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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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NOVEMBER 2014

Copy deadline for the December issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th November. There will be no issue in January.

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MERRIOTT COMMUNITY PAVILION AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE OFFICIAL OPENING
ON SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
10.00am – 12noon
Merriott Recreation Ground**



HOORAY! The Community Pavilion was ready and open for use on Saturday 27th September.
The Parish Council wishes to thank YOU and the Local Contractors - Ricketts Electrical, Jaycee Plumbing, Minster Carpentry, M Stenner, T Wallis, K Self and PD Ford - for working to provide this stylish yet functional facility.
It provides public toilets for users of the Recreation Ground which are open daily from 8.30am until dusk. The Pavilion is available for hire: there are changing and shower facilities for sport users and a hall area and kitchenette suitable for parties or meetings.
We do hope you will be able to join us.

THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS!

Merriott bee keeper Ray Pattemore and his fellow enthusiast Clive Ball, of West Coker, are enjoying their new hobby and winning prizes!

They swept through the Novice Classes (you are a novice for the first 3 years of entering honey in competitions) with not one but three 1st Prizes and a 3rd Prize in their first year of bee keeping.

They came away with the Novice Shield for the most points scored in classes 1-8 at the Somerton & Somerset County Honey Show on 20th September in Long Sutton.

The beautiful dahlias and sunflowers and the surrounding fields and allotments must provide wonderful pollen for their bees. Let's hope they will have it for sale at some time in the future so we can all sample this local prizewinning honey. Congratulations!



A BUSY START TO THE AUTUMN TERM

We have had a busy start to the Autumn Term at Merriott First School. We welcomed our new teaching staff to the school: Mrs Banfield who teaches Codlin Class and Mrs Gunn who teaches part-time in Pippin Class.

Twenty Reception children joined Golden Class and settled into the daily routine very quickly.



Sophie from Secret World with the hedgehog

Then came visitors to help with our endangered animal topic. Sophie from Secret World brought a hedgehog and a barn owl for the children to see. Sophie talked about her work and how the

rescued animals were cared for.



Pete The Poet with the hand puppet

Pete The Poet wrote a poem about Chloe who raised money for a road tunnel to help hedgehogs cross the road safely. He encouraged the children to recite the poem without accompaniment, with percussion along with the Ukulele. Pete brought lots of puppets and some dressing up clothes as props for acting out the story.

Golden Class went out for their first walk of the season one morning arriving back just in time for lunch!

PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING APPLICATIONS UPDATE

Merriott Planning items discussed at the October monthly meeting. For full information view the meeting minutes on the Merriott website.

(1) APPLICATION 14/04200/FUL & 14/04201/LBC APPLICANT: Mr Lee Slade PROPOSAL: Alteration and conversion of redundant mill site to include 23 converted to residential units and 22 new build dwellings, demolition of factory buildings including portions of listed buildings and altered vehicular access to Tail Mill Lane.

(2) APPLICATION 14/04335/FUL APPLICANT Mr R Bastable PROPOSAL: Change to use of land and erection of buildings to form rural life and vintage vehicle museum (Revised Application) LOCATION: Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett, Crewkerne.

OTHER MATTERS

Advice of appeal: Mr & Mrs N Simcock 12 Newchester Cross. Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to dwelling house.

DETERMINATIONS

- The Old Garage Merriottsford – Permission Granted with conditions
- 15 Manor Drive – Permission Granted with conditions
- Installation of Solar Farm – Permission Granted with conditions

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday 22nd November 9.30 to 1.00 Tithe Barn, Merriott

Held by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the First Hinton St George Scout Group together with Merriott Bowling Club.

Cake stall, preserves, chutneys, books, bottle stall, puzzles, Grand Hamper Draw, teas, coffee and cake and much more.

All welcome. Come and join us.



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STAYING SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE NIGHT

After a lovely summer, it is time to look forward to the pleasures of the autumn and winter evenings. These should be pleasurable times and occasions for celebrations. Sadly, one person's idea of fun and celebrating can be another's misery. With this in mind, we have put together some advice regarding Halloween and Bonfire night.

Halloween, also known as All Saints' Day, and the following day, All Souls' Day, which commemorates the dead, is often overshadowed by anti-social behaviour.

The practice of 'trick or treating' can be alarming, as unidentifiable youths appear on your doorstep expecting, or even demanding, sweets or have a 'trick' played on you. The 'trick' is an idle threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given. Sadly, eggs and flour are often used causing damage. This is anti-social behaviour and will be dealt with promptly by the Police and PCSO's. In recent years, a pre-emptive strike has been very successful and shops have worked with us to ensure eggs and flour are not sold to youths. This pre-emptive action will take place again this year. There are stickers and posters available from the police that you can place on view requesting No Trick or Treating, or accepting visitors.

We just get over Halloween and Bonfire Night is upon us.

The length of time that 'Firework Night' goes on for can seem like forever, but there is a time limit and fireworks should not be let off after 11pm, except on special occasions, such as New Year's Eve and when an event has informed the proper authorities and has been given permission.

Halloween and Bonfire Night is a fun time for youngsters and the family. It should also be a time of fun and pleasure for the whole community.

The message this year is for understanding and respect for everyone's right to be safe and feel safe.

Please enjoy the celebrations and try and join in; not all 'hoodies' are yobs and not everyone over the age of 21 is 'killjoy'.

If you have any concerns please feel free

to contact the Police.

In an EMERGENCY, dial 999.

If you fear for your safety or that of another member of the community – 999.

If you wish to report something that has just happened but is not ongoing, please contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team on 101.

Your local team in Crewkerne is:-

PC 4140 Chris Purcell (Beat Manager)

PC 3589 Lisa Wright (Beat Manager)

PCSO 8445 Ben Samways

PCSO 9447 Dave Lewis.

PCSO 8506 Gareth Allington

Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



Toys, crafts, fun
& refreshments for
carers and tod-
dlers.



For children aged 8+
7.00pm-8.30pm
2nd/4th Fri each month
Resumes Fri 13th Sept

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



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB NEWS

On **Tuesday 25th November**, Malcolm Mills of The Gardens Group will talk to us on "Shrubs and Flowers for the Flower Arranger". Having been to a number of his talks at Castle Gardens, Sherborne we are in for an evening full of knowledge and interest. Meet at the Tythe Barn at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments, raffle, seed and plant sale. Non-members £2. Everyone is welcome.

At this meeting we shall be taking bookings and menu selection for our Christmas Lunch on **Tuesday 2nd**

December at The Crown & Victoria, Tintinhull. Last year we enjoyed an excellent lunch in very pleasant surroundings. Two courses £19.95 per person, three courses £22.95 per person, cheese surcharge £2.50; plus coffee/tea/mince pies. Please bring cheques made payable to Merriott Gardening Club or cash to secure your booking. Non-members are very welcome to come and join us.

For further details contact: Mo Frampton 07967 028277.



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18 Princes Street, Yeovil

01935 478463

CAROLS & CLASSICS CONCERT

This Christmas will see the 6th Carols & Classics Concert performed at the All Saints Church in Merriott by Joseph Fisher and his friends. The concerts have proven to be a great success with a ticket sell out last year of 200 before the event! Joseph and his friends perform as the Fisher Sinfonia, providing an evening of Classical Music, Festive arrangements and of course some community Carol singing, all in the setting of a candlelit All Saints Church. The musicians now play with major orchestras in the UK including the LPO, RPO, Halle, BBC Orchestra of Wales and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, performing at the Proms and venues across the UK and Europe. They use the All Saints Church Christmas concert to meet as friends and provide local entertainment. The Carols & Classic concerts alone have raised £4,000 for specific church projects. This year is no exception, with the funds raised going towards the purchase of new chairs for the successful Coffee Stop Area in the Church.

This year's Concert will be on **Saturday 13th December** at 7:30pm. Tickets £7 including refreshments will be on sale during November. To boost the profits from this



event, concert sponsors are being sought not only for the musicians and their travel, but also for prizes for the evenings' draw. Please contact Paul Fisher on 01460 76360 if you wish to sponsor specifically (any value), or a prize - all will be greatly appreciated. For people who do not wish to sponsor, there will be a retiring collection after the Concert specifically for the Chair Fund.

Paul Fisher

THOMAS BENDING'S AFRICAN EXPEDITION NEWS

I went to South Africa on the 29th July returning on the 18th August and had a wonderful time with many new experiences and adventures.

I would like to thank all those who supported me in my fundraising which made this once in a lifetime trip possible. I am holding a presentation night to show my photos and share my experience with you on **11th November at 7:30pm** at the Tithe Barn. Entrance will be free and there will be refreshments to purchase. I look forward to seeing you.



Hinton St. George
'Flix in the Stix'
presents
'Mr Morgan's last love' (12A)

on **Saturday 8th November** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room or on the door. To reserve tickets please contact 01460 72906.

A look at the life-changing connection between a retired and widowed American philosophy professor (Michael Caine) and a young Parisian woman (Clemence Poesy). A gentle film, beautifully set in Paris.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE



Users of the Recreation Ground are now able access the new Public Toilets which are OPEN 8.30 to dusk every day via the ramp entrance.



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Improved taxi service following
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ARMISTICE DAY AND REMEMBRANCE DAY

The 100th anniversary of the start of the 1st World War (the Great War) has already passed with considerable recognition. So too has the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings on the coast of France, leading to the end of Nazi Germany. However we still remember every year the considerable number of people who died in both the 1st and 2nd World Wars so that others, and we, might benefit.

At the end of the Great War the guns fell silent in Europe (though not everywhere as fighting continued in the old Russian Empire and parts of the old Ottoman Empire) at

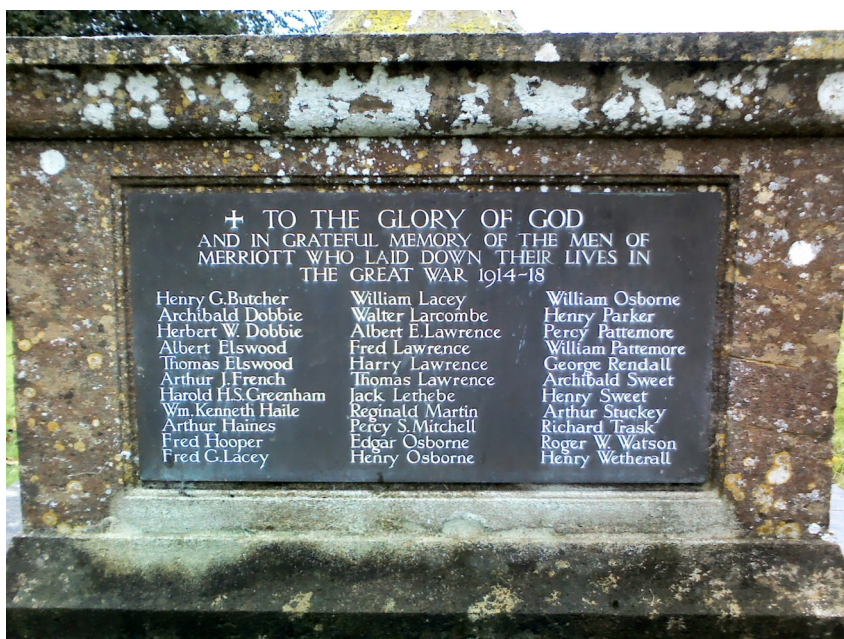
earlier that morning. The war officially ended on 28th June 1919 with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

order to avoid interrupting the vital war effort if November 11th fell on a weekday. After the end of World War II, the

remembrance elements of Armistice Day became Remembrance Day, to recognise those killed in both wars, as well as in other subsequent conflicts, and are held on the Sunday nearest to November 11th

Ceremonies for both days are still held in the UK.

During the Great War 33 men from Merriott were killed and in World War II a further 10 lost their lives. They are all named on the war memorial in the churchyard of All Saints Church. Four of those who died in the Great War are also listed



Men from Merriott who lost their lives in The Great War.

on the Thiepval Memorial at the



The Merriott War Memorial, All Saints Church

11am on November 11, 1918 as the result of the Armistice signed between the Allies of World War 1 and Germany at Compiègne, France, around 5.20am

The first official Armistice Day occurred in the grounds of Buckingham Palace on the 11th November 1919 and was dedicated by King George V as a day of remembrance for members of the armed forces who were killed during the Great War.

A temporary Cenotaph of wood and plaster was erected in Whitehall, London, in 1919 but was replaced by the present memorial, designed by Edwin Lutyens and built of Portland Stone between 1919 and 1920. This then became the site of the official United Kingdom recognition of Armistice Day.

The practice of observing a 2 minute silence at 11am on Armistice Day, to remember the roughly 20 million who died during the conflict, originated in South Africa. In 1939 in Britain this observance was moved from November 11th to the Sunday nearest to that date in



Thiepval Memorial, France

Somme in France and others on memorials in France, Belgium and Iraq.

John Bowman

FIND THE PATH TO HISTORY LIVING HISTORY GROUP

About Us - Why we do what we do

Find the Path to History Living History Group is not a 'group' *per se*. The two figures that lead the frequently changing, but ever growing, collection of enthusiasts that make up 'FTPTH' are Merriott resident Matt Hall, and Rob Reid of Yeovil. They are the founding members of a vision born out of a mutual interest in the period of the Second World War, and in particular, the Allied invasion of Western Europe on June 6th 1944. However, it is not simply a desire to develop their own knowledge that led to its creation. The fundamental motivation is one of education.

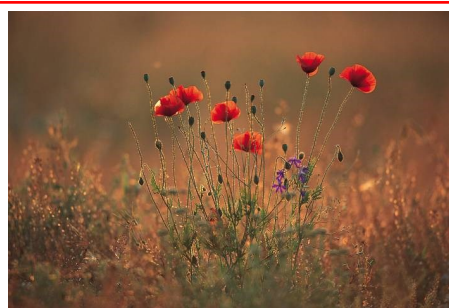
Hostilities ceased 69 years ago this year; the youngest combatants on all sides are now reaching the latter stages of their eighth decade. A generation of grand-parents represent our last living-memory link with arguably the most formative conflict in European history. When Harry Patch passed away in Wells in 2009, the duty of keeping alive the memory of The Great War for future generations fell on academic historians and family lore. Now that this 'last generation' of Second World War veterans is slowly diminishing, soon we will be left with a final rear-guard and ultimately, within 15-20 years, no-one remaining to tell first-hand accounts from that fateful period.

With this in mind, it must now fall to the responsibility of younger generations to carry forward the lessons learned from such a dark time in our history.



Meeting a veteran of the British 6th Airborne Division at the site of the Merville Gun Battery assault that took place on the morning of June 6th 1944.

'FTPTH' differs from most Living History Groups in its presentation of an impression. By displaying what Rob Reid describes as "*living, breathing museum displays*" they endeavour to offer a startlingly authentic view of the men and equipment we have only more recently seen in newsreels or grainy black and white photographs. This "time warp" effect opens the eyes of the observer in a way that films and computer games cannot. The youth of today are exposed to media formats that, despite portraying operations and campaigns of the 2nd World War, trivialise the individual combat



REMEMBRANCE

The fields of Flanders, once, were just a landscape
Where larks spun out their song in summer dawn;
Where trees might shelter birds and strolling couples;
Where poppies were just weeds among the corn.
Poppies with bent green stalks, down-curling buds
Swaddled in fuzzy sepals; loosening, Straightening in a day, spreading silk petals
Crumpled round smoke-dark centres, glistening.
Stiff upright stalks bore swaying canisters
Shaking their tiny salvoes onto mud:
Seeds that can wait out years, until disturbance
Distils them into myriad drops of blood.
And still the poppies flower.
Still blood is shed.
And still unheard, the silence of the dead.

Janet Lailey



Posing with the truck at La Fièvre Bridge, scene of bitter fighting for the 82nd Airborne on and immediately after D-Day.

experiences of those that fought. Computer games like *Call of Duty* and *Medal of Honour* allow the gamer to 'fight' their way through various real-life combat scenarios, utilising the correct weapons and equipment; it's surprising the number of under 30s that can recognise an M1 Garand rifle or Thompson sub-machine gun. However, in the games, in the event that your character is 'killed' by 'enemy fire', you simply start again at a saved checkpoint in the game. It is a fundamental element of the work of FTPTH to highlight the fact that in real warfare, you cannot simply 'respawn', to use gaming terminology.

These young men who joined to fight, these 'citizen soldiers' (to borrow a phrase from historian Stephen E. Ambrose) who were farmers,



In full Class A uniform after laying the wreaths at the memorial in Pèriers on the 70th anniversary of D-Day

mechanics, shop assistants and all manner of other trades and jobs, couldn't 'respawn'; they only had one life to give, and when the time came to show immeasurable courage, some gave it all in the ultimate sacrifice.

It is this sentiment that FTPTH focuses on as a learning experience.

Matt Hall and Rob Reid

THE NORMANDY TRIP - REMEMBERING THE BRAVERY OF THE MANY

There is something rather eerie about walking the same countryside lanes 70 years after the first British and American paratroopers descended upon them in their thousands. There is something even more disconcerting about making your way down those green lanes in the same pitch darkness and stillness that comes during the early hours of a June



Rob Reid (left) and Matt Hall after laying a wreath Périers, Normandy

morning. We had jumped - albeit from the tailgate of the 1939 GMC truck - at the exact time the 82nd Airborne Pathfinders exited their C47 transport planes, with the same maps, carrying the same equipment on the very same night, only a whole generation later.

With a remarkably smaller thud than those who had jumped under deployed parachutes, we landed boots first and proceeded to take cover in a ditch on the side of the road. We were not told

was not an easy task, as one can imagine, but any difficulty we experienced paled into insignificance when we reminded ourselves, during a short and whispered briefing, that we were only simulating the experience: there were no German soldiers lurking in the darkness waiting to open fire on any unidentified movement. Neither were we time-bound to achieve

our objective, needing to locate, secure and set up the landing zones for the follow up waves before they flew overhead.

The confusion and disorientation shouldn't have been part of the exercise that night; the Pathfinders of the United States Army Airborne were the best, most skilled soldiers in the outfit, many of whom had volunteered for this dangerous job. They had trained for many hours with the equipment,

looked over models of their different landing zones in minute detail. All this, like many military plans over the course of history, went awry within minutes of the first aircraft entering the skies above Normandy. Inexperienced pilots flying through enemy fire for the first time, tried to dodge and weave their way through, flying that is not in the slightest way conducive to delivering

large numbers of airborne troopers into combat. Jumping at higher speeds and lower altitudes than they had been trained to expect, the men landed to find themselves in different terrain, surrounded by different roads and looking at road signs with different names to what they had studied so carefully over the previous five days.

They did not shy from their enormous task,

instead rallying as many troops as possible from stragglers found along the way to their objectives, turning small

groups of soldiers from a mix of units into a formidable force that was confused and scattered - some groups as far as 25 miles outside their original planned drop zones - but still coherent and superbly led, preventing the German forces from establishing exactly what individual objectives were and thus preventing a large-scale counter attack.

As we walked, 'patrolling' through Norman lanes and fields, taking in the sites and sounds, a shared anxiety developed as we realised just how hard navigating in total darkness was. We had been split into two teams, simulating the small, non-commissioned officer led groups, and were expected to locate a particular church, in a particular village, to 'rendezvous' with the other group and



Paying respects at a memorial in Normandy



Giving a talk to the rest of the group on the hillside behind the American Invasion beach code named 'Omaha'

where we were, and so had to orientate ourselves using landmarks and road signs in the almost total darkness. This

the two others from the truck.

Experiences like this, even the simulated ones, are invaluable as part of the perpetual learning in living history. The 'night drop' as we called it, was just one part of our trip to Normandy, an initiation for the newer members within the group to demonstrate the level to which we strive for authenticity and quality of experience. By getting out into the depths of a June night and using the correct techniques for tactical movement and field craft, we are able to offer the public a far more immersive experience when they see our display back in the UK.

(continued overleaf)

THE NORMANDY TRIP CONTINUED

The week in Normandy took in sights we have each seen multiple times, but with added resonance given the occasion. We saw memorials to heroic acts by individuals, to entire units and walked the many, many rows of graves to be found in the numerous cemeteries, of all nations. We used the opportunity of the anniversary to pay our respects at the memorial in Périers, laying a wreath after parading in full A-Class uniform in the bright sunshine.

We travelled everywhere in the truck, a not-uncommon sight 70 years previous, but now seldom seen due to numbers sadly diminished with the passing of time. We travelled everywhere in the uniform of the U.S. 82nd Airborne division, or of the 29th Infantry division. We were careful never to accept adulation that should only ever be reserved for the veterans who were actually there and who actually fought and always ensured that when we met with veterans of any nation, we displayed a gratitude that was right and appropriate. We met with family members of veterans, carrying or wearing pictures of their loved ones, so happy to see living representations of those relatives and always content that our mission was one of education and preservation of the memories and experiences for future generations.

For all the well-known 'beaten path' sights we saw, the most emotive and affecting site was to be found in a little known church, a mile from the main thoroughfare, at Angloville-au-Plain.

On the night of June 6 1944, the church in this tiny hamlet changed hands four times during bitter fighting between American 101st Airborne troopers, and German Wehrmacht soldiers. Inside the church, two American medics who

France is a monument in the square, and more notably, dark black stains on the rows of pews in the tiny church. It is enough to render anyone totally speechless. In contrast to the mass of scars caused by the mechanisation of warfare

witnessed across Normandy on the walls of bunkers and in the towns and cities, this is an example of the entirely personal result of what has become known as 'Total War'. Most moving of all is the thought, always prominent when standing over the stains in that tiny chapel, that each one represents the life that bled out of another young soldier, another young man inevitably mourned and missed by those at home. No immaculately planned museum display can ever raise the hairs on the back of your neck in the same way as being there and breathing it in.

Matt Hall and Rob Reid



The group at Pointe du Hoc at sunset on the evening of June 5th, 70 years after the 82nd Airborne were preparing to climb into the planes that would carry them into battle.

accompanied the other soldiers on the combat jump, tended the wounded of both sides as they lay out on the pews. The only remaining evidence of this bloody encounter in this tiny corner of

A further article from Matt and Rob will appear in a later issue of the Merriott Messenger.



**THE
ROTARY
CLUB OF
YEOVIL**

THE LAST DAMBUSTER, JOHNNY JOHNSON

Sharing his experiences, his memories and answering questions

The Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknet

Friday 21 November 2014

6.30 for 7.00 pm

Meet and hear a living legend and relive a heroic mission of WW2

A Charity Event to benefit The Yeovil Opportunity Group and

The Bomber Command Memorial Fund

£16 per person, to include a two course meal plus tea/coffee

For single or multiple tickets or for tables of 8 or 10, please contact
01935 475448, 01935 475770 or 01935 420051

POPPY APPEAL 2014



There will be a house to house collection as usual in Merriott in the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday on November 9th.

For further details please contact Liz or Peter Fisk on 01460 72595.

A CIRCULAR WALK FROM MERRIOTT

This walk probably takes around 1½ hours and, although we took our dogs, some of the stiles were not particularly dog friendly.

From the Co-op walk up Lower Street and take a left turn up Shyners Terrace and onto Church Street. Bear left for a short while then right down Sandy Hole. After a couple of 100 yards there is a grass track on the left, Bowood Lane. Go down this track and appreciate the views south to the village and north to Lopenhead, about half way along.

At the end of the track go across the main road bearing right, then follow the signed footpath on the left going over the stile and across the field with the hedge on your left. You will see a chicken farm on your right. Go straight over the gravel drive and then there are several stiles to negotiate and a slightly tricky path which will lead into an open field. Turn right for 50 yards, then left onto the farm track which leads down to Hinton Lane.

Turn right and head into Hinton St George, past the Jubilee Wood on your left, an area donated to the village to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. If at this point you feel in need of refreshment, you are in luck! The Poulett Arms is not far and just a bit further down the road Dorothy's Tea Room. To continue the walk, just before you reach these take a left turn down South Street and

head out of the village. Although this is a road, it is extremely quiet. In fact we were only passed by one car with a canoe – this being on top of the car as it is still summer!!!

Follow this road, passing Stockbridge Farm on your left and when reaching Yarcombe Woodland Products turn left down an even quieter road with lovely views to Merriott on your left. After passing 4 cottages on your left, 2 of which are fairly new but have been beautifully built in character with the old houses of the village, bear left down the drive towards Furlands Farm. After passing the tennis court, bear right again and then take another right on reaching the end of the fence, walking through the field.

Walk around the edge of the field with the hedge staying on your left, bearing left through a large gap and then bearing round to the right (but always with the hedge on your left). You will come to a gate on your left. Go through this and head straight across the field. At the bottom there is another gate but turn right here and head towards another gate with the stream on your left. This path takes you to a wooden gate. Go straight through this and follow the path around, crossing a small wooden bridge. You will finally come to some steps. Turn right and take the path which will bring you onto Moorlands Road and back to the Co-op on Lower Street.

Niki Scurr

NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL CLUB

Before the usual updates, we have a couple of quick requests.

Firstly, a plea for volunteers to assist with the next stage of the building process for the external toilet block. Providing it's not raining, it would be highly appreciated if you could turn up any Saturday morning at 10am to help out the team.

Secondly, we are seeking quotes from local trades-people to repair the leak in our flat cellar roof. If you think you can help, please pop in one evening and have a chat with Derek, our barman.

Now, some dates for your diaries.

For those **bingo** enthusiasts among you, please come and join us on **Saturday 22nd November** for the chance to win an array of prizes – eyes down at 7.30pm!

Looking ahead to Christmas, on the **21st December** between **2pm - 4pm**, we'll be hosting a **Kids Christmas Party**. Members children go free and children of non-members are more than welcome to join in with the fun for a small fee of £2 per child. A sign-up sheet will be going up in the Club soon, so please keep an eye out.

On **Boxing Day**, we'll be open from **12 noon to 12 midnight** with a non-stop disco, so if you fancy a post-Christmas boogie, or a drink shared with friends, come on down and join us – all are welcome.

Some advanced notice for our **New Years Eve** plans: Local band, **Wise Intentions**, will be performing at **8.30pm**, followed by a **Disco** that kicks off at **11pm**. Tickets for members are £1 per person, non-members will be charged £4. If you'd like to join up on the night, your membership fee will include the cost of your ticket! We hope to see you for what promises to be a cracking night!

Finally, a few updates:

Following her christening with us in September, warm wishes go to baby Bethany and her family and thanks go to those who helped raise an impressive £160 at October's **Monthly Market**, £70 of which went to Merriott First School.

OPEN GROUP

30th Oct - A visit to Crewkerne Museum with Janet Harris. **NB 7.30pm start**. Please contact Marion Biggs if you would like to come - tel 74170.

13th Nov - A talk at Tina's on the Samaritans, given by Christine Alexander.

27th Nov - Coffee at Jane's. Bring your favourite Christmas recipes, with or without samples to try.

Enquiries - *Maggie 76186*

MERRIOTT DRIVERS

Tina Mortimer has had to stand down from being a driver. Thank you Tina for all the driving you have done in the last few years. We shall miss you.

PLEASE would people using the Drivers Service, take a moment to cross Tina's name off their list, so that she doesn't keep receiving phone calls.

If you would like to find out about becoming a driver, please contact Maggie or Tom on 76186.



If you think you would like to brush up on the Highway Code, there is a useful website to visit:

www.rightdriver.co.uk. No registration or payment is required. Due to its free official Highway Code questions, Right-driver.co.uk is preferred and used by a

large number of driving instructors and both youth and community organisations to help people stay up-to-date and/or to get their driver's licence.



NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

At the beginning of this month, on **Thursday 6th** at 7pm, we have our **All Souls Service**, which is especially for those of you who have been bereaved. At our service, we receive the names of those who have died and light candles in their memory. Those who have attended funerals in the past year may have been sent invitations, but anyone is welcome to come to remember and to pray, however long it is since your loss.

I know that **Remembrance Sunday** is an important annual event for many of us, and it will be even more poignant this year as we commemorate 100 years since the outbreak of World War One. Our service begins at 10.50 at the war memorial next to the church.

Finally, another thank you to all who came to work in the churchyard and church recently. You are doing a great

job of looking after this special place for everyone to enjoy.

Rev Julia Hicks

Church Services in November

- Sun 2nd** 8.30am Holy Communion
- Thurs 6th** 7.00pm All Souls Service, for the bereaved
- Sun 9th** 10.50am Remembrance Sunday
- Sun 16th** 10.00am Family Service
- Sun 23rd** 10am Sung Holy Communion
- Sun 30th** No service in Merriott

Date for your diary:

Mon 8th December at 7.00pm -

Christingle Service (making Christingles at 6.30pm)

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE

The Ile Valley Flower Club welcomes visitors to the open night on **November 11th** at the Warehouse Theatre Ilminster. The national demonstrator, Bob Harris, will entertain with a title "What Christmas Does To Me" 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £10.00 either from Lanes Garden Shop, Ilminster or by contacting 01460 75025 / 77233.

Sat 15th Nov - HENHAYES TABLE TOP SALE. 9am-12 noon - Entry free. Refreshments available. Tables £5. Tel 01460 271541. Help us to raise funds for the work of this charity in our local community.

Fri 28th Nov - HENHAYES - WINTER WARMER LUNCH. 12.30pm. 3 course lunch plus tea/coffee only £7.50. Booking essential. Call in or telephone the Centre office on 01460 74340.

Sat 29th Nov - HENHAYES BIG BREAKFAST 10am - 12 noon. Full English breakfast - sausage, bacon, egg, tomatoes or beans, toast with tea/coffee £4 (extras available 50p each). Booking not necessary.

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.

NEWS FROM THE SWAN

We welcome "Tom Toomey" Guitarist of renown to The Swan on **Saturday 1st November**. We continue to show BT Sport with Premier League Football, Premiership Rugby and MotoGP.

Haircut Tuesday 4th November.

Please note we are now taking bookings for Xmas day 5 course Lunch 3:00 pm onwards (circa£50) with spaces being limited. Contact the pub for details.

John, Cathy & Jet



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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH AND THE ENGLISH HERITAGE ANGEL AWARD BY SAM WYCHERLEY



The restoration of the Poulett Memorial Chapel at St George's Church, Hinton St George has already won the 2014 John Betjeman Award and was recently short-listed by a panel, chaired by Andrew Lloyd Webber, for an English Heritage Angel Award for the "best rescue or repair of a historic place of worship. Since 2007, careful restoration has taken place over 6 years to restore as much of the chapel as possible – a project co-ordinated by David Clements and carried out by Humphries and Jones Ltd.

The chapel had suffered from serious damp and corrosion, resulting in damage to two 16th century limestone tombs, to a lintel and to the monument to John, 1st Baron Poulett. The project aimed to avoid replacing parts of the chapel, but to restore it carefully and sensitively, something it has certainly achieved.

The case of Hinton St George is part of a wider picture of the state of historic buildings around the country. Irrespective of their religious connotations, church buildings are a fundamental link to our heritage and culture, often being amongst the oldest buildings in a town or village. They are symbolic of our history, and yet a lack of funding prevents their maintenance and restoration. Where funding is available, it is often only due to localised, committed groups raising funds, a method that, with dwindling congregation numbers in UK churches, is becoming harder and harder to replicate. This is a shame given the importance of the heritage churches like Hinton St George provide. The Poulett Chapel, for example, may contain the earliest use of scagliola (using plaster to imitate stone) in the UK, dating back to the late 1660s.

At the time of writing, a winner has not been chosen, but it will be interesting to see how the restoration at Hinton St George fares in the Awards.

Sam Wycherley

All Saints Christmas Market
Saturday 29th November
2.00pm - 6.00pm
at The Tithe Barn and
All Saints Church,
Church Street, Merriott

REFRESHMENTS: hog roast, hot and cold drinks; mulled wine; roasted chestnuts
STALLS: Christmas gifts; cakes; jewellery; books; cards; etc.
GAMES: tombola; prize draw; spot prizes; games;
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS AND STALLS
ENTERTAINMENT: Father Christmas (3-5pm); Carols; Hand Bell Ringing; Music from The Church Band.
Any donations for raffle prizes and tins for the hamper will be greatly received and can be collected using the contact details below. Alternatively items can be left in the church in the box marked Christmas Market.

Nicky Hodder - 01460 78799

Lesley Chard - 01460 77170



DID YOU KNOW?



Until well into the 18th century in this country, most farm work was done by oxen. However, heavy horses for the dray, the plough and the chariot were available for sale in London in the late 12th century.

The heavy horse was used in battle during the reign of Henry VIII but was replaced by lighter mounts in the time of Cromwell. Friesian horses were brought to England by the Dutch in the 16th century to help with the drainage of the Fens. It is thought that these animals were the forerunner of Shire horses, a term first mentioned in the 17th century.

During the 18th century, when the road

surfaces were rough, Shire horses were used widely to move goods from and to the docks and throughout the countryside.



The Shire Horse Society was established in 1878 when it was first known as the English Cart Horse Society. In the early

years of the last century about 5,000 Shire horses a year were registered with Society.

The development of the internal combustion engine led to the demise of the Shire horse and by the mid 1950's only a few hundred remained. At that time I learnt to plough with a Shire horse.

Though a few breweries still use Shire horses to pull their drays, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust considers the breed to be 'vulnerable' with between 500 and 1,500 animals alive.

John Bowman

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