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MERRIOTT MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

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Copy deadline for the October issue of the Merriott Messenger is 12th September.

Articles received after this date may not be included.

Please send us your articles, artwork and/or photographs to merriottmessenger@gmail.com

QUOTE FROM THE MERRIOTT GARDENING CLUB

Paradise: "A garden is a little bit of Heaven on earth".

Stuart & Linda
Macfarlane

ANNUAL FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The Annual Flower & Produce Show was held on the 8th August and possibly because of the unusually cool weather during the past couple of months, we had fewer exhibits than previously. However, the weather was wonderful on the day and in the afternoon we had an abundance of visitors enjoying the exhibits, cream teas, prize giving and auction. Thank you to everyone who took the time and effort to exhibit and to everyone who supported us.



Prize winners were:

John Wallis Memorial Rose Bowl - Flowers -
Mo Frampton

Peggy Wallis Memorial Cup - Fruit & Veg -
Charles Mashin

Cornelius Shield - Floral Arrangements -
Helen Mashin and Mo Frampton



Christine McLeod, Chair of MGC, Helen Mashin and Mo Frampton with Brigadier Keith Mullins Shield.

Cup - Domestic -

Jo Hemmings and Mo Frampton

Cup - Arts & Crafts -

Sheila Bowman and Mo Frampton

Cup - Photography -

Pat Webb and Mo Frampton

Brigadier Keith Mullins Shield - Most First Prizes in Show - Mo Frampton

At the meeting on **29th September** Mary Benger of Burrow Farm Gardens will give a talk with the intriguing title of "Shady Ladies and Sun Seekers". Meet at the Tythe Barn at 7.30pm. Refreshments, raffle; plant, seed and produce sale and a warm welcome. Everyone welcome. Non members £2.

MERRIOTT FIRST SCHOOL FUN DAY



Merriott First School will be holding their Fun Day on **Sunday 13th Sept 11am - 2pm.**

Dog show (registration 11.00 -12.00), bouncy castle, cakes, refreshments, stalls and much, much more.



THE PARISH CLERK - MARION ANDREWS

Marion retired as Parish Clerk at the end of August. For several years she has been part of the Merriott Messenger, as the Parish Council representative on the editorial team.

We are very grateful for her contribution in managing the Messenger accounts, for forwarding the Parish Council reports and for her cheerful and helpful involvement in editorial meetings.

She will be missed and we wish her well for the future.

Editorial Team



ADVANCE WARNING - ROAD CLOSURE

Somerset County Council (Bridges) has sent us details of a temporary closure along Scotts Way - from the junction with Furringdons Cross to Scotts Way to the junction with Snails Hill.

This will come into effect on the 7th September 2015 for 21 days. In order to enable SCC to carry out replacement of timber decking and localised railing repairs in this road. For further details please contact Tony Lee on 01823 357 585.

BROADWAY GARDENS

Can you donate a few hours work to tidying up the Broadway Garden opposite the Merriott Pharmacy on **Sunday 27th September** at **10.00am**?

Over the last few years this piece of land has been transformed into a pretty garden thanks to Christine McLeod and a number of volunteers. However, like all gardens, it needs to be tended and so if you can make it on 27th September, you will be made most welcome. Bring your own tools and perhaps a coffee!

FAREWELL FROM THE PARISH CLERK

It is with regret that after nine and half years and five Chairmen that I find I can no longer continue.

Although I am not a resident of Merriott I have come to know the village very well and many residents and volunteers who do so much to make Merriott a thriving and busy village. Thank you for your support.

This has been a very interesting and busy job, described as part-time but, demanding a flexible working week, some salaried hours and many more hours happily given for the good of Merriott.

I was saddened that at the August meeting, all members of the Parish Council had been informed of my resignation yet no one acknowledged that this was my last meeting.....

Goodbye!

Marion Andrews

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The enclosed list of useful telephone numbers includes those of our sponsors. To show your appreciation of their support of the Merriott Messenger, do use their services whenever you can.

NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH



In case you're wondering what on earth happens at a pet service, we mainly give thanks for all of God's creatures, especially the ones we live with. We sing a bit, say a few words and prayers, including a prayer for each of our pets. Some of All Saints band are also coming along to make it a special celebration. We've had all kinds of wildlife in the past, including ferrets, a tarantula and a pony. People have also brought along their very precious and much-loved family pets. All sorts are welcome (as long as dangerous predators are kept under control!) The service will take place just outside the church and will be followed by

refreshments. It is not a very long service and is suitable for all ages, so please feel free to join us.

Revd Julia Hicks

Church Services in September

- Sun 6th** 8.30am Holy Communion
3pm PET SERVICE
- Sun 13th** 9.30am Parish Communion
- Sun 20th** 10am Family service with a baptism
- Sun 27th** 10am Sung Communion

Date for your diary: Sun 18th October - 10am HARVEST FESTIVAL

There is no report from the Parish Council this month due to an unexpected work load.

To view a full version of the Minutes of last meeting, held on 3rd August, please visit www.merriottvillage.org.uk

THE VILLAGE CAFÉ



Hello everyone!

Just a quick reminder that The Village Café will be popping up on **Friday 11th September**.

We will be opening from 10.30 to the new time of 3.00, so if you can't make lunch then come along and enjoy a cream tea or a slice of cake.

We look forward to seeing you there!

WHAT'S ON ELSEWHERE IN SEPTEMBER

Henhayes Community Centre, Crewkerne

Friday 11th 12.30 - Monthly special 3 course roast lunch £7.50 incl. tea/coffee. Booking essential - 01460 74340.

Friday 18th - Karen Pitt Quintet (swing & jazz) 7.45pm £12 (£10 early bird). 6.45pm - 2 course pre concert supper available. Supper & concert ticket £20. (Early bird tickets £18) - 01460 74340

Saturday 26th - 10 – 12 noon BIG BREAKFAST - £4. No need to book

Saturday 26th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning - 10.00 - 12.00 - St George's Hall, Hinton St George

All Saints Church, Merriott

New to You Sale

Saturday 26th September

10am to 11.30am

In the Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott

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



Tea and coffee will be available

In aid of Church funds

REMEMBERING WW2 SCHOOL DAYS IN MERRIOTT



Reading an article in 'The Marshwood Vale' recently the word 'Merriott' jumped off the page at me! The subject of the article, Mrs Helen Walker, had

been evacuated to Merriott for 4 years during WW2 with her school, so I decided to contact her to find out more.

She agreed to meet me at The Meeting House, Ilminster where she spends time involved with running the gallery and activities. She is approaching her 90th birthday, full of enthusiasm and with interesting memories to share.

Helen's school, St Helena's had been in Aldershot, but returning from Malaya at the beginning of WW2, her parents discovered it was to be evacuated to Mark's Barn, (now called Merriott Court) Merriott! They made their home with friends from Malaya, at Cheddington House, near Crewkerne, and Helen

became a boarder at Merriott.

She remembers that there was plenty of space for the girls, aged 9-16, with hockey and tennis courts outside. She remembers school meals were not to be wasted and had a friend who, with her, always finished up anything left over of the wartime rations.



The dormitories were all on the ground floor, for safety and when the air raid sirens sounded they all hurried to the cellar. On one occasion a plane came down, its engines stuttering as it passed over the hill close to Mark's Barn.

She remembers walks to the post office and in the country lanes, when the girl at the front and back had to shout loudly to

warn the others if a car approached. She remembers that the postman collected mail as well as delivering but on one occasion, when they had a parcel which had to go to Crewkerne sorting office, she jumped on the back of the postman's motor bike to take it - a bumpy ride - no helmet of course!

Every Sunday they all tramped up to the church service, but generally did not mix with the village much. There were soldiers in uniform in the village, British and American.

Helen still has a school friend living in Dorset, who became a WREN, whereas Helen went on to a career in nursing, after a brief spell working at Mark's Barn, living in one of the cottages and supervising the girls' homework. Many years later she and her husband retired to Ilminster from Surrey.

It was a privilege to get this first hand account of one aspect of life in our village in living memory.

Ann Lawrence

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 

OPEN GROUP

3rd September - Coffee and catch up

17th September - AGM with a glass of wine and nibbles at Janette's

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

Enquiries. - Maggie 76186

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Sun: 8am - 10pm

INTRODUCING “THE MERRIOTT HERITAGE TRUST”

Cathy Herriman’s premature death on 7th February was reported in April’s Messenger. Many will have known her but particularly in association with the Local History Group of which she was an enthusiastic founder member and supporter. Such was her love of Merriott and all aspects of its history, that she bequeathed a substantial legacy for the establishment and endowment of a charitable trust which she stipulated should promote this particular interest. She approved the name of the trust and

Cathy handed over all her historical documents, artefacts, maps and books (approx. 80 books) to her nominated trustees. Some of these have been transcribed and summarised already and the books are ready for shelving. A safe repository for the archives and a place for the public to study them is needed and the provision of this is being considered.



Winnower



Scrapper

the draft Deed and appointed three initial trustees, Tony & Pat Hobbs and John Stuttaford, who were charged with carrying out her wishes. A leaflet is enclosed with this issue which explains the principles on which the Merriott Heritage Trust has been founded.

The village still has copies of the 1842 Tythe Map but its Apportionment has long disappeared. It is, however, now possible for the Trust to obtain a copy and we think that this will be an invaluable acquisition for anyone pursuing Merriott’s history. It was typical of Cathy that she managed to save a scrapper and winnower before the work began on the Moorlands Farm development and these await restoration, which will be one of the first call on funds.

The trust would be very interested in acquiring any original documents (or copies) for its archives and these will be stored in a safe atmosphere. For instance, house deeds are a rich source of history and it is appalling that, with the

introduction of Land Registry, so many are being thrown away. Many families have no room to keep their “history” after a death and much goes to the skip. At last there will be a repository for all Merriott’s historically-important documents and somewhere for the public to study them.

It is an exciting project and we want to inspire the younger generation to value and understand the people who came before us and the social climate in which they lived.

The Trustees can be contacted on 01460 72465 and by e mail merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com

PANTO TICKET SALES FAR FROM SLEEPY!

It may be summer, but bookings for The Octagon Theatre's Christmas panto are anything but sleepy! Following the success of last year's sensational production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' ticket sales for 'Sleeping Beauty' are already 25% up on this point last year, with patrons swiftly booking their tickets to enjoy more festive fun at Somerset's Premier Theatre.

To book the best seats in the house for 'Sleeping Beauty' call the Box Office on 01935 422884 or visit their website: <http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk>.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - AUTUMN WORK PARTY

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER

9.30AM – 12.30PM

We would very much welcome lots of volunteers at our Autumn work party. We will be concentrating on jobs in the churchyard, like hedge trimming, wilderness taming and general tidying – but there will also be some cleaning inside the church too. Tea and cakes will be served. Bring suitable clothing and tools.

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



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DID YOU KNOW



The Przewalski Horse

The horse was domesticated about 5,500 to 6,000 years ago. It was probably hunted for meat long before it became tamed for riding, for carrying goods and for pulling chariots or wagons. The centre of domestication was in an area which now lies in southern Russia and Kazakhstan. The wild horse, from which our present breeds were derived, has become extinct. However, there is one group of horses which has never been domesticated and which are distinct from the breeds with which we are familiar.

The Przewalski horse, is named after the Russian geographer and explorer Nikolai Przhevalsky (his name is of Polish origin and the Polish spelling is Przewalski), who first described the animals in their native Mongolia in the mid 19th century. At that time the animals were wild and subsequently several were captured and brought to zoos in various places in Europe, where they can still be seen. The population in Mongolia became extinct in the 1960's but more recently animals from the zoos have been reintroduced into the wild and have been flourishing since, with an estimated population of about 300.

These animals are seasonal breeders, giving birth from the age of 3 years onwards from May to July in their native Mongolia and having a gestation period of 11 to 12 months. They stand 48 to 56 inches high, are about 7 feet long and weigh around 650lbs. They have a distinctive dark upright mane. They have 66 chromosomes compared to the domestic horse with 64. In the wild a single stallion will aim to secure his own small herd of mares over which he will be highly protective.

John Bowman

MERROTT 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

MERRIOTT'S VERY OWN "STRICTLY"



Do you watch Strictly Come Dancing every year and think 'I would love to have a go at that?' Now is your chance. I am a trained competition dancer and qualified teacher hoping to bring an Adult Ball-

room & Latin class for beginners to the village. This is a great opportunity for couples to keep fit and socialise in a fun light hearted class. Proposed classes would be held on a Friday at the village hall 8pm - 9pm to start Friday 25th September. First session FREE. This is subject to enough couples so please contact me to register your interest. Keri Legg, Yeovil Dance Centre 07843 226 219 kerilegg@yahoo.com

Merriott Gospel Hall



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During term-time.

Phone for more details:
Phil & Jo 271763
Andrew & Julia 72211



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 24th September 2015
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The Hall is in urgent need of residents willing to help in running this important village facility. Please will you support the Hall by coming to this meeting. It is particularly requested that representatives of the current users attend as there are significant and important changes needed to the use of the Hall.

Peonies, Iris and Perennials from



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IRISES AND
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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



The magnificent Iris, taken by Mo Frampton, June 2015

Send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

MERRIOTT FOOTPATH GROUP

We would like to thank all the walkers and landowners who have been cutting back and cutting down vegetation over recent weeks. It really does make a difference to our paths and improves access to the path network.

By the time you read this we should be in receipt of a brushcutter/strimmer, on loan to us by Somerset County Council. This will enable us to open up more paths and with your continued support we can keep the network tidy and a pleasure to use. Thank you.

John Goldie PPLO

Merriott, Hinton St George with Dinnington and Lopen

Pet Service



Sunday 6th September

3pm

All Saints Church, Merriott

Please come along and bring your pet



Refreshments will be served after the service



Everyone welcome

NEWS FROM THE SWAN

Both the Beer Festival with the live music, along with the Saturday evening with Simon Rees were hugely successful. Great strides were made in putting Merriott on the map as a place to visit and for villagers, that offers quality events without the need to travel.

The beer festival brought a large number of new visitors to the village and the atmosphere was so cordial & welcoming it was a real joy. There was a genuine aura of "bonne amie" and delight in the company of neighbours and friends, thus justifying the hard work involved in running the events.

We would like to thank the Social Club for their help and the efforts of numerous regulars whose tireless efforts added to the success of the days.

Well it's been nearly 3 years since we opened, and what a journey. In that time we have tried to extend the events and participation available to the village. We have twice visited Twickenham for International rugby and been to Taunton for 2 cracking 20/20 Games.

We re-opened the garden 2 years ago thus enabling us to try to hold some larger events and have since had 2 beer festivals,

2 music days, a few garden music events on Sundays and endeavoured to create a real village feel to the pub.

We have actively supported local teams and have sponsored Football, Cricket & Netball, as well as supporting local fund raising events. We host skittles teams, we have Wednesday Bingo & Sunday night quiz, which all add to the involvement of villagers in your local pub. We try to encourage a real family friendly atmosphere and are open to suggestions for further events.

This is a fantastic village and we love being here and hope that we can continue to grow along with the village in years to come.

Cathy, John & Jet

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 29th August - music in the garden - Knights Lions, Paul Smith, Tom Toomey

Haircut Tuesday **1st September**
World Cup Rugby **18th Sept** - all games shown live during opening hours (we are a rugby friendly pub and a World Cup at home deserves support)

Visit the pub to find out about the Cup Final prize available to regular supporters

Live Euro Champions football

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 **Sat. 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.

HEALTH WALKS DIRECTORY

With regular walks in Chard, Wincanton, Crewkerne, Stoke sub Hamdon, Yeovil, Langport, Ilminster, Broadway and Somerton the new **HEALTH WALKS DIRECTORY** is the place to go for anyone wanting to explore the beautiful countryside whilst meeting new people and improving their fitness.

The Directory includes information on buggy walks too. Download your copy from: www.southsomerset.gov.uk/

New Sponsor

Having been employed in traditional crafts for over 20 years, in 2006 Ian Crossland decided to “go it alone” and started his own home maintenance business. The business soon took off and almost 10 years later Ian has a stream of regular customers. Never one to be complacent, Ian is always looking to raise his profile in new areas.

Having trained as a cabinet maker and later working restoring leaded windows, Ian is sympathetic to the needs of older properties and their ongoing maintenance issues whilst being equally happy to work in newer properties as well.

A friendly reliable local service is what Ian strives to achieve as he takes pride in every job he does no matter how big or small and likes nothing more than a satisfied customer at the end of each job.

You can contact Ian on 01935 411813 or 07811 070 498.



Hinton St. George
 'Flix in the Stix' presents
 THE WOMAN IN GOLD (PG),
 on **Saturday September 12th**
 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

The remarkable true story of an elderly Jewish woman's battle to reclaim her family's possessions taken by the Nazis in Austria during the war including Klimt's famous picture of the 'Woman in Gold'. Stars Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds and Charles Dance.



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.

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



Home Magazine, published by Helping Hands Home Care, is a great introduction to the types of care that are available to you and your loved ones. Whether you need home help now or you are considering options for the future; reading others' stories and hearing from customers already involved in home care can be reassuring.

For your free copy either call 0808 180 2277 or email jo.wright@helpinghands.co.uk

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

On the **4th November** this year, Bishop Peter will be leading a Confirmation Service in one of the churches in our local area. The exact location is yet to be fixed.

Confirmation is the traditional Church of England celebration which opens the way for people, both young and older, to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion (the bread and wine). Confirmation is also the opportunity to reaffirm the promises made at baptism – promises often made on our behalf by Parents and Godparents.

Please get in touch for a very informal chat, if you feel this might be the right time for you or your children.

Revs Bob and Julia Hicks 76406.



MOBILE LIBRARY - SEPTEMBER VISIT:

Tuesday @ Merriott School
9.30am - 10am
22nd September

BEYOND THE NAKED EYE EXHIBITION

Venue: CIC CIC Taunton
 from **24th August - 28th September**
 10am until 4pm

An exhibition of images by David Spears FRPS FRMS and his colleagues. Sensational award winning images made for television, books and journals.

An insight into the unseen creatures we share our homes and gardens with.

Especial interest to biology students in schools and colleges, as well as natural history and gardening enthusiasts.

Free entry, but donations to Medecins sans Frontieres.



Bumble Bee - portrait

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<p>If you would like to sponsor the Merriott Messenger, please contact a member of the editorial team.</p>		<p>Please send copy to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com Editorial Team contact: John Bowman 01460 74077 Janet Lailey 01460 78461 Peter Bryans 01460 78182 Ann Lawrence 01460 271008 Jane Jackson 01460 74162 Sharron Ricketts 01460 73478</p>		