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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

MARCH 2015

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lent Lunches	2
Merriott First School Welly	3
All Saints Spring Work Party	4
Music from around the	5
Parish	6
Merriott Village Hall	7
Our Sponsors	8

Copy deadline for the April issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th March. Articles received after this date may not be included. Please send us your artwork and/or photographs.

We shall be including an up-dated Useful Telephone Numbers sheet in the April issue. If you know of any changes to village group contact details, please send them to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

Thank you.

PARISH COUNCILLORS REQUIRED

HAVE YOU EVER:

- had ideas about how your local services could be improved?
- wanted to see if your ideas could make a difference?
- felt you could be a voice for your community?

If so, why not become a Parish Councillor? Local elections are due in May 2015.

COULD YOU BE ONE?

What do parish or town councillors do?

Councillors represent the electors in their parish ward. They are accessible to residents to listen to their concerns and to deal with them or pass them for action to the appropriate authorities directly or via the Parish Clerk. Councillors may represent the Council on local bodies and in meetings with other authorities. They help formulate responses to county or national consultations when relevant local issues are involved.

Councillors can provide leadership on local initiatives, for example Parish Plans. In everything they do, Councillors need to bring integrity and

common sense to their approach and look for viable realistic outcomes that can be achieved.

All this work involves time, meetings have to be attended and planning applications and other documents have to be reviewed. The workload varies



but an average weekly estimate is about 3 hours. In return is the immense satisfaction of putting something back into the community.

In Merriott, 12 member seats are available. Current members also have to re-apply. Central training will be

available and funded. The first meeting will be in May.

AM I QUALIFIED?

You are able to be a councillor if:

- you are a British subject, a citizen of the Irish Republic or other Euro national and on the day of nomination are over 18 and registered as an elector;
- during the whole of the twelve months preceding nomination day, or the day of election, resided or had your principal place of work in the parish or town, or within three miles of it.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

You can get a detailed guide to being a Councillor (including a nomination pack) from:

Democratic Services, South Somerset District Council, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT. Tel: 01935 462462 You can also e-mail democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk; visit the website at: www.southsomerset.gov.uk; or contact the Parish Clerk merriottclerk@hotmail.co.uk

MOORLANDS FARM DEVELOPMENT AND A SURGERY FOR MERRIOTT

Following the disclosure that the Crewkerne Health Centre does not wish to be involved in a Merriott Surgery, the Parish Council, along with the Village Plan Group, have written to the Clinical Commissioning Group of the NHS to seek reas-

surance that it continues to support the development of the Surgery.

At the same time, ongoing discussions between the developers, Clipper Developments, the Merriott

Pharmacy and other interested parties for the construction of a surgery look promising.

In the meantime house construction on the Moorlands farm site is progressing well.

PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTERS REVIEWED AT FEBRUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

(1) APPLICATION 14/04760/LBC PROPOSAL: Demolish existing garden room & erection of replacement garden room. LOCATION Lindum House 33 Broadway Merriott. Amended drawings: Roof lights altered, ground floor partitions partially re instated and notation added to indicate the up stand to rear of garden room. (Parish Council recommend APPROVAL)

(2) APPLICATION 15/00229/FUL PROPOSAL: Demolition of conservatory and the erection of a garden room. LOCATION: Gappers Pool 9-11 Church Street Merriott. (Parish Council recommend APPROVAL)

DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS

(3) Bow Barn Farm –erection of 3 canopies – Granted with conditions

(4) Oak Tree House, Church Street – erection single storey rear extension – Granted with

conditions

(5) Land at Gappers Pool, Church Street- 1 dwelling house & garage - Refuse Permission

(6) Tail Mill Lane –Alterations and conversion of redundant site 23+22 new builds – Grant consent with conditions. The Clerk reported that the minutes of Area West meeting state the officers recommendation to support the application was approved subject to the following:

- a Section 106 Agreement that secures a review mechanism of viability after 3 years
- An additional condition to cover phasing of the development
- The design conditions to be collated into one condition
- The installation of a bollard to be included in condition 28
- Condition 33 to be amended to read prior to occupation rather than commencement.

PUPPY WALKING



I need a kind and experienced person to help me exercise my Labradoodle puppy. I live in the centre of Merriott and of course would be happy to pay for the help. You can contact me by phone on 01460 76177 .

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Photo taken by Mo Frampton, February 2009

Send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

WHAT ARE LENT LUNCHES?



Light lunches of soup, bread and cheese are held in people's homes on Wednesdays in Lent - the weeks leading up to Easter. Everyone is welcome, no need to book, just turn up and give a donation to the chosen charity for those not so fortunate as ourselves. Come along for good food and company.

This year they will be as follows (more details in the February Link Magazine):

February 25th - Pitt Farmhouse, Boozer Pit, Merriott - Charity: Christian Aid

March 4th - Diana Clements, Southernhay, Hinton St George - Charity: Homestart

March 11th - Edna Colman Smith, 12 Church St , Merriott. Charity: St Margaret's Hospice

March 18th - The Rectory, Merriott. Charity: SOMA

March 25th - The Schoolroom, Lopen. Charity: School in a Bag (Piers Simon Appeal)

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NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Mothering Sunday is on March 15th and this year our service is being planned by the younger members of our Family Service congregation, so it should be very enjoyable. I don't know all of their plans, but there will be flowers and refreshments and a chance to give thanks and pray for our mothers.

Apart from that, we are remembering the season of Lent and getting ready for Easter. We have the usual weekly 'Lent Lunches' which you are welcome to attend without making a booking.

We are also thinking about our faith in action and how we can support and encourage other people in real and practical ways. Speakers from SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad), Christian Aid and Farm Africa are booked to come and tell us about their work. Full details of all of the above are in the March Link magazine and on posters in the church and around the village.

You will also find the details of a Quiet Morning in Lopen Church on March 28th which is also open to everyone.

Revd Julia Hicks 01460 76406

Church Services in March

Sun 1st 8.30am Holy Communion

Sun 8th 9.30am Parish Communion

Sun 15th 10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service, 6.00pm Evensong

Sun 22nd 10.00am Sung Communion

Sun 29th 10.00am All Age Palm Sunday Service at Hinton St George

**** Every Thursday in March, 10.00am, mid-week Communion service for Lent ****

Dates for your diary:

Good Friday, 3rd April 10.00am-12.00pm Easter Story and activities for children

Easter Sunday, 5th April 10.00am Communion service

FLOWER FESTIVAL



A Flower Festival is being planned for Merriott Church on the weekend of **11th July**. **Save the date** for an event for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to help, please come to the church at 11am on Tuesday March 17th for more information and a cup of coffee!

MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL WELLY WALKS



Mr Pearse aims to take Golden Class out to explore the village each Tuesday afternoon during term time. This year he has taken the children down the lane running from Merriott to Over Stratton turning right into Gassons Lane, walked its length and headed back to school through the old Scotts Nurseries. Another walk took the children along Bowood Lane, across the Lopen to Merriott road picking up the footpath that runs below the poultry farm and then back to school via Beadon Lane.

On a sunny Tuesday afternoon Mrs Rickard led a walk to the bridge at the bottom of Beadon Lane. She talked to the children about the need to care for the countryside as they looked at the effect the recent storms had had on the stream running to Merriott.

As usual there was discussion about the way the environment looked and which season we were in now. The children take interest in their surroundings and often share their own experiences of the area whilst walking with friends and family.

CAN ANYBODY HELP!

We need someone to take over the running of the stall and storing of puzzles and toys that, for a number of years, we have been selling at the Tithe Barn "Good-as-New" sales.

Unfortunately the very nice gentleman who has been storing them at his house, fetching and carrying each time, is now unable to help us and neither of us have a damp-free space to store the items.

We would like someone to get in touch as soon as possible, before the next sale in March, or we will have to take everything to the charity shops.

Please contact Sue Hastings on 01460 73217 or email clivelinda694@btinternet.com or phone 01460 74904.

Thank you.

Clive Middleton

Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



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For children aged 8+
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2nd/4th Fri each month

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Phil & Jo 271763
Andrew & Julia 72211



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

OPEN GROUP

5th March - Line Dancing

19th March - The Chocolate Man - an informative and tasty evening with Steve Chapman

Enquiries - Maggie 761860

NEW SPONSOR



A new nursery Hurst Brook Plants, specialising in Peonies, Irises and unusual Perennials is opening in March at Lower Severalls, near Crewkerne.

Hurst Brook Plants was established in 2007 as a small back garden enterprise growing Peonies and Irises to sell at the Garden Club talks given by a founder of the Nursery; Sue Applegate.

The plants were all grown in pots and were watered by dipping a watering can into the Brook and thus the name for the new Nursery became obvious!

While Sue was answering questions after the talks, Pat Nicks another Partner of Hurst Brook Plants was on hand to offer these lovely plants for sale along with advice on how best to grow them.

Catherine Bond has recently joined the Partnership, bringing with her a wealth of experience, including that of working in a Gertrude Jekyll garden in South Somerset.

Hurst Brook Plants offers friendly Horticultural advice and plants that the Partners are really proud of. See ad on back page for opening times and contact details..

GARDENING CLUB NEWS

On **Tuesday 31st March** a talk "Plant to Plate" by Susannah Applegate. "Plant to Plate" is an illustrated talk of the work within the UK fresh produce industry to supply farm assured food to Farmers Markets and supermarkets. Challenges of the future, such as food security to provide for a huge increase in world population growth, climate change and efficient management of water are also identified.

Susannah, who is well known for her knowledge of and expertise in growing Iris and Peonies will bring plants for sale, so bring some extra cash!

Meet at the Tythe Barn at 7.30pm. Refreshments, raffle, seed and plant sale. A warm welcome to everyone. Guests £2.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SPRING WORK PARTY

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH
9AM – 1PM

We would very much welcome lots of volunteers at our Spring work party.

We will be concentrating on jobs in the churchyard, like hedge trimming, wilderness taming and general tidying – but there will be spring cleaning **INSIDE** the church too.

The Scouts will be joining in as part of an environment award.

Tea and cakes will be served.

Bring suitable clothing and tools.

More details from the Churchwardens: Tom Jones (76186) and Robin Gilkes (75549)

MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET

First Saturday of the month
10am -1pm

Merriott Social Club, 71 Lower Street
Further details 07885 424 588

An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams & pickles, quiche and pies, fruit and veg, plants, crafts and gifts, jewellery and hand knits, DVD's and bric-a-brac and much more.

We will be serving bacon butties, teas & coffees and the bar will be open. As



well as promoting the club we hope to support many other local charities along the way as well

For further details call 07885 424 588, pop into the club or check us out on facebook.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS AT SPRING CLASSICAL CONCERT

On **Sunday 19th April** at All Saints Church Merriott, Joseph Fisher will be bringing another international quartet of young professional musicians to perform.

The Scarlet String Trio, with Alex Panfilov on piano, brings together previous international competition winners from Australia, Russia and the UK, on Strings and piano for an early evening classical treat. Alex Panfilov, who was born in Moscow, has played in major venues around the world including the Carnegie Hall, New York. As a concerto soloist he has played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Belarussian State Philharmonic, amongst others. The Scarlet Trio will be performing Beethoven's String Trio in C Minor Op.9, and the Trio with Piano performing Faure Piano Quartet in C Minor Op.15, together with another String Trio composition and piano solo. The Scarlet String Trio are all currently engaged as individual players with the Halle Orchestra in Manchester as string scheme participants.

The early evening concert will start with refreshments at 4:30pm with the concert commencing at 5pm.

Tickets are £7 and will be available from the village butchers Osborne Stores, The Crewkerne Information Centre, or tel. 07870 404 631 or 01460 76360 (to reserve).

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

Saturday 18th April 2015
at Merriott Social Club

Racing starts 7:30pm
Proceeds go to Merriott Pre School

Raffle on the night including tickets for Various Racecourses, Family Days out, Yeovil Football Club and Somerset Country Cricket Club

MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

A huge thank you to **One Tree Hill** for their entertaining performance in January – it was brilliant to see so many punters having such a good time, singing and dancing away.

It's been good to see the function room being hired by so many members and non-members – we hope you had a lovely time sharing the various celebrations with your family and friends.

It was also brilliant to see the return of the Wayfarer's – we hope you'll be back to play skittles with us again very soon – it's always a pleasure!

Now, a quick **Monthly Market** update. Thanks to all those who helped us raise £130 in February, with £65 going to the Hidden Needs Trust, a charity that helps support the vital work that Opportunity Groups across the UK provide for special needs pre-school children and their families.

Next months Market, running between 10am and 1pm on the **7th March**, will be raising funds for **Merriott Brownies**. All are welcome, so please pop down to support us in our efforts by having a browse, buying some raffle tickets, or warming yourself with a nice toasty beverage, or a bacon butty!

Dates for your diaries:

Sat 7th March – Five-piece band, Live-

wired, will be performing a range of classic and modern rock hits for all to enjoy. Music kicks off at **9pm** – don't miss out!

Thurs 26th March – All are welcome to attend our **Annual General Meeting** – the support and feedback of members and non-members is always appreciated, so please join us at **7pm** for the presentation of the accounts and election of the committee.

Sat 4th April - Singer/songwriter **Kay Nixon** will be performing her vast range of acoustic songs, from rock, pop and dance through to country and blues. **9pm start** – all are welcome!

Sat 18th April – Merriott Pre-School are hosting a **Race Night** at the Social Club. Please seek out their posters for further information on how to get involved.

Finally, a special thank you to David Lamprill for helping us bring some shine back to the Function Room floor!

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!



Charity concert in aid of St Margaret's Hospice and Save the Children
Saturday April 18th - 7.30pm
 at Merriott Village Hall
 Hinton Singers and Friends
 £5 admission, nibbles provided,
 bring your own drink
 Tickets available from
 Osborne's Broadway, Amanda 01460
 72553 or any choir member.

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE ...

Henhayes Community Centre:

Friday 20th March - Special lunch welcoming the spring with a roast lamb feast, 12.30pm. 2 courses with tea/coffee only £7.50. Bookings essential at the office or telephone 01460 74340

Saturday 21st March - Easter table top sale and big breakfast. Tables bookable at £5 on 01460 271541. Sale 9-12 noon. Breakfast 10-12 noon full English £4.

Friday 27th March - Return visit after last years sell-out concert of Gerry Brown and the Mission Hall Jazz Band 6.45pm. Optional supper £9 (£8 if ticket purchased by 23rd March). 7.45pm concert £12 (£10 if ticket purchased by 23rd March) . Tickets from the office or telephone 01460 74340.



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KEEPING PARISH FOOTPATHS A PLEASURE TO USE



We are pleased to say that we are now officially part of the Somerset County Council Rights of Way Volunteer Scheme. John Goldie has been appointed as the Parish Path Liaison Officer and he is backed up by the team of volunteers who are: Christine Elston, Niki Scurr, Tina Mortimer, Pat & Tony Hobbs and Peter Bryans.

It is our aim, in conjunction with the SCC Rights of Way team, to keep the parish footpaths well maintained and a pleasure to use. We cannot cover all the paths all of the time, so if you do come across any problems on your walks around please contact John Goldie on 01460 73158 or by email at merriott.fg@gmail.com.

We are aware that there are several areas of concern and these are being looked at with the Rights of Way Area Warden.

In the summer, when vegetation is growing wildly, we may need additional help occasionally. So if you would like to volunteer on an adhoc basis please let us know.

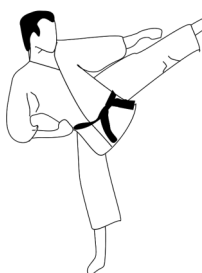
John Goldie

PLANNING A GET TOGETHER?



The Community Pavilion is available for Hire. £20.00 per session. Contact 01935 863420 or merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

KARATE CLUB



Merriott Karate Club commend Kevin Phone, who instructs the junior class, on achieving his 3rd Dan Black Belt. Kevin graded at the Winter Gashuku at the Honbu, and was tested by Shihan Thompson.

DAFFODILS (NOT WORDSWORTH)



Hey! Daffodils! What are you doing?
Here too early on this winter's day.
The snowdrops are on duty now,
Cold, shy things, drooping heads, quietly standing guard
Over the dark earth.
Hiding their faces, too timid to admit
Their watch is the worst, and they cannot change it,
No warmth or smile in their smooth cool gaze.
But you! With your brassy trumpeting of new life, bright light
And the promise of spring and summer to come,
You're teasing us now with your cheeky, open smile,
Heads held high, bobbing in the freezing wind.
You should be underground, slowly unfurling,
Waiting for Easter, to shout your victory Over winter.
You're too early, daffodils, can you survive,
Brightening our days till April?
Or are you the first of many, and hundreds more will come to cheer us?
Brave Daffodils, keep up your heads, we love to see you here.



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- Any other aspects of property maintenance





Hinton St George
'Flix in the Stix'
presents
'The Imitation Game' (12A)

on **Saturday March 14th** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room or £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

The real life story of Alan Turing, the brilliant Enigma code breaker at Bletchley Park in World War 2. A likely Oscar performance for Benedict Cumberbatch, an excellent script and a superb cast.

All Saints Church, Merriott

New to You Sale

**Saturday
28th March**

10am to 11.30am

In the Tithe Barn,
Church Street, Merriott

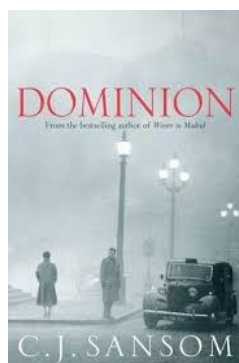
Clothes, Books, Toys, Bric a Brac
and Other stalls



Tea and coffee
will be available

In aid of Church funds

BOOK REVIEW BY SHEILA BOWMAN



**Dominion by
C J Sansom**

C.J.Sansom is the author of the series of Tudor detective fiction novels (such as "Dissolution"

or "Dark Fire"), featuring Matthew Shardlake, which have been extremely successful.

His novel "Dominion" is, however, set in the mid twentieth century and is an "alternative history" of what might have happened if Britain had capitulated to Nazi German aggression in early May 1940.

France had fallen, but Winston Churchill persuaded the War Cabinet to resist, became PM and of course eventually led the country to victory in 1945.

The "what if " scenario is set in the 1950s - a period which Sansom very cleverly evokes - post war austerity, London smogs etc - and is a spy thriller.

Lord Beaverbrook is PM, Enoch Powell Foreign Minister and Oswald Moseley Home Secretary. Churchill is in hiding, but still inspires a subversive underground movement of freedom fighters who use V signs as their signatures.

The chief character, David Fitzgerald, is a civil servant who becomes involved in an exciting adventure, rather like an up to date John Buchan story. The book has resonances which seem very relevant to today, particularly in its illustration of the dangers of nationalism. Indeed the author appends a discussion of Scottish independence, which he clearly opposes for this reason. Don't be put off by its length - it is a truly gripping read!

Sheila Bowman

Volunteer Required

Have you got too much time on your hands and like to keep busy?? Merriott Social Club is looking for a handy-person to help assist with the upkeep and general repairs of the building.

If you're interested, please contact Andy Allen on 07920 875289. We'd love to hear from you!



WANTED



NEW USERS

In recent years Merriott Village Hall has had a makeover. An improved kitchen, better flooring, stage curtains and redecoration have given the interior of a familiar and important village asset a new lease of life. The Hall committee would like to see it used even more for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Would anyone like to run a regular bingo session? The current quarterly bingo session is already very popular. Or perhaps someone would like to start a luncheon or tea club

with talks or entertainment for the older generation?

Any suggestions for the greater use of the Hall with the aim of encouraging a greater village sense of community will be welcome. If you have tried to book the Hall before and have had difficulty finding a regular date - please try again. Every effort to accommodate new users will be made.

Please contact Martin and Michelle Rowsell on 01460 72508 or a member of the Hall Committee to discuss your ideas/needs.

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

Mike Stenner Painting, decorating & ceramic tiling Tel 01460 75799 Mob 07703 573 892 michael@stenner9459.fsnet.co.uk	Quantock Joinery Systems Limited Tail Mill Lane Merriott TA16 5PF 01460 77545 sales@quantock-joinery.co.uk	Lower Severalls Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast Open all year lowerseverallsfarm-house.co.uk 01460 73234	The Haselbury Mill Haselbury Plucknett for Weddings and other Functions 01460 77095	 Crewkerne your local vets 01460 72443
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Tony Miles Ltd Building & Roofing Contractor 74 Lower St. Merriott Tel/Fax 01460 75860 Mobile 07774 886379 aamiles@hotmail.co.uk	CARE AND SUPPORT IN YOUR OWN HOME  CALL 01935 584184 <i>Good old fashioned service</i>	Chris Martin Interiors Ltd Specialising in installation of kitchens and bathrooms 01460 76612 07976 848 677	Martyn Porter Painting & Decorating, Tiling & General House Maintenance No job too small 01460 74952 Mobile: 07805159302	Moorlands Residential Home Quality care for the elderly Moorlands Road 01460 74425 Fax 01460 77391
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Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor Free Estimates Tel 01460 73260	Careford Lodge Residential Home Church Street Contact Lorraine on 01460 75592 carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk	Hurst Brook Plants Lower Severalls, Crewkerne OPEN Thursday – Sunday 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. March – October hurstbrookplants.co.uk plants@btinternet.com 07857 645123	THE SEAVINGTONS' VILLAGE STORE & CAFE  Open 6 days a week Tel: 01460 249730	Lawrences Auctioneers Free verbal valuations Home visits 01460 73041 Fax: 01460 270799
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If you would like to sponsor the Merriott Messenger, please contact a member of the editorial team.

Please send copy to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com
Editorial Team contact:

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