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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

www.merriottvillage.org.uk



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The editorial team welcomes Marion Biggs to the Merriott Messenger team.

Gardening Club Quote of the Month

"He who plants a garden, plants happiness"

Old Chinese Proverb

AWARD WINNING LOCAL HONEY

The annual Somerton Bee Show was held on the 19th September and for the 2nd year running, local bee-keepers Ray Pattimore and Clive Ballfor won 3 Firsts and 2 Seconds securing the Challenge Cup, The Alan Bromley Award, The Bill Harris Cup and The Blue Ribbon for Best Exhibit in the whole show.

Ray visited the Bath & West Show 3 years ago and visited the bee exhibit which he found very interesting. He was offered the opportunity of attending a

Taster Day following which he signed up for a 6 week winter course and went on to do a week practical course. With great enthusiasm he invested in bee hives and acquired his first bees. Clive Ball, a work colleague at the time who is now retired, also showed an interest in Bee Keeping but unable to keep bees at his own

home, he joined Ray. The first year gave them their success in the novice class.

Ray told us: "In winter 2014, we lost 3 hives of bees to bad weather and starvation, with only one surviving. We collected various swarms from different locations at the beginning of

2015 and produced a good selection of honey which we entered into this year's Somerton Bee Show, giving us another successful year especially Blue Ribbon for best exhibit in show".

They are hoping

that they do not lose as many bees this winter and continue to make award winning honey.

Jars of their delicious honey can be bought from the bottom of the drive, where the dahlias and runner beans are sold.



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS - NOVEMBER

Planning: Mr A Osborne, Shiremoor Hill - Council has requested an extension in order to obtain further information about the application. There were no other applications.

Recreation field and carpark: A small group of councillors have undertaken to look over some quotes that were previously obtained for

removing the shed (located in car park) and resurfacing the car park. This matter will be raised in December's meeting to be discussed alongside budget.

Please note

Planning applications can be viewed on South Somerset District Council website.

Full minutes of Parish Council meetings are available

from: www.merriottvillage.btck.co.uk/ParishCouncil/LatestMinutes

INTRODUCING THE NEW CLERK TO MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Katharine Sheehan has just been appointed as the Clerk to the Parish Council. She grew up in Merriott and attended the village school, returning to the area in 2014 having worked for a Member of Parliament. She will be studying for her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) qualification next year and is looking forward to working with the Council. She can be contacted via email: merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 07841 116986

The editorial team would like to wish all its readers and sponsors a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Merriott Messenger each month. Without you we would not exist!

There is no issue of the Merriott Messenger in January and the next edition will be February, for which the copy date is 12th January.

Articles received after this date may not be included.

Please send us your articles, artwork and/or photographs to merriottmessenger@gmail.com

SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB NEWS

Saturday 24th October saw Merriott hold its annual Club Championship which proved to be very exciting and rewarding. Many games were extremely close and the day was made all the more interesting by having all members taking part. The Club meets on a Tuesday afternoon and also on a Wednesday evening, but it is rare for all players to get together owing to work commitments. It has, however, over the years, been the aim of the Club to get everyone together on Championship

Day. The order of play was decided by names being drawn randomly and therefore, in some instances, a less experienced player was drawn to play with a more experienced player in the pairs competition, or against one in the singles. A buffet lunch was provided from funds raised throughout the year from regular small raffles.

The Singles Competition was won by Margaret Rowswell who has been a stalwart of the Club since its formation in 1995. She won through to play a final against Club Chairman, Frank Smith. The Pairs Competition was also very exciting



Caption for photo: left to right: Derek Virgin, Lacon Noad, Frank Smith, Margaret Rowswell, Anne Weeks and Bill Elston

with the Champions being Anne Weeks and Bill Elston who played against Lacon Noad and Derek Virgin.

This has been an eventful year, especially for our new Chairman, Frank Smith, who has recently qualified as an umpire and is being kept busy with matches elsewhere in the county, especially at Donyatt where the Somerset Short Mat Bowls Association holds various competitions. He has also achieved his DBS for the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults, as well as basic first aid and also bowls coaching. To this end his input especially for Tuesday afternoons has

proved very successful and the standard of play increased considerably, as was evident on Championship day.

The Club's youngest member, Jack Bradley, has also been selected to play in the Somerset Youth Team and is acquitting himself very well. Teams are also participating in the Milford & Dormer League in Chard every Thursday afternoon throughout the winter as well as others taking part in the Givle League at East Coker once a month, all with improving

results. An interesting programme of friendly matches is being compiled by Match Captain, Bill Elston, against many other local clubs. This is an excellent experience for all members to participate in and is hugely encouraged by the Club, not only as a sport, but also as a social occasion.

The Club is always pleased to see new members, so for anyone wanting more information please make contact: 01460 73091 or visit our website: <https://merriottshortmatbowls.wordpress.com> You will be most welcome.

Anne Weeks

POPPY APPEAL 2015

We are very pleased to report that our area (Merriott, Hinton St George, Lopen and Dinnington) raised £2439.15. A big thank you to all those who helped to achieve this very worthwhile sum.



MOBILE LIBRARY
DECEMBER / JANUARY VISIT:
Tuesday @ Merriott School
9.30am - 10am
15th Dec and 12th Jan

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MINNOWS MUMS ON THE MARCH

Merriott Minnows Toddler Group mums and friends successfully completed a 10+ mile sponsored walk from Lyme Regis to West Bay via the coastal path. It was a beautiful summers day with breath-taking views of the coast and inland. There were some challenging hills but with a bit of team spirit we made it to the end!

A huge THANK YOU to all those who took part and those who sponsored us. I am pleased to announce we raised £360! Half of this will be used to replace old toys in the toddler group (we have already bought a small bouncy castle), the other half of the raised money will be donated to the Tithe Barn which is



where the toddler group is held on a Thursday morning.

Merriott Minnows has been running for 12 years and is a voluntary group run by

mums. The group is for mums, dads, grandparents and other carers to bring children aged between 0 - 4yrs to play and socialise with others. It's a time for adults to take a break from the routine of the day, have a chat, a cuppa and a cake while in a safe, happy environment for the children to play in. There is a small fee of £1.50 per adult to cover refreshments and up-keep. Our opening times are 10.30am - 12pm on Thursdays TERM TIME ONLY.

If you are interested in coming along just turn up or call either Amanda Raybould on 01460 78108 or Natalie Stahl on 07834 456 376. It will be great to see you!
Merriott Minnows



SUCCESS FOR MERRIOTT BOWLERS

Merriott Bowls Club is the winner of the Wessex Friendly Mixed 4's League for the 2015 season. They won 17 of the 22 league games and finished 36 points ahead of their nearest rival.

The club president, Joyce Ashby, received the award at the recent Wessex League presentation dinner held at Castle Cary. Club members are now looking forward to their annual tour of the Algarve in the spring, as a warm-up to their defence of the league title.

Ian Kendall - Club Secretary



STRANGER ON THE PREMISES? MAYBE IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME!

This scheme has been running successfully in some parts of the village for years and if you are interested in setting it up in your road, please contact us.

Recently there have been some incidents of theft and farm damage in Merriott. Neighbourhood Watch works to ensure **extra security in our homes, gardens, farms** and other premises. Local alerts come to the co-ordinator from the police so we can tell people, by phone or email, to be vigilant. Any concerns reported to the co-ordinator are passed on to the central organisation. On a daily basis it provides a way of watching out for neighbours and their homes. **A sign is displayed in each house and in the street** to show that the scheme covers your area. Being a member costs nothing and also **reduces your home insurance premium!** For more information please email the Messenger or phone 01460 78461 (Boozer Pit area co-ordinator).

For more information, visit:

www.avonandsomersetpolice.co.uk



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CAROLS AND CLASSICS BY CANDLELIGHT - SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER



A hidden gem performed annually at the All Saints Church Merriott provides an evening of Classical and Festive arrangements for Strings, Piano and Organ in the setting of our 15th century candlelit church.

This will be the 7th Carols and Classics concert performed by the Fisher Sinfonia consisting of young, professional and extremely talented, classical musicians who regularly perform with major orchestras across the UK and abroad. The concert will be the 14th organised by violist, Joseph

Fisher, formerly from Merriott, who has amassed a significant following of appreciative Classical music lovers to his concerts, raising funds for church and community related projects. The Carols & Classics concert takes place on **Saturday 19th December**, with mince pies and refreshments before the concert . 7:00pm refreshments for a 7:30pm concert start . Tickets are £8 available from Osbornes Store, Broadway, Merriott; or contact 07870 404631 / 01460 76360, please book early to avoid disappointment.

All Saints Church, Merriott

New to You Sale

Saturday 30th January 

10am to 11.30am

In the Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott

Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac and other stalls

Tea and coffee will be available

In aid of Church funds



WINTER MOONRISE

BY JANET LAILEY

The looming orange moon
Is leaning cheek-down on the horizon
Artist's beret over one ear,
Squinting through black twigs
At the landscape he is creating.
He lays a silver wash on the fields,
Adds a gleam to standing water,
Defines dark hedges with a darker line.

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

NEW SPONSOR

MESSAGE CAN BENEFIT EVERYONE

People often think of massage as a nice relaxing treatment. However, massage can offer a lot more than this. Deeper massage, often referred to as Sports or Remedial massage can help with the repair of muscle injuries and muscle strain. This type of massage can also help relieve the associated muscle pain caused by arthritic joints. There is specialist pregnancy massage that can help ease the discomfort of a changing body shape.

It doesn't just have to be body massage, facial lymphatic drainage can help relieve the pressure of sinus pain and discomfort and Indian Head massage can ease tired eyes and facial tension from staring at a computer screen.

A massage can also help lift your mood from the Winter Blues.

My therapy room is in Merriott with daytime and evening appointments available. Phone or text Victoria on 07801 03 15 32. physiopod.co.uk/victoria-waight

MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL SUPPORTING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



In the week leading up to Armistice Day, Merriott First School, led by Year 4 children, supported the Royal British Legion.

Each day two children from Codlin Class took an official British Legion collecting tin and a goody box around the classrooms selling various bracelets, reflectors, pencils (all with a poppy theme) and traditional

poppies. The bracelets proved very popular!

The Reverend Bob Hicks took a whole school assembly and explained how the poppy wreath and cross he had brought in had played their part in Sunday's Remembrance Day Service. The children listened to a recording of the Last Post.

On Wed 11th November Mrs Copping took a small group of Year 4 children across the to the war memorial in the churchyard to observe the 2 minute silence. The rest of the school paid their respects in their classrooms.

Our Reception and Year 1 children also went on a 'Poppy learning walk' and learned more about Remembrance Day.

WHAT'S ON AT THE SWAN

The Rugby World Cup has finished and we would like to thank all those who came and enjoyed the great atmosphere. We have now returned to full operation again after Cathy's illness and are ready for the Christmas & New Year period. Watch out for notices of food theme nights after the success of our Curry Night. Don't forget our great value Christmas offerings & Sunday Lunches.

DIARY FOR THE SWAN

Saturday Nov 28th - Chris Banderas live

Rock Guitarist
Tuesday Dec 1st Haircut night
 Wednesday Cash Bingo Nights - **2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th**
Friday Dec 18th - Simon Reese Live Party Night
Christmas Day - Open for drinks 12.00-14.15
Christmas Day Lunch 15.00-19.00 (bookings only)
New Years Eve 18.00-03.00 Party 22.00-02.00 (free buffet)
New Years Day 15.00-01.00

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER NOTICES OF EVENTS.

Opening hours

24th 13.00-01.00	30th 18.00-23.00
25th as above	31st 18.00-03.00
26th 12.00-01.00	1st 15.00-24.00
27th 12.00-24.00	2nd 12.00-01.00
28th 12.00-23.00	3rd 12.00-23.00
29th 18.00-22.00	

Happy Christmas & Happy New Year.

John, Cathy & Jet

CHURCH LINK MAGAZINE CO-ORDINATOR

Would you like to be the co-ordinator for the distribution of our monthly Church Link Magazine? We are looking for a volunteer who would oversee and distribute the magazine every month to our band of helpers. In addition he/she would be responsible for collecting the annual subscription. In the meantime, we are looking for a helper to distribute the Link magazine to parts of Hitchen. If you would like to help, please contact Issy Welsh, Benefice Administrator on 73226 or Barbara Byford, on 72298.

REMINDER

Merriott Drivers

Will all users of the Volunteer Drivers Scheme please note that Marion and Tom Jones have moved from Merriott and their telephone number is no longer available and should be deleted from the list of drivers. If you would like an up-to-date list or can spare some time to be a driver please contact David Collins on 01460 279623. *David Collins*

Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



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



MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET
First Saturday of the month
10am - 1pm

Merriott Social Club, 71 Lower St
 An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams and pickles, quiches and pies, fruit & 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](#)



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

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

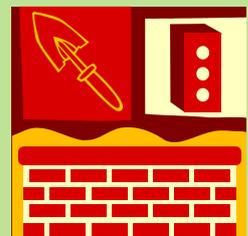


Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE AND COLOUR ME IN



A mischievous elf wants one of Santa's cookies. There are 7 differences between these 2 pictures - can you spot them?
Answer on page 11 (no peeping!)

WORD SEARCH Can you find these words which can be in any direction and backwards.

- Angels
- Baby
- Bethlehem
- Herod
- Jesus
- Joseph
- Manger
- Mary
- Shepherds
- Star
- Wisemen

S	F	O	H	E	P	S	T	A	R
B	A	B	Y	X	U	D	P	F	E
L	E	V	T	S	A	R	I	T	G
O	C	T	E	Y	I	E	W	P	N
S	U	J	H	E	D	H	I	K	A
L	I	O	E	L	B	P	S	U	M
E	X	S	R	M	E	E	E	Y	V
G	H	E	O	K	W	H	M	R	E
N	A	P	D	W	E	S	E	A	I
A	W	H	M	E	O	A	N	M	J

CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS
(all are Christmas related - answers on page 11)

1. congress liar (5, 7)
2. can assault (5, 5)
3. refreshed erudite londoner (6,3,4,8)
4. drastic charms (9,4)
5. in the glints (6,5)
6. enjoy mad sharp (4,3,6)
7. unready cabs (6,5)
8. gap pawn ripper (8,5)
9. I'm a poet madmen (9,4)
10. smart heretics (9,4)
11. off the sane Pest (5,2,7)
12. in action slash (5, 8)
13. Vicars Themes (9,3)
14. honesty warms font (6,3,7)
15. tiny pay vital (8,4)
16. robust spurless (7,7)
17. streaky rout (5,6)
18. muddling pup (4,7)
19. with ft length (7,5)
20. be the helm (9)

Dogs dressed up for Christmas (found on the internet - we couldn't resist sharing them with you!)



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD



In **Russia and Ukraine** Christmas is celebrated on the 7th January and not 25th December. This unusual date is because the Orthodox Church uses the old 'Julian' calendar for religious celebrations. In the traditional Russian Christmas, special prayers are said and people fast, sometimes for 39 days, until January 6th (Christmas Eve) when the first evening star appears in the sky.

In the **Czech Republic**, single women perform a very unusual ritual on Christmas Eve to find out if they will marry in

the following year. With their backs to the house door, they throw one of their shoes over their shoulder. If the shoe lands with the heel towards the door, she will definitely stay single for another year, while if the front of the shoe points towards the door, it means she will move out of her parents' house and should start making wedding preparations.

In **Sweden**, the Christmas festivities begin on December 13 with St. Lucia's Day, which celebrates the patron saint of light. The eldest daughter gets up before dawn and dresses as the "Queen of Light" in a long white dress and wears a crown of leaves. Singing "Santa Lucia," the Lucia Queen goes to every bedroom

to serve coffee and treats to each member of the family. The younger children in the family help, too. The whole family helps to select the Christmas tree just a day or two before Christmas.

In **Slovakia**, at the beginning of Christmas Eve dinner, the head of the family takes a spoon of Loksa (a traditional Christmas dish made out of bread, poppy seed filling and water) and throws it up at the ceiling. The more mixture that remains glued on the ceiling, the richer his crops will be the following year.

Taken from www.howstuffworks.com and www.todayifoundout.com



CHRISTMAS CRACKER QUIZ BY PETER BYANS

Soon it will be that time of year when Christmas Dinner is served and Crackers are pulled. Inside those crackers are some of the worst jokes ever and our quiz this year asks 25 of those Christmas cracking questions. So that you won't be kept in suspense the answers are included with the questions. This way you can groan now, get it over with and then on Christmas Day just throw away the jokes or spoil the fun by knowing the answer! So a merry Christmas to everyone and may all your troubles be as short-lived as your New Year resolutions.

- 1. What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in the chimney?**
Claustrophobia.
- 2. Why does Santa have 3 gardens?**
So he can Hoe, Hoe, Hoe.
- 3. What happened to the man who stole an advent calendar?**
He got 25 days.
- 4. Where does Santa get his little helpers from?**
The National ELF service.
- 5. What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?**
A Christmas Quacker.
- 6. What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?**
A Holly Davidson.
- 7. What is the best Christmas present in the world?**
A broken drum you just can't play it!
- 8. Who delivers presents to baby sharks?**
Santa JAWS.
- 9. Who is Santa's favourite singer?**
ELFis Presley.
- 10. What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?**
The ELFabet.
- 11. Why are Christmas trees so bad at knitting?**
Because they keep dropping their needles.
- 12. What did Santa say to the smoker?**
Please don't smoke its bad for my ELF.
- 13. What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?**
HORN-aments.
- 14. Why did the turkey join the band at Christmas?**
Because he had the drumsticks.
- 15. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?**
Frost Bite.
- 16. What do snowmen wear on their heads?**
Ice Caps.
- 17. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?**
One that's deep pan, crisp and even.
- 18. How do snowmen get around?**
They ride along on their Icicles.
- 19. Who Stole the secret recipe from the Xmas bakery?**
A mince spy.
- 20. What song do you sing at a snowman's Christmas party?**
Freeze a jolly good fellow.
- 21. What does Santa do with his helpers if they eat too much and get fat?**
He sends them to an ELF farm.
- 22. How many letters are there in the Christmas Alphabet?**
Only 25 because there's No EL!
- 23. What did Adam say to his wife on the day before Christmas?**
It's Christmas Eve.
- 24. Knock, knock, Who's there?**
Arthur.
Arthur Who?
Arthur any more Mince pies?
- 25. What does the Queen call her Christmas broadcast?**
The One Show.

DID YOU KNOW



There are two wild species of living turkey which evolved in the New World about 11 million years ago. One, commonly known as the wild or domestic turkey, is native to the forests of Mexico and the United States. The other, the ocellated turkey, is found in the forests of the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Males of both species have a large fleshy wattle (called the snood) that hangs from the top of the beak.

The turkey was probably domesticated by the Aztecs about 2,800 years ago in what is now Mexico. However, remains of domesticated turkeys have also been found further north in Guatemala associated with early Mayan cities and with North American tribes in the modern United States. For all these peoples, the turkey seems to have had powerful spiritual significance as the



guide that ushered the dead into the next world. The bird was also used for meat and eggs, as a main source of protein, and the feathers for decorative purposes.

The turkey was brought to Spain by the Spanish (either Hernado Cortes or Christopher Columbus) in the early 1500s. Similarly the bird was introduced to England by the 16th century English navigator, William Strickland, who incorporated the turkey cock into his family crest. Later in the century the turkey was common Christmas food for the wealthy, but it was not until recent times that it became widely affordable. The turkey has been bred extensively in the UK and there are now about a dozen breeds with such fancy names as Bourbon Red (*shown in the picture*), Crimson Dawn, Norfolk Black, Bronze and British White. The last two breeds provide the majority of strains used for commercial production today.

John Bowman

SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2015



A huge thank you to everyone that supported this year's Appeal. We have completed 154 quality boxes, thanks to your kindness and generosity. There will be many deprived children in Eastern Europe who will receive them with great joy and appreciation!

The Shoe-Box Team

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The fire alarm, hearing loop and PA system and the new car park lights have been installed. More improvements will follow in 2016 if we continue to be successful with our bids for charitable foundation funding.

Although the hall is busy with our regular users, especially in the evenings, **it is available for hire on Monday afternoon, Wednesday and Thursday morning and at the weekends.**

As well as being popular for group

activities, the hall is an excellent venue for parties and receptions. **For more information please call Emily Hilton Email: emilyhilton5@gmail.com or tel: 078011 63937**

Can you spare a little time to become a Trustee of the Village Hall Charity? The Trustees are responsible for providing a recreational and leisure venue for the benefit of all the residents of Merriott. For more information, please call the Chairman tel: 01460 78461.

Andy Lawrence

COATS FOR REFUGEES APPEAL - we're collecting coats, anoraks, waterproofs, padded gilets for countrycoats2syria.org.uk - please bring whatever you can spare to Pitt Farmhouse, 41 Boozer Pit, Merriott **by 5th December**. THANK YOU.

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Call your friendly local team on 01460 353184
or e-mail SouthSomerset@BluebirdCare.co.uk

SEASONAL REFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 21 December to Thursday 24 December	No change
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Monday 4 January	Tuesday 5 January

No change to subsequent dates, all collections resume on usual days.

There is no garden waste collection service for a two week period from Monday 28 December 2015, recommencing on Monday 11 January 2016.

Decoration-free natural Christmas trees under 6ft can be recycled. If you pay for garden waste collections, put out your tree next to your bin or sack on your usual garden waste collection day for composting. Or take decoration-free natural trees to any recycling site for composting.

For landfill disposal, put out your tree next to your refuse on your usual collections day between **4-15 January 2016**.

Recycling Centres are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Open all other days on their usual schedule. In severe weather, please check their website: www.somersetwaste.gov.uk or local radio for information.



During September and October, children's tennis coaching sessions were held by Sporting World at the tennis courts in the village. Each week was well attended by children aged 5 to 12. Emily the coach taught them a range of skills, which were then tested by various games and by a match at the end of the session. The children really seemed to enjoy themselves! Amazingly we only had to cancel once due to the weather! Feedback has been good from children and parents alike, so the intention is to run the course again after Easter in 2016, when the light nights return. Watch this space for more details!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for supporting us in getting this new venture up and running.

Emma Larkins



Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents *Amélie* (15) as part of the British Film Institute 'Love Season' of films

on **Saturday 12th December** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in **advance ONLY** for this special evening from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB



Our Christmas Lunch will be held on **8th December** at the Crown & Victoria, Tintinhull. For late bookings, before 4th December please, contact me on the number below to discuss - there is an answer-phone for messages. You will need to select your menu and pay on or before the 4th December please to confirm your booking. The previous two Christmas Lunches at the Crown & Victoria have been very successful - we have

exclusive use of the large conservatory, the food is excellent and the staff very attentive.

No other meeting in December.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who supported us so well during 2015. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Mo Frampton
07967 028277

NEW SPONSOR

My name is Sally-Marie Shearing, both my husband and I have strong connections to the village, my grandparents cycled to Merriott from Liverpool during the 1930s depression. My Grandfather was a builder and my grandmother was the local district nurse and midwife and delivered many babies in Merriott and the surrounding villages. My family and I have lived in the village for 24 years.

I studied Beauty Therapy for 2 years at college in Taunton, qualifying in 1996 and started my own business soon after, working in the salon above Marias, the former hairdressers in Lower Street and also from my home.

In 2004 as a family we had the opportunity to live and work in New Zealand. Initially we intended to stay for 3 years, but our adventure lasted for just over 7, during which time I opened my own salon on the High Street in NZ. We returned to the UK in 2011 to be close to family and friends once again.

I decided to renew my beauty business from home 2 years ago. I offer professional, affordable beauty treatments in a relaxing, peaceful environment. Treatments include, pampering manicures and pedicures, hard wearing, high shine gel manicures, relaxing facials, waxing (using hot wax which is gentler to the skin) eye lash and brow tinting and eyebrow shaping. For a full range of treatments on offer, or chat about your beauty requirements, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The salon is open during the day and I'm also able to offer evening appointments. There is plenty of off road parking. I look forward to welcoming both old and new clients alike. You can contact me on 01460 73957.

STRANGE FUNGUS

Chriselda McPherson has sent in this photo of an extraordinary looking fungus she discovered in Merriott the other day. Does anyone have any ideas as to its identity? Do let us know: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Advent is the quieter more reflective season which precedes Christmas, and it may be a time which you wish to recognise and make the most of this year. All Saints Church will be open for an **Advent Quiet Morning on Saturday 2nd December**, 10am to 1pm. This is for everyone who would like to come for some peace and quiet, to listen to some music, to pray or light a candle. Feel free to come for 5 minutes or as long as you like. We will say some brief prayers on each hour.

Shortly afterwards, the varied assortment of Christmas services get started with the Christingle. We hope you will feel welcome to come and celebrate Christmas with us this year.

More details of the services are given in box below and on posters throughout the village.

Have a happy and peaceful Advent and Christmas.

Revd Julia Hicks

December Services and Events

SUNDAY 29th November - Advent Sunday

10am Benefice Communion for Advent (in Merriott)

Saturday 5th December

10am to 1pm Advent Quiet Morning

SUNDAY 6th

8.30am Holy Communion

Monday 7th

7.00pm Christingle Service (Christingle making from 6.30pm)

Tuesday 8th

7.00pm Countryside Carol Service

Wednesday 9th

7.00pm Merriott Youth FC Carol Service

SUNDAY 13th

9.30am Parish Communion

Saturday 19th

7.30pm 'Carols and Classics' Concert

SUNDAY 20th

10.00am All Age Carol Service

Thursday 24th Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Christmas Eve Communion

Friday 25th Christmas Day

10.30am Christmas Communion

SUNDAY 27th

10.00am Benefice Communion in Merriott

SUNDAY 4th January Epiphany

10.00am Benefice Communion in Hinton St George

Please see The 'Church Link' magazine for details of other services in January.

*A Happy Christmas and
Peaceful New Year from
all of us at
All Saints' Church*



The Village Café would like to thank our lovely customers for their support since our first café popped up back in May.

We have held a number of Friday cafés and Italian evenings and the people of Merriott have been there with us.

We will return on Friday the **26th of February** with some new recipes and yummy home-made treats.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

*Sara Brown
Emily Hilton*

CHARITY LUNCHES IN 2016

Look out for details in our next issue (February). Charity lunches will be held on Wednesdays in Lent (February and March) in Merriott, Lopen and Hinton St George.

OPEN GROUP

Merriott Open Group
December Programme

10th December

Christmas Party with
refreshments and
Secret Santa

Contact Marion Biggs
on 74170

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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<p>Merriott Pharmacy</p> <p>Free prescription collection & delivery</p> <p>01460 72222 merriottpharmacy@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Sally-Marie Shearing Beauty Therapy</p> <p>Relaxing, Revitalising, Beauty Treatments</p> <p>Tel 01460 73957 Gift Vouchers available</p>	<p>Hurst Brook Plants Lower Severalls, Crewkerne</p> <p>OPEN Thursday – Sunday 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. March – October hurstbrookplants.co.uk plants@btinternet.com 07857 645123</p>	<p>Osborne's Broadway</p> <p>Butcher of local farm meat, groceries, newspapers, wines and spirits 01460 73459</p>	<p>Jays</p> <p>Complete Property Maintenance Over 20 years experience No job too small!</p> <p>01460 78891 07865 700 760</p>
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Please send copy to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com
Editorial Team contact:

Marion Biggs	01460 74170	Janet Lailey	01460 271008
John Bowman	01460 74077	Ann Lawrence	01460 78461
Peter Bryans	01460 78182	Sharron Ricketts	01460 73478
Jane Jackson	01460 74162		