

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



*Grove Buildings - Mere
Colin Anderson 1992*

OCTOBER 2018

8th- 14th OCTOBER 2018

MONDAY 8th **HARK! The Biography of Christmas** . The award-winning stand-up comedian and writer, **Paul Kerensa**, takes us on a jolly sleigh ride through Christmas history. **Grove Building, 7.30pm. *£7**

TUESDAY 9th **Mere Historical Society MORNING TALK - Justin Bailey** on Stephen Hyde Cassan, Curate of Mere and Bruton. **Grove Building, 10.15 for 10.30am.** Retiring Donations

COMMUNITY LUNCH+ coffee-time talk by **Gwilym Hitchcock** on his career with BA. (2 :course Lunch £10.95 Book with venue on 01747 860427). **The George Inn, 12.00 for 12.30pm.**

DADLAND with **Keggie Carew**. A memoir of war, family and loss. 2016 Winner of the Costa Biography Award and a Sunday Times Top Ten Best Seller. **Grove Building, 7.30pm. *£7**

WEDNESDAY 10th **NUREMBERG'S VOICE of DOOM** with **Paul Hooley** editor of the memoir of Wolfe Frank, chief interpreter at the famous trials. **Grove Building, 2.30pm.** Retiring Donations

AUSTEN'S ARCADIA an illustrated talk on Jane Austen & gardens by **Dawn Collins**. Hosted by Mere Gardening Club. **Grove Building, 7.30 pm.** Retiring Donations

THURSDAY 11th **THE EYES THAT LOOK: The Secret Story of Bassano's Hunting Dogs** with **Julia Grigg**. A just published novel of art and adventure set in Renaissance Italy. Hosted by Mere Art Group. **Grove Building, 10.30am.** Retiring Donations

FILM SHOW Mere Filmshows & Wilts. Moviola present *The Guernsey Literary Society & Potato Pie Society* based on the best-selling novel **Lecture Hall, 7.30pm. *£6**

FRIDAY 12th **CHARLES DICKENS and WILTSHIRE.** **Dr.Keith Hooper**, biographer of the great writer, explores Dickens' links with Wiltshire. **Grove Building, 2.30pm.** Retiring Donations

AMONG THE SUMMER SNOWS Acclaimed author, **Christopher Nicholson**, talks about his latest book in which he searches for Scotland's summer snow. **Grove Building, 7.30pm. *£7**

SATURDAY 13th **WRITERS & READERS COFFEE MORNING** with local authors and an informative presentation by the **Silver Crow** book brand. **Grove Building, 10.00am-12.30pm Free**

CHILDREN'S EVENTS: FUN TIME· Town Clock 10.00am -12.00. Adults can have a go too. Free **PUPPET THEATRE: The Tinderbox.** **Lecture Hall, 4.00pm. Kids Free/Adults £1**

GREAT CLATTINGER A homage to the wild flower meadows in music, words and pictures by the Wiltshire folk group **The Yirdbards** **Grove Building, 7.30pm. * £7**

SUNDAY 14th **AWARD CEREMONY** for 2018 **Write-in-the-Week** competition with bestselling author, **Damien Lewis.** **Lecture Hall, 3.00pm.** Book stalls from 2.30pm. **Free**

Tickets from Mere Library ☎: 01747 860546 or Book with Festival Organiser ☎: 01747 860475

Full details/Postal Booking Form on 🌐: www.merelifest.co.uk & in Festival Programme

In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg.charity No: 1062328

ALL CHANGE AT 'MERE MATTERS'

Having produced Mere Matters since September 2006, it is time for me to retire, and this edition will be my final one as Editor. From the November issue onwards the editorial pen will be wielded by Richard Jefferies, another Mere resident, and one well qualified for the task. Richard is no stranger to magazine editorship over the years and he has assisted me editorially in the background for quite some time now. He also kindly edited the July/August 2018 edition, while I was away on holiday.

I would like to thank my Mere Matters Team colleagues: Jane Kennedy, Advertising Coordinator; Alan Gristwood, Finance; and Vivien Sheppard, Distributor, for all their help and support over the years, which has enabled me to concentrate on the role of Editor.

I would also like to thank you, the readers, who have read my offerings over the past twelve years and I hope you will support Richard in the same way, and I wish him well in his endeavours to further develop the magazine for your benefit.

Graham Avory

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council meets 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, 1st October at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

In our September meeting we had a good few planning applications to discuss, which we had generated ourselves. These were about work on trees in the town. The council maintains a complete tree report detailing all of the trees (you may have noticed numbers on them) for which we are responsible. We are acting on the professional advice given, and taking action where trees need attention. There is quite a cost to this but as trees get older and larger it is necessary to manage them for the safety of all. The trees of Mere add so much to its charm and a quick look around from the top of Castle Hill reveals how many there are!

We talked briefly about the preparations for Remembrance this year and the Centenary of the end of WW1. We will be joining in with the rest of the country with bugle playing, bell ringing and a beacon on Castle Hill. Councillor Sims has been actively collecting

funds and organising getting large poppies for display. We are also preparing a remembrance, particular to Mere, of all of the WW1 soldiers on the Memorial in the Square. We will have, for each soldier, made a memento in the image of the rifle pushed into the ground with a helmet resting on it. This will be displayed for a few weeks in the street where the soldier lived, and we will be asking for residents to volunteer to have it displayed on their property.

Our planning is based on the book "The Proudest Uniform" written by Angela McDonald which is available in Mere Museum. The mementos will move to jubilee gardens for the last week. On a personal note, as a lifelong pacifist, I have sometimes struggled with the idea of remembrance and how it reflects on war, but as I read the personal stories of these men I did appreciate how different times were then and wonder how I, and my family, would have reacted were I a young man living in Mere in those days. What we are doing in Mere should bring home to us all what the town went through in those days. As I said at the planting of the centenary Oak Tree earlier this year, I do hope that we remember not only the nine million soldiers who died, but also the ten million civilians who died, and that it should turn our minds to the importance of peace.

We heard about progress with obtaining a new lease for the car parks and public toilets. We discussed, briefly, the proposals for boundary review and how these changes may affect Mere Town and Mere Parish and our representation on Wiltshire Council. We also heard from Councillor Norris about the next step in developing our Neighbourhood Plan, and we agreed on taking the necessary actions to obtain funding so that we can buy professional help with the progress.

I had the opportunity to represent Mere at the Southwest Wiltshire Community Safety Group chaired by our councillor George Jeans. While the meeting discussed policing with representatives of the police force, I stressed the importance of having a police presence at big occasions like Mere Carnival. It was pleasing, at the Carnival, to see that this year we did have policemen there and I hope that future public occasions are treated the same. More importantly, I stressed how important it is for us to see policemen in the town, and not only driving through but 'on the street'. While I mention carnival, can I say what a good carnival it was, with lots of noise and lights and brilliant costumes and good cheer. My thanks, and, yes, I am one of them, to the volunteers that make events like this happen. But, also my thanks to the volunteers who help with

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

little jobs around the town, and who care enough about Mere to notice and report matters that need dealing with. Mere is such a good place to live in and with everyone's care and attention it will continue so to be.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website  : www.merewilts.org, e-mail the town clerk at  : lindseywood@merewilts.org or  : 01747 860701. To contact the chairman directly  : chair@merewilts.org

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Graham Avory is retiring as editor of Mere Matters; this is his last issue. He has been editor since September 2006, that is 12 years. I believe he must spend at least one week a month working with this publication. Much has changed in those 12 years I am sure, printing and computing methods, the local facebook account of Mere Mutters and more. However, in my opinion it is as popular as ever, being well received locally. I would like to give him a personal 'thank you' for all he has done, I am sure you readers also would equally like to thank him. Graham, I know, as I do, also works with more than one community group and he is a great asset to Mere. I hope he will have a little more free time which he thoroughly deserves.

Bus stops are few in this area, it appears the bus stop sign near Home Farm, Kilmington has been missing for some time, however it has now been noticed and I have reported it.

The Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for new parliamentary boundaries that could see the number of UK MPs cut from 650 to 600. Regarding a review of the number of Wiltshire Councillors, which at present is 98, it appears this number will be maintained. The South West Wiltshire Area Board stretching from Mere to Wilton probably will stay as it is. When Wiltshire Council was created in 2009, much emphasis was placed on democracy and area boards. New or altered divisions such as The Mere Division need to be within an acceptable variance of 4,291 electors, which will probably mean little or no change for the area that I cover at present.

We in Wiltshire may find it difficult regarding obtaining some council services, however our neighbour Somerset County Council has announced major cuts to services and the loss of up to 130 jobs. The plans include reducing the winter gritting network, suspending park and ride services, removing Citizens Advice bureau funding, cuts to adult social care and support for people with learning disabilities, and cutting funding, and 80 jobs, from the GetSet programme which aims to keep vulnerable young people

from going into care. The council's cabinet will vote on the proposals next week. Research by the Local Government Chronicle shows that since 2010, councils in England have made more than 220,000 members of staff redundant at a cost of almost £4bn.

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, "additional charges" on those in debt created extra costs and did not result in more money being collected. The NAO estimates that problem debt costs taxpayers £248m a year and the wider economy £900m a year. "The government lags behind the retail lending sector in following good management practice", the report says, with only 19% of councils adopting best practice guidelines.

Dubbed Generation Sensible, the 18-year-olds of today are much more likely to be found in the university library than the local pub, according to a paper from the ONS comparing their habits with those of 18-year-olds around the year 2000. Modern teenagers consume less alcohol, binge drinking is less common, and smoking rates among today's young people have also dropped - from about 35% in 2000 to about 18% in 2017. They are also socialising less - by about 25 minutes a day, but they also do more sport - eight minutes more a day on average. This leads me on to the young people from Seeds for Success; they have in Mere removed much vegetation and tidied up the front of The United Reformed Church and much improved the public area of Bishops Close. I was proud to be present when they were having their awards at Mere. They were dressed very smartly and were a credit.

Wiltshire Council, as I have said before, is responsible for public health, therefore I will mention that, the World Health Organisation has branded the UK the third fattest nation in Europe – fuelled by a fondness for alcohol. Research on 53 countries found Britain rising up the obesity league tables at an "alarming" rate.

I, and Graham Cotton, chair of Kilmington Parish Council, and others have had many residents from the Norton Ferris area contacting us about the blind junction when they turn North towards Frome. I said last time I think the probability of a fatality will be much higher without a mirror. I am pleased to announce the mirror can stay, all be it on private land, for which I thank the owner.

A local person asked me this year why potholes are not ringed in yellow, I sent this request into highways. I have been informed this cannot be done because claimants use the fact that a hole is ringed to try and force liability on the council.

The cost of rural crime has risen to £44.5m, according to NFU Mutual, with the cost to farmers at its highest point since 2013. Police said that thefts of agricultural equipment had driven the 13.4% increase in crime over the last year, aided by the "collapse" of

close-knit rural communities and modern transport links that allow thieves to export stolen machinery in a matter of hours.

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, prompting AA president Edmund King to urge councils to instead make improvements to dangerous junctions and create more pedestrian crossings.



THE SPREAD EAGLE INN AT CHRISTMAS!

The Spread Eagle Inn has now prepared its Christmas Day Menu, together with a Christmas Party Menu throughout December.

Please call us and we will be happy to send you our Menus.

The Spread Eagle Inn would be proud to host your event!

Book now on 01747 840587 or email

enquiries@spreadeagleinn.com

(Don't forget every Wednesday is 'locals' night, Wednesday 3rd October will be a Steak Night....come along and relax with us...)



Many thanks to all who attended the Community Safety Group meeting, and a special thanks to PC Matt Holland and PC Lee Pelling for once again giving their time to take part; we had representation from 13 out of 38 parishes within the South West Wiltshire area. To those parishes who do not currently attend, please be aware that this is an opportunity to ask questions directly about community safety issues in your local communities with officers who work directly in those areas. The next meeting will be early in 2019. I was pleased to see police at Mere Carnival and so, I believe, were the public for which I have sent an e-mail to thank the police.

It was asked if vehicle dashcam evidence can now be accepted. PC Matt Holland advised 'yes' and a policy is in place. Dashcam evidence can be handed in at any Police enquiry office (Salisbury or Trowbridge being nearest), and the procedure for submitting 'dashcam' evidence to Wiltshire Police. is explained on the Wiltshire Police

website via this link - : <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/2162/Dash-cam-footage-of-dangerous-or-careless-driving>

Vehicles obstructing people's property, especially parked on pavements, was enquired about. The Police advised the threshold for action is quite high whilst understanding it can be a very frustrating issue for people. Parking on a pavement is not an offence, but causing an obstruction is. Issues about parking around schools were also discussed. It was advised Wiltshire Council had instructed recently that two cameras are to be purchased to cover illegal parking outside schools. It was asked why speed cameras in Wiltshire were taken away. It was advised that revenue generated was collected by central government. I asked the meeting how many would support bringing back speed cameras. Less than 50% supported. It was said supported speed cameras were there to help saving lives and not just to generate income.

A joke about being fired from a Jobcentre has been named the funniest at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Liverpool comedian Adam Rowe won the award for Funniest Joke Of The Fringe with the line: "Working at the Jobcentre has to be a tense job - knowing that if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day." Taken from his Undeniable show, it picked up 41% of a public vote.

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, therefore I do accept friends request 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.

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MERE SURGERY

Seasonal Vaccinations

Adult Flu Vaccination

Clinic to be held on Saturday 13 October 2018
From 0900 to 1300 hours

Flu vaccination is recommended for the following patients:-

Patients aged 65 and over Carers
Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)

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

Diabetes

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

Chronic Respiratory Disease Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic Heart Disease Chronic Neurological Disease

Chronic Liver Disease Patients with a low immunity

Morbid Obesity (adults with a BMI more than or equal to 40kg/m²)

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

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

Child Flu Vaccination

Children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2018 (date of birth 1/9/2014 to 31/8/2016) are being offered routine vaccination for flu this year. The vaccination is given in the form of a nasal spray and separate clinic times for children have been set up. **Please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your child if you would like them to be vaccinated. Children aged 4-9 years will be vaccinated at school.**

Shingles Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients who turn 70, 78 or 79 during the year are encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination against Shingles. If you were recalled for a shingles vaccination last year but have still not yet been vaccinated you can still attend for an appointment up until your 80th birthday.

Men ACWY Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients aged 19 on 31/8/2018, or those attending University or secondary education for the first time are encouraged to attend for vaccination. This vaccine is also recommended for anyone up to the age of 25 years on the 31/8/2018 if you have not been previously vaccinated. **Please contact Reception for an appointment.**

MERE SURGERY

One of the best in England

Results of a national GP patient survey held between January and April this year were compiled from responses from almost 760,000 people across the country on their experience of healthcare services provided by GP surgeries, including access to GPs, making appointments, the quality of care received from GPs and other health professionals, waiting times, and satisfaction with opening hours and out-of-hours NHS services.

Only one Wiltshire practice made the national top 10 - Mere Surgery was rated the highest in Wiltshire for overall experience this year, but more importantly it was ranked

seventh in the top 10 surgeries in the whole of England. That was number 7 out of the 7,109 surgeries in the country.

Doctors Ed Halsey, Eve McBride and Tim King commented: "We are obviously delighted by the results of the recent GP patient survey. It is very encouraging to have recognition of the work all our staff contribute towards providing the best possible medical care to the local community. It is a real team effort! Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire. We will strive to continue to improve the care we provide".

Graham Avory, Editor



MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, 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
Tuesday till 6:30pm and one Saturday in a month

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



LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

8th -14th October 2018

The 22nd Mere Literary Festival begins on Monday, 8th October and an outline programme appears on the inside front cover with thanks to Mere Matters. Full details of authors and events are in the big green programme and on the festival website.

Programmes have been posted through as many letter-boxes as possible, so please take a look at what's on during the week. Your support will help the Link Scheme continue its work in our community. There are talks and events to cater for many interests, and two publishers have chosen to launch books at the Mere festival.

Farewell & thanks from the festival organiser...

This is to be my last festival as organiser as, after 22 years, I have decided it is time to hand over to a younger and more energetic generation. There are so many thanks due to supporters of the festival, past and present, that it is not possible to name them all within the pages of Mere Matters. Over the years MLF has grown into a true community event working for our own community charity. Thanks go to those who have featured in our annual programmes and made this possible – the Mere groups and societies who host or participate in events, venues, businesses and individuals who advertise or sponsor, and to all who have supported MLF in any way.

As well as being an integral fixture of the local calendar, MLF is now well established on the national festival list, and popular with authors who appreciate a relaxed atmosphere and contact with their audience. So I, the Lit. Fest. Group and the Link Scheme are very pleased to announce that MLF will continue, as **Gail Garbutt**, local business woman and author of 'Spot On', has volunteered to be the festival organiser from 2019. I am sure the festival will thrive under Gail's leadership and this is very good news for the local community and the Link Scheme.

Thank you all for your past and future support of Mere Literary Festival - the fund-raising arm of the Mere & District Link Scheme (Reg.Charity No: 1062328).

Adrienne Howell 📞: 01747 860475

MERE CARNIVAL

When Clive Hazzard handed the baton on to me after over 20 years of chairing the Mere Carnival Committee I was daunted. There seemed so much to do to make the carnival happen, but thanks to the very hard work of our small committee Mere Carnival went ahead successfully. I was also delighted by the number of people outside of the committee who volunteered to help make the day something to remember.

I would like to thank the committee, all the local volunteers, the entrants to both the day and the evening parades who made such an impression, the marshalls and judges and 'thank you' to all the people who came, cheered and gave the collectors money.

If you want to help make our 2019 carnival even better contact me, whether you want to join our committee, volunteer to make the day run smoothly or even to dress up and join in the parade we would love to hear from you.

John Gammie, ✉: john@gammie.info

Results of Afternoon Parade

Large Decorated float	- Royal Garden
Small Group/Cart	- Paws
Pairs	- Fright Night
Individual pre-school under 5	- Fairy Saffron
Individual age 6 - 12	- Autumn Nymph

Group or Club Walkers	- Beauty and the Beast
Best Costume	- Autumn Nymph
Overall Runner up	- Royals Float
Overall Winner	- Fairy Saffron

Mere Carnival 2018 Evening Procession Awards

Class 1	Decorated Trade	The Georgian House Cup
1	Internet Prices on Your High Street	Jeans Electrical
Class 3	Feature	The Walton Challenge Cup
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
2	Dead Inside	Highwayman CC
Class 4	Humorous/Comic	The Hazzard Family Cup
1	I want to be a Superhero	Just George's Carnival Club
Class 5	Junior Float	Caroline Young Memorial Cup
1	TRAVELLIN' CIRCUS	Storm Carnival Club
2	Royals Float	The Royal Families
Class 6	Hand truck/trailer/van with props incl. music assisting walkers of any age	Walker Family Cup
1	On Safari	Hot Rock CC Juniors
2	Peter Rabbits Garden	Connor Higgins
3	We Should Have Got a Bigger Boat	Mojo Carnival Club
Class 7	Walking single (16 years +)	Mere Fabrication Cup
1	going gnome	Natajacks CC
2	Once Upon a Storytime	Dave Arney
3	Rythem of the Knight	Sandra Major
Class 8	Walking group (16 years +)	Sonia Cassell Cup
1	THIS IS US	DEE GEES CC
2	Drum Major and Minor	The Shepherd Family CC
3	NHS at 70	MADS
Class 9	Waking single (under 16)	Herbert Cup

1	Autumn Nymph	Indie Hookins
2	Mad Scientist	Izzy Wheeler
3	Frozen	Rio Welsh
Class 10	Walking group (under 16)	Mere Challenge Cup
1	Fairytopia	Abigail Holt/Willow Franklin
2	Infinity Dance Team	Infinity Dance
3	BEAUTY & THE BEAST	Cheeky Monkeys
Class 2-6	Best Costume	Keysley Cup
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
Joint 2	On Safari	Hot Rock CC Juniors
Joint 2	Dead Inside	Highwayman CC
Class 2-6	Best Music	Nurden-Read Carnival Cup
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
2	Dead Inside	Highwayman CC
3	Peter Rabbits Garden	Connor Higgins
Class 3-6	Best Routine	Hamilton Litesat Cup
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
2	Dead Inside	Highwayman CC
3	On Safari	Hot Rock CC Juniors
Class 2-6	Best Dressed Driver	Den McCann Award
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
Class 2-5	Ground Crew Award	Cake Family Shield
1	A Fisherman's Tale	Kipling Carnival Club
Class 7-10	Best Walking	Jeans Hoover Cup
1	THIS IS US	DEE GEES CC
2	Autumn Nymph	Indie Hookins
3	Drum Major and Minor	The Shepherd Family CC
Class 9-10	Best Youth	Andy Young Memorial Cup
1	Frozen	Rio Welsh
2	Infinity Dance Team	Infinity Dance
3	Fabstastic	Edward Buttress
Class 7-10	Best Costume - Walking	Mary Chalke Memorial Cup
1	THIS IS US	DEE GEES CC
Joint 2	Autumn Nymph	Indie Hookins
Joint 2	Drum Major and Minor	The Shepherd Family CC

	Spirit of Carnival Drum Major and Minor	Ron Cake 60 years Cup Shepherd Family CC
Class 2-6	Reserve Champion On Safari	Ann Tranter Memorial Cup Hot Rock CC Juniors
Class 2-6	Champion A Fisherman's Tale	Mere Chamber of Trade Cup Kipling Carnival Club

Majorettes

	Drum Major	Paige Lawes Cup
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes
2	Castle Cary Cygnets Maj'ttes	Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes
3	Ilchester Gems Majorettes	Ilchester Gems Majorettes
	Costume	Reg and Brenda Lawes Cup
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes
2	Ilchester Gems Majorettes	Ilchester Gems Majorettes
3	Castle Cary Cygnets Maj'ttes	Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes
	Overall Champion	Stuart Lawes Cup
1	Merriott Majorettes	Merriott Majorettes
Joint 2	Ilchester Gems Majorettes	Ilchester Gems Majorettes
Joint 2	Castle Cary Cygnets Maj'ttes	Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes

Mere Carnival Quiz Night

Come and join us on
Friday, 5th October for a fun evening
In the Grove Building. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start
£2.00 per person - tables of 4
Refreshments and Raffle
All funds to 2019 Mere Carnival

Carnival Grand Draw results:

Clive Hazzard	- ticket number 5465 - £100
Flo Hames	- ticket number 3345 - £75
Shirley Coward	- ticket number 0370 - £50
Indigo Blue	- ticket number 3528 - £25
Mark Cassidy	- ticket number 1697 - bottle of bubbly
Kathy	- ticket number 4608 - bottle of bubbly
June	- ticket number 2968 - tin of chocolates

Hinglay - ticket number 3738 - tin of chocolates

The Carnival committee would like to thank everyone for their amazing support when buying these tickets.

Please be aware that all ticket stubs will be incinerated for security purposes.

Carol Payne ☎: 01747 861639

Carnival Bingo

Thank you very much to everyone who has attended and supported the three carnival bingos this year, which again have been an amazing success.

Many thanks to the businesses and individuals that so generously donated prizes, money and vouchers to use for Fundraising during the year. The Individual Donators were: Janet Marshall, Mary-Anne McCrow, Julia Seal, Elizabeth Hames, Sue Wilcox, Renee White, Sam Roberts and Gill Roberts.

The Business Donators were: Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth; Sam Dean; We The Curious, Bristol; Jeans Electrical; Walton's Newsagents; The Bishop's Palace, Wells; Grand Pier, Weston Super Mare; Virginia Hayward Hampers; Nick Guy; Pete Davie (Butcher); Waitrose, Gillingham and Sam and Mark at The Walnut Tree Inn.

These have been used predominately at the Bingos, but also will be used at the Quiz to take place on Friday, 5th October in the Grove Buildings. Some prizes were left with no names; also there were those that chose to remain anonymous.

Thanks also to everyone on the Carnival Committee who helped with the Bingo evenings. Special thanks also goes to Jean Young, and Gordon Payne for serving refreshments, and Katy at K M Beauty for so beautifully wrapping and packing the prizes again.

If you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events, we are always very grateful to receive them at any time.

“Odd” items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into “prize boxes”. Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom.

Sue Jeans, on behalf of Mere Carnival Committee, ☎: 01747 860215

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH VISITOR'S BOOK

The following is an extract from the many new entries in the church's Visitor's Book in August of this year:

Hilary and David Black, Penn, Buckinghamshire

“Such a beautiful church. Enjoyed the organ being played. Very special.”

Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, ☎: 01747 861859

GMS LIONS CHARITY EVENT

Please come along and show your support. GMS Lions are holding a Macmillan coffee morning. This will be on the Saturday, 6th October from 10.00am-12.00noon in the Grove Building.
Dave Rose, GMS Lions PR, ☎: 01935 389816

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS (M&DRM)

The club continues to model in the common gauges of O, OO, OO9. & N. The new layouts being constructed are a modular one for OO modellers, each member having their own board to design and model - what size the final production will be for the 2020 exhibition remains to be seen. Our two O gauge modellers have had a more conventional approach, and their layout has drawn the attention of visiting guests and has already been booked for a couple of local exhibitions.

The club will be demonstrating the authors new layout at Frome in January and to support this event the author's award winning "Toms Wharf" is on permanent display at Frome Model Centre. We have a new junior member (those aged under 25) who has fitted in extremely well, and is learning new techniques which enable him to fulfil the potential of his own model railway. We would also like to see a **few more modellers**, and some middle aged and younger members join so that the clubs legacy is ensured.


Our club is situated in Castle Street Car Park and opens from 7.00-9.00pm on each Wednesday evening. Should this be inconvenient for anybody who wishes to have a look around, before thinking of joining, then please contact the author to arrange a suitable time.

Dates and Events for your Diary

Wednesday 24th October at 8.00pm - Mere & District Railway Modellers AGM

Weekend of 5th & 6th January 2019 - The Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs Exhibition at The Cheese and Grain in Frome.

Weekend of 15th & 16th June 2019 - Mere Railway Modellers Exhibition in the Lecture Hall.

For further information about our active active little club, please refer to our website  www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk or contact me.

Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977

FAIR TRADE

I have been a voluntary rep for Traidcraft now for 35 years and am still excited by their catalogue of wonderful gifts, cards and produce they sell. Everything connects us to the craft producers and growers directly, and the Company continue to support the most vulnerable small holders and groups around the world helping them to a more sustainable life.

I will as usual be selling the Christmas Cards and gifts from October onwards and have them on display at my stalls in the URC and St Michael's. My 'At Home' will be held at the beginning of December so make a note of the date in your diaries to do some special Christmas shopping - Ethical, Eco-friendly, Global, Organic, Sustainable but above all FAIR.

Janet Way ☎ : 01747 860884

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

The shoe boxes will once again go to the isolated, desperately poor and vulnerable people in Bulgaria and Syria, where they are so loved and bring such joy. There is also a lasting legacy to these boxes as any surplus money, from the £3.00 distribution donations you can send with the boxes, goes towards helping prevent modern slavery. Young people are safe in the Houses of Opportunity where they receive love and kindness and the chance to make something of their lives, instead of being trafficked and exploited.

The final collection date, in St Michael's church is Sunday, 18th November, but I am very happy to receive your gifts before then.

Will you join us again to help transform Christmas, and beyond, by filling a box for those who get no other gifts? Leaflets are in the Church, Post Office, Jeans Electrical and K&M Beauty Salon. Huge Thanks.

Wendy Horne ☎ : 01747 861712

MERE RIVERS GROUP

Wildlife Sightings for August

Thank you to those of you who contributed their records for August. There were fewer bird sightings, but this was probably due to adult birds going through their annual moult! However there were young birds out and visible. Also the water vole made its reappearance. Sightings for August were Water Vole 5 times, Grey Wagtail twice. There were single sightings of Kingfisher, Crayfish (probably signal) and common blue butterfly and daily sightings of the Moorhen family on the Shreen.

Nature Notes:

The dry summer may have taken its toll on the range of species we have all been seeing and recording. For example, we noted that there has not been the range of

butterflies, that we might have expected. This is possibly due to the dry weather impacting on both the availability of nectar in the flowers and on the host plants which provide sites for laying and caterpillar food. As we write we note for example that we have seen very few peacock, commas and tortoiseshell butterflies. The variety which does seem to have been abundant, sorry gardeners, is the cabbage white!!

October is the month when animals and birds are stocking up their food reserves for winter so it should be a good time for seeing all forms of wildlife. We are grateful for and rely on your observations. Please keep these observations coming to:
✉: mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com. *Lynne Barn*, ☎: 01747.860174

RIVERS GROUP AND MERE MUSEUM JOINT EXHIBITION

October will be the last full month that you will be able to visit 'A Tale of Two Rivers' and its interesting updates.

This month's extras are a map of the Shreen Catchment within Mere Parish with its five contributing brooks, see our latest amazing wildlife sighting records, look at the data that Wessex Water send the Rivers Group to keep us informed about recent abstraction levels and flow rates, and work out how they reach the trigger point where they have to stop abstracting for export or be fined.

You will be surprised by the size of the Shreen Catchment.

Paulette McManus ☎: 01747 861524

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The community lunch will be held at the George Inn, on Tuesday, 9th October 2018 at 12noon for 12.30pm as part of Mere Literary Festival. The two course meal will cost £10.95, drinks not included. During coffee Gwilym Hitchcock will give a talk on his career with BA and the people he met. This is a very popular event so please ring the George Inn ☎: 01747 860427 well in advance to book your place.

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 17th October 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 the 15th October. Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524


OCTOBER SHORT WALK

This will take place on Friday, 19th October at 2.00pm. Please meet in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of 2-3miles around the lanes and paths of Mere with hopefully the Autumn colours in their full glory! I am sorry I had to cancel last month's walk but hopefully nothing will get in the way this time! *Janet Way* ☎ : 01747 860884

2019 WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

Next year will be the 10th Wylve Valley Art Trail (WVAT) for 10 days from Saturday, 18th until Monday, 27th May 2019 and we are looking for more Artists, Craftspeople and Groups to take part! Since being founded in 2001 by Nick Andrew, the biennial Wylve Valley Art Trail has established itself as the largest visual arts event in Wiltshire and has raised the cultural profile of this part of the county. The trail is now co-ordinated by Laura Rich and a team of volunteers. Last year there were 73 venues, scattered across some of the most beautiful countryside this county has to offer. A wide and eclectic patchwork of art and craft from over 300 participants, ranging from award-winning artists with international reputations to others only just starting out on their creative paths.

The Wylve Valley Art Trail is set in southwest Wiltshire, covering Warminster, Westbury, Wylve, Maiden Bradley, Mere, Hindon, Tisbury and villages between. Visit open studios and workplaces, galleries, exhibitions by art groups, student groups and other exciting events including 'hands on' activities, demonstrations, workshops and talks. A unique opportunity to see the high standard of visual arts and crafts currently being carried out in the area, across a wide range of skills, from painting to print-making, furniture making to photography and sculpture to ceramics. It offers the chance to meet the artists and, in many cases, see where and how they work.

Next year, in celebrating the 10th Wylve Valley Art Trail we would like to make it more inspiring, more memorable, and even more special! A vibrant festival of visual art excellence! So we want to send out an invitation to artists, craftspeople and groups to take part. Maybe those who are new to the area, just out of art college or have been considering participating for a while. The art trail is open to any artist who lives, works or has a strong interest or connection with this area. Full details can be found at  www.wvat.co.uk. For more information and images, please contact:

Laura Rich (WVAT co-ordinator) ☎ : 07910 736563 ✉ : info@wvat.co.uk

Nick Andrew (WVAT founder/PR): ☎ : 07730 400784 ✉ : na@nickandrew.co.uk

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Call **Maddie 077393 79775 or 01747 840131**

SHREEN HARMONY IS 20 YEARS OLD!!

In 1998, Shreen Harmony was formed as part of the three-year Millennium Confluence project to help and encourage people to create new music for the River Stour neighbourhood.

Confluence was a national project with a local focus. It offered participatory music projects, workshops, courses, concerts and events for people living in the catchment area, from Wiltshire, where the Stour rises in Six Wells at Stourhead, through Dorset to the sea at Christchurch.

Helen Porter was Confluence's music animateur and Karen Wimburst its Composer in Residence.

Helen was active in bringing people together to sing, write and perform, for example helping inexperienced singers to enjoy their own voices in workshops, and setting up choirs and singing groups such as Shreen Harmony, who are the only remaining choir from the Project. Helen remained Shreen Harmony's Musical Director until 2004.

The music composed and played embraced many styles, but the inspiration for all the new compositions and events came from the river itself – from places, history, local stories, legends and myths.

The twenty-year anniversary was celebrated on Sunday, 9th September in Fontmell Magna Village Hall with performances of "watery" songs by Shreen Harmony and a performance on home-made instruments, followed by archive film of many of the moments from the project.

Our next concert will be on Saturday, 22nd December in the Grove Building – more details to follow in the December issue of Mere Matters.

Derek Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

CANCER RESEARCH

Although those 'Lazy, hazy days of Summer' are gone, there is plenty to keep you entertained as our Autumn Fair is almost here! The Lecture Hall is where we shall be on Saturday, the 6th of this month, from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

As previously disclosed, there will be home made cakes to buy, bric-a-brac, a raffle and tombola. Festive items and our Christmas cards will also be on sale, so do come along and support us.

Did you see the glorious sunflowers framing the doorway of The Walnut Tree? Sam and Mark Cassidy organised a competition to guess their height and very generously donated the proceeds - a total of £117 - to Mere Cancer Research. We are very grateful to them, their staff at the Walnut Tree Inn, and all the folk who took part for supporting us.

Finally, a note for your diaries: The Military Wives Choir is coming to Mere on the 9th December. It is going to be a truly uplifting and seasonal performance, not to be missed. More details on ticket sales and venue will appear in the November issue of Mere Matters.

Your support sustains and motivates us to carry on our work in Mere to fight cancer. Our committee and our helpers are a great bunch of people, and if you feel motivated to join us, even in a small way, do please contact:

Harvard Dallibar, ☎: 07788 138003 or ✉: las518@icloud.com
or *Jill Turner* ☎: 01747 860334

MERE FILM SHOWS

The Mere Literary Festival film this year is The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society (12A) which is based on the best-selling novel by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows.

In 1946 London Juliet Ashton (Lily James), is looking for something serious about which to write. An unexpected letter; a curiously named book club; a remote location and a pig farmer are the triggers that entice her to set sail for Guernsey, leaving behind a book signing tour and an American fiancé (Glen Powell), who had swept her off her feet. Also starring Penelope Wilton, Tom Courtenay and Matthew Goode.

We are sure that this is going to be very popular so do make sure you get your tickets from the library in advance or phone and reserve.

All profits will be going directly to the Mere & District Link Scheme and, on the night, there will be a raffle as well. Also, there might be some potato peel pie to sample!

Further details on page 28.

Dates for your Film Diary:

Thursday, 15th November - 'Journey's End' *Rosie* ☎: 01747 861567

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Austen's Arcadia:

The Georgian Gardens of Jane Austen

Dawn Collins

Wednesday, 10th October 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Dawn will provide an introduction to the development of Georgian Gardens and how they are reflected in Jane Austen's novels. Her talk straddles a bit of garden history, with references to Jane Austen's life and inspiration

In association with Mere Literary Festival with retiring collection.

Mere Garden Festival:

Mere garden Club would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make their first Garden Festival such a great success. There was an amazing display of produce in spite of the difficult growing season, and the baskets of vegetables were particularly stunning. Visitors enjoyed voting for the best smelling rose and picture in the Art section; 'A scene of Mere'.

The new-style show was well attended with judges of the household section set a hard task with the wide array of delicious cakes and interesting preserve combinations. Judging was helped by John Jordan, Chairman of the Town Council and Mrs Tavenner, teacher at Mere School who had supported the festival by setting up a competition to create posters for the event and providing some wonderful curly peppers for display. The Grove Building was abuzz with nine different stalls and the wonderful display of art and photography revealing great talent.

The whole event was enlivened by music from JMS Folk Group and of course the delicious teas and cakes - there wasn't a crumb left!

 <http://www.meregardenclub.org.uk/>

Janet Way ☎ : 01747 860884



MERE MUSEUM

The Mere Rivers Group's hugely popular current exhibition goes from strength to strength! **A Tale of Two Rivers** continues to attract visitors and positive comments in the Visitors' Book. What is more, the exhibition is frequently updated, so it's always worth popping in again even if you have already had a look. A newly-made map of the Shreen catchment area is very exciting and enlightening; if you thought you knew all there is to know about the Shreen, you need another look! The exhibition continues until November.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends would like to remind everyone that they are holding another **Quiz Night** on **Friday, 28th September at 7.30pm** in the **Grove Building**. Come with a team of four, or just turn up and join in with others. It's £2.00 ahead to enter and there are lots of prizes to be won! We look forward to seeing you - but do come early - we were packed out at our last event!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Plans are afoot for **Katie's Party** (our next production) and everyone is invited. But we're afraid you will have to buy a ticket! The 'Party' will be held in the Lecture Hall on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 22nd - 24th November at 7.30pm** but also with a

matinée on Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets at £8.00 per head will be available towards the end of this month - watch out for details. And start looking out your best party frock or suit!
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

The speaker this month will be giving a talk entitled 'The naughty ladies of Bath' – sounds interesting. Powdered wigs and crinolines? Or something more recent?

In September we had lunch at Hillbrush and in October some of us will be going 'over the Deverills' to visit neighbouring WI members. Also, in October, in place of our cancelled summer meeting at the Croquet Club we are having a cream tea at Otter Garden Centre – a nice restaurant with the chance to do some Christmas shopping.

As usual visitors most welcome. Thursday, 4th October, 7.30pm in the small room at the Grove Building.
Barbara Bourne ☎ :01747 863411



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our meeting on Tuesday, 9th October is an open meeting during the Literary Festival week. The speaker will be Trevor Stubbs, who writes fiction for younger adults, but his stories also appeal to older readers. His talk will begin at 3.00pm, but you are welcome to join us at 2.30pm for a short period of worship. For more details, please see page 8 of the Literary Festival Programme or telephone Jenny Larder on the number below.

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

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

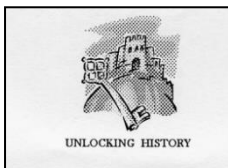
**For the over 60s. Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

We have two new volunteers joining us which means that we now have complete rotas, however if you have an interest in volunteering we are still looking for reserves. These positions would be suitable for someone who can't make a monthly commitment but could be available to cover the odd session/wash up/pick up lunches.

Please call me on the number below if you feel this is something you could do. We have a 'Session volunteer' training afternoon on Tuesday, 13th November, so please keep the date free and I will be in touch with further details.

We are still operating a waiting list for new guests, but if you or anyone you know would benefit from attending the RGC you can call me to register your interest and be placed on the list.

Sandie Hawkins 📞: 07835 272406 🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk



Mere Historical Society

Hadrian's Wall

by Mark Corney

Tuesday 16th October 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Hadrian's Wall is one of Britain's most majestic Roman monuments and we are delighted to welcome back Mark to give another of his most interesting talks.

Mark is an experienced speaker and leader of archaeology walks, a recent one being on Hadrian's Wall where he has been part of the team working on the excavations. He will bring us up-to-date with the latest finds.

£3 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Morning talk: Tuesday ,9th October

'Stephen Hyde Casson, Curate of Mere and Bruton' by Justin Bailey. To be held in the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am.

This talk is part of the Mere Literary Festival programme and there will be a retiring collection.

The autumn Newsletter has been printed and will be available at our first evening meeting (Tuesday, 16th October). It is also available on our website together with the *programme through to April 2019.*

If you are unable to get to the evening meeting and would like a printed copy of the newsletter posted to you, please contact Peter Landymore 📞:01747 228819 or by ✉: plandymore@outlook.com

🌐: **www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Caroline Cook 📞: 01747 861797

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society (12A).

In the aftermath of WW2, Juliet Ashton (Lily James) decides to write a book about the residents of Guernsey and their experiences during Nazi occupation.

With Matthew Goode and Penelope Wilton

in The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 11th October 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**

A NEW PARKRUN NEAR US!

A new parkrun has been set up at Henstridge Airfield and the first timed run was on 8th September with 115 runners and walkers.

If you'd like to run, volunteer or find out what parkrun is all about, then do visit this website: : <http://www.parkrun.org.uk/henstridgeairfield>.

If you'd be interested in taking part and car-sharing sometimes, then please get in touch with me. Leave a message on the number below or e-mail me at : rosiejb77@gmail.com.
Rosie : 01747 861567

MERE BOWLS CLUB

By the time our readers get to see this article, the Club will be closed for another season. Our time to play is so short in that we have to get all our league matches, friendlies and internal Club games into five short months and still have time for our private lives. This can prove difficult at times, but as this is a sport that we love, we manage to fit it in somehow.




All our Club competitions are now completed, with the following winners shining through in the end; Anne Sidford, Jeff Hurt and Les Manwaring came out on top in the Triples, which was the first final of the season and was held at the end of May.

This was followed up by Mary Butchers and John FitzGerald winning the Mixed Pairs in June. The 2-Wood Pairs winners were Mo McCormack and Jeff Hurt who triumphed at the end of July.

At the end of August we held our Open Pairs competition with Richard Coombs and Alan Isgrove coming out on top, which was closely followed by the Aussie Pairs at the start of September where Mary and Don Butchers proved successful.

On the 8th September the Club held its Singles Finals where Richard Coombs defeated Mary Butchers by 21 to 15, Don Butchers overcame David Anley in the 2-Wood competition and John Sturges defeated Ron Heesom in the Novice Singles.

David Anley then won the 100 Up Singles title by defeating Phill Powell in a thrilling final. A huge thankyou to Chris Coombs, Tom Cardoza and Jeff Vigers who ran all the competitions in a truly competent manner.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, : 01747 860775



Mere School Reports

Looking Back

The end of last year was a very busy one with all the classes completing their end of year work.

New Class Visit

At the end of last year the children all spent an hour in their new classroom. They were able to meet their new teacher and find out all about life in their new class.

Achievement Assembly

This was a time for individual children to receive awards from Mr John Jordan for all their hard work and progress. It was great to see so many parents there supporting their children.

Y6 Production

Year 6 entertained us with a fantastic end of year production of 'Darwin Rocks'. The show was a huge success with fantastic acting and singing from all the children involved.

Looking Forward

The school year is well under way and the children have all settled in really well to their new classes.

New Topics

All the classes have begun learning about their new topics for this term.

Blue: School Rules

Yellow: Special People

Silver: The Tiger Child

Gold: The Tudors

Green: World War Two

Red: The Romans

Purple: Saxons and Vikings

Sports

This will be a busy term for sport.

The children are already trying out for the upcoming Netball, Tag Rugby and Football competitions.

STOP THE PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to in school

 www.mereschool.co.uk

ROBINSON STONE CONCERT

The Robinson Stone Group is to appear on Saturday, 27th October 2018 at St Michaels Church telling the story of Clifford T. Ward, who was well known in the 1970s for synthesising pop melody and for his English poetic sensibility.

Doors to open at 6.30pm for concert to start at 7.30pm. There will be a Raffle and Bar. Tickets available at £10 each online at : [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or by telephone at the number alongside
Graham Ward ☎: 01747 861646



THE WORLD IS CHANGING - HOW ABOUT US?



**One World Fair, Stourton Village Hall
Thurs 25th October, 12.00-4.00pm**

**Games, Handcrafts, Stalls,
Face Painting and much more!**

Come & help to make a difference

Our celebration of One World Week this year begins with the Fair (see page 31) and ends with a service at St Michael's Church at **10.30am on Sunday, 28th October** with **a speaker from The Bible Society**.

The Remembrance Sunday service beginning in the Square at 10.45am on Sunday, 11th November will be a special one this year – details in November Mere Matters; and we're already beginning to look ahead to Christmas:

Christmas is coming...

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

There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome, and, so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance. Numbers are limited and the closing date is 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come, or if you would like to help, please telephone 01747 860335 (Judy Bickerstaff).

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



Harvest Service

11.00am Sunday, 7th October in St Michael's Church
Kindly bring food contributions to be donated to a Foodbank
during the service - no baked beans please!
- Followed by -

A Festival Lunch

Hog roast rolls and Sausages etc (£2 adults – children free) Bar - Apple bobbing and other harvest games.



All are most welcome – please come and join us.

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE & ST MARYS, WEST KNOYLE, WRITES:

Remembering and acting with thankfulness

Who could forget that this year we will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War. It is strange that it falls on a Sunday on the 11th itself; up and down the country special memorial plans are being made. Mere Town Council is erecting metal silhouette images of soldiers throughout the town in the streets or close to the locations where they lived.

On Saturday, 10th November starting at 11.00am by the Clock Tower I will be leading a walk of remembrance around the town to as many of these locations as we can. Pausing at each place to think of lives changed by war. We will gather at the Clock Tower as usual on Sunday morning for the Act of Remembrance followed on by a community service in the church.

This year the threat of violence from belligerent countries has come close to us not just terror attacks in London but more locally. I sat on the bench in Salisbury just a few months before the Skripals were found poisoned on it, then there are the two closed restaurants in Salisbury, and the sad death of a member of the public just 35 minutes from here. Russian state agents so close to the security of our homes.

Over the summer I saw the Russian punk rock group Pussy Riot. They were the women who staged a musical protest in St Basil's Cathedral in Moscow against the corrupt closeness between the church and Putin. Maria Aylokina, a band member, was brutally questioned and imprisoned for this protest. Her performance in music and film were a passionate testimony to a regime which is corrupt, vindictive and cynical. These things strengthen resolve to stand strong as a nation against Russian bullies.

Remembrance Sunday is the occasion when we remember as a nation those who have served their country standing up against tyrannical behaviour. This isn't a jingoism or a blind trust in all things done in our nation's name. It is a time to pause the good lives which many of us experience of relative wealth, health and freedom of expression. A time to remember with thanks those who died, whose lives are blighted in living and whose families are affected. We come together in quiet and thankful gratitude. Nothing should dilute that sense of thankfulness or sensitivity to those affected.

Jesus' central teaching was that we should love God with all our heart and love our neighbours as our selves. Remembrance Day asks that we renew our commitment to following that way of life **all the weeks of the year** as an act of thanks to those who died or were injured for the freedom and security that we enjoy .

With Blessings

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

Forthcoming Events

GraveTalk, 7.00pm at Mere Social Club on Tuesday, 16th October. Another opportunity to talk about matters surrounding death and dying in a relaxed informal setting.

St Michaels' Holiday Fun Afternoon Tuesday, 23rd October 2.30 –4.00pm. Usual mix of fun, games, paper making - including for Christmas, and refreshments. All primary age children welcome with parent/carer.

Games Evening with hot food at Mere Social Club Saturday, 17th November at 6.00pm. More details to follow.

Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859



A Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy, in aid of Suchana, to which everyone is welcome, will be held at Wits End, North Street (Janet Way's house) on Tuesday, 2nd October from 10.30am - 12.00noon.

And a date for your diary: We are holding a Social and Skittles Evening at Mere Social Club on Friday, 16th November to which everyone will be welcome. Details in November Mere Matters. *Judith Thompson* ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

October 2018

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

(Days available to Parish: Saturday - Wednesday)

✉: 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
Each 3rd Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Month Communion"
Sunday	7th	11.00am	Harvest Service, (no communion) and Festival Lunch
		6.00pm	Evening service celebrating start of Mere Literary Festival
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday	*21st	10.30am	Parish Communion
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion St Simon and St Jude

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Mr. Peter Kershaw
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	21st	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
	28th	11.00am	Mr David Burfitt

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 Monday to Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Thursday	10.00am	Rosary
Every Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
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: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859,

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎: 01747 830534

Mr Colin Seaford ☎: 01747 830263

Sunday	7th	10.30am	DIY
	14th	6.00pm	Harvest Service
	21st	9.30pm	Holy Communion
	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

October 2018

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; **CC**-United Reformed Church Centre; **CP**-Main Car Park; **DMS**-Duchy Manor School; **GB**-Grove Building; **L**-Lecture Hall; **Lib**-Library; **Lynch**-Lynch Community Centre; **MSC**-Mere Social Club; **RMC**-Railway Modellers Clubhouse; **StM** St Michaels Church.

1	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 8th, 15th & 22nd)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 15th & 29th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 15th & 29th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 15th & 29th)	GB
		7.00pm	Watercolour Club (also 8th, 15th & 22nd)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tues	10.00am	Moo Music	L
		10.30am	Suchana Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy	Wits End
		10.30am - 1.00pm	Dress Making (also 9th & 16th)	GB
		1.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		2.00pm - 4.00pm	"Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (OF) (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
3	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 10th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi, (Small Hall, also 10th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm - 9.00pm	Dress Making (also 10th & 17th)	GB
4	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am	Alzheimers Group (also 19th)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.00pm - 8.00pm	Pat manning Self Defence	L
		7.15pm	Carnival Quiz	GB
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		10.00am -	Cancer Research's Autumn Fair	L
8	Mon	7.30pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
9	Tues	10.15am	Historical Society Morning Meeting	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
10	Wed	10.00am - 11.00am	Forest Charities Grant Application	L
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB

10	Wed	7.30pm	Gardening Club (hosting Literary Festival event)	GB
11	Thur	10.30am	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Literary Festival Filmshow "Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society"	L
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (also 18th)	GB
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
		2.30pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
		7.30pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
13	Sat	9.00am	1.00pm Adult Flu Vaccinations	Surgery
		10.00am	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
		4.00pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	L
		7.30pm	Literary Festival event (see inside front cover)	GB
14	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
		3.00pm	Literary Festival Award Ceremony	L
15	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
16	Tues	7.00pm	Grave Talk	MSC
		7.30pm	Historical Society evening meeting	GB
17	Wed	3.00pm - 4.30pm	"Tea@3"	Angel Tea Rooms
19	Fri	2.00pm	October Short Walk	CP
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
23	Tues	2.30pm	4.00pm Holiday Fun Afternoon	StM
24	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
27	Sat	7.30pm	Robinson Stone Concert	St M
30	Tues	10.30am - 1.00pm	Dress Making	GB
31	Wed	10.00pm - 1.00pm	Really Sing	L
		2.30pm	Penny Bank Writers	L
		7.00pm - 9.00pm	Dress Making	GB

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Contact: KATIE SMITH B Mus - 07427 684269 or

www.reallysing.co.uk

Heather Stone: DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

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 ~ 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**

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:

WILTSHIRE DEMENTIA

ADVISER SERVICE:

1st Friday:

2:00 - 4:00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only

(☎: 0300 003 4569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays:

9:30 - 11:30am

WILTSHIRE DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

"DROP-IN SESSION":

1st Tuesday:

2:00 - 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Alternate Tuesdays:

10:00am - 12:00pm

COPYDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the November 2018 issue should be sent to **Richard Jefferies**, 16 Underhill Road, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6LU (☎: 01747 863425) or alternatively handed in at the Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4:00pm on MONDAY, 15th October 2018**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 8th October 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

A vintage-style mechanical device, possibly a theodolite or surveying instrument, is shown on the left side of the image. It features a large, circular lens in the center, two smaller circular gauges or dials on either side, and a complex arrangement of metal rods and levers at the top. The device is set against a dark, textured background.

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