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>

Some of you will have already received e-mails advising that this would be helpful to encourage Openreach to get Milton Damerel into the programme.

Furthermore, one parishioner had been in contact with our MP Geoffery Cox and subsequently suggested it could be useful for a petition to be set up, possibly by the Newsletter Group or the Parish Council. The Parish Council have discussed this and it was agreed that in the first instance, on the basis that several residents had already recently registered interest with Openreach, we would approach Geoffery Cox to elicit his support and intervention with Openreach and Connecting Devon & Cornwall.

The Parish Council will report back on the response received from our MP Geoffery Cox. In the meantime if you or your business have not registered with Openreach please consider doing so, even if you are currently satisfied with the broadband you are receiving; it may help your neighbours and fellow businesses to be provided with an acceptable service



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Walking Parish Footpaths

All our walks this year have been well supported, averaging some twenty walkers each month and we have enjoyed mainly good weather. By the time that this newsletter reaches you we should have completed our November walk at Pyworthy and there will now be a break until the new programme starts up in February. The new programme will be published on the Parish website as soon as it is finalised. A detailed description of our September walk at Clawton is set out below, "as seen through the eyes of Evelyn". Evelyn is a Parish Councillor for Holsworthy Hamlets, P3 co-ordinator for that Parish and also oversees the inter-parish walks scheme. She also writes entertainingly.

Clawton Walk Report - "Bearing in mind the very wet walk we did in Clawton last September and given the somewhat uncertain weather forecast, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of people who joined me at Clawton Village Hall on Monday 12th September. There were seventeen of us, including Gill's dog Clive. I had arranged with Irene Ellis for me to lead the walk this year as she hasn't been very well recently. It was very kind therefore, for Irene & her husband, Les, to come and open the Hall so that we could make use of the facilities before we set off. I decided to repeat the same route that we had taken last year on the basis that it had been raining so hard then that we really had not taken in much of our surroundings. We set off down the hill and picked up the footpath on the right hand side. It brought us into a field at the back of Court Barn Country Hotel and Restaurant. It is such a beautiful building, something that you cannot appreciate from the road. There were several stiles to negotiate over a short distance. I was pleased that everybody was able to climb over them safely as they were not only challenging but also slippery. Clive (*the dog*) managed admirably with some help from Alex. The walk included quite a mixture of terrain. We walked through grassy fields, an apple orchard, a private garden, a field of maize which was head high in places, along green lanes and across another couple of grassy fields before rejoining the road that runs between Chasty and North Tamerton. I should mention that the various stiles, gates and foot bridges along the way were generally clear of undergrowth and there were very few brambles trying to attach themselves to us while we were crossing over the stiles. That can be very annoying! We turned right and followed the lane back towards the Village Hall. There was very little traffic to worry about but it was helpful that the hedges had been trimmed back recently so we could tuck ourselves into the side of the road to let the cars pass without being stung by nettles or caught by brambles. As we neared the Hall, we saw a table full of fresh produce at the entrance to Bramble Farm. Fortunately we had taken some loose change so we could help ourselves to the runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers and squash. It made a perfect end to a very pleasant walk to discover that Irene and Les had kindly put the kettle on so that we could enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat before returning home." – *Supplied by Evelyn Sharman.*

If you liked this recollection of the walk and would like to read reports of the other walks "*through the eyes of Evelyn*" they can be found in the Holsworthy Hamlets newsletters or go straight to this link

www.holsworthyhamlets.co.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3547.

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MILTON DAMEREL & DISTRICT OVER 60s CLUB

Club normally meets on 1st Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall. (Except January).
It is good to have a regular good attendance for the Tuesday meetings – new members are most welcome.

The Christmas lunch at The Royal Hotel, Bideford, is on Tuesday 13th December followed by Christmas shopping in Barnstaple.

Club meetings resume on 7th February 2017 starting with a New Year Party and bring and share tea.

Chair: John Francis (Tel: 261117) Vice-Chair: Edwina Hale
Secretary: Colin Boucher (Tel: 01288-359184)
Treasurer: June Vanstone (Tel: 261285) Asst Treas: Iris Fry
Enquiries to any of the above

The Coffee Pot,
6 Morwenna Terrace
Bude
Cornwall
EX23 8BD

Telephone 01288 356142

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Staff are cheerful and friendly, always making you feel welcome and nothing is too much trouble, everything is freshly cooked so there may be a little wait but you won't be disappointed.

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Self Building?

Torridge District Council is exploring the idea of providing housing through self-build. This initiative is aimed mainly at establishing the number of local people who are interested in self-build and identifying any suitable sites for self-building in the Torridge area.

Devon Communities Together is working on behalf of the District Council to collect details of:

people who would like to build their own home (or have it built for them);

owners of land or redundant buildings which might be suitable, in or adjoining a town or village.

To register your interest in building your own home and/or registering a plot of land that you think would be suitable for a self-build project or for more information please go to www.torridge.gov.uk/selfbuild

Please contact Janice Alexander, Rural Housing Enabler at Devon Communities Together, if you want to know more. Email janice@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919 x122



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02/11/16

ONE MAN'S CASTLE IS ANOTHER MAN'S DREAM

I was staggered to read the other day that we now have more than 40,800 property millionaires in Britain. As prices continue to rise, the number of millionaires will rise correspondingly. The Zoopla property website estimates that there are now 660,900 homes worth a minimum of £1 million. Honing in a bit further, Zoopla tells us that there are 12,418 of our streets which have properties worth in excess of £1 million.

It seems that 60 per cent of these property millionaires, or roughly 25,000, live in London - is that any surprise? Another 22 per cent, or roughly 9,000, live in the south east. In contrast, Wales has 0.25 per cent of property millionaires, and that equates to approximately 100 properties. The post code with the highest value properties outside of London is GU25, which is Virginia Water in Surrey.

DECLINING WEALTH

Contrast these fortunate property owners with the plight of people in their 30s. A recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies reveals that people in their 30s only have half the wealth that those who were born a decade earlier had at the corresponding age. Brits born in the early 80s now have average net household wealth of approximately £27,000 moving into their early 30s. Those born only 10 years earlier, however, had savings of £53,000 by the same age, taking into account pensions, housing and investments.

DROP IN HOME OWNERSHIP

The fact that these 30-somethings are just managing, allied to continually rising house prices, means that this group has the lowest home ownership rates for any generation in more than half a century. Today's 30-somethings therefore appear to have little to cheer about, particularly when it comes to home ownership. Only 40 per cent are now owner-occupiers by the time they reach the age of 30. In previous post-war decades, the statistics indicate that 55 per cent owned their own homes by the same age.

JUST MANAGING

The Resolution Foundation has recently come out with a report. This reveals that there are 6 million families across the UK finding it really difficult to make ends meet. This is due to rising house costs and a pay squeeze. These families are now twice as likely to be renting privately than owning their own home. 24 per cent of these "just managing" families spend a quarter of their income on providing a roof over their heads.

DREAM ON

So we have a situation where we have an unprecedented number of property millionaires. More than 40,000 of our population can feel well satisfied that their hard work and good fortune with property ownership. And good luck to them. But with 6 million families struggling to make ends meet, property ownership for many is no more than a distant dream.

MORTGAGE DIFFICULTIES

It is difficult for self-employed people to persuade lenders to let them have a mortgage. Nottingham Building Society has indicated that 12 per cent of self-employed have failed to get mortgages on their home. It would appear that lenders are put off by the words "self-employed". That seems to denote that the source of income of such people is somehow less secure. It is difficult to see why lenders make that argument, particularly when 25 per cent of those working as self-employed individuals earn more that way than when they were employed by a company. Allied to the latest indication that the number of available mortgages for first time buyers has been reduced by 5 per cent, it is becoming increasingly difficult to see how large sections of our community can get on the home owning ladder at all.

MORE RENTAL HOMES NEEDED

If home owning remains a dream, the Government needs to sharpen up its focus by providing more homes in the rental sector. The RICS indeed says that as many as 2 million rental homes are needed for families. The projections show that by 2025 the number of people renting will rise by up to £1.8 million with huge hikes in house prices making ownership unaffordable. The majority of existing landlords have no wish to put more properties in their rental portfolio. A majority of estate agents have seen a drop in buy-to-let sales. With landlords being unable to deduct mortgage interest next year from their income tax bill, the situation will get worse rather than better. This is why the clarion call has gone out to the Government to build more properties and ensure these are available for rent.

ACTION

If you need help on any property matter then do get in touch. We have the Lexcel accreditation here at Busbys. Lexcel stands for "legal excellence", and that means you can be sure that the standard of care provided to our clients is the best available. So do get in touch with us on 01288 35 9000.

John Busby,

Busbys Solicitors, Bude & Holsworthy

No Cook Festive Fudge

This is easy to make and a great festive treat

Ingredients

- O
- O 200g butter
- O 200g condensed milk
- O 800g icing sugar



95g hundreds and thousands

Makes 80

Total time required 30 mins

- Preparation time: 10 mins
- Cooking time: 20 mins

Other time: Chill overnight

[Cooking instructions](#)

Instructions

1. Place the butter in a large mixing bowl and beat in the condensed milk.
2. Gradually sift the icing sugar, beating well after each addition. After you've added all the sugar and it has been mixed in, spoon into a 23cm square tin or a silicon tray.
3. Press our chosen sprinkles on top and chill overnight. Remove from the tin and cut into 80 small squares.
4. Pack into cellophane bags. Tie with a label and keep chilled for up to two weeks.



Bradworthy Primary Academy News

Friday 2nd December	Christmas Fayre Afternoon
Saturday 3rd December	Christmas Light Switch On in Bradworthy Square
Wednesday 7th December	KS1 Christmas Play in the Hall 10.30am
Tuesday 13th December	KS2 Christmas Play in the hall 2pm
Wednesday 14th December	KS2 Christmas Play in the Hall Evening 7pm
Thursday 15th December	KS2 Christmas Play in the Hall Evening 7pm
Friday 16th December	Break up
Monday 9th January 2017	Spring term begins
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2017 Spring Half Term	

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

PASS THIS AROUND AND MAKE SOMEONE LAUGH!

LAUGHTER IS THE SOUL'S MEDICINE!!



Newsletter Photos

Do you have any topical or seasonal photos? Our little pot of pictures is getting low again, so if you have any photos from the are we would like to have them for future inclusion on the front page. Please send any pictures to terry@remedy-it.co.uk



1. The most important person in your life is the person who agreed to share their life with you. Treat them as such.
2. You might live a long life, or you might live a short one — who knows. But either way, trust me when I say that you're going to wish you took better care of yourself in your youth.
3. Stuff is just stuff. Don't hold onto material objects, hold onto time and experiences instead.
4. Jealousy destroys relationships. Trust your significant other, because who else are you supposed to trust?
5. People always say, "Make sure you get a job doing what you love!" But that isn't the best advice. The right job is the job you love some days, can tolerate most days, and still pays the bills. Almost nobody has a job they love every day.
6. If you're getting overwhelmed by life, just return to the immediate present moment and savour all that is beautiful and comforting. Take a deep breath, relax.
7. Years go by in the blink of an eye. Don't marry young. Live your life. Go places. Do things. If you have the means or not. Pack a bag and go wherever you can afford to go. While you have no dependents, don't buy stuff. Any stuff. See the world. Look through travel magazines and pick a spot. GO!
8. Don't take life so seriously. Even if things seem dark and hopeless, try to laugh at how ridiculous life is.
9. A true friend will come running if you call them at 2am. Everyone else is just an acquaintance.
10. Children grow up way too fast. Make the most of the time you have with them.
11. Nobody ever dies wishing they had worked more. Work hard, but don't prioritize work over family, friends, or even yourself.
12. Eat and exercise like you're a diabetic heart patient with a stroke — so you never actually become one.
13. Maybe this one isn't as profound as the others, but I think it's important... Floss regularly, dental problems are awful.
14. Don't take anyone else's advice as gospel. You can ask for advice from someone you respect, then take your situation into consideration and make your own decision. Essentially, take your own advice is my advice...
15. The joints you damage today will get their revenge later. Even if you think they've recovered completely. TRUST ME!
16. We have one time on this earth. Don't wake up and realize that you are 60 years old and haven't done the things you dreamed about.
17. Appreciate the small things and to be present in the moment. What do I mean? Well, it seems today like younger people are all about immediate gratification. Instead, why not appreciate every small moment? We don't get to stay on this crazy/wonderful planet forever and the greatest pleasure can be found in the most mundane of activities. Instead of sending a text, pick up the phone and call someone. Call your mother, have a conversation about nothing in particular. Those are the moments to hold onto.
18. Pay your bills and stay the hell out of debt. If I could have paid myself all the money I've paid out in interest over the years, I'd be retired already.
19. If you have a dream of being or doing something that seems impossible, try for it anyway. It will only become more impossible as you age and become responsible for other people.
20. When you meet someone for the first time, stop and realize that you really know nothing about them. You see race, gender, age, clothes. Forget it all. You know nothing. Those biased assumptions that pop into your head because of the way your brain likes categories, are limiting your life, and other people's lives.



Keeping your home up to date

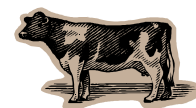
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Events Report

A fairly quiet summer in the Parish Hall, but with all the usual monthly meetings taking place and other summer events happening the hall continues to be used on a regular basis enabling enough funds to be raised to keep it functioning.

The 'Soup and Sweet Social Evening' was well attended with over 30 people enjoying the fare and the company. The wonderful amount of £225 was raised thanks to most of the food being donated by the committee.

Fund raising results

The Whist Drive in August made £50.40, September £66.60 and October £42.40. Unfortunately the Bingo evening only raised £35, due to lack of support, and the Beetle Drive made £54.50.

The Parish Hall has received £250, this being the first quarterly community contribution from D J Watkins in respect of his wind turbine at Youldon.

Future Events for the diary

3 rd December	Quiz Night 7.30 pm for 8 pm start New format – Bring your own drink and a Ploughman's Supper will be served during the break BOOKING ESSENTIAL
15 th December	Carol Singing - Meet at Venn Green at 6 pm Everyone welcome to come and join us
17 th December	Christmas Charity Whist Drive 7.30 pm start
21 st January	Whist Drive 7.30 pm start
26 th January	Coffee Morning at Lesley and Peter Self's home: 10 am – 12 noon
18 th February	Whist Drive 7.30 pm start
18 th March	Whist Drive 7.30 pm start

Advance Notice

23rd April 2017 **St George's Day Lunch** – details to follow in the next newsletter

Hiring of Hall

Change of Booking Secretary: Please now telephone Roberta Jackson on 1409 261196. If unavailable telephone 261294 or 261151



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Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.30pm £2.00 per session
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MILTON DAMEREL PARISH HALL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2016						
Summary of Income and Expenses Account						
		2016	2015	EXPENSES	2016	2015
INCOME						
<u>Hall Bookings</u>						
Skittles		£330.00	£320.00	Insurance	-£472.74	-£418.78
L. Dancing		£178.50	£220.00	EDF	-£495.76	-£545.81
60's Club		£72.00	£88.00	Water Rates	-£68.24	-£64.37
Whist Drive/Race Night		£37.50	£35.00	Fire Protection	-£108.60	-£39.00
Walks/BYF Drama		£52.50	£40.00	Repair/PATs (Allin/Ford)	-£395.48	-£7,462.63
MD Gardening Society		£120.00	£115.00	Carpet/new Doors	-£2,886.88	-£30.00
Meetings/PC		£120.00	£120.00	Kitchen Equip. Cleaning	-£176.12	-£200.00
A&C Parties/Funeral Tea		£75.00	£95.00	Grass Cutting	-£87.50	-£85.00
Aerobics/Zumba		£193.00	£135.00	Donations	-£235.35	-£150.50
Elections		£200.00	£100.00	Vouchers	-£20.00	-£20.00
Dance Lessons/Craft		£0.00	£30.00	P. Board Bolt Light	-£124.97	
			£1,378.50		-£5,071.64	-£9,016.09
<u>Fund Raising</u>						
W & W		£360.00	£845.00	W & W	-£150.74	-£416.72
C.Morning		£210.00	£95.00	Licences	-£21.00	-£42.00
W.Drive		£1,092.10	£1,053.50	W.Drive/Whist Cards	-£362.00	-£334.72
F.Skittles		£90.00		F Skittles	-£23.00	
Snowman Drive		£67.00	£109.00	Beetle Drive		-£10.00
Film Night		£69.00	£189.00	Pasty & Cider Walk		-£37.03
Luncheon		£979.00	£975.00	Luncheon	-£354.25	-£330.82
Bingo		£410.00	£228.00	Bingo	-£94.68	-£90.00
Carol Singing		£146.35	£187.00	Snowman Drive	-£17.00	0.00
			£3,423.45		-£1,022.67	-£1,261.29
Hire of Tables/Sale of Door		£155.00	£60.00			
Grants		£150.00	£4,050.00			
Donations		£224.00	£79.62			
Interest		£97.20	£107.06			
			£626.20			
TOTAL INCOME		£5,428.15		TOTAL EXPENSES	-£6,094.31	-£10,277.38
B/Fwd August 2014/15		£7,782.21		Coventry E	£7,029.74	
Deficit 2015/16		-£666.16		Float	£86.31	£5,428.15
TOTAL		£7,116.05		TOTAL	£7,116.05	-£6,094.31
						-£666.16
Assets as at 31st August 2016 as per Insurance Policy 11/02/16			Value of Parish Hall £250,000	Value of Contents £8,000	Deficit	

MILTON DAMEREL AND DISTRICT GARDENING GROUP

Milton Damerel and District Gardening Group held its Garden Show on Saturday 12th September 2016. Exhibitors were a little lower than last year, but all classes received several entrants.

Annual Awards – To be returned before the next Show

The Jubilee Cup, for Best Exhibit was won by Sara Lawes.

The Crompton Trophy, for Best in the Flower Section was won by Christine Poole.

The Palmer Cup, for Best in the Vegetable Section was won by Rachael Poole.

The Linedancing Trophy, for Best in the Baking Section was won by Sara Lawes.



Awards – To be kept by recipient

RHS Banksian Medal, for the most points gained in classes 1- 36, was won by Christine Poole.

Under 12 year Award was won by Alan Poole.

9 to 16 year Award was won by Shannon Cockwill.

The Milton Damerel Gardening Group will hold its last meeting for the year on Monday 19th December, 7.30. It will be a **Christmas Social** with a quiz and a **Bring and Share Supper**.

Our next meeting will be our AGM in March 2017, when we will be seeking a new committee, as present Committee have now done their two years. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Please put your name forward if you are interested, as a Committee is needed to keep the Group going. Contact Pat Palmer 01409 261 415 or Edgar Pett 01409 261 277.

Looking Back.....

Two items in the Holsworthy Post (Thursday 25th August) in Looking Back

Firstly ... 80 years ago August 22nd 1936.

"One of the passing wonders of this age is the increase in motor traffic. At Stratton, however, there is opposition to road improvements on the grounds that the town's narrow streets defend the inhabitants from harm as cars have to pass through slowly and in single file."

Secondly ... 90 years ago August 28th 1926.

"The present speed limit for motor coaches and buses (12 mph) is to be raised to 15 mph but other measures will be necessary to reduce the ever mounting toll of the road."

Just amusing to think how motoring expectations have changed .. and yet the issues of safety and speed were still key concerns when speed limit was 15mph!!

Japanese Knotweed.

(Excerpt from Devon County Council website)

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) was first introduced to Britain by the Victorians as an ornamental plant - and was actually awarded a gold medal at a prestigious flower show, it is referred to under its previous name of *Polygonum cuspidatum* in "The English Flower Garden" by John Murray, in the 1907 edition it is cited as "easier to plant than to get rid of in the garden"

In its native countries of Japan, North China, Korea and Taiwan, the weed presents nowhere near the problem it now poses across Europe, America and New Zealand, with its natural habitat being on the slopes of volcanoes, it is no surprise that the less harsh and more fertile environment of Britain has allowed this plant to flourish to extreme proportions, furthermore, outside of Asia, the plant has no natural biological enemies to check its spread, in Japan, for example, at least 30 species of insect and 6 species of fungi live on the plant.

This plant is perennial and extremely invasive, it thrives on disturbance, the tiniest piece can re-grow, and has been spread by both natural means and by human activity. It soon overruns riverbanks, railway embankments, road verges, gardens and hedgerows, threatening the survival of other native plant species and in turn insects and other animal species.

At river side and canal areas, water flows disperse fragments of the plant downstream where new colonies form. In the past, fly-tipping and transportation of soil containing rhizome fragments have been a major cause of spread, particularly in the urban environment, green waste recycling schemes are also sites of potential contamination which is a cause for concern, Local Authorities, including those in Devon, are desperate to find ways of eradicating this serious pest. In the **early spring** red/purple shoots appear from the ground and grow rapidly forming canes, as the canes grow the leaves gradually unfurl and turn green.

The plants are fully grown by **early summer** and mature canes are hollow with a distinctive purple speckle and form dense stands up to 3 metres high, the plant flowers in **late summer** and these consist of clusters of spiky stems covered in tiny creamy-white flowers, these provide a good source of nectar for insects, the seeds are rarely fertile and in Britain the plant spreads mainly by vegetative means.

The canes can arise from the rhizome which grows underground, from an existing crown, where previous growth has taken place, or from a cut stem. During the **late autumn/winter** the leaves fall and the canes die and turn brown, the canes remain standing throughout the winter and can often still be seen in new stands in the following spring and summer. The rhizome is the underground part of the plant, it is knotty with a leathery dark brown bark and when fresh snaps like a carrot, under the bark it is orange or yellow. Inside the rhizome is a dark orange/brown central core or sometimes it is hollow with an orange, yellow or creamy outer ring, although this is variable, the young rhizome is very soft and white, the 'knots' are nodes, spaced at 1-2cm intervals where there are often small white fibrous roots or buds emerging, each of these 'knots' can potentially become a new plant if the rhizome is cut up (e.g. through digging).

You can spray or inject herbicide into its stem it's a long process which needs to be repeated regularly for several years to completely kill it, do not attempt to strim or mow it as even the tiniest piece can become a new plant, any broken pieces need to be collected and burnt, do not put into your compost or you will just be spreading it as it will not rot down only grow more plants, destroying the plant isn't an easy exercise, it's a long process.

If you have it in your garden or on your land you have a legal responsibility to stop it spreading from your property, if you are found to be failing to do this you can be issued with an ASBO, under which you could be fined up to £2,500.



Fete news

The committee has agreed to formally finish organising fetes and therefore the cash reserves of £195 is going to be donated to the toddler group and the holiday club.



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Courtesy of the North Devon Journal – extract

“WITH work progressing well on two remarkable projects in a North Devon village, Journal reporter Joe Bulmer caught up with multi-millionaire Michael Birch, the founder of Bebo, and the man responsible for breathing new life into a remote village near Bideford.

Michael and his wife Xochi sold social media site Bebo in March 2008 to AOL for around \$850 million and in 2014 [he bought the Farmers Arms pub, the village's fish and chip shop and the Manor House](#) in Woolsery. The pub will be brought back to its former glory, the fish and chip shop is already serving up tasty treats to villagers and the Manor House is in the process of becoming a hotel. Michael's connection to North Devon is not just centred around Woolsery though, he spent many childhood holidays in Bideford. "I feel very at home when I'm in North Devon and Xochi really enjoys it too," said Michael. "I feel like I have a greater connection to North Devon than with Hertfordshire where I grew up and went to school. "I used to stay with my grandmother in Bideford, I can still remember going to watch the cattle market near the Victoria Park." He added: "Bideford is another place which isn't what it used to be." Michael and Xochi have been together for 26 years and in their first year together Michael took her to Bideford, so she wasn't surprised when Michael decided to invest in a nearby village. Work continues on the roof of the Farmers Arms. Mr Birch's great-great grandfather, built Woolsery village shop, which remained in the family until it was sold in 1961. His grandmother Millicent Andrew was born in the village shop's premises in 1900, and his grandfather Joseph Burrow was born at Ashcroft Farm. The reception Michael received in Woolsery after [he explained his vision for the village](#) was almost all positive and Michael was struck by the community spirit. He said: "They care passionately about the village. "We could not have got as far as we have without their support. We haven't faced any opposition really, people were initially uncertain but after finding out more generally got on-board."

Michael estimates work will finish on the Farmers Arms before the end of 2017 and the Manor House will follow around a year later."

Michael Birch also has connection with Milton Damerel. Joseph and Millicent Burrow, his maternal grandparents, mentioned above, for many years lived at and farmed Whitebear Farm and were very much involved in village life. Their daughter, Ida, (Michael's mother) grew up at Whitebear Farm and is now Mrs Peter Birch, and the couple live in Cuffley, Hertfordshire. Peter & Ida are subscribers to the Newsletter and have supported events at the Chapel and in the parish.



I picked up the rubbish shown above on **ONE** morning's walk in April between South Wonford and Holsworthy Beacon. I do this walk a couple of times each week, always carrying a bag with me and picking up the rubbish as I go along. The rubbish is **always** there. This road is used mainly by **local traffic** and, therefore, is thrown out of car windows by **local people**.

What is not pictured above is used bale-wrap which I usually find in profusion. Ingested by cattle this may result in hefty veterinary bills.

My reason for picking up the rubbish is that I am ashamed to see it. I have lived in other countries where littering is not endemic. Likewise, it is not so much of a problem in the north of England.

Why do we have such uncivilised and dirty habits in this community?

TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME!

Autumn Pruning

October is the ideal time for pruning many deciduous trees and hardy shrubs. Much of their foliage is still holding tight and this will help you to see which branches and stems to remove. Also, pruning now will allow the cuts time to heal and dry before winter sets in, thus reducing the likelihood of any disease. So, let's get started!

So, why is Pruning Necessary?

- Keeps the plant healthy by the removal of any dead and diseased branches.
- Maintains a good shape and contains the size of the plant.
- Allows light and air to reach the middle of the plant, both of which are necessary for good health. – Stimulates growth.
- Prevents plants being damaged by wind rock.

What to prune in autumn?

- Prune roses to about half their height to prevent them being damaged and loosened by wind rock. When spring arrives you can then cut back harder.
- Flowering shrubs that bloom on wood formed the previous year.
- Deciduous trees and hardy shrubs, with the exception of plums and related species. Because they are susceptible to a fungus called silver-leaf disease plum and their relations are best pruned in summer.

Tools

The decision as to which tool you choose to use will depend on the height and size of the plant you are tackling. Most importantly, the blade needs to be sharp and clean. Leaving a ragged cut is an open invitation for disease to set in and that's the last thing you want to happen.

Available pruning tools are::

- [Pruning Knives](#) – great for small jobs and for tidying up any ragged edges
- [Secateurs](#) – again great for the smaller jobs.
- [Long-handled pruners](#) – great for those out of reach stems and branches
- [Shears](#) – ideal for hedging and for bushy shrubs
- [Saws](#) – useful for those thicker branches



Methodology

Whole books have been written, dedicated to the art of pruning. Different types of plant need different types of pruning and certainly it's far too complex a subject to be tackled in a short blog. So, before reaching for your secateurs do a little research and read up on the best method for your particular plant.

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Local Co-ordinators:

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 Gratton, Whitebear & Fore Street
 Venn Green
 Gidcott
 Holsworthy Beacon

Roger Copp Tel: 261681**Edgar Pett** Tel: 261277**Mike Jackson** Tel: 261196**Anne Hamilton-Clark** Tel: 261303**Position Vacant****New 105 Phone Number**

This new number was recently introduced so that people can report power cuts or get information about power cuts. The number can also be used if there is a concern about overhead or underground cables etc. The number is free of charge from landlines and mobiles, and you will be connected to your electricity network operator. The number is for use anywhere in England, Scotland or Wales. The network operators can still be contacted through their individual 0800 numbers but the 105 number will save you the trouble of having to find it.

Home Fire Safety Visit

With colder weather now with us and open fires and wood-burning stoves being brought back into use again, the Fire Service has asked that we remind everyone of the importance of have smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors in working order. If anybody has concerns about fire safety in their home the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service will carry out a free home assessment for you. To arrange this please call 01392 872288 or visit their website at www.dsfire.gov.uk.

Rural Crime Update

Those of you who receive the weekly updates from Torridge NHW will be aware that once again, with the darker evenings, sheds and outbuildings are being targeted by thieves in local parishes. Tools and agricultural equipment are usual targets as these can be easily sold on. Please make sure that your buildings are securely locked and if you have not already done so, consider marking your property in a suitable way. Your co-ordinators have a property marking handout for anyone who would like further information on this subject.

Holsworthy Beacon

It is with some regret that we have to report that Peter, our co-ordinator, has had to step down from the role due to his work commitments. We thank Peter for his past endeavours and would ask the residents of Holsworthy Beacon to consider whether one of them would be prepared to take on the position. Unfortunately, unless this happens, then NHW will cease to exist in the hamlet. If anybody is interested, or would like any further information, please contact Roger Copp who is our Area Co-ordinator for the Parish.

PCSO Message

Our PCSOs have asked us to pass on their thanks to everybody who has responded to their various requests for information which have been put out over the past twelve months and also the "intel" which has been passed to them both directly and also via the co-ordinators and 101.

As this will be the last newsletter of this year or PCSOs also join with us, in wishing everybody a very Happy Christmas, Safe and Peaceful New Year.



DID YOU KNOW?.....

There is a wonderful service provided by Holsworthy Rural Community Transport (HRCT) who are based in The Square in Holsworthy. It is called the Volunteer Car Service. It is primarily for people that do not have their own transport in order to get to medical appointments. The clients are picked up from their home address, taken to their appointment & driven home again. Volunteer drivers use their own cars & are paid 45 pence per mile on a door to door basis. It is a great service provided for the local community by the local community but there is suddenly a shortage of volunteer drivers & the service is struggling to meet the demand. If you enjoy driving, like meeting people & have some spare time even if it isn't on a regular basis, please contact either Esther or Cathy on Tel: 01409 259 001 or pop into the Office at 14, The Square in Holsworthy (10am - 1pm).

MERRY
CHRISTMAS



S G R N S Y U P I S M A G I W
 S W L Z Y E K N O D N C G C J
 T S J E C E I A D L H A X N O
 A Z W B G C O A D R S D M N S
 R B T A Q N L O I P M U R P E
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 C Y D K Y C D N Y I N N O Y R

	Inn	Melchior
Angel	Joseph	Oxen
Balthazar	Joy	Shepherd
Christmas	Lamb	Stable
Donkey	Magi	Star
Gabriel	Manger	Swaddling
Gaspar	Mary	

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 David on 01409 261577 for more details.

The deadline for submissions of articles and advertisements for the next newsletter is 18th February 2017

The newsletters group members are:

Nicky Martin	n.martin337@btinternet.com		Regular contributors and features
David Taylor	mdnld@hotmail.co.uk	261577	Treasurer and Advertising
Rose Haynes	rose@grawley.co.uk	261577	Regular contributors and features
Grace Millman	grace.millman@btinternet.com	261251	Regular contributors and features
Margaret Stannard	maggiestannard@yahoo.co.uk	261486	Regular contributors and features
Terry Fairbrother	terry@remedy-it.co.uk	261775	Newsletter Compiler
Lesley Self	lesley.self@btinternet.com	261294	Regular contributors and features
Peter Oxborough	peter.oxborough@boproperty.com		Regular contributors and features

WHAT'S ONa selection of local events in Holsworthy, Torrington and Barnstaple

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE?
Pantomine: Goldilocks and the Three Bears	23 rd January – 4 th February 2017 Saturday matinees	H.A.T.S Tel: 01409 253826 www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk
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
Pantomine : Aladdin	10 th December – 2 nd January 2017 Afternoon & Evening Performances – see web-site or telephone for details	
North Devo Gang Show	15 th – 18 th February 2017 @ 7.15pm	
Films, Live Events – Theatre, Open Air, Music, Visual Arts, Regular & Special Workshops for Children and Adults		The Plough, Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624 www.ploughartscentre.org.uk
Music - Folk		
Exmoor Carolers	18 th December @ 3pm	
Films / Live Screenings:		
Andre Rieu Christmas with Andre	18 th December @ 7pm 20 th December @ 2pm	
Workshops:		
Drop in Willow Christmas Decorations	3 rd December 10am – 2pm	
Plough Storytelling Circle	4 th December 3 – 5pm	
Drama: Santa & His Helpers – Play in a Day (5 -12 years)	21 st December @ 10am	
10 week Print Course	16 th January 10am – 1pm	
6 week Fabric Printing & Dyeing Course	19 th January 10am – 12.30pm	
Cold Process Soap Making	24 th January & 28 th February 10am – 2pm	
6 week Drawing Course – Drawing a Discovery	25 th January 11am – 4pm	
Crafty Kids 3 – 7 years	16 th February @ 3pm	
Drama: Treasure Island – Play in a Day	17 th February @ 10am	
Silver Jewellery with Precious Metal Clay	21 st February @ 10am	
Theatre		
Quirk Theatre & Exeter Phoenix present Ernie and The Sea of Ice	30 th November – 2 nd December @ 10.30am and 1pm 3 rd December @ 1.30pm & 4pm	
Plough Youth Theatre: PYT Seniors present ‘ EU Not EU’	14 th December @ 7pm	

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

What's on Diary

Page

Annual bingo Evening Shebbear village hall	3 December	7:30pm	8
Quiz Night	3 December	7:30pm for 8	22
Gardening Dates Holy Trinity Church	9 December		7
The First Christmas with Michael Mouse	10 December	10am	8
Christmas Tree Festival Holy Trinity Church	10 December	2pm - 5pm	8
Holsworthy Beacon Methodist Church Christmas Concert	11 December	3pm - 5pm	8
Over 60's Christmas Lunch	13 December		15
Carol Service Holy Trinity Church	13 December	7:30pm	6
Charity Carol Singing meet at Venn Green	15 December	6pm	22
Christmas Charity Whist Drive	17 December	7:30pm	22
Family Carol Service Milton Damerel Methodist Church	18 December	11am	8
Carol Service Abbotts Bickington church	20 December	7pm	8
First Aid, learn basic life support - parish hall	6 January	7pm	10
Gardening Dates Holy Trinity Church	13 January		7
Whist Drive	21 January	7:30pm	22
Coffee Morning at Lesley and Peter Self's home	26 January	10am- noon	22
Gardening Dates Holy Trinity Church	17 February		7
Whist Drive	18 February	7:30pm	22
Whist Drive	18 March	7:30pm	22
Afternoon tea & cakes	25 March	3pm - 5pm	5
St George's Day Lunch	23 April		22

Regular Events

Bible Study	Mondays 7.30-9pm
Mobile Library	Wednesdays – every four weeks 3:45pm - 4:30pm
MD & District Over 60s Club	1 st Tuesday of each month (not Jan) 2.30pm
Line Dancing	Tuesdays 7-8.30pm
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	3rd Sunday of each month 9.00am
Parish Church Eucharist/Lay Service (alternates monthly)	1st Sunday of each month 11.30am
Pilates	Monday 11:00 - 12pm
New Baby & Toddler Group Methodist schoolroom	Tuesday morning 10.30 till 12

December 2016

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January 2017

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February 2017

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