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# MERRIOTT MESSENGER

OCTOBER 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 November issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th October.

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)

## QUOTE FROM THE MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB

Ladies like gifts of florists flowers. Lady gardeners prefer a sack of good manure!

## HELLO TO MERRIOTT MESSENGER READERS

I am Phil Smith, the new Headteacher of Merriott First School. It is a great privilege to be serving your community by being your local headteacher.

I am passionate about learning and believe that our children need to have access to a wide range of learning experiences to help them reach their full potential. I am looking forward to further promoting the strong tradition of high academic achievements, the creative curriculum and the caring pastoral approach that Merriott School is known for.

I have been involved in education for nearly 20 years as a teacher having started my career in Birmingham. My wife and I moved down to Somerset 10 years ago when I took up the post of Deputy Headteacher at Greenfyld First School in Ilminster. Last year, I also had the

secondment opportunity of being Associate Headteacher at Hinton First School.

I am very lucky to have two children, Harriet (8) and Alice (3,) who very much keep me busy in all the spare time I have. As a family we particularly like to spend time exploring the outdoors and I really enjoy gardening too.

The local community is very important to our school and we are currently finding out more about Merriott as part of a whole-school topic. If anyone has anything

about Merriott (past or present) that you think the children would be interested in, please get in touch with us. We are also very much looking forward to welcoming our community at our next Open Day on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October.**

*Phil Smith*



*Philip Smith, new Headteacher, with a group of children from Codlin Class*

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



*"Sheltering from the rain"  
taken by Chriselda McPherson, Sept 2015*

**Send your photo to:**  
[merriottmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:merriottmessenger@gmail.com)

## 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. Details from, Chairman - Mr Iain Hall - 73771.



**17th October** - Rustic Italian feast!  
6.30pm till late.

For reservations or menu email  
[thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com)

**Friday 6th November** - Pop-up café  
10.30am till 2pm.

For sample menus and updates join our facebook group 'the village cafe Merriott'

## MY SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN BY WILLIAM TUCKER (AGED 4)

I have visited the Rec loads during the summer holidays. I love going there because I can practise riding my bike around the tennis court. When I get really good on my own daddy said he will let me ride on the road with him all around the lanes in Merriott and Hinton St George (like he did when he was little).

I go the Rec with my mummy and baby brother mostly, but today my friends Ben and Ella visited from West Chinnock to have a picnic with us (they

don't have a park), we enjoyed the zip wire and the rocking horse the most!

Mummy took some pictures we hope you like them.



Merriott Childcare Solutions was inspected by Ofsted in August 2015. I am pleased to announce that the inspection went very well and I maintained my Outstanding grade. I would like to thank all my staff, parents, children and the community for their support.

*Vanina Cooper*

### 'REMEMBERING' - CORRECTION

I made an error in my account (September Messenger) of Helen's memories of school in Merriott in WW II. The School evacuated to Merriott was St Helena's from Eastbourne and the plane came down over the hill but not 'down' as in 'crashed'!

*Ann Lawrence*

### MERRIOTT DRIVERS

David Collins (tel: 01460 279 623) has very kindly volunteered to take over running the Merriott Drivers, as we are moving from the village. He is the person to contact, if you wish to be registered with Merriott Drivers for transport to medical appointments. He will arrange to come and see you for a short chat, just

to explain how the scheme works and give you a list of Drivers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteer Drivers for keeping the service going and helping people in Merriott reach their medical appointments. Giving your time and commitment is much appreciated. Thank you.

*Maggie and Tom Jones*

The Merriott Allotment Association currently has a half plot to let. Further details are available from the Secretary, Beryl Bellamy - 01460 74574

### POPPY APPEAL 2015

There will be a house to house collection as usual in Merriott in the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday on 8<sup>th</sup> November. For further details please contact Liz or Peter Fisk, tel. 01460 72595.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD BEAT TEAM REPORT

Merriott continues to be a relatively safe place to live and besides a couple of car crimes in the past few months, there is nothing to report. It is not advisable to leave anything in the car, whether you regard it as valueless or not – it has 'potential' to a thief. If you have to leave anything in the car, put it in the boot out of sight.

Neighbouring villages have had a few shed break ins, so please ensure you have serial numbers recorded, a photograph of any tools and items of value and lock the shed, making sure the screws on the hinges do NOT leave easy access if removed! For any crime reduction advice please contact the Crewkerne Neighbourhood team for some free advice on security. Either call 101 and ask for the Crewkerne NHBT or email any of us by putting the collar number of the officer in front of the '@avonandsomerset.police.uk'.

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

All Saints' Church Merriott

Please join us for

**HARVEST LUNCH AT THE TITHE BARN**

A 'Bring and Share' Lunch

**From 12 midday - Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>  
(after 11am Harvest Festival Service)**

**Please bring a plate of food to share**



Soft drinks and Tea and Coffee provided  
(BYO other drinks)

## KEEPING YOU SAFE - PERSONAL ALARMS FROM YARLINGTON

Yarlington is so much more than just a social landlord and offer a number of additional services. One of these services is Yarlington's Personal Alarm Service.

The Personal Alarm itself consists of a small base unit that plugs into an electric socket and telephone line and an alarm pendant that is worn around your neck or on your wrist. When the alarm is activated, it connects to a control centre that will assist in an emergency, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (even Christmas day!)

This service can peace of mind for those who:

- are elderly or vulnerable
- prone to falls
- live alone or in an isolated area
- are a victim of crime or domestic violence
- need support for personal safety or security
- need assistance recovering from illness or injury

- are caring for others or have a friend in need

Anyone can have a Personal Alarm, whether you are 23 or 103, Yarlington tenant or not. The service is open to everyone and costs as little as £3.70 per week - that's less than the cost of a few of your weekly essentials.

A great example of how the Personal Alarm service has benefited one of our clients; Mr Smith lives with dementia and as a result of this suffers with depression and is unable to go out alone. His wife felt housebound as she was concerned about leaving Mr Smith alone. Mrs Smith contacted Yarlington about having an alarm installed to give her peace of mind and enable her to pop to the shops, safe in the knowledge that Mr Smith can access help via the alarm, should he need it.

Since having the alarm installed their day to day life has been dramatically improved and Mr Smith has regained his confidence, all thanks to a little red button.

Yarlington is also able to provide a free Home from Hospital Personal Alarm. This service provides the welcome support that patients need when returning home, and peace of mind for both the patient and their families, knowing that help is available at the touch of a button.

The Home from Hospital service is free of charge for 6 weeks, with no installation fee and patients are welcome to continue using the alarm service after the free trial period, charges start from £3.70 per week plus VAT.

If you would like to find out more about this service, please contact Yarlington on 01935 404500 and we will happily answer any questions and talk through your options.

*Jo Thompson*  
Assistive Technology Coordinator

### OPEN GROUP

This is a women's group that meets fortnightly for a variety of activities - talks, discussions, outings, social events and much more.

October's meetings:

**1st** - A talk on Carriage Driving for the Disabled

**15th** - An "Agony Aunt" evening

**29th** - A trip to the Warehouse Theatre for a performance of "Woman in Mind" by Alan Ayckbourn  
Any enquiries contact Marion Biggs 74170



### MERRIOTT'S MONTHLY MARKET

First Saturday of the month 10am - 1pm  
Merriott Social Club, 71 Lower St

An array of stalls selling fresh food products from cakes to jams & pickles, quiches and pies, fruit & 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 and 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



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## CLASSICAL TANGO AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH MERRIOTT



A modern rendition of Piazzolla's Four for Tango including the simulation of sounds for sandpaper, drums and a whip was expertly performed by the Valido String Quartet at this year's Sunday Afternoon of Classics on the 23rd August at All Saints Church in Merriott.

The Valido on their 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to Merriott performed another brilliant concert to an enthralled audience of over 130, who were also treated to string quartet compositions by Mozart and Beethoven during the afternoon. The talented young musicians from New Zealand, Canada, Portugal and of course Merriott raised over £700 towards the church

fabric fund for the concert. The audience were engaged throughout the performances, not only by the personal inter-play between the musicians but also through the introduction of the individual pieces and a brief insight into the background of the composition and its

composer. The afternoon was completed with an exhilarating encore rendition of the theme from the film Pulp Fiction arrangement for string quartet by the Ebene Quartet that rounded off the performance.

Teas and refreshments and a raffle were organised before the concert and the ladies of the village provided another great array of cakes. These concerts held by Joseph Fisher and Friends have been a great success for the church and community, bringing in new visitors to the church from a very wide area. A much appreciative thank you goes to all who helped to make it a very successful afternoon.

## MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM IAN HUNT, SITE  
MANAGER FOR THE SCHOOL HALL SITE

"On behalf of Kier Services I would like to thank the residents of Evergreen Path and Hitchen for tolerating the disturbance during the summer weeks while we have been installing the new school hall. Hopefully it will be of benefit to the whole community and will be enjoyed for many years. Thank you again for your patience."



MESSAGE FROM MRS COGHAN:

Mrs Coghlan would like to express her sincere thanks for all the gifts, card and kind wishes from children, parents, staff and Governors as she finished her Headship at Merriott.

She hopes Mr Philip Smith will continue to benefit from the tremendous support the school gets from the whole community.

### GARDENING CLUB

On 27th October there will be a talk on "Grasses" given by one of the staff from the Gardens Group. Meet at

the Tithe Barn at 7.30pm. Refreshments available, raffle, plant and seed sales. Flower of the Month. A warm welcome to everyone. Guests £2.

Mo Frampton, 07967 028277

## MERRIOTT TEA TOWELS

### SPECIAL OFFER PRICE

Thinking about  
Christmas?

Our lovely tea towels are on sale now at a bargain price of **£3 or two for £5**. They make an ideal gift, easy to post, useful to have.



Take this coupon with you to buy them at Osborne's or The Post Office (petrol station)



## 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



MERRIOTT FIRST  
SCHOOL  
Needs You!

### MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL – ARE YOU A POTENTIAL GOVERNOR?

Have you ever  
considered being a  
School Governor?

You may not know it,  
but school governors

are the largest collective of volunteers in the country. It is an opportunity to be a part of something that matters and have a positive impact on children's education.

Right now Merriott First School is looking to recruit one or two new faces, the commitment is for a few meetings a term, plus a small amount of time outside meetings. We are especially looking for people from the local community who have an interest in our school and young people succeeding. Most people over 18 can become a school governor.

To find out more contact the School on 01460 72547 or email [office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk)

## EXCERPTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 2015

*Information from John Lancaster,  
representing Mongoose Energy:*

The site at Lower Severalls Farm has just begun its first phase of development, which is half of the overall project. OPDE are the managers of the project. The original planning consent classified it as full commercial use, however, due to changes in the feed in tariff (FIT) rate changing the project has amended to 50% commercial and 50% community owned. The profits from the community share will go into a community fund.

The developers are looking for members to join the cooperative. A CBS (Community Benefit Scheme) is established by an act of parliament where profits are used to benefit the community; for example local businesses could be able to make applications for grants. A share offer will be available in the next few months and the public will be invited to buy shares. The scheme will offer one member one vote, shares can range from £500-£100,000. Phase one will be complete by the end of November. The CBS will commence after the completion of phase one.

**MPC meetings:** From November it has been agreed Merriott Parish Council meetings will be held on the SECOND Monday of each month. The change will

come into effect from November 2015.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS:

#### APPLICATION 15/03193/ADP/FUL- Merriott Village Hall - Replacement wall sign and replacement of post sign.

No comments to make, planning already granted.

#### APPLICATION 15/03202/FUL- 3 GLEBELANDS - retrospective application for erection of a fence.

Proposal from Cllr I Kendall - Comment to planners, reduce the height of the fence to be in keeping with the local area. Unanimously agreed.

#### APPLICATION 15/03099/FUL-Zephyrine Cottage & Lumbards - garden building, amended plans/additional information re detail design changes.

Amendment to plans, consent granted, no objections.

#### APPLICATION 15/03633/FUL-1 Tail Mill Lane- alterations & conversion of garage to living accommodation.

No objections- unanimously agreed.

### DETERMINATIONS

Boundary House, Beadon Lane - Application withdrawn

Zephyrine Cottage & Lumbards - GRANTED

## Merriott Gospel Hall



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toddlers.  
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7.00pm-8.30pm  
1st/3rd Fri each month  
During term-time.

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Phil & Jo 271763  
Andrew & Julia 72211



Broadway, Merriott  
[www.merriottgospelhall.org](http://www.merriottgospelhall.org)

### 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  
information



MOBILE LIBRARY  
OCTOBER VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School

9.30am - 10am

20th October



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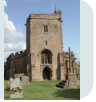
Tel: 01460

# 72222

Covering: Merriott, Crewkerne, Hinton St George, Lopen, Haselbury, West Chinnock



## NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH



We were blessed with good weather for our **Pet Service** in the churchyard on the afternoon of Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September and had a good turnout from both humans and other creatures. There were no fatal predator – herbivore interactions and our close animal friends went home blessed for another year. Thank you to everyone who came.

The resurfacing work of the **Church Car Park** entrance has now been completed. You will notice that there are now two speed bumps, so please make sure you come and go carefully! They are there for the safety of all vehicle and pedestrian users.

Our **Harvest Festival Family Service** will be at **11am** on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October – please note the later than normal start time! We do invite you to bring gifts of produce and other items to be shared between the Pilsdon Community and The Lord's Larder. We can cope with SOME fresh foods (please no marrows!) but better still are long shelf life foods such as tins, packets, pasta and rice.

Other essentials such as soap, shower gel, loo roll, toothbrushes and toothpaste are always appreciated. Our **Harvest Lunch** will follow straight after in The Tithe Barn, hence the 11am start for the service. As last year, this will be a 'Bring and Share' effort – so if you are able, please bring a plate of something savoury or sweet and drinks to share. If you can't bring anything, don't worry; just bring yourself, as I am sure there will be plenty to go around. Please do come along and join us for this important celebration.

The **Autumn Work Party** will be on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October**, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. As usual, there will be various jobs to do inside and outside the church, so please come suitably dressed and with appropriate tools! Refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact one of our Churchwardens; Robin Gilkes (75549) or Tom Jones (76186).

*Rev Bob Hicks 76406*

### Church Services in October:

- Sun 4th** 8.30am Holy Communion  
**Sun 11th** 9.30am Parish Communion  
**Sun 18th** 11am Harvest Festival Family Service (NB not the usual 10am start!!)  
 followed by a 'Bring and Share' Harvest lunch in the Tithe Barn.  
**Sun 25th** 10am Sung Communion

### 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*



### SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2015

We are again planning for this year's shoe-box appeal and you are warmly invited to a Bring & Buy Coffee Morning on **Saturday 17th October** at 35 Shiremoor Hill. Leaflets explaining how to fill your shoe-box will be available from 1st October in the Broadway Garage and in the Church.

Thank you so much for your continued support for the deprived children of Eastern Europe. For more details please contact Beryl Virgin – 74917 or Beryl Bellamy – 74574.



### BUSY BEES!

You may remember our report last year on the Prize Winning bees of Merriott?

Their delicious honey is now for sale at the farm gate, Greatfield, (by the dahlias).



### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

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.  
 More details to come ....

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## MAMMA MIA !

I am running a coach to the Bristol Hippodrome on 23rd April 2016 to see Mamma Mia for the 2.30pm Matinee performance.

I know some people from Merriott are already booked, but I still have some available seats. The coach will pick us up by Osbornes butchers at a approx 10.35am going directly to Bristol and leaving directly after the

show has finished. Pick-ups can also be made at Cartgate.

The cost including coach Mamma Mia tickets and drivers' tip is £53.50 and payment is required by November 10th to secure the seats.

Any money left will go to a local charity.

Please book with Cheryl on 01460 75025



Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents  
'Far From The Madding Crowd' (PG)  
**on Saturday October 10th**  
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.

A new adaptation of Thomas Hardy's famous novel about a free spirited young woman torn between three suitors. Carey Mulligan stars in this production which has been described as 'ravishing' and was filmed extensively in Dorset.



### COMMUNITY PAVILION

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.

## PUNKIE NIGHT



The tradition of celebrating Punkie Night in Hinton St George takes place on the last Thursday of the month: **29th October.**

Meet at St. George's Hall at 7.00pm with your carved Manglewurzel (available from the village shop throughout October) and parade around the village singing the Punkie Night song. This is followed by a contest to win the trophies for the best Punkie lantern, alongside games and Punkie treats.



**Thursday 29th October,**  
**7.30pm in Tithe Barn**  
**(refreshments from 7.00pm)**

Dementia Friends is organised by the Alzheimer's Society.

Its aim is to provide positive and helpful information about Dementia and to give advice about ways in which they can support people with the condition. The session lasts about an hour.

All are welcome and there is no charge.

## NEWS FROM THE MERRIOTT SOCIAL CLUB

The Monthly Market in August raised £53 for Merriott Ladies Football team with their yummy cake stall raising £25.33. September's market was in aid of The Wayfarers Club who run events for adults with learning difficulties and their families.

We are welcoming Merriott and Hinton Scouts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October to our Monthly Market. 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!

The new roof and toilet block are progressing and hope to be

ready for our New Years' Eve Party..... watch this space. Please remember your memberships are now due. Members receive a discount on hall hire and are entered in the weekly draw.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

On the **24<sup>th</sup> October** the ever popular **Storm** return - let's rock! **31<sup>st</sup> October** we have a family Halloween Party Disco. 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.

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