

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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March 2018

Inside this issue:

All Saints Church News	2
Merriott's Wildlife	3
All about ... native plants for wildlife	4
Official Dawn Patrol Report	5
Easter Quiz	6
Merriott Village Hall AGM	7
Our Sponsors	8

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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One year on

At the end of February 2017 the New Merriott Messenger was standing on its own two feet. We became financially viable after our funds were transferred from the Parish Council, as the Parish clerk had previously managed our banking. One year on, we are thriving as we continue to serve this community.

We are, as our name suggests, a Messenger, and not a campaigning magazine. We aim to deliver a variety of information in an unbiased way.

We depend on a generous group of local sponsors – **Thank You!** - and a voluntary editorial and distribution team to bring you a free newsletter eleven times a year.



Please let us know what you would like to see more/less and send articles and pictures to share with other readers.

Please use our sponsors – there is every sort of trade and service available right here on our doorstep

A big **Thank You** to those who deliver house to house – reserves are always welcome to cover holidays or illness, so contact us if you enjoy a walk occasionally and would be able to help in this way.

If you are new to the village or recently retired we hope the

Messenger is useful to you.

We would love to have suggestions and articles from younger people too. Our email address is merriottmessenger@gmail.com.

Editorial Team

Dear Editor

Can I thank the contributors for their suggestions regarding signage and other highways matters in Merriott? Please keep them coming direct to the Merriott Messenger, MPC Clerk, our Facebook page, to any councillor or even to our monthly meetings.

There were certainly some good ideas that many would probably agree with. Renovation of the traditional finger post road signs, good quality Merriott signs (Ham stone?) and speed cameras for example. Highway maintenance is a step further—we could work with SCC Highways using MPC funds (your money), but as we step forward, will SCC just step back further? What do you think?

Regarding the “lumps of Ham stone” comment I made in the December edition (available on the village web site), I did not say that Merriott was not a Ham stone village; I referred to the ‘Quarry villages’ which first used them (as a reference to their quarrying heritage).

MPC did once consider them - the cost would have been £3,500, I think.

However, “the majority of buildings are constructed in Ham stone” in one letter needs to be challenged. Possibly even the majority of stone buildings are not. Agricultural buildings and the ends and rears of many houses, are of local stone

which was much cheaper.

Are the majority of houses here actually built of faced block from Sidney Morris?

To clarify the point I raised about Satnav availability, could I suggest that contributors refrain from using derogatory terms when in disagreement, let's respect each others views.

“It is somewhat arrogant to say”, which I did not, I put it as a question. It would be just as discourteous, for example, to refer to map aficionados as ‘Luddites stuck in the last century’.

Continued on page 4

Natural India

A talk on the environment, people and culture of South India with lots of pictures!

by Revs Julia and Bob Hicks

7pm Saturday 3rd March 2018
The Tithe Barn, Church Street, Merriott
TA16 5PS

FREE ENTRY
(donations invited for the Tithe Barn)
Indian snacks served, bring your own drink, all ages welcome!



All Saints Church News

Eco Challenge We have invited our congregation members to take up an Eco Challenge this Lent. It's a way of engaging more deeply with some of the environmental issues that the planet faces. We have printed a bright green Eco Challenge booklet (which you can find in church) with some activities and tasks to tackle during the run-up to Easter. Why don't you join in! It's not all doom and gloom; we also want to celebrate and enjoy God's wonderful creation.

Lent continues to be punctuated by regular **midweek communion services** at 10am on Thursday mornings. These are quiet and reflective, and everyone is welcome. As usual, there are some '**Lent Lunches**' happening on Wednesdays between 12-2pm across our four villages in aid of various charities; which you are welcome to attend without making a booking. We are holding one at the Rectory on **21st March** in aid of the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Details of other dates and venues are in the '**Link**' magazine.

Mothering Sunday is on **11th March**. We invite all mums and their families to a special Mothering Sunday Family Service at 10am! On **Good Friday**, the **30th March**, we will be doing an 'Easter Walk' with storytelling and activities. We will start at the church at 10am. More

details will be posted in the church porch.

There will be a local **Confirmation Service** in June this year. Please get in touch with us if this is something you would like to consider as part of your journey of faith.

The Tithe Barn – Help Needed Could you volunteer to give some time to help us run the lovely old Tithe Barn, opposite the church? Robin Gilkes and Ann Down want to step down in April, so we are seeking a new Chairperson and a new Manager. The Chairperson helps to set priorities and direction and chairs the Tithe Barn Committee meetings, while the Manager makes sure things run smoothly week by week. One person could take on both roles! We would also like with some additional help with cleaning and a couple more members for the committee. Please get in touch if you think you could offer something.

Church Services in March

Thu 1st - 10am Midweek Communion for Lent

Sun 4th - 8.30am Holy Communion

Thu 8th - 10am Midweek Communion for Lent

Sun 11th - 10am Family Service for Mothering Sunday

Thu 15th 10am Midweek Communion for Lent

Sun 18th - 9.30am Parish Communion

Thu 22nd - 10am Midweek Communion for Lent

HOLY WEEK

Sun 25th - 10am Benefice Communion for Palm Sunday

Tue 27th - 8pm Compline for Holy Week

Thu 29th - **Maundy Thursday** - 7pm Communion (Lopen Church)

Fri 30th - **Good Friday**—10am Walk with Storytelling (Start at Merriott Church)

2pm Good Friday Service (Hinton St George)

Dates for your diary:

Easter Day, 1st April, 10.30am Communion Service

Spring Work Party for the church and churchyard, Saturday 14th April, timing roughly 9am to 12pm.

APCM (The Church's Annual Meeting), Monday 23rd April, 7pm in the Tithe Barn.

Rev'd Bob Hicks
01460 76406

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Only £20.00 per session.

Editorial team member Marion Biggs - do you know where she is? Answer page 4.





My kitchen diary date:

23rd March

Cafe and craft

10.00am till 1.00pm

Delicious handmade cakes, brunch and lunch

Local crafts for sale

Free kids crafts

People welcome to come and sell their crafts
Tables are free. At the Merriott Village Hall.

To get in touch, visit our website

mykitchencatering.co.uk or join us at

Mykitcheneventsandcatering on Facebook.

New Sponsor

Merriott Mobile Feet Treatment

A new service is now available to residents of Merriott & surrounding villages, offering treatment for all common types of foot health needs in your own home.

Sarah is a trained Nurse & Qualified Foot Health Practitioner who was previously running a successful Mobile Foot Health Service in Cornwall before recently moving to Merriott.

Sarah's philosophy is that quality of service is paramount. All the equipment used is sterilised and vacuum packed for individual use ensuring the highest standards of safety.

Sarah can be contacted on 07733 225360 or by email:

Sarah@feettreatment.co.uk, www.feettreatment.co.uk

Merriott's Wildlife

When we came to live in Merriott in 1980 from a semi-rural village, we were disappointed to find so few birds here. Even the peanuts rotted, although the call of the cuckoo, long gone now, was some compensation.

Persevering with bird feeders, making a wildlife garden and planting mixed hedges and copses of native trees in the 1990s has gradually improved things. In addition to the usual garden favourites, we have seen flocks of long-tailed tits, greenfinch and fieldfares, the odd red-wing, siskin, blackcap, sparrow hawk and, overhead, buzzards and peregrines. Now, increasingly, we have green and spotted woodpeckers and a family of goldfinch have been regular visitors to the teasel and evening primrose over the winter.

However, we were unprepared for the long list of sightings made by Fiona and Dale Robinson and Alison and Martyn Spice around their homes in Court Mill over the last year. They recorded 51 different species of bird, many of which we do not see in the garden such as dipper, little egret, mandarin duck,

The knot grass moth caterpillar found in our garden in Merriott, Sept 2010



The mullein moth caterpillar found in our garden in Merriott, June 2013.

mallard, moorhen and kingfisher, reflecting their proximity to the stream. The goldcrest, jay, nuthatch, tree creeper and willow tit must enjoy the new tree cover. Among raptors which we have never seen, or at least not recognised,

are leaches petrel and red kite.

That was not all they recorded. On their list are 21 species of moth and butterfly and 18 different animals. Notable among the Lepidoptera are elephant and hummingbird hawkmoths, jersey and scarlet tiger moths, vapourer moth and magpie moth. Among the butterflies is the holly blue, speckled wood and silver washed fritillary.

The less common animals again indicate a watery habitat with bull frog, newt, elver, otter and water vole, but also seen was grass snake, harvest mouse, shrew, slow worm and vole.

Who would have thought that Merriott had such a rich natural fauna? Altogether it is an impressive tally and one which should enable us to make a convincing case for the conservation of this part of Merriott, which forms part of the natural and essential corridor provided by the stream on its way to the Parrett. Thank you Fiona, Alison, Dale and Martyn for your interest, persistence and diligence.

Pat Hobbs



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All about native plants for wildlife

Much has been written on the importance of planting nectar plants for bees and other pollinators; however we need to provide the habitats for all stages in the lifecycles of these invertebrates.

Our much loved garden butterflies need specific native host plants on which to lay their eggs. Birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) commonly known as 'Eggs and Bacon' is the food plant of the Common Blue butterfly, the Green Hair-streak and a number of moth species. Being a plant of poor grassland, banks and verges, it will not tolerate high nitrogen levels of most lawns but likes poorer soil in sun. White Clover is easy to incorporate in lawns and may be viewed as a weed but is also a food plant of the Common Blue and the Clouded Yellow caterpillars.

One of the best things we can do in our gardens is to allow an area of grass to grow and flower. A native meadow grass seed mix will feed the caterpillars of Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Skipper and Speckled wood butterflies.



Red Admiral

The value of nettles as a caterpillar food plant is well-known; they are the host plant of our most colourful garden butterflies, Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral. Good reasons to tolerate some untidiness!

Also for wild areas and common in hedges, Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is the food plant of the Orange-tip Butterfly, this plant is a prolific self-seeder and the leaves can be eaten by us too.

Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) is the food plant of the Small Copper butterfly, a beautiful species much declined in recent years. Sorrel can be grown with meadow grass or in the vegetable patch.

Ox-eye-daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) and Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) are native wildflowers that are particularly attractive to hoverflies whose larvae will consume large quantities of aphids.

By including some native plants, and if we have the space, long grass and an earth bank for nesting bumble bees, along with plenty of flowers, our gardens will play an important role in supporting wildlife. Just remember to cover the cabbages!

Catherine Bond
C B Plants
Lower Severalls Nursery

Dear Editor continued from front page:

Turning to the pinch point above the Co-Op, this was opposed by the previous Parish Council and the current one. The County Council Highways officers responsible rejected outright any proposed alternatives, including a raised platform which does not

interrupt motorists' journeys, as long as they are driving within the speed limit (not humps).

They have also refused to supply a copy of the subsequent Safety Audit. This is despite the requirement placed on local authorities by the recent Localism Bill to 'meaningfully consult'.

Iain Hall

Welcome Paula

This month we welcome a new member to the Messenger Editorial Team. Paula Bateman and her husband moved into Church Street a few months ago and she has volunteered to join our group.

Editorial Team

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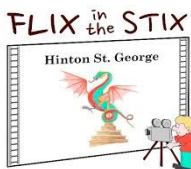
Merriott
Messenger
around the
world

Answer: Falkland Islands

OPEN
GROUP

8th March - Games evening
22nd March - Coastal Britain, an illustrated talk
All welcome.

Marion Biggs
74170



Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents **'Murder on the Orient Express (12A)** on **Saturday 10th 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. To reserve tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

A lavish trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard a train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, the world's greatest detective - Hercule Poirot – is on hand to interrogate all the passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again.

Kenneth Branagh stars in, and directs, Agatha Christie's famous murder mystery caper with a stellar cast of actors including Jonny Depp, Willem Defoe, Penelope Cruz, Michelle Pfeiffer, Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi & Olivia Coleman. Sit back and enjoy the latest Hollywood version of this classic thriller. .

A coffee in Crewkerne

Why not go shopping in Crewkerne on **Friday 23rd March** and drop into Crewkerne & District Museum between 10.30am and 12midday to enjoy coffee and cake, perhaps meet a friend.

You will help to raise funds to aid refugees in camps in Greece, a small country with severe economic problems. Greece is responsible for more than 60,000 refugees in more than 50 camps on the mainland and on some islands. On the islands, camps are becoming increasingly overcrowded and squalid as war rages on in Syria and Iraq and families flee from the bombs. Borders are closed to them and their future is extremely uncertain.

Money we raise will go to charities there which offer much needed material, practical, psychological and emotional support to those in the camps.

Please look out for our posters.

Geraldine Downey 01460 271358
Refugee Support Group, South Somerset

Gardening Quote of the Month

"No matter how long the Winter,
Spring is sure to follow."

an old Proverb
sent in by Mo Frampton



Official Dawn Patrol Report by Janet Lailey

Proceeding in a westerly direction
at 0530 hours, dawn coming on,
along my usual beat, around the rim
of a huge pot with white geraniums in.
Suspecting that a Person, behind glass,
appeared to be observing as I pass,
I carried on as if quite unaware,
my eyes well out on stalks,
though seeming not to care.

By 0600 hours, eschewing haste
lest my precautions all should go to waste,
I reached a crevice, previously known -
a proven shelter till the sun goes down -
well-hidden round the curved perimeter
- antennae both extended to their limit.

Tonight I'll make my regular patrol
to maintain strict surveillance and control,
entailing energy and vigilance
to cull some seedlings *many metres* hence.

I do not grudge my duty so to do,
the journey arduous and lengthy too.
For notwithstanding risk to life and shell,
I know my place and strive to fill it well.

Wishing you all a very



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.

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HOSPICE CARE



Join St Margaret's Hospice Care on **Sunday 4th March** for a 13k walk around the stunning setting of Wimbleball Lake. The walk begins at 11am and will take approximately 3-4 hours to complete. Parking will remain at the reduced rate of £2 per car, for the day.

Registration will be open from 9am at the café area (café will be open for refreshments).

You are very welcome to bring your dogs to walk with you, but please keep your four-legged friends on a lead and clear up after them.

For further details go to: <https://www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk/Event/the-great-somerset-walk-2018>

Lesley Burgess

Easter Quiz

1. In which ocean is Easter Island?
2. Of which country is Easter Island a province?
3. Why is the aeroplane runway on Easter Island so long?
4. How many times does the word Easter occur in the King James Bible?
5. Which is the only Shakespeare play that mentions Easter?
6. In which year was the so-called Good Friday Agreement signed by the British and Irish governments?
7. Who played Bob Hoskins's mistress in the 1980 film The Long Good Friday?
8. Who wrote the songs for the 1948 musical film Easter Parade?
9. Which country brought us traditional Easter Eggs?
10. What are the Easter colours?
11. How many disciples joined Jesus at the last supper?
12. Which feast do Jews celebrate at Easter?



Answers on page 7

Pauline Bateman

Merriott Gospel Hall



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Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org

Easter Day—Did you know?

Easter Day is the first Sunday after the Ecclesiastical (or Paschal) full moon which happens on, or soonest after, the spring equinox on 21st March. If the full moon is on a Sunday then Easter Day is the Sunday after. The earliest possible date is 22nd March and the latest is 25th April.

Interestingly because this variation can cause confusion or uncertainty when planning ahead, in 1928 the House of Commons agreed an Act of Parliament fixing the date of Easter Sunday. The enactment clause in this Bill stated that it would come into effect when the World Council of Churches had agreed a unanimous date with the its member Christian Churches. 90 years later, they have yet to achieve this.

Peter Bryans



Merriott Gardening Club

Tuesday 27th March

A talk/slides on '12 months of Colour' presented by Neil Lovesey of Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott. Meet at the Tithe Barn, Church Street at 7.30pm. Refreshments and Raffle. Everyone welcome - non-members £2 at the door.

Barbara 72298



With all our concerns about the quantity of plastic being used, and recycling generally, I started wondering about ways we can recycle things for our own use.

People can be very resourceful, such as using old metal objects to turn into sculptures and tyres as flower beds. So many things can be used for craft projects with children and gardeners find lots of ways to use containers from yoghurt pots to bottles and plastic trays for growing and protecting plants. It would be great to get rid of plastic bottles etc., altogether, but until that is possible, using things more than once before throwing them away seems to make sense to me.

New for Old

Have you got any ideas? Please send them in to share with other Messenger readers.



scoop for bird and
pet food

Ann Lawrence

Flyers

If you would like to promote an event/business/organisation you could have 1,000 flyers printed, inserted and distributed to Merriott and other places in the area. The cost for this is £75 for an A5 flyer and £90 for A4.

Contact: merriottmessenger@gmail.com or speak to a member of the editorial team (details on front page).



Photograph of the month



Taken from Pye Corner looking across to Tail Mill

by Jenny Waddilove

Please send your photos to: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

Twinning Association — Change of Venue

The Crewkerne & District Museum quiz on **Saturday 17th March** at 7.00pm will now take place in the **Tithe Barn in Merriott**. Entrance £6.00 which includes a Ploughman's Supper. Everyone welcome.

Please contact Lorna Scudder 01460 72962 for further information.

Lorna Scudder



Lent Course - "At the Cross"
Monday afternoons 3.45 - 5.00pm -
12th Feb - 9th March

In the Tithe Barn, Merriott

Informal sessions, considering the death of Christ through the eyes of six different people who witnessed the crucifixion. A warm invitation to all. Refreshments will be served.

Answers to Quiz

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pacific | 7. Helen Mirren |
| 2. Chile | 8. Irving Berlin |
| 3. It is an emergency space shuttle landing site | 9. Germany - Eggs have been decorated and given out over Easter for centuries. |
| 4. One | 10. Purple and yellow |
| 5. Romeo and Juliet | 11. 12 |
| 6. 1998 | 12. Passover |



Merriott Village Hall

The **Annual General Meeting** for the Hall will take place in the Hall on

Monday April 9th at 6.30 pm. All residents are welcome to attend.

The Hall Committee is still looking for a secretary to take minutes and circulate agendas. If anyone is interested please contact Andy Lawrence on 78461 or John Bowman on 74077.

The men's' toilet refurbishment is now complete, so the Trustees are now looking to the next project to upgrade the Hall as a quality venue for all types of village event.

The Early Bird Promotion for Party Bookings continues until the end of March. For bookings made by March 31st a reduced booking fee of £100 instead of the usual £150 applies. Please ring 01460 72508 or contact merriott-villagehall@gmail.com to book.

John Bowman



Don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour on **Sunday 25th March**.

Merriott Parish Council

Parish Councils are the lowest tier of local authorities, followed by District Councils and then County Councils.

Unlike them, parish councils have few 'Duties' which must be undertaken, but many 'Powers'. Powers mean we are permitted to spend your money (Council tax) on discretionary facilities.

The largest budget for Merriott PC is for the Recreation Field. This is for the maintenance of the field and pavilion, and the provision of new equipment. We also maintain the church yard as it benefits the whole community.

We are strongly involved in highways and footpath matters, and in planning applications.

We expect to take possession shortly of the 'Shiremoor Community Land' which will be managed as a significant village asset.

We operate a 'Working Party' structure which involves groups of members working outside of meetings to provide reports on our various activities for full council consideration.

We currently have vacancies for new members who can be co-opted to council. If you have views on any of our activities (and a little energy), do consider joining. Please contact our clerk in the first instance for an informal conversation.

Contact: Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk) Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk 07841 116986

www.facebook.com/merriottparishcouncil

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Merriott Mobile Feet Treatment Nail Trimming-Corns-Callus Diabetic-Cracked Heel-Etc Home visits by Professional Foot Health Practitioner Sarah: 07733 225 360 www.feettreatment.co.uk sarah@feettreatment.co.uk	Robert Frith Optometrists your local independent Optician FREE emergency appointments under the NHS Somerset ACES service Chard 67771 Crewkerne 72964 Yeovil 01935 478463	IAN CROSSLAND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Tel: 01935 411813 Mob: 07811 070 498 Interior and exterior decorating, Household carpentry, External lime mortaring, Restoration work	Quantock Joinery Systems Limited Tail Mill Lane Merriott TA16 5PF 01460 77545 sales@quantock-joinery.co.uk	 Church St Merriott TA16 5PR Tel: 01460 78912 also on 