

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000 homes

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

June 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 July issue is 12th June.

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"Merri" is back

Do you remember the bat that Martin Davies rescued from his drive last summer?

When he took it to the RSPCA Centre at Hatch Beauchamp it was identified as a grey long eared bat – a very rare species with only a thousand or so in the whole country. The bat expert there, India Long, recognised that it was a very young female bat and that she had a badly damaged foot. India cared for her for several months until she doubled in weight to 10 grams.

In February she was joined at the Centre by a male of the same species – called Gandalf. By the middle of April it was felt that both bats were ready to be released back into the wild. Tail Mill was chosen as an ideal site as there is a large colony there of a variety of species. It is hoped

that the two will mate and produce even more of these special bats.

Apparently they have a range of up to five kilometres, so look out for them flying over your house. Good luck Merri and Gandalf!



The Bat House at Tail Mill welcomes Merri & Gandalf

Marion Biggs

Success for Merriott Bowling Club

For the third consecutive season we were successful in topping the Wessex mixed league in 2017 winning 17 of the 22 league games with a record tally of points.

The photograph was taken last month during our annual tour of the Algarve in preparation for the new outdoor season which runs throughout the summer.



We are always keen to welcome new members, so if you have never bowled before or are an accomplished bowler, please contact Ian Kendall (01460-73029) or browse our website www.merriottbowls.btck.co.uk

In addition to league games we have friendly fixtures against teams in Somerset, Dorset & Devon, weekly club sessions and an active social programme.

Ian Kendall – Club Secretary

Waitrose Community Matters

Despite being up against strong competition (Crewkerne in Bloom) thanks to you, the Merriott Messenger received £140 from the Waitrose Green Token scheme - thank you.



All Saints' Church, Merriott

Summer Garden Party

Saturday 23rd June

Toys 12noon - 3pm Tombola

Merriott Rectory Garden

There will be refreshments, stalls & games

Bric a Brac Plants

All Welcome

The Footpath Maintenance Group has been busy

A big thank you from the Footpath Maintenance Group to all the people who have footpaths running through or adjacent to their properties, who have been working hard to cut down vegetation and clear away litter and abandoned dog poo bags. Your action really is appreciated by us and by the people who use the paths.

Thank you for taking the time.

Vegetation along the paths is now growing at a pace and we will try our best to keep it cut back during the summer months.



Finger post discovered in a very poor state

One member of our team recently rescued a finger post from the hedge and, with the help of a local resident who skilfully repaired it, has reinstated it.



Finger post fully restored

John Goldie



Merriott Tithe Barn Clean and Shine Morning 9am to 12pm Saturday 16th June

To all who love and use this special building, please come along to give it a proper clean and spruce up – inside and out.

You bring effort – we provide tea and cake!
For more info; please contact Michelle Down on 01460 72316



Father's Day June 17th

Any man can be a Father
but it takes someone special to be a Dad.

Sent in by Paula Bateman



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.



Can you rearrange these letters to find answers for names of houses, places, things and people in and around Merriott?

(answers page 7)

Example: RASP - SPAR

NOT SHAME

SHAKES TROUT

CRIED

BOONER

TOWER OF RAMLA

PER TART

NAKED HEIGHTS

TO ZIP ROBE

SEEMS ROT

LAST SNAIL



Music in Bloom Flower Festival

7th and 8th July 2018

St George's Church

Hinton St George TA17 8SP

Music and flowers - the perfect combination!

Do visit St George's and enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements depicting favourite melodies. Refreshments will be served between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

No entry fee, but donations are welcome in support of
Our Church Hinton St George Building Trust.



Did you know

Spare a thought for the cattle which live outside for most of the time, even in the sort of snow conditions we have experienced recently. Highland Cattle are not rare, with about 15,000 in the UK and many more have been exported to countries around the world.

These cattle are thought to have descended from Hamitic Longhorn cattle in north Africa and been brought to this country perhaps 4,000 years ago by Neolithic farmers. The coat can be black or various shades of red and even yellow and dun. In spite of their appearance, they are fairly docile and usually first

calve in the spring when heifers are between 2 and 3 years old.

They are well adapted to wet and cold conditions and are much less tolerant of



Highland cow on Dartmoor

warm weather. This is because they have a unique double coat of hair. The characteristic long, oily outer hair, from which the rain runs off, covers a downy undercoat. Highland cattle are thought to be almost as tolerant of cold as Arctic caribou and reindeer.

The meat from these cattle is comparatively lean and the milk has a high butterfat. They are particularly suited to producing meat from more marginal farming areas, particularly in Scotland, but also from the higher ground of areas such as Exmoor and Dartmoor.

John Bowman

Dear Editor

We have received two letters complaining about garden fires, both are published here:

It's not very often that I write any letters of complaint, but if there is one thing in the village that drives me crazy, it's garden bonfires.

It seems to be that whenever we have a glimpse of sunshine, that we are lucky enough to have all day through to a lovely late sunny evening, you can guarantee that someone will think it's a prime time to light a stinking fire. This is then all you can smell all evening as windows are thrown open with delight at the thought of summer finally arriving and the excitement of sitting out in the garden with a very nice glass of something cold loses its appeal when all you can smell and taste is smoke rather than the nice G & T you've been looking forward to.

I understand it's useful to have garden fires occasionally, but on beautiful sunny days that are so few and far between, to do this later in the evening when everyone has safely shut all the windows back up and finished enjoying the sunshine would be a much more thoughtful time to do it. We can then all enjoy the much needed good weather. *Kate Carne*



The attached photo shows my neighbour having a bonfire at 8.00am this morning. The same fire was smoking all yesterday afternoon and evening and I was unable to open the windows due to the smell.

Please could you include an article in the next Messenger reminding people to be more courteous and mindful to their neighbours if they do have to have a bonfire.

Many thanks.

Name & Address supplied

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.

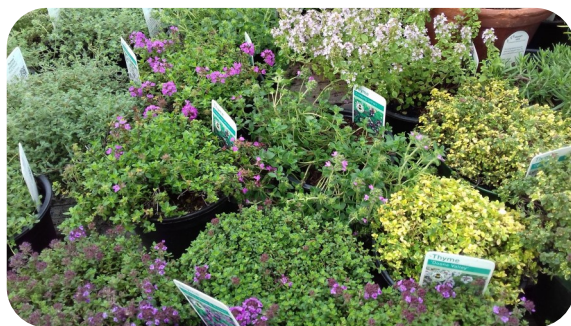
Please contact us if you think we can help you or if you can help us.

Registered Office : 14 Lower Street Merriott Somerset TA16 5 NL

Tel: 01460 72465

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

All about ... Thymes



variety Silver Queen (*Thymus citrodorus* 'Silver Queen'). *Thymus* 'Doone Valley' has attractive yellow and green variegated leaves and a lemon scent.

The creeping Thymes hug the ground forming aromatic ground cover for sunny well drained areas. They are lovely used along the edge of a path

Whether for cooking roasted vegetables, a stew or on the barbeque, or to carpet the ground and soften the edges of paving, there are many different Thymes to choose from.

Some make woody growth forming a low mound that needs a trim every summer after flowering to keep in shape. This type include the Common Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) and Broadleaf Thyme (*Thymus pulegioides*) which are both excellent for using in cooking. Lemon Thyme (*Thymus citrodorus*) is also very good for cooking, as is silver leaved

where occasional treading on releases their scent, or trailing over a pot.

Thymus serpyllum 'Snowdrift' has masses of white flowers in summer. 'Cabon Wine and Roses' has pink flowers and Woolly Thyme has tiny furry leaves and pale pink flowers.

All Thymes need a sunny site and good drainage so adding grit when planting is a good idea. They are all excellent for growing in pots where they can be sited by a door or seating area and are superb plants for attracting bees and butterflies.

CB Plants

OH Deer !



Many gardens on the outskirts of the village are favourite breakfast stops for the local deer. They are beautiful but their taste for new shoots on our rose bushes is a bit anti-social! I have been told that scattering human hair gathered from the hairdressers deters them. Does anyone else have other ideas?

Ann Lawrence

Don't forget to send us your news (and photos) for inclusion in the next issue of the Merriott Messenger.

Copy date for the July issue is **12th June**. Please send to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com
Thank you.

Careford Lodge News

We had a very successful open day a few weeks ago raising money for Breast Cancer Care.

We would like to thank Tesco in Chard for supplying flowers for our residents to arrange each Friday and members of a local WI visited us to demonstrate a Japanese style floral arrangement with the flowers. Our thanks also to Merriott Preschool children for visiting us every

month to share activities with our residents who very much look forward to their visits. We also share activities with the Lawns Pre-School children from Crewkerne.

The ladies from Careford have been busy knitting squares which we donate to Ferne Animal charity to sell in their shop and blankets for the animals.

We held a very enjoyable Royal Wedding party on the 19th May which was enjoyed by residents, friends and family.

We have arranged our summer fete for **Friday 10th August** when we will be raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Care. Look out for further details nearer the time.

Sophie Roberts



Serving the community for over 100 years

Call in to ask about our new Pet Health Plans
Spread the cost of routine procedures and
Receive discounts on many goods & services

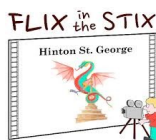
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Furnham Road, **Chard**, TA20 1AF
Tel 01460 66111
Stapleton Road, **Martock**, TA12 6HH
Tel 01935 825199
Mountfields Road, **Taunton**, TA1 3BQ
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Editorial Team



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

'THE POST' (12A), on **Saturday 9th June** in Hinton Village Hall at 7.30 pm, starring Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks & Alison Brie.

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.

Meryl Streep & Tom Hanks shine in this historical thriller by Steven Spielberg. Streep plays Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper -- The Washington Post. With help from Editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks), she races to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spans three decades and four US presidents. Together, they must overcome their differences as they risk their careers - and freedom - to help bring long-buried truths about the Vietnam War to light.

A top quality film that was nominated for numerous awards including Best Film & Best Actress at the Oscars & Bafta's.

Andrew Overhill

All Saints Services June

Sun 3rd 8.30am Holy Communion

Sun 10th 9.30am Parish Communion

Sun 17th Family Service for Fathers' Day (with a talk from 'Prodigal Bikes' charity)

Sun 24th 10.00am Sung Communion

Sat 30th 2pm Ordination of Priests

There is also a local Confirmation service on **Tuesday June 19th** at 7pm, South Petherton Church.

Date for your diary: 16 Bells Choir Concert on **Saturday 21st July** at 4pm, Merriott Church

Rev Julia Hicks



Can you connect the Two Ronnies, a Viper and Merriott?

The connection is an etymological feature known as Juncture Loss or Faulty Separation.

Thus, in the well-known Two Ronnies sketch, Four Candles became **Fork Handles**.

Similarly the Viper snake or Nadder became an **Adder** (the River Nadder in Salisbury is still so called because it winds like the snake).

And in Merriott we have our own example where Pyke Corner became **Pye Corner**.

Other words which changed in the same way include :-

- a Napron which became an **Apron**
- a Noupire which became an **Umpire**
- an Eute which became a **Newt**, and
- an Ekename which became a **Nickname**

Peter Bryans

OPEN GROUP

The Open Group has a busy summer planned and you would be welcome to join us for any of the activities.

June 14th - Visit to the gardens at Horn Park near Bridport with tea and cake

June 28th - Picnic lunch at Chard Reservoir

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.

August 9th - Walk to Haselbury Mill and lunch.

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



Are you looking for local groups, activities and services that could help you to manage your health and well-being?

Wellbeing South Somerset is a new website designed to promote good health and well-being in South Somerset. It features a huge Directory of local support, from meet-ups, to walking groups, to condition-specific support groups, befriending services and even housing and debt advice. Visit:

www.wellbeingsouthsomerset.org

Matt Day, Health & Wellbeing Partnerships Lead

Andrew Sheppard

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Social Club looking towards a brighter future

Merriott Social Club now has a strong new committee following its recent Emergency General Meeting and I have stepped into the big shoes of Brett who was the previous Chair.

Having lived in the village for 10 years and been an active member of the Club, I have seen it go through many ups and downs over the years, but have enjoyed many happy times with my sister Teresa who was Club Secretary, but who sadly passed away recently, which has greatly affected the community.

We have run many events to help raise funds and just recently the Club was able to pay out for a new roof which was badly needed. This has, however, taken a considerable amount of money and left the Club a little short for other improvements, hence why the new toilet facilities

have not been completed and the central heating system not repaired.

In the last 2 years there has been a significant change in the public's spending habits and sales have declined considerably. 2017 was a quieter year and was 15% down on 2016. Events were not as well supported, some were held at a loss. Main annual events Halloween, Boxing Day and New Years Eve were the worst for 4 years. We hope to try and improve on that.

Currently we rely on private events and fundraising as we can not receive any grants or funding from various organisations. If anyone can offer their services free of charge or volunteer to help paint, repair, etc we would love to see you.

It was voted that the Club should

re-brand itself in order to continue and secure its future. It is a community building run by the community for the community and there will be further details on this in the near future, so watch this space.

We have space for darts, skittles and pool teams. The club is available during the day for clubs or fitness activities and if anyone is interested please ring after 7pm any evening. There is a large function room available to all for adult and kids parties and fundraising events.

We currently have no events arranged for June but if we do we will advertise on our Facebook page, village notice boards and shops.

Here's hoping for a bright future.

Lorraine Clarke, Chairperson

Village Hall Activities

Boxercise - Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm

An all over body workout including certain components of boxing, such as punches and exercises including skipping. Sessions set up in different formats - sometimes circuit based others a mixture of activities.

Bums, legs and tums - Thursdays 7.15-8.15pm

Circuit style session using exercises focusing on legs and core areas. Variety of exercises - squats, lunges and sit ups. Work to your own ability and as you improve you will be able to up the intensity as you go.

Very friendly relaxed atmosphere with like minded people looking for fun and a sociable way of exercising with friends. £5 a session.

Contact: Natalie on 07702 788 883, or on Facebook by searching Natalie Bailey sports massage and fitness.

Natalie Bailey



Somerset Sight is a long-established charity supporting people with sight loss and is currently looking to recruit volunteers to visit visually impaired people on a regular basis to help with correspondence or trips out.

Would you like to help someone in your local area? All volunteers are trained and supported and reasonable out of pocket expenses are paid.

For further information please contact Somerset Sight on: 01823 333818 or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk

Paula Bateman

Recipe for Midsummer Potatoes

By Janet Lailey

Cooking time: 8-10 mins.

Preparation: 6 months approx.

Method:

January - buy your seed.

Pink-Fir-Apple's what you need.

Chit the tubers till they sprout.

Let light in, but keep mice out.

Dig your trench though soil be cold.

Line with compost or leaf-mould.

Backfill, whistling the while -

Ply the spade with joyful smile.

Test the earth with naked bum:

Still too cold if you go numb.

(You could omit this rustic rite to save your neighbours undue fright.)

April - frosts have mostly flown
So plant your spuds, a hand-span down.

Badgers, keen on digging too,
Are observing all you do.

Fence the bed: predation stop;

Wire netting will defend your crop.

Earth the shoots up as they grow.

Watch in June for flowers to show.

Twenty-first of June at last -
Cometh the hour, cometh the feast!

Haul the haulm up with great care
To catch the tubers unaware.

Pinkish bubbles rise through soil,
Rewarding all your watchful toil.

Display these riches to the cook;
Impress her with your modest look.

'Neath limpid fountain's crystal stream

Stroke tenderly to get them clean.
(or under a running tap)

Plunge into water ready boiling
Plus mint and salt. Beware of spoiling

By leaving them too long to wait.
Drain and serve on well-warmed plate.

A knob of butter as you eat,
And your delight will be complete.



Open Door Community Rehearsal at Martock Parish Hall

with Kingsbury Episcopi Band
(www.kingsburyband.co.uk)

Saturday 23rd June, 10am - 3pm Free

Drop in for tea/coffee/cake with our without your instrument and experience a band practice led by MD Brian Kelloway.



Photograph of the month



Photo taken by Paula Bateman, Rape seed field just outside
Seavington St Michael
Please send your photos to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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

Gardening Quote of the Month



"Roses are red, Violets are blue, but they
don't get around like the dandelions do!"

Slim Acres

Sent in by Mo Frampton



Answers to Anagram quiz
HAM STONE
SHUTTER OAKS
CIDER
OSBORNE
WATERLOO FARM

PARRETT
THE KINGS HEAD
BOOZER PIT
SOMERSET
ALL SAINTS

HASELBURY MILL HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Not Just Somerset's Leading Wedding Venue.....



Our Lakeside restaurant & bar are open every day for Breakfast – Lunch – Afternoon tea – Dinner.

Lunch served Midday onwards Special 2crs £10.95 – 3crs £13.95 – Dinner from 6.00pm –
Afternoon teas served all day - Friday and Saturday evenings Windy Millers Bar serving our
own oven baked pizzas and gourmet Burgers

Our fantastic carvery served every Sunday from noon.

We offer a choice of four local meats beef, pork, turkey & ham as well as several fresh
vegetables all with real homemade gravy – Booking recommended.
£10.95 adult's £5.95 children.

Our Lunch & Dinner menus are all sourced from local suppliers using seasonal produce, with
daily changing dishes from fine dining to more relaxed bistro style.

From conferences to family parties, we have a number of function suites including the
spectacular Great Tithe Barn to suit both private & corporate events,
with prices for every pocket.

Alongside this we have our hotel with 21 bedrooms in the
Coach House & Georgian Mill House.

**From a quiet pint in our beautiful gardens to that special celebration,
Haselbury Mill has it all.**

For information on upcoming events, Special offers & menus please see our website.

www.haselburymill.co.uk



or call 01460 77095

Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett, near Crewkerne TA18 7NY



Merriott Gardening Club

Thursday 7th June 2.30pm

We have an extra occasion for you to
enjoy this month and have organised a
visit to Picket Lane Nursery, Picket Lane,
South Perrott where you can look around
Neil Lovesey's wonderful gardens and also
buy his plants - it is well worth a visit.
Meet at the Gardens at 2.30pm or, if you
need a lift please contact Janet (279885)
who will arrange transport for you.

Tuesday 26th June

A talk/slides by Christine Stones on the
Victorian Garden. Meet at the Tithe Barn,
Church Street at 7.30pm. Refreshments,
Raffle and Flower of the month. Everyone
welcome - non-members £2 at the door.
For more information please contact
Barbara (72298).

Barbara Byford

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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