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# **MERRIOTT MESSENGER**

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

merriottmessenger@gmail.com

MARCH 2014

### **PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH**

We have been sent some lovely photos this month by Mark Newberry and Pat Hobbs. Pat took hers in January 2013 - history seems to be repeating itself! Thank you both.



Photo taken by Mark Newberry Summer 2013



Photo taken by Pat Hobbs - looking towards Long Sutton - January 2013

Send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

## **Parish Council Update**

There are still two PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES - WE URGENTLY NEED YOU!

SCOOP THAT POOP! There is a continuing problem of dog fouling on the village footpaths which are constantly in use. We would like to remind dog owners that a fixed penalty notice can be issued -maximum fine £1,000. If anyone sees that an owner does not clean up after their dog, take as many details as you can, time, place, breed of dog and report the incident by calling 01935 462462 and speak confidentially to the Enforcement Officer.

### Dates of Next Merriott Parish Council Meetings:

### Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm - Merriott Tithe Barn.

For details of Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council in February, please turn to page 7.

### MOORLANDS FARM DEVELOPMENT

We have made good progress in the last few weeks and now have the approval of all parties necessary to enable the legal agreements to be finalised. That will enable us to complete the highways design which will be the first activity on site, after our ecologist has checked the site again. We still have some issues to resolve in order for the legal agreement with the doctor to be concluded, but this is our next priority, now that the highways and access issues are resolved. We are keen to make a start on site as soon as possible and will issue more detailed information in our next progress report.

THE SOMERSET FLOOD RELIEF FUND HELPS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND WHOLE COMMUNITIES RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT OF FLOODING IN SOMERSET THIS WINTER. HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING £150,000 FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN OUR COUNTY.



PLEASE DONATE NOW www.somersetcf.org.uk Call 01749 344949 Text NOAH95 £10 to 70070

Please note copy deadline for the April edition is 12th March.

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

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### **Merriott First School News**



Our New Year began with a problem.

Some people walking their dogs between eight o'clock and half past in the mornings

were letting them foul the area in front of the school. Sometimes we were able to clear up the mess before children started to arrive, other times children carried the mess into school .... Please remember to clear up after your dogs there is a dog litter bin at the top of Evergreen Path.

Later in the term we had two visitors to support our 'The Elements' topic.

Duncan represented Wessex Water and talked in a whole school assembly about how we get our water, use it and recycle it. He then led Key Stage Two through an experiment to see which paper would be

### **Merriott Gardening Club**

On 26 March, returning by popular request, Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery will give us a talk entitled "Propagation 2". At Picket Lane he and his team propagate all the plants for sale. Part 2, by necessity, recaps on Part 1 then goes on to look at the nodes of roots, the methods plant use to expand below ground and how we can use those methods to create new plants. He will look at the 'magical' nodes at ground level and the many ways of propagating plant material that time prevented him from dealing with in Part 1. Then just to add a little extra, he looks at how plants absorb foods and create their own carbohydrates. If you need help with propagating a favourite 'something', this is the man to ask. Meet at the Tythe Barn, Merriott at 7.30 pm. Refreshments, raffle, plant swap and much more. A friendly welcome awaits.

New members from Hinton St George, Lopen and Dinnington are most welcome. Come and join us. *Mo Frampton 07967 028277* 



best to use as toilet paper – a hand towel, a nose tissue or toilet tissue. The children could see at the end of the experiment how important it was not to throw the wrong paper into the toilet causing blocked drains. The 'soup' Duncan made to represent what goes along our drains is best left to the imagination!

Nigel Witcombe (pictured) loaned the school his weather station for a week and the children enjoyed hearing how he uses the information it sends to the hub in his kitchen for his work on the farm.

Thank you Duncan and Nigel.

#### **Henhayes Community Centre**

The next date in the series of monthly Special Lunches is Friday 7th March at 12.30pm when the traditional food of Wales will be on offer at £7.50 for a two course meal plus tea or coffee. Booking is essential at the Centre Office or by telephone 01460 74340.

#### **Charity Lunches**

<u>in Lent</u> A simple lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese will



be held every week in Lent (which begins after Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday) **Everyone is welcome**- just turn up between 12 midday and 2pm and give a donation to the chosen charity. This year the venues are as follows:

Wed. March 12<sup>th</sup> - 'Southernhay' opposite the shop in Hinton St George, (Clements') for Homestart

Wed. March 19<sup>th</sup> - Lopen Schoolroom, hosted by 'Just Women' for charity

Wed. March 26<sup>th</sup>- Springfield House, Merriott (Stokes'), for All Saints' Lychgate Appeal

Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gappers Pool, 11 Church Street, Merriott, (Dismores') for S.O.M.A.

**Wed. April 9<sup>th</sup>** - Pitt Farmhouse, Boozer Pit, Merriott, (Lawrences') for Christian Aid.

### **Community Speed Watch**

The Merriott CSW team has had a busy start to 2014 despite the best efforts of the weather. We have now done over 46 sessions at 7 different sites around the village. Over 8000 vehicles have gone past us and of these 600 have been logged as speeding, with many still doing 40 to 50 mph in a 30 mph limit. At many of our sites we are now getting zero speeders which is great and what we have always set out to achieve. Unfortunately we still have problems along Broadway and coming into and out of the village at either end, with the highest number of speeders logged at Pye corner coming into the village from Crewkerne. We have good support from the Police and I believe that the Safety Camera Van has been in the Village at Pye Corner on numerous occasions. This is no surprise as there are regularly 20-30 speeders at any time and on any day in a one hour session at this site. While the numbers are so high the Camera Van is likely to be there.

While we still have a speeding problem in the village the CSW team will continue to operate with a view to encouraging people to slow down and make the village a safer place for all. We have a strong committed team and to increase our flexibility it would be great to get a couple more members who would be able to support sessions during the week days between 09:30am and 17:00pm. If anyone wants to join the Merriott CSW team, training can be arranged and you can reach me at grant@gswright.plus.com.

I would like to thank all the current CSW team members for their continued support. Also the villagers for their positive response and for supplying hot drinks to the team on some very chilly CSW Sessions.

Grant Wright - Merriott CSW Coordinator



**13th March** - Merriott Social Club - talk by Dr Mick Atkinson on "Dartmoor".

**27th March** - Quiz Night and Coffee at Lynne's.

Enquiries - Maggie 76186

### **Merriott Drivers' Service**



One of our drivers, Pippa Mandeville, is unable to continue being

a driver, so would those who use the Merriott Drivers' Service kindly cross her name of your list. We want to say a big thank you to Pippa for all her help.

We have lost several drivers recently. If you would like to consider being a volunteer driver, please contact us on 76186 and we will be pleased to tell you how the service works. It's very simple!

> Maggie and Tom Jones Merriott Drivers' Co-ordinators



In aid of Church funds

### Mothering Sunday Concert - 30th March



Sunday 30th March, All Saints Church, Merriott at 3:30pm (A Mothering Sunday Treat with Refreshments at 3:00pm)

**"A Viola Fantasy"** presented by Joseph Fisher and Lydia Scadding will include works by Schumann, Hummel, Telemann and Vaughn-Williams for the Viola and Piano.

As a soloist Joseph has appeared with the Southbank Sinfonia at St. Johns Waterloo, London; at The Royal Opera House, London performing Berio's Folk songs with the Jette Parker Young Artist- Dusica Bijelic and also at the Anghiari Festival in Italy alongside Sir Thomas Allen, a world famous baritone. Lydia is an accomplished pianist - she has performed in the Bath and Cheltenham International Music Festivals and in venues such as Symphony Hall Birmingham, St. Georges Bristol and The Sage, Gateshead. She is currently an accompanist and teacher at Wells Cathedral School.

Tickets £5, under 18's free and available from Osborne Stores, Broadway, Merriott; Crewkerne Information Centre or tel 01460 76360 to reserve. Profits from the concert will go towards the church Lychgate Repair.

#### 

NEW to the Merriott Messenger this month is "Viewpoint" where we invite you to send in your views and opinions on local matters and indeed the Merriott Messenger itself. Please send to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

As I walk around the village with my dogs I think what a lovely place Merriott is, but what a shame about the litter! Yes, it may be a particular bugbear of mine but I feel very passionate about it. It may not be obvious to those people who drive through the village, but on walking around it seems that the hedgerows and grass verges are being used as a dumping ground for discarded bottles, cans, sweet papers and sandwich wrappers.

I believe litter begets litter, which is why I try to pick it up when I can and am hoping that anyone living in Merriott might start to do the same, especially if it is outside their property. It's not difficult to do, but makes such a difference and it is one of the environmental issues in which we can make a difference. So when you put out your rubbish on collection day, try to make sure it isn't going to blow away before it is collected and when you happen to see some litter on your travels don't just ignore it, pick it up and put it in one of the several bins around about or take it home. Merriott is a very pretty place to live and we should all take pride in its appearance.

Tom Merrick Ltd CHECK WITH HIM

> Your local Electrical Contractor Domestic, Industrial, Agricultural Fully approved NAPIT Contractor

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### **Citizens Advice Bureau - Volunteer Opportunities for all**



To support this busy and invaluable service and a new project aiming to increase Advice Services to the people of this area,

<u>South Somerset CAB</u> is looking to recruit volunteers to two different roles. Free and excellent training is provided.

#### **Reception and Information Assistant:**

The purpose of this role is to welcome clients who "drop in", manage the waiting room and to assist with information and signposting where appropriate. A volunteer commitment of 3 and a half hours per week would be required to fulfil this role.

#### Gateway Assessor / Adviser:

Gateway Assessors carry out an effective triage style interview with clients when they first approach the

#### Merriott Coffee Stop

Coffee and cake for £1 with free refills, good company and play area for children, is



Bureau for help - this can be either face to face or on the telephone. They also support the client in finding the next step and level of service required to move their case forwards. A volunteer commitment of 2 x 4 hour sessions per week is required to fulfil this role.

After gaining experience in this role and additional training, there are opportunities to move to Advice work which requires extended and more indepth interviews with clients through an appointment system. Full role descriptions are available upon request.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering for South Somerset CAB please contact **Leonie Girling** at Voluntary Sector Support, a project of South Somerset association for Voluntary and Community Action.

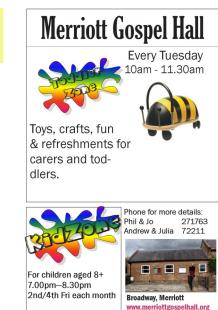
Email: <u>volunteering@ssvca.org.uk</u> or tel: 01935 414023

#### Fundraising for Africa Expedition

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - Curry Night Merriott Village Hall at 7pm. Tickets £5 on the door for an evening of good food and good company. Raffle and refreshments available and you are welcome to bring your own drinks.

Thank you for your support and for making the Italian night such a success.

Thomas Bending 01460 74799





The looming orange moon pauses Cheek down on the horizon, His artist's beret over one ear, To squint through black twigs At the landscape he is creating. He lays a silver wash on the fields, Adds a gleam to standing water; Defines dark hedges with a darker line.

At midnight, his tilted face Is shining small overhead As he stands back from his canvas To consider the effect.

by Janet Lailey

### JAYS COMPLETE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

For all enquiries please contact Jamie on:

Home: 01460 78891 Mobile: 07865 700 760

- Painting & Decorating
- Landscaping including fencing, decking and ponds
- Fitting Bathrooms & Kitchens
- Floor and Wall Tiling
- Carpentry
- Building work
- Any other aspects of property maintenance

Over 20 years experience.

#### No job too small.



### Success for Merriott Karate Club

Lamprill - Purple Belt (5th Kyu), Fleur Cooper - Green Belt (6th Kyu), Adeline Cooper - Green (6th Kyu), Nick Sale - Orange (8th Kyu), Emma Sale - Orange Belt

(8th Kyu), Eve Sale - Orange Belt (8th Kyu), Molly Sale - Orange Belt

(8th Kyu), Richard Sale - Orange

Merriott Karate Club is a small,

They meet every Monday and

Tuesday in Merriott (first lesson

free) where students are taught

everything from the basics of

students are taught the strict

performance of Karate and are

constantly reminded that their

karate techniques are not to be

used outside the doio. Karate not

bodies physical condition but can

For further information contact

Sensei Brett Jacobs on 07968

rules and guidelines for the

only helps to improve your

also help with confidence.

Karate to self defence. All

but very friendly club that caters

for students from age 6 upwards.

Belt (8th Kyu).



At a recent Karate grading held at the Wincanton Honbu Merriott Karate Club students achieved great success and were rewarded for all their hard work and effort. Under the watchful eye of senior instructor, Sensei Paul Hacker, all the students grading performed to a very high standard. Sensei Hacker was extremely pleased with the level attained by all Merriott students and praised their efforts highly. He also praised the efforts of Sensei Brett Jacobs (Senior's instructor) and Sensei Kevin Fone (Junior's instructor) and complemented them on their work with the students.

Kylie Channon - Purple Belt (5th Kyu), Nick Durant - Green Belt (6th Kyu), Jo Bending - Brown (1 white stripe - 3rd Kyu), Fenton Garrettaz

- Orange Belt (8th Kyu), Max

## News from The Swan

953705.

Thank you to all our customers who are making the 6 Nations rugby tournament a big hit again.

Starting in March, Lucy (local village hairdresser), will be holding a haircut night on the first Tuesday of every month (7pm) - £6 trim, £4 cutters. Tea & coffee can be served if required.

1<sup>st</sup> March: Steak Night (choice of cuts) 2 dinners & bottle of wine £22.

4<sup>th</sup> March: Haircut night from 7pm.

14<sup>th</sup> March: Cheltenham Gold Cup day charity bash for Macmillan cancer - watch out for details around the village or at the pub.

**15<sup>th</sup> March**: Conclusion of the 6 Nations. Will Ireland triumph? Go green anyhow & celebrate St Patricks Day early with a choice of 2 traditional Irish meals & sweets £10p/p.

29<sup>th</sup> March: Charity skittles day for Guide Dogs for the Blind – watch out for details around the village or at the pub.

30<sup>th</sup> March: Mothering Sunday Roast. (Choice of 3 roast meats) Main and dessert £11p/p.

20th April: Easter Sunday. Roast Turkey & trimmings - just like Christmas!

www.theswaninnmerriott.co.uk





### Sunday 30th March

Please join us at our **Mothering Sunday Family Service** 

### 10am, Merriott Church

There will be flowers for the children to give to their mums

> Refreshments will be served after the service

### Everyone welcome

#### **FAMILY FLIX**

"Turbo" will be shown on Sunday 9 March at 2.30pm in Hinton St George Village Hall. Adults £5 in advance/£5.50 on the door; children (under 16; must be accompanied by an adult) £3. Tickets available from Our SHOP in Hinton.



Our Wills, Tax and Probate Team can assist you with:

□ Wills □ Tax planning and trusts □ Powers of Attorney Court of Protection

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Contact Melinda Newbery on 01460 279279 wills@stokespartners.co.uk www.stokespartners.co.uk

Kingfisher House, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LH

#### What our clients say about us...

"The service has been first class and I was not left in the dark about anything that was going on"

I felt relaxed and happy through what is otherwise a very difficult time. Thank you for making this so much easier than I thought'

"Very good, explained well, with patience"

"I would definitely recommend your firm to others. I have already done so"

Extreme patience has been shown in explaining correspondence. At all times, we have been kept informed on progress of our case"

# **News from All Saints Church**



Lots of people have been asking about how we can help people affected by flooding on the Levels. It looks as though donating to the Somerset Community

Foundation will help individuals and small businesses as they do their best to recover. We are also collecting fresh fruit and vegetables to take to Muchelney Church where they can be distributed. If you are interested in helping, please contact us or use the basket in the church. We are asked for fairly sturdy things that can be stored in a cold church; such as apples and oranges, cabbages, roots vegetables etc (a local farm is providing potatoes).

We continue to collect non-perishable food for the Lord's Larder, so please check that you get the right basket! And thank you to everyone who regularly supports this.

The season of Lent begins on Wednes-



Finally, our Mothering Sunday service is a fairly informal family service with some activities for children and some flowers to give to mums. Please feel free to come along.

Revd Julia Hicks

#### **Church Services - March**

Sun 2nd - 8.30am Holy Communion Sun 9th - 9.30am Holy Communion Sun 16th - 6.00pm Evensong (NB no Family Service)

Sun 23rd - 10am Sung Holy Communion Sun 30<sup>th</sup> - Mothering Sunday Family Service



### Young Musician of the Year Competition

We would like to hear from anyone, still in full time education, who would like to take part in the 2014 Young Musician of the Year Competition. Heats will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March and the final on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, as part of the Festival.

# Deadline for applications is the 3rd March 2014.

Full details and an application form can be obtained by visiting our website: <u>www.hintonfestival.org</u> or by emailing :

janefrancesjackson @gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you.



**The Recent Flooding** 

I am sure we have all heard about the recent floods near Muchelney and on the surrounding Somerset Levels, a problem still continuing due to recent rain and arguably a slow response from the Environment Agency. It is an issue that has made its way to the Commons, David Cameron overruling his own Environment Secretary, Owen Paterson MP, on the issue, by promising action against a situation that is "desperate and "unacceptable".

Even the Prince of Wales has visited the flooded Levels, pledging £50,000. Lord Smith, the Environment Agency chief and the Prime Minister have each paid a visit. But it is the actual effect of the flooding (which also occurred last year) that is most important and what can be done to stop it, or alternatively leave nature to take its course. The flooding has cut off Muchelney's 200 inhabitants, and they have had to use a boat to

### reach the 'mainland'. Houses have been flooded, the population displaced and 80 square kilometres most of which is

80 square kilometres, most of which is farmland, have been flooded, destroying crops and incomes. The situation has become so serious that the army has even been called in to assist.

So what can be done? The Somerset Levels are usually kept dry by a series of drainage ditches feeding into the rivers such as the Parrett. This system has been in place since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Sea defences put in place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have also prevented flooding by sea, something the Levels are prone to, bearing in mind that parts are below sea level. The solution most popular with those living in the vicinity is the dredging of the River Parrett. This will increase the flow so that water should drain more quickly from the Levels, providing that the drainage ditches are also kept clear. However this measure is temporary and in the past flooding has occurred despite dredging. However, there are alternative measures. Planting

### by Sam Wycherley

more trees will slow the flow onto the Levels, as the roots absorb water, thus reducing the risk of flooding and there are some alternative low-impact suggestions that have worked elsewhere.

There is of course the (unpopular) suggestion that we leave nature to take its course. Muchelney was traditionally an inland island and much of the Levels have been reclaimed artificially. This is unsound, however. The Levels are home to many people, and the extra farmland it gives us is vital to the local economy. Will the Environment Agency take action? I should hope so, but whether or not they are capable of doing very much is questionable. Perhaps the victims of the floods are as much the victims of austerity as the rain. With cuts to the Environment budget and a shrinking government, reaction to disasters such as the flooding has been slowed and the Environment Agency may feel they cannot afford dredging.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS considered by the Parish Council in February

(a) APPLICATION NO: 13/05172/OUT APPLICANT: Berrow Developments Ltd. PROPOSAL: Erection of 6 detached dwellings to include 2 affordable unit. (outline) (GR 344949/113272) LOCATION: Land to The North of the Half Moon House, Boozer Pit. Merriott. PRESENTATION FROM BERROW.

(b) APPLICATION NO: 13/05208/FUL. APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs White. PROPOSAL: Erection of two storey extension. Erection of double garage with dormer windows LOCATION: 1 Pye Corner, Merriott Rd. Merriott.

(c) APPLICATION NO: 13/05039/S73A. APPLICANT: Oyster Properties. PROPOSAL: Variation of condition 2 & 3 of application to change parking arrangements. LOCATION: Broadway Farm Barn, Broadway. Merriott.

(d) APPLICATION No 14/00060/FUL. APPLICANT : Mrs M Gray. PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey front extension. (GR 344081/112755) LOCATION: 31 Church Street Merriott.

**ADVICE OF APPEAL**: Location Land at Goldwell Farm, Yeovil Road. Crewkerne. 110 Dwellings plus associated open space. A copy of Appellant Grounds of Appeal and Planning Certificate can be inspected by contacting the appeal officer Adrian Noon 01935 462370 or Jill Bartholomew 01935 462460. Representations x 3 copies, within six weeks from January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

Location: 26 Glebelands. Merriott – Granted subject to conditions

Location: Oyster Properties Ltd- Granted subject to conditions

Location: Oyster Properties Ltd- Building Consent for Listed Building. Granted with conditions.

### PLANNING PERMISSION has been previously GRANTED for :

24 properties in Moorlands Farm. There is indication from developers that the build will commence in 2014.

10 properties Broadway Farm: This site is already under construction.

52 properties Tail Mill. A long term application.

More information can be found via the South Somerset District Council website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

# **News from Merriott Social Club**

### <u>March</u>

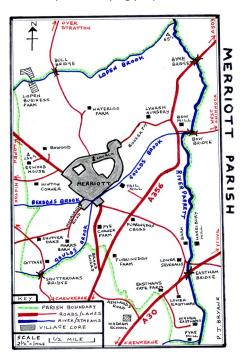
**Saturday 1st** sees the return of local duo Chiff Chaff, with Phil on keyboard & Tony on guitar and providing vocals; they present a subtle blend of country, pop, romantic ballads and a little bit of good old rock 'n' roll – an easy listening night suitable for all ages. Tony lives in the village and all at the Club will know his brother.....our very own Fred, who looks after the beer lines here.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>**—once again we have another local, Colin Elswood. Colin is playing solo this time with an eclectic mix of 60s, 70s and 80s music, but I'm sure many of you will recognise him as the lead singer of The A W House Band, a talented bunch from the workforce of **A**ugusta **W**estland.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>**—has been set aside for this year's **AGM** beginning at 7:30pm – all members are invited to attend – lots will be discussed including this year's achievements and future projects, but perhaps most importantly the financial health of the club will be discussed ...... spoiler alert! ...... everything's looking rosy! Please do try and attend - you'll be offered the opportunity to express your views or ask any questions.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** and it's "Eyes Down" at 7:30pm for a charity Bingo night in aid of "Ups & Downs", a Down Syndrome support organisation for parents, **Merriott Parish Boundaries** 

Spare a thought for those who deliver the Merriott Messenger to those 90+ properties outside the village centre of Merriott but within the Parish Boundaries. They have to travel down narrow, often muddy, potholed and sometimes unsurfaced lanes. For those who thought Merriott ended at Boozer Pitt or Merriottsford, here is a map of Merriott showing the boundary and outlying properties.



Map courtesy of Peter Bryans

carers, families and friends throughout the South West.

By the way, we also have a listing on Lemonrock so you can always find upto-date information on any live music coming up here at the Club and if it's an event other than music you'll find it listed on our Facebook page. Check us out.

Finally, now that the hall has had a facelift, with not just a lick of paint but new furniture as well, private bookings are increasing greatly in number, so if you would like to book the hall for your party or celebration then pop in any evening or telephone 74376; Saturday nights are heavily booked right up to the end of June but we do have a few available.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

# Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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Abigail's Kitchen Homemade bread, pizzas and preserves 48 Broadway <u>Abigail@Abigails- kitchen.co.uk</u> 07775 420 247	Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childminder OFSTED & PACEY registered Full/part-time hours Early years funding Between 6.30am & 6.30pm www.merriottchildminder.co.uk 01460 73361 07721 018 335	Merriottsford Minibus Quality 14 - 16 seaters for that special day/ night out 01460 75089 Airline Taxi 01460 76029	If you would like to advertise here, please contact a member of the editorial team (details below)	Osborne's Broadway Butcher of local farm meat, groceries, newspapers, wines & spirits 01460 73459
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