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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

AUGUST 2015

[www.merriottvillage.org.uk](http://www.merriottvillage.org.uk) [merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

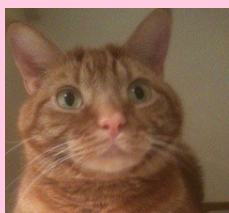
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Copy deadline for the  
September issue of  
the Merriott  
Messenger is 12th  
August.

Articles received after  
this date may not be  
included.

Please send us your  
artwork and/or  
photographs to  
[merriottmessenger@  
gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)



Have you seen  
Harley? See page 6

## MRS COGLAN LENDS A HAND!

Another Academic Year has just flown by and by the time you read this we will be well into the summer break.

The building of the new school hall started on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the arrival of the welfare huts, diggers, dumper truck and skip.

With the site protected with big fences the clearing of the site began on Friday.

Mrs Coghlan managed to persuade the digger driver to let her try her hand at the



digger controls when it was quiet on site. She really enjoyed the experience (see photo).

The Site Manager commented

on how accommodating the residents of Evergreen Path have been, especially those around the site entrance. Thank you all for your patience during the build. We look forward to showing you around when the Hall is complete.

We all wish Mrs Coghlan 'Good Luck' in her new job and hope she will be back in the Autumn Term to see how her hard work is benefitting Merriott First School.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Getting ready for the Summer holidays?

The Parish Council has recently had the much used and therefore worn Zip Wire platform renewed and the bench seat that circles the tree in the play area repaired. It's very rewarding to see the play area in use and families enjoying picnics and socialising.

Remember this will be the first summer that visitors to the recreation ground will have the use of public conveniences which can make for much longer and enjoyable visits. They are open every day until dusk.

**THANK YOU** for the positive response to the 'AD' in the Messenger for Artists to get creative on the stand in the recreation ground. Young enthusiast will be at work in August.

There is an invitation for a Tennis Course in September which the Parish Council is supporting and hopes will lead onto a regular booking arrangement.

Progress is slow on the Egwood Lease arrangement between the County Council and the three parishes of Hinton, Lopen and Merriott. It is hoped that it will be completed within this year!

The full Parish Council minutes, County Councillor reports, Community Pavilion information and Hire Form are all available via the Merriott Village website.

*Continued on page 4*

## MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

On **Saturday 8th August** the Merriott Gardening Club will be holding its Annual Flower & Produce Show at the Village Hall. Schedules are available from Osbornes, Merriott Pharmacy and the Chair Christine McLeod at 12 Higher Street, Merriott. You should return your completed Show Schedule to Osbornes or Christine McLeod (**not** the pharmacy please) by 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015. No late entries are allowed.

The Flower & Produce Show is open to amateur exhibitors only, living within the boundary of Merriott, members of Merriott Gardening Club and Merriott Allotment Association. All exhibitors to be bona-fide owners of all exhibits shown in their names.

*Continued on page 4*

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Village Café will be popping up again on **Friday 11th September**.

We will be extending the hours to 3.00pm to cover afternoon tea.

A reminder will go out in the September Messenger, but until then, for further updates join our Facebook group The Village Café Merriott.



## MERRIOTT SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB NEWS



*Merriott and Crewkerne players join together for a group photo*

Merriott Short Mat Bowlers have had a busy few months with friendly matches and Somerset inter-Club competitions as well as a Charity Competition at Compton Dundon. We have entered into all of these with enthusiasm and are pleased that our efforts are proving valuable to our members as we have won some very tight games recently. Members are realising how beneficial it is to play against other clubs, especially those from further afield in the county, all of whom are always willing to guide the smaller clubs and offer advice and encouragement.

As from this month County competitions will be taking place at Donyatt Indoor

Bowling Centre instead of at the Taunton Leisure Complex where for years we have enjoyed the excellent facilities on offer. At Donyatt we are assured of a warm welcome and look forward to competitions taking place there, as well as being much closer to home!

Why not follow our progress on our website: <https://merriottshortmatbowls.wordpress.com/> which is regularly updated.

In February the Club learned of the sudden death of one its members, Jackie Mitchell, who also played for Crewkerne SMBC. It was agreed between the two clubs that a shield in her memory should be initiated and played for annually. Last week, Merriott hosted the inaugural match with invited guests being Jackie's daughter, Wendy Mitchell and husband, as well Geoff Nixon who is the Vice Chairman of Somerset SMBA who helped set up Merriott Club in 1995 as well as Crewkerne in the early part of this century.

The match was played with great intent on both sides, but at the interval the hosts were seriously behind. However, in the second half everything came

together for Merriott and the home team were victorious by 51/41 including a hot shot. The trophy was presented to Match Captain, Robin de Winter, by Wendy who was delighted to be invited to watch the game her Mother had so enjoyed. A total of thirty people, players, non-players and guests enjoyed a light buffet supplied by members and friends. Everyone agreed the evening had been a huge tribute to a lady with an enormous love of life and Crewkerne warned Merriott to 'watch out' at the return match next year.



*Robin de Winter receiving the trophy on behalf of Merriott from Wendy Mitchell.*

### PLEASE NOTE:

The All Saints Church car park and access way will be closed from **Monday 3rd August to Monday 9th August** for repairs. During this time there will be no access at all to the car park and access way. Apologies for any inconvenience.

We have received this email from Adrian von Känel asking to be put in touch with the Griffiths family. We advised him we would mention it in this issue of the Merriott Messenger:

"In 1993 I lived as a student with family Ian, Iona and Gemma Griffiths in Bourne-mouth. Just at the end of my studies they moved to another place and unfortunately I had no possibility to keep in touch with them. Today, after all these years it seems that I have found them in your village - Merriott - and would really like to get in touch again".

*Adrian von Känel, Siebenmatten 77,  
5032 Aarau Rohr, Switzerland  
[a.vkaenel@bluewin.ch](mailto:a.vkaenel@bluewin.ch)*

Do let us know if you get in touch.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT PUPPY FOR YOU

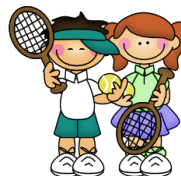
Are you thinking about getting a dog or puppy in the next few months?

Perhaps you're unsure about whether to go for a pedigree pup or a rescue dog? Or maybe you have no idea which of the hundreds of breeds and crossbreeds might be right for you! You may even already have your perfect breed in mind.

RDF Television is looking for people to film as they make this important decision, for an exciting new BBC2 science series.

They are looking for families, singles, couples, of all ages and from all over the country to take part. You'll have the opportunity to meet experts and get involved in some dog activities to help you make the right choice.

So if you're considering bringing a dog or puppy into your life in the near future, they would love to hear from you. Please email us at [Puppies@rdftelevision.com](mailto:Puppies@rdftelevision.com) for more info and an application form.



### CHILDREN'S TENNIS COACHING COURSE

A children's (up to the age of 13) six week, 1hr, tennis coaching course is starting on **Monday 7th September 2015** at 4.45pm, at the Merriott Tennis Courts. Price £3.50 per session. Bookings to be paid for in 3 week blocks, in advance. Please wear sports kit and bring a drink. All equipment is provided.

The courses are run by Emily Rossiter of Sporting World Sport Services Ltd, who has a Level 3 Development Coach Award from the Lawn Tennis Association. She is a member and ex-coach of the The Avenue Lawn Tennis Club in Burnham on Sea and competes in the Ladies Tennis League there. She has 10 years' experience working with all ages.

To book, please contact Sporting World on 01278 458136 or for further details Emma Larkins on 74228.



## NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Did you know that All Saints Church is open from about 9 / 9.30am to at least 4 / 4.30pm every day? We are hugely grateful to our very dedicated team of key holders who make this possible all year round. We continue to do this as a Church because we think that it is really important that the whole of our community has access to this special building. It belongs to you just as much as it belongs to those who come to services on a Sunday. So do please come and discover its peace and calm. It's a great place to retreat from the noise and 'busyness' of life, to say a silent prayer (if that is your thing) or to just 'be' you. We welcome anyone and there is a lovely children's area with toys and books to enjoy. Leave us a message in

the visitors' book if you like.

We pray too! If you would like us to pray for someone in our services, please leave us a note in church or contact us through the Benefice Office or Rectory.

Julia and I have also been wondering whether there might be people in Merriott who would like to come to Sunday services, or used to come, but struggle for lack of transport. We want to say please don't let that be a barrier! We can probably arrange a lift for you. Don't be proud or shy – please just ask! Equally, we are very happy to bring Communion to you at home, if you simply can't manage to get out and about. If this is you, or you know someone who we can help, please speak to

any member of the church, one of our Churchwardens (Robin Gilkes 75549 or Tom Jones 76186) or to Julia or myself.

### Church Services in August

<b>Sun 2nd</b>	8.30am Holy Communion
<b>Sun 9th</b>	9.30am Parish Communion
<b>Sun 16th</b>	10am Family Service
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	10am Sung Communion
<b>Sun 30th</b>	No service in Merriott <b>8.30am</b> Holy Communion, Hinton St George <b>11.30am</b> Deanery Songs of Praise Service and Picnic, Stocklinch Ottersey Church

*Rev Bob Hicks - 76406*

### IN AND AROUND MERRIOTT



#### Listed Building gets a facelift

It was lovely to see the thatcher at work on this cottage, one of Merriott's listed buildings in Higher Street. It is being restored and the smart new thatch enhances a historic corner of the village.



#### Rest a while on your walk to Crewkerne

'The Bench' has been installed, a joint project by Merriott Village Plan Implementation Group, Merriott Parish Council and Crewkerne Town Council, with help from our County Councillor.

You can stop to catch your breath and watch the cars slowing down to 30mph as they enter Crewkerne!!

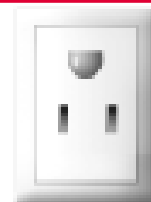


#### Historic Tail Mill steps into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The bats have been rehoused (!) and work has started to transform Tail Mill into a living building again. It is being converted to provide homes in this peaceful area of Merriott. In time the surrounding factory buildings will be converted too, giving this derelict site a new, useful purpose.



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## JAM TODAY BY JANET LAILEY



The white wave-crest of blossom,  
Fretted into spindrift by spring winds,  
Has subsided into summer green.  
Now, in July, submerged in leaves  
Hang dark succulent cherries,  
Satin skinned, soft, sour.

Today the tree gets its own back  
For all our meddling -  
Tweaking and tying in,  
Pruning, netting, picking.  
It's ticklish fruits squirt my clean shirt  
With indelible juice.

Thick purple puddle ooze, as toffee,  
Across the stove and clog the burners.  
A whole hot afternoon is taken up  
With washing jars and wiping sticky surfaces  
- Repeatedly!

The remnants of the crop  
Are gladly abandoned to the blackbirds  
In thanks for April songs  
And summer's bounty is safe,  
Stowed away for winter toast.

## MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The show is not just about fruit and veg. There are other sections for flowers, foliage and flower arrangements; a domestic section including jam, pickle, decorated cakes, a cake to a special recipe; an arts and crafts section covering greetings card, needlecraft, crochet, decorated hat, watercolour and a photography section covering a variety of subjects. In fact, something for everyone.

The hall opens at 9.00am and all exhibits must be in place by 11am when the hall will be cleared for judging. Entry payments should be given on the morning of the Show day only. Please do not leave any money beforehand.

Hall opens to the public from 2pm. Admission: Adults 50p and children free.

Cream teas, tea, coffee or soft drinks and a selection of home made scones and cakes will be available in the afternoon.

Prize giving and awards will be at 4pm, followed by an auction of produce from the Show and a raffle with lots of lovely prizes.

This is a very popular show, please come and support your village Gardening Club and have a wonderful afternoon out.



*Members of the Gardening Club take a break in the shade after a visit to Lytes Cary and the Plant Shop.*

## THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE IN SOUTH SOMERSET

A seminar was held recently by South Somerset Together to give information about the plans to 'streamline' some aspects of healthcare in our area, especially for people with complex and long term needs, who rely on many different agencies for their wellbeing. John Bowman and Ann Lawrence attended and have sent a report to the Parish Council.

There is a new project called 'Symphony' based at Yeovil Hospital, to which some people are referred and their care needs are co-ordinated by their team, to make best use of facilities and funding and improve care for vulnerable people.

Dr Balian of Crewkerne surgery is involved with this project and he also spoke about the future of community healthcare involving different professionals as there is such a shortage of GP's.

Other 'hubs' will be set up as the scheme develops, starting with South Petherton.

We also learnt about 'Healthwatch' and had presentations by the County Council Health Department and the Somerset Pharmacists' Organisation.

More information is available on the websites of:- South Somerset Together, Symphony, Healthwatch.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS CONTINUED

*Continued from front page:*

### PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS

Working Party members gave verbal information with regard to each application at the July meeting:

Somerset County Council – Application 15/02695/R3C INSTALLATION OF MODULAR UNIT TO HOUSE A SCHOOL SERVERY & DINING HALL. Location: Merriott First School. **Members recommend APPROVAL**

APPLICATION 15/01587/COU Change of use of public house to residential dwelling. KINGS HEAD HOTEL. Additional information has been received on study of other facilities within Merriott.

**Members acknowledge receipt. Inaccuracies exist within the new submission. Comments previously sent still stand. The District Councillor commented that he supports that it should remain as a commercial enterprise and will ask for it to go to Area West Committee.**

APPLICATION: 15/02625/LBC Proposal: RAISING OF EAVES TO EXISTING SINGLE STOREY REAR LEAN-TO. LOCATION: 38 Lower Street. Merriott. **Members recommend APPROVAL.**

### DETERMINATIONS:

10 Speke Close – Raise roof height to form first floor – Granted with conditions.

SSDC has no objection to the installation of modular unit to house school server and dining hall.

## MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP

The parish footpaths are in reasonable shape following the first of two scheduled cutbacks by SCC RoW contractors. We are aware that there are some sections, not on the SCC schedule, that need attention and we are taking measures to address this. Naturally at this time of year the vegetation along the paths grows rapidly and the parish footpath group is out and about cutting back where we can. We have opened up some sections which had become completely overgrown and minor repairs have been carried out on some stiles and steps etc. More serious problems are being reported to the RoW area warden.

Liaison with the area warden and the parish council has resulted in three paths, which were badly in need of attention, being repaired with new stream banking on one and the levelling of uneven surfaces on two more. The absence of way marking and signposting on some paths is being addressed.

The walk on the 22nd July was the first of a series of walks as we plan to cover all the parish footpaths over the course of a year. Look out for details of future walks in the Messenger.

In my role as Parish Path Liaison Officer I am required by Somerset County Council to produce an annual survey of the condition of the footpaths. This has to be submitted at the end of the year, so from September onwards the footpath group will be busy surveying as many paths as possible in order to submit the necessary information.

Recently my wife and I were out on the paths looking up to cut back brambles when I stepped in a pile of dog mess left in the middle of the path by an irresponsible dog walker. Needless to say it was extremely unpleasant. I know most dog walkers are responsible and bag up the mess and bin it, but someone obviously is not so careful. Please be mindful of other users of the footpaths.

Thank you to all of you who carry your secateurs with you when you are out and about. Snipping off brambles when they appear really does make a difference. Don't forget, you can contact me on 73158 or by email at merriott.fg@gmail.com

John Goldie  
PPLO

## Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday  
10am - 11.30am

Toys, crafts, fun  
& refreshments for  
carers and  
toddlers.  
Free of charge



For children aged 8+  
7.00pm-8.30pm  
1st/3rd Fri each month  
During term-time.

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



Broadway, Merriott  
[www.merriottgospelhall.org](http://www.merriottgospelhall.org)

### THE SEAVINGTONS' CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday 1 August - "Have a Field Day"**  
on The Seavington Playing Field @ 2pm.  
Whacky sports, dog agility display (bring your own dog to "have a go"), lots of stalls and sideshows for young and old, classic cars, cream teas and lots more ... roast pork baps and licensed bar from 5.30-6.30pm. Proms in the (car) Park at 7pm performed by The Caravan Club of Great Britain Concert Band.

**Sunday 2 August - at 11.30am** Songs of Praise followed by Opening of the Seavington "Access for All" footpath and Bring Your Own Picnic. Please bring your own picnic chairs, table, woolly blanket, umbrella!!!

*The Millennium Hall, Playing Field and Store,  
Water Street, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH  
Contact: Marion 01460 249522 for more details.*

"Last ever visit of Vulcan to Yeovilton Air Day".  
Photo taken by Mo Frampton.



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## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Merriott Frogling" taken by Sesha Nicholson-Lailey

### DINNINGTON RIDE

On **Sunday 30th of August** Crewkerne Rotary Club will be organising the 35th Dinnington Ride, a horse riding event held every year. Initially founded to raise money for Dinnington Church, the ride is now supporting the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, a charity reliant on donations from events like this in order to keep operating its vital service and also to the upkeep of the local churches.

The route is 12 miles through the picturesque countryside around Seavington, Chillington, Kingston and Hinton St George. There is an optional shorter course available of 5 miles. 150 riders ordinarily take part and everyone who participates thoroughly enjoys the very well organised event. It would not take place without the willing help from the farmers whose land it goes across and the many volunteers from the local area who act as stewards.

So do come along (with your horse). Starts 9.30am – 11.30am (latest), £14.00 entry fee. Light refreshments. Rosettes for everyone. For further information email Nick Bacon: n.bacon@honeydown.co.uk or telephone 01460 72665.

### MOBILE LIBRARY - AUGUST VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School

9.30am - 10am

25th August

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

## NEWS FROM MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

July's Monthly Market raised money for Merriott Majorettes and we are welcoming Merriott Ladies football team on the **1<sup>st</sup> August**. All are welcome, so please pop down to support us in our efforts by having a browse, buying some raffle tickets or enjoying a bacon butty!

Did you know that on Tuesday nights the Pool table is free, yes free.... No need to put your 50p in and we are open from 7pm till 11.30pm for members and non members.

The Social Club is booking up fast for children's parties and private functions, but if you would like to hold an event here then pop in for a chat, email us or give us a

call on 01460 74376.

Don't forget Table Tennis on Sunday evenings in the function room. Just turn up from 7pm for juniors and 8pm for seniors small charge payable on the evening. All abilities welcome.

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. Thanks once again to all members and non-members who have continued to support us – you are highly appreciated!

### Date for your diary:

**22<sup>nd</sup> August** will see local group Mercy performing in the function room from 9pm.

### HAVE YOU SEEN HARLEY?

Harley is a 7 year old pure ginger tabby tomcat who is neutered and microchipped. He doesn't usually venture far from home (Grey's Road) but went out at around 9.15pm on Friday 26th June and hasn't been seen since. Could he be shut in your shed or garage? Perhaps you thought he was a stray and are feeding him?

If you have any information please contact Isabel Marks, tel: 07732 766881.

Thank you.



## VISIT TO EXETER CATHEDRAL

Following last year's successful visit to Wells, All Saints Church is planning a coach trip to visit Exeter Cathedral on **Thursday 17th September**.

The plan is to leave Merriott about 11.00 am and leave Exeter after choral evensong at about 6.30 pm.

The cost, if both a floor tour and a tower tour at the Cathedral are taken, will be £20 including the coach. (This cost will increase if we are unable to fill the coach.) If, however, you do NOT wish to do either or both of the tours the cost will be adjusted accordingly.

Please contact Jean or Dave Crisp on 01460 279654 if you wish to take advantage of this trip indicating your preferences as shown below:

Coach plus floor tour only £15. Coach plus tower tour only £15. Coach plus both tours £20.



## DID YOU KNOW?



Goats, which are closely related to sheep, were domesticated about 10,000 years ago from the wild Bezoar ibex. The earliest remains have been found in Iran and other parts of the Middle East and Turkey. There are now over 300 breeds of goats and close to one billion goats worldwide.

Goats have been used for their meat and milk, (for drinking and cheese production) as well as their dung for fuel and their bones, hair, skins and sinews for clothing, tools and building materials. Goat hide has been used to make water and wine bottles as well as for parchment.

Goats have a reputation for eating anything and will survive in very arid conditions where no other

large animals survive. They are browsers, not grazers, and will chew on many objects out of curiosity. However they prefer new shoots on trees and shrubs and other plant material, some of which may be toxic to other animals.

The rarest and oldest registered breed of goat in

the UK is the Bagot, which numbers under 300 head. The animals probably originated in the Rhone Valley and were brought back to this country by the Crusaders. They are said to have been given to John Bagot (later Sir John) of Blithfield Hall in Staffordshire by King Richard II in the 1380's. and have retained the Hall owners name. The breed has been resident in a semi-wild state in the Hall Park almost continually ever since. Bagot goats have been sold off to other owners but numbers are still relatively small.

Bagot goats have been incorporated into the Bagot family crest and appeared on a British postage stamp in 2005.

*John Bowman*

## AN AFTERNOON OF CLASSICS WITH THE VALIDO STRING QUARTET

For the third successive year the Valido String Quartet are to perform at All Saints Church Merriott on Sunday afternoon of **23<sup>rd</sup> August**.

Another exciting programme including Mozart – String Quartet No.19 “Dissonance”, Piazzolla – Four for Tango and Beethoven String Quartet Op. 59 “Rasumovsky”. The Valido String Quartet, formerly from The Southbank Sinfonia, will be performing fresh from a concert tour with the Young Virtuosi Festival in Southern France. As individuals they have been performing with major orchestras throughout the UK, including the Halle, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, RPO, The Philharmonia and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

The afternoon will start with summer refreshments at 2:30pm in the grounds of the 15C church prior to the concert at 3:00pm, tickets are £7 with under 18's free. Profits from the concert will be for the Church Fabric Repair fund. Tickets can be reserved via contacting 01460 76360 or purchased from Osborne Store of Merriott or Crewkerne Tourist Centre.



**SOMERSET CHOICES** is a new website that aims to help people help themselves stay independent, healthy and well. It will put people in control of their care and wellbeing and give them more choice when it comes to who provides their care and support.

The new website guides people through self-help forms, provides easy access to information and a directory of local services, products, groups and events in their local area i.e., care homes, help at home, mobility equipment, personal assistants, lunch clubs, exercise groups and breaks for carers.

[www.somersetchoices.org.uk](http://www.somersetchoices.org.uk)

### LOST AND FOUND:

“I lost my car keys on Moorland Rd last month when a kind hearted person found them and returned them to my car for which I am very grateful. Many, many thanks to you”.

*Ruth*

### WHAT'S ON AT THE SWAN

**Saturday evening August 1st**

- Simon Rees

**Haircut Tuesday - August 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Bingo every Wednesday**

**Quiz night every Sunday**

**Music Saturday - August 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Knights Lions (Garden)

- Paul Smith (Garden)

- Tom Toomey (Pub)

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