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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

[www.merriottvillage.org.uk](http://www.merriottvillage.org.uk)  
[merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

**AUGUST 2014**

## VILLAGE PLAN 2014

**Please note copy deadline for the September edition is 12th August.**

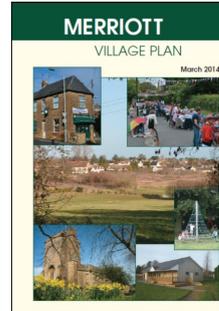
**Articles received after this date may not be included. Please include any artwork or photographs.**

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About 100 residents attended a meeting in the Church on June 18<sup>th</sup> to hear a presentation and to ask questions about the Village Plan, distributed earlier this year.

Ann Lawrence indicated the benefits for Merriott as a result of the Village Plan produced in 2007, which included: the Pharmacy, improved communications through the Messenger and the village website, a new pavilion and play area on the Recreation Ground, the provision of allotments, the establishment of the Gardening Club and the History Group as well as other smaller improvements to the life of the community. Ann said that whilst the Plan had indicated that these were things which the residents wanted, the provision had been as a result of contributions by many people including the Parish Council.



John Bowman set out some of the aims in the latest Plan and emphasised the constraints which the Parish Council in particular attached to the size and location of any new building development in the parish. He stressed that the Plan is an expression of the desires of the community and if they are to materialise it will have to be the result of efforts by the residents themselves, as resources from District and County Councils are shrinking.

John outlined four topics for which the Village Plan Group would like to establish working parties to make progress on the aims in the Plan. These

are: Facilities for Small Village Businesses; Communications including greater use of the Village website; Footpaths; and Transport. **Volunteers to take part in these working parties, or with any other aims in the Plan, would be most welcome and should make contact via Ann, John or the Parish Clerk (contact details are available elsewhere in the Messenger).**

The meeting was also given an update on the Crewkerne Health Centre's interest in establishing a surgery in Merriott by the Practice Chair, Dr Horne. He said that the Practice understood from the NHS that the money for the Merriott building is still available and that the construction could proceed as soon as the developers of Moorlands Farm are ready. However he also warned that the Crewkerne Practice is finding it difficult to recruit a doctor and other staff to meet its current commitments.

Carl Smith the Site Manager for Clipper Development Partners, who is planning to develop the Moorlands Farm site, including the new surgery, has now moved to this area and gave an update on progress.

This meeting also served as the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Ian Noble, the new Chair of the Parish Council, gave a short address in which he outlined the vital part the Council plays in representing the interest of the community it serves.

### PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Photo taken by Nick Durant of 'Albert', a blackbird he and his girlfriend Kylie raised for a month, after being rescued from a garden.

**Send your photo to:** [merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

*Continued on page 2*

## ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

On the **9<sup>th</sup> August** we will be holding our Annual Flower & Produce Show at the Village Hall. Schedules are available from Osbornes, Merriott Pharmacy and our Chair Christine McLeod at 12 Higher Street, Merriott. You should return your completed Show Schedule to Osbornes or Christine McLeod (**not** the pharmacy please) by 5.30 pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014. No late entries are accepted.



The Flower & Produce Show is open to amateur exhibitors only, living within the boundary of Merriott and members of Merriott Gardening Club and Merriott Allotment Association. All exhibitors to be bona-fide owners of all exhibits shown in their names.

The show is not just about fruit and



veg - there are sections for flowers, foliage and flower arrangements; a domestic section including jam, pickle, cupcakes, cakes; an arts and crafts section covering greetings card, needlecraft, crochet, jewellery, watercolour and a photography section covering a variety of subjects.

There is a special section for kids and we are hoping that the children of Merriott will surprise and delight us with their entries.



The hall opens at 9.00am and all exhibits must be in place by 11am when the hall will be cleared for judging. Entry payments

should be given on the morning of the Show day only (please do not leave any money beforehand).

The Hall opens to the public from 2pm. Admission: adults 30p and children 10p.

Cream teas, tea, coffee and a selection of home made scones and cakes will be available in the afternoon.

Prize giving and awards will be at 4pm followed by an auction of produce from the Show and a raffle with lots of lovely prizes.

This is a very popular Show - please come and support your village Gardening Club and have a wonderful afternoon out.

See you there!

*Mo Frampton*



## VILLAGE PLAN 2014 CONTINUED

The Council meets on the first Monday of each month in the Tithe Barn at 7pm and residents are encouraged to attend to have their say on areas such as planning, transport, housing, local environment and the recreation ground. Small grants are available for local groups. The council informs the community of its activity through the local notice boards, Village events, the Merriott Messenger and the Village web site. New members to the committee are always welcome.

The County Councillor, Christopher le Hardy, gave a short address about his part in the role of the County Council and the considerable amount of work being done to ensure a sound financial future of the budget. Council Tax had not been raised for 5 years, a sizeable capital fund created and no additional borrowings made. He then emphasised

the need for communities to help themselves as far as possible. Public funds are continuing to shrink as the County has to concentrate on the most needy and the core statutory obligations. He confirmed the curb stones were to be delivered this financial year and that a new pavement in Church Street is on his list of priorities for a future Small Road Improvement Scheme. During the debate Councillor Le Hardy outlined some of the difficulties the local District Plan was facing with the National Inspector and that some developers had successfully recovered Section 106 obligations, all to the detriment of the community.

The Rectors were thanked for allowing the Church to be used for the meeting and a donation was made to Church funds.

Over the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014 South Somerset District Scouts had their Annual District Scout Camp in Merriott. They camped in some fields on Boozer Pit that belong to Waterloo Farm. During the weekend 220 young people took part from the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers sections in various scouting activities.



These activities ranged from art and crafts, to a climbing tower and inflatable assault course, with the scouts cooking and camping for themselves on their

patrol sites on open fires. On Sunday morning Merriott's Vicar Revd. Bob Hicks took the Scout's own service which was enjoyed by all. Everyone had a great time on camp.



The Rotary Club of Yeovil present a LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS concert with The British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra on **Friday 5th September 2014**, 7.30 at The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil.

Tickets priced £24.50/£22.00. Contact The Rotary Club of Yeovil 01460 240 984, Old Mill 01935 426 181 or The Octagon Theatre 01935 422 884.



## NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

It can't have escaped your attention that this year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War. There has been a lot of media attention, a handful of very good programmes on television and even some thoughtful coverage in the newspapers. The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day was also commemorated this year, and in Normandy by an ever dwindling band of veterans. Both were cataclysmic events that left their mark on European history. These may seem like very distant times, and yet in today's news there are the familiar bloody stories from around the world: The Central African Republic, Syria, Iraq, Ukraine to name but four. The 'war to end all wars', didn't. We continue to live in a world that fails to embrace difference and fails to find peaceful ways of coexistence. We continue to see the propagation of hatred at international, national and yes, even at a local level. Even here in beautiful Merriott, battle lines have been drawn. War begins in a single heart beat.

The failure of peace and respect and tolerance for a century is the

reason that we must not 'celebrate' this August. At 6pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August in All Saints' Church Merriott, there will be a simple service of 'Commemoration' for the whole Benefice (Hinton, Lopen and Dinnington too). As well as remembering the events of 100 years ago, we will gather to reflect, to pray and to ask forgiveness for our own part in conflict both great and small.

*Revd Bob Hicks*

### Church Services in August

Sun 3rd	8.30am Holy Communion
Sun 10th	9.30am Parish Communion
Sun 17th	10am Family Service 6pm Service to Commemorate the Beginning of WW1
Sun 24th	10am Sung Communion
Sun 31st	No service in Merriott 8.30am Holy Communion, Hinton St George 11.30am Deanery Service and Picnic, Stocklinch Ottersey Church



### Summer Bank Holiday Refuse Collections

Usual collection day:

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 30 August.

## 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

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



### UPHOLSTERY CLASSES

Start Sept 25th  
10.00am - 1.00pm  
East Chinnock Village

Hall. Everybody welcome, no experience necessary. For more details call Viv on 01935 863 086.



## Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor



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## “OCEAN” THEMED SPORTS DAY

Many apologies for the wrong information last month, the school correspondent lost the month of June!

School Sports Day was held on a sunny afternoon in July and was well attended by parents and friends. The theme of the event was in keeping with our topic and each event represented something that could happen in the Ocean.



*Padding pool - searching for under-water treasure.*



*Watersquirt - children were squirted with water at the end of the obstacle race.*



*Reception Egg Race - passing the turtle eggs along the line*

Passing the turtle eggs along the line, throwing a ball into the treasure box, searching for treasure in the Ocean and an obstacle course incorporating ‘walk the plank’

and ‘scrambling under the fallen rigging’ formed the main part of sports day events. Traditional flat races rounded off the afternoon.

Work experience students from Wadham were a great help as they helped set up the afternoon and man the games. Thank you.

### OPEN GROUP

**August 3rd - 2pm onwards -** Members, families and friends are warmly invited to the house of Marion and Chris Biggs to see the many beautiful models made by Chris (including a working steam engine). Enjoy a cream tea and bring a chair.

*Enquiries: Maggie 76186*

One of the main summits of the Bernese Alps, (4,158m/13,642’) located between the northern canton of Bern and the southern canton of Valais. Together with the Eiger and Mönch, this mountain forms a massive wall overlooking the Bernese Oberland and the Swiss Plateau, one of the most distinctive sights of the Swiss Alps.



*Answer page 6*

### Return of the Valido String Quartet

The Valido String Quartet is to make a return performance to All Saints Church, Merriott on Sunday afternoon **10<sup>th</sup> August** with an exciting programme, including - Schubert’s Death and the Maiden, Debussy’s String Quartet in G Minor and Janacek’s 2<sup>nd</sup> String Quartet (Intimate Letters).

The concert will start with summer refreshments at 2.30pm in the grounds of the church prior to the concert at 3.00pm. Tickets are £7 with under 18’s free and can be reserved by contacting 01460 76360 or purchased from Osborne Store of Merriott or Crewkerne Tourist Centre. Profits from the concert will be for the Church Fabric Repair Fund.



THE SEAVINGTONS’  
**VILLAGE STORE AND CAFE**



Our peaceful café offers a tranquil, friendly environment serving teas, coffees and soft drinks, along with a range of freshly made light meals and cakes baked on the premises by our chef. Ample parking, free internet and wifi, and a play park on hand, all go to make this a worthwhile visit.

Open 6 days a week. Tel 01460 249730  
Water St, Seavington TA19 0QH.



### Merriott Drivers

If you are registered with the Merriott Drivers' service, please add the following name to your drivers' list:

Alex Taylor - 01460 419320  
Alex lives in Merriott and has volunteered to be a driver.

## MOG VISIT TO THE SW DEER RESCUE & STUDY CENTRE



For one of our July Meetings the Merriott Open Group

visited this lovely place tucked away at Clapton. 110 acres of rolling countryside with fantastic views in all directions, is home to deer of all breeds. Mike Gage cares for them and welcomes

visitors. He will do tours any day 2-4pm if you telephone in advance to arrange it. Some of the deer are very tame, others shy, but they come galloping up when they hear a feed bucket rattling so you can view them at close quarters. It was a beautiful day and we thoroughly recommend the visit - paid for by donation. Refreshments are provided by arrangement.

To arrange a visit phone Mike Gage 01460 64174 or email deerrescue@talktalk

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

#### HARVEST SWING

Once again All Saints Church, Merriott is pleased to present HARVEST SWING, as part of its Harvest celebrations, featuring vocalist Graham David.

The event will take place on **Saturday 4th October 2014** at Merriott Social Club commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £7.50, which includes a light supper, are available in advance from Jean & Dave Crisp, 23 Beadon Lane, Merriott. Tel: 01460 279654.

*Jean Crisp*

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

### Planning Matters

Louise Lote of Yarlington Housing Association informed the Parish Council of a proposed planning application for 14 properties at Broadway Farm. A mix of 50/50 ownership, affordable and social housing comprising of (2) 1 bed, (8) 2 bed, (4) 3 bed being flats, houses and bungalows. There will be a public consultation in the village at the end of July.

### Planning Applications Considered in July

1. ADVICE OF APPEAL – Berrow Developments – Erection 6 detached dwellings include 2 affordable units. Land North of Half Moon House, Boozer Pit. Merriott. (return by 9/7) – ADVICE REFUSAL
2. APPLICATION 14/02224/FUL APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs Byford PROPOSAL: Alterations and the erection of extension to hay barn to form garage LOCATION: Flaxlands, Boozer Pit, Merriott - ADVICE APPROVAL
3. 14/02424/FUL APPLICANT Ms M

Farmers PROPOSAL Erection of replacement stables . LOCATION: Merriottsford Farm, Merriott Road. Merriott – ADVICE APPROVAL

### Determination of Application:

4. 12 Newchester Cross – Erection of two storey extension to dwelling house. REFUSED - reason location, scale and design would result in disproportional extension out of character. A full report for May and June from County Councillor Mr C LeHardy can be found on the Merriott Messenger web- site.

**GRANT REQUESTS:** Each year the Parish Council has a budget available to Groups and Organisations primarily within the village to support and contribute to their development. A letter of application or a form is available via the Clerk. The Tennis Courts are ready for use now that the lines have been re-sprayed. SSDC Ranger Scheme will replace the Lengthsman scheme for a period of six months. Six hours a fortnight is available within the current budget. The

Parish Council is to consider alternatives during this time which could include a shared parish position. COMMUNITY PAVILION is completed and ready for Hire!



Six Vacancies exist on the Parish Council. If you are interested then attendance at a monthly meeting is encouraged prior to making an application to be a co-opted member. You need to be 18 years of age and a resident of Merriott with an interest in your community. For details or information about the Parish Council or Hire of the Pavilion contact Clerk: [Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 01935 863420. Next meeting Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, Merriott Tithe Barn, 7pm.

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## NEWS FROM MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

We're pleased to report that June has been another successful month for the Social Club. Thanks to the good weather, and some hard work from a bunch of highly-appreciated volunteers, we've been able to make excellent progress with the foundations for the external toilet block. Many bags of cement and buckets of sweat later, we're practically there, so it shouldn't be long before the toilets are in place and operational. The next step will be creating access up to the block, which may well require further assistance from our valued mob of volunteers, but we'll let you know in good time. Thanks once again to those who helped us with the foundations - you really are appreciated.

On a musical note, a huge thank you to **Joe Santiago**, who sang for one of our regulars birthdays, as well as **Dinosaur Cafe**, a cracking local band who performed a mix of popular songs in an impressively funky way. On a personal note, it was brilliant to see so many new faces in the Club who turned up especially for the music. Thanks once again to **Dinosaur Cafe** for such an

entertaining evening - we're looking forward to having you back again next year.

Bringing things back to the present, at the end of this month we have the pleasure of providing **Crimson on Silver** for your entertainment. On the **30th August** from 9pm onwards, this local five-piece band shall be performing a mixture of well-known rock hits that will have you singing and dancing along. As with any of our events, all members and non-members are welcome to attend, so please come on down for a drink, or a dance!

Looking ahead to the **18th October**, a well-known band with a strong following will be providing some exciting free entertainment. **STORM** play a huge selection of rock music, performed with great energy and skill. For those fans among you, this event is not to be missed! Also, on the **4th October**, Merriott Social Club will be home once again to the **Harvest Swing**. We'll be sure to let you know how to buy tickets for this lovely event closer to the time, so watch out for posters and posts on our Facebook page.

Now onto the Social Club's **Monthly Market**, which started in July with great success. See below for more details. Once again, we'll be open for all to explore between the hours of **10am and 1pm**. The stalls come in many varieties, from jewellery to knitwear, and plants to paintings. Alongside their array of pickles and jams, Abigail's Kitchen will have freshly baked bread on standby, ready for refreshments in the form of tea and toast, as well as Osborne's bacon for a heart-warming bacon butty. As before, the bar will be open for those of you who require something a little stronger than tea, so please pop by for a browse and a bite to eat! All are welcome! If you'd like to book a table (for only £5), email us: [merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com](mailto:merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com) or phone Lorraine on 07885 424 588. Keep an eye on our notice-board for the latest news and events, as well as our website ([merriottsocialclub.co.uk](http://merriottsocialclub.co.uk)) and Facebook page.

**WHERE IN THE WORLD?**  
A. Jungfrau, Switzerland

### MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2014 - 10am until 1pm**  
**MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB**  
**71 Lower Street, Merriott**



An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams & pickles, quiche and pies, fruit and veg, plants, crafts and gifts, Jewellery and hand knits, DVD's and bric-a-brac and much more.

We will be serving bacon butties, teas & coffees and the bar will be open. As well as promoting the club we hope to support many other local charities along the way as well .....

For further details call 07885 424 588 or pop into the club or check us out on facebook.

### 100 CLUB

Since June 2013, the Merriott Pre-School and FOMS 100 Club have been holding monthly draws - many of our members have won prizes and we have been raising money for our Pre-School and First School. We are very happy to announce that during July we were able to make a £75 donation to Merriott Pre-School and a £75 donation to Merriott School.

*Lauren Singleton receiving a cheque on behalf of FOMS and Millie Tither receiving a cheque on behalf of Merriott Pre-School.*



The Friends of Merriott School plan to use the donation to help towards the cost of upgrading the school's resources for this Autumn's whole school topic. Merriott Pre-School is going to put their donation towards their ongoing project of creating an outdoor wilderness area.

Huge thanks to our members who have helped us to raise the money for these donations. To find out more about becoming a member and supporting the Pre-School and School, email [merriott100club@gmail.com](mailto:merriott100club@gmail.com).

## ARE WE RUNNING OUT OF EFFECTIVE ANTIBIOTICS? BY SAM WYCHERLEY

Antibiotics are a principal cure in modern medicine, used to target a huge range of bacterial infections, such as tuberculosis, food poisoning, or meningitis. However, our current arsenal of antibiotics, many of which are derived from penicillin, are under threat of becoming obsolete, as warned by David Cameron recently. This is due to the evolution of strains of bacteria resistant to our current crop of antibiotics – a popular example would be MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) that has plagued hospitals in recent years. The emergence of these antibiotic-resistant strains has serious consequences for medicine, as doctors will find it increasingly difficult to treat bacterial infections as our current antibiotics lose their effects.

The rise of antibiotic resistant strains was arguably always going to occur sooner or later – all life forms evolve to adapt to threats, such as the evolution of mosquito-resistance to DDT – but the scale of the use of antibiotics has certainly accelerated this. Within medicine, antibiotics have historically been overprescribed for illness not

caused by bacteria, as a ‘precautionary’ measure. But it is the use of antibiotics in agriculture that has possibly been a greater factor, where antibiotics were, and in many cases still are, prescribed daily to improve the efficiency of livestock rearing. Rather than being used to cure cases of illness in livestock, antibiotics were used to prevent the illness in the first place, encouraging the animal to grow. By preventing infections developing, the animal’s immune system no longer has to expend energy combatting disease, so more energy is put into growth and so the animal will fatten quicker, or else require less food. Organic farming of course does not use antibiotics in this way, only treating animals when they become ill.

In unnecessarily fuelling livestock growth through antibiotics, agricultural use has certainly played a widespread part in the development of antibiotic resistance (for example, Brazil has found antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria in its cattle), but action has been taken to curb this. In 2006, the European Union tightened regulation on agricultural antibiotics, banning their

use as a growth stimulant, although it is worth mentioning that antibiotic use has not decreased significantly since then. However, to claim agriculture is wholly responsible would be considerably misleading. Medicinal over-prescription of antibiotics has also been a major factor and the problem ultimately must rest on the slow response of reactionary government to tighten regulation.

Even now, as Cameron highlights the problem of antibiotic resistance, there still seems to be little hope of progress. To develop new antibiotic drugs would require huge research investments that the pharmaceutical industry is not willing to provide. Despite the UK having some of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world (AstraZeneca, GSK), there is little incentive for these companies to develop new antibiotics, which, as the medical industry has made clear, would be locked away for emergency scenarios only, diminishing the opportunity for profits. We will have to wait, then, until antibiotic resistant bacteria cause epidemics, before serious action is actually taken.

### Merriott First School Fun Day

**Sunday 14th September 2014**  
**11 am to 4 pm on the School Field.**  
**Stalls, Games, Hot Food, Refreshments and much more. Further details to follow...**

**MOORLANDS FARM UPDATE** - The developers say they are working through the pre-construction start planning conditions and have been liaising with the planners regarding these. The ecological work has taken longer than anticipated, but they have now been able to strlm the grass in preparation for some initial setting out. A further update will be provided as things progress. The developers have now established a website and twitter feed. They are: [www.moorlands.farm@MoorlandsFarm](mailto:www.moorlands.farm@MoorlandsFarm). The website will be periodically updated with the latest information and also displays the twitter feed that is updated as events happen, with supporting photographs as well.

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