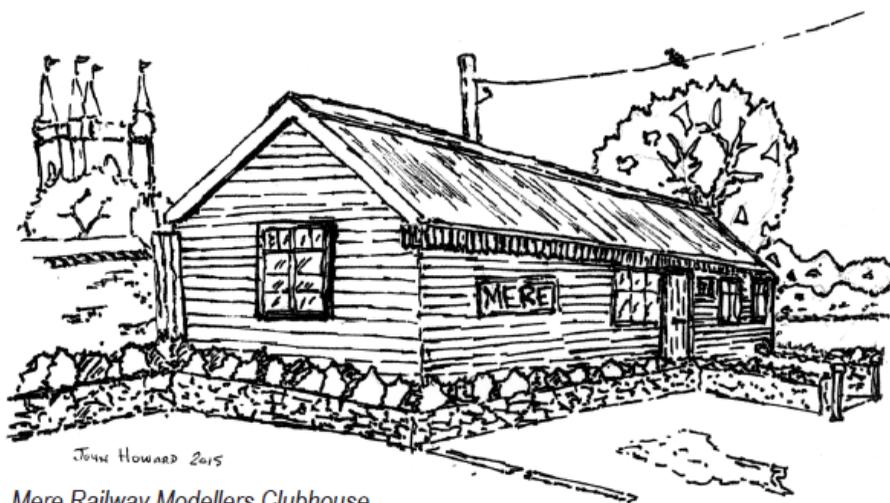


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



Mere Railway Modellers Clubhouse

June 2015

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 1st June 2015** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion. Please note that the **July meeting** will be held on **Monday, 29th June 2015** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

I would like to thank the representatives of the groups who provide services and care for Mere, and who attended the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April gave their reports. Most of these groups are run voluntarily, which to a small country town like Mere is essential.

A crowd of about 60 people braved the wind and rain and climbed to the top of Castle Hill on the evening of 8th May to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day. Following a simple address and a bugle call, a beacon was lit followed by a magnificent display of fireworks. Particular thanks must go to Councillor Rodney Coward who organised this event. Rodney has decided to retire from the Parish Council after 16 years of service. He has been a very active member, serving as Vice Chairman and Chairman. Over the last few years he has dedicated a lot of time to the HLS scheme preserving and conserving Long Hill and Castle Hill.

As I come to the end of my term as Chairman, I must thank the Vice Chairman, Brett Norris, Lindsey Wood, our clerk and all members of the parish Council for their support and especially the people of Mere, who make the job worth doing.

For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org, e-mail the parish clerk at: lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701.

Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Many Wiltshire Council officers and elected members have been involved with the recent general election. I hope we will now see more of a focus on repairing and improving our roads. Money is needed not just from the county but from government as well. There are many roads needing at the least repair, some I can mention are Castle Street Mere, Mill Lane Mere, Woolverton and Fantley Lane Zeals and roads around West Knoyle. At a meeting with Parish Councils and Wiltshire Council recently we were informed the highway maintenance contract had been cut from £11m to £6m, which

BBLP (Balfour Beatty) have won. The Landscape as, a contractor to BBLP, will be cutting the grass verges etc. from June. The result will be, we were told, just one grass cut per year, reactive service to highway repairs, road signs and street name signs, except for "Stop" signs, taking up to a year to repair or replace. Any litter bins that are vandalised will not be replaced.

The above is as I understood the situation. Government, and may be other money, is available to resurface two roads a year per area board, prioritised by our area board. I use the words 'probably' and 'may be', as change is forever happening, and the situation may turn out differently. I hope, and will continue to try, for change for the better for our local highways. Our area board through our CATG committee have about £17,000 allocated this year for local highway projects from Wilton to Mere.

Fibre Superfast Broadband is being well received in Mere. Those in the very rural environment of the surrounding villages of Mere, have not benefitted from the new technology and in Mere I have come across problems. Mill Lane is fairly close to the centre of Mere and the western end of Mill Lane takes its telephone lines from the cabinet in the square known as CAB 1, the distance is significant and I am informed by residents that they cannot benefit at present. The eastern end of Mill Lane may do so as it is fed from another CAB (Green cabinet).

Local people interested in upgrading to the new fibre service should contact their chosen service provider to get connected and start benefiting from the new technology. If close to a green cabinet 80MB packages are available with 40MB sometimes on offer if the connection is more distant from a green cabinet.

More work is planned in Wiltshire to connect even more properties. Since the Superfast rollout started more than 44,000 premises have been connected to date and Wiltshire's target was reached by BT for 31st March 2015. Properties countywide have gained access to better broadband. Keep informed with the project and see Wiltshire Council's broadband postcode checker on line.

A presentation meeting will be held in our area. Members of the Wiltshire Online team will be attending a special South West Area Board meeting to provide an update on the broadband roll-out programme in the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton community areas. The meeting will be held on Monday, 8th June 2015 at Dinton Village Hall from 6.30-7.20pm and will cover:

- The project (why it is being done).
- The technology (cabinets, Exchange Only lines).
- Exchange by exchange update (this provides information on the communities who will be covered by the project and where they are in the rollout ie. live, installing, surveying, future exchange).
- Community packs (this is information that is sent to parish councils as the roll-out goes live in their area, a copy of what the pack includes will be shown).

There will then be an opportunity to ask any questions, and BT will also be in attendance to answer any technical questions that people may have. Please note that the meeting will not cover the services that individual Internet Service Providers offer, and residents would be advised to undertake their own research using one of the many broadband comparison sites that are available.

Moving on, although advertised, you should know that the current works by Wessex Water that include the temporary closure of The Lynch, Water Street, Mere will now conclude on the 12th June, some two weeks later than first advertised.

The Voluntary and Community sector (VCSE) grants play an important part within Wiltshire, which is why £20m is invested in a wide range of services in this area. Again as a result of austerity measures, 12 of these groups have had some funding withdrawn to my knowledge. Examples are:

- Low cost furniture providers, Group 5 and The Burnbake Trust.
- Community First will no longer receive funding to back up the Landfill Communities Fund. This was a grant of £30,000 and was for community led projects that can claim matched-funding assistance from waste contractors such as Hills. It was from Hills that Mere Parish Council received a large grant for Mere Skate Park.
- The South Wiltshire Walks Project was given a one-off payment of £33,359 to kick start the project in 14/15 in conjunction with the area boards. This will not be paid again in 15/16.
- Salisbury Arts Centre will no longer receive their annual grant of £89,507. This funding amount equates to 10% of the total funding for the Arts Centre.
- The payment of £4,860 paid as a contribution to SPLASH/TAP school holiday activity programme in 14/15 will not be paid in 15/16.

The next Area Board meeting on **Wednesday, 3rd June** will have a special focus on listening to older people about the activities and services they value and what they would like to see in South West Wiltshire.

You are invited to join us at **Dinton Village Hall** at **2.30pm** that afternoon, so that you can have your say and help to shape services for the future. Refreshments will also be provided. A workshop will also seek to find out from older people what they think about the services there are in their communities to support older people to stay at home.

We are particularly keen to review how much loneliness and social isolation affects older people and what thoughts people might have about how we can address this. Wiltshire Council will produce a report highlighting the services that people value but also identifying any service gaps or good ideas that we can develop. We will then work with older people to commission/develop those services.

For more information please contact Steve Harris, our Community Area Manager, ☎ 01722 434211.

Again remember Tuesday, 16th June, Salisbury Cathedral Grounds, Magna Carta celebrations, our South West Area Board (Wilton, Tisbury and Mere) will have a Banner in place amongst those from around Wiltshire. Our Magna Carter banner will read, after much discussion, "Grow the Rural Economy". I hope it is printed correctly, the first draft came through as "Grow the Rural Community", some would say we are doing that fast enough now!



Wiltshire Citizens Advice

Withdrawal of Face to Face facility in Mere

Last year the Citizens Advice service *celebrated* 75 years of helping people solve their problems. The world has changed a lot since 1939 when the first 200 bureaux opened their doors as an emergency war service to deal with problems relating to the loss of ration books, homelessness and locating missing relatives. The advice we give today is still free and confidential, but it is just as likely to be on the phone, or by email as it is in person.

We are equipped to deal with any issue, from anyone, spanning debt and employment to housing and consumer problems plus everything in between. Today, just as in 1939, the vast majority of people who deliver our service are unpaid volunteers, who give their time and skills to help others.

We are as busy as ever, last year we helped nearly 18,000 people with over 45,000 new problems. Every change in legislation brings new challenges.

Our 24/7 society also means people can buy goods, work, or be entertained any time of day or night. For an organisation that started at the onset of World War II, making sure the service we offer is still relevant and effective for the people who need our help is a challenge we must embrace.

We are respected and recognised by most people but there is less money to support us, and more competition for resources, so it's essential our service is in the right position to support our clients' changing needs.

How people seek and access advice, just like when buying goods, and working patterns have changed. This means we need to listen to what people want, and change our service accordingly. Last year we had over 23,000 calls to our Telephone Advice Line. Sadly we were unable to answer them all. Not only do we need to answer all calls to us, we also need to extend our opening hours beyond the traditional 9 to 5 to be truly available for everyone who needs our help.

From the beginning of June we will be making some changes to the service we offer in Mere. We will no longer run a drop-in session in the library on Tuesdays; instead will we have more advisers than ever for answering your calls. We will also support our

online advice (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) with a webchat service, so you can ask us there and then about anything you are unsure of.

We will still have drop-in sessions for face-to-face advice nearby - in Warminster on Tuesdays and Salisbury on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. A full list of drop-in locations & opening times can be found on our website : www.cabwiltshire.org.uk.

Get advice:

Online: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

☎: 03444 111 444

In person: **Warminster** Central Car Park on Tuesdays, 10.00am to 3.00pm;

Salisbury at 18 College Street on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Watercolour Practice: 6 classes for adults – fee £60.00 plus materials
Tuesday 1.00-3.00pm from 9th June at Mere Lecture Hall

For content and booking please go to: www.laura-joliffe.co.uk

Details of Autumn 2015 courses also available on the website

VOLUNTEER CENTRE WILTSHIRE

Volunteers' Week Celebration 2015

Join local charities and voluntary groups to celebrate the amazing contribution of volunteers in our community. Volunteer Centre Wiltshire is hosting a special session of their Volunteer Manager's Network open to everyone and dedicated to those who give their skills and time throughout the year.

This celebration will showcase:

- Wiltshire's amazing volunteers demonstrating and sharing their skills
- Information about local charities and groups in your area-
- New opportunities for you to get involved with as a volunteer
- Music, food, dancing... and much more!

This is a special opportunity to thank those who make Wiltshire a better place to live every day.

When? Thursday, 4th June 2015, 9.45am - 1.30pm

Where? Salisbury Methodist Church Hall, St Edmund's Church St, SP1 1EF

This event is FREE, Refreshments included

For more information please visit www.developecs.org.uk/VMN4JUN or call us ☎ 0845 034 5250. Invite your friends, everyone is welcome!

SILVER SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE ...

Wiltshire Council's next South West Area Board meeting on **Wednesday, 3rd June** will have a special focus on listening to older people about the activities and services they value and what they would like to see in South West Wiltshire.

Please come and join us at **Dinton Village Hall** at **2.30pm** so that you can have your say and help to shape services for the future. Refreshments will also be provided.

The workshop will also seek to find out from older people what they think about the services there are in their communities to support older people to stay at home.

We are particularly keen to review how much loneliness and social isolation affects older people, and what thoughts people might have about how we can address this. Wiltshire Council will produce a report highlighting the services that people value but also identifying any service gaps or good ideas that we can develop.

We will then work with older people to commission/develop those services.

For more information please contact me.

Steve Harris, Community Area Manager ☎ 01722 434211



UPDATE ON BROADBAND ROLL - OUT in South-West Wiltshire

Members of the Wiltshire Online team will be attending a special Meeting of the Wiltshire Council South West Area Board to provide an update on the broadband roll-out programme in the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton community areas.

The meeting will be held on Monday, 8th June 2015 at Dinton Village Hall from 6.30-7.20pm and will cover:

- The project (why it is being done).
- The technology (cabinets, Exchange Only lines).
- Exchange by exchange update (this provides information on the communities who will be covered by the project and where they are in the rollout ie. live, installing, surveying, future exchange).
- Community packs (this is information that is sent to parish councils as the roll-out goes live in their area, a copy of what the pack includes will be shown).

There will then be an opportunity to ask any questions and BT will also be in attendance to answer any technical questions that people may have.

Please note that the meeting will not cover the services that individual Internet Service Providers offer, and residents would be advised to undertake their own research using one of the many broadband comparison sites that are available.

Areas included:

Mere Community Area, which includes the parishes of East Knoyle, Kilmington, Mere, Sedgemoor & Semley, Stourton with Gasper, West Knoyle and Zeals.

Tisbury Community Area, which includes the parishes of Ansty, Berwick St John, Berwick St Leonard, Chicklade, Chilmark, Donhead St Andrew, Donhead St Mary, Fonthill Bishop, Fonthill Gifford, Fovant, Hindon, Sutton Mandeville, Swallowcliffe, Tisbury, Tollard Royal and West Tisbury.

Wilton Community Area, which includes the parishes of Alvediston, Barford St Martin, Bishopstone, Bowerchalke, Broad Chalke, Burcombe Without, Compton Chamberlayne, Dinton, Ebbesbourne Wake, Netherhampton, Quidhampton, South Newton, Stratford Tony, Teffont and the town of Wilton.

More information about the roll-out programme is also available online at: www.wiltshireonline.org or for more information please contact me.

Steve Harris, Community Area Manager ☎ 01722 434211

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

Join the fun at Mere Library as we swing into the jungle during National Bookstart Week between 8th and 14th June. As many of you know, Bookstart offers the gift of free books to all children at two stages before they start school, to help inspire a love of reading.

On Saturday 6th June, the monthly children's event will start the jungle theme, with jungle stories and craft activities beginning at 10.30am.

On 11th June Mere Pre-school will be visiting the library, and on Friday, 12th June there will be jungle rhymes and songs at Rhyme Time.

All pre-schoolers can enter a colouring competition during the week and there will also be a "Lucky Book" competition, where one lucky borrower of a jungle book will win a prize.

For children at Mere School, the excitement is mounting as we reach the final month of the Loyalty Card Scheme. The winning class and individual winner will be announced at school on 3rd July, so good luck to all. It has been lovely seeing so many keen young readers at the library. *Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546*



POLICE REPORT

Mere

A 51 year old male from Wilton, died as a result of an incident on the A 303 Mere by pass on the 26th of April when he came off his motorbike at 7.22pm. Female passenger had minor injuries. Mere police team were the first to attend. The eastbound carriageway was closed whilst emergency services worked at the scene. We are appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident to call Wilts Police on '101'.

Kilmington

After reports of a mini moto being driven on the road illegally, PC Salter attended and dealt with a young lad who was not from our area, and who turned out to be the most rudest and disrespectful children that he has had to deal with. The child has been sent back to his home town which is out of our county. We deal with all forms of anti-social behaviour and this male was nearly arrested for it.

Traffic Wardens

have been out and about in Mere centre enforcing the parking restrictions. I have gone out on joint patrols with them to help reinforce the message. By and large the new lines are being respected. I have spoken to wardens and asked them to pass details of any motorists who verbally abuse them, so that we can deal with them. Be warned. If you

park longer than 30 minutes in the Square or outside the shops, you will get a fine. If I see vehicles parked for longer, I notify enforcement officers so that they can ticket them.

Milk and Eggs

were thrown over vehicles in North Street and North Road a few weeks ago. This was done between 3.00 and 7.00am. Would anyone who has information please call '101' so that we can deal with these people. Thanks.

NO Non-Dwelling Burglaries

were re-reported on our patch this month, but it's not a time to let our guard down. Please keep sheds locked and bikes etc secure.

Dogs

not being kept on leads in fields where lambs are, were reported to us by farmers, please be aware and keep dogs under control.

Buyer Beware!!! We have had several reports of Irish males selling generators, chain saws and power washers from the rear of vehicles over the past few weeks. We have stopped some of these and found that they did have paperwork to show they had bought the goods.

The problem is that if you buy a machine from someone selling from the back of a van, you have no guarantee, so if it turns out to be a cheap import and breaks down, from whom are you going to go to get your money back!! They sell them cheap because they are cheap imports and are not covered by the safety rules that we have here in the UK and EU. Some also use very pushy sales methods. Best advice. Say NO THANKS and walk away.

Thanks everyone for their wonderful support for your local police team

Call '101' for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency.

PC Richard Salter and PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)

✉ richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or

✉ peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

ARE YOU A CARER?

Come to our Carers' Cafe

Do you help or support a partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who could not manage without your help? Caring is not easy and you may have unanswered questions regarding care. Why not come along and meet other carers and discuss your problems over a cup of tea or coffee. Our new Carers' Support Café meets every second Monday of the month at the Angel Tea Rooms in Mere's main square.



Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances we shall have to meet on the third Monday of June

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 15th June from 10.30am - 12.00noon.

If you would like more information on The Carers' Support Café and carers support contact your Local Wiltshire Good Neighbour, Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557 922023



Mere Dental Practice

*The practice has three Dentists: Stephen Sherrard,
Christopher Davies and Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.*

It also has Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale.

*Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,*

E-mail: meredental@btconnect.com, Website: meredentistry.co.uk,

Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,

Tuesday 8.45am - 7pm & Friday 8.45am - 5pm



*The practice is sited in the grounds of Mere Primary School, first building
on your left when you go through the school*

S T O P

DON'T MOVE ON!! thinking this is nothing of interest to you!!

Please take a moment to do just that.....think! – are you having difficulty with hearing as you once did? – or do you know someone who is?

People might be having to be asked to repeat what they've said.....or there's a lot more 'volume' to someone's voice.....or feeling frustrated, irritable, frightened, annoyed on a regular basis or times and dates are being missed because of being 'mis-heard'.....or it's easier just not to go out or be with others.....or be involved in things previously involved in and enjoyed.....??

Coming along to the LIP READING AND MANAGING HEARING LOSS Group can help! You'll meet others who have been in the same position and have found that knowing how to lip read and some things to do to manage hearing loss can really, really help.

Pop in to meet us on Tuesday mornings at 10.15am – 12.15pm – session dates are: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June and 7th July in the Grove Building – you'll be made very welcome.

There's also a leaflet that can be sent to you by e-mailing Sheila Thomson: ✉ SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk or call/text 📞 07760-731406. If you can't make Tuesday mornings, enquire about a session at Gillingham, from 2.00-4.00pm.

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

Raising funds for the Mere & District Linkscheme

QUIZ NIGHT with Ploughman's Supper

Friday, 24th July at 7.00 for 7.30pm The Grove Building

Mere Literary Festival launches its 2015 programme with a Quiz Night. Make a note of the date and come along in a team of four or individually to test your general knowledge and enjoy a fun evening? Admission is £6 per person, which includes a delicious Ploughman's Supper. The quiz master will be the ever popular Bill Pike assisted by his team of markers and runners, who will deliver your team's Joker. **To book a table in advance 📞 01747 861969.** *Adrienne Howell 📞 01747 860475*

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FETE

Saturday, 13th June

Please contact the following people if you have any contributions to make for the various stalls.

Most people will be happy to store goods or if in doubt bring them along to the church yard on the morning of the fete.

CAKES	Myrene Coward	📞 860445
BOOKS	Jenny Wilding	📞 860908
ACCESSORIES & JEWELS	Isabel Howell	📞 860297
BRIC a BRAC	Julia Stapleton	📞 860805
PRESERVES/JAMS/CHUTNEYS	Julia & Tony Rankin	📞 861405
PLANTS	Judith & Ross Thompson	📞 860553

BOTTLE TOMBOLA
CDs/DVDs/Computer games
SOFT TOY TOMBOLA

Gilly Gristwood ☎ 861768
Vicar's family ☎ 861859
Jean & Colin Kantharia ☎ 861168
Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS (M&DRM)

As we approach our summer programme that has visits to four garden railways, as well as day excursions to The Swanage Railway, Seaton Tramway, and Yeovil Railway Centre and Classic Car Show, membership climbs to new heights. Progress with our 'O' Gauge club layout 'Shaftesbury' is progressing slowly, so unfortunately it will not be fully operational for our forthcoming exhibition in Mere on 20th/21st June, but more of that later. The 'OO' Gauge layout 'Mere' has been delayed due to circumstances beyond our control, but will soon be resurrected. The club however will show samples of its modelling at the exhibition as well as buildings made in the community challenge.

Most of the engineering equipment to enable us to offer what use to be called 'metal fitting and turning' to the youth of Mere is now in place, but it will take a little bit of time before we have installed and modified it to current health and safety standards. The way forward from September this year offers additional practical experience to students of Design at Gillingham School to whom we have made an approach.

The date of our annual exhibition draws closer, **20th - 21st June, from 10.00am to 4.30pm daily in the Lecture Hall** as usual. This year we have ten layouts that represent the high standard of modelling to be found in the three counties in which Mere is either in, or to which it is near. Two of these ten layouts have won national awards. Our trade and holiday presentations are larger than last year with an additional trader for Saturday only.

Do come and join us for an exciting Summer Season. For further information please contact me.
Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

CARNIVAL NEWS
Fun For All The Family

CARNIVAL BEETLE DRIVE

Friday, 5th June in the Grove Building - 7.00pm Start

Adults £2.00 Accompanied Children £1.00

Cash Prizes/Raffle/Refreshments

Carnival Day - 12th September 2015

Would you like to be a special part of this day?

if so, why not apply to be a Carnival Royal?

Applications are invited from those living in the BA12 6 postcode area
we are looking for:

Carnival Princess and Prince aged 5-13

Teen Queen - aged 13-19

Super Gran - age no limit!

to lead our parade in the afternoon and evening

Successful Royals will receive prize money and a contribution to an outfit for the day.

Please let us know why you would like to be a Carnival Royal and something about
yourself, your hobbies, pets etc. and either email or send them to:

Carol Payne, 2 Walnut road, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6FG

or : luciechesh@hotmail.com by Friday, 26th June 2015.

Carol Payne, for the Carnival Committee, ☎ 01747 861639

CALL FOR CARNIVAL PRIZES

Do you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them.

“Odd” items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, tinned or packets of food, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into “prize boxes”.

Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom, Waltons Newsagents or K M Beauty.

Sue, on behalf of Mere Carnival ☎ 01747 860215

MERE RIVERS GROUP (MRG) A.G.M

The campaign of local action led by the MRG to protect Mere's chalk streams has been praised and held up as an example to other communities. This was reported at the group's AGM in March attended by representatives of Wessex Water, Consumer Council for Water, the Environment Agency, World Wildlife Fund and Mere Parish Council.

During 2014 Wessex Water responded to local concerns and conducted new trials to monitor abstraction. The AGM approved a Mere Abstraction Initiative Mechanism (AIM) which will reduce abstraction if river levels fall below a fixed level – a trigger of 2 ml/d. This should protect the flow in the Shreen, and Ashfield Water and Wessex Water will incur fixed financial penalties if the AIM is not adhered to.

Mere rivers are now providing a healthy environment for water-life, and the little egret and water voles have returned. Please do not let your dog frighten them away.

MRG plan further work on cleaning and tidying the rivers and banks to improve the amenity value for residents and visitors. Concern was expressed that a few inconsiderate people are known to dump garden waste on the riverside. If you are aware of this, please report it to the Parish Council so that action can be taken.

The need to be sensible with water use was also highlighted at the meeting. Mere aquifer is the only supply at present for itself, Gillingham and the surrounding area, and the stand-alone back-up should problems occur at Sutton Bingham reservoir as happened last year. Building plans, particularly in Gillingham, will increase the demand for water so it is vital that it is not wasted. Wessex Water is conducting a publicity campaign to flag up this message. Save Water. Save our Rivers.

If you have any concerns regarding our rivers in Mere, please contact the River Monitor
✉ ianjsheppard@outlook.com

To share photographs of river wildlife please get in contact with J.Batten
✉ jbatten99@yahoo.com *Adrienne Howell for MRG* ☎ 01747 860475



T@3

Community Tea Party



The next opportunity to join us for tea will be on Wednesday, 17th June. The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms and the timing of course 3.00pm. Seating is limited at the Tea Rooms so if you would like to attend the June tea party please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 15th June.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life

Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

JUNE SHORT WALK

This walk will take place on Friday, 12th June. Meet at 2.00pm in Salisbury Street Car Park by the surgery. As a Stourhead Volunteer, I am also leading a walk over White Sheet Hill to look at the archaeological sites and the Chalk Downland flowers and butterflies with David Hope.

This will be on Friday, 26th June from 11.00am-1.00pm and costs £3. Booking should be made with the National Trust on ☎ 01747 841152

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere Chamber is able to organise training courses for local businesses here in Mere. These include Health and Safety, Emergency First Aid at Work, and Food Safety in Catering. The courses are run by professional training providers and are competitively priced.



Both the Emergency First Aid at Work and Food Safety in Catering include a nationally recognised certificate valid for three years. The company providing Health and Safety training are able to be flexible with the training and content so that it is tailored to the audience and type of business.

If you would be interested in attending or sending your employees on a training course, please contact Chamber Secretary Julie Cousins on the telephone number below.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 17th June - 7.30pm at Mere Social Club

Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

SPECTRA MUSICA

Spectra Musica are delighted to be returning to Cheap Street Church, Sherborne to perform a concert on Saturday, 27th June at 7.30pm.

The extremely talented and experienced musician, Peter Leech, will be conducting his second concert since joining Spectra as their Musical Director. 'From Baroque to Rock' will reflect the group's eclectic programmes which have brought so much pleasure to audiences.

The group's regular accompanist is concert pianist Anita D'Attellis, who will also be performing during the concert.

Tickets are £10.00 which includes refreshments during the interval. Tickets can be bought via telephone ☎ 01749 860457, or on the door. *Nicky Cartwright*

MERE THEATRE CLUB

As always we like to offer some different events, so this summer we're off to Shakespeare in Salisbury Cathedral and Cascades of Flowers in Winchester Cathedral.

If you'd like to know what we're offering this autumn do join our mailing list, contacts below. The next mailing will be coming out around July time.

Madeline Morris ☎ 01747 861833 *Wendy Horne* ☎ 01747 861712

MERE CANCER RESEARCH UK

By the time you read this the May Fayre will have taken place - and was hopefully a magnificent day had by all! As this issue closed before the date of the Fayre, I do not have the total raised, but will have all the details for you in the July/August edition.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2015 ISSUE

MONDAY, 15th JUNE 2015

A couple of dates for you in June: - Yes its Teddy Bear Parachuting time again!! We are having the launch at the Church fete - 13th June - so if your bear is feeling a bit dare devil please bring him/her along, with parachute attached, and they will be launched from the tower. However if you would rather your bear stayed at home we have highly trained and fearless Stunt Bears for hire on the day. All bears are £1 whether your own or a stunt bear.

A Smashing Time is here again - School Fete, 27th June. We are having the crockery smashing event again - and if anyone knows or knows someone who wants the 'remains' for mosaics, please come along and help yourself, for a small donation, at the end of the day.

As a committee we are always looking for more helpers, donations of good quality Bric a Brac, tombola and raffle prizes, man shed contents, garden items & baked goodies to sell and also any new fund raising ideas.

If you can help with any of these please contact us in one of the following ways: ✉ – merecancerresearch@mail.com or ring Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712. We also have a Facebook page – **Mere Cancer Research** - where all our up to date news and forthcoming events can be viewed. Cancer Research UK is aiming to help 3 in 4 people service cancer by 2025 - and your amazing generosity will help us get there.

Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 137112

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

With our first foray into the world of Bingo very satisfactorily under our belts (we made well over £400 for the Fives Fund and we thank everyone who came and supported us), we are reverting to our more familiar activity of preparing for our annual **Autumn Fair** (yes, already!). For now, can we ask you just to put the date in your diaries: **Saturday, 5th September at 2.00 p.m.** As usual we happily share the date with the Garden Club. More in the next issue.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

A comedy drama is the last film of the season on Thursday, 11th June. 'Still Life' (12A) is the story of John May (Eddie Marsan), a council worker charged with finding the next of kin of those who have died alone.

It is a quixotic tale of life, love and the afterlife. John is meticulous and organised to the point of obsession and when his department is downsized John must up his efforts on his final case, taking him on a liberating journey that allows him to start living life at last. The film, which also stars Joanne Froggatt (*Anna in Downton Abbey*), is a quiet masterpiece, beautifully acted and above all so well and accurately observed by the director. It is full of perfect little scenes and totally real characters and is one not to be missed. Full details on page 29.

Our new season will begin on Thursday, 10th September with a film for Carnival Week. Look out for posters around mid-August, and in the meantime have an excellent summer!

Distribution of Funds

As mentioned last month, Mere Film Shows is inviting applications for the distribution of its funds from organisations in Mere that are currently fundraising or are in need of funds for a particular purpose. Such organisations are invited to apply in writing for a share of these funds, giving brief details of their activities and requirements. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Mary White, c/o Mere Parish Council, The Parish Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW to arrive by Friday, 12th June please.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

On Thursday, 2nd July at 2.00pm in the Grove Building, we will have a talk on "Batik and Beads", by Maryke Phillips, along with items to purchase on the day. The cost is £2.00 for members, For non members and guests, who are very welcome, it is £3.50 per person.

We look forward to seeing many people there, to what should be an interesting meeting.

Gill Grout, President ☎ 01747 860914

MERE GARDENING CLUB

2 Steps Behind

by Dawn Lawrence

Wednesday, 10th June at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Dawn Lawrence, author and illustrator, has written and illustrated '2 Steps Behind', containing poems and illustrations dedicated to the preservation of our wild animals. The title comes from the preface poem, suggesting that a lot of our wildlife is now only 2 steps behind the dinosaur in terms of extinction. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE MUSEUM

Our new exhibition, about Mere photographer Frederick Holmes is a ground-breaking event! We once knew almost nothing about the man, though his photographs have preserved forever Mere, its people, events, buildings and a lost way of rural life

of 100 years ago.

Thanks to new research undertaken by Jean Nimmo, we now know a great deal about what was an astonishing career, starting in an East End workhouse in 1854, through ever more elevated posts in domestic service until he became the Butler to the Marquis of Bath at Longleat. After Longleat he set up his own business in Mere.

He and his wife are buried in the St. Michael's cemetery, where their graves have now been located and temporarily marked. We hope eventually to raise enough money to mark permanently the last resting place of an important and remarkable man who deserves to be far better known.

Jenny Wilding 📞 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends of the Museum are delighted to report that their annual Plant Sale raised almost £900. It was a splendid effort. Warm thanks to everyone who contributed by bringing as well as buying on the day.

Jenny Wilding 📞 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

With productions over, for the time being, MADS members are engaged in deep discussion about What Comes Next. No, that is not the title of the autumn production, but merely a description of our current activity: choosing our next play. Success at the Woolstore one act play festival (reported last month) has given us lots of Laurels to rest on, but we're not planning on doing a lot of resting. Once the choice of play is made, learning lines commences! Watch this space!

Jenny Wilding 📞 01747 860908

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We are delighted that our course in June is full both morning and evening. Our dressmakers are producing some fine and well fitting garments, and looking forward to that feeling of "what to make next" with some excitement. Many needles, sewing machines and overlockers buzzing in Mere and the surrounding area.

We are now taking names for the next planned courses commencing Monday, 14th September and a further course from Monday, 2nd November. If you are interested in putting your name down to attend either Monday mornings from 10.30am to 1.00pm or on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.30pm, do phone and let me know. We meet at the Grove Building, small hall and will teach beginners or those who wish to renew their skills. Most of our courses will be either five or six weeks long.

Please contact me on the number below, or Susanne, the very busy "Sewing Lady" in Mere, on 📞 07788 595 434. We will be delighted to tell you more.

Carol Lord 📞 01747 861923

MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE



In May, while the last voters were making their way to the Polling Stations, we in Mere WI were debating the National Federation of Womens Institute Resolution on "Failing to Care - Assessment of need in long-term care." This calls upon HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing. After dividing up into small groups for discussion we voted on the resolution, giving our representative a discretionary vote at the AGM. We all agreed that it was a very difficult subject to debate, especially with the apparent lack of money available in the health service. Afterwards we had much needed refreshments and enjoyed a sophisticated anti-stress colouring process. Using this, the latest art therapy, colouring in intricate patterns aimed at relieving stress and releasing our inner creativity.

Thursday, 4th June at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings is the date for our next meeting. We have Judi Wray-Bliss telling us about "18th Century Bath - The Season." Judi is a guide on the open top buses around Bath and will explain why so many people went to the city in the 18th century, as indeed they still do, and how and by whom the city was built. Her presentation will cover the journey to Bath, the daily life, the appearance of the visitors, their etiquette and all the social events. If you are at all interested in the history of our magnificent neighbour both past and present, you will enjoy Judi's talk and we would be very pleased to welcome you to our meeting. Our topical competition will be a photograph of an interesting building in the city or indeed anywhere that has caught your eye.

During June we will also have our usual get together at the Angel Tea Room and a games afternoon. At the end of the month we have planned a visit to Gants Mill in Bruton, so we are hoping for good weather during this visit to these attractive gardens.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our meeting this month **on Tuesday, 9th June**, is our annual treat: tea in the lovely garden of Mere Down Farm. We're also going to hear 'Sally's Story' from Vickie Goodman, which is a sequel (or maybe a prequel) to her much-appreciated talk last year. We'll be meeting at the slightly later time of **3.00pm**.

As always visitors are welcome to join us for the afternoon. If you would like a lift or directions for getting there, please give me a ring.

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

**For the over 60s. Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

We all had a great evening at our 'Call my Bluff' Fundraiser; it was lovely to see so many people attend the event. Unfortunately the gentlemen's panel stole the game away from us ladies during the second half and went on to become victorious! Congratulations to them on their well deserved win. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the RGC.

Preparations are in full swing for our trip to Weymouth on **Monday, 15th June**. The coach will be leaving Lynch close at 10am, so please arrive around 9:45am. I have already taken lots of bookings and the coach is filling up fast, so If you fancy a day trip to the seaside please ring me to secure your place. Same price as the last couple of Years, only £10!

I am still on the hunt for a session volunteer for one Monday each month, pop in for coffee to see what we are all about, Monday or Friday each week 10:30am-3pm. Alternatively, give me a ring for further information.

All are welcome to our AGM Monday, 6th July 2015 at 2.00pm to be held in the Community Room, Lynch Close, Mere. Website www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Beaulieu Palace House, Abbey and National Motor Museum

Tuesday, 16th June 2015

Includes a guided tour of Palace House, home of the Montagu family, There are ruins of Beaulieu Abbey, founded in 1204 by Cistercian monks. The world famous National Motor Museum, home to a stunning collection of automobiles.

There is a restaurant, a coffee shop and picnic tables with an undercover area

**Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.15am and return by
around 6.30pm**

Cost: MHS Members £27, non-members £30 per person
Includes coach and tip, tour and entrance to all attractions.

Breamore House, Garden & Museum

Thursday, 16th July 2015

The village of Breamore was originally a settlement known as 'Brumore' on the edge of the New Forest. The Elizabethan manor house, built of rose red brick with stone quoins and in a delightful, calm and serene setting, probably looks today much as it did to its original owners. Life in a typical village like Breamore can be relived in the Breamore Countryside Museum which provides a fascinating insight into the days when a village was self-sufficient.

There is a café serving light lunches and teas, and picnic tables in the grass car park.

**Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.30am and return by
around 6.00pm**

Cost: MHS Members £20, non-members £23 per person
Includes coach, tip, house tour and museum entrance.

Booking forms are available at Mere Library

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

For more details on these visits, please ring me

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for April 2015, drawn on Sunday, 3rd May by Mrs Jane Fitzgerald was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 180	Mr & Mrs Elliott
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 169	Mrs A Henson
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 19	Mr T Rankin
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 29	Dr D Longbourne

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE SNOOKER CLUB.

Congratulations to the Mere Billiards Team who were just pipped to the post in the Sampford Orcas Billiard league, coming in as runners up by only 1 point. Within the league, Colin White achieved the highest break in the Lower Handicap category and Michael Durkee achieved the Highest Average over the whole season.

The team use the facilities at the club for practice and matches. If you would like more information about the club facilities, please contact me on the number below.

Kevin Smith, Club Secretary, ☎ 01714 860305

MERE BOWLS CLUB

To those of you who are regular readers of this drive, I must apologise for missing the last two editions of this wonderful publication, it was totally my fault and I will try to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

The bowls season has now well and truly started. We have been involved in a number of friendly matches and have commenced the defence of our winners title in the Westbrook League. Games in the Wessex League have yet to start but our aim is to improve on last year's sixth place in this challenging arena.

Please place the date of Saturday, 19th September in your diaries, as we will be holding an autumn Barn Dance with music by the excellent Black Bear Band at 7.00pm in the Grove Building. There will be the usual Raffle and Bar and a Fish & Chip Supper is included in the ticket price. Proceeds of the evening will be in aid of the Parkinson's UK in memory of our late Club President, Colin Read, who passed away earlier this year.

The club is pleased to announce that we now have a website up and running at www.merebowlsclub.co.uk - this is where you can check club information, get updates on fixtures and results, and view all details of a general nature to do with the sport of bowls. The site will be updated on a regular basis and we are currently still entering data into some areas. Please contact Alan Spencer for further information, his telephone number is shown over the page.

For any other details please contact either Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎ 01747 860803 or me at the number below or by ✉: don.butchers@btinternet.com

Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747-860775

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

Our year started well with an impressive attendance, in spite of the chilly weather. The membership is holding up very well, and it was good to also welcome some new members, but the more the merrier! Why not come along on any Saturday or Sunday afternoon and try your hand at either Croquet or Boule, a first visit is always a freeby, and you can be sure of a warm reception.

An advance notice. We will be holding our usual Summer Open Day BBQ, which will be held on Saturday, 1st August. More on this next month.

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Still Life' (12A)

Eddie Marsan Joanne Froggatt

For John May, life is looking up

Council worker John May (Eddie Marsan) is punctilious in his work of finding next of kin of those who died alone, but with his department being downsized and his job under threat he must redouble his efforts, which takes him on his own particular journey of discovery.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday 11th June, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00
Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257
Visit our website at www.moviola.org

CHILDRENS CENTRE

Hello to you all, especially to those of you with children of pre-school age. Did you know that we offer lots of activities for you to do with your children?

On the **third Monday of the month** we have our **Health Trainer** who comes to the centre to run a range of sessions from 2.00 to 4.00pm with lots of good support and advice on a range of topics from healthy eating, stopping smoking, sensible drinking and boosting self esteem.

On **Wednesdays at the Children's Centre we have Play and Learn from 9.30 to 11.00am**, a session of activities for children under 5, planned to assist your children's physical, language and creative development. During April and May we had lots of fun getting messy with Messy play which is great for Sensory and Creative development. Exploring cornflour gloop is quite an experience if you have never done it before!

Thursdays is a good morning for **Drop-in**, to use our great facilities and to explore our **sensory room** full of lights and sound - the children love it, especially the sparkly carpet. The **sensory room** can be booked for **individual sessions** by ringing the number below and speaking to one of our friendly team.

On **Friday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am**, **Baby Clinic** is now run at the centre which is a great opportunity for us to meet those of you with babies, and we have lots of resources for your babies to play with while you wait. On **Friday afternoons from 2.00 to 3.00pm** we have **Bumps and Babes**. We have been exploring Nursery Rhymes which also gives us an opportunity for messy play. Jelly on a Plate gave us a jelly rabbit to poke and squish while exploring texture, and five Little ducks Went Swimming One Day gave us an opportunity to splash around in a water tray with plastic ducks.

We also distribute **Healthy Start Vitamins** if you have a voucher from the Health Visitor.

Coming up we also have **Rumble in the Jungle**, Our Book Start activity runs over the week of 8th – 14th June during which we explore activities to promote interest in books and reading and the development of Communication and Language.

From 15th to 19th June watch out for our **Family Learning Festival** an opportunity to explore and celebrate family learning; what you require and what we can offer.

On **29th July** we plan to be holding a **Fun Day** for you to bring your children along to and take part in all the activities on offer. Come along and join us.

July also sees the return of our **National Careers Service** with lots of advice on job seeking, interview skills, how to write a CV and more.

For more information on any of the above events, ring us on the number below and speak to one of our friendly team.

Jane Smith, Family Practitioner ☎ 01747 861108



Mere School Reports

SUMMER TERM

Blue Class

The topic this term is 'Under'. As part of this the children are learning about Dinosaurs and are eagerly awaiting for their dinosaur egg to hatch.

Yellow Class

The topic this term is 'Food and Farming'. The children have already been busy planting a wide range of flowers and vegetables.

Silver Class

The topic this term is Houses and Homes. The children have been on a walk into Mere to look at its physical and human geographical features.

Gold Class

The topic this term is 'Adventurers and Explorers'. Throughout the term the children will be exploring different parts of the world. They are already experts on Antarctica.

Green Class

The topic this term is 'Habitats'. The children have been busy making natural sculptures in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. They are also looking forward to their trip to Langford Lakes.

Red Class

The topic this term is 'Rivers'. The children will be comparing the River Stour to the River Amazon. The children are also getting ready for their residential trip to Pencelli.

Purple Class

The children are busy getting ready to take their Key Stage 2 SAT's. They will then be visiting Hurdcott Estate as part of their 'Changes' topic.

STOP PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to:

www.mereschool.co.uk

NEWS FROM HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a busy start to the summer term at Hindon Primary School, of which West Knoyle is in the catchment area!

The youngest children in the school joined the children from our on – site nursery for a visit to Tesco in Salisbury as part of Tesco's 'Farm to Fork' initiative. The children had a fantastic time trying new foods and looking behind the scenes in the bakery and the freezer departments!

The children also joined South Hills Nursery for a trip to South Hills Farm in Wilton, where all the children went on a Bear Hunt through the woods before feeding the animals and climbing on the play structures!

Snowy Owls KS1 Class have been busy coding and making Apps in their ICT lessons using new laptops funded by generous donations from East Knoyle PCC and Hindon PC.

Road Safety was also on the timetable at the start of term for Snowy Owls KS1 Class. The Wiltshire Council road safety team taught the children safety skills in the school hall before using these skills to cross Hindon High Street.

Science experiments bring the Science curriculum alive and this term the oldest KS2 children are investigating the effects of gravity! Their first investigation into why it rains, involved shaving foam clouds and food colouring rain drops!

For more information about Hindon St Mary's and St John's Primary School please view our website www.hindonce.wilts.sch.uk and follow the link for information about South Hills Hindon Nursery.

Amanda Bristow, Hindon Primary School ☎ 01747 820260

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT

Support the Salisbury-Sudan Medical Link!

Come, if you can, to the South Canonry, 71 The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2ER, for The BISHOP of SALISBURY'S GARDEN FETE 2.00-4.00pm on Sunday, 7th June.

We are all invited to this lively event in the beautiful setting of the Bishop's garden by the river near Salisbury Cathedral. (If wet it will be held in the Cathedral instead.) Salisbury Diocese has been committed to supporting the Church in Sudan for many years, and now when the Church is struggling to help bring peace and vital assistance to this troubled and war-torn country, our support is more important than ever. The event will include strawberries, teas, cakes and stalls of all kinds. If you would like a lift, or directions for getting there, or a raffle ticket (1st prize £500) please ring me.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Recipe Book

The long-awaited Cookery Book, which contains recipes from local people and other friends, will be launched at the St Michael's Church Fete on **Saturday, 13th June**.

It is in colour, with photographs and has a wide selection of recipes. The cost will be a modest £8 per copy.

Do come to the Friends' stall inside the Church and buy your copy early and maybe have a taster of one or two of the recipes!

If you aren't able to come to the Fete, ring Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861766 to order and reserve your copy.

Treasure Hunt and Afternoon Tea.

On **Saturday, 4th July** from 3.00pm, the Friends are organising a Walking Treasure Hunt in Mere for families or individuals, followed by Afternoon Tea in the Grove Building. The cost for entry to the Treasure Hunt (including tea) will be £3 for adults and £2 for children (5-15years), under 5s free. Children under 10 should be accompanied by an adult.

There will be prizes in the different categories for the best answers to the Treasure Hunt. Tickets will be on sale later in June – look out for the posters!

Ann Dethick, Secretary ☎ 01747 863498

King James II Coat of Arms, Part 4

Mere's King James II coat of arms are perfectly regular for a Stuart monarch, and have several inscriptions. We'll deal with the foreign language ones first. Two are in French. Painted on the garter (or belt) which surrounds the shield of the royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom is 'Honi Soit qui Mal y Pense' (Shame on him who thinks evil of it). It is the motto of the English Chivalric Order of the Garter which was founded by Edward III in 1348.

On a scroll at the bottom of the arms appears 'Dieu et mon Droit' (God and my Right). This is the motto of the Monarch of the United Kingdom (though not used in Scotland). The precise translations of each of these mottos is debated, but in general they refer to the claim of British kings, from the mid 14th century until the very end of the 18th, to the French throne. The first motto ('Honi soit...') proclaims that to question this right is shameful. The second simply declares the monarch's duty to God and his divine right to rule France.

Until the beginning of the 19th century, French fleur-de-lys featured among the symbols in the royal coat of arms. Our James II arms are no exception. Then at the very top of the painting are the letters I R, widely spaced. These stand for Iacobus Rex (Latin of course), that is, King James ('I' here standing for our modern 'J'.) Infra-red photography suggests that in the area now occupied by 'I' and 'R' are letters which have been

painted out. These may have been 'Iacobus Rex' in full. But why this was done, and when so far remain a mystery!
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

Wednesday 24th June in the Methodist Church School Room 10.30am for Coffee, Worship begins at 11.00am.- informal time - all welcome.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Everyone is invited to a
Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana
on Tuesday, 16th June 10.30am -12.00noon
at 14 Prospect Place

(home of Carole Marshall ☎ 01747 861905)

And a diary date: Our ever-popular Strawberry Tea will be held on Friday, 10th July from 2.30pm in Jean and Colin Kantharia's garden, Rivermead, Pettridge Lane.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE JUNE 2015

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉ administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day
Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Parish Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

Sunday	*21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Taize Service
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		3.00pm	Songs of Praise at Stourhead

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	28th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Mr G Hoare
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
	21st	6.00pm	United service - Taize at the Parish Church
	28th	3.00pm	Songs of Praise at Stourhead

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

**Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291 or Teresa Read
☎ 01747 860289**

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass
Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

**Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

**Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534
Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263**

Sunday	7th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	21st	9.30pm	DIY
	28th	9.30am	Matins

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662
CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

DIARY DATES

JUNE 2015

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	Dress Making (also 8th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	June Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tue	10.00am	Card Making	L
		10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		12.30pm	Water Colour Class (every Tuesday)	L
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
3	Wed	6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi, small hall (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC		
7.00pm	Dress Making (every Wednesday)	GB		

Zeals After School - ¼ page advert

4	Thur	10.00am	-	12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	-	11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		2.00pm			Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm			Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm			Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am			Open the Book	GB
		2.00pm			Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm			Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.00pm			Mere Carnival Quiz Night	GB
6	Sat	10.00am	-	11.00am	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.00am			Flea Market	L
		10.30am			Drop in Coffee Morning (also 13th, 20th & 27th)	CC
		7.00pm			Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
8	Mon	7.30pm			MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
9	Tue	9.00am			Foot Care Clinic (also 23rd)	MH
		3.00pm			Mothers Union	Mere Down Farm
10	Wed	1.45pm			Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm			Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	5.00pm			Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm			Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Still Life"	L
12	Fri	10.00am			Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	2.00pm			St Michaels Church Summer Fete	St Michaels
14	Sun	2.00pm			Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
15	Mon	10.30am	-	12.00pm	Carers Get Together	Angel Tea Rooms
16	Tue	10.30am	-	12.00pm	Suchana Coffee Morning	14 Prospect Place
17	Wed	3.00pm	-	4.30pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm			MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
20	Sat	10.00am	-	4.30pm	M&DRM's Model Railway Exhibition	L
		10.30am			Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
21	Sun	10.00am	-	4.30pm	M&DRM's Model Railway Exhibition	L
24	Wed	10.30am			Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm			Friends Together	GB
27	Sat	10.00am			Flea Market	L
28	Sun	2.00pm			Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
29	Mon	7.30pm			July Parish Council Meeting	AYP

STOP PRESS

B3092 Mere to Frome Road Closure update

The road closure commencing on 5th May announced in the May issue of Mere Matters has been deferred. Unfortunately the new date was not available when this issue went to press.

For further information please contact me at Wiltshire Council

Julian Haines ☎ 01225 713225

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit Mere's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Clinics/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

Fridays: 2.00 to 4.00pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

CREDIT UNION

Every Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2015 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the July/August 2015 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4.00 pm on MONDAY, 15th June 2015**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 8th June 2015 onwards to: editor@merematters.co.uk

Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please **add their name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion**.

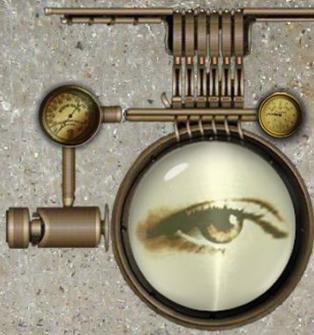
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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