

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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February 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 March issue is 12th February.

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Feed Station named the best café in England for cyclists

Congratulations!

The Feed Station in Merriott has been voted England's top cycling café in the UK's annual Cyclist Café of the Year awards by a panel of expert judges, including celebrity Angellica Bell

The Merriott based café stood out among its competition for its attention to detail and was a clear winner for Cycling UK's judges.

Angellica said: "This is a lovely café, full of character. It only opened last year and has already had an enormous impact on the local community."

The idea for the Feed Station was born several thousand kilometres away from Somerset on the slopes of Mount Teide in Tenerife where Tour de France winners Chris Froome and Geraint Thomas trained.

Its four founders and, of course, keen cyclists David & Jenny Wilson and Adrian & Louise Pearce discussed their plans as they trained in the wheel tracks of some of Britain's most successful cyclists.

Jenny Wilson said, "I remember so well, right at the beginning of our journey cycling in Tenerife with many extremely able cyclists, including Team Sky's David Lopez, hearing about their experiences in cycling cafes.

We would grind up the island's mountain at the back of the group full of chatter and excitement, full of ideas for our cycling café and never could we have imagined at that time that we would win this award today!"



The Feed Station resides in a former grade II listed Sunday school which was lovingly restored by the four friends, and opened in December 2018."

The location came up by chance, as Jenny explains, "we were looking for that

perfect café stop en-route where we would be welcomed in our lycra, safe bike storage, great coffee and bacon rolls with perhaps a wood burner in the winter months to warm our bones - we didn't find it. So, we created it and the Feed Station was born!"

The Feed Station Team



Spring has sprung in Merriott.
Photo sent in by Liz Fisk

CORRECTION and apologies to the landowner

The footpath walk offered in the December edition invited people to choose between crossing the stream near Haselbury Mill via the small footbridge, or staying to the right of the stream - this is incorrect. Please ensure you cross over the bridge only, to avoid the possibility of trespass.

Steve Bateman

Now that Church Farm is no longer collecting milk bottle tops, does anyone know who is? This recycling initiative raises vital funds for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance charity.

Please contact: Eric Vose, ervose@sky.com
tel: 01460 351857



Eric Vose

News from the Merriott Heritage Trust

Part 2 Cathy Herriman's Foresight

In Part 1 of my review of the Trust's first five years I focused on our Benefactor, Cathy Herriman (December 2019). In this issue the subject is Cathy's aims in setting up the Trust, together with the Trustees' achievements to date.

It was Cathy Herriman's will that a charitable trust be established to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment of the village she cared so much about. She bequeathed 80% of her residual estate for this purpose, discussed the terms of the Deed with her chosen founder Trustees, and approved its name shortly before she died.

The Trustees were asked to ensure that the Winnower and Scratter were restored, as the only known pieces of agricultural equipment surviving from Moorlands Farm, and that the Well to the rear of No 18 Lower Street be examined. The Winnower is still being restored and work on the Scratter has not yet started. The Well was only rediscovered in recent years, although the Best family were still using it in the 1950s. Camera examination showed that it has not been filled in and its water remains clear and unpolluted. It is still capped by the massive piece of hamstone, which ensured that wagons

could safely pass over it.

For some years Cathy had expressed a strong interest in establishing a small village museum, archive storage and study room for local research purposes and the current Trustees are considering how this might be achieved.

Since its establishment, the Trust has provided grants to the Church and to the Village Hall for restoration and repairs, providing typically 50% of the cost. As noted in my last feature, the Trust now maintains Broadway Garden. It also maintains Shyners Lane, having done major work initially to return the footpath to its original width and cut back overhanging branches and brambles. The growth of the Somerset vegetation can make this task difficult and expensive.

One major achievement has been cataloguing the Merriott archives held by Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre, quite a lot of which was collected by Queenie Dodge and bequeathed to the Museum after her death in 1997. An index of material is now available for reference on the Museum's computer.

Our own archives, based on the records Cathy left us, are gradually increasing thanks to donations from residents of various documents, artefacts and photo-

graphs. We have, for instance, copies of the Tythe map of 1842 and its associated "Apportionment", which gives comprehensive details of ownership and tenancies of the time. Our very fragile "Rent Book" from the 1870s illustrates the changes which took place after the Tythe survey. We also have an archive of photographs of the village taken in the last few years, which can be compared with those earlier ones in Crewkerne Museum; even in this short time changes to the village have been recorded.

Finally, the Trust is building up an archive of House Deeds. Deeds are no longer needed for transaction purposes as properties are registered with H.M. Land Registry and it is a tragedy that so many are being thrown away with the loss for ever of important historical information. Please, if you no longer want or need your deeds do pass them on to the Trust, who will preserve them carefully. Even copies of Deeds would be a welcome addition. But we must not forget that we are making history now and "modern" artefacts and pictures must also be preserved for the future if we are to continue to record our history.

Tony Hobbs (Former Chairman)



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Salary Grade 14 – Point 4 (£18,426 pa pro rata)

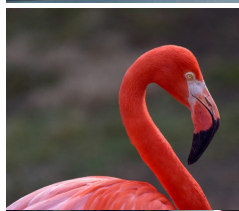
We are seeking to appoint a friendly, conscientious, reliable and self-motivated individual to join our team to help ensure that our school and learning environment is the best it can be.

You will be responsible for the security, caretaking and general maintenance needs of the sites and to ensure the schools are a safe and secure environment for pupils, teachers and visitors

Our schools are friendly and inclusive at the centre of the village communities.

As a school committed to safeguarding, an enhanced DBS will be needed before a person can be appointed.

Please contact Miss Anne Higginbotham, Executive Headteacher for an application form and further details; email: office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk



'Travels with Cuthbert'

**A talk about a journey through
Spain and Portugal in a Campervan
7pm Saturday 28th March
Tithe Barn, Merriott**

Revs Bob and Julia will be giving an illustrated talk about their sabbatical adventures from the Spring of 2019. Particular highlights will include birds and nature, Holy Week, the work of A Rocha (a Christian conservation charity), flamenco, flamingos and nuns!

Tickets: Adults £7 U16s £3

available from The Rectory 01460 76406 /
bobhicks66@gmail.com

Ticket includes Spanish nibbles.
Drinks available to buy. Raffle.

*Proceeds to be split between
A Rocha and our churches*

Bob Hicks

News from All Saints



Services in Feb

Sun 2nd 10.30am Sung Communion
Sun 9th 10.30am Parish Communion
Sun 16th 10.30am Family Service
Sun 23rd 9am Holy Communion
Sun 23rd 4pm **Café Church** at Merriott Tithe Barn
Wed 26th 6pm **Ash Wednesday** Communion service (start of Lent)

Date for your diary: We have a short 'all age friendly' service for **Mothering Sunday** at 10.30am on **Sunday 22nd March**.

Revd Julia Hicks

Minnows Toddler Group

Minnows is a weekly group for parents, grandparents or carers with babies and young children. We have started up again and Minnows is open from 10-12 every Thursday during term time, in the Tithe Barn, opposite the church in Merriott. We have lots of toys, a changing programme of creative and sensory activities and lovely ladies in the kitchen who will give you a cup of coffee and a piece of cake as well as fruit for the children.

Gemma, Mary and Sophie look forward to making you welcome, so that you get to know some other parents while your child plays safely. Each session costs just £1.50 per adult. Do come along.

Mary Gilson

The Merriott Parish Council has created a new website <http://merriottpc.org> which, in future, is intended to contain all Parish Council related information.



The Council is obliged to publish agendas, minutes and notices in a publicly accessible format. Although this is addressed by the notice board, additional information such as contact information, archives, roles and responsibilities will be hosted on the site. Creating a new website is easier than updating the existing MPC site. The new site is still evolving so we welcome any suggestion for improvements both on content and presentation sent to merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

Steve Ashton

Merriott Parish Council Clerk and RFO Vacancy

The Council seeks to appoint a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). The appointment is for 35 hours per month and the salary will be per the local government salary scale commensurate with experience.

The Parish Clerk is responsible for organising all meetings of the Council, publishing agendas and minutes, dealing with correspondence, managing the council website and Facebook page. In addition, as RFO, the Clerk will be responsible for all aspects of financial administration of the Council.

The Clerk works from home and must be computer literate. An allowance is given for expenses and mileage. A laptop and printer/scanner are provided. Attendance at the evening meetings of the Council is a requirement of the position. Meetings take place on the second Monday of each month.

For further details and a copy of the employment agreement please contact Iain Hall, the Chairman council by email: iainrhall@hotmail.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14th February 2020. To apply please send a CV and covering letter by email to the above email address.

Iain Hall

Gardening Club

Tuesday 25th February

An intriguing talk by David Moon on 'Gardening for the Rich and Famous'.

Please meet at the Tithe Barn, Church Street at 7.30pm - refreshments and raffle. Everyone welcome - non-members £2 at the door

Barbara Byford 72298



**OPEN
GROUP**

Feb 6th - Coffee and ideas for reusing and recycling

Feb 20th Pie Night at Admiral Hood Mosterton

Contact - Marion Biggs 74170 or email: marionbiggs169@btinternet.com

Marion Biggs



**Fusion
Fostering**

Have you considered Fostering?

There is a national shortage of foster carers, for the many children needing a stable and supportive home life. Fostering can be a challenging but also a hugely rewarding experience; Foster families play a critical role in supporting the emotional and behavioural needs of young people, whilst offering them a consistent, stable and happy place to live, a sense of belonging and the opportunity to experience positive parental role models.

Fusion Fostering is based in North Curry; your local team of social workers and support workers are there to provide ongoing support and training for foster carers to enable the children in their care to settle in and thrive in their new environment. For more information, please call Nigel on 0797 465 8782 or email: nbell@fusionfostering.com.



ARK at Egwood

We are now making progress at ARK and are optimistic for a drier start to 2020. You may have seen the entrance, track and parking in place, so we can now welcome people on site.

Our hardy bunch of volunteers have transformed our bus into a lovely social space and we are now proud owners of the poshest goat-house in the south-west, courtesy of Simon, our almost resident volunteer! Our next few projects include the building of a horse shelter, chicken coop and an outdoor field kitchen;

we shall provide all of the materials, but if you do have any free time over the next few weeks and want to get into the fresh air (possibly wet, possibly not), please just get in touch with Simon on 07977 218843 or email simon@arkategwood.com

Due to the shockingly poor weather of late, we have unfortunately had to postpone our opening, so we shall now open in the spring. In addition to our core services, we are excited to inform you that we have been very fortunate to secure some funding from Somerset County Council for a project providing outdoor activities for dementia sufferers and their carers, which will start in March.



Amanda Bell

Gardening quote of the month



Sent in by Mo Frampton

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

Barbara Winkler

Hinton St George 'Flix in the Stix'

presents

Downton Abbey (PG)

8th February



in Hinton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or £5.50 on the door. Doors open 7.00pm. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives: a royal visit which soon unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue.

This movie has all the familiar cast and a regicidal plot to be solved but the best part of the film is arguably the splendour of Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) itself which shines throughout the film. Written by Julian Fellowes, as usual, the period (1929), the couture and the atmosphere are captured as well as you would expect and the ensemble cast are on top form.

Andrew Overhill

POPPY APPEAL

I would like to thank the people of Merriott, Hinton St George, Lopen and Dinnington for their support over the 2019 - 2020 Poppy Appeal. The monies collected in the following villages came to

£1,585.69 (Merriott £813.76, Hinton St George £570.70, Lopen £152.43, Dinnington £48.70).

The overall total for the Crewkerne and District Poppy Appeal, which includes the above, is at the time of writing £15,946.14.

The money raised, as always, goes to providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents.

The Crewkerne and District Branch of The Royal British Legion would like to wish your readers all the very best for 2020.

Bob King

Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser

Merriott Childcare - Charlotte Hamlin

We are a registered childcare provider in Merriott. We strive to provide flexible, and ad-hoc, professional childcare in a safe home from home environment.

All children have the right to be understood as individuals and given opportunities for imagination, creativity & play. We have a large garden with climbing equipment and space to explore.

We are now offering forest school sessions for the children at the setting. This involves lots of outdoor activities: learning about nature, arts and crafts with natural products, exploration and discovery in the local outdoor environments and respecting the environment.



01460 73361
07721 018335
www.charlottehamlin.co.uk

For the older children we may also use tools and fire to learn important life skills. Children are involved in animal care, enabling them to have an understanding of the animals' needs.

We regularly visit the local community facilities, the aqua centre in Crewkerne and small holdings in the village. Outside providers visit the setting bringing individual skills and activities.

Opening times are 06.00 - 18.30 Monday to Friday. We provide school runs to Merriott First School and Merriott Pre-school. We accept early years funding. Please visit the website for more information.



Merriott Baby Clinic Christmas Party 1951

The photo published in the December issue caused considerable interest

and has been the topic of many conversations between people who grew up in Merriott at that time.

Richard Stoodley, who now lives in Essex but was born in Hinton, reads the Messenger online. He recognises the lady in a hat on the left-hand side in the second row. Her name is Francis Stoodley, Richard's grandmother. To her left is Joan Prior. They are holding Richard's twin sisters Patricia and Shirley and his brother David. Elsewhere in the photo is a Mrs Chick and a Mrs Goodland. Mrs Burrows is behind Father Christmas holding son John. If you can add any more names please let us know.

Marion Biggs



Lindum House Broadway
Erection of a summerhouse
19/03378/LBC – Status:
Awaiting decision

Rill House Moorlands Road

Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extension, raised timber decking to rear, covered canopy to front, pitched roof to garage and timber cladding to all elevations

19/03292/HOU – Status: Awaiting decision

10 Lower Street

Part change of ground floor café to residential to tie in with existing dwelling

19/0324/COU – Status: Awaiting decision

Land West of Ebonite House Beadon Lane

Change of use to equestrian and livery

19/03226/COU – Status: Awaiting Decision

Springfield House and Hamstones Church Street

Proposed alterations to access, remodelling of existing dwelling Hamstones and erection of two private dwellings

19/00925/FUL – Status: Approved

Land at Boozer Pit

Erection of two dwellings

109/00911/FUL – Status: Approved

The Former Sunday School Sandyhole

Application to vary condition 3 (opening hours) and remove condition 7 (Obscure glazing on windows on the eastern elevation) 18/03718/S73A – Status: Approved

Merriott Parish Council discuss planning applications and make recommendations.

For the Council minutes go to the new Parish Council website merriottpc.org or look at the notice board outside the Co-op.

Marion Biggs

Exercising and the older pet

Winter has arrived - you are ready but what about your pets? We wrap up in the cold and wet but often forget that our four-legged friends also require protection especially as they get older.

Many dogs over the age of 8 will have some degree of osteoarthritis, which may not be obvious to the owner. A jacket which protects their backs and belly will help keep these dogs' muscles warm and protect their joints. If they do get wet, then do dry your dogs thoroughly and consider using a hairdryer if the noise is not too frightening – try switching on from a distance to gauge their reaction – it is important not to cause distress.

Consider the type of exercise you give your dogs. Dogs are designed to run in a straight line. Throwing a ball many times may be fun for all concerned but consider the huge strain this puts on all dog's joints especially arthritic ones. Allow a gentle warm up before increasing the pace. Be mindful of steeper hills in an older pet. If using a car, then older dogs may hurt themselves whilst jumping out of them – consider lifting or training them to use a ramp.

Danusia Nosek BVet Med MRCVS

FilmCrew

The 6th screening of the season will take place on **Friday 14th February** - 'BlacKKKlansman' (2019, 15).

It's the early 1970s and Ron Stallworth (John David Washington) is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: to infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The young detective soon recruits a more seasoned Jewish colleague, Flip Zimmerman (Adam Driver), into the undercover investigation of a lifetime.

All screenings are at Wadham School, Crewkerne. Doors open at 7pm with the film starting at 7:30. Visitors can pay at the door, £6 per ticket. Tea/coffee and cake available plus cushioned, tiered seating.

John Facey

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An amazing night in the Great Tithe Barn

Merriott Pre-School would like to thank all those involved with the Pre-School and First School Yule Ball. It was an amazing night in the Great Tithe Barn at Haselbury Mill and the floor was filled with dancers enjoying the fantastic Livewired, after a delicious three course meal.

We have raised over £2,800 to go towards the enrichment of the children at both settings which will further their education and development.

A special thank you goes out to our main sponsors of the night, Nectar Electrical, R A Wicks and Pattermores Transport Ltd.



Katherine Rooke

Important Notice

Merriott Preschool is **no longer** taking pet food pouches as part of our TerraCycle recycling programme. They can, however, be taken to our neighbouring collector in Shepton Beauchamp: Address: Orchard, Love Lane, Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset TA19 0LS.

Instead we are now collecting Hygiene Home recycling products such as Dettol, Finish dishwashing products, Vanish Oxi Action and Airwick packaging. These will be far more hygienic for us to collect, package and mail off to TerraCycle. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Jenny Hayne

RAFT - Adaptable & Versatile

Raft (refugeeaidfromtaunton.org.uk) is half way through its fifth year of existence has sent c450 large van loads of donations to Cardiff to be shipped to refugee camps in the Middle East and Southern Europe, e.g. Greece and Romania, plus other varied loads to Northern France. Over the years, it gradually made contact with many other charities, both here and abroad. As a result, Cameroon and Uganda, for example, which host thousands of African refugees, are receiving clothing unsuitable for those fleeing Syria. Most recently, it has been extremely glad to add Yemen to its list, a country where citizens are suffering from a long war, labeled 'the worst humanitarian crisis' as it continues with little global publicity and very little aid for those seriously affected.

In addition, people who have been homeless locally when given accommodation are offered material support by Raft to set up their new homes. Refugee families moving into the area, always arranged and aided by a voluntary group, are also offered this support by Raft. Anyone who has other household goods they would like to donate to Raft the address and location can be found online. You will be welcomed.

A Leap Year Concert

Please come and enjoy a concert on **29th Feb** at 7.30 pm in St Peter and Paul Church in South Petherton featuring the accomplished Merriott Benefice Sixteen Bells, Choir and songs, humour and choreography from the versatile foursome Bella Acapella. Tickets £8/under 16s free. Wine available for a donation. All in aid of Raft. Please look out for posters.

Geraldine Downey
271358



Community Pavilion

To book this fine village amenity for your get-together, please contact 01460 73771 or email: merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk. Only £20.00 per session.

Poem written by Merriott Resident David Murray

Even now the hedgerows seem
Still sleeping in tired winter's arms.
Each sturdy tree long since stripped
Of summer's warmth. Its leaves
Lie rotting 'neath its sprawling limbs.
Even now the winds are cold -
From arctic shores they come
Locking tight the grip of winter
Keeping life beneath the soil
Waiting patiently 'til the spring.
The sun appears but briefly
O'er the hills as if reluctant
To lend itself to barrenness.
It comes yet swiftly goes
Leaving cold nights and frosted panes.
Come oh ye spring let light and warmth
Combine to set the buds unborn
As yet bursting into life!



The Importance of Community - Can you help Merriott?



Smaller communities, particularly those in more rural areas, need to be strong in maintaining, or even campaigning, for essential services close at hand. Many villages have already lost their school, Post Office, banking facilities and shops. They are dependent on local bus services, if they exist, private cars and community transport schemes to reach health services, shops and education.

Merriott is still fortunate in having a school, shops, Post Office and a petrol station. It has already lost a barbers, a butchers and store, a fish and chip shop, a major garden centre and a large business has moved elsewhere. The public transport service is deteriorating and getting to a surgery or a hospital is dependent on a private car and the goodwill of neighbours.

In 2007 a Village Plan was produced, with strong village support, which stated that the community wanted a surgery, a pharmacy and a group of small business units to provide the opportunity for employment in the village. The outcome was that the village gained a pharmacy and were promised a surgery by 2014 at the latest. The Plan also found 83 small businesses and 2 larger businesses which created considerable local employment in Merriott.

Unfortunately, since then the two large

businesses have closed and no surgery has developed, though a site for this was earmarked for a period of 10 years. At least two businesses have been created in adjacent towns which would have been in Merriott if suitable premises had existed.

The emphasis on new housing has led to an expansion of housing in the village which will lead to an increase in community size of about 20% since the last census in 2011, with no associated increase, indeed a decrease, in infrastructure. As with all the population, the age of people living here is on average increasing by about 3 months per year. People are fortunately living longer but with associated health provision needs.

Merriott has gained a pharmacy, a café – the Feed Station – and the Parish Council has built a new pavilion and invested in new outdoor play and physical exercise facilities for adults and children. However the community still needs better local health service provision, small business units and enlarged sports facilities. It also needs to retain what it has by way of shops, school, Post Office and community meeting places – the Social Venue, the Village Hall and the Tithe Barn.

The village as a place to live will not be improved unless the residents commit to being actively involved. The community needs volunteers to develop and run the local existing facilities and to campaign for those extras that are needed.

Many people say that Merriott is a good place to live. CAN YOU GET INVOLVED AND HELP MAKE MERRIOTT AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

To see how you can help contact the organisations listed in the Messenger.

John Bowman

More sponsors

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WWW.SOMERSETSTAIRLIFTS.CO.UK

MVH
MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday 4th April
'Village Hall Quiz Night'
More Information
coming soon

Mobile Library
@
Merriott School

Tuesday
9.30 - 10.00
25th Feb.

Somerset Sight
Working with people who lack sight, not vision

is recruiting volunteers
to visit visually
impaired people
contact Somerset Sight
on: 01823 333 818
or email
admin@somersetsight.co.uk

Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am

Toys, crafts, fun
& refreshments for
carers and
toddlers.
Free of charge



Songs of Praise
1st Sunday of each
month
at 6.30pm.
All welcome.

Phone for more details:
Phil & Jo 271763
Andrew & Julia 72211



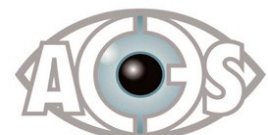
Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org



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