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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2015

[www.merriottvillage.org.uk](http://www.merriottvillage.org.uk) [merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

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Copy deadline for the December issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th November.

Articles received after this date may not be included.

Please send us your articles, artwork and/or photographs to [merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

To promote your Christmas event, please make sure you send in your copy by the 12th November.

Thank you.

## MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL IS RECRUITING NEW GOVERNORS



### Merriott First School

Did you know that the Governors work together to provide strategic leadership and account-ability to the school, including:

- Setting aims and objectives
- Adjusting policies to support those aims and objectives
- Setting targets and monitoring progress

- Providing support to the headteacher

Right now the governing body is looking to get more individuals involved and is looking for new members who have an interest in seeing Merriott's young people reach their full potential. Governor posts are not just for parents of children at the school, anyone with a community spirit could be a governor. The school would be particularly be

interested in hearing from local people with experience of one of the following: Finance, Media & Public Relations or Performance Monitoring.

It is an opportunity to be a part of something that matters and to have a positive impact on children's education. The commitment is for a few meetings a term, plus a small amount of time outside meetings. To find out more contact the School on 01460 72547 or email [office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - OCTOBER

The monthly meeting was unusually brief, but not without interest.

Only one planning application was considered:

- Further improvements to ZEPHYRINE COTTAGE on Shiremoor Hill.

Some excitement did occur when Council discussed whether to revise its formal views on development in the Parish. The main planning authority, SSDC, has a new framework in place, based on the current government requirements (which include the provision of new homes).

Whether Merriott is considered to be a large enough community for any further

significant growth is a question we will be putting forward at a seminar with SSDC on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Parish Council also considered, at the developers' request, their proposal concerning the road name for the Moorlands development. 'Moorlands Farm Drive' seemed appropriate.

Considerations and changes were made to our financial processes to streamline payments and reduce the workload of the Clerk.

Changes in our working practices were agreed with some of the village groups, again to streamline our activity.

The Parish Council is grateful for the work of the Messenger, Footpath and Speedwatch teams, and we also recognise the good work undertaken by the Allotment Association.

Council agreed to provide a bench in the recreation field in memory of the late Bob Norton, who actively served as a councillor for many years, showing particular interest in the rec.

Finally, the Parish Council is still actively engaged in debate with the developer and various agencies to ensure an effective traffic calming structure is agreed on Broadway, outside the Moorlands development.

## QUIZ AND SUPPER NIGHT

Saturday 28th November at 7.00 pm

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £10 per person  
(to include 2 course supper)

Licensed bar

Teams of 6 are very welcome

Tickets may be purchased from Osbornes the butchers, Broadway, Merriott.

All profits to be used for Hall improvements.



## ALL SAINTS MERRIOTT CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 28th November

2pm - 6pm

at Merriott Church and Tithe Barn

Lots of Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments, Cakes, Hog Roast, Father Christmas and much more. Anyone wishing to have a stall please contact 01460 78799 for details.

## THE VILLAGE CAFE MERRIOTT

Just a reminder that the village café will be popping up on **Friday 6th November** at the Merriott Village Hall from 10.30 till 2.00.

Everyone welcome for tea and cakes as well as light lunches.

Italian evening **Saturday 21st November**

Bookings available from 6.30pm

Handmade Italian food in a relaxed atmosphere.

For menus and reservations email [thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com)

### SONGS OF PRAISE

Merriott Gospel Hall, Broadway

First Sunday of every month at 6.30pm.

Traditional and contemporary hymns.

Refreshments and a catch-up!

All ages welcome

Phone 72211 or 271763 for further info



### GARDENING CLUB

A reminder that on October 27th there will be a talk on "Grasses" by a member of the The Gardens Group.

On the **24th November** Neil Lovesey makes a welcome return to talk about "A Year at Picket Lane Nursery". Picket Lane Nursery is a family run business where they propagate every single plant on sale. Their nursery garden has over 1500 varieties of hardy perennials and shrubs. Their apiary goes from strength to strength as they increase the number of bee hives working the local countryside. They welcome visitors to their nursery and are happy to give advice.

Meet at the Tithe Barn at 7.30 pm. Refreshments, raffle, seed and plant sale and "Flower of the Month" competition. A warm welcome awaits. Non members £2.

At the November meeting I will be collecting money and menu choices for our Christmas Lunch at The Crown and Victoria, Tintinhull on 8th December.

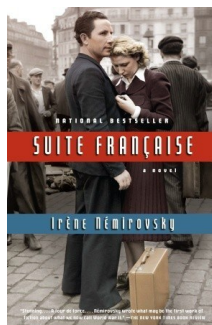
*Mo Frampton*

### BROADWAY GARDEN

Sincere thanks to everyone who turned up to give a hand tidying up the Broadway Garden last month and look forward to seeing you all again in the early Spring!

*Christine McLeod*

## BOOK REVIEW BY JANET LAILEY



'Suite Française' by Irene Nemirovsky. Vintage 2014 (first published 2004 eds. Denoel), translated by Sandra Smith.

The title indicates Irene Nemirovsky's intention to follow the model of a musical suite, by writing four or five 'movements': in this case she planned four or five novels on her theme but only lived to complete the two which are published together in this book - Storm in June and Dolce. The manuscript was written in 1941/2, but not published for nearly sixty years. This particular edition from 2014 shows that the film of the same title had already been made, as witnessed by the cover photo, although the film actually deals mainly with 'Dolce' - the second book - whereas to my mind the first section, 'Storm in June', carries a depth of historic and psychological truth which is unforgettable. In the words of a previous reviewer, it clutches at the heart.

Irene Nemirovsky never wrote the final movements of her 'suite' because, as a Jew, she was deported from occupied France, and murdered in Auschwitz in August 1942. She was writing the book during the early days of the German occupation. No-one knew then what the outcome of the war would be. It is an amazing testimony to

her commitment to her work, that she continued even knowing that her life was likely to be brutally cut short. The manuscript was treasured by her 12 year-old daughter Denise, as her last precious link with her mother, but though she held on to the case containing it, throughout the turmoil of the following years, it was not examined until 2002.

There is nothing panicky or hysterical about the writing, as Nemirovsky chronicles the stampede to get out of Paris as the Germans came in. We follow the reactions and behaviour of various households as they join the exodus - a self-obsessed writer, a rich bourgeois family, a banker, two of his humble employees and so on. It is full of black humour and shrewd satirical observation, as well as what is now unique historical social detail. It leaves the reader wondering how the English might have reacted if we had been faced with this situation.

Above all it is a gripping and convincing narrative from the pen of a writer who, with her family, experienced at close quarters the restrictions, the humiliations and the dangers of that appalling time. Even so close to her own death, she found humour and pride in people. Sadly we are aware that such a narrative is by no means irrelevant for many in other parts of our dislocated globe. Among its other qualities, this fascinating novel gives a truthful insight into the stressful condition of being a refugee.

## NEWS FROM THE SWAN

Regretfully we will have to curtail our food offerings for a short period, this is while Cathy recovers from illness. We will resume cooking as soon as we can which we envisage being early to mid November. Please look for updates outside the pub or phone to get update (01460 75699).

We will be taking orders for Xmas Dinners, parties and buffets

(contact pub for details).

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** - Haircut Tuesday  
**Wednesdays** - Bingo 8.00pm  
Champions league football **Tuesday & Wednesday**  
**28<sup>th</sup> November** Chris Banderas Rock Guitarist  
**Friday December 18th** "Simon Rees" Singer & Entertainer  
**Xmas Day** open 12.00pm – 2.15pm

*John Cathy & Jet*

## BUSY MONTH AHEAD FOR THE SOCIAL CLUB

Our FREE pool night has moved from a Tuesday to Monday nights as we now have a team in the pool league.

October's Monthly Market was nice and busy raising £50 for the Merriott and Hinton St George Scout Group.

November's Monthly Market on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** will be full with over 30 stalls to tempt you into some Christmas shopping. All are welcome, so please pop down to support us in our efforts by having a browse, buying some raffle tickets or enjoying a bacon butty!

### Dates for your diary:

**31<sup>st</sup> October** we have a family Halloween Party starting at 7.30pm with

prizes for the best children's and adult's fancy dress. Free to members and non-members.

**7<sup>th</sup> November** sees the return of One Tree Hill

Coming up in **December** we have .....

**12<sup>th</sup>** - Bingo night followed by Jumpy and Scratchy entertaining us in the bar with music from all eras.

**19<sup>th</sup>** - Crimson on Silver in the function room

**20<sup>th</sup>** - Children's Christmas party, a list will soon be in the function room, bar and on the notice board so if you wish for your child to attend please pop their name down. Free to members or a small

charge of £2 per child to non-members.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE.....** tickets will soon be on sale for our popular New Years Eve Party with live band and late night disco. Last year was a sell out so make sure you purchase your tickets as soon as possible from Merriott Social Club - members tickets available from 1<sup>st</sup> November and non-members from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Remember to keep an eye on our notice-board for the latest news and events, as well as our website ([merriottsocialclub.co.uk](http://merriottsocialclub.co.uk)) and Facebook page. Thanks once again to all members and non-members who have continued to support us – you are highly appreciated!

## MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL

Continuing with our 'Marvellous Merriott' topic, the children have been out exploring the village and identifying its amenities.

Golden Class were caught out by the weather on one of their walks and returned to school rather wet! The Swan Pub, the Social Club, the Co-op, the Pharmacy, the Garage and Osborne Butchers were noted during their expeditions with muddy areas of the footpaths proving the biggest attraction!

Redstreak Class visited the Farm Shop at



Manor Farm for tips on how to look after their 'Farm Shop' role play area. It was a very useful exercise! The children were

also able to see where the produce for the shop was growing in the fields nearby and the types of vegetables available this season.

Pippin and Codlin Classes walked around the village to get an overview of the area.

Mrs Emma Sale has been appointed as a job share teacher for Pippin Class to start in November. Mrs Sale is a very experienced teacher, a former Chair of Governors at Merriott and also her three children attended school here.

### MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL JOB VACANCY

The Council invites applicants for the post of Parish Clerk. Good administrative and typing skills are needed. The post also involves managing the councils finances.

Candidates will also need a high level of numeracy. Training will be available.

For further details please contact the Chairman - Mr Iain Hall on 01460 73771.

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## SOUND ADVICE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

After a lovely summer, it is time to look forward to the pleasures of the autumn and winter evenings. These should be pleasurable times and occasions for celebrations. Sadly, one person's idea of fun and celebrating can be another's misery. With this in mind I have put together some advice regarding Halloween and Bonfire night.



Halloween, also known as All Saints' Day, and the following day, All Souls' Day, which commemorates the dead, is often overshadowed by anti-social behaviour.

The practice of 'trick or treating' can be alarming, as unidentifiable youths appear on your doorstep expecting, or even demanding, sweets or have a 'trick'

played on you. The "trick" is an idle threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given. Sadly, eggs and flour are often used causing damage. This is anti-social behaviour and will be dealt with promptly by the Police and PCSO's. In recent years, a pre-emptive strike has been very successful and shops have worked with us to ensure eggs and flour are not sold to youths. This pre-emptive action will take place again this year. Often the local press print posters stating 'No Trick or Treaters Please', failing that a hand-written notice on the front door should stop unwanted door knocking.

We just get over Halloween and Bonfire Night is upon us.

The length of time that 'Firework Night' goes on for can seem like forever, but there is a time limit and fireworks should not be let off after 11pm, except on Special Occasions, such as New Year's Eve and when an event has informed the proper authorities and been given permission.

Halloween and Bonfire Night are fun

times for youngsters and families but it should also be time of fun and pleasure for the whole community.

The message this year is for understanding and respect for everyone's right to be safe and feel safe.

Please enjoy the celebrations and try and join in - not all 'hoodies' are yobs and not everyone over the age of 21 is 'killjoy'!

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact the Police.

In an EMERGENCY, dial 999. If you fear for your safety or that of another member of the community – 999.

If you wish to report something that has just happened but is not ongoing, please contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team on 101.

Your local team in Crewkerne is:-

PC 4140 Chris Purcell (Beat Manager)

PC 3589 Lisa Hallett (Beat Manager)

PCSO 8445 Ben Samways

PCSO 9447 Dave Lewis

PCSO 8506 Gareth Allington

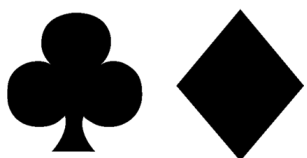


### BRIDGE LESSONS

Learn to play bridge in an informal and relaxed environment – whether you're a complete beginner or simply want to brush up your skills.

I've been playing bridge for over 25 years and am keen to share my enthusiasm for this fantastic game. Group or individual lessons will be friendly and fun using an English Bridge Union structured system.

For further information please contact me,  
Mike Dobson: e-mail:  
cmike.dobson@gmail.com  
Tel: 01460 419475 Mob: 07720 778496



### WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE?

**Sat 7th November** - Christmas Market at Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall 1pm - 4pm in aid of West Chinnock Playschool. Entry free.

**Fri 20th November** - Our SHOP Wine

Wine & Food Tasting Event - 5.00pm - 8.00pm - St George's Hall, Hinton St George

**Sat 28th November** - Hinton St George First School & St George's Pre-School - Christmas Fayre, St George's Hall, 10.30am - 1.30pm.

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Saturday 21st Nov**

**9.30am to 1.00pm**

**Tithe Barn Merriott**



Held by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the First Hinton St George Scout Group together with Merriott Bowling Club.

Cake stall, preserves, chutneys, books, bottle stall, puzzles, Grand Hamper Draw, teas, coffee and cake. And much more.

All welcome.  
Come and join us.

### AD HOC

#### CHAMBER CHOIR

return to perform  
Fauré's Requiem  
Remembrance Sunday  
(November 8th)

6pm, St George's Church,  
Hinton St George

Free entry  
Retiring collection for  
Combat Stress & Church fund



THE VETERANS'  
MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY



## DID YOU KNOW .....

Many readers will have seen Adam Henson on the Countryfile programme and just occasionally his father, Joe, would also appear. Sadly Joe died in early October at the age of 83.

In the early 1970's Joe started one of the first farm parks at Guiting Power in Gloucestershire and there are now many around the country. Apart from being a visitor attraction, and especially enjoyable for children to see farm animals close-up, they also serve an important role in maintaining the less common breeds of farm animals.

In the late 1960's there were some rare breeds of farm animals at Whipsnade Zoo. The Zoological Society of London, who manage Whipsnade, decided that these animals were inappropriate to a wildlife park and wanted to get rid of them. Through discussions they were moved to the Royal Agricultural Society showground at Kenilworth and to a Reading University farm. At the same time a survey was carried out by two students at the University to find the locations and the owners of rare breeds of farm animals. Maintaining them as living gene bank is very important to the future flexibility of animal breeding as it is not possible to predict the future use and need for animal products. Having

saved the animals at Whipsnade, the next step was to seek funding for an organisation to look after and promote the rare breeds. Government funding was sought but not forthcoming.

A number of enthusiasts, including Joe Henson, had the idea that farm parks would provide part of the answer by exhibiting rare breeds to the public and so provide a safe haven for the animals and some income for an organisation to keep a watching brief on rare farm animals and promote the importance of keeping them.

As a result the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) was formed and has become a viable and important conservation and research organisation independent of public funds.



*Joe Henson, founder Chairman of the RBST*

### WANTED: A GARETH MALONE (CHOIR LEADER / DIRECTOR)

There seems to be quite a bit of interest locally in starting an informal choir linked with the church. Our thoughts were that it might rehearse in one of our churches, and participate in some

of our special services during the year – eg at Easter or Christmas. We need to find someone who could lead this choir. If this is you or you can suggest someone; we would love to hear from you.

*Revs Julia and Bob Hicks 76406*

### MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP VILLAGE WALK 11TH NOVEMBER



The Footpath Group has been active and has forwarded a report on its activities to the Parish Council. The Group plan to walk all the footpaths in the village at least once during the next year.

The second walk, of about 6 miles, will be held on **Wednesday 11th November**.

Meet outside 14 Lower Street at 11.00am. Lunch at the Royal Oak, Over Stratton, returning via Lopen Mill.

Everybody is welcome to join.

*John Goldie, 01460 73158  
merriott.fg@gmail.com*

## 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



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## NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH



**Advent Sunday**, at the end of the month, marks the beginning of the new Church Year, when we begin to look forward and prepare for the coming birth of our Saviour Christ. So November is the very last month in the church calendar. It is a season of remembering and recognising. We begin on the very first day of the month by remembering **All Saints**. This year there will be a special 'Songs of Praise' style service in Lopen. You are all very welcome to join us for that. The very next day we remember **All Souls**. This is when we remember all the faithful departed, and this year we will be holding our special 'Service for the Bereaved' actually on All Souls Day at 7pm. We have all lost someone close to us, whether family or friend, so this service is a chance to bring our grief and pain before our loving God

in a safe and holy space. There will be prayers and hymns and a chance to light a candle in memory of our loved ones. You are all welcome to come along.

**Remembrance Sunday** follows soon after. As usual, we will begin our service at the war memorial in the churchyard at 10.50am. Five of the men listed on our war memorial died during 1915; so there will be particular poignancy this year as we mark their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One of these five, Arthur John French, is buried in Merriott Churchyard. We will remember them.

The Festival of **Christ the King** is in some ways the theological pinnacle of the year, as the Church recognises Jesus Christ as reigning supreme over all Creation. It is perhaps a time to take stock and reflect on the past year, to

consider who or what is in charge of us, and who is our king?

*Rev Bob Hicks - 76406*

### Church Services in November

#### Sun 1st All Saints Day

8.30am Holy Communion  
(6pm All Saints Celebration Service in Lopen)

#### Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day

7pm All Souls Service for the Bereaved

#### Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday

10.50am Remembrance Service

#### Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 10am All Age Communion

#### Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Christ the King

10am Sung Communion

#### Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday

10am Benefice Communion for Advent



### SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2015

We would like to invite you to fill a shoe-box again this year, to bring joy to a needy child this Christmas. Leaflets giving details are available in the Broadway Garage and in the Church.

Completed boxes can be dropped off at 12 Higher Beadon, Merriott on Saturday 14th November.

We would also be very grateful for 'fillers', or you may like to sponsor a box. For more information please contact Beryl Bellamy 74574 or Beryl Virgin 74917.

**Thank you so much for your support.**

## CAROLS AND CLASSICS 2015

The yearly treat of Carols and Classics performed by Joseph Fisher and Friends will this year be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December at All Saints Church, Merriott. The evening will start with refreshments at 7:00pm and the concert at 7:30pm. As usual the concert will be a combination of Classical music and Christmas arrangements performed by Josephs Piano Strings Ensemble. The musicians have had a busy year playing with major orchestras across the UK and overseas and are as keen as ever to perform back in Merriott. Tickets will be on sale from Osbornes Broadway Stores at a cost of £8 with under 18's Free. Sorry for the increase in ticket costs but travel expenses for the musicians has increased over the last couple of years as they are now distributed across the UK.



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## SIDE BY SIDE PROJECT

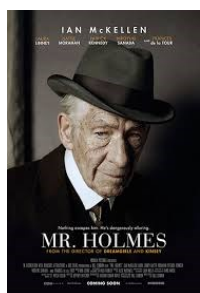
Could you help someone with dementia to do the things they love?

From going for a stroll in the park, to joining an art class together, being a Side by Side volunteer is a flexible way to volunteer your time and helps people with dementia to keep doing the things we take for granted.

This extra support can make it easier for people with

dementia, who might sometimes feel isolated or find it difficult to leave their homes, remain active and feel part of their local community.

The Alzheimer's Society is looking for Side by Side volunteers in this area. If you are interested, please email [vol@dorsetsomerset@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:vol@dorsetsomerset@alzheimers.org.uk) for more information, or phone on 01458 251541 or 07734 785 429 and ask for Katherine.



Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents  
'Mr Holmes' (PG),

on **Saturday November 14th** in the 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.

Mr Holmes revisits the circumstances of the unsolved case that forced him into retirement - before it's too late. Excellent acting by Sir Ian McKellen in a new twist on the world's most famous detective.



## 2015 POPPY APPEAL

Please support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. There will be a House to House collection in Merriott during the fortnight before Remembrance Sunday 8th November.

## VILLAGE HALL NEWS



At our recent AGM, Mike Dandridge, retiring as Treasurer,

was thanked for his sterling service to the Village Hall during the past 35 years. Mike's expertise and knowledge will not be lost as he has volunteered to remain as the Short Mat Bowls Representative on the Management Committee.

Tribute is also paid to the late Bob Norton for his 38 years on the Management Committee, and to Jonathan Stokes who in his time as Chairman achieved the major refurbishment of the Village Hall in 2009.

Andrew Osborne and Rosemarie Booth have agreed to become the Badminton and Dog Training Representatives respectively. We hope other Village Hall user groups and the Parish Council will soon be represented again. The new Trustees elected are Andy Lawrence (Chairman), Rosemary Evans (Treasurer), John Bowman and Emily Hilton.

The new Trustees have

secured 100% funding for a hearing loop and PA system in the Hall. Also a £1,000 grant has been awarded towards the cost of a fire alarm. Both should be installed this month.

The popular Village Café will be open 10.30 am to 2 pm **Friday 6 November**, and on **Saturday 28 November** there will be a Quiz Evening, with Supper and Bar.

It is planned to hold a free "Show Case" afternoon on **Saturday 23 January 2016**. This is to promote the Village Hall, and the various groups who use the facilities. It is also your opportunity to see whether the Hall might be the right venue for your club or social function. Refreshments will be served. Do come along to this open house event. More information will follow soon.

The Trustees need a volunteer Minutes Secretary for their monthly Committee meetings. If you are interested please call Andy Lawrence Tel: 01460 78461. For bookings please phone 01460 72508.

## COMMUNITY PAVILION



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

MOBILE LIBRARY  
NOVEMBER VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School  
9.30am - 10am  
17th November



# THE SWAN

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