

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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August 2017

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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 September issue is 12th August.

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New sponsors for the Merriott Scorpions

On behalf of everyone involved with Merriott Scorpions FC U15s, especially the team themselves, I would like to thank all who contributed towards our Sponsorship Draw 2017/18, your support and generosity does not go unnoticed.

Without your involvement, the purchase of kit and equipment would not be possible and your purchase of raffle tickets goes a long way towards making the boys feel part of a very successful team.



The winning Team - Division 1 Cup Final 2016/2017

The team has played together for the past 8 years with only a few squad changes and have become great friends. With each busy year they have had more and more triumphs. This season they secured the top of the league for the second year running in the Yeovil and District Youth League.

Here's to more successes during 2017/18 and we will do our best to live up to our achievements of previous years and hope to see you supporting some of our games.

This year, the winners of our sponsorship raffle are **AJ Wakely & Sons**, with the runners up being **Careford Homes**.

We are also part of the Tesco Bags for Help Charity and have one of the boxes being held in the Ilminster Branch of Tesco during July and August. We

would appreciate any of the blue tokens (or any colour) being saved for us from any Tesco or thinking of us when shopping there... tell your friends and family! :)

A huge thank you again to everyone who supported our team.

Nick Kruszynski

Resounding success for Village garage sale

We were amazed at the response from the community regarding the garage sale. It was a great day, made special by the people taking part and those who attended. Our thanks go to all, but especially Lorraine Clarke, for her involvement and support with the monthly market; Paul Fisher and the church for the organisational help and use of the car park and to the Gospel Hall for its very generous donation.

The total money taken from the day was £1,208. This is absolutely amazing and all the money goes to Cancer Research via Relay for Life. But that isn't all, as three other Relay for Life teams benefitted, so the actual total going to Cancer Research for the day is higher.

Well done Merriott!



I absolutely loved being a part of this. There have been lots of comments about it being a yearly event, perhaps with funds going to local charities - all I am saying at the moment is watch this space.

Sue Grant

News from All Saints Church



In July we were delighted to welcome Rev Nick Clarke as a half-time Curate (which is a bit like an apprenticeship in the church). We also welcomed Bishop Ruth for a Confirmation service, which was a very happy occasion. And we are hoping to bring you some good news about a church treasurer shortly!

What I will say now is that we are

extremely grateful to John Booth for his capable and patient service in this role over many years.

Regarding the roof appeal, we have been surprised and delighted by the swift and generous response from this community. We are now on the way towards meeting the necessary repair costs. There remains about £5,500 still to raise. We hope to start work at the beginning of September, so that the roof is secure for

the winter. It is encouraging to be reminded how much people value and make use of this lovely old church. Thank you for all of your responses.

Rev Julia Hicks

Church Services in August

Sun 6th	8.30am Holy Communion
Sun 13th	9.30am Communion
Sun 20th	10.00am Family Service
Sun 27th	10.00am Sung Communion

OPEN GROUP



Merriott Open Group enjoyed an interesting evening having a guided tour of the Gypsy Caravans belonging to James Darlington. The decorations and furnishings of the caravans were wonderful and James was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the history of gypsy wagons. He made the idea of travelling and sleeping in one quite an adventure!

Marion Biggs

Tea and Company in the Rectory Garden

We spent a most pleasant afternoon socialising, meeting new people and enjoying tea and cakes on the afternoon of 15th July. A very big 'Thank you' to everyone who attended, and those who donated cakes and other goods for sale, raising over £1,000 for All Saints Church in a very relaxing way.



Ann Lawrence

Fun Day on the Merriott Rec

2nd August

10.30am - 2.30pm

Come and join us for a community Fun Day! A chance to meet up with friends, have a picnic or tea and cake while the kids play!

FREE Play Days are also being organised by South Somerset District Council and include:

Yeovil	2nd August
Crewkerne	3rd and 10th August
Chard	4th and 11th August
Ilminster	7th and 14th August
Merriott	9th August
Martock	10th August
Ilchester	19th August



Marquetry Group

We're pleased to announce that we have just enrolled our first new member!! Mike Burnham lives locally and it looks like he will help to make a huge contribution to the increase in size of our Group. He is currently learning the joys and mystery of marquetry; the joy of finishing a picture and hanging it on your wall and the mystery of people saying "How on earth did you manage to cut such a beautiful picture?"

Well, in answer to that question, come and see us any Monday afternoon in the Blake Room in the Village Hall from 2 - 4pm. We are currently starting to get all our bits and pieces, including Starter Kits, which we sell during our sessions to those interested in starting to do marquetry, priced £5.00 and bags of mixed veneers, ready for our next outing, which will be the Melplash Show on **Thursday 24th August**. For those of you who visit the Melplash Show, we demonstrate in the Wood Tent, so come and pay us a visit. Two weeks after the Melplash Show is another big outing for us at the Yandles Autumn Show on the **8th and 9th September**. For those who have never been to the Yandles Shows in Martock it is very big and people come from all over the country to it. Do come and find us.

Remember the various contacts, Ken Smart on 01460-74567 or williken@btinternet.com or go to the Marquetry Society's web site **www.marquetry.org**.

Ken Smart

Dear editor ...

How fortunate we are to have the Merriott Messenger. I would like to thank its editorial team for the time, effort and expertise which they put into producing this informative and high-quality publication, appreciation which I am sure many others will endorse.

Until I came across a 1991 copy in the Merriott Archives held by the Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre, I had forgotten what humble beginnings the Messenger had – a single, double-sided duplicated sheet on rough paper – no pictures and no colour, of course – but now of historical importance.

This brings me to the second reason for this article. Have any issues which pre-date 2006 survived? If so The Merriott Heritage Trust would be delighted to offer them a secure home for the future – a much better outcome than the skip! The Messenger is an important historical record for the future.

*Pat Hobbs, Secretary
The Merriott Heritage Trust*

Looking back ...

Peter Bryans has established that there were eight Licensed Premises (Pubs) in Merriott in 1881.

They were:

Kings Arms Inn - Higher Street/Shiremoor Hill
Licensee - Susan Pattemore

Half Moon Inn - Boozer Pit near Green Knapp
Licensee - William Wills

Royal Oak Inn - Higher Street
Licensee - Ann Pattemore

Blair Athol Hotel - Higher Street
Licensee - John Scott

Castle Inn - Higher Street
Licensee - William Mitchell

Kings Head Inn - Church Street (still going strong!)
Licensee - Joseph Rendell

Swan Inn - Lower Street
Licensee - Alfred Pattemore

Bell Inn - Broadway/Knapp
Licensee - Sampson Trask

Does anyone have photographs of these fine establishments for future issues?



1950's Themed Charity Event ...

SUMMER TIME FETE AND FUN FOR ALL
at CAREFORD LODGE Merriott

On **Saturday 12th August**, 2.00 pm- 5.00pm

1950's Tunes with Victoria Starr

Pies & Pimms, Cream Teas & Cakes (50's style)

Face painting and games, Raffle & Tombola,
in aid of the Yeovil 'Free Wheelers'



All Fired Up!!



If you happen to meet residents of Higher Street and Boozer Pit who seem to smell more like kippers or Guy Fawkes, it is because

their clothes are hung out to dry on sunny days and then some thoughtless neighbour lights a bonfire!

Please wait till dusk and preferably a grey day to burn your garden waste, or take it to the tip.

Thank you.

Name and address supplied

Join us at the Coffee Stop

every **Tuesday** in Merriott Church
from **10.00am - 11.30am**

Coffee and cake £1
with free refills.

All welcome - children's drinks and
play area.

We look forward to seeing you.

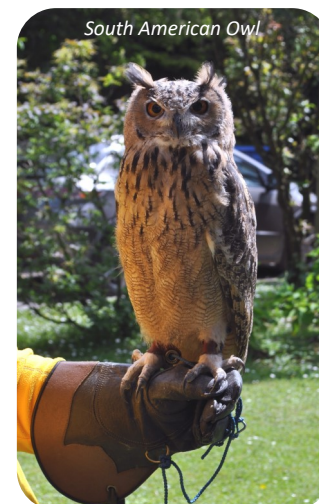


Photograph of the month



Taken at the
Owl Sanctuary,
Picton Castle,
Pembrokeshire.
by John
Bowman

Please send
your photos to:
Merriott-
messenger@
gmail.com



**Merriott
Gardening Club**

Tuesday 15th August

Meet at the Kings Head, Church Street,
for a summer's evening get-together
from 6.30pm onwards.

Contact Barbara 72298 for further info.

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Did you know



Horse remains dating back several hundred thousand years have been found in the British Isles. Domesticated horses were present in Bronze Age Britain around 4000BP and domesticated ponies were on Dartmoor around 3500BP. Today there are several breeds of ponies in the United Kingdom. Some of them, such as Dartmoor, Exmoor and New Forest, have populations which live semi-wild in National Parks. Other breeds, such as Dales, Fell, Highland, Shetland and Eriskay (named after the island in the Outer Hebrides) are largely managed.

Ponies have been used over the centuries for a variety of tasks, including for farm work, for hauling

coal, and stone in mines and pits, for carrying deer carcasses killed by stalking on upland estates and for pleasure.

The population sizes are generally quite small, of the order of 300 to 500 breeding mares. The New Forest ponies are the most numerous, with a population of several thousand, but even they are in decline. Over the last 10 years the number of filly foals registered has fallen from 4000 a year to about 1,500 a year. The Rare Breeds Survival Trust and other charities are very concerned at the decline and the RBST has been storing semen from the breeds as a precaution against further reduction.

John Bowman



Merriott's Monthly Market

First Saturday of the month, 10am - 1pm -
Merriott Social Club

Every month the indoor market has at least 20+ regular stalls attending, various charity stalls and locals selling books, beauty & health products, DVDs and new and used bric-a-brac stalls and much more. We serve bacon butties, teas and coffees and the bar is open.

As well as promoting the Club and raising funds for the new roof, we also support and share the proceeds with many other local charities. For further details call Lola on 07885 424 588, pop into the Club or check us out on 

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A big thank you from Prodigal Bikes to everyone who came along to our African Night and made it a success. We raised £255 which will be a big help towards our planned first shipment of 150 bikes to school children in Kenya in the Autumn. Great to see so many people enjoying the drumming workshop with Sharon and her fellow drummers from Organic Rhythms. Amazing food, as always, from Emily, Sara, Mary and Loralie at My Kitchen. We had great fun running our African Bar too - the Merriott Mabati (Swahili word meaning corrugated iron shack). Look out for details of further events on our website www.prodigalbikes.co.uk and Facebook Page.

Anthony Raybould (AJ)

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Summer holiday fun

iOme Youth Camp was a fantastic success last summer, so it is back again to give your children an opportunity to meet new friends and have an amazing time this holiday!

We provide a safe and beautiful countryside environment for children aged between 8-13. We run 4 exciting 2-hour workshops every day, including extra time for early drop off and late pick up for working parents. You can choose to book your child in for the day, week, 2 weeks or just choose the workshops they will enjoy the most!

Activities vary from outdoor sports, nature walks, den building, jewellery making, dance, filming and much more!

(All our staff are CRB checked and experienced in childcare).



To book your child's place now go to <http://www.iomefitness.com/youth-camp-childcare-somerset/> (book 4 workshops in a day and get the 5th free!) To see photos of previous camps check out our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/iomefitness/> email info@iomefitness.com or call 07470 299494

Give your kids a summer to remember!

Camps run in both our South Petherton and Bridport venues.

Megan Savage

**Friday 29th Sept-
Sunday 1st Oct.**

10am-5pm

Concert on Friday

7pm tickets £6

01460 78461

Songs of Praise

Sunday 5pm



All Saints Church

Merriott

TA16 5PS

Admission free

Donations for roof Appeal

Concert tickets £6 from

Osborne's Shop Merriott

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our Floral
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**Flower
Festival**

**"Say it
with
Flowers"**

**A celebration of
flowers
in our lives**

Photo taken by Iain
Hall on the Rec
'Chalk Street Art'
by Elsie and
Phoebe.



On behalf of Christian Aid, thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection this year. Along with Hinton St George and Lopen we collected £1054, another great result. If anyone would like to collect next year, please call Anthony Raybould on 01460 78108, as we do need a few more collectors.

Anthony Raybould

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All about Mint by C B Plants

Summer is mint season, new potatoes, fresh peas, grains like couscous and roast or barbequed lamb and they all benefit from the fresh flavour of mint leaves. Mint tea aids digestion and is most refreshing in hot weather. The small flowers have a lovely flavour and can be scattered on salads or strawberries.

There are many types of mint and each one has its own subtle flavour. Spearmint or garden mint (*Mentha spicata*) is the most widely grown and very useful in cooking and good for making tea. It has pointed green leaves and mauve flowers. Chocolate peppermint (*Mentha x piperita*) has dark green-brown pointed leaves and a surprising strong chocolate scent and can be used in puddings.

Apple mint (*Mentha suaveolens*) has round hairy leaves that are apple scented - it's mild flavour makes it useful in cooking, Monty Don says that this is his favourite with new potatoes. It is tall growing 60-90cm. Pineapple mint (*Mentha suaveolens* 'Variegata')



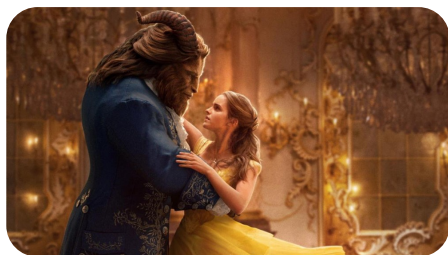
Ginger Mint

is an attractive plant with pretty cream and green leaves and a fruity scent.

Two other attractive varieties are Ginger mint (*Mentha x gracilis*) which has gold-green variegated leaves & whorls of purple flowers. It has a mild flavour and is good for adding to tomatoes and grain-based salads. Silver or Buddleia mint (*Mentha longifolia*) has silver-grey leaves and long mauve flower spikes which attract hoverflies. Its scent is rather musty, but it is an attractive border plant, as it's not too rampant.

Mints are vigorous spreading plants and are best grown in a container or in a separate area of the garden where they will not swamp other plants and a bottomless bucket or frame can help contain it. Mints do best in moist soil in a sunny or partly shady spot. If in a pot, position it somewhere cool and water frequently.

Mint leaves can be dried or frozen for winter use or made into mint jelly. Do this before the plant flowers when the flavour is best. After flowering, cut the stems down to encourage fresh growth and extend the season of this most useful herb.



Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Stix' presents **'Beauty & the Beast' (PG)** on **Saturday 12th August** in the Hinton Village Hall at **7.00 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.

Belle (Emma Watson), a bright, beautiful and independent young woman, is taken prisoner by a beast (Dan Stevens) in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the beast's hideous exterior, allowing her to recognize the kind heart and soul of the true prince that hides on the inside.

This is a highly acclaimed re-working of the Disney classic. **Please note the earlier screening time for this film for cinema goers of all ages.**

Andrew Overhill

Merriott Gospel Hall



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Stanchester Community Quire Concert

To open the Flower Festival at the end of September, Stanchester Community Quire (a local community choir) has offered to perform a concert of their ever popular traditional Somerset Folk Songs.

At **7pm on Friday 29th September.**

Tickets on sale from 1st September - £6 (children free) which includes a glass of wine and nibbles.

Ann Lawrence



All Saints Church, Merriott, present **Harvest Swing**, an evening of singing from professional vocalist Graham David on **16th September** at 7.30pm @ Merriott Social Club. Tickets £7.50 (which will include a light supper) are available from Jean Crisp 23, Beadon Lane, Merriott
Tel: 01460 279654 or jeanmcrisp23@gmail.com

All proceeds to Merriott Church Roof Fund

Having an article in the Messenger not only promotes village events but keeps villagers up-to-date with what is going on in the various groups. So do please send us in your news.

Articles and photos can be sent to:
merriottmessenger@gmail.com
Thank you.

Editorial team

Book Review by Janet Lailey



The Running Hare - The Secret Life of Farmland by John Lewis-Stempel, published by Doubleday 2016 - £14.99

This is a very attractive book to someone like me: I live in the country, and enjoy the countryside and the animals, birds and plants that go with it. I regret the way

in which it has changed, so that nettles seem to have supplanted more attractive wild flowers and it's rare to hear a lark by day or an owl by night.

John Lewis-Stempel has taken these regrets into a real-time experiment, using his farming skills (that is, a lot of tough physical work) and his observant writer's eye, to test traditional methods of agriculture against modern chemical-assisted methods. He writes about the three fields he leased for two years, where he grew wheat for animal fodder, with a generous sowing of wild flowers - 'weeds' - around and among the crop, to monitor what effect it would have on birds and the small mammals which were once, and comparatively recently, so universally abundant. At the same time, he was making his living as a poultry farmer, a smallholder and as a writer.

All these geographically separated occupations clashed: he found himself at the Cheltenham Literary Festival obliged to give his talk in

wellies and overalls because his sheep had got out and there had been a rush to reach the venue, with no chance to change.

The terms of the lease on the fields involved his changing them back to the impoverished state in which he had taken them over, by reseeding with grass. During his tenancy he documented the way birds flourished: goldfinches, partridges, owls, chaffinches, as well as the hares of the title and the insects that swarmed to the nectar in the flowers. A whole ecological system was re-invigorated. He snatched time in his field 'Flinders' at odd hours, sometimes dawn or dusk, as well as the long working days he spared from his own farm, in bad weather as well as idyllic spring days. He tried old fashioned working methods but not obsessively.

He writes with a casual ease, digressing into historical forays and scientific surveys of other comparative experiments, in China and America, for example. He is not only talking airy-fairy rubbish. The earth we take for granted needs to be recharged not with chemicals but with its own healing cycles of growth and decay.

And, he dives superbly, into swift moments of humour and description. No room here for quotations, but I will finish with his final sentences.

"I drove past Flinders recently, and looked over the gate. The day was darkling, so I turned on the Land Rover's headlights. There were still hares there. Running. Dancing."

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Gardening Quote of the Month

sent in by Mo Frampton

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow cycles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace".

May Sarton

Bored in the Holidays?

Here's my recipe for home made play dough which keeps very well for ages in the fridge. And is much cheaper than the bought stuff!

1 cup SR flour, ½ cup salt, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon oil, 2 tablespoons cream of tartar, few drops food colouring. Put all ingredients in a saucepan and mix. Heat slowly stirring all the time until it comes away from the sides of the pan. Tip out and cool.



Ann Lawrence

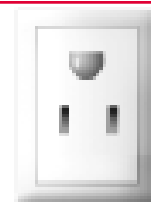


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