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Merriott Messenger

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

APRIL 2013

Africa proves an inspiration for Merriott pupils

Africa is the topic at Merriott First School this half term.

During the first week back at school, there were many practical lessons with each class learning a little about their chosen country (Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana and Kenya). They drew and coloured the country flag, made tribal masks, drummed and tie dyed a piece of material.

The drumming sessions were led by Sharon Stone from Organic Drumming. She brought in a selection of African drums for the children to use. At the end of each workshop some children were chosen to conduct the drum volume by the rise and fall of their hands.

A parent who works with the Akamba Aid Fund gave a presentation of the work this charity has been doing. Merriott School will be sending T-shirts and pencils for the children of the village out with them when they return in the spring.

Later in the term, Year 4 were invited to Wells Cathedral by the Diocese of Bath and Wells for a First Schools Cathedral Day. The theme for the event was 'pilgrimage' and the children had an opportunity to study pilgrimage and journeys during workshops at the cathedral. The day began and ended with a service in the cathedral.



Reception pupils with their colourful African art



Enjoying the drumming workshop

Please contact us with any news/photos/event etc.

This is YOUR village newsletter and we want to make sure that there is something here for everyone!

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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. Minutes of the meeting are posted on the Notice board at the Co-Op and at the Church.

Drains: The Lengthsman, with assistance from Cllr Wallis, has tried to correct the flooding around Newchester Cross by clearing the drains, when it was realised that the County Council

did not see this as a priority. Anyone can report Highway issues directly to the County Council and/or contact County Councillor Paul Maxwell. Tel: 01460 27115.

PARRETT CHALLENGE returns! A half day packed full of games, food and fun. It will be an 'It's a Knockout' style sport event requiring tactical endeavours of (continued overleaf)

Parish Council News (cont.)



Interested in joining a small memoir-writing group?

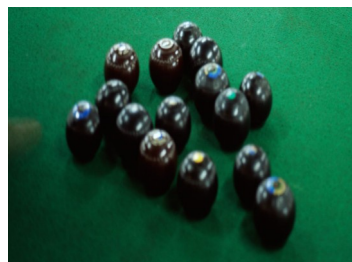
Would you like to join in exploring your memories and past experiences and writing about them: perhaps for others or only for yourself?

Ring Janet Lailey on 01460 271008 to find out more.

(continued) strength, dexterity and guile! Ten village teams are needed to compete against each other in an afternoon of sweat and frolics. To be held on Sunday August 25th between Noon and 6pm.

Are you interested?
Call Mike Back: 73734

Broadway Speeding: Complaints are often heard about the excessive speed of vehicles travelling through Broadway. Now there is an opportunity for you to help correct this by joining the SPEEDWATCH GROUP and giving just an hour of your time. Training will be given. Contact Clerk for further information.



Merriott Bowling Club OPEN AFTERNOONS

Come along and try bowling at Merriott. It doesn't matter whether you are an absolute beginner or an experienced player—you will be very welcome. Come along and have a go, no obligation. See our facilities and find out about being a member. Open afternoons are on:

Tues 30th April; Thurs 2nd May; Tues 7th May. All at 2pm to 4pm

If you are interested but cannot make any of these times then please contact me Chris Woods. 76294 or email clwoods37@tiscali.co.uk.



Community Pavilion: November and December, has Planning Permission has been **d i e d s u d d e n l y .** GRANTED. The Architect is Condolences to her family asking Contractors to tender. from members of the Parish Council. An application for the Loan is being prepared. All on track for a completed building this summer.

A Basket Ball Hoop for practice has been requested for use in the Tennis Court area. Enquiries for purchase prices and siting are being progressed by the Parish Council.

Great News: Merriott Rovers football team are expecting to return next season 2013/14.

Sad News Confirmed: Jessica Vale, temporary clerk during

Next meetings are Tuesday April 2nd and Monday May 20th. THE AGENDA WILL BE POSTED ON THE NOTICE BOARD BY CO-OP. PLEASE COME ALONG!

See the Merriott website for agenda and minutes of the meetings:

www.merriottvillage.org.uk
For all Parish Council correspondence and information please contact Clerk: Marion Andrews.

Tel: 01935 863420 or merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

Cocktail and Casino Charity Ball

In aid of Merriott Pre and First Schools and Help for Heroes

Friday 17th May

At the Tithe Barn Haselbury Mill

7pm till 1am

Tickets £32.50

Available from Katherine on 07775805621, Hayley on 07702089702 or Merriott Pre School on 01460 77922
Sit down meal, Raffle, Cocktails, Casino, Caricature's by Sarah Bailey

Live Entertainment by



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

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

Merriott charity is making a difference

By Samuel Wycherley

SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) is a Merriott-based Christian charity working alongside Christians and churches abroad. I interviewed Reverend Stephen Dinsmore, SOMA's director, about the charity.

SOMA helps Christians in Pakistan, South Sudan, Congo, Uganda, and Tanzania (as well as other East African countries), equipping and encouraging them for their work. Teams of between 3 and 29 volunteers visit these countries to work alongside the local Christians and church leaders – these teams usually spend around a fortnight in the country.

The teams forge friendships with the Christians abroad. They pray together, share experiences together, have fun together, and look at the Bible together, to see how it can help them to live

Merriott Drivers

The Merriott Drivers are a voluntary group who are willing to provide a lift to medical appointments ONLY, for anyone who does not have access to other transport.

If you wish to use the service, it is necessary to register first of all, by phoning Maggie and Tom Jones Tel 76186. They will come and visit you to explain how the service works and provide you with a list of drivers.

Beryl and Derek Virgin are no longer available to drive, so please delete their names from your list. Thank you, Beryl and Derek, for all the driving you have undertaken since the service started.

Christian lives in a challenging climate.

Recently, Stephen led a small team of volunteers from SOMA to Abbottabad, in the Peshawar region of Pakistan, and the Khyber Pakhtuankhwa Province. Churches have existed there for over a thousand years, although Christians are in the minority and are the “poorest of the poor” in Pakistan, due to a lack of representation and social differences. As well as visiting Abbottabad, three other towns in the region were visited. As shown in the photo, the team brought along some Merriott tea towels for the vicar of Abbottabad, Reverend Riaz, his wife and children. The team will be returning to Abbottabad in the summer.

Merriott Church supports SOMA, and as a charity run from Merriott, local support is always welcome. To find out more, visit www.somauk.org.



Rev Riaz, his wife, Mary and their children—with their Merriott teatowel!

Field Trip – Wildlife of Somerset

WEA Course; Tutor Stephen Parker

An introduction to the wildlife of this important part of Somerset. We will visit woodlands to see herons on their nests and rare wild flowers.

Please bring a packed lunch, wellingtons or walking boots, and a camera and binoculars if you have them.

Venue : Meet at Fivehead Woods (ref ST 36092385)

Date: Saturday, April 27th, 11.00am – 4.00pm

Fee £18.00 Contact tel: 01460 53247

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Messenger Book Review

The Shell Country Alphabet, Geoffrey Grigson. pub: Particular Books
www.penguin.com



This book, first published in 1966, was re-issued in 2011 with a biographical foreword by Geoffrey Grigson's daughter Sophie. Described on the cover as 'The Lost Classic of the Landscape', it lives up wonderfully to this name. Arranged alphabetically, the entries comprehensively cover a multitude of topics - place names, buildings of all sorts, customs, characters, dialects and so on. In the long-ago pre-Google days such a reference book was invaluable, and it's still a fascinating companion: Grigson really knows his subject.

His starting point is 'the visible', but this inevitably leads him on from the landscape as influenced by man, to say, men as influenced by landscape - painters, poets, farmers, kings. Each receives an informative and succinct paragraph, often leading on to further exploration. For instance, he

reminds us that Edward Thomas, best known as a World War 1 poet, had previously written several books. Grigson cites 'The Ikneld Way'1913 - "with the power to move archaeologists as well as readers less narrowly exacting". Entries near 'Thomas, Edward' range over Thatch, Three-decker Pulpits, Thwaite (names esp. in the Lake District), Three Living Three Dead - which is a 13c French story illustrated in a mediaeval wall-painting in a little Oxfordshire church. To that he adds a suggestion to see also Cadaver (which of course I did) - and that entry is flanked by Caen Stone, Camps, Canals (which lead on in turn to Aqueducts, Inclined Planes, Telford and so on.)

Anyone will find it is hard to stop turning the pages! *Janet Lailey*

Merriott Gardening Club

We thank the brave souls who faced the bitter cold to attend our February Gardening Club meeting and we were surprised at how many came! Our talk was on plant associations and our guest showed, through his slides, the varieties of plants that go together and what does not. An enlightening evening.

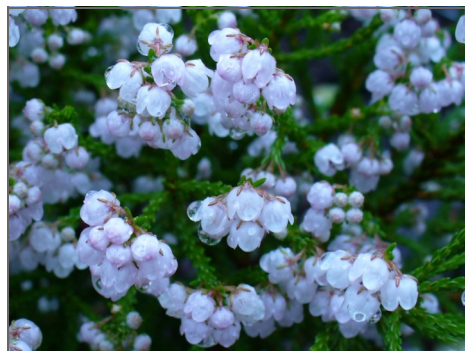
The Gardening Club will be having its Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 30th April** which will be followed by a 'quiz with a twist' which should make your brains work and, if anything like last year, should be very entertaining and will be followed by a buffet.

Our new gardening year starts in **Tuesday 28th May** and will be your chance to come along and join us or sound us out. This starts with a talk by Sue Applegate on 'making the most of Irises and Peonies'. Do come along to the meetings held at the Tithe Barn at 7.30pm.
 Barbara Byford 01460-72298

Merriott Broadway Border Garden

This time of year gardens are coming into life and Broadway Border Garden is no exception.

Last year we had a wonderful team of volunteers who were kind enough to give up their time to help bring the border back to life. With a dig-dig here and a snip-snip there we tamed the border and now with donated plants and bulbs we are looking forward to seeing a display of colour.

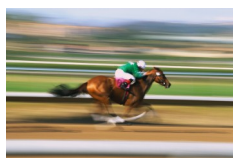


Erica capensis flower

Thank you to the volunteers and donators, and a special thank you to Ashley Wallis at Lynash Nurseries for providing wonderful plants and to Merriott First School for providing the inspiration for the choice of plants. Plants like Ericas (shown here), suggested by a young lady named Erica, roses, hydrangeas and flowering bulbs.

Another thank you is to the staff of Moorlands Residential Home who were kind enough to keep both us and the new plants watered. The most important thank you is to a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous but without whom it would not have been possible to achieve all that has been done. Thank you.

What is wonderful about gardens is that they are constantly changing and with that in mind, if anyone has plants or time they wish to donate then please contact Christine McLeod, Merriott Gardening Club 01460 72720.



RACE NIGHT

The race night last November was such a success that the Village Hall Trustees have decided to run another one on Saturday 18 May 2013.

The format will be the same as last year with Richard Crook and Janet running the licensed bar. Richard will also be sourcing the racing film, and Jonathan will be the MC.

Last year the profits were put towards the replacement of the stage curtains. The curtains made by Jan Workman have now been hung. To complete the stage refurbishment, we are raising money for stage lighting and sound.

Tickets will cost £2 and will be available from Osborne's shop or any committee member. Posters will be displayed around the Village giving further details.

News from your Neighbourhood Beat Team

Hopefully by the time you read this Spring will at last be upon us.

This is traditionally the time when there is an increase in sheds being broken into. So please check your security and make sure your lawnmowers and tools are marked. This will make them identifiable if they are stolen.

There has been a recent increase in farm and vehicle crime (mostly related to Landrovers) recently. Please be vigilant and report anyone you see acting suspiciously - day or night - by ringing 999. It is very disappointing when someone waits hours to report what could have been a vital piece of informa-

tion. Never worry about ringing in because the information you give us may prevent a crime or enable us to apprehend a criminal and, by doing so, return someone's stolen items. If your call is of a less urgent nature please use the 101 number.

On a different note, there have been a few complaints recently in relation to drivers blocking dropped kerbs or parking on pavements. This can be very dangerous as it may force a wheelchair user or pedestrian with pushchair to walk in the road. It is also an obstruction and may result in a fixed penalty notice and unwelcome fine.

So please take care when you

park.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like any crime reduction advice, your Stronger Safer Neighbourhood Police Team are:

PC Lisa Wright
PC Chris Purcell
PCSO Caroline Matthews
PCSO Dave Lewis
PCSO Michelle Haines.

We can be contacted by ringing 101 and will be at Merriott Garage between 11.30am and 12.30pm on Saturday 13th April.



Abigail's Kitchen

Paul and Abigail Anderson have started a new enterprise in Merriott producing and delivering home made bread, pizzas and preserves.

The bread is raised on Friday and baked on Saturday. Soon there will be a mid-week baking as well. They are

members of the Real Bread Campaign and produce a variety of loaves including wholemeal and white bread, to which they can add walnuts or parmesan and spring onions. They also produce Black Treacle and Thread Coconut loaves once a month. They make pizzas and a range of approximately 25 jams, chutneys and preserves.

Some of their bread can be purchased at Osbornes, Broadway, but to order any of their produce for delivery please contact them at 48 Broadway; call 07775 420247

or email:

Abigail@Abigails-kitchen.co.uk



Wildlife of Somerset

WEA Day School; Tutor – Stephen Parker

From the moors of Exmoor to the limestone grassland, Somerset has a rich and diverse landscape. This course will study the distribution of plants and animals of the county, and how man has shaped the landscape.

Venue : The Minster Rooms, Court Barton, Ilminster, TA19 ODU

Date : Saturday April 20th, 10.00am – 4.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

Contact telephone no. 01460 53247

Fee £20.00

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



Coffee Morning



With craft and various other stalls

Saturday 13th April

10am to 12.30pm

Tithe Barn, Merriott



Proceeds to

Merriott Church Fabric Fund &
Escape Support Group

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





**All Saints Church, Merriott
Church Services in April**

Sun 7th 8.30am Holy Communion
 Sun 14th 9.30am Parish Communion
 Sun 21st 10am Family Service
 6pm Evensong
 Sun 28th 10am Sung Communion

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

News from All Saints Church

It's good to see from the recent response to Comic Relief that we don't seem to be suffering from 'compassion fatigue'.

Even in these difficult financial times, many of us still want to support other people who are having a more difficult time than us. I don't think we always get this right though. Sometimes we are bit hasty with our judgements about other people's circumstances.

In one of the New Testament letters, we are asked to 'clothe ourselves with compassion' and that's what we do when we empathise with what someone else is going

through and try to imagine life in their shoes. The many people who have set up food banks around the country have decided to show their care in a practical way.

Some people in Chard and Yeovil have worked together to set up the 'Lord's Larder' which provides basic food items for families in great need. As some of you know, we are collecting food for them in our church here in Merriott. There is a basket inside the church door if you would like to contribute

We would like to say a huge



thank you to everyone who came and supported our recent coffee and cake morning for Comic Relief, especially the Hinton singers.

Your efforts (and cake eating) raised £220.

Our regular Tuesday coffee mornings are not always as busy as this, but we do have a steady stream of visitors of all ages, and everyone is welcome to come along. They are informal, friendly occasions and we are very grateful to the people who make it happen each week.

Revd Julia Hicks



French friends to visit

Crewkerne and District Twinning Association are expecting their friends from Igny and Bures Sur Yvette early evening on Thursday 9th May, returning to France on Sunday morning, 12th May.

We are expecting a full coach with many young people aged from 10 years old to 18 years old, some with parents. **If anyone would care to host a family or split the family between friends we would be very pleased.**

We will help in any way we can. We realise that the Friday could be a problem, but Wadham School have agreed to have the children there for the day.

This is a Crewkerne and surrounding villages association, so new volunteers are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Newman on 01460 75025 or email cherylnewman321@btinternet.com.

Moorlands Care Home

Moorlands Road, Merriott, TA16 5NF

Moorlands Care Home offers quality care, provided by trained carers in homely, peaceful surroundings that have been refurbished to a very high standard.

We also have a full time, dedicated, activities co-ordinator making sure that days are as full and active as you would like.

Our services include: **Respite care**
Day care
Long term residential care

For further information, please call Jayne on 01460 74425

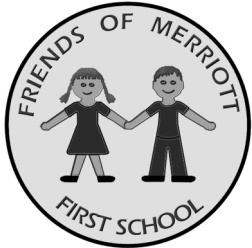


Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix'
presents

'Skyfall' (12A)

on Saturday, April 13th 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).

The latest James Bond with an all-star cast – Daniel
Craig, Judy Dench, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Wishaw and
Albert Finney, directed by Sam Mendes.



Join our
**100
Club!**



We are very pleased to announce a new fundraising venture which will raise money and give you the chance to win prizes!

Merriott PreSchool and Merriott First School are joining forces to run a 100 Club. If you would like to take part, you pay £1 a month to have your numbered ball entered into a draw.

Each month two balls will be pulled out, the first winning £25, the second winning £10 and the December draw will have the first prize of £100 and second prize of £50!

Draws will take place at the start of each month and the first draw will be on Wednesday 1st May.

It only costs £12 to join for one year and by taking part, you will be helping raise much needed funds for Merriott PreSchool and Merriott First School and maybe winning a prize too!

If you would like to join, please email merriott100club@gmail.com for more details. Thank you and good luck!

Joint churches of Merriott,
Hinton St George with Dinnington and Lopen



Wednesday 24th April 2013

at St George's Hall
Hinton St George



Auction from **7.30pm**
Viewing from **2.00pm**

Refreshments –
hot and cold snacks available from 6pm
There will also be a bar serving
wine, beer and soft drinks.

Proceeds going to the four churches of Merriott,
Hinton St George, Dinnington and Lopen

Please contact Gill Esp Tel: 01460 72355
email: gillianesp@talktalk.net

EVENTS AT THE KINGS HEAD

- Sat 6 April: Indian Banquet Night
Sat 13 April: G.T.A acoustic
Sat 27 April: Ruby Tuesday
Sat 11 May: One Tree Hill
Sat 25 May: Talitha



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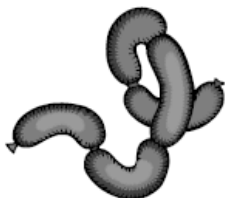
Opening hours

Monday-Friday 6.00am-5.30pm

Saturday 6.00am-4.30pm

Sunday 7.00am-noon

Telephone 01460 73459



Thank you to our sponsors for their support

<p>Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childminder OFSTED & NCMA registered Full/part-time hours Between 6.30am and 6.30pm www.merriottchildminder.co.uk 01460 73361 07721 018335</p>	<p>R. A. Wicks Ltd Fireplace Showroom, Flue Lining, and Multi Fuel Stoves 01460 74612</p>	<p>Stoneleigh Lettings "A personal Letting Service Tailored to your Needs" 01460 249175 07747 035322</p>	<p>Merriottsford Minibus Quality 14 –16 seaters for that special day/night out 01460 75089 Airline Taxi 01460 76209</p>	<p>Stokes Partners LLP, Solicitors, Kingfisher House, Market Square. Crewkerne. 01460 279279 www.stokespartners.co.uk</p>
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<p>Lawrences Auctioneers Free verbal valuations Home visits 01460 73041 Fax: 01460 270799</p>	<p>Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor Tel 01460 73260</p>	<p>Tony Miles Ltd Building & Roofing Contractor 74 Lower St. Merriott Tel/Fax 01460 75860 Mobile 07774 886379 aamiles@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>FUSION FOSTERING We are always looking for families who can offer warm, loving and safe homes to children and young people who need Fostering. Tel: 03301 239355 info@fusionfostering.com</p>	<p>Lower Severalls Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast Open all year lowerseverallsfarmhouse.co.uk 01460 73234</p>
<p>Tom Merrick Electrical Contractor Agricultural & Industrial No Job too small NAPIT approved contractor 01460 72757</p>	<p>Seavington Café Open Daily (Sun—am only) Teas, coffees, cakes, snacks hot/cold lunches, breakfasts Water St. Seavington 01460 249730</p>	<p>Allen Computer Services Sales, Repairs, Servicing, for Home & Small Business 01460 298036 allencomputerservices.co.uk</p>	<p>Popular Motors Merriott Service Station+Spar Shop Broadway, Quality Car Sales, Workshop, MOT testing, 01460 76803</p>	<p>Beehive Self Storage Lopen Business Park, Lopen 01460 243100 www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk Business, Household Storage & Packing Materials</p>
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<p>Appliance Maintenance Services Andrew M Sheppard Domestic Appliance Repairs Tel : 01460 72211 Mob: 07970 744115 amservices551@btinternet.com</p>	<p>novahomes.co.uk 01460 72225 or email jane.desforges @novahomes.co.uk</p>	<p>Martin & Co (Yeovil) Letting, Investment and Property Management for S Somerset & W Dorset 01935 420555 yeovil@martinco.com www.martincoyeovil.co.uk</p>	<p>Abigail's Kitchen Homemade bread, pizzas and preserves 48 Broadway Abigail@Abigails-kitchen.co.uk 07775 420247</p>	<p>For information on becoming a sponsor, please contact a member of the Editorial Team.</p>

Gehnyus String Trio on a cold afternoon

On the 3rd March, Joseph Fisher and his Gehnyus String Trio performed in the All Saints Church in Merriott to an audience of over 50 who braved the elements in anticipation of another Classical treat.

The audience were well rewarded with the Trio beautifully performing works by Dohnanyi; Ravel ; and finishing off with Beethoven's String Trio No 1. Joseph had organised this particular concert to raise funds towards the restoration of his piano, located in the Church. £288 was raised on the day and Joseph plans to hold further concerts to achieve his £700 target. Joseph and his family would like to thank the community for their support for this concert, especially the ladies and gents who have helped in providing cakes and help during, and after, the concert. Diary date for future Classical concerts Sunday Afternoon 11th August (piano fund), 20th December Carols & Classics V (church repair fund).

Copy deadline date for the
 May Merriott Messenger is
 April 12th 2013.

Articles received after this
 date may not be included.

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or contact any of the editorial team.

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