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# Merriott Messenger

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

AUGUST 2013

Please note,  
the copy  
deadline for  
the September  
edition is  
10th August.  
Thank you



## Enter our *Short Story* competition

Calling all you budding writers out there! Enter our Short Story Competition and see your story published in a future edition of the Merriott Messenger.

All you need to do is write a short story of 250 words, starting with one of the following lines:

- "Come on! Come on! We shall be dreadfully late."
- Looking out at the a familiar view, she/he saw something rather odd....
- The morning mist was slow to clear and the hot weather seemed to be about to change.

There are three categories: Under 11, 12-18yrs and Adults. The winner in each category will be awarded a £15 book token and see their work published!

The closing date for entries is 31st August. Please email your entry to [katherinehaines@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinehaines@yahoo.com) or post it in the special entry box at Merriott Pharmacy, addressed to the Editor. Make sure you include your name, contact number and/or email address and make it clear what category your are entering. For under 18 entries, please also include your age.

The very best of luck to everyone. We look forward to reading your stories!

## Parish Council News

### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES X 4

- Do you have a willingness to represent the Parishioners of Merriott?

- Do you have an interest in local issues specifically in learning and developing your role in the community?

THEN WE NEED YOU!

What does the Parish Council do?:

- The Parish Council are responsible for influencing and shaping the long term development of Merriott.

- As part of the planning process, they comment on planning applications in the Parish.

- They improve the quality of life and the environment in Merriott.

- They work to identify

issues which are important to the lives of the residents.

How to find out more: Contact **Clerk M Andrews**

[merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 01935 863420 or

**Chairman, Mr A Wallis**

Tel: 07768615253

County Councillor representative is Mr Christopher Le Hardy. Contactable on:

[CLeHardy@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:CLeHardy@somerset.gov.uk) or  
Tel: 07803 894992.

### Community Pavilion

Initially the Building Inspector made requirements for the footings to be deeper than expected. So with additional depth, additional concrete was required at an additional cost. Now build progress is good

and on time.

### Speed Watch Group

Thank you to the volunteers for training and now giving their time to try and make Merriott a safer place by getting vehicles to reduce their speed. If you wish to Volunteer please contact Mr Grant Wright on [grant@gswright.plus.com](mailto:grant@gswright.plus.com) Tel: 01460 279897 or 07733 108386

(continued overleaf)



Building work on the new Pavilion is underway!

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Park Run at  
Montacute 2

Pirates at  
Merriott School! 3

"Have a Go" -  
Clay Pigeon 5

Looking out for  
our neighbours 6

Book Review 7

Remember that you  
can download the  
Merriott Messenger  
from the village  
website

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

## Parish Council News (cont.)

**MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL** meet once a month for a formal meeting at Tithe Barn. Usually it is on the first Monday of the month from 7pm (unless there is a bank holiday). Residents are welcome to attend the meeting for interest or if you have an issue then the first 10 minutes is an open session when you can address council members. Minutes of the meeting are posted on the Notice board at the Co-Op and at the Church. Next meetings are August 5<sup>th</sup> and Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**See the Merriott website for agenda and minutes of the meetings.**

For all Parish Council correspondence and information please contact Clerk: Marion Andrews. Tel: 01935 863420 [merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk)

## Merriott Short Mat Bowls

Many thanks to everyone who supported our stalls at the Church Garden Fete. We enjoyed the day and appreciated the interest shown in 'Tresur Map of Meriet' and congratulations to the winner, Paul. Once again the 'lucky lollipops' proved a huge success.

Most clubs hold a competition to find their own Champion and to this end the SSMBA organizes an annual event to discover the Somerset Champion of Champions which was hosted this year by Milborne Port SMBC. Possibly, the Outdoor Bowls matches clashed with dates as there were only 14 clubs taking part. However, never underestimate the strong following this game engenders!

I represented Merriott and was extremely proud to do so. Each player had to play a minimum of 6 games of 10 ends. Sadly I drew the short straw and had to play 4 games, one after the other, which was pretty exhausting. However, after a shaky start on mats which were exceedingly faster than those at Merriott, I settled into a comfortable rhythm and thoroughly enjoyed the day winning one end and losing two on the final end each time. All games from all clubs were very hard fought with some very tight scores. At the end of the day, the Champion of Champions came from Milborne Port with the runner-up from Burrowbridge. Never let it be said the Champion was 'playing on Home Mats' because the final was very intense and again very closely won on the final end. For me the thrill was honouring my own club and being able to pit my game against those of much stronger clubs. At the end of the day I felt I had done better than I expected but most importantly enjoyed the experience of tougher games and friendly encouraging company.

Short Mat Bowling is a game for all ages and many clubs are finding teenagers joining them and doing well. And remember, it is a game which can be played all the year round and is not dependent upon the weather!

Our Club meets in the Village Hall every Tuesday from 1.45pm to 5pm and on Wednesdays from 6.45pm to 10pm.

**Further details from me, Anne Weeks, on 01460 73091.**



**Yeovil Montacute parkrun starting September 2013**

## Run at your own pace at our FREE 5k weekly event

### When is it?

**Every Saturday at 9:00 am throughout the year, starting 7th September 2013.**

### Where is it?

**Montacute House, near Yeovil, TA15 6XP.**

### How to get involved:

Running our weekly parkrun couldn't be easier:

- Register at the parkrun website [www.parkrun.com](http://www.parkrun.com)
- Print your unique barcode reference and bring it with you on the day

We are looking for **volunteers** to help as often or occasionally as possible. You could be organizing runners as they finish, operating the timer, or scanning the runners barcodes with our simple barcode readers. If you really want to do something in particular, please let us know and we'll see what we can do. All parkruns across the country are organised and run entirely by volunteers making them completely accessible for everyone to run.

**If you would like to volunteer or find out more information about parkrun contact Rebecca Squire email: [rsquire@sasp.co.uk](mailto:rsquire@sasp.co.uk)**





# Everything 'ship-shape' at Merriott School!

## This half term the topic has been 'Pirates'

Miss Lock's and Mr Pearse's class looked for buried pirate treasure in local fields. Miss Lock's class followed a map and arrived at the field where 'X' marked the spot! After some searching Oliver found an 'X' and the children started to dig. They found an anchor which took the strength of the whole class to finally pull it out.

Both classes made boats from various materials and sailed them in local waters successfully. Captain Raven brought his show to the Tithe Barn and showed the children his magic tricks – with help from the children and Mrs Rickard! In the afternoon he invited the children to his Beach Party for dancing and games. Everyone enjoyed the day. Puppets with a pirate theme were made by the older children.

Year 4 were waved off as they travelled to Hooke Court for a residential visit while the rest of the school enjoyed a fun day on the field constructing dens, pirate ships and tyre swings. Lego, a reading corner and indoor games gave some shelter from the gorgeous sunshine.

Students from Wadham on their work experience placement were a great help throughout the day as they worked with the children.



The committee would like to express their grateful thanks to everyone who has already helped the Social Club, either raising funds or by giving their time, expertise and knowledge with the ultimate aim of returning the Social Club to a true community hub.

A consultation document is now available to view either at the Social Club or online via the Facebook page; it details a schedule of works to be carried out to improve the structural viability of the Social Club but of more interest, perhaps, are the proposed improvements.

Not least of the improvements is to provide dedicated toilets for the function room and an area to the rear as a beer garden and smoking area. In conjunction with this the function room is to be redecorated with a rural & local history theme....do you have any old pictures, particularly of people and special events of Merriott, which you would be willing to have copied? Do you have any rural tools that you no longer need for example a hoe, pitchfork or long handled hook? If you have any comments or suggestions please feel free.... a committee member is normally at the Social Club during opening hours.

### Upcoming events:

**Saturday 17 August, 8pm**

**Saturday 7 September, 8pm**

**Saturday 24 August, 8pm**

**The Intruders**

**Del Fender**

**Mercy – fundraiser**

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# Merriott Gardening Club



What a lovely summer's day on the day of our coach trip to Bicton Park Botanical Gardens at Budleigh Salterton in June.

We strolled around the grounds and rode on the light railway which meandered through the Gardens—an easy way to appreciate the different specimens of trees. A wonderful day out!

Don't forget the **FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW** this month, Saturday 10th August at Merriott Village Hall - put it in your diaries. Do join in. It is such fun and, who knows, you may be



taking away a Cup for your efforts. Even if you have nothing to show, please come along in the afternoon from 2pm to support the Club and admire all the exhibits and join in the auction of the produce at the end of the afternoon. You can pick up the brochures and entry forms from Osborne's, the Pharmacy and any of the Committee Members.

Barbara Byford 72298

## Somerset Community Oil Scheme

Enjoying the summer weather? Want to save money on the cost of your heating oil?

Heating oil is cheaper in the summer months - take advantage and join our community-based countywide oil buying scheme and save ££s on your oil order this summer!

On average our members have saved £44.00 against the average price for a 1000 litre order.

Call: 01823 331222  
Email: [oil@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:oil@somersetccc.org.uk)  
Visit: [www.somersetccc.org.uk/oil](http://www.somersetccc.org.uk/oil)  
Or scan here!



**Community Council for Somerset**  
Supporting Action in Your Community



## New Charging Structure for Highway Licences

Due to the need to make financial savings, the County Council has informed us that, unfortunately, they have had to introduce full cost charging to all parties that apply for licences to erect structures on the highway (e.g. planters, notice boards, shelters, name boards, monuments etc).

Until now, there has been no charge, but going forward the charges will apply to all such requests.

Therefore, with effect from 1st September 2013, every party applying for such a highway licence will be required to pay a £165 administration fee. In addition, Somerset County Council will no longer bear the costs of the legal fees.

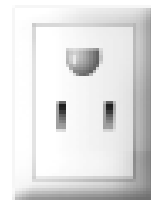
Applicants will be required to provide an undertaking to Somerset County Council's legal team to reimburse the legal costs associated with issuing the licence (currently these undertakings are in the region of £350).

Therefore the total cost of requesting such highways licences will be in the region of £515.

For more information, go to [www.somerset.gov.uk](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)



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## News from your Neighbourhood Beat Team

The sun continues to beat down and windows and doors are being left open to try and keep our homes cool. However it also gives the burglar an advantage, so lock your doors and secure your windows when possible.

Unfortunately, some equipment in the grounds of Merriott School has been damaged over the week-end. The school is about to close for the holidays which means **there should be no one walking through or playing in the grounds.**

We will be making regular checks but if you see anyone in the grounds of the school please ring 101 or 999 if damage is being caused.

If you have any concerns or questions for the Neighbourhood team, please call 101 or make contact via Avon and Somerset website.

The next Merriott Police Post will be at Merriott Service station between 3.30pm and 4.30pm Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

### Crewkerne Neighbourhood Police Team

PC Chris Purcell

PC Lisa Wright

PCSO Caroline Matthews

PCSO Michelle Haimes

PCSO Dave Lewis

**Telephone 101 for non-emergencies**

**Telephone 999 for ongoing crimes and emergencies**



## Clay Pigeon Shooting

Merriott Gun Club are holding another "Have a Go" Evening at Manor Farm in Lower St on Thursday 22 August at 6.30pm.

Guns, cartridges, tuition and supervision are provided by club members.

Persons under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

£3 for 5 shots

£5 for 10 shots

Refreshments available

## 100 Club: July Draw Keeping it in the family!

The second draw of the Merriott PreSchool and FOMS 100 Club took place during assembly at Merriott First School on Monday 1st July. The first ball was drawn out by Connie Miles and it was number 56, winning £25 for Angela Miles...her own mother!

Kathryn Hatchett drew out the second ball - number 26—winning £10 for Paula Brown who has a child at the School and works at PreSchool.

Congratulations to our winners!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to take part in the 100 Club - you are helping to raise funds for our PreSchool and First School. It only costs £12 to join for a year (one draw a month) and there are still some numbers available, so if you would like to take part please email [merriott100club@gmail.com](mailto:merriott100club@gmail.com) or enquire at PreSchool.



## Pavilion Management Team Seeks Members

The new Community Pavilion is going to need a group of representatives to manage the facility.

The Sports groups will be asked for a member to be part of the group but at least two members need to be from the community to represent all other users. This will be a new group which needs to be established as the Community Pavilion will be ready in September.

If you are interested contact [merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk) or tel:01935 863420.

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### Church Services in August

Sun 4th, 8.30am  
Holy Communion

Sun 11th, 9.30am  
Parish Communion

Sun 18th, 10.00am  
Family Service

Sun 18th, 6.00pm  
Evensong

Sun 25th, 10.00am  
Sung Parish Communion

### Summers' Afternoon Classical Special

A summer classical special with principals from the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra who will be performing at All Saints Church on Sunday afternoon 11<sup>th</sup> August as the Valido String Quartet.

Tickets are £7 and will be available from the village butchers Osborne Stores, The Crewkerne Information Centre, or tel. 07870 404631 or 01460 76360.

## News from All Saints Church

Anyone walking or driving down Church Street can see that quite a bit of work has been done on the church recently. The steps have been repaired and a new handrail installed. Not quite so obvious from the road are the new lights above the steps up to the tower and the repair of the tower stain glass window. Inside there is a new sound system.

However, what is also easy to see is that the Lych Gate is in dire need of repair and

the whole length of the Churchyard wall badly needs repointing. Closer inspection would also show that some of the gutters and downpipes need replacing.

None of this work can be paid for from the church income. That, and more, is all required just to cover the running costs. So these repairs and maintenance works can only be done through kind donations, gifts and grants and some of

the fund raising.

Please read the enclosed leaflet and think about how you might be able to help preserve this beautiful historic building for future generations to use and enjoy. Do come along to the **Open Day on Saturday the 7th September** and find out more about how and why the church works.

Many thanks

John Stuttford  
Church Warden

## Looking out for our neighbours

**Royal Voluntary Service (formerly WRVS) is inviting members of Neighbourhood Watch to join them in providing support and befriending to those who need it.**



The premise of Neighbourhood Watch is about local people working together to create safe, attractive, friendly places to live. Royal Voluntary Service befriending initiative enables NHW members to get involved in reaching out to members of the community who feel isolated and sometimes vulnerable. The service operates on a referral basis, so even if you aren't able to volunteer, you may know of people within your community who would benefit from the support that the Royal Voluntary Service can provide.

Royal Voluntary Service are supporting Avon and Somerset Police by providing a dedicated personal telephone support service to people in their own homes. Royal Voluntary Service hopes to soon extend this to personal visits. The initiative enables trained and vetted volunteers to provide

- A confidential listening ear
- A friendly caring voice at the end of the phone
- Regular pre-arranged calls
- Information about local support networks and services
- Access to other Royal Voluntary Service services
- Support to feel more confident in your own home
- Support to be independent and active in the community

Further information about the Royal Voluntary Service and the services they provide can be found on their website [www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](http://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk).

For details about becoming a volunteer or to discuss making a referral, please contact Jenny Jenkins, Royal Voluntary Service Community Service Manager, Bristol and Somerset Mobile 07714 898656.

## Upholstery Classes

Starting September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am -1pm

East Chinnock Village Hall

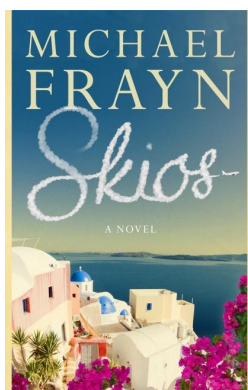
"If you can carry it, we can do it"

For more information contact Viv Tel: 01935 -863086

# Messenger Book Review

by Janet Lailey

**Skios** by Michael Frayn first published 2012, Faber & Faber. Paperback 2013



Definitely 'beach reading', this novel is both an evocation of wonderful sunny holidays in Greece - and an awful warning about them. The story is full of the pleasure that comes from reading of the frightful, comic mishaps that can occur to travellers, that are really entertaining as long as they are happening to others and not to oneself.

Dr. Wilfred, is the first character in the story to set foot on Skios, the island in the title. He is actually going there to deliver his well-rehearsed lecture: "A whole lifetime of thought and study was concentrated in these pages, its expression gradually refined and adapted to current circumstances" at the invitation of The Fred Toppler Foundation. *Innovation and Governance: the Promise of Scientometrics*. This lecture had been his passport to prestigious speaking engagements in exotic locations for many scholarly years, to fees and favours, and he keeps its precious pages in his grasp at all times. Unfortunately for him, he fails to grasp his flight bag, which is mistakenly picked off the airport carousel by Oliver Fox, a charismatic but chaotic happy-go-lucky chancer. On a whim, Oliver Fox allows himself to be swept up into the celebrity hospitality regime of the Foundation, whose young PR organiser has never seen the genuine Dr. Wilfred, and who is delighted to find that that the renowned lecturer she is meeting is so much more dynamic and attractive than she had expected. Fox has no idea at all about what lies ahead, nor about 'Scientometrics', but enters with enthusiasm into his assumed role. Dr. Wilfred, meanwhile is left adrift.

Michael Frayn is known for the tremendous breadth of his creative scope; his play 'Noises Off' is an intricate and hysterically funny contemporary farce. By contrast, in 'Copenhagen' he makes a gripping drama from scientific and philosophic confrontation. In this novel he is back again in fine comic vein. The twists and turns of the plot, which I would defy anyone to predict, stretch plausibility without losing track of possibility; it does demand a certain amount of concentration but rewards us with the enjoyable suspense of expecting at every moment the many characters caught up in the confusion to discover the true state of affairs. When will Oliver Fox get his inevitable come-uppance? Will the real Dr. Wilfred please stand up? - and will anyone believe it is him when he does?

You'll just have to read it to find out!

## Useful Telephone Numbers



Parish Council, Chairman (Ashley Wallis)	76643
Parish Council, Clerk (Miss Marion Andrews)	01935 863420
District Councillor - Paul Maxwell	271155
Merriott Pre-school - Jenny Hayne	77922
Merriott First School—Head, Zoe Coghlan	72547
Village Hall Bookings	72508
All Saints Church	
Rector: Rev Julia Hicks & Rev Bob Hicks	76406
Benefice Administrator (Office), Isabel Welsh	73226
Churchwarden: John Stuttaford	72806
Tithe Barn (Bookings, Mrs Down)	72316
Secretary to Parochial Church Council, Louise Collier	78792
Campanologists (Bell ringers) Anita Glasson	73368
Baby Clinic, Health Visitor	77600
Community Responder Scheme -Jayne Preston	75162
Drivers (Merriott), Tom & Maggie Jones	76186
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)	101
Aerobic Classes, Jon Ayers	07917 372563
Allotment Association (Merriott), Chris Read	74251
Badminton Club (Merriott), Penny Harvey	73180
Bowling Club, Chris Woods	76294
Brownies, Pat Johns	73738
Cub & Scouts, Garry and Janette Osborne	78969
Dog Training (Merriott)	72169
Evergreen Club, Julie Case	76257
Football Club (Merriott), Secretary - Angie Rowswell	74889
Gardening Club (Merriott), Barbara Byford	72298
Guides, Hilary Court	77538
Gun Club (Merriott), Jack Lowe	72336
History Group (Merriott), Cathy Herriman	76918
Majorettes (Merriott) - Juliet McKelvey	78383
Sarah Foley Instructor	01935 840173
Moguls Investment Club (Merriott), Mrs T Mortimer	72134
Mother's Union, Branch Leader—Hilary Askew	76473
Open Group (Merriott), Maggie Jones	76186
Parent and Toddler Group, Amanda Raybould	78108
Rainbows (First Merriott)	77075
Short Mat Bowls Club	73091
Social Club (Merriott)	74376
Squash Club (Merriott)	77872/ 07718 664147
Membership: Matt Gentle	07872 040204
Traidcraft, Julia Portal	73595
Women's Fellowship (Merriott)	77459
Youth Football Club (Merriott), Monica Hayden	74449

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Copy deadline date for the  
September Merriott Messenger  
is August 10th.

Articles received after this  
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