

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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June 2023

Fundraising for Guide Dogs

My name is Eve and I am a first time guide dog owner.

You may have seen me in the village walking my female guide dog, a light yellow Labrador cross golden Retriever called 'Zena'. Zena wears a high-vis yellow harness with touches of black, a black leather lead with yellow flash. Every qualified guide dog in the UK wears the same harness.

Guide dogs are permitted anywhere that the general public can go except zoos. I have been visually impaired since birth but now Zena has changed my life, she has given me independence, confidence and the freedom to travel anywhere I want to go; shopping, cafes, clubs, days out, holidays and so much more.

Zena has been specially trained by a qualified guide dog trainer, this takes about 3 months and is very intense. I too have had training so that she will respond to my commands. The training which is carried out either at home or in a hotel is then followed by 3-6 weeks at home with 70% practical and 30% formal learning such as walking equipment and formal paperwork. The trainers spent time getting to know me so the training was customised to my specific needs.

Anyone wishing to apply for a guide dog should know that the process is long, challenging, fun but also emotional. The guide dog charity offers a customer service team including 'long cane mobility' and 'dog mobility team'. My trainer came every day whilst we were in training and assisted on all sorts of activities including how to help us bond together, working in restaurants, cafes, roads, buses and trains taking into account the different environments and different times of the day. It's where I learned everything I need to know about the guide dog equipment and how to use it. I certainly appreciate everything they have done for me.

'Charity Guide Dogs' support visually impaired people in the UK, you can find out more about them on their website, Facebook, YouTube and TV.

I am involved in the local fundraising group for guide dogs and will be running an ultra Marathon from Ham Hill to Lyme Regis on 1st July. If you would like to sponsor me, I would be very grateful. Below is the link to my fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/page/eve-sale-guidedogs



Eve Sale

Merriott Gardening Club

Sadly our AGM in April was poorly attended but those members that did come enjoyed good food, wine and a quiz.

Member numbers are falling so we would love new members to join. Our next meeting is at the earlier time of 7.00pm on 27th June at the Tithe Barn. We need a new chairman and secretary and would love to hear from anybody who can step up and help out.

There will be a short Emergency General Meeting at the start of our 27th June meeting to hopefully sign up new committee members, followed by the wonderful Angie of 'Cottage Flowers' Jordan's Courtyard who will give us her usual original entertaining floral demonstration.

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

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The copy date for the July issue is **12th June**.

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.

If you are interested in a research project relating to the Village we can offer suggestions for topics.

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

Email: merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com

Somerset Unitary Council - A Change of Council

On the 1st of April this year the District Councils for South Somerset, Mendip, Sedgemoor and West Somerset and Taunton along with Somerset County Council were replaced by a single Unitary Authority – Somerset Council.

The new Council believe this will free up resources, including £18 million every year, to protect jobs and services; grow Somerset's voice nationally; help to deliver the investment in business and infrastructure; and drive action to tackle climate change.

The change will make it easier for customers to access the services they need – **there will be a single telephone number 0300 123 2224 and a single website www.somerset.gov.uk**. The number of Customer Access Points across Somerset is almost doubling from 12 to 19.

Somerset Council, with 110 councillors, will be one of the largest unitary councils in England – with 512 services – and its scale will enable innovative approaches to tackling the big challenges faced today.

Cllr Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset County Council, said: *"This is the biggest shake up of local government in Somerset for 50 years. While people will see some immediate benefits, such as simpler ways to get in touch, there won't be a big difference right away. In the years ahead, services will be more joined-up and we can use this powerful new council to take on the big challenges such as improving opportunities for young people, managing the impacts of an ageing population, and addressing the cost-of-living and climate crises."*

Cllr Val Keitch, Executive Member for Local Government Reorganisation and Prosperity, added: *"The new council will have strong links with local communities built in. The introduction of 18 Local Community Networks (LCNs) across the county will involve a wide range of people and partners with real power to influence the issues that matter to them."*

John Bowman

Crewkerne & District

Twinning Association



If you fancy a long weekend in France in the autumn come and join us on the trip to our twin towns of Igny and Bures sur Yvette.

Situated just south of Paris and near Versailles.

Leaving on Friday 6th October and returning Monday 9th.

Our French friends have planned what promises to be a super weekend which includes a visit to Paris with a guided tour of the Opera, lunch in a restaurant and a guided coach tour of the city.

Travelling by coach, with pick up points in Ilminster and Crewkerne and costing only £200 per person.

For more details contact Lorna on 01460 72962
or email laylanboris@gmail.com

Lorna Scudder

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HPS Somerset Group
Summer

PLANT FAIR

Sunday, 11 June 2023
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.
Homemade cakes and tea available.
Admission charge will be £4. (£3.50 for RHS & HPS members.) Pay at the gate.
visit somersestps.com

LOWER SEVERALLS
FARMHOUSE BED & BREAKFAST

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 07956 598894, or to come along any Wednesday at 7pm.



NEW STORE IN MERRIOTT

Budgens Store Merriott is very pleased to welcome and thank all the people of Merriott for accepting us in the Village. We took over from COOP in October 2022 last year and did an official launch of the store on 24th March, 2023. We have been receiving an overwhelming response from the people of Merriott. We aim to deliver and serve the village people with the best quality products from Budgens. We will support Merriott's new endeavors and build a strong community that will grow together and prosper.

Store Timings:

Mon—Sat: 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM

Sun: 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM



Running for Mind

On 10th September I will be taking part in the Great North Run, a fantastic half marathon that starts in Newcastle and finishes by the sea at South Shields. I will be raising money for Mind who provide valuable and essential support and advice - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Penny-Harvey9



You'll probably see me out on the lanes of Merriott, Hinton and even as far as South Petherton! I appreciate any support you can give me and Mind. Thank you.

Penny Harvey

Merriott Heritage Trust

Does anyone remember this Coronation? If so please let the Heritage Trust know on the merriottheritage.trust@gmail.com



Coronation Tea, Bakehouse Corner, 2nd June 1953

CORONATION ARRANGEMENTS - GOD SAVE THE QUEEN:

- On Sunday May 31st there will be a special Service of Thanksgiving and Prayer in the Parish Church at 6.30 p.m., when the members of the Parish Council, the British Legion and Scouts hope to be present. Coronation Day will start with a sung celebration of Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m. At 10.30 a.m. there will be a Free Church Service in the Recreation Ground conducted by Mr. Nicholson and preceded by a short opening ceremony of "Coronation Day in Merriott". 2 - 3.30 Children's Sports, 3.30 Children's Tea 3.30-4.30 Adult Sports 5.30 Pageant 9 p.m. Old Type Dance (Barn) Social and Dance (Memorial Hall).

Marion Biggs

Gardening quote of the month

'It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a row of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green.'

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mosses from an Old Manse

Sent in by Mo Frampton



All Saints' Church Services—June

We are doing something different on 18th June at 6pm. The 16 Bells with Choir will be with us for a special Sung Evensong Service. And if you can find Dinnington church (!), you might like to bring your pet with you on 25th June. We are holding a special service of thanksgiving and blessing for your favourite creatures. All of our services are open to all ages.

All of the following services are in Merriott, apart from the Pet Service:

Sun 4th 6.30pm Praise Service, Tithe Barn

Sun 11th 10.30am Communion Service

Sun 18th 6pm Sung Evensong with 16 Bells Choir

Sun 25th 9am Communion Service

4pm Pet Service, Dinnington churchyard

Revd Julia Hicks

Merriott Bell Ringers

Tower captain Rob Harvey, centre left, is seen with the bell ringers who celebrated the Coronation of HM King Charles III and Queen Camilla with a peal delivered via the Church's six bells. The photograph was taken in the rain at All Saints Church, Merriott, on the morning of the Coronation.



Steve Roberts


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Timebank article for newsletters etc

We recently launched the Crewkerne Timebank, which is for people living in Crewkerne and neighbouring villages. Timebanking in the UK started in Stroud in 1998.

It's a safe and free way of helping other local people with tasks they need doing, utilising people's skills and experience. As well as the satisfaction of helping someone, doing something you enjoy for an hour, members get a Time Credit to spend on something when they need it. No money changes hands, the only currency is your time.

Timebanks make new connections, share skills and help to keep people living independently. It's informal volunteering and you only help when it suits you.

The initial idea for a Timebank here came from a Crewkerne GP concerned about isolated patients, and the local Primary Care Network are supporting our Timebank.

Typical timebanking activities include socialising, dog walking, gardening, small DIY jobs, cooking, shopping, befriending, learning a craft, help with reading & writing and transport to activities. Our Members have recently hung curtains, ironed, tidied up a garden, given a lift to the shops and helped others use their phones better.

We now have 11 members and are looking for more to expand the range of help available. We have a friendly monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday at 11am at the Henhayes Centre, where you can find out more about the initiative. Come along for a chat and a coffee, hear the latest offers and requests and members can discuss exchanges.

If you'd like to find out more or join, please get in touch with me via crewkernetimebank@gmail.com or call or text 07944 965564.

Matt Day
 Crewkerne Timebank Coordinator & Social Prescribing Link Worker
 South Somerset West Primary Care Network

ARK is going to get a New Garden

A show garden, to be displayed at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival between July 4th and 9th this year, will be donated to ARK in the autumn. It has been designed by Butler and Parker, Garden Designer based in Somerset and London and is sponsored by Inghams, a Holiday Company offering summer walking holidays and winter ski holidays in Europe. The garden's main theme is rainwater capture by working with nature to create a resilient garden for the future hotter summers and wetter winters, which are already apparent and forecast to become the norm in future.

The garden takes inspiration from summer holidays, with the use of natural stone for gravel tracks and large stone-bench seating, for resting amid the sound of water from running streams and the cool glade planting. Rainwater is collected and filled through the planting area, creating cleaner waterways and reducing the need for additional watering. The planting palette is loosely inspired by woodland and lower valley glades with flowering perennials and grasses providing a mix of texture and colour.

Once re-installed at ARK it will be adjacent to a new classroom space where it will be used to allow people to connect with one another and as a space to relax within ARK.



A sketch of the garden that will be at RHS Hampton court which will be reformed when installed at ARK

Butler and Parker - www.butlerandparker.com

Ark - www.arkategwood.com

Inghams - www.ingham.co.uk

Josh Parker

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Help!

Ipad, Tablet, Smart phone, laptop?

Problems with a paperless society and use of your devices?

Crewkerne Library now offers a free drop-in service, every Friday between 10 and 12.

Help offered with Apps, Emails, Internet use, completion of online forms and many other online issues.

No question is silly, all are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you



Bill Nelson

News from Imagine, Learn & Create

In case you do not know: we are a creative day support for adults with learning differences. Our workshop is located just outside of South Petherton.

We have been extremely busy over the past month and a bit, making GIANT insects for the Earth Day celebrations! The Giant bugs, wasps, snails, slugs, dragonflies, butterflies and more all went on display at Nine Springs country park in Yeovil on Saturday 22nd April. They were joined by lots of stall holders, live music and lots of activities for children! The day was enjoyed by all! The highlight of the day was seeing everyone admiring and interacting with our Giant insects, they really did pull in the crowds!

Other exciting news: We are ready to start selling tickets for our 2023 RAFFLE!!! This year the funds will go towards an insulated lino floor covering for our main workshop. This will help keep us warm in the winter months. Tickets are £1 a strip and we have an amazing 7 hampers to give away!!! Tickets will be drawn the week 13th—16th June. If you would like to buy some tickets please contact Jess by phone, 07779 222996, or via our Facebook/website page.

Jess Hyslop

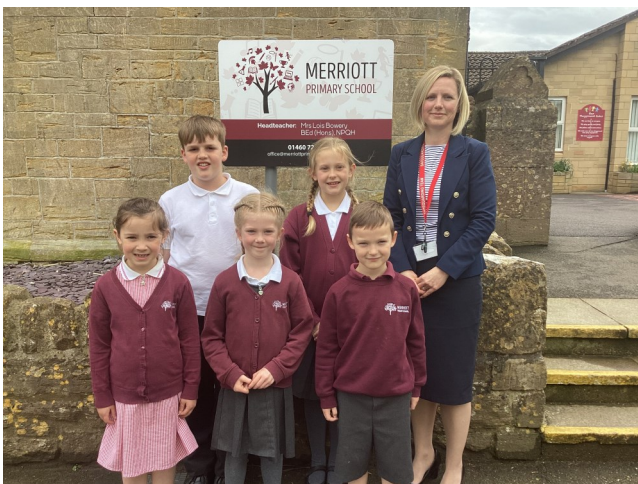
Merriott Primary School Ofsted News

We are delighted to share that Merriott Primary School has recently had a very successful Ofsted inspection in March 2023, the report for which has now been shared with our parent community and will be available shortly on their website.

We are particularly proud of the recognition that pupils have opportunities both within and outside of the curriculum to develop into positive, kind individuals that support them to try their best and be accepting of others. Also, that pupils enjoy school and have positive attitudes to their learning - right from the early years in Reception.

Over the past two years, we have transformed our curriculum offer in line with the very latest educational research to ensure that pupils are able to become confident in their learning across the board. Our earliest priorities in this area were in reading and maths; both of which have been recognised by Ofsted as being well-established and supportive to pupils' development. Children said to inspectors that reading helps them to 'imagine new places' - something that is really important to us, especially where there were times in the past two years that getting to 'new places' was not an easy task!

Merriott Primary School is very lucky to have a committed staff team who work together to ensure our children are able to be the best they can be and the backing of a Governing Body who volunteer and give of their time to make sure that this continues to be the case. We are also very fortunate to have a team of volunteers who regularly support in school with welly walks and reading with children. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of these people for their dedication to the children of our community.



Lois Bowery
Executive Headteacher

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—May 2023) can be found on the Parish website: <https://merriottpc.org.uk/village-facilities/the-merriott-messenger>

Copy date for the July issue is 12th June.



Merriott Minnows

Every Thursday during term time
9 - 11a.m. for 0-4 years + carer
Come and join in!



- Held at Merriott Tithe Barn
- £1.50 per child and £1 per adult - no booking.
- Snacks and coffee /tea/ cake included
- Lots of activities - messy play, music, imaginative play
- Phone Mary on 07752 893891 for details

Pasta & Pizza Night
16th of June 2023

The Faced Station

Come to our...

Pasta & Pizza Night
16th of June 2023

2 Courses £22.50 3 Courses £27.00

Book your table!

Follow us!

Merriott Social Venue News

A big thanks to all that attended the King's Coronation street party. The weather behaved and everyone enjoyed the day. A big thanks to Jamie for giving the children free rides in the horse and cart up and down Tail Mill Lane. As a way of saying thank you, the venue are going to give £100 to Jamie's chosen charity—Cancer Research UK.



Penny Gibbs

Merriott Camera Club

During April our Members had great fun learning how to photograph 'Movement' using the Gym and Play Equipment at the Rec. A couple of our Members managed to dodge the (many) April showers and take some great images during Club field trips to Ninesprings and Wayford Woods.

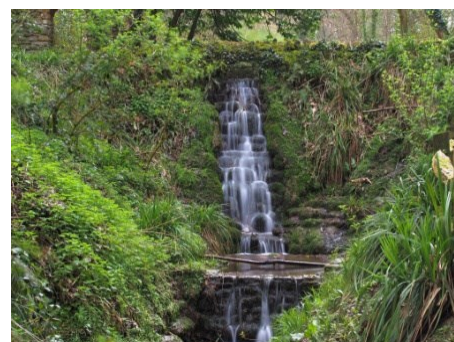
Merriott Camera Club meets every Thursday at the Pavilion on the Rec at 8pm. We welcome members of all ages and abilities, although under 16s must be accompanied by an adult. Cost per session is £2. Contact us via our Facebook page, webpage or email: merriott_camera_club@yahoo.com

The programme for June is as follows:

- 1st June: Tech Talk: Composition
- 8th June: Food Photography
- 15th June: Field Trip: Ham Hill
- 22nd June: Box Challenge
- 29th June: Birds of Prey



Joint Winning entries for April's Competition 'Spring'
By Malcolm Osman (L) and Malcolm Hodder (R)



Waterfall at Ninesprings
by Thomas Macrae

Jayne Scott

Planning Applications

28 Lower Street

Internal and external alterations to Listed Building, including replacement windows and door, external repointing, removal of internal walls, infill of internal openings and two conservation rooflights to rear.
23/01029/LBC Status: Awaiting decision

2 Merriott Road

Notification of intent to fell 1 tree within a conservation area.
23/00952/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

Marion Biggs



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WWW.KINGFISHERVETS.CO.UK
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Merriott Messenger Calendar 2024: an update

Thank you for the photo contributions that we have already received! Some lovely pictures have already been sent to merriottmessenger@gmail.com but we need more from which to compile the pages of the calendar. We know that there are talented artists and photographers among you, so please share your Merriott-themed photos or other artworks with us! Send your image file (1Mb or larger) to merriottmessenger@gmail.com as soon as you can and certainly before the closing date of July 31st.

Grateful thanks also go to the individuals and businesses who have agreed to financially support the printing of the calendar and those willing to display and sell it in the late autumn. If you, or your family or business feel that you could financially support this venture, please contact the Treasurer ervose@sky.com. All the proceeds of the sale of the calendars will help to defray the Merriott Messenger's continually increasing printing costs. The format of the calendar will be A4 landscape, spiral bound opening to A3, with a photo on the top page & a monthly calendar below. The covers will be good quality card, glossy (local) printing by a professional company. We have done an example of what a month might look like in the illustration. Let's showcase our village in this way!

For any further information about the calendar, please contact a member of the Editorial Team, details on front page.



The Editorial Team

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Merriott Social Venue •open every evening •spacious function room available for hire 01460 74376 Merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com	 Letting, Investment and Property Management for S Somerset & W Dorset 01935 420555 yeovil@martinco.com	“Whatever your legal needs, talk to Every’s.” Our solicitors will provide you with the expert advice you need to guide you through your matter from start to finish. Call on 01460 279279 or email law@everyys.co.uk everyys solicitors Incorporating Solicitors Partners everyys.co.uk	WindowMan WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES 16 South Street Crewkerne TA18 8DA 01460 200666 5% off our advertised price for people of Merriott	Sally-Marie Shearing Beauty Therapy Relaxing, Revitalising, Beauty Treatments Tel 01460 73957
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