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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2016

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

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GARDENING CLUB QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

There is nothing so drab, so dead, so spiky, sprawling, soggy as a garden in winter. One drifts along the borders, disconsolate. One never can quite remember the summer that is past. One never can quite believe that it will ever come again. So that every Spring is an astonishment, a reawakening of joy.

Pam Brown

PROGRESS AT MOORLANDS FARM

Progress at Moorlands Farm since our last report has been good, despite the rain! We are pleased that we constructed the roads in to the development early as this has helped, along with our road sweeper, to keep the mud from construction traffic to a minimum.



On site the first terrace of cottages are nearing completion. Several of these are sold and our first residents will be moving in later this month. All purchasers to date have local connections and were keen to buy in Merriott. We are currently working on the first of the barn conversions and completion of the courtyard that used to be the main farm yard for the

farm. The next area of work is the original "street" of farm buildings that characterise the original farm. These will be completed by the Summer.

We continue to progress ideas for how to deliver a health facility in the centre of the village and are in discussions with the

Parish Council and Village Plan Group regarding these.

We will continue to issue information on the project in The Messenger, but details are also posted on our website, along with details of Palmer Snell.

www.moorlands.farm.



**NEW YEAR,
NEW COLOUR!**

Our printer has offered us a better quality product and so we have improved your Messenger for 2016!

Photographs and other artwork especially, will be clearer and we hope you enjoy reading this month's copy and continue to contribute articles for all to enjoy. Please send copy to merriottmessenger@gmail.com by the 12th of each month.

MERRIOTT ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

has enjoyed another bountiful year, despite the adverse weather conditions. We currently have a few half plots (15yds x 10 yds approx) available to let. If your New Years Resolutions for 2016 include eating healthily, taking more exercise or even just getting some fresh air, why not consider combining all three and taking an allotment?

The allotments are in a beautiful setting and

there is plenty of help and advice available to anyone who is new to 'growing things'. You will make new friends and benefit from the seed, plant and produce sharing that inevitably takes place in the allotment community. A generous discount is also available from a reputable seed company.

For more information please contact Beryl Bellamy – Secretary MAA. Phone 01460 74574 or email berylbellamy1@gmail.com



The Village Cafe Italian Night
27th February at the Merriott Village Hall
Tables available from 6.00pm to 8.30pm
Booking essential
Homemade pizzas, pasta, ice cream and more in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
For bookings and further information including menus email thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page the village cafe.

MERRIOTT PARISH FOOTPATH GROUP

It is encouraging to receive favourable comments from walkers and the general public on the condition of our parish paths. We worked hard over the summer to address some of the access and maintenance issues that have arisen. It has been quite noticeable that some parishioners have been helping by cutting back brambles and vegetation along the paths. Thank you if you have been doing that, it really does help. A big thank you also to our local farmers and land-owners who have contributed by improving access by installing new gates etc., and helped with improving the walking surface on some of the paths. We are also grateful for the support of our Parish Council and the help and assistance we receive from the Somerset County Council Rights of Way team.

There is always much to do to keep the paths in good condition and we have been greatly helped by joining the Somerset County Council strimmer loan scheme. We have been loaned a strimmer for our exclusive use and have already put the machine through its paces. It is difficult for us to keep track of the condition of all the paths in the parish all of the time, so if you come

across a path which is overgrown with vegetation please let us know via our email address:- merriott.fpg@gmail.com or phone me on 01460 73158. Our thanks to Steve, our strimmer operator, for the time and effort he puts in on our behalf.

Last November we enjoyed the second of



our parish footpath walks, led by Tony and Pat. Eight people took part and the walk took us out to Over Stratton, where we stopped for lunch at the Royal Oak. We returned via the cider apple orchards and Lopen Mills. The next walk is planned for **Wednesday 27th April**, leaving from outside Merriott Pharmacy at 10.30 am. So please make a note in your diaries and join us if you can.

The annual survey has been undertaken.

This takes place in the autumn when we walk as many of the footpaths as possible and details of known issues such as obstructions, broken stiles, gates, steps etc., are passed on to the RoW team and logged for future action.

There is still a great concern over the fouling by dogs on the footpaths. We have had reports from worried parents where children have stepped in or fallen into dog mess whilst walking on the paths. Could I remind all dog owners that it is your responsibility to bag it and bin it. We want the paths to be pleasant and safe for everyone to enjoy, including our dogs.

We are still hoping to produce a booklet of parish path walks and we are looking for someone who would be prepared to work with us by walking the routes and noting down detailed route instructions, way-markers and landmarks etc. If you feel you could help in this way please get in touch.

In the meantime, we hope you will continue to enjoy the network of our parish footpaths, even if they are a bit muddy at this time of year!

John Goldie PPL0

PROGRESS AT TAIL MILL



Works at Tail Mill have progressed well over the winter considering the wet conditions we have faced.

Many of the key planning requirements identified are well underway or completed. Already we have a new bat house which provides mitigation for any loss of habitat caused by the works. As well as this, we have made significant

progress into remediating the contaminated areas of land identified.

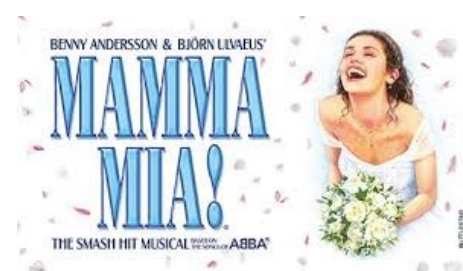
The key to the success was always how the buildings came back to life. We have worked closely with the Local Authority sympathetically in the restoration and this can now be seen with the Warehouse nearing completion.

The coming months will see the demolition of the buildings planned for removal and this will then allow the construction of the remainder of the site to progress.

We would also like to thank our neighbours for their continued support while the construction goes on.

The houses are now on the market and any interested parties should get in touch with our sole agent Symonds and Sampson on 01935 423526

Lee Slade



Seats and tickets are available for Mamma Mia at the Bristol Hippodrome and seats available for shopping and sightseeing on **Saturday 23rd April**, departs Merriott approx 10.35 am. Seats only £10 per person available up until the day, raising funds for The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. For theatre tickets please contact ASAP for details - closing date for the Theatre 10th February. 01460 75025 or cherylnewman321@btinternet.com

Cheryl Newman

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Our thanks to all of you who supported the Quiz with Supper evening on 28 November. Thoroughly enjoyed by 65 people, it was a great success and raised £630 for hall improvements. Watch this space for news of our Summer events.

In December our Village Hall was one of Waitrose, Crewkerne three selected charities. This raised a further £400 for our funds. Thank you for donating your little green tokens.

In the last two months we have replaced two rotten kitchen windows and completed the health and safety signage.

Due to organiser illness, dog training has now ceased, but we are confident that Tuesday evenings will soon be booked



with another regular weekly activity.

If you would be interested in attending a daytime Pilates class in the hall please contact Belle, MOB: 0759 3299 284.

The Committee has submitted a planning application to create a rear door in the hall leading to a new

gravel terrace facing the playing fields. The terrace will be enclosed by metal railings, with a gate and path to allow much easier access from the car park. The Parish Council has agreed to demolish the temporary building in the car park as part of the scheme. Apart from planning approval, this project is dependent on the success of our bids for district council and charitable funding. Your village hall is already a spacious, well equipped and inexpensive venue for parties and events. With attractive and safe outdoor space, it will be even better.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Scentsational" Rose taken by Mo Frampton
- 29th December 2015

Send your photo to:
merriottmessenger@gmail.com



CHARITY LUNCHES IN LENT 2016

Charity lunches will be held on Wednesdays in Lent
(February and March)

in Merriott, Lopen and Hinton St George. Everyone is welcome- children included, **no need to book, just come along from 12-2pm** and give a donation in return for a simple lunch and good company.

- Feb 17th** Lopen Schoolroom for Yeovil Street Pastors Charity
- Feb 24th** 12 Church Street, Merriott (Edna Colman Smith) for St Margaret's Hospice
- Mar 2nd** Pitt Farmhouse, 41 Boozer Pit, Merriott (A Lawrence) for Christian Aid
- Mar 9th** Southernhay, Hinton St George (Diana Clements, opposite the shop) for Homestart
- Mar 16th** Gapper's Pool, Church St, Merriott for S.O.M.A.

MOBILE LIBRARY FEBRUARY VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School
9.30am - 10am
9th February

OPEN GROUP

February Programme:

4th - Desert Islands Discs

18th - Jeanette Shire's granddaughter, Meg, talking about her experiences in Ghana

Contact Marion Biggs on
74170



Telephone:
0330 1239355

FOSTER CARER

- Do you have a heart of gold and a core of steel?
- Do you want to make a difference to a child's life?
- Do you have experience in child care and personal resilience?
- Are you a kind and caring individual?
- Do you have a spare bedroom?

*We will provide you with training, support and guidance from our team of child care professionals.
Excellent fees and allowance paid up to £750 per week.*

We are also looking for people who could offer a mum or dad a safe, secure and structured environment for a short or extended period with their child.
While they are living in your home you will pass on your skills and experience to help them reach their full potential as parents.

For further information on either of the above roles please contact Helen Winchester on 0330 1239355 or email your interest to info@fusionfostering.com

TIPS ON STAYING WARM FROM ONE OF OUR SPONSORS - BLUEBIRD CARE

Think W.A.R.M.T.H. this winter.

Wrap Up indoors and outdoors.

Wearing extra layers indoors can help you keep warm. If you need to go outside, sturdy shoes with good grip or attachable grips to wear over your shoes can help prevent falls, and an insulated waterproof coat will help keep you warm and dry.

Alert - Keep an eye on the weather forecast, stock up with nutritious food and speak to your GP about medicine in advance of a cold snap. If you have vulnerable neighbours, try and check up on them during cold weather.

Risk - Minimise the risk of falls or becoming ill by taking the weather into account when you plan activity when severe weather is forecast. Plan ahead for the cold weather by talking to your GP about getting a flu jab, and talk to your neighbours about clearing snow in front of your home.

Money - Winter bills can be very expensive. Make sure that you're receiving all of the benefits you're eligible for. In addition to the Winter Fuel Payments,

CARE AND SUPPORT
IN YOUR OWN HOME

CALL 01935 584184

Good old fashioned service

available to anyone born before July 1952, if it gets very cold you could be entitled to additional Cold Weather Payments.

Temperature - Ensure the rooms that you use in your home are heated to an appropriate temperature.

Hot Meals - One hot meal a day and hot drinks throughout the day can help to keep you warm. Eating nutritious food regularly can help to keep up your energy levels and support your immune system in the cold weather.

Ross Perkins said:

"Many vulnerable people feel lonely and isolated, especially through winter, and we are often unaware of the real threat

to life that extreme weather can cause for older and vulnerable people.

Our winters can be quite sudden and catch us off guard, which means people have little time to take precautions against the cold. It's important to start planning for the cold weather now by taking simple precautions like making sure you are aware of the weather forecast, getting any benefits you're entitled to, speaking to your neighbours about how to cope with heavy snow or ice and talking to your GP about getting your flu jab.

We're also urging people across South Somerset to make sure that they keep in regular contact with their friends and neighbours to make sure that they stay safe this winter. Simple measures like helping a neighbour stock up on nutritious food ahead of a cold snap could save them from a nasty fall if they try to venture out in bad weather. If anyone would like further advice on coping with the cold weather, please contact the team at Bluebird Care on 01935 584184.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PILATES CLASSES
IN MERRIOTT?

If you are looking for a Pilates exercise class to attend, please see the Village Hall report in this issue with details about starting a class in Merriott.

All Saints Church, Merriott

New to You Sale

Saturday
27th February

10am to 11.30am

In the Tithe Barn,
Church Street, MerriottClothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac
and other stalls

Tea and coffee will be available

In aid of Church funds

NEWS FROM MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

There wasn't a monthly market in January but they will return on **Saturday 6th February** from 10 am till 1.00 pm. This Market is in aid of Myeloma UK. Our popular bacon butties will be back, so pop in and have a browse while raising funds for a very worthwhile cause.

New Years Eve was a busy, fun-filled night with much dancing to the live band and disco and a superb buffet. We will be repeating this again this New Years Eve, so look out for details nearer the time.

Please remember your memberships are now due. Members receive a discount on hall hire and are entered in the weekly draw.

Dates for your diaries:

27th February - pop along for our

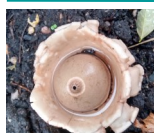
popular Karaoke, choose your favourite tracks and sing along - all welcome.

AGM 31st March 2016 at 7pm. All welcome. If you wish to join the committee there is a nomination list in the bar.

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!

Merriott Social Club would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming new and old customers throughout 2016.



Chriselda's fungus, featured in the December issue of the Merriott Messenger, has been identified by Mo Frampton as a *Geastrum probably Saccatum*, commonly known as an Earthstar - common and inedible.

WINTER ROAD SALTING

Residents will know that only Broadway is treated by the County Council with de-icing material for through traffic during icy weather.

The Parish Council has secured a supply of bagged road salt to keep clear the hills and bends in the village. The Council is grateful to the volunteer residents who are storing and will spread the material when needed in the following locations. There is a good reserve of material.

Please note the material is only for use on the public highway and the level roads will not be treated.

HILLS

Shiremoor Hill - Mr Denman

Manor Drive - Mr Barrett
Goughs Close - Mr Allen
Speke Close - Mr Evans
Greys Road - Mr Hemmings
Lower Beadon - Mr Rodway
Glebelands - Mr Gibson
Glebelands - Mr Dabinett
Boozier Pit - Mr Wallis

BENDS

Shute Spring - Mr Kendall
Boozier Pit - Mr Shorting
(Rose Cottage)
Church Area - Mr. Fisher
Reserve Salt - Cllr. Merrick Tel: 73066

Iain Hall



DONE THE SCHOOL RUN? NEED A BREAK?

"Coffee Stop" takes place **every Tuesday** in Merriott Church from 10.00 am - 11.30am
Coffee and cake £1 with free refills, all welcome, children's drinks and play area

On February 2nd we will be open at 9am so do come along when you have dropped your children at school, we'd love to see you.

COMMUNITY PAVILION



To book this fine village amenity for your get-together, please contact
01460 73771 or email:
merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk
Only £20.00 per session.

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

Crewkerne and District Twinning Association

Saturday 13th February

Cafe and Patisserie morning

Crewkerne Heritage Centre in East Street
10am-12pm

£2 includes Coffee/Tea and cake

All welcome

Anyone interested in finding out more
about the forthcoming visit to Igny/Bures
sur Yvette please come along and
someone will be able to talk to you.

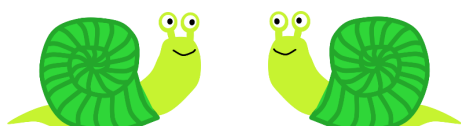
PUBLICITY FOR YOUR CLUB

Please send reports about your club or organisation's activities and pictures to publicise events. The Merriott Messenger is **YOUR** magazine, free to all readers and contributors.
merriottmessenger@gmail.com



THINKING OF FLOWERS ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

Well... think of the foliage too! Go out in the garden on Feb 14th and put slug pellets down where your hostas grow, for a lovely healthy plant without all those holes!



ROBERT FRITH
OPTOMETRISTS

Your local independent optician

**Free emergency eye care
under the Somerset
NHS ACES scheme**



36 Fore Street, Chard
4 Market Street, Crewkerne
18 Princes Street, Yeovil

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01460 72964
01935 478463

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Warm greetings and best wishes from all of us at All Saints to you and your families for this new year of 2016. Christmas already seems like a distant memory, but I do want to say that we had a wonderful time as a church celebrating with many different local groups and people. Thank you to everyone who came or contributed in any way.

Easter is once again very early this year, so Lent gets underway in February! We hold a very special service on Ash Wednesday to begin this season of reflection and preparation. It includes receiving the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads as a symbol of our earthly nature and as a mark of our need to seek forgiveness. It's a powerful and moving service, and this year it is in Merriott. Please come along if you can.

Our Lent activities this year are at various venues across the Benefice and focus on 'Being a Pilgrim'. We will have a couple of illustrated talks on 'Pilgrimage', we will be showing the excellent Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez film set on the 'Camino de

Santiago' called 'The Way' and running a taster session for the 'Pilgrim' Course. This course is an excellent introduction to the Christian faith, see below. Look out for posters and flyers with more details of these Lent activities.

There will also be a simple and reflective midweek Communion service at Merriott Church throughout Lent, at 10am on Thursdays. The first one is on the 18th February.

Don't forget the charity Lent Lunches at various venues on Wednesdays around our four villages.

The 'Pilgrim' Course - A Taster Session 7.30pm Wednesday 16th March, All Saints Church, Merriott.

'Pilgrim' is an exciting introductory study course on the Christian faith. It is suitable for anyone – whether you have a mature faith, have none or simply want to enquire! We warmly invite you to come along to this taster session in Merriott Church. There's no catch or big commitment, no need to sign up; just come along and see if the 'Pilgrim' Course might be for you. We will be starting the first block of six sessions

after Easter. For more information, please contact Rev Bob Hicks on 01460 76406.

Church Services in February

Sun 7th	8.30am Holy Communion
Wed 10th	Ash Wednesday - 6pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Sun 14th	9.30am Parish Communion
Thu 18th	10am midweek Communion for Lent
Sun 21st	10am Family Service
Thu 25th	10am midweek Communion for Lent
Sun 28th	10am Sung Communion



*Blessing of the Tractor and Plough
by Rev Bob Hicks - January 16*

SOMERSET CHOICES – SHORT FILM TO HELP YOU GET STARTED

An animated guide showing how the Somerset Choices website can help you access a world of local care and support is now available.

Somerset Choices is a website that provides easy access to information and

a directory of services, products, groups and events. These include care homes, help at home, mobility equipment, personal assistants, lunch clubs, exercise groups, breaks for carers and lots more. The animated film, found at: www.somersetchoices.org.uk/about-this-site/help, demonstrates how the self-help section on the website lets people

tap into a wealth of information and advice and search for local services and events to find support that meets their needs.

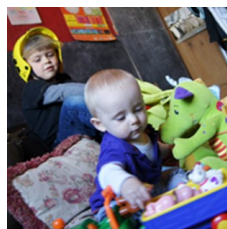
Somerset Choices allows people to make informed decisions about who supplies their care and aims to help people to help themselves stay independent, healthy and well.

Charlotte Hamlin - Merriott Child-Minder

We are Registered Childminders based in Merriott supported by two assistants.

We strive to provide flexible, professional child-care in a safe home-from-home environment.

All children have the right to be understood as individuals and given opportunities for imagination, creativity and play. The setting is filled with toys, dressing-up, crafts and a garden filled with climbing equipment, space to explore allowing children to discover new skills. Children are involved in animal care enabling them to have an understanding of the animal's needs and to respect them. We regularly visit local community facilities including the library, swimming, small



**72 Lower Street
Merriott**

TA16 5NW

01460 73361

07721 018335

**Charlotte @merriott
childminder.co.uk**

holdings and other local attractions. On a regular basis we have outside providers who visit us, bringing their individual skills / activities into the setting.

Our opening times are 06.00 – 18.30 Monday to Friday. We aim to be as flexible as possible and ad-hoc childcare is available.

We provide healthy meals and snacks or your children can bring their own.

We provide school runs to both Merriott Pre-School and Merriott First School on a daily basis.

You can also rest assured your children are in the best possible hands, other than yours.

THE ALL SAINTS CHURCH ANNUAL CAROLS & CLASSICS CONCERT

on the 19th December was another sell out raising over £1,160 towards the church fabric fund. A captivated audience of 210 were treated to an evening of Festive arrangements and classical music by the Fisher Sinfonia.

The vicar Reverend Bob Hicks praised the musicians on their performances reiterating how lucky Merriott was to have such a talented ensemble wishing to visit and play at our village church.

The Fisher family would like to thank all the loyal helpers on the night; parishioners for their generous raffle prize donations; Mortimers bakery for their 7th year running donation of mince pies for the audience and of course Osborne Stores for all their support.

Diary Date:- The Fisher Sinfonia's next visit to Merriott will be on **Sunday 1st May** playing Mendelssohn's String Octet.

Paul Fisher



THANK YOU

We have had a wonderful response to the Appeal for Coats for Refugees. Well over a hundred have been collected in our villages for donation to the charities

countrycoats2syria.org.uk and syriarelieff.org.uk

There will be more collections in 2016 for all of you who have a new jacket for Christmas!

Ann Lawrence

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB



On **Tuesday 23rd February** there will be a talk by Claire Hart on "Square Metre Gardening" - making the most of a small space garden. Meet at the Tithe Barn at 7.30 pm, refreshments available and raffle. Seeds, plants, book and magazine sale. Everyone very welcome. Non members £2. A reminder that the Gold Club continues until the end of February. The gardens group - Castle Gardens, Sherborne and Brimsmore Gardens Yeovil - give us 25% off many garden products, including

seeds, bulbs, composts, mulches and fertilisers which can be delivered free of charge within 25 miles of their garden centres. You will need a Gold Club Voucher with order form and if you haven't already received one, let me know. You can post or email your order to them.

Suttons Seeds will give members 50% off seed orders and 15% off other items, please remember to use the special code already advised.

Mo Frampton - 07967 028277

NEWS FROM THE SWAN

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Thanks to all those who supported us through the year and we look forward to the year ahead. Six Nations starts again in February and all the games will be shown here live. Look out for our theme eating events, not forgetting our regular food offerings.

Dates for your Diary:

2nd - Haircut Tuesday; **6th** - 6 Nations start; **13th** - Valentines Steak Night (book early to avoid disappointment) £22 per couple with bottle of wine; **14th** - Valentines Sunday Lunch (£8 per head); **16th, 23rd, 4th March** - Champions League Football

John, Cathy & Jet

BOOK REVIEW BY JANET LAILEY

BEATRIX POTTER'S TALES PUB: F WARNE & CO. LTD.

"This is a Pussy called Miss Moppet, she thinks she has heard a mouse! This is the mouse peeping out behind the cupboard, and making fun of Miss Moppet. He is not afraid of a kitten." So begins a suspenseful story of huntress and hunted, and youth versus experience, with fourteen brilliantly illustrated pages and concise narrative sentences. It's a real book, with the small pages, glossy paper and hard covers that Beatrix Potter specified to her publishers. This tale is simple enough for the very young, whereas 'The Tale of Mr Tod' has ninety densely-written pages of Northern 'noir' (with illustrations) of rivalry of two disreputable characters - Mr Tod the fox

THE STORY OF
MISS MOPPET



BEATRIX POTTER
THE ORIGINAL AND AUTHORIZED EDITION
F. WARNE & CO.

and Tommy Brock, a badger with very threatening teeth, who has kidnapped all the tiny Flopsy Bunny babies.

The names may sound sentimental, but the stories are not. Apart from quite serious vocabulary and pictures which are genuine works of art, the stories tell of animal protagonists dealing with the dangers which small animals face, as well as the familiar difficulties of bringing up children or, for children, coping with strict parents. They are good to read aloud; there is plenty to discuss.

Mrs Rabbit warns her children not to go into Mr McGregor's garden: 'Your father had an accident there. He was put in a pie by Mrs McGregor.' (Of course Peter goes straight there and nearly comes to grief.) Squirrel Nutkin teases the owl, Old Brown, thinking himself very clever, until the owl pounces on him, '.... and hangs him up by the tail, intending to skin him.' Tom Kitten comes very close to being made into a suet pudding by a

fat old rat, Samuel Whiskers and his extremely unpleasant thin old-lady rat Anna Maria (and all with graphic illustrations.) You'll have to read the story to find out what happens... but you probably know it already.

My six-year old granddaughter brought first 'Jemima Puddleduck' and then 'The tale of Samuel Whiskers' for me to read to her, chosen from a considerable variety of other children's books on our shelves. These books have been my friends all my life; (I remember reading Jemima Puddleduck to my younger brother sixty years ago; he went out of the room for safety till the scary part was over.) I am glad that they still attract fresh explorers into their world.

THE TALE OF
JEMIMA
PUDDLE-DUCK



BEATRIX POTTER
The original and authorized edition

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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