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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

MAY 2016

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

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 June issue is **12th May**.

The Messenger editors welcome signed letters which they can publish about any issues or about village affairs.

GARDENING CLUB QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

When there's new growth bursting out all over, everything fresh, green and flourishing, the plants are little rockets of success going off

Lewis Gannett

NEWS FROM MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The most significant planning application for some time was considered by council at their April meeting. This was for the 'land off Shiremoor Hill'.

In fact the proposed development is at the end of Manor Drive, although the road access is not.

The 'Land off Shiremoor Hill', Clapperhay and Holwell Stream, form part of the proposed 'Village Common' area stretching from the new homes nearly to Church Street.

Members had about six weeks to consider the issues before the meeting and after lengthy consideration supported the application in a vote of eight to two.

The role of the PC in the process is to give a local perspective from people who are familiar with the site and other community issues. If our view is to be respected we have to work within planning criteria, although we are aware that strategic planning policy and technical issues are best left to SSDC officers.

While a number of concerns have been raised by residents, they were addressed.

The one that can never be, is that immediate neighbours often prefer to live next to open space as opposed to new homes. While there is sympathy for that view it only carries weight in planning terms if the loss of 'amenity' is substantial.

The benefits of achieving ten Affordable Homes, as well as about ten acres of the best amenity land in the village protected forever from housing as a community asset, with less able access, were strong influences in the decision.

The full detail of the MPC position will soon be available to read on the SSDC website (planning).

The PC also supported an application for a single dwelling in Church Street next to Dogdole.

Our Highways team reported that our County Councillor has agreed to apply for a pavement extension at the end of the existing one from Crewkerne at Pye Corner to improve the safety of pedestrians when crossing the road.

We are also lobbying for major improvement to Merriottsford Bridge which is extremely hazardous for pedestrians to negotiate, at times they risk being 'The Meat in the Sandwich'.

Contd page 2.

SUMMER BBQ TICKET SALES BOX OFFICE OPEN - 7TH MAY

There will be a box office open at Merriott Village Hall from **10am - 12 on Saturday 7th May** for summer BBQ tickets (see details on the flyer in this issue). **Tickets will not be sold on the night..**

MERRIOTT ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY

Merriott Allotments - a wonderful place to be. Come and see for yourself at our Open Day on Sunday **15th May** between **10am and 4pm**. Everyone is welcome (dogs on leads please).

The allotment site is on the Haselbury Road, next to Grenville's Nursery. We currently have a few plots available to let. We look forward to welcoming you. For further information phone Beryl 01460 74574.



MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Do you play in a skittles, darts or pool team? Need a place to play or fancy a change of venue?

As from September we have vacancies Monday to Friday for teams, so please pop in and speak to our bar manager Derek.

We have our Summer Skittles league starting soon. Sign your team up ready - there is a cash prize for the winning team.

April's monthly market was in aid of Merriott Brownies and Guides which although slightly quieter than normal we

were able to donate £43 to their worthwhile cause. Next month's market is on **Saturday 7th May** 10am till 1pm in aid of St Margaret's Hospice. 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.

Remember memberships are due. Members receive a discount on hall hire and are entered in the weekly draw. New members are very welcome.

Last month the Annual General Meeting was held and all current committee were

happy to stand again.

Date for your diaries:

7th May - we have a brilliant band called Bad Edukation formed by members of the original Crosswired and playing classic rock.

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!

THANK YOU - A special thanks to all who donated money and prizes and came to my Bingo on 11th April. I managed to raise nearly £600, which is fantastic. Please look out for my next fundraiser on Saturday 10th September which is a Curry Night at Merriott Village Hall. Thank you again.

Joseph Bending

NEWS FROM MPC MEETING *continued*

After five years and much angst, the Parish Council withdrew from the Egwood Acquisition Project for a number of reasons, the main one being the potential exposure to significant future costs involving contamination and dealing with any future unauthorised occupation.

Contact any PC member if you want to know more.

A short report this month.

Next Time..... Merriott Recreation Field - how can it be improved for the benefit of all?

Answers to our clerk please, or our Facebook page.

DISCLAIMER: This is an informal report, please do not consider any of the content as legally checked text.

The Parish Council has two vacancies. If you are interested please contact Katharine Sheehan, Clerk to Merriott Parish Council, Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk 07841 116986 www.facebook.com/MerriottParishCouncil

REMINDER:

**BROADWAY GARDEN SPRING TIDY UP
SUNDAY 8TH MAY
MEET AT 10AM (COME RAIN OR SHINE!)**

Christine McLeod



Welcome to Merriott Childcare Solutions (Childminder)



I have been graded Outstanding by OFSTED since 2009.

We are in Merriott providing quality wrap-around childcare for local pre-schools and primary schools as well as offering ad-Hoc sessions, holiday cover, term time / full time contracts.

We work with children and their families to provide high standards of childcare adapting to each individual's needs. We are aiming to help children reach their own potential and achieve self-esteem and self-confidence whilst playing and having fun. We visit places such as Lyme Regis, West Bay, National Trust places, parks, library, Nine Springs, Ham Hill, local toddler groups, Church coffee mornings and taking part in local community activities etc.

We currently collect from the following schools: Merriott, Haselbury Plucknett and South Petherton.

We can provide healthy meals & snacks or children can bring in their own.

Siblings discounts. Childcare vouchers accepted.

Early Years educational funding received for 2, 3, and 4 years old.

Monday to Friday 7.30-18.00

vanina@merriottchildcare.co.uk Facebook: merriottchildcare.co.uk 01460 74086 or 07807 753779

THE KINGS HEAD OPENING SOON

After many months of negotiation we finally got the keys to the Kings Head on the 22nd March. We are taking the opportunity of carrying out refurbishment works before we open and are hoping that will be by the early part of May.

For the first week or so, we will be a purely "wet" pub. This will allow our chef the opportunity to prepare everything in readiness for the launch of our full lunch and evening menu. We propose to offer many traditional pub classics along with daily specials and seasonal variations.

We very much look forward to seeing you at the Kings Head where you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Please feel free to contact us on: 01460 78912.

We intend to have a website and an email address up and running very soon.

Mike and Julie Cable



Mike Cable receiving the keys to the Kings Head from Richard Jones of Sidney Philips Estate Agents



**MERRIOTT
GARDENING CLUB**

On **Tuesday 31st May** our monthly meeting takes the form of a special shopping evening at the Gardens Group at Brimsmore for Merriott Gardening Club members only. Meet at the Tithe Barn at 6.30pm to arrive at Brimsmore for 7pm. Light refreshments, a seasonal talk and shopping with 25% discount off all full price items, including plants, seeds, equipment, furniture, compost, etc. Large items and compost will be delivered free of charge. This is a car sharing event and if you are happy to drive or would like a lift, please contact Jenny on 07765 914723.

Our AGM, quiz and buffet (Tuesday 26th April) is when membership is due. Annual subscription is £10 for single and £15 for couples. Come and join us, - we are a small, friendly group, who meet on the last Tuesday of the month and an exciting and varied programme of speakers and events has been arranged for the coming year.

*Mo Frampton
07967 028277*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Celebrating 50 plus years of Merriott Young Wives, now MOG. **Sunday 31st July** at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, Merriott 2pm. Any former members and partners are very welcome.

Come along and enjoy a glass of bubbly and light refreshments. Spend an afternoon sharing photos and memories. Please contact Janette Shire Tel 01460 73159 email janetteshire@hotmail.co.uk

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued support of the Merriott Messenger.

If you would like to become a sponsor and reach 1,000 households each month, please contact a member of the editorial team (details on back page) or email: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

OPEN GROUP

12th May - A More Beautiful You - a demonstration of beauty treatments

26th May - Plant, Book and DVD swap

Marion Biggs - 01460 74170

CAREFORD LODGE



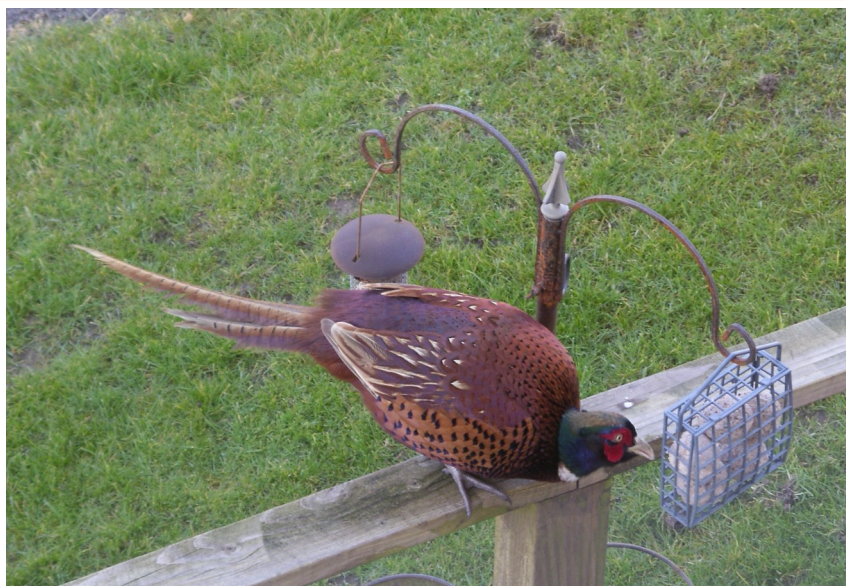
A warm greeting is assured for you at Careford Lodge, so please do call in to see Tracey, Jane and the team at any time. Our home offers a relaxed and homely environment, providing bespoke care packages, social stimulus, a varied choice of delicious menus, freshly prepared daily by our chefs and an activity programme with something for everyone included.

Whether looking for day care, respite care, or a home for life, Careford Lodge is here to provide the care you need.

Tracey, Jane and the team also want to extend an invitation to the local community to visit our home to spend time with our residents, with refreshments provided in the lovely surroundings that we enjoy daily.

For more information, please contact the team on 01460 75592 or email Tracey at carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"So this is why the fat balls disappear so quickly!"

Photo taken by Mo Frampton - April 2016

Please send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

SUNDAY AFTERNOON STRING OCTET TREAT

On Sunday afternoon the **1st May** there will be a special performance by musicians from the Fisher Sinfonia at All Saints Church. Joseph Fisher of Merriott has formed a Classical String Octet for the afternoon to perform both the Shostakovich Octet (Prelude and Scherzo) and the Mendelssohn Octet and other works. The afternoon will start with Refreshments at 2:30pm for a 3:00pm concert. As with previous concerts profits from the event will go towards the Church Fabric Fund.

Tickets for this special event are £8 - contact 01460 76360 to reserve.



All Saints Church, Merriott invites you to

"SWING INTO SPRING"

An evening featuring the amazing voice of Graham David - **Saturday 21st May 2016** at Merriott Social Club @7.30pm
Tickets £7.50 each which includes a light supper

Admission - by ticket only - available from Jean/Dave Crisp, tel: 01460 279 654 or email - jeancrisp1@outlook.com
Proceeds to All Saints Church, Merriott

AT A GLANCE - VILLAGE EVENTS IN MAY

1st May	String Octet - All Saints Church
5th May	Choir - first rehearsal - All Saints Church
7th May	"Bad Edukation" - Merriott Social Club
15th May	Merriott Allotments Open Day
21st May	Swing into Spring - Merriott Social Club

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

MOBILE LIBRARY MAY VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School
9.30am - 10am
3rd May



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
On May 3rd and June 7th (first Tuesday)
we will be open at 9am
so do come along when you have dropped your children at school, we'd love to see you.



All Saints Summer Fayre



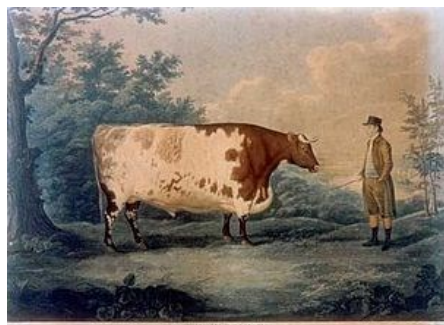
Come and join us for a "Right Royal Do" at All Saints Summer Fayre on
Sat 11th June 11-3pm
At All Saints Church (in and outside) and Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott.
Lots of stalls, live music, refreshments, bar, dog show, children's games and races, bouncy castle, raffle and lots more
All welcome.

DID YOU KNOW.....



THE ORIGINAL DAIRY SHORTHORN

Seventy years ago the dairy cows of this country were represented by several breeds including Dairy Shorthorns, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey and British Friesian cattle. Red, white, roan, light brown as well as black and white animals adorned the fields in marked contrast to the predominantly black and white Holsteins of today.



The famous Durham Ox

Increasingly, a dairy cow spends most of its life indoors and in herds, which can be up to 3,000 animals in a single unit. There is now one herd of 1,000 dairy

cows on the edge of Merriott.

The benefits of this type of farming include more efficient feed conversion to milk, less energy expended on cows walking to fields, less damage to cows feet and better control of animal health. Fields with no animals can also be more effectively cultivated for crops producing higher yields. These are changes which some will regret and oppose.

One effect is that some breeds, especially the red breeds of dairy cow, have almost disappeared completely.

The original Dairy Shorthorn is now down to less than 150 animals, whereas at one time it was the predominant dairy breed.

The breed originated from Durham cattle in the northeast of England in the late 1700s as a result of the efforts of the Collings brothers using selection methods pioneered by Thomas Bakewell on Longhorn cattle. In 1796 Charles Collings bred the famous Durham Ox (pictured on left), which was claimed to weigh over a ton, and from which was

bred a bull named Comet. This sold in 1810 for 1000 guineas – a first in its day and a substantial sum in today's money.

The early Shorthorns were dual purpose animals suitable for milk and beef. However specialisation of production for milk and separately for beef led to the development of the Dairy Shorthorn and the Beef Shorthorn breeds. The Dairy Shorthorn has suffered as a result of competition for yield and feed conversion efficiency from the Friesian and Holstein breeds which now dominate. The Beef Shorthorn still thrives.

John Bowman



A modern Dairy Shorthorn roan heifer

With the warm weather, windows and doors will be open while you pop out to see a neighbour or do a spot of gardening - do remember it only takes a minute for a quick burglary. A recent incident in the village, where some cash was taken from an unlocked house, highlights how easy it is.



If you would like to join or start Neighbourhood Watch in your street contact Avon and Somerset police 0845

456 7000 or call the Boozer Pit neighbourhood group on 01460 78461.



May 21st - Diner style restaurant (in Merriott Village Hall) including gourmet beef burgers, pizzas, fries and salted caramel sundaes!

Opens from 5.30 pm. Bookings only.

Please email us at thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com or contact us through Facebook at the Village Cafe Merriott for bookings or menus.

SO,
WHAT'S IN
YOUR DRAWERS...?



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HISTORY ON VIEW IN MERRIOTT BY MARION BIGGS

I was walking round the village the other day when someone stopped and asked "Can you tell me where the blind house is?" I must have looked blank as he went on to say "They are sometimes called lock-ups." Only then I was able to direct him to Merriott lock-up which is on Lower Street near the entrance to Tail Mill.

Apparently they were called blind houses as they had either a very small window or no window at all making it very dark inside and hence a person felt blind.



The Merriott Lock-up is stone built and probably dates to the 18th century. It would have been used for the temporary detention of rogues and miscreants until they could be removed to Crewkerne. Lock-ups became synonymous with drunkenness.

Village Lock-ups fell out of use when the County Police Act was introduced in 1839 and local police stations were built with their own holding facilities. The village lock-up became redundant and only a few have survived the intervening 180yrs.

MAY CHURCH SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH



Sun 1st	8.30am Holy Communion
Thurs 5th	10.00am Communion for Ascension Day (followed by refreshments at Rectory)
Sun 8th	9.30am Parish Communion
Sun 15th	10.00am Family Service
Sun 22nd	10.00am Sung Communion
Sun 29th	No service at Merriott (10.00am Communion at Dinnington)



Hinton St. George
'Flix in the Stix'
presents
'BROOKLYN' (12A),
on Saturday 14th May

in the 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 72563.

MERRIOTT TEA TOWELS NOW IN STOCK



Just a few of the lovely illustrations by Beryl Virgin.

A new supply of our popular village tea towels, illustrated by Beryl Virgin, is now available at Osbornes and the garage Spar shop. They are green this time and still priced at £4 – all profit to All Saints Church, Merriott. They make an ideal gift, easy to post and a souvenir of our lovely village.

Come and join the

Chir

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.

Initial plans are for fortnightly rehearsals on Thursday evenings in term time.

No auditions, just lots of enthusiasm required!

FIRST REHEARSAL THURSDAY 5th MAY, 7pm
at Merriott Church

For more details please contact Bob or Julia Hicks
on 01460 76406 or simply come along to
Merriott Church at 7pm

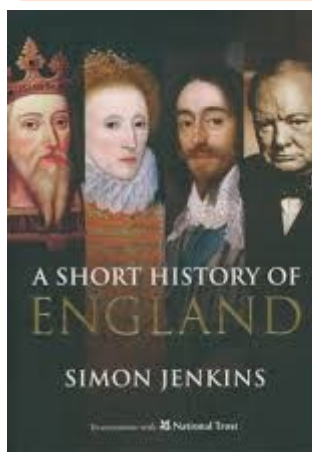
Dinington

on 5th May
for the very
first sing!

Lopen



BOOK REVIEW BY SHEILA BOWMAN



'A Short History of England'

by

Simon Jenkins

Simon Jenkins' book "A Short History of England" published in 2011, is a most readable work which I think many people would enjoy, and which does give a very accessible narrative of English history from Saxon times to the present.

There are 32 chapters on specific events or periods of history. Each chapter is quite short (6 to 12 pages long) so can be read at a sitting, and you can dip into the book according to which period sparks your interest and skip parts which don't. An appendix gives useful lists of key dates, kings and queens and prime ministers, so handy for the quizzers!

Particularly when we are all facing having to make a pretty momentous decision about our future with relation to Europe, Jenkins' approach gives a very illuminating account of England's development as a political entity. His style is witty, forthright and the narrative carries you along, so the book is an easy read and in no way a dull text book.

It is available in a paperback edition at a reasonable price, and of course at Amazon or Kindle.

I quite often meet people who say "I wish I knew more about history"! This is a sad comment on the teaching of history in some schools, but that's another story!

Most people know Henry VIII had six wives and can probably recite the "divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, out-lived-him" mnemonic at will. They know there was a 17th century Civil War and who Oliver Cromwell was, but probably forget the other 15th century Wars of the Roses. They know a lot about the First World War; but the chronology of how England developed is often a bit hazy.



In Somerset, we know about flooding and the misery that it can bring. This year's Christian Aid focus is also on flood victims in the poorest parts of the world. They are raising funds to bring practical flood prevention to families in countries like Bangladesh. 70% of the funds raised during Christian Aid week come from house to house collections. Please bear these people in mind when you see Christian Aid envelopes this week and consider your response. Many thanks.

Rev Julia Hicks



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.



R A Wicks Ltd, a loyal sponsor of the Merriott Messenger since the beginning, is celebrating its first successful 40 years of trading with some great prices and discounts. Since 1976 they have become a trusted supplier and installer of multi-fuel and wood burning stoves not only in the local area but right across Dorset and Somerset. Their telephone number remains unchanged: 01460 74612.

Look good, feel good

Spring usually heralds the start of the warmer weather and our thoughts turn towards holidays and summer clothes.

Our hard working feet are often neglected throughout the winter months, and now is the perfect time to give your feet some well-deserved attention! Callous peel is a relaxing treatment that removes calloused skin on the heels of the feet. A gentle, effective treatment to reveal beautiful soft skin. For a complete pamper it can be incorporated into a pedicure - bliss!

Silky smooth skin is also a must - waxing is a great way to remove unwanted hair to reveal beautiful skin. If you are unsure about waxing or about what it entails, please give me a call and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As we age our eyebrows can become sparse and lose definition. Tinting helps restore lost definition, giving the face a more youthful appearance. Lash tinting is perfect for busy women, or those who want to look good splashing in the pool. No need to worry about mascara running or smudging!

So go on, treat yourself and make this summer your most beautiful summer yet!

Tel. Sally-Marie Beauty Therapy 01460 73957



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