

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000+ homes

November 2024

Avon and Somerset Police in Merriott

PCSO Hickey will be available for discussion at the Blake Room in the Village Hall on Saturday November 23rd from 10am to 11am. She has already seen several residents, about issues which concern them, on previous visits. Her presence for a face to face talk is reassuring and most welcome. For emergency issues please call 999 but for non-emergency issues call 101. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use the textphone service on 18001 101.

Merriott Messenger Team

The Mobile Library will visit Merriott on Tues 26th Nov outside the church
10.50am - 11.10am



Armistice Day

"In Flanders fields the
poppies blow
Between the crosses, row
on row,
That mark our place; and
in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below



We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields."
- Colonel John McRae, In Flanders Fields

November 11th - Armistice Day, 1918,
Remembered

Sent in by Mo Frampton

Merriott Heritage Trust

The recent exhibition in the Village Hall was a great success with visitors from the village and further afield. Several came to investigate their personal history, others had stories to tell and all were interested in the exhibits, particularly the photos.

If you are keen to explore the history of Merriott, The Merriott Heritage Trust is at 10 Lower Street, open on Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00.



Marion Biggs

**NOW WHAT WAS IT I WAS GOING
TO DO ON 25TH DECEMBER?**



It's unlikely Santa's going to forget that important date but maybe you have things of similar importance throughout the year that you don't want to miss. Make sure you keep on track with a Merriott Messenger calendar.

Santa's buying enough to give to all his friends so don't miss out - get yours soon !

THE 2025 CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE NOW FROM BUDGENS, MERRIOTT PREMIER SHOP & SERVICE STATION AND Q&CO HAIRDRESSERS

£8



**Limited stocks
available - when
they're gone,
they're gone!**

Merriott Messenger Information

Your editorial team: John Bowman 74077, Paula Bateman 07856 559502, Marion Biggs 74170, Peter Bryans 78182, Gemma Hughes 07929 740283, Eric Vose 351857, Dee Edwards and Dave Williams 76848

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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. Back issues of Merriott Messenger (February 2016 - October 2024) can be found on the Parish website: <https://merriottpc.org.uk/the-merriott-messenger>
Copy date for the December issue is **12th November**.

Merriott Social Venue News

We are very pleased to announce our new chairperson is Paul Sherwood, who was voted in unanimously at our recent AGM. Paul is looking forward to working with the committee to continue keeping Merriott Social Venue a community venue for the whole village to enjoy.

Dates for your diaries:

NEW EVENT *** OPEN MIC NIGHT ******* We are pleased to announce every 1st Thursday of the month we will be holding an open mic night, everybody is welcome to attend either as a performer or spectator for a fun, relaxed and enjoyable evening.

Sat 9th Nov - Quiz Night - cash prize-teams of 6 max, £10 entry fee
 Sat 23rd Nov - Mama Mia night - film and sing along, fancy dress optional
 Sat 30th Nov - Willow deer making workshop - limited spaces left
 Dec 7th - Christmas Wreath Workshop 10am-12pm
 Dec 14th - Christmas Bingo 8pm
 Dec 21st - Children's Christmas Party afternoon sessions -time tbc
 Dec 31st - New Years Eve LIVE MUSIC with TWISTED VINYL (ticketed event)

More details of December's events in next month's Messenger. Don't forget our Cash Bingos on Wednesday evenings and free pool on Friday. If you are interested in any of the activities or events above, or wish to book our function room for a private party, please call in and see a member of staff, contact us on our Facebook page, email: merriottsocialclub@hotmail.com or phone 07471 593040.

Penny Gibbs, Secretary

Christmas Shoebox Appeal - 2024

We shall once again be collecting shoe-boxes for the ever-growing needs of both children and adults in Romania and Ukraine. The boxes really do bring so much joy to people whose lives have been devastated.

Leaflets giving more details about what can be included in the boxes are available in the Church porch, and in the Pharmacy. Completed boxes, fillers that can be used to make up more boxes, or donations, can be dropped off at any time to 12 Higher Beadon, Merriott or Crown Cottage, Church Street, Lopen (241765). The closing date is November 9th. Thank you so much for your support.

Beryl Virgin (74917 / 07799 941332)

Merriott Gardening Club

Claire Reid is Head Gardener at Hestercombe Gardens and is coming to Merriott Gardening Club on Tuesday 26th November at the Tithe Barn to give members a talk entitled "A Tour of Hestercombe Gardens". She is working in the historic garden and has overseen the restoration of the 17th century mill and barn, four new buildings in the Georgian Landscape Garden and the development of Hestercombe House since her time there. With more to come with a 17th century water garden.

The meeting will start at 6.30pm with mulled wine and mince pies and all previous members and supporters of the MGC are most welcome. The talk will then commence at 7.30pm.

Gill Vines



Residential Care Home

built by the community

Vaughan Lee House now has a dedicated respite room available, now and throughout November and December. It has been recently refurbished and has ensuite toilet facilities. Having a homely, caring environment for you to relax in, it can provide 24 hour care from our dedicated staff team.

If you would like to know more about our home, our fees and what we can offer you please get in touch, we look forward to hearing from you.

Vaughan Lee House,
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Ilminster, Somerset,
TA19 0EX
01460 52077
karen@vaughanleehouse.co.uk





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A Christmas brochure now available **01460 72900**

25 Market Street, Crewkerne

www.barrettbros.co.uk

Wine Tasting

at the Tithe Barn, Merriott

Saturday 23rd November
at 7.00pm

Enjoy an evening of wine tasting, in preparation
for the festive season
Six wines to taste, with tutored tasting,
cheese & biscuits, and a fun wine quiz!

Tickets £12.50
ordered in advance from:
Sarah or Richard
winetasting@mossdog.co.uk
01460 249 325



Over 18s only
All proceeds to the Benefice churches

Number 9 Bus Timetable				
Crewkerne-Ilminster-Donyatt (Monday to Fridays)				
Crewkerne, Kings Arms (N-bound)	0845	1045	—	1325
Crewkerne, Wadham School (NW-bound)	0849	1049	—	1329
Merriott, The Church (W-bound)	0901	1101	—	1341
Hinton St. George, The Crossroads (W-bound)	0909	1109	—	1349R
Lopen, Court Farm (NW-bound)	0914	1114	—	1354R
Seavington St. Mary, Rowdells Orchard (W-bound)	0919	1119	—	—
Ilminster, Market House (S-bound)	0926	1126	1215	—
Ilminster, Medical Centre (NW-bound)	0929	—	1218	—
Donyatt, The George Inn (S-bound)	0937	—	1226	—
Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays-No Service				
R=request stop				
Donyatt-Ilminster-Crewkerne (Mondays to Fridays)				
Donyatt, The George Inn (NW-bound)	—	0945	1230	—
Ilminster, Market House (S-bound)	—	0955	1240	—
Ilminster, Medical Centre (NW-bound)	—	0958	1243	—
Seavington St. Mary, Rowdells Orchard (E-bound)	—	1007	1251	—
Lopen, Cross Tree Cottages (SW-bound)	—	1012	1256	—
Hinton St. George, The Crossroads (E-bound)	—	1017	1301	—
Merriott, The Church (E-bound)	0829	1024	1308	—
Crewkerne, Wadham School (SE-bound)	0835	1034	1318	—
Crewkerne, George Hotel (SW-bound)	0840	1038	1322	—
Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays-No Service				
Timetable correct at the time of going to print.				

Merriott Village Hall



Broadway, Merriott, TA16 5QH

Sunday Market

By
Merriott Community Cafe & Crafts

Sunday 10th November

10am 2pm

CAKES - BRIC-A-BRAC - BOOKS
GONKS - CRAFTS - GIFTS - CARDS

SMELLIES... RAFFLE... JAMS

Refreshments

Community

Merriott Parish Council would like to
thank all the volunteers who spent
an evening clearing up broken glass
from the sports pitches on the
recreation ground. It was good to
have so much support.

Iain Hall, Merriott Parish Council

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All Saints Church

We are setting up a Social committee
for All Saints Church. If you fancy joining
us in organising events large and small
within the Church we would love to
have your input. We especially want
events for our children in the village.

Please contact Caroline Reeves
on carolinejreeves@gmail.com for more
information. Thank you.



Caroline Reeves

Quiz Night at the Village Hall on October 5th

Over 70 people attended a quiz and supper at the Village Hall on October 5th. The 2 course supper, which was very tasty, was provided by ARK and the quiz was prepared and delivered by Paula and Steve Bateman. The evening was organised by Eric Vose, chair of the Village Hall, and the profits were in aid of the Merriott Messenger. The quiz winners were the Quizzzy Rascals.

The proceeds from the Quiz Night made a contribution to cover the costs of the printing of the 2025 Merriott Messenger calendars, which, when sold will potentially help to meet increased print costs and support larger issues next year.

The Messenger Team would like to thank very much Eric Vose for his organisation, Paula and Steve Bateman for the varied and challenging quiz, Marion Biggs for the raffle and selling calendars, as well as Nigel Bell and his team from ARK for preparing and serving the excellent food. Thanks also go to those who participated - a very good evening was had by all.

John Bowman, on behalf of the Messenger Team



News from All Saint's Church (November 2024)

On 3rd November the Church will celebrate **All Saints Day**. This is when we recall the example of the saints and in particular those to whom our churches are dedicated. This year it is the turn of Lopen to host our 'patronal' service. The day before, we will observe the festival of **All Souls**, with a special 'Service for the Bereaved' at 4pm. This is when we remember all the faithful departed. We have all lost someone close to us, whether family or friend, so this service is a chance to bring our grief and pain before our loving God in a safe and holy space. There will be prayers and hymns and a chance to light a candle in memory of our loved ones. We will invite the families of those we know have been bereaved during the last year, but anyone is very welcome to come along. Refreshments will be served afterwards. **Remembrance Sunday** is on the 10th November. We will begin at the war memorial in the churchyard at 10.50am as usual, and move into church after the act of Remembrance.

All Saints Church, Merriott - Church Services in November

Sat 2nd **All Souls Service for the Bereaved** 4pm

Sun 3rd **All Saints Day** 4pm Sung Festal Evensong for All Saints, Lopen, 6.30pm Praise Service, Tithe Barn (supper at 5.30pm)

Sun 10th **Remembrance Sunday** 10.50am Remembrance Service (starting outside at the War Memorial) 5pm Silent Prayer

Sun 17th **Safeguarding Sunday** 10.30am Parish Communion

Sun 24th **Christ the King** 9am Holy Communion

Benefice Advent Service (with 'Ad Hoc' choir); 6pm Sunday 1st December, Hinton St George

Rev Bob Hicks

Ross Harvey Ltd.

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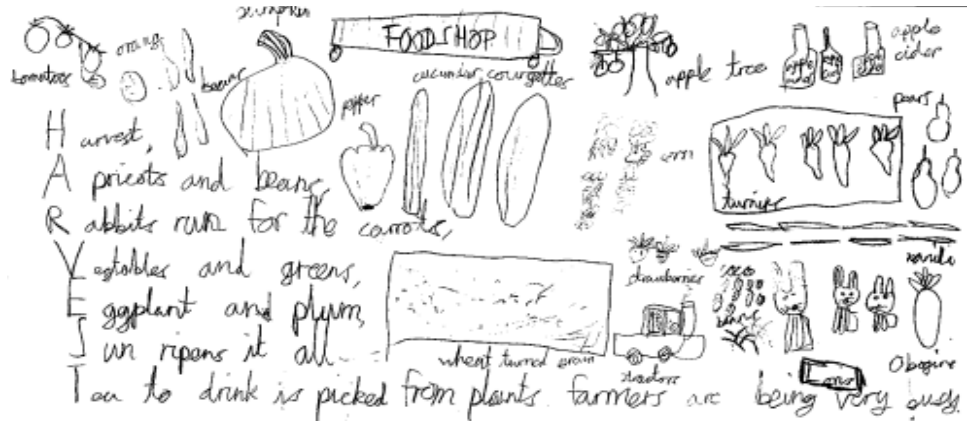
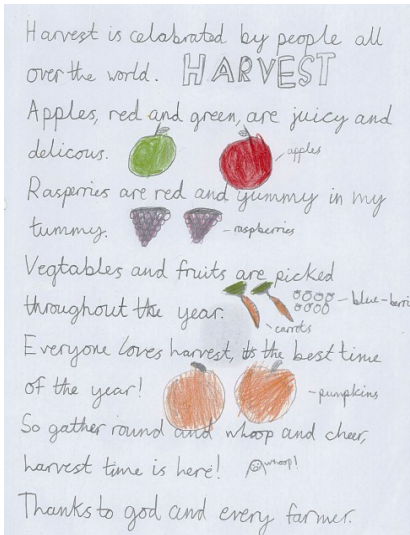
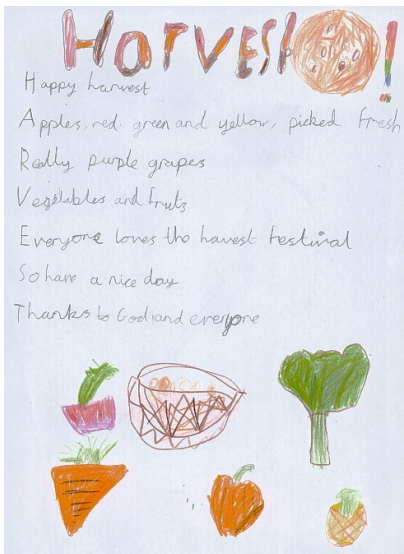


Sent in by Mo Frampton

Merriott Primary School

We have had a fabulous month in school with lots of activities and events. Our Harvest Festival Services were very well attended and the children did a great job of sharing information, poetry and artwork around the festival. In sport, our school has been very successful in the area cross country meetings. The children are so supportive to each other during these races and their determination is paying off! Our girls' teams from year 2/3 and year 4 came first out of the schools taking part. A tremendous result! During the afternoon of Tuesday 8th October, we welcomed many prospective parents and carers along to see our school in action. It was a wonderful chance to showcase the great learning environment we provide and to see the children taking part in their learning journey. We are also very proud to share that we were the top school in the area for students taking part in the library reading challenge this summer. It is wonderful to see children so enthusiastic about their reading. If there are any members of the village who would like to volunteer to support our school with listening to readers or helping out, please do contact our school office via email - office@merriottprimaryschool.co.uk and we will be happy to provide you with further information. This month has seen the launch of our school Facebook page, please do go online and follow us (search for Merriott Primary School) to find out even more about the activities and learning which takes place during the school day. Finally, this month we would like to proudly share some Harvest poetry from our year 3 class and some musical poetry from year 4.

Nicky Taylor, Senior Teacher



The squeak of the violin is like a calm, little mouse
The mumble of the sideways flute creeps and slithers like a newt
The prowling of the double bass prowls around a dusty place
The swish of the xylophone tinkles like a box of bones
The soft ding of the grand piano sings like a moonlit sea
The oboe rings around the hall mournful as a dinosaur's call
But drums have a booming beat setting all my dreams alight.



The piercing sound of the flute is as sharp as a king cobra's fang
The double bass is a rich millionaire
The steady, crisp tune of the violin is as squeaky as a creaky door
The strong beat of the drums is like a booming concert
The ding of a xylophone is like a door bell ringing
The relaxing sound of the oboe is as peaceful as a spa
The quick sound of the grand piano is like a choir singing.



The vibration of the double bass is a growling, staring black bear
The grand piano is as vast as an open, empty plane
The violin is a relaxing, peaceful spa
The tooting of the flute is like a mouse squeaking
The boing of the oboe is as soothing as the sun's smile
The ding of the xylophone is as high pitched as a persistent, ringing door bell
The booming of the drum is as loud as a dinosaur roaring proudly.



Restraining Order for Man Who Injured Parish Councillor

A man has received a suspended sentence and a restraining order after pleading guilty to causing injuries to a parish councillor in Merriott. Ian Barnes, 60, (right) was verbally aggressive and pushed parish council chairman Iain Hall on 16 April in the Broadway area of the village. Mr Hall hit his head on the floor after being pushed and sustained a fractured skull and bleed on the brain, requiring hospital treatment over a number of days. Barnes was identified and arrested on the same day as the assault and subsequently charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm.



He was sentenced at Taunton Crown Court, which was sitting at North Somerset Courthouse, on Friday 20 September. Barnes received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, as well as a five-year restraining order. He must also pay Mr Hall £500 in compensation, carry out 100 hours' unpaid work and complete a rehabilitation activity requirement for up to 30 days.

Local Beat Manager PC Barry Gould, said: "Ian Barnes had been in dispute with the parish council and became aggressive towards Mr Hall before pushing him to the ground. The victim sustained a really nasty head injury as a result of this assault and yet Barnes left the scene before paramedics arrived. The restraining order put in place by the courts should provide some reassurance to Mr Hall, but also the wider community, because Barnes will not be able to enter Merriott until September 2029. Should he breach the conditions set out by the judge, he would be liable for arrest and potentially a custodial sentence."

Avon and Somerset Police

Thank You

I would like to thank all of the many good friends that have given their best wishes to us during the situation this year when a neighbour of the recreation field expressed his dissatisfaction with the parish council's response to their complaints about the recreation field in a 'physical manner'. Happily I am recovered from my injury.

Iain Hall, Merriott Parish Council



Crafters Wanted!

Are you a local artist/painter, crafty person, knitter, crocheter or even a potter? We are looking for you!

The Village Hall is holding an Arts & Crafts Exhibition on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th November to celebrate its centennial year and needs talented villagers. If you're interested then get in contact as soon as possible by emailing merriottvhevents@gmail.com

Moorlands Dam

Mr Ian Case, a specialist in Somerset Council's Flood and Water Asset Management team, shall be attending the next Merriott Parish Council meeting in the **Village Hall at 7pm on 11th November 2024.**

He will be able to explain how the Council is ensuring the Moorlands dam and grille will perform as intended during the coming winter months and deal with questions which residents may have on the maintenance regime being used. Residents are encouraged to attend, particularly those who are most affected.

David Shillibier, Merriott Parish Council

Bertie's Big Band

Bertie's Big Band are a South Somerset based amateur band of local musicians led by ex Royal Marine bandsman Bob Spiller. Bob took the band over after Bertie retired and ensures a high standard of playing with weekly practice in Stoke sub Hamdon village hall. The band has played for 40s Concerts at the Haselbury Mill and their favourite gig was under Concorde, yes actually UNDER, at the Fleet Arm Museum where the band was augmented by a wonderful string section. They have a large repertoire of music of all types and you can be sure of a mixture of tunes from Miller and Basie up to disco and pop with lots in between.

Catch them at their annual Christmas concert which will include some festive numbers, in the Victoria Hall, Crewkerne on December 7th or contact them on 01460 75341 for further information.

John Coleshill



BERTIE'S BIG BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC 7th VICTORIA HALL CREWKERNE



BAR FROM 7pm START AT 7:30pm

TICKETS £10
FROM THE TOWN HALL,
& JAMES'S HARDWARE



CASH ON THE DOOR

OR ONLINE AT WWW.SEATY.CO.UK (search for Berties)



Planning Applications

26 Sherlands Gardens Erection of a single storey extension.

24/01898/HOU Status: Awaiting decision

For further information go to Somerset. gov.uk and "Search for a planning application"

Marion Biggs

A Chance Encounter Leads to a Music Night at Merriott Village Hall

I was visiting Merriott Village Hall just ahead of the Quiz Night in early October when I bumped into a guy (Graham Fallows) in the car park, who asked if I had anything to do with the hall. Well, as I am currently Chair of the Hall, it was a fortuitous meeting for both of us. He went on to say that he was a member of a local band – The coolTones – and he wanted to showcase the band in a local hall and produce promotional material from the event. If this could become a real live concert, so much the better. Was this something the trustees of the hall would consider? Initially, it seemed like an opportunity to provide the band with what they were looking for, but also, the hall needs a music night.

The coolTones recently played at an event organised by ARK at Egwood and there was also some history with the hall some 8 years ago when three of the current members, were part of a Beach Boys Tribute band which performed there in June 2016. The trustees quickly agreed to develop the idea and a date of 14th December was agreed for the live event with the day prior allocated to setting the whole thing up. Graham kindly put me in contact with Tom Read, who plays piano and also deals with the publicity for The coolTones. I met up with Tom a week following my chance encounter with Graham and I have summarised our discussion below:

Tom walked in and immediately said "I remember playing here about 10 years ago following an approach from a lady called Ann, who was keen to promote a Summer concert for the village". Ann Lawrence and husband Andy, both hall trustees, wholeheartedly supported that community event which included a BBQ and licensed bar. Coincidentally, I had moved to Merriott some 6 weeks before that concert and thought that this was something that the hall supported on a regular basis. Regrettably, we have not held a musical event since that concert. As a tribute band to the Beach Boys, they were well received at that time and have continued to play together until this year. Tom advised that they were looking to change direction and be recognised as a party band and 3 of the original members Charlie (bass guitar) based in South Petherton, Graham (drums) based in Chiselborough and Tom (piano), based in Ilminster, teamed up with long term friend and lead guitarist, Cliff, based in Hinton to form the Cool Tones. They play 60s, 70s, and 80s music with all four members providing vocals and harmonies with a rock 'n' roll influence within their catalogue. Including the likes of Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry, Sweet, ELO and Queen to name but a few, to get your feet stomping and a good old sing along!

Please keep Saturday 14th December free in your diaries and come and support the event with proceeds going to Merriott Pre-school and Merriott Primary school. We are selling tickets via a ticketing site—www.tickettailor.com and details will be available on social media and the Messenger. Please support our local schools and help with the promotional video for The coolTones.

Eric Vose, Chair

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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myBestie www.mybestiepets.co.uk Pet Shop dedicated to your best friend. 10 The George Shopping Centre, Crewkerne TA18 7LU 01460 77106 Info@mybestiepets.co.uk	Short Mat Bowls Club meets in Merriott Village Hall on Wednesdays 7pm to 9pm. We play all year round, in the warm and dry, and is suited to men and women, boys and girls of all ages. More information from 01308 862203 or 07956 598894. You will be made very welcome.	WindowMan WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES 16 South Street Crewkerne TA18 8DA 01460 200666 5% off our advertised price for people of Merriott	Careford Lodge Residential Home Church Street Contact Laura on 01460 75592 carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk	Merriott Village Hall Parties, weddings, community groups welcome 01460 72508 merriottvillagehall@gmail.com
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