

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000+ homes

March 2023

Merriott Camera Club

We have had a great start to the year and have enjoyed interesting and informative Tech Talks and fun practical sessions. A Club trip out to RSPB reserve Swell Wood was rewarded with some fantastic shots.

Merriott Camera Club meets every Thursday at the Pavillion on the Rec at 8pm. We welcome members of all ages and abilities, although under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Cost per session is £2. Contact us via our Facebook page, webpage or email: merriott_camera_club@yahoo.com

The programme for March is as follows:

2nd March: Understanding ISO

9th March: Tabletop

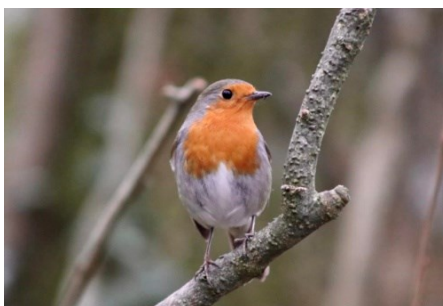
16th March: Star Trails (or Tech Talk if wet)

23rd March: Understanding your camera equipment

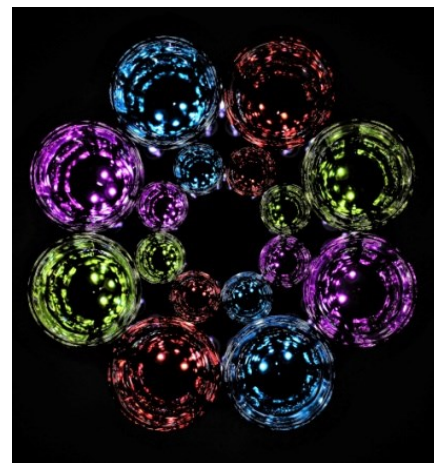
30th March: Competition 'DECAY'



Wire Wool Spinning



Robin at Swell Wood



The winning entry for January's Competition 'Patterns'

Jayne Scott

Merriott Gardening Club

Please Note the Tithe Barn will be out of use for our first meeting of the year in February. So we have rearranged with our speaker James Crowden to come on MONDAY 27th February at 7.30pm to the Social Venue in 71 Lower Street Merriott TA16 5NP instead. James Crowden is Britain's best cider writer...

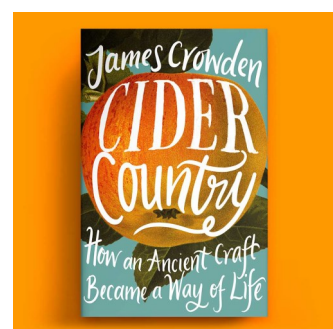
I do hope that you will support us there. Members are free, guests £3.

We are also looking forward to our talk on March 28th 'Malcolm on Bees in the garden' at 7.30pm—Malcolm from The Gardens Group takes a detailed look at honeybees, bumblebees and solitary bees. Covering neonicotinoids, plant pollination and human interaction as we consider the importance of our bee species and ways in which we can help to reverse their decline.

Our AGM is on 25th April at 7.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing our existing members, guests and new members are always welcome.

Jenny Waddilove



Merriott Messenger Information

Your editorial team: John Bowman 74077, Paula Bateman 07856 559502, Marion Biggs 74170, Peter Bryans 78182, Charlie Russell 07505 014647, Eric Vose 351857, Dee Edwards and Dave Williams 76848

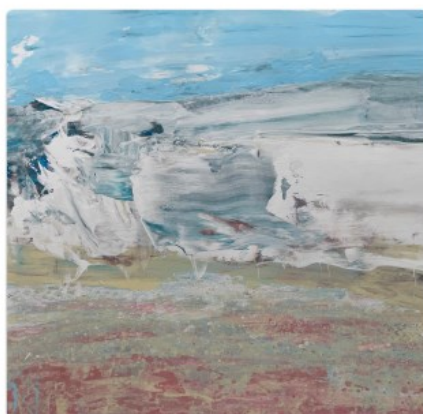
Email: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

The copy date for the April issue is **12th March**.

ART EXHIBITION

MIKE NICHOLLS

THE ONE HUNDRED



1st & 2nd April 10am - 4pm

MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

www.mikenicholls.org.uk

New Sponsor

I am Suzy Langdon. I support the development of a regular meditation practice to people who have never tried meditation, have tried and felt they couldn't do it, or struggled to keep it up. I am also a Reiki Healing practitioner.

Science has now proven that a regular meditation practice is beneficial to our mental and physical health. These days we live in a very pressured world, with more things to do or follow up, more emails, more meetings or appointments. Life is no longer simple. This constant business can leave us feeling overwhelmed and stressed much of the time. Meditation helps us to cope better with life's ups and downs; it also helps us to live healthier, happier lives.

I run beginners' courses in Yeovil and Merriott, I also have a weekly class and I often do 1 to 1 sessions.

If you would like to know more take a look at my website www.suzylangdon.uk or contact me on 07762314319 email suzy.langdon@hotmail.com

Suzy Langdon

Health Alternative

Massage Therapy

It has been a strange year which has had an affect on everybody, whether a change in working conditions, being apart from friends and family or worried about being around other people. Covid 19 has had an impact on our emotional and physical wellbeing which, for some, maybe felt for many years to come.

I am a member of the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC) and come under the heading 'other health services', I have worked through the last two lockdowns and like many therapists I am already seeing the effect of the pandemic on the people I treat.

Massage is recognised as being beneficial for both physical and mental health.

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Complementary & Natural
Healthcare Council





Shopping & Sharpening come to Hinton St George

1st April - 10.30am - 1.00pm

St George's Hall

In addition to our regular professional blade-sharpener, this year we have invited **'Boutique in a Bus'** to join us bringing gorgeous Italian, seasonal ladies fashion (handbags, clothes and accessories) to suit all budgets, shapes, sizes, ages and occasions. Both will be sited in Hinton's village hall car park and refreshments will be served from the conservatory.

If you are unable to join us, but have blades you would like sharpened, do please contact either Liz (72931) or Jane (74162).



All proceeds to go to Our Church Hinton St George Building Trust.

Jane Jackson



Gardening quote of the month

"A good gardener always plants 3 seeds -one for the bugs, one for the weather and one for himself."
— Leo Aikman

Sent in by Mo Frampton

Merriott Monthly Market

Exciting NEWS!! Merriott Monthly Market has changed its name & venue so on the 12th March everyone is welcome to the Merriott Community Cafe & Crafts from 10am until 2pm, at Merriott Village Hall, Broadway, Merriott. Lots of new stall holders. It will also be opening soon in the pavilion, watch this space for more details or follow us on Facebook.

Planning Applications

The Lodge, Moorlands Road

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of self-contained annex 23/00223/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

56, Hitchen

Demolition of side extension, removal of concrete sectional garage. Erection of two storey side extension to dwelling. 22/03153/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

Springfield Cottage, Church Street

Conversion of existing detached carport into annex accommodation for elderly relative 22/03246/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

All Saints Church

Notice of intent to carry out tree surgery works on 2 trees within a conservation area 23/00129/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

Chamings, Higher Street

Remove chimney and install two roof lights 22/03422/HOU Status: Approved

Merriottsford Farm

Application to carry out tree surgery works to 2 trees as shown within the South Somerset District Council 1990 Tree Preservation Order 22/03064/TPO Status: Approved



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

Marion Biggs



All Saints' Church Services—March

Sun 5th

6.30pm Modern Praise Service @ The Tithe Barn (free supper at 5.30pm)

Wed 8th

8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Sun 12th

10.30am Parish Communion

Sun 19th

10.30am All Age Service for Mothering Sunday

Wed 22nd

8pm Compline (Night Prayer)

Sun 26th

9am Holy Communion

Rev Julia and Rev Bob Hicks

News from All Saints Church

So here we are, making our way through another Lent season. What spiritual hindrances have you given up? What beneficial practices have you begun? I am always curious about what people do to bring themselves closer to God during this time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Our normal services and events continue through Lent, but there are some special things to look out for, too. We are not having our midweek Communion services this year, but will instead be having weekly Compline (Night Prayer) on Wednesdays at each of our churches – look out for the posters for details. Do come along to our All Age service for Mothering Sunday on the 19th March. Don't forget our Coffee Stop; 10am to 11.30am every Tuesday. Excellent coffee and cake and company for just £1. PS I haven't given up cake for Lent!

Rev Bob Hicks 01460 76406 bobhicks66@gmail.com

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.

Back issues of Merriott Messenger (April 2021—Dec 2022) can be found on the Parish website:

<https://merriottpc.org.uk/village-facilities/the-merriott-messenger>

Copy date for the April issue is 12th March.

The Benefice of Merriott, Hinton St George with Dinnington and Lopen

WORSHIP PRAISE SERVICE

Food & Fellowship followed by
Contemporary Hymns, Worship Songs,
Readings and Prayers

1st Sunday of the Month

5th March

2nd April

7th May

4th June

2nd July

6th August

3rd September

Informal Supper:

5:30 PM

Praise Service:

6:30 PM

MERRIOTT TITHE BARN

Contact Mark Bunting, Churchwarden,
01460 76553 for more info

All Saints Church Work Party Day

Sat 1st April

9am-1pm

Please could you spare the morning,
an hour or even half an hour to help
give the church and the churchyard a
Spring clean? There will be things to do
both inside and out.

Plenty of tea, coffee and cake to keep
you going

If you would like to know more, please
contact Churchwarden Mark Bunting
01460 76553.

Mark Bunting



Merriott Home Guard

Do you know anyone in this photo of the Merriott Home Guard?

If so please let The Heritage Trust know by emailing Marion Biggs on themerriottheritagetrust@gmail.com

Marion Biggs

A Merriott Messenger Calendar for 2024?

The Merriott Messenger is compiled, printed and circulated free to 1025 homes in Merriott; all the costs are currently covered by our sponsors (the local businesses featured in the newsletter and on the back page). We are all aware that everyday prices are rising & the Editorial Team have been informed that the cost of paper and the printing bill for the Messenger will increase further in 2023. But we are also aware that times are difficult for small businesses so we would like to suggest a way that households could support the Messenger, by buying a Merriott Messenger Calendar for 2024 this autumn.

We are proposing to produce an A3 spiral bound calendar, illustrated (for example photos, other artwork) with places, activities and events in the village. Hopefully, given village support, it will be available in October at a cost of about £6.50-£7.50. If 300 or more households agreed to buy the calendar this would directly help Merriott Messenger to navigate a way through the planned print costs.

The Editorial Team are still formulating details and ideas. For example, would anyone like to 'sponsor a page'? Or are there any other bright ideas out there?

We would welcome your feedback about the idea of a Merriott Messenger calendar – please email us merriottmessenger@gmail.com or telephone a member of the Editorial Team.

The Editorial Team

Tom Merrick Ltd

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Contact me on:

07980 686160

or

tmerrick@hotmail.co.uk

Merriott Social Venue News

***** QUIZ NIGHT *****

Saturday 4th March at 8.30pm

Come along to our fun quiz night. Teams of 6 people max.
£10 per team entry fee. Hamper and voucher prizes.

***** EASTER BINGO *****

Sunday 1st April. Doors open at 6.30pm

Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Date for your diaries :-

***** CHARLES III CORONATION STREET PARTY *****

Sunday 7th May

Yes we are doing another street party, let's all come together
and make it as much fun as last years.

Further information to follow.

Penny Gibbs

The Wych Elm

The Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) like the Common Elm was once a familiar countryside tree before the devastating spread of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s wiped out nearly all mature specimens. Wych Elm can, however, still be spotted in hedgerows and along river banks as a large shrub or small tree with low spreading branches. They are especially visible in spring when the clusters of small pinky-red flowers burst open from fat buds on the bare twiggy branches in late February and March. Like hazel catkins, they are wind pollinated and during April and May the bright apple green disc-like developing seed pods, known in botany as 'samaras' can be seen in bunches along the stems and this is when Wych Elm is most noticeable as the new leaves have not yet grown to their full size. When ripe and golden brown in colour, the seeds in their flying saucer discs are carried on the wind. The large mature leaves are an elongated oval shape with toothed edges and a pointed tip. The bark is smooth and this is referred to in the second part of the scientific name 'glabra'. Only on mature trees, does the bark become ridged.

The name Wych means pliant or supple in old English, the Wych Elms' timber is flexible and very durable when wet, it has been used to make drainage pipes, canal lock gates, mill leats, boats, bridge foundations, coffins, shoes and cheese moulds.

In parts of Europe the bark and leaves were once used medicinally and in Scotland were used to make a yellow dye for wool.

In European folklore, says Gabrielle Hatfield in *Hatfields Herbal*, Wych Elm was a protector, used to ward off witches. In Scotland, twigs were sewn into clothing or carried in the pocket by farmers to protect their livestock and promote good butter production. In Sicily, branches were fastened to fig trees to protect the crop.

The seeds of the Wych Elm are a favourite food of Bullfinches and the leaves are eaten by a number of moth species. Elm leaves are the sole food of the caterpillars of the White Letter Hairstreak butterfly whose numbers have plummeted along with the elm trees since the 1970s.

The Wych Elm is crucial to the survival of this species.



Wych Elm flowers



Wych Elm seeds

Catherine Bond. CB Plants, Lower Severalls Nursery.

Did You Know? Golden Guernsey Goats

These animals have been kept on Guernsey in the Channel Islands for over 200 years. They probably have a much earlier origin as remains of fine boned goats have been found on the island dating back to 2000BC. At one time it was the practice for passenger ships to carry goats to provide fresh milk and when the boats reached port the goats were put ashore.

The Golden Guerneys may have originated from Maltese goats, including the breeds of Chamoisee and Syrian, which were crossed with local island goats. From time to time kids with a golden coat would occur and these were selected to found the breed. The first hard evidence of the breed relates to an old guidebook of 1826, though a herd book did not begin until 1922.

During the Second World war, the German occupiers on Guernsey were often short of food supplies and used the island goats for meat. Anyone found hiding animals was liable to execution. Fortunately for the breed, a Miss Milbourne, who had a flock of about 50 goats which used to graze on L'Ancrese Common on Guernsey, was determined that the Germans would not have her goats, and hid them. The goats and Miss Milbourne survived and she was instrumental in developing the breed after the war.

Golden Guerneys were brought to the UK mainland in 1965 and the breed has developed here since then, with some animals being returned to Guernsey to bolster the development of the breed there. The goats are relatively fine boned, placid and produce about 3 to 5 litres of high fat and protein milk per day. This is very suitable for cheese and yoghurt production.



John Bowman



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Book Review

The Running Hare by John Lewis-Stempel

We are all only too well aware of the damage that has been done, largely by modern farming methods, to the countryside. Many species of plants and wildlife have either been lost entirely or vastly reduced. The Running Hare by environmentalist John Lewis-Stempel is an extremely readable account of how he purchased 15 acres of arable land in south Herefordshire and used traditional methods of cultivation to see what effect this had on wildlife. He worked hard, tilled and planted one field purchasing outdated second-hand equipment and suitable crop and flower seeds. Of course, there were problems, but his perseverance eventually resulted in the welcome return of plants insects, birds and animals hitherto absent from this patch of land.

Many of you may have read his regular articles in Country Life and enjoyed his stylish, evocative writing. The book includes accounts of agricultural history, rural lore and plenty of alarming (but not boring) statistics which show all too clearly the losses that the countryside has suffered. He has a light touch, describing for example his neighbouring modern farmers as “the chemical brothers”.

I found it an enthralling and informative read and not at all as doom-laden or preachy as its subject might have been. The overall thrill is that his short experiment brought, among many other welcome returnees, a family of hares back to his land.

Sheila Bowman

The return of the Rambler!

I've had a few friends tell me recently they have missed my Merriott Messenger Ramblings, so hoping they are not just being nice as I've begun another one!!

Christmas is now long gone but I am reminded each day of the tradition of present giving. As many of you will recall I am very interested in the birds we can see in our garden. One of the many presents I received was a sack of sunflower hearts, these are a bird feed that attracts different groups of birds to the usual feeder (that is the sparrows, blackbirds and starlings) which are regular visitors to our garden. There must be a line of communication between birds as the sunflower hearts are very popular with goldfinches which have become more frequent visitors.

In the recent cold weather the feeders have needed to be topped up frequently, first thing and again early afternoon, the bird grapevine must announce “food up” as I have just returned to the “warm indoors” and looking out I can see already birds returning!

The early part of the year is always interesting to see the snowdrops and the little winter cyclamen appear, its such a lovely sight and chases away the winter blues with the pleasure of seeing bulbs and plants returning to give us colour again.

As I put my pen down and look out onto the garden there is a blackbird picking berries off the Cotoneaster sometimes choosing a change of diet to crab apples that have remained on the tree from last year.

Peter Fisk

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.

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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AIR LINE TAXIS Yeovil - Crewkerne On Call MON-SAT 7.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Other Hours: Private Hire Bookings 4, 8, 16 seats 01460 75089 / 01935 414444 MERRIOTTSFORD PRIVATE HIRE	 Merriott Village Hall Parties, weddings, community groups welcome 01460 72508 merriottvillagehall@gmail.com	 Residential Care Home built by the community Orchard Vale, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0EX Tel 01460 52077 karen@vaughanleehouse.co.uk	ARB TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES All aspects of tree and garden work undertaken info@arbtreetandgarden.co.uk 01460 77605 / 07799 331 805	Ross Harvey Ltd. Buyer and seller of low mileage cars and vans Broadway, Merriott Office: 01460 279899 Mobile: 07789 951295
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