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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

JUNE 2016

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merriottmessenger@gmail.com

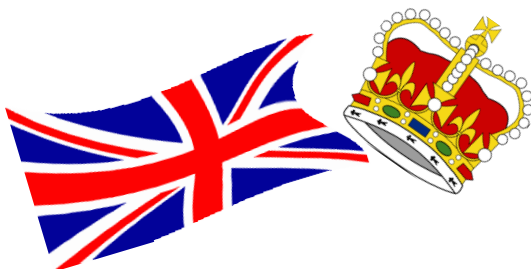
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If you would like to sponsor the Merriott Messenger, please contact a member of the editorial team. Details on back page.

Copy date for the July issue is **12th June**.

SUMMER FUN IN MERRIOTT BEGINS IN JUNE !



MERRIOTT SUMMER FAYRE

Begin your family entertainment and support our lovely village church at a "Right Royal Do" in Church Street. Merriott Summer Fayre is taking place on **Saturday 11th June** - 11am - 3pm. We will have all sorts of entertainment, games, stalls, Dog Show, Prize Draw, BBQ and other refreshments. Bring the family, meet friends and make new ones when you come along to a great day out!

"GARDEN DAYS"

Hurst Brook Plants

Sat 4th & Sun 5th June

10 am – 4.00 pm

Join us for a celebration of Peony flowering time. Nursery open, homemade refreshments, music from Kingsbury Band and Holly and Ivor. Free entry. Peonies, Irises, Perennials and Herbs. Venue: Lower Severalls Nr. Crewkerne TA18 7NX.



Saturday 18th June

More fun with "The Beach Boys Band" concert at the Village Hall. 7pm - 11pm - tickets include BBQ supper, with a veggie option, and dessert.

Food will be served from 7pm - 9pm and the concert begins about 7.45pm, with coffee in the interval and licensed bar open all evening.

There will be seating for everyone indoors and some tables outside.

This excellent tribute band's **live music** is for all ages - come and enjoy the evening.

Tickets £15 (6 - 16's £10) from Osbornes or from the Box Office at Merriott Village Hall on Tuesday 14th June 7pm - 9pm, or phone 01460 78461 (leave a message).

Come and enjoy Father's Day weekend.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

RECREATION FIELD REVIEW AND UPGRADE

Our Rec. team has already started with the long awaited review of the whole facility.

We are fortunate to have significant infrastructure support funds available - these are payments made by developers for specific purposes in recognition of the needs of a growing community. The money is held by the District Council and released to MPC for approved projects.

Financial support is separately allocated by SSDC for other purposes, such as village hall improvements and minor local highways

schemes.

On the Parish Council our team has already identified the following as desirable:

For the young - additions to play equipment to offer balance for all ages, pre-school, teenagers, in between. We also plan to refurbish the existing apparatus and to replace the poor safety surfaces with seamless all weather 'softpour' material under all moving apparatus.

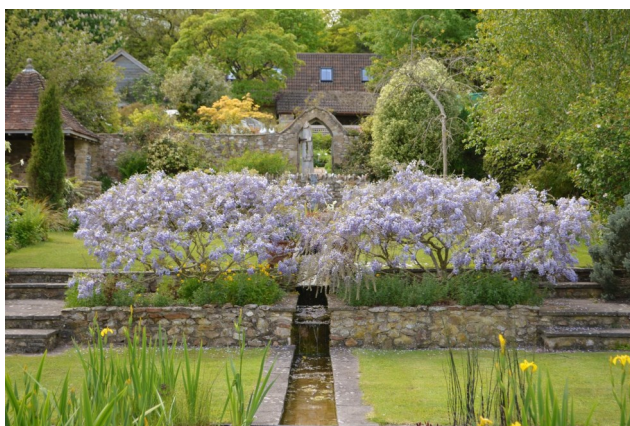
For sports people - tennis courts surface refurbishment in latex colour coat, new posts and nets.

Continued on page 10

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB



Our meeting on **28th June**, takes the form of an afternoon visit to Burrow Farm Gardens, near Axminster. East Devon's Secret Garden has been developed over 50 years and has 13 acres of lovingly designed gardens with colour throughout the year. This peaceful oasis has a variety of different planting styles which complement the stunning rural views. Enjoy the different design styles within the garden and appreciate the naturalistic planting. Tea room and plant sales. This is a car sharing event and if you are happy to drive or would like a lift, please contact Jenny on 07765 914723. Meet at the Tithe Barn at 1.30pm.



Reduced entrance fee to the gardens – Members £6 and non-members £8 per head. Dogs welcome.

Please note the change to the advertised programme for **31st May**. Instead of the Brimsore shopping trip, which has been cancelled due to lack of interest, Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery will give us a talk entitled "Why Did It Die?" Neil will bring plants for us to buy. Meet at the

Tithe Barn at 7.30 pm, refreshments, raffle, seed and plant sales. "Flower of the Month" competition.

Mo Frampton - 07967 028277



Café - Wednesday 8th June

9.00 till 1.30 last lunch orders

Tea, cakes and lunches

Pizza takeaway - Friday 24th June

Phones open for orders from 5 till 8pm

07801 639 937. Email us for a menu

thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com or join us on Facebook the Village Cafe Merriott.

OPEN GROUP

Two interesting meetings in June:

9th June: A behind the scenes tour of the Octagon Theatre, Yeovil

23rd June: Anoraks Film Show - Damsels in Distress, The Power and the Glory

Any queries contact Marion Biggs 01460 74170. The Open Group will be running the Cake Stall at the Church Summer Fayre on Saturday 11th June 11am - 3pm. All contributions will be gratefully received. Contact Marion Biggs as above.

Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am

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



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



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

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

Come and join the Choir

Merriott

Hinton St George

Call to all enthusiastic singers - everyone welcome!!

An exciting opportunity to join a brand new choir for our village churches. The choir is open to both children (8+) and adults with the aim of enjoying singing together at occasional special services in our four beautiful churches.

We rehearse fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in term time.

No auditions, just lots of enthusiasm required!

UPCOMING WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS:

1st JUNE @ 7.30pm, 15th and 29th JUNE @ 7pm

at MERRIOTT CHURCH

For more details please contact Bob or Julia Hicks on 01460 76406 or simply come along to Merriott Church for the next rehearsal.

Dinnington

Lopen



KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL NEWS

Ofsted visit confirms Merriott School has maintained its Good rating !

At the end of last half term Merriott First School had a short inspection from Ofsted. These inspections now take place when a school was previously good and are carried out by an HMI. The whole school community rallied around and, while the day was intense, it was also a very useful day in terms of looking forward to our next steps. The report, which takes the form of a letter, was finally published in April and we are delighted to inform the community that Merriott First School has maintained the good quality of education it provides since the last inspection in 2010. Phil Smith, Headteacher said "We are delighted to have maintained a good outcome, especially as the bar has been raised considerably in terms of what is expected of good schools. The staff and pupils are all working extremely hard to make our school even better to come and learn."



Mr Smith with a Maths group

The Report recognised the improvements we have been making in our learning environments and the way we are focused on high expectations for pupils, both academically and their personal development. It also recognised we are working well with other CISP (Crewkerne and Ilminster Schools Partnership) schools to improve outcomes for pupils across all of these schools. The next steps identified in the Report are areas already forming part of development plans and included improving mathematics teaching further and developing the work of middle leaders within the school. Phil Smith, Headteacher, said "It was great that Ofsted recognised our strengths and more importantly confirmed the next steps which the Governors and I had pinpointed in our continuous school self-evaluation. The staff are all looking forward to putting these next steps into place to make Merriott First School an even better place for children to learn."

On the morning of Saturday May 7th, Parents and Staff came together to begin to improve the outside grounds of Merriott First School. The working party took part in painting, gardening and general tidying up so that the children have a better learning experience outside. Phil Smith, said "Merriott First School is very lucky to have such lovely grounds for the children to use as part of our learning experience. The School

Council and I met and decided we needed to update some of the tired parts of our grounds. Those that volunteered on Saturday have given this a real kick start and we are currently having plans drawn up to improve the grounds further. With school budgets so tight, school leaders are always looking for alternative ways to bring about change. It would be great if the wider community could get behind this too!"



Working party transforming the playground

If the wider community has any spare time and would like to help this improvement project at Merriott First School we would love to hear from you. This may be from volunteering time to help paint woodwork, to help with finding funding streams for the school. There may also be local businesses who could assist by donating time or sponsorship to help our young people. If you are interested in supporting the school in anyway contact the school office and speak to Margaret Watts, 01460 72547 or email office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk

Phil Smith - Headteacher

MOBILE LIBRARY

JUNE VISIT:
Tuesday @
Merriott School
9.30am - 10am
28th June

The 2016 Annual Flower & Produce Show Schedule will be available at the end of June from Osborne's, Merriott Pharmacy, All Saints Church Porch, Committee Members and at the Merriott Garden Club meeting on 26th July.

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RCVS
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PRACTICE

NEWS FROM THE MERRIOTT HERITAGE TRUST

Since our last bulletin we have appointed two new Trustees, bringing our number up to five. These appointments will enable us to expand the scope of the Trust's activities in the future. They are Christine Maxwell of Chapel Cottage, Court Mill Lane and Mike Cable, the new landlord of The Kings Head. The village owes them and their families a substantial debt of gratitude for their work in restoring, and in Mike's case, rescuing for us, two major elements of our built and social heritage. If only we knew more of the history of these two important buildings!

Can anyone out there help I wonder?

We're sure everyone will be interested to know that the first Heritage Grant has been agreed, and will enable work to begin in the late summer to repair and conserve stonework around the West Door of All Saints Church. The amounts of money which will be available from the Trust's Heritage Grant Fund are modest, and will normally be restricted to providing 50% of the cost of any work agreed by the Trustees. The stonework restoration at our church is a good example of the kind of contribution which the Fund can now make towards the conservation of important heritage features around the village and we must all remember that it was Cathy Herriman's generosity that has enabled the Trustees to help in this way.

Applicants for a Heritage Grant might be wanting financial help towards the restoration of a date stone on their property such as the one no longer legible on the Reading Room (now the Social Club) for example, or repair of railings or windows, or perhaps towards enhancement of the natural environment through tree or hedgerow planting. Small improvements towards our public footpath maintenance and signage would be another potential recipient of grant aid. Grant Application Forms are available from the Trustees for consideration on a first-come-first-served basis each year.

Contact has been made with the developers of the Tail Mill Site which is now progressing apace, but with obvious respect for the importance of this piece of Merriott's history. The developers are maintaining a comprehensive photographic record of the restoration work and of the inevitable changes that are taking place as the derelict buildings are being brought back to life with a new and very different function. We expect that a copy will be made available to the Trust for our archives.



Meanwhile, the clock-face of the original warehouse building clock has been donated to the Trust and is in safe keeping awaiting restoration when funds permit. Before she died Cathy had "rescued" a surviving section of iron scrollwork from the mill gates which is also now in safe keeping. Sadly the mechanism of the clock is long gone, we know not where, but if anyone has any knowledge of its whereabouts the Trustees would love to know.

The Trust's winnowing machine now resides in the workshop of restoration specialist Nick Bridges for his care and attention. Interestingly, a chance viewing of our local Anorak Film Company's film on local watermills briefly captured a shot of a very similar machine inside a corn mill. We had pondered the small scale of the one which came to us from Moorlands Farm, and it now seems a likely possibility that ours may have come from Billings Mill where it would have been used in the production of

flour.

Can anybody shed further light on this?

The Trustees are in discussion with the Trustees of Crewkerne Museum regarding the Merriott Archive which is in their care. At some point in the future it may become possible to locate these records in the village for the convenience of researchers, but in the interim two of the Trustees have agreed to begin a review and cataloguing of the documents so that we know what is

there. If anyone feels they may be able to help with this major task would you please let us know.

Finally a comment about the Trust's interest in the proposed greenfield development of housing to the north of Lower Street between Manor Drive and the Parrett Way long-distance footpath. While the Trustees do not have a view on the need or otherwise for more housing in the village, the proposed site for another thirty houses impinges directly on the basic objectives of the Merriott Heritage Trust which

are to help to conserve and enhance Merriott's built and natural heritage. Anyone reading our District Council's Heritage Officer's comments on the proposed development is left in no doubt regarding his strongly held opinion that Merriott's natural heritage will be seriously damaged if the proposal is permitted. Certainly the Trustees will be saddened if new building goes ahead on the scale suggested by the applicant in such a sensitive and important location whose network of footpaths are enjoyed by so many villagers. The Moorlands Farm and Tail Mill developments are excellent examples of how heritage enhancement can go hand-in-hand with the provision of new homes in or near Merriott's Conservation Areas and on brownfield sites. Clearly the Osborne Fields proposal is not in any way comparable.

*Tony Hobbs
Chairman*

MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP



Now that Spring is finally here we are able to become more active in our monitoring and maintenance of the footpaths. Each member of the group monitors several paths and in this way we can keep an eye on their condition but we are still reliant on you, the wider community, to report any problems you may encounter. Hopefully, we can then act quickly to put things right. Don't forget, you can contact us on our email: merriott.fg@gmail.com or phone me on 01460 73158.

Recently, Tony and Pat Hobbs left the group due to other commitments so we thank them for their valuable contribution during the past year. We were very pleased to be able to welcome Alison and Martyn Spice also Marilyn and Mike Churchill to the group and they have contributed much already.

We were recently gifted some hard-core/chippings and some paving slabs which we have used to try to create a harder, firmer surface through an often very boggy section of path which is part of the Parrett Trail. Thanks go to Mr & Mrs Fisk for the hard-core and some paving slabs and thanks also to Mark Riley for additional paving slabs.

The latest of our village footpath walks took place on the 27th April. The walk took us to the south west, west and north of the parish and



Volunteers laying the new slab pathway

lasted about 2 hours. We were pleased that 13 people took part and it was nice to welcome some new folks. We are planning more village walks from time to time, so look out for details in the Messenger.

We are grateful, as always, to our local landowners who keep hedges trimmed and paths clear. It makes such a difference when one can walk a path that is clear of overgrowth. Please show your appreciation by keeping to the definitive footpaths and not wandering over private land.

And finally, I make no apology for, once again, asking dog walkers to bag and bin their dog's poo. I know that the majority of people are responsible and do the right thing, but there is still evidence left on the paths. There are dog litter bins all around the village so there really is no excuse. And after going to the trouble of bagging it, please, please don't leave the bag hanging in the hedge. We look forward to some fine summer weather so we can all enjoy walking on the paths in our parish.

John Goldie - Parish Path Liaison Officer



DONE THE SCHOOL RUN?

NEED A BREAK?

"Coffee Stop" takes place
every Tuesday

in Merriott Church
from 10.00-11.30am

Coffee and cake £1 with free refills,
all welcome, children's drinks and
play area.

The first Tuesday each month we
will be open at 9am:

June 7th and July 5th

so do come along and enjoy a
coffee with friends.



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SWAN PUB UPDATE

Firstly we would like to thank all those customers who have supported the Swan over the past 4 years but regretfully, we have to announce that we have placed the pub for sale as both of us now have health problems and these health issues must be dealt with as a priority. John is expected to be incapacitated over the next 6-12 months and Cath is unable to take up all the additional workload that will create. As a consequence, we have had to place the pub for sale. Hopefully, this will be achieved before treatment starts, to avoid the need to close.

During the last 4 years we have tried to offer the village a true local pub focussed solely on Merriott. It was always our aim to employ 3 staff from the community but unfortunately this has not come to fruition. Hence, we are in this sad position.

We have always taken a serious stance

on our licencing responsibilities and as such have never had any visits from the Police for disruption, disturbance or anything else and for this we are proud of our record. A situation we will endeavour to continue.

During our time at the Swan, we have sponsored several village teams, sponsored local events, contributed to and held events for local charities, organised trips to Twickenham for international rugby, Taunton for cricket and brought the garden back into use instigating an annual beer festival, garden music events and private parties but overall we would have liked to have done more had circumstances allowed.

We will try to keep you up to date with any further developments. In the meantime, we hope to continue to see you as normal.

We have the following events planned: Summer Skittles between June – August. Cash + Keg of beer/cider/lager to the

winners (rules apply)

Every Friday & Sunday afternoons (Friday commencing Friday 13th May & Sunday commencing June) Happy Hours sessions – all pints £2.50

28th May – Champions league final 6pm with BBQ

10th June – **Simon Rees** – party in the pub - Entrance free

11th June – England v Russia Euro Championships

18th June – Australia v England Rugby with breakfast

20th June – England v Slovakia Euro Championship

24th June – Brexit party in the pub (subject to a leave result)

25th/26th June - Euro last 16

2nd July – **Beer festival** with 3 bands and BBQ - Entrance Free.

Every Wednesday - Cash Bingo 8.00pm

Every Sunday – Quiz 9.00pm

John, Cathy & Jet



THE FISHER SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

performed a scintillating performance of the Shostakovich Octet at All Saints Church on a blustery Sunday afternoon on the 1st May, to an audience of over 120. Rev Bob Hicks congratulated the players on their exceptional performance and the privilege to have them performing in Merriott's church. It was interesting to note the number of people attracted to the concert from outside the area - from Seaton to Sherborne and Bridport to Somerton, even people on holiday down from Windsor, Salisbury and London. The concert raised over £500 towards the church fabric fund. Joseph and the Fisher Family would like to thank all those helped on the day, provided cakes and raffle prizes for the event.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS



I wonder if there are any kind souls in Merriott who might consider helping up at the church with a few things. We would really appreciate a couple more volunteer **CLEANERS** to keep the inside of the church looking at its very best all through the year. I know it's a large building, but don't be put off, as each of our cleaners is assigned a small and manageable area. There is a floor plan and sign-up sheet in the church, so you could choose one of the areas that we need help with. You don't have to come at any particular time, just when suits you (but not during a service please!).

To discuss further, please contact either Ann Lawrence (01460 78461) or one of our churchwardens, Tom Jones (01460 240615) and Robin Gilkes (01460 75549).

We are also desperately short of **FLOWER ARRANGERS**. If you would like to have a go at decorating the church for our Sunday services during the year, but feel you don't have the skills, we could arrange some workshops or training. Please contact Sybil Parker (01460 929024) or Ann Lawrence (01460 78461). Or how about helping keep the Churchyard in good order? Come to one of our regular **WORK PARTIES**. Would you like

to be a **READER** in our Sunday services? What about helping at our regular **COFFEE STOP** on Tuesdays?

The church and churchyard are there for everyone – not just those who turn up on a Sunday. We do need help to keep it going!

Rev Bob Hicks, The Rectory, 76406.

Church Services in June

Sun 5th	8.30am Holy Communion
Sun 12th	9.30am Parish Communion
Sun 19th	10am Family Service for Fathers' Day
Sun 26th	10am Sung Communion

"AN EXTRAORDINARY LITTLE FLOWER"



Mo Frampton sent us this photo of a Billbergia which was given to her by Gillian, a fellow member of the Merriott Gardening Club. She describes it as: "Quite an extraordinary little flower, slightly longer than a bluebell and a multitude of colours. The flower is rather short-lived and is a rather untidy plant, but with such a wonderful bloom I'd forgive it anything!"

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents



'DAD'S ARMY' (PG),

Saturday 18th June 2016

Hinton Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50 on the door. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563. A strong cast came together to reform one of television's most popular comedy series. The Walmington-On-Sea home guard are led by Toby Jones, Bill Nighy & Michael Gambon and they have to deal with both a German spy in the town & a beautiful visiting female journalist played by Catherine Zeta-Jones.

MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

June's monthly market has been cancelled due to other commitments.

The next month's market is on **Saturday 2nd July** 10am till 1pm in aid of St Martins Church in North Perrott.

There will be no market in August but will be back monthly from September to December. Come rain or shine we would love to see you support this event enjoying a bacon bap, cup of tea or just a chat while browsing some fantastic stalls.

Date for your diary:

On **June 25th** we will have John Stone playing in the bar for the first time with us - we would love to see as many of you come to support.

Don't forget if you are a member there is a chance of winning the members

draw at 10pm on a Saturday but you need to be there to win it.

We are always looking for new ideas, be it fundraising, charity, entertainment or anything else, so please email us at merriottsocialclub@hotmail.co.uk or via our Merriott Social Club facebook page.

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!

HASELBURY MILL

HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Not Just Somerset's leading wedding venue...



Our Lakeside restaurant & bar are open every day for

Breakfast – Lunch – Afternoon tea – Dinner.

Lunch served Midday onwards – Dinner from 6.30pm – Afternoon tea served all day

Our fantastic carvery served every Sunday from noon.

We offer a choice of four local meats Beef, pork, turkey & ham as well as five fresh vegetables all with real homemade gravy – Booking recommended £9.95 adult's £5.95 children

Our Lunch & Dinner menus are all sourced from local suppliers using seasonal produce, with daily changing dishes from fine dining to more relaxed bistro, salads & grazing platters

From conferences to family parties, we have a number of function suites including the spectacular Great Tithe barn to suit both private & corporate events, with prices for every pocket.

Alongside this we have our **hotel with 21 bedrooms** in the new Coach house & Georgian Mill house.

From a quiet pint in our beautiful gardens to that special celebration Haselbury Mill has it all.

For information on upcoming events, Special offers & menus please see our website.

www.haselburymill.co.uk



or call 01460 77095

Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne TA18 7NY

RENOVATIONS TO YOUR VILLAGE HALL

The latest improvement project to the village hall is nearly finished. The old green building behind the Hall has been demolished by its owner the Parish Council. This has enabled the Village Hall Committee to create a new entrance direct from the Parish Council car park and to create a gravel area around the west and south of the Hall with new fencing.

A new rear entrance door in the south west face of the Hall leads to an outside terrace facing the playing fields and the lovely views beyond. As a result the interior of the Hall is much lighter. A ramp gives access for all users to the car park. New double glazed windows at the back and sides of the hall

will be installed by the 17th June.

This £23,000 project has been funded by grants from South Somerset District Council (£11K) and the Garfield Weston Foundation (£1K), S106 allocation from the Broadway Farm development (£9K), and £2K from village hall reserves. The Village Hall now needs to raise more money to pay for the next planned projects.

We hope you will support the Beach Boys Concert and BBQ to help raise these funds.

John Bowman



BEFORE

The rear of the Village Hall obscured by the old green building built by the Americans at the end of the 2nd World War and now demolished by the Parish Council.

AFTER

The rear of the Village Hall with the new entrance nearing completion. The new access is wheelchair-friendly and will be close to disabled parking spaces when the car park is refurbished by the Parish Council.



MERRIOTT YOUNG WIVES



We are celebrating 50+ years of Merriott Young Wives, now MOG, on **Sunday 31st July** at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground @ 2pm. Former members and partners are very welcome. Come along and enjoy a glass of bubbly, light refreshments and share photos and memories. Please contact Janette Shire Tel 01460 73159 email janetteshire@hotmail.co.uk

WELL, I NEVER KNEW THAT ...

- 1 recycled tin can would save enough money to power a television for 3 hours.
- 1 recycled glass bottle would save enough money to power a computer for 25 minutes.
- 1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours.
- 70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared with making it from raw materials.

Source: Recycling-guide.org.uk

A GLORIOUS DAY DOWN AT THE ALLOTMENTS !



A glorious day in a wonderful setting awaited the steady stream of visitors to the Merriott Allotments on Sunday 15th May.

Many people commented on the lovely views and ambiance at the site and were happy to just sit and relax in the sunshine while they enjoyed a glass of Merriott Cider, apple juice or strawberry wine. There were also home made cakes, hot dogs, beef burgers and bacon rolls. The seed and plant swop was a great success too.

The children's competition was won by Ava Plant, Emily Bending and Gracie Plant.

*Beryl Bellamy
Secretary - Merriott Allotment Association*



Would you like to find out more about the Christian faith?

Do come and join us on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, Merriott **starting on June 6th**

We shall be using the 'Pilgrim' course as a basis for our discussions and study. This group is for all ages and beliefs.

For more details contact Bob Hicks 01460 76406 or email bobhicks66@gmail.com.

We shall be in the church with refreshments from 7pm.

THE MERRIOTT MESSENGER

If you have any stories of your life in Merriott that you would like to share and have published in the Messenger, please contact Janet Lailey who would be more than happy to help you (tel: 271008). Equally, the editors welcome signed letters, via post or email, which they can publish, about any issues or village affairs that you would like to comment on.

Editorial Team



GARDENING CLUB QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies."

Gertrude Jekyll

HISTORY ON VIEW IN MERRIOTT BY MARION BIGGS

This month's "History on View" is a little off the beaten track. In medieval times there was a manor house situated just north of All Saints Church. Fishponds are a feature often associated with medieval manors since they provided a constant supply of food. A well preserved fishpond, now dry, can be seen below the scarp where the manor house stood. The photo does not do it justice but it is easier to see on the ground.



A second pond to the east of this one is also visible. A footpath from Townsend Orchard leads to the top of the scarp and then diagonally across fields towards the junction of

Garstone Lane and Sandy Hole. The fishponds are approx. half-way between these two points. Grid reference ST443132.

Good Luck!



THE ROTARY CLUB OF CREWKERNE

As the largest organisation in the World and the biggest of its kind in Great Britain and Ireland, Rotary is uniquely placed to harness the energies of thousands of potential volunteers who want to make a contribution to the community at home or abroad.

Through their local clubs members devote time, energy and skills to a whole range of projects and pride themselves on bringing the same degree of professionalism to their community work as

they devote to their occupations.

Crewkerne is lucky in that it has two Clubs. The Rotary Club of Crewkerne and Rotary Club Of Crewkerne District. Could you help your community with your time and energy in supporting local projects, whilst making new friends and having fun?

Some of the projects Rotary are currently involved in are:-

Kids Out at Crealy Park; The Dinnington Horse Ride; St. Bartholomew's Street

Fair; Youth Speaks; Youth Technology Tournament; Crewkerne's Annual Bonfire & Fireworks; Santa's float around the town & villages; Christmas Rotary Shop and Numerous Social events.

Rotary Club Of Crewkerne needs good people like you. So if you interested in making a contribution and would enjoy the company of other like-minded people, then please contact our Club Secretary to arrange a visit:

Ian Rowland (Secretary) 01460 78951
Email: crewkerneribi@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

For all ages - an 'outdoor gym' with all weather access, go to www.caloo check out the Cardio Bundle. This is not hard work equipment, users decide the level of energy they want to use up! (The selection is not decided yet.) This is proposed for the space in front of the machinery shed.

For the less able - a sensory garden in the South East corner. While originally designed for those of us with visual impairment, they have become tranquil rest areas for everyone.

For the less able also, to the benefit of all, a hard surface level footway with lighting from the car park to the sensory garden, the pavilion and outdoor gym.

For teenagers - a make over for the Youth Shelter, and the addition of a hard standing.

Finally, a re-modelling of the car park to increase its capacity, (for visitors and those of us who don't have time to walk), the

rough perimeter will be replaced with tarmac, the whole area will be re-graded, with the top coat reaching right to the road.

To finish off, we plan new wrought iron gates matching those of the Village Hall.

HOWS THAT? ENOUGH?



NOW WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU.

Please email the parish clerk with your ideas: Mrs. Katharine Sheehan, merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk
Alternatively go to our Facebook page.

Next month - local highways issues.

Iain Hall, Chairman

SOLAR ARRAY AT LOWER SEVERALLS

**Bath & West
Community Energy**
Generating local energy



Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) – an award winning community benefit society - have contracted to buy and take into community ownership approximately half of the solar array being built outside Lower Severalls. The section BWCE will own will be capable of generating 5MW of clean energy.

In order to buy this array BWCE have launched a public share offer for £2.63 million. The offer has two parts; a 2 year fixed interest bond that pays 5% a year and a longer term investment by buying shares in BWCE. BWCE has paid its members 7% interest on their investment for the last 7 years.

The estimated community fund is in excess of £2.5 million and the array will generate the equivalent annual electricity demand from about 1650 typical homes.

The offer is open now and more details can be found by visiting the BWCE website

www.bwce.coop.

If you would be interested in attending a meeting to hear a presentation about the array, and how you and your community could benefit, please email Peter Andrews peter.andrews@bwce.coop

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Endangered species - "Dun Belted Galloway" - seen here in the green centre of Merriott. Taken by Chriselda McPherson - April 2016

Please send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



CREWKERNE & DISTRICT MUSEUM will take you back to the past with a new exhibition opening on **11th June**.

"Changes – memories of the last 60 years" will take visitors back over a lifetime of reflections on health, education, sport and entertainment through interviews, objects and documents from the collection. The public is welcome to add their stories.

For further details visit www.crewkernemuseum.co.uk.

BROADWAY GARDEN TIDY-UP

Sunday 8th May was a lovely sunny morning and 6 volunteers turned up to help me tidy the Broadway garden. We all worked hard for 3 hours, sustained very generously by bacon sandwiches, soft drinks and cakes provided by other villagers. Thank you all very much for all your hard work which was very much appreciated. See you again in October!

Christine McLeod



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.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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<p>Lower Severalls Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast</p> <p>Open all year lowerseverallsfarmhouse.co.uk 01460 73234</p>	<p>Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor</p> <p>Free Estimates Tel 01460 73260</p>	<p>Merriottsford Minibus</p> <p>Quality 14 - 16 seaters for that special day/night out</p> <p>01460 75089 Airline Taxis 01460 75089 01935 414444</p>	<p>Fusion Fostering</p> <p>We are always looking for families who can offer warm, loving and safe homes to children and young people who need Fostering. Tel: 03301 239355 info@fusionfostering.com</p>															
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<p>Ian Crossland Property Maintenance</p> <p>Tel: 01935 411813 Mob: 07811 070 498</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interior and exterior decoratingCarpentry and hanging doorsFitting fences and gates	<p>Merriott Childcare Solutions Childminder</p> <p>OFSTED & PACEY registered Graded Outstanding Ad-hoc, F/T and P/T hours Registered for Early Years Educational funding www.merriottchildcare.co.uk 01460 74086/ 07807 753 779</p>	<p>Popular Motors, Merriott Service Station</p> <p>Broadway, Quality Car Sales, Workshop, MOT testing Garage & Car Service - 01460 76803 Shop and PO - 01460 78716 www.popularmotors.co.uk</p>	<p>Robert Frith Optometrists</p> <p>your local independent Optician FREE emergency appointments under the NHS Somerset ACES service Chard 67771 Crewkerne 72964 Yeovil 01935 478463</p>	<p>Merriott Social Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• open every evening• spacious function room available for hire <p>01460 74376 merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com</p> <p>Find us on </p>														
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