

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



MAY 2018

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council meet every month. Whilst 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 the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You may raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 14th May at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

The Chairman writes:

The April Meeting of the Town Council made further progress with planning some of the events coming up this year. Both, the Centenary of the end of WWI and the 150th Anniversary of Mere Clock Tower have working groups of councillors developing plans. We have a date for the anniversary, Thursday, 19th July and the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire will be attending. Further news on these events and the part you can play will be announced here in Mere Matters closer to the event.

We have had some news from Wiltshire Council about the car parks and public toilets. It seems that they will be leased to the Town Council again. We haven't been given any details except to be told that the Town Council will be responsible for repairs to the collapsing drain for the toilets. This was a major item in our budget planning and we await final details of the leasing arrangements. We were informed by our clerk of further financial demands as the boiler in the public toilets has broken down and needs replacement – this is making it difficult to clean the toilets.

Our Neighbourhood Planning Committee is progressing with its work and will be presenting information at public events in Mere so that members of the public can find out more about the process. An information gathering survey is being prepared which will give residents an opportunity to put their views about how they would wish Mere to develop. On the planning front, we are seeking advice from the barrister who will contest the appeal by Richborough Estates against the refusal of outline planning for Gillingham Corner development. We need to be clear on what role we, and members of the public, can play in the hearings.

We have now had a visit from Wiltshire Council's Dog Warden, it was a very productive meeting. Councillor Mead was able to show her around the places about which we

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**

receive the most complaints about dog fouling: the recreation ground, Waterside, Dark Lane, Angel Lane and the Meads. The warden will be patrolling these areas to observe dog owner behaviour. We have asked that she, at first, makes herself highly visible so that owners can see that areas are being patrolled. The warden will, at some point, then start to patrol in ordinary uniform.

The warden stressed that she has the ability to fine dog owners and the fines can be considerable. The warden asked to be informed of persistent offenders and she would personally visit them and speak to them about their actions and the consequences. If you have information that you wish to pass to the warden then please contact the council office – please note we cannot act on anonymous complaints.

The warden clarified that in areas, like the Meads, owners should pick up. Fields are the property of a landowner, usually a farmer, and they are not public dog toilets. I have had the delight of being a foster dog owner for a couple of weeks and appreciate the companionship a dog can bring but that brings with it the responsibility to clear up after your dog. I spent an hour with the litter pickers on Sunday and picked up on the path around Castle and Long Hills – it was disappointing that part of my collection was six ‘poo-bags’ dropped by the path.

There can be no excuse for the attitude that a few owners have. In the words of a dog warden – ‘pick it up and dispose of it in a proper place – your dog cannot do that so you must’. Our dog warden will be reporting back to us, we hope to hear about improved behaviour from the few offending dog-owners rather than about residents who have been fined.

On a more pleasant note, it was good to hear recommendations by a group of councillors that our Risk Assessment and internal control measures are fit for purpose and the full council adopted them. I would thank our Clerk who keeps these matters in order and note that regulations keep being added, giving a small town council much to do before it starts on the more visible council work.

We heard from Councillor Hazzard on work being done by Mere Museum to preserve the Rutter Scrapbooks which contain documents relating to life and activities in Mere in the 19th century. A good deal of money has been raised towards this, and the Town Council resolved to commit an amount to help this project to be realised.

Another date for your diary was announced at the meeting. ‘Healthy Mere Walking – Great Bottom walk’ on Sunday, 10th June. There is more information elsewhere in Mere Matters.

For information on Town Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website 🌐: www.merewilts.org; or contact the Town Clerk, Mrs Lindsey Wood, ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org, or ☎: 01747 860701. To contact the chairman directly, ✉: chair@merewilts.org

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

Public Enquiry for Land at Castle Street, Mere

The Public Inquiry notice shown below relates to an outline planning application made by Richborough Estates for 130 houses off Castle Street (Gillingham Corner). Mere Town Council objected to the planning application, and Wiltshire Council refused planning permission. Other objectors included Campaign to Protect Rural England who stated: "It would be contrary to CPRE's objectives and principles for development in the countryside, especially in South Wiltshire, and we are happy to support Mere Town Council's objection."

If you feel strongly about this potential development then you should attend the enquiry.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PUBLIC INQUIRY

**At The Sanctuary, Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds,
Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF**

On 15 May 2018 at 10.00

REASON FOR INQUIRY

Appeal by Richborough Estates

Relating to the application to Wiltshire Council

For outline planning application for residential development (including affordable housing) in addition to associated open space, infrastructure and attenuation features with all matters reserved, except access.

At Land at Castle Street, Mere, BA12 6JS

An Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will attend at the place, date and time shown above to decide the appeal.

Members of the public may attend the inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, express their views. If you, or anyone you know has a disability and is concerned about facilities at the inquiry venue, you should contact the council to confirm that suitable provisions are in place. Documents relating to the appeal(s) can be viewed at the Council's offices by prior arrangement.

Planning Inspectorate References:

APP/Y3940/W/17/3182598

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate:

Kerr Brown, Room 3/O Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,
Temple Quay, Bristol, BS16PN Tel: 0303 444 5243

Where applicable, you can use the internet to submit documents, to see information and to check the progress of cases through GOV.UK. The address of the search page is - <https://www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate>

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, WRITES:

I attended The Southern Planning Committee on Thursday, 12th April in Salisbury and afterwards I attended The Civic Society annual Planning Forum, which this year had the title 'New Settlements: an Alternative Approach to Meeting Housing Demand'. New settlements have proved their worth elsewhere, by relieving the pressure to find new sites round the edges of existing settlements, and by being large enough to enable a strategic approach to creating the necessary infrastructure. One speaker was from Winchester City Council, and spoke regarding the northern extension to a new settlement at North Whiteley, between Winchester and Fareham. With the need for so much housing, continually adding to existing settlements can put strain on existing settlements. I was interested to hear that to achieve a new settlement takes around 20 years. If this is the case, although a good idea for the future, it will not help those in need now.

While in Salisbury, I noted that parking is now free for a period of time, an increase in the number of people, which should help Salisbury's economy, especially after recent events of the reported attempted murder of Sergei Skripal and his daughter. Alistair Cunningham, the corporate director of Wiltshire Council and the chair of the Salisbury recovery co-ordination group, has warned that the city will not be back to normal until the summer of 2019. He said that Salisbury was a "resilient city", with "a history of a thousand years", and that while the attack would be part of its history, "the city is bigger than that." He said the decontamination process would begin after the Easter holidays.

I recently gave an after dinner talk to The Rotary Club of Gillingham, who kindly offered to donate £75 to a charity of my choice, I chose The Dorset Air Ambulance, many of us are aware when an air ambulance has been a life saver, the average cost of a mission is £3,000. Also I noticed the Projector at The Olive Bowl was to be changed and suggested the old one could be used for community use, I am please to say the projector has been donated to me for this purpose.

Mere Town Clock seems now to keep good time. With clocks across the country adjusted by an hour on a Sunday morning recently, Dorchester Town Council found itself with a little more work on its hands. It was found that the dial on the 200-year-old clock in Dorchester town centre showed a total of 61 minutes, with an extra digit between the 7 and 8. The deputy town clerk noted it was "incredible to think that no one has ever noticed this before." The dial has been removed and repainted, and is awaiting reinstallation.

I receive complaints sometime regarding people parking partly on the pavement. I have read recently, parking spaces in Bath are painted half-on and half-off the pavement and are being hailed as a success by Bath and North East Somerset Council. Exeter also has half-on half-off parking in areas.

Dorset are pioneering a push to link hospital and community care. The FT analyses Integrated Care Systems (ICTs), 10 of which are being run across England. ICTs see

NHS organisations and councils work collectively to manage resources and improve people's health. I note that The Government has announced a major expansion of schemes, which see NHS patients given control of spending on their healthcare and home-help needs. Up to 350,000 regular users of healthcare will be given "personal budgets", using allocations from NHS and council budgets. Ministers said a more individual focus on care need will form one of the "key principles of reform" when a green paper on social care is published this summer. Care Minister, Caroline Dinéage, said the initiative will "reduce pressure on emergency care by joining up health and social care services at a local level".

I am still trying to get Wiltshire Council to sort out the many street lights that continue to fail or have failed in Mere. There are 4,000 streetlights in Wiltshire at present, 7% are LED and more are being changed to LED. Wiltshire Council is responsible for public health, therefore I noted Public Health England has raised concerns about a new generation of LED streetlights, which are cheaper to run and produce lower emissions. However, it has been alleged that they could disrupt people's sleep and potentially damage their eyesight. In the Chief Medical Officer's annual report, it was noted that councils are increasingly replacing mercury and sodium streetlights with LED alternatives. I have noted myself LED street lights appear very bright in one area of a light pattern but the light diminishes quite quickly around the edge of the pattern. Sodium lights to me appear more of what I would call a "night time light".

Our area is relatively safe regarding crime, however it is worth noting, nationally two thirds of burglary cases are closed without investigation. Last year almost 130,000 burglary investigations across England and Wales were closed without any suspect being identified - up more than 35,000 since 2014 when the statistics were first collected and published.

Wiltshire Council has upheld a decision to close two activity centres in Wiltshire because outdoor education is 'not a priority' for its children's services. An announcement to close Braeside in Devizes and Oxenwood in Marlborough caused shock and sparked a petition that gained over 14,100 signatures. The decision was made behind closed doors at a private cabinet meeting on 5th April. However the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee voted eight to five (with one abstention) to reject the claim that the decision had not been made fairly. Councillors also debated whether the sites were 'massively dilapidated' and would have been in need of £1.4m worth of investment to continue operating. Any charities or external companies which were interested in keeping the sites open as activity centres had until Tuesday, 24th April, to submit a business case to the council, which said it would consider all serious bids to keep the centres open. Seeds4Success locally use Oxenwood, and I understand they would have liked to have seen this service continue. I believe more effort and time should have been allowed to have found a charity etc. to have maintained these facilities.

GDPR The (European) General Data Protection Regulations will come into force in the UK on Friday, 25th May 2018. This will affect almost all people. Wiltshire Councillors have until early June to finish training. From my perspective it heightens the need to keep electorate's data secure and only keep as long as required, which I have always tried to do.

I am pleased to say that the recently completed new Bungalows at Bramley have been awarded to local people. Because of the parking problems around Bramley House, I have had the following fact minuted in The Town Council minutes for use in the future. Parking outside the bungalows for four of the six spaces is for public use, and is not to

be obstructed by flower tubs etc. Although, only two more social houses, these will help the many that require housing.

Dog excrement in public areas and hung in plastic bags in hedges etc. needs preventing, please help by reporting to me or your local council. I understand the Dog Warden will take up each case. Some dog owners or walkers deserve to be prosecuted in my opinion, when deliberately refusing or trying to evade picking up.

The leader of Wiltshire Council, Jane Scott, has been in the media because of a rival challenge to her party political position. I think it worth noting that Jane Scott would be free to continue in the role as Leader of Wiltshire Council until the next elections in 2021, what ever the outcome.

Our roads in Wiltshire still are poor in areas aggravated by the recent inclement weather. While in Dorset recently, I used some non-classified roads which were nearly impassable to a small vehicle. Nationally, The Farmers' insurer, NFU Mutual, has warned that increasing numbers of potholes on rural roads are putting horse riders and cyclists at risk, and a combination of severe weather and a lack of maintenance means some roads are in such a poor state they might need to be closed altogether.

I have had local people consult me when having signed agreements in their home with the provider of the service present. Should you or someone you know, especially the elderly and vulnerable, are considering such action please advise that they need to be allowed a 'cooling off' period. Although by law there is usually a cooling off period, an immediate signature can, on reflection, be regretted.

Passport countersignature and witnessing photocopies of documents to be certified as a true copy, is a requirement many have. I complete several of these a week. Should you have need of either of these services, please remember I will help if I can.

Mere Matters and other local community magazines are usually available a few days before the end of the month, therefore remember "Mere Makes Music" on Saturday, 28th April 2018 at Mere School and Children's Centre.

A reminder again. 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  :07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.

Singing for All

Next session April 6th 6pm in Mere Lecture Hall

Learn some basic technique and sing a variety of pieces

Contact: KATIE SMITH B Mus - 07427 684269 or

www.reallysing.co.uk

MERE LIBRARY

Book Sale Saturday, 5th May - Saturday 19th May.

Come along and browse the selection of Paperbacks and Hardbacks, both Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction. We will also be selling a selection of Junior Books, Large Print books and DVD's. Plenty of Bargains to be had.

For further details contact Mere Library on  : 01747 860546

Volunteers needed to help at Mere Library

We are currently looking for extra volunteers to get involved at Mere Library. Our Community Library Volunteers help to extend the library's opening hours with two volunteer operated sessions on Mondays from 10am – 2 pm and Wednesdays from 9.30 am – 1pm. This is a great role if you enjoy meeting people of all ages and have a love of books and reading.

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with straightforward enquiries; assisting with the self-service machines; shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public access computers.

We are looking for volunteers who can be flexible about their availability and are able to do a minimum of two sessions per month. Volunteer sessions normally last between 2 -3 hours and are either on a Monday or Wednesday. Please see below for the library's full opening hours:

Monday 10.00am – 2.00pm (volunteer led) 2.00 – 7.00pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm (volunteer led)
Thursday 9.30am – 5.00pm
Friday 9.30am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm

If you are interested in volunteering at Mere Library and would like further details about the Community Library Volunteer role please contact me either by telephone on the number shown below or by ✉: jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

Jane Hunt, Library Service Volunteer Coordinator, ☎: 01225 713792

LINK SCHEME FUNDRAISER REQUIRED

Our Link Scheme provides a vital service taking those in Mere and surrounding villages who find it difficult to get to medical and other appointments. But the donations we receive don't cover the costs so additional fundraising is vital to make ends meet.

The main source of additional funds is the Mere Literary Festival which will be held for the 22nd time between Monday, 8th and Sunday, 14th October this year. Having run the festival since its inception, Adrienne Howell has decided to step down after this year's event and she has said "we need for someone younger to take on and develop the Literary Festival and help secure the Link Scheme's future".

This is a fantastic opportunity to volunteer to help continue and develop what has become an institution in the Mere calendar. The festival appeals to a general-interest audience, which is mainly community based, so organising skill rather than specialist knowledge is required. Help and advice will be available, and as some of the current festival committee members also wish to retire you would have the opportunity to form your own group of helpers.

If you could be the Link Scheme's fundraiser please call me on the number shown below. If you want to know more about what is involved please call Adrienne on ☎01747 860475. *John FitzGerald, MDLS Chairman, ☎: 01747 860867*



MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Dental Hygienists: Helen Astill, Emma Wise

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

Email: meredental16@btconnect.com

www.merementistry.co.uk

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.45am -5:00pm

**Book Free consultation for Dental Implants, Six Months Smile and Invisalign
(minor teeth correction for adults)**



DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

Helen Astill BSc (Hons.) Health Science/Nutritional Therapy, EDH – Diploma in Dental Hygiene, has joined the practice as a hygienist.

Helen says that she loves living in Somerset. "Me and my family have lived here for over a decade now and my children have been lucky to be born and grow up in a such a fantastic part of the country.

"Originally from Hampshire, I worked, studied and qualified as a Dental Nurse before moving to London to Study at The Eastman Dental Hospital as a Dental Hygienist. Although I enjoyed my work very much as a hygienist, I felt my student days were not over. Nutritional Therapy was my next studying route. This has complemented my role as a hygienist over the years and allowed me to help my patients, with a wide knowledge base.

"I am very much looking forward to joining Waheed Syed and Jyothsna Mekala and the team at Mere Dentistry Practice in May 2018, taking on some of the patients that Laura has looked after so well over the past years".

"Looking after your mouth, teeth and gums is a worthwhile goal. Good oral hygiene is essential for preventing and treating gum disease. Also, it is important for the prevention of tooth decay and bad breath. Recent research has also showed that a healthy mouth can help with serious systemic problems, like heart disease, strokes and diabetes, to name but some.

"I look forward to meeting and treating many of the people of Mere and surrounding villages in the near future."

Jyothsna Syed, Practice Manager ☎ : 01747 860365

MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Keeping Things Going. Volunteers Needed - Everywhere!

We are fortunate in having had a dedicated committee to keep the Chamber operating over the last few years, and I'm pleased to recognize and thank them for their service. However, like many organizations, people need to move on, perhaps feeling they have made their contribution or wishing to reduce their commitments. Where do the next generation of volunteers come from and how do we find them?

It's a strange psychology, but many people don't volunteer unless they're asked! That immediately reduces the field of contacts and can result in the committee outlook never changing or seeking fresh ideas.

Looking around various organizations in Mere, I see that many are in the same situation, often relying solely on the older generation. How about YOU giving some time and new ideas to an organisation. Times change and the norms of 40 years ago when many of us began offering our services no longer apply, but urgent needs are still there. You may be able to bring some specialist knowledge or just a pair of willing hands, but I'm sure any contribution would be welcomed. It doesn't have to be much to make a large difference. And if it happens you choose the Chamber of Trade, then you certainly WILL be welcomed.

If you would like to know more about the Chamber and its work and activities, or would be interested in training courses for your organisation, please get in contact with our Secretary Julie Cousins by phone on ☎: 07856 700576 or contact us at ✉: merechamber@outlook.com Watch this space for further details of our meetings and we look forward to seeing you at a Chamber event or meeting in 2018.

The date of the next Chamber Committee Meeting is Wednesday, 16th May at 7:30pm in the Mere Social Club.

Hamish Bell, President Mere & District Chamber of Trade, ☎: 07856 700576



MERE RIVERS GROUP

General notes

Anyone walking along Burton path recently will have seen activity at Wessex Water pumping station. This is regular maintenance and updating of equipment and facilities.

One of the effects of this is that all water abstraction from Mere will stop for approximately three months. The stoppage is now scheduled to start at the end of May and run through the summer. We expect that the levels of our streams will benefit from this and therefore an increase in wildlife sightings and diversity of species.

Wildlife Sightings for March

At the time of writing, which is the beginning of April, we have had a very cold and wet March. However, despite the weather (or because of) there have been sightings of several different birds. These have included Fieldfare and Redwings, which are types of thrush and are winter migrants and were certainly looking for food in the cold weather. Snipe, which is a type of wader, was also seen. It was once a frequent visitor to our rivers so the two sightings are a good sign.

The following are your sightings for March: Fieldfare - flock of 12, Little Egret - 6 and a pair; Redwing, Moorhen and Collared Dove each seen 3 times; Grey Wagtail, Goldcrest, Snipe and a pair of Mute Swans each seen twice; Wren, Green Woodpecker and Chiffchaff each seen once; Long Tailed Tits - a small flock of 6 and a pair. The water vole was seen twice. A small shoal of stickleback and the bright yellow Brimstone Butterfly were also seen. Spring flowers have been appearing and this has included primroses, lesser celandine and butterbur.

Nature Notes

With spring's arrival, the summer migrants are arriving and the Swifts, Swallows and House Martins will be skimming the streams catching the various river insects. It would be good to know the earliest date they have been seen. At this time of year it is also good to note the insects eg: mayflies, butterflies, damsel flies and demoiselles, as well as the plants they may be using for their food, resting places and for laying eggs.

As always, please keep your sightings coming and e-mail anything you see to  mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com. *Lynne Bann*,  : 01747 860174

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants Available for 2018

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

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

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Saturday, 30th June and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of this date.

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

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

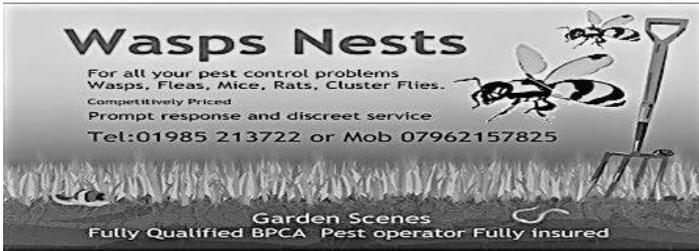
On a very cold and wintry March day the Lecture Hall was where we staged the Spring Bazaar, as well as a Photographic Exhibition by the Frome Wessex Camera Club. The weather did not stop us and we managed - with volunteers - to man our stalls and raise an amazing £468.93 on the day, as well as a donation of £120 to swell our profits to £588.93. We are so grateful to our very generous friends in Mere and their continuing support. Thank you.

The May Fair on Saturday, the 19th May is worth another mention and we are determined to present a very good show; despite working around road closure issues, the Royal Wedding and the FA Cup. We are already amassing some attractive raffle prizes and working hard to give you a fun day, so please come along! Look out for more information from our posters when they are displayed around the town.

We are also pleased to welcome two new committee members who joined at our recent AGM and we are sure they will add various skills and fresh ideas to our dedicated team. If

you, too, feel you can contribute and join us, please get in touch. For more information on the May Fair and other up and coming events, please contact me.

Harvard Dallibar, ☎: 07788 138003 or ✉: las518@icloud.com



Wasps Nests
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Wasps, Fleas, Mice, Rats, Cluster Flies.
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Garden Scenes
Fully Qualified BPCA Pest operator Fully insured

The advertisement features a black and white illustration of a wasp and a garden fork. The background shows a garden scene with a path and plants.

MOVEMENT FOR THE MIND

Movement for the Mind is a gentle exercise to music group for people living with dementia and a family carer to enjoy together. The friendly and supportive group meets at the Grove Building on the first and third Fridays of each month (4th and 18th May) from 10.30am to 12.00pm. The exercise activity, led by a professional facilitator, lasts for an hour and ends with social time and refreshments.

Everyone is encouraged to do as much or as little as they feel able to, and people with restricted mobility and wheelchair users are welcome.

Mere Movement for the Mind is one of seven groups run by Wiltshire charity Alzheimer's Support, and I am the organiser. If you'd like to come along and see me, please call the number below or visit : www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk

Vanessa Long ☎: 01380 739055

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

As we draw closer to our annual exhibition, club members have been busy planning catering, and learning the arts associated with the use of Plaster of Paris in casting tunnel entrances and creating undulated hillsides. Further studies utilising the DVD by David Wright on the creation of miniature landscapes have been observed by the OO modellers.

The club has decided to have a day's outing to Seaton Tramway and Pecorama. Our Chairman Graham has arranged this for Friday, 1st June. We have also decided to extend an invitation to the local community to join us.

Trams & Trains on Friday, 1st June.

It is proposed to leave Castle Street Car park at 8.30am to travel to Colyton where Graham will introduce us to the tram he is driving for our group.

After the tram trip to Seaton a period of about an hour is being allowed to stroll about the front. We then return to Colyton for a light late lunch.

From here we travel to Pecorama at nearby Beer, where the over 80's enjoy free entrance to their model railway exhibition and steam garden railway. There is a Pullman carriage for cream teas, and they further have an excellent gift and model railway shop. We are planning to be back in Mere by 6.50pm.

To book your seat please contact me by telephoning the number below or by e-mail:
✉: tomsnook29@hotmail.co.uk. Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 16th May 2018 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, 14th May, please. Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A) FOR MERE?

A number of local residents who have been involved in a "U3A" in other communities have expressed an interest in starting a group in Mere. I have been asked if I can try to form such a group.

I start by asking for anyone who is interested to contact me and I will arrange a preliminary meeting to discuss the way forward. We would like to be up and running by September.

Can I point out that I have no experience of U3A, but am merely acting as a catalyst to get things started? My contact details are: *Peter Lewis* ☎: 017476 840116

✉: pexhill@btinternet.com

PROSPECTIVE MERE DINERS CLUB

During a recent Theatre Club outing a few members suggested that it might be a good

idea to start a Diners Club. To begin with, we need to see how many retired members of the community are in favour of the idea.

It is proposed that a small committee will choose various eating venues in Dorset, Somerset & Wiltshire. Naturally, as we will use hired transport, an initial number of 50 would be sensible so that costs could be kept as low as possible. The club is expected to start in Autumn, this year.

Would those interested please contact me by e-mail ✉: Tomsnook29@hotmail.co.uk or by telephoning this number. *Tom Snook* ☎: 01747 861977

MAY SHORT WALK

Join us for a walk to the bluebell woods on Friday, 4th May 2018. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 10.00am. Please note the different time from usual!

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884



MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

**Healthy Mere Walking:
Join Us On Sunday, 10th June**

Your opportunity to join lots of people in Mere having a good walk, with brilliant views, in the fresh air - as well as helping to improve Mere's many footpaths. What a **Great Bottom** you will have!

Mere Footpath Groups have been maintaining footpaths in Mere parish and, also, organising walks for many years. This year, we hope to encourage even more people to enjoy the benefits of walking. The walk is just 3.3 miles of country path but involves a climb of 370ft to a splendid view. You can start any time from 10 to 12 noon from Manor Road and the walk will bring you back there after you have completed the walk at your own pace.

We are asking for a contribution to help us buy kissing gates which we will install to make walks on the footpaths of Mere more accessible. Your £5 donation will go toward buying the next kissing gate **and** our sponsors will reward you with a goody bag and a Great Bottom badge to wear with pride. We would like you to register in advance to help us organise the day – e-mail us: ✉: merefootpathgroup@gmail.com or call our Treasurer, John ☎: 07840 722835. For full details go to our website 🌐: www.merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk or our facebook page *merefootpathgroup* – there will also be information in Mere library.

John Jordan, Treasurer, Mere Footpath Group ☎: 07840 722835

MERE CARNIVAL QUIZ NIGHT

Friday, 4th May 2018

Grove Building

7.15pm for 7.30pm

£2.00 per person

Tables of four

Please come and join us for a fun evening with raffle and refreshments.

All proceeds towards 2018 Carnival.

Carol Payne ☎: 01747 861639

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our next film scheduled for Thursday, 24th May is 'Finding Your Feet' (12A). A middle class snob (Imelda Staunton) discovers her husband of 40 years has been having an affair with her best friend. She seeks refuge with her very hippyish, estranged sister (Celia Imrie). The film boasts an excellent cast and while tackling some challenging themes, is also very uplifting, 'charming' and demonstrates the power that dance can have in all of our lives – young or young at heart!

Tickets are available from the library. Further details on page 25.

Dates for your Film Diary:

Thursday, 14th June 7:30pm: The Greatest Showman [PG]

Thursday 12th July 7:30pm: Darkest Hour [PG] Rosie ☎: 01747 861567

SHREEN HARMONY

We will be performing in May during the Dementia Awareness Week. The concert is on Thursday, 24th May at 7.30 p.m. in Gillingham Methodist Church. There will be light refreshments served and all donations are in aid of Alzheimer's Society.(see page 21)

In June we are singing in Mere. The concert is on the Saturday, 23rd June in St Michaels Church organised by the Friends of St Michael in aid of the church.

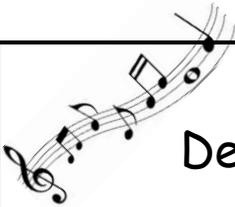
We would welcome your support hopefully at both of these occasions.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

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**



Dementia Awareness Week



Shreen Harmony

And Special Guests

In Concert

In Memory of Val Amos

Thursday, 24th May 2018

Gillingham Methodist Church

Starts 7.30pm

Light refreshments

Donations in aid of Alzheimer's Society

Shreen Harmony is a Community choir based in Mere.

Under the musical directorship of Caroline Radcliffe, they meet every Thursday evening (during term time) and perform throughout the year at various events. They sing a variety of musical genres, songs from all around the world, including Traditional English, African, Eastern European, Spiritual and American folk.

: www.shreenharmony.co.uk

facebook

:Shreen Harmony

Summer Fete – Saturday, 9th June

St Michael's Church

Spring cleaning?

**Do you have unwanted items to dispose of?
We would be grateful for any donations of the
following - to go on our stalls at the fete:**

Toys - Games - Puzzles - Books

CDs / DVDs - Bric a Brac

(We will collect)

Please contact Sandra or Derek,

 :01747 861980

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Growing Vegetables in Small Places

Sally Nex

Wednesday, 9th May 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Sally is a garden writer based in Somerset, who some years ago began growing a few peas and beans in her back garden. Her veg-growing has now got totally out of hand and she is developing a garden full of delicious, fragrant and fascinating plants.

£ 2 entry for visitors who are very welcome

Mere Mini Garden Festival.

Saturday, 1st September. While the Committee is busy sorting out the final details of Mere Garden Club's new style Show, hopefully you are all busy choosing what to enter!

Have you put the date in your diaries, and have you picked up the new style schedule from the Library or Sprout and Flower?

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2018 ISSUE

MONDAY, 14th MAY 2018

Have you planted your seed potato for the Potato weighing Competition? All details are on the mere Garden Club website: meregardenclub.org.uk

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

At the end of the summer, Thursday, 6th September to be precise, we are going to Winchester to see: ILLUMINATION: A FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS INSPIRED BY THE WINCHESTER BIBLE.

The last Winchester flower festival was stunning, so we have high hopes! Tickets including entry and the coach there and back are £22 per head.

By the time you read this there may be some tickets left, so if you're interested please contact either Chris or Madelaine, see below.

Chris Hughes ☎: 01747 861663 Madelaine Morris ☎: 01747 861833

MERE DRAMA SOCIETY IN CONJUNCTION WITH RURAL ARTS WILTSHIRE PRESENT:

Panta Rei Dance Theatre
In a double bill

Promise of Departure

created in collaboration with British dance maker Rachel Erdos.

Promise of Departure is a work that explores vulnerability and strength. How these two factors come to play in the relationships we have and the struggles we are forced to overcome. The promise of connection and the departure from our comfort zone.



Mere Lecture Hall

Saturday, 5th May at 7.30m
Limited tickets, so pre ordering advised.
Please call Maggie ☎: 01747 860163
or ✉: **margaret.durkee@btopenworld.com**
Tickets can be paid for and collected on the door.
£8 each

“You just have to allow yourself to be captured by the magical atmosphere and enjoy three exceptional dancers”.

Dan Cato Røe, Stangeavisa

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA

in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Finding Your Feet' (12A)

with Imelda Staunton, Celia Imrie,
Timothy Spall, David Hayman and
Joanna Lumley.

A heart-warming mix of comedy, drama,
romance and dance!

in The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 24th May at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from the Library

For more information call Rosie ☎ 01747 861567

Visit our website at 🌐: www.moviola.org

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

For the over 60s

The Day Centre for Mere and District, Lynch Close
Mondays and Fridays 10:30am – 3:00pm

From the Trustees

For any organisation unexpected happenings can test the mettle of the management team. As we were inundated with snow and freezing temperatures twice in March, the trustees together with our centre manager, Sandie Hawkins, faced the difficult (and very rare) probability of having to close the centre on Friday 2nd and then again on Monday, 19th.

In any community service organisation, even temporary closure has ramifications. Safeguarding the health and welfare of the guests is always the primary consideration, so Sandie had to weigh up the physical safety of guests against the possibility of isolation in their own homes, and missing what might have been their only hot meal for several days. The possibility of last minute transport cancellation also had to be factored in. On balance it was agreed that each closure should go ahead, which meant contacting every guest on the register for those days personally, as well as Fives Court who supply the lunches, and the transport company. In the end, there was only one casualty - the Greek dancing session scheduled for the Monday – but that has been easily rearranged!

Looking forward, we hope for no further unexpected events (certainly no closures), and with hints of Spring in the air, we anticipate our summer programme, which includes a visit from the children of Mere School, always a pleasure to chat to the young people; art and craft, a trip to the seaside in June and the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Rosemary Goddard Centre in July to be held where we have our twice weekly sessions, in the community room at Lynch Close.

Chris Dillon Chair of trustees
Sandie Hawkins ☎: 07835 272406
🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

At our April meeting, after our AGM which included a thank you to Judith Thompson for 6 years as Branch Leader and handing over to three new leaders sharing this role, Sheila Crone gave a fascinating talk on Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, which gave us all a lot to think about. (How times have changed!) This month, on Tuesday, 8th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, Joanne Woodd will tell us about the Mothers' Union café at Salisbury Courts. This is a fairly new and very successful venture, started in response to evident need. All are welcome to join us to find out more.

For our other event in May:



**MERE MOTHERS UNION INVITE
MUMS WITH CHILDREN FOR A**

HALF-TERM FUN AFTERNOON

**ON TUESDAY, 29TH MAY 2018
2.30-4.30PM IN THE GROVE BUILDING**

**TOYS & GAMES FOR LITTLE ONES; GAMES & CRAFT ACTIVITIES FOR
OLDER CHILDREN; TEA AND CAKES FOR EVERYONE
HUSBANDS/PARTNERS WELCOME**

JUST COME ALONG, OR FOR MORE INFO PLEASE ☎ : 01747 860553

*Joint MU Branch Leaders: Christabelle Kritikos ☎ : 01747 861065,
Jenny Larder ☎ : 01747 861397, Christine Marsh ☎ : 01747 861212*

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We are about to commence our summer course on Tuesday morning, 8th May and Wednesday evening, 9th May. We then have a break for the summer and resume our courses in September. This course is often the most successful for starting something new, a dress, skirt etc. and completing it during the course, making one at home so that the tuition is thoroughly absorbed and adding to the summer wardrobe for – dare I say it – warmer weather!

We make the most of a couple of lovely long summer evenings and then feel great when we go to a barbecue with something new to wear. We are told that most items returned after internet buys are because they don't fit and that is why people decide to make their own.

We are changing the date of our "Sewing All Day" originally set for Saturday, 19th May. A very special Royal Wedding Day, sorry Prince Harry and Megan, I forgot. None of us have received our invitations "yet" but some of us will be glued to the screens looking at the fashions. The new date will be notified in the next Mere Matters.

There is a little space on both of the May/June courses, we don't meet in Half Term week, but if you would like to put your name down for September at this stage please contact me for more details.

Do look at our Facebook Page "Dressmaking in Mere" for photos etc. Or phone one of us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carol ☎: 01747 861923 or Susanne 📠: 07788 595434.

MERE MUSEUM

There's nothing but good news from the Museum this month! First, the South West Wiltshire Area Board has just awarded the Museum £2,000 toward the costs of conserving the Rutter Scrapbooks - a two-volume compendium of posters, newspaper cuttings and other documents relating to the history of, and activities in, Mere during the 19th century.

The Town Council has also generously agreed to contribute £225 which, together with two grants (2016 and 2017) totalling £2,700 from the Lecture Hall Trust, means that we now have just about enough money to proceed with the work. We are extremely grateful for this generous local support.

Not, however, before the Museum's Big Event on Saturday, 16th June from 2:00 – 5:00p.m. We are very lucky that Wiltshire Museum Service's Conservator will be carrying out the conservation of the Scrapbooks and has agreed to join us. She will describe what is involved in such a huge conservation task. The Scrapbooks will remain at the Museum for anyone to see until later in June when they go to the conservator. Other plans for the Event are shaping up nicely – details in the next issue of Mere Matters.

In mid-May the present and much acclaimed exhibition about Mere's Amazing Neighbours will come down and we shall be showing two WWI travelling exhibitions from Wiltshire Museum's Service: 'Keeping the Home Fires Burning' and 'A Child's War'. These will be on display for about 2 weeks.

After this we shall mount a new exhibition about Mere's water coinciding with the updating of the Water Treatment Works at Burton field. Our streams should be fuller for the duration of the updating works and so this is an opportune moment to look again at the question of water in Mere. The exhibition will be jointly mounted by the Mere Rivers Group and the Museum, and will be entitled 'A Tale of Two Rivers', opening to the public on Tuesday, 12th June.

Meanwhile it would be lovely to hear from Mere Matters readers about any personal or family River Stories or anecdotes that we could use in the exhibition. Please write them (fairly succinctly please) on a piece of paper and pop them into the Museum. Thank you.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Don't forget The Friends' Quiz Night on Friday, 27th April in the Grove Building. Entry will be £2 per person, and doors will open at 7:00pm. Come with a ready-made team of four

or just turn up and join in. Everyone is most welcome. Refreshments will be available, and there will also be a raffle. We look forward to seeing lots of you on the night!

By then our famous annual Plant Sale will be upon us. Grove Building Saturday, 12th May at 10:00am. There will be a cake stall too and we would be delighted if lots of our kind supporters could bake one for us to sell.

If you have plants for us please bring them to the Grove Building at 9.00am on 12th, or we would be happy to collect beforehand. Just e-mail with a phone number and we will organise collection.

Don't forget, first come, first served, and when they're gone, they're gone! Doors open at 10:00am. See you there!

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908 ✉: jennyflaxmill@gmail.com
or ✉: davidlongbourne@btinternet.com

ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Increasing numbers of people are moving to Mere to make it their home and are keen to get involved in the community. When they arrive this publication and Facebook's Mere Mutters are both useful sources of information in settling in and working out the lay of the land. However, there are hidden gems that offer goods, services and job opportunities that may not be so obvious and this new feature will tell you more about the great things that are right here in (or near) Mere. If you have a local business and want to let people know about it, then please submit 200 to 300 words and through 'On Your Doorstep' Mere Matters will be happy to let people know about you.

Graham Avory, Editor

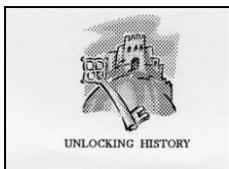
Haxnicks

The first feature is on Haxnicks, a local company that designs new and innovative garden products that make life in the garden easier. Founded in 1995 it has been producing game changing products for over twenty years and continues to bring new ideas to market as well as providing handy gardening tips via blogs and social media. It will even try and answer your gardening questions if you get in touch.

Its products cover all stages of the gardening year from spring seed planting to autumn leaf clearing and composting. At this time of year its top selling Rootainers and Vigoroot pots are great for getting the vegetable garden off to a flying start. If you want terrific tomatoes or better beans these are for you! Often featured on Gardeners World, the products can be bought on line from 🌐: www.haxnicks.co.uk or at garden centres such as Orchard Park in Gillingham.

Haxnicks are keen to get local people involved in using the products and have already started to support the Gardening Club at Mere School. Please message it or pick up the phone if you want to be on its Testing Team and ring. ☎: 0117 9341799. Also like it on

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see what it's up to and get useful hints and tips for your garden.



Mere Historical Society

Visits

Oxford - Fully Booked.

Thursday, 17th May 2018. Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.15am and returns around 6:00pm.

Mottisfont Abbey and Garden (National Trust)

Tuesday, 19th June 2018. *Filling fast, DEADLINE for booking Thursday, 31st May*

Mottisfont Abbey sits on the river Test. From humble beginnings as a 13th Century priory to a grand country retreat for London's artistic elite, Mottisfont has a rich and varied past. Our visit will begin with a 50 minute guided tour on "The Rise and Fall of Mottisfont Priory," after which you will be free to explore the house and grounds.

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns around 6pm

Cost: MHS Members £15, non-members £18 per person. Includes coach and tip.

Entry to Mottisfont for non-National Trust members is £11 (group rate). Please add this to your payment if applicable.

PLEASE USE THE BOOKING FORM available from Mere Information Point or download from the "What's On" tab on our website.



www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

For more details please ring: Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MERE BOWLS CLUB

By the time you are reading this epistle we will be open for the 2018 season, so if you missed opening day and would like to give bowls a go, come along any time the club is open. Or if calling at the club is not convenient at this time then give me a call, drop me a line via e-mail or just stop me in the street (if you know me that is!) and we can set up

a personal coaching session for you at a time to suit yourself. The club is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5.30 to 7.30pm and on Saturdays from 3.00 to 5.00pm.

Now for some sad news, our closest league playing neighbour club is Tisbury Bowls Club and we have had many a ding dong against them over the years, now it looks as if they will close due to a lack of members. This is never good to hear and even worse, if it is a club loaded with friends and colleagues who we have known, and cherished, for many years. We are still in hope of good news, but it does not look good.

For any other details about the Club, please contact either David Anley on 01747-822216, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by phone below or by ✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775



NEWS FROM HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist - Be curious!" Stephen Hawking

This quote from the eminent physicist; Professor Stephen Hawking who died on 14th March 2018, was on everyone's mind at Hindon Primary School as the pupils and staff enjoyed a Science curriculum enrichment week. The children were challenged to be curious, to wonder and to try and make sense of the world around them and they had, quite literally, a 'hair-raising' time!!

During the week, the school hosted a Mad Science Day for pupils from local Primary Schools. The Physics workshops, based around the principal of Static Electricity were electrifying! Using a Vandergraph Generator to generate electricity, the children could make their hair stand on end as they conducted electricity when they touched the machine!! The children also studied physical processes of floating and sinking. The younger children made Cartesian Divers and the older children investigated sturdy raft building techniques.

Chemical processes were also put to the test in Bath Bomb creations, Volcano eruptions and Bake Off competitions! As a special treat, the education department at Longleat Safari Park invited the children to visit the Safari Park and take part in their Biology education program based around animal adaption, evolution and survival in the Rainforests. It has been an amazing Science Curriculum enrichment week!

Jackie Gunter, Head Teacher, ☎: 01747 820260



Mere

Silver Class

This term Silver Class has been learning all about Superheroes.

Newspaper Reports

In English they have been looking at how newspaper reports are written. They have then created one of their own based on a superhero saving the day!

Dragon Egg

A mysterious object suddenly appeared in the classroom one day this term. The children were amazed to find out that it was a dragon egg! The children then used this experience to write their own stories all about the egg.

Dance

In PE the children made up their own superhero dance. They had great fun creating all their own moves each week to produce a fantastic final dance.

Dentist

The children had a visit from the dentist. They learnt all about how to brush their teeth and how to eat healthy foods. They enjoyed learning the names of all the teeth and were very surprised to find out how much sugar was in the food and drinks that they enjoyed. At the end of the session they were all given a toothbrush to take home. After her visit the dentist praised all the children at Mere for their excellent behaviour and manners.

Sport Relief

The whole school came dressed in their favourite sports clothes on Friday, 23rd March and took part in a Sport Relief dance routine.

STOP PRESS!

Do look at our website for more details of what we have been up to:



www.mereschool.co.uk

MERE GIRLGUIDING BINGO

Friday, 11th May, Grove Building, Doors open 6.45pm, Eyes Down 7.30pm. Variety of prizes. Raffle. Refreshments. Specials - including voucher for celebration cake (of the winner's choice) - up to £40.00.

Fun for the family with proceeds from the evening to Group Funds.

Sue Jeans ☎: 01747 860215

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER,
PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MICHAELS, MERE; WEST KNOYLE AND
MAIDEN BRADLEY, WRITES:

A Time of Thanksgiving and Service

In the midst of the joyful season of Easter, we embark on the round of annual church meetings; they are a time to reflect, take stock and thank the many people who care for St Michaels, Mere and St Mary's, West Knoyle. There are so many people to remember, but my particular thanks go to our church secretary Sherry Dixon and Elizabeth Howden, who is stepping down as churchwarden after 5 years; we have appreciated her cheerful and positively encouraging style.

Many other Grade 1 listed buildings are in the care of big institutions with huge resources behind them; our churches are maintained by worshippers and the generosity of our community and visitors. They are "living" buildings – St Michaels is open every day for people to call in to wander, wonder, pray, remember and reflect.

At one time the word "church" meant a gathering of Christians, it didn't mean the building at all. Whilst we love our building, planning the new facilities of toilets and servery in Mere, sharing it with you is even better! So we've been running fun craft sessions for families, with over 40 children coming along, and now a Sunday Club on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The fete will return this year on Saturday, 9th June with new attractions and older favourites too.

In West Knoyle a service of blessing creation (Rogation Service 13th May 11am) will be at the Bison Farm followed by a barbecue and stalls with cakes and plants. Soon five more people are to be licensed as pastoral assistants, people making a commitment to help others inspired by their Christian faith.

I like this from St Paul in a modern translation 'I give this piece of advice to each one of you. Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that God has given to you all. Through the grace of God we have different gifts. If our gift is serving others let us concentrate on our service; If it is stimulating of the faith of others let us set ourselves to it. Let those who are called to give, give freely; let the person who wields authority think of his responsibility; and let the person who feels sympathy for his fellows act cheerfully'

With blessings

THANKS FROM ST MICHAELS CHURCH

The Vicar, the PCC and the Church Wardens of St Michael the Archangel wish to offer their grateful thanks to everyone who contributed towards the replacement of the Church's gates. All who see them are delighted. We also wish to thank Jeans of Mere for their continuing contribution to the lighting of the Church both inside and out.

This wonderful generosity is greatly appreciated, for without it the constant maintenance of such an ancient building could not be achieved.

Lyndy Elliott, Churchwarden, ☎: 01747 861646



Following the amazing success of our quiz & pancake evening in February, which made £667.50 and was so fully booked that (sadly) we had to turn some people away we have had a quiet couple of months. However, in May we have a coffee morning and 'bring & buy' at Carole Marshall's, 14 Prospect Place on Tuesday, 15th May from 10.30am-12.00noon to which everyone is very welcome.

Looking ahead, please note in your diary that our ever-popular Strawberry Tea will be held on Friday, 6th July from 2.30pm in Jean and Colin Kantharia's garden, Rivermead, Pettridge Lane.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MAY 2018

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

(Rest Day - Saturday) ✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 01747 861319

✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each 1st Tuesday	6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each 3rd Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

Tuesday	1st	6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Thursday	6th	7.30am	Hymns at top of tower followed by Communion Service
Sunday	13th	11.00am	NO service in Mere Rogation Service in Bluebell Wood at Bison Farm, West Knoyle
Wednesday	16th	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday-Pentecost	*20th	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club for children
Sunday-Trinity	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Judith Thompson
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Duncan Goldie
			Holy Communion
	20th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
	27th	11.00am	Mrs 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 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	6th	9.30am	DIY
	13th	10.00am	Rogation Service in Bluebell Wood at Bison Farm with barbecue, cake and plant stalls
	20th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	27th	9.30am	Matins

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

MAY 2018

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; GB-Grove Building; HBF-Hill Brush Factory; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MPS-Mere Primary School; MSC-Mere Social Club; RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Tue	2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Online Drop In Session"	Lib
		6.00pm	Life Drawing (also 8th, 15th & 22nd)	L
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Tuesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi small hall (every Tuesday)	GB
2	Wed	11.15am	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
3	Thur	10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		6.20pm	Greek Dancing	L
4	Fri	10.00am	Mere Short Walk	CP
		10.30am	12.00pm Movement for the Mind (also 18th)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere carnival Quiz Night	GB
5	Sat	9.30am	- 5.00pm Book sale (also 19th)	Lib
7	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
8	Tue	10.30am	- 1.00pm Dressmaking Group (also 15th & 22nd)	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
9	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whjst Drive	GB
		7.00pm	- 9.30pm Dressmaking Group (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club Talk	GB
10	Thu	5.00pm	Girlguiding (every Thursday)	GB
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
		6.30pm	Brownies	GB
12	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
13	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
14	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 21st)	L
		6.00pm	- 8.00pm Water Colour Club (also 21st)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Am. Dram. Socy (MADS) AGM (Green R.)	L
		7.30pm	Town Council meeting	Ayp

16	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.30pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm	Get On-line Drop-in session	Angel Tea Rooms
23	Wed	1.45pm		Friends Together	GB
22	Tue	10.00am		Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
24	Thur	7.00pm		Moviola/Mere Filmshows 'Finding Your Feet'	L
29	Tues	2.30pm	- 4.30pm	Mothers Union 'Half Term event'	GB

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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 JUNE 2018 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the June 2018 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, 14th May 2018**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 7th May 2018 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:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: *jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com*

☎: *01985 844740*

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