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MERE MATTERS

and so does

WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine including a
guide to local events

A decorative border of various blue and white snowflake patterns surrounds the bottom and sides of the page.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

2018/19

Symbol keys throughout:

 Telephone number,  Email,  Web Address,  Mobile number,  Facebook

THE EDITOR WRITES

Thanks to those who sent me feedback on the presentation changes in November's edition. Many complimented the use of a photograph on the front cover, so I would like to invite any 'budding snappers' to send in suitable locally taken photos for use in the future. Many approved the changes to the Diary and I have now tried to give more clarity to repeated events and have included venue information. Mere Matters will not be back until February 2019.

It seems too early to be expressing Christmas and New Year sentiments but I would like to wish everyone happiness and good health for the future.

Richard Jefferies  editor@merematters.co.uk

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council meet every month. While it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. Council members are working on your behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in Mere. You may raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 3rd December at 7.30pm** in the **Andy Young Pavilion**.

The Chairman Writes

I am writing this at the end of the day of Remembrance, a day where I had so many poignant conversations and felt that so many Mere residents were moved to join the rest of the country in commemorating the events of 100 years ago. What we had, here in Mere, was the result of the efforts of many: the people who organised the sale of poppies and the those who displayed them, the members of the church who provided a service involving so many, the lighters of the beacon, the bell-ringers, the council staff who organised and attended to so many practical matters, the team who made the mementos (inspired by Angela McDonald's book 'The Proudest Uniform) and put them in place and the residents who were host to a memento, the Royal British legion, the groups of young people - be they from Mere School or from the uniformed groups like Guides and Scouts, and the throng of people who filled the Square at 11 am and later, Jubilee Gardens at 7pm. I am certain you will join me in thanking them for their contributions.

I had great pleasure in attending the AGM of Seeds4Success where I heard about the exploits of a team of young people and the 'older' organisers. I use the word 'team' for good reason as that is how they work and it is such a success at providing opportunities for young people in the area. If you are unaware of what they do then I would urge you to look at their website or visit – it will paint a different picture of what

young people are doing to that made by a few miscreants elsewhere. Also, you may find an opportunity to volunteer and help!

I attended the CATG meeting for South West Wiltshire trying to gain further progress with several matters: looking at ways in which pedestrians can more safely negotiate Gillingham Corner; a feasibility study on a width restriction for The Lynch; the installation of dropped kerbs on Clements Lane. My efforts didn't make much headway in an atmosphere of so little funding available that progress seems snail paced. I also complained about the works done on Boar Street where a flotilla of equipment came and dealt with a part of a short road while not dealing with what most of us consider the worst part of the road (and only a couple of yards away). The answer is invariably technical and guided by 'the book' and that funding is short. To me, the only thing short is the sightedness of a system that does a bit here and a bit there rather than a proper job – which would work out less expensive in the end.

At our November Town Council meeting we were asked by Councillor Norris on behalf of the Mere Rivers Group to write to the Environment Agency to express the Town Council's concern that the river levels had dropped significantly since extraction had started in the last month. After a long hot summer where both of our rivers flowed well, just two weeks of renewed extraction had the Ashfield dry in Burton and the Shreen down to a trickle. It was resolved that we write to the Environment Agency & Wessex Water and that was done immediately – please support us in this and write or phone to complain about too much extraction. At the meeting other matters were discussed but I won't go into too much detail as the minutes will be available on the Mere Town website and are available in hard copy from the Council Office. Likewise, agenda for future meetings are available on the website and in the display case outside the Lecture Hall. Please join in with us trying to get the best Mere possible by reading about what decisions are made and why and attending meetings where there are matters of importance to you. For example, I am hoping to schedule a discussion that Councillor Jeans requested, on parking in Mere and strategies to deal with the demand for spaces and the need for safe roads and pavements. At the public session before the meeting you could express your views on this matter.

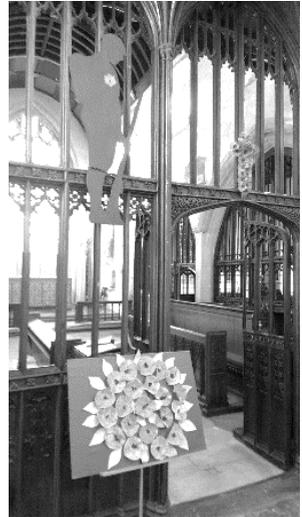
There are a good few matters competing for time at the next meeting, so you need to check the agenda. Before the next Town Council meeting a group of councillors will attend what is usually the longest meeting of the year as we draft a budget for the coming year. Each year we try and find a balance between providing what residents want (in a climate where our County Council provides less) and the amount that it will cost. The cost is borne by all of us who are Mere residents in the precept added to the Council Tax bill we receive. I recall going into my local and being greeted as 'Mr Ten Percent' when the last precept increase arrived on tax bills. We had good reason to arrive at that figure but we set about, each year, with the ambition to keep any precept rise as small as possible.

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council ✉ chair@merewilts.org
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc.
✉ lindseywood@merewilts.org, ☎ 860701 🌐 merewilts.org

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR GEORGE JEANS WRITES

I felt very proud to lay a wreath on behalf of

Wiltshire Council, at The Act of Remembrance Service in The Square, Mere. It was the best attended I can remember, probably over 300 people attended. It was a special year commemorating The First World War Armistice, being a cease fire until The Treaty of Versailles was signed. Mere Town Clock and nearby Church Clock struck almost simultaneously at 11am. I attended The Church service afterwards in St Michael's which was almost full to capacity. A soldier made locally by Ted Henson, was temporarily attached to an intricately-carved 15th century wooden rood screen in the church, which attracts visitors nationally.



Mere's Act of Remembrance concluded in the evening at 7.05pm with the 'WW1 Beacon of Light' in tribute to the millions of men and women who died or were injured in World War One. It was a beautiful evening and other beacons could be seen in the distance. The Mere Church bells rang out at 7.05pm as they would have done worldwide. On Saturday the 10th of November I walked with an organized group around Mere to visit the areas where the 52 from Mere had lived, it was a very wet walk at times, ending in Jubilee Gardens, where a splendid memorial was displayed to those from Mere who fell.

LOCAL ISSUES:

- Information Technology is great when it works, however Wiltshire Council for about a day was at times without website, phones etc. The Southern Area Planning Committee that I sit on was cancelled as the agenda was not available for a long enough period because of the down time.
- Japanese knotweed is becoming more prevalent in the area, I have had several sites identified to me. Should you see it please report to Wiltshire council preferably on The My Wiltshire App, or otherwise let me know of its suspected whereabouts. It can really take hold and in some cases has affected the sale of property.

JUST AROUND THE CORNER:

- Councils are trialling the use of Amazon's Alexa digital assistant to help keep elderly and disabled company. Hampshire County Council began a trial of the Alexa technology this year in a pilot of 50 people with disabilities. Early results

revealed that 72% said that it had improved their quality of life. Meanwhile, Oxfordshire County Council has begun to install the Amazon Echo speakers in the homes of elderly people. Council leader Ian Hudspith said that imaginative ways were needed to deal with isolated older people. "We are experimenting with Amazon Echos for older people to see if that provides some ability for them to communicate," he said.

- Following reports that waste sent for recycling is being dumped overseas and "ending up in landfill or worse" Swindon Council may tell residents to stop recycling plastic, The Environment Agency is believed to be investigating allegations of fraud in the recycling industry, it is believed that exporters have claimed for tens of thousands of tonnes of plastic waste that did not exist. Basingstoke and Deane BC has decided to close its 29 mixed plastic "bring banks," while Southampton City Council is planning to burn plastic left in bins to generate power. Environment minister Therese Coffey has written to Swindon BC urging bosses to reverse plans to stop recycling mixed plastic.
- Sativa Investments has been given planning permission to build the UK's first legal cannabis factory at a secret site in Wiltshire. The factory could grow up to eight tonnes of the drug per year. The development comes as GPs will be allowed to prescribe cannabis-derived products from next month.
- A local resident made me aware of plans by Bath & North East Somerset Council to set up a clean air zone (CAZ) in Bath, charging some vehicles to enter the CAZ. This will encourage even more traffic through Bradford-on-Avon and Trowbridge because it includes a small portion of the A36 route through the edge of Bath. I am assured by Wiltshire Council they are aware of the situation.

GENERAL:

A number of councils have introduced rules which mean residents can no longer pay bills by cheque or cash, with only electronic payments allowed. Charities have warned that some elderly people will struggle to adapt to an electronic system of paying. I hope Wiltshire will not follow the lead of these other councils, it is unfair on the elderly and most of us will be elderly one day and some of us will be unable to use the computers etc of that time. .

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, therefore I do accept friends request on the site at present; I do not view it regularly.

 george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk  07710 441599

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

The Club is the oldest in the town and is still struggling financially despite the wholehearted support of the Lecture Hall Trust, without which we would certainly cease to exist. We are looking for new members in order to increase funds and so if you are interested, please contact me. The Club has two full sized tables and all the kit, but is very informal and would welcome all sorts of players. Walking into the place, which is somewhat secluded in Salisbury Street, is like stepping back in time, but in a really nice way.

There will be a fund raising quiz sheet which will be available at the start of December for the exorbitant price of £1 and a grand prize of £10 for the winner, but it might keep some minds occupied during the winter days. Entry forms will be available from most outlets in Mere or from me.

Mike Gladding, Secretary ✉ hilarygladding@btinternet.com ☎ 861733

COMMUNITY LUNCH

There will be no Community Lunch during December.

The next lunch is **Tuesday 8th January to be** held at the **George Inn at 12.30pm**. The two course meal will cost £10.95, drinks not included. The lunch is for anyone in the Community who may wish to meet people, catch up with the local news or gossip, find out more about events etc in the town or just enjoy a good meal with pleasant company. Please ring and book directly with the George Inn ☎ 860427 and let them know if you have any special diet. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

MERE FOOTPATH GROUP (MAINTENANCE)

Many thanks to the Footpath Maintenance Group led by Alan Mead for all their hard work throughout the year keeping our footpaths open and walkable. If you, or any of your friends and family enjoy a walk, don't forget the Walking in Mere cards available from the library and other outlets for £3 for 6 cards, which include interesting information about the sights along the walks. A good stocking filler! Happy Christmas and a healthy and fun new year.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833

MERE WALKING GROUP

Our New Year walk will be on Tuesday, **2nd January 2019** and this year will be based on The George Inn at Longbridge Deverill. We will meet at Salisbury Car Park at 10.00am and share transport to the pub, go for a 4-5 mile walk (very few stiles), followed by lunch. Please let me know if you would like to join us by **December 15th** (at the very latest), as we will need to pre-order our food. Non-members will be very welcome.

The annual planning meeting for the group, to which all are invited, will be held at the **George Inn (Mere) on Tuesday 12th February at 7.00pm**.

Roger Laidler ☎ 863447 ✉ roger46laidler@talktalk.net

MOVEMENT FOR THE MIND - ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Movement for the Mind is a very friendly gentle exercise group with singing for people living with dementia and a family partner to enjoy together. It is led by a professional and supported by volunteers. It is one of seven groups across Wiltshire run by the charity Alzheimer's Support ☎ 01390 739055.

Dementia Adviser David Burton is at Mere library on the first Friday of every month. He will be on hand to chat about memory worries and give advice about all aspects of living with dementia between 2.00pm and 4.00.

On **January 18th** the session is slightly different. It will be a Memory Café featuring **Windrose Rural Media Trust**. They are running a session on archive film and folk songs. All welcome £1 a head to include tea/coffee and biscuits. **10.30am to 12noon**. Book your place on ☎ 01985 624005.

A new memory café is starting in Warminster on **December 17th**. It will normally meet on the fourth Monday of each month at The Dementia Centre in Beech Avenue BA12 8AX. Everyone is welcome to come along for a light supper, entertainment and a chance to meet others in a similar situation. ☎ 01985 624005.

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

The season of Christmas is near and we are joining with The Church of St. Michael The

Archangel to present to you a joyous celebration of music and song brought to us by The Warminster Military Wives Choir.

The concert will take place on **Sunday, 9th December, 6.30pm for 7.00**. There will be a pre-show cash bar beforehand, running from 6.00pm in The Grove Building and again at half time.

Tickets can be obtained prior to the concert for £10 each from Ann Lloyd ☎ 863477 or Derek Fisher ☎ 861980 or pay on the door for £12 per ticket.

Mere Cancer Research is proud to be co-presenting this concert with the church and we do hope you will come along and enjoy a lovely evening in this beautiful, ancient building.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us this year and helping us to fund the lifesaving support we provide to patients and families affected by cancer. Our members are a friendly, dedicated group of people and we are always happy to welcome new members and helpers. A very, merry Christmas to you all.

Harvard Dallibar ☎ 07788 138003 ✉ las518@icloud.com or Jill Turner ☎ 860334

First of all a big thank you to everyone who has supported Mere's community cinema this year by coming along to watch one, some or all of the films. The clear winner was "The Guernsey Literary Society" with a near sell-out showing. As this was the Literary Festival film, all profits are donated to the Link Scheme and it was nice to be able to send them a cheque for £205. However, we can only make donations to local causes if we continue to make profits, so it would be lovely to see even more people coming

MERE FILM SHOWS

along next year. At the time of writing we are organising the new season and we are hoping to show our first film in mid-January on a Sunday afternoon. Further details will be posted locally or feel free to phone me in December. In the meantime, a very Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year.

Rosie ☎ 861567

DECEMBER SHORT WALK

Come and enjoy a short walk with a seasonal twist (for the 'old hands' there will be something new!) Meet at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 18th December** in the **Surgery Car Park**. There is no walk in **January**.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

TRAIDCRAFT 'AT HOME'

Please come and 'Show you Care' this Christmas by purchasing a Fairly Traded gift, Christmas Cards or Christmas Goodies. Stir the Fair Trade Christmas Pudding and make your wish. I'd like to make this my best Christmas yet to ensure Traidcraft can continue its wonderful work enabling so many around the world to work their way out of poverty.

Tuesday and Wednesday December 4th/5th from 8.30am - 6.00pm at 'Wits End' North Road, Mere, BA12 6HP. (If you can only come in the evening, please give me a ring on the Tuesday evening to arrange when to visit).

I will also be at the URC coffee morning on **Saturday December 15th** and after the morning service at St Michael's on **Sunday 16th** for those last minute purchases!

Janet Way ☎ 860884

MERE GARDENING CLUB

There will be no December or January meeting. A Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our members.

🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk Janet Way ☎ 860884

MERE MUSEUM

Just in time for Christmas, our brand new exhibition about printers (and chemists) in Mere, including an impressively wide-ranging exhibition of their work, produced between 1857 and 1980, will be launched. We're calling the exhibition 'Chemists, Printers and Posters'. It will be open to the general public on **Tuesday 4th December** and will run well into the new year. Intrigued by the chemist connection? Come and find out! Entry to Mere Museum is always free.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

We would love you to join us for our
CAROL SERVICE
 In **St Michael's Church**
 on **Tuesday 11th December at 12.00 noon**
 Followed by sandwiches and mince pies
 in the Grove Building
 Please bring your friends and family with you!

The time of the service is definitely 12.00 noon. We hope this time will enable younger Mums to join us and still be able to collect children from school. Everyone is welcome to come (men included!).

In January, instead of our usual meeting we'll be enjoying a New Year lunch together on **Tuesday 8th January**. All past and present MU members and partners/spouses are very welcome to come, as well as friends and anyone who might join in future. Venue (in Mere) is to be decided just after we go to print, so please ask for details - and please book by **11th December**.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mere WI was 100 years old in November and we celebrated with a party in the Grove Building. There was food, drink, music and most of all good company, with guests from several neighbouring WIs, plus the Federation Chairman and the County adviser. Also present Mrs Jenny Murrison, on behalf of her husband and Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker. There was lots of chat and laughter (and amazement!) prompted by the exhibition of life in our WI over the last 100 years. Times have certainly changed.



On **6th December** we shall be holding our Christmas Party. There is NO meeting in January.

Barbara Bourne ☎ 863411

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are reminded that the Preview of the next exhibition 'Chemists, Printers and Posters' will take place on Monday December 3rd at 6.30p.m. in the Museum. For anyone who is not so far a Friend, this is an excellent occasion on which to come and join us - you will be very welcome! Regular Friends - don't forget that subscriptions are now due, and the Treasurer will be only too pleased to receive them at the Preview: The subs are just £10 for individual membership and £15 for a family. What a good Christmas present this would make for that person who seems to have everything!

MERE RIVER GROUP

River Levels Update

At the beginning of November, the water levels in our streams were critically low. This is because Wessex Water started abstracting again after a summer with no abstraction while works were carried out on the local pump. Throughout the summer it had been a point of comment by many people that our streams had kept flowing really well through one of the driest summers ever! From mid-October Wessex Water recommenced abstracting half the amount permitted under their Environment Agency licence, around 4 million litres every day. This renewed abstraction left our rivers in a state of crisis resulting in significantly reduced water levels leaving fish stranded. The potential knock-on effect on the invertebrates impacts on all the wildlife that rely on our streams.

We were informed by Wessex Water (in early November) that they proposed to start taking almost the full 9 million litres permitted, from 18 November. Our view was that this would totally devastate our water courses and the aquifers which supply our water. Mere Rivers Group (MRG) expressed its concerns, about the reintroduction of abstraction and its significant impact, to all relevant bodies including Wessex Water, The Environment Agency, our MP and the local media. As a result we are pleased to report that Wessex Water confirmed they would not be increasing the abstraction level.

Wildlife Sightings for October

Hopefully you took our advice during October and checked the ivy for birds and insects. Many thanks, as always, to those of you who reported what you saw. Sightings for October were: Little Egret and Grey Wagtail seen 3 times. Single sightings were reported of Water Vole, Hedgehog, Signal Crayfish, Kingfisher, a pair of Moorhen and a single Moorhen.

Your sightings are especially important now, as we demonstrate to Wessex Water and the Environment Agency the wildlife biodiversity supported by our rivers and streams and the impact of their changes, to abstraction levels, on this biodiversity. We now have a full year's record of sightings and your future reports enable us to develop a year on year comparison. So please, please continue to email us anything you see.

✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com. Lynne Bann ☎ 860174.



MERE BOWLING CLUB

Now with the Club closed and with the nights drawing in we switch our thoughts to the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Dinner and Prize Giving at the end of January 2019. As per last year we will be using the facilities of the George Inn at Longbridge Deverill.

It is planned to hold a 60's night, with a live band, in the Grove Building at the end of March or early April next year, with all proceeds going to a local charity, please watch this space for details and as always your support will be much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a wonderful, but healthy, New Year from Mere Bowls Club. Lawn Bowls is an absolutely fantastic way to get some exercise, meet nice people (we only have nice people in the Club) and start to develop a great social life – all of which leads to a long and a healthy life, no bad thing these days.

Don Butchers ☎ 860775 ✉ don.butchers@btinternet.com

MERE RIVERS GROUP

REPRIEVE FOR THE SHREEN CATCHMENT

The Group Chief Executive of Wessex Water, Colin Skellet, wrote to Mere Rivers Group on 7th November to say that after the company 'resumed abstraction at 4 million litres a day (m/l/d at Burton Field Pumping Station) on the 18th October 2018' that 'this rate of abstraction is sufficient to service your local community' and, also, following 'the real improvement in our water supply network we expect to be able to meet this target (up to 4 m/l/d) regularly'. The local community covers places to the south of us including Gillingham and nearby villages.

The Rivers Group would like to see the present Environment Agency licence allowing Wessex Water to abstract up to 9 million litres a day of pure chalk water from Burton Field to be much reduced. Historically, the company has exported around half this full allowance up to White Sheet Reservoir and hence to Yeovil and towns to the north of us. It would seem that the need for export is no longer there.

Whenever export occurred in a dry summer the springs feeding the Shreen and the Ashfield dried up at source as did the five brooks which flow over the southern pasture and agricultural land into the Shreen to form the Shreen Catchment. In 2011 the drying was so severe that the Mere Rivers Group was formed. In 2015 Wessex Water agreed to operate OFWAT's five year Abstraction Incentive Mechanism (AIM) trial which decreed a small fine if the flows in the Shreen and Ashfield fell below a certain point at which export had to cease.

Colin Skellet goes on to say 'there is no doubt that abstraction in Mere impacts stream flows. By keeping to the AIM target, flows have been better than in the past'. The Rivers Group feel that it is time for the Environment Agency to reduce the Licence to 4m/l/d right now rather than wait till the end of the trial in 2020. The design of their five year AIM trial of data collection has been severely compromised by events: the need for export in 2016 even when the trigger point had been reached because of works at Codford; the closing of Burton Field Pumping Station for around 5 months in 2018; an exceedingly dry 2018 summer after a very dry winter and unusual spring rains and, above all the completion of work on the ring main which has removed the need for

Burton Field export. If in time to come Gillingham develops so much that there is a strain on supply from Burton Field the business case for Wessex Water to supply 'new' Gillingham customers from the ring main would make it sensible for them to build the 4 mile link to supply them.

Dr Paulette McManus ☎ 861524

MERE SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

It has been a requirement in the GP Contract for all practices to have a PPG since 1st April 2015. Mere PPG was established nearly two years ago and currently has eleven active members.

The role of the PPG includes:

- Being an advisory friend to the practice.
- Generating feedback to the practice on the patient perspective and providing insight into the responsiveness and quality of services.
- Encouraging patients to take greater responsibility for their own and their family's health.
- Carrying out research into the views of those who use the practice.
- Organising health promotional events and improving health literacy.
- Regular communication with the patient population.

If you are a patient of Mere Surgery and have any issue that you would like to bring to the attention of the PPG, please provide brief written details and submit them to the Group through the Mere Surgery Practice Manager. The members of the PPG will review your submission and let you know what action (if any) can be taken on your behalf.

If you would like to become an active member of the PPG please obtain an application form from the Mere Surgery Practice Manager and submit it in accordance with the guidelines. The current membership is particularly keen to welcome younger members into the group.

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group ☎ 860001

MERE TIDDLERS AND TODDLERS

Christmas Party

Santa, with a helpful elf ... will be joining us at the Lecture Hall on **Monday 10th December** for the usual gathering. The cost for each child over one will be £3, nothing for adults. A buffet lunch for all is included.

Do remember to bring a small wrapped, named gift for your child/ children. As a guideline, the gift should cost no more than £5. Please hand this in beforehand to be added to Santa's bag. Deadline for bookings and payment is **3rd December** please. Contact Anne to book a place.

Anne Rich: ☎ 07413512023 ✉ iversclassroom@icloud.com
f annerich_99@yahoo.co.uk (add as friend and I will add you to Toddler group.)

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

As Christmas approaches there are several dressmakers sewing very briskly to make some beautiful dresses and coats to keep out the winter weather. We are looking forward to having our Christmas Meal a little earlier this year.

Our January course which starts on **Tuesday 15th** is full at the time of writing but there may well be a space, so do get in touch if you are keen to join us.

We are delighted with how our new dressmakers have settled in and gained confidence and knowledge. We are told that learning something new is good for our mental wellbeing and certainly the enjoyment of completing something to feel proud of and to receive compliments feels good. New friends and new skills are a good way to start the new year so do contact me if you would like to come along to one of our courses or a "Sewing All Day" with sewing and homemade cake if it appeals.

We wish our readers and dressmakers a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing new faces in 2019.

f Dressmaking in Mere. Carol Lord ☎ 861923 or Susanne ☎ 07788 595434

MERE FESTIVAL

The 2018 Mere Literary Festival has come to an end and I wish to record my sincere thanks to the MDLS, and all who attended the Award Ceremony, for the wonderful send-off at my last event as festival organiser. Thank you all.

In the 22 years that have passed since the first modest event in 1997, the Mere festival has 'taken off' and is now nationally recognised. The support of the Mere community has been vital in making this possible and both the Link and its festival committee are very grateful. I'm sure Gail Garbutt, my successor, can count on you all to continue the success of the Mere Literary Festival. Do contact her on ✉ gfgarbutt@gmail.com if you can offer help or expertise.

Photos of this year's highlights and details of competition winners can be found on the festival website 🌐 merelitfest.co.uk.

Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475

SHREEN HARMONY

All are welcome to our Christmas concert to be held on **Saturday 22nd December at 7.30pm** in the **Grove Building**. Mulled Wine and a finger buffet will be served in the interval which we hope, along with our music, will inspire you to be generous to our retiring collection on behalf of 'After Umbrage', a retreat near Bath offering short term respite for carers.

Caroline Landymore ☎ 228819

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme has now been circulated and includes drama, humour, music and dancing. If you fancy joining us then ring Wendy or Madelaine, numbers below. A very happy Christmas to all our members and may 2019 be full of drama, of a good kind, and lots of enjoyable outings and meetings! Thanks for your support.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 Wendy Horne ☎ 861712

FIVES COURT

We are celebrating Elf day on Friday **7th December** 10.00am to 12.00 to support the Alzheimer's society, dressing up for a donation of £1, come along dressed up and enjoy a morning of fun, quiz and games and a visit from Ivers College presenting their Xmas Performance at 10.30am

Join us for a Christmas sing along with Kiddley Divey on **Thursday 13th December 4.00pm to 5.00**. Mulled wine and mince pies, refreshments available, children very welcome.

We will be holding a Coffee afternoon **Friday 21st December** from **2.00pm till 4.00** and our annual Christmas raffle to raise money for the residents' Amenities Fund.

Join us for a coffee morning **Monday 24th December** from **10.00am till 12.00** and entertainment from an amazing singer Mike Sidaway, a Christmas performance very much looked forward to every year, families all welcome.

Tatum Johnson ✉ tat.johnson@osjct.co.uk

MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere Chamber would like to wish you Season's Greetings

and good wishes for 2019 and to thank all Chamber Members and local businesses for your continued support.

The Chamber will be holding an Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 30th January 7.30pm** at **The George Inn** in Mere

Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576



MERE SCHOOL

The children at Mere School have once again been working very hard and are looking forward to a busy term of Christmas activities.

Montacute House

It was lovely to be able to take the children in Gold class to visit a local National Trust property, Montacute House as part of their history work on the Tudors. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about what life would have been like to live there in Tudor times. Mrs Rich, a local artist accompanied us on the trip and showed the children how to sketch the magnificent building. At the end of the day members of



the public and the volunteer guides complimented the children on their excellent behaviour and Tudor knowledge throughout the visit.

Sport Report

The children have taken part in a number of sports tournaments as part of our link with Gillingham secondary school. In Tag rugby a local parent, Gary Barton, gave up his free time at lunch times to help prepare the teams for the tournament. The A team came third and the B team came second. The children are now training for their netball tournament. Watch this space to find out how they do!

Upcoming Events:

December: Year 4 visit to Bramley House

December: Year 5 visit to Rosemary Goddard Centre and Five Courts

Wednesday **12th December:** Salisbury Pantomime trip

Tuesday **18th December:** Key Stage 1 and 2 Christmas Productions

Thursday **20th December:** Santa's Grotto arrives at Mere School and Christmas lunch

Friday **21st December:** Annual Carol Service at St Michaels – all welcome!

 mereschool.co.uk

The Friends of Mere School would like to invite the local community to their annual Christmas Tree Sale and Pop Up Café on **Friday 7th**

December 3.00pm – 8.00 at the school. One free drink and mince pie with every tree purchased. Trees can be pre-ordered to ensure you get the size you'd like. Free delivery of your tree is also available. Price range from £20 (3-4ft) to £65 (9-10ft). We will also be running a competition to win a tree!



Sally Ashlin ☎ 860319

COMMUNITY TEA @3

Community Tea@3 is Thursday the **20th**
December at 3.00pm and Wednesday **16th January at 3.00pm**

Paul Farrow ☎ 860524



ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

We asked our guests what attending the RGC means to them.

Here are a few of their comments:

'Great to come and meet Friends' - Jean C

'It's great fun, we all have a laugh and a joke' - John M

'We have discussions on different topics and quizzes that stimulate the brain' - Myra V

'I enjoy the Greek dancing' - Vera M

'It's nice for us as it gives us something to look forward to, otherwise we would be stuck indoors on our own, it gives me a reason to get up in the morning' - Hilary N

'I meet a lot of friends that I wouldn't normally meet' - Ken P

We are very proud to be able to provide our service to older, more isolated, people in Mere and the surrounding villages. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who do such a great job. We have been busy getting ready for the festive season making cards and sorting through decorations and we are looking forward to our Christmas celebrations. From all of us here at the RGC we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

There's still just time to grab a ticket for 'Katie's Party', which is being given by MADS at the end of this week: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **November 22nd - 24th at 7.30 p.m.**, and also on **Saturday at 2.30pm**. You can get a ticket from the Library or from 'Sprout and Flower' at £8.00 each. But hurry - tickets are selling fast! Our next production? Well, that's a bit of a mystery....

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908



The Mere Suchana Support Group has had another good year fundraising for this unique project supporting 'adivasi' children and communities in rural West Bengal based around their little two-story centre in Khanjanpur village. This year we have been focussing on the provision of ongoing support helping post-primary children cope at school where the language for learning is not their mother-tongue. Suchana is currently pioneering work in the provision of first-language story-books enabling younger children to encounter books in their own language for the first time.

To keep up the good work, we need your support! So please come, if you can, to our coffee morning and bring & buy on **Tuesday 16th January 10.30am -12.00** at **Holly Cottage**, North Road. Another date for your diary: our ever-popular Suchana Shrove Tuesday **Quiz and Pancake Evening** will be held in the **Grove Building** at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm**.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553



IN MERE & DISTRICT

We are busy delivering leaflets for our **Christmas Day Lunch**. We want to be sure that families who would find it difficult to celebrate this Christmas and all those who would otherwise be alone, know that they are very welcome to join us in the Grove Building on Christmas Day. A traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a festive atmosphere, will be followed by tea and Christmas cake. (No charge, but donations are welcome). You need to book by **10th December** by calling Judy Bickerstaff ☎ 860335. Volunteer drivers and helpers on Christmas Day are also needed.

For full details of **Christmas Services** at all our churches please see pages towards the back. Everyone is welcome at any of our services – and also to join us singing carols on **Christmas Eve in the Square at Mere at 11am**.

January is also busy! As usual, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from **18th – 25th January**.

On Sunday **20th January** the main Sunday Service for all our member Churches will be at **10am at All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley**. Everyone is welcome to join us for this, and for the very short, informal, weekday services which will be held as follows:

- Friday 18th January 9.30 am at St Mary's RC Church, Mere
- Saturday 19th January 9.30am Mere URC Church
- Monday 21st January 9.30 am at St George's Church, Bourton
- Tuesday 22nd January 9.30am at All Saints, Maiden Bradley
- Wednesday 23rd January 9.30am at St Mary's, West Knoyle
- Thursday 24th January 9.30am at St Michael's, Mere
- Friday 25th January 9.30am at St Martin's, Zeals

Anyone willing to help make soup, serve etc at **Lent Lunches 2019** is invited to a planning meeting at **33 White Road at 11.00am Tuesday 29th January**.

Last but not least, please put **Weds 27th February 7.30pm** in your diary. This is the date of our AGM to be held at **Mere URC Church**. If you could consider taking over as Secretary from that date, please get in touch as soon as possible!

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

MERE RAILWAY MODELLERS

In late October the club held its Annual General Meeting when it discussed the activities of the

current year and its proposals for 2019. The Chairman's report reflected on an excellent year for the club. It was well represented at the first Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs' Model Railway Exhibition at the Cheese and Grain at Frome in January of this year, as the club had taken its "00" gauge "Three Bridges by the Sea" layout to display at the show, together with a small "N" gauge layout. It had been the club's first exhibition outside Mere which provided new logistical challenges for club members but was enjoyed by all.

Following on from this event the club's own annual exhibition in the Lecture Halls in June was well attended and earnings increased over those from the 2017 exhibition. Tom Snook, the founding father of Mere Railway Modellers and the club's Exhibition Manager explained that a change of emphasis had assisted in increasing the earnings and he would be building on that for the club's next exhibition, which is to be held in the Lecture Hall over the weekend of **15th and 16th June 2019**.

Modelling wise both the OO and O gauge modellers are well catered for, the former trying a novel modular approach. Although joined by a common rail track every club member participating in the venture had been provided with a personal display board and under the guidance of Peter Hudson, our Layouts Manager. Given the brief: "to show off their skills." The method certainly helps in developing individual modelling experience!

A more traditional approach is being used on 'Mere Abbas,' our new 'O' gauge layout. This is progressing well and is now showing signs of developing into a first class exponent of the railway modelling art. Taking both models into account the Chairman reflected that: "a common bond of knowledge flowing between the members could only increase the skills of all".

Peter Lord was thanked for his dedication in arranging garden railways in the summer months. Nancy Broach, Secretary and Treasurer, who had provided the meeting with the annual accounts, was thanked for her secretarial and financial acumen together with her sterling efforts in running the galley at this year's June exhibition in the Lecture Hall.

Expressions of thanks were given to Tom Snook (ably assisted by his wife Lyn) and colleagues were reminded that: "without Tom's drive and enthusiasm, we would not be where we are today" - a great model railway club in Mere, settled in its own distinctive clubhouse.

The club wish the community of Mere, who made up most of those attending our Railway Exhibition last June: "best wishes for Christmas and the New Year".

Graham Avory, Chairman ☎ 860439

Mere Historical Society

The Death of Gordon of Khartoum

David Baker

Tuesday 4th December from 7.10pm in the Grove Building

The talk starts at 7.30pm and will be preceded by wine and mince pies, so please come along early to enjoy! After his death defending Khartoum from the Mahdi, Gordon was seen as a hero by the British, though his actions were at odds with government instructions. Hear more about this interesting piece of history.

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

Morning talks: Tuesday 11th December: "Fifty five years fighting rust", by Ian Dean. Rust, and prevention of it, seems to have featured in Ian's life since leaving school. Volunteering on the Gartell Light Railway still demands that the fight continues...!
Tuesday 8th January: "The Frome Cheese Fair", by Philip Cary. For more than a century and a half, local people have been exhibiting their home-made cheese at the Frome Cheese Show. Philip is its former chairman.

Both talks to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am.

Visitors welcome. Suggested donation including coffee £3

There is no evening talk in January.

 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk, Caroline Cook  861797

LINK SCHEME

Christmas Operating Arrangements

The Link Scheme service will close on **21st**

December and resume on **3rd January**. Planned trips may be possible between Christmas and New Year if notified before **19th December**. Our drivers have family celebrations like everyone else.



Prior Notice: Perhaps this is also the time to remind users that we are not a taxi or emergency service. Our coordinators need 48hours notice of any proposed trip to find an available driver. Sometimes it may be not be possible to find anyone. If you would like to know more about volunteering as a driver, ring the Link Scheme number. We cannot have too many, especially as the number of visits is continually increasing.

Noticeboard: The eagle-eyed will have seen that the LitFest/ Link Scheme notice board outside the Co-op is missing. It has been removed for re-furbishing and will return sometime early in the New Year.

Hamish Bell, Secretary  860096

LETTER FROM THE CHURCHES

Revd Carol writes

Christmas greetings from St Michael's Church.

I have started to ask my nearest and dearest: "what would you like for Christmas?" Frequently I'm met with blank looks which makes it hard to get the gift they'd truly like: unless we are clear in what we want and need we are almost certain to fail in getting it!



This Christmas, as Vicar of St Michael's I need to tell you - our friends in Mere - that despite generous giving and your support of us at open events we are in financial difficulties. The church cannot pay our way this year for the first time in a very long time. We have certainly had to put our church improvement plans on hold (though most of that money should come from grants).

I know the Church of England is perceived as wealthy but much of the wealth is held in its buildings and these old places are additionally expensive to insure and maintain. The central church has its own expenses and is not able to contribute to local parishes.

Our core church membership is 107 people and to cover our annual costs we need over £13 per week per person. For many people on fixed incomes this is too much to achieve and the rest of us just can't cover the shortfall. The only paid member of the congregation is the Vicar who also oversees West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley, everyone else are volunteers.

For centuries our nation proudly spoke of our Christian heritage, but these days that hope burns less brightly. We still sing "Jerusalem" and know the words of Christmas carols but vote less with our feet by attending church. However when I talk to people in Mere I am aware of how much love and pride there is in our church and how much the Christian way of life means to you. A key part of leading and bringing this together falls to the Vicar and resourcing her or him.

Christmas is a time of gift giving and I haven't been shy in saying what is on my Christmas list this year. If you are able to help us please contact the honorary treasurer Giulio Bianconi ✉ giuliobianconi@hotmail.com ☎ 861670 or me ☎ 861859. May the peace and joy of the Christ child fill your heart this Christmas.

With Blessings
Rev Carol, Priest in Charge, Mere with West Knoyle

REMEMBER!

COPY DATE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE

MONDAY 21st JANUARY 2019 *or before*

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk. *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 861319, ✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

DEC

Every	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Not 30 th
Every	Fri	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1) Not 28 th
2nd	Sun	10.30am	Praise & Worship for Advent Sunday
4th	Tues	6.00pm	Bible study & "Start the Month" Holy Communion
9 th	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
16 th	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion (P. Mrs C Marsh)
20th	Thu	6.30pm	Candlelit Lessons and Carols
23rd	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
		4.00pm	Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas
24th	Mon	4.00pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass Holy Communion
25th	Tue	8.00am	BCP Communion
		10.30am	Family Holy Communion
30th	Sun	10.30am	Communion by Extension Mrs Jane Hurd

JAN

6th	Sun	10.30am	The Epiphany Holy Comm. P. Mrs Christine Marsh
13 th	Sun	10.30am	Holy Communion
20 th	Sun	10.00am	Maiden Bradley – Wk of prayer for Christian Unity
24th	Thu	9.30am	Discussion and prayer WPCU
27th	Sun		Holy Communion

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

DEC

2nd	Sun	11.00am	Advent Service
9th	Sun	11.00am	Remembrance Service @ St Michaels
16th	Sun	11.00am	Rev Anne Budgell – Holy Communion
23rd	Sun	3.00pm	Carol Service – Rev Duncan Goldie
25th	Tue	10.00am	Rev Margaret Laurie
30th	Sun	11.00am	Rev Judith Thompson

JAN

6th	Sun	11.00am	Mrs Sharon Hawkes
13th	Sun	11.00am	Rev Duncan Goldie – Holy Communion
20th	Sun	10.00am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Maiden Bradley
27th	Sun	11.00am	Mr Peter Kershaw

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 019634408 ✉ hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Every Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9.00am Morning Prayer of the Church

Every Thur 10.00am The Rosary of Our Lady

Every Sat 5.30pm Holy Mass

After the last Mass of the Month, please join us for refreshments in the sacristy.

Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve:

6.30pm St Luke's, Wincanton. First Mass of Christmas

8.00pm St Mary's, Mere. Carols - followed by 8.30 p.m. Holy Mass

12.00pm St Luke's, Wincanton. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day:

10.30am St Luke's Wincanton. Holy Mass.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk. *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534, Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

DEC

2nd	Sun	9.30am	Matins
9th	Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion
16th	Sun	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service
23rd	Sun		No Service
25 th	Tue	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
30th	Sun		No Service

JAN

6th	Sun	9.30am	The Epithany DIY
13th	Sun	9.30am	Matins
20th	Sun	3.30am	Plough Sunday
27th	Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Recurring events are first shown in Bold and then marked with =

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2018

1	Sat			
2	Sun			
3	Mon	9.00pm	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon School Terms Only)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Mon School Terms Only)	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Mon)	L
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Mon School Terms Only)	GB
		7.00pm	Water Colour Club (every Mon)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
4	Tue	All Day	Traidcraft at Home @ Wits End	WE
		10.00am	Moo Music (every Tue School Terms Only)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking Group	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		1.00pm	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tue)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (and 11th, and 27th)	L
		7.10pm	Mere Historical Society 'Death of Gordon of Khartoum'	GB
5	Wed	All Day	Traidcraft at Home @ Wits End	WE
		10.00am	Mere Forest Charities Collection	L
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wed)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking Group	GB
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
6	Thu	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thu)	GB
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thu)	L
		2.00pm	Quilters (every Thu)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Thu)	L
		7.00pm	Women's Institute (Small Hall)	GB
7	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	Movement for the Mind (also 21st)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
8	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Bingo	L
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting	L
9	Sun	6.30pm	Military Wives Choir	StM
10	Mon	=	<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB),</i>	
		=	<i>Water Colour (L)</i>	
11	Tue	10.15am	Mere Historical Society – 50 years of Fighting Rust	GB
		2.00pm	Mothers Union	GB
		=	<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L), Pilates (GB)</i>	
12	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		=	<i>Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
13	Thu	=	<i>Girlguiding (GB), Art (GB), Bridge (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	

14	Fri	=	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (L)</i>	
15	Sat		TraidCraft URC coffee morning	URC
16	Sun		TraidCraft after morning service	StM
17	Mon	=	<i>Slimming (L), Water Colour (L)</i>	
18	Tue	2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
		=	<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
19	Wed	=	<i>Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
20	Thu	3.00pm	Tea@3	ATR
		=	<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
21	Fri	=	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (L), Movement for the</i>	
		=	<i>Mind (Lib)</i>	
22	Sat	7.30pm	Shreen Harmony	GB
23	Sun	6.00pm	Slimming World	L
24	Mon			
25	Tue			
26	Wed			
27	Thu	=	<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
28	Fri	=	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (L)</i>	
29	Sat			
30	Sun	6.00pm	Slimming World	L
31	Mon			

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

CP - Main Car Park

Drs - Surgery

GB - Grove Building

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion

L - Lecture Hall

Lib - Library

Lyn - Lynch Com Centre

MSC - Mere Social Club

RMC - Railway Mod Club

StM - St Michaels Church

URC - United Ref Church

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY 2019

1	Tue			
2	Wed	10.00pm	Mere Walking Group – Longbridge Deverill	CP
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
3	Thu	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thu)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thu)	L
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Thu)	L
4	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	Movement for the Mind (also 25th)	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
5	Sat			
6	Sun			
7	Mon	9.30pm	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon School Terms Only)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Mon School Terms Only)	L
		7.00pm	Water Colour Club (every Mon)	L
8	Tue	10.00am	Moo Music (every Tue School Terms Only)	L
		10.15am	Mere Historical Society - The Frome Cheese Fair	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch @ The George Inn	
		2.00pm	Mothers Union New Year Lunch	?
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tue)	L
9	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wed)	GB
		2.00pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		=	<i>Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
10	Thu	5.00pm	Girlguiding (Every Thur School Terms Only)	GB
		=	<i>Art Group (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25rd)	GB
		=	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge(L)</i>	
12	Sat			
13	Sun			
14	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (every Mon School Terms Only)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Mon School Terms Only)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting	L
		=	<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Water Colour (L)</i>	
15	Tue	10.30am	Dressmaking Group (and 22nd and 29th)	GB
		=	<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
16	Wed	3.00pm	Tea@3	ATR
		7.00pm	Dressmaking Group (and 23rd and 30th)	GB
		=	<i>Tai-Chi (GB, Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
17	Thu	=	<i>Art Group (L), Bridge (L), Zumba (L), Girlguiding (GB)</i>	

18	Fri	=	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
19	Sat		URC Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall	URC
20	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after WPCU service at Maiden Bradley	
21	Mon	=	<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers (GB), Slimming (L),</i>	
		=	<i>Scouts (GB), Water Colour (L)</i>	
22	Tue	=	<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L), Dressmaking (GB)</i>	
23	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Mtg	GB
		=	<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate(L), Railway Modellers,</i>	
			<i>Dressmaking (GB)</i>	
24	Thu	=	<i>Art Group (L), Bridge (L), Zumba (L), Girlguiding (GB)</i>	
25	Fri	=	<i>Merely Women (GB), Rhyme Time (Lib),</i>	
			<i>Duplicate Bridge (L)</i>	
26	Sat			
27	Sun			
28	Mon	=	<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers (GB), Slimming (L),</i>	
		=	<i>Scouts (GB), Water Colour (L)</i>	
29	Tue	=	<i>Moo Music (L), Zumba (L), Dressmaking (GB)</i>	
30	Wed	=	<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers,</i>	
		=	<i>Dressmaking (GB)</i>	
31	Thu	=	<i>Art Group (L), Bridge (L), Zumba (L), Girlguiding (GB)</i>	

BOOKING MEETING VENUES

Grove Building:	Ian Treece	☎: 07754 524802
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎: 861063
URC Church Hall	Eileen Burfitt	☎: 860685

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Support/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis:

Wiltshire Dementia Adviser Service	1 st Friday	2.00pm – 4.00
Registrar of Births & Deaths	By appt only	☎ 0300 003 4569
	Thursdays	9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Champions	1 st Tuesday	2.00pm – 4.00
Health Trainer	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am – 12.00

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 [☎ merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

COPYDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2019 ISSUE

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 21st January**.

Email contributions are preferred to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **14th January** (or earlier) via ✉ editor@merematters.co.uk, or delivered to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU or alternatively handed into The Library, Mere in an envelope marked ‘MERE MATTERS’. Please be sure to add your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.



Teeandee Productions

Web Design

**Promotional Videos
and Computer Services**

**Email: tim@teeandeeproductions.com
Tel: 07799 325214**