

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

JUNE 2019

Contents

Advertising in Mere Matters.....	15
Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle	32
Cranborne Chase AONB Heritage Fund	30
Diary Dates for JUNE.....	16
Dressmaking in Mere.....	24
Fives Court	24
Friends of Mere Museum	19
Healthy Mere Walking	21
Local Drug and Alcohol Misuse	35
Mere & District Railway Modellers Exhibition	9
Mere Amateur Dramatic Society	24
Mere Angling Club	19
Mere Bowling Club	22
Mere Cancer Research.....	33
Mere Carnival.....	22
Mere Film Shows.....	19
Mere Forest Charities.....	13
Mere Gardening Club	11
Mere Historical Society.....	11
Mere Information Point @ The Library.....	34
Mere Museum.....	23
Mere Rivers Group.....	12
Mere School	25
Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG).....	23
Mere Theatre Club.....	9
Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group.....	17
Really Sing.....	14
Rosemary Goddard Centre.....	29
Short Walks	12
Shreen Harmony	13
St Michael's News.....	29
Warminster Food Bank.....	15
Wessex Resolutions CIC.....	13
West Knoyle Village Hall and Social Club	14

Front cover photo with kind permission from: Steve Hawkins

Mere Town Council

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

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

At the Annual Town Council meeting held last week, I was elected as Chairman for the Town Council for the ensuing year and I would like to begin my first Mere Matters report by saying a huge thank you, on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Mere, to John Jordan for his hard work as Chairman of Mere Town Council during the last two years. John attended many meetings both in Mere and county wide, liaised with numerous organisations and individuals and organised many events on behalf of the Town Council. He was supported in doing all this work by Kate Symonds as Vice-Chairman and we thank her for her sterling work too.

The Town Council also co-opted Mr. Richard Pester as a new member onto the Town Council to fill a vacancy that was recently created. We had three excellent candidates who put themselves forward to fill this vacancy and all of them, I am sure, would make worthwhile councillors. Unfortunately we could only co-opt one but I urged those that were not co-opted to come forward again should there be another vacancy in the future and also to bear in mind that there will be elections again in May 2021. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate in receiving this level of interest from

parishioners in becoming Town Councillors because we are constantly being reminded in many local government publications that it is difficult to generate interest in becoming a local councillor and we are aware that there are some parish & town councils around the country that have had vacancies that they have been unable to fill for months on end.

While annual procedural matters took up a lot of time at the May meeting of the town council, I note that we were consulted on 8 planning applications as well as proposals to make a modification order to the Definitive Footpath Map & Statement to add a public footpath from The Square leading in a northerly direction for approximately 57 metres to North Street. The Town Council voted to support this proposal on the grounds that it would provide a safer route for pedestrian and children wishing to get to and from the Square to the northern side of town. The Town Council also considered a request to extend the 30mph limit along the Shaftesbury Road. Whilst this proposal was not carried, it was suggested that we urge Wiltshire Council to repaint and remark the mini-roundabout on the Walnut Road junction. The Public Access Defibrillator

at Castle Street had developed a fault which was picked up by Mr. & Mrs. Thompson who kindly carry out the weekly checks on the machine. The defibrillator has been returned to the manufacturers for repair & the ambulance service have been informed. In the meantime, the defibrillator at Duchy Manor is still in good working order and the ambulance service are aware of its location.

Each year the Town Council facilitates an Annual Town Meeting. This is a public meeting, not a Town Council meeting, and is a chance for members of the public to ask any questions of the Council and receive updates on the Council's activities over the previous year. We also encourage community organisations and charities to report on their activities over the year. At this year's meeting, held on 24th April we had reports and updates

from Mere & District Linkscheme, Mere Matters, Seeds4Success, Parochial Charities, Mere & District Chamber of Trade & Mere Rivers Group. I am always reminded, at these meetings, about how much goes on in Mere but most importantly, how much volunteer time is given up by so many people in order to keep our little town so vibrant and active and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work. On that note, can I please remind all organisations that are holding events to include them in the events diary in the Mere Chamber of Trade website: merechamberoftrade.co.uk/about-the-chamber/calendar/

For information on Town Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: www.merewilts.org; or contact the Town Clerk

Clive Hazzard, Chairman, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
 860701,  lindseywood@merewilts.org,  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I was saddened to learn, Cllr Jerry Wickham, 58 is stepping down after confirming that he had been due to announce plans to take over from Baroness Jane Scott as leader of Wiltshire Council. Having recently been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer he is now urging more men to get checked out against the early signs of what he called the “silent killer”. He added: “A man dies of prostate cancer every 45 minutes and that to me is a startling figure. Cllr Wickham confirmed it will now take several weeks to reflect before making a decision about who will step forward to replace Baroness Scott when she steps down, expected to be in July.

Best Places to Live:

Salisbury was chosen by the Sunday Times, Best Places to Live guide because it "remains a divinely attractive and welcoming place".

Salisbury will host **The Armed Forces Day** from **Friday June 28th until 30th June**. If you are visiting the event, entry will be by free ticket which will be available online.

Friday 28 June - celebrating serving military personnel and their families.

Showground open from 2pm for an afternoon and evening of entertainment and activities. Enjoy live entertainment on the main stage.

Saturday 29 June - community day, Military parade in the city centre in the morning. Military demonstrations and displays in the main arena. Air show. Enjoy live entertainment on the main stage. There will be a Fireworks finale.

Sunday 30 June - celebrating veterans and cadets those who have served and those who may serve. Join in to set a world record for the largest human poppy.

Our **Seeds for Success** group may merge with the Zeals Youth group.

I am pleased to report some have volunteered to join a **litter picking group** that may form in Mere. Also a volunteer has come forward to help repaint some of the Street Name plates. Wiltshire Highways, in principal, have offered to pay for the paint. With the help of the Area Board and Mere Town Council some streets in Mere with no name plate may be able to acquire one. The above would be open to the villages around Mere as well.

Items for discussion at Community Area Transport Group (CATG) will no longer be raised via the Area Board system on the Wiltshire Council website. The Town/Parish Council will now be the first point of contact for the public.

I did say last month “With the development of Woodlands which is the old Hill Brush site, a 30MPH speed limit has been called for by some of the residents of Shaftesbury Road and others. I can see the merit in this and would not be

against it, however it is not going to happen quickly in my opinion.” Mere Town Council have decided to go against a reduced speed limit, and from the above you will see they are the first point of contact and cannot discuss this again for at least 6 months, therefore I will get a SID (Speed Indicator Device) displayed from time to time.

The **National Federation of Sub-Postmasters** has warned that many of its 8,000 members have reported such significant drops in income that up to 2,500 sub-post offices are at risk of closure. A survey found that 22% intend to scale back or shut their branches in the next year, with those in rural locations most at risk. The federation wants a continuation of subsidies to branches beyond 2021 (Mere has no direct subsidy), the return of some Government services to post office branches, and the development of a broader range of banking and other financial products for them to offer. I can say Mere PO would welcome such a move.

I was interested to learn at a meeting of the **Broadband Project Board of Wiltshire Council**, the introduction of the ultra-fast 5G mobile network could be delayed by two years partly because of legal disputes over the control of lamp posts across Britain. This due to ambiguous wording in a new electronic communications code and lack of guidance over access to lamp posts and other street furniture. I have had similar complaints elsewhere in my division, new telegraph poles being erected close to existing electricity poles for instance.



On the 7th August 2002 Wiltshire County Council acknowledged a local resident by letter that a no through road sign would be erected at Edgebridge/Lordsmead, Mere. I am pleased to inform that after 16 years it has just been put up.

Residents in Tickhill Road in Rotherham have been left baffled after a £6,000 bus shelter was erected on the street – despite its only bus routes having been cut in March. Some would like it moved to The Square in Mere, where at present you can on occasions get cold and wet waiting for a Bus.



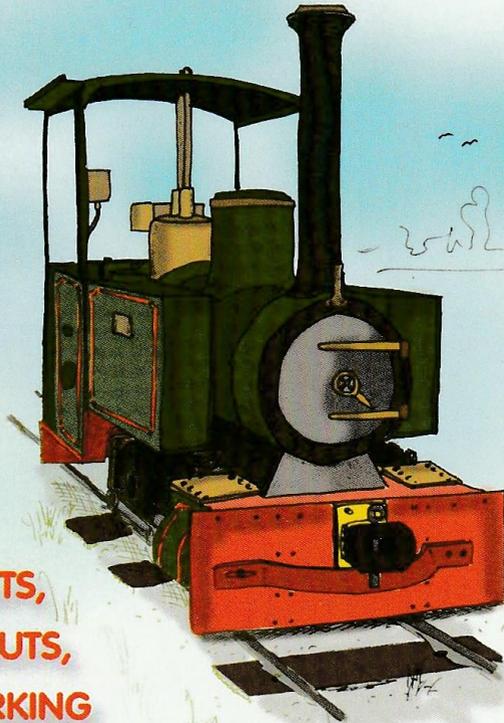
I have a facebook page: Cllr George Jeans. It is not a platform for conversation at present, therefore I do not accept friends request on the site at present; I do not view it regularly.

☎ 07710 441599 ✉ george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

MERE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 15TH & SUNDAY 16TH JUNE 2019

10.00am to 4.00pm



**REFRESHMENTS,
TWELVE LAYOUTS,
FREE CAR PARKING**

**Mere Lecture Halls, Salisbury Street,
Mere BA12 6HA**

**ADMISSION - Adults £5,
Children under 12 FREE if accompanied by an adult.**

www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk

Mere & District Railway Modellers Exhibition

This year's show is clearly aimed at people who enjoy a variety of layouts in various scales and gauges with adequate trade support all linked by the common theme of high quality. It is important to us and especially the three layouts made by club members that the content of the exhibition appeals to the people of Mere and the surrounding towns, so we would very much appreciate your feedback.

- (1) Ray Heard Models
- (2) Robert Train DCC Solutions in O & OO (Skills Desk)
- (3) Mere Abbas (O Gauge) Peter and Richard (Mere Club)
- (4) 16mm Narrow Gauge Diorama Peter Lord (Mere Club)
- (5) Launceston (009) Richard Holder
- (6) Rolling Stock Construction Andy Cundick (Skills Desk)
- (7) Railway Scenics by Stephen Lane
- (8) Trowland (S) Trevor Nunn
- (9) Purbeck (009) John Thorne
- (10) Cheffley (OO) Mike Carter
- (11) Aberdovey (7mm NG) Tom (Mere Club)
- (12) 'G' gauge by David & Patrica Moore
- (13) Tavas Yn Bogh (OO & 009) Ian Matterface
- (14) Hamilton (American N) Tim Williams
- (15) RHEILFFORDD FFESTINIOG RAILWAY SOCIETY

Please support Nancy and her team in the galley. Tom Snook, Manager

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Amazing as it seems to us, the theatre club has been going for 10 years this year! We have been to a wide range of events: theatrical; musical; humorous and even floral - and the odd event we'd rather forget! If you'd like to join us and participate in some fun and sociable outings, do contact either Wendy or Madelaine. The autumn programme will be out during the summer.

Wendy Horne ☎ 861702 Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833

Mere Gardening Club

Two gardens and their plants - David Haselgrove

David is a past RHS Council member, and past president of the Alpine Garden Society and has led expeditions to many parts of the world. He will talk about two gardens he has been involved in, Pelham House and Foxhill. **Wednesday 12th June 7.30pm Grove Building £2** entry for visitors who are very welcome.

A few spaces are still available for our trip to **Rosemoor Gardens**, Devon on Thurs June 27th, leaving Mere at 9.30am and returning around 8pm. £12 per person.

Mere Garden Club's Second Mini- Garden Festival:

Schedules and programmes are now available so pick up a copy from the Library or Sprout and Flower and see what categories you might enter this year - whether fruit, flowers, vegetables or your favourite recipes, art or photography- there is something for everyone! It is open to all so let's make this a bigger and better show than ever. We have many stalls booked with all things gardening and of course the essential tea and cakes!

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere Historical Society

Montacute (National Trust) Tuesday 20 June. Deadline for booking: 9th June

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns by around 5.30pm

The American Museum and Gardens Wednesday 17 July.

Situated in Claverton Manor and within 125 acres of beautiful grounds with stunning views across the Limpley Stoke Valley, the American Museum is home to the finest collection of Americana outside of the United States. The collection of over 200 quilts is acclaimed as the finest of its type in Europe. The museum is also home to the inspiring Folk-Art gallery and fascinating map exhibition. The "New American Garden" is the first European commission for Washington DC-based landscape architects Oehme van Sweden. To reflect the importance of the new garden last September the museum was renamed "The American Museum and Gardens". There is a café and picnic area.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 10am and return by around 5.30pm

Cost: MHS Members £22, non-members £25per person. Includes coach & tip and entrance. Deadline for booking 30 JUNE. Details and booking forms available from Mere Information Point or download from the "What's On" tab on our website.

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mere Rivers Group Wildlife Sightings for April/May

It is clear you were getting out and about during April and over Easter with the arrival of Spring, as we had a large number of sightings reported to us for which we are very grateful – thank you!

The sightings were: moorhen and chicks seen daily, water vole 13 times, holly blue butterfly 6 times, peacock butterfly and slow worms both seen 4 times, male grey wagtail and ladybird seen 3 times. All seen twice were mother duck and ducklings, frog, swallow, great spotted woodpecker and bee fly. The following were seen once: pair of bullfinches, water rail, green woodpecker, goldfinch, greenfinch, pair of red kite, pair of buzzards, wren, hedgehog, fox, pair of song thrushes, red admiral butterfly, field vole, pied wagtail, orange tip butterfly. We have had a report of a nesting blackcap and a robin's egg shell. Calls have also been heard of the following birds: chiff chaff, 3 times, great spotted woodpecker twice, goldcrest twice and greenfinch once. Further afield house martins have been seen!



Nature Notes

April saw the start of our river monitoring which involved the carrying out of a kick test on our rivers and noting specific indicator species of invertebrates. Reports are supplied to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and also provided to Dorset Wildlife Trust at their request because our waterways feed into the River Stour in Dorset. Our first test of the year showed a reasonable mix of species and good flow, and will be carried out monthly until September. These tests are helpful in our campaign to reduce water abstraction levels by providing additional evidence to the sightings you provide.

At this time of year there are many baby birds around. Please leave them alone and do not be tempted to feed them white bread or dairy products (milk and cheese) as these can be fatal.

Please continue to send your sightings to us by email please.

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

Short Walks

Friday June 7th. Meet at 2.00pm to enjoy a short walk through the summer lanes and paths around Mere and enjoy a welcome cuppa at the Angel Tea Rooms

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Community Tea @ 3

The next Community tea@3 is on Wednesday the 19th June.
Angel Tea Rooms, The Square



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Wessex Resolutions CIC

Wiltshire Council fund a home improvement loan scheme for homeowners and landlords*.



We understand the expense of maintaining your home. We want to help you to take the stress out of funding repairs, improvements or adaptations to your home. We see you as an individual, not a credit score. For a free, no obligation home visit or more information:

*Subject to eligibility

Wessex Resolutions CIC ☎ 01823 461099 🌐 wessexresolutions.org.uk

Shreen Harmony

Come and join us for a fun waterside musical evening out at the Bush Farm Bison Centre in West Knoyle on **Saturday 1st June** where Shreen Harmony and Three Corners Band will be performing in aid of St Mary's Church West Knoyle. The gates open at 6.30pm and there will be a wine bar and barbeque or you can bring your own picnic. If it is wet the event will be held in the barn. The entrance ticket is £10 for Adults, free for children.

Caroline Landymore ☎ 228819

MERE FOREST CHARITIES - Assistance Available

The charities exist to support those persons resident in the Parishes of Mere and Zeals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. Currently supporting a number of individuals with an annual grant before Christmas, applied for in October. Applications for assistance are welcome at any time during the year. For further details and application form please write and enclose an A5 stamped addressed envelope to:

The Secretary 34 Imber Road Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8RX

✉ Mereforest@gmail.com

West Knoyle Village Hall and Social Club – Raise the Roof

Fundraising has started for our 'Raise the Roof' appeal as we are now facing a serious problem with the tin roof over the extension to the Village Hall. The Social Club will be putting on various fundraising events throughout the year and the Committee are trying every which way to obtain financial support.



We have applied to local supermarkets to be included as a sponsored project in their Community Matters token collection box. Also, voting will end on 17 June for our project on the Calor Rural Community Fund website. The more votes the Raise the Roof project can get the more chance we have of receiving a grant from their fund.

The Village Hall is available to hire for parties and other occasions. The Social Club is open Wednesdays & Fridays 8-10pm and Sundays 1-3pm.

Corinne Leonard 📞 07783 157361 🌐 westknoyle.org

Really Sing

We are now in our second year in Mere. Group sessions are held in the Lecture Hall for unauditioned singers who want to develop confidence and technique through a variety of songs; new members are always welcome. Since the start of 2019, our 'regulars' have already completed two sets of weekly sessions, with feedback by email (often with sound-bites so they can enjoy hearing what they have achieved). For singers who want to take it to the next level, there will be a non-residential Summer Singing course in Mere on 31st August & 1st September - a few places are still available but hurry!

Katie 🌐 reallysing.co.uk

Warminster Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and donated at our collection in April - we collected a massive 67.5kg and £40 in cash donations. We took the car full up to the depot and, as this was my first time there, I was very impressed by the efficient system they have there - and the volunteers are a very happy, helpful bunch!

We asked if they needed pet food - the answer was a resounding - 'Yes please'... so if your furry faced friends would like to donate a tin or 2 we would be most grateful.

We now have a permanent collection point at Mere Library, so please would you consider buying an extra non-perishable food item, toiletries, pet food, washing kit or maybe a little treat that would make the food box recipient smile and just drop it in the box there. We will be doing a monthly run to Warminster to keep the supplies going for them.

We are collecting at The Clock Tower on Saturday July 20th at 9am to noon - so please come along and donate.

As always, if you have eaten today, please remember those who have not.

Contact - Penny Fennon 📞 07833131412 (after 6pm please).



You are invited to a **STRAWBERRY TEA**
in Aid of Suchana



on **Friday 5th July** from 2.00pm
at Summerleigh, Mill Lane, (*Trevor & Irene Lucas's house*)

For more information 📞 860553 Everyone is Welcome!

Whole Posters in Mere Matters

As space is at a premium in these publications I would ask contributors to avoid submitting posters for inclusion. Articles with an option of some graphics where appropriate are preferred please.

Editor

Advertising in Mere Matters

We offer full page, half or quarter page spreads for adverts. To find out the costs or to book an advert please contact Jane Kennedy.

✉ jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com 📞 01985 844740

Mere Film Shows

Green Book [12A]

Thursday June 27th at 7:30pm

Our next award-winning film for our summer season is Green Book [12A]. It is set in 1962 and is inspired by the true story of a tour of the Deep South by African American classical and jazz pianist Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) and his Italian American bouncer Frank "Tony Lip" Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) . It has enjoyed world-wide success and won Best Picture, best original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor at the Academy Awards. Mahershala Ali also picked up the Supporting Actor award at the BAFTAs. A film which will be well worth seeing. Doors Open 7pm and tickets are available at the Library.

Rosie ☎ 861567

Mere Angling Club

New to fishing or an 'old hand'? We are open to new members who will benefit from a Ticket Share Scheme with 16 other local clubs giving 'free' access to some 50 lakes and 150 miles of rivers and canals including the rivers Frome (Rode) and Avon (Limply Stoke to Avoncliff).



Club lakes include Crockerton, Berkley, Witham Friary(2) and Eden Vale lakes.

Regular teaching sessions and help given to all Juniors at our club lake at Crockerton. Fishing tackle provided and there are on-site toilets.

Membership from **16th June** – adults £50, Seniors £40, Blue Badge holders £35, 17/18yr olds £20 and under **16s FREE**.

Alan Cross ☎ 07736371498 ✉ alancross01@aol.com

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends are very grateful to everyone who supported with such enthusiasm, both events they put on during the course of just one week in May! The Plant Sale (on 13th) and the Quiz (on 17th) between them raised over £1000 for the Museum. The Museum depends entirely on funds raised by The Friends and we are all very appreciative of the loyal and generous support we always receive. Thank you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Diary Dates for JUNE *(Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**).*

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

Drs - Surgery

Lib - Library

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion

GB - Grove Building

StM - St Michaels Church

CP - Main Car Park

L - Lecture Hall

URC - United Ref Church

1	Sat	10.30am	URC Coffee Morning	URC
2	Sun			
3	Mon	9.30am 6.00pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Tiddlers & Toddlers <i>(every Mon Term Time Only)</i> Beavers & Scouts <i>(every Mon Term Time Only)</i> Slimming World <i>(every Mon)</i> Parish Council Meeting	L GB L AYP
4	Tues	10.00am 10.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm 6.20pm	Moo Music <i>(every Tues Term Time Only)</i> Dressmaking Group <i>(every Tues)</i> Digital Champions Drop-in session Pilates <i>(every Tues)</i> Zumba <i>(every Tues)</i>	L GB Lib GB L
5	Wed	9.30am 11.00am 11.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	Ta-Chi <i>(every Wed)</i> Pilates <i>(every Wed)</i> Really Sing <i>(every Wed)</i> Karate <i>(every Wed)</i> Dressmaking Group <i>(every Wed)</i> Railway Modellers <i>(every Wed)</i>	GB GB L L GB RMC
6	Thur	10.00am 10.00am 2.00pm 2.00pm 5.00pm	Hearing Aid Clinic Art Group <i>(every Thur)</i> Bridge Club <i>(every Thur)</i> Quilters <i>(every Thur)</i> Girlguiding <i>(every Thur Term Time Only)</i>	Drs GB L GB GB
7	Fri	10.00am 10.00am 1.45pm 2.00pm	Rhyme Time <i>(every Fri)</i> Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks) Duplicate Bridge <i>(2.00pm start every Fri)</i> Short Walk	Lib GB GB CP
8	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Bingo	L
9	Sun	12.00am	St Michaels Summer Fete	StM
10	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	L
11	Tues	2.30pm	Mothers Union <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
12	Wed	2.00pm 7.30pm	Friends Together Whist Gardening Club <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	GB GB

13	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
14	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
15	Sat		Railway Modellers Exhibition Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	L URC
16	Sun		Railway Modellers Exhibition	L
17	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
18	Tues		<i>Dressmaking (GB)</i> , <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
19	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea @ 3 <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	ATR
20	Thur		Historical Society to Montacute <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
21	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Carnival – Quiz Night <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
22	Sat		Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	URC
23	Sun		Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	StM
24	Mon	1.30pm	Rosemary Goddard Centre AGM <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	RGC
25	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
26	Wed	2.00pm 7.00pm	Friends Together Meeting Penny Bank Writers <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Mod</i>	GB L
27	Thur	7.00pm	<i>Moviola Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
28	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
29	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
30	Sun			

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

Our meeting on **Tuesday June 11th 2.30pm** at Meads House is our Annual Garden get together. We look forward to enjoying some nice weather hopefully! If you need a lift please let me know in good time.

Healthy Mere Walking

Join us on Sunday **9th June** Starts: 10am to 11am at Manor Road and Denes Ave.

Last Year 97 walkers, aged from 4 to 92 years, enjoyed the benefit of a good walk and have a Great Bottom to prove it. This year we are inviting you to join us again for A Bigger Bottom. The walk and the company will be good for you and for all of us. It is 4 miles of country path and involves a climb of 370ft to splendid views in all directions. Our sponsors will reward you with a goody bag and A Bigger Bottom badge to be worn with pride!



On The Great Bottom walk, we asked for a £5 donation and we are still using that to make the footpaths of Mere more accessible. Your donation, this year, will go to the Mere and District Link Scheme - who do provide such a valuable service to the people of Mere.

When you know that you are going to join us then get in touch using the contact page of the footpath group website.

We will ask you to sign a waiver (as the group has no insurance, walkers should be aware that they take part at their own risk and that the group does not accept liability for any injury or loss however caused.)

Turn up at the start point, on Manor Road, between 10am and 11am on 9th June, give us your donation (we would hope for £5 for the Mere Link-Scheme which helps so many people in Mere). Children walkers' donations are up to you, thanks. We will give you a map and a very interesting fact sheet. Then the pleasure of A Bigger Bottom starts!

John Jordan ☎ 07840722835 🌐 merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk

Mere Carnival

The Mere local committee for Cancer Research UK and The Mere Carnival Committee organised this year's Mere May Fayre. The weather was good - not too hot and not too cold. Classic Cars, bouncy Castle, Stalls a very large social "get together" and much more. The draw for the "Big" raffle was also drawn.



Upcoming events:

Friday 21st June – **Quiz Night** at the Grove Building.

7.30pm start - £2 entry. Maximum of 5 per table

Refreshments / Raffle, Come and join us for a fun evening and help with raising the £5,000+ needed for Carnival

Friday 5th July - **Mere Carnival Bingo.at Mere Social Club, Hazards Hill.**

Doors open @ 6.45pm Eyes Down 7.30pm. Excellent variety of quality prizes including: Wincanton Racecourse Raceday pass for 2, Family ticket to Farmer Palmer's – Poole, Raffle, Refreshments available at the Bar, Fun for all the family.

Carnival Day: Saturday 14th September

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

Mere Bowling Club

Firstly a big thank you to all those who attended the recent 60s & 70s night in the Grove Building helping to raise a magnificent £742 for our local charity. This year it is the Rosemary Goddard Centre. The Club will top the amount up to the nice round figure of £750.00 which will be presented to the Centre in Lynch Close by a small collection of bowlers on **Friday 7th June at 2pm.**

We are now well into the new season and are playing two to three games a week against opposition from other clubs in the immediate, and not so immediate area. All in all we are holding our own and giving as good as we get but we could always do with a few more members. All you need to get started is a pair of flat soled shoes and bags of enthusiasm and we will do the rest. The other option is just to come down to the club for a cup of tea and a chat while you watch bowlers having fun on the green and get hooked that way, it is a very addictive sport.

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

Mere Museum

A rather different report this month! The Museum has recently been given two exciting gifts from America whence they had made their way since their manufacture. One is a hand-made copper kettle, and the other a long-case clock, both made by William Lander, the 18th-century brazier who lived on Castle St. These items were generously given by descendants of William Lander. The clock has until recently been in full working order, installed in a proper - but not the original long case. However in order to transport it from America, the clock workings were removed from that case.

We would love to re-install the clock in a suitable long case, but are at a loss as to know how to acquire one. Does anyone either have a redundant case they would be willing to give or sell, or is anyone able to make one for us for a reasonable fee? We would be delighted to hear from you if you can help! Meanwhile don't forget to come to see the current exhibition called 'Take a Walk on the Mere Side', put on by Mere's Footpath Group. It's very well worth the visit.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 ✉ jennyflaxmill@gmail.com

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

There will be a presentation at **Mere Lecture Hall 11th July** at 11.00am on **Wills and Power of Attorney** delivered by Farnfields Solicitors. Following which there will be a short talk on End of Life Planning. These talks are open to all.

Mere Surgery will shortly be introducing a new service called **Dr Link** which will be accessed via the surgery website. This is a symptom assessment tool which recommends the right action to follow based on your symptoms. This service is *NOT AVAILABLE* at present but further details will be published as soon as possible.

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

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group ☎ 860001

Dressmaking in Mere

We are once again offering our Taster Session of two lessons at a reduced rate for people who would like to come along and see if it is something they would enjoy. Do get in touch if you would like to see if you too can make a garment in a day, a little longer than they had on the Sewing Bee which we all loved watching.

We promote quiet sewing time and everyone says they relax so much which must be good for our important mental wellbeing and also we are learning something new which gives a great sense of satisfaction.

The dressmakers are not quiet at coffee time! but new friendships have definitely been obvious, maybe because they are likeminded people and several of our ladies are quite new to Mere. We have a break over the summer and return for a new set of courses in September and we already have names on the waiting list, more space on Wednesday evenings. Autumn Term dates are Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings 10th and 11th September and our courses run for six weeks.

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

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

It's that time of year when MADS members put on their thinking caps (if they can find them - quite often left in the props cupboard)) and begin the process of reading and rejecting, sifting and sorting until the magic moment arrives when they discover and decide! That it to say, we are looking for the play we shall put on for our Autumn Production. Our Mere audiences will be the first to know the result. Next meeting **Monday June 10th** at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room, Lecture Hall).

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Fives Court

On Friday 28th June, Fives Court is celebrating the annual Care Home Open Day opening our doors to the public for National Care Home Open Day, a fun and relaxed event that helps to showcase what goes on in the UK's many fantastic care homes. This year's event takes the theme of 'Celebrating Arts in Care'. Care Home Open Day is about creating links between care homes, their residents, and their local communities, breaking down the myths around care homes and enriching people's lives by bringing them closer together.

Fives Court Residents invite the community between 10am and 4pm to join us for some creative fun at our Arts inspired event. Come along for a day of family

friendly fun and enjoy an array of exciting activities, including Arts and Crafts session, Greek Dance learning Session 10.30am to 11.30am, complimentary coffee morning and other refreshments and the opportunity to take a tour of our beautiful home.

Brenda Martin ☎ 860707

Mere School

We are speedily approaching the end of the school year.....only 7 weeks to go! The children are enjoying their last term in their current classes before we break up for the summer term.



Anyone for Tennis?

On a very hot Wednesday this month 12 children from Years 3 and 4 took part in the annual Gillingham Family Cluster tennis event. Despite the fact there were no strawberries and cream it was quite the mini Wimbledon with two teams qualifying for the semi-finals and one getting into the final! All the children played incredibly well and we are all so proud of them. We now look forward to the team from the final taking part in the N. Dorset finals in June. Watch out Roger Federer.....Mere School are in town!

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Visit

This year the school council chose the Wiltshire Air Ambulance as our school charity. All year we have been raising funds for them, hoping to make a small difference to the lives of others that depend on this invaluable service. This month we were visited by a member of the team who explained all about the work that they do in a whole school assembly. Children in Key Stage 2 then completed workshops on several valuable lifesaving skills, including CPR. It was such a fantastic day with all the children enjoying learning about the things they can do to save lives.

Sue Evans Visit

Children in Year 4 enjoyed a visit from Sue Evans this week. As a member of the Mere Literary Festival she came to talk to the children about the event and her many travels around the world. The children enjoyed her visit and asked her many questions about her trips.

Bush Farm Bison Centre - West Knoyle
WATERSIDE ~ MUSICAL ~ EVENING



and
SHreen
Armony
Community Choir



Saturday
1st June 2019
Gates open 6.30pm

Wine Bar & BBQ

or bring your own picnic!

Entrance Ticket: £10

in aid of St Mary's Church, West Knoyle



in barn if wet!

 info@bisonfarm.co.uk

 www.bisonfarm.co.uk

 01747 830263 / 830422

 Post Code: BA12 6AE

Rosemary Goddard Centre

We would like to thank Mere Bowls Club for supporting us by holding a fund raising evening. We danced the night away to tunes of the 60's and 70's and enjoyed a fish and chip supper, the band were amazing and everyone really had a good time!

This month we have arranged to take our guests to Street/Clarks Village instead of our usual seaside outing, so we are all looking forward to grabbing some bargains in the shops.

We currently have two spaces for new guests for a full day each Monday, if you or anyone you know would like to join us, please get in touch.

All are invited to our AGM on **Monday 24th June**, 1:30pm, in the Community Room, Lynch Close, Mere.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞 07835 272406 🌐 meredaycentre.org.uk

St Michael's News

St Michaels Church Summer Fete takes place on **SUNDAY 9th June from 12-3pm**. Many of the usual stalls: Bottle Stall, All sorts Tombola, Barbecue and bar, teddy bear tower drop, good quality pre-loved clothes, plants and puzzles and large bric a brac stall, Friends stall with preserves, cake stall, coconut shy and children's stalls. We are also including Tower Tours and a history tour of the church and have a Classic Car Rally in the Vicarage Field in Angel Lane. Last but not least a pop up cafe with cream teas, cakes and yummys in the Grove Building. The fete will be opened by the Carnival Royal Family. All welcome, fun for all ages. Money raised will help to keep our beautiful church well cared for.

ROBINSON STONE CONCERT

Due to popular demand the group Robinson Stone will be appearing again at St Michaels Church Mere on **Saturday 13 July at 7pm**. Tickets £10 will be available at the Mere Fete, Library, Sprout and Flower and outside the Post Office during June, available from www.robinson-stone.com or phone Graham Ward 📞 861646

Rev Carol 📞 861859.

Cranborne Chase AONB awarded £1.68million by The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Nurturing Nature

A biodiversity programme which aims to improve 375ha of habitat for species including butterflies, farmland birds and mammals such as water voles, with 3,400 volunteer days on offer with training.

Starry, Starry Nights A project to monitor the dark skies in a bid to aid International Dark Sky Reserve status and train at least 12 new Dark Sky Champions.

Greater Grazing

This project will help transform grazing on the third largest unbroken chalk grassland in the UK to benefit 15 key species and 10 ancient monuments.

Community Arts

There will be writing competitions, theatrical productions and an oral history project to capture stories of traditional land management such as water meadow management, coppicing and hurdle making

Champions for the Past

Extensive archaeological programme for people around the AONB including 'dig boxes for more than 4,000 children'; 'Horrible History' style roadshows; and an app to bring the landscape to life

Crystal Clear Ebble

This project will help restore and improve 22km of this important chalk river to tackle run off and alien species.

Ancient Ways

Over 110km of rights of way will be improved or restored with newly promoted walks, cycle rides and walk leader training.



"It's like dusting down an old book that you find in the attic and opening it to find a mass of truly wonderful stories that you can't wait to share with everyone. This project is for everyone. Whether you live in or around Cranborne Chase and the Chalke Valley we welcome anyone who wants to join in and get involved."

Linda Nunn, Director, Cranborne Chase AONB

Letter from the Churches Deacon Michael Hughes writes:

Bluebells in Wiltshire woods and coppices are one of the wonders of the world. Did you see them this May? It was a vintage year for them, when the bosky beauty of the woods appeared as if blue wood smoke was drifting low through the trees. The scent of these gentle flowers on a still evening was a tonic to let you know that all will be well in your life, that Brexit and taxes and the pains of the body are all ephemera, short lived and passing, and not worth troubling much about. If you didn't find an evening this May to meander among the bluebells in the twilight – make a note not to miss them next year. They are refreshment for the soul. And there is so much more glory still to come this summer. The larks singing high above you on White Sheet hill, the butterflies in our gardens, and the buzzards leisurely circling in the sky: to name but three of the many God-given delights around us.

We live in a ravishing part of the world, and we would be wise to thank God for this, and for all He gives us. Our Catholic Church in Mere, (aka the Nissen hut) has been lovingly restored inside and out, the money raised by local Catholics. It is a good place to thank God for the things he has given you, and to ask Jesus about the things that concern you. Come along any Saturday 5.30 pm, light a candle, talk to the One who made you and loves you. And share in the great gift of Holy Mass that He gives to help us defeat the dark within us, so we too can be full of light, filled with His love. We can each, all the thousands of us, be as beautiful as the myriad bluebells nodding in the breeze.

Michael Hughes

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: ✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

2	Sun	08:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship (30/35 mins with no communion). Evensong
9	Sun	08:00 09:15-10:15	No Service Parish Communion for Pentecost (Fete Day)
16	Sun	08:00 10:30	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
23	Sun	08:00 10:30	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
30	Sun	08:00 10:30	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

Also Friday CW communion at 8am every week except 21st and 28th.

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

2	Sun	9.30am	Matins
9	Sun	9:30am	Holy Communion
16	Sun	9:30am	Holy Com
23	Sun	9:30am	DIY
30	Sun	9:30am	DIY

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

2	Sun	11.00am	Rev Judith Thompson
9	Sun	11.00am	Colin Marsh Holy Communion
16	Sun	3.00pm	T.B.A
23	Sun	11.00am	Catherine Dyer.
30	Sun	11.00am	Christine Marsh

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

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

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Every Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church
Every Thur	10.00am	The Rosary of Our Lady
Every Sat	5.30pm	Holy Mass

Mere Cancer Research

Thank you so much everyone who came along and supported us at our May Fair. The weather was kind to us and the stalls looked wonderful. We joined up with the Carnival Club this year which worked very well.



We are now thinking about the next event in our 'Summer Season' and this one is fast becoming a firm favourite for visitors and Mere folk alike. It is, of course, our coffee morning - being held by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Anthony Sainthill in their garden in the middle of Mere, on **Saturday 13th July**. You can walk to it, or drive and park in the main car park, entering the garden from there. There will be delicious cakes, and the usual stalls, raffle and music. We are hoping the sun will shine and that you will be able to come and join in the fun.

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

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	Derek Fisher administrator@grovebuildingmere.com	☎ 07935 266375
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 apt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Champions	1 st Tuesday	2.00pm – 4.00
Health Trainer	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am – 12.00

Mere Information

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of “Mere Matters”, please visit [🌐 merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)

Copy date for combined: July/August 2019 Issue

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 17th JUNE.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **10th June** (or earlier) via [✉ editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk), or delivered to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Please be sure to include your name and a contact telephone number
In order to ensure inclusion.

Local Drug and Alcohol Misuse.

Join us on the **4th June**, 6.30pm at the **Nadder Centre**, Weaveland Rd, Tisbury, SP3 6HJ.

- Have your say and raise your concerns with local professionals
 - Receive information on what the council and its partners are doing to tackle this issue
 - Hear what our young people have to say about this important issue
 - Influence local government, health and police strategies on substance misuse
-

Community Groups and Charities to have their say!

Wiltshire based organisations are invited to be part of a consultation about the challenges they currently face and the resources and support available in the region.

Wessex Community Action has been talking to The National Lottery Community Fund about the resources and support which Wiltshire based community organisations could use to help them be more successful and sustainable in their work.

The views of all charities, community organisations and social enterprises are being sought about what resources and advice you get to help you do your work and what further assistance could improve what you do and where you do it.

We know that community organisations reach out for help from a variety of sources such as national bodies; online advice; training providers; funders; as well as local support agencies. So we now want to know what's missing for you that could best be provided at a local level.

Your views are important because they could influence the sort of resources and support available in Wiltshire.

Your views will mainly be collected via a confidential online survey. However, it will also be possible to register your views in other ways if that suits you better. You can access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NQ3FZRB>



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