

MERE MATTERS

and so does

WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine
including a guide to local events



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them*

Laurence Binyon

NOVEMBER 2018

THE EDITOR WRITES

I would first like to express my thanks to Graham Avory. Not only has he wielded the red pen for 12+ years but his system proved to be robust, professional and incredibly efficient. I would like to reiterate his and add my thanks to Alan Gristwood, Jane Kennedy and Viv Sheppard who have also dedicated many years to Mere Matters – I salute you all, and hope that you are able to continue doing what you do so well for the foreseeable future.

Mere Matters is a highly regarded publication with a wide circulation, free to local residents and supported by voluntary donations from groups and individuals and from advertising revenue. Thanks to all who make Mere Matters what it is. All donations are most welcome from groups or individuals to keep our Mere Matters alive.

Anyone reading the publications will immediately find Mere to be a hive of activity, something for everyone. Even when it is cloudy there is never a dull day in Mere!

I hope you approve of the subtle changes to the presentation this month. Other ideas have been suggested including; Diary of events moving to the centre fold, printing in colour, photos to adorn the front cover and maybe even making a quiz out of them, a 'Focus On' article - are just a few but; What do you think?

Most of those who contribute to the content here are volunteers. Committed people giving freely of their time in organising their groups, clubs and events so willingly. We should celebrate their efforts and thank them for their contributions in making this such a vibrant community in which to live.

Richard Jefferies

Symbol keys throughout:

☎ Telephone number, ✉ Email, 🌐 Web Address, 📱 Mobile number, 📘 Facebook

Front cover photo courtesy of: Clive Norman

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, 5th November at 7.30pm** in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman Writes

I have had the pleasure of attending two local events this past month. I was asked to speak at a meeting of Merely Women about the work of the Town Council and the role of a councillor. I feel that it went well and they asked a good few pertinent questions at the end. I am impressed with how groups like this work in Mere bringing together residents for social and informative sessions – a far cry from the isolated screen

watching individuals that we hear so much about in the media. My second event came just before sitting down to write this. I was invited to attend the final session of this year's Mere Literary Festival. With a Lecture Hall full we were treated to hear young people read out their entries in the writing competition and very good they were. Later we heard the winner of the adult writing competition as well. It was a special Festival as it was the last one organised by Adrienne Howell who brought the festival into existence in 1997 and who has been the major force in keeping it thriving successfully these past 22 years. I had the opportunity to give the thanks of Mere Town to her for such an outstanding achievement which has helped put Mere on the map and has provided Mere with so many entertaining and informative occasions.

I have been working with other councillors and volunteers to put together a unique response to the centennial of the end of WWI and you will have seen it around the town. The 52 'sculptures', as the reporter from radio Wiltshire called them will have been on display for some time when you read this and they will soon be moving to Jubilee Gardens (on 6th November). What struck me was the interest and keenness of Mere residents to display them on their property when asked. Likewise, when the Vicar and I talked to the children at Mere school, the awareness of what they represent.

Altogether, this is another instance where Mere residents responded wholeheartedly and with keen interest. If you haven't managed to find all 52 'sculptures', there is a map, available from The Library, showing the locations.



There will, of course, be a Remembrance Service, starting at the **War Memorial** in The Square on **Sunday 11th November** and the Town Council is taking part in the WW1 Beacon of Light in tribute to the millions of men and women who died or were injured in World War One. We will be lighting a beacon on **Castle Hill at 7.00pm** along with Churches throughout the UK and overseas, as part of the 'Battle's Over Commemoration', Mere Church bells will ring at 7.05 p.m.

In our October Town Council meeting we had a good few agenda items to discuss which were brought about as Wiltshire makes plans for the future. We are always actively involved on your behalf and try to put the position and needs of Mere Town clearly in these consultations. One aspect that we have contributed to is the review of electoral boundaries and electoral representation at county level. We have argued that the ward that includes Mere should stay much as it is now to avoid diluting our access to a County Councillor. Another area of consultation is on the future plans for development in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. This will have a direct effect on our local planning and on the demands placed on the Mere area for future housing and infrastructure provision. We made a positive contribution some months ago and are disappointed to find that our point of view is still 'under consideration' and the consultation is not resolved to our satisfaction. Several of us will be attending further meetings with Wiltshire County planning officials to put our opinions forward. This is another reason why we, as a Town, need to press on with our own Neighbourhood

Plan. If you have an opportunity, whether it be filling in a survey form or volunteering to help, please do so. The more involvement of residents across Mere that we have, the better the final outcome will be. The application to build a new estate at what we know as 'Gillingham Corner' failed in appeal but the company behind it may still appeal to the Secretary of State. The application raised different points of view amongst residents and we hope that having a Neighbourhood Plan will state clearly how the people of Mere see the town developing. Please take part to make your thoughts known.

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 must thank Richard Jefferies for taking over from Graham Avory as editor of Mere Matters. This is his first official issue and I am sure he will be more than capable. It should be noted he does this for the "love of the job" and nothing else, therefore please be kind to him, not that he cannot look after himself!

Armistice: There are at present mementos to appear as the image of a helmet resting on a rifle all around the town of Mere to commemorate the end of The First World War, which was known as armistice. Ted Henson kindly has provided three silhouette soldiers free for the commemoration for which I would like to thank him, one being on The Mere Post office. I would also like to thank everyone involved in the great community effort being made to commemorate the end of The First World War.

Pettridge Lane - Road Closure 27th November: Wiltshire Council has made an Order to close Pettridge Lane temporarily to all traffic from its junction with Dark Lane to its junction with The Lynch. This to enable Wessex Water to complete manhole replacement works. This Order will come into operation on 27 November 2018 and the closure will be required between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm for 1 day. It is anticipated that the works will take the stated duration to complete depending upon weather conditions. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible, although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months. For further information please contact Victoria Armstrong (Wessex Water) on 0345 600 4 600

Housing: Based on the latest National Planning Policy Guidance and the government's wishes to provide more housing, Wiltshire Council will be given a number of housing units it has to allow for being put into place, from government level. Wiltshire Council is required to set a housing requirement in the new Local Plan for each existing and new neighbourhood plan once the new Local Plan is agreed. Wiltshire Council will work with Parish and Town Councils to find an indicative figure to use where work is just commencing on new neighbourhood plans and they look beyond 2026, the end of

Wiltshire Core Strategy plan period. I noted with interest from 2006 to 17, Amesbury developed 1450 dwellings of which only 12% were on previously developed land and Corsham developed 597 of which 98% were on previously developed land.

Benefits: Many people know of the single person's 25% discount regarding Council Tax, however some are not aware of further rebates that can be applied for on a needs basis. I say this because benefits are not retrospectively claimable and the claimant may not realise their ability to claim entitlement, maybe for years causing unnecessary financial difficulty. A quote from a National Audit Office report says local authorities and Government departments are deemed worse than private sector creditors for the heavy-handed way in which they collect debts and manage people in arrears, this would include council tax.

Town Crier: Salisbury for many of us is the natural market city for this area, Salisbury have joined the town crier revival. Demand for town criers is growing across the country as local officials look to enliven ailing high streets and catch the attention of shoppers. More than 150 towns and cities now have a crier, including Salisbury, partly a decision to reassure visitors that the Novichok poisoning "nightmare" is past. Salisbury wants to get across that people are safe in Salisbury.

Salisbury: Another much larger initiative is a £69m transformation of The Salisbury's Maltings shopping centre being planned in a further bid to revitalise the town centre after the Novichok poisonings. The plans would include a hotel, gym, restaurants and a new cinema, along with new shopfronts and a covered arcade.

Clean air: Although not local this may interest you, vehicles can be used for more than just transport, Wiltshire proposed to have on board cameras on some waste vehicles to survey the road, now a new bus in Southampton is being tested that cleans the surrounding air up to a height of 10 metres as it travels along, removing 99.5% of particulate matter.

Animal Licensing: At the last licensing committee meeting on 3 September, we were informed about the new animal licensing regulations that would come into force from 1 October 2018. The legislation has sought to ensure more robust measures for animal welfare and Officers would seek to award well run establishments a full 3-year licence. The existing Dog Warden service will be utilised to help carry out the inspections whilst a couple of members of the Licensing Team gain the relevant training and experience. The new regulations have meant that the Team have been pulled away from their current licensing work.

Public Transport: With a minimal number of bus services in our area I note, the LGA (Local Government Association) has warned that funding free bus passes is becoming "nearly impossible" for local authorities, with the number of journeys down to its lowest since 2006. Department for Transport figures show that nationally 1.2bn local bus journeys were made between April and June, down from a high of 1.33bn between July and September 2008.

Housing: Mere has seen two new council houses developed recently. A bid for additional funds to create 49 new affordable rented council homes across Wiltshire has been endorsed by councillors. Wiltshire Council has submitted a bid to Homes England for £610k grant funding and also for £7.51m additional borrowing approval to build the homes. If successful it will ensure one to six homes will be built in 16 areas across Wiltshire. The homes could also be boosted with funding from the use of £1.36 million Right to Buy capital receipts. The overall development is likely to cost around £9.48m

Roads: I note the roads in our area deteriorate further. Mill Lane is one example which I am trying to get addressed. The RAC has said that motorists are nationally almost four times more likely to suffer a breakdown from hitting a pothole than 12 years ago. The motoring organisation said 14,220 of the callouts it has received over the past year were caused by Britain's crumbling roads. Local authorities say they are £556m short of the funds they need to maintain the roads this year.

Waste Recycling: Wiltshire has bi-weekly waste collections and to my knowledge this will stay for the foreseeable future. The sign of the times is however shown by a statement I have read, "Conwy County Borough Council is to roll out monthly bin collections from Monday following a trial - the first area in Wales and England to make the move".

Broadband: On the 18th September 2018 I made a report to the Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Management Committee. The Wiltshire Online (WOL) programme is designed to provide a fibre broadband service via a variety of technologies including Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The areas we intervene in are where commercial providers consider the area to be financially non-viable – this is known as the Intervention Area. Without Wiltshire Council's investment, approximately 40% of Wiltshire would not have access to superfast broadband. The council's approach is designed to deliver fibre broadband to the greatest number of premises for the budget available. There are very small pockets of premises possibly not provided for. The main broadband infrastructure provider sometimes provides a commercial service in Wiltshire's intervention areas, this actually lowers the cost that Wiltshire pays, providing further funding for broadband

Parking on the streets of Mere away from the centre is now becoming more difficult as the years pass. I have suggested to Mere Town Council at some point a review of many highway problems including parking, dangerous junctions and more away from the centre perhaps needs review. The answer is somewhat harder to find. I note with interest, data obtained from 20 councils shows £11m has been spent on 20mph limit zones between 2012 and 2017, covering 1,536 miles of roads. However, in some cases rates of serious accidents have gone up. The Department for Transport has revealed that 86% of cars broke the speed limit in 20mph zones last year, with drivers travelling at an average speed of 26mph.

I have a Facebook page Cllr George Jeans, which I use to display some events I attend and may be other material. It is not a platform for conversation at present, therefore I do

not accept friends requests on the site at present; but I do not view it regularly, whereas
✉: george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk or 📞: 07710 441599, I can usually answer quickly.
✉ george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk 📞 07710 441599

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council last met on 18th September when members

of the Parish Council noted that the C297 road up from the village centre to Willoughby Hedge had improved following recent works carried out by Wiltshire Council. However, we talked about the problems encountered by drivers coming out of the garage/Starbucks onto the B3098 on the wrong side of the road. This is a longstanding problem that has been discussed at numerous Parish Council meetings and we have urged Wiltshire Council to help address the problems. Some signage was installed and arrows painted on the road outside the garage but it is obvious that the problem is still ongoing. We are going to try and make more representations.

The old telephone kiosk, now owned by the Parish Council, has received a makeover, thanks to Councillors Tony Davis, Paul Yates & Andre Filleau. Andre is going to be installing some shelving for book swaps and fruit & veg excess swaps for everyone to use. Please do make use of it once it is all up and running.

The Parish Council has agreed to send a letter of support for the Cranborne Chase AONB team to submit a bid to be an International Dark Sky Reserve. The Parish Council was keen to preserve the character and tranquillity of the area, including its night skies – which are some of the darkest in the south of England – and felt that achieving this status would help to maintain this for the future.

In order to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War the West Knoyle Social Club felt that it would be appropriate to hold a get-together in the Village Hall, hopefully on **Saturday 10th November**. There will also be a Remembrance Service in the church on **Sunday 11th November**.

Jinny Brockway (Chairperson)

MERE SURGERY PPG

Spotlight on Health and Wellbeing Services

Available to the Community

These are in addition to those services provided by Mere Surgery.

Wiltshire Council provide sessions with a dedicated health trainer in the Library on alternate Tuesdays 10.00am-12.00. Advice on offer includes:

- Smoking cessation
- Being more active
- Drinking less alcohol
- How to improve your general wellbeing
- Eating healthier food and being a healthy weight
- Blood pressure checks

Alzheimer's Support may also be found in the library once a month on Friday afternoons 2.00-4.00pm.

Zumba, pilates, Tai Chi and yoga classes are all available in Mere in either the Lecture Hall or Grove Building. Dates and times may be found at the back of Mere Matters in the Diary section.

Warm and Safe Wiltshire Advice Service ☎ 0800 03805722 - this is a Priority Services Register which is free to the elderly, disabled, those with special communication needs, those who are dependent on electricity for home medical equipment or would be vulnerable or require assistance during a prolonged power cut. They also help with:

- Heating and insulation grants
- Draught proofing
- Damp and condensation
- Understanding fuel bills
- Switching energy suppliers
- Fuel Debt
- Benefit entitlement

Mere Surgery, Patient Participation Group ☎ 860001

NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

On **11th November 2018**, 100 years since Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country.

Church bells across the UK remained restricted throughout the course of the war and only rang freely once Armistice was declared. On 11 November 1918 the ringing of church bells erupted spontaneously across the country, as an outpouring of relief that 4 years of war had come to an end.

Over the past year there has been a national campaign to recruit 1,400 new bell ringers to honour those ringers who lost their lives in the Great War. David Gatehouse and Jenny Lucas of Zeal's tower have been busy teaching new recruits and on Sunday 11th there will be newly recruited members as well as long standing bell ringers joining in with the nation's commemorations.

For the morning service which begins in the Square, St Michael's bells will be rung for half an hour, the bells will be respectfully half muffled giving a more sombre tone to the ringing. Fully muffled bells are reserved only for the death of a reigning monarch. At 12.30am the bells will be rung alongside churches from all over the country. In this area you will hear bells in many of the local villages. At 7.05pm the bells will once again ring out joyously as the beacon is lit on Castle Hill.

Should this bell ringing marathon inspire you to have a go please come along to monthly practice night which is held in the tower on the first Wednesday of every month. The next practice will be on **Wednesday 7th November** at 7.30pm.

Margaret Durkee, Tower Correspondent ☎ 860163



FALLEN HEROES

Most village, town and city cemeteries contain those, oh so familiar and moving, white gravestones to the fallen in both World Wars and Mere is no exception. Every year I dedicate a cross and poppy for the British Legion to join the thousands of others outside Westminster Abbey or the Memorial Gardens near Wootton Bassett. This year I needed two crosses as I decided to write the names of our men buried in **Mere Cemetery** as not all of them are sons of Mere.

They are as follows:

Arthur Norris 16/10/18, James George Penny 11/11/44, James Edward Chalk 26/06/20
Pte Thompson 13415 Gloucester Regiment d.9/12/14*, Driver Messenger 11/06/15*,
Sjt. Victor Phillip Elms 19/10/43*, Ronald Frank Gray 14/06/44, Sjt. H J Newman 18/05/18*,
Horace Ralph Welch 02/07/18, Guardsman Charles Edward Bailey 09/07/42*,
Rees Barrett Brice 26/10/40

Those marked* have no family connections with Mere as far as I know, but my investigations are ongoing.

Elizabeth Brown ☎ 861801

WARMINSTER FOOD BANK

We are having our Christmas Food Bank collection on Saturday 24th

November outside the Co-Op, Mere from 9 am to noon. Could you please add one more item to your weekly food shops in the run up to that date so we can give those who really are dreading Christmas a lovely food hamper to put a smile on their faces. We are looking for non-perishable Christmas Food items, toiletries especially shaving kits for men, ladies products and anything else you know will help make the festive season a lot more bearable.

The collection points will be The Co-Op, Library and KM Beauty from the **13th - 24th November**. As always please, if you have eaten today, remember those who have not.

Katie ☎ 860081

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch will be held at the **Walnut Tree Inn**, Shaftesbury Road on **Tuesday 13th November at 12.30pm**. Come and join us and catch up with all the Mere news and events, if you are new to the area, it is a great way of meeting people. All are welcome. The two course set meal costs £10.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance on 01747 861220 and advise the pub if you need a specific diet.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

MERE MUSEUM

The hugely popular and successful Mere Rivers Group's exhibition about Mere's two rivers is at last coming to an end. A3 copies of the astonishing and important Shreen Catchment Area map, showing the five sources of the river Shreen, newly produced by Paulette McManus and currently on display, are now available for sale. Ask at the Museum.

On Monday November 5th our small Armistice exhibition, Never Forgotten, will be open, accompanying the town's own commemorative events. This will be joined the following week by the Wiltshire Museums Service's final travelling exhibition, about Wiltshire at the end of WWI, one hundred years ago.

Our next exhibition, opening in early December will, be about Mere's printers and their work. We are very keen to know more about the purpose-built printing works on Castle Hill Lane now converted to private dwellings. If you have pictures of the building when it was Jim Denslow's Crown Printing Works, or any information about the Works, we'd be delighted to hear from you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

MERE RIVER GROUP

Wildlife Sightings for September

September and the arrival of autumn, saw the return of some of the species which go elsewhere for breeding during the summer. This was reflected in your emails to us for which we continue to be very grateful.

In September you saw Little Egret 5 times, Grey Wagtail 4 times, Brown Trout and Kingfisher both seen three times, Water Vole twice and the following were all seen once: Moorhen with older chick, Slow Worm (one dead and one alive on different occasions) and a kaleidoscope of Copper Butterflies.

Nature Notes:

As our fabulous summer faded, we were fortunate that it was followed by some beautiful bright sunny autumn days. An often overlooked but important plant for wildlife is the common ivy. Its late supply of pollen is invaluable for our insects as a last source of food before the advent of winter. Insects also feed our birds which benefit from the dense cover the ivy provides during the colder months. Do keep an eye open in and around the ivy as you walk along our waterways You never know what you might spot. Keep us informed of any interesting sightings.

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

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

We have now entered the third quarter of our year and the weather seems to be shadowing our efforts on beating cancer as sunny spells of progress have lifted our hearts and spurred us on to do better.

We are delighted to tell you that we raised £417.05 at our Autumn Fair, we all enjoyed the event despite the weather showing the first signs of winter. A donation from a Mere resident of £100 and another very generous donation of £300 from Mark Cassidy at the Walnut Tree, (the result of proceeds from a Cricket Match between the Mere Cricket Team and the under 15's back in the summer) helped to boost funds received this month and was a lovely surprise.

Warminster Military Wives Choir are coming to town! Tickets will be available from Ann Lloyd ☎ 863477 and Derek Fisher ☎ 861980 at £10 each in advance £12 on the door (please book in advance to avoid disappointment). We hope you will come along and support us on **Sunday 9th December**, at **6.30pm** and we are pleased to announce that our friends at St Michael's will be helping us with this event. Those of you who have joined us before know how uplifting and enjoyable these concerts are and I am sure a sprinkling of Christmas magic will be giving this concert that special sparkle. Start the Christmas season off with us, with a truly seasonal musical dish of delights!

Our loyal band of local helpers are always here to work towards a breakthrough in research and care in the effort to beat cancer. We can and do so much more with your support and we are humbled and grateful to all those who help us in this aim. Thank you, Mere.

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

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our final showing for 2018 is the powerful and moving film "Journey's End" (12A) set in a dugout in 1918 in the last months of World War One. A young and eager recruit Raleigh (Asa Butterfield) joins a unit led by an old school friend (Sam Claflin). However, Raleigh finds his friend a changed person having been deeply affected by the war. Sam Claflin is excellent in the role of the disillusioned officer surrounded by the harsh and cruel realities of the trenches. Also starring Paul Bettany and Toby Jones. It received excellent reviews for the direction, casting and music. Tickets are available from the library. See Page 24

Rosie ☎ 861567

NOVEMBER SHORT WALK

There will be no Short Walk in November but look out for my special Seasonal one in December.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

MERE GARDENING CLUB

From Seed to Fork

Talk by Greg Morter **Wednesday 14th November 7.30pm** Grove Building. This talk will take us through the evolution of plants and how humans have adapted them. £2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

 meregardenclub.org.uk Roger Laidler ☎ 863447

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

At our meeting on the **13th November** in the Grove Building one of our members Mrs Gillian Howard will be speaking about her love of craft. The meeting starts at 2.30pm and all are welcome to join us.

Plans are in place for the Carol Service on December 11th at 11.00am at St Michael's Church, followed by refreshments in the Grove Building. More details in next edition of Mere Matters.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' AGM will be held on Tuesday **November 6th** at 7.00pm

in the Museum. After the necessary but exceedingly brief business meeting, the Curator will introduce you to the volunteers who do so much to help to run the Museum. They will each give a brief but entertaining account of what they do. You will be astonished at the huge variety of jobs they cheerfully tackle and the impressive array of skills they put at the Museum's disposal! Do come along - glasses of wine will also feature as the evening unfolds! This is a very good opportunity to join the Friends, so do come along even if - especially if you are not yet a member. Don't forget, subscriptions are now due, and the Treasurer will be only too pleased to receive them at the Meeting: £10 for individual membership; £15 for a family. What a bargain!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

MERE RIVERS GROUP EXHIBITION, AGM, AND MERE MUSEUM

'A Tale of Two Rivers' closes on **Tuesday 30th October**. That evening, Mere Rivers

Group will hold its 2018 AGM in the exhibition space at 6.30 pm. If you found 'A tale of Two Rivers' interesting you will be welcome to come for a last look and to find out more about the group and its concerns at the AGM.

We will celebrate the welcoming, collaborative, supportive, learning experience of working with Mere Museum and the curator, Jenny Wilding.

The meeting will also mark the 7th year of our efforts in working with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to gradually reduce the amount of water abstracted from, and often exported out of, the Shreen Catchment. We have achieved a marked reduction under the Abstraction Incentive Mechanism (AIM) when flows are low but really feel it appropriate that the licence itself be reduced markedly. Our purpose is the preservation of Mere watercourses so that both wildlife and Mere people can enjoy them.

Paulette McManus ☎ 861524

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On **1st November** we are holding our 100th year anniversary with a party in the Grove Building. We have had various 'homes' over the years including the Ranger Hut, the Lecture Hall and finally the Grove Building.

We have invited various guests, including past members, visitors from neighbouring WIs, and local dignitaries. There will be food and drink, music and also an exhibition of what the WI has been up to for the last 100 years. We do not actually have a member that old! We hope guests will take time to have a look at this exhibition. It really IS very interesting.

On this occasion unfortunately our meeting is not open to other visitors but our Christmas Party is on **Thursday 6th December**, Grove Building and visitors are most welcome.

Barbara Bourne ☎ 863411

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our first Autumn Dressmaking Courses began in September. They were very full but with plenty of time for everyone to begin making their Autumn Wardrobe in style. We have six new ladies all very keen to learn, which has kept Susanne and I on our toes along with our regular course members and those who come back to us knowing that doing a weekly course means you actually get back into dressmaking and finish what you are making. The next two six week courses commence at the end of October for six weeks finishing early December. It has been a busy year and Susanne and I are so pleased with the sometimes very complex garments completed, now cosy Winter Coats are being tailored.

We do have a waiting list and can sometimes fit someone in mid-course and it is surprising how quickly we are able to offer places either on Tuesday mornings 10.30am to 1pm and Wednesday evening 7pm to 9.30pm in the small hall at The Grove Building. We have space, good light and it is always warm and cosy, coffee and

chocolate biscuits and of course we will be going out again for our Christmas Meal in December, so great friendship which is so important.

We source our materials very carefully and try where we can to buy from very local suppliers and often are able to recycle pre-loved clothes. We are all very aware of the need to care for our precious environment and clothes made by hand are cherished and last for many years.

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

MERE LIBRARY

Autumn Book sale

Monday 22nd October – Saturday 3rd November.

Fiction Books for Adults and Children and also Adult Non-Fiction Books.

Come along and grab yourselves a bargain.

Sally-Ann Hooper ☎ 860546

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S

A Pie and Quiz Evening (Ps & Qs)

The Friends of St Michael's are holding a quiz evening with a difference! It will be in the Grove Building on Saturday **10th November at 7.00pm**. Halfway through the quiz a Pie Supper will be served with, peas and potatoes. (lots of P's). Do come along and either bring your own team of 4 or come and make up a table.

Tickets are £8 from either ☎ 863498, ☎ 861776 or the Library. There will be a bar with wine and soft drinks and a raffle.

Ann Dethick ☎ 863498

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

The event of the year, **Katie's Party**, is almost upon us. Everyone is invited - provided you can show (or buy) a ticket at the door. The party will be held on no fewer than three evenings: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, **November 22nd - 24th at 7.30 p.m.**, and there will even be a matinée on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are on sale NOW at the Library and at 'Sprout and Flower', £8.00 each.

The play - well yes, it is of course a play, is written by Mere's very own playwright, Adrienne Howell. She writes: *It is a lighthearted play but at the same time pays tribute to the generation who went through two world wars so fits well with the commemoration of the end of WW1. MADS will pay its own tribute to the centenary of 1918 at the end of the performance.*

Next meeting Monday **November 12th** at 7.30pm in the Green Room (Lecture Hall).

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is under way but we have a few tickets left for the stunning

Candlelit Christmas Music & Readings at Wells Cathedral on **December 21st**. They estimate that the Cathedral is lit by 3000 candles - no electric light - illuminating the fabulous singing of the Choir.

Coach will leave Mere at about 4.00pm and return about 9.30. Cost of ticket and coach £42 per head. For bookings please contact Chris Hughes

Chris Hughes ☎ 861663 Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833

MERE SCHOOL

Ancient Technology Centre



On Monday my Year 6 class went to the Ancient Technology Centre for a school trip.

It was an amazing day and we all went home on that day overflowing in happiness.

In the morning we arrived at school looking forward to the school trip that was awaiting us. We got onto the bus and after an hour long journey we arrived.

We were introduced to our instructors who would take us through the activities that we were going to do that day. These activities, as we found out, were archery, baking, weaving and textiles.

For our first activity my group went off to archery where we found out there was a tournament to see which group could get the most points. My group scored a very respectable 194 points!

After that we did the 3 other activities and enjoyed all of them.

Then we all gathered in the long hall and tasted the bread we made (it was very nice). Finally we said our thanks to the instructors and got onto the bus, still thinking about the amazing trip we'd just had!

🌐 mereschool.co.uk Written by Oliver Puffett (Y6)

MERE CARNIVAL

CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Friday **30th November** 4.30pm - 9.00

The George car park and The Town Square

Craft and gift stalls. Seasonal Food and Drinks

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS

He will be in his grotto in the clock tower from 6.00pm.

Remember to bring your wish list for him to read.





Check the posters around town for full details



Carol Payne ☎ 861639

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

for the over 60s

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

With the autumn/winter nights drawing in, it is important for us to remember that this is the time when older, socially isolated people can start to feel really lonely. Please get in touch if you are feeling like you could benefit from attending the day centre, or if you are concerned about someone you know that could do with a bit more socialising. We have a reduced waiting list at present so it would be a great time to get your name on there!

As in previous years 'Our Little Corner' calendar is supporting the RGC with 30% of the profits going to the charity. Calendars will be available from many outlets in Mere from **17th November**, however if you wish to guarantee your copy then please go to focalthingsy.co.uk where you can order it online. This Year's calendar is particularly special because one of the images was commended by the judges after Steve Hawkins submitted the photo for the 'Take a View Landscape Photographer of the Year' competition.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406



IN MERE & DISTRICT

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We meet for the annual Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 11th November, at 10.45 for the ceremony at the War Memorial followed by a service in St Michael's Church at 11am, focussing on how the events of the 1914-8 War affected individuals and families in Mere.



You are invited to come to a Churches Together reflective Taizé-style evening service on

Sunday 25th November at St George's, Bourton at 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

As announced last month, Churches Together in Mere and District are providing a Christmas Day lunch in the Grove Building, Mere, again this year, for families who will find it hard to celebrate this Christmas or anyone who would otherwise be on their own. It will be a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, in a good festive atmosphere, finishing with tea and Christmas cake.

There is no charge, but so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply by **30th November**. If you or anyone you know would like to come or if you would like to help, or make a donation* please telephone Judy Bickerstaff ☎ 860335

**Any surplus monies to be given to the Trussell Trust Food Bank*

Last but not least, from our next AGM (27th February 2019 7.30 at Mere URC) Churches Together in Mere and District will need

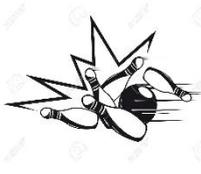
A NEW HONORARY SECRETARY. Anyone with basic IT skills who has a heart to help the Churches in the area work well together is very welcome to apply. It would involve taking minutes at our four meetings each year and providing publicity for the various Churches Together events. To find out more, please phone either number below.

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



Thanks in part to the anonymous donor who gave £1,000 in response to our special appeal in Mere Matters a year ago, Suchana's Early

Learning programme is now on a much more secure footing. We're now focussing on supporting the creation of materials and opportunities to enable children of all ages to read and study in their own first language – thus gaining in confidence and problem-solving skills. To help raise a bit more for this very special project, please come to our Skittles Evening (see below).



**ALL WELCOME TO A SOCIAL &
SKITTLES EVENING**

**On Friday 16th November at 7.30pm
at Mere Social Centre, in aid of Suchana**

Tickets £6.00 (Children £3.00)

**Supper included – licensed bar available -
A fun evening for all ages**

*Please book in advance: sign list at back of St Michael's
Church or Phone 860553 (Judith Thompson) or 861168
(Jean Kantharia)*

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553

Patronal Festival at Maiden Bradley

4th November: All Saints', Maiden Bradley

Do come and celebrate with us.

We begin with coffee and croissants in the Village Hall @ 10.00am
followed by a service of Holy Communion @ 11.00am in
All Saints' Church.

There will be no 10.30 service in Mere.

Jane Hurd ☎ 860218

FAIR TRADE

Since my piece in last month's magazine, some of you may have read that the Fair Trade Pioneering Company of Traidcraft have been having problems as have so many retailers. They have asked us -

their voluntary Reps.- to help make this Autumn and Christmas Season the best ever to show support and faith in their promise to help those less fortunate than ourselves work their way out of poverty. If everyone bought just one small gift, a few Christmas goodies, dried fruit for your baking or a pack of Christmas Cards from my stalls, it could make all the difference. So why not come and visit my stall on **Saturday 17th** at the **URC Coffee Morning** or **Sunday November 18th** after the 10.30 service in **St Michael's**. And put the date of my Christmas Open House into your diaries - Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th December from 8.30am.-6.00pm. Or pick up a catalogue and browse the beautiful traditional handmade crafts and delightful Christmas decorations.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

COMMUNITY TEA @3



Community Tea@3 is Wednesday the **21st November at 3.00pm**

Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

MERE GIRLGUIDING

Quiz night

Friday **16th November** 2018 in the Grove Building
£2.00 per person – Teams of 4. Come and join us as a single, couple etc. and we will make up a team for you. Start time **7.30pm**

☆ Raffle ☆

☆ Refreshments ☆

Organised by Mere Girlguiding with proceeds to Group Funds

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

Mere Historical Society

Stonehenge - Julian Richards

Tuesday 6th November 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Julian has contributed to many TV programmes and has spoken to us on several occasions. He has a special interest in Stonehenge and we are delighted to welcome him back to bring us up-to-date with the latest findings.

£3 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Morning talk: **Tuesday 13th November** "*Alberto Bioletti, Soldier of Napoleon and Master Clockmaker of Wincanton by John Baxter*" will be held in the Grove Building at **10.15am for 10.30am**.

(Visitors welcome, suggested donation, including coffee, £3)



merehistoricalsociety.org.uk, Caroline Cook ☎ 861797

Volunteers needed for the Wiltshire Home Library Service

The Home Library Service is for Wiltshire residents who want to read or listen to library books but have problems getting to their local library and have no one who can visit for them.

We are looking to recruit Home Library Volunteers to help deliver this service in the Mere area. If you have time to spare, like books and reading, have a friendly personality and enjoy meeting people please get in touch.

Volunteers deliver the books to library customers on a regular basis. An enhanced disclosure check is required for this role, which will be initiated by the library service. Volunteers using their own vehicles will have driver document checks. Mileage allowance payable.

Peter Waterman ☎ 01985 216022

Community Library Manager, Warminster, Mere and Tisbury

**Love Reading,
Love Libraries**

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents



Journey's End (12A)

Innocence Lost. Courage Found

with Sam Claflin and Asa Butterfield

A dugout in Aisne in 1918. New recruit (Asa Butterfield) joins the unit of his old school friend Stanhope (Sam Claflin). But the war has taken its toll and Stanhope is no longer the man he knew.

in The Lecture Hall
Thursday 15th November at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from the Library

For more information call Rosie ☎ 861567

Visit our website at  moviola.org

A HUNDRED YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

On the 11th of November this year it is a hundred years since the First World War came to an end and apart from aftermath, the loss of life on all sides was halted. This year it is impossible not to notice the extra reminders that have been put up to remind us of our need to remember and give thanks for the sacrifice that so many made.

If you have ever stood in a military cemetery, with all the neatly laid out head stones it is a sobering experience, and will cause you to ask what it was that necessitated such a tragic loss of life. At the time of the First World War, it was said that it was 'The War To End All Wars.' That has sadly not proven to be the case. As that would have been a great and worthwhile legacy.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the sacrifice of Jesus's life on a cross as God's Son in order to bring about our forgiveness and to change our lives for the better in this world and in eternity. The soldiers that fought and died, or were injured made that sacrifice in the hope that a better world would come out of it. So we who follow on from them in the world that we now live in and create are their legacy. We cannot change the events and decisions that led to the First World War, or for that matter any war or conflict that has happened, but we can learn from them, so we can try and avoid repeating the need for such sacrifice in the future. And so create a legacy that honours their sacrifice for us.

Revd. Duncan Goldie

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

Each	Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Every	1 st Tue	6.00pm	Holy Communion
Every	Fri	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
4 th	Sun	10.00am	Coffee Catch-up Maiden Bradley village hall
		11.00am	All Saints Church Communion
		4.00pm	All Souls St Michaels
6 th	Tue	6.00pm	Start the Month Communion
11 th	Sun	10.45am	Clock Tower for 11.00am Remembrance. Service in Church follows
18 th	Sun	10.30am	Parish Communion. Preacher Rachael Markham form Bible Society
25 th	Wed	10.30am	Parish Communion. Preacher the Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

4 th	Sun	11.00am	Rev Colin Marsh
11 th	Sun	11.00am	Remembrance Service @ St Michaels
18 th	Sun	11.00am	Rev Duncan Goldie
25 th	Sun	11.00am	Church Anniversary Mr Peter Kershaw

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

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

Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 860291 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Please see notice board at Church for details of services

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

4 th	Sun	9.30am	Maiden Bradley Patronal
11 th	Sun	9.30am	Remembrance Service
18 th	Sun	9.30am	HC
25 th	Sun	9.30am	HC

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Venue Key:

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

*Recurring events are shown in **BOLD** in first week, & * aggregated later*

1	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
2	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	Alzheimer's Group (also 16th & 30th)	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (every Fri)	GB
3	Sat			
4	Sun			
5	Mon	9.30pm	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon School Terms Only)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Mon)	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Mon)	L
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Mon)	GB
		7.00pm	Water Colour Club (every Mon)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		7.30pm		
6	Tue	10.00am	Moo Music (every Mon School Terms Only)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking Group (every Tue)	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		1.00pm	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tue)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (6th, 13th and 27th)	L
		7.00pm	Historicals - Stonehenge	GB
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wed)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking Group (every Wed)	GB
8	Thu		Girlguiding (Every Thur)	GB
		*	<i>Art, Bridge, Quilters, Zumba</i>	

9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd) * <i>Rhyme Time, Bridge</i>	GB
10	Sat	Evening	Friends of St Michaels Quiz Evening	GB
11	Sun			
12	Mon	10.00am	Textiles Group * Tidd & Toddlers, Beavers, Slimming, Scouts, Water Colour COPY DATE COPY DATE COPY DATE COPY DATE	GB
13	Tue	9.45am	Historicals – Alberto Bioletti	GB
		12.30am	Community Lunch @ Walnut Tree Pub	
		2.00pm	Mothers Union * <i>Moo Music, Dress Making, Pilates, Zumba</i>	GB
14	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club – From Seed to Fork * <i>Tai-Chi, Pilates, Karate, Dressmaking</i>	GB
15	Thu	7.00pm	Moviola * <i>Girlguiding, Art, Bridge, Quilters, Zumba</i>	L
16	Fri	7.30pm	Girlguiding Quiz * Rhyme Time, Bridge, Alzheimer's	GB
17	Sat		Oasis Carnival Bingo URC Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall	L URC
18	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after 10.30 service	StM
19	Mon	2.00pm	Food Group * <i>Tidd & Toddlers, Beavers, Slimming, Scouts, Water Colour</i> * <i>Moo Music, Dress Making, Pilates</i>	GB
20	Tue			
21	Wed	3.00pm	Tea@3 * Tai-Chi, Pilates, Karate, Dressmaking	ATR
22	Thu		MADS Production * <i>Girlguiding, Art, Bridge, Quilters, Zumba</i>	L
23	Fri		MADS Production * <i>Merely Women, Rhyme Time, Bridge, Alzheimer's</i>	L
24	Sat		MADS Production	L
25	Sun			
26	Mon		* Tidd & Toddlers, Beavers, Slimming, Scouts, Water Colour	
27	Tue		* <i>Moo Music, Dress Making, Pilates, Zumba</i>	
28	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Pennybank Writers * <i>Tai-Chi, Pilates, Karate, Dressmaking</i> * <i>Girlguiding, Art, Bridge, Quilters, Zumba</i>	L
29	Thu		* <i>Rhyme Time, Bridge, Alzheimer's</i>	
30	Fri			



- What do you think about the Diary Dates moving to the centre fold?
- Spotted the changes in presentation? Easier to read?

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 Mere’s own website.

 merewilts.org

COPYDATE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018/19 ISSUE

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 12th November.**

Email contributions are preferred to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **5th November** (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.





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