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1,000 HOMES

# Merriott Messenger

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

FEBRUARY 2013

- Happy New Year to all our readers.
- We hope you enjoy your all-colour, 'new look' Messenger!
- Contact us with any news/photos/event etc. This is YOUR village newsletter and we want to make sure that there is something here for everyone!

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## School 'WOW' Day brings history to life

The end of the Autumn Term was very busy with the School Bazaar, the Christmas play, party day and a visit from 'The Flying Pizza Theatre Company' who performed 'The Hobbit'.

The topic for the first half of the Spring Term is World War II and will mostly focus on life during this time. A 'Wow Day!' of war time themed lessons took place on the first Wednesday back at school after the Christmas break.

It began at breakfast with the children attending Breakfast Club enjoying cereals similar to those in the war. Children and staff wore clothes of the period and there were lessons on rationing, singing of World War II songs, 'make do and mend' and Propaganda Poster design.

During playtime, traditional games such as Oranges and Lemons and Hopscotch were played.

The following day Aesop's Touring Theatre Company performed a play in the school hall. This showed the children the life of a family in wartime London, through the eyes of 'Stanley', the son. Some children were able to join the cast as contestants on a radio quiz and members of the LCD – later renamed The Home Guard.

We are expecting several visitors in the next few weeks to share their wartime memories and artefacts with the children.



Thank you to everyone who is giving up their time to talk to the children. It really does help bring this period of history to life!

## Parish Council News

At the first meeting of this New Year the council had a full agenda to deal with. We thanked Jessica Vale for acting as our clerk for 3 months- Marion Andrews returns in February. The minutes are available to read on the noticeboard by the Co-op.

We continue to function as well as we can with very few members, so we may not be

truly reflecting the opinion of you, the residents. We have **5 VACANCIES**, so please think about joining us.

We still need some volunteers to help with Speedwatch and also need to hear from groups or individuals likely to use the new Pavilion. Our applications for grants depend on knowing the ages/numbers

of people likely to use it.

### **Please contact the clerk.**

The planning application for the pavilion and for the GP surgery development have been granted so these are exciting developments for us to look forward to, but on the "down side" we were told by our County Council-**or that further cuts to bus services are planned.** (Continued overleaf)

# Parish Council News (cont.)

## First sign of Spring

Thank you to anyone who has been involved in planting daffodils around the village.

They really brighten up our winter days!



## Merriott Parish Council Emergency Plan

The Parish Council is updating the Village Emergency Plan. If you offered your services for such things as cooking and heating without electricity or tools/equipment/first aid/tractors/4x4, and your circumstances have changed, could you please let us know.

Please email via the clerk or phone Gil Merrick 73066 or Ann Lawrence 78461.

We are going to be installing CCTV at the recreation ground this year as it is such an important amenity for the village. Unfortunately more damage has been done recently by people riding bikes in the goal area of the football pitch - please stick to the cycle track, especially in this wet weather. All damage to village amenities increases the costs, which you pay for through your council tax.

For more information about the council, please come to the meetings or contact the clerk, Miss Marion Andrews:

**01935 863420**

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

## Merriott's Precept 2013-4

Merriott Parish Council now has permission to start on the building of a new pavilion and toilets at the village's Recreation Ground.

At the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting it was agreed to accept that a large contribution to the costs would come directly from village residents through an increase in the amount of money (the precept) that the Parish Council collects every year as part of the Council Tax.

Due to recent policy changes, the amount of support given by central government to the

District Council in Council Tax Benefit has been cut by 10 per cent. This money has to be found at a local level or local budgets have to be cut.

So, the Parish Council regrets to have to inform you that the rise in Merriott's precept for 2013-4 will be higher than they intended, but the increase is due to circumstances beyond local control.

A fuller account of this is to be found on the village website.

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

## Great Britten!

Somerset Chamber Choir stages a concert of inspirational British music at King's College Chapel, Taunton on Sunday 17 February 2013 at 3pm.

Celebrating the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth, the concert showcases an engaging selection of works by Britten alongside music by Elgar, Grainger, Parry, Stanford, Vaughan Williams & Walton. Tickets from Taunton TIC: 01823 336344 or book online.

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



## New Surgery for Merriott

The planning application for the redevelopment of Moorlands Farm on Broadway, which includes the construction of a new GP surgery, was approved by the Area West Planning Committee of South Somerset District Council at its meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

The approval is subject to certain conditions. The details of the decision can be found in the minutes of the Planning Committee on the District Council website, under agendas and minutes.

Cate Mack, a Trustee of ECOS, who promoted the restoration and new build

plan for Moorlands Farm, said that she is "delighted that planning approval has been granted. This will enable several objectives in the Village Plan, including the surgery and the renewal of a derelict site to be achieved."

# African Expedition Fundraiser

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## My brother's trip to the same place (2011)

for this I must fundraise for some of the money as it will cost just over £3000.

**My name is Thomas Bending and I am fourteen years old.**

I am hoping to go to South Africa in the Summer of 2014 and

It is a great opportunity for me to meet the people there and experience their way of life, see the wild life and help in an orphanage as well as see the

zulu battlefields. My next fundraiser is a quiz night at the Tithe Barn in Merriott on Tuesday, 19th February at 7:00pm, £2 per person (making teams of 4-6) refreshments, snacks and raffle available.

I look forwards to meeting you there. Thank you for your support, Thomas.

If you would like to contact me about anything, call 01460 74799 or email me at [Tbending@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Tbending@hotmail.co.uk).

## What's on in Merriott?!

The Merriott Messenger is **your** newsletter, giving news of events from around the village. But in order to write about—we need to know about it!

Please contact us with any articles and photos that you think would be of interest. We do our very best, each month, to include everything that you send to us. Details of where to send your articles can be found on the back page.

## 'Somerset in the Age of Steam'

Ilminster  
WEA Lectures  
Tutor : Dr. P. Stanier

Rural Somerset has a remarkable variety of industries, established during the Industrial Revolution.

For six weeks topics covered will include stone quarries, limekilns, wind and water mills, textiles, roads, canals and railways.

Tues: 2.45 – 4.15pm.  
6 meetings: 5.2.13–12.3.13.

Venue: The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster. TQ19 ODU  
Total Cost: £37.00

**Contact tel:**  
**01460 53247**

## Calling all nature lovers!

**Wild plant charity Plantlife ([www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk)), are inviting wild plant enthusiasts and nature lovers to become wild plant 'pioneers'.**

You can subscribe to a free quarterly e-learning bulletin to learn more about our native wild plants by logging on to [www.wildaboutplants.org.uk](http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk).



**Did you know that the County flower of Somerset is the cheddar pink (*dianthus gratianopolitanus*)?**

Ever since its discovery 300 years ago, this pretty, scented pink flower has been the pride of Somerset. It grows in several places in the Mendip Hills, but nowhere more profusely than the original site at Cheddar Gorge.

**Habitat:** Limestone rocks. **Best time to see:** When it flowers: June-July.

## Sassie

8 Church Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7HR  
Tel: 01460 74323

*Ladies stylish fashions and accessories*

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## Grand Piano for the Community



A grand piano located in All Saints Church has recently been renovated and made available for community use thanks to local classical musician, Joseph Fisher.

In 2009 Joseph Fisher purchased a Grand Piano while he was at the Royal Academy of Music in London and arranged to

keep it in All Saints Church for use by the church and also to enable Joseph to organise quality classical music concerts.

With a proposal for its wider use by the community, and a commitment to organise future concerts, Joseph has secured a very generous donation of £1,000 from Merriott Fair Committee, £1,200 from his family, and

plans to raise the remaining £700 through further specific concerts during 2013 and personal donations.

The piano now resides in the Church and is available for personal use by the community by first contacting either the Rectors Bob or Julia Hicks tel. 01460-76406 or Paul and Julia Fisher on 01460-76360.

### Merriott Gardening Club

This new year starts with a presentation by Philip Gamble on 'Plant Conurbations and Associations'.

Meet at the Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott at 7.30pm.

Refreshments and raffle - a warm welcome to you all.

Next meeting: Tues 26th February

Barbara Byford 72298

## 1st Hinton St George Cubs: Weekend in Lyme Regis

**We meet during term time in the Tithe Barn, Merriott and cater for 8 -10½ year olds – boys and girls.**

We enjoy lots of activities, both indoors and outdoors, such as camping, cooking, visits to/from community groups, arts and crafts, working towards badges - the list goes on.

In December, we took twelve cubs to Lyme Regis for the weekend. Arriving Friday evening, we set up the sleeping areas and had a sports competition followed by hot dog supper. On Saturday we walked down into Lyme Regis, through fields and alongside the river—about 1.5 miles. We couldn't have asked for better weather, sunny and bright blue sky. The cubs enjoyed a walk along the front, then the Cobb and back on to the beach for a packed lunch. Back at the Scout Hut, they started making individual Christmas cakes, from scratch. After supper, games of bingo followed by a traditional camp fire led up to bedtime. Sunday morning saw the Cubs go for a walk, with fun and games in the local wood.

I am sure you will agree that the Cubs had a brilliant time!

**Cathy Fone, Cub Scout Leader**



## Shoe-Box Appeal

A very big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's shoe-box appeal, whether you filled a box, donated fillers or sponsored transportation.

We are deeply grateful to you all, and we were able to send off 185 lovely boxes to

needy children in Bosnia.

You have made it possible for them to have the joy and excitement of receiving a gift for the first time in their lives!

Our best wishes for 2013,

**Beryl Virgin and  
The Shoe-Box Team**

Hi Everyone

As this is the first Messenger of the year, the Beat Team wish everyone a safe, healthy and crime-free 2013.

With the kind permission of Mr Venn, members of the Crewkerne Neighbourhood Team will be at Merriott Service Station, one hour a month on a Saturday, to be available to the community to give crime reduction advice or deal with any concerns. Dates will be advertised and I will put a poster up in the service station a week prior to each date. In March, we will bring property marking equipment and anyone that has a bicycle etc they would

like to mark with their post-code, can bring it along and use the equipment. We already hold monthly Police Posts in other villages and they are very well received. The dates for the next two, both at Merriott Service Station, are as follows:

**23/02: 11.30am-12.30pm**

**23/03: 11.30am-12.30pm**

The New Year has seen some changes to Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team. PC Louise Cowell has taken up a new role in Yeovil and we have been joined by PC Lisa Wright. PS Richard Barnett has arrived and is now the Neighbourhood Police

Sergeant for Crewkerne, Chard and Ilminster.

## Your Neighbourhood Team

PC Chris Purcell, PC Lisa Wright, PCSO's Caroline Matthews, Dave Lewis and Michelle Haimes.



*If you wish to contact us about a non-urgent matter, please do so by ringing 101 and asking for Crewkerne Neighbourhood Team.*

## Carols and Classics Review by Sam Wycherley

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December (2012), Joe Fisher held a *Carols & Classics* concert in All Saints Church, raising money towards the repair for the Church in Merriott.

The event was very popular and well attended – the church was practically full. Six musicians performed at the concert. All of them were held in high prestige nationally. Playing the violin and viola were William Mervin and Joseph Fisher (respectively).

William Mervin is part of the London Symphony Orchestra, and took part in the 2012 BBC Proms; Joseph Fisher attended Wells Cathedral School, and he has a Diamond Jubilee award for services to the Royal Academy of Music.

Alex Rolton played the cello – he is currently studying at the senior Royal Academy of Music, and co-founded the Artesian Quartet. Double Bass (and voice) was performed by David Stark, who has gained trials to many well-renowned orchestras, and

co-founded a choir with Richard Brasier, who was playing the organ, who has performed throughout Europe and the United States, and has broadcast on BBC radio 4.

Finally, Florian Mitrea was playing the piano – which has won The Vienna International Piano Competition.

The performance was a mixture of Christmas carols (where the audience were invited to join in) and classical music by composers such as Bach, Brahms, Liszt, Schubert, and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Some of the music was fairly jovial, inviting good Christmas spirit – for example, the Christmas Medley by Florian Mitrea, and the final Christmas piece, which had much of the congregation laughing.

**Be sure to look out for other musical events coming up later in 2013.**



Excerpts of this year's concert and previous concerts can be viewed on YouTube under 'Merriott Carols and Classics'.

The evening raised over £650 towards repair of the Church.

# News from All Saints Church

## Church Services in February

Sun 3rd, 8.30am  
Holy Communion  
(Traditional Language)

Sun 10th, 9.30am  
Parish Communion

Wed 13th, 6pm  
Holy Communion for Ash  
Wednesday

Sun 17th, 10am  
Family Service

Sun 17th, 6pm  
Evensong

Sun 24th 10am Sung Parish  
Communion

Please do subscribe to 'The Church Link' magazine for more details of these and other church events.

## Changes in Church

**If you come down to the church today.... you'll be in for a big surprise!**

We'll probably not a big surprise, but you might notice a few small changes in how the furniture is arranged. The PCC has agreed, and we have a temporary licence from our Archdeacon, to experiment over the next year or so with how we organise the seating in certain parts of the church.

Firstly, you will see that we have opened up a bigger area at the rear of the church. This is already providing a much needed better space for our midweek 'Coffee Stop', which continues to grow and grow! Why not come and join us on Tuesday

mornings between 10 and 12 for coffee, tea and fine cakes. We also hope that this area will give us a flexible place for social functions, meetings and informal worship.

Secondly, the Memorial Chapel next door to the high altar has been reclaimed from use as an untidy storage area and restored to a simple space for quiet prayer and reflection.

Thirdly, The Piano has been moved up into this area, giving us more space in front of the Communion Rail, and allowing us to place the former choir pews symmetrically opposite each other. All this has been achieved by simply moving a number of pews. I must stress that there is no grand plan at present to remove any or all the pews. Our aim is simply to try out different ways of using the space we

have – for our various kinds of worship, for meetings, for other events and functions. We will see where this temporary experimentation leads us, and assess whether we want to make any changes permanent. Do come and have a look.

As ever, All Saints Church remains open all day, every day for anyone who wants to come in and enjoy a moment of peace.

Let us know your views on what we have done already. You can contact either Julia or myself, our churchwarden John Stuttford, or any other PCC member.

Thank you.

Rev Bob Hicks, The Rectory.  
76406.



## CAKE STOP!

**MERRIOTT PRE-SCHOOL ARE  
HAVING A CAKE SALE!  
ON TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEB  
AT 3PM IN PRE-SCHOOL  
STOP AND PICK UP A YUMMY  
CAKE FOR YOUR TEA!**

**ALL IN AID OF  
MERRIOTT PRE-SCHOOL**

- Do you have a heart of gold and a core of steel?
- Do you want to make a difference to a child's life?
- Do you have experience in child care and personal resilience?
- Are you a kind and caring individual?
- Do you have a spare bedroom?



We will provide you with training, support and guidance from our team of child care professionals. Excellent fees and allowance paid. We are also looking for people who could offer a mum or dad a safe, secure and structured environment for a short or extended period with their child. While they are living in your home you will pass on your skills and experience to help them reach their full potential as parents.

For further information on **either** of the above please contact Helen Winchester on 0330 1239355 or email [info@fusionfostering.com](mailto:info@fusionfostering.com)

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents

## 'Gambit' (12a)

on Saturday, February 9th, 7.30pm  
in the Village Hall

Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop  
and Dorothy's Tea Room or £5.50 on the  
door. (Contact tel. 01460 72906).

UK exclusive recently released.  
A Comedy/Adventure starring Colin Firth as  
a downtrodden art curator who enlists the  
help of master forger Tom Courteney and  
Cameron Diaz, to get the better of his un-  
pleasant millionaire-employer, Alan Rickman.

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Find the Messenger online at:  
[www.merriottvillage.org.uk](http://www.merriottvillage.org.uk)

### Open Group

A big thank you Janette for once again hosting our Christmas  
get together and for creating such a festive atmosphere and  
thank you again to Jane and Joyce for buying and organising  
refreshments.

Feb 7th - Theatre Visit to see "Shirley Valentine" at Ilminster  
Warehouse (contact Gillian - 72299)

Feb 21st - Coffee Evening - Topic TBA at Carole Goldie's

## Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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<b>Moorlands Residential Home</b> Quality care for the elderly Moorlands Road 01460 74425 Fax 01460 77391	Seavington Café Open Daily (Sun—am only) Teas, coffees, cakes, snacks hot/cold lunches, breakfasts Water St. Seavington 01460 249730	<b>Allen Computer Services</b> Sales, Repairs, Servicing, for Home & Small Business 01460 298036 allencomputerservices.co.uk	<b>Popular Motors Merriott Service Station+Spar Shop</b> Broadway, Quality Car Sales, Workshop, MOT testing, 01460 76803	<b>Beehive Self Storage</b> Lopen Business Park, Lopen 01460 243100 <a href="http://www.beehiveelfstorage.co.uk">www.beehiveelfstorage.co.uk</a> Business, Household Storage & Packing Materials
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## Editorial Team

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

Copy deadline date for the  
March Merriott Messenger is  
February 12th 2013.

Articles received after this  
date may not be included.  
Please include any art work or  
photos.

## Swing into Spring



Sat 27th April, 7.30pm

Once again, All Saints Church  
invites you to Merriott Social Club  
for an evening featuring  
the amazing voice of

**GRAHAM DAVID**

Inc. tributes to Michael Bubl  and  
Robbie Williams

Admission by ticket only which  
includes a light supper  
Tickets £6 each, available from  
Jean & Dave Crisp.  
Tel: 01460 279654



# Coffee Morning



With craft and various other stalls

**Saturday 9th February**

**10am to 1pm**



**Tithe Barn, Merriott**



Proceeds to  
Merriott Church Fabric Fund &  
**The Stroke Association**



Please phone Michelle (07402741828 or  
01460 72316) for more details

**Save the  
date!**

**Church Benefice  
Grand Auction**



**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April 7pm  
at St Georges Hall,  
Hinton St George**

**Auctioneer Mr Chris Flower**

The auction will be held to  
raise funds for the four churches.  
You can sell/buy/donate items  
and promises.

Details in the next Messenger

**Or contact Gil Esp  
01460 72355**

## PILATES

Monday – 2.00pm West Chinnock Village Hall  
New – Tues 9.30am **MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL**  
Wed – 10.20am East Chinnock Village Hall



Crewkerne Community Church – Mon 7.15pm  
**Zumba Tone** – East Chinnock Hall – Wed 9.15am

## BOKWA

George Reynolds Centre, Crewkerne – Tue 6.00pm  
**KETTLEBELL**  
Mon – 6pm & Wed 7pm Crewkerne Community Church Hall

Call Ali on 01460 74546 or 0775 3533727  
[www.BeeFitBeeBeautiful.co.uk](http://www.BeeFitBeeBeautiful.co.uk)

**Saturday  
23rd February**

**10am to 11.30am**

In the Tithe Barn, Merriott

Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac  
and Other stalls

Tea and coffee will be available

*In aid of Church funds*