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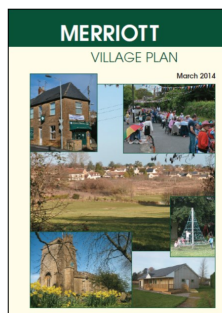
MERRIOTT MESSENGER

www.merriottvillage.org.uk
merriottmessenger@gmail.com

JUNE 2014

**Please note copy
deadline for the
July edition is
12th June.**

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



**Please put a note in
your diary**

**VILLAGE PLAN MEETING
Wednesday June 18th
at 7.30pm**

You are cordially invited to a discussion about the Village Plan 2014 on Wednesday June 18th at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, by kind permission of the Rectors.

There will be plenty of opportunity to comment on the Plan and to indicate whether you are willing to help in achieving its aims. It is only if you contribute to working groups that Merriott will become an even better place to live. We do hope to see you at the meeting.

John Bowman

Many congratulations to Angela Langford from Merriott, who made her way into the Final of MasterChef 2014 on BBC1. We hope to be able to catch up with Angela for an interview in next month's issue. What an achievement!



THE SPEED OF BROADBAND by Sam Wycherley



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Internet is an increasingly precious resource, both to businesses and individuals. A series of 'digital rights' have emerged as a result of increasing Internet use and these include, amongst others, the right to Internet access. For this to be the case, Internet access needs to be widely available and a lack of availability is our present problem in rural areas, including Merriott.

According to the government report, 'Digital Britain', over one in ten households had an internet connection below 2 Megabits per second in the UK in 2009. To put this into perspective, that is 2 million bits per second, and each bit is 1 binary digit of information, so relatively this is very little.

While households in cities enjoy fast broadband, it is often the case that in rural areas, broadband is slower. However, as a rule, Somerset broadband speeds are quite

fast – our own household broadband speed is over 8 Mb per second, which is surprising considering that the national average is below this.

However, faster broadband should be on its way. The EU's 'Europe 2020' plan includes an initiative to guarantee Internet speeds of at least 30 Mb per second by 2020.

In Devon and Somerset, BT has been granted a contract to improve broadband speeds to over 24 Mb per second for 90% of households and businesses by 2016.

But why is this significant? Most businesses now have an online presence, either as an advertisement or to actually trade online, and so ensuring that broadband is as fast as possible will give small businesses in places like Merriott a competitive advantage. Individually, faster broadband will make Internet banking, Google searches, and website downloading easier,

thus making it easier and quicker to operate online.

Overall, while Merriott already has a fairly good Internet speed, the movement to improve Internet speeds to over 24 Mb per second by 2016 should certainly have a beneficial effect. We can hope to see significant improvements in the near future.



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos for us to consider. Unfortunately we ran out of space to publish them in this issue, but will do so next month. So, do please keep sending them in.

Send to:
merriottmessenger@gmail.com
or contact a member of the editorial team.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SWAN?

We would like to congratulate both of the football teams that we sponsor, the Merriott Dynamos, who gained promotion and in their first year in senior football have won the Ken Hodges Cup and also finished second in the league. Also congratulations to Crewkerne Town winning the Premier League and the Cup. We are proud to sponsor both of these sides with strong village connections.

Our large beer garden is looking good and open for use during the summer months.

We are still doing gift vouchers for meals and or drinks and other special events. This includes Father's Day on 15th June - an ideal gift?

Cricket at the Rec on Wednesday evenings: Support or play – full fixture list available in the pub.

Swan Diary

7th June: Steak Night (2 steak meals, trimmings & free bottle of wine £22 per couple)

14th June: England v Italy Football 11pm (late hot snacks)

15th June: Fathers Day (Choice of roast meats) Main and dessert £11p/p.

19th June: England v Uruguay Football 8pm

24th June: England v Costa Rica 5pm.

John & Cathy



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"Viewpoint"

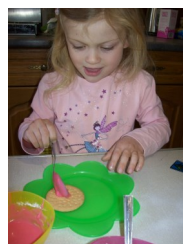
Do you have a view you would like to share with fellow MM readers? Contact one of the editorial team (details on back page).

CREATIVE FUN AT THE GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP



All Saints Church held a Good Friday workshop with the theme 'The Stations of Easter'. Each station activity was based on a chapter of the Easter Story.

The activities included write a prayer and pin it on the donkey, design a coin, create a garden on a plate, ice a biscuit and make an Easter card. The morning was rounded off with a picnic in the Tithe Barn representing The Last Supper. Pitta bread



and blackcurrant juice were shared to represent the bread and wine shared at this feast.

Sowe don't have a tea shop in Merriott?

Look out for "Ann's Pop-up Tea Shop" in July
Details in the July Merriott Messenger



In the meantime, don't forget you can be sure of a warm welcome for coffee and cakes Tuesday mornings 10-11.30. at All Saints' Church



FETE AT THE RECTORY MERRIOTT

**Saturday 7th June
11.00am - 3.00pm**

In aid of All Saints Church Merriott. Stalls, refreshments, live music, bouncy castle and lots more. Please come and support this village event.

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB

At our meeting on **24th June**, Pippa Mandeville will present a talk on "Tips for Showing Fruit, Flowers and Vegetables". Meet at 7.30 pm at the Tythe Barn. Refreshments, raffle, plant and seed sale. Everyone welcome. Guests £2.

Invitation to the children of Merriott.

On Saturday **9 August 2014** we shall be holding the Annual Flower & Produce Show and we invite the children of Merriott, between the ages of 5 and 13 years to exhibit at our show. You should live within the boundary of Merriott, or be (grand) children of members of Merriott Gardening Club or Merriott Allotment Association. There is a very special section just for kids to include a painting, an item made out of natural objects, a character made from vegetables and a miniature garden in a seed tray. Remember this is to be your own work, with no assistance from others.

There are prizes to be won. There is the Margaret Oliver Trophy which is awarded for the most points. Medals and Certificates are awarded for the most points in each class.

This is an advance notice, so that you can get your thinking caps on for some really lovely ideas! Full information in July's issue.

Mo Frampton 07967 028277



FULL TERM AHEAD FOR MERRIOTT SCHOOL



Chocolate is our topic this half term and the children have been researching where cocoa beans grow, how they are made into chocolate and the history of chocolate.

We had a sad return to school as during the Easter Bank Holiday Monday or late afternoon on Easter Sunday, our garden shed had the door forced open.

Also, spare glass in the greenhouse was smashed onto the floor meaning the children couldn't work in there until it had been cleared up. If anyone saw or heard anything please contact the school.

The Archie Project started properly this half term with a whole school assembly attended by two ladies leading the project. The Archie Project encourages links between school and the local care homes with the aim of getting children to understand the difficulties of dementia.

Later in the term the children will be dressing up as scarecrows and there will be a scarecrow parade in school.

One Swallow doesn't make a Summer by Janet Lailey

Two swallows arrive, making it summer.

Flickering in long arcs
Swooping under the carport
To alight on familiar rafters.

Chitter chitter chatter
Here it is! Here's home at last.

Chatter chatter chitter.
Then leaping out and away,
Sky high and back
In a swift second.

We return, reeling
From lugging baggage through airports,
Giddy from motorways.
The key in the lock.
The smell in the hall...
Here it is! Here it is...
Home at last!

Same destination:
Same elation,
Though with rather less grace.

"..... MAKING MERRIOTT A SAFER VILLAGE FOR ALL."

Since the last Merriott Community Speed watch (CSW) update back in March we have carried out a further 15 sessions where 3,370 vehicles passed us and of these, nearly 100 of them were speeding. These figures show a significant drop in speeding vehicles since the figures published in March 2014, where we had done 46 sessions with 600 speeders from 8,000 vehicles passing us. We have now completed 61 CSW sessions in 10 months and it is encouraging that the number of speeding vehicles through the village is reducing making Merriott a safer village for all. As well as the CSW sessions the mobile Police safety camera has been in the village on numerous occasions, especially at the sites where the numbers of speeders are at there highest coming in and out of the village. The "SID" (Speed Indicator Device) has also been at various sites in the village and this flashes up 30 if you approach it too fast. It also logs speeds day and night. The SID results for April, where it was sited at Pye Corner, still show high numbers of vehicles travelling between 30 to 50 mph and is consistent with data collected in the CSW sessions at that site. I hope we can use the SID at

more sites to remind people to slow down in the future.

We still have a strong committed team of 11 members who will continue to operate while we still have high numbers of speeders at certain sites. It would be great to get a couple more members who could support sessions during the day between 9am and 5pm. If anyone wants to join the team I can sort out training and can be contacted at

grant@gswright.plus.com

The bulk of the feedback from the public after 10 months, is still very positive which is great and I would like to thank everyone, including the current CSW members, for their continued support. Lets hope the number of speeders continues to fall.

*Grant Wright
Merriott CSW Coordinator*



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NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Do please drop by the church for a good look at the newly restored Lych Gate. If you come on Tuesday morning, you could call in for coffee and cake as well! The team from J Layzell and Sons have done a beautiful job of a difficult repair, and we are very grateful to Bob in Sandy Hole for donating seasoned oak for the job. Following the installation of new handrails and extensive repairs to the steps last year, the main approach to the South Door has been transformed – and now provides a stunning welcome to the church. Please don't for a moment think that with all this work the church must be rolling in money – IT IS NOT! We ran at a deficit again last year. These essential works can only be carried out because of the hard work of our fundraisers, generosity of individual donors and the support of grants. If you would like to help financially with these, or other projects, please get in touch with our Treasurer,

John Booth on 74097.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the churchyard work party / church spring clean day last month. We know that the churchyard is a special place for many in the village – it is an oasis of calm, beauty and serenity – as well as a place for special memories and the safe-keeping of generations of Merriott family members. It takes a lot of work to keep it this way, and we will be looking to hold some more work party days through the year. If you can give a little time for this, please get in touch.

Don't forget the Fete on Saturday 7th June, between 11am and 3pm in the Rectory Garden on Church Street. Last year was stupendous! This year will be even better! Bring the kids, bring the grandparents, bring the neighbours, bring everyone you can think of!

Revd Bob Hicks

All Saints Church, Merriott - Church Services in June

Sun 1st 8.30am Holy Communion

Sun 8th 9.30am Parish Communion (Pentecost – wear something red!)

Sun 15th - 10am Benefice All Age Communion for Trinity Sunday (it's also Fathers' Day) NB No Evensong today

Sun 22nd - 10am Sung Communion

Sun 29th - 10am Benefice Communion in Lopen (5th Sunday) No service in Merriott today)

MOORLANDS FARM UPDATE

The ecologist is on site moving slow worms and checking for other fauna that may be in the initial areas of construction.

Working drawings are being prepared and site cabins will be set up in early June.



A fascinating place where boats called dhows, which look barely seaworthy, come packed with goods from all over the Middle East, India and East Africa to unload on the quay. You see every imaginable thing from TV's to toys and sacks of grain, spices and cloth. Close by is a market area and the Gold Souk (where you can buy your daughter's dowry) and after exploring the area in the 37 degree heat you can enter a cool cafe and eat a good fish lunch for two for £9.

Where am I? Answer on page 6.

Ann Lawrence

DID YOU KNOW?



Jacob sheep are also known as Spanish and Piebald sheep or Syrian sheep. "Jacob", some claim, refers to their biblical character. A popular theory as to their origin is that they arrived in Britain as a result of a Spanish shipwreck during the Peninsular war.

However a more established view is that the Jacob arose from a cross between a foreign, possibly Spanish, breed, which had originated in the Middle East, and the four horned black or brown St Kilda Sheep of the Hebrides. It has been noted that there was a tendency for all short-tailed island sheep along the western European shoreline to have more than one pair of horns, and like the sheep in their native islands were

often piebald. Jacob sheep have 1 or 2 pairs of horns or even no or 3 horns. Those with 4 horns have 2 which are goat Jacob. Also Hebridean sheep in their native islands were often piebald. Jacob sheep have 1 or 2 pairs of horns or even no or 3 horns. Those with 4 horns have 2 which are goat like growing upward and backward, and 2 which tend to grow sideways. Much care is needed to handle them!

Jacob sheep are widely distributed across the UK, and are commonly kept in parks.

The piebald colouration (basically white with black or brown patches) breeds true, but crosses with white sheep breeds produce mainly black lambs.

Jacob sheep are prolific and have a long breeding season often taking the ram at any time of the year. The lambs are considered to produce good lean carcasses of fine quality. The wool has been prized by weavers, who use it undyed, to produce very attractive multi-coloured tweeds.

COULD SOMERSET DAIRY FARMERS DIVERSIFY?!



I have learned some interesting facts about the Arabian camel (dromedary) since staying in UAE. It has been well

known for some time that goats' milk is very beneficial for both children and adults with allergies and asthma, but it appears that camel milk also has amazing properties. The Arabs have always held that it helps many medical conditions such as diabetes, allergies, rheumatism and digestive problems. More recently research has been begun into its apparently miraculous effect when given to children with autism - which is on the increase in all parts of the world. An American woman has recently been in Dubai speaking about the amazing improvement in her autistic son's condition after drinking camel milk, which she has to buy frozen from the few American farmers who are producing it.

I don't know how camels would cope with the wet weather though, as their coats are very fine wool designed to insulate against heat but..... Somerset farmers might think about this idea as a new source of income (EU legislation permitting!!)

Ann Lawrence

THIS MONTH AT THE HENHAYES COMMUNITY CENTRE, CREWKERNE

Thursday 12th June and Thursday 19th June - Drop-in Pottery Workshop 2.00pm - 3.00pm. £8 per session, including all materials.

Friday 27th June - the next meal in the series of monthly Special Lunches features the cuisine of Greece @ £7.50 for a 2 course meal plus tea or coffee. 12 noon for 12.30pm. Booking essential - Call or telephone the Centre 01460 74340.

Saturday 28th June - Big Breakfast 10am-12 noon. Full English breakfast with tea/coffee £4 (extras available 50p each). Booking not necessary. 100 Club draw at 11am.



Hinton St George
"Flix in the Stix"
presents:

'12 Years a Slave' (15)

on **Saturday June 14th** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop or £5.50 on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact 01460 72906.

Winner of three Oscars, this film tells the incredible, true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom. Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. Cruelly treated by his owner, Solomon struggles not only to stay alive, but to retain his dignity.

THE PARNHAM VOICES

All Saints Church in Merriott has arranged a visit by the Dorset based singers, The Parnham Voices, as part of their Somerset Safari. They will give a short (about 30 minutes) informal recital in the church at 4.30pm on **Saturday 30th August**.

The repertoire is a sung cappella by about 20 voices. It covers music from 7 centuries, both sacred and secular.

We will be serving tea and cakes from **3.30pm** onwards on the church lawn (weather permitting, otherwise inside)

There will be no charge for this event but donations will be gratefully received to be shared between the Church and Julia's House Hospice in Dorset.

All are most welcome. Any queries, please contact John Stuttford (01460 72806) or Jean Crisp (01460 279654).

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NEWS FROM MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

Following the AGM at the end of March, I'm pleased to report another lively month from the Club. The function room has been home to a variety of events, from private bookings, free entertainment for members and non-members, as well as an afternoon of Easter activities for the kids on Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to Crosswired, a five-piece band who provided a lively evening of entertainment that was very well received, especially by those in the mood for dancing! We hope to provide similar events for members and non-members in the future, so be sure to keep an eye out for posters, or for updates on our Facebook page – whether you like to dance, or simply sing along, our free entertainment nights are not to be missed!

Speaking of music, **Dinosaur Café**, a band never seen before in Merriott, will be performing at the Club on **Saturday 28th June** from **9pm**. They're a talented bunch of musicians who cover a range of hits in a variety of styles, generally with a funk vibe. We'd love you to join us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

YouTube can provide a couple of preview clips if you'd like to whet your appetite!

For all the budding **Bingo** fans out there, we have an opportunity for you to get your blotters blotting on **Friday 13th June**. **Doors open from 6.30pm, eyes down at 7.30pm**. Following the Bingo, there will be a free disco in the bar, so we look forward to seeing you, pens and dancing shoes at the ready!

In other news, we're proud to announce the creation of Merriott Social Clubs very own website: www.merriottsocialclub.co.uk, which will operate in tandem with our Facebook page, giving up-to-date news on the latest events. The website is currently under construction but will be completed very soon!

That's all for now!

Thanks to all members and non-members who have continued to support us this month – it's highly appreciated!

Upcoming Events:

13th June – Bingo-Eyes down at 7.30pm

28th June – Dinosaur Café band 9pm

Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius at Wells Cathedral: Somerset Chamber Choir 30th anniversary concert

Somerset Chamber Choir celebrates its 30th anniversary with a concert of Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius and music by Parry (I was glad, Blest Pair of Sirens and Jerusalem) at Wells Cathedral on **Saturday 26 July** at 7pm. They will be joined by the German choir Berliner Kantorei, superb professional orchestra Southern Sinfonia and three exciting young soloists, all conducted by Graham Caldbeck.

Tickets and info from Taunton TIC (01823 336344) or online at www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk



A fun time was had by all at the Gardening Club AGM, Quiz and Buffet on the 29th April.

A Fascinating Fact



There are eight times more atoms in a teaspoonful of water than there are teaspoonful's of water in the entire Atlantic Ocean.

Merriott Gospel Hall



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www.merriottgospelhall.org



From the **1st May to 30th November 2014**, the Bishop's Palace in Wells is holding an exhibition of historic church artefacts from all around the Diocese. All Saints Church in Merriott has loaned two items of interest - the Saxon stone cross and the embossed lead plaque from the roof (which was left behind by the thieves!)

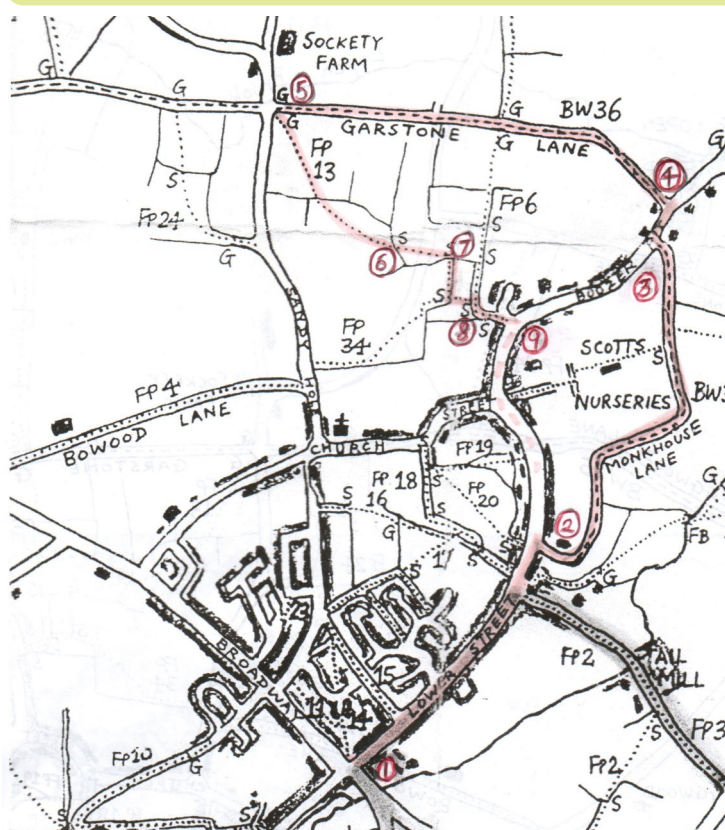
The Church is planning an outing by coach to visit this Exhibition and also to see the Palace Gardens and visit the Cathedral in the evening (5.15pm) for a choral recital on **Wednesday 24th September**.

The plan is to leave Merriott at about 12.00noon (in time for lunch in the Palace) leaving Wells at about 6.30pm. Depending on numbers the cost will be around £10.00 per person (for the coach). If you are interested in this trip please contact Jean Crisp (01460 279654) or John Stuttaford (01460 72806) by **31st July** at the latest so that we can book the right size coach.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

A. Dubai Creek

A FAVOURITE WALK *by Niki Scurr*



Having lived in Merriott for 2 years, walking my dogs daily, I realised I had got into a routine of doing the same walk. That all changed when I was given a map of local walks by Ann Lawrence and I decided to be a bit more adventurous!! Here is a walk I would like to share - especially for those who are new to the

area. If anyone has their own favourite walk around Merriott, please do send it in. This walk is definitely a "welly walk" and takes approximately 1 hour depending on how many "ooo and aah moments" you have looking at the amazing views along the way!!

- 1 - Start at the Co-op (handy for essential walking sweets!) and walk along Lower Street.
- 2 - Turn right along Monkhouse Lane - yes there is a path after the last house - bearing left (North East). There are fantastic views to the S. East along this path across open countryside and spot the HUGE fungi growing on a tree on the left of the path that backs onto Scott Nurseries. This path goes around and through the now abandoned Nursery and what a lovely area it is. How wonderful it must have been in

its heyday!

- 3 - The path brings you out on Boozer Pit by the side of Half Moon House, turn right and then after approximately 100 metres turn left.

- 4 - This is a Bridle Path and can be muddy, but worth it, again for the incredible view over open fields up to Lopen Head to the North.

- 5 - The path eventually takes you to the road, Sandy Hole., Turn immediate left through the gate and walk diagonally across the field.

- 6 - Go across the 2 stiles, large dogs may have to be lifted over, then head left over a ditch and to another stile.

- 7 - Turn right walking around the edge of the field and then to the right and up a small incline - there is another stile and newly made steps.

- 8 - Go straight for a short distance and then choose to fork left over another stile. This will take you past some cute pigs in a field on the left and bring you out at Townsend Orchard which leads onto Higher Street.

- 9 - Turn right down Higher St, Shiremoor Hill and onto Lower St where you may wish to stop off for a "Medicinal" at The Swan!!

THE TUESDAY WELCOME GROUP

meet at The Henhayes Community Centre every week 10.30am to 2.00pm, £1.00 per session, for people 70+ who like to meet other people and enjoy a few activities like painting, pottery, music, quizzes and of course, occasional bingo. Transport door to door is available and a fresh cooked meal, if wanted, from £3.50 (can be taken away).

If you are interested please call 01460 74340.

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Copy deadline for the July issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th June.

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

Please send copy to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com
Editorial Team contact:

John Bowman 74077

Peter Bryans 78182

Niki Scurr 419201

Marion Andrews 01935 86342

Ann Lawrence

Janet Lailey

Jane Jackson

78461

271008

74162