

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000 homes

www.merriottvillage.org.uk

May 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 May issue is **12th May**.

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New website for your Village Hall



We are very pleased to announce the launch of the brand new website: merriottvillagehall.org.uk.

Please visit us to take a closer look at the amazing facilities your hall has to offer and to find out more about what's on.

The Hall Annual General Meeting took place on 9th April. The Chairman reported that we are in a stable financial position, with hiring income covering our overheads and a small cash balance retained as a contingency fund.

In 2017, income exceeded expenditure by £2,959. This was allocated to the completion of the refurbishment of the gents' toilets early this year, the first phase of which was done during the summer. In the spring, the kitchen was improved

and a dishwasher installed. Thank you to the Co-op, its shoppers and other donors for supporting these initiatives and to a local resident for the donation of the dishwasher. Other projects during 2017 included the restoration of the front railings and stonework around the front doors, kindly supported by the Merriott Heritage Trust. Awards for All made a significant grant, which enabled us to replace the front windows to match those installed at the rear in 2016 and to relay the front paving.

For the future, we are investigating the installation of solar panels. Significant funding would be required, but this is an exciting development for the long-term sustainability of both the Village Hall and the environment.

John Bowman

2018 prices are:

	Residents	Non-Residents	Charity	Deposit
Children's Party	£35	£35	£35	£35
Daytime Event	£100	£100	n/a	£50
Evening Event	£100	£150	£75	£100
Wedding Receptions	£250	£400	n/a	£100



South Somerset District Council Local Plan Review

The District Council is reviewing its Local Plan and is consulting with the public.

The consultation documents are available from:

Charlotte.fry@southsomerset.gov.uk

or you can telephone The Council offices on 01935 462462. You will also find the documents on The Council's website. Just google SSDC and type in Local Plan Review in the search tab.

This is an important consultation exercise and I would encourage you to take part.

*Paul Maxwell
District Councillor*

PS. Despite the website saying the consultation period ended in January, it is still open.

Would you consider joining the Merriott Messenger editorial team?

If so, please contact John Bowman, 74077, for further information.



News from All Saints

Lent and Easter. Thank you to everyone who supported our services and events during Lent and Easter. Holy Week was a very special and memorable time. The Easter Sunrise service in Jubilee Wood was a highlight for me. We offer particular thanks to the many people who cleaned, decorated and prepared the church for the many services during this period.

Church and Churchyard Spring Work Party. A huge thank you to everyone who came to help on Saturday 14th April. Special thanks to Jonathan Stokes and Robin Chard for organising us. It is very heartening to see how many people love the church and churchyard. We simply couldn't keep things beautiful and welcoming without lots of volunteer effort.

Churchyard Trees. If you have passed by the church recently, you will have noticed that the Lime tree and Tulip trees look quite different. This is the result of some essential reduction and reshaping work in order to maintain their safety and stability. The Bay Laurel has been removed because it was becoming unmanageable and was out of keeping with the other trees nearby. A lovely

view of the church from the southeast has now been opened up. We are grateful for the support of the Parish Council in carrying out these operations.

Church Lighting. As part of our ongoing commitment to the environment, we have changed most of the internal lighting in the church to low energy LED bulbs. These will last much longer and will also reduce our energy costs. Come and have a look. Could you replace some or all of your bulbs at home?

Christian Aid Week starts on Sunday 13th May. This year there is a focus on helping families in the Caribbean to make their homes storm resistant. AJ Raybould would be delighted to hear from a few more volunteers who would be willing to deliver and collect envelopes in Merriott, ajraybould71@gmail.com or tel: 78108. Please give generously.

Church Services in May

Sun 6th 8.30am Holy Communion

Thu 10th Ascension - 10am Benefice Communion, *followed by coffee and croissants at the Rectory*

Sun 13th **Christian Aid Week** starts
9.30am Parish Communion

Sun 20th **Pentecost**
10am All Age Communion
6pm Pentecost Songs of Praise @ Lopen with the 16 Bells Choir

Sun 27th 10am Sung Communion

Dates for your diary:

Garden Party. Saturday 23rd June.
12pm to 3pm in the Rectory Garden. See separate box.

Confirmation Service with Bishop Ruth.
7pm **Tuesday 19th June** @ South Pether-ton church. Please get in touch with Revs Bob or Julia if you are interested in being confirmed this year.

16 Bells Choir Summer Concert. 4pm
Saturday 21st July. @ All Saints church Merriott. Refreshments served. Free entry. Donations invited to support choir music costs.

Revd Bob Hicks 01460 76406

Merriott Short Mat Bowls News

Saturday 7th April saw Merriott Village Hall buzzing with anticipation whilst twelve members participated for the Pam Gregory Over 70's Cup. Other Club members were also present to encourage contestants throughout the day and also to help with marking and various other jobs. Chairman Frank, not yet qualified to take part, was very pleased with the high standard of play throughout. He had also organised the order of play and oversaw the scores for each round. Everybody played 3 games of 6 ends, followed by the semi finals played over 8 ends, with the final over 10 ends. However, so tight was the final that two extra ends had to be played in order to separate the two players. Christine Bedford played John Lacey in this very exciting match and it was John who secured victory with his very last bowl. Christine had been holding two shots but somehow John managed to clip



Christine's bowls and win the competition by three shots.

Short Mat Bowling started in Merriott in 1995 and has made steady progress over the years participating in various local leagues, and regular friendly matches.

Anyone interested will be made very welcome, with people always on hand willing to help them understand the

game. We have a County Umpire as our Chairman who is very patient with newcomers and will spend time encouraging and coaching in order to improve technique.

For more information contact Anne Weeks on 01460 73091 or email: weeks165bowls@btinternet.com, or visit our website: merriottshortmatbowls.wordpress.com

Ann Weeks



Have you ever considered fostering?

As Foster Care fortnight approaches, have you ever considered becoming a Foster carer?

Foster carers are 'professional parents' who work as part of a team of professionals to ensure fostered children receive the highest standards of care and a safe and caring home and family for as long as they need it.

Foster carers come from all backgrounds and bring a wide range of life and work experiences. They receive training and support to help them develop the skills to meet the needs of children in care.

People often rule themselves out of fostering, buying into the many myths. Here are a few 'Myth Busters':

You can be single and foster – but you will need to demonstrate a network of support.

You don't have to own your own home – but you will need to demonstrate stability.

Your sexual orientation won't prevent you from fostering.

Your religion won't prevent you from fostering – but you will need to demonstrate how you can support a child of a different religion from yours or questioning their own faith.

You don't need any formal qualifications – you will be trained with the skills to foster and be supported to achieve the training and development standards in England.

You can sometimes continue to work and foster, depending on the type of fostering you want to do and the needs of the children you will be caring for.

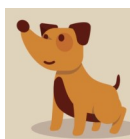
Fusion Fostering is your local, small

independent agency with a family approach. Our team is dedicated to supporting children alongside the amazing individuals and families who open up their lives to care for them.

What makes us unique to any other fostering agency is that our dedicated team of professionals are highly trained, valued and committed to improving outcomes, resulting in better life chances for children who are often bewildered, frightened and feel lost.

On meeting a member of our team, you remain with them from the start of your initial enquiry, to placing a child. They then support you during any challenging times. For an informal discussion, please contact Nigel Bell, 07974 658 782 nbell@fusionfostering.co.uk or visit our website: www.fusionfostering.com

Nigel Bell



Merriott has a new dog-walking service. If you are having trouble meeting the exercise needs your dog requires, maybe I can help? Please call me on 07834 993166 with any questions.

Kirsty Brown

"Are you digging up plants suitable for splitting?"

We are looking for plants to bring on for the Church Fete in June. Hostas; Hardy Ground Geraniums; Irises; any perennials (please name them).

Will collect, if suitable.

Please contact Paul Fisher 76360.



Craft Café
May 18th

10am till 1.00pm
Merriott Village Hall

Craft stalls, kids crafts and delicious handmade food.

To get in touch visit our website mykitchencatering.co.uk or join us on Facebook my kitchen events and catering for regular updates.

Emily Hilton



Merriott Childcare - Vanina Childminder

Ofsted Outstanding

Ad-hoc F/T & P/T hours

Early Years Educational funding

Facebook: Merriott Childcare Solutions

www.merriottchildcare.co.uk 01460 74086 or 07807 753 779



My name is Vanina, I am French, I am married to Simon; we have two daughters. We have lived in Merriott for 7 years which is when I opened "Merriott Childcare".

I am an Ofsted Graded "Outstanding" childminder and have been since 2008. Through hard work and continuous professional development Jane (my assistant) and I have maintained our high standards of childcare. We work together to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stages to under 5 years old in preparation for school. We have a unique learning environment with good links to Merriott pre-school and primary school. We are able to offer ad-hoc sessions, wrap around care for school and pre-school children as we are located within a very short walk. We work with children adapting to each individual's needs building their self-confidence

and self-esteem through various activities, socialising and play whilst having fun. Aiming to help children reach their own potential. We go out and about to local groups within the community and venture further away on trips to the seaside, park, Merriott Café, National Trust properties and other exciting places. We have a large garden where children have the use of a pirate ship climbing frame, slides, Wendy house, swimming pool, Dutch barn and many outdoor toys. The use of the Polytunnel is ideal for outdoor activities, gardening, discoveries etc... Children enjoy feeding the chickens and ducks and look out for eggs. We love the outdoors!

I am registered for 2, 3 and 4 year old 15 and 30 hours funding. We accept childcare vouchers.



Old Merriott Surnames

Colonel Richard Munn came to live in Merriott after World War 2. He became interested in local history and produced a booklet in 1961 called an "Ancient English Village". Along with the historical development of the village, he includes some little gems of local interest:- in this case about village surnames.

A feature of Merriott is the persistence of certain surnames recorded in Court proceedings, Wills, Rent Rolls, Parish Registers etc., going back to the 1500s.

Surnames such as LAWRENCE, MITCHELL, OSBORNE, PATTE-MORE, WILLS, FRENCH and TEMPLEMAN can still be found in the Electoral Registers.

According to Munn, so great was the number of individuals bearing these surnames, that a custom arose whereby most were given a nickname irrespective of their true name.

For example the names Sammy Soldier, Sammy Pinch, Tommy Tiptoe, Hard Crib, Sammy Duchy and Sammy Allyquod referred to members of the Osborne family.

Willy Wantsee, Lizzie Partridge, Jimmy Doctor and Henry Squinty referred to some of the Lawrence family.

Frankie Marlem, Willie Winkle and Sammy Namedish were members of the Wills Family.

The custom has died out now although nicknames amongst close friends hasn't.

Peter Bryans

Haselbury Mill

Pubs are closing in England at the rate of 35 a week, but Haselbury Mill is bucking the trend by expanding and developing its quirky rustic pub and surrounding features.

From **Thursday 3rd May**, Windy Millers will be opening every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening and for the launch weekend we shall have free live music each night.

Throughout the summer these evenings will feature an ongoing drinks festival celebrating our innovative local producers including: our much loved Burrow Hill Cider and the unique world-famous Somerset Cider Brandy.

Rustic wholesome food also served. Contact: 01460 77095.



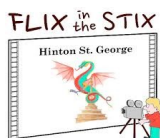
CAREFORD LODGE



A warm greeting is assured for you at Careford Lodge, so please call in to see Tracey and her team at any time. Our home offers a relaxed and homely environment, providing bespoke care packages, social stimulus, a varied choice of delicious menus, freshly prepared daily by our chefs and an activity programme with something for everyone included. Whether looking for day care, respite care, or a home for life, Careford Lodge is here to provide the care and support you need.

Tracey and the team would also like to extend an invitation to the local community to visit and spend time with residents whilst enjoying refreshments in the lovely surroundings that we enjoy daily.

For more information, please contact us on 01460 75592 or email Tracey at carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk



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

'Finding your Feet'

12A - 111 minutes

Saturday 12th May – 7.30 pm

Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall, Celia Imrie & Joanna Lumley

When "Lady" Sandra Abbott discovers that her husband of 40 years is having an affair with her best friend, she seeks refuge in London with her estranged, older sister Bif. The two could not be more different - Sandra is a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, free-spirited sibling. But different is just what Sandra needs at the moment, and she reluctantly lets Bif drag her along to a community dance class, where she starts finding her feet.

According to the Daily Telegraph: 'Staunton makes you root for Sandra even at her worst, and Imrie offers an impish, joyous counterbalance to her pursed-lip disapproval.'

A strong cast lead you through this feelgood rom-com for the retired which is beautifully photographed around recognisable parts of London.

Andrew Overhill



Mobile
Library @
Merriott
School

Tuesday
1st & 29th
May
9.30 - 10.00

OPEN GROUP

3rd May - Coffee evening
and plant sale for charity.

17th May - Afternoon visit
to Chard Museum,
followed by tea and cake.

31st May - Evening meal at Oscars.

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

Social Club News

There was a full house for the Easter Bingo - a big thanks to those who came along and to Lorraine Clarke for organising such fab prizes. We raised an excellent £645 to go towards the central heating improvements. The children's Easter disco was also great fun - even the adults got involved in some highly charged egg and spoon racing!

Our pool team "The Clubbers" won the Martock Division 3 pool league - a brilliant effort by all those that played and it will be great to see some more silverware in the trophy cabinet!

The charity pool tournament was a fiercely fought competition resulting in a shock winner - well done to Matt Lawson from South Pether-ton. The money raised went to Diabetes UK.

We have our ever popular Karaoke evening on **Friday 25th May** at 9pm. All welcome to come along for a sing-a-long and to enjoy a very entertaining evening.

We still have availability for any darts, skittles or pool teams that need a venue for the summer or autumn season. Give us a ring on 01460 74376 or message us via Facebook for more details or for any other booking enquiries.

Penny Gibbs

Music in the Meadow

The gentle sounds of the sitar drifted across Hinton St George on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in September last year. It was produced by Ricky Romain and his two accompanists as they performed for a large audience in a marquee in the Secret Garden at the far end of West Street. They were followed by the joyful music of the folk group Teasing The Cat playing their collection of traditional musical instruments and singing traditional songs.

The performers, who were outstanding and much appreciated by the audience, gave their services free for a concert in aid of refugees, which was organised by the voluntary group, Refugee Support Group, South Somerset.

On **Sunday 20th May**, Ricky Romain and Teasing the Cat will again be providing an entertaining music afternoon in aid of Refugees, from 2pm in the Secret Garden in Hinton St George. All are very welcome. Look out for posters and directional signs in the village. Please bring a chair and your own drinks. Tickets £8 from Amanda 01460 72553.

Geraldine Downey RSG
01460 271358

Merriott Mobile Feet Treatment

Professional Treatments by trained Nurse and Foot Health Practitioner
RNL D S.A.C Dip FHPT S.A.C FHPP



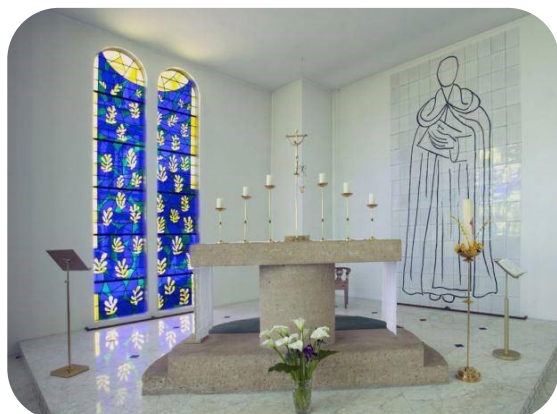
- Foot health assessment
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- Ingrowing Toe Nail Treatment
- Cracked Heels Treatment
- Diabetic Foot care
- Fungal Infections

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www.feettreatment.co.uk Email : sarah@feettreatment.co.uk

A Chapel in Vence

by Janet Lailey



The light was shining through
like a new day in spring,
like the essence of blue sky,
like a distillation of daffodils.

The curves of Matisse's craft
slipped into place on the glass
alive; as if newly made
as spontaneous as reflections on water.

As celebratory as fanfares
and as quiet as a still pool.
A silence filled to the brim
with prayer, and thanksgiving and hope.

Dementia Action Week

This year, Dementia Awareness Week is changing to **Dementia Action Week (21st to 27th May)**. Raising awareness and offering support will always be important, but it's time we all act to make change happen for people affected by dementia.

In the UK, one person develops dementia every three minutes, yet too many people feel excluded and face the disease alone.

That's why, this Dementia Action Week, we will be asking people to unite and take actions big and small to make a difference to the everyday lives of people with dementia. It could be as simple as being more patient in queues or helping make your business dementia-friendly.

There will be plenty of ways you can get involved in your local community, and across the country, during the Week. Be the first to hear more about the Week and get free awareness or fundraising materials by signing up on the Alzheimer's Society website:
www.alzheimers.org.uk/DementiaActionWeek or call 01823 333818.

Alzheimer's Society



Merriott Gardening Club

Tuesday 29th May

A talk by a representative from The Gardens Group Gold Club on the subject of ROSES. 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 01460-72298.

Thursday 3rd May

In addition, for Gardening Club members only, we are visiting Castle Gardens Centre at Brimsmore in the evening where you can buy anything with a fantastic 25% discount! Meet at the Garden Centre on Thursday 3rd May at 6.45pm. If you need transport please contact Janet on 279885 who will be able to arrange car share.

Barbara Byford - 72298

Natural India Talk

The Revs Julia and Bob Hicks gave an interesting talk entitled 'Natural India' on Saturday, 14th April in The Tithe Barn, Merriott.

Julia and Bob (in Indian dress) spoke about the environment, people and culture of South India based on their two trips to Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Their talk was accompanied by many photographs of the people, wildlife (including lots of wonderful birds!) and places through which they travelled. They touched on the interesting mix of religions (Christian, Muslim and Hindu) in southern India and how they all seem to happily co-exist and draw on the best aspects of each faith.

The talk was very well attended and we were treated to delicious Indian snacks and 'chai' which made for a fun and enjoyable evening.

A raffle, together with donations, raised £165 for The Tithe Barn.

Claire Davidson-Houston

TWO MUCH STUFF



LIVE MUSIC & BARBEQUE IN THE SUN

SUNDAY

06

MAY

PLAYING ON OUR BRAND NEW STAGE

THE KINGS HEAD

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STARTS AT 3PM - FREE ENTRY - BBQ FOOD

01460 78912- THEKINGSMERRIOTT.COM



Photograph of the month



Sunset in Merriott taken by Chriselda McPherson
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

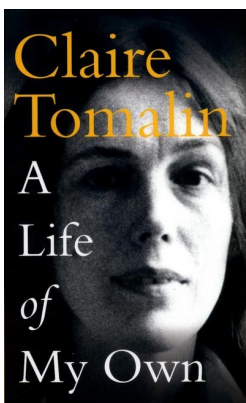


Songs of Praise
1st Sunday of each
month
at 6.30pm.
All welcome.

Phone for more details:
Phil & Jo 271763
Andrew & Julia 72211



Broadway, Merriott
www.merriottgospelhall.org



Book Review

by Sheila Bowman

Claire Tomalin is a well-known and distinguished biographer and journalist. Her works on Mary Wollstonecraft, Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy and Samuel Pepys feature among her many acclaimed biographies and she was literary editor for the New Statesman and Sunday Times. "*A Life of my Own*" was published last year and is her own autobiography - quite a

challenge to give an account of one's own life - rather than undertake a more detached account of someone else's. She is such a good writer that any of her work is immensely readable.

Her life has certainly been eventful and well worth accounting. Her parents' marriage was not happy and they separated. Tomalin's education included secondary school at Dartington Hall (controversial but in her case very successful) and Cambridge University. She cared for her pianist and musician mother devotedly when she grew old and forgetful. She renewed association with her father and his second wife in later life.

Her life has embraced tragedy. Her first husband, journalist Nick, was killed aged 41 while reporting the Israeli war in 1973. Besides two daughters they had one severely disabled son who died shortly after birth and another also disabled who survived. Tomalin's account of his difficult upbringing and the courageous way he has coped with his disability is moving but unsentimental. The most difficult event of her life was clearly the suicide of her younger daughter. Again Tomalin does not shirk from the feelings of guilt this provokes. Nor does she avoid husband Nick's infidelities nor her own affairs. She is now happily married to the writer Michael Frayn. It is always interesting to discover the intricacies of someone's life, especially when the subject has experienced so much. It is probably Tomalin's humanity that shines through it all, as well as her undoubted intelligence. A different but worthwhile read.

Gardening Quote of the Month

"Queer things happen in the garden in May.
Little faces, forgotten, appear and plants thought to be
dead, wave a green hand to confound you". *W E Johns*.

Sent in by Mo Frampton

SO, WHAT'S IN YOUR DRAWERS...?



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 THE SEAVINGTONS' VILLAGE STORE & CAFÉ Open 6 days a week Tel: 01460 249730	 Manor Farm - Your local farm shop Lower Street, Merriott TA16 5NP Tel: 07963 102258 nigel.witcombe@gmail.com	Popular Motors, Merriott Service Station Broadway, Quality Car Sales, Workshop, MOT testing Garage & Car Service - 01460 76803 Shop and PO - 01460 78716 www.popularmotors.co.uk	Merriottsford Minibus 01460 76029 Taxi Alliance 01460 75089 / 01935 414444	 beehive Self Storage & Removals Secure self storage & removals Competitive rates, easy & flexible 01460 243100 lophen@beehiveselfstorage.co.uk www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk Serviced Offices To Let
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If you would like to promote your organisation or business here, for just £105 per annum please contact Ann Lawrence on 01460 78461.		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	 The Kings Head Church St Merriott TA16 5PR Tel: 01460 78912 also on 