

MERE MATTERS

SEPTEMBER
2017



**Supporting, Promoting & Celebrating
Local Artists & Crafts People of
Mere.**

**Sales, demonstrations and some
opportunities for hands-on!**

**Sat 9th & Sun 10th September
Grove Building & Lecture Hall**

+ other venues. 10:30am - 4:30pm

£2 entry (Children free).

**Tickets will be on sale in the Mere Library and
in the Village Square Sat 26th Aug, 2nd Sept
or on the doors.**

The village of Mere lies off the A303 between Wincanton and Stonehenge

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 September 2017.**

The Chairman writes:

For many of us, August is the time for holidays, and this means that the town council does not have its regular monthly meeting and so I have nothing to report from it. However the work of the council does continue, and it pleasing to see that something started last November when the budget committee allocated funds in this year's budget to provide for cleaning and smartening up the streets of Mere has now started. You may have seen our newest employee about the town recently, and as the routine is developed we hope that you can see the difference it is making. His work goes alongside the work of our groundsmen who not only keep the summer growth of grass and shrubs in order but clear bins around the town.

With the new white lining there are, now, more car spaces marked out in Salisbury Street car park which will help those who need to visit the surgery and the shops of Mere. Council office staff have continued to work with councillors to gather facts about how to best provide parking in our car parks in future and how the public toilets can be improved. This will guide the council in allocating funds in the coming year's budget.

We were successful in the bid for money to purchase an auto-regulator for the clock in the square and hope the specialists can install it soon. Work has been done to improve the road surface in several parts of Mere Parish but the most noticeable has been the resurfacing of part of Castle Street, which was in a very poor state. Councillors have volunteered to keep an eye on various parts of Mere and report work that needs doing. Where possible we use the My Wiltshire reporting system which does work. Members of the public can also use this or do phone the Council Office. If you wish to contact me

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**

about matters relevant to the council then do use the email : chair@merewilts.org, write to me at the council office or just ask me if you see me in town.

One of the delights of Mere is the amount of work done by volunteers and the number of events they create. Talking to one of the organisers last week, I was struck by the comment, "But, it's always the same people..." which I thought meant the people who did the work. She continued "...who come to the events." So, let me use this space to encourage you to attend some of the events and functions – and do encourage your neighbours and friends in case they didn't know what is going on. I am confident that you will enjoy the time spent.

I could make a long list, but you will find notice of them in the following pages, although I would like to mention one new event. On the weekend of the 9th and 10th of September we will have "Creative Mere" taking place in the Lecture Hall and Grove Building. This is a chance to see the work of local artists and crafts people. Put it in your diaries (it is the weekend before carnival) and look out for their posters for more details! Lastly, I know that Councillor Brett Norris is organising another litter pick on Sunday, 24th September – many hands will help.

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

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

Loss of 158 Bus Service

Wiltshire Council's Senior Transport Co-Ordinator writes: 'With the loss of the 158 service, Mere and Zeals are left without a journey to Wincanton.

We have arranged for the Connect2Wiltshire, Mere Taxibuzz service to offer passengers a journey, to Wincanton at 10.00am, returning at 1.30pm from Mere and Zeals, Tuesdays only, from next week.

The cost for fare paying passengers will be £3 each way and concessionary pass holders will be charged at £1 each way, which is what we currently charge for journeys outside Mere.

Would it be possible for you to help publicise this journey to locals, who would have used the 158 etc. I understand passengers often travelled to Wincanton for Morrisons and Lidl, so hopefully this offers them some alternative.

To book a journey to Wincanton, passengers should : 08456 525255, followed by option 7. Phones are answered Monday to Friday 0830-1730, for travel on Tuesday, passengers should call on the Monday before at the latest, to avoid disappointment.'

Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION WRITES:

Wiltshire and Mere Town Council slow down for August, as do some of the surrounding village parish councils, however planning, licensing etc., has to go on and I have attended when required. I note with interest our north Wiltshire neighbour of Swindon has had the Government overturn Swindon BC's decision to reject plans for more than 100 new homes in the village of Wroughton after developer Hannick Homes appealed. The local government secretary has granted approval, saying the authority's five-year housing land supply is not credible and would deliver only half the number of homes the council claims. I am assured our area of Wiltshire has a defendable five year land supply.

I attended a passing-out function of Salamander on Friday, 28th July at Mere Fire Station. The primary aim of Salamander is to work with young people in Wiltshire and provide them with experiences that will help them to learn new life skills and gain confidence. However, in recent years, the remit has been expanded and now works with a variety of organisations across the public, voluntary and private sectors. The South West Wiltshire Board helped provide funding and I was very impressed how in a week, a group of young people had been brought together to function as a team, operating professional equipment, working at heights and so on. This is a well worthy use of public funds and services in my opinion.

The white lines that have been repainted in the Salisbury Street Car Park, gave 76 spaces including three disabled spaces, two for the Doctors and one for the public conveniences. A resident of Kilmington said there was room for another space and showed me where he thought it could be. The Mere Town Council agreed by delegated authority and the relining exercise produced one more space making 77 spaces, much improved overall, and I have not had one complaint. The buses seem to be OK getting around the car park; lorries still park overnight, which I consider gives a little more security to the car park.

The last report I had was that Salisbury Car Parks would still only take the old pound coin. A recent freedom of information request by the AA shows that of 340 UK councils with responsibility for car parks with coin-operated ticket machines, 74 (21.8%) still haven't converted all of them to accept the new £1 coin.

I am sorry the mini recycling facility could not be saved in Mere Salisbury Street Car Park, the Wiltshire Council insist kerb side is the answer. Many older people complain to me the boxes are too heavy for them when full. Wiltshire Council state that an assisted collection is available - in practice residents claim to me, this is not always the answer! I am told Mere School has a facility to recycle paper only. It is likely that after consultation, the black boxes will be for bottles only and the blue bin will accept a larger number of types of recycling. I tried disposing of a mattress recently at Churchfields at Salisbury. It was not easy for me, even though Wiltshire Council informs me it should have been.

According to The Furniture Recycling Group (TFRG), only 16% of mattresses are recycled with significant amounts even being stored in warehouses after being handed over from councils or private companies. Discarded mattresses are not being recycled responsibly by recycling firms due to complexity and costs, with many ending up in landfill or burned.

Research by the charity Wrap suggests that complicated rules have left homeowners confused over what can be recycled. This has led to people "wasting their time" recycling, with nine in ten making mistakes that mean items may be going straight to landfill. The research, based on a poll of more than 2,000 households, saw as many as 89% admit to "including items in their recycling which are not recyclable". It was suggested at a Wiltshire Council meeting I attended that when, and if, we are able to place a wider range of recyclable material in our blue bins, a sticker should indicate what we will be able to put in the blue bin.

Wiltshire Council still try hard to protect the vulnerable, however nation- wide the elderly and disabled in England are being told to expect cuts to care services and rises in charges after council chiefs unveiled spending plans. The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) said £20.8bn was expected to be spent on care this year, a cash rise of 5% since last year. It follows a £1bn cash injection announced in the Budget which ministers said would relieve the pressures. But ADASS said £824m of savings were still having to be made. The group, which represents social care directors, said rising demand meant cuts were inevitable given current funding levels.

Government figures suggest the number of pupils in England's secondary schools is set to rise by almost a fifth by 2026. Overall, pupil numbers are expected to increase by 654,000 (8.7%) in the next ten years, with secondary schools set to see a 19.1% increase to around 3.3m pupils while primary schools are expected to see 100,000 more students by 2026. The increase in pupil numbers is equivalent to 267 average sized secondary schools. The Department for Education commented that the increase is "primarily because increased births from 2002 onwards means there are now larger numbers entering secondary schools at age 11 than are leaving them at age 16."

Warminster Hollow "*Mere Down*" with the usual caveats regarding bad weather and operational complications will be "repaired" on the 11th and 12th of September, 2017. The usual "notices" will follow in due course.

I am pleased Castle Street has received resurfacing, I note on just one side. The Daily Star notes that Leicester City Council has come in for criticism after it resurfaced only the middle part of a road in order to save money. As with Castle Street, if it works, I am pleased.

South West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership will meet four times a year, with invited representatives from Wiltshire Police and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

Service. The next meeting will be at The Nadder Centre at Tisbury probably in September, with a 6.00pm starting time.

The South West Area Board still has funds to help fund community projects and the youth. Do you have a project? Mere has applied and secured a grant for a device to ensure The Mere Town Clock keeps accurate time. I am helping Lynch Close residents with an application at present, as they find they cannot use the web based application form. Allowances should be made for those who have not or cannot use a computer, however my pleas at County Hall often fall on "fallow ground".

In July I said that at a recent South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting, it had been agreed to in effect enhance Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) by the roadside. Town, Parish or a collaborative scheme can apply to the board for a grant to help purchase their own SID, or in this area the community SID can also be used. The community SID at present is at Kilmington for use on Kilmington Common for a few weeks.

The Area Board have offered Kilmington, Zeals and Stourton with Gasper the chance to obtain a SID, or they can also share with Mere should they wish. However, Mere already has a SID in White Road that had a replacement battery fitted on the 11th August. It is not good practise for it to continually operate. Please note it only lights up above 30 MPH, and probably allowing for the tolerance of a speedometer, it would read 33 MPH, before it indicated, therefore you would have to be travelling well above the speed limit to see it working. West Knoyle has its own working SID and I have checked with the local volunteer that it is powered up from time to time. The grant-aided type SID can have a "smiley face" indicator and it is claimed this type of SID is still effective if left on continuously.

A reminder again that I have a facebook page **Cllr George Jeans**, for use to display some events I attend and may be other material. It is not a platform for conversation at present; I do not view it regularly, whereas : george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk or : 07710 441599 I can usually answer quickly.

When I read the following in the press - it could be 1st April:

Goodbye cat's eyes, hello road studs. Suffolk County Council has changed the name of "cat's eyes" to "road studs" after reports that concerned tourists were reading signs saying "cat's eye removed" too literally and thinking that animal cruelty had become a standard practice on our country roads!

MERE SURGERY

SEASONAL VACCINATIONS

Adult Flu Vaccination

Clinic to be held on Saturday, 14 October 2017 – 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 6 months – 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/m²)

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 and 3 on 31st August 2017 (date of birth 1/9/2013 to 31/8/2015) 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. Children aged 4-8 years will be vaccinated at school.**

Shingles Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients who turn 70 or 78 (date of birth 2/9/1945 to 1/9/1946) or (2/9/1937 to 1/9/1938) during the year are encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination against Shingles. If you were recalled for a shingles vaccination last year, but have still not yet been vaccinated you can still attend for an appointment up until your 80th birthday

MenACWY Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients aged 18 on 31/8/2017 (date of birth 1/9/1998 to 31/08/1999) are encouraged to attend for vaccination. This vaccine is also recommended for anyone up to the age

of 25 years on the 31/8/2017 if you have not been previously vaccinated. **Please contact Reception for an appointment.**

MERE SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is pleased to confirm two events, which we hope residents of Mere will find of interest.

“Understanding Diabetes”

A talk performed by a representative from Diabetes UK on this life changing condition.

This will take place on **Thursday, 21st September 2017 at 7.00pm** in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street.

“Understanding Macular Degeneration”

A talk performed by a representative from Macular Society on this condition.

This will take place on **Tuesday, 10th October 2017 at 10.30 am** in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Patient Participation Group please✉: **mereppg@yahoo.com** or contact the surgery ☎ 01747 860001

CAR BOOT & TABLE TOP SALE

St George's School Bourton Saturday 23rd September 9am-1pm

Refreshments and Cake Sale

Sellers £8 Buyers 50p donation

All proceeds in aid of new school library

EVERYONE WELCOME!



Mere Dental Practice

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Dental Hygienists : Laura Moss, Jenny Minors

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

✉: meredental16@btconnect.com

🌐: www.merodentistry.co.uk

Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,
Friday 8.45am -5pm

The Practice is now offering Dental Implants and Six months smile (minor teeth correction for adults)



DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

The Practice is now open on some weekends for private patients only. Please contact the reception ☎: 01747 860365 for more details.

Jyothsna Syed, Practice Manager ☎: 01747 860365



MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME (MDLS)

Registered Charity no. 1062328

☎: 01747 860096

Free at the Point of Use!

Apart from the NHS, what else can we say that about? A clue: it's in Mere.

Got it? Well it's *almost* free. It's the Mere & District **Linkscheme!**

What does it cost?

Despite rumours to the contrary, there is no set charge for using the Linkscheme. However, there are costs involved and we welcome donations to the charity. We supply

an envelope to users for them to make a contribution, which the driver will pass on to the Treasurer.

The Link Explained

If you have a hospital or other medical appointment, or need to visit sick relatives, but don't have a car, and public transport isn't convenient, then consider asking the Linkscheme for assistance. The Linkscheme is a registered charity and although there is no direct charge, we do ask for donations to help meet our costs.

We have volunteer drivers willing to try and help if possible. We take patients to Mere and Silton surgeries, to hospitals, dentists and opticians, deliver prescriptions on a Friday, and can sometimes help with shopping. **We do ask for 48 hours notice** to enable us to make arrangements.

Looking to help?

As a charity of course, we rely on our volunteers to take calls, liaise with drivers, schedule trips, and provide the transport. The service is filling an urgent local need and usage is significantly increasing year by year.

We need more help

If you would like to join us, we'd love to hear from you, particularly if you are a driver with some time to offer. An allowance of 45p per mile is given to cover expenses. Please get in touch on the Linkscheme number above.

John Fitzgerald, Chairman, MDLS

LINKSCHEME THANKS & LITERARY FESTIVAL

A big thank you to all who supported the Link's annual quiz night. Eighteen teams took part and the results were: -

1st: Mystified 2nd: Quizzicals 3rd: Ever Hopeful

It was a very successful and enjoyable evening led by quiz-master Bill Pike and his team. During the supper interval the Literary Festival launched its first flyer outlining details of the programme for festival week **9th – 15th October**.

This year there are books and authors of local interest, readings, history and gardens, the community lunch, film, children's event, poetry and poets, and the award ceremony for this year's competition. The full programme is out this month and will be delivered to as many residents as possible. It will also be available at the Library, other outlets including Creative Mere, and on our website 🌐: **www.merelifest.co.uk**

To help the Link continue its important work in our community please support as many festival events as you can. Tickets are on sale at Mere Library or telephone bookings on ☎: 01747 860475. The Mere & District Link Scheme (MDLS) looks forward to seeing you. *Adrienne Howell MDLS & Lit. Fest. Group* ☎: 01747 860475)

CARNIVAL 2017

Programme of events

Friday, 1st September: Carnival Bingo in the Grove Building. Doors open 6.45pm with 'Eyes Down' at 7.30pm, with Specials, a raffle and refreshments. There will be a variety of quality prizes, including a family ticket for Haynes International Motor Museum. Fun for all the Family.

Thursday, 14th September: film night at the Lecture Hall, 7.30pm start, film VICEROYS HOUSE.

Friday, 15th September: Skittles tournament at Mere Social Club

Saturday, 16th September: CARNIVAL DAY, see inside front cover and entry forms for the afternoon and evening processions are available from the Post Office.

Monday, 18th September: Grand Carnival Draw at the Walnut Tree Inn at 8.00pm

Penny Allen, Carnival Secretary ☎: 01747 860721

: [**pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk**](mailto:pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk)

GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEAR!

Carnival Quiz Night on Friday, 6th October at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Tickets: £2.00 each -- refreshments -- raffle.

Please come and join us for a fun evening and help with our fundraising for Carnival 2018.

Carol Payne ☎: 01747 861639

CREATIVE MERE

9th/10th September 2017

This inaugural event is being held in Mere to celebrate the amazing number of artists and craftspeople living in Mere. It will provide a unique opportunity to meet and buy from our local designer-makers working across a range of craft disciplines including: drawing, painting, millinery, patissier and chocolatier, sewing and quilting, card making, woodturning, knitting, pottery etc. The exhibitors range across the whole spectrum from home crafters, local clubs and business professionals.

There will be opportunities to try out many of the crafts and activities, chat with the exhibitors, browse their creations and invest in something special for you or as a gift for someone.

The event is being held mainly in the Grove Building (with refreshments) and the Lecture Hall, Mere together with other venues. All details of the event will be in the brochure. A raffle of many beautiful hand-made products from the producers and local businesses will also be held.

Tickets at £2 an adult, children free, available from Mere Library and in the Market Square on the morning of Saturdays, 26th August and 2nd September.

Richard Jefferies ☎: 01747 863425 ✉: rajefferies@btinternet.com

Heather Stone: DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

A useful treatment for problems relating to: muscles ~joints~ movement ~ posture~ injuries (old and new) ~ circulation~ hormone balance~ digestion~ nervous system~ Or simply for **relaxation and wellbeing.**
Practising at Mere Osteopathy Clinic. **Heather: 07874 079 913**

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH



The first **Community Lunch** of the season is always part of **The Mere Literary Festival** and will be held next month on **Tuesday, 10th October 2017 at The George Inn, The Square, Mere, 12 noon for 12.30pm.** During coffee, Sue Evans will be talking on the compiling of 'Merely a Festival'. Space is limited, so book well in advance (☎: 01747 860427). 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*

MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



Tidy Mere

Congratulations to the Town Council on recruiting Cliff to sweep and tidy our streets. I met him a few days ago, at the bottom of Manor road. He was conscientiously removing the accumulated grit and debris of several months. His work will make a great difference to a major aspect of the town that a tourist immediately sees.

At our last Committee Meeting, we discussed the possibility of mobilizing some of the residents of Mere to give a hand with litter collection. The kit needed (hi-vis jackets and picker devices) is stored by the Council. What we need is people willing to use it, perhaps

just around their house or street, or more widely. Who will step forward? Contact me or John Jordan if you would like to help.

Creative Mere

It can't have escaped your notice that local people working in the arts and crafts field are having the opportunity to show their work and methods in early September. The Chamber is pleased to support this venture to attract visitors (and locals!). We will be happy to offer any advice the craftspeople may need if they wish to extend their hobby into a small business, or to expand their existing business. A special member rate will be available for these micro-businesses.

Emergency Mere

Would you know what to do in an emergency when first aid would be vital? We are again running an HSE approved "**Emergency First Aid at Work Training Course**" from 9.00am – 4.30pm at Mere Social Club on Wednesday, 18th October 2017. This course is designed to meet the requirements of Health & Safety [First Aid] regulations 1981, which states by law, that all businesses must have one or more qualified first aiders. Upon completion of the course delegates will be awarded with a certificate valid for 3 years.

Places for Chamber members are £72 per delegate and places for non members are £87 per delegate. For further information, or to book a place please contact us (details at the end of this article).

Those who attended the last one should be aware that their Proficiency Certificate will soon expire. Attendance at a course is essential to maintain your certification. These are vital to reinforce previous lessons and to learn of any new techniques that have been developed in the last three years. Details are elsewhere in Mere Matters.

Maps and Guides

With friends and relations visiting during the summer, you may want to show them the town and countryside. Both the '**Mere Walking Maps**' and the small booklet, '**A Mere Meander**' are on sale in the town shops and the Library. The maps show six easy to moderate walks in the town and surrounding countryside and are £3. In A5 size, they are easy to slip into a pocket while the booklet (£1) has interesting information about the town area. The Chamber has sponsored, with local businesses and individuals, the production of these. The proceeds are being retained to update and extend them in the future. The **Visit Wiltshire** website also carries local information.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 20th September 2017 at 7.30 pm in Mere Social Club.

If you are interested in helping the Chamber in any way, please contact me or Chamber Secretary, Julie Cousins ☎: 07856 700576.

Our e-mail address is ✉: merechamber@outlook.com

MERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

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. Natural ailments, and old age are slowly depleting our numbers, so **new members are very important to us**.

Our club is situated in Castle Street Car Park and 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 undersigned to arrange a suitable time.

Dates and Events for your Diary

Wednesday, 6th September at 7.00pm Mere & District Railway Modellers AGM

Saturday, 9th & Sunday, 10th September (10.00am-3.00pm) CREATIVE MERE

The club will be open offering books and a number of its layouts for sale to the public at silly prices! So if you model at home and work is on top of you, perhaps you can save some time by purchasing one of our finished or track laid layouts. We have eight layouts or parts of layouts available, ranging from £20 -£750.

Saturday, 23rd & Sunday, 24th September. The Dorset Model Railway Exhibition Situated at Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne, this will be the largest model railway event in Southern England this year.

Saturday, 6th & Sunday, 7th January 2018 The Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs Exhibition at The Cheese and Grain in Frome.

Come along and support Mere railway Modellers who will be exhibiting at the exhibition.

Saturday, 16th & Sunday, 17th June 2018 Mere Model Railway Exhibition

Do come and visit our annual exhibition in the Lecture Halls.

For further information please contact : *Tom Snook* ☎: 01747 861977

CANCER RESEARCH

The Warminster Military Wives Choir evening was a fantastic night and the full house enjoyed amazing singing with songs from Queen to Abba to The West End Musicals to Elgar and a Happy Birthday as well! The audience sang along, tapped feet, clapped hands and even wiped away a tear or two - what a great atmosphere in the Church. The total raised means both Mere Cancer Research and St. Michaels Church have a very

'tuneful' £376.08 each. The good news the choir will be back - at the Christmas Market on Friday, 1st December.

The coffee morning held in the lovely grounds of Dewes House was a great event and the weather was on our side! We raised a very 'tasty' total of £320.79. A big thank you to our delightful hosts Mr & Mrs Sainthill with many positive comments on the gardens, and a few games of croquet went down very well alongside the coffee and yummy cakes!

October brings us the annual Autumn Bazaar on Saturday, 7th with the usual range of stalls and a 50p clearance table! We are delighted to announce that Steve Hawkins will be launching the 2018 Mere Calendar in aid of the Rosemary Goddard Centre at this event. So come along and support 2 amazing causes in the Town. Much more news on this event in next month's Mere Matters.

Cancer Research HQ have been in touch with us and have informed us that since our formation in 1978, we have raised the totally amazing and slightly mind blowing total of £307,179.25 - wow! Here's to the next £300,000!

A few dates for your 2018 diary (or new Mere Calendar) - Spring Bazaar, Saturday, 17th March; May Fayre, Saturday, 19th May; October Bazaar, Saturday, 6th October and Christmas Market, Friday, 7th December.

Thank you to everyone who supports us in our cause to raise funds to help beat cancer sooner - and judging by the amount raised since 1978, we are very very lucky to have you helping us do this. Contact: - ✉: merecancerresearch@mail.com, Facebook: Mere Cancer Research.

Penny Fennon 📞: 07833 131712 (after 6.00pm, please)

FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON & CHARITY HEAD SHAVE

Local lady Kate Jenkins will be shaving her head on Sunday, 10th September to raise much needed funds for a special local boy.

William Edkins is a very special 14 year old with a wicked sense of humour. He suffers from Cerebral Palsy and Epilepsy and requires 24-hour care. William has severe problems with his hips, pelvis and back and has a constant battle with pain. He has had over fifteen major operations and will require regular surgery throughout his life. William's seizures can come at any time although the majority come during sleep, which means he needs constant supervision throughout the day and night.

William's home in Mere needs substantial alterations to make it a safe and comfortable place for him to grow up and to enable his parents to continue his long term care. The

Edkins need to raise funds to cover the cost of building a small extension to house proper bathroom/toilet facilities and a bedroom for him in which he can grow. William does not have access to downstairs facilities and the bathroom is now not big enough for a wheelchair, a hoist and a care giver. His bedroom isn't big enough to accommodate his wheelchair and all the equipment he needs. This extension will also give the family extra space for live-in respite care as his care becomes more complex.

Please sponsor Kate and help make Williams life as comfortable as possible for now and his long term future. Thank you.

Where?

MERE SOCIAL CLUB (Hall) Sunday 10th September, 2.00-5.00pm, Besides the big head shave, there will be a tombola, cake sale, FREE kids crafts, bouncy castle, face painting and much more. We'd like to make this a fun filled family afternoon and raise as much money as possible for William. Everyone is welcome.

Kate Jenkins 📞: 07810 374278,

✉: katejenkins77@yahoo.co.uk,

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kate-jenkins

PRESENTATION BY EXPLORER COLONEL JOHN BLASHFORD-SNELL OBE

When & Where

Saturday, 28th October 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Grove Building.

Tickets

£10 per person to include light refreshments.

Col. Blashford-Snell is one of the world's most renowned and highly respected explorers and founder of the registered charity Scientific Exploration Society which has its Expedition Base at Motcombe, where he now lives. He has organised and led more than 100 expeditions and this illustrated talk will be 'The Eighth Wonder' led by him.

It covers the discovery of strange underwater ruins and wrecks by a large team of Royal Engineer divers off Paphos, Cyprus. There is also a local connection here in that another team member with an important role in that undertaking, then serving with the British Army in Cyprus, is living in Mere.

As some of you may know, John is an accomplished and much in demand speaker whose presentations are always very interesting and often appropriately humorous. There will be time for questions and comments afterwards.

Tickets are available from Mere Library on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am-5.00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9.30 am--1.00 pm. All proceeds, including from a raffle,

will go to the Scientific Exploration Society registered charity No 267410. For more details, please contact me: *Ros Wardall* ☎: 07928 305003

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Now the autumn programme is underway with visits to Salisbury, Christchurch, Bristol, Bath and Wells. So whether you like music, drama or who dunnits, you get driven door to door with some time for shopping or lunching - why not join us? The winter programme will be out during the autumn.

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



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 20th 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, 18th September, please.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

SEPTEMBER'S SHORT WALK:

Please meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park on Wednesday, 13th September for a short 2-3 mile walk around the paths and lanes of Mere ending up at the Angel cafe for a refreshing cuppa afterwards.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

'HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT'

This is the catch phrase for the GMS Lions' publicity promoting its Macmillan coffee morning being held on Friday, 29th September from 10.00am-12.00noon in the Grove Building.

Enjoy a piece of delicious cake and a hot drink. Find out more about the Lions if you wish.

Put the date in diary now, because you might forget and miss out.

David Rose, GMS Lions PR Officer ☎: 01935 389816

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our new season of films begins on Thursday, 14th September with, as ever, a film for Carnival Week, the hugely popular '**Viceroy's House**' (12A). In March 1947 in New Delhi the Viceroy's Palace is being prepared for the coming of Lord Louis Mountbatten who has been appointed the new – and last – Viceroy of India by Prime Minister Clement Attlee. Mountbatten, accompanied by his liberal minded wife Edwina and eighteen- year-old

daughter Pamela, is tasked with overseeing the transition of British India to independence. But conflict and violence erupts between the political and religious sides. The British government's political solution was to partition India, creating the nation of Pakistan for its minority Muslim population, leaving the reshaped Indian continent for its Hindu and Sikh people. Seventy years after the partition of India, director Gurinder Chadha delivers this poignant tribute to the millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims who were uprooted or killed in what remains the largest mass migration of people in history. Full details on page 30.

Screening Dates for the Diary:

Thursday, 12th October: 'Their Finest'

Friday, 10th November: 'Hidden Figures'

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

For those of you who are depressed by the approaching end of the cricket season, for 2017, there's good news from MADS! Our next production is a play set in a cricket pavilion and is all about cricket! It's a comedy, suitably called '**Outside Edge**'. We'll keep you posted as to the score, as rehearsals commence.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

DO YOU ENJOY A GOOD SING?

Come for an informal 'taster' ...

Thursday, 7th September at 7.00pm

Consider joining us – Shreen Harmony

Are you a tenor, bass or alto – male or female

About us:

Our Musical Director is Caroline Radcliffe.

Where we meet:

7.30 p.m. Thursday evening at the United Reformed Church, Boar Street, Mere.

What we sing:

A variety of musical genres, that include English, European and Asian Folk songs, African traditional Songs, Soul music American Spirituals and Christmas Carols etc.

What do we expect?

Only for you to come! No audition – you do not have to be able to read music, just enjoy singing.

We are very informal with our emphasis on having fun, but we do perform from time to time at concerts in the local area – at charity events, church fetes etc.

Contact – ✉: enquiries@shreenharmony.co.uk or give me a cal. We would love to see you on 7th September.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

THE THREE COUNTIES CHOIR:

The Three Counties Choir, a community choir, which includes singers from Mere and has sung concerts in St Michaels church, will start meeting again on Thursday, 21st September at 7.30 pm in the hall at St George's School, Bourton.

The work we will be rehearsing is Brahms' German Requiem, which will be performed on Saturday, 24th February 2018, in Gillingham Methodist Church.

There is a subscription of £30 per singer to cover the hire of music, the rehearsal hall, and concert costs.

New singers are always very welcome – previous experience is not required. For further details, contact the undersigned.

*Tom and Ros Wheare, ☎:01747 840622
✉: ros.wheare@gmail.com*

Kado Garden Maintenance

Qualified Gardener working in and around Mere now available

Please call Mostyn Tel: 07999 771680

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Creative Mere

9/10 September

There will be no Annual Garden Show this year because we have been instrumental in organising this unique new event; Creative Mere. Don't miss this exciting weekend when there will be so much local talent on display.

Shade Planting

Sue Hazeldeane

Wednesday, 13th September, 7.30pm Grove Building

Sue will talk about shade planting – always tricky so here's your opportunity to get some expert advice. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

There will be an opportunity to meet some of our Dressmakers and to see what they have been making at the "Creative Mere" Exhibition on the weekend of the 9th and 10th September in the Grove Building. They are looking forward to meeting you.

We are having a meal at The Walnut Tree in August and then our 6 week courses commence again on **TUESDAYS** (our new day) from 10.30am to 1.00pm, with one place available, and Wednesday evenings as before 7.00pm to 9.30pm, all in the Grove Building.

Our numbers are always growing but we do have a waiting list and there is a further course starting again in November.

We have a lovely wide age range and they have become very good friends, but always make someone new feel at home. For details contact:

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or
Susanne (The Sewing Lady) 📠: 07788 595434

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP - 'COMFORTABLE YOU'

There will be a fun introductory workshop in the Grove Building on Saturday, 2nd September from 2.00 - 4.00pm with me, Annie Turner, an Alexander Technique teacher for over 35 years. I will share with you the discoveries made by F. M. Alexander about how to best live in your body - your wonderful 'earth suit' - without so much tension, stiffness, and maybe pain.

I recently moved to Mere from Cornwall to be nearer my expanding work with singers in London. My work is both with groups and individuals (and you don't have to sing!) and covers the easing of pain to the increase in confidence; life can wear us down and leave us thinking 'That's it then; pain and stiffness forever', or 'I'll never be able to do that so I daren't try'.

Supporting you to be able to live your life to the full is my passion, so if there's something in your life which feels clunky and uncomfortable, bring it along and let's change it. The cost is £25 with tea/coffee provided. To book or ask more, please call me ☎: 01747 861855, and my website has more information

🌐: www.thebodywonderful.com

Annie Turner ☎: 01747 861855

Stourhead Farm Shop - ¼ page advert

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our July meeting didn't go quite as planned, as our speaker had to attend a funeral. Instead four members provided a fascinating afternoon, reflecting on events and treasured experiences in their lives so far. This proved so interesting that we plan to invite other members to do something similar on another occasion. Our planned Teddy Bears' Picnic for young families also had to be postponed, because of essential work in the Grove Building in August. It will be held instead in half term week, on Tuesday, 24th October. Watch this space!

Our regular September meeting will be held in the Grove Building at **2.30pm on Tuesday, 12th September** when another of our members, Meg Oliver, will share with us her recent ***Travels in Central America***. Everyone welcome!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

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

From the Trustees

Regular readers of Mere Matters will know of the widely varied programme of activities organised by our well-qualified and experienced manager, Sandie Hawkins, and her team of dedicated volunteers. These are designed not only to provide fun, laughter and companionship for our guests, but to exercise brain and body to improve and maintain all round health and wellbeing.

This is our primary purpose, but there is also 'added value' to the wider community. Such regular contact with our guests enables Sandie to spot concerns at an early stage, which may prevent escalating problems or even avoid hospital admissions. A day of being cared for in a happy social context also provides a few hours respite for family carers, helping to maintain their well-being so they can continue caring.

The main funding for the Centre comes from Wiltshire Council, but austerity cuts have resulted in a 10% cut to our grant. We are fortunate to benefit from other grants and donations so that we are currently in a healthy financial position. However, with no guarantee of continued WC funding in the longer term, it is our responsibility as trustees to look to the future, and our aspiration is to become a truly 'community venture' with the potential, if necessary, to be able to operate independently of state funding.

As Trustees of the Rosemary Goddard Centre, we feel justly proud of the service our day centre provides for the community of Mere and the surrounding villages. We are delighted with, and appreciative of, the wonderful support we already receive from the populace of Mere and District, and hope that you will continue to support us as we go from strength to strength.

Chris Dillon, Chair of trustees

To contact the centre: Sandie Hawkins, ☎ 07835 272406

🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

MERE MUSEUM

There is a lot happening at the Museum in September! First of all, on **Monday, 4th September**, the display in one showcase in the current exhibition will be replaced by a small 'taster' exhibition in anticipation of the 'Creative Mere' event which takes place during the following weekend (see elsewhere in Mere Matters for details). Meanwhile the current exhibition of the work of Anne Lander will continue until Friday, 8th September. Entry to the Museum is always free.

A new exhibition called '**Made in Mere**' will be installed during the Crafts weekend with a **Friends' Preview on Monday, 11th September**. The subject of the exhibition was suggested by a Friend of the Museum, and we think that it provides a wonderful

opportunity for Mere residents to offer on loan, items in their possession which were indeed made in Mere.

We are looking for objects (the wierd and wonderful warmly welcomed!), but not paintings or photographs, which have been the subject of fairly recent exhibitions. For example, we have already been lent a child's chair made by Cuthbert Lander, a blind toymaker who lived in Lordsmead House, and miniature furniture demonstration pieces made by one of the cabinet makers who worked for Waltons. What could you offer? Do you have any of the lead soldiers that were once made here, or know anything about a Mere fireworks manufacturer? Do please get in touch!

If you have items that you think will fit the bill, do please contact one of the Curators: David Longbourne, ✉: davidlongbourne@btinternet.com, or Jenny Wilding, ✉: jennyflaxmill@gmail.com. Or leave a message at the library desk. We look forward to seeing what you will come up with! Thank you!

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Treasurer would like to remind all Friends that their **annual subscriptions**, which fall due on **Sunday, 1st October**, are going up! We feel you will still get very good value, as well as helping to maintain the Museum and its collections. If you pay electronically and haven't received a letter yet with the new rates then please get in touch. Other members should receive their reminder letters around the middle of October. Don't forget, it's very easy to join the Friends (forms are on the sales desk in the Museum) and your support is greatly valued.

One of the great benefits of being a Friends is that you are able to attend **Private Previews** of each new exhibition, and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine with like-minded Friends. The next preview is on **Monday, 11th September** at 6 30 p.m. in the Museum. This is a very good time to join for 2017-2018! We hope to see you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days are your chance to explore hidden places and try out new experiences: they're fun and they're free. Throughout the country interesting places will open their doors to the public and **All Saints, Maiden Bradley** are joining in this year on Saturday, 9th September 10.00am – 4.00pm and on Sunday, 10th from 10.00am – 5.30pm.

The tower and vestry will be open or come and find out about our fascinating history by joining one of the guided tours. For children there will be a chance to dress as a medieval lord, lady or peasant and practice archery, make their own hunky punk and stained glass treasure box.

On the Sunday there will be two very short, informal acts of worship at 10.00am and 3.00pm. Details of the open days can be found at : <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk>

Maiden Bradley is part of the Benefice of Mere, West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley

Celia Blay ☎: 01985 844817; *Jane Hurd* ☎: 01747 860218

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA

in association with

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

proudly presents

'Viceroy's House' (12A)

Hugh Bonneville Gillian Anderson
Michael Gambon Simon Callow

Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, is tasked with overseeing British India's transition to independence, but meets with conflict as different sides clash in the face of monumental change.

In The Lecture Hall

Thursday, 14th 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 🌐: www.moviola.org

Classes at Mere Lecture Hall:

Watercolour Club – Monday evenings 7.00 - 9.00

starts 11th September 6 sessions for £85.00

Watercolour Skills – Friday mornings 10.30 – 12.30

Tuition includes colour placement/people in a context, painting fabrics, flowers, a fish on a dish, additives/underpainting and exploring backgrounds

starts 15th September 6 sessions for £85.00

Details and enrolments: www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk



Mere Historical Society

Visit Four Tuesday, 5th September 2017

Devizes:

Wadworth Brewery Tour and Wiltshire Museum

For those who have booked a place on this outing:

we will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and return around 6.30pm.

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

Evening and morning talks resume in October with:

Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton, Architect, Master Builder and Potter

Peter Fitzgerald

Tuesday, 3rd October at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Come and hear about this very interesting gentleman who is the subject of a monument in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul, Wincanton.

£3 entry to all talks for non-members who are very welcome

Don't forget to check out our web site:



: www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE
MONDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 2016**

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for July 2017:

1st Prize (£20) - Mr Hamish Bell
2nd Prize (£15) - Mrs Elizabeth Ings
3rd Prize (£10) - Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for August 2017

1st Prize (£20) - Ms Mandy Stanley
2nd Prize (£15) - Mrs J Moore
3rd Prize (£10) - Mrs Carole Elliott

With regret we are closing down the 100 Club and the July/August draws were the final ones. Those members who set up a standing order for their annual subscriptions should contact their bank to cancel it. Any payments in error will be refunded. Should you have any queries about this, please contact the Grove Building treasurer 📞: 07946 770057 or ✉: giuliobianconi@hotmail.com. Thank you to everyone for your participation and support over the years.

Isabel Howell, Chair of Grove Building Committee 📞: 01747 861646

MERE BOWLS CLUB

On Thursday, 10 August we hosted West End Bowls Club from Woking in Surrey, which was the old club of Alan and Sheila Spencer, before they moved to Mere. This has been an on and off fixture since that time, with us playing home or away only once each year. It was nice to catch up with some old friends, and make some new ones!

The Club Ladies Section is fast approaching the end of their North Dorset League season (they were asked to join by the league as we are based in Wiltshire and affiliated to our own county organisation, Bowls Wiltshire). With only two games left to play, they are currently very near the top of the table.

The Club is now getting close to the end of the season as we close formally on Saturday, 23rd September. So if you are interested in playing, now is the time to get your foot in the door and give it a try. Simply turn up on any of our roll-up days at the correct time and you will be made most welcome by all of the members present.

We are a small, but very friendly Club who bowl purely for the love of the sport and to get a little exercise and a bit of a social life at the same time.

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 e-mail ✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, 📞: 01747 860775

LETTER FROM THE CHURCHES

Deacon Michael Hughes, of the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary's, writes:

An ancient Welsh story tells of Gelert, a huge deer hound, the beloved and constant companion of the prince, his owner. The prince leaves Gelert in the house - with his baby in its cot. When he comes home the prince finds the house in disorder, the furniture overturned and no sign of his son. In the nursery lies the hound, Gelert, his jaws and flanks covered in blood. Judging that the hound has killed his son, he draws his broadsword and kills Gelert, the best friend he ever had.

Then he hears a baby mewling, and, turning over the cot, finds his son unharmed. Nearby lies the body of a massive wolf and the evidence of the heroic fight which Gelert had fought to kill the wolf and save his master's son. The prince buries his faithful hound at a place called to this day Beddgelert (Gelert's grave), and never smiles again as long as he lives.

Where the prince went wrong was the rush to judgement. In our lives we very rarely need to judge others, yet we seem to like doing so. And there is a temptation to want to judge others not only as quickly as the prince judged Gelert, but harshly too.

Jesus tells us that if we do not wish ourselves to be judged harshly by God for the things that we have done wrong, we should refrain from passing judgement on others. We should ask His help to be generous, gentle and slow to judge. God is the judge, not me.

Our Catholic church in Pettridge Lane. Time, and vans turning in our car park, have destroyed the surface, and we are now having to restore the car park. At the same time we are hoping to carry out maintenance on the church building, a Nissen hut erected in 1946 as a temporary place in which to share in the sacrifice of the Mass. It will be hard for us to raise the money needed. If you would like to support us in any way, please contact me on ☎: 01747 830766.

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MERE

Have you ever seen a flyer from the Friends of St Michael's and wondered who they are and what they actually do?

Well..... The Friends were formed in 1976 as an independent registered charity to foster interest in our Parish Church and to provide funds for the adornment and improvement of the buildings and its furnishings.

We are a group of almost 200 people from all over the world (but mainly from Mere), from all denominations or none, who love St Michael's or who have a connection with the church.

The Friends have been responsible for many items which enhance our lovely building: new lighting, carpets, vestry fittings, repairs to the statue of St Michael, kneelers,

refurbishment of the clock, the bookcases, stacking chairs, the updating of the sound system and lots more. Our latest project was the renovation of the rare James II Coat of Arms which hangs over the North Door.

Our next project is to provide a Servery in Church, part of the overall re-ordering plan. We have the funds available and are just waiting for the permissions to be granted by the “powers-that-be”, and then it will be all systems go!

We raise funds with events which include the whole community such as “Call My Bluff”, Bazaars, Progressive Lunches, Open Gardens, and a Treasure Hunt.

We have several events planned for the next year; another Progressive Lunch and “Mind Your P’s and Q’s” evening, as well as a Michaelmas Fair. Look out for the posters!

If you love St Michael’s and would like to become a “Friend”, there are application forms in Church or you can contact Gilly Gristwood ☎: 01747 861768.

It costs £7 per year to become an annual member or £50 to become a Life Member.

Do consider joining us and becoming a Friend of St Michael’s Church and come to our AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10th October in St Michaels church to hear all about us. You will be very welcome.

Finally, a date for your diaries. We are holding our annual Friend's Autumn Bazaar in the Grove Building on Saturday, 30th September from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

Ann Dethick, Secretary ☎: 01747 863498



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 in the **Grove Building, Mere, 11.00am-3.00pm on Saturday, 21st October**. A few vacancies remain for any group whose aims are similar to those of One World Week. Stalls can be for giving information, fund-raising or a mixture of both (no charge). If interested, please phone to book asap. Entertainment and refreshments (including lunches) will be provided throughout the day. More details, and details of the Service for One World Week, in October Mere Matters.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*



One significant advantage in supporting a small charity that works hard to bring about positive change for very disadvantaged children and their families is that every penny you raise makes a very real difference. The other side of that advantage is that when a particular need arises, you feel you must respond! As most readers of Mere Matters know, Suchana – which means ‘new beginning’ – gives support and practical help at all levels of learning, as well as basic healthcare, for marginalised ‘adivasi’ or ‘tribal’ children in rural West Bengal. The project has developed amazingly over the 8 years that the Mere support group has been in existence and now reaches over 1,500 children each week in 24 tiny villages through its mobile library and creative work in its expanded building. However, though its many different groups and classes continue to thrive, grant support for the ‘Early Learning Group’ is coming to an end, meaning that, if it is to continue, an additional £5,000 needs to be raised. If anyone who doesn’t already support Suchana would like to help with this very valuable work, please get in touch.

Meanwhile, grateful thanks to all who supported our very happy Strawberry Tea in late June which raised over £500; and our recent very enjoyable coffee morning, when we had a visit from Rahul Bose, one of Suchana’s founder members and current teacher and coordinator – and raised another £120. More events to follow: a coffee morning at Hilcrest, Hazzard’s Hill on 3rd, October 10.30am-12.00noon and a Skittles Evening on Friday, 1th November – more details in next Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

SEPTEMBER 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:
 Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
 (Days available to Parish Saturday – Thursday)

✉: 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

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each 3rd Wednesday		10.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
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)
Wednesday	21st	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	24th	10.30am	Patronal Service, St Michaels

**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
			Holy Communion
	10th	11.00am	To be arranged
	17th	11.00am	Harvest Thanks giving
			Rev'd John Heyton
	24th	11.00am	Jane Hurd

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk

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	DIY
	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	9.30am	Matins
	24th	9.30am	No service, Patronal Festival at St Michaels

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER 2017

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; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Fri	2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		6.45pm	Carnival Bingo "Eyes Down" 7.30pm	GB
2	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		2.00pm -	4.00pm Alexander Technique Workshop	GB
4	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Zumba First Level (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	AYP
5	Tue	10.30am	Strength and Core Training (every Tuesday)	L
		2.00pm -	4.00pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
6	Wed	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
		10.30am	Strength and Core Training (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	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	10.30am -	4.30pm Creative Mere	GB and L
10	Sun	10.30am -	4.30pm Creative Mere	GB and L
		2.00pm -	5.00pm Family Fun afternoon	MSC
11	Mon	6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Preview	Lib
		7.00pm	Watrecolour Club (also 18th & 25th)	L
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
12	Tue	9.30am	"Made in Mere" Mere Museum exhibit opens	LIB
		10.30am -	1.00pm Dressmaking (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (also 19th & 26th)	GB
13	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		2.00pm	September Short Walk	CP
		7.00pm -	9.30pm Dressmaking (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB

14	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Viceroy's House"	L
15	Fri	7.00pm	Carnival Skittles Tournament	MSC
16	Sat		CARNIVAL DAY	
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
17	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
18	Mon	8.00pm	Grand Carnival Draw	Walnut Tree Inn
20	Wed	3.00pm	- Tea@3, Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Digital drop In" Session	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
21	Thur	7.00pm	Understanding Diabetes	L
23	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
29	Fri	10.00am	GMS Lions' Macmillan Coffee Morning	GB
30	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michaels Autumn Bazaar	GB

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

URC Church Hall

Eileen Burfitt

☎: 01747 860685

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

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2:00 - 4:00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:

By appointment only (☎: 0300 003 4569)

Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00 - 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 - 4:00pm

COPYDATE FOR OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the October 2017 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 **4:00pm on MONDAY, 18th September 2017**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 11th September 2017 to  : editor@merematters.co.uk

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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 : jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

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