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# MILTON DAMEREL

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2024

94th Edition



## Magnolias at Rosemoor

There are few plants that can match the elegance and sheer flower-power of Magnolias. Around March (and beyond) Rosemoor is furnished with an extravagant display of blooms across the gardens, showing off a huge variation in colour, size and shape across the many different species and cultivars.



*Magnolia campbellii* (Raffillii Group) 'Charles Raffill' ©RHS/  
Sheila Dearing

Magnolias are an ancient lineage of flowering plants, evolving before pollinators such as bees became prevalent. Instead, their flowers evolved to be pollinated by beetles, each richly scented flower creates a cosy sheltered place for beetles to feed on the plentiful pollen grains within.

Spring flowering Magnolias are usually deciduous, so their blooms can be enjoyed without any leaves to obscure the display.

A very striking Magnolia found standing by Lady Anne's house is *M. campbellii* 'Charles Raffill', bedecked with huge decadent pink flowers. Despite being from the Himalayas, its flowers are sometimes hit by a late frost.

Somewhat less extroverted -but just as exquisite- is *M. denudata*, a pure white flowered sentinel that can be seen from afar on the Woodland Bank. *M. stellata* (pictured) is an ideal choice for smaller gardens, easily kept as a neat shrub, it has smaller but very numerous star-like flowers.

Later on in spring there are plenty more delights to see, such as *M. x soulangeana* in April, a reliable stalwart of any garden that will also give a few bonus blooms later in summer. As March ends, many more Magnolias are just getting going – evergreen species such as *M. laevifolia* have fuzzy cinnamon coloured buds and an alluring scent that drifts through the garden, there's one cultivar called 'Gails Favourite' in the Exotic garden that is worth searching out in April.

Whatever your preferences are, there's sure to be a Magnolia out there that would make a fine addition to your green space.

Simeon Cotterell  
Horticulturist at RHS Garden Rosemoor



*Magnolia stellata* ©RHS/Carol Sheppard

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E-mail: [miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miltondamerelpc@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 01409 282956

## **Councillors:**

|                             |              |                                  |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Stephen Moyse (Chairperson) | 07966 671543 | Richard Piper (Vice Chairperson) | 01409 261114 |
| Jim Richardson              | 07866 406977 | Gareth Piper                     | 07966 558385 |
| Teresa Walters              | 01409 261871 | Peter Bromley                    |              |
| Edgar Pett                  |              |                                  |              |

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 Friday 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.

## **District Councillors**

Councillor Kit Hepple has been unable to attend meetings but is always available if he is needed.

Councillor Ken James attends meetings on a regular basis and is a great help to the Parish Council, his continued support and advice is very much appreciated.

## **Devon County Councillor James Morrish**

Councillor James Morrish attended the November and February meetings, James is a great help to the Parish Council, his support and advice is very much appreciated. James is available by email to all residents if they have any concerns, he is always willing to help.

## **Holsworthy Neighborhood Policing team.**

At the time of writing I am unable to confirm who our PCSO is but Sgt Donna Gutteridge sends regular updates and is available at the Holsworthy station. As soon as we find out the PCSO's name it will be published on the website,

## **Planning matters:**

There has been very few Planning application received over the past three months, a retrospective application for a hot water cylinder at a Barn application, the Demolition of a Barn for the erection of one dwelling, this replaces a Class Q application.

Your Parish Councillors give great consideration to all applications received, their concerns and comments are reported in the minutes and passed on to Torridge planning department.

## **Town Farm**

It is apparent to all that some tidying up has been done on the site, with the fences being repaired and the entrance being cleared. No information regarding if or when the development would be started is forthcoming..

Although the Parish Council wrote to Vodaphone regarding the erection of the mast between Talltrees (Footprint) and the bus shelter, to date no reply has been received.

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

## **Devon Air Ambulance Night time Site**

In early December Councillor Stephen Moyse was notified that there was a problem with the Landing Lights and the site was no longer a safe night landing site it was therefore relegated to a 'dark site'. Councillor Moyse in all urgency contacted the Contractors and the repairs were done before Christmas, one lamp had to be replaced and the problem with the circuit boards was fixed, the cost to the Parish was over £700, the site has been reinstated as a safe night time landing site, which could be of great importance in the future.

## **Annual Precept**

Your might notice on your Council Tax information that the Parish Council's precept request has risen significantly from the previous year. The reasons being that we will be receiving a large invoice from Torridge District Council for the Parish Council Election. In addition the Parish Council require extra top up this year as the funds are lower than previous end of year accounts. This is due to the Parish Councillors approving extra grants for the Kings Coronation celebrations. Also the cost of cutting back hedges and verges to ensure the safety of all parishioners and visitors to the area.

**The Step Back in Time Fund:** for young people has a balance of £103.02 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**

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's sited at Holsworthy Beacon and Sanders Garage are checked regularly, but if at any time you see that there is any damage to the cabinet at either site, please inform the Clerk. The cabinet at Sanders Garage has now been replaced, grateful thanks go to DCC Councillor James Morrish, District Councillors Kit Hepple and Ken James who approved grants to cover the cost of the new cabinet and its installation.

If you would like a refresher on the use of the AED and basic life support (CPR), 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 regularly passes on the complaints to Devon Highways, copies are always sent to Councillor Morrish, who will substantiate our complaints. The more people that go onto Devon County Council's website and reports potholes and poor road surfaces the better, the Parish Council encourages residents to do so as often as they can.

### **Parish Footpaths**

The Parish Footpaths are now looked after by George and Wendy Preston, and they are doing a grand job, their report is printed elsewhere in the newsletter. They report directly to the Parish Clerk if there are any problems. Whilst out walking the paths if you see a problem can you please report it to ensure we get it put right without too much delay.

### **The Parish Hall**

The Parish Hall was closed for a few weeks due to an electrical problem, thankfully all has been repaired and the Hall is open again. There are great things planned for the future, keep an eye out for future events as your attendance is vital in keeping the Parish Hall a communal hub.

### **Annual Grants**

The Grants for the financial year 2024-2025 will be considered at a later date. This is due to the uncertain financial position of the Parish Council due to the election costs.

Freedom of information: Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act should be sent to the Parish Clerk. Some information can be made available by email free of charge, paper copies will be charged at 10p per A4 side. Copies of the recent Parish Council meeting agendas and minutes are available on [www.miltondamerel.com](http://www.miltondamerel.com)

#### **Dining Out -The Instow Inn**

If you are a dog owner you are probably familiar with the beach at Instow as it is one of the few places where dogs can run off their leads. The Instow Inn is definitely a dog friendly pub they almost outnumbered customers when we visited in January.

There is plenty of outdoor seating , some of it in little covered booths. If you are lucky enough to get a seat inside there are wonderful views across the estuary to be enjoyed whilst waiting for your food. We stopped there for lunch recently and had a lovely meal I had whitebait with small salad and Jim had gammon and skinny fries with egg and pineapple. The gammon was the most tender I had ever tasted as the portion was so generous I had to help him eat it! The whitebait were on the large side but lovely.

The menu has a good varied choice with a specials board and prices are average for eating out, and you do get that spectacular view. Staff were very friendly and helpful and there is even more seating upstairs. A lovely meal and lovely atmosphere.

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# Chapel News – March 2024

## Dear Friends

We are now very much in the season of Lent building up to the most important part of the Christian year – Holy Week.

In that week we will start by remembering Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey; with the adulation of the crowds, shouting their Hosannas as they laid Palm branches, hence the name, and coats on the ground as Jesus entered the city.

Throughout that final week of Jesus life, the tension grew in the over-crowded city filled with pilgrims for Passover. The authorities were watching Jesus carefully, indeed trying to catch him out.

Eventually a plot was hatched to rid themselves of the preacher from Nazareth. A traitor, Judas Iscariot, was bribed to provide information as to Jesus movements. As Jesus shared a final meal with his followers, Judas slipped out; and later that same evening Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

A sham trial followed; the outcome was never in doubt, but justice was not done. On Good Friday, publicly and humiliatingly, Jesus was hung on a cross to die.

The man who had come to share the good news was despised and rejected. Humanity tried to stop his way.

But such self-giving love could not be defeated and on the third day he rose again. The glorious Easter morn.

We shall be remembering and celebrating this Easter tide.

Although not happening in Milton Damerel I invite you to two major events in the life of the Torrige Methodist Circuit.

The first is **FARM PALM SUNDAY on Sunday 24th March 2024 at Bowden Farm, Bideford 4-5pm**. This is an event for ALL. Come and share in worship, activities and food as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem. This event will be in a barn, but please bring appropriate footwear. Parking will be on a hard surface. Hot Cross buns and drinks available.

On **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March we shall be reading all Four Gospels continuously**. As we hear of Jesus' story from start to finish, we shall prepare ourselves for the great events that lie at the end of Holy Week. **This will begin at 7.30am and conclude with Holy Communion at 6.30pm. This is taking place at our Chapel in Buckland Brewer**; and can be live streamed. Go to "You Tube" and search for "Buckland Brewer Methodist Church".

Can I wish you every blessing

God Bless, Rob Blackhall

Revd Rob Blackhall Superintendent Minister

## Flower Plan:

**10<sup>th</sup> Mar** Mrs Margaret Fishleigh  
**14<sup>th</sup> Apr** Mrs Ann Poole

**12<sup>th</sup> May** Mrs Sheila Daniel  
**9<sup>th</sup> Jun** Mrs Phyllis Piper

### Dates of services at the Chapel for March to May all at 11.00am.

**Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> March** All Age Worship with Mr Frank Watson  
**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> March** Café Worship

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April** All Age Worship with Mrs Margaret Price.  
**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April** Café Worship

**Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May** All Age Worship with Mr David Ley (Holy Communion)  
**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May** Café Worship

Our 2 services per month, normally held in the Schoolroom, are inclusive of all ages from the youngest to the eldest. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday service is normally led by one of our Ministers or Lay Preacher, and an activities table for children is included. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service is normally 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.

### 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.

## Holy Week & Easter Sunday

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March  
Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May

Preacher: Revd Rob Blackhall (Holy Communion)  
Preacher: Mr Roy Harris  
Preacher: Mr Duncan Withall



As Revd Rob Blackhall has mentioned above, there are several events organised by the Circuit, Farm Palm Sunday on 24<sup>th</sup> March and Four Gospels Reading on 26<sup>th</sup> March, and later in the week there are services on Maundy Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at Northam Chapel at 10.30am and at Torrington Chapel at 7pm,; on Good Friday Services at Alverdiscott at 11am, at Buckland Brewer at 2pm, and 3pm at Northam.

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

On 31<sup>st</sup> March – Easter Sunday – we will be joining with our “Shebbear Methodist Church” congregations for 11am service at Langtree Methodist Church, led by Mr David Ley, with Holy Communion.

Zoom - these are planned for 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, and 12<sup>th</sup> May – Easter Offerings, all of which you are most welcome to join in. 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](mailto:sarahrichards185@gmail.com) for details on how to join the ‘meeting’.

Live Stream – Buckland Brewer. We continue to Live Stream Services on the **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church You-Tube Channel** on the 3rd & 4th Sunday in the Month & the 5th Sunday if there is one.

**BIBLE STUDY** – Tuesdays 10.30am in the Schoolroom at **Milton Damerel Chapel**. This is an Ecumenical ‘venture’ with Thornbury St Peter’s Church, but a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining us. The leader is Revd Stephen Skinner. The usual pattern is to meet fortnightly; however, **for Lent, we are meeting weekly, starting on 20<sup>th</sup> February, through to 19<sup>th</sup> March**, and will be using a study titled “A Way through the Wilderness” by Paula Gooder. Please contact David & Janet Fisher (Tel: 07858506973) or Grace Millman (Tel: 01409261251) for further details.

**NEW YEAR PARTY** It was always one of the highlights of the Methodist calendar to hold a New Year’s Party, but the Covid epidemic intervened and so there was no party for 5 years. However it was re-instated to start 2024 and on 27<sup>th</sup> January about 24 adults and children came along for fun and games expertly MC’d by Kelvin Isaac from Holsworthy, and afternoon tea was included. It was good to have such a good attendance, as there were several competing events on the same day.

**Torrige 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 [www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.torridgemethodistcircuit.org.uk) 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 Torrige 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 Superintendent Minister: Revd Rob Blackhall (01805 628041) Our steward: Jeremy Sharp (Tel: 261548), Property Steward: vacant; Secretary: vacant.

### MILTON DAMEREL METHODIST CHURCH

#### GRASS CUTTING of GRAVEYARD

We need a person(s) to take on this work for the graveyard requiring grass cutting and strimming and weed control.

Visits required about every 3 - 4 weeks during ‘growing season’ depending on weather conditions and vegetation growth.

Enquiries to Grace Millman Tel: 01409 261251 / 07970 792557

# Holy Trinity Church News

Church wardens Isabel and Roy Fairbrother tel 07746867832

Email: [holytrinitychurch1274c@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitychurch1274c@gmail.com)



Hello Everyone,

Spring has come early. What a wonderful sight it is to see daffodils in bloom so early in the year despite all the rain, the first we spotted was at Landcross in the grass verge - and that was before Christmas. Mother nature makes a wonderful recovery.

The churchyard is starting to bloom with snowdrops and pushing up under the trees is wild garlic, (we used to call them stinking lilies), who would have thought they would become a culinary delicacy and used in top restaurants? Catkins are hanging from the hazel where later in the year they will be nuts - yes the circle of new life is beginning.

**In our church** : After Rev. Richard retired we were despondent about being without a vicar for a long period, it isn't easy to get clergy to take a 'one off service', but then stepping into the breach came Rev Stephen Skinner who had retired from the Ruby Benefice but came out of retirement to serve our Benefice - we hope to keep him until we find a permanent replacement.

There has been changes; services are now relaxed with poetry and readings from other sources as well as the Holy Bible, the congregation is more inclusive and it is a much brighter experience. This is a new more up to date way it is so refreshing. There are plans ahead to introduce different types of services including afternoon tea and we hope to unite occasionally with the Methodist Chapel to share our services bringing even more variation and become a more ecumenical community. We feel this is the way forward.

Rev. Stephen may only be with us for a short time but he has brought about a change for the good. Look out for notices on Facebook and on the church noticeboard for service dates as they are liable to change at times. We have omitted the list for 3 months service plan from this issue.



**March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11.00pm Special Family Service** - at Holy Trinity Church  
We all had a mother. Our mother gave us life, nurtured us

**YOUNG and NOT SO YOUNG ARE INVITED TO JOIN WITH US at Holy Trinity Church TO CELEBRATE MOTHERS AT THIS SPECIAL FAMILY SERVICE for all MUM'S**

Children are especially welcome – bring along your mum and your grandmother.

A posy will be given to all mothers.

## **March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Day Service 11.30**

Service of Holy Communion to celebrate the 'Risen Lord'

Come and sing along with us at this special service of Easter. Refreshments afterwards and an Easter treat.

**News from last year December 2<sup>nd</sup>** our church was the chosen venue for a service to renew wedding vows after 40 years marriage. The couple had married at a Register Office and always felt they had missed out so now they felt this was the time to renew their wedding vows and re-pledge their love and commitment to each other. Rev Stephen held a beautiful service for the couple with friends and family to witness. At the end the music 'Circle of Life' was played as the couple and grandchildren held hands in the Chancel area. It was a very moving, happy and special time which I was pleased to witness. If you are considering renewing your wedding vows or you are planning to marry our church will welcome you and you will have a service to remember. We are open for you.

## **Church Service with Archdeacon of Barnstaple December 3rd**

December 3<sup>rd</sup> was another big day as we welcomed the Archdeacon of Barnstaple to our church to take a service of Holy Communion. Church members and community from all parishes in the Benefice were welcome to attend - we also had the Benefice Choir – renamed the 'Waldron Singers' so the church for once was pretty full. Archdeacon Verena was very easy to talk to and spent time talking to almost everyone after the service whilst sharing in our refreshments.

Oh yes, we also had a constant percussion accompaniment - dripping water as rain came through the roof and down a pillar, we had quite a lake near the far screen door. Think we have the worst church in the Benefice for wet and damp. Support us this year in our quest to raise enough money for a new roof – later might be too late to save this church building.



## **Church Gardening**

As we all know it has been too wet to do much outside other than sweep the path and collect up the bits of branches blown down from the trees.

We hope to get back on schedule as soon as the weather improves, and the grass dries out a bit.

Gardening is undertaken on 1st Thursday in winter/spring and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in summer.

If you like strimming, you can strim to your hearts content in our churchyard – you need a strimmer as we don't supply one – or own one. It is too big a job for one person to undertake.



The parish churchyard is the envy of the Benefice and visitors often comment on the tidiness, we are unable to maintain it without the help given by volunteers – it also provides a bit of exercise.

If you don't like gardening then consider helping with small repairs, we have a list as long as your arm of small jobs to do to maintain this building. We need a volunteer carpenter to repair an ancient door – imagine leaving YOUR mark on this ancient building for posterity.

**ADVANCE NOTICE from the Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club**

CHOTA Day this year will be held in Holy Trinity on the 14th September.

Food and beverages will be available - Pop in at any time after 11.00am



**The Christmas Tree Festival 2023**

What a good response we had; trees came through the door ready to be decorated. Congratulations to everyone who took part it was a unique and varied display.

Trees were decorated with all manner of items - like the tree that had all types of cooking utensils hanging from it, the cookery book tree assembly. The young person who is a dab hand at crochet festooned her tree with handmade items tree even a crocheted basket that it stood in.

All entries were amazing. I would like to mention them all but no room. The one 'liked best' chosen by the public was a homemade willow tree bedecked with beautiful wood hangings it was made and submitted by 'Laura'.

Cream teas were available throughout the two days. Thanks to Roberta working hard in the kitchen the beverages kept flowing.



Chosen by visitors.  
Joint 2<sup>nd</sup>  
The Crocheted Tree and Cookery Book Tree



Our many thanks to all those people who supported this 'roof fund' event. However, we had plenty of room for more exhibits - and more promises to take part in 2024 Together, let's build this event into the best there is.

I will be reminding you again nearer December. Get thinking and take inspiration NOW.

Whatever size, colour or shape **YOU ARE WELCOME at HOLY TRINITY. All denominations are welcome. All AGES are welcome** especially children, we have a few toys and colouring books for them to use.

Please look at the noticeboard by the roadside outside the church [for church service dates/ times and any changes that have to be made.](#) [All church events posters \(that we hold throughout the year\) will be found here too.](#) [Don't forget we hold our BBQ in July – one not to miss.](#)

Isabel and Roy

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## Milton Damerel Parish Hall News

# Parish Hall

Hopefully it is not too late to wish everyone A Happy New Year, and at the same time a Happy Easter! The final event of 2023 at the hall was the Community Carol evening and Christmas Hamper Raffle . Just over £100 was raised for The Devon Air Ambulance and the hamper raffle raised around £150 which will go towards upkeep of the hall. Many thanks to all who supported the event and purchased raffle tickets.



The first event of 2024 was the Community Cafe followed by a Curry and Quiz night and then the ever popular Chocolate Bingo afternoon. All events were well supported especially the Bingo! Must be the chocolate effect!

Unfortunately we had to postpone The February Big Breakfast as we had an electrical problem in the hall which caused a temporary two week closure. Thankfully the Methodist Church came to our rescue and we were able to relocate Yoga, Dancercise and The Over 60s groups to the schoolroom there without too much disruption. All being well by the time you read this we will be back in the hall and will have had our postponed Big Breakfast .The next planned events are as follows;



|                                 |     |                                |
|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March   | 3pm | Easter Chocolate Bingo         |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April  |     | Community Cafe 10.30 am-1.30pm |
| Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April |     | Soup and Sweet Night 7.30pm    |
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May    |     | Community Cafe 10.30am-1.30pm  |

For further events keep an eye out on Facebook or look out for roadside boards and posters.



As ever many thanks to all who volunteer and help in running the hall and or helping at events and for those in the community who come and support the events that we run. If you have any events you would like to see take place please contact any member of the committee as we are always looking for new ideas .

### The Parish Hall -The Way Ahead?

As you will have read elsewhere in the newsletter we had to close the hall temporarily for a couple of weeks at the start of February. This was because of urgent electrical work required in order to obtain certification for insurance purposes. Much of this work was necessary because of the deteriorating condition of the structure of the hall resulting in a great deal of condensation and damp, not good for electrics! This has given us, the committee yet another large bill of around £2,000 for upgrades and repairs to system.

Late last year we were fortunate in receiving a lottery grant of just under £10,000 this is specifically for seating and heating which was wonderful. Regular users of the hall will have seen the seating that has been purchased and has been well received. Improving the heating turns out to be a more complicated task. We have had quotes within the budget but it appears that in order to improve the heating we have to increase the supply of electricity to the hall by The National Grid and improvements to the circuit boards in the hall. The current quote for this is a whopping £15,000! This is money we do not have and as regular events in the hall really only cover the running costs we find ourselves at a crossroads. We are constantly fighting problems with damp in various parts of the hall mainly due to the construction of the roof being corrugated iron it causes massive condensation problems and the knock on effect.

We are looking into the feasibility of applying for a full refurbishment grant for the hall. This is a complicated and lengthy process. We are a small committee with a few additional volunteers who help out as needed. In order to consider this mammoth task we urgently need more help from the community. Particularly if anyone out there has knowledge of structural engineering/ buildings who could give us advice and assistance in this and in putting together a plan/wish list for a grant application . We do not necessarily need someone to take on the whole task (though that would be wonderful) though there are already some small jobs that need doing to alleviate some of the current problems.

We will be holding a public meeting later in the year to discuss this matter with the wider community in the meantime we welcome any suggestions /recommendations you may have and welcome anyone who wishes to join the committee .

Yours Melanie Richardson, Committee Chair 07929509534

## NEWSLETTER FINANCES 2023

The Group reports on the finances for the year 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The financial statements are set out below.

|                                     | £              | £                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Receipts during 2023:</b>        |                | (2022)           |
| Advertising <sup>NOTE</sup>         | 1273.38        | (1171.63)        |
| Personal donations/subscriptions    | 0.00           | (20.00)          |
| Grant – Parish Council              | 100.00         | (100.00)         |
| Total                               | <u>1373.38</u> | <u>(1291.63)</u> |
| <b>Payments during 2023:</b>        |                |                  |
| Printing <sup>NOTE 2:</sup>         | 1220.01        | (768.82)         |
| Other Payment for photo copyright   | 9.59           | (18.12)          |
| Total                               | <u>1229.60</u> | <u>(786.94)</u>  |
| <b><u>Net gain for the year</u></b> | <b>143.78</b>  | <b>( 504.69)</b> |

Funds in hand at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023:

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Nat West Treasurer's Account..... | 3158.76       |
| Cash & Cheques held .....         | 0.00          |
| Total                             | 3158.76       |
| Add net gain for year             | <u>143.78</u> |

**Funds in hand at 31st December 2023** **3302.54**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Represented by: Nat West Treasurer's Account..... | 3302.54               |
| Cash & Cheques held.....                          | <u>0.00</u>           |
|   | <b><u>3302.54</u></b> |

NOTE: Funds in hand at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, include the advertising revenue 'in advance' for 2 editions – March & June 2024, valued at £649.25

NOTE 2: Printing cost for five editions. Error in invoice for December 22 delayed payment and that is in 2023 accounts. £213.36

The Newsletter has continued to be favoured with the support of nearly all advertisers, from within the parish and neighbouring parishes and towns, despite another awful year. We lost one advertiser and two others are ending at the end of this advertising year but we have gained two new advertisers.

The Parish Council kindly gave an annual grant of £100.

Various forms of community support enable the continued delivery of approximately 240 copies free of charge, to each household in the parish and in Abbots Bickington.

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

## Evelyn's Walk (12/02/2024)

I didn't organise any walks in December or January so the walk on Monday 12th February was the first walk in 2024. Seven of us met at Dunsdon Nature Reserve in Pancrasweek & it wasn't raining!!! In fact the sun shone which definitely lifted everyone's spirits. We walked back to the lane from the car park & turned right. We could admire St. Pancras Church in the distance & enjoy far-reaching views towards Bodmin. At the point where the lane went round a left hand bend, we turned right & then joined the footpath on the right. This is a lovely level walk alongside the Bude Aqueduct, the feeder arm of the Bude Canal. We were effectively walking inland towards Lower Tamar Lake but only walked as far as Puckland Farm. It was a bit sticky under foot but not really muddy which is amazing given how much rain we have had in recent weeks. We looked for spring flowers & spotted a Primrose. We were surprised that we didn't see more especially as it has been so mild. We enjoyed the tranquility along the way. We didn't meet a soul. Apparently, this area is known for Willow Tits & Grasshopper Warblers. We didn't notice any but to be fair, they probably heard our chatter & hid. Once we reached the lane at Puckland Farm, we turned right. It was hard to believe that this is a public road given the lack of tarmac. It was more akin to a track providing access to the farm. When we reached the T-junction, we turned right & the road surface improved. We continued walking along the lane past Broomhill & by turning right at Dunsdon Cross, we returned to the entrance to the car park. We saw patches of Snowdrops & a Camellia in bloom. The sun continued to shine all the way back. This made a very pleasant circular route of approx. 3.25 miles & a lovely start to the week.



The next walk is planned for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. We'll be setting off from the car park by the Village Hall in Bridgerule at 10am. Everyone is most welcome to join me. If you would like more information, my contact details are –  
Evelyn Sharman Tel: 01409 259 848 Email: [evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com](mailto:evelyn.sharman@btinternet.com)

### Footpath Maintenance.

On June 23 I duly contacted Ros Davies and Martin caddy for input procedures of the P3 protocols , however Martin had not started the inspection of these paths at this time.

In September we had a meeting with Ros and a walk round the paths, noting works that required attention which Ros photographed and passed on to Martin Caddy for the works to be contracted out . An excellent result all round

In October I had to attend a brush cutter course arranged by Ros in South Devon Devon ( this was for insurance purposes).

The outstanding repairs are under way and all will be completed in due course, some of the more heavy maintenance work has been contracted out via Martin caddy, generally the paths are in a reasonable state, but like everywhere else it is down to the vagaries of the North Devon weather!

At this time we can see no specific need to bid for any project monies for the existing paths.

As far as I am aware Ros has moved on to pastures new ( still in the environment agency) and a new P3 controller has not been employed by the agency.

We feel sure that Martin Caddy will be in contact with us when he has news.

Wendy and I will continue to look after the paths in 2024 for routine maintenance as usual.

Wendy and George Preston

## CONGRATULATIONS!



To:- Peter Bromley of Milton House, who was 70 in January.

John Binns of Little Derworthy, who will be 60 in March.

John has also now retired from the Royal Navy and Royal Navy Reserves after 43 years service.



To:-

## WELCOME

None received



## OUR SYMPATHIES

To:-

None received



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.



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15 FEB 2024

## MILTON DAMEREL AND DISTRICT GARDENING GROUP

November 20<sup>th</sup> Speaker Rob Meredith from Pyworthy gave us a talk on Mycorrhizal Fungi. This is tied up with the 'No Dig' system. It was a very interesting and educational talk

December 18<sup>th</sup> Our Christmas Social, member Heather Jordon, gave us a short talk and demonstration on the different types of compost she makes for her own garden. This was followed by a Bring and Share Supper.

There were no Meetings in January and February.

AGM will be on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7.30. Everyone welcome, whether a member or not. Some decisions need to be made as to whether the club will continue in the same format. Our Membership has declined and speakers, although interesting, are expensive to book.

Hopefully, if the Club continues, meetings will still be held at the Parish Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month, unless we have a Garden Visit.

Membership is £15 joint and £10 single, £1 subscriptions. £4 per meeting for non members. New members always welcome.

|            |  |         |
|------------|--|---------|
| Chair      | Melanie Richardson   | 261 353 |
| Vice Chair | Edgar Pett   | 261 277 |
| Treasurer  | Lesley Self  | 261 294 |
| Email      | <a href="mailto:mdadgg@btinternet.com">mdadgg@btinternet.com</a> |         |

## WHAT'S ON .....

### Arts & Entertainment in our area

**HATS Theatre, Holsworthy**

[www.holsworthytheatre.co.uk](http://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.

The pantomines are normally performed in mid- to- late January – are excellent entertainment and attract good audiences.

A Farce by Norman Robbins **“PULL THE OTHER ONE”**

Directed by Lesley Wonnacott

2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

**MEVAGISSEY MALE CHOIR**

29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm

**The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington**

Box Office: 01805 624624

[www.ploughartscentre.org.uk](http://www.ploughartscentre.org.uk)

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.

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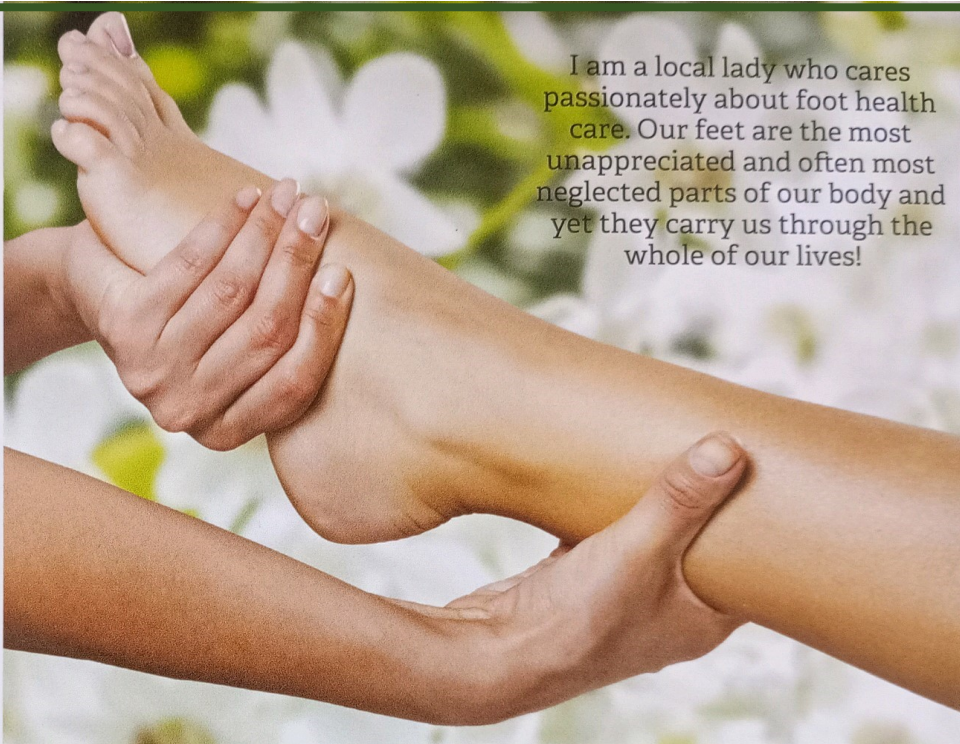
- Corns
- Verrucas/Warts
- Hard skin/Callus/Fissures
- Nail Cutting
- Thickened Nails
- Fungal infections/Athletes Foot
- Nail Pain
- Diabetic Feet Management
- Dressings and padding to aid healing and comfort

Reflexology session is a separate treatment booked in advance with a choice of essential oils and optional foot and lower leg massage, perfect for improving circulation and relaxation

Kate Lord Dip: MFHP IHHT  
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Contact: 07557379099

Email: [KatesCompleteFeet1@gmail.com](mailto:KatesCompleteFeet1@gmail.com)

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## Night Walk

Melanie Richardson of Mount Pleasant and Lesley Self of Nuview will be doing the Ladies Night Walk again on Saturday evening, 11<sup>th</sup> May.

This is in aid of North Devon Hospice. An 11 mile walk along the Tarka Trail from Barnstaple to Bideford.

All donations and support will be gratefully received.

A just giving page will be set up on Facebook and a Coffee Morning/afternoon will be arranged nearer the time.



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**Venn Green**

**PCSOs - Melissa Baker and Sandra Brown – Contact via 101**

**Edwina Hale**

**Edgar Pett**

**Mike Jackson**

**Tel: 261263**

**Tel: 261277**

**Tel: 261196**

**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**

**WhatsApp Scams are on the Increase –**

***This article has been provided by Linzi Berryman of the Devon & Cornwall Police***

Please be wary when receiving contact via WhatsApp or other messaging platforms. This is particularly the case – despite the fact that you may recognise the individual's profile when being asked to provide account information, picture and / or name.

Never share your account information with anyone, and if you think it's a fraudulent approach, report the message and block the sender within WhatsApp. To make your account more secure, we advise setting up two-step verification to provide an extra layer of protection. This makes it increasingly more difficult for fraudsters to gain access to somebody else's WhatsApp account.

***What can you do to avoid being a victim?***

***Never share your account's two-factor authentication (2FA) code (that's the six digit code you receive via SMS).***

***Set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account.***

***Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.***

**THINK. CALL.** If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person on a phone number you know to be correct, to confirm their identity.

You can **report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp**. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

**If you have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by phone 0300 123 2040.**

WhatsApp groups are being targeted by scammers who infiltrate these groups, then deceive the group's members into sending them money. This fraud often begins when a member of the group receives a WhatsApp audio call from the fraudster, pretending, or claiming, to be a member of the group. This is done in order to gain the individual's trust, and often the scammer will use a false profile picture and / or display name, so at first glance it would appear to be a genuine member of the group.

The fraudster will then call the victim and say they are sending a one-time passcode which will allow them to join an upcoming video call for group members. The scammer then asks the victim to share this passcode with them so they can be "registered" for the video call. What's really happening is that the scammer is asking for a registration code to register the victim's WhatsApp account to a new device where they then "port" their WhatsApp profile over.

Once the fraudster has access to the victim's WhatsApp account, they will enable two-step verification which makes it impossible for the victim to access their account. The scammer will then message other members of the group, or friends and family in the victim's contacts, asking them to transfer money urgently as they are in desperate need of help.

**ActionFraud**  
Report Fraud & Internet Crime  
[actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)



## MILTON DAMEREL AND DISTRICT OVER 60's GROUP

Our last meeting of the year was on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December and we had a shared buffet tea and played table board games.

Members and friends had a Christmas Carvery Lunch at The Royal, Bideford on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December. This was very enjoyable and the décor at The Royal was very impressive.

There was no meeting in January.

Our first meeting for 2024 was on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Members were asked to make a list of suggestions, on where they would find interesting to visit, on the coming coach trips. The committee will now have a meeting to compile a coach trip schedule.

Our next meetings will be Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, April, 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Our regular meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, from 2.30 to 4.30 at Milton Damerel Parish Hall. At present, membership is £4 and monthly subs £2. This does include a raffle ticket, tea and Biscuits. Our Coach Trips are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Our AGM will be in May.

New Members always welcome

Chair: Linda Gifford  
Vice Chair: Margaret Walters  
Treasurer: Iris Tel 261 322  
Vice Treasure: Dora Reed  
Secretary: Colin Boucher

## Holsworthy Walk & Talk

Last year was full of lovely walks despite some extremes of weather, although, unless we consider conditions to be dangerous, we walk whatever the weather. There is a saying which goes something like 'There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes choice!' We dress accordingly and carry on.

At the end of November 18 members of our Level 3 walkers met in the Parish of Milton Damerel. The Parish is made up of a number of small hamlets, with the Parish Hall, our starting point, at the centre. The recent high rainfalls have made the rural footpaths difficult to use, so we opted for a mainly road walk using quiet lanes. Heading north to the A388 and then immediately turning right over a small stile we crossed a field which was surprisingly dry underfoot. It is said that this field was the site of the parish football field in times gone by. Then heading south we passed Chapel View, a bungalow at the highest point of the parish with magnificent views of Dartmoor and even Bodmin Moor on a clear day. At Gratton Cross we turned right passing a house called 'Headweir', although it is on the top of a small hill with no visible watercourses.

The next property of interest is Gratton Cottage, with a very early petrol pump painted red, being a legacy of a local haulier reputed to have owned one of the earliest lorries in the area. It is now the home of Gratton Vineyard, a small venture set up a few years ago. The vines are maturing nicely so we will be keeping an eye on the progress of that venture. Returning to the Parish Hall some members chose to lunch at the well known Lizzy's Larder which is located in the area.

There are so many places of local interest which we tend to miss on our busy journeys through or past our villages. As well as promoting our physical and psychological health our walks open up new areas to explore, literally at ground level with the opportunity to discover more of our local history.

If you would like to join us we walk on Mondays and Fridays. 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](mailto:holsworthywalkandtalk@gmail.com)  
<https://holsworthywalkandtalk.co.uk>  
Gillian Aston 07584677784



# SUDOKU

By KrazyDad

Spring Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 4 | 2 |   | 3 | 8 |
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
|   | 1 | 9 |   |   |   |   | 8 | 4 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3 | 2 |   |   |   |   | 6 | 9 |   |
| 1 |   |   |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |
| 6 | 3 |   | 7 | 8 |   |   |   |   |

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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.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | R | W | I | N | S | E | C | T | S | L | N | S | E |
| S | M | O | I | B | R | N | S | R | S | D | U | B | E |
| T | S | O | S | S | A | R | G | O | N | S | B | R | R |
| S | S | O | S | S | R | L | E | T | B | U | S | D | B |
| G | T | B | L | S | E | U | U | S | L | A | S | T | U |
| D | B | O | T | E | O | R | I | B | E | D | E | E | T |
| D | E | S | N | R | E | L | S | N | E | E | R | G | T |
| L | E | B | A | D | E | R | B | E | S | F | S | T | E |
| R | S | A | T | A | R | R | S | S | E | R | T | U | R |
| L | S | S | U | I | E | B | B | Y | E | R | E | O | F |
| G | F | A | R | S | B | W | S | W | O | S | P | R | L |
| R | I | S | E | Y | D | S | O | E | E | S | I | P | Y |
| O | E | L | E | A | F | L | N | S | N | S | I | S | S |
| W | R | U | F | B | F | E | N | E | T | R | E | E | M |

|         |         |         |           |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| SPROUT  | NATURE  | INSECTS | DAISY     |
| SEEDS   | LEAF    | GROW    | BUTTERFLY |
| TREE    | BEEES   | BUDS    | GREEN     |
| BLOSSOM | FLOWERS | BULBS   | GRASS     |

## Regular Events

Milton Damerel Over 60's Club – Parish Hall  
 Holsworthy Amateur Radio Club - Parish Hall  
 Parish Council Meeting - Parish Hall  
 Whist Drive – Parish Hall  
 Chapel Sunday Worship  
 Chapel Café Worship  
 Trinity Church Holy Communion  
 Trinity Church Morning Service  
 Holsworthy Walk & Talk  
 New Baby & Toddler Group - Methodist schoolroom  
 Milton Damerel and District Garden Group

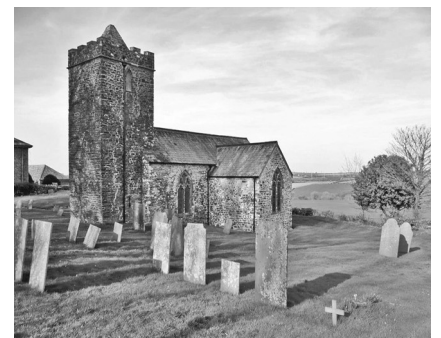
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday every month 2.30pm  
 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday every month 7.30pm  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month 7pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month 11 am  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month 11 am  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday every month 11.30am  
 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month 10am  
 Every Monday & Friday 10.30am.  
 Every Tuesday 10.00am till Noon  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every Month.

## ABBOTS BICKINGTON AND CHURCH NEWS

No news from Abbots Bickington.

Spring will soon be here and now is the time to visit this little Church in Abbots Bickington.

You will be pleasantly surprised by the many spring flowers growing on the verges and the Church itself. The Church is about 30 minutes walk from Venn Green.



"Abbots Bickington, Devon" by jmc4 - Church Explorer is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

## 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.

### 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.



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advertisements for the next  
newsletter is**

**16th May 2024.**

## 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  
 Lorraine Buttery (Clerk) Tel 01409 282956

### Chapel:

Revd Rob Blackhall Tel 01805 628041  
 Stewards Dan Brett Tel 01409 261609  
 and Jeremy Sharp Tel 01409 261548.  
 Property Steward (vacant)  
 Secretary (vacant)

### Church:

Revd Richard Freeman Tel 01409 241315  
 Church wardens  
 Isabel & Roy Fairbrother Tel 01409 261181

### 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  
 Secretary: Colin Boucher

### Neighbourhood Watch:

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

### Toddlers:

Sheila Daniel Tel: 261466

### Holsworthy Rural Police:

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

### Parish Hall:

Booking Secretary Hayley Garner 01409 251284  
 or Kate Moyse 261151.

### Gardening Group:

Melanie Richardson 261 353  
 Edgar Pett 261 277  
 Lesley Self 261 294

### Newsletter:

#### Chair

Lorraine Buttery Tel 282956  
 email: mdnewsletter46@gmail.com

#### Advertising & Compiling

David Taylor Tel 261577  
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#### Treasurer

John Binns  
 Email: j.binns990@btinternet.com

#### Regular contributors and features:

Rose Haynes  
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
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| 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
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