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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

merriottmessenger@gmail.com SEPTEMBER 2013

Bulk buy fuel for your home with a 0% loan!



Keep your home warm this winter. Even though we are currently enjoying fine weather, it is prudent to be thinking ahead, especially when it comes to bulk buying fuel for the winter, as prices can be cheaper when the weather is fine.

On the 29th July The Somerset West

Private Sector Housing Partnership re-launched a 0% finance scheme enabling homeowners and tenants to bulk buy up to £500 of fuel for their household.

Wessex Resolutions CIC, a not for profit Community Interest Company, administers the scheme on behalf of the local authority partnership. Mel Richards, Development & Delivery Manager at Wessex Resolutions said "Many households in Somerset rely on oil, Calor gas, coal or wood to heat their homes and may struggle to afford large payments up front. Borrowing £300 means repayments of £50 per month over 6 months with no interest added and no other fees or charges. The scheme also covers TRV's and room thermostats, including installation".

Anyone interested in the scheme should call Wessex Resolutions on 01823 461099 to make an appointment for an adviser to make a home visit to discuss the scheme. There is no requirement to be in receipt of benefits and households, whether owned or rented, with less than £35,000 total income are eligible to apply for interest free finance.

Please note the copy deadline for the October edition is 12th September. Thank you.

Parish Council News

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES x 4 –

WE NEED YOU!

The Parish Council:

- is responsible for influencing and shaping the long term development of Merriott.
- As part of the planning process, it comments on Parish planning applications.
- Improves the quality of life and the environment in Merriott.
- Works to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents.

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

- do you have an interest in local issues specifically in

learning and developing your role in the community?

- can you attend a monthly meeting, usually the first Monday of the month?
- and do you have some additional time to help develop projects?

Contact Clerk M Andrews – merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01935 863420 or speak with the Chairman Mr A Wallis
Tel: 07768 615 253.

The County Councillor representative is Christopher Le Hardy. Contactable on

CLeHardy@somerset.gov.uk or
Tel: 07803 894 992 .

Merriott Parish Council meets once a month for a formal meeting at Tithe Barn. It is

usually 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. The Agenda is posted on the notice board by the Co-Op. Next meeting is Monday 2nd September.

PLEASE COME ALONG!

See the Merriott website for agendas and minutes of the meetings.

For all PC correspondence and

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information please contact Clerk:
Marion Andrews. Tel: 01935 863420
or merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

COMMUNITY PAVILION: The application to SSDC for Grant Funding of £12,500 towards the Pavilion was discussed at the Area West Meeting towards the end of August. This is the amount that was awarded on the previous application and a standard amount for such projects. The District Cllr P Maxwell sits on this committee and has been asked to support the application. Yarlington has awarded £2,600 for the Disabled Toilet. Waitrose Tokens produced £231 to be used towards fitting out the kitchen and meeting room. A donation of

£500 has been promised for a clock. The PC Chairman, Mr Wallis, has given hours of his time to ensure this project is a success.

Dropped kerbs: The PC has ear-marked reserves for dropped kerbs to enable better access and mobility and additional funding is being sought so that a minimum of four sets can be ordered.

Preservation of ancient bollards: There are bollards in Evergreen Path and in Shyners Terrace both being of significant historical interest. Cllr Maxwell met with English Heritage in August to look at appropriate preservation.

Thank you Katherine!

Katherine Nolan is stepping down from her role on the Messenger editorial team after two years producing a wonderful village newsletter for us. With three young children and her job making more demands on her time, she is handing over to Jane Jackson this month. Thank you very much for all your hard work. Katherine has agreed to stay on the editorial team so as to keep us in touch with the school and her generation in the village and perhaps to contribute the occasional article.



Welcome Jane

We welcome **Jane Jackson** to the Editorial Team, who has experience in publishing a community newsletter and is keen to get the news of this village out to you in a similar professional way. There is a new email address to contact her with any articles or questions for the Messenger – merriottmessenger@gmail.com

Merriott Social Club

Renovations and improvements are progressing well at the club, aided in no small measure by the very generous donations and fund raising events recently held, totalling £636.37. You'll notice some renovations but others are a little less obvious, such as repairs to a leaking flat roof in the entrance area and replacement of rotten floor timbers; all necessary work that takes time.... maybe you'd be willing to help with this? If you can spare a little time on Saturday mornings (10-12), even if it's a one off, we'd love to see you.

September heralds the new skittles and darts seasons and we're delighted to welcome new teams to the club – we'll be hosting 3 darts teams and both a men's and a ladies' skittles team. Here's to a successful season!

September is also when membership fees are due. This remains at a nominal £2. However, for those who are willing, we are asking for £2 plus a £3 voluntary contribution making a total of £5. We hope you agree that this is still a low amount and the extra will be spent wisely.

Merriott Social Club Future Events:

Saturday 7th September - 8:00pm - Del Fender. This promises to be a very busy and enjoyable night as it is their last gig in the area until 2014 and we know he has a large fan base. Come along... don't miss out!

Saturday 26th October - 7:30p - Family Halloween Disco. Your chance to dress up... don't just leave it to the kids!

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Merriott First School say Goodbye to Year 4!



The final Assembly of the school year was held in the church. Traditionally this is when we bid farewell to the Year 4 children and wish them well in their new schools.

This year the class entertained their parents and friends with a selection of tunes on trumpets and trombones, conducted by Mr Thomas, their tutor. A short play, reminiscing about their years at Merriott School, kept everyone amused and was well performed!

The final few weeks of term were a busy time for Year 4 with a residential visit, a barbeque for parents and a fun presentation of certificates from Hooke Court as well as the normal end of term business taking place.

Mrs Larkins, Chair of Governors, performed the honours and gave out the Shields for Sportsmanship and Endeavour as well as End of Year books, where the children had recorded their school memories. (Kindly funded by FOMS.)

Mrs Coghlan ended the Assembly thanking children, staff and parents for another good year and wishing the Year 4 children and other children who were moving to new schools in September 'Good Luck' from Merriott School.

Music Lovers throng to All Saints Church



The Concert on Sunday 11th August lived up to its name "A Summer's Afternoon Classical Special". The Valido String Quartet from Southbank Sinfonia entertained and enthralled a near full church of over 130 music lovers from the village and beyond and was also filmed by our local Anorak Productions. Hopefully, in the future, a showing of the film can be achieved to raise further funds. The concert raised £412 to meet the piano restoration fund target and a further £204 for the Lychgate repair.

Our thanks go to all who helped and attended.

The community bus comes to Merriott every Tuesday, at approx. 10.00am and stops at The Henhayes Centre, returning at about 2.30pm. To book a seat call 01460 74340.



All Saints Church, Merriott

New to You

Saturday
28th September



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

Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



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



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



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

Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

Remember you can download a copy of the Merriott Messenger on the website www.merriottvillage.org.uk

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Sun: 8am - 10pm

Merriott Gardening Club



Three of the lucky winners!

On Saturday 10th August the Gardening Club held their annual Flower & Produce Show in glorious weather! Despite the lack of rain in the previous months and the late frosts, the standard of the exhibits were very good and the Gardening Club would like to thank all those exhibitors who took part, without whom the event could not take place - so, a big thank you to one and all!

We list below all those who have received an award for the most first prizes in their particular field:

- Flowers, John Wallis Memorial Rose Bowl - **Leslie Matthews**
- Vegetable & Fruit, Peggy Wallis Memorial Cup - **Tom Hemmings**
- Floral Arrangements, Cornelius Shield - **Hazel Smith**
- Domestic, Cup - **Janet Walsby**
- Arts & Crafts, Cup - **Lou Darlington**
- Photography, Cup - **Alan Keene**
- Children, under 7 years, Medal & Certificate - **Samuel Larkins**

- Children 7 years to 9 years, Medal & Certificate - **Molly Larkins**
- Children over 9 years, Medal & Certificate - **Jamie Torrance**
- Children - all ages, Margaret Oliver Trophy & Certificate - **Molly Larkins**
- Most First Prizes in Show, Brigadier Keith Mullins Shield - **Janet Walsby**

Well done to you all!

Our next Gardening Club meeting will be on **Tuesday 24th September** at 7.30pm at the Tithe Barn. Our speaker at this event will be James Cross from the Bishop's Palace, Wells, who will be giving a talk and presentation on the 'History, development and planting combinations at the Palace'. This should be very interesting especially to those of you who have previously enjoyed a trip to the Gardens. Do come along - you are all welcome.

Refreshments, plant swaps, raffle and good company awaits!

Barbara Byford 72298



Coffee Morning



With craft and various other stalls

Saturday 14th September

10am to 12.30pm

Tithe Barn, Merriott



National Osteoporosis Society

Proceeds to

Merriott Church Fabric Fund & **The National Osteoporosis Society**



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 28th September

A Curry night will be held at Merriott Village Hall - eat in or take away! From 7pm; £5 entry (Under 5's free) Raffle and refreshments available, you can bring your own alcohol.

Monday 16th September

Bingo at Misterton Village Hall. Doors open at 18.30, eyes down 19.30. There will be a raffle and refreshments available.

Contact 01460 74799 or email :

Simon.bending@virgin.net

In aid of Thomas Bending's African Expedition. Thank you for your support.



Martyn Porter

Painting & Decorating, Tiling & General House Maintenance

No job too small

57 Lyewater, Crewkerne

01460 74952 Mobile: 07805 159302

Merriott Community Speed Watch (CSW) Summary to date - 30th July 2013

Merriott CSW consists of a team of 12 volunteers, many with young families from around the village, who all share a common concern that Merriott has a problem with speeding vehicles driving through it. The aim of the CSW team is to raise peoples' awareness of the speeds they are travelling at around the village at each of the risk-assessed sites. We are not out to intimidate and wind people up, we try to only point the speed gun if we think the vehicle is speeding. If wearing the yellow jackets slows people down, so that they are within the 30 mph limit, then we have achieved our goal and hopefully people will check their speed and in the future think more about staying within the speed limit.

The Merriott CSW team has the full co-operation and support of the Parish Council and more importantly Avon and Somerset Constabulary. Merriott is a large village with many young families, as well as more senior villagers. There are no Pelican or Zebra crossings, no paths in some areas and the pinch points on Broadway alone are not always effective in slowing vehicles down - on many occasions vehicles seem to race to get through the pinch point first. Since I have lived in the village the bollards at the lower pinch point on Broadway have been destroyed at least four times by speeding vehicles and this is a concern as this is commonly used as a crossing point.

The Merriott CSW team has supported eight sessions in July, at five approved risk-assessed sites around the village and at various times, from early morning to early evening. To date, over 2000 vehicles have passed us during our sessions: 72 of these have been logged as speeders and 30% of them were travelling at over 40 mph in the 30 mph limit. There were also more speeders, but it is not always possible to log them all. The main problem areas are at Pye Corner coming into the village from Crewkerne, Broadway and Church Street early morning and early evening. We have been supported by the Police on three out of the eight sessions and during these sessions they were stopping speeding vehicles. We are supporting more sessions in

August and are looking into getting a couple more sites risk-assessed.

It is also worth mentioning that although we have had the odd negative comment, the vast majority of people within the village have been very supportive with comments like "about time this village had this" and "have you tried down here at 7pm it's like a race track".

Grant Wright, Merriott CSW Coordinator

Merriott First School Fete Friday 13th September In the school field 3.15pm to 5pm

**Come and have fun and support
your local school.**

Lots of stalls including:

**Pick a Lolly,
Teddy Tombola,
Hook a Duck,
Face Painting,
Grand Raffle, a Cake Stall,
Soft Drinks,
Refreshments
and many more.**

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DAVID ATKIN, FNAEA

Telephone: 01460 249175

Mobile: 07747 035322

News from All Saints Church

This month, the church will be throwing open its doors for an Open Day. (Actually, it is normally open routinely throughout the week!). But we are extending a special, warm invitation to you and your family to come and see what the Church is all about and find out why it is so important to the life of the village. You will be able to explore the building and the grounds, look at the windows, inspect our registers, check out the silverware, find out about the history and have some tea or coffee and something to eat. It is also a chance for us to explain some of the work that has been going on recently and what we have planned for the future. I hope you have had a chance to read our blue leaflet sent out with The Messenger last month. If you are thinking about how you might be able to help – whether through Time, Talents or Gifts – come and talk to us; and there will be a box for your reply

slips in church. Full details are set out below. The churches of Hinton St George, Lopen and Dinnington will also be open at the same time – so you could make a grand tour of all four! We look forward to seeing you.

A final random thing. I found this quote the other day and it really struck a chord, so I thought I would share it with you: “At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend or a parent.”
Barbara Bush, former US First Lady.

Rev Bob Hicks, The Rectory, 76406.

Open Day Programme

10.00am - Bell-ringers and Bells - come along and see how it's done and have a go yourself.

11.00am -Tours of the Tower for the clock and bell rooms. Every half hour –

last tour at 12.30pm

12.30pm – Lunch break with church band. Why not bring a picnic.

1.30pm – Flower arranging demonstration - see how it's done!

2.00 – Organ recital and demonstration - you could even have a go!

In between all this:

Tea and coffee will be served; the church registers will be on display; there is a children's corner to entertain the youngsters and there will be displays of the church silver and other items of interest.

September Services

Sun 1st, 8.30am - Holy Communion
(Trad. Lang.)

Sun 8th 9.30am - Parish Communion

Sun 15th 10am - Family Service

Sun 15th 6pm - BCP Evensong

Sun 22nd 10am - Sung Parish
Communion

Sun 29th 10am - Benefice Communion
for St Michael and All Angels

Farming Today

by Samuel Wycherley



Agriculture is one of the main industries here in South Somerset, as in many rural regions. However, with the recent weather and huge changes to the industry in the last half a century, farming is significantly different to how it used to be. I interviewed Nick Bacon, of Honeydown Farm, Seaborough, on his views on farming today.

Nick and his wife, Catherine, ran a non-organic dairy farm, but have now passed on much of the responsibility of running it to their son, Stuart.

Nick sees farming as a highly weather-dependent industry and describes the last 12 months weather as “some of the worst” he has experienced. The heavy rain last summer led to problems in making silage and damaged the welfare of his herd. He states that, “there wasn't one morning when I could go and make silage”,

leaving his herd without a reliable food supply for the winter. The weather also put stress on the grass and the cows and he had to drop to milking the herd only once per day.

In April, the Agricultural Wages Board, which sets a minimum wage for agricultural workers, was disbanded. Nick feels that this shouldn't have much of an effect on the industry, as farming is a skilled industry, with high salaries for roles such as herdsmen. He does concede that disbanding may affect immigrant farm workers, who tend to be poorly paid and who are necessary, due to a shortage of people interested in farming. He blames this shortage on education, where people are encouraged to look for jobs in the city, when there are good jobs locally.

Nick feels that it is difficult for new farmers to expand and for small farmers in general, unless they have a

niche market, citing how most of the dairy farm in the valley by his farm have disappeared. He blames the difficulty in getting into the agricultural industry on the single farm payment – an E.U. subsidy scheduled to be scrapped in 2015. He believes this lets farmers tick over and make a living, rather than pass farms on to the next generation, thus stopping young people entering the industry.

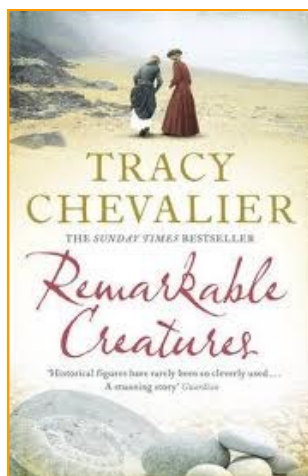
Nick also blames some of the problems for farming on the supermarkets and the general public. He feels that the public demand a right to cheap food, so that the supermarkets put pressure on farmers to lower their prices, making it harder for farms to survive – unless they expand. Overall, Nick believes that if a farm is run as a business first, and a lifestyle second, it will be profitable and successful.

Messenger Book Review

by Sheila Bowman

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier

This book published in 2009 by the author of "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" is an equally readable novel and is of particular interest to us because of its setting in Lyme Regis. As with her earlier books, Chevalier bases her characters on real historical figures and is very successful in bringing them vividly to life and mingling fact and fiction into a most successful novel.



Central to the story is Mary Anning, whose fossil discoveries in the cliffs around Lyme are well known and whose significance in the development of Darwin's theory of evolution was an extraordinary milestone in the recognition of the part women could play in scientific progress.

Mary was the illiterate daughter of an impoverished family whose father was an unsuccessful cabinet maker and who eked out his finances by selling "curies" or fossils that were turned up on the beach. Mary had survived a lightning strike as a child and this fact was supposed to have been the reason for her extraordinary skill in locating fossils. They were inaccurately identified, of course, and Mary's discovery of an ichthyosaur in 1811, when she was just 12 years old was originally described as a crocodile.

The other chief character in the book is Elizabeth Philpott, again a true historical character. She was a spinster, settled by her brother in Lyme as a cheaper place to live than London. Elizabeth and Mary become unlikely friends (socially far superior) as Mary interests her acquaintance in her fossil collecting and Elizabeth teaches Mary to read and write.

The lives of the two women interweave: there is a rivalry for the affections of a man but when Mary's integrity as a fossil hunter is challenged, Elizabeth uses her influence to defend her friend.

The book's title cleverly compares the remarkable nature of the two women (especially given the anti-feminist nature of the times) with the remarkable animals that their searches literally unearth.

In short, the book is just as worth reading for its illumination of early 19th century society and the impact of evolutionary theory, as it is for its enjoyment as an absorbing novel.

Sheila Bowman

Local Community Eyecare

In July 2009, the NHS in Somerset launched the ground-breaking 'Acute Community Eyecare Service' (ACES), designed to deliver better access to people suffering with a recently occurring problem with their eyes.

This free service is provided by a network of community optometrists covering every corner of the county and is available to anyone who is registered to a GP in Somerset. Patients can self-refer to an optometrist for problems occurring within the last seven days; for symptoms occurring over a longer duration a GP referral is required. The medical eye conditions which can be assessed and treated under the ACES scheme include:

- Flashing lights or floaters in one or both eyes
- Red eyes and/or eye lids
- Pain in and/or around the eyes and temples
- Mild trauma, scratches or foreign bodies
- Sudden reduction in vision
- Sudden onset of double vision

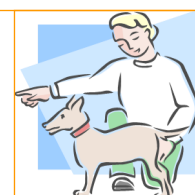
Eye disorders which are NOT eligible for ACES include significant trauma, chemical injuries or sudden loss of vision, all of which require emergency assessment by a hospital eye specialist via A&E. Additionally, conditions which are already being treated by an eye clinic, such as cataract or glaucoma, are also excluded from the service.

More information about ACES, including a list of current service providers, can be found on the Somerset NHS website www.somerset.nhs.uk

ACES is available at the following Robert Frith Optometrists practices:

36 Fore Street, Chard	01460 67771
4 Market Street, Crewkerne	01460 72964
Princes Street, Yeovil	01935 478463

Merriott Dog Training



We return on the 10th September after our summer break. Our dogs in training are a mix of different breeds large and small and all enjoy their time at the weekly training sessions, interacting with people and dogs being very important.

The new Puppy and Older dog classes start again on Tuesday 10th September. The courses lay the foundation in a puppies education, the aim of which is to produce happy and contented dogs, well behaved and under control of their handlers, who fully understand their responsibilities to their dogs, neighbours and the community. Join us for happy, sociable training and see the difference.

Enquires and bookings - Rosemarie Booth 01460 72169

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

<p>Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childminder OFSTED & PACEY registered Full/part-time hours Early years funding Between 6.30am and 6.30pm www.merriottchildminder.co.uk 01460 73361 07721 018 335</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>Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor Free Estimates Tel 01460 73260</p>	<p>Beadon Flooring Flooring Contractors Serving Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Lopen Business Park, Mill Lane, Lopen, TA13 5JS 01460 242221 sales@beadonflooring.co.uk</p>	<p>Stokes Partners LLP Solicitors Kingfisher House, Market Square. Crewkerne 01460 279 279 www.stokespartners.co.uk</p>
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Copy deadline date for the
 October Merriott Messenger
 is 12th September.

Articles received after this date
 may not be included. Please include
 any artwork or photos.

Editorial Team

E-mail: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

or contact any of the editorial team:

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