

DELIVERED FREE TO
1,000 HOMES

Merriott Messenger

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

MAY 2013

WE NEED YOU!

Do you have
experience of
developing
websites?

We are seeking
help with the
village site and
would appreciate
your expertise.

If you think you can
help, please
contact the
Editorial Team
(details on the
back).

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Villagers help make Tom's Appeal a success

You may remember that in the March edition of the Messenger, Lynne Woods from Merriott made an appeal for old mobile phones?

She was collecting them in order to get a computer tablet for her 3 year old grandson, Tom, who is diagnosed on the autistic spectrum. The charity 'Hearts and Minds' provided a special tablet with an autism communication system app in exchange for 175 mobile phones.

As Lynne described previously, Tom is a loving boy, but has no consistent speech. Tom's mum, Sue Brueton explains how the new tablet will benefit Tom:

"At the moment it's early days but Tom has learnt how to swipe and drag and drop. He recognises pictures and will show you what he wants. This is good and hopefully it will lead to him making sentences e.g. 'I am feeling cold/happy/poorly' etc."

Lynne Woods wants to express her thanks to everyone who showed support:

"Thank you to everyone who was able to give an old mobile to help with Tom's Appeal. The response was fantastic and we have reached the target of 175. Tom has just received his tablet loaded with the special app to help him communicate. Any mobiles received after reaching this target have been passed on to another family of an autistic child."

THANK YOU
EVERYONE!"



3 yr old Tom, with his brand new tablet!

Remembrance and Thanks

In April, two of our Messenger team sadly died.

Tom Baxter regularly contributed very interesting articles to our magazine and, for many years, organised the Poppy Appeal in Merriott.

Gilli Boase delivered the Messenger in Greys Road.

We shall miss them and send this message of sympathy to their families and friends.

Parish Council News

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. Your issue may

then become an agenda item at a subsequent meeting. For all Parish Council correspondence and information please contact Clerk: Marion Andrews. Tel: 01935 863420 or merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

SPEED WATCH: Mr Wright is kindly going to contact those who have shown an interest in volunteering and a speed watch group for the village will be co-ordinated by him. Please

support the volunteers on this new venture.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: The Parish Council holds a budget for making grants to local groups of up to £100, or more if a need is demonstrated. Last year the Jubilee Street party, Short Mat Bowls, Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau and Merriott Church were beneficiaries. Contact the Clerk for information. (*cont. overleaf*)

Parish Council News (cont.)

Community Pavilion: the tenders from contractors will be received and opened by Council members at the end of April. It is still expected that the building will start in June.

Minutes of the meeting are posted on the Notice board at the Co-op and at the Church. Next meetings are Monday MAY 13TH AGM and Monthly meeting & June 3rd Monthly meeting. Please come along!

Please also see the Merriott website for agenda and minutes of the meetings.

www.merriottvillage.org.uk



Easter Celebrations at Merriott PreSchool

On Saturday 23rd March, Merriott PreSchool hosted an Easter Afternoon at the Tithe Barn.

The children had fun making Easter egg baskets, decorating Easter eggs and making chicken and rabbit puppets, while the parents enjoyed tea, coffee and cakes.

Everyone then went to All Saints Church for singing and an Easter egg hunt (followed by Easter egg eating!) Thanks to everyone who came along and to the helpers and cakemakers, especially Lesley Chard who organised the refreshments.

TV Antiques programme coming to Somerset

Popular ITV1 Antiques programme, Secret Dealers, is looking for people in Somerset with a passion for collecting.

The programme sees three rival antique dealers doing battle in private homes for items they can sell. The competing dealers tour the house inspecting everything of value.

The owners are then faced with surprise valuations and cash offers on some of their most prized (or not so prized) possessions.

If you have any antiques or collectables that you would consider selling, then Secret Dealers would like to hear from you.

For more information, call 0117 970 7674 or email: secretdealers@rdftelevision.com.

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

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

LAWRENCE'S
AUCTIONEERS



**EDWARDIAN EXTRAVAGANZA
£100 IMPULSE BUY IN THE 1950's MAKES £380,000 AT AUCTION**

SIX CATALOGUED FINE ART ANTIQUE SALES
EVERY YEAR
POPULAR WEEKLY GENERAL SALES
OVER 200 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERTISE
TEAM OF SPECIALISTS COVERING ALL CATEGORIES
HOME VISITS BY ARRANGEMENT
FREE VALUATION MORNINGS WHICH RUN ON
MONDAY MORNINGS BETWEEN 9.30am & 12.30pm
IN CREWKERNE & ON FRIDAY MORNINGS
BETWEEN 9.00am & 11.30am
AT THE CASTLE HOTEL IN TAUNTON

For further information, contact Chris Flower
01460 73041

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

By Samuel Wycherley

You should all be familiar with Sam Wycherley now, as he has been writing articles for the Merriott Messenger for the past few months. As explained previously, Samuel lives locally and is in Year 10 at Colyton Grammar School. He approached the Messenger team to see if he could do some voluntary work, as part of the volunteering section of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. In this edition, Sam gives us an insight into the DofE Scheme and how it is benefiting young people..



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (D of E) is a programme for anyone aged between 14 and 24, and is a great opportunity to help local people and the community, to develop your personal skills, and to get recognition for your achievements, especially on a CV.

The award has three different levels – Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Bronze is the easiest, and the others are progressively more difficult to obtain. There are four sections to complete to get the award – volunteering, skill, physical activity, and finally, the expedition. The first three sections you do in your own time – for Bronze, you do two sections for 3 months and the other for 6 months. Then you take part in an expedition

as part of a D of E group. Normally, this is walking, but it can also be cycling, kayaking, or on horseback. The expedition has to last 2 days for Bronze, 3 days for Silver and 4 for Gold. Within the expedition, you must also have a goal and have evidence to do a presentation on that goal afterwards (it's not just walking!).

I am currently in the process of working towards my Bronze award, something I am doing with school (a lot of schools offer it, but there are many other organisations that offer a chance to do D of E awards, and these tend to be more relaxed in doing it, which is a lot better in many ways). For the physical section, I chose kayaking, as I regularly kayak with Sutton Bingham Canoe Club and recently got into race kayaking, which is a lot of fun. This section can be for any sport or physical activity, such as football, rugby, cycling or running – as long as you can show evidence of doing it over a prolonged length of time and have evidence of improving at it.

Then there is the skill section, where I chose learning Russian, which is actually slightly easier than it seems (despite the different alphabet!) – I found this very rewarding. For this section, you can do a huge variety of things – improving at a sport, cookery, building models, to name only a few.

The final section (excluding the expedition of course) is volunteering. I



Sam (left), with his brother, kayaking as part of his DofE.

decided to volunteer to write articles, like this one, for the Merriott Messenger, but you could volunteer to help in a charity shop, or coach/teach people, or help with community activities.

Having completed these sections, you go on to do an expedition, which I have yet to do, although I will be walking around the Lyme Regis area, creating a study of wildlife habitats with the rest of my group, as the goal. This tends to be one of the most interesting parts of the award.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is extremely rewarding, helps develop your skills, and makes you more employable, so I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone wishing to take part.

Find out more at www.dofe.org

CAREFORD LODGE RESIDENTIAL HOME

The New Careford Lodge Ltd
Company No. 6785183
Registered Manager



A warm greeting is assured for you at Careford Lodge so please do call in to see Lorraine, Laura and the team at any time. We want to welcome the local community into our home to spend time with our residents and enjoy refreshments with them in the lovely surroundings of Careford.

Lorraine and Laura also welcome any enquiries about our long stay care services and the day care services which Careford Lodge can offer to those living in and around our community.

Please contact Lorraine or Laura on 01460 75592 for more information or e-mail Lorraine at carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk

“Useful Plants” arrive at Lower Severalls

Lower Severalls Nursery, established in 1985, received a new name, "Useful Plants", this spring when the Guskov family took over the management of the business.

Although all plants can be “useful”, the Useful Plants nursery specialises in herbs with their multiple applications: aromatic, ornamental, culinary, and medicinal. The nursery also grows ornamental perennials and seasonal vegetable plants.

Dmitry and Natalia Guskov, originally from Russia, spent many years in Scotland working in web design and hotel management. However, they always wished to work with nature and plants. After moving to the South West they became founder members of Diggers Field Allotments near Langport and started propagating plants for their own plot and for sale and exchange.

Opportunity to run a nursery presented itself when Mary Pring decided to concentrate on the new Bed and Breakfast venture. Despite the cold spring, the new range of plants is available in the Useful Plants nursery at Lower Severalls, Crewkerne, TA18 7NX and also online at www.usefulplants.co.uk/.



Changes to Bus Timetable

As you may be aware, Nippybus are withdrawing the N10A bus service between Crewkerne & Taunton on 19 April 2013.

Arrangements have been made for a replacement service between Crewkerne and Ilminster with an extension to Donyatt, from Monday 22 April.

You can find the new timetable on the village website.

Holders of Concessionary Bus Passes will be able to use this service with their passes at all times.

News from The Swan

It's been a while since our last update and we are much closer to our official opening.

Our bed & breakfast accommodation will soon be completed & a final spruce up of the façade should see the spring in nicely. We are working on our garden which will be ready for use by all come the spring & summer.

We will also be ready for offering a full catering facility which will complete our refurbishment of the business. Our own living quarters are yet to be finished but we will get there. Delays to council approval of our works have significantly extended the completion time of our project, preventing full opening and somewhat dampened our enthusiasm at times, but we can now see the end in sight.

We would like to thank those regulars who took part in our trip to Twickenham for England v Italy. We will endeavour to run more trips, such as cricket & racing during the year—with hopefully better weather.

A big thank you, to all our customers for their continued support.

Regards, Cathy & John Twose

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Garden Fete at the Rectory
Sat 8 June 11am - 3pm

Can you help man a stall? If you can spare an hour or two, please contact us on:
NICKY 78799, LUCY 76070

Merriott Gardening Club



Our April meeting was a huge success, despite another cold evening. Neil Lovesey from Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott, as usual, gave a superb summary of how to propagate plants - it was most enlightening (and funny) and he showed us many new ways of extending the life of plants.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 30th April** where our end of year AGM will be held. There will be a buffet and an exciting and funny quiz. This is your opportunity to join the gardening club and to see what we have in store for you in the coming year which includes a coach trip to Bicton Park Botanical Gardens. You are most welcome to come along. Meet at the **Tithe Barn at 7.30pm**.

The May meeting will be held on **Tuesday 28th May** which will be a talk and presentation by Sue Applegate on 'Making the most of Irises and Peonies'. Meet at the **Tithe Barn at 7.30pm**. Refreshments, raffle and plant swaps - do come along - a warm welcome awaits.

Barbara Byford 72298

News from your Neighbourhood Beat Team

By the time you all read this our yearly Pact Meeting will have taken place at Crewkerne Town Hall. The Pact (Partners and Communities Together) meeting enables us to give the community an overview of what the Crewkerne Neighbourhood Policing Team has achieved over the last 12 months.

In order to address community concerns, we also ask those attending the meeting to name their three concerns or priorities they would like us to tackle over the next 12 months. We try to engage with the community at every opportunity so if you have any worries or concerns you would like addressed, please contact

us. We will always do our best to help. It may mean the matter requires us to contact a partner agency such as environmental health, highways or a housing authority in order to resolve it.

If you wish to contact us about a non-urgent matter, you can do so by:

- Ringing 101
- www.avonsandsomerset.police.uk
- Attending one of our monthly Police Posts held at Crewkerne, Hinton St. George, North Perrott or Merriott Service Station – next one is 1130am -1230pm Saturday 4th May.
- Or just stop us when you see us out and about.

There has recently been a house burglary and a vehicle broken into in the Merriott area. Enquiries are continuing into these incidents, but please report anything suspicious you may see and take care to secure your property. We are always willing to give crime reduction advice if required.

On a positive note, a new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator has come forward for Beadon Lane. I am looking forward to meeting her properly next week. Neighbourhood Watch is an excellent scheme and assists the Police in the giving and receiving of information and the prevention of crime. Being a member may also mean a reduction in the cost of your house insurance. If you would like to find out more about NHW or perhaps would like to start a group in your road, please make contact on 101 number.

Crewkerne Neighbourhood team are:

PS Rich Barnett, PC Chris Purcell, PC Lisa Wright, PCSO Caroline Matthews, PCSO Dave Lewis, PCSO Michelle Haimes.



MERRIOTT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MERRIOTT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Four years on

Time flies and here we are going into our fourth year. Although some plots have now changed hands there is still the same enthusiasm for planting and cultivation as in the first few weeks. The site has grown from our initial 30 to 55 plots, with the second phase looking well established and cultivated.

We have Gil Merrick and a few others to thank for persistently pushing the case for allotments within the Parish. The Parish Council acquired land from Mr Nigel Witcombe, a tenancy agreement was signed and the Site handed over to the Allotment Committee in late May 2010.

Everyone will remember the hive of activity in those early days. The hustle and bustle of plot holders trying to cultivate soil and plant as much as they could despite it being mid-season.

We seemed to have endless days of sunshine that first year, with plot holders transporting water to get seedlings and plants established. Within a very short period of time there was an abundance of growth with every type of vegetable you could think of doing well.

Some plots had a wonderful array of flowers. There were bees pollinating and butterflies dancing. Amid all this growth we had the pesky 'RABBIT'. Many forms of deterrents were tried, but they still seemed to get through. One plot holder thought the rabbits had been to training camp to learn ways of getting their hands, sorry paws, on our goodies. We were all very grateful when the Parish Council arranged for the fencing to be put in place.

The past year has been particularly challenging due to the unusual Weather patterns and it was interesting to see which crops suffered and which fared surprisingly well. This season is off to a late start but the plots are looking well cultivated and maintained. In its short time, the site and plots have matured and it is very hard to imagine it was farm land such a short time ago. Most plots have a shed and /or greenhouse, adding to the colour and individuality. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge on hand and it's nice seeing this knowledge shared along with spare seeds, plants and produce. Lets hope it continues to thrive for many years to come.



What did we find? Village Plan Questionnaire Results



The Village Plan is an important document as an expression of how YOU wish this community to develop. Keen observers will have noticed that many of the objectives in the Merriott Village Plan published in January 2007 (available to view on the Merriott Village website, www.merriottvillage.org.uk) have been achieved.

However, changes in circumstances, such as new residents and the reduction in bus services, may have altered villagers' priorities for further change. **A Village Plan Update Group has been assessing what has been achieved and has been collecting views about new facilities the residents would like.** The questionnaire was circulated in September 2012 to all households to discover which of the outstanding issues you considered to be important and whether there are any new issues with a higher priority.

Of 870 questionnaires distributed, 108 were completed and returned (about 15% compared to 65% for questionnaires for the original Plan) Maybe 85% are quite content? The replies to the questionnaire have been analysed and a report has been submitted to the Parish Council. A summary of the replies and of the additional comments is available on the village website (www.merriottvillage.org.uk).

Aims for the Future

You indicated four issues which need urgent attention. These are:

1. Build a pavement (footway) along Church Street from Newchester Cross to the School.

This was an objective in the original plan but there has been no progress in achieving it.

A draft letter has been prepared and various organisations in the Village, including the Parish Council, are being asked to write to the County Council seeking this development.

The Parish Council are also considering where funds for construction may be found. Whenever an opportunity arises please give support to this development.

2. Improve road and footpath maintenance.

There are at least two issues under this heading:

- **Maintenance of the surfaces of the roads and pavements** which is the responsibility of County Highways. We are aware that the County Council have recently decided to reduce the frequency of drain and culvert clearing to a 2 year cycle. We consider this to be a highly undesirable decision and to be false economy considering that the evidence is that rainfall intensity is increasing. The County Council need to be pressed to reconsider its whole approach to road and pavement maintenance and its responsibility for keeping drains and culverts clear.
- **Maintenance of footpaths** and in particular cutting back vegetation where it encroaches onto footpaths. We suggest that villagers be asked to report to the Parish Clerk any footpaths which need vegetation clearance and that the Lengthsman can then be deployed to carry out the work needed. We also suggest that a **village footpath group** be formed and be asked to survey footpaths (this can easily be done while walking the dog) and report back to the council.

3. Tackle speeding issues in the village.



The Parish Council has already made arrangements for **Speed Watch** in the village and for an illuminated speed sign to be used in the village in future. It is also likely that the traffic arrangements in Broadway may change when the Moorlands Farm entrance is opened for the construction of the surgery and the redevelopment of the farm buildings.

A raised platform may be a more effective speed deterrent than the existing arrangement of chicanes on Broadway. Furthermore the Government has been considering the adoption of a 20 mph limit in urban areas throughout the country.

This is an issue which is going to be closely monitored and action taken as opportunities allow.

4. Promote and support the Crewkerne Voluntary Service Transport scheme, First Responders and Merriott Drivers.

We consider that the issue of public paid-for and voluntary transport needs to be considered as a single issue for further detailed consideration.

It is clear that many village residents find public transport unsuitable as a means of getting to and from work, to and from college (particularly Yeovil) for further education, to and from Yeovil Hospital, and to and from Crewkerne for shopping and health services. The extent of the need is not quantifiable without further investigation. The public bus service has shrunk in recent years and is likely to shrink further. By contrast the use of the Nippy bus, Crewkerne Voluntary Service Transport scheme and Merriott Drivers has increased.

There are also other opportunities, such as scooter loan schemes, to be explored for meeting individual needs.



We therefore think it would be desirable to **form a Transport Action Group** to find out local village needs for public and voluntary transport and to explore how far some of the existing schemes could be extended and enhanced to meet these needs.
Let us know if you would like to help with this.

Additional Aims

You also indicated that if any new shop services came to the village, a **bakery** had by far the highest preference, followed by a hairdressers and a tea shop.

A new baker has already started in the village, operating and delivering from home, and would like to expand this into a tea shop cum bakery if a shop became available. New shop opportunities may arise so if you are interested in starting a new business. Please enquire with the Parish Clerk.

Your comments showed a strong desire for the stimulation of new **community activities**.

However these events will only happen if residents step forward to help in arranging, managing and supporting such ventures.

Please be aware that if you want your community to get better in future, volunteers to help to get action and resources are needed.
Please contact the Merriott Messenger or the Parish Clerk if you can volunteer and indicate your area of interest.

Moorlands Farm Regeneration Update

Message from CDP, owners of Moorland Farm

Message from Merriott Surgery and Pharmacy

"The doctors at Crewkerne Health Centre remain eager to develop the new surgery and pharmacy in Merriott.

"We were very pleased to hear that the new NHS Commissioning Body is still able to support the Merriott development, despite the fact that we were unable to meet the previous strict deadline which had been imposed by the Primary Care Trust.

"However, there remain some legal problems relating to development on the chosen site and we understand that the owner and developer of Moorlands Farm is still trying to deal with this issue. We hope that there will be some resolution in the near future and that building can then commence."

Crewkerne Health Centre

"CDP, the owners of the Moorlands Farm land formerly owned by MFDC, have been working with South Somerset District Council and the Homes and Community Agency to bring forward the development of this important site in the middle of Merriott.

"Our proposals were approved by the District Council planning committee in December last year. Since then we have been finalising the legal planning agreements that will ensure that the development includes the restoration of the existing buildings on the site, the construction of new homes for sale, shared ownership and rent, the reservation of land for a doctors surgery and pharmacy and a financial contribution towards the cost of a new sports pavilion in the village. The development will also include improvements to the traffic calming in Broadway.

"The Section 106 Agreement, as it is known, has now been signed by all parties and the planning decision notice will shortly be issued to us. This will enable us to begin the technical and environmental work necessary before we start on site. Our engineers are already designing the roads within the development that will serve the residential and surgery land. We have agreed the way that the site will be phased and this forms part of the planning conditions agreed with the District Council.

"The Homes and Communities Agency are supporting the project through the Get Britain Building Fund and we have recently entered into the funding agreement that secures this. We will be launching a project website and issuing regular newsletters once the overall build programme has been finalised, now that the planning process is concluded.

"We are aware that there is keen interest in this site and will be able to provide further, more detailed, information soon. In the meantime, rest assured that we will try to be good neighbours during the construction process and are keen to leave a positive legacy for the benefit of the village when all of the development is complete."

Message from Merriott Pharmacy

"The issue of medication provision is a major factor in peoples' lives especially the elderly, sick and housebound. With NHS cuts, reduction of services and confusion over new arrangements, we would like to assure patients that we will do everything in our power to continue to deliver excellence in healthcare. Please remember that we offer free prescription ordering, collection and a delivery service to Merriott residents and those in surrounding villages. All we ask is that you continue to support our local village pharmacy.

"Using the local facilities will ensure their continued existence and enable us to roll-out free services to the more vulnerable patients in our community and ensure that they remain FREE. This social cohesiveness will help services in Merriott to develop and flourish in a sustainable manner.

"As a reminder, we should like to add that our new location is imperative as we have outgrown our current practice due to size limitations. However, our eventual move shall be without prejudice. We shall continue to operate independently and welcome all patients from any surgery. We also wish Dr Osborne all the best with his move to the West One building in Crewkerne and every success in the future. Hopefully, more streamlined working practices and efficiency will lead to quicker prescription turnaround times at the surgery and less confusion and misdirection of prescriptions. If you have experienced any difficulty or bias please phone me personally.

"And finally, we have also opened a second branch in South Somerset onsite at the New South Petherton Healthcentre. Here we open from 7am until 8pm Monday to Saturday and 24hrs on Mondays and Fridays. If your need is urgent or you can't obtain a particular medicine we will be more than happy to help. We work closely with the out of hours GPs, emergency services and district nurses. Vince, our driver, delivers from South Petherton as well, so now we can offer our free delivery service to even more people in a larger catchment area.

"Thanking you for choosing Merriott Pharmacy – your choice is important to us."

Max Punni Pharmacist – mobile: 07973 504890 email: maxpunni@hotmail.com

Musical Merriott!

The South Somerset Music Spectacular takes place at Westlands Leisure Complex, Yeovil, at the end of the Spring Term each year.

It is a long afternoon and evening with a finale music rehearsal, a whole finale rehearsal, individual performance run through (for the stage crew to manage lighting, sound and stage positions and for the children to get a taste of the atmosphere) and then the performance!

This year the children in Year 4 performed a medley of tunes on their brass instruments, led by their tutor Keith Thomas. The children's enjoyment of their performance was reflected in the smiles on their faces! As usual they represented Merriott School outstandingly well.

As a climax to the Africa Topic each class took a Safari around the school visiting each of the other classes to admire the results of the half term's work. The host class enjoyed sharing their art, crafts and writings with their visitors.



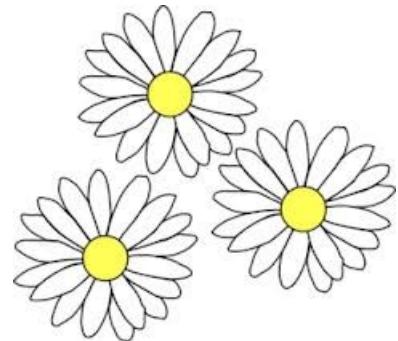
Merriott Yr 4 students performed at the South Somerset Music Spectacular



Pupils with their African figures

Merriott All Saints Church Summer Fete at The Rectory

Saturday 8th June
11am - 3pm



Come and join us for a wealth of attractions, games and stalls



Merriottsford Minibus

Quality 14 & 16 seaters
For that special occasion, day or night
01460 75089 www.airlinetaxis.co.uk

R. Stenning, The Old Garage, Merriottsford, Somerset, TA16 5NH



News from All Saints Church

Quite a few of our friends and loved ones in the village have died recently.

There have been lots of different circumstances; from those who have suffered long-term illness to the more sudden losses. All of these people are loved, all precious to God and all will be missed.

In the tragic case of a suicide, a lot of difficult questions and emotions come to the surface. Usually anyone who has known that person feels some sense of regret: Should I have paid better attention, done more to help, been a better

neighbour? It is all too easy to feel guilty, and guilt can be destructive. We may wish things had been different, but ultimately, we cannot take responsibility for what went wrong.

We might also feel angry and frustrated with the person who has died. This is understandable, but we can never know the full truth about their circumstances.

I don't believe that I am in a position to judge that person, when I can never truly know their desperation or pain.

It is true that the Church used to take a dim view of

suicide. But that is history. Today we know more about mental health issues and I hope that we have more compassion. There is no reason at all why someone who has died in this way should not have a church funeral or burial. This person has not removed themselves from the love and mercy of God. Their life has been just as precious as anyone else's and our hopes and prayers for their future are just the same.

Those of you who have been recently bereaved are in our thoughts and prayers.

Revd Julia Hicks

Church Services in May

Sun 5th 8.30am
Holy Communion

Thurs 9th 9am
Communion for
Ascension Day

Sun 12th 9.30am
Parish Communion

Sun 19th 10am
All Age Communion for
Pentecost (followed by
picnic at the Rectory or
Tithe Barn)

Sun 26th 10am
Sung Communion

Open Group

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 2nd May - | Plant and Book swap. |
| 16th May - | Elizabeth Perry will talk to us about the work of Christian Aid. |
| 30th May - | A talk by Tony Cooper on The Police. |

Enquiries - Maggie 76186



Following the Annual General Meeting on March 20th, a new committee was formed. The club would like to thank all previous committee members for all their hard work over the year and welcome all new members.

Membership is currently £2.00 and new members are always welcome to join our family friendly club.

To hire the function room for children/adult birthday parties, weddings, christenings, skittles, club meetings/events or fundraising events, speak to a member of staff/committee on 01460 74376.

We are open every:
Wednesday & Thursday 7.30pm-11.30pm
Friday 7.30pm-12am
Saturday 4pm-12am
Sunday 12pm-3pm and 7.30pm-11pm for our weekly Sunday night quiz.

There is also a Zumba fitness class every Wednesday from 6-7pm.

May is a busy month with lots of events for Merriott Youth Football.

The Intruders are back with us on the 17th August, and the group Delfender on 7th September.

Keep a look out for future events on our notice board or via our Facebook page

'Love for the Future' Lent Course

Monday afternoons

2.30-4.00pm,
Merriott Tithe Barn
27 Feb, 5 March, 12 March,
19 March, 26 March

Wednesday Evenings

7.30-9.00pm,
Lopen School Room
29 Feb, 7 March, 14 March,
21 March, 28 March

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix'
presents
'Les Miserables' (12A)

on Saturday, May 11th 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).

Keenly awaited adaptation of the hugely popular musical, based on the novel by Victor Hugo.

Brilliantly acted, superbly directed, a visually stunning performance – not to be missed!

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING?

MERRIOTT GUN CLUB ARE HAVING AN EVENING SHOOT ON MAY 23rd FROM 6.30pm UNTIL DUSK AT MANOR FARM IN LOWER ST

EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND HAVE A GO!

THE COST WILL BE £3 FOR 5 TARGETS OR £5 FOR 10 TARGETS INCLUDING CARTRIDGES.

**GUNS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CLUB.
ANYONE UNDER 15 YEARS OLD WILL NEED TO BE ACCCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT, SUPERVISION AND TUITION WILL BE BY CLUB MEMBERS**

RACE NIGHT AT MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL



18th May 2013

Start: 7.30pm for 8.00pm first race
Licensed Bar – Snacks available
Admission by ticket - £2.00 per person

Available from Broadway Stores, or Richard : 01460 75776; Jonathan: 01460 76070
Any funds raised will be used to support Merriott Village Hall Fabric Improvements

The last Race Night made a substantial contribution to the new stage curtains –thank you!

Events at The King's Head

Following the success of the Chinese and Indian banquet nights, the next banquet will be on Saturday 4th of May. and will be an American Banquet Night . Bookings only please.

Forthcoming music

Saturday 11th May , One Tree Hill
Saturday 25th May , Talitha
Saturday 8th June , Wise Intentions

Messenger Book Review—by Janet Lailey

'A Middle Eastern Feast' by Claudia Roden. Pub: Penguin 2011 in their Great Food series. £6.99

Suffering from the current media preoccupation with food, the last thing I expected to want is a cookery book. Radio, TV and written articles keep a whole crowd of 'celebrity chefs' in the public eye, and recipes on the web are only a click away. However, my attention was caught by a very small book (with a pretty cover) and also by Claudia Roden's name under the title 'A Middle Eastern Feast'. Her book 'Picnic' has been a help and inspiration for years, so I expected interesting and practical recipes.

The humble format of the book attracted me too - no glossy photos of the dishes, resembling my finished efforts as little as I resemble a supermodel. This book has only 102 pages yet it offers an insight into the fascinating food which Claudia Roden has eaten, and cooked, from childhood in Egypt through later travels. In the introductory paragraphs to each section - mezze, soups, fish, meat dishes and so on - she "conjures up not just a cuisine, but the culture from which it springs" to quote Nigella Lawson. She graphically describes the continuing fascination Europeans have had with this cuisine since the Crusaders brought exotic tastes home with them, up to the present day. For instance she evokes an Egyptian street thus, in the section on soups, explaining that servants used to cook their soup on little stoves up on the flat roofs of blocks of luxury flats: "The strong aromas enveloped the street below, drowning the limper, delicate perfumes of their masters' refined dishes."

Her recipes suggest quite common flavours in unusual combinations. The spices she uses are not now hard to come by, nor are there endless lists of things you have never heard of, and which you would only use once every ten years. And if you don't feel up to embarking on Lahma Bi Ajeen (an Arab type of pizza) or Chermoula (a Moroccan marinade for fish) you can enjoy an appetizing read, while you're waiting for the (British) potatoes to cook.

There are 20 titles in this Penguin 'Great Food' series. I wonder if they are all as offbeat and entertaining as this one?

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Articles received after this date may not be included.

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