

Finds Day and Village Timeline Part 1: The Event

Retrospectively compiled by David Gibbs with reference to newspaper reports

In March 2009, Merriott Local History Group, with Paul Fisher's help, organised a Finds Day, a display of a range of items villagers had discovered when digging their garden, walking in the fields and lanes, and when working on the land.

The finds were displayed in the 14c Tithe Barn - could there be a more fitting venue? - accompanied by a Village Timeline, compiled by Paul Fisher, tracing the history of the village through the ages, from Domesday through to World War Two.



Some of the items on display



Over 200 people of all ages attended, many spending several hours examining the finds which included fossils, flints, pieces of pottery, Roman and other coins, bottles, even the tip of a sword from either the 16th or 17th centuries. All the items were examined by Somerset and Dorset County Councils' finds liaison officers who found many of them worthy of further research.



Carrie Mullins, Paul Maxwell, Paul Fisher and Cathy Herriman (Group Chairman) enjoy the day

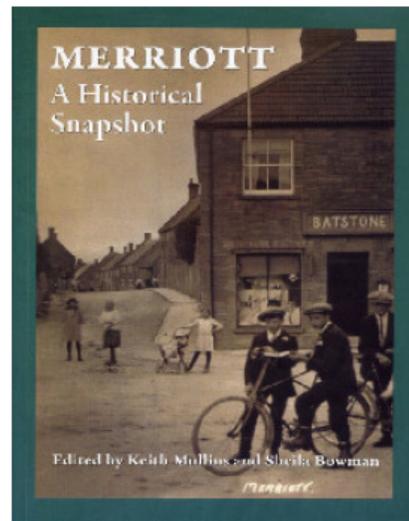
The scene in the Tithe Barn as visitors eagerly examined the items on display



There was also an exhibition of old village photographs, organised by Mary Paul, in the Tithe Barn and in All Saints' church, which also drew the crowds. The photographs were kindly provided by Pat Rochford from his extensive collection.

Mary Paul displays a Pat Rochford photograph

The day also saw the launch of a very special book, *Merriott - A Historical Snapshot* edited by former parish council chairman Keith Mullins and local historian Sheila Bowman. Residents collected copies they had previously ordered. The 80-page book consists of material dating back to the Domesday Book, historical records that are more recent, articles, memoirs, and a wide range of photographs, illustrations and original research. It is an evocative snapshot of the village, sure to arouse interest and bring back memories.



Throughout the day, Merriott Girl Guides helped out making teas and sold homemade cakes, helping to make the Finds Day a most successful community occasion.