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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW



The Annual Flower & Produce Show was held on the 9th August and despite the hot summer, when so many flowers bloomed earlier than usual, followed by showery rain the week before our Show, there was an excellent number of exhibits. The weather was kind on the day and in the afternoon there was an abundance of visitors

enjoying the exhibits, cream teas, prize giving and auction.

Many congratulations to the Prize winners, who were:

John Wallis Memorial Rose Bowl - Flowers - Barbara Byford & Lucy Stokes

Peggy Wallis Memorial Cup - Fruit & Veg - Tom Hemmings

Cornelius Shield - Floral Arrangements - Hatty Clark

Cup - Domestic - Jane Dandridge & Lucy Stokes

Cup - Arts & Crafts - Tina Mortimer & Beryl Virgin

Cup - Photography - Alan Keene
Brigadier Keith Mullins Shield -

Most First Prizes in Show - Tom Hemmings

Medal & Certificate - Children 5-7 Most points - Samuel Larkins

Medal & Certificate - Children 8-10 Most points - Molly Larkins

Medal & Certificate - Children 11-13 Most points - Eve Sale

Margaret Oliver Trophy & Certificate - Overall Most points in Section 8 for children - Molly Larkins.



We wish all the children starting at Merriott Pre-School and First School GOOD LUCK.

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MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET

First Saturday of the month - 10am until 1pm

MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

71 Lower Street, Merriott

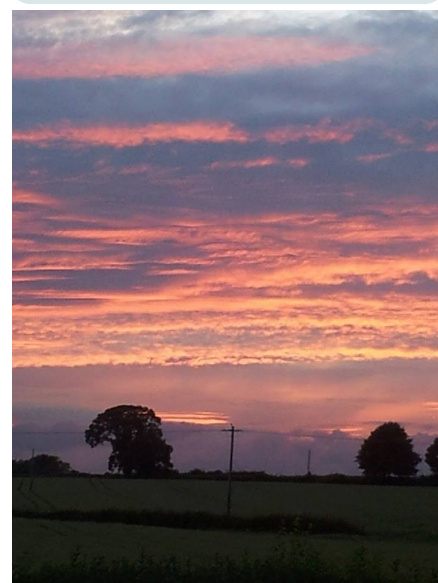


An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams & pickles, quiche and pies, fruit and veg, plants, crafts and gifts, Jewellery and hand knits, DVD's and bric-a-brac and much more.

We will be serving bacon butties, teas & 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 or pop into the club or check us out on facebook.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



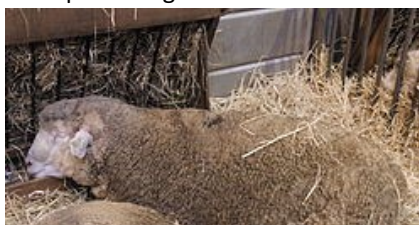
Taken by Jean Baker from her home in Newchester Cross, Merriott

Send your photo to:
merriottmessenger@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?



Most breeds of sheep in the UK will produce a high proportion of twins in the course of a normal lambing season. Triplets and even quads are not unknown. In the 1960's several breeds of sheep were imported into this country with the aim of improving meat quality and fertility. Ile de France sheep (see photo below) developed in the 1830's near Paris and the champagne country, came from across the Channel as they have a reputation for producing blocky carcasses. They were originally known as Dishley Merinos, and are now found in many of the most important lamb producing areas of the world.



At the same time Finnish Landrace sheep (see photo below) were imported as they had a reputation for producing litters of lambs. An average of four to five lambs per birth is usual in Finland and the record is nine in a single gestation. Both these breeds have been crossed with traditional British breeds to



produce new hybrid stock with claimed enhanced meat and prolificacy. However, there are already many sheep breeds which their supporters say are more suited to local conditions of terrain and climate.

"BELLATRIX" - STAR OF THE GARDENING CLUB SHOW

On Tuesday 29th July we had the most wonderful lecture by Chris Sperring MBE on Somerset Barn Owls, attended by over 40 people. Chris is very enthusiastic about his subject, but the star of the evening was his beautiful barn owl "Bellatrix", named after the third brightest star in the constellation Orion.

He told us that during the past couple of years numbers of barn owls have dropped dramatically because of the inclement weather during their breeding season. This year, due to warmer weather, record numbers of chicks have been raised.

Somerset probably has the largest population of barn owls. It was quite something being so close to such a special bird.

Here they are sharing a cuppa before the lecture. He made us laugh by saying "Bellatrix gives lectures, but Beau her friend gives talks and they discuss this all the time."



On the **30th September**, David Usher will give a talk entitled "The Restoration of Hestercombe Gardens" prior to our visit to Hestercombe in October. Meet at the Tythe Barn, Merriott, at 7.30 pm. Refreshments, raffle, flower of the month, plant, seed and produce sale. Non members £2. Come and share an evening with us - we are a small and very friendly group and offer a warm welcome to everyone.

Mo Frampton 07967 028277



"VALIDO" STORM AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

As Hurricane Bertha (as a breeze) descended on Merriott on Sunday afternoon 10th August, 150 people took cover in the All Saints Church to listen to a brilliant concert by the Valido String Quartet. The audience was treated to an afternoon of Classical music performed by these talented young musicians from New Zealand,



Canada, Portugal and, of course, Merriott and raised over £740 towards the church fabric fund. The musicians

introduced the individual pieces including Schubert's Death and the Maiden, Janacek's Intimate Letters and Debussy's String Quartet in G minor. The afternoon was completed with an encore of a Polka by Shostakovich that rounded off the performance.

Teas and refreshments and a raffle were organised before the concert and the ladies of the village provided a great array of cakes that were feasted on to the last crumb. These concerts held by Joseph Fisher and Friends have been a great success for the church and community, bringing in new visitors to the church from a very wide area, from Somerton, Wincanton, Sherborne, Bridport to Chard. A much appreciative thank you goes to all who helped to make it a very successful afternoon.

Paul Fisher

CORRECTION - MOORLANDS FARM UPATE IN THE AUGUST EDITION

The website address should have read: www.moorlands.farm and the twitter feed: @MoorlandsFarm
My apologies for this error.

By the time this issue of the Merriott Messenger appears the Moorlands Farm site office should be up and running.



NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Bob and I often go to a Christian arts and music festival called 'Greenbelt'. We go to enjoy a mixture of music, comedy, drama, talks, worship, and generally hanging about getting muddy (usually). It's a great chance to enjoy other people's creativity and the diverse way in which they express themselves.

I do think that creativity is a gift from God and that we've all got a bit of creative flare (even if we haven't discovered it!). You could see it in abundance at the village flower and produce show recently. I especially enjoyed the exuberant floral displays. And I was amazed by the skill and creativity of the musicians in the Valido String Quartet who played so beautifully in church again.

Our time together in church would certainly be a whole lot less enjoyable without the creativity of our musicians, flower arrangers and cake bakers. We are also blessed with a number of excellent artists locally, and we are grateful to Amanda Khan-Davis for offering to show her moving and thought-provoking installation here in church later this month (please see adjacent column).

Revd Julia Hicks 76406

Forthcoming Concert at
St Bartholomew Crewkerne
Saturday 27th September 7.30pm
"Sine Nomine"

A musical stroll through several centuries
Tickets £8.00
Call Alison on 01460 279 692

Church Services in September

Sun 7th	8.30am Holy Communion
Sun 14th	9.30am Parish Communion
Sun 21st	10.00am Family Service
	6pm Evensong
Sun 28th	10.00am Sung Communion

Harvest Festival will be on **Sunday 19th October** at 10am, followed by a 'bring and share' lunch at midday. Anyone is welcome to come and no booking or ticket is required for the shared lunch.

"Forgotten Casualties" @ All Saints Church

For two weeks from Monday **22nd September**, the Chapel of Remembrance in All Saints Church will be the setting for this powerful and poignant installation by Hinton St George-based artist, Amanda Khan-Davis. Using a variety of media, she highlights the plight of children caught up in conflict. With the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 last month and the terrible ongoing conflict in the Middle East; this is a timely exhibition. Amanda says, "During the two world wars, 90% of casualties were combatants, today the burden of war falls on civilians. They are the object of war." As you might expect with this subject, some of the images are challenging. The church, as usual, will be open every day for prayer and quiet reflection.

RESOUNDING SUCCESS FOR MERRIOTT POP-UP COFFEE SHOP



Thank you to all who supported the pop-up coffee shop on 17th July. It was a lovely day and £325 was raised for All Saints Church.

Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



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



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

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



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

Do you have any stories or photographs of Merriott relatives involved in WW1? If so, we would love to hear from you for a future article we are putting together for the November issue. Please contact a member of the editorial team (details on back page) or email: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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Sun: 8am - 10pm

BUSY TIMES AT YOUR SOCIAL CLUB!

We're pleased to report that July has been another successful month for the Social Club. Following the completion of the foundations, the external toilets have been moved into place. Many thanks to the local farmers who stored the block, and those who helped position it in the correct spot. Over the next couple of months, we'll be turning to those keen volunteers among you to help us create the access point, so please do keep an eye out for emails, posters, or posts on Facebook. Thanks once again to all of those who have assisted us in our efforts so far – you really are appreciated.

Now onto the Social Club's **Monthly Market**, which is going from strength to strength. At our first market in July, we raised £120, £60 of which went to the church. In August, we managed to raise an impressive £148, £70 of which went to The League of Friends of Crewkerne Hospital, with the remainder from both events going towards the Club's improvements fund – many thanks to all who attended. A huge congratulations to new stall holder, Hatty, who managed to sell all of her hand-tied flower decorations – not bad for her first ever event! We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Saturday 4th October**. Once again, we'll be open for all to explore between the hours of **10am and 1pm**. As always, there will be refreshments available in the form of tea, coffee, bacon butties, and bar beverages. If you'd like to book a table (for only £5!), email us at

merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com, or phone Lorraine on 07885424588.

Looking back to July, it was brilliant to see the Wayfarer's Club return for another skittles social – they sure know how to brighten up the evening for the bar staff, who eagerly look forward to their next visit in a couple of months time. We also send warm wishes to the family who held their Christening with us in July. It was lovely to see friends and relatives have such a good time while celebrating the introduction of baby Lacie to the world.

It's also been great to see so many teams get stuck in to our summer skittles event. By the time that this issue is out, the semi-finals and finals will have been played. Congratulations to the competition winners, and commiserations to the rest – there have been some excellent scores this year, so thank you all for taking part. A special mention to those committed stickers-up, who battled hard against the heat on several scorching evenings – your assistance is highly appreciated.

Finally, a reminder for your diaries. **STORM**, a well-known local rock band, will be performing at the Club on **18th October**. All are welcome, and for those fans among you, this free event is not to be missed!

Remember to keep an eye on our notice-board for the latest news and events, as well as our website (merriottsocialclub.co.uk) and Facebook page.

Before we sign off, we'd like to include a special mention for Janet Walsby, who has kindly donated a laptop for use at the Social Club. It's made a pleasant change to write and edit this entry in the company of friends, as opposed to sitting upstairs in the office on my own!

Huge thanks to Janet, and all other members and non-members who have continued to support us this month – it's highly appreciated!

Upcoming Events:

4th October - Monthly Market

10am - 1pm

18th October - STORM (5-piece band)
9pm

SHOE BOX APPEAL

The Annual Shoe Box Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 18th October** from 10am till 12 noon at 35 Shiremoor Hill, Merriott. Cakes, bring & buy, raffle, plus an opportunity to learn more about the Shoe Box appeal.



Please come and join in the fun - all proceeds go towards filling and sending shoe boxes. For further information please contact either Beryl Bellamy 01460 74574 or Beryl Virgin 01460 74917.

Merriott - Crewkerne Walkers

The Merriott Village Plan Implementation Group is writing to the Parish, District and County Councils and Crewkerne Town Council to request that the pavement (footway) linking the village should be cleared to a proper and safe width for all walkers and those using pushchairs or wheelchairs, and that it should be maintained properly in future.

OPEN GROUP

4th September - Coffee and catch up at Lynne's.

18th September - AGM with wine and nibbles at Janette's. Please bring your ideas for the forthcoming programme.

Enquiries: Maggie 76186

The 2014 Somerset Military Tattoo will take place on **Saturday 6th September** at Taunton Racecourse, including Navy Heritage Flypast, REME Parachute Drop and The Band of the Irish Guards. Gates open at 10.00am, closing ceremony 4.30pm.

Tickets: Adults £15, children (5-15) £5. Family £35, Concession £13.50. Buy in advance and save 20%. Free parking.

For further information go to www.somersetmilitarytattoo.com or call 01823 433431

Once again All Saints Church, Merriott is pleased to present **HARVEST SWING** as part of its Harvest celebrations, featuring vocalist Graham David.

The event will take place on **Saturday 4th October 2014** at Merriott Social Club commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets priced at £7.50, which includes a light supper, are available in advance from Jean & Dave Crisp, 23 Beadon Lane, Merriott. Tel: 01460 279654.

VILLAGE PLAN 2014 UPDATE

The Village Plan Implementation Group met in July following the presentation of the Plan in the Church in June. Several residents have volunteered to further the aims in the Plan.

A Footpath Group is being established and further details of what they will do will be published after they have met. It is also hoped that a Business Group can be established to promote the provision of facilities for small businesses in the village.

The Implementation Group is also making representation to various bodies

including Councils and the Highways Authority, concerning the very poor state of the pavement between Merriott and Crewkerne and seeking the replacement of the bench on the Crewkerne boundary which provided a convenient resting spot for those walking to and from Crewkerne.

A number of other actions are planned to further the aims of the Village Plan. If you are able to volunteer to help in any way in this activity please contact either Ann Lawrence or John Bowman, co-chairs of the Plan Group (contact details on back page).



Hinton St. George
'Flix in the Stix'
presents
'The Book Thief' (12A)

on **Saturday 13th September** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50 on the door. To reserve tickets please contact 01460 72906.

It is the late 1930's in a small German town. Liesl arrives at the home of her new foster parents (Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson). With encouragement she becomes an avid reader but when a young Jewish boy begs to hide in their cellar, everything changes. Outside the war rages on and the family must face new dangers, in order to survive.



MERRIOTT SHORT MAT BOWLERS

We've had a quiet summer with only a handful of matches, all of which have been very enjoyable and with mixed results. Some members played in the tournaments at Blackbrook and, in the Club 5s, were well pleased with their results as they came up against some stiff competition from both County and England players! To pull off a draw in one of the games was very satisfying.

The Club is keen to welcome new members and in particular to the Tuesday afternoon sessions - 1.45 – 5pm.

The game of short mat bowls is very similar to the one played outdoors on the green, but is played on a 45ft carpet in the Village Hall, using the same bowls

as for outdoors and therefore can be played all the year round (without waterproofs!) It has been said this form of bowls is only for the old folks but do not believe everything you hear! One only has to go to the Leisure Centre at Blackbrook and you will soon see a very different picture! In its way it is equally as skilled and competitive as the outdoor game.

At Merriott we have all abilities, so don't be shy; come along to watch us and hopefully join us. You are sure of a warm welcome, as well as a good cup of tea.

For more details contact Anne on 01460 73091.

Neospora abortion is now the most commonly diagnosed cause of abortion in cattle and is a serious concern for UK farmers. It can be caused by cattle ingesting the protozoan parasite **Neospora caninum** which may be carried by dogs and excreted in their faeces.

With your help, the risk of cattle becoming infected can be significantly reduced by ensuring that all your dog's faeces are picked up when walking in the countryside. A new leaflet entitled 'Enjoy the countryside responsibly with your dog' is available to view on the NFU website. To view or download the leaflet visit: www.nfuonline.com/back-british-farming/our-top-content/latest-you-your-dog-and-the-countryside/

Somerset Local Access Forum

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS

(1) APPLICATION 14/02863/out

APPLICANT: Mr & Mrs Stokes

PROPOSAL: The erection of 1 detached dwelling with associated garage.

LOCATION: Holcombe House, Beadon Lane, MERRIOTT

(2) APPLICATION 14/02819/FUL

APPLICANT Mr & Mrs Langdon

PROPOSAL: Demolish existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. LOCATION: Bow Cottage, 39 Boozer Pit. MERRIOTT

(3) APPLICATION 14/02945/FUL

APPLICANT Mr R Wicks PROPOSAL:

Demolition of existing commercial buildings and the erection of 1 dwelling house. LOCATION: Clapperhay, Church Street. MERRIOTT.

(4) APPLICATION 14/02454/FUL

APPLICANT Mr R Stenning PROPOSAL:

Alterations and conversion of former garage to residential. LOCATION: The Old Garage, Merriottsford, Merriott Road. MERRIOTT

(5) APPLICATION 14/03256/LBC

APPLICANT: Ms J Goodwill. PROPOSAL

The creation of a dormer window on rear elevation. LOCATION 38 Lower Street. MERRIOTT

(6) APPLICATION 14/03356/FUL APPLI-

CANT: Mr & Mrs M Steer PROPOSAL

Erection of single storey extension rear of dwelling house. LOCATION: 19 Manor Drive MERRIOTT.

(7) APPLICATION 14/03128/FUL

APPLICANT: Chelgate PROPOSAL:

Installation of a 10.80 MWp solar farm and associated infrastructure
LOCATION: Land OS 4734 Adjacent Lower Severalls Farm, Lower Severalls Road, Crewkerne.

DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

(8) Alterations and the erection of

extension to hay barn. LOCATION:

Flaxlands Boozer Pit GRANTED with conditions

(9) Alterations x2 to Zephyrine Cottage 37-39 Shiremoor Hill – GRANTED with conditions

(10) APPEAL Decision Merriott Social Club - Provision of disabled access and emergency egress. ALLOWED subject to conditions.

A FULL REPORT FOR July /August from County Councillor Mr C LeHardy will be on the notice board and website.

YOUR COMMUNITY PAVILION is completed and ready for Hire! Contact 01935 863420 or email

merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

MERRIOTT YOUTH FC AND MERRIOTT ROVERS FC will be starting play on Saturdays and Sundays from September.

EGWOOD – The Proposed Lease from Somerset County Council with the Parishes of Merriott, Hinton St George and Lopen has been inspected by a Solicitor. The Parish Chairmen will be meeting in September in order to agree and take forward the ownership, management and maintenance.

There has been interest shown **BUT** Vacancies still exist on the Parish Council. If you are interested, then attendance at a monthly meeting is encouraged prior to making an application to be a co-opted member. You need to be 18 years of age and a resident of Merriott with an interest in your community.

For details or information about the Parish Council or Hire of the Pavilion contact Clerk: Merriottclerk@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 01935 863420.

Next meetings: **4th August, 1st September, 6th October** - Merriott Tithe Barn, 7pm.



You are invited to help raise money for Macmillan on **Saturday 27th September**, St George's Hall, Hinton St George between 10.00 - 12.00.



Recipe for Happy Children (and grandparents/parents)

This may be too late for the summer holidays but any time you have young children to amuse indoors, playdough is always popular. It is expensive to buy so make your own! I have had this recipe for 30 years and it never fails - and the dough keeps in the fridge in a polythene bag for months.

- 1 cup self raising flour
- ½ cup salt (apart from keeping the dough soft, this stops anyone wanting to eat it!)
- 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon oil
- A few drops of food colouring if you like

Put all the ingredients in a largish saucepan on a medium heat and stir all the time until the mixture comes away from the sides of the pan. Remove from heat, cool and use.

Ann Lawrence



Martyn Porter

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THE VITAL ROLE OF BEES

BY SAM WYCHERLEY



Bees are perhaps best known for the production of honey – this is, after all, the principal reason why they are kept by beekeepers.

One could be forgiven for underestimating their importance based on this fact (honey is hardly a staple food). However, to do so would ignore the huge role bees have to play in pollinating crops in the UK. As the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) puts it, “one third of the food we eat would not be available without bees”. Seventy different UK crops are either dependent upon, or at least benefit from, pollination by bees. Economically, the BBKA estimates this free service contributes £200 million each year to the UK economy.

However, the vital role bees play in agriculture is being undermined by a rapid decline in bee populations over the past 50 years. The EU now would require 13 million more bee colonies to fully pollinate its crops, and the UK has the second highest bee deficit in the EU, after Moldova.

A large proportion of population decline is ultimately the result of contagious disease and mites. Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus and Nosema have both been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder, the phenomenon where worker bees disappear, killing off the colony. The mite Varroa Destructor is particularly effective at killing off bee colonies, carrying a host of viruses and easily spreading amongst neighbouring colonies.

Certain agricultural practices have also had a major impact. There is evidence to suggest some pesticides, including certain neonicotinoids recently banned by the EU, are detrimental to bee populations, poisoning the worker bees. Many farmers have turned to growing cereal crops, which cannot be fed upon by bees, resulting in an increased risk of malnutrition, while the growth of biofuels has placed extra demand on pollination services.

Feral bee populations are now facing extinction, an event that will severely damage agricultural regions such as South Somerset. Without more awareness of the problem and action by farmers and state alike, it seems likely that bees' decline will stay permanent.

NEWS FROM THE SWAN

Our first beer festival has been & gone. The whole event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who came and joined in the fun. We must start by thanking the following villagers for donating their time & effort to help ensure the day ran smoothly: Jim McNair OBE, Matt Bisgrove, Gary Satterly, Steve Thorner, James & Lou Darlington. We would also like to thank the Social Club for lending us extra seating.

The Day began with Gill Merrick's Jazz Band who set a fantastic atmosphere going with the early birds and the Indians and cowboys from Barrington. This was followed by The Nights Lions, a talented young local band who are definitely going places & we look forward to having them here in the village again. During this time the beer flowed, all twelve of them, and the food ran out 3 times!!!. The level cranked up a notch or two, by which time Chris Banderas closed the music with a 2 hour set that had the crowd up rocking & dancing.



Lastly we must thank all of you who supported the day and refused to give into the rain & drizzle which tried to dampen everybody's spirits, however the fortitude and resilience of the crowd far exceeded what the weather threw at them (Glastonbury eat your heart out).

This was our first effort at such a large event, so this was a big learning curve and we appreciate your patience.

We hope to be able to offer more of the same in the future with your support. As your village pub, we are always open to suggestions and we will continue to support the village the best we can.

Thanks again to you all for making it a great day.

John, Cathy & Jet

PS: Jet thanks Brett for the use of his coat.

Up Coming Events

Every Wednesday – Bingo 8pm start

Every Sunday – Quiz 9pm start

6th September - Steak Night £22 per pair with free bottle of wine. Book early to avoid disappointment

Keeping Safe on the Internet



Please find below details of a website that is safe and well-trusted when it comes to giving excellent advice on keeping safe on the internet and to reduce the risk of being a victim of cyber crime: www.getsafeonline.org

The three golden rules for us all to adopt to avoid becoming victims are:

- Choose, use and protect your passwords carefully.
- Ensure that your antivirus/antispysware software and firewall are always kept up-to-date and switched on.
- Be very careful about the amount and level of personal and financial information you reveal - and to whom.

Information provided by Avon & Somerset Police

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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