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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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

[merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

OCTOBER 2013

**Please note copy  
deadline for the  
November  
edition is  
11th October.  
Thank you.**

**PLEASE NOTE:  
Dates for the next two  
Parish Council Meetings  
are:**

**Tuesday 1st October  
and  
Friday 1st November**

## Merriott First School - S.O.S.



**Support in achieving Outstanding School status:** Would you like to hear children read or help them with their maths skills? Volunteers are being sought to hear children read between 9.00am and 9.30am and between 2.45pm and 3.15pm each day. Please call in or ring the office on 01460 72547 for more information.

S.O.S. is our topic this term and we are looking at the emergency services and their work in the community. We hope to have a visit from the Paramedics this half term. If anyone involved with any of the Emergency Services in any way has some time to spare, the children are always eager to learn about new careers and ways of life.

Mr. Pearse is taking training to become a Forest School Teacher and this term each class will be spending an afternoon a week out in the school grounds enjoying many and varied outdoor activities in all weathers.

Just a reminder that Morrisons vouchers are being collected again. As in the past we have been able to purchase much needed equipment for the children to use in the school gardens. Vouchers can be dropped into school during the school day. Thank you for your support over the last few years.

Don't forget to come along to our School Open Day and see how the school day is run. The school will be open on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 9.30am – 2.30pm and we look forward to seeing you.

## Parish Council Update

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### Community Pavilion

The application from the Parish Council to SSDC for Grant Funding of £12,500 towards the Pavilion was discussed at the Area West Meeting in August. It was agreed in principle, but further information needs to be provided by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Thank you to Merriott Cricket Club who have promised a donation of £1,000.**

The completion date has slipped, due to the late arrival of the windows and mains water connection, so mid-October should now see the project end with the delivery of a functional, yet aesthetically pleasing building, provided by, and for, the residents of Merriott.

### Dropped kerbs

The Parish Council has some ear-marked reserves for dropped kerbs in the village to enable better access and mobility. Additional funding is being sought, so that a minimum of four sets can be ordered. Contractors are being approached for installation estimates.

### Eggwood

A Transfer Lease Agreement has been received from Somerset County Council which will give rights to the 3 parishes of Merriott, Hinton St George and Lopen for its use and maintenance. It is presently being reviewed by a solicitor on behalf of the parishes.



### **"Dare to Dream 5" 8th October 9.30-3.30pm**

This event is being run in collaboration with SSDC and Somerset Business Agency, with support from the Chard Town Team, Newsquest and local businesses. It aims to inspire, inform and motivate those who are thinking about, or who have started, a new business or enterprise.

The event offers advice, guidance, signposting to support and key services required to get any new business off the ground.

For further information contact: Sarah Parker, tel: 01458 211 272 or visit [www.somersetbusinessagency.org](http://www.somersetbusinessagency.org)

## 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 Tuesday 1st October.**

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

## Neighbourhood Beat Team



Hi everyone

Autumn has well and truly arrived. The nights are drawing in and driving conditions are becoming challenging due to the weather. Could I ask all drivers to please be especially considerate of cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders as, due to the wet roads, stopping distances will increase. If you are a cyclist, rider or pedestrian, please consider what you are wearing when using the roads. Light coloured or preferably florescent clothing is essential to ensure you can be seen at this time of year.

Some of us attended the Merriott School Fete which was a fun afternoon and great to meet so many children and their families.

PCSO Gareth Allington has joined us this week. He has previously worked in Ilminster and is a very welcome addition to Crewkerne Beat Team.

The next Police Post will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm - 3pm at the Merriott Service Station. In the meantime, if you have any non-urgent concerns or wish to speak to a member of Crewkerne Beat Team, please ring 101 or make contact via the web page.

**Crewkerne Beat Team (tel: 101)**

## Merriott Gardening Club—

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 22nd October** (please note that this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month for this time only). We have arranged a visit to Barrington Court, Barrington at **11.00am**, following a talk by Christine Brain, Head Gardener at Barrington.



If you would like to come along, we are meeting at the Tithe Barn at 10.30am for car sharing. Bring a picnic, or have a meal at the Strode Restaurant or light bites at 'The Beagles' Tearooms. The cost is at a reduced rate of £9 or, if you are a National Trust member, entry is free.

Barbara Byford 72298



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## Henhayes Community Centre

It's all happening at The Henhayes Centre, raising funds for the work of the Centre.

### Sunday 13th October

Wedding Fair - 11am-4pm - £50 per stand / display. Public - free entry with complimentary Bucks Fizz. Further info from: 01460 74340

### Friday 25th October

Jazz and Blues Night with Julie Dunn and Charlotte Storey - "Birds on a Wire". Pre Concert 2-course supper 7-8pm - £6.50 (£5.50 if booked by 18th October). Concert 8-10pm - £7.50 (£6.50 if booked by 18th October). Tickets available from Centre Office Telephone 01460 74340.

### Saturday 26th October

Big Breakfast - 10-12am  
Standard Breakfast including tea /coffee £4 (added extras @ 50p.each).  
No booking required.

**3rd Oct** - Meet at Crewkerne Library for a talk on services available there.

OPEN  
GROUP

**17th Oct** - A talk by Margaret Bourne on the work of Save the Children.

**31st Oct** - A film night at the Social Club, showing "The Canal", produced by local film-making group - the Anoraks.

Enquiries - Maggie 76186



## Coffee Morning

With craft and various other stalls

**Saturday 12th October**

**10am to 12.30pm**

**Tithe Barn, Merriott**



Proceeds to  
Merriott Church Fabric Fund &  
Yeovil SCBU

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

## 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)



## JOB VACANCIES

### Pre-School Practitioner

18 hours per week, term time only. Hourly rate depends on qualifications. Qualification: NVQ Level 2 in childcare is essential, or desirable NVQ Level 3 in childcare learning and development.

### Temporary Pre-School Practitioner

As and when needed to cover illness and training. Hourly rate to be confirmed. Qualification: NVQ Level 2 in childcare.

Successful applicants will have to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service Check.

**For further information and an application form, please contact Jenny Hayne on 01460 77922.**

**Dead line for applications is Friday 11th October 2013 at 3pm.**

## PC and Mac - Sales, Repairs, and Servicing. New Online Shop.



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## Shoe-Box Appeal 2013

Once more we are beginning to think about preparing shoe-boxes for this Christmas. As always, we are so very grateful to the many people who donate lovely boxes for children who are desperately poor and who would otherwise receive nothing for Christmas. The boxes are delivered personally to the children and they are always received with joy and great thankfulness.

Sometimes people get together to make up boxes, or you can simply donate items or sponsor a box - we are grateful for any way in which you can help.

Leaflets with more details are available in the Church and in the Post Office.

The drop-off date for the boxes is **Saturday 9th November** at 12 Higher Beadon, Merriott.

We are holding a **Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy** to start off the appeal:

**Saturday 19th October**

**10.00 - 12 noon**

**35, Shiremoor Hill, Merriott**

*All are very welcome - thank you for your support!* Contact: Beryl Virgin 74917 or Beryl Bellamy 74574

## Moorlands Residential Home Summer Fayre

We held our annual Summer Fayre at Moorlands Residential Home on Saturday 10th August. Thankfully the sun shone for us and as we had hoped we were able to hold the event outside.

The residents and visitors were treated to a Dog Agility Show. Sally Mildren, from Somerton, brought her dogs George and Millie to show off their skills which had recently won them prizes in national dog shows. The children attending had the chance to work alongside Sally in leading the dogs and were presented with rosettes for doing so. Cream teas were enjoyed by all, as well as a variety of stalls for visitors to browse around.



We would like to thank all in the community who came to the event and supported us in many different ways.

Jayne Dadzitis, Manager

## WEA Lecture Course 18th October—22nd November

**WEA**



### Lecture Course

Exploring Spanish Art and Culture. What was it like to be a King, a court dwarf, a slave or a beggar in 16th and 17th century Spain?

During this course, fascinating and little-known paintings are used to explore life at court and on the streets.

The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster TA19 0DU. Fridays 1:30pm to 3:00pm from 18th October to 22nd November. Course No. C33524688. Fee £37.00.

To enrol please telephone: 08454582758 a week before, or online at <http://www.wea.org.uk/>

As I was walking my elderly dog along one of the footpaths in Merriott I saw a dog running towards him - immediately I put him on the lead. The said dog leapt on him knocking him to the ground. After asking the owner to call off the dog and put it on a lead, they said that it was not used to being on a lead! An altercation followed which was not at all pleasant and could have been avoided if the dog had been under control. May I ask all dog owners to have their dogs in control so to avoid unpleasanties in the future.

Susie McPherson

All Saints Church, Merriott

**New to You**

**Saturday  
26th October**



**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*



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## Mural near Merriott



### Camilla busy at work on her beautiful mural

If you regularly drive along the A358 past The Trading Post you may have already noticed the amazing mural which has been painted on its side wall, next to the Railway Carriage Café. This incredible piece of artwork, which incorporates the actual carriage itself, has been crafted during the Summer by the local, young artist, Camilla Yuill. Aged 24, Camilla has had no formal training but evidently just has pure, natural talent! She has always enjoyed art but never followed her passion into higher education. However, during her time at university she formed an Arts Society, painting murals as part of the university's refurbishment and last Summer was involved in a mural project with Langport Youth Club.

Camilla is inspired by the Mexican mural painter, Diego Rivera and the wood engraver, Howard Phipps. She has loved doing this latest project, although at times must have felt a little self-conscious with her progress being constantly in view of the Café customers! It also took slightly longer than planned due to the many interruptions from curious and enthusiastic customers wanting to discuss her art and generally chat about the mural.

So, I would definitely recommend a trip up to The Trading Post, if only to view this fabulous mural - but you could also enjoy a tasty meal or snack at the same time and if you are inspired to maybe having one done yourself you can contact Camilla by email - [camillaroseyuill@gmail.com](mailto:camillaroseyuill@gmail.com).

## Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix'

presents 'Song for Marion' (PG), on Saturday, October 12th in the 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. (contact tel 01460 72906)

A group of OAPs decide to enter a choir competition, singing current pop songs. Marion (Vanessa Redgrave), although very ill, is determined to take part against the wishes of her husband (Terence Stamp). Gemma Arterton, the young teacher, makes you smile throughout. A feel-good drama.

### ALL SAINTS' SERVICES - OCTOBER

Sun 6th - 8.30am - Holy Communion  
Sun 13th - 9.30am - Holy Communion  
Sun 20th - 10am - Harvest Festival  
Sun 27th - 10am - Sung Holy Communion

### Future Dates

Thursday 7th Nov - 7pm All Souls Service to remember loved ones who have died.  
10<sup>th</sup> November 10.50am - Remembrance Sunday



### Ruth Norman

**October 1919 – September 2013**

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that our dear Mum, Ruth Norman, who lived in The Hamstones, Merriott for several years, died peacefully and without pain on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Sunrise of Weybridge. Donations if desired to Arthritis Care, c/o Lodge Bros, 36 High Street, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8AB or via their website [www.lodgebrothers.co.uk](http://www.lodgebrothers.co.uk) and click Make a Donation.

Libi Harrison and Barbara Howse



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Covering: Merriott, Crewkerne, Hinton St George, Lopen, Haselbury, West Chinnock

## News from All Saints Church

I have just watched some of the 'Harvest' programmes on TV this week and have been amazed by how much I didn't know about food production in this country.

I saw a cherry grower importing different species of bee into his polytunnels to maximise fruit production and I learned how carefully they had to be picked to avoid damaging next year's crop.

I was particularly interested in the potato harvest, because we grow some of these ourselves, because I love eating them and because I know what a tough time our local potato farmers had last year.

It is great to see that this year's harvest for most foods has been so much better than last year's. But many farmers are still bearing the costs of last year and some prices have fallen recently, which must be desperately frustrating to

observe even as you bring the harvest in. Food production requires enormous skill, commitment and dedication. Sometimes the economics barely add up, but the harvest must continue. It is important that we don't take any of this for granted, that we appreciate our food, our farmers and everyone else involved in bringing food to our tables.

This is the season when we give thanks for all of this, thanking God for the plants and animals, sun and rain and the dedicated people. We also continue to pray for the harvest and the farmers. And I think it's also a good time to remember the value of our food.

This year's harvest gifts from our services will go to the Pilsdon Community in Dorset, to some local families and to the Lord's Larder.

Revd Julia Hicks

**See page 5 for Services in October**

## The "Hinkley Point C" Debate

by Samuel Wycherley



Recently, planning permission was granted for the building of Hinkley Point C, near Bridgwater. Hinkley Point C will be a new nuclear power station run by EDF S.A.

With the Fukushima Daiichi incident a few years back and the decision by Germany to decommission all of their nuclear power stations, nuclear power has become increasingly controversial. "Stop Hinkley", for example, has been campaigning against the building of the plant and has been endorsed by some MPs and Lord Ashdown.

How does the plant affect Merriott? Merriott is only 30 miles from the site, twenty miles within the standard 50-mile evacuation zone in France and the U.S. (the U.K. has no such zone). Therefore, there is a chance that should a Fukushima-style incident arise (the last major tsunami in the Bristol Channel was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), Merriott may be in the firing line.

Nuclear power stations use Uranium or Plutonium to generate electricity. Uranium/Plutonium nuclei are

bombarded with neutrons, resulting in the fission (splitting) of the nuclei, releasing energy. This is a much more concentrated way of generating electricity compared to coal, gas or renewables, also without the climate change.

However, there are downsides, including radioactive waste to be disposed of, and, at the end of the plants' lifetime, a radioactive nuclear reactor to de-commission. These can take up to 50 years after disuse to become safe to dismantle, as radiation levels in the reactor need to drop to safer levels. It is also predicted that the radioactive waste from Hinkley will remain onsite until 2130.

The downsides may also be economic. EDF is demanding that the Government guarantee a high tariff in order to make the venture profitable, meaning that the taxpayer may also lose out.

To conclude, Hinkley Point C is a project that will probably go ahead to completion, but perhaps "Stop Hinkley's" campaign is well founded in the long term.

## Ode to the Social Club

Where be ye going tonight?  
To the Club – of course – that's right!  
There's all sorts of stuff to do,  
Some suits me and some suits you.

Want to test your skill at sports?  
At the Club, you won't get bored.  
Seek out pockets playing pool,  
Or roll a heavy skittle ball.

Maybe you're a dab at darts?  
A game of cards? Gin, or Hearts?  
I'm hoping that you'll all agree,  
The Social Club's the place to be.

It's not just games – there's so  
much more,  
All good fun and not a chore.  
There's Zumba sessions once a week,  
To work on fitness and physique.

On Sunday night, at half past eight,  
Try the quiz – trust me, it's great.  
Or maybe luck is more your thing?  
The Bonus Ball – you could win!

And don't forget the member's draw,  
It's what Saturday nights are for.  
If the winner does not show,  
The prize money, it grows and grows.

As well as these events each week,  
There's the odd special music treat,  
They've just put on a mighty show,  
Country and Western's 'Bimbo' Pro!

And if the hall is ever free,  
You could book the odd party,  
Fit with kitchen, stage and bar,  
It's got it all – hip, hip, hurrah!

Need a space for your new club?  
A meeting place, or just a pub?  
The Social Club welcomes all,  
Got requests? Give them a call.

So if you're free, pop on down,  
You never know who'll be around,  
Bring your friends and family,  
And join this Club's community.

Where be ye going tonight?  
To the Club – of course – that's right!  
I'm hoping that you'll all agree,  
The Social Club's the place to be.

### Social Club - Dates for your diary

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Chiff Chaff – local duo; blend of country/pop/ballads/rock 'n' roll

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov** – Family Halloween Disco

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Twerzels – West Country's finest Wurzles tribute band



## Short Story Competition Results



Our Short Story Competition was a great success and I would like to thank all of you who entered - we very much enjoyed reading your stories. I am delighted to announce the winners:

Under 11 - Ellie Hooper

12 - 18 years - Chloe Tuck

Adult - Christina Longman

We publish here the winning story in the Adult category. Ellie and Chloe's entries will be published in the coming months.

Janet Lailey

### The morning mist was slow to clear and the hot weather seemed to be about to change.

Daisy had been baking since dawn. Her father, mother, older brothers, sister and husband were all hard at work bringing in the harvest but Daisy, who was heavy with her third child, had stayed behind to care for the little ones and make a hearty lunch.

"Right, Thomas" she smiled at her eldest "we've got bread, apples, cheeses and homemade preserves, do you think that'll be enough for those hungry labourers?"

Thomas smiled back at Daisy. He was three years old and in just a few summers would be working alongside his family.

After all the food was packed into wicker baskets Daisy, Thomas, Mary and Daisy's younger brother, Michael, set off.

The children walked in a procession. Daisy and her brother Michael struggled with the awkward hampers. Joyful villagers leaned out of shuttered windows to bid them 'Good Afternoon' and remark that they had 'not seen finer children anywhere'.

As they entered the farmland they negotiated stiles, streams, brambles and overzealous lambs, that weren't so lamb-like anymore.

The workers were shading themselves under the bough of a large tree when they arrived. The angry clouds were threatening rain.

Once the baskets were settled on blankets and everyone was tucking into a well appreciated lunch, Daisy went and sat by her husband.

John considered the lush countryside and then the three generations of the family and remarked:

"There's no finer place on this earth".

Christina Longman

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

### POPULAR CRAFT & PRODUCE FAYRE AT MISTERTON VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October from 11am – 3pm. With over 20 stalls of hand-made crafts and gifts along with a range of home-made food produce - cakes, bread, sausages, jams, pickles, ready meals. Contact Lorraine on 07885 424 587 for details.

ooOOoo

### CHILDRENS HOSPICE SOUTH WEST - FUND RAISING CHRISTMAS LUNCH

at Warners Hotel, Cricket St. Thomas, Nr. Chard - Sunday December 1st.

3 Course Christmas lunch, tea, coffee & mince pies.

Followed by a PANTOMIME.... all this for £22.50.

Tickets & more details from Carol 01935881510.

Everyone is very welcome, please come and support us.

ooOOoo

### FUND-RAISING BINGO

Every Monday, until Christmas, at Misterton Village Hall. Eyes down 7.30pm.

ooOOoo

### HINTON ST GEORGE FESTIVAL

Cowbridge Welsh Male Voice Choir - Saturday 5th October - 7.30pm - St George's Church, Hinton St George. Tickets available from: 07500 532 543 or email: [hintonfestival@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hintonfestival@hotmail.co.uk)

Moorlands Residential Home recently had the pleasure of helping resident Ida McCarthy celebrate her 103rd Birthday. Ida, who spent most of her life as a florist in Kent, moved to Somerset 6 years ago to be near her family. She moved to Moorlands Residential Home in March this year. She heads up five generations and as well as her own children, she has eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild. To celebrate her birthday, a party was held at Moorlands where 25 visitors and staff gathered to offer their congratulations on reaching the ripe old age. A choir from Hinton St George "The Hinton Singers" entertained and Ida enjoyed singing along with them! Care Assistant Francesca Wells commented: "The afternoon party was a great success and Ida really enjoyed herself surrounded by her friends and family. She is a very happy, bubbly person who is always smiling".

# Thank you to our sponsors for their support

<b>Charlotte Hamlin</b> <b>Merriott Childminder</b> OFSTED & PACEY registered Full/part-time hours Early years funding Between 6.30am and 6.30pm <a href="http://www.merriottchildminder.co.uk">www.merriottchildminder.co.uk</a> 01460 73361 07721 018 335	<b>Tony Miles Ltd</b> Building & Roofing Contractor 74 Lower St. Merriott Tel/Fax 01460 75860 Mobile 07774 886379 aamiles@hotmail.co.uk	<b>Kevin Swain</b> <b>Electrical Contractor</b> <b>Free Estimates</b> Tel 01460 73260	<b>Beadon Flooring</b> Flooring Contractors Serving Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Lopen Business Park, Mill Lane, Lopen, TA13 5JS 01460 242221 sales@beadonflooring.co.uk	<b>Stokes Partners LLP</b> Solicitors Kingfisher House, Market Square. Crewkerne 01460 279 279 <a href="http://www.stokespartners.co.uk">www.stokespartners.co.uk</a>
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Peter Bryans 78182	Katherine Nolan	77047
Niki Scurr 419201	Janet Lailey	271008
Marion Andrews 01935 863420	Jane Jackson	74162