# MILTON DAMEREL PARISH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025 100th Edition 100 th.

Newsletter Group Members.

Back Row (past):- Sheila Daniel, Edna Mortimer, Sarah-Jane Headon, Andrew Kendall, Liz Kirby, Janet Fisher. Front Row (present):- David Taylor, Rose Haynes, Peter Bromley, Mel Richardson, John Binns.

#### Rosemoor's Magical Stumpery

The Stumpery, found at RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, is an interesting and surprising area!

Following a path that leads through old stumps, you will find many interesting erns, including one of my favourites, *Blechnum novae-zelandiae* (kiokio ern). This fern's origins are set in New Zealand. It copes with our cold winters, dying down in the autumn and staying dormant under the ground through the winter. In spring, it reappears, growing fresh new leaves known as fronds.

Ferns are ancient plants dating back to the Carboniferous period. They reproduce by spores and were doing this long before the evolution of flowering plants producing seeds. Fern fronds are where the spores are located.

Blechnum novae-zelandiae is what is known as a 'dimorphic' fern. This means it has two remarkably different looking fronds with varied purposes. The usual looking fronds are present but do not show the existence of spores. Their sole aim is to use chlorophyl within, to feed the plant through sunshine. The strange looking thin fronds in comparison, holds the spores, and this is their main purpose. The quirky appearance of this fern is very ornamental on closer inspection.

Ferns really are an overlooked plant but are a valuable addition to any garden, especially here there are pockets of full, dappled, or partial shade. They offer an array of different shades of green, interesting forms and they soften plantings with their architectural grace. Why not visit Rosemoor and discover the Stumpery for yourself and enjoy the world of ferns!

By- Penny King, Horticulturist

What's on at Rosemoor

#### September events

Plant Heritage Autumn Plant Fair- nurseries selling a wide range of plants. 7 September.

Bats at Rosemoor - Early Evening Walk, 20 September. Booking essential.

#### October events

Plot to Plate 4-5 October: celebrate the bounty of autumn and the apple harvest at RHS Garden Rosemoor. Pick up ideas from cookery demos, expert talks, and garden tours.

Orchid Weekend 11-12 October: See large displays of orchids by several orchid societies, watch potting demonstrations, and get tips and advice on growing at home. Orchid nurseries will also be in attendance with a wide range for sale.

Welly Walk – 13 October Apples at RHS Rosemoor; these workshops are specifically for preschool-age children to spend time in the garden. Booking required.

#### November events

Living Sculpture Weekend, an adventure to find them within the garden. 15 and 16 November.

RHS Glow, our stunning annual illumination event. Check website for details selected nights 21 November to 30 December. Booking essential.

The Magic of Christmas Craft and Food Fair – indoors in our event space. 28 to 30 November.





#### The Market Café

Open Tuesday – Friday 9.00am till 2.30 pm All-Day Breakfast – Sandwiches – Burgers Weekly Specials, or pop in for a Tea or Coffee Eat in or Take Away!

#### LJ & VH Harris

Find us at Kivells, Holsworthy Livestock Market, New Market Road,, Devon, EX22 7FA

#### The Market Café

#### On Tor

Mobile catering provided for your event!

Contact Linda; 07800 865 295 themarketcafeholsworthy@gmail.com

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#### **Regular Events**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday every month 2.30pm Milton Damerel Over 60's Club - Parish Hall

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month Parish Council Meeting - Parish Hall

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month 7pm for 7.30pm Whist Drive - Parish Hall

2nd. Sunday every month 11 am Chapel Sunday Worship

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month 11 am Chapel Café Worship

Trinity Church Holy Communion 2nd Sunday every month 11.30am

Trinity Church Morning Service 4th Sunday every month 10.00am

Holsworthy Walk & Talk Every Monday & Friday 10.30am.

Community Café - Parish Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday every month

#### Centenary Photograph Competition 1447 m 5290

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> edition and continuing success of the newsletter there will be an opportunity to submit photographs for use on the front cover of the newsletter.

Please send in your photographs which could be used as the front cover of future editions. Anything will be considered, something old or new just with a Milton Damerel or a seasonal theme. Anyone's photograph chosen and printed for the cover will receive a prize of £10. The only restriction is it must be your photograph and by submitting it you give permission for it to be reproduced as the front cover of the Newsletter.

The next issue will be the Winter edition number 101 and we must receive any photographs by the middle of October. Please send to mdnlad@hotmail.co.uk

#### MILTON DAMEREL PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs L Jane Elliott MA. (Clerk) 01409 281724 Bramley Wood Buckland Filleigh Beaworthy Devon EX21 5JD miltondamerelpc@gmail.com

#### COUNCILLORS

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I am the new Clerk at Milton Damerel Parish Council. I've been in post since 01 02 2025 and have been learning the job at a very busy time for the Parish Council.

This is my first Newsletter and I hope to get to know everyone over the coming months. Although I do not live in the parish I was born and educated locally and my children attended Langtree School. I manage a Permaculture smallholding within a 40-acre mixed woodland. I am a qualified youth worker and work part time for SPACE Devon. I am also a professional puppeteer and a Professor of Punch and Judy. I am a member of the Lundy Field Society, The British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild and The Punch and Judy Fellowship. I do voluntary work for Exclamation Youth Theatre, Westward Ho! I am always busy but I'm happy to answer your questions relating to the Parish Council or to pass on any concerns to the councillors.

Meetings of the Parish Council are usually held on every third Wednesday of each month. The agendas for all meetings are displayed on the notice boards and available on the Milton Damerel website no later than the Friday before the meeting. The draft minutes are posted on the website within 30 days, but are not officially approved until the next meeting. Members of the public are always welcome; time is set aside for comments but they may not take part in discussions at any other time.

The annual parish meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Members of the public present were Residents Julie and Robert Sage, and representatives of local groups Christine Cook: Skittles, Michael Jackson: Neighbourhood Watch, Mel Richardson: Parish Hall, Grace Milman: Methodist Church, Isobelle and Roy Fairbrother: Holy Trinity Church

<u>Milton Damerel Skittles Teams</u> reported great success for both the popular teams, with the top 3 players reaching the final of the Five Founders Knockout Competition. 3 players from the Ladies "A" Team qualified to represent the Holsworthy and District Ladies Skittles League in the Devon County Final. New members are welcome to join.

<u>The Newsletter</u> produces 240 copies quarterly which are delivered by hand to all households in the Milton Damerel Parish and Abbots Bickington. Content from local groups and for significant family events are welcome. The Newsletter is seeking a new Chair if anyone is keen to support this valued community resource.

<u>The Neighbourhood Watch</u> reported the low crime statistics continue with missing cats and dogs being the main source of local concern. Phone and internet scams remain the biggest threat. Residents are welcome to get in touch.

<u>The Methodist Church</u> has a minimum of 2 Sunday services per month, with a congregation aged 5 to 90 there is something for "All Ages". There is also a joint Anglican/Methodist fortnightly Bible study group on Tuesday mornings. A valued team of Parish residents organise events including Easter Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas. All are welcome to join the friendly Chapel.

<u>Holy Trinity Church</u> has not had a service yet this year and with the diminished congregation the church is now facing an uncertain future. The building provides a tranquil environment within the village where people can relax and reflect and it is hoped that more supporters will come forward to join the dedicated group who care for this historic building. The Village Hall is in the process of improving the heating system but has also seen a fluctuation in the support for local activities. The Bingo is popular where other events have slowly lost momentum. Local supporters are thanked and valued and new faces are most welcome.

At the meeting a member of the public expressed his approval for the outspoken feelings of frustration expressed by the local groups who were struggling to attract local support for the events they organised.

PLEASE do consider offering your support to these invaluable local groups. Community wellbeing depends on the network of friendship which is created when people attend events and meet their neighbours. The mid-summer Village Hall music and BBQ event on 21<sup>st</sup> June was well attended and was a big success. Everyone had a jolly good time and we hope to see you at the cider and pasty walk when a new date is announced.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Kit Hepple attended the recent Annual Parish Meeting and was able to report on the devolution process which is occupying much of the current district councillors' time. Councillor Hepple reported on the devolution timetable set by Central Government and expressed his concerns that this could be the end of localism and rural interests will not be a priority matter. He agreed with the local groups who had expressed that the aftermath of Covid had left a general sense of apathy and malaise in the population with people wanting local services but being unwilling to commit to support such enterprises. Rural crime is still low but cybercrime is on the increase so there is now a rural cybercrime unit. In planning matters Solar farms are a concern, with good farm land being put under solar panels while failing to deliver the promised power outputs. The National Grid do not have the capacity to cope with demand so the Government directive is to support power companies to expand; new houses should all have their own solar panels.

Flat 1. Molesworth Arms, Pyworthy. Holsworthy. EX22 6SU. Phone: 07973 189 690. councillor.hepple@torridge.gov.uk

Councillor Ken James, Leader of Torridge District Council, attended the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and gave a roundup of his recent meetings in Totnes, Honiton and Torquay as the devolution process continues. 27 District Councils and 27 County Councils will disappear. No one is yet sure what the unitary councils will look like. Plymouth wants to go it alone. How the other areas go is undecided and different options are still being considered. Torridge is the most economically stable district in Devon but may lose out in future partnerships because the North may not generate enough income. There are many roads to maintain in North and West Devon. It's still a real muddle and Torridge maybe in danger of getting left out in the sticks. The growth area is south of the A30. TDC have a number of economic growth projects. The Marine Centre in Appledore, Operations Centre near Holsworthy, Social Housing in East the Water Bideford Brunswick Wharf project Bideford East, with a Quay wall walkway done up by the developers. The Cattle Market progress is slow in Bideford. In Torrington there are new work units. In Bideford they are turning an old chapel into an arts centre. In answer to a question from E Pett, the Arts Centre money is not from the same budget that would to support the homeless. A pot of money is available for people in need to lift people out of poverty. Contact Ken James for details of the hardship fund. There needs to be growth for prosperity to ensure a future for our young people. Torridge is the most deprived rural area with more people aged over 65 than under. 80% of the county budget goes on adult/child care costs.

Merrifield Farm, Bridgerule. Holsworthy. EX22 7EB. Phone: 01288 381279

Councillor.James@torridge.gov.uk

#### **DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**Councillor Lynne Rowsell** (REFORM UK) is the new representative for DCC. Councillor Rowsell attended the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and described the induction process for new councillors. She explained she was getting out to meet people in the Parishes. She is here to do whatever is needed and is always available by email.

lynne.rowsell@devon.gov.uk

#### MILTON DAMEREL AND DISTRICT OVER 60's GROUP

At our last Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, we played cards and welcomed two new members.

20th May, after a coffee stop at Cornwall Services, which is one of the better ones? we then went onto Falmouth.

The day was very pleasant, a sunny day with many interesting shops to browse in Falmouth.

17th June, due to the Motorway slip road into Blackdown Garden Centre being closed, the driver took us to The Old Well Garden Centre for Coffee, it has much improved since we last stopped there. Then onto Weston Super Mare, where we were already for the coach when Oz rang to say the coach wouldn't start. Luckily, we had all eaten and he managed to work out the problem and was only about 30 minutes late. A good day was had by all.

15th July, stopped at Newton Abbot for Coffee, this is a town that more time could be spent, there was many

interesting shops. Then onto Brixham, once again lots of shops and good weather to sit and people watch or paddle your feet !!

19<sup>th</sup> August, Ashford Garden Centre for Coffee. Then onto Ilfracombe, eat at Pelican, Fish and Chips on way home.

16<sup>th</sup> September, Trethorne for Coffee. Train from St Erth to St Ives. (Price to be confirmed) Eat before leaving.

21<sup>st</sup> October, Exeter Services for Coffee. Then onto Street/Clarks Village. Eat before leaving.

Coach leaves Holsworthy Memorial Hall car park at 9am. Then picks up at Football Field, Venn Green and Holsworthy Beacon. Please book with Iris Fry on 01409 261322 or 07968 326462.

Although we call ourselves 'Over 60's Group', you do not have to be over 60 years of age to become a member. All ages are welcomed to join us for a social afternoon and any Coach Trip. Once members have booked a coach trip, any remaining seats are available for friends of the group. We do use Milton Damerel Community Page to say if any seats are available.

Our regular meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, from 2.30 to 4.30 at Milton Damerel Parish Hall. Membership is £4 and monthly subs £2. This does include a raffle ticket, tea and Biscuits. Our Coach Trips are £11 for members, who attended that month meeting and £13 for Non Members. These are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

New Members always welcome

Chair: Linda Gifford
Vice Chair: Margaret Walters
Treasurer: Iris Tel 261 322

Vice Treasure: Dora Reed Secretary: Colin Boucher

#### Chapel News - Sept 2025

#### Dear friends,

As I sit and write to you, we are right in the middle of the One Day Agricultural Shows Season. Having already attended the Mid Devon and North Devon shows, with Okehampton, Dunster and Holsworthy still to look forward to I have been thinking about God's bountiful provision to us and creation which he has gifted us to live, enjoy and steward. Driving around the area over the last few weeks, you can't miss the fact that the harvesting season is in full swing. Added on top of this the holiday makers coming to our beautiful part of God's earth. Of course, what most of our visitors experience for a week or two is different to what we live in throughout the whole year. Where visitors see rolling fields we see hard work and long hours. Where visitors see another tractor on the road holding them up, we see a vital tool for our livelihoods. As we move into Autumn and celebrate the bringing in of the Harvest at the many Harvest Festivals which will be taking place in our village churches, we thank God for his over shadowing love. I pray that you all have a blessed rest of the summer and also pray that as visitors attend our many shows they will learn and appreciate the work which goes on around them while there enjoy their holidays.

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love."

Frank Watson, Lay Minister, Torridge Methodist Circuit

#### Services at Milton Damerel Methodist Church from September to November

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September All Age Worship with Mr David Ley Holy Communion

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September Café Worship

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festival

All Age Worship with Revd Andrew Vidamour

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October Café Worship

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance

All Age Worship with Mr Duncan Withall

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> November Café Worship

Our 2 services per month, normally held in the Schoolroom at 11am, are inclusive of all ages from the youngest to the eldest. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday service is led by one of our Ministers or Lay Preacher, and an activities table for children is provided. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service is in Café Worship style and is inclusive of activities, crafts, songs, readings, etc., for all to contribute and join in Please come along to any of our services – a warm welcome to you. Tea & Coffee served during Café Worship and following All-Age Worship.

Flower Plan

**14**<sup>th</sup> **Sept 12**<sup>th</sup> **Oct 9**<sup>th</sup> **Nov** Janet New Harvest Flowers Lilian Luxton

#### **Dates of Services at Lake Methodist Church (Shebbear)**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, the churches within the Shebbear Church Council, are meeting for morning worship together – **all at 10.30am and at Lake Methodist Church.** Normally these are United Services with members of St Michael's Parish Church, Shebbear.

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September Preacher: Mrs Nancy Hall-Tomkin (Harvest Festival)

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October Preacher: Mrs Margaret Price Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November Preacher: Mr David Watson

At Home Worship - Circuit offers Zoom services and Live Stream of Buckland Brewer's services.

#### Zoom @ 6.30pm - Sunday 12th October led by Revd Andrew Vidamour

The service can be accessed via a computer/laptop with camera/microphone, IPad/phone or using the normal phone – even if you have a device with camera/microphone and do not wish to be seen, you can join in without the camera on – please contact Sarah Richards, our Circuit Administrator, on 01237 472649 or email her <a href="mailto:sarahrichards185@gmail.com">sarahrichards185@gmail.com</a> for details on how to join the 'meeting'.

**Live Stream** – Buckland Brewer continue to Live Stream Services on the **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church You-Tube Channel** on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Month.

**Recent Highlights –** Our celebration of Fathers' Day included Bacon & Cheese Baps with our drinks and a variety of games competitions akin to "99 to Beat" for everyone to try their skills and make a good score! We also had a time of worship appreciating our Heavenly Father and our earth based fathers.

We also held our annual 'Bring & Share' lunch after morning service on 10<sup>th</sup> August, when our service had been led by Michael New, a recent new resident in the Parish. Enjoyable times of fellowship on both occasions.

**BIBLE STUDY – 10.30am in the Schoolroom** at **Milton Damerel Chapel**, This is an Ecumenical 'venture' and a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining us. We start again after the summer break on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September. Our selected study will be "Worship – His Love Endures For Ever" by Sundee Tucker Frazier from the Lifeguide Bible Sudies series. Please contact David & Janet Fisher (Tel: 07858506973) or Grace Millman (Tel: 01409261251) for further information.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL** – Our celebration is planned for the week-end of 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October. The Chapel will be open on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October for decoration and receipt of gifts, which we ask to be non-perishable food and household items that can be donated to the Holsworthy Foodbank. Our Sunday morning service on 12<sup>th</sup> October at 11am will be led by Revd Andrew Vidamour, Circuit Minister, and will be followed by Pasty & Salad Lunch and Desserts, to which everyone is invited to come and join us. No tickets for lunch – donations only. More details will be given later.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 9<sup>TH</sup> November.** Details to be arranged but hope to arrange an Act of Remembrance at 'Tommy' statute.

**Changes in our Torridge Circuit** – Our Superintendent Minister, Revd Rob Blackhall, as previously mentioned, retires on 31<sup>st</sup> August and will be moving to Tenby. His final service in the Circuit was in June at Torrington when a large congregation were able to bide him farewell and every blessings for his retirement.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September we will not have a locally based Superintendent, but we will be welcoming Revd. Anna Flindell from the South Molton & Ringsash Circuit, appointed to have oversight of our Circuit. She will be welcomed on **Sunday 14th September at 3pm at Torrington**. This service will be led by the Chair of District, Revd. Dan Haylett and Ruth Richey and will be followed by a Bring & Share Tea - all are welcome.

**Torridge Methodist Circuit Newsletter** - If you would like to receive this monthly Newsletter please let us know. It includes diary details, the preaching plan for all the chapels in the Circuit, information on weekly Bible Study groups, other study events, and news from the Methodist Church. The Newsletter is also available on line at <a href="https://www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk">www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk</a> and there is also a Facebook page for the Circuit. Finally, there is also a private Facebook Group, where we share thoughts, prayers and other material – this is Torridge Methodist Circuit Group – if you wish to join please go to this Facebook page and use the Join button.

**CONTACTS** – For further information or help please contact: Our Lay Minister: Frank Watson (Tel: 07446157329) Our steward: Jeremy Sharp (Tel: 261548), Property Steward: vacant; Secretary: vacant.

#### Whist at Milton Damerel Parish Hall

You may not know, Whist is played at Milton Damerel Parish Hall every third Saturday of the Month. We vary from around 16 to 28 people and play in groups of 4. 7 o/c for 7.30, finish around 9.30 to 10. If you like playing cards and especially Whist please think about joining us. We would love to see you. £3 per card and we also have a raffle.

#### Holy Trinity Church, Among Roses and Stone

There's a quiet stillness in this image, not the silence of emptiness, but the peace of presence. The old stone church stands just as it has for centuries, weathered and enduring. At its feet, a rosebush leans into an aged cross, scattering petals like whispered prayers across the grass.

Milton Damerel's Holy Trinity Church has seen countless seasons. Weddings and wakes, baptisms and bellringings, harvests and losses. Each stone could tell a story, each window has caught the morning light of a thousand ordinary Sundays. And in that ongoing rhythm of seasons, of faith, of life itself, we see something deep and quietly hopeful: that even in the changes of life, there is a place that holds steady.



The rose, in all its softness, reminds us that beauty often grows from what is rooted. Its blossoms fade, yes, but they return. Petals fall, but the plant remains alive. We may feel at times like those petals: scattered, uncertain, at the mercy of the wind. But there is a deeper rooting that holds us, in community, in memory, and, for those who seek it, in the mystery of God.

As Psalm 46 reminds us, "Be still and know that I am God." Not busy. Not pressured. Not perfect. Just still. And in that stillness, something sacred stirs. The soul, so easily worn thin by noise and demand, finds a kind of restoration. Not everything needs to be fixed; some things simply need to be felt, named, and gently placed into God's keeping.

This image reminds us that peace does not mean absence of trouble but the presence of grace. The cross overgrown with roses is not forgotten; it is tended by nature, blessed by time. So it can be with us. Our stories, joys, regrets, memories, and hopes, are not erased by faith but held within it. That's

the great tenderness of the Christian story: not a life removed from suffering, but a God who walks with us through it.

Perhaps this summer, as you walk past the church or pause among the gravestones, you'll take a moment to breathe deeply. To rest. To give thanks for the lives remembered in that sacred ground and to consider your own journey, where it has come from, and where it might yet go.

Faith doesn't need to shout. Often it's the whisper we hear in the evening light, the quiet awe of standing among roses and stone, knowing that we are not alone, a place we hear Jesus say "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

May prayers and blessings rest gently upon you and those whom you love Revd Mark James

#### Mark

Revd Mark James, Rector of Bradworthy Benefice

Tel: 01409 251015

The New Rectory, St Peterswell Lane, Bradworthy, Devon, EX227TG

I'm sharing a what3words address to help you find this specific location. Tap to see exactly where it is: tastes loves leaves. https://w3w.co/tastes.loves.leaves





The Parish Hall is entering a new era. Finally we have the new heating system installed and are hoping to officially show it off at the next Community Cafe on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>. Once again this October Cafe will be in aid of Chemo Heroes. This Barnstaple charity donates boxes of lovely "comfort" goodies to anyone having chemo treatment in The Seamoor unit at North Devon hospital.

Sadly, several members of the parish have been receivers of one of these wonderful goodie bags. So come and support this wonderful cause and also see the new heating in operation!

Before that we have our next Big Breakfast on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September. A full traditional breakfast using local ingredients and including toast plus tea or coffee. It's just possible you may read this just before the Flower & Produce Show on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September. If you are not entering anything do come along to see the prizewinning vegetables and flowers and enjoy a delicious tea!

The main event of the summer was our Midsummer Barbeque. Around 70 people came along and enjoyed a lovely summer evening, with music provided by "Wilder Day's", a country rock band. Enjoying a sausage and burger barbeque cooked by Jim and later on working it off by taking

barbeque cooked by Jim and later on working it off by taking part in the Tug of War. The winning team was led by Daz Logan who was taking no prisoners!

Thankfully the weather played ball after a last minute drizzly shower and we all enjoyed a great evening outside. Thanks to Alex of Whitebear farm for the loan of trailer and use of field. A 50/50 collection was made and split between the band and the Air Ambulance raising a total of over £200.

Unfortunately we had to postpone the Cider & Pasty walk because this time the weather didn't play ball. The new date is Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> and hopefully has now taken place.

We hope to be introducing some new activities at the hall in the coming months now we have better heating, so keep a watch out for post on facebook and traditional posters on noticeboards. So come and support your hall and if anyone has any skills they wish to offer, or just volunteer at event or on the committee then please speak to any of the team at one of the events.













#### CONGRATULATIONS

To:-

Valerie Carter, of Derworthy Farm, who was 90 in June. Peter Oxborough, Of Lower Walland, who was 70 in July. Marion Woolridge, of Mandor, who was, 80 in August. Christine Cook, of The Meadow, who will be 70 in September.

Peter Buckpitt and Hannah Letheren of The Paddock, on the birth of their daughter, Ida Lilly, in June.

Monica Fish of Rosemead, Milton Town, who was 80 in August.







Alison and Nigel Pearce have moved into Milton Mill Cottage.





#### **OUR SYMPATHIES**



We are sorry if we miss any occasions for this page, our coverage is only as up-to-date as YOU provide information to us. see contacts page for details. Thank you.

#### Holsworthy Walk and Talk

One of the lovely things about summer is that we get to walk some of the routes which are more off the beaten track and generally not navigable during the winter months. Recently we met at The Half Moon Inn, Sheepwash. Having followed the road through the village for a short way we turned off onto tracks, woodland and fields and came across a field which had been used by Standard Airlines as a runway from 1984 to 2021. The runway was entirely grass and, as the field is certainly not flat, unusually the landings were uphill and take off downhill. Some flight guides warned that the strip was also prone to wind and turbulence! We found it very tranguil with wide-ranging views too.

We had some rather warm walks last month, particularly a couple of Friday walks. Fortunately both Level 2 and Level 3 groups started from Halwill Junction on the hottest day and headed towards



Cookworthy Forest where there was some very welcome shade. Our Level 2 walk at Roadford Lake again took us around the forestry tracks but we were perplexed to notice orange arrows and crosses which had been painted on the ground along the route. A local walker enlightened us as to their presence; they were way markers for a military triathlon event which had been held along that route the day before. Thank goodness we didn't get entangled with them! Our photo shows the Level 2 walkers outside Hollacombe Church which had been opened to allow us to have a quick visit.

One of our other recent walks was in Cookworthy Forest, which was all on hard surfaced tracks. These woods, along with various others around the area are currently being harvested by Forestry England, for the timber. This was after all, why the forests were planted in the first place, in order to replace timber felled in WW2. The areas cleared of trees tend to look rather bleak but new trees are being planted, with borders of native trees and within a short few years the areas will look completely different.

Congratulations to Sue who is now a qualified Walk Leader and to all five of our Walk Leader Trainees who have now completed their training.

We have a varied programme of walks planned for this month including my favourite, Buckland Filleigh, and Meldon Valley and Dam. The Dam looks spectacular following heavy rain but hopefully we will not be getting that in July.

All walks start at 10.30 am and are FREE. Membership forms are available from our Volunteer Walk Leaders prior to the start of the walk

Our website has lots of up to date information, together with our current programme of walks, details below.

Contacts: holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com

https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk

Gillian Aston 07584677784



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#### Sloe Gin

Make early for Christmas presents!



500g ripe sloes 250g caster sugar 70cl cheap gin



Step 1 - Rinse the sloes. If picked before the first frost, freeze to release flavour.

Step 2 - Put fruit into a clean 2 litre plastic pop bottle.

Step 3 - Add the sugar and gin, then seal the bottle. Shake well once a day for seven days until the sugar is dissolved.

Step 4 - Store in a cool, dark place and leave for at least three months shaking every few weeks.

**Step 5**- Strain the sloe gin through a very fine mesh into a jug. (keep the sloes- you can use them twice!)

**Step 6 -** Decant into clean, dry bottles, then seal and label.

The sloe gin is now ready to drink but it'll improve and mature over time – so, if possible, make it one year to drink the next.

#### Fancy something different?

Swop half of the sloes for an alternative fruit such as raspberries, blackberries or cherries?



Beverley (nee Sharp) and Terence Brampton Married at Tunnels Beaches, Ilfracombe. On Monday 11th. August 2025





It all started with a Team of Two Edna Mortimer and Sarah -Jane Headon ( Harper)

I am proud of what we achieved based on an "idea" that was raised from a meeting.
Edna & I got the news letter off the ground together & it grew with community action & support.

Edna & I worked so well together we slotted into our own jobs quite

naturally & it worked fabulously.

The community's input is always invaluable as it would not have been sustainable without everyone's contribution. We held all sorts of fund raising activities. We loved seeing & chatting with members of the community at our coffee mornings. It appears that the News Letter is still appreciated which is extremely rewarding in itself...we enjoyed the journey, thank you. Sarah

#### Milton Damerel Newsletter – December 1999 Highlights

#### **Parish Council**

- Bus shelter proposal postponed; recycling pavilion planned.
- Precept budget kept minimal; millennium events to be self-funded.
- Celebration planning meeting: 14 Jan 2000, 7:30 p.m.
- No planning applications were submitted or considered.
- Parish Council members are: Mrs. J. Elliott (Chairperson), Mrs. R. Watkins (Vice-Chairperson), Mrs. P. Palmer Mr. D. Poole, Mr. C. Bellew, Mr. J. Prouse, and Mr. P. Reed. The Parish Clerk is Mrs. E. Mortimer.

#### **Community Events**

- New Year's Eve bonfire & party at Parish Hall (8 p.m.).
- Millennium celebration ideas: skittles, quiz night, coffee evening, walk, treasure hunt, sale.

#### **Church & Faith**

- Christmas services: Carol Service (19 Dec), Family Services (25 & 26 Dec).
- New Year's Day Coffee Morning (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.) for Devon Air Ambulance.
- Covenant Service (2 Jan), Family Party (7 Jan), Social Evening (25 Feb).

#### **Clubs & Activities**

- Sunday Club (ages 2+), Youth Club (ages 9+), Bible Study, monthly Coffee Mornings.
- Regular hall events: bowls, 60s club, dog training, line dancing, skittles.

#### **Special Notes**

- Gospel Special (5 Dec) featured music and drama; next event Easter 2000.
- Neighbourhood Watch meeting held; contact Mr. A. Miller to join.
- Congrats to Francis & Eunice Hearn (Golden Anniversary) and David Poole (Birthday).

#### **Newsletter Support**

• The newsletter seeks advertisers, contributors, and volunteers to assist with future editions and distribution across the community. For submissions or support, please contact Sarah Harper or Edna Mortimer.

# congratulations "100"

The Milton Damerel Newsletter was initiated in 1999 following the completion of a Community Enquiry, from which it was suggested a Parish Newsletter could improve communications and cohesion throughout the Parish. The Parish Clerk at the time, Edna Mortimer, and her neighbour, Sarah Jane Harper, took up the challenge and produced the First Edition in December 1999. Prior to this the Miton Damerel Methodist Church had been compiling the Chapel newsletter - Chapel News - and the15th Edition of their newsletter was incorporated into this new Milton Damerel Newsletter. It heralded the setting up of a meeting and fund-raising ideas for the Millenium Celebrations in 2000. It also muted proposals to set up Neighbourhood Watch. It was planned to be a bi-monthly publication; in addition Edna and Sarah Jane were identified as the conduits for submitting Milton Damerel news to the local weekly newspaper, the Holsworthy Post. The publication sought contributions covering news, history, and any items readers wished to submit; local traders were invited to place small adverts but the main financing of the printing costs was obtained by members of the group and parishioners hosting coffee mornings and a variety of other fund-raising events. It survived the tragedy of the Foot & Mouth epidemic in 2001 and was skilfully produced by Edna and Sarah Jane until May 2004, when they sought to be released from their commitments, and asked for volunteers to take on the tasks of ... fund-raising, to sell advertising space, to find content and process on to computer, typing editorials and importing artwork, design and layout, delivering and collecting from photocopiers, assembling, stapling and folding, organising distribution to all the parish and Abbots Bickington, and take on responsibility for the finances. Thankfully there were interested volunteers and the September 2004 edition was compiled and produced by a new team of 6. This interest and commitment to continue the quarterly editions has endured and the Parish and the Newsletter can be justifiably proud to have such a publication.

Memorable events for fund-raising over the 25 years since 1999 include scarecrow competitions, village fetes, farmers' markets, parish walks, cider and pasty walks, social events in the parish hall, recipe book, and content reporting on the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Queen & Duke of Edinburgh's 70th Wedding Anniversary in 2017, and Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, in addition to many occasions in the life of the parish and individual parishioners.

This era has seen the move from photocopying to digital production, revisions to design and content, and costs of production fully met from advertising income.

A success story for the parish and hearty congratulations to all who have committed, over the 25 years, to its continued production. Submitted by Grace Millman



Nicola Martin Past Member



Terry Fairbrother Past Member



Peter Oxborough Past Member



Lorraine Buttery Past Member



Margaret Stannard Sadly passed away

Past Members (No Photo) Grace Milman, Tracey Dunmore Volunteer Distributers -

Margaret Fishleigh, Edwina & Keith Hale, Andy Kendall, Phyllis Piper, Elizabeth Bellew, Lesley Self, Christine Poole, Grace Millman, Donald & Valerie Harris, Philip & Jean Reed, Rose Haynes

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Lesley Self Present Member

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#### Evelyn's Walk (9/6/2025)

On Monday 9th June, we met in the Village Hall car park in Chilsworthy. I was assured by the Booking Clerk that we wouldn't cause any inconvenience for anyone hiring the hall. We set off along Holsworthy Hamlet's footpath No. 3 that goes along School Lane & then across the fields towards Parnacott House. The route was well marked & we admired the beautiful Copper Beech tree in the distance. Given the rain that we have had recently, it was quite squelchy in places especially near where the Bude Canal used to be. The little stream was only a trickle. Where the footpath split, we turned right which brought us into what I'll describe as the "tradesman's to Parnacott House. A very entrance"



knowledgeable gentleman came out of the house & he kindly gave us snippets of information about the history of the property. It transpired that he was the owner, John Vowler. No wonder he knew so much! His family has lived there for generations. The property is available for self-catering accommodation so there is a fascinating web site. We would have stayed much longer but we still had quite a long walk ahead of us so we reluctantly bid him farewell & continued towards the lane. We turned right which is a recognised short cut as it goes from Burnards House on the A3072 towards the Holsworthy/Bradworthy road. It was quite busy but the drivers were very kind. At this time of year, the vegetation is quite long & it isn't easy for pedestrians to get off the tarmac & onto the verge. As we got nearer the junction, we could observe tumuli in the fields on the left & right of us. You wouldn't necessarily notice them but they are certainly identified on OS maps as Ugworthy Barrows. Ordinarily, I wouldn't recommend walking along such a busy road on a week day BUT it was literally only for 100m & we were VERY visible in hi-viz. We popped through the hedge & joined Holsworthy Hamlet's footpath No. 5. It's well marked & goes across the fields towards Quarry Park & the Chapel in Chilsworthy. It was only a short stroll back to our cars via the BOAT (By-way Open to All Traffic) which was preferable to staying on the road albeit in a 30mph limit. It was much more pleasant walking along the edge of The Green which was looking well kept & peaceful. I don't mind admitting that my legs were quite tired but we had enjoyed a circular route of approx. 3.75 miles.

#### Evelyn's Walk (11/7/2025)

On Monday 14th July, we met at East Vognacott near Chilsworthy with kind permission of the land owners. I had worried about doing this walk as we had recently experienced that spell of extreme heat. I needn't have worried as the weather had changed considerably overnight & we actually had quite a downpour while we waited to set off. As we followed the track out of the yard, we reminisced about how impassable it used to be even in summer. Thankfully, drainage work was done a few years ago which has improved the situation considerably & it's difficult to imagine how bad it was. DCC arrange to do an annual cut along the green lane. It had obviously



been done very recently & we were most grateful. We stopped at what is known as Scorphill & contemplated the fact that the census of 1901 confirmed that the Hill family used to live in a cottage there. It must have been quite cosy with Mr & Mrs Hill, their five children & a lodger, Richard Sillifant. The census of 1911 confirmed that the Ball family then occupied the property. Both Mr Hill & Mr Ball described themselves as farm labourers on the census form. There is no evidence of the cottage at all now. We continued on what is officially Holsworthy Hamlet's footpath No. 3 which took us across several fields. Some of them are obviously cultivated for forage. Others are more meadow-like. There was an abundance of moths & butterflies in the meadows, as well as lots of pesky horseflies. When we reached the road at Honeycroft Cross, we turned right towards Holsworthy Beacon. The views were far reaching towards the north & south. When we reached the entrance to Gearns Farm, we followed the footpath No. 4 into the farm yard & along the edge of a couple of fields back towards Scorphill. It was only a short walk from there back to our cars. I believe everyone enjoyed the walk which was a new route for several people. Overall, it was approx. three miles & took no more than two hours.

#### Evelyn's Walk (11/08/2025)

On Monday 11th August, we parked at the Village Hall in Bratton Clovelly having checked with the Booking Clerk that we wouldn't be treading on anyone's toes. If you haven't been there, it's well worth a visit. There's a children's play area & a sports field at the rear with far-reaching views. We followed Irene who had kindly agreed to lead the way. We set off down the hill & turned right opposite the Clovelly Inn. We then turned left along the lane which took us down a very steep hill. We stopped at the bottom where the road crosses a stream to admire what would have been the original Mill on one side & The Manor on the other. Apparently, The Manor dates back to the end of the 18th century. The former stables & barns have been beautifully converted into guest accommodation. There is lots of



interesting information about The Manor & the locality on their web site. We set off up the hill which thankfully wasn't quite as steep as the hill that we had descended. I had wondered about walking the route in the opposite direction BUT we all agreed for future reference that it wasn't a good idea!! We turned left onto a bridleway which is also the access for Manor Cottages & Lower Voaden. The route took us through the farm yard & having beared left, we joined a footpath on our left rather than continue to follow the bridleway. When we last walked this route in June'24, the fields were being cut for silage. This time they were being grazed by sheep favouring the shade of the trees. We were reminded by Irene that this was the original packhorse trail & she brought one of the wooden plaques to our attention. It's a beautiful tranquil route & very accessible with self-closing galvanised gates & a wooden footbridge across a stream. No stiles. When we rejoined the lane, we turned left which brought us back to the centre of the village. Some headed for welcome refreshment at Clovelly Inn which looked very inviting & others headed for the cool of the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin. It dates back to medieval times & has some fascinating features including faded wall paintings from the 17th century. I would recommend looking at the web site for Bratton Clovelly prior to making a visit. The circular route was approx. 2.75 miles & took less than two hours.

The next walk will be on Monday 8th September. We'll meet at the Church in Halwill NOT Halwill Junction. If you would like further information, you are welcome to contact me. Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

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To advertise in this newsletter contact David on 01409 261577 for more details.

The deadline for submission of articles and advertisements for the next newsletter is

16th November 2025.

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Bude Police Station is open 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Saturday Okehampton Police Station is open 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Thursday Barnstaple Police Station is open 9.30 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Saturday

Bank Scams especially by phone seem to be on the increase in this area at the moment.

159 is a UK-wide telephone number that you can use to contact your bank's fraud department. It works similar to how 111 is used for the NHS and 101 for non-emergency calls to the police. Calling 159 allows you to speak to someone from your bank's fraud team. They can help you check on potential scams, and verify the legitimacy of a call or message you may have received claiming to come from your bank. You can also use this number for added reassurance, prior to taking part in any new financial transaction.

If you receive a suspicious call or message, involving any type of financial transaction, including those claiming to be from your bank, your telecoms provider, HRMC, the police, STOP, then call **159** to check on the call or messages authenticity. If you are making the call in response to an incoming telephone call, ideally dial **159** from a different

phone to ensure the scammer can't intercept or redirect your call. If you only have one phone available to use, wait a short while, then phone a friend who's voice you will recognise. This ensures that your phone line is now clear, then call 159.

**159** is a safe and secure way to contact your bank, helping to protect you from financial fraud. The service is supported by major UK banks and telecommunications companies.

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**e-Scooters:** Whilst anti-social behaviour using these vehicles is not a problem in our Parish at this time, they are in most of our local towns.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. This means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces, such as parks, street pavements, and shopping centres.

If you use a privately-owned e-scooter in public, you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance. It will then be destroyed.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.



**No Dog Fouling** 







#### The Gardening Group.

The group has managed to continue. Our members still keep in contact with each other through our WhatsApp page, sorting out gardening queries. We've also seen photos of what members have been up to in designing their gardens. All very interesting.

Still hoping to arrange an open group garden visit, maybe September.

Contacts

Melanie Richardson 261 353 Lesley Self 261 294

#### Arts & Entertainment in our area

#### **HATS Theatre, Holsworthy**

#### www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk

HATS is an amateur theatrical society in Holsworthy, having their own 250-seat theatre and produce plays and pantomines for the local community. Also the theatre is a venue for other entertainment:

Vicar of Dibley Christmas the second coming 4th – 6<sup>th</sup> September & 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.30pm Matinee – 13<sup>th</sup> September @ 1.30pm

> 1 am Henry VIII 26<sup>th</sup> September @ 1.30pm & 7.30pm

#### The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington

www.theploughartscentre.org.uk

Box Office: 01805 624624

The Plough Arts Centre based in Torrington provides an extensive, varied and interesting programme, including workshops – programmes and one-off days; live events – open air theatres and events at numerous locations around North Devon; theatre; comedy; films; music; and exhibitions and has its own Café & Bar "Charlie's@The Plough". The diary found on the web-site provides details of events, workshops, etc., programmed for each day. Many workshops are also programmed at The Plough @ St.Anne's, Barnstaple.

Selection of workshops/regular events in Torrington during September to November:

Saturdays, Ongoing from
13<sup>th</sup> September – 13<sup>th</sup> December
(Times to be confirmed)
PYT\* Seniors (14-18yrs) from 10am
PYT\* Middlies (11-14yrs) from 11am
PYT\* Infants (5-7yrs) from 12.30pm
PYT\* Juniors from 1pm
Creative Dance (8-16yrs) from 3pm

Mondays, Ongoing from
8<sup>th</sup> September – 24<sup>th</sup> November
Ploughcoppella with Rosa Robecka from 7.30pm
North Devon Community Choir

PYT Home Ed Drama (8 -16 yrs) from 2.30pm 8 sessions to 27<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesdays, Ongoing from
11<sup>th</sup> September – 18<sup>th</sup> December
Writing for Performance (8-18yrs) from 5pm

For films, music events, and NTLive screenings please go to web-site.



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#### By KrazyDad

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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9. Use logic and solve the puzzle without guesswork. For puzzle solving tips, and more puzzles, visit KrazyDad.com.

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#### THE NEWSLETTER GROUP and GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The Newsletter Group has reviewed the guidance on how we should comply with the new requirements which came into force in May 2018. We have compiled 3 documents:

- Milton Damerel Newsletter GDPR Statement Privacy Notice
- Milton Damerel Newsletter Data Protection Policy
- Milton Damerel Newsletter Data Protection Procedures

Which set out the data we collect about individuals and organisations, our policy in collecting data, and the procedures we follow to protect the data we hold. All of these documents are available on request.

In summary we hold personal data as openly published in the Newsletter and for the purposes of administration in liaising with our advertisers and subscribers to the Newsletter. Regular readers will note the level of detail included on Page 10, about celebratory occasions and residential 'comings and goings', has been amended to comply with our data protection statements, and most importantly to achieve good protection of personal data, minimising the risk of inappropriate use of the data.

If there are any concerns about the data we hold or publish please contact any member of the Group to request changes to the data. Group members and contact information is listed over the page.

If you would like to receive, or stop receiving, a digital copy of the Milton Damerel News Letter by email, please drop a line to the Compiler.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in any article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Milton Damerel News Letter Team.

#### <u>Advertisements</u>

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.

#### **Eating Out**

#### Number Eight Bideford

Anne and I have always wanted to try a tasting menu but have never found anywhere local that offered the option. Then I noticed Number Eight in Bideford had just such a thing, so we splashed out and booked and went earlier this year. It was a great success, a lovely range of food and tastes to sample. 8 courses each one perfectly formed but small, three or four bite sized. The dishes follow the usual style of starter main and dessert but with two or three of each. The Devon Brie and Brioche was one of the starters and the fish dish, an Appledore pollock with harissa and tomatoes. We couldn't decide if the main of Exmoor lamb was the favourite dish or one of the two chocolate desserts. The only problem is remembering which one you liked best or once you found a favourite you can't go back and have some more. We went in May but the menu changes monthly so there is always something new to experience. The price for the tasting menu was £85 but for a fine dining experience we thought it a good price certainly was special.

The restaurant is situated just over Bideford bridge and is open Thursday Friday and Saturday with booking essential, run by a couple it only has a few tables and will cater for most dietary requirements with gluten free being available which Anne needed. Number Eight used to be in the main town of Bideford but moved across the water a couple of years ago. There is a terrace outside to enjoy a predinner drink unfortunately we didn't have time to try this but certainly will next visit.

#### **Useful Contact details:**

#### **Parish Councillors:**

Stephen Moyse (Chair) Tel. 07966 671543 Richard Piper (Vice Chair) Tel. 01409 261114 Jim Richardson Tel. 07866 406977 Gareth Piper Tel. 07966 558385 Teresa Walters Tel. 01409 261871 Peter Bromley Tel. 01409 261838 Edgar Pett Tel. 01409 261277 Jane Elliott (Clerk) Tel. 07773679559

#### Chapel:

Revd Rob Blackhall Tel. 01805 628041 Steward Jeremy Sharp Tel. 01409 261548. Property Steward (vacant) Secretary (vacant)

#### Church:

Revd Mark James Tel 01409 251015 Church warden vacant

#### Parish Hall:

Booking Secretary Hayley Garner 07515770641 or Melanie Richardson 07929 509534.

#### Walks:

Gillian Aston Tel. 01409 254642 email: holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com Evelyn Sharman Tel. 01409 259848 email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

#### Over 60's Club:

Chair: Linda Gifford
Vice Chair: Margaret Walters
Treasurer: Iris Tel. 261 322
Vice Treasurer: Dora Reed

Vice Treasurer: Dora Reed Secretary: Colin Boucher

#### **Holsworthy Rural Police:**

Urgent 999 Non-Urgent 101 holsworthy@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

#### **Neighbourhood Watch:**

Edwina Hale Tel. 261263 Edgar Pett Tel. 261277 Mike Jackson Tel. 261196

#### The Gardener's Group:

Melanie Richardson Tel. 261353 Lesley Self Tel. 261294

#### **Newsletter:**

#### Chair

Peter Bromley

email: pgbromleyuk@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Compiling & Adverts**

**David Taylor** 

Tel. 261577

email: hgrawley@hotmail.com email: mdnlad@hotmail.co.uk

#### **Treasurer & Advertisers**

John Binns

email: mdnlad@hotmail.co.uk Regular contributors and features:

Rose Haynes Lesley Self Mel Richardson

#### SUDOKU Answer

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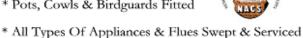


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