

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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November 2020

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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 December issue is **12th November.**

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The Feed Station - putting Merriott on the worldwide map

We are both delighted and excited to announce The Feed Station has been awarded Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2020. Based on the reviews we have received, this accolade places us in the top 10% in the world, which is some achievement and one we are immensely proud of.

Adapting to the ever-changing restrictions placed on us due to COVID-19 has certainly been a challenge, but our guests have continued to flow through our doors (masked of course!) to enjoy our selection of food and drink. As one Tripadvisor Review said:

"Simply perfect! This is difficult to review, other than to say everything was excellent; the ambience, the service, the food (of which there was an excellent variety of meals, snacks, cakes and beverages) you must book and try it for yourselves. Visited in Sept. 2020 and their systems of spacing, hygiene, attention to detail for safety were all spot on. Marvellous place."

Adrian and I look forward to welcoming you.

Louise Pearce



Photo sent in by Pat Hobbs

From Merriott to Escape to the Chateau



A very proud Orla McEvoy

If, like me, you are a fan of Dick and Angel Strawbridge as they renovate their French Chateau and share their experiences via Channel 4 TV, you may know that they recently held a competition.

The challenge was to write in and tell them what craft projects and activities had kept you going during lockdown and the prize was a trip to the Chateau.

Over a 1,500 people entered and after short-listing to six, they included one child - our granddaughter Orla!

She used to love her visits to Merriott when we lived there and we want to thank all our friends in the village who voted for her entry.

The biggest surprise - she WON!

Her amusing letter came straight from the heart of an eight year old who loves to craft, to chatter and all things French!

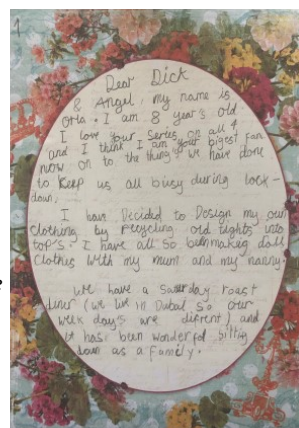
Who would have thought of describing the colour turquoise as "the colour of mermaids' tails" or making T-shirts out of old tights?!

You can read it on the website of "Escape to the Chateau".

Her prize visit will take place next year - I suppose we may see her on TV!

Ann Lawrence

First page of Orla's 4-page entry



How COVID-19 is affecting All Saints Church

Like many other charities, churches across the country have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have been hit harder than others and many are beginning to really struggle.

All Saints Church was already in a difficult position financially and the pandemic has emphasised the problems. Our normal income comes from two main sources; firstly, various kinds of **giving** and secondly **fundraising**. Although giving has remained reasonably constant through this difficult period, for which we are very grateful, fundraising has more or less stopped.

Even before the pandemic, we were struggling to meet the full cost of our expenses. All Saints Church has not held any reserves for a long time, so there is no emergency 'pot' that can be used to tide us over.

The average monthly cost of the running of the church is around £3000. This does not include any maintenance or improvement costs. It consists of insurance, electricity, gas, water, administration and operating costs. It also includes what is called the 'Parish Share'. This is the amount the parish church pays to the Diocese to cover the cost of having clergy and to contribute to the wider mission of the church.

Giving and associated payments, such as Gift Aid, together with fees for marriages and funerals, provide on average of around £2000 a month.

We therefore need to raise a further £1000 a month just to meet our normal expenses. This is usually achieved by fundraising throughout the year. Any additional costs such as repairs or replacements require further fund-

raising, donations or grants.

Currently we are able to pay our external costs such as insurance and electricity but we are unable to pay the 'Parish Share' in full. Put simply, this means that we are currently 'not paying our way'. All Saints Merriott is not alone in having this problem and the church at a Diocesan and national level has difficult decisions to make.

We do not know what the future holds, but we consider it our duty to inform the congregation and community of the seriousness of the current situation. If you have questions or suggestions, please get in touch. We will keep you updated.

*Chris Woods, PCC Treasurer
(clwoods37@gmail.com)*

Bryher's first flight

We have just returned from the Isles of Scilly after our annual break with our friends from across the road; driving down to Land's End was quite enjoyable until we reached St. Columb Major, where a 2hr diversion sent us into Truro through very residential areas! Fortunately TomTom came to the rescue and got us back to the A30 near Redruth, luckily in time for our flight to St Mary's. Our first time flying with our dog Bryher, a labradoodle, after a little gentle persuasion, she climbed the steps into the Otter Aircraft and rather reluctantly into the dog crate for the hop across the water to St. Mary's.

We found the islands much quieter than usual, many businesses not open or very curtailed. Cafés and restaurants doing take-aways - a favourite of ours was not able to meet social distancing rules so not doing their usual menu sadly, only fish and chips to takeaway. However, like here, the weather was great so good for walking and playing on the beach with Bryher. Normally we would be there in June; this visit we noticed very few Song thrushes which are usually plentiful, in fact only saw one over the fortnight. The local birdman, Willie Wagstaff, said it would be because they are moulting and go into purdah until re-feathered. Oyster Catchers were plentiful as were the Sanderlings working the tidal edge of the beaches.



Liz, Bryher and I visited St Martins which meant a boat trip, we all had to wear our face masks, hands sanitised (not the dog!) and were threatened like a school outing if we were bare faced with immediate return to St Mary's. Lunch was purchased from the bakery and eaten in the sun in the fresh air, thus fuelled we set out on a gentle stroll to the low water quay for our return. We had an enjoyable walk along the road then took a track down to the beach. Bryher loved this, a totally new experience for her and she enjoyed a paddle but didn't want to go any deeper!

After a brief wait looking across to Tresco, our boat arrived at the jetty; a few passengers disembarked, we boarded, fully masked and sanitised again, for the twenty minute trip back to St Mary's.

We had hoped to visit another of the islands called Bryher (yes, that is where our dog's name came from). However, we were foiled, waking to a foggy morning on both of our remaining days, even quieter than usual as no flights were possible. We had thoughts that we might have to return to the mainland by the notorious Scillonian, the boat that brings hardy or possibly ignorant travellers of the sometimes uncomfortable crossing from the mainland to the islands. However our prayers were answered as we awoke to a bright sunny morning with little or no wind, so planes were again arriving and leaving regularly. We had packed and cleaned, donated surplus food to a grateful neighbour, put our bags in the garden and vacated as instructed by 9.30 am.

Lastly we strolled down to the Green and ate our last breakfast picnic then read the paper until it was time for our lift to the airport and to say farewell for another year.

Peter Fisk

Shoe-Box Appeal back on track

We are happy and relieved to say that this year's Shoe-Box Appeal is finally going ahead! Preparations have obviously been very challenging, but COVID-compliant systems are in place, and we are going ahead as usual.

This year, with the added problems of OVID-19, there is an even more urgent need to help some of the desperately deprived people in Romania. Our boxes are such a source of joy to them!

Leaflets giving details of items to include in boxes are available in the Pharmacy

and also directly from us.

We would also be more than happy to receive 'fillers' for boxes, or donations to help with their transportation. Sometimes it can be fun for a few people to club together to make up boxes!

A huge thank you to several people who have already given us generous donations, and 'fillers'. These are so much appreciated, especially as we had to cancel our coffee morning in September.

We are happy to receive completed

boxes, fillers or donations at any time.

The final date for receiving boxes is **Saturday 14th November**. They can be dropped off to Beryl Virgin 12, Higher Beadon, Merriott Tel: 74917 or to Beryl Bellamy 35, Shiremoor Hill, Merriott Tel: 74574.

We would also be very grateful for any empty, medium-sized shoe-boxes.

Thank you so much for your interest and support.

The Shoe-Box team

The children have been busy

Autumn is upon us and the children have been observing the changes around them. This time of year brings so much colour and we are thankful for the beauty around us. Our Year 1 children went to Abbott Orchard and helped to harvest the apples. The children thoroughly enjoyed apple picking. We'd like to thank Mr Mitchell, for letting us help him pick the apples.

Our harvest festival this year is a little different; we are sharing a video with our parents, showing the activities the pupils have been doing in school. Our families were able to take their harvest donations to All Saints Church to support the Lord's Larder. Harvest is such a special time - a time where we can be thankful for all we have and share what we have with others.

'Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.' Maya Angelou

As part of Black History Month, we have been discussing equality in school. We have been inspired by those who have taken action to make changes so that everyone has the same rights. We have thought about what actions we can take to ensure that everyone is treated fairly, not only in our school community, but in our world. One of the books we have shared is 'I Am One' by Susan Verde. It shows how one small action can lead to many more, such as only needing one seed to start a garden.

*Miss A. Higginbotham
Executive Headteacher
Merriott First School*



A PART-TIME TREASURER is required to record the books and accounts for a small Property Management Company. Must be computer literate with knowledge of spreadsheets etc. The job would be ideal for someone with some Accounts knowledge who would enjoy 1-2 hrs per week working from home. For further information please contact: Peter Fisk email: peter@petefisk1935.plus.com

Liz Fisk



A Fun Trivia Fact:

About 700 grapes go into one bottle of wine.

Source: Good Housekeeping

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Pre-school children settling in well

September the 3rd saw all staff alongside other educational settings in the area complete our Paediatric first aid training which was a little 'different' due to the restrictions in place, but it was informative and essential to our business nonetheless.

Pre-school opened on the 7th September with many new and additional safety procedures in place to ensure all staff, children and parents remain safe. We have implemented a new drop-off and collection procedure, the wearing of masks and face shields, alongside social distancing signage and floor markings that are now bright, clear and more inviting.



The pre-school has welcomed over 30 families this September, which considering the circumstances is incredible.

The children have settled in well after only 4 short weeks which is due to the preparation of parents and the calming nature of staff. Many children have not left their parents side, mixed or socialised with any other children their own age in over 6 months; so the fact that they have all settled and separating from carers is no mean feat. Parents you should feel immensely proud of your children.

Half-term is fast approaching so we are already preparing for Halloween activities, pumpkin hunts and spooky story sessions.

We have a new committee (information will be posted on our Facebook page). Thank you to those that volunteered in what I can only imagine to be another tricky, every changing academic year as we progress through this pandemic.

Thank you again to everyone for bearing with us during new and ever-changing

rules and regulations; it's very much appreciated. Please continue to support our recycling of clothing, oral hygiene products, crisp packets and dish washer packaging as this will be our only means of additional funds for the foreseeable future.

May I also say thank you to Mr and Mrs Charles for the canvas they kindly donated that shall be placed up in pre-school for our children to learn about Art, The World, Locations, Colours, Travel and so much more.



Jenny Hayne



Tail Mill

Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery to 3 trees within a conservation area.

20/02765/TCA. Awaiting decision

Waterloo Farm, Bull Bridge Lane

Removal of 6 metres of hedgerow to allow access for the replacement of water main. 20/02543/HDG Status: Decided

Bowood View, Church St

Agricultural building to store hay/dry feeds, implements, machinery and agricultural workshop. 20/01230/FUL Status: Approved

Marion Biggs

RAFT (refugeeaidfromtaunton) volunteers cannot receive many of the donations generously given before the advent of the coronavirus, partly because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Listed below are the items needed at present:

1. LOWER BODY washable clothing for men, women and children - trousers, jeans, leggings and women's long skirts - for refugees in Greece.
NEW unopened hygiene products – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, deodorant, sanitary wear, nappies, baby wipes - urgently needed on Lesbos following the Moria camp fire.

2. NEW clothing and footwear for men, women and children, including underwear and socks (the Turkish Government refuses to allow used clothing to pass through its country to Syria).
NEW blankets, eg knitted from squares - gratefully accepted for Syria.
USED unwanted crutches, walkers and wheelchairs in reasonable condition (they are allowed through Turkey to Syria).

3. Sleeping bags, tents, blankets, backpacks, teenage boys' clothing and footwear are still needed in Nth. France.
Raft cannot store products not immediately required, eg bedding, household items, as it is not known when they will be able to distribute them.
Please contact me on 01460 271358 to donate. Thank you to all supporters.

Geraldine Downey

Lee Donohoe
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ARK at Egwood CIC - Health and Wellbeing Workshops



We are delighted to announce that we are now offering 6-week health

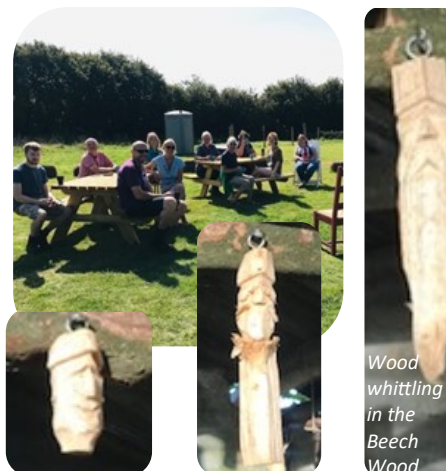
and wellbeing workshops in conjunction with Somerset Skills and Learning. The first of which will start on **Thursday 5th Nov.** and will run each Thursday from 10am-3pm. There will be a further 3 blocks over the next few months, with activities that include horticulture, arts and rural crafts, nutrition and cooking, mindfulness, Tai Chi and drumming. Courses are free, subject to being over

19yrs and being a Somerset resident for the last 3 years.

If you are interested in joining us, please call Amanda on 01460 391974. Places are currently restricted due to COVID-19, in order to enable us to operate safely under current guidelines.

We will also be offering ad hoc taster sessions and other workshops, which will be posted on social media @arkategwood and our website www.arkategwood.com.

Amanda Bell



The wonders of Rose Hips by CB Plants



Seen in hedgerows from August to December, rose hips are the fruit of the wild rose and their bright red colour shines out like jewels on a dull day.

There are several similar species of wild rose in Britain, but in the south the one usually seen is the Dog Rose, *Rosa canina*. There is an ancient story that the

root of the plant could cure a rabid dog bite. In the 1st century, Roman physician Pliny the Elder told the story of a woman who received a message in a dream to send her son a decoction of wild rose root to treat a mad dog bite. A more likely reason for the name is from 'Dag Rose'. According to Oxford Languages, the late Middle English 'dag' meaning, pierce or stab and the Old French *dague* meaning long dagger, describing the large thorns along every branch.

Rose hips are known to have high levels of vitamin C, reportedly four times as much as blackcurrants and twenty times more than oranges. During World War II, when imported oranges were unavailable, the Ministry of Health organised national collections of ripe rose hips. School teachers, Scout and Guide groups, Women's Voluntary Service and

Women's Institute groups were all enlisted to organise collections in their areas. The collected fruits were sent to selected firms to process and then sold in chemist shops as 'National Rose Hip Syrup'.

Rose hips have been eaten when other fruits were scarce, made into preserves, jellies, soup, wine and herbal tea. The centre of the fruit contains many small hairs which are extremely irritant. To use the fruit, it first needs to be simmered in water until soft and then strained through a double layer of muslin to ensure all the hairs are removed.

The fruits are a valuable nutrient rich food for wildlife. During cold spells, birds will feed on them, particularly the thrushes, blackbirds fieldfare and redwing. They are also collected by mice, voles and squirrels to be stored safely away for winter.

Catherine Bond

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Poppy Appeal Arrangements



What we do depends on the current government guidance, local circumstances and a limited amount of Poppy stock due to

lack of production this year. Given that the majority of our Volunteers are no longer in the first flush of youth, we will not be carrying out house to house collections or having tables in our two local Supermarkets Waitrose and Lidl this year. The British Legion is working with the larger major outlets (the likes of ASDA and Tesco) who will be able to provide Poppies and sort the cash. Also with COVID-19 protective screens installed in most shops it is difficult to find the additional counter space needed for Poppy

Boxes and tins.

Poppy Boxes and tins will be available in the following locations:

Hinton St George, Our Shop and Post Office
Merriott Service Station and Spar
North Perrott Garden Centre
Wynnstay (Country Wide) North St Crewkerne
Misterton Garage Middle Street
Texaco Three Counties Garage South St Crewkerne
Crewkerne Town Hall
Grande Interiors, George Precinct Crewkerne
The King William Barn Street Crewkerne (Under special Arrangements)
Haselbury Mill Lakeside Restaurant

In addition, the following schools will

have Poppy Boxes that parents can ask their children to obtain Poppies from:

Hinton St George Primary School
Merriott First School
Ashlands School Crewkerne
Wadham School Crewkerne
Maiden Beech School Crewkerne
St Bartholomew's First School Crewkerne
Misterton First School
Perrott Hill School

Poppy Wreaths are being supplied to Hinton St George and Merriott Parish Councils, The Parish Churches of Hinton St George, Merriott, Lopen and Dinnington.

Bob King

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Crewkerne and District
 The Royal British Legion

All Saints Church News

Remembrance Sunday

This year's Remembrance service at will be held outside at the War Memorial in the churchyard. This is because the church is not large enough to accommodate all of us safely. So it will be a shorter service, but starting at the usual time and with an Act of Remembrance and 2 minute silence. We feel that it is important to go ahead with this what-

ever the weather!

On Armistice Day (**Wed 11th**) Revd Nick will also host a morning service on Zoom. Joining details will come out in our regular emails, but please contact Revds. Nick or Bob if you are not on that circulation but would like to attend.

Julia Hicks

November Services

Sunday 8th Remembrance Sunday

10.50am Remembrance Service at War Memorial

Sunday 15th

10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 22nd

10.30 am All Age Service with Baptism

Sunday 29th

Advent Communion Service, St George's Church (No service in Merriott)

Quiz - in which year did these historical events happen?

- November 1** - Charles II of Spain died and was succeeded by Philip V, resulting in the War of Spanish Succession.
- November 1** - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.
- November 6** - The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.
- November 9** - The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.
- November 11** - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests
- November 14** - The first experimental blood transfusion took place in Britain, utilizing two dogs.
- November 19** - Puerto Rico was discovered by Columbus during his second voyage to the New World.
- November 28** - Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female in the British House of Commons.

The years to choose from are: 1493 1992 1919 1989
 1962 1700 1995 1666
 Answers - see page 7

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COVID-19 SECURE

South Petherton WI

Our Committee is still meeting on Zoom to discuss and plan ways to keep our members involved in our institute. We are not yet able to confirm if we will be able to hold our birthday party in November but the plans are in place for when we get the go ahead. In the meantime, we are preparing some unusual goody bags for members – a mix of treats and challenges.

Our choice for a commemoration tree is a variety of hawthorn with striking leaves, beautiful crimson, single flowers in spring and clusters of red berries in winter – a magnet for bees, other insects and birds including winter migrants.

We are delighted to have been joined by two new members, but always welcome more. If you would like to join or find out more please contact our Secretary Jacky Spence on jfshchapel1060@gmail.com

Jan Kemp

Merriott Gardening Club



Firstly I should like to thank the outgoing members of the Merriott Gardening Committee for their unstinting service over the past years. Without them Merriott would not have had such a successful club. I hope that as we move on we, the new committee, will take

the club forward to new experiences.

Our AGM was held, socially distanced, back in September, put back from April, and three new members were duly elected. Of course in these strange times, meetings of the club cannot happen in the traditional sense, but we do hope, in the near future, to be offering some sort of event that people can safely engage with.

For many of us, I am sure our gardens have offered us solace, peace, enrichment of the soul and hope for the future, over these past months. My garden certainly benefited from the early Spring attention, which showed in Summer's spectacular display.

Now into Autumn, as colours change and leaves fall, I am looking at the garden and planning for next year. A new season for my garden and the Gardening Club.

Helen Tre-Vett, 01460 78204

A Fun Trivia Fact:

The 100 folds in a chef's hat (a toque) represent 100 ways to cook an egg. The pleats used to signify a chef's level of experience, like the number of ways he or she knew how to prepare eggs.

Source: Good Housekeeping



Quiz Answers

1.1700	4.1989	7.1493
2.1995	5.1992	8.1919
3.1962	6.1666	



Gardening quote of the month

Sent in by Mo Frampton

How sad would be November
if we had no knowledge of
the spring!

Edwin Way Teale

Circle of the Seasons, 1953

Conflicting Proverbs

A proverb is an age old gem of wisdom passed down over the generations.

However, here are some where the ancients appear to have disagreed:

Look before you leap.

He who hesitates is lost.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Out of sight, out of mind.

The pen is mightier than the sword.

Actions speak louder than words.

Birds of a feather flock together.

Opposites attract.

Many hands make light work.

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

You're never too old to learn.

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

It's better to be safe than sorry.

Nothing ventured nothing gained.

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.

Don't judge a book by its cover.

Clothes make the man

More haste, less speed.

Time waits for no man.

Peter Bryans

Another star invades the morning sky

Another star invades the morning sky,
Not bright as yet but 'twas from me begat
And will flourish by and by.
From nothing; less than a puff of air
He grew. And against belief
I see a son; An heir; A leaf upon
Upon a fruitful tree. I care
More for life than ere this joyous time.
Fulfilled, I dreamed and why not so?
Whilst him? He lies sleeping.

David Murray



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