

# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle*

*John Armstrong, 2003*

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

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, 5th September 2016.

### **The Chairman writes:**

I am pleased to report that the amended Traffic management and modifications to the yellow lines in Mere has finally been approved by Wiltshire Council. Although a date for the work to be carried out is not known, the works order has been passed to the contractors to programme it into their schedule.

In July I was invited to the Mere Youth Football Club award ceremony and presented the young football players with their well-deserved medals and trophies. Youth football in Mere is thriving. I would like to commend the youth football club committee coaches and volunteers for giving so many young people a chance to play and enjoy football.

The Town Council ground staff are very busy keeping the grass and hedges cut back and the weeds under control. The Town Clerk and I have been inspecting the grounds that Mere Town Council is responsible for to see how we can do more to improve and tidy the areas. I would like to ask that the owners of properties with hedges adjacent to footpaths, pavements and the highway keep them trimmed back.

On Sunday, 10th April the Town Council ran a volunteer-led litter picking event which proved very successful. I was asked by the Volunteers if another litter picking event could be organised for September. If there is anyone or any groups who would like to take part in the September volunteer litter picking event, please contact the Town Clerk. The event will held on a Sunday morning starting at 10.00am and finishing at 12.00 noon. All equipment will be supplied.


We have been notified by Wiltshire Council that from 5th September 2016 all Wiltshire residents who wish to access the Wiltshire Household Recycling Centres in a van or with a large or medium-sized trailer will be required to present a permit at each visit. This free permit entitles each household to a maximum of 12 visits a year. Cars, 4X4s and trailers smaller than 1.8 metres long will not need a permit to visit the sites. These vehicles make up the vast majority of those used by visitors to the sites.

**Independent Experienced Carer CRB NVQ**

A personal service for all your care needs

: 01747 860998

For further information on this please see:  [wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres-permits](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres-permits) or telephone Wiltshire Council on  : 0300 456 0102

Your nearest Wiltshire Household Recycling Centre is in Furnax Lane, Warminster  : 0985 211531 for opening hours.

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 town clerk at  : [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) or  : 01747 860701.

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

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

July and August being the main holiday months, the Council slows down. Regular functions such as development planning and licencing still have to take place. Over the summer months several listed building applications have come to The Southern Area planning committee. These are decided very much on their merits; we allowed a sizable out-of-sight modern extension on one application for one reason to make the building more useable. On another application, although plastic windows on a rare occasion are allowed, we decided not this time.

A documented history of Mere Literary Festival has been requested, the festival now being a significant event in Mere once a year. The project to produce a book illustrating the history of Mere Literary Festival which, as well as raising funds for the local Link Scheme, has contributed to the cultural life of the community over two decades. Just 100 books will be published initially and these will be put on sale and any profit will be given to support the Mere and District Link scheme, which is the main focus of any profit of the Mere Literary Festival. Initially the plan is to launch the book on Sunday, 16th October at the awards ceremony. The Committee will be negotiating with both the library service and museum to promote the book. The South West Area Board on the 27th July kindly awarded a grant to help develop the project.

An area board grant has been given also to 'Our Time Project'. This project to deliver a series of inspiring creative and physically motivating theatre and movement workshops with the elderly communities in rural South West Wilts working around the SENSES, combating loneliness and encouraging group sharing through movement and simple improvisation. Our Time Project Company has particular expertise in working with those with dementia, very frail elders and those who have suffered strokes being highly qualified in mime and theatre. The project will work with Bramley House, Mere; Five Courts, Mere, and others in the area. By working with homes, which are committed and have voiced a need, is sensitively complementing the output in Wiltshire. These are homes which are not part of the sheltered scheme.

Mere pre-school and nursery requested a grant for improvements and was awarded a grant for updating the pre-schools interior, replacing old and dated furniture, replacing existing areas with more appropriate child friendly equipment and making improvements to the general setting. The applicant reports that, as a charity, it works hard to maintain the pre-school and would like the opportunity for this project to be supported in order to improve the setting for future generations.

Help with the Firework Spectacular that Mere put on in June was received from a previous area board grant; we even had people from Tisbury attend. The two central pubs were full to overflowing. The other two, one club and one pub held their normal trade. Eight plus other functions in the area over the two days, helped as a catalyst.

The weather was just right, but we had to delay the display for two minutes when Russia scored in the last minutes of a thrilling game in the European Football Championships. 36 business and private persons finally gave to the Firework fund and 17 marshals came forward including two from the local youth, thanks to the efforts of Jaki Farrell, Service Manager at Seeds4Success, plus Mr and Mrs Collard, who gave £100 for another flag on the hill.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue gave a written report to the Area Board. Up to 20th July, the service attended four road traffic accidents (RTC) on the A303, which involved cutting people out of cars. For the Mere area in June, as an example of activity, the service attended two false alarms, one fire, five other calls and 3 special services.

The next area board meeting will be Wednesday, 5th October 2016.

A traffic management scheme for Mere, which includes extra yellow lines, has finally been approved by Wiltshire Council, but I still do not have a date for when the work will be done. To help the flow of traffic in Salisbury Street, I have managed to help secure traffic cones, which seem to have been well received.

We now have three working SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices). However, please note that they are only switched on for a short time, otherwise they lose their effectiveness. West Knoyle, Mere and Hindon have SIDs at present; one will shortly be moved to Zeals.

The South West Area Board has provided a grant for Seeds4Success to purchase and operate minibuses along with Zeals Youth Trust; this has worked well in the summer for the youth. I have taken a group from Lynch Close out in one of the minibuses on a trip to Stourton and Compton Abbas Airfield, which they all enjoyed as the weather was sunny.

I have said before, we have been fortunate to be offered an increased medical facility in Mere, which is at an advanced stage and now seeking planning permission. The proposal does impact on local parking and I hope the local area will be able to benefit from this enhanced facility, after the concerns have been addressed. I have suggested available land where all the surgery staff could park except the doctors themselves, thereby the

increased footprint of the proposed building should not impact on parking as much, which may address the concerns of many regarding restricted parking, including those who live at a distance from the surgery, including Zeals, Kilmington, West Knoyle and Stourton.

If you visit a Wiltshire recycling centre in future with a van or large trailer with qualifying waste, you will need obtain a permit from Wiltshire Council, which allows for a limited number of visits per year.

My family and forbears have been in Mere for 100 years this year. I see in an old poster for the 18th and 19th October 1916, the “Moonrakers” put on a Programme of Entertainment at The Victoria Hall, Mere, but before anyone enquires, I did not attend!

As a final thought I have learned that a robot, known as Amelia, is to be employed by Enfield Council in London for public services. The artificial intelligence programme will enable the robot to participate in thousands of conversations at once and answer in a human way, and will be used to help residents find information online and fill in forms, guiding users through a chat feature on their computer screen. Any questions Amelia cannot answer will be referred to a human colleague!

The programme, designed by American company IPSoft, has never been used in the British public sector before. It is said to be 60% cheaper than using a human worker, although the council has not divulged how much has been paid for the software.



## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

Community First, Wiltshire’s Rural Community Council, has been successful in leading a partnership, Building Bridges, which has secured £3.9million funding, to help those facing the largest challenges in accessing skills development, training and employment in Swindon and Wiltshire.

The Building Bridges partnership involves 41 organisations from the voluntary, statutory and private sector that have come together to help support those most in need. The £3.9m local funding is part of the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme, which is jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund.

The focus is on supporting those furthest from the labour market in accessing the skills development, education and experience they need to be able to achieve and sustain on-going employment. The programme will work with each person to develop an individual plan to support their aspirations, to be delivered at a pace which suits their needs.

It will run from September 2016 to December 2019 and aims to support 1,827 people, with at least 29% of those moving into education or training, and 21% moving into employment. The target group for the programme will be those who are unemployed or economically

inactive and facing multiple, complex challenges, and will be centred around five core delivery groups:

- Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- Over 50s Unemployed
- Vulnerable Women (including Domestic Abuse)
- Young People – not in employment, education or training (NEET) reduction
- Workless Households and Families

There will also be additional support in a number of key areas, including mental health and wellbeing, volunteering, sponsored employment opportunities, debt and financial advice, financial training, transport, in-work support, employer liaison and childcare advice. In order to fully support participants, a series of programmes and courses will be made available, and help will be tailored to peoples' needs.

Building Bridges aims to give those people the tools they need to be resilient in the work place, ensure they have the skills and qualifications that employers are looking for and address the practical things which are barriers to successfully entering employment, such as lack of transport and self-confidence. As a result, the programme will be working closely with employers in the regions and also other agencies who can help to support people as they make progress.

Community First has brought together an extraordinary partnership of local organisations, including some of the county's major employers, local VCS organisations, learning providers and public bodies, to develop this programme – each dedicated to making a difference in their own way. Working alongside such competent, diverse and capable partners will enable the organisations to effectively tackle these issues more collaboratively.

## **Community First**

Community First is a registered charity and a private company limited by guarantee. With the aim of strengthening communities, encouraging enterprise and tackling the disadvantaged across Wiltshire, it provides technical advice, practical support and grant aid to promote local initiatives. Community First also manages countywide programmes bringing benefits to local people, informing and influencing policy makers in the development of rural policies and practices.

*Dave Potts, Programme Manager, ☎: 01380 732826*

## **NEW RECYCLING CENTRE PERMITS**

Do you take rubbish to a Wiltshire Recycling centre in a van or trailer? If you do, you need to read on, as from Monday, 5th September, Wiltshire residents wishing to take their waste

to any of Wiltshire's household recycling centres (HRCs) in a van or large trailer will have to show a permit – available for free from the council.

The scheme means anyone using the sites to dispose of their household waste in a van, large trailer (between 1.8 and 3 metres long), pick-up truck or similar will need a permit. The permits will allow a maximum of 12 visits per year, and Wiltshire residents can apply for one online at any time.

Anyone using the sites in a car or with a small trailer under 1.8 meters will not need a permit.

Toby Sturgis, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: “We know our HRCs continue to be very popular and these permits will help reduce the traffic queuing, whilst ensuring anyone using commercial vehicles to dispose of their own household waste at our HRCs, can continue to use the sites.”

To register for the permit and for more information people should visit wiltshire Council's website : [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres).

*Steve Harris, Community Engagement Manager* : 01722 434211

# MERE SURGERY

## Seasonal Vaccinations

### Adult Flu Vaccination

**Clinic to be held on Saturday, 8th October 2016  
9 00am to 1.00pm**

#### **Flu vaccination is recommended for the following patients:-**

Patients aged 65 and over

Carers

Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)

#### **Patients aged 6m – 64 years at risk including the following conditions:-**

Diabetes

Asthma (if you are using a steroid inhaler as well as Ventolin or Salbutamol)

Chronic Respiratory Disease

Chronic Heart Disease

Chronic Liver Disease

Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic Neurological Disease

Patients with a low immunity

Morbid Obesity (adults with a BMI more than or equal to 40kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

If you are unsure if you fall into one of these risk categories or not please check at the surgery.

**Please contact the surgery to make your appointment ☎ 01747 860001 or appointments can be booked online.** Please ask for a password at reception if you do not currently have access to this facility.

### Child Flu Vaccination

**Children aged 2,3 and 4 on 31 August 2016 (date of birth 01/09/2011 to 31/08/2014)** are being offered routine vaccination for flu this year. The vaccination is given in the form of a nasal spray and separate clinic times for children have been set up. **Please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your child if you would like them to be vaccinated.**

### Shingles Vaccination

**Patients aged 70 on 31st August 2016 (date of birth 2/9/1945 to 1/09/1946) or aged 78 on 31st August 2016 (date of birth 02/09/1937 to 01/09/1938)** should also be vaccinated against Shingles. **Appointments can be booked through the surgery, please make an appointment at Reception.** If you were recalled for a shingles vaccination last year but



have not yet had it, you can still attend for an appointment up until your 80th birthday. Patients outside of these age groups will be called for vaccination at a later date.

### **MenACWY Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)**

Patients aged 18 on 31/8/2016 (date of birth 01/9/1997 to 31/08/1998) and patients aged 19 years on the 31/8/2016 up to the age of 25 years on 31/3/2017 (date of birth 01/4/1991 to 31/8/1997). Vaccinations are recommended for any patient within one of these age groups, **please contact Reception for an appointment.**

*Michele Mason, Practice Manager, Mere Surgery ☎: 01747 860001*

## **MORE NEWS FROM MERE SURGERY**

### **Urgent Co-operation would be appreciated in Salisbury Street Car Park**

Please note that the Breast Screening Unit will be visiting Mere from Monday, 5th September through to Thursday, 6th October 2016, and this is to advise anyone who leaves their vehicle in the spaces nearest the surgery (recycling area) that these bays will need to be vacated in order for the Breast Screening Unit to be able to park during this period and provide this service to patients. Notices have been placed on vehicles but if you know anyone who may leave their vehicles along this section of the car park, please let them know.

### **Thursday, 22nd September 2016**

Please be advised that the surgery will be closed due to Staff Training on Thursday, 22nd September 2016 in the morning and re-opening at 2.00pm. During the morning a Duty Doctor Triage telephone session has been set up for calls to be taken at Silton surgery. If you would like the Duty Doctor on this date to give you a call, please telephone **01747 840226**. After speaking to the Duty Doctor based at Silton, you will be offered an appointment at Silton or an appointment at Mere Surgery after 2.00pm.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

### **Duty Doctor Triage times**

Please note the Duty Doctor Triage sessions are:

**08.30 – 09.30am and 1.30 – 2.30pm**

Patients calling after 2.30pm will be asked to telephone the surgery the following day.

### **Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

If you are interested in becoming involved with Mere Surgery's Patient Participation Group please come along to the surgery on Thursday, 27th October at 4.30pm, where you can find out more about it and meet other members of the group.

*Michele Mason, Practice Manager, Mere Surgery ☎: 01747 860001*



## **Mere Dental Practice**

*Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, and Christopher Davies.*

*Therapists Wendy Hester and Jay Lonsdale.*

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

*✉: [meredental16@btconnect.com](mailto:meredental16@btconnect.com), 🌐: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://meredentistry.co.uk),*

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

*Friday 8.45am -5.00pm*



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

## **MERE DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS**

Following change of ownership, Waheed Syed and Jyothsna (Jo) Mekala, husband and wife Dentist team, extend a very warm welcome to patients, and are pleased to be offering the highest level of dental care.

Waheed and Jo qualified from Rajiv Gandhi University, India, relocating to England in 2005/2006, both have enjoyed practicing within the NHS and in private dentistry. Waheed and Jo have two lovely children Neha and Eshan

Waheed qualified in 2001 and has 15 years of experience in general dentistry. Waheed offers patient care of the highest standard and endeavours to give you a healthy and confident smile. He builds long lasting dental relationships and is both passionate and dedicated to helping you achieve your goal.

### **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**

Waheed also had been placing dental implants and is currently studying towards an MSc in Implantology. In his leisure time he loves photography and travelling.

Jo also continued her education and gained her diploma in post-graduation studies (D.P.D.S) in 2014 from Bristol University.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

*Jyothsna Mekala and Waheed Syed* 📞: 01747860365

# CARNIVAL 2016

## Programme of events for Mere Carnival 2016

### Friday 9th September - CARNIVAL BINGO

Grove Building 7.00 for Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Variety of prizes with a £50.00 cash prize special - Raffle - Refreshments

### Saturday 17th September Carnival Day

#### Childrens Fancy Dress Procession

Assemble at Mere School (Old Duchy Manor School Grounds) at 2.15pm for judging at 2.30pm. Participants in Fancy dress will only be judged for awards

Procession with Carnival Royals and Gillingham Silver Band will depart for The Square at 3.30pm. Candy Floss on the triangle (opposite the Post Office) immediately after the Children's parade.

There will be live music, bar, a hog roast (kindly provided by Andrew Barclay) on the triangle (opposite the Post Office) from 4.00pm onwards with Burger van and various entertainments.

#### Grand Evening Procession

Assembles in White Road and moves off at 7.30pm led by Gillingham Silver band and the Mere Carnival Royals

### Thursday 15th September CARNIVAL FILM NIGHT

Lecture Hall at 7.30pm. "Golden Years" For full details see page 28

### Monday 19th September GRAND CARNIVAL DRAW

Draw to take place in the Walnut Tree Inn at 8.00pm.

### Wednesday 21st September CARNIVAL QUIZ

Grove Building 7.30pm start, with raffle and Refreshments Teams of 4 £2.00 per person.

### Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th COLES FUNFAIR

at Gillingham Corner

**COME AND SUPPORT OUR CARNIVAL EVENTS AND ENJOY THE FUN OF MERE CARNIVAL**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR CARNIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE AROUND THE TOWN**

**ENTRY FORMS FOR THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING CARNIVAL CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MERE POST OFFICE**

*Penny Allen, Carnival Secretary ☎: 01747 860721*

 *pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk*

## **CHARLIE BARRETT**

I should like to say thank you for the many loving messages of support and comfort I have received from all friends and neighbours (old AND new) on the death of my dear Charlie.

*Barbara Bourne* ☎: 01747 863411

## **LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL**

**10th - 16th OCTOBER**

### **CELEBRATING THE 20th ANNIVERSARY**

Next month the LinkScheme celebrates 20 years of its fund-raising literary festival. Money raised by this event over two decades has enabled the Link to provide a continuous service to Mere and District - majoring on journeys for medical needs.

The trustees hope residents will feel this is something to celebrate and will support events in this year's festival.

The festival's first flyers are now in circulation and the detailed programme comes out in early September. It will be delivered where possible, but will also be available in the Library and usual outlets, or by logging onto 🌐: [tomerelifest.co.uk](http://tomerelifest.co.uk)

The programme includes details of Write-in-the-Week, a fun competition everyone can enter. The results will be announced at the Award Ceremony and Anniversary Celebrations on Sunday, 16th October with guest authors, the launch of Merely A Festival, a look-back on MLF's twenty years, and a celebratory cake!

A number of this years' talks have a 'local touch' and organisations are also invited to join in a festival community event, "Anniversary Afternoon", celebrating Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte and Beatrix Potter, who all have anniversaries this year. Contact the library or myself if you haven't received details, but would like to take part.

Festival tickets are now on sale in the Library, by post with the booking form or by phoning me. *Adrienne Howell & Lit.Fest.Group* ☎: 01747 860475



## MERE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



**Summer always sees a slowdown  
in Chamber activities but planning  
for later in the year is in progress.  
Automatic Enrolment for Pensions**

As you may now be aware, Under the Pensions Act 2008, every Employer in the UK will be required to put certain staff into a pension scheme and contribute towards it. This is called 'Automatic Enrolment'.

The Chamber has arranged for a Guest Speaker from Work Place Advice Group to come along and speak to local businesses on What Pensions Auto Enrolment means; how to comply; and some of the costs involved.

The date for the presentation is Wednesday, 28th September 2016 at 7.00 pm at The Grove Building in Mere. Please take this opportunity to come along and find out more about what this will mean for your business.

### **Safe Places**

As part of our activities to support the community, we shall be arranging a meeting to bring together as many organisations as possible who are concerned with people who may become confused, upset, or are vulnerable. A scheme is being introduced in Wiltshire to develop a number of "Safe Places" in communities. This has been piloted successfully in Salisbury and Devizes and is now being rolled out throughout the County. Funding has been received from Wiltshire Police and Crime commissioner. The intention is that Safe Place stickers will be placed prominently in the window of any business or service which agrees to take on this role. A confused person will be able to recognize the symbol and know they can be safe and receive assistance to return to their own home or relations. A plastic card will be available for people who have this disability. This will have their name and the contact details of a responsible person and any other information which will help to keep them safe. Details will be published later.

### **Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, 14th September, 7.30pm at Mere Social club

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 ☎: 07856 700 576.

Our e-mail is ✉: [merechamber@outlook.com](mailto:merechamber@outlook.com)

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

## MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

**A big thank you from all the members of the club, to those people that helped and supported our exhibition over the third weekend in June.**

This year we managed to increase the attendance by nearly 30%. Unfortunately your local councillor was verbally abused by a couple of male drivers who were obviously a legacy of the 1992 Child Act. Perhaps they did not understand that with Yapp's Tasting Day on the Saturday, the preponderance of traffic in Salisbury Street generated by 500 visitors to Mere enjoying either this function, or our exhibition meant car parking was at a premium. The solution appears to indicate that traffic lights affording a switching single directional use are needed in Salisbury Street if the town continues to hold these events.

As the business argument that the Railway Modellers presented to the then Parish Council stated that we would endeavour to promote a railway exhibition which could attract up to a 1,000 visitors, it is maybe time for the Town Councillors to consider alternative parking arrangements for visitors, as even with double yellow lines installed, we have had permission and guidance from Salisbury to the effect that we can off-load all items required to run this show at all times.

For Railway Enthusiasts we hope to run a day of visits to PENDON and DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE on Monday, 10th October, starting from Mere at 8.00am. This outing is open to the community and should we achieve suitable numbers a coach will be hired.

CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY & SALE on Saturday, 10th December, from 10.00am -3.00pm in the Clubhouse in Castle Street Car Park.

The 2017 RAILWAY MODELLER'S EXHIBITION dates are 17th and 18th JUNE in the Lecture halls.

The club continues to model in the common gauges of O, OO, & N. New layouts are being constructed and the two former gauges are well supported. We would like to see a few more N gauge modellers, together with some middle aged and younger members so that the clubs legacy is ensured.

Our club in Castle Street Car Park opens from 7.00-9.00pm on Wednesday evenings. Should this be inconvenient for anybody who wishes to have a look around, before thinking of joining, then please contact the author, Tom Snook on the telephone number below.

*Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977*

# A FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN MERE

June 2017

It's never too early to make a note of big events happening in your area and none will be more significant in next year's local calendar than the "**Flower and Music Festival: Celebrating Our Community**" due to be held from **Friday, 9th to Sunday, 11th June 2017**.



As the name suggests – there will be a big Flower Festival in St Michael's Church depicting the varied clubs and organisations that are active in the town, as well as showcasing the talents of many in arranging flowers to represent some of the businesses of Mere (have you ever seen a trout or a brush in a flower arrangement?!).



However, it won't be just about the flowers – there are other events planned concurrently which promise to make this a weekend NOT to be missed. While still in the relatively early stages of organisation, there are already scheduled to be a variety of concerts and performances to suit all tastes.

Look out for further details in later issues of Mere Matters and, nearer the time, posters around the town. In the meantime, make a note somewhere so as not to forget the dates: **9th to 11th June 2017**. Why not take the opportunity to invite friends and family to stay with you for what promises to be a fantastic weekend in Mere?

*Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Maggie and Yvonne (The Committee)* ☎: 01747 863324

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

The first Community Lunch of the season is always part of The Mere Literary Festival and will be held on Tuesday, 11th October 2016 at The George Inn, Market Square, Mere (☎: 01747 860427), 12 noon for 12.30pm. During coffee, Chris Gough will be talking about his novel, "Louisa's Secret", based on his ancestors who lived in Mere and East Knoyle in the 1860s. Space is limited, so please book well in advance. The delicious two course set meal is £9.95. drinks not included. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Community Lunch will continue on the first Tuesday of the month, up to Easter, excluding December, when we are too busy partying! The venue alternates between The George Inn and the Walnut Tree Inn (☎: 01747 861220) on the Shaftesbury Road, Mere. If you are new to the area, on your own or just curious, come and join us. Look for further details in Mere Matters or ring me.

*Lindy Elliott* ☎: 01747 861646



## TRUSSELL TRUST SHOE BOXES

Although it is now well into summer, I hope that you will forgive me for mentioning Christmas shoe boxes to go to the Balkans in November.

With the Autumn Bazaars coming up and return to school shopping about to take place, perhaps you would like to buy a few extra things to go into a shoe box for a child or adult living in extreme poverty who would otherwise never receive any gifts at all this year. These gift boxes give such immense pleasure and joy and I do hope that you will fill one (or more!) this year to be transported and hand delivered to rural schools, orphanages, Roma communities and refugee centres.

They will be collected in late November to begin their long journey, so please contact me if you have any queries.

*Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712*



## TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 21st September 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, 19th September, please.

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

*Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524*

## FREE HELP IN THE DIGITAL JUNGLE

Having trouble getting on line? Does your your email sometimes e-fail? Is your web surfing ending up as web cursing? Mere's "digital champions" are ready to help you get the most out of your desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone.

Recruited, vetted and trained by Wiltshire Council, these volunteers provide free help on the basics of the devices. You can meet them in person at two different places in Mere each month: the first Tuesday (September 6th this month) at Mere Library from 2.00 - 4.00pm, and at the Angel Tea Rooms on the third Wednesday (21st September) from 3.00 - 4.30pm. No booking is needed - just drop in for help.

You can also book a help session by phone on 0300 456 0100 or - if your emailing isn't e-failing - by e-mail ✉: [digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk), giving your contact details, and you'll be put in touch with a local digital champion.

*Steve Hoffman, Wiltshire Online, ☎: 0300 456 0100*

# MERE GARDENING CLUB

## Annual Show

**Saturday, 3rd September, Lecture Hall from 3:00pm**

Don't miss the fun! Just 50p including tea and biscuits. Don't forget that everyone is welcome to take part and it is not too late to enter! Schedules are available from Sprout and Flower including entry forms for the Family Groups category.

Entries are accepted up to 8:00pm on Wednesday, 31st August at Wits End, North Road. Let's make this the biggest and best Show ever!

## Yeovil in Bloom

Talk by Steve Fox,

Wednesday, 14th September at 7:30pm, Grove Building

Last year, for the seventh time, Yeovil in Bloom has been awarded Gold at the South West in Bloom competition presentation. Steve is South Somerset District Council's Principal Horticultural Officer, and will talk about what is involved. £2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Have you thought about joining our club? Membership is Half Price for the 2nd part of the year and includes 10% discount at Plant World, a Social Quiz evening and 4 speakers!

*Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER 2016 ISSUE  
MONDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 2016**

## SEPTEMBER SHORT WALK

Join me for a 2-3 mile walk around the paths of Mere on Thursday, 22nd September with tea in the Angel Cafe afterwards. Meet in the Car Park by the Surgery at 2.00pm.

*Janet Way* ☎: 01747 860884

## MERE CANCER RESEARCH UK

July was a busy month for us and thank you to everyone who came and supported us! The Coffee morning at Dewes House raised a very 'tasty' £303. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Sainthill for letting us use their magnificent gardens. The Warminster Military Wives Choir were a great hit and raised a very 'tuneful' £1,054 for both Mere Cancer Research and St Michaels Church and, yes, they will be back next year!

We are delighted to have something different for you all coming up, the 'Grand Mere Treasure Hunt'. This is a foot treasure hunt around the village and is suitable for all the family to take part in and discover the hidden gems of our lovely Town. The entrance form and clues are available now and need to be back by Sunday, 11th September for validation and the prizes are as follows: 1st £20, 2nd £15 and 3rd £10. Forms are £2 each and available from both Sprout & Flower and The George Inn. A big thank you to Tony and Angela McDonald for compiling and verifying the competition. Hope you enjoy it and discover some delights of the Town!

### **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday, 8th October Autumn Bazaar in the Lecture Hall.

Friday, 2nd December Christmas Market.

Once again Thank you to everyone who helps supports and donates to our cause. Together we will Beat Cancer Sooner.

*Penny Fennon, Press Officer* ☎: 07833 131712

## GILLINGHAM SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE

During the summer term Year 10 pupils from Gillingham School go on a two week Work Experience placement and the staff at school are very grateful to the businesses of Mere who have hosted a student this July. Cassie – Marie wants to go into Hairdressing and spent an enjoyable two weeks at Lou's It.....

'At the beginning of July I spent two weeks on Work Experience at Lou's It in Mere. I helped with all sorts of jobs from hair washing to sweeping the floor. I wasn't allowed to cut anyone's hair though! I got on well with all of the staff and enjoyed chatting to the customers. In fact I did so well there, that they offered me a Saturday job so that I can get lots of experience in Hairdressing before I apply for a college course after my GCSE exams. Thank you to all the staff at Lou's It.'

*Cassie –Marie Young*

*Maggie Durkee, ☎: 01747 860163*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

Oh dear, it's autumn again! But the good news is there's lots of interesting theatre around: thrillers; comedy; drama; and music - hopefully something for all tastes. If you fancy some theatrical outings in congenial company this winter, do join us by contacting either Wendy or Madelaine, details below.

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

## MERE FILM SHOWS

Our new season of films begins on Thursday **15th September** with a comedy for Carnival Week, 'Golden Years' (12A). Arthur and Martha Goode are facing financial trouble; the price of Martha's medicine dramatically increases and then they discover Arthur's former employers have gone bust and his pension is lost. Refusing to accept all this lying down they decide to fight back and take back what was theirs in the first place.

They decide to start robbing banks! Together they embark on a spree of bank hold-ups, combining this activity with a touring holiday of National Trust stately homes. But when their local bowls club is threatened, it is going to take more money than just the two of them can steal to save it – it's time to call in their friends! For details see page 28.

Golden Years is a well-crafted treat, a careful mix of drama and old fashioned fun with a great cast from the past and present, one of those little gems of British film.

### Dates for the Diary:

Thursday **13th October**. (Literary Festival): 'Florence Foster Jenkins'; Meryl Street, Hugh Grant. Friday **4th November**: 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', Jeremy Irons

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257



## MERE MUSEUM

A lot has been happening at the Museum over the summer! There is now a new slide show display in the clock tower about the silk industry in Mere. It's based, of course, on the current Museum exhibition 'The Silk Road to Mere' which has attracted so many favourable comments in the visitors' Book. This exhibition however comes to an end on Friday, 16th September, but there's just time to have a look if you haven't yet seen it. You can also have a go at a quick quiz about the silk exhibition which has recently been installed on the touch screen!

A new exhibition, called 'The King's Arms' will open to the public on Tuesday, 20th September. This will be about the painted coat of arms of James II (dated 1684) which hangs in the Parish Church and which The Friends of St. Michael's have recently had

conserved. The exhibition will tell you all you want to know about royal coats of arms in churches, about our particular coat of arms, its pre-conservation state and the work that has now been carried out to bring the painting back to the best possible condition for its age (330 years!). We hope everyone will enjoy it.

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## **FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM**

The Friends' Preview of the new exhibition 'The King's Arms' (see Museum notice) will be on Monday evening, 19th **September** at 6.30pm.

Previews provide a perfect opportunity for people wishing to become a Friend (or wondering whether to become a Friend!) to join this enthusiastic and convivial group, and to meet some of them! You get a free glass of wine too!

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)**

Well, we've done it. We've read umpteen plays, discussed them, tried them out, cast them and we've and come to a decision. Our Autumn Production is to be 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' - a comedy, based on a story by Oscar Wilde, set at the turn of the last century in a very posh apartment in Grosvenor Square.

Rehearsals will have started by the time you are reading this notice. Production dates are also set: Thursday - Saturday, 24th - 26th November at 7:30pm in the Lecture Hall. Note them in your diaries now - we'll let you know the minute tickets are on sale.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*



**Mere Historical Society**

**Visit Four**

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

## **Bletchley Park**

For those whom have booked a place on this visit, **we will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 8 00am and return around 8.30pm.**

*If you have any queries please ring Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Evening and morning talks resume in October with:**

### **‘Verwood industry and life’**

**by Pam Reeks**

**Grove Building,**

**Tuesday, 4th October at 7.30pm**

Pam has lived in Verwood since she was 12 years old. She wrote her first thesis on its history in 1968. Her researches have unearthed a fascinating story.

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

*Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797*



## MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Thank you to all those of you who made purchases from our produce stall at the Clock Tower on Saturday, 30th July. It was a big success and raised funds to enable us to invite more interesting speakers for our 2016/17 programme.

Our August Meeting was an afternoon garden party at a members' house. Sadly the weather made it an indoor party but it was still much enjoyed by those who attended, particularly the garden quiz, best garden hat competition and the homemade sandwiches and cakes.

Our next meeting is Thursday, 1st September at 7:30pm in the Grove Building. Our speaker Stephen Wells, a Member of Actor's Equity and of the Magic Circle, will talk on the History of the Magic Circle and include some baffling magic. Visitors are welcome to come and join us for the evening and to enter our competition, 'finish the limerick'.

Looking ahead, on Thursday, 3rd November at 7:30pm in the Grove Building, our talk will be on the Conservation of the Langford Lakes, a local conservation bird sanctuary.

*Hilary Gladding (President) ☎: 01747 861733*



## MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our MU Big Summer Appeal cake stall in the Square at the beginning of August sold out in no time and made £84.50 towards MU projects to support families in UK and abroad, especially those needing help with literacy and survivors of gender-based violence. Many thanks to all who brought or bought cakes to support this cause.

Our September meeting in the Grove Building at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 13th September promises to be a lively one, as we will be entertained by our own Lindy Elliott reminiscing about her time in the Navy, with the title 'Life on the Ocean Wave'. All are welcome to join us.

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

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our September courses are always popular as the new academic year starts again so do our courses, one commencing on Monday, 12th and Wednesday 14th September and the next two six week courses commencing on Monday, 31st October and Wednesday, 2nd November.

We are, as ever, very popular and have a waiting list, from which we are able to take new people, so it is always worth getting in touch with us to see if there is space.

We were delighted, with the Ball Gown made for a wonderful summer function and so many dresses and skirts. Our newest dressmaker made her first skirt beautifully in her first ever six week course and then started on some trousers, well done Wendy! A newcomer to Mere and to our course.

If you would like to look at some of our achievements then our Facebook Page named "Dressmaking in Mere" has all our details, times etc. or contact us on the numbers below.

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or 📠: 07950 790889

Susanne "The Sewing Lady" 📠: 07788 595434

## SPECTRA MUSICA

Spectra Musica, in which several Mere residents sing, will begin its eleventh season on Tuesday, 6th September when rehearsals start at the Methodist Church, Wincanton, for the next concert on Saturday, 19th November in the Parish Church in Somerton. If you are interested in joining this lively chamber group, which sings a huge range of music under its very enthusiastic Musical Director Peter Leech, then contact Sally Greenhalgh on the number below to arrange an audition. Tenors and basses are particularly welcome.

If you would rather just listen then come to Somerton in November. More details to follow, look at the website 🌐: [www.spectramusica.co.uk](http://www.spectramusica.co.uk) or contact me.

Sally Greenhalgh ☎: 01749 860457

## GROVE BUILDING "100 CLUB"

The result of the '100' Club Draw for July 2016, drawn on Friday, 1st July by Louise Strong of Lou's, was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 167	Nigel Baird
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 102	J Eggleton
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 194	Michael Lucock
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 183	Pat Fen

The result of the '100' Club Draw for August 2016, drawn on Tuesday, 2nd August by Kirstie Drew (Walnut Tree Inn), was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 72	C Stallard
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 155	Lesley Traves
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 144	Mrs D Clark
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 161	Mrs G Garbutt

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



# **A Grand Concert for Flute, Trumpet, Organ and Piano**



**St Michael's Church, Mere**

**Saturday 3rd September**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

In aid of

**Rosemary Goddard Centre**

The Mere and District Day Centre for Older People

**Free entrance – retiring collection**

**Music played by Peter Mason, James Scott,  
Annabel Cook (Flute) and Henry Spencer  
(Trumpet)**

Bar from 7.00pm and during interval

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

# 'GOLDEN YEARS'

(12A)

**Simon Callow Virginia McKenna**  
**Bernard Hill Alun Armstrong Una Stubbs**  
**Sue Johnston Brad Moore**

Fate, the pensions crisis and a refusal to accept the injustice of old age force Arthur and Martha Goode, a law-abiding retired couple, into a new career..... as bank robbers!

**In The Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday 15th 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](http://www.moviola.org)*

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

On the last Saturday in July we held our Club 2-Wood pairs competition with Don Butchers and John FitzGerald coming out victors over David Anley and John Marks. A great days bowling was had by all, especially David as he only joined the Club this year and was part of the three who won the club triples competition back in May.

It just goes to show that this is a sport for all and that you can get up to a reasonable standard in no time.

We fixed our Singles Finals Date without first checking other items in the diary, guess what? A clash with the booking of the pavilion by Mere Carnival. So our finals for 2016 will be held at the Green on Sunday, 18th September, this should see a wonderful display of bowling by the best bowlers in the Club. This event is open to all members and their guests, the normal facilities will be available.

Finally I would like to advise all our readers that the three ladies involved in the car accident on their way back from a match at Wimborne are doing well, and should be back on the green in no time, they are Karen Guy, Mary Hooper and Sandy Fingerhut – get well soon ladies, we miss you!

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎: 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers on the number below, or by ✉: [Don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:Don.butchers@btinternet.com).

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

## MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

It has been a good season for us in spite of the often questionable weather. Attendances have been good and we have been able to welcome some new members.

The Boule players have had a busy time with a number of both home and away games. They were not too pleased with their number of winning matches, but in spite of that had a thoroughly enjoyable time, and that is really what it should all be about after all.

On Sunday, 25th September from 12:00 noon, we will be holding an “End of Season Open Day BBQ”, everyone is welcome. Entry will be £5 per person, which includes the first glass of wine and all food plus a chance to try Boule or Croquet, maybe both, as well as some excellent company. There will be a Raffle.

If you would like to be with us, please give a call ☎: 01747 860873 or ☎: 01747 860308. You are guaranteed a warm welcome. *Rex Roberts ☎: 01747 860873*

## CHANGES AT MERE CHILDRENS CENTRE

Spurgeons children’s charity is excited and proud to be taking over the Children’s Centre in the heart of your community in Mere.

## **Who are Spurgeons, and what do we stand for?**

Our vision is to see all children and young people equipped, empowered and inspired in ways that enable them to realise the fullness of their potential. Inspired by the Christian faith, our mission is to provide support for children, young people and families who are experiencing difficulties or challenges, so that they can have a better present and a more hopeful future. We currently deliver more than 81 high-quality services to find long-lasting solutions to the challenges faced by many across the UK – including poverty, abuse problems, offending, and other social issues.

## **We are compassionate, inclusive and hopeful**

We demonstrate care and commitment in all our relationships, even when that means making tough choices and going the extra mile.

We recognise each person as a unique individual, treating them with respect and celebrating our diversity.

We believe that positive change is possible for all people, so we maintain a hopeful attitude and do not easily give up.

We were awarded the contract by Wiltshire council on 1st July to facilitate services in the South, East and West of Wiltshire and have worked hard to revamp your local Children's Centre in Mere. The team look forward to welcoming you all into the NEW LOOK services and getting to know you all by integrating into the community.

Mere Children's Centre is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday, so be sure to pop in and say 'hello', as a warm welcome awaits you.

## **Current services at Mere Children's Centre**

Monday 10.00 -11.30am 'Mum to Mum Breastfeeding' group

Wednesday 9.30 – 11.00am 'Little Learners' (term time only)

Please feel free to pop in and book a time to play in the sensory room whenever the centre is open.

## **For more information visit:**

- [spurgeons.org](http://spurgeons.org)
- [facebook.com/spurgeons](https://facebook.com/spurgeons)
- [twitter.com/spurgeons](https://twitter.com/spurgeons)
- [youtube.com/spurgeons](https://youtube.com/spurgeons)

*Joylindsey Mahoney, Senior Practitioner, ☎: 01722 323208*

# SEEDS4SUCCESS

## Activities of our local youth charity

***Not all young people spend their summer holiday peering at their smartphones and tablets!***

Fourteen of them on our National Citizens Service (NCS) team, as well as an additional young person as a peer leader, have been busy on a Social Action Project. The team spent five days in Pembrokeshire on a Team Building Residential course, followed by a second residential spell based in Wiltshire taking part in various skill development and training courses. Participants have gained a Level 2 Certificate in Food Safety, and qualified in First Aid and sports leadership (Go Lead). They are currently working towards further Leadership and Volunteering Awards.

For their Social Action Project they have been running a Junior Leisure Credits project. This involved them organising a work day for children aged 9-12 where they cleared weeds from around the Church in Mere, and pulled out Ragwort on Mere Down. In return for their efforts the juniors are attending an Outdoor Activities day at Brokerswood Country Park. The NCS team have organised and will be leading this (with qualified support from staff from Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team – WOLT). They have also done a day's volunteering at an old people's home talking to residents and playing games with them as well as spending a further day working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, pulling Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the River Nadder. Their Graduation event will have taken place at Mere Youth Centre, unfortunately, by the time you read this, but we hope that friends and supporters will have been there to acknowledge the efforts of these young people.

The Leisure Credits group are only in their second week but have already supported activities at Hindon Flower Show and cleared some footpaths in Wilton. They have also worked with Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way team to clear brambles, nettles and overhanging branches from footpaths on the far side of the river in Mere along Burton Path. Digging out a path so that gravel can be laid down to make a circular accessible route involved some energetic work!.

A footpath at West Knoyle, which turns into a bog for most of the year, has been cleared and a drainage pipe installed, which it is hoped will eliminate flooding in future.

With a little direction and encouragement, it shows that a whole series of worthwhile projects can be undertaken by young people, while learning new skills and how to cooperatively make a difference to their local environment - and more projects are still to come in the rest of the summer!

Once again, our thanks are due to all the trustees, staff volunteers, and members of the local community. Without their dedication and the enthusiasm of the young people involved, very little of this would be possible. If you have a specific skill or area of expertise

that you feel you could offer, or just want to help by supporting the committee, or even becoming a trustee, we would love to hear from you.

*Jaki Farrell, Service Manager, Seeds4Success* ☎: 07585723824  
or ✉: [jaki@seeds4success.org.uk](mailto:jaki@seeds4success.org.uk)



### **ONE WORLD FAIR**


We are already almost fully booked up with an an interesting variety of stalls for the Churches-Together-supported 'One World Fair' which, this year, will be held at Stourton Village Hall, at Stourhead, from 1.00-4.00pm on Thursday, 27th October (Half-Term Week).

Please make sure you have that date in your diary, and also 7.30pm on Tuesday, 25th October for 'Football in the Olive Grove': a video and talk given by young people from Bristol who go to Palestine each year to help with the Olive harvest and play football. Full details of both events in October Mere Matters.

## **URGENTLY NEEDED FOR MERE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH!.....**

It seems early, but if this year's Christmas Day Lunch is to go ahead (and we've already had several requests) we need to find an overall organiser for the event by the end of September. If you have good basic organising and delegating skills (there are LOTS of willing helpers) please don't be shy about offering to take on this role. Without you, there may be no lunch provided this year for those on their own and families otherwise unable to celebrate at Christmas.

Please offer your services if you possibly can by phoning either number below, or by

 Making it happen will be your rich reward!

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎: 01747 8608840)*  
*Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*

## **MRS JANE HURD, MERE BASED LICENSED LAY-MINISTER IN THE HEYTESBURY DEANERY, WRITES:**

September is a month of thanksgiving. Maybe you are just grateful that your children have gone back to school after the long summer holiday, or perhaps you are looking back on a special trip away or time spent catching up with friends and families.

September is also the beginning of the Harvest Festival season, when we thank God for all God's gifts to us. We may no longer take produce such as apples, marrows or carrots to school or church but we offer non-perishable goods to our local Foodbank in a gesture of solidarity to those who are struggling to feed their families.

We are fortunate here in Mere that we are surrounded by farmland and our church services still reflect this. In January we held Plough Sunday at a local pub, complete with a plough parked outside the door, and we asked for God's blessing on the farmers' year. In early summer we celebrated Rogation Sunday at a farm, asking God to bless the growing crops, the animals, birds and fishes. And now it is the time for harvest when we thank God for God's bountiful goodness.

Of course, some years the harvest is not as good as we would wish, owing to the vagaries of our weather and we may be tempted to ask why God 'allows' this to happen. But God is not an interventionist, controlling creation and humans as if we are puppets. God has given us the wonderful gift of free will and with that comes our responsibilities to each other.

Fortunately for us, St. Paul tells us that Jesus, God's greatest gift to the world, is the same yesterday and today and for ever (Hebrews 13: 8) and is always with us, there to support us and be with us on our journey through life. Unlike our weather, Jesus never lets us down.

To remind you of the words of that much-loved Harvest Festival hymn:

All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
for all his love.

and it is perhaps for God's unfailing love for us all that we should be thankful this Harvest Festival time, as we reap the rewards of that that great love.

## THE BELLS!

The sound of bells will be ringing out over Mere in September. On the first day of the month Phillip Coward, not our Phillip Coward, but a distant cousin from Titherington in Gloucestershire will be joining a group of friends to celebrate his birthday with a Quarter Peal, (he didn't say which birthday?). They should be starting their 45 minute ring at about 11:00am.

He has fond connections with Mere as his Great Grandfather was born in Mere and another relation Brian Coward will be joining the team of ringers. All 8 bells will be rung.

On Wednesday, 7th September at 7:30pm, we have our monthly practice night. Listen out as ringers try to get to grips with 'Plain Hunting' and 'Grandsire Bob'.

On Saturday, 10th September there will be a veritable feast of ringing with our team ringing for a wedding at 11:30am and later that afternoon at 4:00pm a visiting team will be ringing another Quarter Peal. Ringing for 45 minutes without a rest is something to be admired by someone who can barely ring for 10 minutes without trouble!!

Bells will be rung for morning service at 10:00am on 11th September and 25th. Enjoy!

*Maggie Durkee. Mere Tower Correspondent, ☎: 01747 860163*

## NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS CHURCH

### Back to Church Sundays

Did you go to Church when you were younger? Did you mean to go along to Church but never quite got round to it? Would you like to try again?

Why not join us on our Back to Church Sundays going ahead on: 18th September, 2nd and 23rd October and 13th and 27th November.

### Come and meet our new Church organist

On Sunday, 11th September 2016, our new church organist, James Scott, is putting together a programme of fun and exciting works to play at 2.30pm on both of our gorgeous organs! It's the ideal opportunity to make the most of a Sunday afternoon. Light refreshments will be available.





James has appeared as a recitalist at Coventry, Bristol, Blackburn, Birmingham and Portsmouth Cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, Bath abbey and Great Malvern Priory.

Admission to this concert is free, however a collection will be made towards a local charity  
*Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary, ☎: 01747 861319*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE SEPTEMBER 2016

**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**

**Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎: 01747 861646**

**PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎: 01747 861319**

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

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		12.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker normally has a rest day on a Friday
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	18th	10.30am	"back to Church" Sunday Service of the word. Bring a Friend.
	25th	10.30am	Patronal Festival, Holy Communion

**The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	25th	6.00pm	United Harvest Festival Service at the Methodist Church and Supper

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

Sunday	4th	10.30am	No Service in Mere (10.30am Service at Gillingham Methodist Church)
--------	-----	---------	---

Sunday	11th	6.00pm	Evening Worship, Mr Colin Besant
	18th	10.30am	No Service in Mere (10.30am Service at Gillingham Methodist Church)
	25th	6.00pm	Harvest Festival. United Service with URC, led by Rev'd Paul Arnold

### 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: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859**

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

**Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534**

**Mr. Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263**

Sunday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	11th	9.30am	DIY
	18th	9.30am	Matins
	25th		NO service in West Knoyle. 10.30 am Patronal Festival at St Michaels Church, Mere

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

## DIARY DATES

### SEPTEMBER 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	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	7.30pm
2	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (every Friday)	GB
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, & 24th)	CC
		3.00pm	Gardening Club Annual show	L
		7.30pm	Rosemary Goddard Centre Concert	St Michaels

5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Zumba first level (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Water Colour course (small hall every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tue	2.00pm	- 4.00pm On Line Drop-in Session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
8	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Bingo Ryes Down	GB
<b>10</b>	<b>Sat</b>		<b>HERE CARNIVAL DAY</b> (see page 13)	
		7.00pm	Oasis Club Bingo	L
11	Sun	2.30pm	Meet the new Organist (concert)	St Michaels
12	Mon	10.30am	Dressmaking (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 27th)	MH
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
14	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.00pm	Dressmaking (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
15	Thur	7.30pm	Carnival Film Night "Golden Years"	L
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
18	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Walking Group	CP
19	Mon	8.00pm	Grand Carnival Draw	Walnut Tree Inn
		6.30pm	FMM 'The Kings Arms' Preview	Lib
20	Tues	9.30am	Mere Museum 'The Kings Arms' exhibition opens	Lib
21	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.30pm Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm On Line Drop-in Session	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Carnival Quizz	GB
22	Thur	08.30am	- 2.00pm Mere Surgery closed (see page 10)	Surgery
		2,30pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
28	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.00pm	Chamber of Trade "Workplace Pensions"	GB

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS**

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

## **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 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

## **COPYDATE FOR OCTOBER 2016 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the October 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, 19th September 2016.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 12th September 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.**

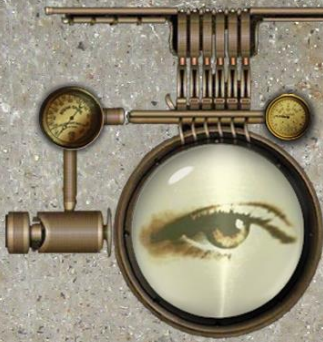
## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

Mrs Jane Kennedy

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

☎: 01985 844740

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson



# Teeandee Productions

**Tel: 01747 841458**  
**Mob: 07799 325214**

**Email: [tim@teeandeeproductions.com](mailto:tim@teeandeeproductions.com)**

**Website Design & Computer Services**