

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

Delivered free to 1,000+ homes

May 2025



Commemorative Bench

On Wednesday 2nd April with the blessing of Emma, Kate & Evie, a small group of representatives, workmates, colleagues and friends from Wessex Water gathered along the touch line at Merriott Recreation ground to commemorate the passing of Gavin Charles 16th February 1979 – 25th January 2024. He was taken from us after losing his fight with cancer just over a year ago.

With the permission of Merriott Parish Council they installed a commemorative bench which they hope will be used by family, friends and visitors to the ground for years to come. The bench is in an ideal location, not only to watch the local teams, but

also a place to sit and remember Gavin with the fondness, love and respect that is shared by all that knew him.

Gavin grew up in Crewkerne and made his family home in Merriott with Emma, Kate and Evie. Gavin was a keen sportsman throughout his life with a particular passion for football, having played for Merriott for a number of years as well as turning to refereeing and coaching in later years, He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all that knew him.

Elliott Rohun



Merriott Gardening Club

On Tuesday 29th April, we are holding our AGM at the Tithe Barn, Church Street, gathering at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Following the meeting, there will be a cheese and wine evening, along with a fun gardening-themed quiz.

New members are very welcome. Annual membership is

£15 for individuals and £25 for couples. Why not come and join us?

Our May meeting will take place on Tuesday 27th May, again at the Tithe Barn, with a 7.00pm arrival for a 7.30pm start. We are delighted to welcome Lara Honnor from Yeovil, the creator of Skool Beanz CIC, who will be giving a talk entitled 'Skool Beanz Children's Garden' — how she transformed a neglected, overgrown allotment in her village into an abundant children's garden that benefits the whole community. This inspiring project was featured on BBC Gardeners' World in 2023. Refreshments and a raffle will be available, and as always, new members and guests are warmly invited to attend.

Gill Vines



Merriott Messenger Information

Your editorial team: John Bowman 74077, Paula Bateman 07856 559502, Peter Bryans 78182, Gemma Hughes 07929 740283, Eric Vose 351857, Dee Edwards and Dave Williams 76848, Alan Wiseman 74518

Email: merriottmessenger@gmail.com

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 - April 2025) can be found on the Parish website: <https://merriottpc.org.uk/the-merriott-messenger>

Copy date for the June issue is 12th May.

Crewkerne 10k and 5k Fun Run

Runners, get ready! Entries are now open for the popular Crewkerne 10K and 5K Fun Run, taking place on Sunday, 1st June 2025 at 10am, starting from the Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne.

Whether you're a seasoned athlete or looking for a fun fitness challenge, this is the perfect event to lace up your trainers and enjoy a great day out. The Crewkerne 10k offers a scenic and rewarding route to the north of the town through the quiet lanes taking in the villages of Merriott and Hinton St. George. The 5k Fun Run provides a fantastic, family-friendly option for runners of all abilities.

All finishers will receive a high-quality metal medal to celebrate their achievement. Plus, by taking part, you'll be helping to support local charitable organisations with all proceeds from the event going directly to good causes in the community. This year the organisations are Maiden Beech and Ashlands Primary School PTAs.

Entries are filling up fast. You can register by scanning the event QR code or by visiting <https://race-nation.co.uk/register/crewkerne-running-club/crewkerne-10k-and-5k-fun-run-2025>.

Don't miss out – join us for a fun, friendly, and fantastic event.

Gemma Hughes, Crewkerne Running Club



**CREWKERNE 10K
AND 5K FUN RUN**

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE 2025



Scan Me

Sponsored by:

every's
solicitors

10am Start
Town Hall, Market Square,
Crewkerne TA18 7LN




Experiencing hearing loss, earache, and blocked ears? It could just be wax!

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR EAR & HEARING HEALTH CHECKS:

People have become accustomed to attending various appointments to ensure they maintain a good standard of health and wellbeing. It is considered normal to regularly assess the eyes and teeth, so why are ear and hearing health check-ups less common?

The loss of hearing has huge implications for social isolation, quality of life and the safety of individuals. However, it is not uncommon for people to wait 5-7 years before seeking help for a hearing loss. By attending regular ear and hearing health check-ups you could prevent a permanent hearing loss. After all, it could just be wax!

During your appointment your experienced clinician will be able to assess your ears, and if wax is present, gently remove it with micro-suction. Microsuction is the gold standard of wax removal and is much safer than other methods such as irrigation. The microsuction procedure is carried out by a trained clinician experienced with ENT patients and locally works within the GP sector.

Book an appointment at our clinic in Market Square, Crewkerne TA18 7LG, or book a home appointment, covering Somerset and Dorset.

Telephone: 0800 001 660

Book online: earwaxremovalsolutions.booksy.com/a/
Info@earwaxremovalsolutions.com

Merriott Social Group for partially sighted people and carers

We meet monthly for coffee and cake, to socialise and chat about issues that might be of concern, to share ideas and problems. The Group meets at the Feed Station, Church St, on the FIRST Thursday of each month at 2.00-3.30pm.

For more information, please call Rob Wright 07771 643350, or Somerset Sight on 01823 333818.





MERRIOTT & HASELBURY PLUCKNETT PRIMARY SCHOOLS FEDERATION

After School Club Supervisor, based at Merriott Primary School

Required: Spring term 2024-2025

Salary: Grade 13 Scale Point 6-11, £13.05 - £14.13 per hour, depending on experience

Contract: Part time, term time only (38 weeks), Monday – Friday 3:05 – 5:35pm plus overtime, as required. 12.5 hours per week – **contracted hours are expected to increase as the Extended Services provision develops.** Paid weeks 43.51.

Term: Permanent

We are seeking an enthusiastic, conscientious individual to develop and grow our After School Provision at Merriott Primary School.

We are looking for candidates who:

- Will bring energy and enthusiasm to the club
- Has a commitment to the social development of children
- Has a positive attitude which they bring to every aspect of their work
- Someone with a 'can do' attitude, with high expectations for themselves and others
- Someone who is resilient and looks for positive solutions
- Is self-motivated
- Has experience of working with children in the primary age range (4-11 years old) would be desirable
- Has strong interpersonal skills and is able to work as part of a team
- Is well organised and reliable
- Is able to plan and lead exciting and engaging activities for children
- Understands the principles of child protection and safeguarding

Please contact Merriott Primary School for more information: telephone 01460 72547 or email: office@merriottprimaryschool.co.uk

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This post is subject to satisfactory DBS.

Possible environmental impact of some flea and tick products

There has been a lot of publicity about the effect of agrochemicals on the environment. The spotlight is now being shone on the pet sector. Research has centred on two products – fipronil and imidacloprid. These have been identified in rivers and there are concerns that they may be harming birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates. Both these chemicals are included in some flea and tick treatments. Fipronil is found in products such as Frontline, Effipro and Bob Martin Clear. Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid, is included in Advocate spot-on and Advantage.

There is no clear evidence that these pet products are definitely causing harm but it has been suggested that the active chemicals can enter rivers via the sewage system when dogs or their bedding is washed or when owners wash their hands. Some dogs may swim in rivers so risking direct contamination, as well as reducing the effectiveness of a spot on product. Good quality flea and tick products are available that do not contain the above chemicals. Your vet will be able to advise on which treatments are most suitable for you and your pets' needs in order to keep them healthy, and how to use these products responsibly. It may be necessary for health reasons to use an imidacloprid product in certain instances but equally other products may be more suitable and more effective. Fipronil products are non-prescription and rarely sold by vets.

Enjoy walking your dog in the countryside and please keep it under control.

Dr Danusia Nosek

Merriott Parish Council March/April 2025

Brief matters for interest:

Bike Track Progress

Progress continues to be made on the Merriott bike-track project to be located at the bottom of the Beadon Lane track close to the Moorlands stream bridge. The project was originally approved by MPC over three years ago after due consultation work had been conducted at that time. Several long outstanding issues including the lease for the site and access provisions are now close to being finalised with the relevant parties. The project is to be funded out of MPC's s106 reserves, a portion of which has long been ear-marked for use on this project to provide a recreational activity for residents/children and at no cost to the tax payers of our parish. More details and designs will be made available in the coming weeks.

Seagulls

Feeding of Seagulls is once again causing mess and health concerns to residents in Sherlands and Hitchin who have recently had extraordinary amounts of droppings on their laundry, windows and vehicles from the Herring Gulls which are being fed by residents. This (illegal) practice should be stopped due to the health hazards and the damage to the bird population being predated on by the gulls. MPC is seeking advice on how to deal with the issue as it has been investigated before by Somerset Council without resolution.

Footpath Improvements Phase 1

MPC's contractor has completed Phase 1 of the footpath improvements around Merriott. Improved access to the village's open spaces has been achieved. Significant positive feedback has been received from residents. The next phases shall be progressed in the coming months.

Vacancy for New Councillor

Martin Bailey has recently left the Council so there is currently a vacancy which we would like to fill. The Council would welcome further volunteers who wish to play a role in developing our community. "Ask not what the Parish Council can do for you but what can you do for the Parish Council". Please contact the Council at clerk@merriottpc.org.uk.

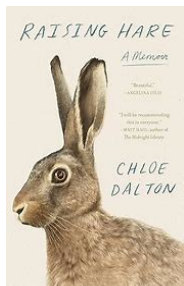
Vandalism on and around the Moorlands Stream Footpath

No sooner than the Council repairs the damage to the footbridge, it is vandalised again. This makes the use of the bridge potentially dangerous to residents. There has also been recent vandalism to the banks of the stream close to the bridge. Work to identify the culprits is ongoing.

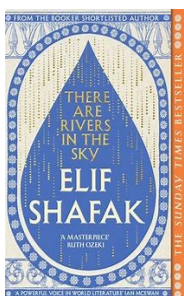
Merriott Parish Council

Book Review

I have been asked to do a book review and have decided to include two for the price of one! They are very different. The first will appeal to any nature lover: the second is perhaps more challenging but equally worth the read.



Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton is a truly enchanting account of exactly what the title says. Dalton was living in a secluded part of the English countryside during lockdown when she came across an apparently abandoned leveret. Well aware of her ignorance of how to cope and determined to interfere with nature as little as possible, she manages to care for and protect the baby hare, raise it to full maturity and return it to the wild. She is privileged to observe and share in its development and subsequent natural life, which she shares with the reader in this beautifully written account.



There are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak is a wonderfully imaginative novel linking three different individuals across different periods of time and geographical distance. The idea that a single raindrop falls to earth, evaporates, condenses, reforms into cloud only to fall again and again in vastly different places over time inspired this story centred on the great rivers of the Tigris in Mesopotamia and our Thames. The central characters have extraordinarily disparate lives: Arthur is reared as a Victorian Thameside mudlark: 9 year old Nanin is losing her hearing in modern day Turkey but her heritage lies in Iraq: and Zaleekhah is a young woman hydrologist living on a houseboat on the Thames in 2018. It is the unravelling of the thread that links them all – the ancient epic poem Gilgamesh – that fascinates the reader. Shafak's evocative story telling brings the characters' piercingly alive. I found it amazingly moving and a surprisingly relevant read.

Sheila Bowman

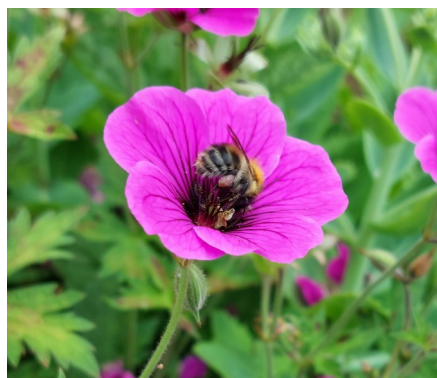
Support Against Breast Cancer – Donate Your Old Bras

We're collecting old and unwanted bras in support of Against Breast Cancer, a charity that funds vital research into secondary breast cancer. Your donations help raise money to improve treatments and support those affected. Thanks to the amazing generosity of the community – with a special thanks to St Margaret's Hospice Shop in Crewkerne – we've already collected a fantastic number of bras, all of which will be added to the growing total by weight.

But we're not finished yet! Donations are still very welcome. Whether it's a bra that no longer fits or one you simply don't wear anymore, every single one helps make a difference. So please, keep checking those boobies and keep those bras coming! Thank you for your support.

Teresa Callow

Hardy Geraniums



Geranium *Ivan* with Common Carder Bee



Geranium *Philipe Vapelle*

"When in doubt, plant a geranium" was famously said by Margery Fish, who created the garden at East Lambrook Manor, and it's true that there is a hardy geranium for just about every situation, from hot and sunny to dry shade. If I suggest planting a geranium to a customer at the nursery, I sometimes get the reply "Oh no, I have geraniums and they have spread everywhere" and yes, some do spread, but there are many that stay as a compact plant, or form a modest clump. Some varieties only form a small clump but send out long trailing stems during the summer, producing an abundance of flowers for weeks or even months on end, the deservedly popular blue flowered *Rozanne* is the best known, it's long stems mingling with other perennials and even climbing up into shrubs. *Azure Rush* is similar to *Rozanne* but the stems are not quite as long, resulting in a mound of flowers but still reaching 75cms or more across. Both require a sunny spot.

Another large but not spreading geranium is which makes a 75cm mound of large leaves and has masses of magenta flowers with black centres in summer. *Ivan* has very similar flowers and reaches 50cms tall and wide. A form of the meadow cranesbill, Geranium pratense *Splash-Splash* has white flowers with violet-blue splashes on the petals and can be grown in sun or light shade. Geranium *Nodosum* is probably the most accommodating of all geraniums, forming a clump of shiny leaves and producing pink or purple flowers all summer and happy pretty much anywhere, in either sun or shade, it will, however seed itself about. *Silverwood* is the excellent white flowered form. Geranium *Philipe Vapelle* is a hybrid so doesn't self seed, it grows to 30cm tall with lilac-blue flowers in summer and has pretty sage green scalloped edged leaves in a clump of up to 45cm wide in sun or part shade. For shade, Geranium *Phaeum* is a reliable slowly mat forming plant, the form *Lily Lovell* has rich purple flowers on upright stems in May and June and stays as a clump of about 45cm wide and reaches 50-75cm high.

There are many forms of low growing Geranium suitable for a rockery, container or front of a border in sun. *Sanguineum striatum* has masses of very pretty pale pink flowers in summer only reaching 15cms high, *John Elsley* is a bright magenta variety. They slowly form a mat of small divided leaves. For flowers at the end of summer, Geranium *Lakwijk Star* is a fairly new introduction that has bright purple-pink starry flowers on trailing stems from July to September and will grow in sun or part shade.

Hardy Geraniums have been out of fashion for a few years which is such a shame given what versatile and easy to grow plants they are. Many are good for pollinators, they add soft textures around trees and shrubs and soften hard edges of paving and buildings. Planted under roses for a classic English garden look or in a shady patch under trees for a natural woodland glade feel, every garden has a spot for at least one!

Catherine Bond, CB Plants, Lower Severalls Nursery



Crewkerne
and District
Branch

Invite you to join us at our family fun & VE Day celebration on Saturday 10th May 2025
at Severalls War Memorial Green
1045 - 1500 for tea, coffee and cakes
Scouts Burger Bar & Numerous Stalls
Adults & Childrens 40's Fancy Dress Competition

Featuring Music by
The Phoenix Band
Singing by The Poppettes



There will be a short Service & Wreath laying at 1100 conducted by our Branch Chaplain the Rev Andrew

May Madness!

Bring your teddy to our Teddy Bears' Picnic!

Thursday May 1st 9-11.30a.m. at Minnows.

At Merriott Tithe Barn

£1.50 children/ £1 adults

Refreshments & teddy bear themed activities



Merriott Village Spring Clean Litter Pick

Join us for this year's Spring Clean litter pick on Sunday 11th May, which also happens to be Somerset Day! As with previous years, residents are encouraged to start at a time that suits them, beginning with their own street and covering as much ground as they wish. Please bring your own black plastic litter sacks, and dispose of any rubbish you collect in your household bins. A limited number of litter pickers are available to borrow—if you'd like one, please contact Harriet at clerk@merriottpc.org.uk.

Merriott Parish Council

News from All Saints Church

Lent and Easter - Thank you to everyone who supported our services during Holy Week and Easter. Easter Sunday was a particularly joyful occasion. It was great to see a good crowd at ARK @ Egwood for the ferociously early dawn service! We offer our thanks to the many people who cleaned, decorated and prepared the church for the services during this period. The Easter garden was especially beautiful this year.

APCM - Our annual meeting will be held in church at 11.30am on Sunday 11th May, within the context of our morning worship. This is a really critical meeting, and we invite everyone who has an interest in the church to attend. The community also needs to elect a second Churchwarden to work alongside Mark Bunting. Churchwardens are vital to the life of the church, and it will be hard to do many things without them in office. Please have a good long think about who you want to elect. Could it be you? We also have many other gaps among our volunteer posts – PCC members, Sunday Duty Sacristans, Readers, Sidespeople. If you would like to offer your time and skills to the church, we can find a role for you! Don't be shy, get in touch.



All Saints Church, Merriott Church Services in May:

Sun 4th	No service in Merriott
Sun 11th	10.30am Parish Communion followed by APCM
Sun 18th	10.30am Morning Prayer
Sun 25th	9am Holy Communion
Thu 29th	Ascension Day —10am Communion for Ascension, followed by refreshments at The Rectory

Rev'd Bob Hicks

Merriott Social Venue News

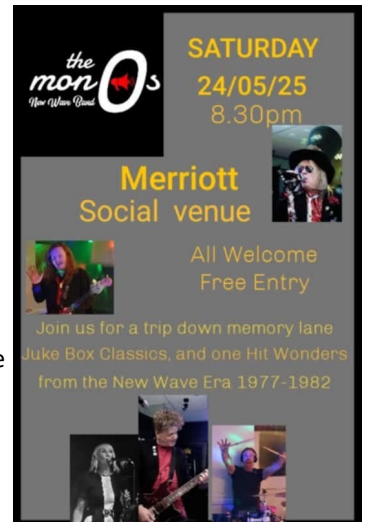
We have got lots planned over the next month, with something for everyone to enjoy.

- Saturday 3rd May VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY** - In true Merriott Social Venue style, we are commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day with our legendary street party. The road at the bottom of Lower Street will be closed from 2pm -7pm, so we can celebrate and enjoy the day safely. There will be some tables and chairs laid out, on a first come first served basis. Please bring a chair if you can to avoid disappointment. There will be a visit from the Tasty Treats van in the afternoon and hot food will be on sale - provided by the Merriott Majorettes, or feel free to bring your own picnic nibbles. The bar will be open from 12 noon serving all types of refreshments, please support us. There will be lots to entertain you, including Justin Daish playing music from the decades - 50s onwards, including his trademark Hank Marvin and the Shadows tunes. To keep the children entertained, we will have face painting, activities, live animals and military vehicles on show. Let's show what a great community we are and come together for this memorable event.
- SUMMER SKITTLES** - We are organising a summer skittles league. If you have never played this traditional game, why not give it a go? All levels welcome. You will need to form a team of 4 players. Registration is £20 a team, and each game has a £5 match fee. At the end of the summer, cash prizes will be awarded. The hardest thing is to think up your team name! Please ask a member of staff for more details or a registration form.
- MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT** - We have Justin Daish playing live at the street party on May 3rd at 3pm (more details above). Justin plays music through all the decades from the 1950s through to the noughties. So, if you like a bit of Buddy Holly, Hank Marvin, Pink Floyd and all the guitar greats in between come and see him perform.
- OPEN MIC NIGHT** - will be held on Thursday 15th, for anyone who wishes to participate or to come and listen. Music, comedy and spoken word.
- Saturday 24th May LIVE MUSIC** - we have music from The Monos. Like a bit of New Wave? The Monos play new wave hit tunes from 1977-1982. This is their first time at the venue, so please come and give them a warm welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at the events above - they are all free entry and everyone is welcome. Please support your local community venue, so more events like this can be planned in the future. Don't forget our Weekly Wednesday Cash Bingo in the front bar, eyes down 8pm, and Friday nights are free pool nights.

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 07471593040.

Penny Gibbs, Secretary



Planning Applications

1 Nut Tree Farm

Proposed single storey link extension. 25/00773/HOU. Status: Awaiting Decision

Land North East of 23 and 25 Orchard Drive

Discharge of Condition No.4 (Allocation Certificate) of Planning Application 23/03191/FUL

Status: Conditions Discharged

3 and 4 Moorlands Court

Application for a lawful Development Certificate 25/00351/COL Status Application Permitted

Manor House Higher Street

Notification of Intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to 3 trees within a Conservation Area 25/00414/TCA Status: Application Permitted

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



Marion Biggs

Did you know? Imported Sheep

Though there are more than sixty breeds of sheep in this country, several new breeds have been imported in recent years to fill apparent gaps in the qualities of our native breeds. Among these imports in the 1960s were Finnish Landrace sheep from Finland and Ile de France sheep from France.

Finnish sheep are a smaller animal related to Shetland and Icelandic sheep. They are known to be very fertile and to produce young at an early age. It is not uncommon for them to have three, four and five lambs and even up to eight in a litter. They were imported into the UK in the 1960s and have been crossed with breeds already here to increase fertility.

The Ile de France breed is very different and was imported to be used as a top-crossing sire to produce high quality lamb. I had a hand in bringing this breed to the UK, which had an amusing twist. In the early 1960s I was working as Research Director for a chicken, pig and sheep breeding company, Thornbers, based in Yorkshire.



‘Finnsheep ewes and lambs in Finland’ – photo from Wiki Commons and attributed to David Smith from Elimäki, Finland

Thornbers, and Brian Cadzow, a farmer in East Lothian, were interested in importing Ile de France sheep from France. This breed is part Merino, has a long breeding season and is a good top-crossing ram in place of Suffolks. Brian and I arranged to go in May 1964 to France on a buying mission, contacted the breed society who planned our visit to several farms near Chartres



Ile de France sheep from National Sheep Association

and in the champagne country, towards Reims. The complication was that because of foot-and-mouth restrictions in the UK (slaughter of any infected animals and no vaccination) we could only import young pre-vaccinated sheep, as the French vaccinated for foot-and-mouth at about 6 months of age. Selected animals had to be quarantined, both in France and in the UK, for a month in each country. The buying mission involved turning up at a farm, being offered champagne and discussing for about an hour before being shown the sheep – we only got to visit about three farms per day and by the time we saw the sheep they looked quite lovely! Anyhow we selected sheep from four farms and came home expecting the sheep to go into quarantine in Brest before shipping to the UK. Soon after we returned, we received a phone call from France to say that a French Ministry vet had been to one of the farms we visited, and had inadvertently vaccinated the animals we had picked. So would we go back to France, at the Ile de France Breed

Society expense, and select some more animals. This we did at a weekend and stayed in Paris with trips to selected farms. I had to bring blood samples from the selected animals with me through customs at the airport for them to be tested by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food Veterinary Laboratory to ensure the sheep did not have Foot-and-Mouth or any other unwanted disease. Though I was concerned, and declared the blood samples to customs at the airport I was waved through as though it was quite normal to be carrying blood samples! My wife never did believe that I had a weekend in Paris buying sheep!

John Bowman

CAREFORD LODGE



A warm greeting is assured for you at Careford Lodge, so please call in to see Laura 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.

Laura 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 Laura at carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk

Merriott Then and Now

A part of Merriott that has seen major changes over the years is the junction of Lower Street and Broadway, known as The Knapp which has evolved significantly in appearance.

In Victorian times there were many cottages lining Broadway. By the 1950s, under the scheme to clear old unsuitable housing, it was decided to knock down most of the cottages on the left and the one protruding on the right. Apparently the gentleman who lived in this one objected to being evicted and it took a lot of persuading to get him out. The first two buildings on the left remained and the men's barbers and the haberdashery, both belonging to the Mr and Mrs Best were standing until the 80s when they were demolished to improve the junction.



Whilst this junction is still a busy part of the village with Budgens and Q&Co hairdresser it is not the bustling centre it once was.

If you want to see more photos of Merriott and how it has changed over the years visit us on a Thursday morning 10.00 to 12.00 at 10 Lower Street.

Marion Biggs

DOOMED FOR DEMOLITION



A sunny morning and a peaceful village street. The danger sign may seem unnecessary to passers-by but to 20 or so residents of Merriott it means that their houses are soon to be pulled down under a Clearance Order. Twelve of the residents are old-age pensioners who have spent their life-savings on modernising the interior of their homes. All they want is to be left in peace – but that is not the way of progress. Photo: "County Mail"



The Kings Head



M E R R I O T T



I would like to introduce myself as the landlady of the Kings Head in Merriott. Having grown up in the village I left home to pursue a career in television. Whilst continuing my career, I returned to Somerset in 2006 as I wanted my son to grow up in this area surrounded by family and to enjoy a similar childhood to mine. I have always wanted to own a pub and when the Kings Head came up for sale in my home village it was an opportunity I had to take and I know how important a village pub is to the community. Skittling is a major part of the Kings Head and I will continue with that tradition. It is very clear that the village also want to be able to come for food so I continue my refurbishments including a new dining area.

Next month brings exciting times as I have a chef starting and plan to extend my opening times serving lunches and dinners during the week and a traditional Sunday Roast. I have started to book some live music in the garden and have Mushroom Season, One Tree Hill and the IOUs coming to the Kings in the Summer. I am working on social media now so that I can share all these events with you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported The Kings Head over my first few months. Hopefully see you all soon.

Jane Hamlin

Thank You to the Merriott Parish Council

The Editorial Team at the Merriott Messenger wish to express their gratitude to Merriott Parish Council for a grant of £1000 towards the cost of producing three to four larger seasonal issues of the monthly publication. Printing costs have risen over 25% since the pandemic, and whilst we have increased the cost of annual sponsorship, we felt that larger editions could not be financially sustained even if it was for a small number of issues.

The response from a significant number of our readers confirmed that the Messenger in its printed form remains a convenient medium for our community along with an option to read online. This grant will enable us to achieve our objective for the next twelve months, thanks to the support of Merriott Parish Council.

Editorial Team

MVH Easter Quiz Raising Funds for ARK

Merriott Village Hall Committee kindly organised an Easter Quiz and Supper on Saturday 12th April, with all proceeds being kindly donated to ARK at Egwood. It was a sell-out with nearly 90 people over 15 teams coming to enjoy an intense evening of brain-searching, head-scratching and friendly debate. ARK's willing volunteers and staff worked hard to serve a two course supper and Martin and Michelle kindly manned the bar for the evening.

Quizmaster, Mike Cable, put the teams through their paces covering a wide range of topics from music to geography and catchwords to anagrams. First place went to 'The Unusual Suspects' seen below receiving their prize, with 'Rancid Nerds' placed second and 'In the Pink' just one point behind in third place.

Huge thanks to Eric, Lola, Roger, Nigel and Tash of the village hall committee for all of their hard work to make the event such a success. Thanks are also due to Merriott Garage, Premier Stores, The Feed Station, Budgens and Q&Co who kindly sold tickets through their outlets. Last but not least, a big thank you to all those who donated raffle prizes – without all your help, the night would not have been the success it was.

A total of £1,500 was raised, which will be used to buy a ride-on lawnmower, used both to keep the grounds tidy but also to upskill attendees. ARK would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of its staff and volunteers for their ongoing support, having recently been awarded The Kings Award for Voluntary Service and winning Small Business of the Year in the Somerset Business Awards.

A few more ARK upcoming events for your diaries:

- Saturday May 17th 10am-1pm Plant Sale with refreshments – donations of any plants welcome.
- Last Friday evening of the month from May to August – Supper Clubs
- Dog Show Saturday 12th July



Nigel & Amanda Bell



The Mobile Library will visit Merriott on
Tuesday 27th May outside the church
10.50am - 11.10am



PCSO in Merriott

PCSO Hickey will be available in the Blake Room of Merriott Village Hall on May 10th between 10am and 11am if you wish to discuss any issues with her.

John Bowman

A Big "Shout Out" for our Merriott Sales Venues

Merriott Village Hall regularly hosts events to financially assist local charities and good causes. The sales of tickets for these events are key to optimise the number of attendees and maximise the proceeds which can be donated to a chosen organisation.

Whilst we have started to use our Events Co-ordinator's email address and Ticket Tailor (an online ticketing platform), the bulk of our event tickets are sold for cash at our very own retail and hospitality outlets within the village. These venues perform a vital role with the help they provide to our Village Hall and we sincerely hope the community continue to support the following businesses within our village: **Budgens, Merriott Pharmacy, Premier Shop & Service Station, Q&Co. and The Feed Station.**

Trustees of Merriott Village Hall

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS



All Saints Church:

Rectors - Rev Julia Hicks & Rev Bob Hicks	01460 76406
Benefice Administrator (Office)	merriottchurch@hotmail.co.uk
Churchwardens - Mark Bunting	07799 736857
PCC Secretary - Caroline Reeves	01460 73598
Allotment Association (Merriott) - Chris Clark	01460 76594
Baby Clinic - Health Visitor	01460 77600
Badminton Club - Merriott - Penny Harvey	07734 844956
U3A Badminton Players - Tony Barrett	01460 73658
Bowling Club - Roger Collins (Secretary)	01935 425486
	07967 798358
	rogcollinsatparcroft@gmail.com
Breeze Dance (Toddlers) - Jo Sivell	07841 913323
Campanologists (Bell ringers) - Robert Harvey	01460 75984
Crewkerne Voluntary Transport	01460 271669
Cubs & Scouts - Debra Cummings	07966 047953
County Councillor Jo Roundell Greene	01460 53438
	jo.roundellgreene@somerset.gov.uk
Evergreen Club - Mary Gilson/Debbie Stokes	07752 893891
Floodline	0345 988 1188
Football Club, Secretary - Angie Rowswell	01460 74889
Gardening Club - Gayle Stokes	07460 311193
Gun Club (Merriott) - Nigel Witcombe	07963 102258
Marquetry Club - Ken Smart	01460 74567
Majorettes (Merriott) - Sarah Foley	01935 840173
Merriott Heritage Trust	07961 517903
Merriott Karate Club - Brett Jacobs	07968 953705
Merriott Parish Footpath Group - Nikki Rochford	07870 337684
Merriott Pre-School - Jenny Hayne	01460 77922
Merriott Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	01460 77538
Merriott Table Tennis Club - Michael Fox	07515 483994
MP—Adam Dance	adam.dance.mp@parliament.uk
Open Group (Merriott) - Marion Biggs	01460 74170
Parent & Toddler Group (Minnows) - Mary Gilson	07752 893891
Parish Council, Chairman - Iain Hall	01460 73771
Parish Council, Clerk - Harriet Baggs	clerk@merriottpc.org.uk
Police Community Support Officers (PCSO)	101
Pilates - Belle Palmer	07593 299284
Short Mat Bowls Club - Frank Smith	07956 598894
Social Venue (Merriott)	07471 593040
Squash Club (Merriott)	07718 664147
Membership - Matt Gentle	07872 040 204
Tithe Barn Bookings - Michelle Down	07402 741828
Village Hall Bookings - Martin & Michelle Rowswell	01460 72508
Youth Football Club (Merriott) - Monica Hayden	01460 74449

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

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myBestie Pet Shop dedicated to your best friend. 10 The George Shopping Centre, Crewkerne TA18 7LU 01460 77106 Info@mybestiepets.co.uk	MERRIOTT HERITAGE TRUST merriott.heritage.trust@gmail.com 07961 517903	WindowMan WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES 16 South Street Crewkerne TA18 8DA 01460 200666 5% off our advertised price for people of Merriott	Manor Farm - Your local farm shop Lower Street, Merriott TA16 5NP Tel: 07963 102258 nigel.witcombe@gmail.com	Merriott Village Hall Parties, weddings, community groups welcome 01460 72508 merriottvillagehall@gmail.com
Andrew Sheppard Appliance Maintenance Services Domestic Appliance Repairs Tel: 01460 72211 Mob: 07970 744 115 www.appliancemaintenance.co.uk	Kevin Swain Electrical Contractor Free Estimates Tel 01460 73260	Crewkerne WEDNESDAY MARKET 10AM-2PM Stalls both inside Victoria Hall and outside the Town Hall towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk	Charlotte Hamlin Merriott Childcare OFSTED & PACEY registered Full/part-time hours Early years funding Between 6.00am & 5.30pm www.charlottehamlin.co.uk 01460 73361 07721 018 335	Health Alternative Sports, Remedial & Holistic Massage Victoria Waight Moorlands Court, Merriott 07801 031 532 <i>Massage for a healthy lifestyle</i>
beehive Self Storage & Removals Secure self storage & removals Competitive rates, easy & flexible 01460 243100 lopen@beehiveselfstorage.co.uk www.beehiveselfstorage.co.uk	NECTAR ELECTRICAL DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL 07943 278829 NectarElectrical.co.uk	THE KINGS HEAD MERRIOTT Tel: 01460 711500 bookings@kingsheadmerriott.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.	R. A. Wicks Ltd Fireplace Showroom, Flue Lining and Multi Fuel Stoves 01460 74612
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