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Merriott Messenger

FEBRUARY 2017

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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The information and views in the Merriott Messenger are those provided by the named individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editorial Team. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the information given is accurate, the Merriott Messenger cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Copy date for the next issue is 12th March.

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MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL -PUBLIC CONSULTATION

PROPOSED TELEPHONE MAST ON MERRIOTT

RECREATION FIELD

A mobile `phone provider is considering improving signal cover in this area. They have identified a site they may wish to use behind the Community Pavilion.

Should this go ahead, the signal to mobiles would be vastly improved for about half of all `phones, and possibly to all, as there are two networks providing the signals for all `phone companies. One or both would use the mast, which would be about the height of the poplar trees North of the Pavilion.

A very significant fee would be pay-

able to the Parish Council if this does go ahead. This money would be available to improve the village at a time when the County Council is reducing maintenance and other services.

Examples of possible masts.



Purpose of the second s

Please write to the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Katharine Sheehan,

<u>merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk</u> with a one word heading `MAST'. Anyone can do this for you if you do not have email.

> Iain Hall Chairman, Parish Council

The view of the community is vital to the decision process.

towards our 2017 projects. Thank you to Mike

Dandridge for organising and 'My Kitchen' for

After just over a year as Treasurer, I have come to realise that looking after the Hall is like

painting the Forth Road Bridge – we always seem to have at least four projects that we

would like to support in order to keep the Hall

fit for purpose and an enjoyable place for the

Some of you may have noticed some iron railing

missing from the front of the property. They are

from the original 1925 construction and being

people of Merriott to socialise and enjoy

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

feeding us.

leisure pursuits.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Village Hall Quiz in Trust and will be our first project of 2017.

November. It was a

fun night with a

lovely supper and

we raised money

SAVE THE DATE: 'Travelling Trends' are visiting Merriott on **9**th **March** in the evening. This will be a chance to buy High Street



clothing at heavily discounted prices. Travelling Trends visited Seavington last September and the event was very popular, so put this date in your diary for some evening clothes shopping and refreshments, or perhaps in preparation for Mothers' Day. If anyone is interested in being a model please contact me on 01460 78886 – you will get a free ticket. More details in next month's Messenger.

MERRIOTT PUPILS BECOME EXPLORERS

The pupils of Merriott First School have all become explorers in our latest topic and we are 'visiting' different countries all around the world in our learning. Our Explorer topic has a geography focus, using maps, looking at weather and climates, and human and physical features of a region. We will also use our topic theme as a focus for our English work.



Our mysterious suitcases are helping us find out more about different countries

Our new topic got off to a great start with the children coming dressed up as different types of explorers, from those exploring space to the jungle! The day introduced how wonderful the world is to explore and discover. Each class had a large suitcase or rucksack filled with lots of objects about a specific country the children can learn more about. Over the next few weeks the children will swap cases and will even borrow ones from Haselbury School, our partnership school, to discover more about different countries in the world. We are also organising a special school trip to Bristol Zoo later this term to explore the animal and plants from different countries around the world. The

trip will include a learning workshop with Zoo educators and the opportunity to learn alongside pupils from both schools in their year groups.

Can you help? Can you spare some time to volunteer at your local school? We are looking for a group of volunteers to come and hear readers regularly in school and help in other ways. Ideally we would like to have enough volunteers to offer support in each class on a daily basis. We are also looking for volunteers to get our library up and running so that children can borrow books and use this space more to research their learning. If you think you could help please contact our school office team and register your interest. All volunteers are required to undertake a DBS check to help safeguard our pupils. We look forward to hearing from you.

Philip Smith, Executive Headteacher



Church Street, Merriott, Somerset, TA16 5PR

Telephone: 01460 78912

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MIDDAY TO 5:00PM TRADITIONAL ROASTS, SNACK AND CHILDREN'S MENUS. QUIZ HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00PM. MONDAY NIGHT IS CRIBBAGE NIGHT 7:30PM. Website: thekingsmerriott.com Facebook: @thekingsheadmerriott



My Kitchen Event Pop up brunch at the Merriott Village Hall Sunday the 26th February 10.30 till 12.30. Booking not essential but

Email is at mykitchenevents@gmail.com or condact us via Facebook @ my kitchen. Eggs Benedict, fry ups, American pancakes are on the menu using handmade sausages, bread and fresh local ingredients.

Emily Hilton



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CREWKERNE present **"SONGS OF PRAISE"**

A happy hymn sing along with THE YEOVIL SALVATION ARMY BAND

At St. Bartholomew's Church Crewkerne on Sunday 26th February 2017 at 3 p.m. Refreshments Donations in aid of "Water Survival Box" reg. charity

WINTER SOCIAL AFTERNOONS AT **MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL**

Tea and Cake - £2, served from 3-5pm (free refills, other drinks available) This is open to all ages. Tables for craft and board games available, or just pop in for company and a chat.

> **WEDNESDAYS** 8TH AND 22ND FEBRUARY Ann Lawrence



THE COMMANDMENTS' What do they mean to us in the 21st century? How did Jesus interpret them for his followers? This is the subject for our next series of six Monday evening meetings.

We shall be beginning the next series of the Pilgrim Course on Monday January 30th at Pitt Farmhouse, 41 Boozer Pit, Merriott. We begin at **7pm** with refreshments and start our discussions and teaching at 7.30pm, finishing about 9pm. It's free of charge and suitable for teenagers upwards. Come and join us. For more information, contact:-

Rev Bob Hicks 01460 76406 or Derek Esp 01460 77224



MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP

issues whilst out walking.

the RoW team in Taunton to put on a bit of pressure!

This is only a short report, but we continue with our

maintenance programme and with spring and summer just

Finally, as a group, we are committed to keeping our parish footpaths in a condition that makes them pleasant to walk along. However, we are NOT here to pick up bags of dog poo that are being dropped on the footpaths, and in some

instances, thrown into residents' gardens.

round the corner we will be out and about keeping vegetation under control so that the paths are easily accessible to you. Remember, we can be contacted by email, merriott.fg@ gmail.com or by phone on 01460 73158, if you encounter any

We are pleased to welcome Ray Alsop and Mike Stokes to our group of volunteers. Ray and Mike have recently moved into the village and enjoy walking and are enthusiastic new members of our team.



Our work to maintain the parish footpaths continues and there is always something that needs attention. We have recently installed new way marking posts through the old Scotts nursery grounds which should make the route of the path clearer to walkers. We have also made improvements to the surface of the path through the woodland at

the end of Beadon Lane (see photos). We are most grateful to our Parish Council for their support in providing materials and equipment to enable us to carry out these and other tasks.

We are fully aware that there are issues with several stiles within the parish. At the moment we are not equipped to carry out repairs ourselves but the problem areas have been reported to the county rights of way team for them to assess. Unfortunately they are restricted by budget constraints, sogetting the necessary work done is frustrating. It might be helpful, if you are a landowner with faulty stiles, to contact



There are bins all around the village where bags can be disposed of - please use them or take your bags home and dispose of them there. I am sorry that I have to raise this issue again and I appreciate that the majority of dog walkers behave in a responsible manner. Thank you if you are one of them.



John Goldie Parish Path Liaison Officer

Charlotte Hamlin - Merriott Child-Minder

We are Registered Childminders based in Merriott supported by assistants.

We strive to provide flexible, professional childcare 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.



72 Lower Street Merriott TA16 5NW 01460 73361 07721 018335 Charlotte@merriott childminder.co.uk We regularly visit local community facilities including the library, swimming, small 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.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH SERVICES



Sun 5th Feb Sun 12th Feb Sun 19th Feb Sun 26th Feb

8.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Parish Communion 10.00am Family Service 10.00am Sung Communion

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Lent begins with a **Communion service for Ash Wednesday on 1st March at 7pm**. During Lent we have more quiet and simple midweek Communion services, Thursdays at 10am (March 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th). Julia Hicks

FLYERS DISTRIBUTED WITH THE MERRIOTT MESSENGER



We would be delighted to print and distribute advertising flyers for you. They need to be submitted to our Editorial Team - merriottmessenger@ gmail.com - by12thof the previous month, together with payment.

Cheques should be made payable to Merriott Messenger and sent to A. Lawrence, Pitt Farmhouse, 41 Boozer Pit, Merriott TA165PW, or by bank transfer to: Lloyds Bank account no 46840760, sort code: 30-63-64. Ann Lawrence

SONGS OF PRAISE

Merriott Gospel Hall, Broadway

You are invited to join us at 6.30pm on the first Sunday every month for a time of singing traditional and contemporary hymns. Followed by refreshments and a time to catch up with friends, new or old!

All ages welcome - bring your friends and family.

Phone 72211 or 271763 for more details.

Andrew Shepherd



JIVE TALKING!

Although there are many enjoyable ways to get fit, there are very few that are as much fun and as sociable as doing modern jive. 'Strictly Jive' teaches modern jive moves at the George Reynolds Centre, Crewkerne TA18 8DA (next door to the Swimming Pool) every Tuesday night, starting at 7.30pm.

The hall has a wonderful dance floor, is light, easily accessible, and has plenty of free parking.

What is modern jive? It's a fusion of ballroom, jive and Latin dance styles. It's a partner dance, but you don't need to bring your own! It's easy to learn and really good fun. It's also great to watch. You can dance to any tune as long as it has a beat, so the music choices are endless.

The benefits of dancing are many. It gets you away from the television to meet new people and have a fun night out. It's



an easy and fun way of exercising, as well as learning a new skill. It also exercises the brain and focuses on visual, auditory, and tactile skills without you even noticing. Regular dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture and muscle strength, increasing balance and

co-ordination, and beating stress.

We welcome absolute beginners every week, with our beginner class starting around 7.30pm, followed by music in order to practice. We will also do an improver class later in the evening for anyone who wants to join in.

Jive classes are the friendliest classes around, with people walking around with a big smile on their face. Not sure if it's for you, why not give it a go? For more details go to www.strictlyjive.com, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or call Roy on 07811 018 284.

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB



A talk on "Wildlife Gardening and Hedgehogs" by Penny Richards to be held at the Tithe Barn, Church St. Merriott at 7.30pm. Refreshments and raffle. All welcome - non-members £2.

Any queries please contact Barbara Byford 01460 72298

Barbara Byford

JOIN US AT THE "COFFEE STOP"



every Tuesday in Merriott Church from 10.00am - 11.30am Coffee and cake £1 with free refills. All welcome - children's drinks and play area. We look forward to seeing you there.

Saturday 11th February Crewkerne

and District Twinning Association is holding a "Valentines Coffee Morning" at Crewkerne Heritage Centre in the upstairs room, from 10 am until Noon. Cake and top-ups of Coffee or tea £2.50.

Everyone is welcome. If anyone has an interest in hosting this year from 25th/28th May please come along as well to hear what we have planned. Otherwise come along for a social morning.

Cheryl Newman



Flix in the Stix presents "Bridget Jones' Baby" on Sat 11th February

in Hinton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room or £5.50 on the door. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

Bridget has everything completely under control in her life: 40 something, single again and focusing on her new top job. What could go wrong? Her love life intervenes once more: Bridget meets a dashing American (Jack)and becomes pregnant, but who is the father, Jack or ex-husband Darcy?

Roy Warry

Andrew Overhill

MARQUETRY IN MERRIOTT



As from Monday, 9th January, 2017, a small group of enthusiastic marquetarians (well four of us actually!) will be meeting on a regular basis in the Blake Room in the Village Hall each Monday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm to indulge in our hobby of Marquetry.

Many people have no idea of what Marquetry is all about, but in actual fact it is one of the oldest crafts,

having its origins back in the 13th century. Marquetry is the art of making pictures, decorative designs and patterns, by the skilful use of the grain, figure and colour of thin veneers of wood, the separate parts of the picture or design being cut to shape, assembled and glued to a prepared base or background. Marquetry is a development of Intarsia, the true inlay of wood upon wood which originated in Italy in the 13th century. It was originally used for decorating church furniture and in about the 17th century pictures started to be developed. Nowadays, material, equipment and method of working has improved the production of pictures, especially with the availability now of ranges of commercially dyed colours.

This is an interesting and absorbing hobby and there is much satisfaction on finishing a picture from starting with a picture to copy and a pile of veneer.

We will welcome any visitors to our meeting to see what we are all about. This is a hobby which is open to both men and women and of any age. A keen eye and the ability to handle a sharp knife would be useful!!

For further information, contact Ken Smart on 01460 74567, or williken@btinternet.com, or go to

www.marquetry.org (the most used marquetry site on a par with Google!!) Or, come and see us!!

Ken Smart, 15 Shiremoor Hill, Merriott TA16 5PH

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Deep frost in Merriott" - January 2017 Photo taken Mo Frampton

Please send your photos to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



CORRECTION

The contact phone number in the RAFT article in the last issue was incorrect. Please contact Geraldine Downey on <u>2</u>71358.



Save the Date!

Merriott Village Hall

Saturday 19th June 2017 After the resounding success of last year's Midsummer Concert and BBQ Live Band 'The 1960s' with supper and bar (Fathers' Day Weekend)



COULD YOU BE A 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 with a sense of humour? Do you have a spare bedroom?

We welcome anyone over 21 (no upper age limit) of any ethnicity, single people or couples, those with or without their own children and in a rented or owned property. We will provide you with dedicated training and support from our local team of child care professionals. Excellent fees & allowances.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact: Nigel Bell on 07974658782, or email <u>nbell@fusionfostering.com</u> Website: <u>www.fusionfostering.com</u>. Based in North Curry, Somerset.

MERRIOTT OPEN GROUP AND THE AAF

At the December meeting Merriott Open Group was treated to an inspiring talk by Simon Frackiewicz about a charity he supports in Kenya. Simon is a partner in Robert Frith Optometrists, who support the charity and also sponsor The Merriott Messenger.



The Akamba Aid fund is an independent charitable trust based in South Somerset that since 1999 has worked in Eastern Kenya with

REG. CHARITY 1083554 Eastern Ker the poorest rural communities.

Although initially supplying food parcels during periods of drought, they are now assisting hundreds of families with affordable healthcare and education, as well as building dams and wells to help them make the most of the infrequent rainfall. The trustees, including Simon, regularly travel to Kenya (at their own expense), living with the local communities, to discuss and monitor the various aid programmes they have developed



with them, and to ensure that funds donated are used wisely.

Simon has now extended the work of AAF by setting up an eye clinic based at Gai Health Centre to help alleviate some of the many eye problems of the local people. He spoke about these problems at the meeting and had some graphic photos to illustrate his overwhelming workload whenever he travels to the area.

Although a small charity they are making a big difference to the lives of the Akamba tribe, and are always grateful for the support of people in our area. There are a number of ways, in which you can help this project. If you have old, unwanted and unused glasses which you could donate, these can be recycled by Simon to give better sight to a Kenyan person. They can be left at any branch of Robert Frith Optometrists. Donations to fund cataract operations, which cost less than £50, are always needed, and can be made at:

www.justgiving.com/TheGiftOfSight.



More details about their work may be found on their website www.akambaaidfund.org

Marion Biggs

"OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES" BY THE FISHER SINFONIA ENSEMBLE

Christmas arrived at All Saints Church in Merriott with their 8th Carols & Classics Concert on the 17th December. An audience of 206 was treated to a magnificent evening of Classical music, Festive arrangements and Carols performed by the Fisher Sinfonia Ensemble. The evening included works by Widor, Haydn, Bridge, Bach, Brahms and Liszt performed by the extremely talented ensemble of Strings, Piano and Organ and organised by Joe Fisher of Merriott.

The Piano Quintet in C Minor (3rd Movement) by J. Brahms had the audience captivated. A beautiful rendition of Liszt's "Un Sospiro" was also performed by Guest pianist Gamal Khamis on the Schiedmayer Piano. Gamal produced an interesting fact that the very early Schiedmayer pianos were used by Liszt himself. Other solos included Richard Brasier performing Widor's "Toccata" pulling all the stops out on the old church organ, and Leo Melvin on Cello performing Cello Suite No. 6 by J.s. Bach, a 5 string cello arrangement but masterfully played on his gut strung 4 string cello.

A truly festive evening raised over £1,170 for the church fabric fund. Bob Hicks, the vicar of Merriott, thanked and congratulated the musicians on their outstanding perform ances and reiterated the fact that Merriott and the surrounding area are truly lucky to have such talented musicians visit and perform at the church. Bob also thanked all the helpers, organisers, raffle donators and of course Mortimers the Bakers for the supply of Mince Pies for the 8th year!

Paul Fisher

DEAR EDITOR



I was walking my dog with 2 of my small children yesterday. We did the full Merriott lap (as we call it) and I counted 30+ pieces of dog mess that were not collected up by dog owners. This was on the main routes around the village (Lower Street, Broadway, Church Street then Higher Street). Not only this, I wheeled

my pram wheels into 3 separate piles that were hidden by grass along the alleyway through Shiremoor Terrace.

Luckily this was just my wheels this time but normally my 21 month old likes to walk and being an unsteady crazy boy does often fall over and we have ended up with poo on his hands.

Merriott is a lovely village and eventually it will just 'stink' if dog owners don't become more responsible. Poo shouldn't be left for small children to fall in and step in. So the message here is man up and pick up your dog poo!!

Merriott Resident (name & address supplied)

Antiques "Call my Bluff"

Guess which description of the antiques is TRUE! With guest experts Nic Saintey, Christopher Hampton & Daniel Goddard on **Tuesday 7th**



March in The Millennium Hall, Water St, Seavington St Mary TA19 0QH. Bar opens @ 7.00pm, quiz starts @7.30pm. Tickets in advance @ £10 from Seavington Community Store or ring Marion on 01460 249522. Delicious buffet supper included. Tables for 6 or join with others on the night. Proceeds in aid of improvements to Seavington Community Store. Merriott Social Club staff and committee would like to wish all our members and non-members a very Happy New Year and thank them for their continual support throughout 2016. 2017 promises to be another eventful year with monthly markets, bingos, private functions, skittles, darts and pool teams not to mention the fantastic line up of bands and karaoke we have coming up.

Don't forget the function room can be hired by members and nonmembers and is ideal for a variety of events, please do book up early though.



Our next **Monthly Market** will be on **Saturday 4th February** and is in aid of Stoke Children's Brass band and MS - pop in for an after Christmas bargain while enjoying a nice cuppa



sent in by Mo Frampton What is paradise? But a garden, an orchard of trees and herbs full of pleasure and nothing there but delights. *William Lawson*

and bacon bap.

CASH BINGO:

Donna will be holding cash bingo in the function room every Wednesday night from 8pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Saturday 28th January will our next live band ,'Old Skool'.

Saturday 25th February we will be having our popular karaoke in the bar. Come on down early to ensure a table for a 9pm start.

Thank you to all who attended our New Years Eve Party is was a fantastic night and once again a sell out!!!!!

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.

K Rooke on behalf of Merriott Social Club

"WATER IN ALL ITS FORMS" BY JANET LAILEY

Cold rain, stripping the spirit from life. Warm rain, which refreshes joy, Felt first on the skin. Dew on long grass, drenching my legs. Water humming and groaning in a kettle, for coffee,

Or bubbling in a pan, As I tumble in crisp cauliflower, Smooth spinach leaves. The enveloping comfort of a hot bath. The crunch of transformative snow; Brittle ice-geometry in puddled ruts. Sea water, salty, sounding, shifting, Crashing surf, silky ripples. A remembered stream - clear water Running over pebbles - disclosing delight: Water-crowsfoot floating in languid swathes, Green starred with white; caddis worms Armoured in their cases of sand jewels.

Tears, of sympathy, sorrow or frustration. Tears, that all humans recognise as communication;

Messages sent and received, but All too easily misunderstood.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Obscene graffiti has recently been sprayed on the wall of the bridge at Merriotsford. Spraying graffiti constitutes criminal damage and also looks very unpleasant, giving the wrong impression to anyone visiting the area.

If anyone witnessed this incident or has any information which may help to identify the culprit can you please ring 101 and ask to speak to PC Chris PURCELL or PCSO Michelle HAIMES. Alternatively please e-mail:

michelle.haimes@avonandsomerset.police.uk.



ROBERT FRITH

Your local independent optician

Free emergency eye care under the Somerset NHS ACES scheme



Advanced 3D retinal scanner now available

- 36 Fore Street, Chard 4 Market Street, Crewkerne
- 28 Princes Street, Yeovil
- 01460 67771
- 01460 72964
- 01935 478463

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT				
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