

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

**YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS**



APRIL 2016

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 held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 4th April 2016.**

The Chairman writes:

On street parking was discussed at the March Town Council meeting: specifically badly parked cars on narrow roads which could impede the movement of the fire engine and ambulance in an emergency. A fire engine needs clearance of 10ft to pass safely. When you are stuck in a fire, every second counts. I would like to ask all drivers when parking their vehicles in and around the town, to make sure that they leave enough room for a fire engine to get through.

I have recently been made aware of two incidents where the ambulance service has taken longer than expected to reach the emergency scene. I would like to know if these are just isolated instances, or is the ambulance service failing to meet the needs of the people in our community. I also have concerns about the length of time from the first response to the time it takes to get a patient to hospital. In order to establish the current state of this vital service, information needs to be gathered. Please would you inform the Town Council Clerk if you or your family have experienced the ambulance service falling short of expectations.

On Thursday, 21st April 2016, the date of the Queen's actual 90th birthday, we will be lighting a beacon on Castle Hill to celebrate the event, forming a chain of beacons that will be lit throughout the United Kingdom. The Queen's official birthday will be celebrated on Saturday, 11th June and the Town Council would like to mark the event with a firework display. However, we only have a small amount of money set aside for this and we are, once again, seeking donations from our generous parishioners and businesses to help – the more money we can get, the better the fireworks!

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

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

Independent Experienced Carer CRB NVQ

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GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION WRITES:

Dark Lane in Mere, which is well used, has had a partial collapse of one of its walls, Wiltshire Council has been working with the owner to reinstate the wall to make it safe.

There was a Heart of Wessex Local Action Group meeting held in South West Wiltshire at Stourton Memorial Hall on 16th March. Wiltshire Council acted as the Accountable Body. The Heart of Wessex Local Action Group is working with local people and businesses to develop opportunities for improving the rural economy and quality of life for people living and working in the area through a targeted grants programme. Their aim is: "To act as a catalyst for supporting the development of vibrant, independent and interconnected rural communities based upon strong economic growth".

Strong leadership, effective local decision-making and an efficient, lean service were some of the findings from an independent review of Wiltshire Council's highway services.

The review saw a team of seven local authority and local government peers visit the council for three days in February. They met with a wide range of partners and staff at all levels to discuss how the service is currently run.

The peer challenge team concluded that the Council is successfully investing in the highways infrastructure, harnessing the knowledge and energy in local communities to improve outcomes and delivering Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership schemes on time and to budget. Peer reviews are arranged by the Local Government Association and are designed to highlight strengths and identify areas for further improvement and learning.

The council's key strengths identified were:

- The service managed the termination of the highways contract and the very challenging procurement of the new contract effectively.
- Harnessing the knowledge and energy in local communities has led to improved outcomes and additional funding.
- There is a clear positive intent amongst staff and partners to ensure the service is successful.
- Strong and capable senior political leadership which gives clear and consistent vision.
- The case has been successfully made for investment in the infrastructure and in an asset management approach/methodology.

Areas for development included:

- Clarity needed about how the wider council vision and transformation cascades to the highways and transport service.

- Consider the development of a performance management framework to underpin delivery of strategic outcomes.
- Ensure IT systems support integration and workflow/ feedback.
- Recognise and plan for the risks associated with the significant challenges faced over the coming months.

The Mere Town Council and I have helped in the release of an assurance bond which was held by The National House-Building Council (NHBC). The Mere Town Council, myself, and the residents will now be looking for a finally complete road to adoption standard for the newer part of Downside Close, Mere.

Two new Council owned bungalows are proposed in Bramley Hill, Mere. I have been consulted on their design and have asked for as much parking as possible to be provided for the benefit of all in the Bramley Hill area of Mere.

The South West Wiltshire Area Board has been and will continue to closely examine the highways resurfacing schemes in our area, which have been prioritised for resurfacing, noting some schemes have been carried over to the next financial year, being the 1st April onward, making some of us suspicious as to where some of next year's possible highway schemes might have been removed. Driving around, some of the lanes remain very poor, but I am pleased that over the last year or so Wiltshire Council has resurfaced long sections on some roads in this area. Nevertheless, much remains to be done.

The board are in the process of trying to secure two mini buses, one for Zeals Youth Trust and the other for Sowing Seeds (Youth) at Mere. This involves hands on voluntary work by many.

With some "road rage" incidents witnessed in Salisbury Street, Mere, which disheartens me, the additional Yellow Lines for Salisbury Street and Water Street, Mere, will be welcome. As stated before, these orders will cover more than just yellow lines, therefore please regularly check for the appearance of the consultation on:  <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/troconsultations.htm>

The South West Area Board have had three Speed Indicator devices for a while in the Mere area, and now a fourth one has been acquired for the Mere area, which includes the villages around. Unfortunately, you will recall when I wrote last month, that I had to return one to Melksham for exchange as it was faulty. This month two of the four seem to have problems. Eventually the scheme will be in place and for those in the villages around, I would ask for their patience.

I attended the 13th year of The Three Counties Charity Fundraisers which took place on Sunday, 6th March, 2016. The Ploughing Competition had 75 plus entries raising about £1,200 for the Local Air Ambulance. The Competition was held on a large site - the

fields were both sides of the B3092 on the road from Mere to Stourton and Kilmington. Young and old attended on a pleasant early spring morning.

A Green Fordson tractor with a bag attached stating "I am really hansom", is owned by Peter Barnaby whose grandfather bought the tractor after the Second World War from The War Ag (War Agricultural Executive Committee), for use on the family farm. The War Ag sold off tractors etc used by the land army. Therefore the tractor still working would have been used for food production during The Second World War.

TASTE THE CHASE

Cranborne Chase a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), launches new event to highlight local food and drink

A new food fair celebrating local food is set to bring producers, retailers and customers together to showcase products made in the Cranborne Chase.

To raise awareness of the range of quality local food and drink produced locally, including products from Mere Fish Farm, the AONB, in partnership with the South West Wiltshire Area Board, are hosting a Food Fair at the Larmer Tree Gardens on Wednesday, 20th April to bring producers and retailers and consumers together.

During the morning local businesses who use or supply foods, including pubs, restaurants, B&Bs, hotels, farm shops, village stores and supermarkets will be invited to meet the producers and sample and learn more about locally produced food with a view to including it on their menus, or stocking it in their stores.

From 1.00pm the Food Fair will be open to the general public, no need to bring a picnic, there will be lots of food on offer and the stunning Larmer Tree Gardens will be open to explore, so people can enjoy a wonderful afternoon out discovering the taste of the Chase.

To find out more about the event, or to register your interest in attending or taking a stand (free to producers in the Cranborne Chase AONB area), please get in touch with me as I am organising the event on behalf of the AONB.

Rachel Limb, : 07976 222260,
or : rachel@whitesheeprojects.co.uk.

WILTSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE CLEARS UP PENSION JARGON BAFFLING CONSUMERS

“Flexi-access drawdown”, “open market option” and “safeguarded benefits” are some of the pension terms most confusing for consumers, reveals Wiltshire Citizens Advice

The local charity, which delivers face-to-face Pension Wise appointments in Wiltshire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol and Bath says people would find it easier to understand their pensions if the industry used simple, standard language to describe their products.

Some people are also unclear about terms which appear to be more straightforward, putting them at risk of missing out on the best pension options for them. For example; staff have reported cases where consumers wrongly believed that their ‘selected retirement date’ was set in stone as the date they could access their pension, when in fact they could have accessed their savings ahead of this date.

To help people get to grips with their pension, Pension Wise guiders have identified the pension’s jargon which people find most perplexing and have explained them in simple terms. Recent research from national Citizens Advice shows more than a quarter of people with defined contribution pensions feel that they don’t understand their pension plan, while fewer than one in five feel very confident.

Albert Ball, Pension Wise Project Manager said: “Pension decisions can be hard enough without having to translate tricky wording. Many people coming to visit us are mystified by the jargon being used and our staff are here to help clear up the confusing language. Having a better understanding of what the terms mean puts consumers on a better path to choosing a retirement option which suits them.”

To book a free face to face or telephone Pension Wise appointment, if you are over 50 call ☎: 0300 330 1001 or visit 🌐: www.pensionwise.gov.uk. You can also book an appointment for a later date by visiting your local Citizens Advice office.

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**

POLICE NEWS



This month we have had reported a non-dwelling burglary in Zeals where a garage of a house was broken into overnight and tools belonging to the householder and builder were taken. We also had reports of attempted shed break-ins in East Knoyle and Hindon, notably the one on the Green. East Knoyle - persons set a shed alarm off and ran from scene about midnight. Alarms do work, this is a prime example, if you are going to install one, and we recommend one with a loud alarm.

The strong wind last week toppled many trees in our area and whilst the council were very stretched, locals assisted us in clearing them from the road. A male stopped and used his chain saw on a tree blocking the road on the B3092, Mere/Gillingham Road, and cleared the road in minutes. A farmer in Bourton (not our patch but we assisted Dorset) stopped and offered a tractor to push a huge branch off the carriageway. A lady in Kilmington saw me directing traffic in the pouring rain and kindly bought out a cup of hot tea. The community spirit shown by the public never fails to impress me. Thank you all for your support.

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

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎: 101 (24hrs)

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

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

Saturday, 11th June 2016

Please put this date in your diary

Come and help raise money for the upkeep and restoration of our beautiful parish church. If you would like to help on a stall, serve teas or hang bunting please contact me:

Elisabeth Barratt ☎: 01747 863324

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

Spring is here at last and with the clocks being moved on one hour the evenings are getting lighter and warmer, so now is a good time to plan ahead and get outside! We have a good selection of Gardening books for you to browse through, everything from the books on container gardening to how to plan and landscape large gardens.

In our library's Junior Section we have a good selection of books to help keep young people amused in the School Easter Holidays. Get the children involved with our junior books on the Outdoors and maybe they will find a new hobby or sport that they have not tried before.

For our youngest readers we have our regular 'sing and rhyme' sessions every Friday 10:00 - 10.30am. This is a free activity, no need to book, just come along and join in. For those in need of some help with any IT Queries, our Wiltshire Digital Champion Advisors will be in the Library on the first Tuesday of the month (5th). Bring your own device or use one of the Library's free access public computers.

Also on the 1st Friday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00pm we have an Advisor in the Library for those affected by issues related to Dementia and Alzheimer's.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sally-Ann Hooper, Mere Library Supervisor ☎: 01747 860546



Mere Dental Practice

The practice has two Dentists:

Stephen Sherrard, and Christopher Davies.

It also has Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale.

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

✉: meredental@btconnect.com, 🌐: 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*

BIG BREW

Many thanks to those who braved the downpour to support my Big Brew Breakfast. It raised £60 for the work of Traidcraft Exchange in training a smallholder in farming

techniques to ensure they plant a crop that lasts and will support them and their family for years to come leaving poverty behind. *Janet Way* ☎: 01747 860884

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants Available for 2016

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community, and welcomes a wide range of creative initiatives.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Tuesday, 31st May and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of the closing date.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to: The Grants Committee, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, c/o Monkswell Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere Wiltshire BA12 6DA.

CANCER RESEARCH

The year started off with the Spring Bazaar and what a great success it was(although at time of going to press we don't have the final figure raised). The 10 books for £1 were popular and, as always, the homemade cakes. A huge thank you to everyone who came, bought, helped and donated for this event.

We are now looking towards the May Fayre on Saturday, 21st May, and are looking for any donations especially for both The Man Shed table, Homemade Cakes & Bric-a-Brac. We are happy to collect any larger objects the day before or if possible please bring on the day before 9.00am. Please contact Penny on the number below after 6.00pm to arrange.

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, on the number below (after 6.00pm). We also have a Facebook page:

Mere Cancer Research - on where we post all our up-to-date news, and forthcoming events.

Penny Fennon 📞 07833 131712



MERE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

IT'S BACK!



"What's back?" you may ask. Why, the Town Map of course!

There has been a blank, black frame near the bus stops in the Square for nearly a year, where the out of date 1990s map was originally mounted. After a false start with one design, the Chamber of Trade settled on the one now displayed. The old ones in the two car parks are also being changed for the new design. It incorporates a new logo for our organisation as well as a QR code. If you scan this black and white square symbol with the right app on a mobile phone, it will display the Chamber website on the phone where more details of the Chamber's activities can be found. The original map is to be offered to the Museum for their archives.

The details of local businesses next to the map have been totally updated, as have the photos. The new design is now computer based and is easy to amend and manufacture so we will be able to review it each year and accommodate any changes in businesses. The map can be made available in other formats for use in local advertising material. While the main purpose of the Town Map is to inform visitors to the town, it also serves to remind us of the great range of shops and businesses which we are fortunate to have. Please support them.

Shop Local

While talking of support, we were pleased to be associated with the "Shop Local" initiative of Churches Together in Mere just before Christmas. We hope you were able to buy locally as many of your Christmas needs as possible. We don't know yet what success this initiative had, but shortly we hope to carry out a survey of businesses involved to find out.

New Logo

As mentioned, we've also taken this opportunity to update our logo. It still uses the iconic Town Clock Tower as its basis, but with clear, clean, modern lines which make it adaptable to any size of presentation. The background colour can also be changed to match different uses. Our thanks are due to local talent, Coleen, graphic designer of CCIImagine, and Keith of Mirage Signs for their great help in bringing this venture to a successful conclusion.

If you are interested in helping the Chamber in any way, even if you are not in business

yourself, please contact me or Julie Cousins by : merechamber@outlook.com or 

by

: 07856 700576.

Hamish Bell, President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade ☎:01747 861717

MERE CARNIVAL FUNDRAISING

Bingo on Friday, 15th April, eyes down: 7:30pm in the Grove Building. There will also be a raffle and refreshments, along with two specials. Come along for a fun evening suitable for all the family and win some lovely prizes whilst helping boost Carnival funds.

We have a further **TWO Bingos** booked - Friday, 3rd June and Friday, 9th September (Carnival week bingo). Details as above. Why not make a note in your diary now!

Quiz - on Wednesday, 18th May, 7:30pm in the Grove Building. Teams of 4 or just come and we can put you in a team. Raffle and Refreshments. £2.00 per person entry.

Carnival Day - Saturday, 17th September. Further details to follow.

Sue Jeans, for Carnival Committee, ☎ 01747 860215

EXCITING NEW EVENT FOR NEXT YEAR

Saturday, 9th & Sunday, 10th September 2017

Plans are developing for a major two-day showcasing event next year for local people and businesses that principally make or create things mainly by hand. Members of the public will be able to see displays, witness things being created, have the opportunity to purchase items and 'get involved'. If you are a Mere local, a club, artist, quilter, craftsperson, knitter, confectioner etc or a business within the locality creating things mainly by hand, then this is an opportunity for you to get involved.

This 'not for profit' event will be held in several central venue locations in Mere. It will offer enormous potential as a visitor attraction promoting the many and varied skilled people who live in the area and it is hoped local businesses and the general community will show support.

Register NOW to become an exhibitor (no fees) - space will be at a premium; or if you just want to know more then please contact me, preferably by email.

Richard Jefferies ✉ :rajefferies@btinternet.com

TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY



Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 20th April at 3.00pm.

All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 18th April.

Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The last Community Lunch for this session is on Tuesday, 5th April at The Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere. 12 noon for 12.30pm. Please book in advance on ☎: 01747 861220.

This session has been wonderful as we have welcomed a number of new people into Mere and to the Lunch, it has been delightful to have your company. We have also enjoyed the occasional talk and discussion. Everyone is so welcome.

We now have a break so that you can all get into the garden.

The Community Lunch will start again as part of the Mere Literary Festival in October. Happy Gardening!

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646

APRIL SHORT WALK

We will meet at 2:00pm in the Surgery Car Park on **Thursday, 14th April** for this month's Short Walk. Join us for a walk of 2-3 miles around the pathways of Mere and enjoy a cuppa at the Angel Cafe afterwards. *Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Thank you to everyone who supported our Variety Show remembering Bryan Sheppard that was presented for your Delectation and Delight in March. We hope you were Astonished and Amazed at the Talent and Technological Triumphs that were revealed, and returned home Energised and Enthused and ready to tackle the gales and downpours that have become our way of life recently. MADS members are (briefly) pausing for breath, but will very soon be beginning work to select a new entertainment for you all in the Autumn. Meanwhile let's hope for Spring - and even Summer - first!

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

MERE GRACENOTES

Concert

We invite you to come and enjoy an evening of very varied choral music and help us to raise money for a good cause too. We are giving our concert on

Friday, 15th April at 7.30pm

in St. Michael The Archangel Church

No tickets are necessary, but donations would be welcome for Shelterbox please.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218

MERE FILM SHOWS

Oscar nominations feature again in this month's film on Thursday, 28th April. Oscar nominated for Best Film, 'Brooklyn' (12A) stars Saoirse Ronan, nominated for a Best Actress Oscar and BAFTA, and tells the story of Eilis Lacey, a young girl who in the 1950s left Ireland for Brooklyn, New York to start life afresh. Finding work and a home

in a boarding house run by Mrs Kehoe (Julie Walters), she begins to settle into her new life and soon falls for the charismatic charms of a local Italian, Tony. However, tragedy strikes back home in Ireland and Eilis soon finds herself torn between two men and two countries. This film is a tale very well told and with remarkable performances from the entire cast, there is hardly a dull minute in the film which only gets more interesting towards the end. More details on page 24.

Dates for your diary: Thursday, 26th May and Thursday, 16th June. Films to be confirmed.
Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

with Bourton Gardening Club

'Garden at Eype' with Paul Atterbury

Wednesday, 20th April 7.30pm Grove Building

Paul bought his railway carriage home in Dorset in the beautiful little village of Eype near Bridport nearly 25 years ago. Chrissie, his wife, was the creative drive behind designing a beautiful garden on the long, thin strip of land that their former home occupied. **£2 entry for welcome visitors.** *Janet Way* ☎: 01747 860884

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our busy dressmakers have been making beautifully fitting clothes. Some of them are very keen to replicate the fashions of the fifties and sixties whilst enjoying the companionship of other very creative seamstresses. We always have a place for those who are completely new to dressmaking.

Our next set of courses starts on Monday morning, 11th April (10.30am) and Wednesday evening, 13th April, (7.00pm) with further courses commencing on Monday, 6th June and Wednesday, 8th June. Each course runs for six weeks and we meet for two and a half hours in the Grove Building.

At present we have one place on Monday mornings and have one or two places on Wednesday evening. For more details please call us on ☎: 01747 861923 or look at our Facebook Page: "Dressmaking in Mere" We look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Lord and Susanne (The Sewing Lady) 📱: 07788 595434

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Yet another year has gone by and a time to reflect on the past years' activities and to plan for the new year. Our AGM last month reminded us of just what we managed to achieve during our special centenary birthday year. A hard act to follow but with a committee with three new members, we aim to do just that. Plans are already

in place for a full packed year with informative speakers and activities.

Our games afternoon continues to be very popular, and plans are going ahead for a Bath City Bus Tour and a lunch at the Ship in West Stour.

Several members are going on a Walk and Treasure Trail around Devizes in May, and are joining in a quiz in Salisbury later in the year, both events arranged by the County. We also have our Group Meeting in May at Sutton Veny.

Our next meeting on Thursday, 7th April at 7.30pm in the Grove Building is a presentation by Philip Coward of the Hill Brush Company. If you missed the plans and proposals, including artists impressions shown two years ago in the Grove Building and would like to know more about the construction going up on the west side of Mere, this is your opportunity. You will learn more about what it is and the facilities that it will have: a truly local development. This is certainly the meeting to come to and it would be very good to see you there.

Members, please don't forget to bring your useful gadget, our point of interest at the meeting, and we still need a few more tins for our Trussell Trust commitment.

Janet Fisher ☎: 01747 861323



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our regular meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 12th April in the Grove Building will include our AGM and also a 'Bring & Buy' in aid of MU work overseas. After the business, members will share short favourite readings and poems, providing a varied and enjoyable afternoon. All are welcome.

On Saturday, 16th April, we will be sharing in the MU Diocesan Festival in Salisbury Cathedral at 11.00am. A group from Mere will have lunch together in Salisbury afterwards, and all present, past and future members would be very welcome to join us. Please phone to book your place.

You are also welcome - no need to book! – to come to the MU Heytesbury Deanery meeting to be held in the Grove Building, Mere on Thursday, 28th April at 10.30am

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

a new (to us) fund-raising enterprise in early May, namely a Bingo evening! The date for this is Friday, 6th May at 7:30pm in the Grove Building. We'd also like to remind you that the Friends' famous Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, 14th May at 10:00am also in the Grove Building. All the details for both events will appear on posters nearer the time, and in Mere Matters next month.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for March 2016, drawn on Tuesday, 1st March by Rose Cox in the Grove Building, was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 125	Stewart Walker
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 69	Michael Plaxton
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 201	Caroline Leach
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 108	Chris Bixby

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646



Mere Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 5th April
7.00pm in the Grove Building

Subscriptions for 2016/17 due (£10)

If you are unable to attend please send your subscription to
The Membership Secretary:

Gerry Cook, 20 Lovage Way, Mere, BA12 6RU, ☎: 01747 861797

Subs will be taken and wine and nibbles provided before the AGM which will **start promptly at 7.30pm** followed by 'Constable - His visits to Gillingham': By Sam Woodcock. **The AGM papers are in your newsletters:** Minutes AGM 2015 in September issue, these refer to the proposed new constitution printed in the March 2015 issue, and Treasurer's report for 2015 is in the January 2016 issue.

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Visit One

Tuesday, 17th May 2016

John Boyd Textiles and Castle Cary

John Boyd was a travelling textile merchant from Scotland, who saw a potentially expanding market for horsehair fabric and, liking the town of Castle Cary, settled and began weaving the cloth in his cottage. We will hear the history of the factory, see the looms, and learn how the fabric is made. **There are steep stairs with hand rails and the environment is noisy because of the looms.** There is then free time for lunch in Castle Cary where there are many eating options.

In the afternoon the Living History Group will take us for a guided walk of Castle Cary and to the delightful and interesting museum. Tea is not included but there will be time to go to the Bakehouse near to the museum.

For more details on this visit, please ring me

We leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.20am returning by 6.00pm

Cost: MHS Members £16, non-members £19 per person
Includes coach and tip, guided tour and museum entrance fee.

Booking forms are available at Mere Library and our website:

🌐 **www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MERE BOWLS CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A

CHARITY BARN DANCE

WITH THE BLACK BEAR BAND

AT THE GROVE BUILDING, MERE

ON SATURDAY, 9th APRIL 2016 AT 7.00pm

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER INCLUDED

IN SUPPORT OF ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

BAR AVAILABLE

RAFFLE

TICKETS £10 EACH FROM LIBRARY OR ☎: 01747 860775

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Want to give bowls a try? Why not come along to our Open Day on **Sunday, 8th May**, from 10:00am until 3:00pm when qualified coaches and experienced members of the Club will be on hand to take you through the basics of the sport; if we can kindle your interest, then there will be four more coaching sessions available before you need to decide if you wish to join the Club or not – all you need is bags of enthusiasm and a pair of flat soled shoes with no heels.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775

MERE CRICKET CLUB

Mere CC are looking for an assistant grounds-person to help maintain the cricket pitch. We have the equipment and knowledge to maintain the pitch, but not quite enough hours available! Any assistance would be very welcome.

If you are interested please telephone Matt Pitts ☎: 07909 922624.

Duncan Weir ☎: 01747 822005

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

This long and dreary winter is all but behind us. We will be starting our season in just a short while on Saturday, 9th April. It will be so pleasant to meet up with our old friends once more. As is customary, this will be an 'Open Day' and everyone is welcome, so do come along and give Croquet, Boule or both a try. A warm welcome is promised.

There will be a working party held to spruce things up in readiness on Saturday, 2nd April.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out during the closed season. The lawn has had a great deal of time (and money) spent on it, thanks very largely to Michael Horne and his unstinting efforts. A good spell of warm weather is now needed to bring on the re-seeded areas. The hedges have been severely and professionally cut back to simplify future maintenance.

Unfortunately, the winter gales took their toll and our gazebo cover was damaged beyond repair, therefore, this amenity will be missing at the start of the season. With this shelter missing, we hope that 9th April proves to be a fine day!

Rex Roberts ☎: 01747 860873

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'BROOKLYN'

(12A)

Saoirse Ronan Domhnall Gleeson
Jim Broadbent Julie Walters

Emigrating from Ireland to America in the 1950s in search of a better life, young Eilis (Saoirse Ronan) lands in Brooklyn and soon falls into a romance with a local. When her past catches up with her, however, she must choose between two countries and the lives that exist within each.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 28th April, 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

World Book Day

On Thursday, 3rd March the children celebrated World Book Day by coming to school dressed as their favourite characters.

Blue Class

The children acted out the story of the Three Little Pigs using puppets.

Yellow Class

The children in Yellow Class read 'Where the Wild Things Are' and made clay monsters.

Silver Class

In Silver class the children read the book 'Oi Frog' and wrote some rhyming poems.

Gold Class

The children enjoyed the story of the 'Rainbow Fish' and created a fish of their own on the laptops.

Green Class

The children made sweets based on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

Red Class

Year 5 read 'The Witches' and created a news broadcast warning of the dangers of approaching a witch.

Purple Class

The children made their own videos based on their favourite books.

Extras

All the children had a workshop with a guest storyteller, Twinkle Rose. They also shared books with younger children and had stories read to them by different teachers.

The day ended with Story at Bedtime where the children returned to school in their pyjamas to have a story read to them by their class teacher.

We would like to thank Mr Rich for organising such a fantastic day!

STOP PRESS!

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

 www.mereschool.co.uk

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB (MTYFC)

BINGO

on Saturday, 16th April, in the Lecture Hall

Doors open 7.00pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Contact: Tracey Thorpe 📞 07519 299925

NEWS FROM HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, pupils and staff Celebrated Chinese New Year with a trip to the Dragon Chinese Restaurant in Salisbury. The whole school, for which West Knoyle is in the catchment area, including South Hills Hindon Nursery, travelled by train from Tisbury to Salisbury and walked the short distance to the Restaurant in Fisherton Street, where they enjoyed a traditional Chinese Dim sum buffet lunch. The children were encouraged to try foods that they wouldn't normally eat and returned to the buffet many times in order to sample the wide range of Chinese food on offer! Everyone agreed that it was delicious! On their return to school, the children were able to learn more about the cultural traditions of the New Year celebrations through art, story and drama activities.

As part of this term's Transport topic, Years 1, 2 and 3 pupils visited Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford, to learn about the history of road transport. The children were able to dress up in traditional Victorian clothes and sit in a range of classic cars including one of the first 3 wheeled cars built by Benz, a car owned by the Edwardian Royal family and an American Cadillac! The visit also included a ride around the Haynes driving track in a vintage car, which had very slippery leather seats!!

Years 4, 5 and 6 visited a Victorian school room to learn more about how it felt to be a school pupil in Victorian times. The children dressed in traditional clothes and were greeted by a very strict school teacher who told them that they had to 'sit in silence' and practise handwriting!! The children enjoyed cooking, sewing and gardening, which were important areas of the Victorian curriculum.

What a fantastic way to enrich the curriculum and learn history.

Forest School is an integral part of life at Hindon Primary School and pupils are fortunate to have their own Forest School wild area and trained Forest School Teacher. This term, Forest School activities have included making bird feeders and learning about native British birds, creating perspective pictures of the school using natural

materials, cooking Pop-Corn over an open fire and constructing shelters. Learning doesn't only take place inside the classroom!

Amanda Bristow, Hindon Primary School ☎: 01747 820260

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

Following the recent retirement of our full time Director of Music, the Church of St Michael the Archangel, Mere, seeks to appoint a replacement.

The position entails playing for services, leading and developing our small choir which is augmented for special services and festivals and helping our worship to flourish and our faith to grow. We enjoy traditional hymns, sung Communion, anthems and a wide range of other styles and opportunities for worship.

We have a fine 3-manual Makin digital organ (ex: the Chapel of St John's College Cambridge) and in addition an 1870s 2-manual pipe organ and two digital pianos.

We are also fortunate in having a small group of enthusiastic musicians willing to help share the playing load. Salary in line with RSCM rates plus wedding and funeral fees.

If you are interested please e-mail an up-to-date CV with a covering letter to:

Rev'd. Carol Wilson-Barker (Priest-in-Charge)

: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S

King James II Coat of Arms, Part 9

This is the final chapter in the serialised account of the Coat of Arms. By the time you are reading this, the beautifully conserved painting will have been returned to the church, and probably already hung in its former position over the inner north porch door. We are planning to light the painting so that the details are more easily visible from ground level. And towards the end of the year the Museum will mount an exhibition about the painting and its conservation.

Jenny Wilding, Conservation Project Manager ☎ 01747 860908

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MAY 2016 ISSUE

MONDAY, 18th APRIL 2015

NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

Wednesday Midweek communion.

With effect from Wednesday, 6th April the 10.30am BCP Communion Service is moving to 12.00noon. Come and enjoy a peaceful contemplative time before your lunch each week.
Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker, ☎: 01747 861859

Do you like arranging flowers?

The small band of St Michael's Church flower arrangers is looking for others to join us. If you would like to do an arrangement, large or small, once or twice a year to enhance the beauty of Mere's lovely church, please make contact.

Elisabeth Barrett ☎: 01747 863324 ✉: elisabeth@hillcrest.me.uk



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER**

IN MERE & DISTRICT

There has been an appeal for a 'Prayer Request Box' to be placed in an easily-accessible place in Mere for use by anyone who would like prayers to be said for themselves or someone they are concerned about. Suggestions about where this might be placed are welcome. In the meantime, prayer requests can be posted by anyone at any time in the Prayer Corner at St Michael's Church. All are welcome to use this quiet space and post a prayer request if wished.

Another quiet and beautiful opportunity for prayer and reflection, with gentle music and singing, will be provided at the Taize-style Service to be held at Zeals Church on Sunday, 24th April at 6:00pm. All are welcome.

Dates for Your Diary

On Sunday, 15th May – Pentecost Sunday – you are invited to bring a picnic and kite-making materials to White Sheet Hill from 12.30pm onwards. We'll be in a field close to the National Trust car park located at BA12 6RP. More details in May Mere Matters.

And even further ahead: Christmas seems (and is) a long way off, but if the Churches Together Christmas Day Lunch is to be held again this year, we need someone to 'mastermind' this popular event. There are plenty of helpers and it is much appreciated by those who come, but someone with good co-ordinating skills is needed as soon as possible. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

THE REV'D GRAHAM PERRYMAN, PRIEST IN CHARGE OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR WRITES:

Dear Friends,

This is the first opportunity I have had to write in this wonderful magazine and a privilege it is to share these few thoughts with you. Jackie and I moved to Zeals in June last year and after a rather rocky start with my health, we are now feeling very settled and glad to be here. I have especially appreciated the fellowship and support of the other ministers in the Churches Together group.

What a joy it is to live in such a beautiful part of God's world. This time of year is particularly stunning as we see new growth all around us. Flowers pushing their way

through the soil, buds emerging on trees, lambs gambolling in the fields, not to mention the beauty of Stourhead.

Not only in nature are new things materialising, but also in churches. New services, courses, study groups, lunches, opportunities to meet and learn together abound. Why not try the Churches Together Taize service in St Martin's Church, Zeals on Sunday, 24th April (see elsewhere in this magazine for further details). Let's make the most of the opportunities God brings our way to learn and grow together.

This is also the time of year in many churches when officers are elected and appointed. How grateful we all are to those who are willing to take on these roles! It is often said that there is a lack of commitment among people today, but in our churchwardens, stewards and other officers we see a level of dedication that is to be admired and appreciated. It is easy to take people for granted and a little thanks can go a long way. So much that is done goes unseen, and we notice only when things go wrong. When the heating isn't working, when the church hasn't been unlocked and when the grass is not cut. But do we show gratitude all those other times when the heating is on, the church is unlocked and the grass has been cut?

St. Paul, in his letter to the church in Colossae (Col 2:7) encourages us to be 'overflowing with thankfulness'. This April, let us express that thankfulness to God, and also to one another, as He builds us together into His dwelling place.

Yours in Christ, Graham

SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

APRIL 2016

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		12.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday	10th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	*17th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	24th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)

**Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service*

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh
	10th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp' s last Holy Communion
	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	24th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	United Service at Gillingham Methodist Church. NO service in Mere
	10th	6.00pm	Mr Brian Collis
	17th	6.00pm	Ms Jennifer Gardner
	24th	6.00pm	United Circuit Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury. NO service in Mere

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

The Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

Mr. Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	3rd	9.30am	Matins
	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	17th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	24th	9.30am	DIY

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

DIARY DATES

April 2016

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	Fri	10.00am	"Open the Book"	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
2	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
4	Mon	10.00am	Zumba Beginners (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	AYP
5	Tue	12.00pm	Community Lunch	The Walnut Tree Inn
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Historical Society AGM	GB
6	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers meeting (every Wednesday)	RMC
7	Thur	10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute Meeting	GB
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
9	Sat	7.00pm	Bowls Club Barn Dance	GB
11	Mon	10.30am	- 1.00pm Dressmaking (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
12	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
13	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.00pm	- 9.30pm Dressmaking (also 20th and 27th)	GB
14	Thur	2.00pm	April Short Walk	CP
		5.00pm	Girlguiding (also 21st & 28th)	GB
15	Fri	7.30pm	Gracenotes Concert	St Michael's Church
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Bingo	GB
16	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC

16	Sat	7.00pm	MTYFC Bingo	L
18	Mon	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 25th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 25th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 25th)	GB
20	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
23	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival club Bingo	L
24	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
28	Thur	7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Brooklyn"	L

STOP PRESS

WEST KNOYLE SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Thanks to very generous donations from a number of individuals in the village, West Knoyle now has access to superfast broadband through Wessex Internet (: wessexinternet.com).

The donations have covered the cost of their 'pole' (transmitter) and up to 4 'omnis' that can bounce the signal to properties not in the line of sight of the pole. It is anticipated that the majority of households will be able to connect to Wessex Internet once they have registered with the company.

The Government and Wiltshire Council have invested with BT to provide rural broadband speeds of up to 2mbps, and BT have said that the two green cabinets (one in East Knoyle and one in Mere) that serve West Knoyle will eventually be upgraded.

Because West Knoyle is too far from the cabinets, there will be little or no benefit as the connection from them will still be old fashioned copper cable and not fibre-optic. Hence our collaboration to purchase the more modern Wessex Internet solution, which will provide a choice of superfast 30 or 50mbps.

Wessex Internet have now been approved by the government department, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), as an alternative provider in Dorset, and I am working hard to ensure that they are also approved in Wiltshire.

When this happens, it will mean that the £350 connection voucher that is available to all households where speeds are less than 2mbps could be used to cover the cost of the connection to Wessex Internet. *Bridget Wayman* ☎: 01747830406

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 Support/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

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 003 4569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

COPY DATE FOR MAY 2016 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the May 2016 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, 18th April 2016.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 11th April 2016 onwards 📧: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

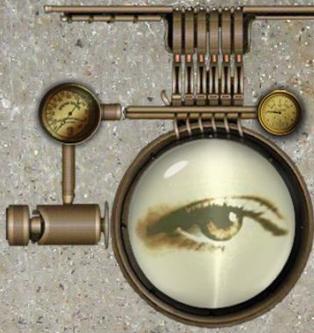
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Mrs Jane Kennedy

📧: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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