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1,000 HOMES

# Merriott Messenger

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

JUNE 2013

## WE NEED YOU!

**There are four Parish Councillor vacancies – can you help?**

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

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

Can you attend a monthly meeting, usually the first Monday of the each month?

Do you have some additional time to help develop projects?

**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.

To find out more contact Clerk M Andrews – [merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk) / 01935 863420 or speak with the Chairman, Mr A Wallis Tel: 07768 615253

## School Visit to the Jurassic Coast

The topic at Merriott this half term is Landscapes and Coastlines.

Key Stage One visited Charmouth in May to search for fossils on the beach. The day was led by staff at the Heritage Centre who showed the children a video about the Jurassic coast and how it was formed. Before going out to the beach to look for fossils themselves, the children were shown examples of belemnites and ammonites so that they would know what to look for. Plenty of fossils were found by children, staff and helpers.

During their seaside visit, Key Stage Two, led by Heritage Centre staff, measured the fall of the beach and noted the size of the pebbles at each measurement.

Sandcastles were built to simulate the cliffs and sea water was poured over them gently and then vigorously to show the effects of sea erosion. The children enjoyed being a 'wave', using actions as they ran up the beach.



## Parish Council News

Parish Councillor Vacancies  
**WE NEED YOU!**  
See details above

### BONFIRES

On Shiremoor Hill there has been an obvious release of fumes from a fire burning plastics. This is very a dangerous practice; these fumes are toxic; it is

anti-social and unpleasant.

**Information from South Somerset District website:**

Smoke from a bonfire causes a nuisance to others, we can serve an Abatement Notice requiring the nuisance to stop. Breach of this Abatement Notice is an offence.

There are no local byelaws

about bonfires. Our advice is that you should have bonfires only occasionally and at times and in weather conditions when smoke is unlikely to cause nuisance to your neighbours. If you are going to have a bonfire, follow these simple rules:

Think about composting as an

Do you have  
Microsoft Publisher  
experience?

Merriott Messenger:  
**POSITION  
AVAILABLE**

The member of our  
team responsible for  
preparing the  
Merriott Messenger  
will be stepping  
down in the coming  
months and we are  
looking for someone  
to replace her.

*More details can be  
found on Page 3.*

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## Summer Afternoon Classical Concert

When thinking about what to do this summer in Merriott, put aside Sunday afternoon on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, as Joseph Fisher will be bringing his Valido String Quartet to perform in the All Saints Church.

This quartet consists of players from the Southbank Sinfonia Orchestra, based in London, and consists of players from Canada, Portugal, New Zealand, and of course Merriott.

The afternoon concert will be starting at 2:30pm with tea and cakes in the grounds of the church, with the concert commencing at 3pm.

Music will include works by Mendelssohn, Haydn, and more. Tickets will be available during July—but put the date in your diary!

**Join us!**  
**Merriott**  
**Social Club**  
**01460 74376**

**Rick Winter**  
Versatile  
Guitar  
Vocalist



Appearing at  
Merriott  
Social Club

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm  
Non-Members  
welcome

## Parish Council News (cont.)

alternative or taking waste to a local recycle centre. Burn only dry materials.

Never burn general household waste, plastics, foam, treated wood or similar items

Check no one has any laundry drying in nearby gardens and remember smoke can drift some way.

It is often a good idea to let your neighbours know if you are planning to light a bonfire.

Don't have a fire late in the evening as the smoke tends to hang close to the ground.

Have a quick hot fire to reduce smoke emissions

Remember your personal safety and never use liquid fuels to get a fire going.

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May Mr Ashley Wallis was unanimously voted in as Chairman for the next year 2013/14.

Following Local Elections the County Councillor representa-

tive is Mr Christopher Le Hardy. Contactable on CLeHardy@somerset.gov.uk or Tel:07803894992.

District Councillor continues to be Mr Paul Maxwell.

**Hooray** - Speed Watch Group has 11 volunteers and will undertake training soon. If you wish to Volunteer please contact Mr Grant Wright on grant@gswright.plus.com Tel:01460 279897 or 07733 108386.

## Your Social Club Needs You!

They say you should always start with something positive but I'm afraid I need to get the bad news out of the way...

Unfortunately, the Social Club was in deficit by an average of £100 per week during the last financial year. This clearly cannot continue and is a situation that will be difficult to reverse. To this end, the committee has had to take some drastic measures, not least of which was the decision to suspend employment, leaving all positions being filled voluntarily. This really was a difficult decision, one which it is hoped will be reversed as soon as possible.

**However, we do have a positive outlook.** Huge efforts were made to make a welcoming and comfortable environment by the committee of 2012/13. They, and members, freely gave their time and materials, helping to smarten up the Lounge Bar by painting throughout, re-staining the woodwork, fitting new flooring in the "splash area" to the front of the bar and replacing all the nicotine stained ceiling tiles. A start was also made in the Function Room with remedial work carried out to the Skittle Alley.

It is the Function Room that the 2013/14 committee will be concentrating on. Much is being discussed as to how to improve facilities and suggestions are many and varied. Most are currently out of reach as they will need significant funding but some can be achieved with a little help and determination. It is to this end that we are looking for your help; whether you can donate an hour or two of your time: maybe a pot of paint, fund-raising ideas or perhaps you have expertise in applying for grants?

Of course, just sprucing up the Club won't change things on its own, your support will be very much appreciated.

**Did you know?.....**the Function Room has its own fully operational bar, a curtained stage, a dance floor, a working kitchen and of course a skittle alley – a unique offering in Merriott; ideal for family gatherings, birthday & Christmas parties, team celebrations or fund raisers.

**Did you know?.....**the Lounge Bar strives to create a cosy, traditional atmosphere and sports a full-size pool table, darts throw and table-top skittles – again, unique offerings in Merriott.

So, if you haven't been in the Social Club for some time, or perhaps even never, come and see us.....you will be very welcome and hopefully impressed by the ongoing improvements. Initially you don't need to be a member to come and enjoy the facilities but membership is available at just £2 - yes £2! – and £1 for concessions.

The perfect opportunity for a visit is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June when Rick Winter will be playing, a guitar soloist.

# Plant Hunters' Fair a success

By Samuel Wycherley

**The Plant Hunters' Fair at Lower Severalls is an annual event, held in aid of the plants and gardens charity, Plant Heritage (formerly NCCPG).**

The event took place last month, and the weather could not have been more fitting. 25 specialist growers and nurseries from all over the South West attended, such as Roseland House Nursery from Truro, specialising in climbers such as Clematis, and Hidden Valley Nursery from Umberleigh, Devon. More local nurseries included the Margery Fish Nursery from East Lambrook.

The growers are passionate about their plants, and freely offer advice on how to grow them – one of the benefits of buying from specialist local nurseries rather than the larger garden centres. For example, Useful Plants based at Lower Severalls Nursery, made its debut, specialising in herbs and vegetables, and we were all very excited to see a particularly unusual vegetable on the Plant Heritage stall, a tuber, *Oxalis Tuberosa*, commonly called "Oca", which is not dissimilar to potatoes, but with no risk of disease or blight.

Refreshments such as bacon and pork baps, homemade cakes, and soup were available throughout the day, and there was even a good trade for lavender and agave nectar fudge.

The event raised well over £1000 for Plant Heritage, which specialises in preserving garden plants, and is the world's leading plant conservation charity. The stallholders also did well, and the range of nurseries left the fair-goers with plenty of choice.

We look forward to the event being held around the next time next year, and hope it will be just as successful as this year.



## Merriott Messenger: position available

The member of our team responsible for preparing the Merriott Messenger will be stepping down in the coming months and we are looking for someone to replace her.

You will need to have good communication skills; writing and editing experience; proficiency on MS Office, particularly Publisher.

### Job description

To edit and design the Messenger

To liaise with sponsors and contributors

To attend monthly Messenger Editorial meetings

Remuneration rate is available on request.

If you have the necessary skills and experience and are interested in becoming part of the team, **please contact:**

**Katherine Nolan on 01460 77047 or email [katherinehaines@yahoo.com](mailto:katherinehaines@yahoo.com).**



## Social Mixed Rounders

**Make the most of the Summer. Get out, get active and have fun!**

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership are running their annual midweek social mixed rounders league, so grab your work colleagues, friends or family and enter a team.

**When: Thursday 13th June – 1st August.**

**Time: 6:30- 8:30pm**

**Where: Yeovil Recreation Centre, Mudford Road, Yeovil**

**Who: Anyone 16 years+ (9-a-side)**

**Cost: £15 Team registration. £2 per person per week match fees.**

For more information and to enter your team contact:  
[Laura Dyke ldyke@sasp.co.uk](mailto:Laura.Dyke@sasps.co.uk) 01823 653995



**Ashlands Children's Centre**



## Merriott PEEP Group is changing

Open to Carers and Children from 0-5 years. Providing free fun play sessions and activities to share

### Wednesday Afternoon

1.30pm - 3.00pm

Twice a month term time only  
(1st and 3rd Wednesday)

at The Tithe Barn,  
Church Street, Merriott



Join us for fun activities, crafts, stories, singing and healthy snacks



Action for Children Ashlands Children's Centre  
**Start Start Children's Centre**  
North Street, Crewkerne, TA18 7AL  
Telephone 01460 279820





## Merriott Gardening Club

The Club had a good attendance at our Annual General Meeting in April. We tucked in to food provided by the Committee members as well as a gardening quiz in which some of us failed dismally whilst others triumphed to win prizes for their team!

Our next meeting on **Tuesday 28th May** will be held at the Tithe Barn at 7.30pm. Sue Applegate will be giving a presentation on 'Making the most of Irises and Peonies'. Do come along, especially as this month you can renew or join the Club for the year.



We have two outings this month (June). The first is a guided tour of Neil Lovesey's Picket Lane nursery at South Perrott - you may remember this popular speaker at our March meeting. We will meet at the Tithe Barn car park at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 11th June**. Do come along - it should be fun.

Our coach trip this year will be on **Tuesday 25th June** where we will be visiting the Grade 1 listed Bicton Gardens at Budleigh Salterton set in East Devon's Otter Valley. There are places available on the coach, the cost including admission fee will be £15. We aim to start at 10am and hope to return at approximately 4.45pm. If you are interested and would like more details please contact me. Barbara Byford 72298

### Open Group

#### 13th June:

Visit to Scrapton, Chard, Special Horses for Special Children. A talk about the magic of this special place, tea and biscuits ( and lots of horse cuddling!)

#### 27th June:

Photographic show of Ann and Clive Barker's incredible journeys across the globe, at Merriott Social Club.

Enquiries - Maggie 76186

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix'  
presents

### 'Argo' (15)

on Saturday, June 8th in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.  
Doors open at 7pm.

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

An adventure-thriller, based on an almost unbelievably true story. When the Iranians famously seized the US Embassy in Teheran in 1979, six US diplomats fled to the Canadian Embassy. An extraordinary plot was concocted to get them out under the cover of a spoof film shot in the Iranian desert. It worked! This is a thrilling film – in turn dramatic, nail-biting and hilarious.



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**Andrew M Sheppard**

[www.appliancemaintenance.co.uk](http://www.appliancemaintenance.co.uk)



## News from your Neighbourhood Beat Team

We are already approaching the half way point of the year and summer is nearly upon us. We have been very busy with crime reduction work in the last month, spreading the message about rogue traders, distraction burglars and using the door chain when answering your door to an unexpected visitor.

It is one of the areas of our work which we enjoy but it very hard to measure our success as hopefully in educating people we are able to prevent some of them becoming

victims. If you have any concerns about people going door to door or perhaps calling on your elderly or vulnerable neighbours please call us at the time (by ringing 101 or 999 if urgent).

Recently there have been a number of vehicles broken into in the Crewkerne area and a lawn mower stolen from a garage on the edge of Merriott. Please do not leave items in your vehicle when parking it, ensure it is secure with the windows shut and the alarm and immobilizer set if fitted.

There have also been some dwelling burglaries in a near by village when properties have been unoccupied at time of the incidents. Please remain vigilant and report anything suspicious that you may see.

The next Police Post at Merriott Service Station will be on 1<sup>st</sup> June between 1130am and 1230pm. Please come along if you any questions or concerns.

Crewkerne Neighbourhood team are:  
PS Rich Barnett, PC Chris Purcell, PC Lisa Wright, PCSO Caroline Matthews, PCSO Dave Lewis, PCSO Michelle Haimes.

## Mozart Requiem at Wells Cathedral

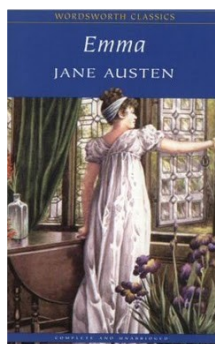
**Somerset Chamber Choir's annual Wells Cathedral concert takes place on Saturday 27 July at 7pm.**

This year, the choir will perform Mozart Requiem & Ave verum corpus alongside beautiful and affecting works by James MacMillan, including his Seven Last Words from the Cross. The choir will be joined once again by the superb professional orchestra. Southern Sinfonia and four professional vocal soloists - Ruby Hughes (soprano), Helen Sherman (mezzo-soprano), Andrew Tortise (tenor) & Callum Thorpe (bass) - under conductor Graham Caldbeck in what promises to be a moving and unforgettable concert.

**Tickets are available from Taunton TIC (01823 336344) or online at [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)**



## Messenger Book Review by Janet Lailey



**'Emma' by Jane Austen pub: 1816**

This year is the bi-centenary of 'Pride and Prejudice', as we have been frequently reminded, but I thought I would re-read 'Emma' to work out why I don't like it as much as Jane Austen's other novels.

As in her other books, it is the bumpy course of true love which drives the narrative. Emma considers herself an intuitive match-maker, with painful—and to her readers - very amusing, results, if not for her acquaintances nor herself. Her gradual awakening to self-knowledge develops through humiliating mistakes, but her inherent kindness brings about the happy ending we all want for her.

So far, so good. There is a cast of brilliantly drawn characters, whose personalities are vividly shown in the dialogue; hardly any description is given, but each reader, I am sure, quickly gets an image of Mrs. Elton and her snobbish vulgarity, of Miss Bates whose breathless monologues run a fine line between funny and tedious; Mr Knightly whose severe common sense challenges Emma's wayward attempts to shape others' lives; the sociable Mr Weston; Harriet, Emma's sweet and biddable companion, who can't make up her

mind what coloured ribbon goes with yellow muslin, let alone who she is in love with. A whole ensemble who play out their intertwined lives in the village of Highbury, sixteen miles from London.

Much of the humour derives from the central figure of Mr Woodhouse, Emma's father, long a widower, a lifelong hypochondriac, who refers always to Emma's former governess as 'poor Mrs Weston' because she has had the misfortune to be (very happily) married, when she could have stayed on in their household, and is now at the considerable distance of a mile away. The respect and consideration which each friend pays to Mr Woodhouse is a measure of their moral worth (Mrs Elton fails this test). Emma is a devoted, attentive daughter, who has managed the house since her mother's death, and whose main object is to maintain her father's comfort, physical and mental. This is where I find myself impatient; I can't enjoy the comedy of Mr Woodhouse. I find him exasperating. I want Emma to find him exasperating, but Jane Austen is very firm about the deference due to all parents, even the neglectful or self-centred, and by this criterion Emma is exactly as she should be.

There is a sense of claustrophobia, for me anyway, about the Highbury community, but this must, in fact, be an accurate picture of village life 200 years ago. Gossip spreads like wildfire, a journey to London is an extreme event. People are rigidly kept to their social status, and young ladies do not walk anywhere unaccompanied. There is a saving wit in Jane Austen's observation of the vagaries of the world she has chosen to portray, and much of social history to be gleaned: just how different is village life today?

To many this is her best book; to me a rereading has brought fresh interest, and if not thinking it her best, I still find it hugely entertaining, and deeper than it seems at first.



### Church Services in June

**Sun 2nd 8.30am**  
Holy Communion (Trad Lang)

**Sun 9th 10am**  
Parish Communion

**Sun 16th 9.30am**  
Family Service (with Bishop Peter of Taunton)

**Sun 23rd 10am**  
Sung Communion

**Sun 30th 10am**  
Benefice Communion in Hinton  
(No service in Merriott)

# News from All Saints Church

The village of Merriott is blessed to have such an ancient and beautiful church. The churchyard too is wonderful, and has been exceptionally pretty this spring with abundant daffodils, celandines, primroses and speedwells to name just flower varieties.

There are many here who would never come to a Sunday service but would still say they valued Merriott church. For some I imagine, it is a sign of solidity, history and tradition. For others it represents a real sense of continuity, as they recall the church marking life's events for them and their families – from baptism through marriage to saying farewell at the end of our time here on earth. For others yet, there might be a sense that no village is complete

without its pretty church and elegant burial ground – it is part of what living in a village is all about.

But we have come to learn something else about Merriott Church. Lots of people tell us how friendly and welcoming it is. That in itself is not a surprise, but what is interesting is that people often mean that the church is friendly and welcoming even when it is empty of people!

Our church seems to have its own voice and speaks about itself without the need for any human mediator. It seems to impart a feeling and a story to those who come to spend time there. How exactly does an apparently inert building do this? Why do we sense an atmosphere on entering a church like All Saints? I am not sure I can explain, but I can't help

feeling that it must relate to the peace and quiet that lies within.

Along with this physical quiet (the kind you can measure scientifically) there is definitely a stillness. The building wants you to be calm and to be attentive to what it might have to say to you – what god might have to say to you. It also feels safe. Youngsters who come are always uninhibited! When I am in All Saints, I have a strong sense that it is a living church – not just an ancient building – even long after its people have gone home.

A priest friend of mine explained the similar atmosphere of his church by saying that 'the walls were soaked in hundreds of years of prayer'. Perhaps that is it, but I would really like to hear about how All Saints Church makes **you** feel – and why. *Rev Bob Hicks.*

**Don't forget the Summer Fete in the Rectory Garden – Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June, 11am to 3.30pm**

**Remember that you can download the Merriott Messenger from the village website**  
**[www.merriottvillage.org.uk](http://www.merriottvillage.org.uk)**



## Lower Severalls is now offering Bed & Breakfast in the converted stables and loft next to the 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse

Apartment style rooms are all en-suite with bath, shower or wet room and equipped with a king size double bed, fridge, Roberts radio, television and lots of space. Award winning Breakfasts. **From £80.00 per night per room.** Perfect for visiting the Classic Gardens of Somerset, the Jurassic Coast and for walking or cycling.

Recommended by Tripadvisor and



**Lower Severalls Farmhouse,  
Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7NX**



# Garden Fete at The Rectory

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 11am - 3pm

## Programme of Events

- 11 Fete Opening
- 11:30 Puppet Show, a delight for the youngsters.
- 12 A Musical Medley provided by Merriott 1st School.
- 12:30 Traditional Songs performed by Merriott Brownies.
- 1 -2 "A Tight Squeeze" watch or join in with this hilarious attempt to squeeze as many adults as possible into a VW Camper van.
- 2:30 Karate Display; you won't want to miss this.
- 3 "Tug-o-War"

Take a little time out during your visit....sit a while and listen to local band Mercy, relax with a refreshing cup of tea served with delicious homemade scones or indulge in a slice of beautifully baked cake. Fancy something more? Why not stay for lunch and have a hotdog or burger flipped on the barbecue?

With over 50 stalls, attractions and games there will be something for everyone.

Here's a selection to whet your appetite:

Plate Smashing • Tombola • Miniature Ponies • Rescue Greyhounds • Traditional Stocks • Skittles • Lucky Dip • Coconut Shy • Face Painting • Vintage Vehicles • Splat-a-Rat • Bric-a-Brac • Wine or Water? • Lucky Socks • Prize or Pasta? • Lucky Lollies • Books • Plants • Bouncy Castle • Homemade Cakes • Wedding Stationery • DVDs • Children's Fairy Costumes • Handmade Cards • Jewellery • Make-up and Perfumes • Watercolour Paintings • Framed Photographic Pictures • Artisan Breads & Jams • Unique Handmade Gifts and Cards • Homemade Children's Knitted Clothes •

## Events at The King's Head



The next banquet will be Mexican on Sat 1st of June and then a Chinese banquet on Sat 29th of June. Bookings only please.

On the 15th June we will be having a Fun Day with a bouncy castle face painting, BBQ, live music from The Outsiders, One Tree Hill, Sam Lloyd and various others. Also there will be charity stalls in the skittle alley.

Other forthcoming music:

Saturday 8th June Wise Intentions  
Saturday 15th FUN DAY  
Saturday 6th July Grouvecat

Kim's Kitchen will be closed for a few days, from Mon 3rd June - Thurs 13th June

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**Our fantastic carvery served every Sunday from noon.**

We offer a choice of four local meats Beef, pork, turkey & ham as well as five fresh vegetables all with real homemade gravy – Booking recommended £9.95 adult's £5.95 children

Our Lunch & Dinner menus are all sourced from local suppliers using seasonal produce, with daily changing dishes from fine dining to more relaxed bistro, salads & grazing platters

**From conferences to family parties**, we have a number of function suites including the spectacular Great Tithe barn to suit both private & corporate events, with prices for every pocket.

Alongside this we have our **hotel with 21 bedrooms** in the new Coach house & Georgian Mill house.

**From a quiet pint in our beautiful gardens to that special celebration  
Haselbury Mill has it all.**

For information on upcoming events, Special offers & menus please see our website.

[www.haselburymill.co.uk](http://www.haselburymill.co.uk)



or call 01460 77095

Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne TA18 7NY

# Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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