

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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July 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 August issue is 12th July.

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July over the years in the Merriott Messenger

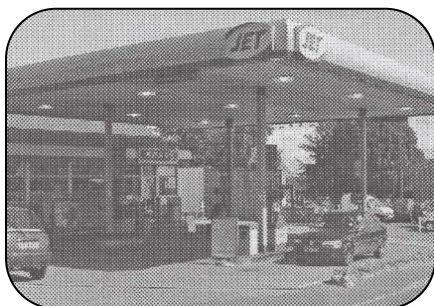
Having run out of projects to pass the time during lockdown, I thought I would browse through my back copies of the Merriott Messenger. I have a copy of every one dating back to October 2006. I did have a copy of all the issues ever since the first one in 1983 but I donated the earlier ones to Merriott Heritage Trust. Some people would call me a nerd, I prefer the term historian!

The Messenger started with a single A4 sheet of text only and was published twice a year. I think you will agree it has improved since then.

July 2007

Only four pages and a few grainy black and white photos

Broadway Service Station announced it would be operating Merriott Post Office. It would also start selling fuel again which they had stopped due to high fuel costs and price competition in the area. *Two services that are still much used today.*



July 2008 Travellers in Egwood

Concern was expressed about the family of travellers who had moved into a paddock adjoining Egwood. Somerset County Council was taking legal steps to evict the family and was adamant that a site for travellers should not be established at Egwood.

July 2010 The gypsy encampment on Egwood.

The family was asking for leave to appeal against eviction—*two years later.*

Merriott Allotment Association was established. Thanks went to Nigel Whitcombe for the use of his land and the Parish Council for making the project possible. *Still going strong.*

July 2013

Now eight pages and in colour!

Presentation Night for Merriott Youth Football Club was attended by hundreds of people. Paul Lawrence thanked all **22 teams**, their coaches, managers, parents and players.



Most July issues contain a report of the successful Church Fair held each year.



July 2017

Merriott Wide Garage Sale

Over 30 homes in Merriott held sales on their drives and other places. It was a great community event which raised money for "Crewkerne Relay for Life" towards Cancer Research.

July 2018

New play installation opening on the Merriott Recreation Field

The long awaited play project installation nears completion and adds eight further items bringing balance to the play area.

Over the years the Messenger has received much praise for its representation of village life. The editorial team hopes it will continue for many years to come.

Marion Biggs

Garden visitors are allowed!

As I sit in our conservatory enjoying my early morning cup of tea I realise how fortunate we are to be "locked-in" in Merriott!



I see a flock of sparrows who have been visiting our feeders all winter and who have now returned with a crop of young-

sters, fluttering and pleading to be fed! Likewise the goldfinches who have also been regular visitors to the Niger feeders - two pairs who have just raised their broods again with youngsters also desperate for food.

We have a pair of blackbirds, the female is busily building a new nest in the overgrown clematis, which the head garden-er wants to cutback, whilst her mate does very little to help (this applies to both bird and man!)

Earlier we have been visited by a heron who thought a pool of goldfish was a good larder, so we have netted the pond which 'cooked the goose'! Also a wood

pigeon, who we watched building a nest in the holly tree, had a visit from the local raven who fancied a breakfast of egg. It was disturbed as we found one egg with a fully formed chick below the nest, as someone once said "nature raw in tooth and claw".

Ah! there goes our local starling with new building material for a 2nd brood, the first ones have been reared and left the nest so we shall be able to see murmurations over the moors in the autumn!

Let us hope like the starling, we are able leave our nests before autumn!

Peter Fisk

Two places I have 'revisited' during lockdown. I'm sure everyone has such memories to brighten dreary days.



Image taken from oxfordshirevillages.co.uk

Little Rollright Church

I can recall few details to describe the lostness of the place, its unknown hiddedness as it was then. The privateness I felt, finding my own way there. The smell of liturgical dampness as I pushed the stiff door. A cardboard box with hymnbooks in. The misty air, hardly changed in centuries. No village round. Just a manor, a farm. Long grass to wade through. A good place for God to come to rest in.

Cudden Point

A spine of rocks, neatly dovetailed to one another as they climb carefully down to sea level. Rocks coloured by sun-bright lichen, their cracks decorated with tufts of fine grass and sea-pinks, shivering in the hot breeze. Waves wash and splash unstopably far below and in the distance the silhouette of St. Michael's Mount floats on the water.

By Janet Lailey



West Bassetts Higher Street

Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery to 17 trees within a conservation area20/01277/TCA Status: Application permitted

Springfield House and Hamstones Church

Street Application to vary condition 2(approved plans), 7(access), 10 (visibility) 19/00925FUL to adjust layouts of new build plots 1 and 2 Status: Approved

Marion Biggs



Merriott Gardening Club

Another month has passed and we have yet to have guidance from the Government regarding gathering for events, but, of course, as soon as we have the go ahead we will let you know.

Groves at Bridport and Beaminster are now open and have told the Club that they are honouring your Gardening Club's member's card until April 2021, so don't forget to use it as there is 10% discount on production of your card.

In the meantime, enjoy your garden and, for all those who have a vegetable patch, the fruits of your labour will soon be ready for picking and eating - there's nothing like your own produce!

Barbara 72298

The Merriott Messenger received this email the other day:

Sequel to 1962 Hillman Super Minx

I was surprised to hear the car is still on the road. I also heard about it from David Gibbs via Sue Osborne, who runs the Merriott genealogy site in Australia..

My Dad sold the car in 1994 to a local person together with the log book and invoice from when he purchased it in 1962. I had often thought about the car and wondered if it was still around.

I have been in correspondence with Zack in Chelmsford, a semi - professional motor historian who bought the car in 2017 and hopes to restore it.

Mary Paull



A message from All Saints



Back to normal. These are words that we have started to hear with more regularity. A 'New Normal' is another phrase on people's lips. But what kind of 'normal' do we want?

By the time you read this, I expect that further COVID restrictions will have been lifted. It might be that by now, access to our churches for some activities such as funerals (with small numbers in attendance) and opening for private prayer will be possible. A return to all that we were doing in our churches before March still seems quite a way off.

These extraordinary times have focussed our minds on the question; 'What is the church for?' By church, I mean the PEOPLE who gather in God's name and seek God's will. Our buildings and churchyards are hugely important to us and the wider community. They are historic and beautiful places of prayer and peace. But they are animated by the prayer and worship of the people. With the *people* stuck in their homes, what kind of church do we have? Are we stronger or weaker because of this crisis? What has it done to our faith?

Much kindness has emerged in this village. It has always been there of course, just needing a prompt to burst into full flower. When we go back to normal, what do we want to hang onto? The oft quoted phrase 'Be the change you wish to see', has never been truer for us all.

Rev Bob Hicks 76406

Merriottteers, our Parish continues to need you!

We've all seen such a great community spirit throughout lockdown. Clapping for all key staff, neighbours shopping and preparing food for the vulnerable, sewing face masks, scrub bags and scrubs, cutting grass for those unable. What a fantastic outpouring of kindness and support from our wonderful village.

My name is Nikki and last year I was given the responsibility of "Parish Path Liaison Officer" (PPLO). There wasn't much to do when I took on the post but as we leapt into spring and I was just about to start getting things organised, along came lockdown!

We currently have a team of volunteers that look after designated paths within the parish of Merriott but unfortunately some have had to retire, which has left us short and a number of paths no longer have keepers.

Please could you carry on the lockdown support in Merriott by becoming one of our pathway volunteers? There are no fixed hours or jobs to do., just continuing to do the things we've been doing throughout this awful time and for many of us, what we've always done, enjoying walking the paths of Merriott.

Please call, text or email me for more information and remember; "Your Village Needs You!"

Many thanks in anticipation.

Nikki Rochford

07870 337 684, nikkirochford@hotmail.com

Merriott Heritage Trust

Please note our contact details are:

Tel: 01460 74574, Post: 35 Shiremoor Hill, Merriott

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

Beryl Bellamy, Secretary

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Thank you

To whoever has brightened up our village by leaving these kind gifts for anyone lucky enough to find them.

The message reads:

"Here's a little gift for you to take home. I hope it makes you smile. Have a nice day.

Facebook Random Acts of Crochet Kindness"

Paula Bateman

Gardening quote of the month



Sent in by Mo Frampton

"When the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy, there is always the garden."

Minnie Aumonier



THE BARN, Merriott

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In which year did these July events happen?

Match the events to the year:

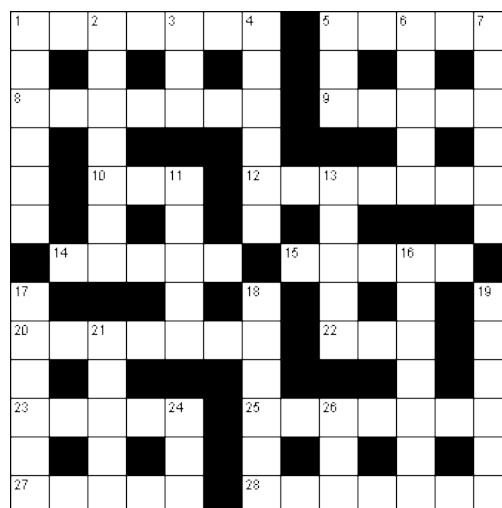
- Charles Darwin presented his paper on "The Origin of Species".
- Hong Kong is handed over to China.
- Death of the Roman Emperor Hadrian who ordered the building of the wall across northern England to keep out the barbarian Scottish tribes.
- British Parliament passed a law banning the sale of alcohol to under 18s.
- King Henry VIII looks on as his flagship Mary Rose sinks in the Solent.
- Neil Armstrong is the first man to walk on the moon.
- The world's first test tube baby is born.
- England wins the World Cup at Wembley Stadium.
- Rationing ends in Britain.
- The Cenotaph in Whitehall London is unveiled.
- The inaugural Lawn Tennis Championship is held at Wimbledon.
- It was confirmed that the Stone of Scone was to be returned to Scotland.

- A. 138 B. 1923 C. 1877 D. 1545
 E. 1969 F. 1838 G. 1997 H. 1920
 I. 1966 J. 1978 K. 1945

Answers can be found on page 7.

Marion Biggs

Crossword - missing words



Across

- speak louder than words (7)
- Pieces of (5)
- Trade (7)
- The Holy (5)
- the lion (3)
- Lead by (7)
- A little rough around the ... (5)
- Last but not (5)
- Time is of the (7)
- Tic-Tac ... (3)
- A playing field (5)
- Sorely (7)
- your bets (5)
- Many happy (7)

Down

- Question and (6)
- pink (7)
- The ... and only (3)
- You can't beat the (6)
- Chicken and (3)
- the nettle (5)
- Fortune (6)
- A drop in the (5)
- Secret (5)
- Helter (7)
- Health, ... and happiness (6)
- late than never (6)
- Jack of all ... (6)
- by the ball (5)
- Let sleeping dogs (3)
- ... his match (3)

Strange but true

It deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.



The need for more trees

Trees are an important part of our scenery and provide many benefits to society. About 13% of the land area of the United Kingdom (UK) is covered in trees, with a larger percentage in Scotland.

This has not always be the case. 1,000 years ago, about 15% of the UK was covered in trees, but by the beginning of the 20th century this had dropped to about 5%. Much of the decline was caused by the use of timber for the Navy, for building construction and for fuel.



Timber felling in Scotland

Just after the First World War, in 1919, the Government created the Forestry Commission with a remit to increase the area of forestry to provide timber as a strategic reserve and to supply the domestic need for timber for pulp for paper and cardboard, and for construction. The Forestry Commission managed to increase tree planting, substantially in Scotland and northern England so that by 1980 the area in forestry in the UK had reached 9%. Much of this new forest was in conifer plantations which would

grow on the poorer uplands available for forestry. Many now view these plantations as unattractive and a poor environment for wildlife. Trees take several decades to mature and the forests first planted by the Forestry Commission were not ready for felling until late in the 20th century. Many are now being replaced with a mixture of conifer and broad-leaved trees where this is appropriate.

The UK is one of the least forested countries in Europe. The UK is also the second behind China in terms of the value of timber imports per year – costing £8.3 billion in 2018. This is not because trees do not grow well here, but largely because trees have been under-appreciated for what they provide to society. Also the lengthy time between planting and gaining any benefit – in most case at least 20 years – means that those with money to invest, including Government, find other much more immediate ways of gaining a return on investment.

It is now appreciated that trees have multiple benefits which include:

- A source of materials for paper, packaging and timber for construction.
- A means of taking carbon dioxide out of the air and storing it for decades maybe centuries. Trees are seen as a very important contribution to combatting climate change.
- A major contribution to human well-being by providing attractive scenery

and a successful environment for wildlife.

- A major contribution to retaining water in the uplands and to preventing soil erosion. Even trees in the lowlands reduce the rate of run-off into rivers so reducing the risk of flooding to houses and businesses.



An English Landscape – the beauty of trees

The last three benefits are seen as 'Public Goods' - that is goods which are beneficial to all of society and for which no individual pays, except via the Government purse.

Whilst trees have been important for fuel, this may be much less desirable in future if we wish to have clean air and low emissions of carbon dioxide. Wood burning stoves are no longer encouraged!

Over coming years we can expect to see many more trees planted all over the country. Changes to Government support for land use to landowners, will be away from area payments and towards payment for public goods.

John Bowman

“ I would like to thank Peter Bryans for the walk in last month's Messenger and the time and trouble he had taken to provide such a detailed map and descriptive walk directions. (The Egwood Puddle had dried out and the mosquitoes flown). Apart from being surprised at how challenging some of the stiles were to negotiate and wondering a little on the homeward hill climb because I was doing the walk from memory, the circuit was a complete joy. More please? ”

Serina Burland

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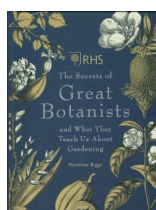


Nature at its very best



With thanks to Barbara Byford, John Bowman and Steve Bateman for sending in these stunning images of beautiful flowers in their gardens. Please do send us any you may have for inclusion in future issues: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

Book Review: The Secrets of Great Botanists and What They Teach Us About Gardening



By Matthew Biggs first published 2018 under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society

During the pandemic many people have spent more time in their gardens than usual. Generally gardens have not been tended so well for many years.

When in your garden have you wondered where your much loved blooms originally came from and how they got to be in the UK? The answers to these questions for many of the best known and unusual plants can be found in this book which is full of lovely colour illustrations.

Each of thirty five botanists are consid-

ered chronologically starting with Pedanius Dioscorides (c. AD 40 - 90) who was a herbalist with the Roman Army in present day Turkey and who is the 'Father of Pharmacology'. The subsequent botanists include Carl Linnaeus from Sweden (1707 - 1778) who developed the plant classification system which is still used today, Joseph Banks (1743 - 1820) who travelled for 3 years with James Cook to South America, New Zealand and Australia, and who later had a major hand in developing the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, and Gregor Mendel (1822 - 1884), the Czech monk who's experiments in plant hybridisation laid the foundations of modern genetics. More recent living botanists highlighted

are Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones from Wales who have visited over 30 countries in Asia and Latin America seeking unusual plants to grow in the UK and who have imported a giant Dahlia from Mexico which is now very popular. The final botanist included is Patrick Blanc from France who is the modern innovator of vertical gardening and 'green walls' which are now becoming popular in urban areas where space is scarce and as a means of improving air quality. For each botanist there is a life story, their plant discoveries and legacy, and what present day gardeners can learn from them.

John Bowman



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Facebook

Merriott Social Venue - Run by the Community for the Community

Here at Merriott Social Venue we aim to provide a service for the community. Welcoming everyone to use our facilities, be it a weekly club, fitness group, quiet drink, sports match, free music events, bingos, indoor markets or other events. Please look out for more details in the Merriott Messenger, on posters or on Facebook.

Looking for a space to hold an event, party, wedding, christening, or birthday? Our function room is the perfect home for any celebration, please don't hesitate to contact us for more details.



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What's on weekly:

Monday & Tuesday - Karate Club
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Opening Hours:

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Friday 7.00pm - 12.00am
Saturday 4.00pm - 12.00am
Sunday 12.00pm - 3.00pm
& 7.00pm - 11.00pm
Other times by arrangement

Poem by David Murray

sent in by Geraldine Downey



Damn the man; His beans are long
And straight. What's wrong
With mine? They'd win no prize.
They curl and look a dwarfish size.
They're not even a luscious green
Like his. Nor fat. Nor lean
And lack the look of food.
His proudly hang. Looking good

Enough to eat at any table.

His green fingers, gnarled and able

Grow leeks as tall as thighs.

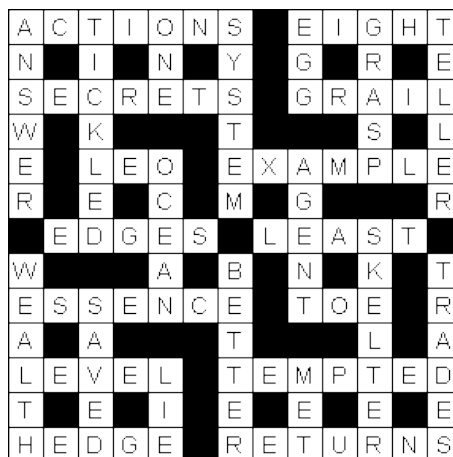
His peas are green as mine own eyes.

Potatoes sacked against the wall

To nourish him in winter's fall;

Whilst my half sack will soon be gone

Long before the season's done.



Quiz Answers

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. 1838 | 7. 1978 |
| 2. 1997 | 8. 1966 |
| 3. 138 | 9. 1954 |
| 4. 1923 | 10. 1920 |
| 5. 1545 | 11. 1877 |
| 6. 1969 | 12. 1996 |

A sign of our times



A quiet moment on the Clapper Hay field 'dog walking track' shows how the 2m social distancing has been observed over the past months. The normal single path worn by many a foot has become a well-established tramline.

Steve Bateman



Somerset Sight
Working with people
who lack sight, not vision

Do you have a few hours to spare a month to visit someone in your area

Being visually impaired can be very isolating and to help with this we are looking for people to befriend someone in your local area who needs a little company just to sit and chat over a cup of tea or maybe go out and visit a Garden Centre or Help with correspondence and maybe some personal shopping

Volunteering for Somerset Sight is a very rewarding and fun thing to do and many of our Volunteers and visually impaired people make lasting friendships.

We give full training and reimburse all reasonable expenses

If you feel that this is something you would like to do then please contact:

Avril Johnson Volunteer Visiting Co-Ordinator on
01823 366143

To all 'Sew and Sew's'

Just to let the Merriott Sewers know that they can have a well deserved rest.

After supplying over 800 items we have got to the stage that the local hospitals, and care homes now have adequate stocks. Recently we have distributed some of the last remaining items with a few kept back for emergencies.

Thanks go to all the ladies who have sewn, knitted (crocheted), supplied and distributed. A fantastic achievement by our village.

Paul Fisher



Lash Lift and Tint

Emphasize your eyes, add volume, length and lift without the need for eyelash extensions.

Similar to eyelash perming, the treatment is quick and lasts for approximately 6 weeks, giving the illusion of longer, thicker lashes and really opening up the eyes.

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