
MILTON DAMEREL PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

83rd EDITION



In consideration of the safety of our readers, this edition has been left untouched for several days, since delivery from the printers, and should have been delivered by a suitably gloved and masked person.

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By KrazyDad

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Difficulty: Intermediate

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Solution on Page 36.

PLEASE HELP!!!

Due to two volunteers recently leaving the newsletter group, and our Compiler leaving after this issue, we are in urgent need of new helpers.

If you can spare a few hours quarterly please contact us via our email address:

mdnewsletter46@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Parish Council.....	4
Chapel News.....	6
Over 60's Club.....	8
Congratulations.....	9
Church News.....	10
Inter Parish Walks.....	12
Neighbourhood Watch.....	15
Rural Policing Update.....	16
Parish Hall.....	22
Gardening Group.....	23
Footpaths Update.....	24
Holsworthy Walk and Talk.....	24
Useful Contact Details.....	34



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Parish Clerk: Lorraine Buttery. 3, Sunset Heights, Shebbear, BEAWORTHY, Devon, EX21 5BN

E-mail: miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01409 282956

Councillors:

Stephen Moyse (Chairperson) 01409 261151 Richard Piper (Vice Chairperson) 01409 261114

Rose Haynes 01409 261577

Jim Richardson 07866 406977

Gareth Piper 07966 558385

Peter Buckpitt 07584 086693

Teresa Walters 01409 261871

Meetings of the Parish Council are usually held on the 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 Thursday before the meeting. The draft minutes are posted to the website within 30 days, but are not officially approved until the next 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.

COVID 19

Now that some of the restrictions have been lifted, and the Government has not extended the legislation allowing Remote (ZOOM) meetings the Parish Council Meetings will now be held once again in the Parish Hall.

The first face-face meeting for over twelve months was held on the 19th May. The Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) was held first; the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse and Vice-Chair Councillor Richard Piper voiced their agreement to remain in office; there were no other volunteers for the positions and they were duly elected to serve another twelve months term; the decisions were unanimous.

District Councillors

Our District Councillors Kit Hepple and Ken James have been attending our ZOOM meetings, details of which are in the minutes. Although not always available to attend meetings, regular updates are also received by email and both Councillors work in the background to support the Parish. They can be contacted anytime by all, for any help or advice that might be needed.

Devon County Councillor James Morrish

After Councillor Barry Parsons did not stand for re-election as the Councillor for Rural Holsworthy, James Morrish was elected as our new Councillor. James attended our meeting on the 19th May and he was welcomed by the Chair Councillor Stephen Moyse on behalf of all of the Parish Councillors. James outlined his priorities whilst in office. He stated that he was great friends with Barry and he would be a hard act to follow. A full report will be available in the minutes of the meeting.

PFCSO Mark James has been unable to attend any meetings recently due to his workload, but sends regular updates by email to the Parish Council and these reports are posted to the website.

Planning matters:

There has been only one application since December, a conversion of an outbuilding to a residential annex, which has been approved.

Although the application for the development at Town Farm has been approved for some time, there are little signs of any development starting.

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 as 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.

Website

We have asked quite a few times for photographs to up-date the 'front page' of the website, if you can help please contact the Parish Clerk.

If you have any events that you want advertised, please let me know or email to me in pdf format. The website Cannot be kept up-to-date if I do not get the relevant information.

Community Defibrillator (AED):

The AED is checked regularly, but if at any time you see that there is any damage to the cabinet at either site, please contact the Parish Clerk or any Councillor. If you would like a refresher on the use of the AED and basic life support, please let the Parish Clerk know, these are conducted free of charge.

Condition of the Roads in and around Milton Damerel:

The Parish Council receive numerous complaints regarding the poor state of the roads, the Parish Clerk always passes on the complaints to Devon Highways, copies will now be sent to Councillor Morrish, who we are sure will substantiate our complaints.

The more people that go onto Devon County Council's website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/> and report potholes and poor road surfaces the better. The Parish Council encourages residents to do so as often as they can.

Annual Accounts 2020-2021

The internal audit has been completed with no issues raised.

The annual accounts and external Audit paperwork are in the process of being completed, these will be published on the website along with all relevant information before the end of July.

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

Lorraine Buttery -Clerk & RFO to the Parish Council

21st May 2021

Chapel News – June 2021

From our Minister

Dear Friends

April was one of the driest on record. It was also one of the coldest April's I can recall, with frosty mornings and the temperature way below normal. And as I write in May, it is proving so far to be a wetter month, with again temperatures below what we might expect. All this is in contrast to 12 months ago, when in lockdown, the weather was spectacularly good.

It is as if, this spring, the world is slow to wake up from the winter months.

Perhaps it is a bit like that coming out of the long months of lockdown and social restrictions. This pandemic, it is safe to say, is something none of us have experienced before. Some have compared it to the Food and Mouth Crisis. There is little doubt that the lockdowns have had a profound effect on so many. In our society many were already worried about loneliness – that has been made worse by not been able to go into people's homes, nor even meet outside (and anyway it has been too cold for many). I am glad to say that people have been trying to keep in touch by phone and by electronic means, but it isn't the same. Children have missed significant school time; and parents have discovered the "joy" of home schooling. Church events have yet to start up; and village gatherings have been put on hold alongside family gathering and celebrations. Funerals too, have sadly been restricted. For some, the pandemic has adversely affected their mental health; and many of us have had moments of regret and difficulty.

As, I said it is slow coming out of all this and starting to meet and be together.

We are going to have to be very gentle and understanding with each other; sensitive to the needs of others; kind to ourselves and others. The period of readjustment is going to be strange and it may take some time for us all to feel comfortable again.

Maybe the words that the apostle Paul sent to the Christians in Rome can help.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. (Romans 12:9-16)

Every blessing as we move forward together.

Rob Blackhall.

Superintendent of the Torridge Methodist Circuit.

The Chapel and Covid-19 – In accordance with government guidance our premises continued to be closed during Spring. Recent announcements easing the restrictions have yet to be analysed for what we will be able to do in opening the chapel for services, Sunday School, etc. We have a Church Council meeting planned for 3rd June and will then be able to let everyone know what our future plans are.

However, church has continued, and still continues, not through joining together in our buildings, but through the blessings of technology. Our telephones being a first call to keep in contact, as many do, and please let any of us know if you would like to be contacted regularly.

Sunday morning worship is continuing electronically at 10.30am (opening at 10.20 online) each Sunday until and including 27th June, and anyone wishing to join in are welcome to join our **Zoom** services using digital equipment, including our telephones. 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 sarahrichards185@gmail.com. From 4th July the plan is to continue the Zoom services each Sunday but in the evening at 6.30pm.

Our monthly Torridge Methodist Circuit Newsletter includes outlines of weekly services for readers to use on its own or with the Zoom service. If you would like to receive this monthly Newsletter please let us know. The Newsletter is also available on line at www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk and there is also a Facebook page for the Circuit. 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. Details of other Circuit Zoom events are also shown on the Facebook – Lent bible studies, online coffee mornings, other celebration occasions – again please contact Sarah Richards for details for Zoom access.

CONTACTS – For further information or help please contact: Our Minister: Superintendent Minister: Revd Rob Blackhall (Tel 01805 628041), our Stewards: Dan Brett (Tel: 261609) and Jeremy Sharp (Tel: 261548), Property Steward: vacant; Secretary: vacant.

Our local community has still been busy even though the chapel has been closed – new planters have been placed by the entrance gate, the railings have been painted and the noticeboard refurbished (Thanks to Suzanne), and Mothering Sunday and Easter Day were celebrated with flowers and arrangements around the entrance. Thank you for the continued activities to share our festivals and keep the outside in tip-top order! All photos supplied by Suzanne.

Mothering Sunday - The photo shows the new planters filled with spring flowers and arrangements adorning the gate. One container was full of posies with an invitation to anyone visiting the graveyard to take away a bunch to commemorate Mother's Day. Many comments and appreciations of this were received.

Easter Day – A Living Cross was hung on the gate – and during Easter Day flowers were added to symbolise that a plain cross - a symbol of death, darkness, pain, and hopelessness - becomes beautiful, new and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. On Easter morning a simple cross was placed on the gate and, through notice on Facebook, people were invited to visit and place a flower (flowers) on the cross, either from their own gardens or from flowers left by the gate. The photos show how



the arrangement developed during the day into a glorious depiction of a celebration of the Resurrection. Thank you to everyone who participated in the celebration of Easter.



The Holsworthy Post also carried an article about our Cross and a similar one placed outside Holsworthy Methodist Church in Bodmin Street.

MILTON DAMEREL AND DISTRICT OVER 60 GROUP

Unfortunately we have not been able to hold any meetings or go on our regular coach trips for over a year now. We're sure these monthly socials have been missed. Hopefully in the next few months everyone will have been vaccinated and life will start returning to normal! Once the Parish Hall is opened we will consider when the best time will be to start our Meetings. We hope all our Members and Neighbours have kept well and safe.

Chair: John Francis: Tel 261117 Vice Chair: Edward Beckly

Treasurer: Iris Fry: Tel 261322

Vice Treasure: Pam Pidgeon: Tel 261428

Secretary: Colin Boucher: Tel 07906 503810



Jacqui Cocks was a much loved member of the Milton Damerel community who will be greatly missed.



CONGRATULATIONS!



To:

Edgar Pett of Gratton who celebrated his 70th Birthday in May.



WELCOME!



To:

Gary Wheeler, Amanda Huntley, Gillian Huntley and Reece Fairless, at Comfort Cottage.

Jill and Peter Bromley, at Milton House.

Jill and Michael Mackmurdie and Mum-in-Law Doreen at Rouse Villa.

Mike and Lou Barnes-Carey and their sons Bron and Jo, at Park House.

OUR SYMPATHIES

For those who have been bereaved recently:

Dean Cocks on the sad passing of his beloved wife Jacqui of Higher Venn.

Brenda Jones and family, on the passing on her husband Raymond.
Lived at Tall Trees, Venn Green for many years.

*** 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 final page for contact details. Thank you ***

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH NEWS

Rev Richard Freeman Tel 01409 2413

Church wardens Isabel and Roy Fairbrother tel 01409 261181



Hello Everyone

We hope everyone is still well and have avoided contracting the Covid19 virus. As always life moves on, it seems a long time ago since we had the last newsletter. I and many of us are fortunate enough to have received our two vaccinations. It is slightly strange going back into the world of bustle - but still the nagging fear of Covid sits in the back of the mind. However it's good to be living our lives again, in a sort of freedom, but with the security of knowing we have a big degree of protection after being 'jabbed'. We thank God for giving people the gift and skills to develop the vaccines in such a short time for us - we call them scientists but they are vessels of God. Administering the vaccine has been a huge undertaking with an army of volunteers aiding the clinical staff to ensure things run smoothly – and they certainly did run smoothly at the Ruby Medical Centre Holsworthy.

Our thanks to each and every one of them.

We would love to welcome you to a church service. Just step inside once and feel the calm and warmth. - We hold 2 services per month in normal times. YOU can drop in or drop out when you want to, **we look forward to seeing you to a service at Holy Trinity very soon.**

If you have yet to step foot in this church then make it your new resolution to come to the next service, meet others and make new friends.

May 9th was the day that we re-opened the church door of Holy Trinity Church for our first post lockdown Communion service since last October. Our next Communion service date is proposed to be on **June 13th** but the time may change instead of 11.30am, it will possibly be slightly earlier. Look out for update notices in the church porch and in the church notice board by the roadside.

The regular Zoom services may be curtailed when all the churches in our Benefice are reopened - from the beginning of June, again look out for notices about this as above. There will be a United Benefice Service on ZOOM on the 30th of MAY at 10.30am everyone is welcome to join.

Cream Tea afternoon date still to be decided but if all goes well with gatherings being allowed, then we will be looking at August – hopefully the sun will have found its place in the sky by then, and driven off the rain and wind.

Another reminder for mid-December:- The Christmas Tree Festival 2021.

Let's make it the biggest and best ever year of exhibits!

If you are new to the community or haven't 'bothered' previously, then let's change that this year and show how community spirited Milton Damerel is – and you can have a drink of your choice (tea, coffee, juice) whilst you set up your display.

It's fun – it's the community doing something for fun – together.

We are asking YOU again – in case it was overlooked; please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Please help your parish church to survive during these difficult times. We are a charity and rely on the generosity of the congregation. However, the wider community should now step up and help its Parish Church. With smaller congregations we are dependent on raising funds from other sources. How much do you value having a 'living' church in this village? Are you just 'not bothered'? The old saying is 'You don't know what you've got till it's gone.

I would like to relate to you a true story. On occasions there has been a bag of coins – small coins 1p, 2p, etc, given to the church but without any message attached or any indication of where or who it came

from. This has gone on for a couple of years and over that time easily over £100 has been added to the roof fund. Last year the person who was secretly depositing the bag of coins owned up, but stressed it was not his donation – it came from schoolchildren over 200 miles away giving to a church they had never seen, and from their own pocket money. They have no connection to Milton Damerel but had been told about the state of this old, cherished building in a faraway place called Milton Damerel. They are utterly sorry for the state of our church and want to help us to get a new roof. Will the local community be as generous as those children by giving £1 (or more) through Parish Giving? Every £1 turns into £1.25 as Gift Aid is automatically applied. Help the church survive, don't let those big-hearted children's gifts and generosity be for nothing, make them proud they helped a faraway village community.

You choose how much you wish to give. Details are not divulged to anyone. Donations are collected by Direct Debit. You can cancel anytime you wish to.

To date no-one outside of the church congregation has applied. Will you be the first to support and keep a 'living' church in Milton Damerel?

You can join online [https://www.Home - Parish Giving Scheme](https://www.Home-ParishGivingScheme.com). Set up a donation. Do it now.



Have you had your copy of this lovely film yet – A Year in a Rural Parish.

See the local community at work and at play, the funny moments and the tranquillity.

On sale at just £10 (includes the cost of the USB memory stick – treat yourself – you may be in the film. Tel 261181 to order your copy.

OFFER WILL BE DISCONTINUED SHORTLY.



The 'North Devon Ruby Country' badges are flying off the counter at Sanders garage and at Lizzy's Larder. These are unique and available here in Milton Damerel at the present time. You will find them in both shops or collect them at Albatross. They are approx. 80mm diameter and cost just £2 each.

HAVE PRIDE IN YOUR COUNTY, buy a sticker.

These 2 items are fund raisers for the Church Roof.

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE CHURCH ROOF FUND

Church Gardening The phantom grass cutters have been doing a spectacular job in the churchyard keeping the grass nice and short and the boundary nice and neat throughout the WHOLE of lockdown (winter months excepted). It is looking really smart and round the perimeter the expanse of wild border is awash with the white flower heads of the wild garlic, interspersed with the darkness of the Bluebell flowers plus some pink flowers. By the bottom gate the bank on both sides has been smothered in Periwinkles – what a joy to see it all back to bursting and the smells of early summer in the damp air.

Subject to any new regulations which might be brought in by the government if Covid increases, we intend to hold gardening afternoons on the following dates:-

JUNE 3RD June 17th JULY 8TH JULY 22nd August 5th AUGUST 19th

The time for all dates will be from 2.00pm - drop in and out as your time allows but join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit. These may be subject to change – nothing is set in stone.

Isabel and Roy
Church Wardens

Inter Parish Walks

March

Having been on a walk recently and experienced some seriously squelchy knee deep mud where a footpath crossed a field that was occupied by cattle, Gill suggested a less challenging walk. I happily agreed knowing how close I had come to losing my wellies and my balance. It would have made a comical sight for anyone that was watching!! We met in the Village Hall car park in Bridgerule. Fortuitously, the timing was such that I was able to make use of the Post Office that operates from there on Mondays (09.30 - 11.30). For those of you that know Bridgerule, you must wonder what route we took as Bridgerule is well known for NOT having any footpaths. This is why it has never been included on the programme of Inter Parish walks.

Our route took us left out of the car park and then right at the T-junction which is opposite The Bridge Inn. The bridge crosses the River Tamar which is generally classed as the county boundary between Devon and Cornwall. Bearing in mind that most of the properties seem to lie west of the



river, I wouldn't have been surprised to find that Bridgerule is in Cornwall but it is classed as being in Devon. We turned left at the Chapel and headed up the hill admiring the hedge laying that was being done in a field on the left by Bridge Mill. Apparently, credit must be given to the Bridgerule hedge and coppice group. If anyone wishes to learn more about this traditional skill, contact Alan Beat at Bridge Mill. If you ever get the opportunity to visit when it is allowed to reopen, I would highly recommend it as the

mill itself has been restored and can be seen producing flour on special open days. The grounds of the property extend to sixteen acres and are stunningly beautiful. There are several traditional farm buildings including a mowhay.

At the top of the hill, we took the opportunity to venture into the church yard of St. Bridget's. I believe it is Grade One listed and it has some very interesting architecture and features. Gill and I enjoyed the sunshine whilst studying the headstones. Some of them are very old and the inscriptions are almost illegible but there are also lots of very familiar local family names that we recognised. There had obviously been an abundance of snowdrops that must have been a picture a few weeks ago. We had the benefit of daffodils, primroses and grape hyacinths. There were also some unfamiliar bright red flowers. I have been reliably informed that they were poppy anemones and are more commonly found in the Mediterranean. It was very tranquil and we were reluctant to leave but Gill had promised to show me the only Public Right of Way (PROW) in Bridgerule. It isn't a footpath. It isn't a bridleway. It's classified as a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic). It's a stony track that starts just below the Church on the opposite side of the road. There's a sign that says "Unsuitable for motor vehicles". I would definitely agree with that as it was very steep and extremely slippery as the rocky surface was very wet. However, with a bit of care we negotiated our way to the bottom where the route goes over a little river bridge and up the other side. This section was a bit muddy underfoot but much more manageable than the rocky section. At the end of the track, we turned right down the lane and basically completed a very nice circular route passing the School on the way. It's a bit off the beaten track and there may not be any footpaths but Bridgerule is a lovely place to visit.

April

Due to the easing of restrictions on 29th March, I was able to arrange an Inter Parish walk as a group of six on Monday 12th April. This was the first time that we had walked as a group since October last year. I am not known as a mathematician but that was six months ago! It may have been the passage of time or it may have been the fact that the sun was shining but there was something of a party atmosphere when we met at Crinacott Farm in Pyworthy. I am very grateful to Mike Godfrey and his family for letting us park on his property while we went for a lovely walk. Gill Aston kindly led the way back along the drive towards the road but then followed the footpath signs on the right. This took us between two fenced off areas containing solar panels. I have to admit that they are not at all attractive and I did my best to ignore their presence. The last time we had been on this footpath was in 2018. I was pleased to see that the local P3 volunteer, Nick Lock, has obviously been making sure that the route was clear of brambles, clearly marked and the wooden footbridge was still in excellent order. We crossed a couple of fields containing lush green grass and I don't think it will be long before the livestock from Yeomadon will be



seen enjoying their summer pastures after a long winter. When we joined the lane, we set off down the hill enjoying beautiful views across more lush pastures. It was a joy to be out in such glorious countryside. No wonder the visitors are keen to visit us in this part of Devon. At the bottom of the hill, we turned right heading towards Bridgerule and then right again joining the footpath near the entrance to Northmoor and Southmoor Farms. We walked along a recently mown grassy track between two paddocks containing a horse and a pony. We then went through a gate and across a grassy field before going through a pretty wooded area. It was easy to follow the route as we were back on Mike Godfrey's land and he had been able to mow a path since the ground has started to dry up. Upon our return to his yard, we became objects of interest for the various horses, ponies, pygmy goats and sheep. The goats became very interested in my rucksack when I had my back to them whilst taking a photo of smiley faces. I'm not sure why as there wasn't much of interest apart from my secateurs, hammer, nails and way-markers.

May

On Monday 10th May the current restrictions enabled us to walk as groups of six. Mike Jackson and Ann Poole very kindly agreed to lead a group each as we were walking in their home Parish of Milton Damerel. Thankfully there was plenty of parking at the Parish Hall as we are still not being encouraged to share transport in private cars. The route was very cleverly arranged so that we walked in opposite directions - one group turned left and the other went right when we set off. Ann's group walked up the hill and joined the permissive footpath on the left by the right hand bend. The bluebells in the woods were a picture. A couple of us commented on how much more accessible this path has become since some steps have been installed through the P3 initiative. Previously we had scrambled up a bank which had been quite challenging. I had forgotten the wooden boardwalk that enabled us to admire the bluebells without treading on them. We then quietly crossed the grassy

field. Why? The heifers were grazing on the far side and from previous experience, they would have loved to have come over to introduce themselves if we had made ourselves more obvious. We resumed our chatter as we reached the new gate that has replaced the stile by Brayleys Cottage and headed towards the Church. When we reached the lane, we met up with the second group briefly and I naughtily told them that we had told the heifers that more walkers were due shortly. We headed right along the lane and when we reached Lizzy's Larder we followed what is known locally as "Butterfly Lane". We took the opportunity to follow the footpath that goes through a private garden. We enjoyed watching the goats frolicking in their pen as we passed. We re-joined the lane near the



River Waldon and took the opportunity to enjoy the peace and tranquillity. Ann said that she has seen a kingfisher there previously. We retraced our steps a little and admired the beautiful mill building. We then followed the lane which brought us back opposite the Church. We then turned right and thanks to Mike getting permission from a local

land owner called John Elliott, we ventured across his fields behind the Chapel which enabled Flossie to enjoy a bath in the stream followed by a lovely roll in the recently manured field. Maybe Pauline would have been a happier dog owner if Flossie had done it the other way round? The route brought us out opposite Strawberry Bank and it was just a short stroll uphill back to our cars.

I will take this opportunity to sing the praises of Devon County Council's initiative known as P3 (Parish Paths Partnership). The footpaths in Milton Damerel are kept in wonderful order and they have become more accessible in recent years largely due to the commitment of the P3 coordinator for the Parish. The new gates, boardwalks, steps etc are funded by DCC but the fact that our local PROWs are kept clear and accessible is primarily due to the diligence of volunteers. Details of walks in Milton Damerel can be found on the Parish web site.

Our next walk will be on Monday 14th June. The current advice means that we will still be restricted to groups of six. If you would like to join me on a walk in Bradworthy, please contact me in advance as I will need to manage the numbers.

Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com

Please keep your dog on a lead and under control.

If you are walking your dog, keep it under control and on its lead. Even the quietest of dogs can suddenly turn into a stock worrier, and if it does the farmer is allowed to shoot and ask questions afterwards. You could also be landed with a hefty bill for any damage done; just being chased and terrified could cause a ewe to abort her lamb.

I know most of our readers are country-wise and responsible owner's but we do have new parishioners who might not understand the ways of the countryside and are unaware of the "wolf" on the rug, all dogs have the basic instinct of the wolf and pretty little woolly things will often awaken it, so please when walking your dog, keep it on a lead.



Local Co-ordinators:

Strawberry Bank
Gratton, Whitebear and Fore Street
Venn Green

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

Car Crime: With the lockdown now starting to ease and we are able to get out and about more, please remember to lock ALL your car doors when leaving your vehicle parked. A surprising statistic is that 44% of vehicles are broken into via an unlocked door. Please also remember not to leave items on view, even when the car is locked. It takes only seconds for a thief to break a window and steal things.

Wild Bird Egg Thefts: For those of you who get out and about in the countryside, the Police Wildlife Crime Officers have requested that the public keep a lookout for suspicious activity in the vicinity of wild birds' nests. We are now into the major nesting season and are told that both egg and chick thefts are on the increase. The taking of wild birds' eggs is a serious crime which can have a devastating impact on our rare bird population. It is requested that any information about the taking of eggs/ chicks or even the disturbance of nests by unauthorised people should be reported to the police on 101 or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Dog fouling on our lanes seems to be on the rise again. Please be considerate and clear up after your pet. Please also don't just bag it and then toss it onto the nearest verge or even the farmer's field, where it could lead to dire consequences. **BAG IT AND BIN IT.**

Also, if walking on Parish Footpath 16 which passes through the churchyard, please keep your pet on a lead.

We've just been alerted to a scam text message which seems to be circulating in the Parish and implicating parish residents.

The message purports to have come from the Rev. Lynn Burgon, our recently retired Methodist minister, and is asking other parish residents to forward sums of money urgently. This is definitely a scam and has been reported to the police, so if anyone else gets a similar sort of message either by text, email or even a phone call, please report it to the police as soon as possible.





DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY

Holsworthy Rural Policing Update 1/3/21 – 30/4/21:

The following crimes have been reported:

ASHWATER: 2 x Common assault	SHEEPWASH: Harassment – put in fear of violence
BRIDGERULE: Use threatening/abusive/insulting words or behaviour Possess a controlled drug of class B Possess a controlled drug of class A Harassment – put in fear of violence Communications offence	BRADWORTHY: Common assault of an emergency worker Breach of coronavirus regulations 2 x Owner of a dog worrying livestock 3 x Communication offences Harassment without violence
BROADWOODWIDGER: Outraging public decency	CLAWTON: Communications offence
HOLSWORTHY HAMLETS: Owner of a dog worrying livestock Attempt to escape from lawful custody Theft other – including theft by finding 2 x Possess a controlled drug of class B Drive whilst unfit through drugs 2 x Common assault Criminal damage to vehicle Non-counting action fraud	ST. GILES ON THE HEATH: Common assault <u>Use threatening/abusive/insulting words or behaviour</u> Harassment without violence Dog not under proper control
PYWORTHY: Theft of a pet cat Harassment without violence	WEST PUTFORD: Import a controlled substance of class B
VIRGINSTOW: Owner of a dog allowing it to be dangerously out of control	

There were also 16 domestic related crimes reported during this period. General Crime Prevention advice, with links to Farm Watch and property marking, can also be found on our website.

If you have an incident to report, don't hesitate to ring the Police on 101, or email 101@dc.police.uk.

Always call 999 if you see a crime taking place.

Crimes can also be reported via our website:

<https://services.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crimereporting/>

and information can be passed using this link:

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/contact-forms/report-something/>

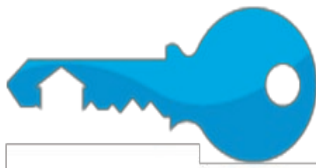
**or by calling Crimestoppers,
anonymously, on 0800 555 111**

**PC Amanda Brown and PCSO Mark James,
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Nature's Nattering's
from
Nature's Rest

Keeping the community up to date with the going's on at Natures Rest, a privately owned nature reserve not too far away from Milton Damerel. Each future edition of the MDN will have a column dedicated to Nature's Rest which will provide all the goings-on!

Firstly, an introduction to the site - it is home to a vast amount of wildlife including deer, there are 5 resident Roe that are free to come and go as they please and that have now become very tame with the new land owner, (they are all called Mary). There are also frequent visits from Red Deer. As well as the deer, there is also a large amount of bird life which to date, including the Tawny owl and Screech owl, (they are very chatty with each other), and have become known as Wis & Hoot and will soon have some nice new houses (owl boxes). Ravens, Jays, Nightjar, Grass Hopper Warbler (currently red on the endangered list) Woodpeckers, Wood Pigeons, Chaffinch, Blackbirds, Wrens, Long Tailed Tits, bats, foxes, rabbits, squirrels, and field mice. Because the site hasn't been intensively farmed for many years insect life is also thriving, the grass hopper song is almost deafening at times as there are so many of them, spiders, glow worms, damsel flies, bumblebees and a copious amount of butterflies in varying types...

The hedgerows are some 30ft deep which will provide a great deal of shelter for any future livestock as well as providing them with plenty of varied browsing for their taste buds as well as medicinal purposes. No need to plant for forage and shelter here, it's already well established – A

fantastic example of Silvopasture.

The fields are full of wild flowers and are a lovely sight to behold, as are the trees covered in healthy lichen, (a good indicator of air quality, we like to see this!), and also good coverings of mosses.

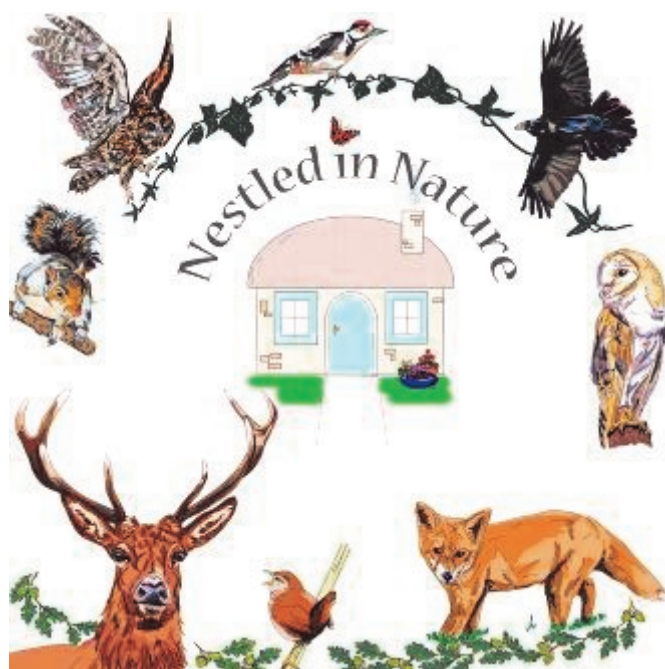
The dawn chorus is very pleasing to the ears, such a treat to hear the natterings of them all together including the owls despite being at it a large part of the night!

Nature's Rest has recently had a visit from Devon Wildlife Trust. They have had a good and very welcomed look around the site assisting in some identification of special grasses, plants and wildlife. They worked with me to devise a management plan to help me achieve my objectives, whilst allowing what we want to keep thrive, and provide a careful elimination of the things we don't want. Although this is only the rushes – they have little environmental benefits, but the deer do like to use them as a bed. I'm sure we can find a compromise...

I look forward to keeping you all updated in the future as I will be doing more over there than just observing our natural world...

Until next time...

Tracey Slocombe
CEO Nestled in Nature



What to do in your garden in June



How time flies, it's June already! Let's hope summer really is here and we can enjoy those long warm, sunny days! This is the ideal time for outdoor sowings of a number of seed varieties, plus, with the warmer weather, the raising of foliage plants. Preparation of the ground for bedding plants can now be done, as well as thinning out plants that have already been sown. And the ideal time to prepare the greenhouse against hot days by either using shade netting or a shade paint.

Flowers

Sowings can now be made outdoors of alstroemeria, achillea, arabis, canterbury bells, coreopsis, erigeron, myosotis and sweet william seeds.

Sow in the greenhouse polyanthus, primrose and pansy for autumn planting to flower in spring.

In early June apply general purpose-pelleted organic fertiliser prior to planting out summer bedding plants.

Thin out hardy annuals sown direct in their flowering positions.

Plants in the home are always popular and June is an ideal time to raise foliage plants such as coleus and the sensitive plant (*mimosa pudica*).

To brighten up winter and spring displays indoors, make sowings of calceolaria, cineraria and primula obconica.

Although it will be some time before they flower, sow cactus and the amazing strelitzia seed.

If you have any spare bedding plants left over such as celosia, begonia, geranium or impatiens (busy lizzie) pot them up to provide a colourful display in a light porch or on a windowsill, to provide colour throughout the summer.

Young Plants

The danger of frost will have now hopefully passed, and young bedding plants that have been grown on under protection during spring can be planted outdoors ready for those beautiful displays, or into summer hanging baskets and containers.

When using containers or hanging baskets remember not to fill them right up to the top with compost but leave a small gap so that when watering it will soak in and not run over the edges.

It will also prove very beneficial to give your potted plants a weekly liquid feed to improve growth and flowering.

When planting out debud/deflower the plants as this will encourage them to grow a better root system and produce the required flowers.

A number of young plants would also benefit by having their shoot tips pinched out which encourages branching.

By pinching out the shoot tips bushier plants develop along with more stems leading to more flowers.

Bulbs & Roses

To encourage strong growth along with a good flower display sprinkle rose fertiliser around the roots.

If it doesn't rain during the first week or two gently water in or use a hoe being careful not to harm the roots.

Remove any dead foliage from spring flowering bulbs, with the exception of daffodils and tulips which could be left a little longer but do take off any seed-heads that may appear. However, if possible, it is best to allow the foliage to naturally die back.

Lilies that are in pots will be growing quickly at this stage of the season, with the flowers starting to develop, and could very well need a few canes for support.

Lilies in garden borders may also need to be supported if they are not close to neighbouring plants.

Vegetables

Plant out greenhouse raised brussels sprouts, cabbage, celery, courgettes, cucumbers, marrows, runner and french beans.

Beetroot, carrots and lettuce rows can be thinned out and further sowings can be continued.

Remember smaller crops will be produced when over-crowded sowings are made, and any unwanted seedlings should be carefully removed.

In the case of pumpkins, courgettes and marrows hand pollinate to encourage good fruit set.

Protect carrots from carrot fly and cabbages from caterpillar damage by covering the crop with a fleece or mesh protection.

When digging up early potatoes take care not to pierce or damage the tubers.

Keep the greenhouse well ventilated during the day as temperature fluctuations caused by quite hot temperatures in the day, then going cool at night could very well affect tomato plants fruiting. Also tapping the flowers of greenhouse tomatoes will improve pollination.

Fruit

Inspect fruit bushes and trees for pest and diseases, and treat as necessary.

As new canes of raspberries and blackberries appear, tie to support wires but remember to keep them away from last year's growth as this will flower and fruit this summer.

It is a good idea to either use a fruit cage or drape netting over soft fruit bushes such as currants, as well as strawberries which are either growing in rows or containers, to prevent birds, especially blackbirds, from stripping unprotected plants of their fruit.

Strawberry crops that have been kept under glass, cloches or fleece should now be uncovered so that pollinating insects can gain access.

Also if strawberries are being grown in a greenhouse open doors fully now.

Greenhouse

Rooted chrysanthemum cuttings and summer-bedding plants that have been hardened off in the greenhouse can be planted into their flowering places.

Don't let plants wilt so remember to water them regularly.

A weekly feed with a high-potash liquid tomato feed should be given to cucumbers, capsicums and aubergines.

Prepare for hot days by either using shade netting or a shading paint.

Ponds

Fish should be checked from time to time to ensure they are healthy, and if necessary treated with the appropriate remedy.

Do not allow algae build up.

Blanket weed must be removed from the pond by either using a rake or cane. It is best to leave it at the edge for a day or so enabling any creatures that may be caught up in it to make their way back into the water, then it can be placed on the compost heap.

Pests such as snails should be kept out of the pond so check any new plants before placing in the water. This is best done by taking them out of the pot, place or hold plant under running water and then re-pot into fresh soil.

Use a feed which is high in phosphates for feeding established plants.

Courtesy of Suttons Seeds

Milton Damerel Parish Hall

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DO YOU WANT YOUR PARISH HALL, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE THERE?

It's been a very trying year for everyone and running a Parish Hall has been no exception. The Committee has tried to keep on top of looking after the Hall during lockdown, but once again damp and condensation has appeared. The Hall has always had its problems and the Committee has arranged for repairs and maintenance jobs as and when they were needed, but the current Committee feel we are now at a point where investment is required in terms of both money and time for the Hall to continue.

Our new Treasurer, Tracey, understands the problems and is very keen to apply for grants to enable us to renovate the Hall and make it a real asset for the Parish. But how much we spend will be determined by how much use the Hall will have after the renovations and, of course, there is the first big question... **DO YOU WANT A PARISH HALL?** Is it worth the time and effort of the current committee to commit to a renovation programme and if so, how large should that be? If we do want to keep the Hall, how can we increase the usage and make it a real hub of our community?

We are a committee of long standing, 9 in all, with only one gentleman, and we have been saying for a long time that we need more of the younger generation and **Men** to join our Committee. If we want to move forward with the Hall we need people who can bring fresh ideas and energy to the projects, so we are asking for more help and support, particularly from the younger generation. Come and join our Committee and help us make the Hall into something that will benefit all people in our community.

First, we would like to know from the Parish - **DO YOU WANT THE PARISH HALL?** If so, what events would you like to see there? We will have a **meeting on the 14th of June at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall** and we would welcome everyone to come and share their views with us. However we know with the current restrictions numbers may be limited, so please contact us with your thoughts by email at MDParishHall@gmail.com, or call any of the Committee Members if you cannot attend the meeting.

If you feel you would like to be involved in the Committee in the future, please also contact us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our events in the past and all the local groups who have used the Hall for their own meetings and events. Without your groups and local support the Hall could not have existed for so long.

Chairman: Lesley Self, Secretary: Kate Moyse, Treasurer: Tracey Toft, Publicity: Sara Lawes. Ann Poole, Mary Carter, Margaret Fishleigh, Elizabeth Bellew, Christine Cook and Charlie Brimacombe.

Hiring the Hall

The hall will be available for hire for events and private functions at very reasonable rates. See the community website www.miltondamerel.com to download a booking form and Terms and Conditions of Use.

Booking the Hall: Please telephone 281295, 261151 or 261294

MILTON DAMEREL and DISTRICT GARDENING GROUP

All meetings are normally held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall or stated venue. Membership is £5 and £2 per meeting. Visitors welcome at £3.

We are looking forward to arranging a couple of Garden Visits in the summer, and having our first meeting in October, if possible. Are we able to have a SHOW in September? We are sure we all need something to look forward to. Please can you contact any of the committee or send an email and give us your views.

We need commitment from enough people who will wish to exhibit to make it worth while. Also support and help, as with our previous shows.

Contact Officers

Diana Illingworth-Cook: 07853 319250

Gail Whitley: 261 792

Lesley Self: 261 294

Email:-mdadgg@btinternet.com



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Parish Footpaths

All of our footpaths are open and currently usable.

If you are new to the area and would like to know where our local paths go there is a downloadable booklet on the footpaths page of the Milton Damerel website. For footpaths further afield, both Devon and Cornwall have inter-active maps on their “.gov” websites which can be used to find footpaths and bridleways.

Countryside Code: With effect from 1st. April 2021 the Countryside code has been updated and refreshed so that it is more relevant to our current time. The code was first introduced in 1951 and whilst it has been amended from time to time, this current update is the first for 10 years. The main changes are set out below and also include a more user-friendly tone and guidance rather than a strict list of rules.

A reminder not to feed livestock, horses or wild animals.

New advice for people to ‘be nice, say hello, share the space’ as well as ‘enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory’.

To stay on marked footpaths, even if they are muddy, to protect crops and wildlife.

Information on permissions to do certain outdoor activities, such as wild swimming.

Clearer rules for dog walkers to take home dog poo and use their own bin if there are no public waste bins.

Recognising the significant health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature.

New wording to make clear that the code applies to all our natural places, including parks and waterways, coast and countryside.

The full code can be seen by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

Holsworthy Walk and Talk

All being well, with no changes to current Government Guidelines, we will be starting our new programme of walks, with groups of up to 30 walkers on Friday 17th May 2021 at Dunsdon Nature Reserve for our level 2 walk group, and at Ashwater for the more strenuous level 3 walkers. The Level 2 walk is a relatively flat route along paths, canal bank and some quiet lanes. Level 3 has several climbs and during wet weather it can be muddy in places. The social distancing rules still apply until the 21st June at which point we hope that all restrictions will be lifted.

There is no need to pre-book but new walkers will be asked to complete a simple membership form, which will be provided by the Volunteer Walk Leaders, or is available beforehand on application by phone or email.

This past year has been very challenging in many respects, especially to our physical and psychological health. Mental health awareness has become a priority topic with exercise, fresh air, lovely scenery and walking in a group being documented as being beneficial.

We are very much looking forward to getting out and about and to welcoming walkers to our Group.

All walks start at 10.30 am and are FREE.

Further information is available from: holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com

Gillian Aston 01409 254642 or Mike Jackson 01409 261196

or Paul Davies 01409 253250



Spicy Barbecued Chicken recipe

TIME: **2 hours**

SERVES: **4**

Make the grilling thrilling: turbo-charge the flavour at your next barbecue by prepping this spicy chicken a few hours in advance.

Ingredients

1kg chicken thigh cutlets, skin on	coriander leaves and lemon wedges, to serve
mint leaves	sea salt
4 garlic gloves, chopped	3cm piece fresh ginger, peeled and minced
1 tsp ground coriander	½ tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp smoked paprika	1 tsp chilli flakes
1/3 cup honey	¼ cup soy sauce
1/3 cup peanut oil	juice of 1 lemon

Method

1. To make the marinade, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Toss the chicken through the marinade, cover with cling film and place in fridge for three hours.
2. Preheat a barbecue on medium heat.
3. Remove the chicken from the marinade and place in a bowl. Pour the marinade into a large saucepan and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes or until reduced to a nice saucy consistency.
4. Meanwhile, cook the chicken thighs on the barbecue (skin side down first) for eight to 10 minutes on each side, or until they caramelize and char and are just cooked through. Brush the charred thighs with the reduced marinade. Remove the chicken and rest for 10 minutes in a warm place.
5. Pile the chicken on a large platter and sprinkle the mint and coriander. Serve immediately with lemon wedges.

This recipe is courtesy of good food Australia.

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Further information please contact:
Lorraine Buttery Tel: 01409 282956
email: atlantafaaw@gmail.com



Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club

The club was established in 2001 by Don Roomes and a friend.

After meeting at the public house in Holsworthy they moved to the Scout Hut and then to the Community College where they have met monthly for a good few years.

They have taught Amateur Radio to some local members but since the Pandemic this has been taken over by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Hopefully this may be passed back to the club and this facility will be available again.

The club is affiliated to the RSGB whose patron was the Duke Of Edinburgh.

They have a Rally once a year which last year was held at the sports hall in Holsworthy where again they are hoping this venue will be available.

If the venue is not available they may scale it down slightly and meet at Milton Damerel Village Hall or may be hold a rally there irrespective of the other venue.

You do not have to be a licenced amateur to join them and attend the meetings; all are welcome to what they have, most nights a natter night or sometimes a demonstration.

They also have what they call a field day where they will meet at another field venue and operate radio from remote locations powered by a generator.

The club owns a trailer for these occasions and also own their own radio equipment and aerials for use and demonstration using the club registered call sign.

Over the years clubs like ourselves have assisted in various other outdoor events like the walk on the Tarka Trail and any event requiring radio back up.

Due to the Pandemic it is not possible for them to meet at the college until Sept so they are looking to fill those months at Milton Damerel as they still have some paid bookings at the college for the last 4 months of the year. They will, at the next available meeting, decide on whether they can also book those last 4 months additional to our other meetings.

Anyone requiring information on the club please visit the web site <https://www.qsl.net/m0omc/>

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ABBOTS BICKINGTON AND CHURCH NEWS

**Unfortunately like other parishes we have no news to mention.
We are hoping that the Church will be able to hold a service at
sometime in the near future.**

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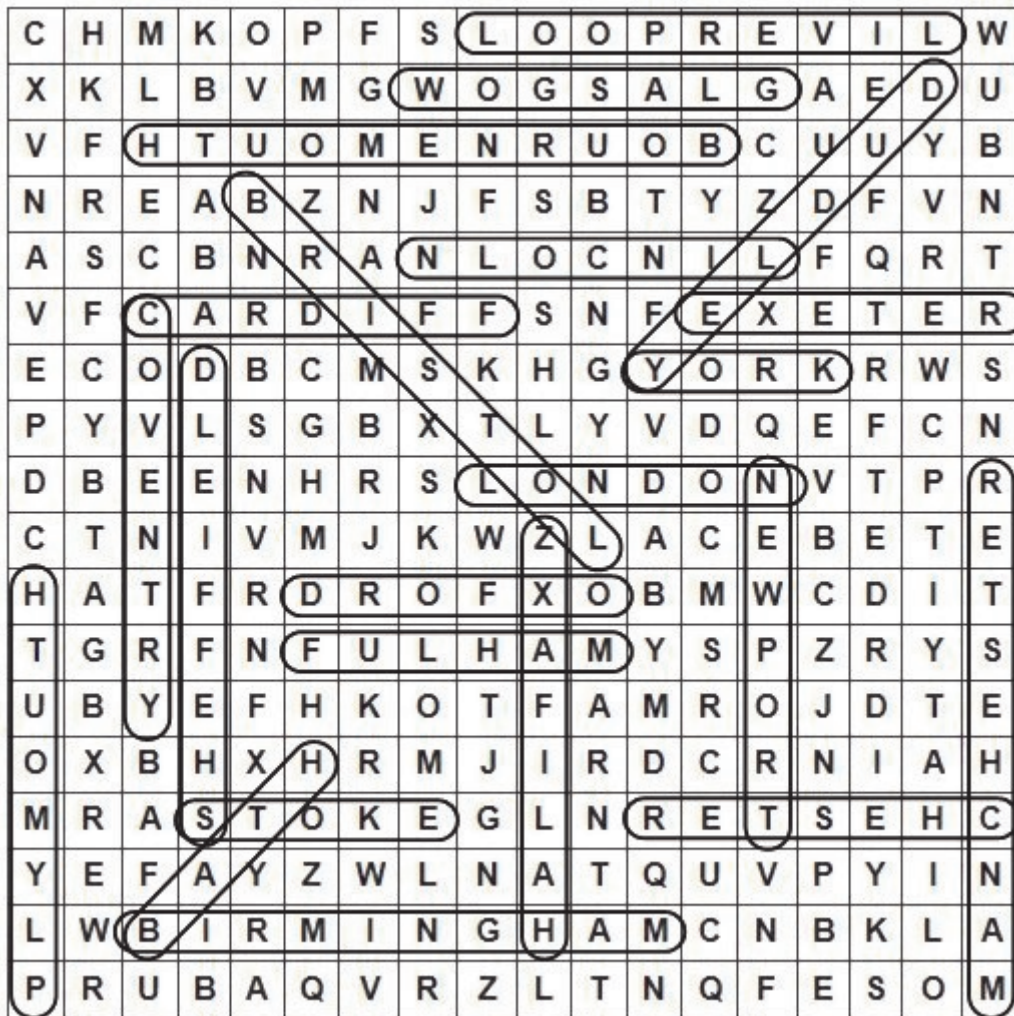


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A new face at the Woodford Bridge, Carl Jackman has recently taken over the restaurant and hope to open on the 17th May.

He moved to Buckland Brewer with his partner Becky in 2018 and has been a chef for over 25 years.

The menus are written seasonally using many locally produced ingredients, with daily changing specials on the blackboard.

The menu offers a good variety of choice and they show case this with their stone-base pizza oven and open grill. Any special dietary needs can be catered for.



You can see a sample of their menu's on their website

www.featherandhidefood.com

or contact them on

info@featherandhidefood.com.

They also do a takeaway service which can be ordered on :-
featherandhide.touchtakeaway.net

WHAT'S ON

..a selection of local events..... presented by The Plough Arts Centre in June, July & August, in various locations in this area, offering opportunity for outdoor activities and entertainment.

For a full programme of all events in The Plough diary please go to the web-site.

The Plough, Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624 www.ploughartscentre.org.uk	
<i>For prices, tickets and Covid-19 requirements</i>	
HIDDEN HISTORY TOURS	
Bideford Rail & River ...meet at The Bideford Railway Heritage Centre	1 st July @ 7.30pm
Tapeley Park, Gardens & House Meet at the Park	2 nd July @ 7.30pm 14 th July @ 3pm 6 th August @ 7.30pm 18 th August @ 3pm
Bideford Town ... meet at Bideford Library	15 th July @ 7.30pm
Torrington Rail & River meet at The Puffing Billy	12 th August @ 7.30pm
WORKSHOPS	
Alice Drama Workshop 6-11 yrs	24 th July @ 3pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
Mr Stink Drama Workshop 6-11 yrs	1 st August @ 3pm Hartland Abbey 2 nd August @ 3pm Tapeley Park
Arthur Drama Workshop 6-11 yrs	4 th August @ 3pm Clovelly Court
Grimm Drama Workshop 6-11yrs	11 th August @ 3pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
Dr Doolittle Drama Workshop 6 -11 yrs	17 th August @ 3pm Hartland Abbey
Drama Workshop The Three Musketeers 6 -11 yrs	31 st August @ 3pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
<i>Please note these Workshops are followed by Open Air Theatre events on the same day and at same location.</i>	
OPEN AIR THEATRE	
Illyria: Further Adventures of Dr Doolittle	11 th June @ 6pm The Big Sheep 20 th June @ 5pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
The Rude Mechanical Theatre present 'Little Lily Harley'	9 th July @ 7pm Tapeley Park
The Three Inch Fools: Robin Hood	10 th July @ 5pm RHS Garden Rosemoor 13 th July @ 5pm Hartland Abbey
Jack Dean & Co: Hero & Leander, or I Love You But Everything Is Under Water	14 th July @ 7pm Clovelly Court 15 th July @ 6pm The Big Sheep
Heartbreak Theatre: The Great Gatesby	16 th July @ 7pm Blackberry Farm
Horrible Histories: Gorgeous Georgians & Vile Victorians	18 th July @ 2pm & 5pm The Big Sheep 22 nd August @ 2pm & 5pm Tapeley Park
Plough Youth Theatre Juniors: The Adventures of Merlin	19 th July @ 7pm Castle Hill Gardens 21 st July @ 7pm The Plough
The Duke's Theatre Co: Romeo & Juliet	21 st July @ 7pm Hartland Abbey
Boxtree Production: Alice in Wonderland	24 th July @ 5pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
Plough Youth Theatre Juniors: Matilda The Musical in 20 minutes	26 th & 27 th July @ 7pm Castle Hill Gardens
Heartbreak: Mr Stink	1 st August @ 5pm Tapeley Park 2 nd August @ 5pm Hartland Abbey
Illyria: HMS Pinafore	3 rd August @ 7pm Hartland Abbey
The Last Baguette: Arthur – The Story of a king	4 th August @ 5pm Clovelly Court 5 th August @ 5pm The Big Sheep
Heartbreak: A Midsummer Night's Dream	10 th August @ 6pm Castle Hill Gardens
Heartbreak: Wonder with Grimm	11 th August @ 5pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
The Pantaloons: The Tempest	13 th August @ 6pm Tapeley Park
Illyria: The Further Adventures of Dr Doolittle	17 th August @ 5pm Hartland Abbey
The Three Inch Fools: Merry Wives of Windsor	18 th August @ 7pm Hartland Abbey
Illyria: Much Ado About Nothing	24 th August @ 6pm RHS Garden Rosemoor
The Pantaloons: Pride & Prejudice	26 th August @ 6pm The Big Sheep
Immersion Theatre: The Three Musketeers 8 yrs+	31 st August @ 5pm RHS Garden Rosemoor

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 4, 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 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 below.

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 mdnews@kendallnet.co.uk.

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.

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 August 2021.

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Sleep-in Shifts

A female worker sued her employer The Royal Mencap Society. She was a highly qualified care support worker. She provided care for two vulnerable adults. Her working pattern was to do a two-day shift, and for that she was paid a salary, and then another sleep-in shift for which she received a flat rate. She was then paid an additional hourly rate for any time during the night when she was woken to perform her duties. During these sleep-in shifts she had no specific tasks to undertake. However, she was expected to sleep in an allocated private bedroom. She also had to remain on the premises should help be required. She was called upon to work during the night on 6 occasions in 16 months. Her employer did not pay her for the time she was sleeping and not required to render any assistance. That was the reason she went to the Employment Tribunal.

Both the Employment Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that she was working for national minimum wage purposes for the entirety of her sleep-in shifts. It held that the Society was under a legal obligation to have someone on the premises according to the law. Also, under its contract with the Local Authority, a worker was required to remain at the premises throughout the shift. Thirdly, she had to use her professional judgement to work out when her intervention was needed in the night, and to give appropriate and prompt responses.

This case worked its way all up to the Supreme Court. It passed judgement in March in reversing the decisions of the Employment Tribunal and the Employment Appeal Tribunal. The Justices held that under the National Minimum Wage Sleep-in Provisions, the worker who was expected to sleep during their shift and only be woken infrequently (known as a sleep-in care worker) is only entitled to the national minimum wage when they are awake for the purposes of work. In its judgement, the Justices said:

“If the employer has given the worker the hours in question as time to sleep and the only requirement on the worker is to respond to emergency calls, the worker’s time in those hours is not included in the national minimum wage calculation for time worked unless the worker actually answers an emergency call. In that event the time he spends answering the call is included..... It follows that, however many times the sleep-in worker is (contrary to expectation) woken to answer emergency calls, the whole of his shift is not included for national minimum wage purposes. Only the period for which he is actually awake for the purposes of working is included.”

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As you can imagine, there is a difference between those people who are employed to work night shifts who are expected to be awake and working, and those who are employed to cover a sleep-in shift where they are expected to be sleeping but available when needed in emergency cases. So, for example, a night watchman who has duties to patrol periodically throughout the night is deemed to be working throughout the entire shift even if he is allowed to sleep for short periods between the obligatory patrols.

Care providers have breathed a huge sigh of relief. It is estimated that the potential damage for settling backdated claims, had they lost, could reportedly have run up a bill for £400 million. Working on relatively small margins, that would inevitably have seen a number of them go to the wall.

**John Busby
Busbys Solicitors, Bude**

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Jeremy Sharp Tel 01409 261548.
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Holsworthy Rural Police:

Urgent 999
Non-Urgent 101
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e.uk

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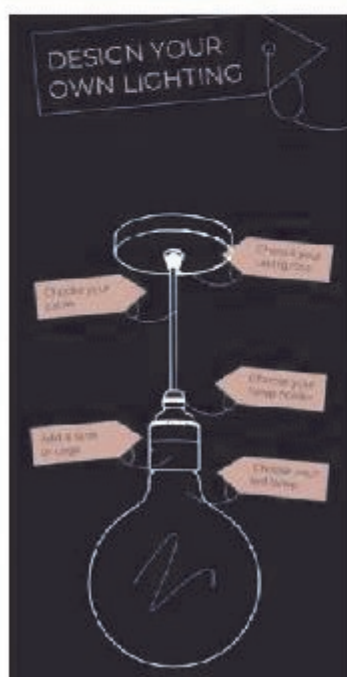
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