

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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June 2019

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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 June issue is 12th June.

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Volunteer Vacancy

Merriott Parish Council Parish Path Liaison Officer



Parish Path Liaison Officers (PPLOs) are volunteers who work in partnership with Somerset County Council, nominated by their parish council.

The current **Parish Path Liaison Officer** for Merriott would like to step down before the end of the Summer, so Merriott Parish Council is looking for a volunteer with a keen interest in the countryside to take over the role.

At the moment in Merriott the Liaison Officer has a group of dedicated people who help monitor and clear footpaths regularly, so you would be joining an active group of people.

The PPLO role is a busy role and you are supported by SCC and your Parish Council, with a handbook, maps and a toolkit to help look after the local parish path network.

PPLOs are expected to organise clearance of vegetation regularly from around gaps, gates, stiles, signposts, bridges and at other points where paths might become difficult to use.

If you are interested in the role and would like more details, please contact the Clerk to Merriott Parish Council on 07821 372 886 or email: merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk

Julie Chant

.....

Mystery bird identified - Thank you to everyone who responded to my enquiry last month when I asked if anyone could identify the bird seen on the hedge by my kitchen. I'm pleased to say most of you were correct and the bird is a female Sparrow Hawk, as confirmed by the RSPB.

Paul Bateman



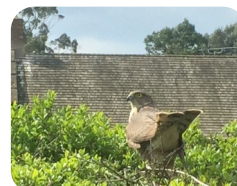
Merriott First School & Merriott Pre School Summer Fayre

Friday 28th June,
3.00—5.30pm

Save the date!

Please email the school –

office@merriott.somerset.sch.uk if you would like to volunteer to help on the day.



Merriott Social Venue Update

May yes may the fantastic fundraising continue is all I can say.

Firstly with Kelsey & Kerry's event on the 4th raising over £2,700 and very well supported; our clearance sale we shifted a fair bit of stuff and recycled some, making £70 and in the evening, the church had their Swing into Spring event. The Little Daffodils - a baby & infant loss support group - quiz did well on the 18th, followed by another successful bingo on the Bank Holiday weekend for the Merriott Majorettes with their fantastic prizes again.

As for Venue news, we are pleased to say that two of our ladies skittles players, Tora Abbott & Kate Carne-Gaines, came second in the pairs game which is quite an achievement for them and our other ladies team are winners of the league. On Friday 10th we saw the return of our fun Summer skittles, 8 teams this year, mixed and some bringing their children which is great to see, with a fun celebration night on the 30th August. We also had our first meeting with all the new committee and elected members from the various organisations that use

the Venue on a regular basis which was very productive. Safina our lovely newly-wed was back with Sam to pamper us all again on ladies night.

Dates for Diary

1st June - Football Presentation Night

8th June - Football Presentation Day
Merriott Youth

9th June - Pamper night 6-9.30pm

15th June - Bingo - Eyes down 7.30pm

Next Month..... PIRATE NIGHT **27th July**

Lola Clarke, Chairperson

Call my Bluff "enjoyed by all"



Call my Bluff - The Quiz, organised by the Rotary Club of Crewkerne and held at Merriott Village Hall last month, attracted 46 people who tasted seven wines - a sparkling, two whites and three reds - poured from wrapped bottles. As each wine was tasted the audience was invited to choose from three wines listed on a chart, whilst the three 'Bluffers' described them. One gave a correct description the other two gave incorrect ones. The audience then had to choose the correct one. The supper afterwards, prepared by 'My Kitchen', was enjoyed by all.

Jeremy Clifford



Photograph of the month



Photograph taken by Stephen Rooke

Please send your photos to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

HINTON ST GEORGE VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 15th June



Do join us for a family fun day at St George's Hall & Playing Field from 12 noon - 4.00pm. As well as a vast range of visiting stall-holders selling everything from jams to handbags, we will also have the Stoke sub Hamdon Brass Band performing between 12.00 and 1.30 and Punch & Judy Shows throughout the afternoon. Village groups are actively involved in running their own stalls including a bar, tombola, BBQ, Hog Roast, cream teas and ice creams, so no-one will need to go hungry or thirsty!

Jane Jackson

		2			
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	9	7			8
	7				
			4		1
		8			9
1			2	9	
	5				4
					2

Coffee Break

Answer can be found on page 7.



All Saints Church services in June

Sun 2nd 10.30am Sung Communion

Sun 9th **Pentecost** 10.30am Parish Communion

Sun 16th 10.30am Family Service

Sun 23rd 9am Holy Communion

Sun 30th 10.30am Benefice Communion with 16 Bells Choir, Dinnington

4pm Café Church, Tithe Barn, Merriott (one week later than normal)

Bob Hicks





Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix'

proudly presents
"Stan & Ollie" (PG)

Saturday 8th June

in the 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 7.00 pm. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

Laurel and Hardy - the world's greatest comedy team - face an uncertain future as their golden era of Hollywood films remains long behind them. Diminished by age, the famous duo set out to re-connect with their adoring fans by touring variety halls in Britain in 1953. The shows become an instant hit but Stan and Ollie can't quite shake the past as long-buried tension and Hardy's failing health start to threaten their precious partnership. The Guardian Review stated what... 'a lovely, generous tonic this delightful movie proves to be.'

Andrew Overhill



Sent in by
Mo Frampton

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."

Lou Erickson

Happy Father's Day - Sunday June 16th

"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way".

anon

Unusual Bequests

In the UK we are not very good at drawing up wills. In fact, fewer than half of UK adults have done so, leaving 26 million people with no formal instructions for what should happen to their possessions on their death.

But perhaps we're just not imaginative enough. After all, for some people a will is not just a list of bequests; it's a chance to leave a loved-one a final thoughtful gesture, or show a hopeful relative how much you preferred the dog to them!

1. A daily rose Legendary US comedian Jack Benny left an unusual but touching instruction in his will when he died in 1974. His widow, Mary Livingstone said "Every day since Jack has gone the florist has delivered one long-stemmed red rose to my home."

2. The "second-best bed", Poor Anne Hathaway, aka Mrs Shakespeare, has gone down in history as being snubbed by the Bard from beyond the grave. In his will, Shakespeare left her his "second-best bed" while the vast bulk of his estate went to his daughter Susanna.

3. \$12m to a dog In 2004, billionaire hotelier Leona Helmsley left instructions for her £2.5bn fortune to be spent caring for dogs, having apparently re-thought an earlier draft that left it to the poor.

4. Flowers for Sidmouth Self-made millionaire financier Keith Owen, 69, left his entire £2.3m fortune to his favourite holiday spot, Sidmouth in Devon, with the stipulation that some of it was to be spent on one million flowering bulbs to keep the coastal town awash with colour. His will specified that the capital should not be touched, but that the interest - about £125,000 a year - be spent on maintaining the town and two nearby villages.

5. Seventy strangers from a phone directory When Portuguese aristocrat Luis Carlos de Noronha Cabral da Camara wrote up his Will, he left his considerable fortune to 70 strangers randomly chosen out of a Lisbon phone directory. "I thought it was some kind of cruel joke," a 70-year-old heiress told Portugal's Sol newspaper. "I'd never heard of the man."

6. A new husband For some embittered spouses, a last Will and Testament is actually a last chance to insult their life partner one more time. So it was for German poet Heinrich "Henry" Heine who left his estate to his wife, Matilda, in 1856 on the condition that she re-marry, so that "there will be at least one man to regret my death"!

Jane Jackson



Merriott Gardening Club

Tuesday 25th June

This month we have a presentation by Adrian Hutchinson on Wild Flowers in the Dolomites. Please meet as usual at the Tithe Barn, Church Street at 7.30pm - refreshments and raffle and don't forget to bring a flower for the Flower of the Month competition.

If you are new to the village do come along - we are a friendly group and will make you very welcome. Non-members £2 at the door.

Barbara Byford 72298

Andrew Sheppard

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Learn to play the world's fastest ball sport



Merriott table tennis club has just started training sessions for under 18s on Thursday nights at the Merriott Social Venue.

Marc Walmsley, a fully qualified coach who trained his son Joe to play at national tournaments, is now working with an enthusiastic group of youngsters who are quickly learning the basics of the game.

If you are interested in playing the fastest ball sport in the world in a relaxed, fun environment, then come along to the club on Lower Street at 6pm on Thursdays. It currently costs £5 a session but this may be reduced if we regularly get lots of people.

And if you're 18 or over, you're very welcome to come to our general sessions which continue on Sundays from 7pm -9pm. Marc also offers coaching then, so anyone has the chance to learn this fantastic sport. (If you're planning ahead, we have breaks for the whole of August, Christmas and Easter.)

Michael Fox

Back in time ...

June 5th 1832

Angry Parisians man the barricades in protest against food shortages. This event inspired Victor Hugo to write "Les Miserables"

June 5th 1968

Senator Robert Kennedy was shot and died the following day

June 18th 1982

End of The Falklands War

June 25th 1878

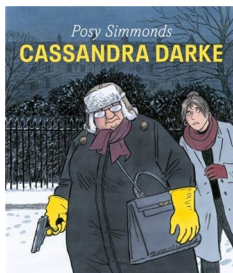
Custer's last stand during the Battle of Little Bighorn

June 28th 1919

Signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I

Marion Biggs

Book Review - Cassandra Darke by Posy Simmonds



I first grew to love Posy Simmonds' work through 'Lulu and the Flying Babies', which has both an enthralling narrative for children, and brilliant imaginative illustrations

(for parents to enjoy too, as they read it aloud, on demand, for the umpteenth time).

Last year Posy Simmonds brought out 'Cassandra Darke', a graphic novel, which has the same winning combination – words and pictures – this time for adults. The narrator of the story is the title character, Cassandra, and from the first page this tough old bird tells us quite frankly that she has been involved in

some 'jiggery-pokery' for which she is about to be exposed. Over the forty years since her divorce her motto has been 'assume the worst' which is justified by subsequent events. Her affluence comes from her close connection with the art world, where the cash returns on a bit of jiggery-pokery can be very high.

As the story unfolds the 'toxic miasma of untruth' which she is convicted of creating leads into ever darker corners of contemporary life.

But the real fascination of this book lies in the illustrations: it is essentially a strip cartoon with the most witty and wonderful drawings, full of detail and accuracy, and humour, and the goings-on in London.

Posy Simmonds has been described as

being directly in the line of Hogarth and other great social satirists – for a modern comparison I would cite Ronald Searle. She has the gift of showing us ourselves (well, aspects we recognise of ourselves) arguing, shopping, engrossed in our mobile phones, trying to avoid the consequences of deliberately breaking the rules....Cassandra meets life head-on. The challenges of urban life, the young with their slang and easy couplings, as well as the challenges of age. She is not defeated.

This book beneath its thrillerish narrative is a message of optimism for old and young alike. Not just in its wry humour but its wit and deeply enjoyable detail it conveys a sense that life is certainly worth living.

Janet Lailey



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OPEN GROUP

Thurs 13th - Walk at Ham Hill and lunch at the pub, or just come for lunch.

Thurs 27th - Talk by a member of The Fire Service on fire safety in the home.

For further information contact
Marion Biggs on 74170 or
marionbiggs169@btinternet.com

Marion Biggs

And we are off to the Nationals...

Now all our pictures have been given their final polish and despatched to the National venue - all we can do now is just wait and see what the judges think of them. I am in the top group and this means that the competition is much harder in this Section so I am not likely to get any awards, but you never know - it just depends on what the judges think of the composition of your entry, the use of the various veneers, the good cutting of the picture and the finish and the subject matter(!)

One of our members, Ron, caused a bit of a stir with a plaque that he had entered as there was no proper Section to place it in - so they gave it a Third place in Section 3 and also gave it the Best in Show!!! His entry this year may be a bit of a comedown from that but you never know, Ron is very good.

The third member, John who has been unable to attend too many of our meetings due to ill health, has submitted two bird pictures for his first entry to the National. In his early days he was a bit apprehensive about doing pictures but I managed to persuade him to try - now he does beautiful ones and could well be in for an award this year.

Our fourth member, Mike, has not yet joined the Society (there's no compulsion to do so) but he is another good cutter and will only get better with more experience.

Don't forget that we meet every Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 4.00pm in Mike's house, the one behind Osborne's old shop, the one with the Somerset Marquetry Group notice on it. Plenty of parking space and the tea and biscuits are a reasonable 50p!!! Do come and see us whether to ask about joining or just out of curiosity, you will be very welcome. Remember also that I am at the Indoor Market in the Social Club every second Saturday so you can see the sort of things that you can do with marquetry, ask me questions about it. We are open to commissions, so if you would like us to do a picture for you please ask about that - I have just finished one for a customer. Contact:

Ken Smart - 01460 74567 email williken@btinternet.com or Mike Burnham - 01460 351785 email mick_burnham@outlook.com.

Ken Smart



On Saturday 11th May Merriott Social Venue enjoyed an evening of 'Swing into Spring' with professional vocalist Graham David. A total of £360 was raised for All Saints Church.

Jean Crisp

Anyone for cricket?



The Cricket season has started with North Perrott Thirds winning their match against Wincanton. They use our pitch, as their own is used for their First and Second teams.

At the time of writing Merriott CC are about to play their first game.

Both teams welcome new players, Merriott play on Wednesday evenings, and North Perrott on Saturday afternoons.

Contact George.preston1997@gmail.com to play for North Perrott.

Contact Jack Hawker jhawker21fly@gmail.com to play for Merriott.

Iain Hall

THE MERRIOTT HERITAGE TRUST

WHAT CAN IT DO FOR MERRIOTT ?

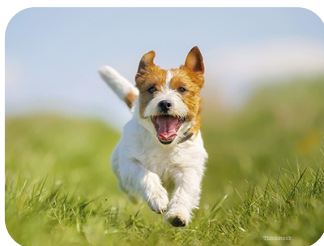
If you are interested in the history of Merriott, in conserving its old buildings, preserving its wildlife sites and even maintaining its footpath network, we may be able to offer financial help with the cost, for example, of restoring stone-work, iron railings, gates and date stones, planting trees and maintaining signposts and stiles. We are keen to rescue documents, such as house deeds, and photographs to prevent their loss and are already building up a collection. All this has been made possible by the generous legacy from the late Cathy Herriman.

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

E mail: merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com

Top Tip

from Top Dog Training, Behaviour and Pet Services



When your dog runs away from you, it's very tempting to run after it madly calling its name! However, this usually turns into a game of chase. It's far more effective to run in the opposite direction, calling their name in an excited (not stern) manner.

Many dogs cannot resist the fun involved in chasing their owner and will hurtle back towards you. It is important that when they are close enough, you SMILE and appear happy and pleased with them (even if every fibre of your being wants to chastise them for running off) and, through gritted teeth, tell them how wonderful they are whilst plying them with lots of tasty treats before clipping their lead back on.

In doing so, you are rewarding them for coming back to you and they are more likely to do so in the future when you call their name. Telling them off will only deter them from returning to you to be shouted at, when they could just ignore you, give you the run-around and carry on having fun!

Emma Rogers

Loo with a view!



Seen on a farm near Abbotsbury by Mo Frampton

Poetry - 'Process'

I started with a lovely piece of fabric, soft brown wool from Liberty. A classy Vogue pattern chosen from the huge catalogue; with clear instructions (but you have to concentrate).

My scissors make an authoritative crunch following the edges of the tissue template, pinned out carefully in a flat jigsaw, to fashion a 3D garment, cut according to my cloth.

Interfacing the rounded neckline, tacking the sections before I sewed them (which takes time, but saves more time than it takes.) Trying on. Adjusting. Twisting round to see myself. Fitting a long zip down the back.

I remember wearing the dress with a single carnation pinned to my left shoulder its long stem hanging. The dress fitted slimly and looked good. The flower was just odd enough.

I felt pretty special in it – confident, empowered. After I had gone through pregnancy and my first little boy was born, I was surprised and affronted to find that the dress had got too tight!



Janet Lailey

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.

ARK at Egwood CIC



We're almost there!!

We are now really hopeful that planning approval from SSDC, for our exciting new venture here at Egwood, is imminent. With an ever-increasing need for local services and the therapeutic value the outside space brings, we are very excited to be nearly there.

We have been preparing the land and are ready to press the button on getting our polytunnels and log cabin erected and adding finished touches.

We are very lucky to have appointed Michaela Slade (photo), a qualified psychotherapist and Equine Therapist who will head up our therapeutic



services; Michaela will join Simon Rands, our Operations Manager who will manage the site, animals and land-based activities.

We will be having an open day in July, so you can come and have a look around. Do look out for further details in the next issue of the Messenger and also on our Facebook page.

If you would like to become involved in something meaningful and purposeful for your local community, then visit www.arkategwood.com or join us on



Simon Rands with Roxy

Facebook. Watch this space!

Nigel Bell





Land at Pye Corner

Demolition of existing steel open sided barn and change of use to residential
Conversion and extension of existing stone barn to single storey dwelling
Construction of three two storey detached houses and garages.
Ref no 19/01021/FUL

Springfield House and Hamstones, Church St

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

Ref no. 19/00925/FUL

Land at Tail Mill, Tail Mill Lane

Erection of two commercial buildings with provision for car parking, access and turning areas. The proposed buildings are to provide employment opportunity for SME businesses and to local residents of Merriott

Few no 19/00810/FUL

Marion Biggs

5	9	6	2	3	7	1	4	8
2	7	1	4	6	8	5	3	9
3	8	4	5	9	1	2	6	7
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4	3	7	1	8	6	9	2	5
8	2	5	9	4	3	6	7	1
7	4	2	8	1	5	3	9	6
1	6	8	3	2	9	7	5	4
9	5	3	6	7	4	8	1	2

Merriott Gospel Hall



Every Tuesday
10am - 11.30am

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carers and
toddlers.
Free of charge



Songs of Praise
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month
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Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

Recipe of the month: Broccoli Salad



1 x Medium Broccoli Head - split into florets, wash & well drained
1 x Large Beef Tomato - deseeded & roughly chopped
1 x Red Onion - very finely sliced
1/2 cup sliced almonds - toasted

Dressing:

1/2 Cup Sunflower Oil
1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar
1/4 Cup White Vinegar
1 Tbsp English Mustard
Combine all the dressing ingredients at least 6 hours before required.
Stir or shake regularly.

Mix broccoli, tomatoes & onions together.
Add dressing just before serving, mix well with vegetables.
Sprinkle on toasted Almonds and serve.

Enjoy!

Paula Bateman

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