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There will be no issue in January. Copy deadline for the February issue is 12th January.

# MERRIOTT MESSENGER



**DECEMBER 2014 /  
JANUARY 2015**



The Editorial Team of the Merriott Messenger wishes all its sponsors and readers a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

We would also like to thank our distributors who turn out in all weathers to make sure you receive your copy of the Merriott Messenger.

As there is no issue in January, we'll be back in February!

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PAVILION

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*Raising a cheer for the new Pavilion*



*Ian Noble talking to Leader of SSDC Councillor Ric Pallister*



*Barry Bisgrove cutting the tape and (from l to r) Ashley Wallis, Mrs Cary Mullins and Ian Noble*



*Major of Crewkerne, Councillor Robin Pailthorpe (left) and Ian Noble (right)*

Ian Noble, Chairman of the Merriott Parish Council, opened the new Pavilion in glorious sunshine on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November saying "I am sure many of you in this room thought this day would never come, but with the help of the community I believe we have built a Community Pavilion that the Village can be proud of". He welcomed the Mayor of Crewkerne, past and present members of the sports clubs and the Merriott Parish Council and extended a special thank you to the Somerset District Council, Yarlington Housing

Group and Yeovil Health and Wellbeing who provided grants towards the building. He also thanked all the local contractors who stepped in at the beginning of this year to ensure that the building was completed, and Ashley Wallis, Marion Andrews and Jim Shorting from the Merriott Parish Council who have worked so hard on this Pavilion project. Many of you will be aware that Merriott's 'Old Pavilion' was in existence for 30 years but was condemned by health & safety and demolished 10 years ago.

Since then the village has had neither adequate changing facility nor any public convenience for the local community to use at the recreation ground.

He went on to say: "In 2012 a community meeting called by the Parish Council agreed that a new Pavilion was urgently needed. With a long term loan from the Government and the grants mentioned earlier, Merriott Parish Council was able to commence building work in the summer of 2013 and it was

*continued top of page 2*

completed just in time for the start of this year's football session.

The Pavilion is more than just a sports facility, it is a Community building which provides much needed Public Conveniences, open daily for users of the recreation ground; it is a hall that can be hired out by the public and social clubs; it's a facility that the Village Primary school and Pre-school can use when they bring classes down to the recreation ground and it provides amenities that families, young and old, will benefit from for years to come.

Before proceeding to open the Pavilion Mr Noble welcomed Mrs Mullins, wife of

the late Brigadier Keith Mullins, who, as a past Chairman of the Parish Council, was a great supporter of the village and a major force in the early days in finding a way forward to building a replacement Pavilion and thanked her for attending the official opening.

Ian Noble went on to say: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Barry Bigrove. For those who do not know Barry, he was born and bred in Merriott, started playing for Merriott in the U14's and is said by all to be the greatest player to ever play in the Perry Street and District league. Spotted by Bristol City and signed by them at the age of 15,

Yeovil Town then tried to sign him but he turned them down. Barry played for Merriott for most of his life and was the first player to score over 800 goals in the Perry Street league. A warm welcome then to Barry for joining us on such a special occasion".

He then asked Mrs. Mullins and Barry Bigrove to join him in cutting the ribbon to formally open the New Community Pavilion.

The Pavilion is available to hire via the Clerk, tel: 01935 863 420 or email: merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk. The cost is £20 per 4 hour session for Merriott residents.

**NEW SPONSOR**

Somerset & Westcountry Stairlifts Ltd, Taunton, is a local, independent, reliable stairlift company. Potential users and carers are welcome to visit our Taunton Showroom to try out a range of straight and curved stairlifts, and discuss their needs and budgets with helpful, knowledgeable staff.

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[www.somersetstairlifts.co.uk](http://www.somersetstairlifts.co.uk)



**NEWS FROM MERRIOTT SCHOOL**

Paralympian Swimmer David Hill spent an afternoon with the children at Merriott First school as part of the "Sports for Schools Sponsored Event". He and the event coordinator, Hannah Goodger, worked with the children as they took part in Circuit Training. They spent one minute on each of four exercises – spotty dog jumps, star jumps, press ups and knee thrusts. To round off their visit David talked to the children in an assembly about how he began his athletic career, his career highs and hopes for the future – The Rio Paralympics competing in the Triathlon.

Judging by the immediate positive feedback from parents and pupils the event was a huge success.



David Hill posed for a school photo before he left.

**NEWS FROM THE SWAN**

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas & New Year and to thank everyone who has booked their festive celebrations with us.

On **20<sup>th</sup> December** we will be holding a Xmas Party in the pub with Simon Rees providing entertainment with his vocals and own grown fun. We will be showing BT Sports over the holiday period so check out the timetables for games to be shown. Some big games are on!

This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas and we will continue to add to our offerings. We have decided to open for Christmas Day lunch and spaces are going fast. This follows our usual opening for

lunchtime drinks 12 – 2.15, so come and join us.

**Forthcoming Events**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** - Haircut night

**17<sup>th</sup> December** - Xmas Bingo, 8pm start

**20<sup>th</sup> December** - Party Night with Simon Rees

**21<sup>st</sup> December** - Xmas Quiz, 9pm start

**Christmas Eve** - Open from 12 noon

**Christmas Day** - Open 12 noon to 2.15pm for drinks. Christmas Dinner 3.00pm

**Boxing Day** - Don't make any plans yet!

**New Year's Eve** - New Year's Eve party Disco and free buffet. No entry after 11pm.

## CHRISTMAS RECIPE FROM MASTERCHEF FINALIST - ANGELA LANGFORD

Angela Langford has kindly let us have a fabulous recipe for Christmas (see below). Since reaching the final of MasterChef earlier in the year, Angela is now running a series of Pop-Up nights at Provender Deli in South Petherton as well as cookery days with Frogmary Farm Cookery School in December and details can be found on her website: [www.marsalarama.com](http://www.marsalarama.com), or you can call 01460 929 596 or email [info@marsalarama.com](mailto:info@marsalarama.com).

### SMOKED GOOSE & GOOSE LIVER PARFAIT



#### For the Goose Liver Parfait...

100gr shallots (peeled and thinly sliced)  
 1 garlic clove (crushed)  
 Small bunch of thyme  
 150mls Madeira  
 150mls Ruby Port  
 100mls Tawny Port  
 75mls Brandy  
 2 x Bay Leaves

400gr Goose (or Duck) Livers (cleaned of sinew) or a mix of both  
 3grs Salt  
 4 x Eggs (at room temperature)  
 400gr unsalted butter (melted but not hot)  
 125gr double cream

First you need to make an alcohol reduction by thinly slicing the shallots, adding them to a pan along with the thyme, bay, garlic and all the booze. Bring the pan to the boil and then turn down the heat and reduce the mix until you have a very thick syrup - removing the thyme & bay leaves once it reaches the right consistency.

Now for the livers themselves. Remove from the fridge for ½ hour before you cook them – so that they are at room temperature. Make sure that they are clean - cut out the sinew and anything that looks unappetising and pop them into a blender with the salt, the 4 eggs and the cooled alcohol reduction. Turn on the blender and mix it all up. Start to slowly add the melted butter – little by little.

Strain the mix into a chinois or fine mesh sieve and pass the mix into a glass bowl. You want to remove any lumps so you can use the back of a spoon to rub the mix into the sieve. You should be left with a bowl of lovely smooth parfait mix. Now stir in the double cream and mix it well.

Pour the mix into individual ramekins or a large loaf tin if you want to serve your parfait in slices. It really is up to you. Put

your ramekins into a roasting tray and pour just boiled water from a kettle into the tin so that the water comes up about ½ way to the ramekins. Cover the whole tray with foil and cook in an oven at 100 degrees C until the parfaits reach 65 degrees. If you are using individual ramekins this will probably take about 15 – 25 mins. Keep checking after about 15mins. If you are using a big loaf tin it will take longer. Remove from the oven and leave to cool. Then cover with cling film and put in the fridge to firm up – they need at least 6 hours – preferably overnight.

#### Smoked Goose Breast (you can also use duck)

Line a wok with foil (this is really important as it will ruin your wok if you don't line it!). Add 75gr jasmine tea leaves, 150gr sugar and 200gr rice. Season the goose with salt, pepper and a sprinkle of five spice powder. Heat the wok on very hot heat. Once hot and smoking turn the heat to really low. Place goose on to a heat proof plate and put into the wok. Cover the wok with foil and cook for 20mins. Either remove the skin or crisp it in a hot dry frying pan. Thinly slice the smoked goose.

Serve with Candied & Pickled Celeriac, Apples, Figs & Walnuts and some Madeira Jelly and Toasted Brioche.

For more festive inspiration and recipes visit Angela's website:

[www.marsalarama.com](http://www.marsalarama.com)

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## NEWS FROM THE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB



A very exciting day was held recently when the Short Mat Bowls Club held its annual Championship and there were many nail biting moments in many of the matches. The day also proved to regular members that this game is very compelling and there are newer members ready in the wings to try take the trophies for themselves! In a very hard fought semi final in the Singles competition between Ian Glasson and Frank Smith, both of whom have only been playing for about a year, Ian beat Frank by just one point to go through to the final against the eventual Singles winner, John Lacey. The Pairs Competition was equally enthralling throughout all matches, with Norman Sumpter and Frank Smith beating Gwen

de Winter and Patrick Armstrong into the runner-up slot. It has always been the policy of the Club, which will be celebrating 20 years of bowling in 2015, to encourage all members to participate in the Championship and this was achieved this year apart from a few who were not well enough to attend or away. Lunch was provided by the Club and enjoyed by all in a very relaxed manner. As Merriott SMBC play in yellow shirts, and this year St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice was encouraging people to wear yellow for a day, it was decided the proceeds of a very generous raffle should be donated to that charity.

The Club has very reluctantly made a decision to reduce the number of times it plays each month on Tuesday afternoons. The situation will be reviewed in the New Year but at the moment, play will only be on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays**. The Wednesday evening sessions remain as normal, every week.

The Club is always pleased to welcome new players, and who knows, maybe your name will be on the trophy sometime soon! Do come along and see us and further details are available from Anne on 01460 73091.

### SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2014

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supported this year's appeal. We've been able to check and make up 142 boxes from all the donations and beautiful fillers we were given, and to cover the cost of transporting them. We are very grateful for your generosity and assure you that you will have given great joy to many very deprived children in Bosnia.

*The Shoe-Box Team*

## Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday  
10am - 11.30am



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



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

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



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

### MO'S FUNGUS IDENTIFIED .....



Determined to discover the identity of the strange fungus that appeared in her garden back in October, Mo

Frampton contacted Jenny Bailey from [www.english-country-garden.com](http://www.english-country-garden.com) who identified her mystery fungus as Polyporus Squamosus, otherwise known as Dryad's Saddle.

### POPPY APPEAL 2014



A big thank you to all who contributed to this year's Poppy Appeal. The total raised in Merriott was £1,792.76.

*Liz & Peter Fisk*

## CARE AND SUPPORT IN YOUR OWN HOME

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Call your friendly local team on 01460 353184  
or e-mail [SouthSomerset@BluebirdCare.co.uk](mailto:SouthSomerset@BluebirdCare.co.uk)

Our Christmas lunch takes place on 2nd December at the Crown & Victoria, Tintinhull. We are accepting late bookings, so if you would like to join us please contact Mo on the phone number shown below. There is no formal meeting in December or January.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year and on behalf of the Committee may I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas.

Mo Frampton - 07967 028277



### PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING FOR NOVEMBER 2014

(1) APPLICATION 14/04274/FUL  
APPLICANT : Mr T Bradley PROPOSAL:  
Erection of Oak Clad garage/car port.  
LOCATION: Ash Barn, Lower Severalls  
Farm Road Crewkerne. **Recommend  
APPROVAL.**

#### DETERMINATIONS

- (2) Medlar House, Church Street,  
Merriott – Granted with conditions
- (3) 38 Lower Street Merriott –  
Granted with conditions
- (4) Merriott First School – replacement  
windows and doors considered by Area  
Committee - GRANTED with conditions.
- (5) Appeal decision – 12 Newchester  
Cross 2 storey extension – Allowed  
subject to conditions.

## Household Recycling & Refuse Collections over the Festive Season

### Christmas and New Year 2014-15

Usual collection day	-	Revised collection day
Monday 22 December	-	No change, usual collections
Tuesday 23 December	-	No change, usual collections
Wednesday 24 December	-	No change, usual collections
Thursday 25 December	-	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	-	<b>Sunday 29 December</b>
Monday 29 December	-	No change, usual collections
Tuesday 30 December	-	No change, usual collections
Wednesday 31 December	-	No change, usual collections
Thursday 1 January 2015	-	Friday 2 January 2015
Friday 2 January 2015	-	Saturday 3 January 2015

No change to subsequent dates, all collections resume on usual days.

Revised collection days above also apply to **clinical waste** collections.

**Garden waste** collections will **not** take place Monday 29 December - Friday 9 January, resuming from Monday 12 January on usual days.

**Decoration-free natural Christmas trees under 6ft** can be composted. Take to your local recycling site or if you pay for garden waste collections, then put them out on your usual garden waste collection day from 12 January. As a last resort you can send your tree to landfill: place next to your refuse bin on your usual collection date between 5 - 16 January 2015.

**Recycling Centres** are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Open all other days on their usual schedule.

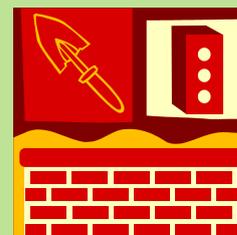
In severe weather, please check their website: [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk), or local radio for information.

**CAROLS & CLASSICS 6**, yes its 6<sup>th</sup> year, will be performed at All Saints Church this year, slightly earlier, on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**. Last year was a sell out before the event with 200 attending, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Joseph and his extremely talented friends now play for major UK orchestras travelling extensively around the UK and abroad but still love to perform at the Carols & Classics concert in our church. There will be mince pies and refreshments from 7.00 and the concert will start at 7.30pm. Tickets at £7 are available from Osbornes Store, Broadway, Merriott or contact 07870 404631 / 01460 76360.

## GKH Home & Garden Maintenance



Shed and fencing repairs / replacement,  
brick and stone work, patios and pergolas,  
grass cutting & hedge trimming .....  
we do it all!



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**07545 257 186**



# FAMILY FUN AND GAMES THIS CHRISTMAS



## Present Scramble

This game is played in much the same way as “Pass the Parcel”, choosing a prize appropriate

for anyone who will be playing. Instead of opening the present when the music has stopped, prior to playing, choose a number between 1 and 6 and then have everyone take it in turns to roll the dice. The first person to roll the chosen number can begin unwrapping. But they have to wear oven gloves to do it! The remaining players continue rolling while the gloved player is unwrapping. The next person to roll the chosen number takes the gloves and continues the unwrapping. The person who unwraps the actual prize gets to keep it.

**Q.** Who hides in a Bakery at Christmas?  
**A.** A mince spy!

**Q.** What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?  
**A.** A pineapple!

**Q.** How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?  
**A.** Deep pan, crisp and even!

**“Happy Christmas” from around the world - can you match them?**

Prejeme Vam	Welsh
Vesele Vanoce	
Sheng Dan Kuai Le	Norwegian
Kala Christouyenna	Irish
Mele Kalikimaka	Italian
Prettige Kerstfeest	Czech
Nollaig Shona Dhuit	Mandarin
Buon Natale	Greek
God Jul	Dutch
Nadolig Llawen	Maori
Meri Kirihimete	Hawaiian

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ BY PETER BRYANS

- Which sign of the Zodiac includes Christmas Day?
- What happened on the ninth day in the song, “the 12 days of Christmas”?
- From which country does the carol Silent Night, Holy Night come?
- In which film did the actor Alan Rickman “Cancel Christmas”?
- When was nothing moving – not even a mouse?
- The song “White Christmas” by Irving Berlin came from which film?
- What are the French words for “Happy Christmas”?
- Christmas Island is an external territory of which country?
- Which actor played “Scrooge” in the 1970 musical film of the same name?
- The words of which Christmas Carol hark back to pre Christian Pagan celebrations?
- Who is credited with introducing the Crib into churches in 13<sup>th</sup> century Italy?
- What was Prince Albert’s great contribution to Christmas?
- Which ruler of Bohemia is remembered in our Christmas carols?
- The church Festival of Carols has how many Lessons and Carols?
- What is Father Christmas called in Germany?
- Which famous composer wrote the Christmas Oratorio?
- Which ballet by Tchaikovsky is associated with Christmas?
- How many hours before Merriott does Perth in Australia celebrate the arrival of Christmas?
- On what date does the Russian Orthodox Church celebrate Christmas?
- What is the more common name for St. Stephens Day?

Answers to this and “Happy Christmas” can be found on page 11

### DOES YOUR PET LIKE DRESSING UP FOR CHRISTMAS?

Send your photos to: [merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com) for inclusion in future editions.



# COLOURING-IN COMPETITION



Colour me in with a chance to win a £10 Amazon Voucher. There are two age groups: 7 and under and 8 - 12 years. Winner will be announced in the February issue of the Merriott Messenger.

Name ..... Age ..... Contact Tel No.....

Please deliver your completed picture by the 12th January to the Merriott Messenger, Colouring-in Competition, c/o The Pharmacy, Merriott. Good luck!



## NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS

December will be a busy and exciting time at All Saints Church, with varied seasonal services and events to suit all ages and tastes. **Advent Sunday** this year falls on the last day of November. We will gather at St George's Church in Hinton to celebrate the beginning of this season of preparation. Ah yes, it may look like Christmas starts in September, but for the Church, most of December is traditionally a time of getting our hearts and minds ready for the greatest gift of all – the birth of Jesus the Christ. We are pleased to be hosting the **Young Farmers and Merriott Football Club Carol Services** again this year, and anyone and everyone is welcome to come along. The ever popular **Christingle Service** takes place early in the month, and is a great way to discover the meaning of God's special gift of his Son to the world. In a change from the familiar evening slot, we will be holding an **All Age Carol Service** at 10am on the Sunday before Christmas. Our own All Saints Band will be there to lead us in a lively celebration suitable for young and old alike. After an adventurous excursion to the Rectory paddock last year, the **Crib Service** returns to the church on Christmas Eve in its more traditional format. So, after quite a build-up, we finally welcome the

good news of Christ's birth with a **Christmas Eve Communion** and **Christmas Day Communion**.

Dotted through the month are other events, such as **Christmas Bingo** in the Tithe Barn and the superb '**Carols and Classics Concert**'. You can find more details below, in the December issue of the Church Link magazine and on posters throughout the village. We would be delighted to see you.

Have a most blessed, happy and peaceful Advent and Christmas.

A Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year from all of us at All Saints' Church

*Rev'd Bob Hicks.*

### December Services and Events at All Saints' Church, Merriott

**SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> November - Advent Sunday**

**10am** Benefice Communion for Advent in Hinton St George (no service in Merriott)

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - 7.00pm Young Farmers' Carol Service**

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> - 8.30am** Holy Communion

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - 7.00pm Christingle Service** (Christingle making from 6.30pm)

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - 7.00pm Merriott Youth FC Carol Service**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm 'Carols and Classics' Concert**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> - 9.30am** Parish Communion

**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> - 10am All Age Carol Service** (NB no Evensong in Merriott)

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve - 4pm Crib Service** (in church)

**9pm Christmas Eve Communion**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day - 10.30am Christmas Communion**

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> - 10.00am** Benefice Communion in Merriott

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 8.30am** Holy Communion

Please see The 'Church Link' magazine for details of services in January.

### OPEN GROUP

**11th December** - Christmas party at Janette's with mince pies and mulled wine. Please bring a Secret Santa, charity shop or unwanted gift to value of £2.

*Enquiries - Maggie 76186*

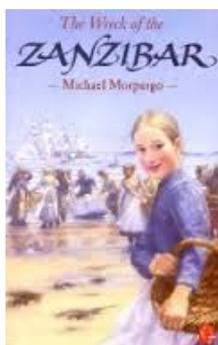
## MERRY XMAS from Jaycee Plumbing

⇒ **Turning down your thermostat by 1 degree could save you as much as 10 percent, according to the Energy Savings Trust.**

⇒ **Turning off appliances not in use or on stand-by will save lots more.**

**07970 279778 / 07738 632746**

## BOOK REVIEW BY JANET LAILEY



### The Wreck of the Zanzibar

by Michael Morpurgo,  
published by Egmont  
UK

If you are thinking in terms of children's books for Christmas, consider something by Michael

Morpurgo. He is a prolific and inventive author, coming at his subjects from an unexpected angle, taking the reader by surprise, with stories that capture the imagination. He has gained huge international popularity with his book 'Warhorse' (which has been so masterfully adapted for the stage,) but he has a whole string of intriguing titles to his name: The Sleeping Sword; Little Foxes; The Ghost of Grania O'Malley; From Hereabout Hill - and many more, for children of varying ages.

The one I have chosen to recommend - The Wreck of the Zanzibar - would, in my opinion, suit anyone from about eight upwards. It is written in clear simple

language, in the form of a diary, kept intermittently in 1907 by Laura Perryman; on her death many years later it passes to her grandson, with a note: '... I've lived an ordinary sort of life. But for a few months a long, long time ago, my life was not ordinary at all. This is the diary of those few months.'

Laura is 14 and her family are farmers on Bryher, one of the smallest of the Scilly Isles (the group which includes St Mary's, St Martins, St Agnes and Treasco.) Today we think of the Scillies as a splendid holiday destination, but in those days, all travel was slow and difficult. The isolated population was far from the comforts of the mainland. It was tough to make a living from farming and fishing.

A cargo ship wrecked on the rocks could prove a welcome windfall for the islanders. They responded courageously to the challenge of rescuing the crew in danger of drowning, but once the sailors were saved, the cargo floating near the wreck was a fair bonus.

Laura's ambition is to row in the gig - the local lifeboat - to help to save lives, as her twin brother is allowed to do, but

that is unlikely ever to happen.

The book is a real page-turner, and well illustrated by 'Laura's sketches which bring more of the period to life: the place and the characters in the landscape. It is not so long that it will discourage a tentative reader and the story is exciting enough to carry you on to the final cliff-hanger.

All Saints' Church, Merriott

# New to You

Saturday

31st January

10am to 11.30am

In the Tithe Barn,  
Church Street, Merriott

Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac  
and Other stalls



Tea and coffee will be available

*In aid of Church funds*

**Saturday 6 December  
from 10am - 12pm  
at the Millennium Hall,  
Water Street, Seavington St Mary**

**ANGIE BLACKWELL OF  
COTTAGE FLOWERS,  
ILMINSTER  
WILL BE DEMONSTRATING**

**FESTIVE DESIGNS  
TO DECORATE  
YOUR HOME AT  
CHRISTMAS**

Tickets available @ £8.50  
**IN ADVANCE** from Seavington Store  
and N&D News, South Petherton.  
Or ring 01460 249522. Ticket price  
includes tea/coffee and cake.  
Proceeds in aid of improvements to the  
village shop and café.

# Sassie

8 Church Street, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7HR  
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Fragrance Lamps and much more.

**Handbags:  
Gorjus**

## FESTIVE PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Waiting for the light" taken by Mo Frampton.

Send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

### MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET

First Saturday of the month  
10am until 1pm  
MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB  
71 Lower Street, Merriott



An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams & pickles, quiches 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

and 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, pop into the club or check us out on facebook.

### WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE .....

**Henhayes Community Centre Special Christmas Lunches:**

**Monday 8th December**

**Friday 12th December**

**Tuesday 16th December**

All at 12.30pm. Two courses including tea/coffee. Members £7, Non-members £9. Book in advance, tel. 01460 74340

#### Cook it @ Frogmary

**1st Dec** - Christmas Floristry, Swags & Wreaths with Angie from Cottage Flowers

**9th Dec** - Christmas Inspiration with 2014 MasterChef Finalist Angela Langford

**10th Dec** - Introduction to Spices, an evening with award winning Bini Ludlow

To book: phone 01460 42775 or [www.cookitafrogmary.co.uk](http://www.cookitafrogmary.co.uk)

#### Flix in the Stix - Hinton St George

"Belle" (12A) **Saturday 13th December**  
Village Hall at 7.30 pm

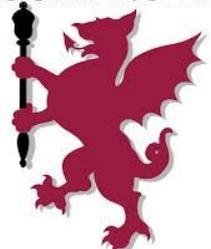
To reserve tickets contact 01460 72906

#### YEovil CHAMBER CHOIR IS KEEN TO

**RECRUIT** some additional singers, particularly altos, tenors and basses. Under the baton of their inspirational Music Director, Judy Martin, they relish the challenge of learning new works for each concert – holding at least three a year – where they aim to sing a very varied repertoire - from madrigals to Mozart, from Tallis to Tavener. Rehearsals start on 7<sup>th</sup> January for their next concert on 18 March 2015. For further information or to apply for an audition please contact the Secretary on 01935 425383 or email: [yeovilchamber-choir@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:yeovilchamber-choir@hotmail.co.uk)

## MERRIOTT MOBILE LIBRARY

**SOMERSET**



**County Council**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 Somerset County Council launched a 10 week consultation on the future of Somerset Library Services. The feedback from this consultation will be used to create a final set of proposals for decision in early 2015.

The purpose of this consultation is for them to understand as many views as possible on a series of proposals for 2015/2016 to change the way the library service will operate. These proposals will see no libraries close but will make savings of almost £500,000, helping to protect the most vulnerable in Somerset.

It will, however, affect the Merriott mobile library service which, it is proposed, will close in August 2015.

The SCC consultation wants to ensure that all those potentially affected have a

chance to comment on the proposals before any decisions are made. Details of the proposed changes to the mobile library service and the potential impact of the changes on current stops are available at:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/libraryconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraryconsultation)

For further details you can email: [libraryservicereview@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:libraryservicereview@somerset.gov.uk) or phone 0845 345 9177.

## NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL CLUB

It was lovely to see the **Harvest Swing** return to the function room at the beginning of October to help raise money for the church. The light supper went down a treat, and it's always great to watch Graham David perform his repertoire of pop and blues. We hope you all had a wonderful time, and look forward to welcoming you back for your next fundraising event, whenever that may be!

Continuing on a musical vein, it was brilliant to see so many members and non-members turn up to watch **STORM** – the atmosphere in the Club that night was brilliant, so we can only hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

**Now, a quick reminder of those dates for your diaries:**

**6<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Market** – There's will be a cracking selection of festive gifts on offer, so do pop down for a browse! Also, thanks to those who helped out in November – we raised £120, £60 of which went to Merriott Pre-School.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2-4pm – Kids Christmas Party!** All are

### CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Capricorn
2. 9 Ladies Dancing
3. Austria (Obendorf)
4. Robin Hood Prince of Thieves
5. The Night before Christmas
6. Holiday Inn
7. Joyeux Noel
8. Australia
9. Albert Finney
10. The Holly and the Ivy
11. St Francis of Assisi
12. Christmas Tree
13. King Wenceslas
14. Nine Lessons & Carols
15. Kris Kringle
16. Bach
17. Nutcracker Suite
18. 8 hours
19. 7th January
20. Boxing Day

welcome, so please come and add your names to the sign-up sheets that are displayed on the Club noticeboard.

**Boxing Day** – We'll be open from 12 noon to 12 midnight, so if you fancy a post-Christmas boogie, or drinks shared with friends, we'd love to see you.

**New Years Eve** – Tickets for the band and disco are selling like hot cakes, so be sure to pop down and buy yours before we run out! This said, a reminder that all members and non-members are welcome in the main bar throughout the evening, so please feel free to join us as we welcome the New Year!

**Christmas Day – CLOSED!!!**

**New Years Day – CLOSED!!!**

**No Market in January!!!**

Finally, a special mention for Martin Rowsell – your help with the toilets last months was highly appreciated – many thanks!

Remember to 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. Thanks once again to all members and non-members who have continued to support us – you are highly appreciated!

### "HAPPY CHRISTMAS" FROM AROUND THE WORLD - ANSWERS

Czech	Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce
Mandarin	Sheng Dan Kuai Le
Greek	Kala Christouyenna
Hawaiian	Mele Kalikimaka
Dutch	Prettige Kerstfeest
Irish	Nollaig Shona Dhuit
Italian	Buon Natale
Norwegian	God Jul
Welsh	Nadolig Llawen
Maori	Meri Kirihimete



## ACT NOW FOR FASTER BROADBAND

How many people live and work in Merriott either for themselves or somebody else? How many of those businesses rely on the internet? How many of you are frustrated by the slow speed and drop out rate of your internet service? Whether you need it for work, enjoy it for gaming or streaming your favourite TV show, we would all like it to be faster, instant - that's just how it is these days.

So why is it taking so long for "superfast broadband connection" to reach us?

According to the website [connecting-devonandsomerset.co.uk](http://connecting-devonandsomerset.co.uk), a single superfast broadband connection will: support multiple devices and multiple streaming, allow individuals to work from home with a faster, more stable connection, allowing improved productivity for home workers in rural areas and make home life more fun with a whole world of entertainment. Sounds great but we may have to wait for this until the end of 2016 even though the roll out time for our postcode TA16 is October 2015.

Apparently Ilminster and surrounding villages should have superfast broadband in October 2014 so why not Crewkerne and surrounding villages? The most efficient delivery pathways have to be found based on engineering, logistical and technical factors and we understand there is a certain amount of complexity surrounding such a project as well as finite funds and resources. When the original demand registration surveys were made available for us to sign up to it is possible the general populace did not realise how these may have led to prioritisation.

So can we now influence the speed with which the roll out of superfast broadband will reach us? It would be interesting to see how many of you, whether for business or personal use, (or both) would **register your interest** in speeding up the process so that we don't have to wait another year and we could, **as a community, lobby BT Openreach, Somerset County Council and our own Parish Council.**

Let us know by email to Penny Harvey [penny@dogdale.co.uk](mailto:penny@dogdale.co.uk).

# Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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