

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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October 2022

Merriott Bowls Club

Merriott held their finals days on 2nd and 3rd September when the final matches of the club competitions were played. The photographs show some of the finalists.

The club played in the final of the Wessex Mixed 4s Cup at Somerton on 26th August but sadly lost to a very strong side from South Petherton. Runners-up is still a very good achievement.

Merriott is carrying on its winning ways in the League and at the time of writing are still top with just 2 matches left to play against South Petherton and Shepton Mallett.

The season ends on 15th September with a 'Candlelit' club match. This is played in the evening with candles between the rinks and torches to shine on the jacks. It is good fun and a great way to finish the season. It is followed by food and drinks in the clubhouse.

Jean Crisp



Merriott Scarecrow Festival and Yard Sale

Thank you to everyone who entered the Scarecrow Festival and participated in the Yard Sale on the very hot day in August. Also thanks to everyone who voted and walked around shopping and popped into the Social venue as we managed to raised a total of £120 for Guide dogs for the blind. Watch out next year as we want even more of you to participate.



Lola, Thomas & Amanda

Merriott Messenger Contact

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Children's Outdoor Gym

"Following the success of the adults outdoor gym on the recreation field, the Parish Council is planning to build a children's gym, located at the play park. As you may know, there is a lower height limit on the adults gym of 140cm and this is because the equipment isn't safe for younger children to use. However, we have seen how children of all ages are drawn to the equipment and we want to give them a safe and fun alternative.

A poll has been conducted on Facebook which shows the majority of those responding are in favour of the gym, but the Parish Council wish to connect with those who don't use social media.

Do you agree that the gym is a good idea and will be a valuable asset to the village? Perhaps you have some concerns that you would like express. Whatever you feel, please let the new clerk Rachel Moon know, by emailing her at Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk."

Rachel Moon

Remembering HRH The Queen

Everyone is feeling a bit sad with the death of HRH The Queen. As a young girl I watched her coronation on the TV bought specially for the occasion and then in my late teens she and Prince Phillip visited Brighton and Hove in Sussex and the car they were in stopped right outside our office building and watching from the first floor, I saw them both quite clearly. I remember her flawless skin.

We visited Balmoral in May 2006 during a 35 Squadron reunion we had arranged. The photographs attached are of the greenhouse on the estate. I understand the late Queen was a keen gardener, but can't imagine she ever set foot inside her greenhouse.



Mo Frampton

Dates for your diary - Merriott Social Venue

8th October - Fundraising Bingo Night, doors open 6.30, eyes down 7.30pm

9th October - Merriott Sunday Market 10am until 2pm

22nd October - Ladies night - ticket event - SOLD OUT

29th October - Halloween Disco from 5.30pm onwards, see Facebook page & posters for more details.

A new committee was formed at the recent AGM with most of the previous members remaining we have gained a few new ones and welcome their ideas. We have some exciting things planned, with the return of the children's Christmas party this year and a band booked for New Year's Eve too. Bookings are up with many parties in the diary and a few charity bingos. The local Football team is back with us too on a Saturday afternoon at 4pm enjoying a drink. Message us on Facebook should you wish to book a party or event with us or ring during opening hours where a member of staff can help you our number is 01823 587005.

Lola—Fundraising committee member

Refugee Support Group (RSG)

Recently we held two successful fundraising events: Music in the Meadow, our annual May open-air event on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, enjoyed by a large audience; In June one sunny morning the house of a group member in Ilminster filled with generous supporters enjoying coffee, cake and conversation. Between them £2,000 was raised for refugee charities. We now invite you to enjoy two more events to raise further necessary funding for those facing winter in refugee camps. Our QUIZ, popular and wide-ranging, preferably for teams of four, is scheduled for **Friday October 15th**. This year it will be in **Ilminster in the Parish Hall, North Street (TA19 0DG) starting at 7.30pm**. Tickets £10pp including supper, with wine available for a donation. We look forward to welcoming you so book the date now with your team members and look out for posters with further details.

A CONCERT has been organised by Jo Martin for **Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm in the David Hall, Roundwell Street, South Petherton**. It features Jo, a singer/songwriter with a jazzy bluesy sound, who has played on 6Music. She will be supported by Mitch Norman and both freely give their talent to support refugee charities. Tickets will be £12 from Jo or available on the door; there will be a bar; and there will be a raffle. Look out for her posters.

RAFT (refugee aid from Taunton) is seeking donations for refugees, including for those in Ukraine. They need unwanted clean washable winter clothing and suitable winter footwear for men, women, children and babies; hygiene items for all; and blankets, sleeping bags and tents.

Raft will also accept clothing and footwear of any kind in very good condition if donors are willing for them to be sold to raise money to buy, for example, necessary hygiene items, or to use towards the rent of their new building.

Raft address – Unit 4, Enterprise Park, Priorswood Rd. TA2 8FR - if you wish to deliver the items.

Otherwise I will receive donations and deliver to Raft.

With grateful thanks to all who care and are able to support this work.

Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

Shoe-Box 2022 Appeal Update

We are acutely aware of the increasingly challenging situations we all face, with the cost of living soaring, and families facing hard choices to make ends meet. All this has made us seriously wonder whether we should go ahead at all with the Shoe-Box Appeal this year.

Last year (before the war) our boxes were sent to Ukraine. Information about them has been sketchy, but we know that they will have been very gratefully received. This year the plan is to send boxes to Romania, where huge poverty exists, and where many Ukrainians have fled for safety.

We have finally decided to go ahead with the Appeal, even if we only manage to complete a smaller quantity. (Last year we sent 150 boxes.) We plan to have our usual Coffee Morning in October - this enables us to buy extra essential items, and it helps to cover transport costs - which will, of course, be considerably more this year.

Leaflets will be available in the Merriott Pharmacy and in the Church. These give details of items that can be included. If you are able to contribute in any way at all it will be greatly appreciated. Every little helps! Donations, as well as completed boxes, can be passed on to us at any time before November 5th. We would also be grateful for any spare empty medium-sized boxes.

Thank you so much for all your generous support.

Shoe-Box Coffee Morning

We warmly invite you to our Coffee Morning for this year's Shoe-Box Appeal.

Saturday 22nd October

10.00—12.00

at 35 Shiremoor Hill, Merriott

There will be a Bring & Buy and a Raffle, as well as coffee and a lovely selection of cakes!

Beryl Bellamy (Tel: 74574) & Beryl Virgin (Tel:74917)



Planning Applications

30 Church Street

Discharge of Conditions No.3 (Services), No 4 (Interior Work), No 6 (Doors and Windows), No 7 (Porch) for Planning Applications 21/01769/HOU and 21/01770/LBC 22/02502/DOC1 and 22/02495/DOC1 Status: Awaiting Decision



Land West of Egwood Hill

Siting of 2 converted shipping containers for the purpose of creating a workspace for attendees of ARK at Egwood CIC 22/00512/FUL Status: Awaiting decision

For further information go to southsomerset.gov.uk and "Search for a planning application"

Marion Biggs

The Mobile Library will visit Merriott
on 4th October
9.30am – 9.50am

Outside the Church





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All Saints' Church Services—October

Sun 2nd

**6.30pm Modern Praise Service @
The Tithe Barn, Church Street**

Informal, Joyful, Contemporary
Worship (A delicious free supper will
be served at 5.30pm)

Sun 16th

10.30am Morning Prayer

Sun 23rd

9am Holy Communion

Sun 30th

**10.30am Benefice Communion for
All Saints @ Lopen [no service in
Merriott]**

Sun 9th

**12noon Harvest Festival at ARK @
Egwood.** This service will be in the
open air, so please dress accordingly!
Bring a picnic.

Rev Julia and Rev Bob Hicks

Drought Tolerant Herbs and Autumn Cooking

As a result of this years long dry summer, gardeners are having to think about how they can make their planting more drought tolerant. Many of our popular culinary herbs are of Mediterranean origin and therefore perfectly adapted to cope with long spells of hot dry weather.

Rosemary, sage, thyme, fennel, winter savoury and oregano are all drought tolerant and the heat really brings out the aromas of the essential oils contained in their leaves. It is these oils that gives the plants protection from the searing Mediterranean heat while also deterring grazing animals. The oils also give us the wonderful flavours for our cooking and essential oils for aromatherapy and the perfume industry.

Some aromatic herbs have silver foliage which acts to reflect harsh sunlight, or fine hairs on the surface of the leaves to trap moisture. Lavender, Cotton- lavender (Santolina) Curry plant (Helichrysum italicum), Southernwood (Artemisia abrotanum) and Wormwood (Artemisia absinthium) are all good ornamental choices for hot dry situations. They are also all woody based shrubby perennials that can be given a trim in summer and will then provide some low structure to the garden in winter whether in containers or in the ground.

In the kitchen the autumn vegetables including winter squashes, main crop potatoes, root vegetables all work well with the robust flavours of rosemary, thyme and sage either roasted or in soups. A small amount of chopped rosemary leaf or fennel seeds can be added to breads while sage and winter savoury are especially good when cooked with beans in casseroles and soups. A few sage leaves quickly fried in butter or oil make a delicious crispy finish to a squash or pumpkin soup.

The kitchen herbs that prefer cooler conditions are best grown with some shade and may need water in dry weather especially Mint, parsley, lovage and chives, if they are cut them right back and given a good water they will produce new fresh growth to use through the autumn.

Catherine Bond, CB Plants, Lower Severalls Nursery.

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News from All Saints Church

This month sees our celebration of Harvest up at ARK on Egwood Hill. ARK is a wonderful and growing local charity that our churches have been supporting in various small ways, and they are generously hosting our Harvest Festival again this year. If you have not visited ARK, this would be a good chance to come and do a bit of exploring – there is a lot to see, including their fabulous goats, ponies and pigs! Bring a picnic and appropriate clothing. There will be a collection for a charity of the PCC's choosing – to be confirmed soon!

Revs Julia and Bob Hicks 01460 76406

Dogs and Churchyards

We are sorry to report that there have been a number of unpleasant incidents recently involving dogs and dog faeces in our churchyards. Please can we remind dog owners that our churchyards are not dog exercise areas. They are sacred places for grieving families and for quiet reflection. If you visit a churchyard with your dog, please keep them on a lead in at all times. Please do not allow your dog to foul graves or memorials and please take home your dog mess. Thank you for your consideration and co-operation.

Revs Julia and Bob Hicks 01460 76406

“Find the light that makes your lantern shine,” she used to say. “Hold on to it, even when the dark surrounds you. Not even the strongest wind will blow out the flame.”

- Elizabeth Lim, Six Crimson Cranes

Responsibility for cutting

The following diagram serves to identify the delineation of responsibility around the village as it stands at the moment, and will remain under annual review. Where Rights of Way remain unallocated, they generally run along pavements, roads or across fields, and clearly do not attract cutting effort.



Merriott Short Mat Bowls

Merriott Short Mat Bowls Club is looking for new members for its club in the Village Hall.

We meet on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm, and play matches from time to time with other clubs in the area – either friendlies or as part of the area League; we play in a relaxed atmosphere, and play to enjoy the game.

Our Chairman is a Qualified Coach and County Umpire.

The club has three mats and can provide woods for those who wish to try their hand; it is a game for all ages, for both men and women, beginners and experienced alike, we play all year round – in the dry! Prospective players are invited to phone the secretary on 01308 862203, or to come along any Wednesday at 7pm.

Litter Strewn Verges



The litter collected from the junction of Higher Street and Boozer Pit to the Hut Gate junction on the A356 on the afternoon of 26 August 2022. This is a distance of 1100m.

Mitchell Philp

Crewkerne u3a

'Last July (a long time ago now) the u3a Folk Dancing group took part in an outdoor demonstration in aid of the Crewkerne Speedwell Hall. Three dances were performed, the third one being a circle dance : 'The Blaydon Races' when members of the audience were asked to join in (see photo). Spectators and performers enjoyed it. Dancing is good fun and keeps body and mind alert. The Folk Dancing group meets on Mondays 2 pm to 4 pm at the Speedwell Hall. All the steps are explained and are suitable for complete beginners and experienced dancers. There is a break for refreshments and a chat. For more information go to www.crewkerneu3a.org.uk

Christiane Banton



Growing the Merriott Community

Merriott is a large village – perhaps the largest in Somerset – with a population approaching 2500. The community is fortunate in that it has shops, including a petrol station and Post Office, a pharmacy, a school and a pre-school, a church and another place of worship, a public house, and two retirement homes. Local farms sell produce at the door and deliver.

There are other amenities which help to make the community a desirable place to live. These include a recreation ground and pavilion, tennis courts and a bowling green, a village hall, a social club, a tithe barn for meetings, a squash club, a gardening club, a book store in a telephone box, and two newsletters. The village is also home to a charity – ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) which contributes to the well-being of young and old.

Some of the facilities are run as businesses employing people and, with good management, earn a profit. However, many of these facilities depend on the contributions of volunteers to make them run. The Parish Council, who are elected volunteers, manage some, and the good will of volunteers manage the rest.

The village is an attractive place for those wishing to retire but it is also a living and working community. If this is to continue to be a happy place in future then its facilities must be maintained, enhanced and increased – not least because more houses are being added to the village.

Trying to find people who are willing to give some of their time as volunteers is proving very difficult. However, if Merriott is to be a good community in future it needs more volunteers, particularly from younger age groups.

Can you contribute to your community?

John Bowman

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

"...like that star of the waning summer who beyond all stars rises bathed in the ocean stream to glitter in brilliance." - Homer, *The Illiad*

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Crewkerne Gas Pipe Upgrade

Dear Cllr Ashton,

I want to let you know about our gas pipe upgrade work in Crewkerne. We are investing £1.3 million to make sure that we keep the gas flowing to heat homes and power businesses in the area, so the local community are safe and warm for generations to come. Our work started on 1 August and barring any engineering difficulties, we expect to be finished by January 2023.

We know our work can be disruptive, so we have worked closely with Somerset County Council to keep disruption to a minimum. To keep the local community, road users and our colleagues safe while we are working, traffic management will be in place throughout our work. Between now and January 2023, rolling two-way and three-way traffic lights will be in place on Merriott Road, Ashlands Road, Yeovil Road, Broadshard Road, North Street, Mount Pleasant, Cropmead, Northern Way, Blacknell Lane. Between 17 October and 18 November, a road closure will be in place on Lopen Lane from its junction with Hollow Lane to Bull Bridge Lane. A road closure will also be in place on Higgin's Grave Lane. Diversion routes will be clearly signposted, and motorists are advised to allow extra time for travel.

Ahead of our work we have written to all homes affected by this gas pipe upgrade and our team will be visiting local businesses to let them know what to expect while we are working. All local businesses will be open as usual and we will accommodate trade deliveries where possible. This essential gas pipe investment work is part of our multi-million-pound 30-year gas pipe investment programme across the south west of England and Wales. This work is essential to keep the gas flowing to local homes and businesses today, and to make sure the gas network is ready to transport hydrogen and biomethane, so we can all play our part in a green future. I hope this letter gives you the information you need on our work, but if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Reece Emmitt on 07890629500 or email reece.emmitt@wwutilities.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Raphael Project Manager Wales & West Utilities

About us

We are Wales & West Utilities, the gas-emergency and pipeline service across Wales and the south west of England. Every day our skilled and dedicated colleagues do their very best to keep our 7.5 million customers safe and warm, with a gas network they can rely on and a level of service they can trust. We don't sell gas – instead we use our extensive network of pipes to transport gas to homes and businesses throughout Wales and the south west of England. We respond to gas emergencies and we invest in our network, connecting new properties and upgrading old metal pipes to new long-lasting plastic ones, to make sure the communities we serve receive a safe and reliable gas supply for generations to come. It's a vital service – and one we are extremely proud to deliver.

Iain Hall

Somerset Wildlife Trust Fundraiser

At The PigPen, Over Stratton

A special 'Friday Feast' autumn fundraising event is taking place at the PigPen, in South Somerset, on Friday 21 October.

The PigPen is a unique, eco-friendly gathering space in the heart of South Somerset orchard country. It is known for its 'Friday Feasts' which take place in the beautiful garden of Kath and Trevor Jones at their home in Over Stratton.

This autumn they are once again teaming up with Somerset Wildlife Trust to host a fundraising evening event. It follows on from the success of the summer open garden fundraiser, which raised £600.

The autumn event will promote winter gardening for wildlife, served alongside a hearty-homemade feast. The Wildlife Trust will also be previewing their autumn auction of beautiful works of art donated by local artists. There will be a special raffle of quality items from local artists and food producers.

Kath said: "After a walk around the PigPen garden at dusk, to illustrate that a scruffy winter garden is a haven for wildlife, there will be a brief talk on seasonal wildlife gardening. Amongst fairy lights and fires guests will then enjoy a hearty-homemade supper using as much local and organic produce as possible all followed by music and merriment."

This special event has limited numbers and is likely to book up quickly. Ticket price includes a home-made two course meal, a talk and information about wildlife gardening, and one free raffle ticket. Advance booking essential via kath@thepigpen.net or 07798 500916.

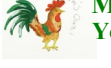
For more information visit www.thepigpen.net or contact Kath Jones kath@thepigpen.net or 07798 500916



Guests enjoy a delicious home-made 'Friday Feast' in the atmospheric marquees at the PigPen

Beth Jerrett

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