

# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 2015**

# **MERE CARNIVAL 2015**

## **CARNIVAL EVENTS**

**Friday, 4th September - CARNIVAL BINGO**

Grove Building - Eyes Down 7.30pm Good Prizes - Raffle - Refreshments

**Thursday, 10th September - CARNIVAL FILM NIGHT**

Lecture Hall - 7.30pm - "A Little Chaos"

## **CARNIVAL DAY**

**Saturday 12th September**

**Children's Afternoon Parade 3.00pm**

**Bell Street Jazz Band**

From 4.00pm on triangle (Opposite the Post Office)

**Plus**

**Burger Van - Hog Roast - Carnival Bar - Tombola - 'Pick a Lolly' - Candy Floss**

**Grand Evening Procession 7.30pm**

**Grand Carnival Raffle Draw**

Draw to take place on Monday, 14th September at The Walnut Tree Inn at 8.00pm

**Grand Carnival Quiz**

in the Grove Building on Wednesday, 23rd September at 7.30pm

**Walking Treasure Hunt**

Entry £2.00 - Available from Jeans Electrical

**Oddities in the Windows Competition**

Entry £1.00 - Forms available from Participating Shops

**Entry forms for the Afternoon and Evening parades available from Mere Post Office. Last date for entry Tuesday, 8th September**

**See page 15 for details of Carnival 'Royals'**

**Don't forget to pick up your FREE Mere Carnival Programme**

*Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639*

## MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town 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 held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th September 2015.**

### **The Chairman writes:**

The repair and refurbishment to the Clock Tower has now been completed and I am pleased with the way it looks. The Clock is working again with the sound of the hour chime being heard around Mere. I would like to thank the contractors Burfitt & Garret for carrying out the refurbishment and Councillor Raymond Hill for overseeing the refurbishments on the council's behalf.

Security issues were raised at the June town council meeting regarding the Duchy School grounds and the Recreation grounds. Mere Town Council has decided to lock the vehicle access gates of both grounds between the hours of 9.00pm-7.00am seven days a week from Tuesday, 1st September 2015.

The traffic management plan that the Town Council put forward to Wiltshire Council for funding was discussed at the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting held at Dinton on the 22nd July. The scheme was approved, but only 25% of the funding was allocated; the remaining 75% of the funding will have to come from Mere Town Councils' budget. This cost was not expected and will be discussed at the Town Council meeting on the 7th September.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: **[www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)**, e-mail the parish clerk at: **[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)** or ☎ 01747 860701

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

### **Buses**

A Mere resident wrote to the Town Council recently about the South West Coaches 158 bus service from Wincanton to Gillingham and Shaftesbury via Mere. The Town Council understands that in recent months this service has become increasingly unreliable, presenting problems for passengers who have appointments or need to catch or meet a train.

This matter has been referred to Wiltshire Council, who make a contribution to the Dorset Council-run service to enable it to serve the Wiltshire towns and villages.

Wiltshire Council has agreed to take the matter up with Dorset Council, but is only able to do so if we can provide examples of actual incidences when the bus has been late.

To assist Mere Town Council in providing evidence to Wiltshire Council, please could residents provide us with as much information as possible, including:

1. Date(s) and time(s) when the bus was late, and by how many minutes
2. If possible an indication of how many people were waiting at the same stop for the service
3. Any other relevant information

Please would you provide this information to the Town Council in writing either by letter to Mere Town Council, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, Warminster BA12 6EW or by ✉: [sonyaward@merewilts.org](mailto:sonyaward@merewilts.org)

We will then collate the information and send it to Wiltshire Council.

*Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:**

August is usually a quieter time for Councillors and for Mere Matters. The holiday time of the year is passing quickly, by the time you read this Mere Carnival and the autumn will be upon us. I am sure as my elders told me in the past, time travels faster the older we get.

I would say at present I have equal numbers contacting me about broadband improvement and the condition of our highways. A post code map exists to identify areas of Wiltshire where Superfast Broadband is available because of the intervention of Wiltshire Council. Parts of Zeals can obtain a service from Bourton, Dorset. This is, or was, not shown on the intervention mapping for Wiltshire on the internet. I have met the Wiltshire Intervention team who told me that a note to that effect is on the website, although it cannot give information on all cross boarder availability. Self help schemes such as Wessex Internet will still not be shown on the post code map. The advice is contact your internet service provider (ISP) to find what is available to you.

On Wednesday the 29 July, Wessex Internet, an alternative provider of broadband gave a good presentation at the South West Area Board at Wilton. It was explained that they had put some of their own fibre in the ground and used line of sight wireless technology. It was interesting to note that Wessex Internet made the same comment as BT that when premises have superfast broadband, it is slowed by the fact that wireless devices such as I-Pads, smart phones, laptops etc., work more slowly because of the walls in buildings and distance. It was requested that premises register on-line, expressing interest in Wessex Internet. If there is enough interest it may bring services to that area.

Regarding highways, Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) was contracted by Wiltshire Council in 2013 to take over services such as street lighting and pothole repairs. This

was part of a £150m contract to maintain roads and streets in Wiltshire. Three months into the contract BBLP's performance was examined by a council scrutiny committee following complaints about its standard of work. I find the grass cutting they do is acceptable in many areas for a lower cost contract. The pot holes at Fordswater, Gasper are very poor as are parts of Warminster Hollow, Mere, to mention a few. The repairs when done seem not to last in some cases, hence the complaints I receive. Resurfacing is the answer and with austerity cuts, this is not always possible. We have received in this area our fair share of resurfacing; however I realise this is not enough and I will continue to push for more.

Green bins, which are now chargeable, must have a label stuck on them to indicate the householder has paid. It is now admitted there is a problem with these labels not sticking. The Wiltshire Council is now addressing this issue. You can sign up for garden waste collection at any time to resume with your collections. See more at: [\*\*http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenwaste\*\*](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

At the Strategic planning committee on Wednesday, 15th July, a Gipsy and Travellers site on Mapperton Hill, Mere for one pitch, has been approved, although I consider the site is on a wet site, which I stated. I gave and supported the conditions given by others, should the application be passed, such as mains electricity and not generators, 90 sq metre overflow for liquids from foul waste. All these conditions were accepted. The site is subject to providing ditches capable of taking surface water which collects on the site at present during the wetter times of year, and these ditches are to take the water to the back right of the field to disperse into an existing pond. Hopefully, those dwelling on the site will not be living in water at any time of the year and all main services will be on site.

20mph zones and speed limits can now be enforced by the police in Wiltshire. However to have a zone can be very expensive. Also, a 30mph limit is being considered as a possible substantive scheme for Zeals as opposed to the existing 40mph limit. A substantive scheme is a scheme which would cost more than the South West Wiltshire Area Board could fund.

Another impact of austerity will be consulted on later in the year. I attended a meeting in Devizes on the 16th July regarding cutting public bus services. Ideas were sought out to be put forward in a consultation document later in the year, the purpose being to save £2.5m of about £4.5m of the existing Wiltshire budget for public transport buses, or £5.5m approximately if the total government together with Wiltshire Council budget is considered. Public buses in Wiltshire are 50% subsidised, therefore this time next year the local bus services provided will be impacted on as they have been in other counties. However, in my opinion criticism should not be all levelled at local government, some should be levelled at central government.

We have the Mere Social Club, and these clubs are becoming rare. Mere, I was pleased to report when I attended the annual general meeting, is doing well. It has been deep cleaned, new lighting, Sky Sports Live and more, it also has two skittle alleys.

The South Wiltshire Credit Union Ltd has lent out well over £1m to local people in the Salisbury area since 2002, when it was formed. It can be accessed at the Mere Library on Saturday mornings; also permission was given to Mere Post Office, for the conducting of limited transactions in the building. Online services are increasingly being demanded. It is now being considered to join with North Wilts CU and West Wilts CU; this would help access grants towards the cost to enhance on-line business.

From information I receive, I would remind you to remember to take a bag with you from the 5th of October when you go shopping, as a minimum of 5p will be chargeable at larger stores for providing carrier bags from that date.

A policy paper released by the Government has revealed that it will be taking an extra £19m in VAT per year, while £70m will go to charitable causes nominated by the retailers.

Fatality and life changing accidents on Charnage Hill (Chadenwick), are becoming common place as I have said before. One Friday night recently, I was attempting to enter the A303 at Willoughby Hedge from the Hindon direction. Traffic was continuous on the A303, a large queue was building up behind me, plus some were trying to access West Knoyle behind me. They were nudging closer and closer to me, with me being at the front of the queue. I was aware it was only for a driver behind to let his foot slip, for me to be pushed out to almost certain death with a 60mph plus side impact. Eventually after five to ten minutes of tolerating this, I decided I was going to have to jump in to a small gap that I would not normally do. This situation must improve; I hope the public continue to lobby government for improvement of this stretch of road.

Parking restrictions in the narrowest point of Salisbury Street, Mere were considered around two years ago and were delayed when more areas were considered. The South West Wiltshire Area Board have now agreed this proposed scheme can go ahead subject to a substantial contribution from Mere Town Council, which is to be agreed.

I also wish for a 30mph circular marking on the road opposite the Post Office, to help prevent traffic from going against the one way direction indicated. This I am informed, because it would be white and not yellow paint, may have to be done at another time.

Remember, please, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is to deliver a series of Senior Enabling Days, where anyone over the age of 50 can source information and practical advice on how to keep safe at home. For Mere it will be on Tuesday, 6th October in the Lecture Hall.

## MERE SURGERY

### Flu Clinics

The surgery will be holding Saturday clinics again this year for patients who are recommended to have the vaccination. Dates and how to book information will be advertised shortly on our website, in the surgery and Mere Matters.

### Patient Participation Group

Mere Surgery is also looking to set up a Patient Participation Group, and to get things started we are inviting anyone interested in becoming involved with this to a drop in session to be held in the surgery on Tuesday, 13th October 2015 between 5.00 and 6.30pm.

*Michele Mason, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001*

## MERE LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to all the children who have already completed the Summer Reading Challenge. At the time of writing, 69 children in and around Mere have signed up for the challenge, and there is still just time for those not yet finished to read their final books and earn a certificate and a medal before the closing date of Saturday, 5th September.

Our next children's activity will be on Saturday, 19th September from 10.30am to 12.00noon, and will be on the theme of Super Heroes! So for all those fans of Spiderman or Captain America, now is the chance to come and be creative.

*Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546*



## HEARING LOSS ?????

### Help is on the way!.....read on

According to the latest information from 'Action on Hearing Loss', the "first drugs to treat hearing conditions are expected within 5 years". However, of course, this progress is all dependent upon funding. Currently, for every person affected by hearing loss, £1.34 is spent on research whilst the corresponding figure for vision research is £14.21. From the same report comes the information that hearing loss is a growing problem, and by 2031 **one in four** of us will be affected. **So the problem is not going to go away!**

If you are affected now, one way to help yourself is to take up or improve the practice of Lip Reading – and there is a group in Mere who meet in the Grove Building on Tuesday mornings from 10.15am to 12.15pm, beginning on 8th September, with coffee and biscuits halfway. We are a small friendly group and we have become friends, sharing our family news etc., and who are there to understand how Lip Reading works; to learn the techniques to put into practice at the session and when at home and out and about.

Don't be put off by the word 'learn' – aren't we are all 'learning' something new in everyday life?

We're keen for you to join us and experience the benefits we have come to enjoy by being able to Lip Read effectively. So, do contact our tutor, Sheila, (or get someone to do it for you!) to arrange to come along one morning and see if you like it.

Sheila can be contacted ☎ 07760-731406 or ✉ [SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk](mailto:SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk)

*Written by active and long term group member, Barbara Bourne*



## ***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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://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*

### **Merrell's 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**



## ARE YOU GOING TO BE WARM AND HEALTHY THIS WINTER?



If you are over 65 you are entitled to a free flu jab. The flu virus changes so you need to have a jab every year with the latest vaccine. Flu can develop into Pneumonia which can be very serious. Most GP surgeries have a flu clinic. Make sure you are booked in.

Ideally your living areas should be 18-21°C in the day. Heat your bedroom before you go to bed and keep it at about 18°C overnight. Did you know that an electric blanket which is designed to stay on low all night is more beneficial to your body warmth than keeping the temperature high in your bedroom at night and cheaper? Fire stations across the county carry out electric blanket safety tests in October - look out for their advertisements.

In the coldest weather have the heat come on a little earlier so the rest of the house is warm when you get up. Keep moving. Don't stay in your chair all day get up every so often and wander around as this generates heat. Eat at least one hot meal a day and

lots of hot drinks. If you have difficulty walking, try some exercises in your chair to keep you moving. Remember wearing thin layers of clothes is more effective than one thick layer.

Have a torch at hand in case of power cuts, and also a supply of tinned or dry provisions in case you can't get to the shops. Make arrangements for your regular prescriptions to be delivered by the pharmacy.

Just because it is cold outside don't give up on your friends or your regular social groups. It is important to socialise – we are happier and healthier when we meet and chat to others. Try to arrange activities so they are in the day rather than meeting at groups in the evening, or work out car shares. If you can't get out, keep in touch with your friends and family by phone. Hearing about someone's day can help lift your spirits. Listen to local radio it will keep you up to date with what is happening in your area.

Some people are anxious that they will not have enough money to cover their fuel bills in the coldest months. There are grants to support elderly people who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel and are on state benefits.

Do you have any problems or queries regarding preparing for winter?

Talk to your local good neighbour coordinator about other ways to stay warm and well throughout the winter by contacting Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557922023.

## **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 coffee.

**Our next meeting is on Monday, 14th September 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 ☎07557922023

## **DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED?**

If so, might you be able to interest them in receiving the Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper? This is an entirely free publication that arrives by post each week in the form of a recording on a memory stick. Recipients are provided with a simple piece of equipment on which to play the recording. The recording itself contains some ninety minutes of news and features read from the Blackmore Vale Magazine, the Salisbury Journal, the Western Gazette, and other local publications including "Mere Matters and so does West Knoyle".

If you would like more information, or indeed already have some names and addresses to hand, do please telephone me or Collette Drury ☎ 01258 273923.

*Colin Francis ☎ 01747 851803*

## **A BIG "THANK YOU!"**

### **St Michael's Church Fete 13th June**

Laura, Penny and Maggie would like to thank everyone who helped make St Michael's Church Fete such a wonderful occasion and a successful fund raiser.

Thanks should go to all of the stall holders, the tea ladies, people who donated prizes, cakes, jam, plants and bric a brac. To the wonderful people from Dog Wise and their canine partners. To the archers, Mere Fire Service, the Guides, Mere School and Cancer Research for the parachuting teddies. Mike on sound and Emily from The

Fellowship of Musickers for her lovely CD of Medieval music. Especial thanks to Mere Drama Society for facilitating the appearance of King John and his barons to open the Fete. And of course the donkey!

Lastly thanks to Julio for counting the small change which amounted to an amazing £3,450 which will be used towards the upkeep of our beautiful parish church.

Well done everyone, and I apologise that this report is so late.

*Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163*

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

**☎01747 860096**

The Linkscheme has recently published an up to date Passenger Information Note. Copies are available at the Surgery and Library. Also drivers have copies, which you can ask for.

The main things we ask are that you remember that the co-ordinators are working in their own homes voluntarily, so we ask that you phone between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Also remember that we need two days notice.

The other main things to remember are that:-

- We do take wheelchairs in our vehicles
- We only bring people home on discharge from hospital by prior arrangement
- We do not transport people who have had a general anaesthetic without an escort
- Under 16yr olds need to be escorted by an adult
- We are not an emergency service

With all that said we are willing to consider most requests, they are all considered on their merits. For full information do pick up a leaflet.

*Barbara Thomas, Secretary*

## **LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL**

**Monday, 12th - Sunday, 18th October 2015**

The programme for this year's Literary Festival was revealed at a successful quiz night held in the Grove Building. The successful teams were –

- 1st Quizicals (Shaftesbury & Gillingham U3A)
- 2nd High Tower (Mere)
- 3rd Optimists

The festival's first flyers are now in circulation. The 'big green programme' with full details will be issued mid-September and delivered to as many residences as

possible. If you don't get one through your letter-box you can pick one up at the library, at other local outlets, or on-line at [www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk) - the updated MLF website.

The programme has a mix of local and nationally known writers and events hosted by Mere Historical Society, the Mother's Union and Mere Gardening Club. The Linkscheme hopes you will find something of interest and will give the speakers your support as festival week is the major fund-raiser for its work in the community.

*Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group ☎ 01747 860475*

## **RIVER CLEARANCE PROJECT**

Mere Rivers Group (MRG) plan to start work in the Autumn on river clearance.

Initially the group will work with the young people of Seeds4Success to improve a stretch of the Ashfield Water at White Bridge, and this phase is being funded by a grant from Mere Town Council (MTC). Thereafter, it is hoped that those who volunteered at the start of the 'Save our Rivers' campaign will be willing to help.

MRG feel that Mere's rivers and river walks are an important amenity for both residents and visitors and should be cared for as such. There is much work to be done in clearing fallen trees, overgrowth and river banks, and it will take time.

Disposal of cut wood and green waste may prove a problem and incur costs. If any local business can assist MRG with this – either financially or practically – it would be appreciated.

Mere's rivers once played an important part in its economy and could do so again as tourist attractions if the present state of neglect can be reversed.

If you are able to help financially or with volunteer labour or professional equipment, please contact either Brett Norris ☎ 01747 860817 (Chair MTC) or Ian Sheppard ☎ 01747 863370 (MRG).

*Adrienne Howell, MRG, ☎ 01747 860475*

## **MERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS**

George Jeans cut the ribbon to officially open the club on the morning of 30th May, some twelve months after work began to restore the building to its present condition. The club is now fully equipped due to a further grant from The South Wilts Area Board.

This summer has seen four very pleasant afternoons with those members who have garden railways in the locality. Many thanks to Kit Stallard, Steve Jackson, Ralph Pitcher, and Peter Lord.

In June the Annual Club Exhibition was well attended with a slight increase in numbers. Unfortunately there were also a number of other events locally, which may have affected the attendance, but those who made the effort appear to be very pleased with the standard of exhibits. The Community Challenge for modelling a part of Castle Street

was won by Brian Gillard of Barton Lane. We will continue to progress this two day event. Next year the dates for your diary are the weekend of 18th & 19th June.

Most of the planned railway trips this summer were cancelled due to other commitments, but the annual club outing to the Seaton Tramway and Pecorama was enjoyed by those who participated. Thank you once again to our Chairman for his professional help with the day.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, 23rd September at 7.15pm.

Finally we have now sorted out a number of ideas for some new club layouts in OO gauge and N Gauge, so if anybody who is not a member is interested, we meet at 7.00pm on a Wednesday evening in the club house that is situated in the Castle Street car park.

*Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977*

## **MERE 2015 CARNIVAL ROYALS**

Super Great Gran - Pat Sams

Super Gran - Lynette Elliott

Teen Queen - Heather Johnston-Sams

Princess - Charlotte England-Stone

Prince - Thomas Ashlin

Teen Queen Attendant - Lola-Blue Barry

Teen Queen Attendant - Carma Johnston

Princess Attendant - Ella Fulford

Princess Attendant - Mia Ward

Photos and details of our 'Royals' are in the free Mere Carnival programme

*Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639*



## **MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE**

Mere Chamber will be hosting a Social Networking Evening with Business Motivational Speaker, Chris Croft, who will be talking about Customer Service and the importance of Customer Care for businesses. This will be at the Grove Building in Mere on Tuesday, 8th September from 7.00–9.00pm. A buffet and refreshments will be available.

**For further information or to book a place, please contact Julie Cousins on telephone number below.**

### **Next Mere Chamber Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, 16th September at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm.

*Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*



## MERE CANCER RESEARCH

Mere Cancer Research have had a busy summer starting with the Coffee Morning held at Dewes House, Mere, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Sainthill, that raised over £200. The weather was a beautiful summers day and what better way to spend a couple of hours than a cup of coffee, slice of cake and good company in such a fantastic garden setting. Thank you to all who came and supported us.

We then moved on to The Posh Picnic in the grounds of Chetcombe House, which was a fun affair and despite the best efforts of the British Summer a fantastic time was had by all, and who said tiaras, candelabra and wellies don't mix! We raised an amazing

£960 with some more to come in. A massive thank you to our hosts Gerry & Rosie, The Sunset Café Stompers who had everyone up dancing and also all those who came and supported us despite the damp conditions!

Our next events for your diary are The Autumn Bazaar with the usual assortment of amazing stalls and also a sale of artwork by the local artist Dr Colin Anderson, his family have very kindly given us some of his original, framed, pictures help raise funds for our cause. This sale is the 10th October from 10.00am – 12.00noon in the Lecture Hall.

We also have another art sale – this time by prolific Marnhull artist Val Toms. We had been given over 400 paintings by her family to sell for Cancer Research. Sadly Val passed away from cancer, and this amazing legacy will help us fight to beat cancer sooner. This sale is being held by very kind permission of Tamsin Guy at Cheese House Studios, (behind Prospect Farmhouse in Castle Street) on 17th & 18th October. Please note we cannot accept card payments.

As a committee we are always grateful for any donations, ideas, funds and volunteers. We are also in need of some helpful 'muscle power' to help us set up and dismantle events. If you can help us in any way please contact us in one of the following ways:

✉ [merecancerresearch@mail.com](mailto:merecancerresearch@mail.com), Facebook – Mere Cancer Research – phone Penny Fennon ☎07833 131712 (after 6.00pm). Thank you

Together we will beat Cancer sooner.

*Penny Fennon ☎07833 131712*

## **MERE ONLINE 'DROP-IN DAYS'**

### **To Offer Help in Computer Basics**

Volunteers from the county's 'Wiltshire Online' service will be making themselves available twice a month in Mere, beginning this month, to help people who aren't yet online to get online and enjoy the benefits of the internet that so many of us take for granted. The two Mere Online Drop-in days will be:

First Tuesday of the month at Mere Library from 2.00 to 4.00pm – this month on 1st September and next month it will be 6th October.

Third Wednesday of the month together with 'Tea@3' in the Angel Tea Rooms from 3.00 to 4.00pm – this month on 16th September.

One-to-one computer support will be given by "Digital Champion" volunteers, who can help you learn the basics of computers, tablets and smart phones. Whether it's turning a computer on, getting to grips with the mouse or touch screen, learning how to search the Web, email, Skype or shop online, our volunteers will do their best to help you.

You can bring your device along to these sessions or just come and ask questions or discuss your needs and arrange for a follow-up visit in the relaxed comfort of your home or in a public place (such as the Mere Library or a WiFi-enabled pub or café). The service is free of charge.

If this sounds like the answer to your needs, then please drop in to one of these sessions. If you can't make either, then simply contact the Wiltshire Council customer services team to register, ☎ 0300 345 0100 quoting 'Wiltshire Online computer support'.

And finally, ..... If you've read this article out of curiosity but happen to be a potential volunteer Digital Champion, the Wiltshire Online team would love to hear from you. Please call or see the details in the volunteering section at [www.wiltshireonline.org](http://www.wiltshireonline.org).

*Sarah Hiscocks, Wiltshire Online, ☎ 01225 713329*

<p><b>REMEMBER! COPYDATE FOR THE OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>MONDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2015</b></p>
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## T@3 Community Tea Party



Yes T@3 is back after a summer break.

We look forward to hearing all your adventures at our next tea which will, of course, be at the Angel café courtesy of Paul on Wednesday, 16th September.

There is an exciting new addition, at the same time as T@3, as some of the digital champions are going to be setting up in the café, so if you have queries regarding your computer, s come along and see the experts. (See previous page).

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 September tea, it would be a great help if you could let me know you are coming, and also Paul makes sure he has enough cake! Please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 14th September.

Schedule for the remainder of the year:

### T@3

### Book by Date

Wednesday, 21st October

Monday, 19th October

Wednesday, 18th November

Monday, 16th November

Wednesday, 16th December

Monday, 14th December

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

## THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The new season of the Community Lunch starts from 12.00 noon for 12.30pm on Tuesday, 13th October at the George, The Square, Mere (☎01747 860427) as part of the Mere Literary Festival. It is recommended that **you book as soon as possible** as space is limited and the event is very popular.

The following Community Lunches will be held on the first Tuesday of the month from October to Easter excluding December, when we are all too busy partying! The two course lunch costs £9.95 excluding drinks, alternating between The George pub and the Walnut Inn. The Community Lunch is for everyone, so come and join us, don't be alone. For further details contact me.

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## SHORT WALKS

The next Short Walk of 2-3 miles will take place on Thursday, 1st October. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park to explore the paths around Mere.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MERE FILM SHOWS

We begin our eleventh season of films with the screening of 'A Little Chaos' (12A) as our film for Carnival Week on Thursday, 10th September. The film is a romantic drama following Sabine de Barra (Kate Winslet), a talented landscape designer, who in 1682 is appointed to build an outdoor ballroom in the gardens of Versailles for King Louis XIV (Alan Rickman). As Sabine becomes romantically entangled with the court's renowned landscape artist Andre le Notre (Matthias Schoenhaerts), she negotiates the perilous rivalries and intricate etiquette of the court, but forges a surprising connection with the King himself and wins a vote of confidence from the King's brother Philippe (Stanley Tucci).

Highly enjoyable and totally charming, this is a film full of appeal – gorgeous costumes, glorious gardens and a rich palace – even if it was Blenheim and not actually Versailles! Full details on page 30

### Distribution of Funds

Nine letters of application were received for donations from the film funds this summer and a total of £800 was sent in amounts varying between £50 and £125 to organisations in Mere. These included Mere Brownies, The Rosemary Goddard Centre, Mere Footpath Group, Mere Literary Festival, Mere Museum, One World Week and Ivers House (for a special MereToddlers and Pre-School event). Many letters of thanks have been received from the recipients and these thanks I pass on to all of you who support the film shows and enable these donations to be given.

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is now booked with visits to Bristol, Bath, Salisbury and Wells for new plays, old plays, for comedies and for the serious and not forgetting the highlight of the season, the Candlelit Christmas Music and Readings at Wells Cathedral.

If you fancy getting out this winter with some like-minded people, do join us by contacting Madelaine or Wendy, see below.

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

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

RAW and Mere Amateur Dramatic Society present

### Blast from the Past - The Canterbury Tales

Coming to Mere Lecture Hall on Sunday, 25th October.

*Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163*

## SPECTRA MUSICA

The Chamber group Spectra Musica begins its new season on Tuesday, 15th September. It promises to be an exciting time as they have been invited to sing at The American Museum in Bath on Saturday, 5th December as part of the Museum's Christmas festivities. In the New Year there will be another lively Singing Day in February followed by a concert at the beginning of April and another at the beginning of July – more details nearer the time.

The Group, which rehearses in Wincanton under the musical direction of Peter Leech, aims to set a high standard of musical performance of music of all genres, and to provide a stimulating and friendly environment for experienced singers.

If you are a bass or tenor and are interested in auditioning for this enthusiastic Group in September please contact me by ☎ or ✉: [lizcarter.pen@btinternet.com](mailto:lizcarter.pen@btinternet.com) or for further information, visit: [www.spectramusic.co.uk](http://www.spectramusic.co.uk) or [www.peterleech.com](http://www.peterleech.com)

*Elizabeth Carter ☎ 01747 841431*

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### Annual Show

**Saturday, 5th September in the Lecture Hall from 2.30pm**

Don't miss the fun! Just 50p including tea and biscuits. Don't forget that nearly all categories are open to ALL and it is not too late to enter! Schedules are available from Sprout and Flower including entry forms for the Family Group categories.

Entries are accepted up to 8.00pm on Wednesday, 2nd September at Wits End, North Road.

Let's make this the biggest and best Show ever!

### Herbaceous Plants

**Sue Hazeldean**

**Wednesday, 9th September in the Grove Building at 7.30pm**

Sue will talk about the history of herbaceous plants, and how to use them with shrubs and bulbs in a small garden for colour and interest all year round. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We are looking forward to a new course of Dressmaking Classes, commencing on Monday, 14th September from 10.30am to 1.00pm and Wednesday Evenings from 7.00 to 9.30pm from 16th September. We meet in the small hall at The Grove Building

where we now have a sewing machine and overlocker, and all the equipment to teach our many ladies how to make clothes that fit well and feel really comfortable to wear.

We have just a few places in the morning class and a waiting list for the evening class. Our courses are for six weeks making them affordable, and we are delighted with how our ladies have learnt so much in the concentrated special time they have, just for sewing.

Susanne, the Mere "Sewing Lady" is teaching them how to line a coat, fit a really invisible zip or maybe to up-cycle something in the wardrobe that needs some ideas to make it ready to wear again. We take a real interest in someone quite new to sewing and make them feel confident to enjoy being creative. We also know where to purchase some lovely fabrics.

If you would like to know more please phone us: Susanne on ☎ 07788 595434, or myself. We will be delighted to tell you more. *Carol Lord* ☎ 01747 861923

## MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



It seems a long time since our last meeting in July. Unfortunately, our planned speaker was unable to come, so we were very grateful to Michael Gamble who stepped in at short notice again and entertained us with a power point presentation of photographs set to music, this time entitled "South West England". The A-Z presentation started with art, through food, moors, towns and onto zoology, even including a section entitled X factor. Another very interesting evening.

We had a very enjoyable meal at the Stags Head in Yarlington, and in August we held a successful cake and produce stall under the Clock Tower in Mere Square. The event was held on a beautiful sunny morning that was a bonus in itself, but we also raised money for our WI. At the time of writing we are hoping for equally sunny weather for our Group Centenary Celebrations at the home of one of our members.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, 3rd September at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, is going to be a presentation by Denise Edwards, entitled "Experiences of a Stunt Woman". She has worked as a stunt performer in films and television for 34 years and latterly as a stunt co-ordinator, although now retired. Her childhood passion and dedication for a sport, led her to be involved in the profession, one that she would not have chosen. Denise will outline what it takes to become a stunt performer, the skills, the training, the fees, the insurance, the subscriptions as well as recalling her experiences working on various films and television productions, as well as actors for whom she has doubled. This should be a very entertaining evening and we would be pleased to see you if you feel that you would like to learn more about this subject

*Janet Fisher* ☎ 01747 861323

## **MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP**

After a lively 'visit' to Cappadocia with Jane Hurd in July, we've enjoyed two special events in August. We held a cake stall in the Square for the MU Wheels Appeal, which sold out in no time (many thanks to all who supported it); and several of us joined Westbury MU for a Mary Sumner Day Garden Party in perfect weather in a very lovely garden.

Our September meeting has the intriguing title 'Music as Therapy in Palestine' with Penelope Birnstingl and will be held in the Grove Building at **2.30pm on Tuesday, 8th September**. All are welcome to join us.

*Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553*

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s**

**Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere  
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am to 3.00pm**

We recently had a visit from a Bath Cats and Dogs Home volunteer who explained to us all about how the rescue centre works; we got to see wonderful pictures of the animals and heard some amazing rescue stories. It was a real eye-opener and a lovely way to spend the afternoon.

RGC trustees would like to record how much they appreciate a grant received from the Bridge House Community Trust. This award will go towards making up the shortfall on RGC's core costs which are not fully covered by Wiltshire Council.

Our Annual skittles knockout fundraiser planning is well underway, and we now have a date for the event, Saturday, 3rd October at 6.00pm at Mere Social Club. Tickets are

£7.00 and include a ploughman's supper and entry into the tournament. There is a trophy for the winner, great raffle prizes and, as usual, lots of fun to be had by all. Keep the date free and if you would like a ticket or more information please give me a call on the number below. Website: **[www.MereDayCentre.org.uk](http://www.MereDayCentre.org.uk)**

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*

## FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Our big annual **Autumn Fair** is fast approaching, but it's not too late to donate good-as-new items for us to sell or put on the tombola stall! We would also love to receive books, full bottles of wine, plants and garden produce and, of course, cakes and preserves. We have some new attractions this year too: there will be a **bouncy castle** and a **bungee run** (come and find out what this entails!).

There is a **box in the porch** at Fives Court where you can leave anything that you are kind enough to give us.

Do come on the day: **Saturday, 5th September at 2.00pm.** in the gardens of Fives Court. With teas, a special raffle and music from the Gillingham Brass Band in addition to all the other events, there is something for everyone!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

Friends of Fives Court

### AUTUMN FAIR

**SATURDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER**

Gardens of Fives Court, Angel Lane, 2.00pm

**\* TEAS \* RAFFLE \* GAMES \* PLANTS \***

**\* GILLINGHAM JUNIOR SILVER BAND \***

**Special attraction this year:**

**Bouncy Castle and a Bungee Run!**

Classes at Mere Lecture Hall

Watercolour for Beginners: 7/9/15 Mondays 7.00-9.00 £65.00

Watercolour Club: 8/9/15 Tuesdays 2.00-4.00 £65.00

Creative Printing: 11/9/15 Fridays 10.00-12.00 £75.00

For details and booking go to: [www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk](http://www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk)

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

By the time you read this, rehearsals will have begun for our Autumn Production! This is **The Unexpected Guest** by Agatha Christie - a murder mystery involving a break-in, a body in the study, and any number of suspects. We guarantee that a tense and scary evening will be had by all, provided you get tickets which will be available from the Library at the end of this month. Production dates are **Thursday to Saturday, 19th - 21st November** Make a note: it may turn out to be evidence.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE IN MERE.  
FRIDAYS AT 2.00PM IN THE  
GROVE BUILDING. ALL WELCOME  
ENQUIRIES ☎ 01747 863313**

## MERE MUSEUM

The Frederick Holmes exhibition, which will continue for just a few more weeks, will soon be enhanced by a booklet about Mere's gifted photographer which will be obtainable at the Museum. It will contain the latest piece of information about Frederick's puzzling move to Totnes at the end of his life, though the problem is still not finally resolved. Make sure you buy the booklet to find out!

Frederick and his wife Annie as a fitting memorial to a man who so vividly captured the life of Mere and its inhabitants during the first third of the 20th century. To assist in raising funds for this project, the Museum will hold a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 12th September at 10.00am in the Grove Building**. The main attraction will be the raffle of **A Magnificent Hamper**, for which we hope to sell tickets in advance in the Museum during the preceding week. We have already received a generous grant from Mere Filmshows for the headstone, but still have a lot to raise! Please help us!

The Holmes exhibition will close on Tuesday, 22nd September, so hurry up if you want one last look! A new display, the second of four **'Wiltshire at War'** travelling exhibitions will then be installed and will be officially opened on Friday, 25th September. It is called **'Doing Our Bit'** and is about how ordinary, local people helped the war effort. It is an honour that Mere has been chosen as the Launch Venue for this exhibit, and Mere will feature in the material on show. See the project's website: [wiltshireatwar.org.uk](http://wiltshireatwar.org.uk) - to which everyone is invited to upload relevant material. The travelling exhibition will stay at the Museum until the end of October.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

After many years of running the Grove Building 100 Club, Valerie Ransley has retired. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done over the past years.

The organisation of the 100 Club for the coming year (September 2015-16) is now in the hands of Sue Phelps, 6 Walnut Road - ☎ 01747 861361 and Lindy Elliott, St Peters Cottage, Church Street - ☎ 01747 861646.

Subscriptions are now due at £12 per member, either cash or cheque, made payable to 'Grove Building' and can be posted to, or through the letterbox of, either of the above addresses. If you are not a member, but wish to join, application forms are in St Michael's Church or available from Sue or Lindy.

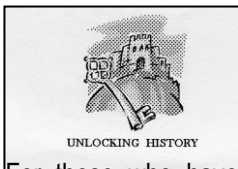
The result of the '100' Club Draw for July 2015, drawn on Friday, 17th July by Lindy Elliott, monitored by Peter Platt Higgins was:

1st Prize	£20	Mr A Cooper
2nd Prize	£15	Mr K Stallard
3rd Prize	£10	Mrs J Eyles
4th Prize	£5	Mrs J Coward

The result of the '100' Club Draw for August 2015, drawn on Saturday, 1st August by Caroline Bishop, monitored by Giulio Bianconi was:

1st Prize	£20	Mrs M Herbert
2nd Prize	£15	Mr & Mrs T Lloyd
3rd Prize	£10	Mrs E Montgomery
4th Prize	£5	Mrs C Wareham

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*



# Mere Historical Society

## Waddesdon House

**Wednesday, 9th September 2015**

For those who have booked, ***don't forget your NT membership card!*** Non-NT members have already paid and will receive their tickets on arrival at Waddesdon.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 8.45am and return around 7.00pm**

***If you have any queries on this visit, please ring***

***Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797***

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**Talks begin in October with a change of speaker for Tuesday, 6th October.** The subject will now be: "History and Development of Variations; a musical adventure," by Jill Jenkins.

The morning talk is with the Mere Literary Festival on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October: "Sheep to Ships to North Sea Oil Rigs – Occupational Hazards in the Twentieth Century", by Rose Cox.

\*\*\*\*\*

**[www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)**

\*\*\*\*\*

***For more information, please ring me***

***Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797***


## MERE BOWLS CLUB

Please remember Saturday, 19th September when the Club will be hosting a Barn Dance in the Grove Building with proceeds going to Parkinson's UK in memory of Colin Read, our past President. Entrance tickets are now on sale and will sell out quickly as they have done in the past. The ticket price includes dancing to the wonderful Black Bear Band, a Fish & Chip supper and a door prize (based on your ticket number) – what a deal! There will also be the usual refreshments and a raffle. Tickets can be reserved by contacting Don Butchers on either the phone number or email address below, you can pay later.

Mere Bowls Club is inviting all members and members' friends and neighbours to a Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea in aid of Macmillan Nurses at 1.00pm on Friday, 25th



September in the Andy Young Pavilion. This will be a wonderful chance to meet everyone in a congenial atmosphere and enjoy some nice refreshments while raising funds for a great cause, the Macmillan Nurses.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎ 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by or by  **Don.butchers@btinternet.com**.

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747-860775*

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# **'A Little Chaos'**

**(12A)**

**Matthias Schoenhaerts    Alan Rickman**  
**Kate Winslett**

Passion and reason conflict when Andre Le Notre, chief landscape artist to King Louis XIV of France, enlists the help of garden designer Sabine de Barra in laying out the gardens at Versailles.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday, 10th September, 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**



# Mere School Reports

## SPORTS WEEK

During the week beginning Monday, 6th July the children at Mere had a fun packed and exciting week of Sports

### Community Sport

On Monday 6th July the children took part in Tag Rugby sessions run by Nick Matravers. The children thoroughly enjoyed working alongside him to develop their Rugby skills. In addition to this some of the children attended an introduction to Tai Kwondo run by Debbie Hill. It was great fun to watch the children learn some of the basic self defence moves.

### Going for Gold

During the week the children from Year 5 attended a multi sports activity day at Tisbury Sports Centre run by Matt Mullins. The children took part in several different sports including blind football. The day was a huge success.

### Gifted and Talented Day

On Thursday 3rd July the Mere School hosted a Gifted and Talented PE day for the cluster schools. The children took part in sessions of Tennis, Bowls and Karate. I would like to thank Bethan Williamson for volunteers Graham Howell, Pete Manning and Karen Guy for organising the events. volunteers Graham Howell, Pete Manning and Karen Guy for organising the events.

### Sports Day

The Sports Week ended with our Sports Day. The weather was kind to us and it was a fantastic day of track and field events, a family picnic and a potted sports afternoon. The children were amazing and the day was a huge success. Thanks you to everyone who took part.

### STOP THE 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](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)

## CAKE TASTES BETTER TOGETHER

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning and bring and buy sale in Mere Vicarage from 10.00am-12.00noon on Friday, 25th September.

Please contact Carol if you can help or bake cakes for this event ☎ 01747 861859 or ✉ [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

**Helpers needed on Thursday, 17th September** between 10.00am and 3.00pm to tidy garden for The Big Coffee Morning on the 25th. Any help appreciated, generous quantities of cake and tea plied to workers! Bring tools, plants and muscles.



**CHURCHES**

**TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT**

The Revd Graham Perryman was licensed and well and truly welcomed as the new Priest-in-Church of the Parish of Upper Stour at a service in Bourton at the end of July and we look forward to his joining us in our work together in future.

We already have a lot of stalls booked for our ONE WORLD FAIR to be held in the Grove Building, Mere from 11.00am-2.00pm on **Saturday, 24th October**.

If anyone else would like to book a stall, please do so very quickly! More details about the Fair, and also about the One World Week Service to be held at St Michael's at 6.00pm on Sunday, 18th October will be given in next month's Mere Matters.

Please also come to the **Salisbury-Sudan Medical Link** 'Pudding Party' and illustrated talk about their work on **Saturday, 19th September at 7.00pm**. This event has been advertised as taking place in the Grove Building, Mere, but **will now be held in Maiden Bradley Village Hall, BA12 7JG**. Tickets £10 (including lots of puddings!). Bring your own drinks. For tickets, please ☎ 01985 844317, 01985 214684, or 01985 216238.

*Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎ 01747 8608840*

*Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

The Friends of St Michael's Church will be holding their Autumn Bazaar in the Grove Building on Saturday, 26th September from 10.00am. Everyone is welcome and if you have items for any of the stalls, we will be very pleased to receive them. Please contact the stallholders as shown below. Thank you.

Cakes & Biscuits	Mrs Thelma Ings	860262
Bric-a-Brac	Mrs Jean Knapp	860142
	Mrs Melanie Mouncer	860141
Books	Mrs Jenny Wilding	860908
Tombola	Mrs Kate Symonds	861278
	Mr Martin Eyles	863450
Raffle	Mrs Pat Isom	861776
Teas	Mrs Jean Eyles	863450

*Ann Dethick, Secretary ☎ 01747 863498*

## THE REV'D PAUL ARNOLD, METHODIST CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

Dear Friends,

### **The High Cost of Cheap Food...**

September is the month when many churches will be holding their 'Harvest Festival' services (do check elsewhere in MM to find the dates, times and places for our churches in Mere). One of the favourite hymns we sing has the refrain, '*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*' We do well to stop and give thanks to God for the provision of our land, but we must also appreciate the hard work of those who labour to produce the food we need.

As I write the news headlines are full of farmers who are angry and upset about the prices they are paid for their produce (esp. milk) and feel it necessary to take direct action against some of the big retailers. We all look for 'bargains' when we go to the shops, but in reality food in this country has never been cheaper! In the 1950's we spent almost a third (32%) of household income on food, but according to Shaun Richards (Economist at the LSE) we now spend about half of that amount, just 16.6% of household income on food. Because food is cheap we don't value it and this is one reason why studies show we throw away more food than any other nation in Europe! (8.3 million tonnes in 2013 – WRAP: Waste Resources and Action Programme)

Whilst fewer people work directly on the land in food production than in past years, there are still many rural industries and businesses that are dependent on the health of our farms and it is foolish to imagine we can allow our agricultural industry to shrivel and expect that our small towns and villages will be unaffected. No one denies that the economics of agriculture is complicated, but can we really afford not to spend a few minutes more and a few pence more checking to see that (as far as possible) we are supporting our rural community with our 'purchasing power?' As we celebrate our 'Harvest Festival' let us not undervalue the rich gifts given to us by God, and our farmers...

*Dear Lord, whose Son railed against injustices during His time on earth, grant that there may be fairness and equitable trading between farmers and their customers, so that the true value of their work in producing our food may be reflected in the price that they receive for their produce. Grant also we pray, that those who are beset by financial difficulties may be comforted by sound guidance and support. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend who never leaves us. Amen. (Prayer: Keith Davies, Coordinator of the Business Support Group at ARC [Arthur Rank Centre] Stoneleigh)*

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

Most of us have had lovely Summer days out, or holidays, which are a real treat. The Trussell Trust take some of the Bulgarian children, from the orphanages, to the sea side where the fun and laughter does so much to ease the traumas that they have

endured in their young lives. These holidays have been partly funded by any money left over from the £2.00 which you give towards the distribution costs of the Christmas shoe boxes. So, a huge thank you to all of you who so generously help in this way.

When buying your school uniforms and pencils and books, or your warmer Autumn clothes, maybe you could buy something extra and put it aside ready for your Christmas Shoe box! Everything is **so** appreciated. *Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712*

## **ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE**

# **Songs of Praise**

**Sunday, 20th September @ 6.00 pm**

Do join us at this informal service of praise and worship and sing favourite hymns chosen and introduced by local people.

## **METHODIST CHURCH NOTES**

### **Café Worship**

Café Worship will resume on Wednesday, 30th September at 11.00am in the Methodist Schoolroom, preceded by coffee and fellowship.

Don't forget, if you can't manage this date there is coffee every Wednesday morning with a brief Pause for Thought - a good break in the week!

*Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

# **Bric a Brac and Ice Creams**

Saturday 19th September

from 10.00am – 12.00noon

In St Michael's Churchyard

Everything 50p or less!!

Money raised is go to St Michael's Church

*Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860439*

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## SEPTEMBER 2015

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:**

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

✉: [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

**Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424**

**Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212**

**Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802**

✉: [administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day	
Tuesday	1st	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	*20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			Patronal Festival, Benefice Service

\*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

### **The United Reformed Church**

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685**

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	13th	11.00am	United Harvest Festival
			the Methodists
			Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	20th	11.00am	Martin Heal
	27th	11.00am	Jenny Doman
			Favourite readings
			and Hymns

### **The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)**

**Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370**

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
			Holy Communion
	13th	11.00am	Harvest Festival
			with United Reformed Church
	20th	6.00pm	Rev'd Mike John
	27th	6.00pm	Rev'd Andy Curtis

## **The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's**

**Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald ☎ 01747 860867**

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	6th	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	13th	9.30am	Matins
	20th	9.30am	DIY
	27th	9.15am	Benefice Service at St Michaels NO service at St Marys

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

## **DIARY DATES**

### **September 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	Tue	2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Online Drop In Day"	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
2	Wed	11.15am	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
3	Thur	10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
4	Fri	10.30am	Open the Book	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold	L
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Bingo	GB
5	Sat	10.00am	- 11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (also 12th, 19th & 26th)	CC
		2.00pm	Friends of Fives Court Autumn Fair	Fives Court
		2.30pm	Mere Gardening Club Annual Show	L



7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	- 9.00pm Water Colour	L
		7.30pm	Town Council Meeting	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 22nd)	MH
		10.15am	- 12.15noon Lip Reading (every Thursday)	GB
		12.30pm	- 3.30pm Water Colour	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Chamber of Trade	GB
9	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 16th, 23rd, & 30th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "A Little Chaos"	L
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Creative printing	L
12	Sat	10.00am	Mere Museum Coffee Morning	GB
13	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
14	Mon	10.30am	12.00noon Carers Café	Angel Café
		10.30am	Dressmaking (every Monday)	GB
		11.00am	Legal Outreach Service	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
16	Wed	3.00pm	T@3 with 'Online Drop In'	Angel Café
		7.00pm	Dressmaking (every Wednesday)	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
19	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Bowls Club Barn Dance	GB
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
23	Wed	9.00am	- 3.00pm Wiltshire Fire and Rescue	L
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Carnival Quiz night	GB
25	Fri	10.00am	- 12.00pm Macmillan Big Coffee Morning	Vicarage
		1.00pm	Bowls Club Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea	AYP
26	Sat	10.00am	- Friends of St Michael's Autumn Bazaar	GB
30	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH

## **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](http://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

## **COPYDATE FOR OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the October 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, 14th September 2015**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 7th September 2015 to: **[editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)**

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

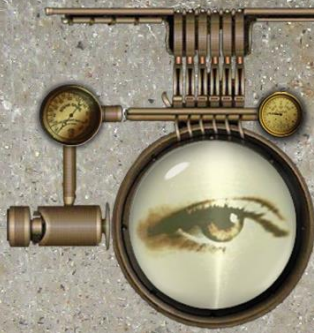
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**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

✉: **[jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)**

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