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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

www.merriottvillage.org.uk
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M A Y 2 0 1 4

Photograph of the Month



May Day Bluebell
1st May 2009
Mo Frampton



Send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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

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

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Parish Council Up-date

Chairman Mr A Wallis, after fifteen years as a Parish Councillor, of which 5 years has been as Chairman, notified members at the April meeting that he would be leaving the Parish Council. This last year has been particularly demanding for him with a good deal of extra time and effort being given to the Community Pavilion Project. He now needs to give 100% to his family and business.

If you want to improve the community in which you live, being a Parish Councillor can be very rewarding. We currently have three vacancies. For further information, please contact the Clerk Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 01935 863420.

COMMUNITY PAVILION

During April you will have seen that local Contractors have been working on the completion of the Pavilion.

It is anticipated that it will be completed and commissioned ready for use by early June. Private Hire of the Pavilion is £20 per morning/afternoon/evening session. For Hire arrangements contact Marion Andrews: Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01935 863420.

RECREATION GROUND

Merriott Youth Football are practicing at the Recreation Ground on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and there are some evening and weekend matches until May 16th. Cricket will be played during the summer. The Parish Council wish the Sports teams good luck and hope they will take advantage of the Pavilion and Changing Rooms that will be available for booking.

Dates of Next meetings :

Monday May 19th - Annual Parish Council Meeting ,
Election of Chairman.
Monday 9th June
Monday 7th July

May Bank Holidays Recycling and Refuse Collections

Usual collection day:
May Bank Holiday
Monday 5th May -
Friday 9th May

Revised collection day:
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 10th May

Usual collection day:
Spring Bank Holiday
Monday 26th May -
Friday 30th May

Revised collection day:
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 31st May



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 .

For details of **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** considered by the Parish Council in April, please turn to page 6.

More Karate Club Successes

A good weekend was had at the beginning of March for the Merriott Karate Club. On Saturday the 1st we had three of our students grading at the Honbu in Wincanton in front of Sensei Paul Hacker. Jamie Burrridge, William Scott-Robinson and Christopher Fone (pictured) all passed. Will and Chris are both now 2nd Kyu's (Brown Belt, 2



white stripes, one below full brown) and Jamie Burrridge is now a 4th Kyu (Blue Belt).

We also had a good showing at the Washinkai National Championships in

South London on the 2nd March. There

was a good turn out from the South West clubs (Merriott, Wincanton and Queen Camel) and there was also a team from Spain. Competition was stiff across all categories. In the individual Kumite (fighting) Chris Fone got a Silver medal, Louise Fone got a Bronze and Max Lamprill also got a Bronze. Louise also came 4th in individual kata performing Chinto, Naihanchi and Seishin.



Max Lamprill



Louise Fone

For anybody interested in training with us, we meet twice a week at the Merriott Social Club. For further information contact Sensei Brett Jacobs on 07968 953705.

Dorothy's Tea Room

in Hinton St George has re-opened, following a two week closure for a make-over and with a new Manager, Justine Wilkinson.

"We look forward to welcoming you to our traditional tea room with a modern twist".

All Merriott Messenger readers are offered "buy one hot drink and get one free" during May. Just take your copy of the MM with you.

News from Merriott First School



Throughout the Spring Term, Mr Thomas (Brass Tutor) had been preparing Codlin Class for their performance at the South Somerset Music Spectacular which took place at the Westlands Sport and Leisure Centre, Yeovil on the 1st April.

The children arrived at the Centre at 2pm and spent the afternoon rehearsing their stage entry and exit, their Brass piece, Finale songs with the other schools taking part in the concert and moving on and off the stage for the Finale. Everyone enjoyed the excitement of performing in front of a large appreciative audience.

During the last week of term Joss, a former circus performer, spent time in school teaching each class in turn juggling and balancing skills. Balloon modelling proved very popular too. A few children were chosen to show off their new skills at the end of term assembly in the church.



Yeovil Hospital Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 13th May

'Dying Matters' - Lecture Theatre, Level 4. Understanding how Yeovil Hospital provides and manages end of life care to ensure dignity and compassion. The discussion will be led by specialists in this field from Yeovil Hospital and will also give members the opportunity to meet the Governors. Event commences at 6.30pm with refreshments and the talk will start at 7pm.

To book your place, please contact Nicola Webber:
nicolawebber@ydh.nhs.uk
or phone 01935 384414.

Merriott Gardening Club

Following their illustrated talk to us in February, our meeting on the 27th May will be an afternoon visit to Pauline & David Wright's garden "Lift the Latch" which is described as a stunning country garden, densely planted with a wide range of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs and perennials to produce spectacular colour throughout the year. The planting is arranged in descending terraces around a large wild-life pond, bordered by a small stream and also includes a raised ornamental Koi pond.

Meet at The Tythe Barn, Church Street at 2 p.m. Car share. £5 per head to include entrance to the garden, tea and cakes. The whole of this sum will go to "About Face" the charity the Wright's support for head and neck cancer.

Directions: "Lift the Latch", Blacklands Lane, Forton TA20 2NF. 1½ miles South of Chard. Blacklands Lane is off the B3162 at the East end of Forton.

Mo Frampton 07967 028277

Congratulations

to Barnaby Fox who won himself a place in the Final of the Hinton St George Young Musician Competition. Barnaby, playing the violin, will now compete along with 2 other finalists, on Wednesday 4th June in St George's Church for the opportunity to become the Young Musician of the Year 2014.

Good luck Barnaby!



News from All Saints Church



I'm writing this just over a week before our Annual Meeting, but by the time you read this John Stuttaford will have stepped down after 5 years of being Churchwarden for Merriott. We are all very grateful for his hard work and dedication to All Saints Church. John did a lot to look after the church 'between Rectors' before we came and has been a great support to Bob and me and the rest of the church since then. I know he will continue to be an active member of our congregation, and Parochial Church Council, but we would like to thank John for the particular role that he has played. We hope and pray that we will have new Churchwardens to tell you about.

The church has hosted several weddings and baptisms already this Spring. Thanks to all who help with these and to those who keep the church looking lovely inside and out.

We have also recently enjoyed another of Joe Fisher's wonderful

concerts, supporting the repairs to the Lychgate – work which will hopefully have been completed by early May. The Coffee Stop continues to do very well – it's lovely to see such a good mixture of people coming on Tuesday mornings. Thank you to Jean and Dave Crisp and everyone who helps with this. Michelle Down has organised our regular Coffee and Craft / Table Top Sales for over 2 years, and has now decided it is time for a break from this regular commitment. Thank you to Michelle and the other stallholders and volunteers for making these happen and for raising funds for All Saints and other important charities.

Christian Aid Week is 11th-17th May this year. We will be collecting for this charity and the many people that they support. There will be envelopes in church and a collection taken on Sunday 11th.

It seems a bit late to say this, but our Easter

season at church lasts until Pentecost in June, so Happy Easter!

Revd Julia Hicks

Church Services in May

Sun 4th 8.30am - Holy Communion

Sun 11th 9.30am Parish Communion (Christian Aid Week)

Sun 18th 10am - Family Service 6pm - Evensong

Sun 25th No service at Merriott (Benefice Rogation Service with Bishop Peter at 10am in Hinton – all welcome)

Thurs 29th 9am - Communion for Ascension (followed by coffee and croissants at Rectory)

Churchyard Tidy-up and Church Spring Clean

We are having a special tidy-up day of the Merriott Churchyard on

Saturday 17th May from 10.00am to 1.00pm

This beautiful and peaceful open green space is used by many villagers and occasionally the church needs help with maintaining it. We are fortunate in having a Parish Council that looks after the grass and the hedges and the Fisher family care for the flower beds, but there is much more to keep tidy, so even if you are not a churchgoer please would you consider giving us a hand.

So that you know what equipment to bring with you, some of the work we are looking at this time round is: grass edging of the path, removal of ivy and brambles, a bonfire and clearing the church's wall skirting.

At the same time as this is happening outside, we are having a Spring Clean inside the church, so if you would rather help with that it would be much appreciated.

Obviously, no one has to stay all of the time, but even an hour or so would be most helpful. Refreshments will be served at about 11.00 to 11.30.

If you have any queries please contact the Churchwarden, John Stuttaford, on 01460 72806.

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**For further information, please contact us
01460 73041**

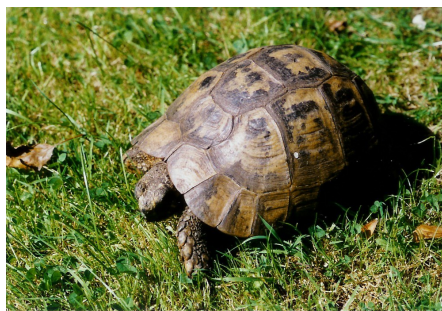
Linen Yard, South Street, Crewkerne TA18 8AB
Email: enquiries@lawrences.co.uk
www.lawrences.co.uk

43 year old tortoise goes walkabout !

One day in July 2013 I realised that my tortoise, Willy, a female, had gone missing from my back garden in Lower Street. For the next 4 or 5 days I hunted every square inch of about 1/3 acre. There is an almost complete boundary wall, but with one very old gateway in Tail Mill Lane where once the horse and cart would get out to deliver the bread around the village when we were a bakery. There was a tunnel under it into Tail Mill Lane. Across the lane is a very large field running across the back of Lower Street houses.

In despair, I put a notice on the official board down by the Co-Op. "Tortoise lost, please ring..." Ten days later, a lady rang from a Court Mill Lane cottage. "I have found a tortoise in my garden". Shrieks and sobs later, she brought her round and yes, it was Willy. The journey Willy had made in about 3 weeks was at least 1/2 mile across the back of 40+ houses, through fields, past

streams and many other hazards - absolutely remarkable. Needless to say, the lady was very pleased she could help. I will never forget the look on her face when, having asked me how long we had had Willy, I replied 43 years! So ends a happy tale. Not quite, she was woken up after the winter and is once again wandering; but the gateway is now secure.



Willy safely home in her back garden

Sue Hastings



I am delighted to be able to tell you I completed the London Marathon in 4 hours, 19 mins and 54 seconds which I am thrilled about, having set myself a time of under 4 hours 30 mins. At the time of writing, fundraising is going reasonably well, but I wanted to let you know that my Just Giving page remains open until the middle of May. If you would like to make a donation, but haven't quite got round to it, then there's still time - go to www.just-giving.com Penny-Harvey3

If you would like to know more about the charity I am raising funds for you can visit their website at: www.clicsargent.org.uk

Thank you.

Penny Harvey

The Merriott Messenger around the world

This picture was taken on March 24th, Halong Bay, Vietnam. One of the most famous images - thousands of bizarrely shaped limestone karsts, often jungle topped - are dotted throughout the vast bay. The March edition of the Merriott Messenger travelled with me!

Where next?! Send your photos to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



Marion Andrews in Vietnam

OPEN GROUP

May 8th - Plant exchange and coffee at Jeanette's.

May 22nd - Mick Atkinson speaking on Dartmoor at the Social Club.

Enquiries tel: Maggie 76186

CAREFORD LODGE RESIDENTIAL HOME

The New Careford Lodge Ltd
Company No. 785183
Registered Manager
Lorraine Chant



A warm greeting is assured for you at Careford Lodge so please do call in to see Lorraine, Laura and the team at any time. We want to welcome the local community into our home to spend time with our residents and enjoy refreshments with them in the lovely surroundings of Careford.

Lorraine and Laura also welcome any enquiries about our long stay care services and the day care services which Careford Lodge can offer to those living in and around our community.

Please contact Lorraine or Laura on 01460 75592 for more information or e-mail Lorraine at carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk

Mothering Sunday Viola Recital Success



On a beautiful sunny Mothering Sunday afternoon an audience of over 70 were treated to a Viola and Piano Recital of classical fantasies at All Saints Church performed by Joseph Fisher (Viola) and accompanied by Lydia Scadding (Piano). The Reverend Bob Hicks, on congratulating the players for their performances, went as far to say that Joseph's rendition of Greensleeves was the best he had ever heard and this was met by a great cheer from all present.

The event raised £252 towards the church Lychgate Repair fund, which to date has reached over £4,000 from concerts organised by Joseph and from other generous village donations. Two more concerts are planned for 2014: one on the 10th August seeing the return of last years' very successful Valido String Quartet and a 6th Carols & Classics concert at Christmas that was a sell out last year. For those who missed this latest recital, Joseph and Lydia will be repeating the programme on Sunday afternoon 27th April at Wells Cathedral School Concert Hall.



To download the latest edition of the award-winning Senior Siren magazine go to: <http://sclt.us/#/senior-siren-editions/4573598653>

This bi-monthly magazine from the Senior Citizen Liaison Team provides info on crime prevention, victim support and social advocacy service for the older adult community.



Hinton St George
"Flix in the Stix"
presents:

'The Railway Man'

on **Saturday 10th May** 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.

The true story of a British Army Officer, Eric Lomax, a prisoner of war assigned to the Thai-Burma railway. Decades later he decides to find and confront his captor. A powerful and inspiring story of suffering and redemption recounted by Colin Firth.

Q. Why are politicians buried 40ft under?

A. Because deep-down, they're really nice people!

Peter Bryans

Merriott Village Plan 2014 Meeting

All residents should by now have received a copy of the Plan and copies have gone to Local Councils, the Police, school Head Teachers and others who may be able to help achieve what we all want. The Plan is also on the village web site.

Now it is your turn to take matters forward. A village meeting will be held on June 18th in the evening to present the key objectives and to seek help from residents who are willing to take part in organising action groups and persuading those with money to invest in new facilities and buildings.

Please make a note of this date. Details of the time and venue will be in the June edition of the Merriott Messenger.

John Bowman

Did you know



There are over 50 breeds of sheep in the UK. One of them, the North Ronaldsay, has been here for centuries and probably derives from

ancient sheep of 3000 BC. Until recently the breed was confined to the island of North Ronaldsay, the most northerly of the Orkney islands. In 1832 a 2 metre high stone wall was built all round the island to conserve the grassland, and since then the sheep have been confined to the fore-shore where they eat a diet of seaweed.

Pregnant ewes have limited access to poor quality grassland just before lambing. In consequence the sheep have developed an unusual metabolism able to cope with the peculiar sugars in seaweed, which are different from those in green plants, and with high salt intake. They are also



particularly prone to copper poisoning if moved to a pre-dominantly grass diet. The grazing habits also had to change with the diet. Normally sheep graze

during the day and ruminate at night. Instead the North Ronaldsays graze with the tides (twice in 24 hours) and ruminate at high water periods.

In 1974 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK and there was concern that the only population of unique North Ronaldsays would be lost if the disease spread to the island. Through the action of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust some North Ronaldsays were moved to several new locations, including another island, Linga Holm, especially bought by the Trust for this purpose.

North Ronaldsay mutton is considered a delicacy in London restaurants.

News from Merriott Social Club

The end of March saw the AGM taking place in the newly refurbished hall, now adorned with jumbo sized, sepia pictures depicting Merriott villagers of old; a lovely touch adding yet more warmth to this ever-improving room.

The usual formalities were followed and perhaps the most eagerly anticipated agenda item was the Treasurer's Report. This was ably delivered by Dan Canning and then dissected by independent auditor Brian Rice. Brian was very impressed by the turn around in the Club's fortunes and said that he "didn't want to use the word miraculous but.....".

Very briefly, all debts have now been cleared and the bank account shows a very healthy balance of over £7,000.

This turn-round means that much can now be done in investing in the future of the Club. There is an on-going programme of improvements and refurbishments, including disabled facilities (plans for which have now been passed), repair of the very old, leaking roof and a wish to expose the beautiful, vaulted ceiling in the members' bar.

The agenda item that arguably

generated the most discussion from the floor was the annual subscription fee. This fee was reduced and then held at a very low rate of just £2 per year for the past few years; it was agreed that it will be raised to just £5 for the year 2014/15 with concessions for seniors, juniors and families.

So, is being a member worth it?

Well..... every member is entered into Saturday night's Members' Draw in which over £500 per year is given away in prize money..... all member's children gain free entry to the children's Christmas Party with a gift from Santa as well as the delightful and frantic Easter Egg Hunt..... all members benefit from a discounted room hire rate when booking a private party..... and of course, all members benefit from very competitive bar prices..

So, **THANK YOU** to all members, old and new, for your support and we look forward to welcoming you again and again.

Diary Events:

Saturday 24th May - live music with Olly Days

Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council in April

1. APPLICATION 14/00207/FUL
APPLICANT: CAREFORD LODGE Ltd.
PROPOSAL: The erection of 2 semi detached residential lodge buildings.
2. APPLICATION 14/00205/FUL
Ms Moody. PROPOSAL: Use of garage for living accommodation
Retrospective Application.
LOCATION: N 96 Hitchen. Merriott.
DETERMINATION OF APPLICATION:
3. MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB: Toilet facilities and change of use of land
GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS.

Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



Toys, crafts, fun
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For children aged 8+
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Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org



Merriott Childcare Solutions

Contact Vanina Cooper on 01460 74086 or 07807 753 779

I am an Ofsted and PACEY registered childminder located in Merriott.



Merriott Childcare Solutions is an 'Outstanding' level of care for children from birth and onwards. I offer quality wrap-around childcare for the local village pre-school and primary school as well as offering ad-hoc sessions. Working with children and their families, I provide high standards of childcare adapting to each individual's needs. Aiming to help children reach their own potential and achieve self-esteem and self-confidence in a safe and friendly environment whilst having fun. I receive Government funding for 2, 3 and 4 years old, up to a maximum of 15 hours per week or up to 570 hours per year.

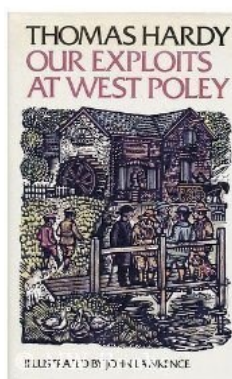
Monday - Friday 7.30 am - 6.00 pm

Hourly Rate: £4.10, 8 years and older £3.00, Merriott School children £3.00 per hour

Siblings discount. Childcare vouchers accepted.

Registered provider for Early Years Entitlement 2, 3, & 4 year olds

Book Review by Janet Lailey



'Our Exploits at West Poley' by Thomas Hardy. Oxford University Press (OUP) - there are various editions around.

This is a book which was intended for serialisation in an American magazine 'Youth's

Companion' in 1883, but which the publishers appear to have put on hold for about sixty years. It was not published in book form until 1952 by OUP. I wonder whether even in the 1880s the vocabulary was considered too ponderous for the boyish readership of the magazine, though didn't boys, then as now, simply skip awkward words to stick to the story?

The intrinsic appeal of the story is its exciting plot, which still shines through. Its sub-title is 'A tale of the Mendips', and the 'exploits' involve cave-exploration and

underground rivers. (The same theme that is central to the films 'Jean de Florette' and 'Manon des Sources') Unlike Hardy's novels for adults, the happy outcome is not inevitably subverted by tragedy and for the three boys, whose exploits these are, things turn out all right, though not before they have been faced with some challenging and amusing situations.

An added pleasure is the skill with which Hardy breathes life into the characters and the rival village communities of East and West Poley, and the landscape in which they live. This is a good read - it is not just a literary curiosity or social history. And it is wonderfully concise. The edition I have, from OUP 1978, only runs to seventy-seven pages and ten of them are illustrations. Perhaps a book best read aloud to children: no hardship if, like me, you still enjoy good children's books; certainly worth getting from the library.

Latest News on Moorlands Farm Development

Further to our last update, we are pleased to be able to confirm that the physical start of construction works on site will begin in early June.

Our ecologist has been instructed to carry out the next stage of his work which includes the relocation of slow worms and the creation of alternative habitats. This will ensure that our building activities do not put local wildlife at risk.

We have begun to deliver the site fencing and hoardings ready for the arrival of the site offices next month. Our engineers have carried out detailed surveys of the existing buildings on the site and are drawing up the detailed structural design to bring these back into use as part of the residential development.

After such a long lead in it is good to know that we are about to start this important development. Once established on site, we will be able to provide detailed information on a more regular basis. We will be setting up the project website and will also have a site information board at the entrance giving contact details and progress information. We will, of course, continue to contribute updates to the Merriott Messenger.

Merriott Drivers

Good news! We have a new volunteer driver, who has been living in Merriott for eighteen months. If you are registered with the Drivers' Service, please would you add his name to your list.
Alex Taylor, tel. 419320

Crewkerne Health Centre Patient Forum

This forum, initiated in 2011, has three objectives:

- Contributing to Practice decision making, challenging the Practice constructively, if necessary, and giving patients a voice in the organisation of their care.
- Facilitating good relations between the Practice and patients by communicating patients' experience, interests and concerns and by providing feedback to the Practice on current procedures and any proposed new developments.
- Helping to maintain good relations and communications between the Practice, the local community and other bodies.

If you would like to contact the Forum go to: www.crewkernehc.co.uk, or place correspondence in the folder on the Forum noticeboard in the surgery waiting room or by 'phoning the Chairman, David Hughes on 01460 7548.

FRIDAY 23RD MAY

6PM TILL LATE

FAMILY

DISCO

ALL WELCOME

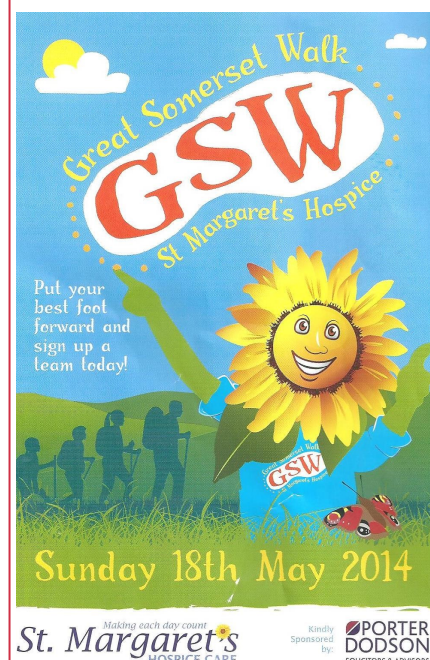
AT MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

TICKETS £5 FOR UP TO 4 PEOPLE £2 THEREAFTER. £2.50 ON THE DOOR

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