

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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December 2021/January 2022



The Merriott Messenger editorial team would like to thank all its readers and sponsors. It has been another challenging year but with the continued support of our sponsors, we have been able to bring you up-to-date with all that is happening in Merriott.

Thank you to all those who send in their contributions and to our deliverers who make sure every household receives a copy. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Editorial Team

Merriott Social Venue is all set for festive fun!



Normal opening hours throughout December. Please come down and join in some festive fun!

Cash bingos every Wednesday -
Doors open 7pm, eyes down at 8pm.

Free pool every Friday evening.

Saturday 4th - Xmas Bingo to raise funds for Merriott Social Venue. Doors open at 6.30pm Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Saturday 18th - Xmas bingo for Merriott Majorettes, doors open at 7pm.

Sunday 19th - Children's Christmas party - 2.30pm - 5.30 pm. Free entry. All welcome.

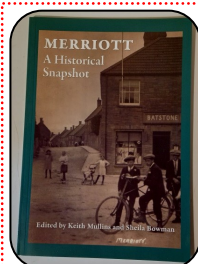
Refreshments will be available and bar will be open for parents.

Christmas Eve - open 7pm to late.

New Year's Eve - we are opening at 5pm - 12 midnight.

On behalf of all the Staff and Committee, I would like to thank all our customers for their continued support through this difficult year. We wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and New Year and we hope to see you over the festive period.

Penny Gibbs, Secretary



Ideal Xmas present

"Merriott - A Historical Snapshot" now on sale at The Feed Station, PO, new Pharmacy when it opens, or via Paul Fisher, 76360 or paul.fisher136@gmail.com.

Allington Strings
allingtonstrings.yolasite.com

Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2
Glinka Grand Sextet
Jonathan Delbridge Piano

A Russian Romance

Borodin, Kalinnikov, Rachmaninov & Tchaikovsky
Conductor Mark Westwood-Gould

3pm Sunday 16th January 2022
All Saints Church, Merriott

Tickets: £10* Adults / under-18s free
*includes drink and nibbles. Available from 6th December from The Feed Station, Merriott and on the door. Reservations via allingtonstrings@outlook.com

Merriott Messenger Contact

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Passmores is a small family business based in Yeovil and we have been providing a daily newspaper and magazine delivery to our customers for over 40 years. Since my wife and I took over from my father 5 years ago, we have spread the service to Crewkerne and many other surrounding villages, increasing our clientele to 700 customers/businesses. With the onset of the pandemic we decided to extend our service by providing milk, eggs and bread (sourced from local companies where possible) plus many other groceries and essentials (including the elusive toilet rolls!) to our customers, which has continued as life returns to normal.

Kev and Trina Passmore

Merriott Gardening Club

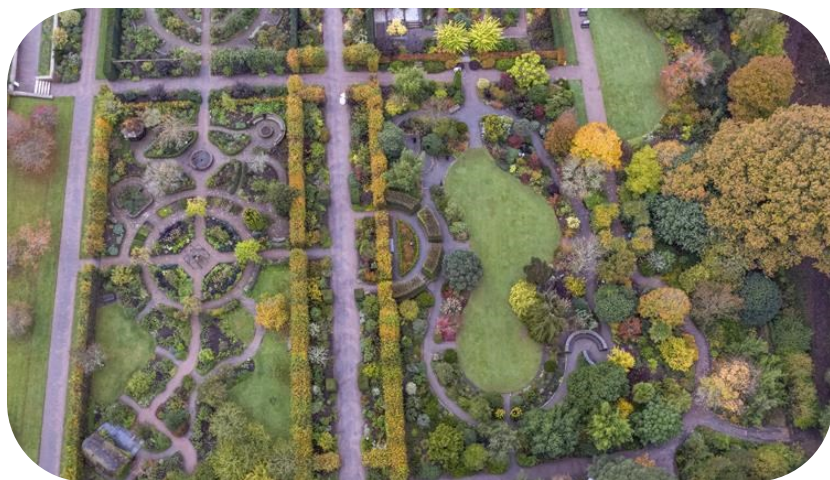
The amazing display by Sharandys Birds of Prey gave us an exciting evening at the end of October. I hope that those of you that came enjoyed the spectacle. The birds were wonderful and the information educational. The birds they brought along were a Tawny Owl, a Barn Owl a Peregrine Falcon and an Eagle Owl. The Barn Owl flew around the hall to everyone's awe and delight.

The committee has tentatively booked the 25th May 2022 as the date for a trip to RHS Rosemoor (see

photo below). The cost will be about £15:00. We will only be able to take 43 people on the coach, therefore it will be first come first served. We will be asking for a deposit for this in the new year of £5.00 per person.

For our November 30th meeting we have booked a live demonstration of how to plant up winter pot's and baskets. It should be an interesting one with a huge number of practical tips.

Helen Tre-Vett



Carol Singing

You are invited to come and sing some Christmas Carols with the 16 Bells Choir at
6pm on 22nd December

The event will be at
All Saints Church
It may be outside, so wrap up warm!

There will also be a
Christmas Raffle
(prizes as shown),
which will be drawn on the night

Plus mulled wine and mince pies

Everyone is welcome!



We will be publishing our Useful Telephone Numbers in the next issue of the Messenger. If you know of any updates since it was last published in July, do please let us know: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



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Merriott Heritage Trust - Renewable energy in Merriott

Following the discussions in Glasgow from Cop26, it is a good time to recall the extensive use of renewable energy in Merriott.

The Domesday Book, an inventory of all the land, people and property of William the Conqueror's newly acquired land, recorded in 1086:

Meriet

Meadow – 25 acres, Pasture- 0.5 leagues, 4 men's plough teams, 2 lords plough teams, 3 mills.

Those mills are still part of the built environment of Merriott today. A fourth, Bow Mill, may also be included, although this was outside of the 'Meriet' boundary at that time.

The mills made use of the series of streams which criss-cross the land. Some of the water was diverted from main waterways to create a 'leat', a man made water channel which directed the water to the mill. A mill pond was constructed nearby to use as a reservoir to

ensure there was sufficient water when milling was in progress.

Billings Mill, Court Mill and Bow Mill were flour mills. Tail Mill was used for flax to create fabric for sailcloth, which was a thriving industry in Crewkerne.

Farmers would bring their harvested crop to the mill to be ground. The Miller would be paid according to the outcome.

Chaucer's Miller, in The Canterbury Tales 1387, is depicted as being large, bawdy and dishonest:

*His was a master hand at stealing grain.
He felt it with his thumb and thus he knew*

*Its quality and took three times his due –
A thumb of gold, by God, to gauge an oat!*

*He wore a hood of blue and a white coat.
(Translation by Nevill Coghill)*

There are no recorded incidences of dishonest dealings in Merriott, but there are several disputes recorded of times when waterfall was low, and mill owners

accuse others upstream of diverting more than their fair share of the water.

There is a working mill in Lyme Regis. When the water level is low it cannot operate. However, when it does, the energy is free and is renewable and free from emissions. The noise of the machinery grinding is a sound which would have been commonplace in our village right up until the 1960s. Court Mill ceased operating in 1959 and Tail Mill some time later.

In Wadeford, near Chard, there is another Court Mill Lane. The owner of the mill there, has made use of the workings which are now linked to a turbine. With this update on an old technology he is able to power the electricity for the nearby houses.

Something to think about as we prepare for higher fuel costs!

Christine Maxwell – Chairperson
Merriott Heritage Trust



to admire them. Thank you Bruce for all your hard work and fantastic gardening skills.

Merriott Childcare would like to say a big thank you to Bruce for the kind donation of 40 pumpkins grown at his allotment. The children enjoyed carving and decorating them. We also had many visitors coming

Vanina Cooper

Farewell to the Merriott Drivers Scheme

A few residents in Merriott responded to the growing lack of village transport, which caused difficulties for some other residents to attend medical appointments. This resulted in the present Car Scheme starting in November 2010. A list was circulated of drivers with telephone numbers who could be contacted direct to provide transport.

This scheme continued successfully to grow from 40 registered users in 2010 to 96 in 2020. However, the number of drivers started to dwindle and there has been a big drop in the number of users. Therefore, the scheme has run out of steam. It has been agreed amongst the few remaining drivers that it is time to close down, unless there is any fresh blood to kick start it up again.

Many thanks to all those who have been involved over the years.

David Collins

The Mobile Library will
visit Merriott
on 14th December
9.30am – 9.50am



outside the school

What did Adam
say on the day
before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

What happens to
elves when they are naughty?
Santa gives them the sack!



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Church Services - December

All of the December services mentioned here are open to all ages and anyone who would like to come. At the moment, we are hoping to be able to continue inside the church without booking. We would recommend that you wear a mask for some of the busier services.

For January Services, please see Link magazine, notices in the porch or Facebook pages.

Sunday 5th December 4pm Café Church in Merriott Tithe Barn (an informal service with cake!)

Monday 6th December 7pm Christingle Service. Christingle making from 6.30pm.

Sunday 12th December 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 19th December 10.30am All Age Carol Service. All welcome

Wednesday 22nd December Carol Singing with 16 Bells Choir (see separate info. box)

Friday 24th (Christmas Eve) 4pm Crib Service

Saturday 25th (Christmas Day) 9.30am Christmas Communion Service

Sunday 26th December 9am Holy Communion

Julia Hicks

All Saints Merriott – Church Work Party Day - Job well done

A massive thank you to everyone who came out in support of the Work Party Day on Saturday 30th October. Around 20 willing volunteers tackled some overdue tasks inside and out of the church on the first Work Party activity since the start of the pandemic. We were blessed with fine weather and good spirits and made good headway in sprucing up the church for advent.

Cobwebs were removed, pews and pulpits polished, doors were oiled, paths cleared, borders weeded and leaves collected up in a fine example of how the village can come together to achieve great things. There was even an opportunity to stop for coffee, cake and conversation.

We look forward to the next Work Party Day sometime in the early spring when we can finish off some of the things we started, and start some of the other jobs we didn't get around to.

If you think you have talents you can offer watch this space or contact markjbunting@gmail.com for how you can help to support our beautiful church for generations to come.



Mark Bunting, Churchwarden

Recipe for Rich Christmas Cake from Grandad's book

1 pound of butter well wash

2 pounds of currants

1 pound of flour

6 eggs

1 ounce bitter and one ounce of sweet almonds

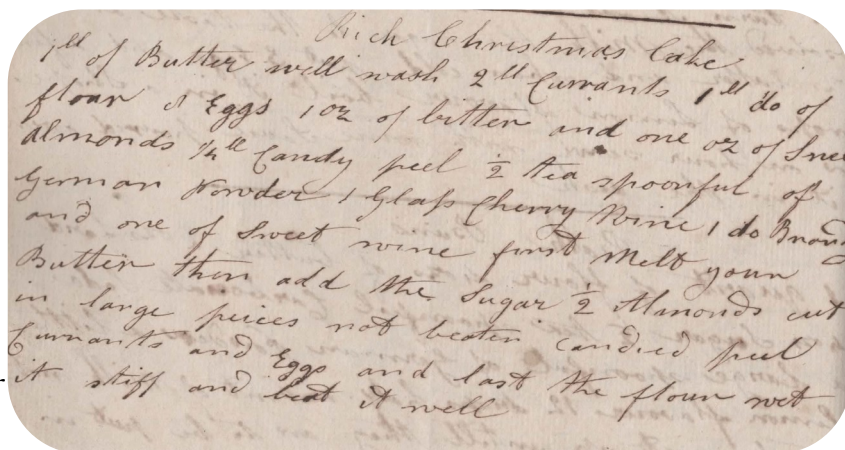
¼ pound candy peel

½ a teaspoonful of German powder

1 glass sherry wine

1 ditto brandy

First melt your butter then add the sugar ½ almonds cut into large pieces not beaten candied peel currants and eggs and last the flour wet it stiff and beat it well.



There are several things to take note of if you decide to try this recipe. Washing butter. In his pamphlet of 1884 Mr W H Lynch states "The reason why the dairyman washes butter is to remove all foreign matter and retain all butter with its unaffected flavour." Hopefully today's butter is already washed! Sugar is not mentioned in the list of ingredients - obviously an oversight by the author. German Powder was baking powder. What happened to the other half of the almonds? Possibly used to decorate the cake. Lastly there are no baking instructions. I expect the cooks of the day knew how to bake cakes. Many of the recipes just had a list of ingredients.

Good luck if you have a go at making this Christmas cake!

Marion Biggs

Christmas Quiz by Peter Bryans

1. The title of which Christmas carol consists of two plant names?
2. Which character in a Charles Dickens story has been played by George C Scott, Alistair Sim and Albert Finney?
3. On which Saint's day does Boxing Day fall?
4. Which Christian church celebrates Christmas day on 7th January?
5. What would be your sign of the Zodiac if you were born on Christmas Day?
6. On which of the 12 days of Christmas would you find Pipers piping?
7. How many hours before Merriott does Australia celebrate Christmas?
8. On the night before Christmas what wasn't even moving?
9. Which composer wrote the Nutcracker Suite?
10. Which well known Christmas song came from the film "Holiday Inn"?
11. How many Lessons and Carols are in the traditional Church Festival of Carols?
12. Who introduced the Christmas Tree to England?
13. Good King Wenceslas was ruler of which Kingdom?
14. The Nativity Crib was first introduced during the 13th Century into Italian churches – by who?
15. What is the English version of the German carol "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht"?
16. In the film "Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves" who famously "cancelled Christmas"?
17. Where in the British Isles might you be wished "Nadolig Hapus" on Christmas Day?
18. In which Ocean is Christmas Island?
19. Which popular carol was written by the 6th Poet Laureate (Nahum Tate)?
20. The first recorded celebration of Christmas was in Rome in 336AD – Who was the Emperor who began this?

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service have advised us that as of 5pm on the 3 November 2021 an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared across Great Britain. This means that all bird keepers in Great Britain (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard are required by law to take a range of bio-security precautions:

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

- Keep domestic ducks and geese separate from other poultry.
- Ensure the areas where birds are kept are unattractive to wild birds, for example by netting ponds, and by removing wild bird food sources.
- Feed and water their birds in enclosed areas to discourage wild birds.
- Minimise movement into and out of bird enclosures.
- Cleanse and disinfect footwear and keep areas where birds live clean and tidy.
- Reduce any existing contamination by cleansing and disinfecting concrete areas and fencing off wet or boggy areas.
- Keep free ranging birds within fenced areas, and ponds, water-courses and permanent standing water must be fenced off (except in specific circumstances, e.g., zoo birds).

Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds

Keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

Full details of what is required can be found on the government website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1030990/aipz-declaration.pdf

To assist all bird keepers in complying with the new rules, the [biosecurity guidance and self-assessment checklists](#) have been updated and all the latest information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity>

Nicola Pearce



What type of key do you need for a Nativity play?

A don-key!

Why did the turkey join the band?

Because it had the drumsticks!

What do snowmen wear on their heads?

Ice caps!

How do snowmen get around?

They ride an icicle

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?

Santa Clues!



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The Twelve Days of Christmas



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas came the people from next door

The turkey tasted just as good as it had before.

On the fourth day of Christmas our snowman big and bold
Looked in through the window as we ate our turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried
But we were warm and snug inside and had our turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas the Christmas spirit died
The children fought and bickered and we had turkey fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas the dog had fun for shelter
He'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of Alka-Seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas by lunchtime Dad was blotto
He knew the bird was back again, this time in risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking homemade brew
As if this wasn't bad enough we were eating turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting
With chilli, soy and oyster sauce the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles upon our lips
The guests had gone, the turkey too, we dined on fish and chips!

Anon



Land to rear of Lower Beadon

The erection of an agricultural building for the storage of agricultural machinery and equipment.
21/03149/FUL Status: Awaiting decision

30 Church Street

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work to 3 trees within a conservation area 21/03258/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

Flaxlands Boozer Pit

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work to 1 tree within a conservation area 21/03248/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

4 Glebelands

Demolition of existing lean-to and front entrance porch.
Erection of two storey extension to side, replacement single storey entrance porch to front and reduction of footprint of existing garage to rear of dwelling
21/02978/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

Chapel Cottage Lower Street

Formation of an internal window opening and the installation of 10 solar panels on 2 garages 21/029/27/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

Land OS 7237 Part of Tail Mill Lane

Formation of parking. Landscaping and extensions to existing gardens 21/01631/FUL Status: Approved

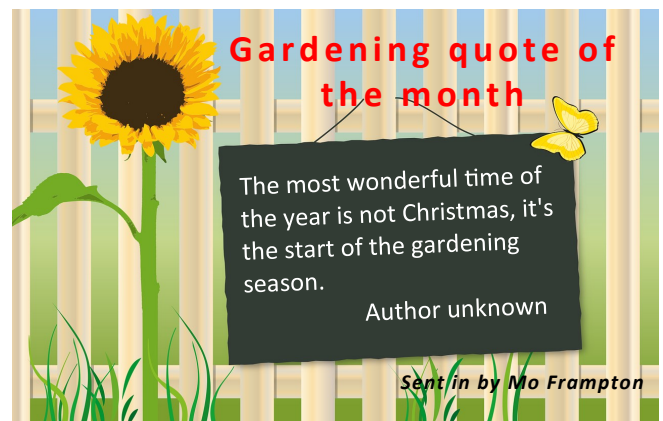
Plot 2 Boozer Pit

Non material amendment to approved application 19/00911/FUL to change window material from timber to UPVC 21/02699/NMA Status: Approved

32 Hitchen

Porch and Garage extension to front of property
21/01955/HOU Status: Approved

Marion Biggs



The information and views in the Merriott Messenger are those provided by the named individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editorial Team.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the information given is accurate, the Merriott Messenger cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Copy date for the February issue is the 12th January.

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Shoe-Box Appeal 2021

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone who has given us such wonderful support for this year's Appeal! We have been overwhelmed by your generosity, and we have been able to send off 150 top quality boxes to people of all ages in desperate need in Romania.

If you ever have any spare empty shoe boxes, we would be very happy to take them at any time throughout the coming year - they are becoming rather difficult to find! With our heartfelt appreciation and warmest good wishes for Christmas.

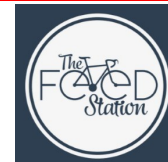
The Merriott Shoe-Box Team - Beryl Bellamy & Beryl Virgin



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Christmas Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Holly and the Ivy | 8. A mouse | 15. Silent Night, Holy Night |
| 2. Scrooge | 9. Tchaikovsky | 16. Sheriff of Nottingham |
| 3. St. Stephen's Day | 10. White Christmas | 17. Wales |
| 4. Russian Orthodox Church | 11. Nine | 18. Indian Ocean |
| 5. Capricorn | 12. Prince Albert | 19. While shepherds watched |
| 6. Eleventh day | 13. Bohemia | 20. Emperor Constantine |
| 7. 8 hours | 14. St. Francis of Assisi | |

Where is Bryher?



Brimsmore Garden Centre, sent in by Liz Fisk

Audio Visual Equipment/Service for our village hall – your views



Merriott Village Hall is considering the purchase of an Audio Visual Equipment/Service for our local village hall.

Before we make a commitment to invest in this system, we would like to hear from villagers as to whether they could utilise such a system for events they are looking to run in the future. Other villages have hosted cinema evenings, race nights, amateur dramatics etc. If you are somebody in the village who would be interested in hosting one of these events at the village hall, or indeed have other ideas of how we could use the system, please contact natsjames80@gmail.com or send us a direct message on our Facebook page which can be found here: **Merriott Village Hall | Facebook**.

Following the feedback from the community, we will then make a decision on whether to invest. You would of course have support from the village hall trustees with your proposed events and we would be more than happy to help advertise on our website/social media. We hope to have the villages' support for these events and we look forward to hearing from you.

Nats Cole

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Improving Lives

Dear Editor

Thank you for including our lawn problem appeal in the November issue of the Messenger.

The grass was identified by one of your readers as 'creeping bent grass' and we've been advised that unfortunately there is no easy solution to getting rid of it! It's a dig it up and start again job!

A job we shall be tackling in the spring I think.

Reg & Sue Wicks



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