

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000+ homes

September 2023

Escape to the Chateau – at last!

Some of you may remember Orla McEvoy aged 8, who won a competition a while ago to visit the TV series Chateau and stay for 24 hours as guests of Dick and Angel Strawbridge. Many of our Merriott friends voted for Orla, our granddaughter, and then heard nothing more!

Well, finally, after the interruption of Covid and difficulties arranging a suitable date the visit was arranged this summer and she spent a very exciting time there, after travelling up from the south of France on TGV, crossing Paris and catching a train to Laval near the chateau. She (and her mother) toured the house and estate, doing craft and cooking, and enjoying the company of Arthur and Dorothy. They stayed in one of the luxurious bedrooms and dinner was cooked for them by Dick himself. Orla will be 12 in November but the long wait for her unforgettable prize was definitely worth it. Thank you again to all of you who helped make this possible.



Ann Lawrence (ex Boozer Pit resident)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Refugee Support Group (RSG) held a very enjoyable fundraising event in June, Music in the Meadow, featuring a sitar player and two folk groups, one glorious sunny Sunday afternoon which raised almost £1500 for two refugee charities. It was our sixth Music in the Meadow as well as other concerts, quizzes etc. over the years, and will likely be our last as, after seven years, there are now only three members in the group, others having left for health reasons or caring and other duties. While we are continuing to collect and receive donations for Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton), fundraising will be out of the question unless there are other volunteers willing to commit to the group. Thus, your help is very much needed...

Raft after eight years continues to request donations to send to refugee camps overseas, with some for refugees settling in Taunton; some of the latter are now volunteering at the charity. Raft can be found on Facebook showing immediate needs. During September donations of summer clothing and footwear will still be accepted. From October we are seeking clean warm washable clothing and suitable footwear for all – from babies to older people. Unopened hygiene products, toiletries and off the shelf medication for every group are always in short supply, plus new underclothing. At present prams, buggies and travel cots are needed too.

Refugees from wars and from natural and climate disasters are constantly increasing and it seems an insurmountable issue. US former President Theodore Roosevelt once said, 'I did what I could, where I was, with what I had'. RSG and Raft would say the same.

Thank you generous supporters.

Geraldine Downey RSG 01460 271358

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 October issue is **12th September.**



Outside the Church



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
- We restart on Thursday September 7th



MERRIOTT SOCIAL VENUE NEWS

AGM

Our AGM is to be held on THURSDAY 7th September at 8pm. Please come along and support us, and if you have a few hours spare a month why not join the committee. We are looking for new members to help with events and fundraising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 2nd September - BINGO

Saturday 9th September - BINGO

Saturday 30th September - QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday October 28th LIVE MUSIC with Singer Talitha

November 11th LIVE MUSIC with Justin Daish

TAKE OUT EVENINGS

BBQ rained off? Want to meet up with friends but don't have a plan B if it rains?

We have the answer! Come down to the venue for a takeaway evening! Simply order your take away food for delivery to the Venue (or collect it yourself) and let us be your impromptu host for the evening. All we ask is for you to buy your drinks from us, and tidy up afterwards. We can even provide plates and cutlery!

Finally, congratulations to the winner of the Pool Competition held in July. A very hotly contested final, with some exceptional shots, a big well done to Brett Venn who pipped Jay Parkhouse to a 4-3 victory.

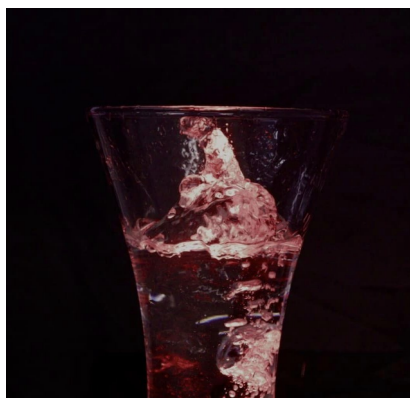
If you are interested in any of the events above, or booking the function room for a children's party (afternoons) or a private evening function, please call in and ask a member of staff or message our Facebook page or email: merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com

Penny Gibbs

Merriott Camera Club

Members had a fun evening learning how to photograph Water Droplets. Water and light were used to great effect to produce some beautiful and dramatic images. The standard of entries for July's competition 'Water' was very high and again resulted in joint winners. The Club was very proud that once again a Junior Member produced one of the winning shots; it has been a joy to watch their talent and confidence grow over the last year. The winning images are shown below.

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



Water Droplet image
by Nic Hodder



Joint winning entry by
a Junior Member



Image by competition winner
Thomas Macrae

Jayne Scott

Evergreen Games Club

Wednesdays 2- 3.30 in the Tithe Barn



Our meetings will be on Wednesday, September 6th and 20th
DO COME AND JOIN IN! YOU DON'T NEED TO PLAY CARDS – WE CAN PLAY OTHER GAMES AND WE ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF TEA AND CHAT TIME!
Phone 07752 893891

Gardening quote of the month



September is more than a month, really; it is a season, an achievement in itself. It begins with August's leftovers and it ends with October's preparations... - Hal Borland

Sent in by Mo Frampton

Planning Applications

43 Lower Street

Replace a flat roof with a lean-to roof, widen access, enlarge parking area and install a gate.

23/01745/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

Waterloo Farm

Notification of intent to create a new farm track to support existing operations at Waterloo Farm

23/01903/AGN Status: Awaiting decision

The Lodge Moorlands Road

Notification of intent to fell 1 tree included with conservation area

23/01816/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

40 Church Street

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to 1 tree included within conservation area

23/01815/TCA Status: Awaiting decision

The Forge, Church Street

Proposed rear extension and internal alterations

23/01724/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

56 Hitchen

Proposed new two-bedroom house following demolition of existing side extension

23/01269/FUL Status: Awaiting decision

19 Lower Street

Notification of intent to fell 1 tree and remove 1 hedge within a conservation area

23/01338/TCA Status: Application permitted

Bowood View, Church Street

Use of land for the siting of two shepherds' huts

23/00722/FUL (Re-submission of 22/020907/FUL) Status: Approved

Manor Cottage, Lower Street

Discharge of Condition No 3(chimney details) of Planning Application

22/01195/LBC Decision: Conditions discharged

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

Marion Biggs



MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

Broadway
TA16 5QH



The Hall offers a spacious and characterful venue for all event needs. It comprises a large main hall with a production stage, PA system and hearing loop, a well-proportioned meeting room, a well fitted kitchen, toilets and ample parking to the rear. Easily accessible for wheelchair users.

We are now taking bookings for weddings and parties and have some availability for regular hirers on weekdays.

More information is available at merriottvillagehall.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

To arrange a viewing or a booking contact Michelle on: merriottvillagehall@gmail.com or phone: (01460) 72508



All Saints' Church Services - September

All of the following services are in Merriott:

Sun 3rd 6.30pm Praise Service, Tithe Barn
 Sun 10th 10.30am Communion Service
 Sun 17th 10.30am Morning Prayer
 Sun 24th 9am Communion Service



Date for your diaries – Harvest Festival to be at ARK at midday on Sunday 15th October

Rev'd Julia Hicks

Merriott Scarecrow Festival

The winner of the Business/Adult category for the Community Scarecrow Festival was HairDward Scissorhands - Q&Co Hairdressers who won a hamper given by Everys Solicitors. 2nd place was: Wee Wullie Scarecrow of Westgate Cottage who won a voucher from Q&Co Hairdressers.

The children's outright winner is Super Hercrows. Well done Freddie and Paul Fisher!! All the other children entries received the same number of votes this year, so instead of trying to decide whose 2nd, we are going to give everyone a prize.

The total amount of Money raised from the festival and the village wide sale for this year's charity Merriott Minnows Toddler Group is £130.

Well done to everyone that entered and thank you so much, we hope you had fun and see more of you next year.



HairDward Scissorhands



Wee 'Wullie'
Crowscarer



Super Hercrows



Space Girl



Mr Scarecrow (Merriott
Minnows)

Lola Dry
Photos by Alan Wiseman

Sunday Market

The Community Cafe and Crafts August Market will be giving a donation to Merriott Youth Football. The next Sunday Market on 10th September is in aid of Merriott Brownies, Guides & Rainbows.

Lola Dry

More News From The Feed Station!!

Our Friday evenings have evolved into offering a full menu. We have delicious burgers, vegan curry, sticky chicken wings, proper hot dogs, chilli con carne, Ham eggs and roast potatoes and various other dishes on offer! All GF and most VO!! Come and dine with us. We are open every Friday from 18.00 until 21.30. "Walk ins" and bookings welcome!

While on the subject of Friday Evenings, during the month of December, the menu will turn Christmassy! Why not come and celebrate with your friends, family or colleagues and join us for a Celebratory advanced **Christmas Dinner**. Groups and smaller bookings all welcome! During this month, we will unfortunately not be able to cater for "walk ins" so please book!!

Continuing on with the Christmas theme, we have just opened bookings for our famous **Christmas Eve Afternoon Tea**. As per previous years, we will only be serving Christmas Afternoon Tea on the 24th of December. There will be only one seating at 13.00. We will advertise the menu on social media, but it will be special! Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Finally, we are opening for a special dinner on Saturday 23rd of September. There is a set menu consisting of a Grazing Board followed by Fish and Shellfish Paella and a Pear Torte to finish. We will publish the extended menu on social media in the very near future! We will not be able to take "walk ins" for this evening, so please book your table.

Tel: 01460 271598 email: cafe@thefeedstationmerriott.co.uk

Merriott Gardening Club

Our September meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th at 7.30 in the Tithe Barn. Our speaker will be from Crewkerne in Bloom and there will be refreshments and a raffle in the evening. All welcome, guests £3.

The picture shows members of Merriott Gardening Club with the tree they purchased with funds raised by the club. The tree is a Malus Royal Raindrops and was planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee 2022 of Queen Elizabeth II. The plaque can be found in front of the tree on the footpath through Manor Farm.



Gill Vines

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Merriott Heritage Trust

10 Lower Street

Open Thursdays 10 – 12

See sign on the door for confirmation of opening

Come and browse our collection of archives
or bring along anything you would like to share

Marion Biggs

Merriott Heritage Trust

Did you or any family members attend Merriott School? In September we will be putting on a display about life at the school over the years. Do you have any photos or memories of Merriott School that you would like to share with us?

Please contact us at the.merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com
or call in on a Thursday morning, 10.00-12.00.

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Merriott Tithe Barn
Saturday, October 7th

QUIZ AND PLOUGHMAN'S

SUPPER £10

7.30 - 10p.m.

- Make up a team or come on your own and we'll make up teams!
- Bar available
- Win a hamper!
- Tickets available from Budgeons and Mary Gilson 07752 893891
- All proceeds towards the Tithe Barn repair project
- Supported by Co-op Local Community Fund

Updates to Useful Contact Details

Allotment Association (Merriott) - Chris Clark	76594
Badminton Club - Merriott - Penny Harvey	07734 844956
U3A Badminton Players - Tony Barrett	73658
Bowling Club - Roger Collins (Secretary)	01935 425486 0796779835 rogcollinsatparcroft@gmail.com
Campanologists (Bell ringers) - Robert Harvey	75984

Book Review

Viral – The Search for the Origin of Covid 19

Alina Chan and Matt Ridley, 2021

For the last three years the Covid pandemic has caused havoc to the global economy, killed millions of people and sickened many millions more. It is still with us and unlikely to be eradicated. It is important to understand where and how it originated so that preparations can be made in case of another pandemic caused by another virus.

Chan, who is a specialist in genetic engineering, and Ridley, a science writer, set out to examine the evidence of the origin of Covid 19. This is no easy task because it is thought to have originated in China but the Chinese have been far from open about the circumstances.

Some evidence indicates that it may have originated in bats in caves in southern China and then transferred to miners who later entered the caves. Other evidence suggests it came via animals in a market in Wuhan, eastern central China, and yet further evidence indicates it escaped from a laboratory in Wuhan which has been collecting and genetically manipulating viruses from caves in southern China. This research has been, in part, supported by the Americans, because it is necessary as an understanding of the evolution of viruses which may cause a future pandemic.

This is a gripping story, very well told which favours the laboratory leak as the explanation of the origin of Covid 19. Everyone should be concerned.

John Bowman

Merriott Bowls Club

On 6th August Merriott Bowls Club President, John Parsons, made a presentation to Ian Kendall who is leaving Somerset. Ian, shown here with his wife Yvonne, has been a member of the club for 10 years, 5 of which he was secretary. Ian has been active in helping to maintain the club and green. His humour and expertise will be missed.



Jean Crisp



MERRIOTT MESSENGER

2024 CALENDAR

ON SALE 11 SEPT

£8

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MERRIOTT SERVICE STATION & PREMIER STORE

MERRIOTT PHARMACY

Q&CO HAIR

THE FEED STATION

AND THE MERRIOTT SUNDAY MARKETS

All sales proceeds will be used to help the Merriott Messenger magazine continue as a free newsletter delivered to over 1,000 homes in the village

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

Copy date for the October issue is 12th September.



Merriott Service Station
in association with



We would like to thank all our customers again for all the support over the last year.

We continue to keep the shop well stocked with a good choice including a vast range of price marked items to give our customers the best value. We continue with our special offer shelf. Don't forget to check out our local butchers meat, delivered fresh daily from Barrett Bros; wide range of groceries, hot food, greetings cards, gifts and toys, ice creams, coal, logs, gas, BBQ items, car accessories, newspapers, stationary etc. Post Office services and of course our popular Costa Machine! We of course sell high quality Texaco fuels with all additives and cleaning agents necessary for modern low emissions engines, and Adblue for newer vehicles. We continue to sell the E5 grade for older vehicles also.

Best Wishes
Phil & Michelle

Sponsor

Short Mat Bowls Club
meets in Merriott Village Hall
on Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm.
We play all year round, in the
warm and dry, and is suited to
men and women, boys and girls of
all ages.
More information from 01308
862203 or 07956 598894.
You will be made very welcome.

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Merriott Pharmacy Free prescription collection & delivery 01460 72222 merriottpharmacy@hotmail.com	Tom Merrick Electrical Contractor Agricultural & Industrial No Job too small NAPIT approved contractor 01460 72757 07980 686 160	Budgens MERRIOTT STORES Store Name: Budgens Merriott Store Business Address: 3, Knapp, Merriott, TA16 5NQ Landline: 01460712248	Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childcare OFSTED & PACEY registered Full/part-time hours Early years funding Between 6.00am & 6.30pm www.charlottehamlin.co.uk 01460 73361 07721 018 335	 www.thepigpen.net both the pigpen and the pigpen Click website for dates and details Over 10 years in the business
Merriott Parish Council merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk 07821 372 886 @MerriottParishCouncil	 ARB TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES All aspects of tree and garden work undertaken info@arbtreetandgarden.co.uk 01460 77605 / 07799 331 805	Allen Computer Services Sales, Repairs, Servicing, for Home & Small Business, Cloud Backup and Laptop Screen Repairs 01460 298036 www.allencomputerservices.co.uk	 NECTAR ELECTRICAL DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL 07943 278829 NectarElectrical.co.uk	Meditation & Reiki For Health & Wellbeing contact Suzy Langdon 07762314319 suzy.langdon@hotmail.com www.suzylangdon.uk
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