

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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March 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 April issue is 12th March.

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Arrests made relating to theft of All Saints Church lead



Two men from the West Midlands have been arrested and are now on bail relating to a recent "Lead Theft" from All Saints Church Merriott.

Avon & Somerset police stopped a suspicious vehicle, after an ANPR vehicle check in the early hours of Monday 8th January 2019 and on board were two men and a quantity of suspect lead. The vehicle's Sat Nav indicated that they had visited "Merriott" and so Rev. Bob Hicks, of All Saints Church, received an early morning phone call requesting him to check the church for theft and damage. To Rev. Bob's horror the thieves had ripped the remaining lead from the church, this

being the 3rd time in 9 years! A site investigation with the local constabulary and Rev. Bob uncovered the lead theft and damage to the Church Porch roof and over 20 metres of lead flashing torn from the north side gutter. In total over 300kg of lead was removed. However, a large lead memorial plate, dated 1792, was left behind by the thieves who had cut it from the roof. The men were taken into custody but, before charges can be made, the police need to confirm that the lead is from All Saints Church, as another church in the locality had also been targeted.

All Saints Church's lead is "Smartwater" marked and requires to be identified; this, together with foot prints found on the scene and the cut marks on the Memorial plate (now in the police store), charges will, hopefully, be made.

In 2011, All Saints Church had its North Side aisle stripped of lead, costing £14,000 to have it replaced in stainless steel, and then in 2017 the South Side had its lead stripped costing a further £19,000 to have it replaced also in stainless steel leaving the porch roof being the only lead roof left on the roof. No perpetrators or charges had been made for previous thefts / damage.

Paul Fisher

Date for your Diary: May 18th – Summer Fayre in the Church. Look out for further details in future issues of the Messenger.

Jean Crisp



Saturday 30th March
7.00 for 7.30pm

Tickets available from
Merriott Pharmacy and Premier Garage

Food from MY KITCHEN -
selection of pies & mash with seasonal
vegetables (vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free
options available)

£10 per person including dessert

Licensed Bar from 7pm

Merriott Village Website

As the new Clerk to Merriott Parish Council, I want to do some work to the village website, merriottvillage.btck.co.uk, to update and correct some of the information displayed.

Before I start altering anything on the village website, I want to try to establish who maintains which sections, who has log in access, and who regularly makes updates.

If your organisation is listed and any details are incorrect, but you do not have log in access, could you please also let me know.

I would be very grateful if people could contact me as soon as possible via email at merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk with any information about their section of the village website.

Thank you.

Julie Chant

Clerk to Merriott Parish Council

Merriott Social Venue

March already - aren't the months rolling in quickly and so are the bookings here at the Merriott Social Venue we are pleased to say. Lots of children's parties on Sunday afternoons, a wedding in August (I wonder whose that is?), 30th's, 40th's along with the usual charity bingo nights, race nights, jumble sales, Merriott Indoor Market and the Swing into Spring for the church. We have two events on the 2nd March if anyone can help out with them. Both events are raising funds for new lead for the small bit of flat roof that needs replacing.

However, we still hear villagers say.... there's not much on in the village... or

we didn't know that was on.... not just here but at other village locations. How can we spread the word more about what's on in our village? We already have The Messenger that goes to every home, posters, social media with village groups etc... something worth thinking about for next month.

Here is what's on in **March**:

Sat 2nd Jumble Sale - 1pm - 3pm

Sat 2nd Bingo - open 6.30pm eyes down 7.30pm

Sat 9th Indoor Market 10am - 1pm

Sat 9th Race Night 7pm

Sun 10th Ladies Pamper Evening 6pm - 9.30pm

Thursday 14th - AGM 7.30pm

Sat 30th Live Music with "Unknown Identity" 9pm

Every Wednesday night - Cash Bingo starts at 8.15pm

Don't forget we are not a 'Members Club'. We are open to everyone and you do not have to join or pay any fee to enter (unless it's an advertised event), dogs and children welcome too as we are very family friendly.

*Lola Clarke
Chairperson*

PROMISE Works

Help at hand for disadvantaged children

Have you ever wondered what would be the best way to help children who are living in difficult circumstances? Most people reading this lead comfortable lives. But there are hundreds of children across Somerset growing up in families which are struggling to cope, due to unemployment and a wide range of personal problems.

Research shows that providing a mentor for a young person from a disadvantaged background can make a significant difference for them. PROMISEworks is a Somerset charity which recruits, trains, matches and supports local volunteer mentors, each of whom then builds a close, long-term relationship with a disadvantaged youngster.

When asked about their own experiences, the responses of the young people have been heart-warming: "She takes the stone from my heart", and "Mentors are like pillars. If they weren't there the roof would fall in".

We have more than 60 mentors already operating in Somerset and are looking to double this number over the next year or so. Many of the children and young people we support are on the edge of, or have recently left, the care system.

PROMISEworks is keen to find more people to volunteer as mentors, and to raise funds to support our work. If you could help with either of these, please visit our website at www.promiseworks.org.uk.

Thank you.

Michael Fox



Calling all Strictly Fans!

Do you watch Strictly Come Dancing every year and think 'I would love to

have a go at that'? Well now is the perfect opportunity! I am a trained competition dancer and qualified teacher running both beginners and intermediate classes here in Merriott at the Village Hall every Friday night.

This is a great opportunity for couples to keep fit and socialise in a fun light-hearted class. I welcome couples with all abilities to join our BEGINNERS class 7.15pm - 8.15pm or if you have some more experience and looking to progress further then you are equally welcome to join our INTERMEDIATE class 8.15pm - 9.15pm. Please call Keri on 07843 226219 or email kerihilldance@gmail.com for more details.

Keri Hill

Merriott Parish Council and Fresh Air Fitness

If you are feeling a bit flat in the middle of winter, perhaps a bit more fresh air and gentle exercise will pick you up. An increasing steady stream of people of all ages are using the outdoor gym on the Recreation Field to do just that.

The equipment is designed to allow people of all strengths and fitness levels to benefit. You don't have to beat yourself up on it. Only three of the twelve items are designed for those who want to seriously stretch themselves, the rest are about movement, that's all.

Colin Male, a local resident spends up to an hour on the Gym most afternoons

saying the tranquil surroundings and secluded position are a large part of the reason that he enjoys using it so much, and its free!

A movement sensitive floodlight has recently been installed for those without free daylight time available. Please be aware that the Gym is covered by CCTV, as is the whole Recreation Field and Pavilion. Please also note that the Gym is NOT A CHILDRENS PLAY AREA. It is not safe for small children to use. The minimum safe user height is 1.4 metres tall.

Keep reading the Messenger for details of our Summer Activity Events.

If you want to find out more about how the outdoor gym equipment works and how to maximise the benefit of using it, the Fresh Air Fitness YouTube channel is a great source of information. Go to: www.youtube.com/user/jenkestoby/videos

Fresh Air Fitness supplied our own outdoor gym and is presently undertaking some research into exercise. Whether you are active or inactive, they are looking for feedback from all groups. It would be very helpful if you could please take 5 minutes to fill in their survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JX2SGKJ>.

Iain Hall

Be aware and be safe



Following the recent spate of thefts in the village, ranging from lead off the church roof and a vehicle, to garden machinery, valuables from a car to an honesty box, the Avon and Somerset Police have been contacted in an attempt to increase their awareness and to get some guidance on a way ahead to combat this unhealthy trend.

The PCSO allocated to Merriott (PC

Michelle Haines) is away on extended leave for at least another month and is not reachable on the email previously provided in the Messenger. Contact with Sgt Rob Jameson (Neighbourhood Police Team Sergeant – landline 01460 52459) has identified **PC 4140 Chris Purcell**

Chris.Purcell@avonandsomerset.police.uk / mobile 07889 658540 as our point of contact for the near future. As an alternate, **PCSO 7861 Caroline Matthews** can be contacted on e-mail via **7861@avonandsomerset.police.uk**

The Police made the point that Merriott is considered to be a quiet rural village with next to no crime and as such it attracts very little real law enforcement focus in a period when police resources are stretched. The police line is that we should report each and every single

incident to them via the contacts shown above, whether or not we consider them to be minor. Understandably, very minor incidents will not result in active policing action, but reporting them will serve to build an overall picture and if trends are shown to increase, we should see a positive response. In fact, the sightings of a police vehicle on patrol have increased since this intervention with the PCSO was undertaken.

The bottom line is that if issues are not reported, the police will have no visibility and Merriott may become more interesting for those with light fingers. Clearly, matters of urgency still require a 999 Call and individual safety remains paramount.

Steve Bateman



Gardening Quote of the Month

"Daffodils, That come before the swallow dares, and take The winds of March with beauty."

William Shakespeare

Sent in by Mo Frampton along with her photo



Badminton at the Village Hall

Looking for somewhere local to play badminton?

We are a small, friendly group who gather together every Tuesday, 8.45pm - 10.45 pm in the Village Hall.

Call Penny on 73180 for more information.

Penny Harvey



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Friday 12th April at 6.00pm

in The Blake Room

All welcome



SPRING CLEAN

Work Party—Merriott Church

Saturday 30th March 9.00am - 1.00pm

We would very much welcome lots of volunteers at our Spring Clean work party. There will be jobs in the churchyard, like hedge trimming, wilderness taming and general tidying – and also we will be spring cleaning inside the church too.

Refreshments will be available.

Please bring suitable clothing and tools.

More details from Tom Jones (240615).

OPEN GROUP

7th March - Wind instrument repair & maintenance

21st March - The fascination of metal detecting

For further information contact Marion Biggs on 74170

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Somerset Water Pollution

A Somerset farmer has recently been ordered to pay nearly £4,000 in fines and costs for polluting a stream with contaminated water. The incident near Stoke St Gregory was picked up during a routine Environment Agency visit. Water from a roofing drain had become contaminated by silage discharge. It emptied into a watercourse within a Site of Special Scientific Interest, impacting several kilometres of watercourse.

All farmers, landowners and businesses should have measures in place to prevent pollution. However, ensuring that these measures work and continue to work is vital. Regular monitoring and



testing can pick up any changes before the local environment is impacted. It can also avoid costly cleanup processes and help avoid accusations of negligence.

Incidents over the last few years in

Somerset have included costs of £4,000 for a Merriott poultry farm, £9,000 for a Radstock dairy farm, £18,000 for a Yeovil box company and £30,000 for a Cannington anaerobic digestion plant. Fines are unlimited and there is the risk of up to 5 years in prison. If your business creates contaminants, or you have a consent to discharge from the EA, get your equipment and processes checked and tested on a regular basis. Contact Somerset Scientific Services, part of Somerset County Council, for advice on 01823 355906 or SSSmailbox@somerset.gov.uk.

Amber Packer-Hughes, Marketing Officer

Somerset Scientific Services

The Gardeners' Hymn

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention
Though gardeners know it's true
Is when He made the goodies
He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable
Diseases great and small
All things paraquatable
The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses
The maggots on the peas
Manure that fills our noses
He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goosegogs
The club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce
And chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias
The frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings
The blight that kills the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes
The nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the greenstuff
The sparrows in the seeds.

The fly that gets the carrots
The wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardener's outlook
However green his thumbs!

But still we gardeners labour
Mid vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits our neighbours
Will somehow bypass ours!

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

Yoga at Merriott Village Hall

Yoga for wellbeing on Thursdays from 9.15am – 10.30am.

A relaxed, friendly class suitable for beginners, as well as those with more experience. We warm up with some breath work and stretches before exploring some of the classic yoga postures or asanas. Adaptations can be made to allow the postures and movements to be accessible to the individual. We may sometimes work in partners to help progress a posture, and there may be times when Sally will gently guide you into correct alignment.

Sally has been practising yoga for over 20 years and teaching for 12 years and loves to share the benefits of yoga with others. Alleviate stress, feel restored. For more information call 07711 999 388.

Sally Freemantle



Thank you Mo Frampton for sharing this with our readers.



JAYS COMPLETE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

For all enquiries please contact Jamie on:

Home: 01460 78891 Mobile: 07865 700 760

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- **Any other aspects of property maintenance**

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Your spare room could change someone's life

How do you use your spare Bedroom? A place to store the laundry or an under-used exercise bike? Why not give that room an amazing purpose? A home for a Somerset child.

The number of children in care in our county has now risen to over 500. Could you help them enjoy a brighter future?

Brandon and Josh 15 and 13, have been fostered for over seven years now and they can't thank their foster carers enough:

"When we first came to Dave and Paula's house we were really scared, our lives

were all over the place. They gave us love, stability and made us feel safe. They treat us just like their own children. We are in a much better place now and looking forward to the future – Dave and Paula say we can stay as long as we like."

We are a 'not for profit' service. We channel our energies into a competitive fee for you, great training and support from our team, plus extra rewards and discounts when you foster with us.

For more information call 0800 587 9900, visit www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or come to an information

evening:

www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/events.

What do I need to be a foster carer?

The enthusiasm to help turn a child or young person's life around.

A spare bedroom but you DON'T need to be a homeowner.

You must be over 21, but there's NO upper age limit.

Whether you're single or in a couple, what gender or sexual orientation you are DOESN'T matter.

Caroline Cook
Somerset County Council

The Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir will be presenting a Springtime Evening of light music and popular songs at Seavington Millennium Hall on **Saturday 13th April** at 7.30pm. There will be something to suit everybody, plus solo spots performed by an accordionist and a talented young singer. The bar will be open from 7.00pm and there will be a raffle. The event is being held to raise funds for improvements to the Seavington Community Store, a much valued village amenity. Tickets at £9 are available in advance from Seavington Community Store or call 01460 929605.

Marion Bennett

Crewkerne Community Cinema's next screening is on **Friday 8th March - HOTEL SALVATION** (2016, PG) at Wadham School. From India, in Hindi with English subtitles, comes this gentle drama about the conflict that arises once the dilemma between a death in dignity and the everyday life arises. Doors open at 7pm with the film starting at 7:30. Tickets on the door.

John Facey

What's on @



HASELBURY
MILL

Windy Miller's Pub - Cider Tasting Event - 1st March Julian Temperley from Burrow Hill Cider and The Somerset Cider Brandy, will be hosting a tasting session on **Friday 1st March** in Windy Miller's Pub. Come along and learn more about the production process and try some of their award-winning products. We'll have more local cider samples to try and our usual fantastic pub menu will be available from 6pm.

We're extending our opening hours; Windy Miller's will be open every evening Monday to Saturday from 6.30pm. Check our website for details of our Steak Nights, Curry Nights and a few other surprises.

www.haselburymill.co.uk Tel: 01460 77095

Mothering Sunday - 31st March A spectacular venue for an extra special person. Celebrate your mum in the Great Tithe Barn at lunchtime with our wonderful carvery for just £11.50 or £14.95 with dessert. If roast isn't your thing, you can choose from a delicious fresh seafood bar or a tasty vegetarian dish of the day.

For an evening celebration our A La Carte menu is available in the Lakeside. Haselbury Mill is the obvious place to treat your mum whatever your taste. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Julia Rideout

Health Alternative

Think a Sports Massage maybe too uncomfortable?

Then try Myofascial Release Therapy.

Myofascial Release Therapy is a gentle form of treatment that I often use to help ease neck, shoulder and lower back issues. Many people like the idea of sports and deep tissue massage but often feel that it could be too painful.

Myofascial Release works to the same aim of a deep tissue massage but is generally a more comfortable therapy. By relaxing the myofascia, the substance that surrounds all our muscles, the muscles themselves start to release and stretch out.

Established for over 10 years and based in Merriott offering the following treatments

- Sports & Remedial Massage
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- Indian Head Massage
- Facial Rejuvenation Massage
- Lymphatic Drainage Massage
- Myofascial Release Therapy

Phone or Text: 07801 031532

Email: victoria.healthalternative@gmail.com

Massage for a healthy lifestyle

News from All Saint's Church



Church Services in March

Sun 3rd 10.30am Sung Communion

Sun 10th 10.30am Parish Communion. This service is

immediately followed by our Annual Meeting.

Sun 17th 10.30am Family Service

Sun 24th 9am Holy Communion

Sun 24th 4pm **Café Church** at Merriott Tithe Barn

Sun 31st 10.30 am service for **Mothering Sunday**

Our **Mothering Sunday** service is a

shorter service for all ages where we give thanks for mothers. There are some small gifts for mums and refreshments after the service. All welcome.

Annual Meeting Sunday 10th March 11.30am

After refreshments, there will be a brief summary of church activities during the past year and some elections. Anyone who is on the Church Electoral Roll is very welcome to come and take part.

Lent Course for 2019

You are warmly invited to join us for our Lent Course
'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'

by Mark Greene (Making a difference where you are)

It will run for 8 weeks, every Monday afternoon, from 18th February - 8th April in the Tithe Barn from 3.30pm-5pm
All are welcome!

Café Church - Sunday 24th March 4pm

Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott. This is a short, more informal and accessible way of doing church, and is open to all. There will be refreshments as well as stories, activities and singing.
Everyone welcome.

Rev Julia Hicks

A diverse range of visitors are welcomed at Careford Lodge

Visits from Alpacas and Lawns Pre-School brought a smile to the residents of Careford Lodge, along with visits/events and coffee mornings with friends from Moorlands.



Janet & Connie



Rita



Joan, Connie and Mary blowing bubbles with the pre-school

Merriott Parish Council

Merriott Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Blake Room, at the Village Hall. Meetings start at 7.00pm and are open to members of the public. There is an open forum for approximately 10 minutes before the official meeting begins where members of the public can speak to Councillors informally. The Agenda for the meeting is displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard and on social media at least 5 days before the meeting is due to take place.

The Parish Council's powers include the upkeep and running of the Recreation Ground, the Pavilion and the civil burial ground. The Pavilion is available to hire for morning, afternoon or short evening sessions, ideal for exercise classes, dance class, children's parties etc. Full details are available from the Clerk.

The upgrade to the playground area and refurbishment of the car park has been undertaken this year and the Parish Council is already working on plans for further improvements.

It is also involved in highways and footpaths and planning applications, as well as other facilities in the village, such as the allotments.

Parish Councillors can choose to sit on a working party, discussing topics in greater depth and composing reports for the consideration of the full Council. The Parish Council has working parties for: Planning, Recreation Ground and Pavilion, Amenities and Finance.

There are currently vacancies for Councillors to join the Parish Council, so if you are interested in village matters and have some time to spare each month, we would love to hear from you. No formal qualifications are necessary, but you must be over 18 years old, resident in the village and on the electoral role. A keen interest in the village and a desire to help the local community would be ideal. If you would like to be involved please contact the Clerk to Merriott Parish Council by email at merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 07821 372886.

FLIX in the STIX

Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' proudly presents

KING OF THIEVES (PG)**Saturday 9th March**

in the Hinton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. 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.

A crew of retired crooks pulls off a major heist in London's jewellery district, but what begins as a nostalgic last hurrah for the group quickly becomes a brutal nightmare when greed overtakes them. A very strong cast of Michael Caine, Ray Winstone, Francesca Annis, Tom Courtney & Michael Gambon recreate with a few laughs the Easter weekend 2015 Hatton Garden jewellery heist, still one of the largest burglaries in value in British history.

Andrew Overhill

ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
MERRIOTT
PRESENT

SWING into SPRING

An evening of singing from
professional vocalist

GRAHAM DAVID

on **Saturday 11th May** at 7.30pm

Merriott Social Venue,
Lower Street, Merriott

Tickets £7.50 (which will include a light supper and must be booked in advance) available from Jean Crisp, 23 Beadon Lane, Merriott. Tel: 01460 279654 or email: jeanmcrisp23@gmail.com

All proceeds to Merriott Church**Merriott Book Group**

We are a small group who enjoy reading and discussing books and meet monthly in each other's houses to talk about the book we have all read that month. The books vary and can be fiction, non-fiction, biography and poetry.

A selection of recent books include:

"Heartburn" by Norah Ephron. "The Distance Between Us" by Maggie O'Farrell, "In a Land of Paper Gods" by Rebecca MacKenzie, "Mort" by Terry Pratchett and "A Long Long Way" by Sebastian Barry

This month we are reading "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain, the story of Ernest Hemingway's wife and their tempestuous marriage in France.

If you would be interested in joining our group please contact Marion Biggs on 74170 or email marionbiggs169@btinternet.com

Marion Biggs**Merriott Gardening Club****Tuesday 26th March** - 'Trekking the

Himalayas through a Nurseryman's Eyes' a presentation by Clive Groves of Groves Nurseries, Bridport. Clive will also regale us with a potted history of the formation of Groves Nurseries in 1866.

Clive holds the national collection of violets and he will be bringing some varieties with him for sale. Please meet at the Tithe Barn by 7.30pm - refreshments and raffle - everyone welcome - non-members £2 at the door.

For further information contact: Barbara 72298

*Barbara Byford***Refugee Support Group,**

South Somerset is holding a fundraising Coffee Morning on **22nd March** in Crewkerne Museum 10.30am - 12 noon. Do shop in Crewkerne that morning and drop in for coffee and home baking, perhaps meet a friend in this interesting venue, and visit our produce stall, all for a very worthwhile cause.

A concert is also taking place on **Friday 5th April** at 7.30pm in the Minster, Ilminster. Enjoy the Serenade Choir conducted by David Sutcliffe, the bass Huw Morgan and organist John Mingay, all offering their considerable talents to support a refugee charity. Tickets are £10. Glass of wine available. Look out for posters.

Geraldine Downey
01460 271358
3 Gough Close, Merriott



We will shortly be including our Useful Telephone Numbers - if you know of any changes, do please let us know: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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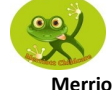
20
YEARS

- > Buying & selling your home
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- > Wills, tax & probate
- > Contract disputes
- > Employment advice
- > Business litigation
- > Equestrian related issues
- > Corporation transactions
- > Dispute resolution
- > Business restructuring
- > Issues concerning children
- > Landlord & tenant

“ I am glad I have you guys on my side ”

★★★★★
A HAPPY CLIENT

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