

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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June 2022



Help Elijah Help Kenya

Hi I'm Elijah Brown, I am 13 years old and am a member of the Hinton St George Scout Group. I am lucky enough to have been given the opportunity to take part in Project Kenya in August 2023, with the Somerset Scouts Association.

While I am in Kenya I will be volunteering with underprivileged children at three different primary schools.



During my time at the schools, I will be part of a team who will run creative and fun activities that engage the children in learning, singing and playing as well as low-level maintenance work within the schools, like painting and digging.

My mum has handmade notebooks to sell, in aid of my fundraising to be part of Project Kenya. The notebooks are hand bound with a fabric, patterned paper or hand designed paper cover, and then finished with a ribbon page marker. We are selling them for £10 each and if you would like to buy one, please email us at helpelijahhelpkenya@gmail.com.

Jodie Brown

Platinum Jubilee Art Competition

Entries welcome from anyone in 4 age categories:

5 and under

9 and under

15 and under

Over 16

The topic is

Living in Merriott in 2022

Leave entries in the large labelled folder in the church porch by Thursday June 2nd 5pm

All entries will be displayed in the Tithe Barn on Saturday June 4th 07752 893891

Flix in the Stix

Flix in the Stix is Hinton St George's monthly cinema in the Village Hall. We put on a variety of different films each month and have been doing so since 2011; over this time attendance and support has been amazing. Tickets are only £5 each. Films start at 7.30pm and alcoholic refreshments and ice creams are available.

Unsurprisingly, Covid has had a huge impact on both our ability to show films, but also attendance rates. However, we have the following highly acclaimed films coming up and would really like to see the attendance numbers pick up, so that we know that it is viable to provide this much needed social outlet and fun event, in the longer term.

Please do come along and support us:

Sat 11th June - Mothering Sunday - A maid living in post-World War I England secretly plans to meet with the man she loves before he leaves to marry another woman. Odessa Young, Colin Firth, Olivia Colman

Sat 9th July - West Side Story - An adaptation of the 1957 musical, West Side Story explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler

Sat 13 August - The Duke - In 1961, Kempton Bunton, a 60 year old taxi driver, steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. Jim Broadbent & Helen Mirren

Nigel Bell

Merriott Messenger Contact

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Merriott Platinum Jubilee Events Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June, 2022



Thursday: “Jubilee Quiz” at Merriott Social Venue open from 5pm until late

Friday: “Queens High Tea” Street Party

outside Merriott Social Venue, 71 Lower Street, Merriott **3pm until late**

“Bring your own picnic” Hotdog, burgers & chips available 3-10pm BAR open
cream teas & cakes, face painting, lucky dip, kids games, skittles, tombolas, few
game stalls, wellie throwing and tug of war starts at 6pm

FANCY DRESS “Kings & Queens competition at 5pm

Live music “**Mushroom Season**” 4-6pm Disco decades from 8pm

Saturday: “Platinum Jubilee Fair & School Fete” 11- 4pm

Church

Bell Ringing, Afternoon Teas,
70years in Merriott Display

Church Street, Merriott

School	Tithe Barn	Rectory
Fancy Dress assembly at 11am to parade down Church Street for judging in paddock at 11.30am Face painting Cake, Plants Book stall Tombola Raffle & much more	Art Display Hot dogs Toilets Cakes & bakes Pre-School Colouring competition. First Aid “Treasure Hunt” sponsored by The Feed Station & Kings Head	Refreshments – cold drinks Paddock Grand Raffle Axe Throwing, Plants, Beat the Buzzer, Skittles, Stalls, Gypsy Caravan 11.30am Fancy Dress 12-12.30pm Dog Show 1.30-2pm Children's Yoga 2.15-2.45pm Dog Show 3.30pm Raffle



Planning Applications for June

Court Mill, Lower Street

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to 4 trees and to fell 1 tree within a conservation area.

22/01130/TCA

Status: Awaiting decision

For more details go to
southsomerset.gov.uk and “Search
for a planning application”

Marion Biggs

THE MERRIOTT HERITAGE TRUST

WHAT CAN IT DO FOR MERRIOTT ?

If you are interested in the history of Merriott, in conserving its old buildings, preserving its wildlife sites and even maintaining its footpath network, we may be able to offer financial help with the cost, for example, of restoring stone-work, iron railings, gates and date stones, planting trees and maintaining signposts and stiles. We are keen to rescue documents, such as house deeds, and photographs to prevent their loss and are already building up a collection. All this has been made possible by the generous legacy from the late Cathy Herriman.

Please contact us if you think we can help you or if you can help us.

Email: the.merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com

Merriott Gardening Club

Our guest speaker on 31st May is Claire Hart. She combines her love of growing, with a passion for countryside topics, from poultry keeping, all about eggs, equine issues and Grow Your Own. The talk she will give us will endeavour to inspire us to grow "Giant Veg"!

I know many of you are looking forward to visiting the Walled Garden in Horton. This will take place in the afternoon of 6th July. Angie will welcome us between 2pm and 4pm and will walk us round her garden, give a short demonstration and provide us with tea and cake. She is not charging for this. There will be room for any of us that want to have lunch provided by Jordan's courtyard restaurant from 12am until 2pm of course this we will have to pay for individually on the day but I shall need numbers in advance. There are a few little shops at Jordan's and a wonderful knitting shop at Monk's yard, just over the road from Jordan's, so I am sure it will make a lovely afternoon out.

At the end of July our meeting will be a walking treasure hunt around the village. This will be our last meeting before we break up for the summer and will not be meeting again until the 27th September.

I hope our programme of events inspire you to support us and think about bringing a friend to join our garden club.

Helen Tre-Vett



REFUGEE WEEK 2022

Recently, as the war in Ukraine persists, we have been made much more aware of the painful experiences of refugees fleeing conflict or suffering injustice than ever before. There is an understandable desire to offer help and support, but also a feeling of impotence.

The week beginning June 20th is World Refugee Week. The theme this year is 'Healing' when individuals and communities will be urged to consider how people who have suffered such life-changing disruption can be supported through the process of rebuilding their lives.

Refugee Support Group (RSG) will be providing an opportunity for us to support the future for refugees.

Please join us in ILMINSTER on THURSDAY JUNE 23rd from 10.30 to 12.30 at 20 SILVER STREET, the house just before the Minster, where there will be coffee and home-made cakes and books to buy. It is a chance to meet your friends and other supporters and help to make a difference. Thank you.

Geraldine Downey



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Tel 01935 825199
Mountfields Road, **Taunton**, TA1 3BQ
Tel 01823 327272

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From the u3a



On Monday 6th June, Crewkerne & District u3a will celebrate its 25th anniversary with displays and demonstrations by groups, plenty of music and good company!. This coincides with the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement.

Despite Covid, our u3a has survived. A new committee of six people was appointed in March and would so much like to have extra help! Our groups span a wide variety of topics: sports, language, discussion, game, family history, crafts, photography, music, too many to name them all. Help is readily available for anyone wanting to start a different group. Learning something new, social contacts and physical activity enhance our wellbeing and the u3a provide plenty of these! The only criterion to become a member is no longer to be in full time employment irrespective of age.

More details are on our website <https://crewkerneu3a.org.uk>

Christiane Banton



Sent in by Mo Frampton



All Saints' Church Services - June

Sunday 5th June

The Queen's Jubilee Weekend
6pm Celebration Service, Hinton St George Church,
with the 16 Bells Choir. All welcome.

Sunday 19th June

10.30am Morning Prayer, Merriott Church

Sunday 12th June

10.30am Parish Communion, Merriott Church

Sunday 26th June

9am Holy Communion, Merriott Church

Rev Bob and Rev Julia Hicks

Spring Butterflies

In late winter or early spring, a bout of warm weather can rouse any of our local butterflies from hibernation. Few species do hibernate and so one might only expect to see on a warm day before mid-March, Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks and Commas - a stray Red Admiral if you're very fortunate.

Come late March and April, we begin to see the first new butterflies of the year in flight. A flurry of Whites: the two species commonly called 'Cabbage Whites' (actually the Large White and the Small White), the Green-veined White (easily identified by the 'green veins' on the underside of the wings) and, perhaps the prettiest of them, the Orange-tip.

Orange-tips are one of the easiest species to tell male from female - only the former having that orange colouration. They emerge as butterflies at the end of March; feed, mate, lay eggs and have vanished by the end of June. The caterpillars emerge from the middle of May (in Merriott, commonly from an egg laid on Cuckooflower) and, by the end of July, all have formed a chrysalis in which they slowly transform, emerging in turn as butterflies the following spring.

Alongside the Orange-tips, late March sees the first of our blue butterflies - the Holly Blue. These cram in two generations each year: eggs are laid on Holly in the late spring, Ivy in the summer. The adult butterflies emerge in late March and die away by the start of June; the second generation takes to the wing from the middle of July, and have generally vanished by the beginning of winter.

Confusion is possible with another blue species found locally - the Common Blue. Settled, the two are relatively easy to tell apart. The Holly Blue's pale and plain underwings, with a handful of black spots, have none of the rich colours and patterns of the Common Blue. On the upper wing the Hollies have a distinctive black border to the forewings - particularly in the case of the females. In flight, small blue butterflies look alike but behaviour is often the key. One skipping over flowers in fields and gardens below waist height is likely a Common Blue; above waist height, along a hedgerow, a Holly Blue.

Late spring brings too our first brown of the year - the Speckled Wood. This is perhaps our only butterfly comfortable with shade. Expect to see it along hedgerows or at the edge of a wood - particularly territorial males, who will jealously guard a small patch in the hope of intercepting a passing female.

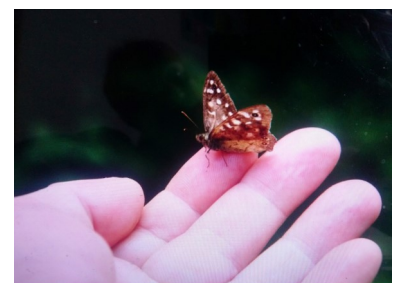
Mike Paine



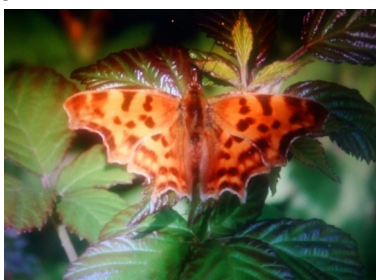
Holly Blue



Orange-Tip



Speckled Wood



Comma



Brimstone

Merriott Village Hall Chairman's Report: (Covering period April 2021 – March 2022)

Once again Merriott Village Hall has experienced a partial year of challenges due to the pandemic. Thankfully, some semblance of order was restored between May - September when all our users finally got back into their weekly routines and welcomed back their clients. Our revenues were adversely affected throughout the first six months, but we were once again assisted with grants from South Somerset District Council along with furlough support for our two employees. The Trustees chose a course of prudence to navigate a route through the trials and tribulations of the financial effects of the pandemic, electing to retain SSDC funding as much as was practicable until the effects were minimised. As a result, the Trustees have agreed to commit significant sums on projects which will leave a lasting legacy for the hall in the forthcoming year.

We are grateful to SSDC for their financial support during the difficult financial climate which we experienced last year and the previous one.

We successfully appointed a new Secretary - Natasha Rebbeck - in June 2021 to support the Trustees and she has been a terrific addition to the committee. Two trustees resigned during the last year – Mike Dandridge (Short Mat Bowls Representative) and Jo Hemmings (Crewkerne Bridge Club Representative). We would like to place on record our thanks to these departing Trustees. Jo will continue to represent Crewkerne Bridge Club as a committee member.

We have formed a collaboration with ARK at Egwood to assist with the provision of lunches for the local community in the hall every fortnight. The Co-op Community Fund is supporting ARK at Egwood and Merriott Village Hall in their common goal to get people together every other Tuesday to enjoy a two-course meal and to promote mental wellbeing within the community. I appeal to the residents of Merriott to support these two deserving causes by nominating via the Co-op website or by asking instore for more details.

Despite the prevailing challenges, we were able to record several achievements over the course of the last year: Solar Panel Project – the benefits of this installation in 2020 are now proving to be a wise investment with energy prices continuing to increase. We received our first payment from SSE in respect of exported energy which was fed back into the grid for the period December 2020 – January 2021. Unfortunately, the price of electrical units exported from the premises are approximately one fifth of the price of units purchased. We encountered a dispute with SSE because of their refusal to fit a second smart meter to the secondary supply at the kitchen end of the hall. The issue was referred to Ofgem and they found in SSE's favour. At a time when every unit of electricity should be treated as a precious commodity, the hall wastes some 3,000 units of electricity every year as we are unable to match energy generation to energy demand. A second smart meter would preserve this energy for other consumers. Whilst the hall is well used, it all depends if the sun shines when users require energy otherwise some energy must be purchased.

We decided not to pursue a project to provide electric car-charging points at the rear of the hall. Uncertainty surrounding demand as the nation transitions towards electric vehicles and the relative convenience of home charging were considered vs public charging facilities. Additionally, insurance restrictions regarding daily inspections of the equipment plus significant financial outlay outweighed any potential benefits to the community.

We removed the dome from the roof of the hall due to rusting and replaced a damaged chimney pot.

The CCTV system was renewed during late 2021 to provide for improved image resolution along with access to view remotely.

We hosted a Jazz in the Village evening towards the end of February to support the community with a focus on getting people to re-engage and enjoy some live entertainment.

And for the next 12 months:

A replacement of the hall guttering is taking place during April. The product selected is a design match to the original cast iron guttering but is manufactured in a lightweight aluminium material. The guttering is installed in the traditional "Racing Green" colour associated with Merriott Village Hall and requires minimal maintenance. Merriott Heritage Trust has provided a contribution to this project for which we are incredibly grateful.

The phased window replacement programme in respect of the Caretaker's property includes two outstanding windows to be replaced towards the end of the current year.

A major refurbishment of the kitchen in the hall is scheduled to be undertaken during August. The result will provide increased hot meal preparation capacity and concentrate food preparation, cooking and washing up into dedicated areas of the newly designed space.

The internal re-decoration project which has been postponed for 2 years due to the pandemic is planned to be completed alongside the kitchen refurbishment programme in August.

The kitchen refurbishment and the internal re-decoration programme are designed to improve the facilities to attract groups or ad hoc use of the hall for events such as weddings, anniversaries, birthday celebrations and concerts providing hot food to guests.

*Eric Vose
(Chairman to the Trustees of Merriott Village Hall)*

MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL

merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

2022 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

This is the first time I have found time to write for some years, so there is much to report. Following the election, a number of seats are unfilled, so anybody with an interest in the community, and willing to take part in Merriott Parish Council activity can be co-opted as a councillor. Please write to the address above.

Parish councils were originally created by the 1894 Local Government Act, which gave them almost unrestricted powers of expenditure on anything that directly benefits the community. The 1972 act gave limited further power of expenditure on anything that indirectly benefits the community. So parish councils can do things!

We operate a working party system, where teams produce proposals for the consideration of the full council. We normally have a clerk for the administration and financial activity.

The Planning Working Party scrutinises planning applications, working on sound planning principles before presenting its recommendations to a meeting.

The Outside Spaces Working Party considers the management and improvements to the recreation field, the community land in the centre of the village, and the cemetery, behind the church.

The Finance and Procedure Working Party works with the clerk on administrative and financial matters.

The Highways and Footpaths team monitor the condition of the rights of way, and report their findings to the county council for actioning. They operate similarly with our roads.

In recent years the teams have delivered; Lowered kerbs at every junction around the village, ten litter and dog bins, six benches, installed four public defibrillators, and designed and lobbied the county council for the new footway scheme to Merriottsford,

On the park: First class play installation, an outdoor gym, refurbished tennis courts, re-modelled car parks, a multi-use all-weather perimeter exercise route, picnic tables, benches and the community pavilion. Users will notice that grass maintenance is a priority.

The allotments were provided by a local land-owner in co-operation with the Parish Council.

In the planning stage we have: a skateboard park, a bike pump track, and a children's gym.

Council aims to secure at least 50% of the cost of any capital project in grants or donations. As a result, all this has been achieved with little cost to the Merriott taxpayer, our annual charge, is only a little more than the annual increase by Somerset County Council for the last five years.

IAIN HALL.
CHAIRMAN.

From South Petherton WI

May in the WI sees the end of one year and the beginning of a new one and with it some changes. Four of the old committee retired. The remaining members and two new ones were elected. I retired after a hectic three years and passed the reins to our new President, Sue Snell, a long time and experienced member of South Petherton WI.

There are plenty of good things in store for our members. First, of course, is the Jubilee and the WI's contributions are the making of 70 metres of high quality bunting to help decorate the village centre and on the Sunday we will be contributing at least 22 cakes to the street party. That's about 180 slices!

After a Jubilee filled weekend our own June meeting will be a test of members' taste buds. In blind tastings members will be asked to decide which of 2 samples of various different foods such as chocolate, biscuits, crisps and cakes is the luxury one and which the basic. There may be some surprises in store. Are we genuinely discerning or are we fooled by clever marketing – we shall see. In May we shall have paid a private visit to a lovely garden at Curload. I'll report on this later.

Something to look forward to – in August we shall be holding an Open Meeting. Everyone is welcome, ladies or gentlemen, young and old. We are lucky to be having a talk and demonstration on flower arranging by a professional florist, Angie Blackwell of Cottage Flowers, which we hope will tempt some of you to come and join us as full members of our WI.

Enjoy the start of summer and the Jubilee.

Jan Kemp



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HPS Somerset Group
Summer
PLANT FAIR

Sunday, 12 June 2022
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
at Lower Severalls
Crewkerne, Somerset
TA18 7NX

Many of the South West's top nurseries, plus other stalls, will be attending. Admission charge will be £4. (£3.50 for RHS & HPS members.) Pay at the gate.
[visit somerset-hps.com](http://visit.somerset-hps.com)

Lower Severalls
Farmhouse and breakfast

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 July issue is 12th June.

Summer Plant Fair at Lower Severalls

This year our plant fair is a few weeks earlier than usual and we have 12 visiting nurseries bringing a colourful array of flowering perennials, Clematis and other climbing plants, hardy exotics, edibles, alpines and unusual shrubs, also metal plant supports. Lower Severalls Nursery, CB Plants will be open with herbs and perennials and the admission price will include entrance to Lower Severalls Farmhouse garden where tea and home made cakes will be available and with lots of lovely spots to sit and enjoy the borders, trees and roses in the cottage style gardens, it promises to be a great occasion. (see poster to the left)

Catherine Bond. CB Plants

MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL – CLERK VACANCY

The Council seeks to appoint a Parish Clerk and Financial Officer (RFO). The appointment is for 35 hours per month, the salary will be per the NALC / local government scale, commensurate with experience. This is a straight forward administrative role, with full training provided.

The Parish Clerk is responsible for organising meetings of the council, publishing agendas and minutes, dealing with correspondence, managing the council website and Facebook page. In addition, the Clerk will be responsible for the financial administration of the council, using our Scribe accounts package, with training also available. The Clerk works from home and needs to be computer literate.

A laptop and printer/scanner are provided. Attendance at the evening meetings of the Council is a requirement of the position, and are the only fixed hours. Meetings take place on the second Monday of each month.

For further details and a copy of the employment agreement please contact Iain Hall, the Chairman by email: iain.hall@merriottpc.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 24th June 2022. To apply please send a CV and covering letter by email to the above e mail address.

Iain Hall

White Zombie (1932) Film Review

If 1931's Dracula typed Bela Lugosi as a horror actor, it was the following year's White Zombie that cemented his reputation for playing elegant yet menacing characters. Here, Lugosi plays witch doctor and zombie slave master Legendre. Hired by Hattian plantation owner Charles Beaumont (Robert Frazer) to help him win the woman of his dreams, Madeline (Madge Bellamy), Legendre uses black magic to kill Madeline on her wedding night, then bring her back to life as a zombie. But Legendre has other plans for Madeline and Charles...

Independently produced by producer/director team Edward and Victor Halperin, White Zombie is a first-class example of a film overcoming its own low budget and nonsensical plot to create something surprisingly entertaining. Shot on sets borrowed from the big studios, the film has a gothic atmosphere almost on par with Dracula. Some of the technical effects, such as Lugosi's disembodied eyes flying across the screen, are impressive for an early sound film.

There is a lot to be said about racism in the film, namely the presence of white actors in blackface and the male lead saying that his wife would be better dead than alive and in the hands of natives. A look into Legendre's zombie sugar mill reveals a shambling line of human bodies, stripped of their autonomy, tossing sugar cane like just another part of the machinery. But what makes the film work is Lugosi himself. He was always a commanding screen presence, but here he brings a mischievous gleam to Legendre that sets him apart from his stately Dracula. It's one of his most enjoyable performances. Although the film arguably did more harm to his career than good, without him its likely White Zombie would have faded into obscurity. White Zombie (1932) is available to stream on Amazon Prime or can be watched on YouTube.

Jonathon Sanderson

Merriott Bowls Club

Despite continuous rain Merriott Bowls Club had a very successful Open Day on 1st May. They welcomed 11 new members who have now joined the club.

The club has had a very successful start to the season, winning their first 2 matches, one a friendly against Lyme Regis on our green and a league match away at Somerton. Apart from the matches we have club roll-ups on a Monday morning and a Thursday evening. For more details please contact our Secretary Chris Woods on clwoods37@gmail.com or telephone 01460 279654.

Jean Crisp

[illegible]