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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

**merriottmessenger@gmail.com**  
**www.merriottvillage.org.uk**

**NOVEMBER 2013**

**Please note copy  
deadline for the  
December  
edition is  
8th November  
Thank you.**

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**Community Speed 2  
Watch Up-date**

**News from the 3  
Social Club**

**News from All 4  
Saints Church**

**NEW to the 5  
Merriott  
Messenger -  
Photo of the  
month**

**Ellie Hooper's 6  
winning short  
story**

**Little Curtain 7  
Workshop article**

## **Progress Report - Moorlands Farm Regeneration**

We previously reported that we were clearing a number of technical, highways and boundary issues prior to being able to start on site. This remains the case. However, good progress has been made and all those involved are working together to conclude the information necessary to resolve the few issues outstanding at this stage.

We are keen to be able to move forward with the development, but are conscious that Autumn is upon us and we will need to plan the works carefully as the Winter approaches. This particularly applies to the infrastructure, foundations and works to the existing buildings. We are also keen to ensure that access to the development may be installed with the minimum of disruption to local people, neighbours and other road users.

We will continue to provide updates through the Merriott Messenger and would like to thank its organisers for their assistance in facilitating this. The good news is that there is no bad news! We hope to be able to confirm the development time-scale in the next edition.

**Stuart Black and Ian Cox**  
**Clipper Development Partners**



## **Your Door to Ours**

A new initiative is being launched on **30th October**. The Crewkerne Voluntary Transport minibus will be able to be booked every Wednesday to call at your home in Merriott and take you to the Henhayes Community Centre.

### **Times:**

**10.30am returning 1.30pm**  
**2.30pm returning 4.30pm**

Lunch will be available every day. You will have an opportunity to meet others, perhaps play a game of cards or simply read a book and have a cup of tea. (Provided there are places available, anyone over 18 will be able to use this bus, even if they do not want to use the Centre).

Fare £2.50 return.

For more information tel:  
01460 74340.

We would also like to hear from anyone interested in driving the bus.

The bus will be doing a tour of villages including Merriott, Lopen and Over Stratton on November 13th to promote the service. It will be parking in Hitchen in Merriott when leaflets about the bus and about the Henhayes Community Centre activities will be distributed.

Offers of help to distribute leaflets will be welcome - call 01460 74340 to offer.

## **Parish Council Update**



### **COMMUNITY Pavilion:**

At the beginning of October the weather was still being kind as the final touches were taking place to the Community Pavilion. It is really wonderful to see this much talked about building fitting in so well on the Recreation

Ground. The Community Pavilion will be available for private hire for your own family functions, where you can enjoy the facilities and the recreation ground. Enquires and bookings via the Clerk.

The Playground Area and equipment has had an annual safety inspection to ensure an acceptable standard is maintained and to meet the Parish Council Insurance requirements. It has been classified as Low Risk.

Three additional rubbish bins will be installed on the Recreation Ground in an effort to reduce the amount of litter being dropped.

**Next meeting is Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> and then Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## YOUR Parish Council Needs YOU.....

The Parish Council is responsible for helping to influence and shape the long term development of Merriott. As part of the planning process, it comments on Parish planning applications, it improves the quality of life and the environment in Merriott and works to identify issues which are important to you, its residents.

If you have an interest in local issues and are able to attend monthly evening meetings (usually the first Monday of the month) at the Tithe Barn, starting at 7pm, then we would love to hear from you.

We would also welcome residents to attend the meetings to hear first-hand what your Parish Council is involved with and if you have any issues you would like to raise, then again, please join us. The first part of the meeting is always an open session when such issues are discussed.

If you would like to read the Minutes of these meetings, copies are posted on the Notice Board at the Co-Op (along with the Agenda) and at the Church. They can also be viewed on the website. **The next meeting will take place on Friday 1st November.**

For further information please contact:

The Clerk - Marion Andrews – Tel: 01935 863420 or [merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk)  
or the Chairman - Mr Ashley Wallis, Tel: 07768 615 253

Marion Andrews

## NEWS FROM THE KINGS HEAD

CHURCH STREET, MERRIOTT

01460 72973

See us on Facebook for regular updates

There will be a slight change to our opening hours. From the **1st December** our Sunday hours will change from opening at 6pm to 7pm.

**Mon - Fri 12am - 3pm** (Please note: Kitchen closed Monday and Tuesday, but available if there is a booking taken or something special required)

**Mon - Thurs 6pm - 12pm**

**Fri and Sat 6pm - 1am**

**Sunday 7pm - 12pm**

We have a special offer up and running now which is BUY 2 GET 3rd DRINK FREE (on selected drinks) on a Monday night between 8pm and 10pm. Drinks will be announced as and when they change!

We have lots of live music coming up and Christmas dining taken care of by **KIM'S KITCHEN**.

Saturday **19th October** is **Ruby Tuesday**.

Saturday **26th October** we have **MERRIOTT MUSIC MADNESS**.

Another amazing 12 hours of music, this time in aid of nothing but music! There will be snacks on offer all at a mere £3.00 each - veg or chicken curry and rice, pie and peas or pie and mash and 2 dog hotdogs!

Friday **1st November** - **ELVIS** will be in the building! Yes, **Barry Paull** has agreed to come back and play for you all! Saturday **9th November** is **INDIAN BANQUET NIGHT**. Bookings now being taken. Only £10.00 per head!

Then onto Christmas! Office do? Works party? Have a relaxed and fun night here with us. **KIM'S KITCHEN** will take care of your hunger pangs and we can quench your thirst! Christmas menu now available and Christmas Day menu also available - bookings being taken but with limited spaces - don't leave it too long! All at a bargain price of £35.00 per adult and £15.00 per child. Every child dining will be receiving a small gift from **Santa Claus** who will be arriving at about 3pm!

Gabbie Hirst



## Merriott Community Speed Watch - end Sept 2013

Since starting the Merriott CSW I believe we have seen a reduction in the number of speeders, at some of the sites, but still have significant issues at other sites, especially Pye Corner, as you enter the village from Crewkerne (at times double the speed limit!) I believe the Village would benefit from having a permanent flashing 30mph speed indicator sign here, because on the way into the Village speed limits vary from 30mph to 60mph and then back to 30mph in a relatively short distance and this would remind people to slow down. We also believe that it is important to maintain the 30mph here as not only are there several houses with families, but speeding cars make it difficult for residents to safely enter and leave their drives and there is a sharp bend which hinders driver and pedestrian visibility.

As at the end Sept 2013 the CSW team had carried out 27 sessions at 7 different sites, during which nearly 5,200 vehicles passed us, with 344 of these vehicles reported as speeding. The bulk of the speeders were first time speeders who would have received a polite letter; approx. 9% of these were repeat speeders with a small percentage of 3x speeders. The CSW team all enter their data into a common database and, where there are a high numbers of speeders at certain sites, the Police are more likely to support the CSW team and can issue fixed penalties and fines.

The Merriott CSW team has a great deal of local support and has more members than most of the other teams in surrounding villages and towns. Feedback from the community is still very positive, with only the odd negative comment. The teams' goal continues to be to raise peoples' awareness of their speed, slow them down and improve the safety for all in the village. On that note I would like to thank the Merriott CSW team for their commitment and support and the Village community for the positive feedback. The more NIL speeder reports we submit the better for everyone.

Grant Wright  
CSW Coordinator

## News from the Social Club .....

I take great pleasure in writing the Social Club's entry for this month's Merriott Messenger..... there's only good news to report!

So much has been achieved since June of this year, not least of which the repayment of the unauthorised debt of £6217.00 owed to St. Austell brewery - no mean feat! As you may remember, the Club has been run on a volunteer basis since June and this has gone quite some way towards achieving this goal. Coupled with this, the "housekeeping" side of the business has also been overhauled with contracts re-negotiated and the best deals garnered for gaming machines, utilities and insurance .....boring perhaps? but necessary.

A little more exciting is the facelift the main hall has undergone in shades of burgundy and gold. The whole room has been redecorated, the banquet seating has been re-upholstered, room sectioning curtains have been purchased and a new carpet has been laid. In other areas of the building, the old 1970s boiler has been replaced with a modern, efficient combi-boiler and a new TV projector has been purchased with the money saved from the equivalent of four months rental of the old system.

The materials for each of these projects have been purchased by the Club but a **HUGE** thank you must go to the Club Members who have freely given their time

and skill to complete these projects ..... please come and have a look, you'll be very welcome; maybe stay and enjoy some of the entertainment planned for November or stick around for the Members Draw on Saturday night – the last winner received £150!

### Dates for your diary

**Sat 2 Nov** – Family Halloween Disco

**Sat 9 Nov** – 80s & 90s "Old Skool" Disco

**Sat 30 Nov** – Jumpy & Scratchy's vinyl night – bring your old 45s and have them played as they should be.

Janet Crook

## Henhayes Community Centre - Crewkerne

### What's on in November:

**Saturday 16th** - Table top Sale - 9-12am (set up 8.30am) Tables £5 Book on 01460 27154 1

**Friday 22nd** - Young Peoples' Music Festival 7 - 9pm - Come and listen to local young people showcasing their musical ability in a concert. Entries and further details from 01460 271541.

**Wednesday 27th** " USA Thanksgiving" themed lunch. 12.30am - two courses and tea/coffee only £7. Book on 01460 74340.

**Saturday 30th** - Big Breakfast 10-12am Only £4. No booking necessary. 100 Club draw at 11am (some numbers still available).



## Coffee Morning

With craft and various other stalls

**Saturday 9th November**

**10am to 12.30pm**

Tithe Barn, Merriott



Proceeds to  
Merriott Church Fabric Fund &  
**Muscular Dystrophy Campaign**

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

## Poppy Appeal 2013



There will be a house to house collection as usual in Merriott in the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

After several years co-ordinating this, we have handed over to Liz and Peter Fisk (01460 72595) and hope that you will continue to support this very worthwhile charity appeal.

Thank you for all the help and donations received in recent years.

A&A Lawrence

## Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday  
10am - 11.30am



Toys, crafts, fun  
& refreshments for  
carers and toddlers.



New Day



For children aged 8+  
7.00pm-8.30pm  
2nd/4th Fri each month  
Resumes Fri 13th Sept

Phone for more details:  
Phil & Jo 271763  
Andrew & Julia 72211



Broadway, Merriott  
[www.merriottgospelhall.org](http://www.merriottgospelhall.org)

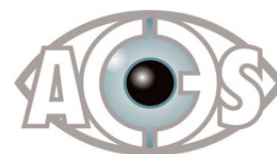


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## News from All Saints Church

The Church in Merriott is utterly dependent on the generosity of the congregation and the community it serves. This is a deep and wide generosity that includes time, skills, prayer – as well as money. We are very grateful to everyone who plays a part in keeping All Saints Church a vibrant and meaningful presence in this village. The church does not receive routine outside support – the entire cost of maintaining our ancient building and providing ministry have to be met locally. This was an average of £45,000 per year in 2011 and 2012. Of course, grants are sometimes available for repair work that we have to do; but costs are rising every year. This year we will again need to spend more than we receive in income. This is why we have been seeking to involve a wider group of people in supporting the church and its work. 1000 blue leaflets were sent out to every home in Merriott in August. So far, we have received less than 10 replies. Thank you to those people who

have already offered their time, talents and generous money gifts. Thank you also to those that came to the Open Day last month. BUT it is not too late to respond!! (It's never too late). If you feel able to help in any way, please get in touch. One way would be to support our next major repair project - The Lychgate, details of which can be found elsewhere in this issue of The Messenger.

Despite anxieties about church finances, and all the other uncertainties in our lives; Christ teaches us to face the future with optimism and glad hearts. To give thanks for *all* of our life experiences and to accept the future that opens up before us, whatever shape it might take. This quotation from the Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld captures this perfectly: "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes." I am going to make this my prayer for November.

*Rev Bob Hicks, The Rectory, 76406.*

### Merriott Church Services in November

#### Sunday 3rd

8.30am Holy Communion  
(Trad. Lang.)  
(6pm Celebration of All Saints - Lopen)

#### Thursday 7th

7pm All Souls Service for the Bereaved

#### Sunday 10th - Remembrance

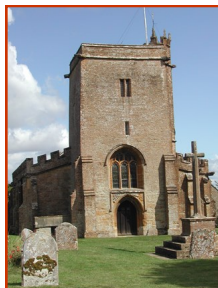
10.50am Service of Remembrance  
(The service begins outside at the War Memorial)

#### Sunday 17th

10am All Age 'Kingdom Communion'  
6pm BCP Evensong

#### Sunday 24th

10am Sung Parish Communion



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

## Merriott Gardening Club

The next meeting will be held on **26th November in the Tythe Barn** at 7.30pm. Louise Burks of The Gardens Group will give a talk entitled "How to Build a Christmas Display".

At this meeting details of the **pre-Christmas Lunch on December 10th**, to be held at The Crown & Victoria at Tintinhull, will be announced - you can select your menu and £22.95 per head will be collected at the meeting.

You will be given a warm welcome. Refreshments, plant swaps, raffle and good company awaits.

Mo Frampton 07967 028277



### OPEN GROUP

**14th November** - Coffee and discussion "Growing Old Disgracefully". Please bring articles, pictures, poems etc.

**28th November** - "The Quakers in Industry with special reference to the South West", a talk by Dr Mick Atkinson at Merriott Social Club.

Enquiries - Maggie 76186



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## From Merriott to Pakistan

You will, no doubt, have heard on the news of the bombings recently in Peshawar, Pakistan. The Christian community there has to take great risks to live quietly and pass on their beliefs and way of life to their children and grandchildren.

The church, which was bombed recently killing many people, had recently been visited by Stephen Dismore of Church Street, Merriott. He preached in the church and lived with this community for a while as part of his missionary work with SOMA.

Please keep this community in your thoughts as you go about your lives in freedom and peace. You can find out more about SOMA through leaflets in our church, or on their website: <http://wearesoma.com>



Hinton St George

"Flix in the Stix"

presents

'A Late Quartet' (15)

Saturday - 9th November

Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50 on the door. To reserve tickets please contact 01460 72906.

First rate actors in an intelligent screenplay about a string quartet of 25 years standing, about to lose one of its founder members. Their reactions are many and varied, tensions and subplots surface, but overall their love of music and their compassion see them through.

## NEW TO THE MERRIOTT MESSENGER: PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Starting in February 2014, we would like to showcase the talent of our resident photographers by publishing a photograph each month of our beautiful village. So while you are out with your camera taking photos for the Somerset Hedges Group 2014 Competition, get snapping in Merriott!

Please send photographs to:  
[merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)



## FURNISHED PROPERTY REQUIRED TO RENT

We require a furnished property to accommodate our family of four who are returning to Merriott from New Zealand. It is likely that the let would be from January / February to July 2014.

Please contact John & Carol Goldie on 01460 73158 if you can help. Many thanks.

## Photography Competition 2014



Following the success of previous competitions, the Somerset Hedge Group 2014 Photo competition is now open. The theme is:

**Hedgerow landscapes through the seasons.**

So take your camera into our beautiful Somerset countryside and try to capture some of the wonderful hedgerow landscapes - in autumn colours, winter frost and snow, spring growth and summer sunshine.

There are Open and Junior (under 15) categories and generous cash prizes. The competition is open to amateur photographers only. Up to 3 digital images (preferably in jpg format) may be submitted.

For further details and an entry form please visit their website at: [www.somerset-hedgegroup.co.uk](http://www.somerset-hedgegroup.co.uk)

Closing date for entries is 1st October 2014.

## Merriott Gun Club

by Samuel Wycherley

Merriott Gun Club offers clay pigeon shoots on Thursdays and Sundays twice a month and currently has around 25 members. My brother and I have been members since August and we have found it very enjoyable and very reasonably priced. The club is made up of some colourful characters, who are very supportive and helpful in teaching the skill of shooting clays.

The Gun Club shoots at a number of locations, including at Hinton, Puckington, Barrington, and Merriott – this allows for different configurations of traps to be set up, so that there is more of a variety of scenarios to shoot in (such as falling birds, rising birds, birds flying overhead etc.)

At £8.00 for a box of cartridges/clays, it is very affordable, and refreshments, including coffee, tea, and bacon butties, are available at the shoots. We have enjoyed using some of the more expensive guns and the satisfaction of hitting a clay and seeing it turn to powder must surely be the best part.

The Club has also invested in some new traps (traps are mechanisms to launch the clays), which can be triggered from a distance and are of a very modern design.

There are more details about the Club at The Swan for anyone interested, including the dates of the shoots.



## Diary Date for Carols & Classics 5 Plus sponsorship for the Lychgate Repair



Yes! It is time again to make a diary date for this year's Carols and Classics at All Saints Church, **Friday evening 20<sup>th</sup> December** with Joe Fisher and his ensemble, who are ready to entertain you with another fantastic evening of Classical Music, Christmas arrangements and, of course, community Carols. Tickets (£7 each – school children free), will be on sale at the start of December from Osborne Stores.

Profits this year will be targeted specifically towards the renovation of the Lychgate, which, as many of you will have noticed, is in dire need of repair. It is hoped that the much needed work can be carried out in 2014 and a fund-raising drive is required in order that this can be achieved.

To this end we wish to try and maximise our profits from this year's Carols and Classic Concert with an aim of clearing up to £1,000 profit on the night.

HOW?! We are inviting villagers and members from the wider community to support the concert in terms of sponsorship. Typically, costs for the event amount to over £500 and that reduces the overall profit that usually stands at around £600-£700 a year through good attendance and an enthusiastic raffle. Anything can be sponsored:- polystyrene cups for the mulled wine (£9), mulled wine and fruit juice (£90), Piano tuner (£60), a Musician (£50), Musicians travel expenses (£130), Publicity & Advertising (Flyer, posters etc.) (£40), even Mince pies. Even donations for Raffle prizes – wine or chocolates, or small amounts that we can use to purchase prizes. If you would like to offer sponsorship (a lump sum or maybe towards a specific item) or you know of local organisations / businesses who may like to sponsor please contact Paul or Julia Fisher on 01460 76360. Sponsors will be mentioned in the programme and where applicable on advertising literature.

We look forward to hearing from you. All amounts will be gratefully appreciated and received. Thank you.

Paul Fisher

### To all Lower Street Bonfire Enthusiasts:

Here comes that fellow with a bee in his bonnet about bonfires! Please, will all those who need to burn 'rubbish' in their gardens, wait for suitable weather conditions, especially avoiding times when the wind will carry the smoke towards adjacent houses. Here in Lower Street, we have again, more than once, had to shut all our windows and give up garden activities, because of bonfire smoke. So, please spare a thought for your neighbours! Thank you.



John Ashworth

## Short Story Competition - Winning Story (under 11)



Congratulations to Ellie Hooper - the winner of the under 11 Short Story Competition. Here's her winning story:

### School Days

"Come On! Come on! We shall be dreadfully late" shouted mum because she was downstairs while her children Lily and Charlie were upstairs getting dressed. "But Charlie is stopping me from getting out of my bedroom" Lily shouted back. "Get down here now Charlie, Lily is already upset because she's leaving school and you're making things twice as worse".

Lily is leaving because she is moving to a different school called Cheddar ton Academy. Cheddar ton Academy is in the next village to Buckleton and that's where Lily is living now, so she will have to catch the school bus, hopefully she will get a seat.

Lily still feels like she's only just moved up to Year R not Year 5, because she's had the same teacher throughout all of her Buckleton School years. The teacher was called Mr Saxon. She is going to miss him so very much. She doesn't want to think of leaving Buckleton, although a tiny bit of her is feeling confident and ready to go, now she is nine years old.

Her new teacher is Miss Cherry Blossom. She has long curly red hair just like a cherry. She has green eyes like a stalk of a cherry. She is very sweet like the taste of a cherry and very inventive. Lily hopes that Miss Cherry Blossom's lessons are going to be very creative, so perhaps Cheddar ton Academy won't be so bad after all. Don't worry Lily you will make lots of new friends.

Ellie Hooper - Age 9

## What's On elsewhere .....

### Home Farm Trust

Annual Christmas Bazaar - **Saturday 23rd November**  
10.00am - 1.30pm – Wincanton Memorial Hall

### Crewkerne & District Twinning Association

**Saturday 7th December** - Christmas Social at the WI Hall  
In Misterton - 7pm for 7.30pm - supper and quizzes  
(bring your own beverage). Tickets £10.00.  
Contact: Cheryl 75025.

### Christmas Craft & Produce Fayre

Misterton Village Hall - **Saturday 23rd November**  
11am-3pm

Over 30 stalls of handmade crafts & gifts, a range of homemade food products, cakes, bread, sausages, jams, pickles, ready meals. Contact Lorraine 07885 424 587

Also Christmas Bingo's every Monday at  
Misterton Village Hall.



## All Saints Church Christmas Bazaar



**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30am - 2.30pm**

**at The Village Hall, Merriott**

For all ages - there's something for everyone!

There'll be plenty of stalls with delightful and unusual stocking fillers; maybe treat yourself to a delicious homemade cake for later! Don't forget the raffle with many prizes, including pantomime tickets, a Roberts Radio and tickets to Wincanton Races, to name but a few.

There'll be children's stalls and Santa will be visiting from 11.30 - 1.30; let them test their skills on "dangling donuts" or see whether they'll triumph at "going for gold" or "lucky lollies".

Recharge your batteries and enjoy a short break with morning coffee, a lunchtime bowl of delicious, homemade soup or a warming baked potato.

Anyone wishing to donate a raffle prize or an item for the hamper, please leave it in a bag at the church with a note saying "Bazaar", or ring Nicky on 78799 who will organise for it to be collected.

## The Little Curtain Workshop



The Little Curtain Workshop, an established family business, owned by Kathy Robins and assisted by husband Nigel, has recently expanded and re-located from Crewkerne to East Chinnock.

The company provides a bespoke curtain, blind and soft-furnishing making service, with 18 years'

experience. The services of upholsterers and loose cover makers are also available.

Kathy, who has an HND in Interior Design, can take you through the whole process; from choosing colours and fabrics, to exploring how they can be used within your home/business environment, to fixing up the tracks and poles and hanging the finished product. Her aim is to take away the stress of creating those very important finishing touches.

The Little Curtain Workshop has an expanding collection of fabrics, braids, poles and tracks to view in the workshop and they offer a free first consultation, in your home, with a selection of books and samples, should you wish.

Traditional methods are used in the make-up of any curtains; with machine stitching at a minimum and furnishings hand finished to create a superior product. Visit the website [www.thelittlecurtainworkshop.co.uk](http://www.thelittlecurtainworkshop.co.uk) to view commissions completed.

They are open Monday to Thursday 9.00 – 3.30pm but they recommend you phone first should you wish to visit. Friday by appointment only.

## A new term at Merriott School .....

The new Reception children have settled into the school routine very well and now attend full days. Mr Pearse says he really appreciates the support he has from parents as their children start their educational journeys. Each child has a 'buddy' from Year 4 who visited them at pre-school and looks out for them during playtimes. 'Buddies' also pop into the classroom to share a story on a Monday morning. So far the photographer has visited, Golden Class has walked around the village, paramedics have visited with ambulances and the class has attended Celebration Assembly.

A new set of House Captains and Vice Captains was elected by the four house groups in school. Congratulations to Becky, Lily, Josiah, Rosie, Alex, Sol, Sophie, Teegan and Adam.

If anyone has a pair of old binoculars they would like to donate to the school for the children to use during our Forest School afternoons we would be truly grateful. We are often out in the village looking at the changes each season, following trails or just observing the wild life.

Linda Mitchell

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