

Welcome to the  
**Merriott Local  
History Group  
Digital Archive**

**2014**



## **ARCHIVE INTRODUCTION**

### **Merriott Local History Group**

The History Group came into being in 2008. The founder members were Cathy Herriman and Mary Paull, supported by a small group of like-minded people who shared their interest in the history of the village. There was no formal group constitution and membership was free.

Group activities consisted principally of monthly meetings with guest speakers held in the Tithe Barn but also included visits and special events such as the very successful Finds Day held in 2009, details of which are recorded in this archive.

### **The Group Website**

In 2010, on hearing of the group, and also sharing an interest in the history of the village although living in Wokingham some 100 miles distant, Merriott born David Gibbs (the author of these notes) offered to set up and run a website on a voluntary basis in support of the group activities. This offer was accepted and in November 2010 a website came into being.

The objectives of the website were:

- To support and promote the activities of Merriott Local History Group.
- To provide a worldwide online social hub for people who share an interest of the village and its history.
- To facilitate the collection, publication and eventual archiving of documents, photographs and other material of local historical interest.
- To provide facilities for the online publication and archiving of research documents.

Visitors to the website were invited to contribute photographs, documents and other material for publication and contributions were received from all over the country and from the United States, Australia and New Zealand, all of which were duly published and have been included in this archive.

### **Website Contributors**

Below is a list of people who contributed material for publication, and also of people who were supportive in other ways. Thank you for your interest and support.

Cathy Herriman	Mary Paull	Bryan Morris	David Gibbs	Sheila Spear	Richard Rumsby
Lynn Durant	Paul Fisher	Nigel Stephens	Alan Keene	David Bryant	Fred Pattemore
John Stuttaford	Will French	Jack Gibbs	Sylvia Best	Yvonne Taylor	Pat Webb
Angela Russell	Stella Howard	Christine Thompson	Paul Thompson	Marion Andrews	Coral Pike
Andrew Sheppard	John Smith	Bob Patten	Chris Packham	Marjorie Durant	Rebecca Tuck
Dulcie Stoodley	Dennis Stoodley	Kevin Close	Lizabeth Dawe	Tony Dowse Brenon	Jean Rosskelly
Karen Holt	Dave Pickford	Dave Sampson	Brian Tasker	Hilda Isaacs	Chris Durant
Peter Westman	Eileen Pitman	Kevin Edwards	Sue Hastings	Linda Middleton	Lorna Rumsby
John Osborne	Janet Wills	Chris Woods	May Tout	Ian Ball	

Many of the articles in the archive include the names of the author and, where appropriate, the photographer but a special acknowledgment is due to Alan Keene who provided the Merriott/Wokingham link by scanning and sending, via email, electronic copies of documents and photographs contributed by village residents.

Conversely, apologies are probably due for the text of many articles being attributed to the writer of these notes. This is purely for reasons of accountability, not personal recognition.

## The Digital Archive

After three successful years, as interest in group activities waned so did interest in the website. In particular, there were far fewer visitors and the flow of contributions necessary to make publication worthwhile ceased. Consequently, in November 2013 publication of the website came to an end and, in accordance with the initial objectives listed above, this digital archive was assembled, copies of which will hopefully survive down the years for future generations to access and enjoy. With future accessibility in mind, a copy has been lodged with the Heritage Centre in Crewkerne.

The archive consists of 115 documents in pdf format. The pdf files are arranged in six folders: *Folder 01 Archive Introduction* (this document, which includes an archive contents list), *Folder 02 The Village*, *Folder 03 Documents*, *Folder 04 Photographs*, *Folder 05 Personal Memories* and *Folder 06 Artefacts*. A folder contents list is included as the first document in each folder.

The *Documents* folder includes a sub-folder: *Rev Percival Letters*, a series of fascinating letters to parishioners dating from the late 1800s, early 1900s. The *Personal Memories* folder includes a sub-folder: *A Miscellany Of Merriott Memories* containing a series of articles taken from a privately published book of the same title.

To read pdf files, *Adobe Reader* software is required. This can be downloaded free of charge from <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads>

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David Gibbs  
Wokingham 2014