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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

OCTOBER 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 November issue is **12th October**.

GARDENING CLUB QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"A garden is the microcosm of our lives - a constant changing - a constant loss - a constant creation. Always a new wonder. Always a new hope".

Pam Brown

BROADWAY GARDEN SUPPORTED BY WAITROSE

The Broadway Garden in Merriott, opposite the Pharmacy, was originally just a scruffy bit of land, but over the last few years, with the aid of volunteers, it has been turned into a pretty garden.

Twice a year volunteers turn up on a Sunday morning, with gardening equipment and tidy it up, organised by Christine McLeod, Chair of the Gardening Club.

A couple of months ago we decided that I should approach Waitrose in their "Community Matters" scheme and see if we could raise funds

for equipment and plants. Waitrose donates £1,000 each month to three local charities and the Merriott Broadway Garden was selected.



Unfortunately Waitrose was unable to let us know in advance of if, or when, we would be selected, so we were unable to publicise it beforehand. We were however, delighted to have been chosen in September.

To all of you who put your little green token in our box - thank you! It will make a real difference to our community. And thank you Waitrose.

Mo Frampton

PARISH COUNCIL LAUNCHES NEW OUTDOOR GYM



At the time of going to press our equipment had not been installed. This photo shows the type of equipment Merriott will soon have.

The Parish Council is launching a new outdoor gym with a FREE breakfast on the Pavilion Verandah for all those who trial the new equipment. These will take place on the first three Sundays of November: **6th**, **13th** and **20th** from 9.00am - 11.00am, (in partnership with the Village Café). The menu is available to view on the Parish Council Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you.

Iain Hall

AUTUMN CLEAN WORK PARTY

Saturday 15th October

9.30am - 12noon

Merriott Church



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

There will be jobs in the churchyard, like hedge trimming, wilderness taming and general tidying and we will also be cleaning inside the church too.

Refreshments will be available.

Please bring suitable clothing and tools.

For more details please contact:
Tom Jones (240615) and
Robin Gilkes (75549)

HISTORY ON VIEW IN MERRIOTT BY MARION BIGGS

On the circular walk around the main roads of Merriott I often think how lucky we are to live in such a varied and vibrant community. The walk of approx 2 miles is ideal for a leisurely stroll and the different styles and ages of buildings to be seen on the walk make it even more interesting. From the old thatched cottages around Townsend Corner to the large manor houses found around the village, from the Victorian workers cottages along Lower Street to the newer housing estates in the centre of the village, there are homes for all tastes and pockets.

Usually it is easy to work out the age of a building from its design and materials. But one sure way is to see a date stone on the building. I wonder how many of these you have spotted whilst on your walks?



I am sure you can spot many more - do share them with us. Answers given on page 6.



CIDER @ MANOR FARM

Cider and Apple pressing time has arrived again!

Manor Farm is holding pressing sessions at the farm if anyone is interested in having a go! It's definitely 'hands on' at your own risk, but it's always good fun.

If you would like to take part, please call Nigel on his mobile (see below) or via facebook @manorfarmsownmerriott.

Manor Farm, Lower Street,
Merriott, TA16 5NP
Tel: 07963 102258

Email: nigel.witcombe@gmail.com



MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP WALK

Wednesday 19th October

Meet 10.00am outside the Social Club

The route will include Wall Ditch Lane and Bow Bridge Farm finishing at the Kings Head pub where lunch may be obtained. Distance not more than four miles. Any queries please contact: Peter Bryans, tel 78182.

Turn to page 3 for a report on the extensive work carried out by the Footpath Group over the summer months.




Merriott's Monthly Market hosts

MERRIOTT'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st October 10am - 1pm

Merriott Social Club, 71 Lower St

We do hope you will join us in raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. For further details call Lola on 07885 424 588, pop into the Social Club or check us out on 



JOIN US AT THE "COFFEE STOP"
every Tuesday in
Merriott Church from
10.00am - 11.30am

Coffee and cake £1 with free refills.
All welcome - children's drinks and play area.
We look forward to seeing you there.

MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB

On **Tuesday 25th October** Phil & Joyce Kerton will talk on "Sweet Peas". They have been growing Sweet Peas for more than 20 years and there will be specialist seeds for sale.

Meet at the Tithe Barn at 7.30pm. Refreshments, raffle, seed and plant sale. "Flower of the Month" competition. The book "RHS Pests and Diseases" will be available for reference, if you have any nasties in the garden! Non members £2.



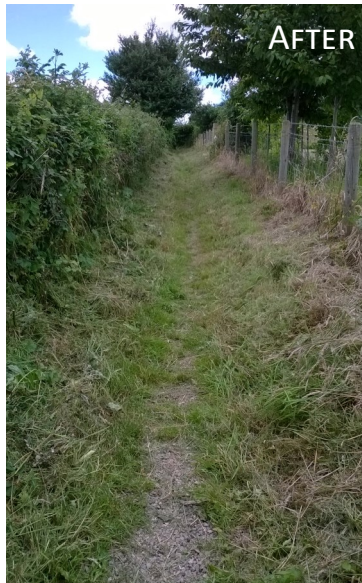
Mo Frampton 07967 028277

BUSY SUMMER FOR THE MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP



BEFORE

Members of the footpath group have been working very hard over the summer months. Many hours of volunteered time have been put in to keep the parish footpaths accessible. It has been particularly difficult this year with growing conditions being ideal for the vegetation found along the paths. We have tried to keep vegetation down on all the most popular paths and have responded quickly when you have alerted us to issues of over-growth. The photographs show the conditions we have been dealing with.



AFTER

to improve some of the way-markers and sign posts. We could always do with more help. If you enjoy walking and are willing to commit to adopting a foot-path we would love to hear from you. If you think that is something you would like to do, you would be allocated a path to look after within the parish boundary. You would be asked to walk the path regularly and cut back brambles etc., where possible and report back any larger problems which we would tackle as a group.

Although strimming, clipping, lopping and clearing have occupied most of our time we have managed to improve the walking surface in some areas. In the autumn we are planning

Please contact me on 01460 73158 or email us at merriott.fp@gmail.com if you would like more information.

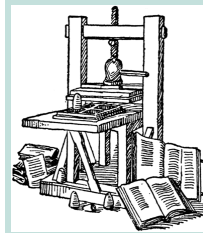
John Goldie

HARVEST LUNCH - 16TH OCTOBER

There will be a "Bring and Share" lunch at 12noon in the Tithe Barn, Merriott on **Sunday 16th October.**

Just come along with a plate of food to add to the buffet style lunch., but if you can't bring anything, don't worry, just bring yourself. Tea and coffee will be served, but bring any other drinks with you.

The lunch follows the Harvest Festival at Merriott Church - everyone is welcome at both or either event.



If you have any printing requirements, we can highly recommend our printer, Parish Magazine Printing. Phil offers extremely competitive prices, a very high standard of printing and always delivers on time. For a quote contact Phil either by phone 01288 341 617, or via email: philiptucker@parishmagazineprinting.co.uk

PS. Unlike the illustration Phil's machinery is state of the art!

OPEN GROUP

6th October - Beetle Drive
20th October - Knit and Natter - Knitting a Woolly Hat

For more details contact Marion Biggs 74170.



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TWO MERRIOTT SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB MEMBERS SELECTED FOR COUNTY SQUAD

Our Club has been very busy over the past few months participating in matches both home and away, with about equal wins against losses. When the Village Hall was being refurbished we took the opportunity to book Donyatt Short Mats a couple of times with about a dozen members playing each time. With the extra space available we were able to spend some quality time with members who wanted some extra coaching. This seems to have been very beneficial, since it is most noticeable the improvement in play especially for our newer members, some of whom have agreed to participate over the winter months in the weekly Milford & Dormer League held at Chard Bowling Club. Some other members have been participating in the East Coker Givle League competition. Both these leagues will be starting their winter fixtures during October.

Recently, trials were held at Donyatt for selection to the Somerset County Squad. Merriott SMBC was delighted when two of its members were selected - Frank Smith and 16 year old Jack Bradley - both of whom are looking forward to their first county match.



16 year old Jack Bradley

Jack also played on 4th September at Tamworth in Staffordshire in his first match since being selected for the England Under 21s. The match was against England Senior Ladies; Jack's team played four games with each team winning 2 games. At the end of the competition the Ladies were the overall winners with a final score of 35 games against 25. Merriott SMBC is proud to have Jack as a member and is following

his progress avidly whilst encouraging him throughout his busy schedule both at school and in the swimming pool as well as bowls!

At the end of October, we shall be holding our annual club championship competition. Who will be successful champions this year? Watch this space for further details, or visit our website <https://merriottshortmatbowls.wordpress.com>

Why not pop in on a Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday evening and see how the game is played; you might find you would like to have a go? You will be very welcome. Contact Anne Weeks on 01460 73091 for more details.

Anne Weeks



CREWKERNE AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION AGM
Thursday 13th October, 8.00pm
 at the Speedwell Hall in Abbey Street, Crewkerne.
 Parking opposite the Hall in Abbey Street car park.
 Come along and find out what we do and stay for a glass of wine.

CREWKERNE MUSEUM - HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES
26th - 29th October 2016
 10am - 4pm, Sat 10 am - 1pm
 Drop in and have fun hunting for spooky spiders, make a scary mask or make games. Dress up and join the fun!



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- Fitting fences and gates
- Exterior lime mortaring

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SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2016



The time has come again to be thinking about shoe-boxes! This year we, along with our main sorting centre in Ilminster, have decided to change the charity from Samaritan's Purse to Blythswood Care.

This is mainly for practical reasons. It also provides us with a wider choice for filling the boxes, (eg boxes can be filled for babies and adults, and can include clothing, and liquids such as shampoos etc.) The

destinations are the same, mainly in Eastern Europe and Asia. Leaflets giving more details are available from the Broadway Garage and the Church.

Thank you so much for all your support. As in previous years, we are really grateful for completed boxes, as well as 'fillers'. You may also prefer to sponsor a box. The Drop-Off day this year is **Saturday 29th October** at 12 Higher Beadon, Merriott.

Please do get in touch with us if you have any queries: Beryl Virgin 74917 or Beryl Bellamy 74574.

The Shoe-Box Team



AUTUMN SOCIAL AFTERNOONS

AT MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 12TH AND FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER

There will be tea/coffee and cake (£2) served from 3.00pm - 5.00pm

- general social afternoons, with tables available for board games/cards - bring your needlework or just come for company and chat. Bring a friend or come alone to meet new ones, all ages welcome.

If this is popular it can continue through the winter months.



HINTON SINGERS CONCERT

Saturday October 22nd Seavington Memorial Hall
7.30pm

Tickets - £5 on the door

Come along and enjoy a wide range of songs performed by The Hinton Singers.

Bring your own drinks for during the concert.

Raffle and cakes for sale.

Proceeds for Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance and Care 4 Calais



Italian café

Friday 7th October

10.30pm till 1.30pm - last orders.

Cakes, pizza and lunches - all hand-made and fresh with an Italian twist.

Pizzeria Saturday - 15th October

Open for lunch between 12pm and 2pm and dinner from 6.00pm.

Booking essential for the evening.

Lunchtime drop in or book.

Email thevillagecafemerriott@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook the village cafe Merriott.

All at the Merriott Village Hall.

MOBILE LIBRARY

OCTOBER VISIT:

Tuesday 18th

@ Merriott School

9.30am - 10am



PILATES

Merriott Village Hall
every Tuesday
09.30am - 10.30am

For further details contact
Belle 07593 299 284 or
01460 249576

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ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS

The **Harvest Festival Family Service** will be at **11am** on Sunday 16th 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. This year we have decided to give the money collected in the service to the **USPG ‘Feeding Hearts and Minds’** project in Sri Lanka. This supports families in marginalised tea plantation communities by providing pre-school places for children and nutrition education for parents. Please give generously.

Full details of the Harvest Lunch which will take place after the Harvest Festival Family Service, can be seen on page 3. We would also like to draw your attention to the Autumn Work Party on Saturday 15th - details on the front page.

Church Services in October

- Sun 2nd** 8.30am - Holy Communion
- Sun 9th** 9.30am - Parish Communion
- Sun 16th** 11am - **Harvest Festival Family Service** (NB not the usual 10am start!!) followed by a ‘Bring and Share’ Harvest lunch in the Tithe Barn.
- Sun 23rd** 10am Sung Communion
- Sun 30th** 10am **Benefice Communion for All Saints** - A celebration for All Saints Day and the dedication of our church.

Rev Bob Hicks

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

Invites you to a

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 19th November
7.30 pm

Tickets- available from Osborne’s, Broadway, Merriott includes a Two Course Supper (with veggie option) £10

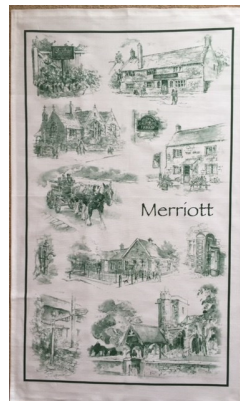


Bar open from 7pm



POPPY APPEAL 2016

There will be a house to house collection as usual in Merriott in the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday on 13th November. For further details please contact Liz or Peter Fisk on 01460 72595.



MERRIOTT TEA TOWELS STILL ONLY £4.00

These useful gifts, illustrated with beautiful sketches of the village by Merriott artist Beryl Virgin, are for sale at Osbornes and the garage Spar

Shop. Easy to post making them an ideal gift. All proceeds go to All Saints Church, Merriott.

This year’s Punkie Night falls on Thursday 27th October.



Gather from 6.30pm at St George’s Hall, Hinton St George, to listen to a storyteller give the tale of the original Punkie Night, see the Shepherd’s Hut with the Punkie King and Queen, then the traditional procession along the street, followed by the age-old competition for best Punkie lantern.

SUMMER GIFTS

BY JANET LAILEY

In a seaside shop I bought a ‘box of delights’

For a few francs: a flimsy little box
Patterned with blue waves.
Opened, a paper seagull rose and
hovered shakily,
Giving its mournful sea-call.
Closed, it receded into silence.
Opened again - the wings trembled,
The cry sounded....open....shut...

It was a gift for Evie, with her 3-year-old’s
Curiosity. She opened the box
And heard the bird,
The gull-in-a-box.
Her mouth opened too,
And her eyes, wide.
She was thrilled beyond words.

She gave me the gift of her delight:
A joy I have cherished for years.
I can open that memory, and hear that
seagull
When I have the fancy,
And see Evie’s face, lit up with pleasure,
Long after the little box has stammered
its last.

HISTORY ON VIEW IN MERRIOTT - PAGE 2 - ANSWERS

1. Hitchen
2. The Bend, Lower Street
3. The Squash Club
4. Manor Cottage, Lower Street
5. Chancery Mews, Lower Street



‘The Lord’s Prayer’ – did you learn it as a child? How has it survived? What does it mean? How can it help us?

This is the subject for our next series of meetings. We shall be at Merriott Rectory on Monday evenings starting on **2nd October**. We begin at **7pm** with refreshments and start our discussions and teaching at 7.30pm finishing about 9pm. It’s free of charge and suitable for teenagers upwards. Come and join us. For more information, contact Rev Bob Hicks 76406 or Derek Esp 77224.

AT A GLANCE - VILLAGE EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- Saturday 1st** Merriott's Biggest Coffee Morning - in aid of Macmillan
- Friday 7th** Italian café Friday - Village Hall
- Wednesday 12th** Autumn Social Afternoons - Village Hall
- Saturday 15th** Autumn Clean Work Party - Merriott Church Pizzeria - Village Hall
- Sunday 16th** Harvest Festival - Bring & Share Lunch - Tithe Barn
- Wednesday 19th** Merriott Footpath Group Walk - Social Club
- Tuesday 25th** Gardening Club Talk - Sweet Peas - Tithe Barn
- Friday 28th** Autumn Social Afternoons - Village Hall

Merriott Gospel Hall

Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am



Toys, crafts, fun & refreshments for carers and toddlers.
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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

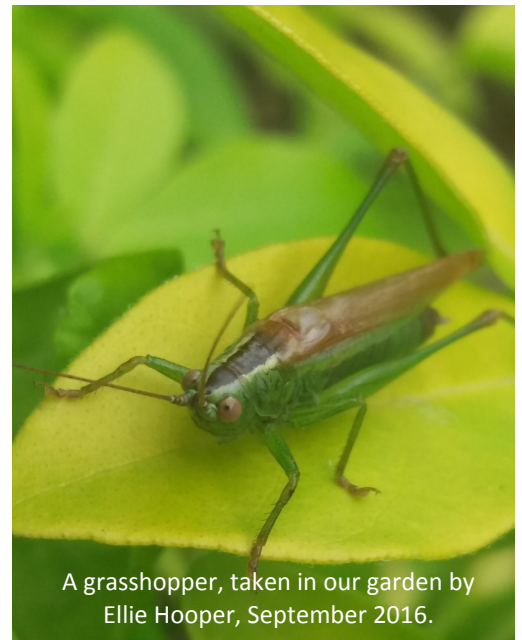


PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH

We were sent two stunning photos this month and as it was impossible to choose between the two, we are publishing both. Thank you Mo and Ellie.



Caterpillars of the Cinnabar Moth which is red and black.
Photo taken by Mo Frampton August 2016



A grasshopper, taken in our garden by Ellie Hooper, September 2016.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Sat 12th November - Merriott Social Club
Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30
In aid of Merriott Pre-School



Merriott Village Hall
Mondays 5.15pm - 6.15pm Girls
aged 5 - 7 years

For more information please contact:
Ebony Court 07842 833 353 or 01460
77538 or email
Rainbowsatmerriott@outlook.com

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