

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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July 2018

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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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It's back.... Merriott Village-wide Garage Sale



On **Saturday 21st July**, between 10.00am and 3.00pm, over 30 homes in Merriott will be holding sales on their drives and other places, including the Social Club.

People are invited to buy maps showing the locations of these sales for £1, available from Osbornes, the Social Club, Crewkerne Library and various stalls on the day.

This was a great community event last year, where local businesses and groups had special offers, tombola's, raffles, and the Merriott Indoor Market. Be a part of this by buying a map, browsing for bargains or having a stall. All proceeds going to the "Teresa Braley" Memorial Garden and the club's "redcoration & refurbishment" project. For more information contact Sue on grant@gswright.plus.com or text 07733 108386 or look on [facebook](#)

Merriott Social Club

Merriott Recreation Field new play installation opening - 21st July

The long awaited play project installation nears completion at last and adds eight further items bringing balance to the play area. There are now fun opportunities for all ages, from babies to senior citizens. The opening will be at 10.00. on **Saturday 21st July**.

There will be other activities to participate in from face painting to children's tennis, to Gym instruction.

There will be no charge for any activity.
Free ice cream anyone?

MPC wish to thank local contractor Tom Wallis for the excellent work he undertook installing the equipment.

We are also indebted to Phil Venn of Popular Motors for the extended loan of security fencing and other plant.

Iain Hall



Saturday 21st July at 4pm at Merriott Church 16 BELLS' CHOIR

Benefice Choir for Dinington, Lopen,
Hinton St George and Merriott

are delighted to present their annual SUMMER CONCERT

Performing a variety of their favourite songs



Followed by refreshments
Admission free!
(with retiring collection towards choir music funds)

All Saints Church News



Congratulations to Revd Nick Clarke who is being ordained as a Priest by Bishop Ruth and presiding at his first Communion service this month.

Thanks to all of you who continue to look after the church and churchyard as willing volunteers. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes, and your efforts are very much appreciated. And thank you to all of you who make services possible, including weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Changes to Sunday Services: After detailed consultation and discussion, we

have agreed a new monthly pattern of services for the 4 churches in this Benefice, including Merriott. All of the services that you are used to will continue to exist with a few tweaks (hopefully improvements!) But we have made changes to the monthly pattern to allow greater consistency of service times. We are also adding a monthly 4pm 'tea-time' informal service for those who want to come to something less structured and in the afternoon.

The new pattern will begin in September. Please look for more information in the Link magazine and church porch.

Rev Julia Hicks

Church Services in July

Sun 1st No service at Merriott

Revd Nick Clarke presides at first Communion service 10am Hinton St George

Sun 8th 9.30am Parish Communion

Sun 15th Family Service

Sun 22nd 10.00am Sung Communion

Sun 29th 8.30am Holy Communion

11am Deanery Service, Stocklinch Ottersea

16 Bells Choir Concert on **Saturday 21st July** at 4pm.

Merriott Social Club News

June saw our first every slime workshop and Sunday Tea, Cake & Craft afternoon which was well attended and our DIY SOS Bingo on the 30th.

On **July 21st** we have the ever popular local group "One Tree Hill", who will be aboard our pirate ship which sails at 8pm, rum cocktails will be available and well-dressed pirates and shipmates (inc children) are welcome. During the day the Merriott Village-wide Garage Sale is Back (see front page). Live music is planned for most months, with the Meritt Zider Fest in November. Check out all the events on our facebook page.

Thank you for your continuing support

Lorraine (Lola) Clarke, Chairperson

Crewkerne Twinning Association

We are holding an Evening Garden Party at The Speedwell Club, 5.30pm on **Saturday 21st July**. £10 per person includes buffet supper, a complimentary glass of Pimms and musical entertainment. Please bring your own alcoholic drinks. Everyone welcome. Contact Lorna on 01460 72962 or email: laylanboris@gmail.com by 14th July.

Lorna Scudder

Save the date

Community Defibrillator training session - **Wednesday 19th September**, 7.30pm, Tithe Barn. Come and learn how to use the community defibrillator in an emergency from a first aid trainer. Free training session open to all.

Please confirm attendance to merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk or 07841 116986 - a minimum of 12 is required for the session to run.

Clerk to Merriott Parish Council

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

At Music in the Meadow on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Hinton St George, Ricky Romain and accompanist and folk group Teasing the Cat performed to a very receptive audience. Thanks both to the musicians giving their services free and to the generosity of the audience, Refugee Support Group, South Somerset raised over £800 for refugees needing practical and emotional support in Europe.

Geraldine Downey



Come and join the
Choir
The 16 Bells Choir, now well into its third successful year, was formed in 2016 as the choir for the Merriott Benefice.

Currently around 45 in number, the choir is open to both children (11+) and adults with the aim of enjoying singing together

at special services throughout the year in our four beautiful churches, along with an annual celebratory summer concert (see front page for details).

If you would like to join us please contact Bob or Julia Hicks on 76406 or simply come along to Merriott Church for the next rehearsal.

Rachel Crane



Your local Scout Group

Hinton St George Scout Group
Located in Merriott Tithe Barn

Meeting each Thursday evening at 19:30

If you're looking to make new friends, learn new skills and to have a go at some exciting and varied activities, then joining the Hinton St George Scout Group might be just the ticket.



The Scouts (aged 11 to 14) use the Tithe-Barn in Merriott for around an hour and a half each Thursday evening (in school term time) immediately after the Beavers (aged 6 to 8) and Cubs (aged 8 to 11) meetings, which serves to allow a logical flow up the scouting chain as the youngsters get older.

During the summer months the Scouts maximise on outdoor activities; some of the most recent have included a visit to the Crewkerne Fire Station, map reading and navigation, archery, sailing, canoeing, cycling, and basic cooking and camping skills. On more 'rainy days', the Scouts have engaged in indoor sports, preparing for the St George's Day parade, learning about aircraft and

planning for their stall at the Crewkerne Fair.

Scouting welcomes both boys and girls, and if you're interested then please contact Debra Cummings on 07966 047953, e-mail debra.cummings600@gmail.com to arrange for a visit to the Scouts and to see if it is something you would like to be involved in.

Steve Bateman



Merrett-Stock 2018, a private event organised by a couple of village locals, took place on Saturday 2nd June to raise funds for the "Teresa Braley" Memorial Garden at Merriott Social Club. The organisers would like to extend their thanks to all those who gave both their time and/or equipment free of charge to help ensure the day was a great success. It was brilliant to see a good crowd of people enjoying the live music, exceptional weather, and some cracking burgers and sausages in support of such a worth cause. A huge thanks to all for their donations, a grand total of £350.00 was raised, which will help the Memorial Garden take its first steps towards becoming a haven in full bloom. Many thanks once again and all being well Merrett-Stock 2019 will be bigger and better.

Merriott Social Club

The Garden in Summer by CB Plants

By July our gardens can often look a little tired, the early flowering Geraniums, Aquilegias (Granny's bonnets), and flowering bulbs like Alliums have finished and the late summer to autumn stars of Rudbeckia, Helenium and Asters are yet to come.

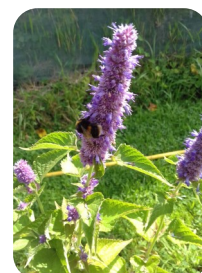
If you are looking for some summer colour to fill gaps in a flower border, or if there is a particular plant you have been searching for, why not come along to the Plant fair at Lower Severalls Nursery on **July 8th**. This is a new event for the Hardy Plant Society Somerset group who also organise the very popular spring fair at East Lambrook Manor. 18 independent nurseries from across the south west will be attending bringing a wonderful range of perennials, climbers, ferns and

shrubs. Among the grower-nurseries attending will be RHS gold medal winner Millwood Plants from North Devon and Roseland House Nursery from Cornwall holders of a national collection of Clematis viticella.

There will be delicious local rustic food by Jyoti Fernandes of Fivepenny Farm and tea and cakes by Lower Severalls Farmhouse served in the garden.

The fair runs from 10.00am to 4.00pm, we look forward to seeing you there. (See poster on page 6.)

Catherine Bond



Agastache anisata
(Anise Hyssop)

"Somerset Sight" Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to all those kind people who supported this event on the 8th June at Higher Beadon. We raised the fantastic sum of £145 (plus Gift Aid). The proceeds were delivered to the Charity the same day for which they were very grateful.

Liz Fisk



THE BARN, Merriott

Tel: 01460 351857 / 07879 066012

Email: thebarnmerriott@sky.com  **Barn at Merriott**

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Poetry Success at Merriott School

Children at Merriott School love poetry and they have had success in recent poetry competitions. Merriott children entered the Somerset Literacy Network Poetry Competition 2018 and Emily (Year 4) and Jessica and Ciara (Year 2) received a Commended award. As well as writing different poems, we also love reading and performing poetry. Harry (Year 3) and Solomon (Year 1), performed poems at the Ilminster Literary Festival last week. They both did exceptionally well with Solomon winning first prize in his age category.

We are very grateful to Difna Blaimy from the village who came in to help children project their voices and to speak clearly, confidently and slowly.



Winner of the Ilminster Literary Festival - Solomon

Mr Caswell, Deputy Headteacher and Literacy Leader, said, 'Poetry is great fun and challenges children in a different way. Writing poetry is a fantastic way to play with words including exploring new vocabulary and grammar. Performing gives children the chance to stand up in front of others and communicate confidently. I am really proud of our young poets and will make sure there continues to be lots of opportunities for poetry in our curriculum.'

Children are looking forward to a visit from Pete the Poet in the Autumn term.

Wendy Abbott
School Administrator &
Clerk to Federation Governing Body

You can make a difference



It may come as a surprise to you but we have many children and families in

need here in Somerset. However, many of these families can have their lives changed through contact with a friendly face.

Our **Safe Families For Children** volunteers provide a range of support to families, from having a chat over a coffee to helping a mum get her toddler to a doctor's appointment. You could become a **Safe Families Volunteer** and make a difference in a local family's life. In most

cases it only takes an hour a week.

We would like to meet people who may be interested in befriending and supporting a local family. We are now developing a network of volunteers across South Somerset and Mendip. All volunteers receive an induction and training and we also facilitate a peer to peer support network for our volunteers.

If you would like more information, please contact: Dawn Holmes dawn-holmes@safefamiliesforchildren.com 07384 218826 or visit www.safefamiliesforchildren.com

Dawn Holmes

OPEN GROUP

July 12th - Tour of the Twine works at West Coker
July 26th - An explanation of the gym equipment on Merriott Recreation field and a chance to have a go.

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

Marion Biggs

The Merriott Messenger relies totally on you sending us your news, views, stories and photos, so do please keep sending them in.

Copy date is always the 12th of the preceding month.

Thank you.

Editorial Team



Find us on Facebook

Merriott Social Club - Run by the Community for the Community

Here at Merriott Social Club 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.

Free wi-fi, child friendly, great atmosphere, darts, pool, fine Ales, cheery staff.

Opening Hours:

Monday-Thursday

7.00pm - 11:30pm

Friday & Saturday

4.00pm - 11:30pm

Sunday

12.00pm - 3pm & 7.00pm - 11.00pm

Other times by arrangement

01460 74376

merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com

Whats on weekly:

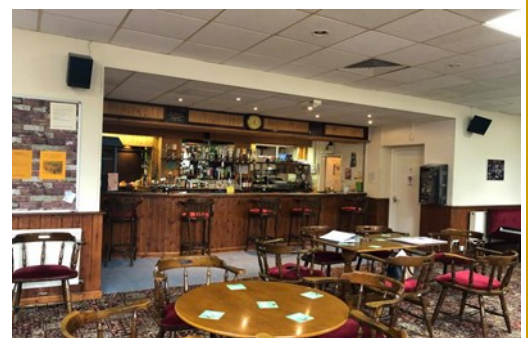
Monday & Tuesday - Karate Club

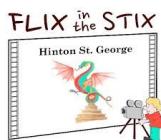
Wednesday - Zumba, Cash Bingo

& ladies skittles

Thursday - free pool night (over 16's)

Sundays - Table tennis





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

'Darkest Hour' (PG), on **Saturday 14th July**

in Hinton Village Hall at 7.30pm

starring Gary Oldman, Lily James, Kirstin Scott Thomas,
Ronald Pickup & Samuel West

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.

This thrilling and inspiring true story begins at the precipice of World War II as, within days of becoming Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill must face the unstoppable Nazi forces rolling across Western Europe and the threat of imminent invasion with an unprepared public, a sceptical King, and his own party plotting against him. Churchill must withstand his darkest hour, rally a nation and attempt to change the course of world history. This excellent film is dominated by the Best Actor (Oscar & BAFTA) performance of Gary Oldman. His performance is stunning.

Andrew Overhill

And, for now, the last on the subject of bonfires ...

Dear Editor, Further to the two letters last month about antisocial bonfires, we all know about recycling, reusing and reducing nowadays. We have collections and we have a recycling centre in Crewkerne. There is absolutely no need to have a bonfire in a residential area. Smoke inevitably drifts all over the place and quite often is full of unpleasant toxins. It is amazingly antisocial and can ruin a sunny day or fumigate washing. Please could people consider ways in which they could dispose of their rubbish before they start a fire.

Keith Maxwell

We've been sent in some fabulous photographs this month and whilst Photograph of the Month is on page 7, here are some others for you to enjoy:



Jess Payne of Manor Drive was pleased with his clematis., his best display in thirty years!



Alison Bibb sent in this photo of an orchid she found in her lawn under the bird feeder.
Can anyone identify it?!



One of Mo Frampton's favourite flowers - Digitalis. The spotting is nature's way of attracting bees.

New treatments from Sally-Marie's Beauty Therapy

Indian head massage: an effective therapy that has evolved from traditional Indian massage techniques. It targets specific muscles of the face, head, neck, and shoulders, where stress is often felt. The treatment leaves the client feeling deeply relaxed, rejuvenated and uplifted.

Thai foot massage: an ancient form of therapeutic healing, combining acupuncture, stretching and applied yoga exercises. The therapist uses their thumbs, hands and a traditional wooden acupressure tool to massage the lower legs and feet. It is a wonderful treatment that promotes overall health, and a deep feeling of relaxation and wellbeing.

Natural lift facial massage: incorporates techniques from both Japanese and Indian healing therapies, treating both the surface and deeper muscles of the face neck and scalp. Using a combination of techniques, stress and tension held deep within the muscles are gently released. The circulation and complexion are improved, reducing the appearance of fine lines, whilst having a toning effect upon the facial muscles.

For further information about these or any other of my treatments please call Sally-Marie 01460 73957. Gift vouchers available.



Swish Style Swap Event—a great success

Friends of Merriott First school, the PTA of our local school are always thinking up new and interesting ways to raise money to benefit the children attending the local school. Our most recent event; SWISH, a new environmentally friendly way to update your wardrobe, was held on the 27th April at the Merriott First School hall for a number of eager ticket holders.

The event format is an innovative and eco-friendly event where you bring items you no longer wish to wear and exchange them for something new to you! The school hall was decorated, the clothes rails were full, the accessories table brimming, the drinks were on ice, canapés cooked, and exchange tokens were in hands. At 8pm the supporters of the

FOMS style event swished! And these ladies went for it, proving one lady's cast offs is another's fresh new look. Arms



were filled with goods and laughter from the changing room drowned out the music and the clinks of glasses.

Appointments were booked with Barnett's & Brows and Beauty by Hannah. The beautiful handmade products by Jamie Lemon Designs and Applejack and Ruby were purchased, all whilst delicious

food by My Kitchen served. To complete the night; the Swish Swap ticket raffle; Family ticket to Weymouth Summer Pan- to was won by a Merriott mum.

"What a fantastic evening, some gorgeous clothes up for grabs, amazing food, a lovely bunch of ladies and an all-round fab evening—can't wait for the next one!"

Quote from the Style Swish Swap Facebook page.

Heartfelt thanks from the FOMS team. Together we

Swished it

Thanks to; Paula at the RCSCA shop, Angela Witcher for staying until the end on behalf of the school, Katherine Rooke for the generous raffle prizes, Outspoken Projects for the set.

Meret Maynard

Dear Editor



We've had a couple of responses with regards to "Oh! Deer" in last month's issue; one perhaps more useful than the other!

There are a number of things Ann could try to stop deer coming in to her garden. Rotate the various methods often:

1. Human hair.
2. Tie lightweight plastic bags to the perimeter. They don't like the rustle or sudden movement when lifted by the wind. I know it lowers the tone, so perhaps some bags from Harrods might overcome this!
3. Water beds/plants with garlic tea: crush garlic cloves, steep in water for an hour and water the beds or strain and put in a sprayer.
4. Soap on a stick, or soap tied to bushes: Grate soap and put under lettuce, primroses, etc.
5. Deer don't like smelly plants such as marigolds. Marshalls Seeds sell Grazers which can be sprayed safely on to ornamental and vegetable plants and is said to keep rabbits, deer and pigeons away.

Perhaps Ann can report back on which methods she has used and what was successful?

Mo Frampton

Venison steaks sounds good to me!

Shane O'Brien

Gardening Quote of the Month

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken." James Dent

Sent in by Mo Frampton





HPS
HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
Gardening with hardy perennials



HPS Somerset Group
Summer

PLANT FAIR

Sunday, 8 July 2018

10:00 am – 4:00 pm
at Lower Severalls
Crewkerne, Somerset
TA18 7NX

17 of the South West's top nurseries will be attending. Admission charge will be £4.
(£3.50 for RHS & HPS members.)

For a list of the nurseries attending visit somersetshps.com.





Lower Severalls
farmhouse bed & breakfast



Photograph of the month



Photo taken by Rev Bob Hicks in his garden
Please send your photo to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com



Music in Bloom

Flower Festival

7th & 8th July

Refreshments served
10.00am – 4.00pm
St George's Church,
Hinton St George

Volunteer Drivers needed for St Margaret's Hospice

We need volunteers to collect patients from their homes and drive them to our day centre in Yeovil and Taunton on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, then returning to take the patients home. Drivers use their own car or the Hospice minibus. Mileage is payable when using driver's own vehicle. Volunteers can do this on a regular day(s) or as adhoc to cover sickness or holidays. Any help is appreciated. We try to match drivers to patients who live in their local area.

This position is subject to a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check. All drivers must hold a valid driving licence. Drivers also need to notify their insurer if they are using their own vehicle to transport volunteers and the Hospice will need to see this approval together with the current MOT certificate for the vehicle. If you are interested in finding out more, please call Karen Davey, Reception & Volunteer Coordinator on 01935 709480 or email: volunteering @st-margarets-hospice.org.uk



Merriott Gardening Club

Tuesday 31st July - A talk/slides will be given by Penny Roberts on the subject of Birds. Meet at the Tithe Barn, Church Street at 7.30pm. Refreshments, raffle and 'Flower of the Month' competition. Everyone welcome - non-members £2 at the door. For more information please contact Barbara (72298).

Barbara Byford

Poem by John Clare

July, the month of summer's prime,
Again resumes her busy time;
Scythes tinkle in each grassy dell,
Where solitude was wont to dwell;
And meadows, they are made with noise
Of laughing maids and shouting boys,
Making up the withered hay
With merry hearts as light as play.
The very insects on the ground
So nimbly bustle all around,
Among the grass or dusty soil,
They seem partakers in the toil.

Loud is the summer's busy song;
The smallest breeze can find a tongue;
While insects of each tiny size
Grow teasing with their melodies,
Till noon burns with its blistering breath
Around, and day dies still as death.
The busy noise of man and brute
Is on a sudden lost and mute;
The cuckoo singing as she flies
No more to mocking boy replies.
Even the brook that leaps along
Seems weary of its bubbling song.
And, so soft its waters creep,
Tired silence sinks in sounder sleep.
The cricket on its banks is dumb,
The very flies forget to hum.

Sent in by Ann Lawrence



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