

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

MAY 2019

Front cover photo with kind permission from: Ann-Marie Long

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 13th May at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

The Town Council met at the beginning of April. In the public session, concerns were raised about parking and vehicles near Castle Hill Crescent, about HGVs using the Lynch and about repairs to paving and walls. While there are many of us who complain about the remoteness of government and politics here, in the public session, is an opportunity to have your voice heard on matters of relevance to residents of Mere.

In the council meeting we heard that the group of volunteers and councillors working on an emergency plan for Mere are meeting with the Wiltshire Officer for Emergency Planning so that we will be acting in co-ordination with Wiltshire and other agencies. It was pleasing to hear that the Green Dog Initiative has started with 6 volunteers already monitoring several areas in town.

Our Clerk and I were able to inform the council of a very useful meeting that we had with the Local Highway Engineer and the council supported improving visibility for pedestrians at Gillingham Corner by cutting back the hedges. The council voted to support the recommended approach, but with additional signage, for getting HGVs to not use the Lynch and the recommendations on dropped kerb access on Clement's Lane. I shall be going to the next CATG meeting (where SouthWest Wiltshire highway matters are discussed and approved) to try and have these matters dealt with as soon as possible. While on the topic of The Lynch -the Town Council has received notice that Wiltshire Council has made an order to temporarily close The Lynch to all traffic from its junction with Pettridge Lane for a distance of approximately 10 metres in a northerly direction from 13th May until 3rd June 2019 in order to enable SGN to replace a gas mains pipe. I have had a good few residents tell me how good the new road surfaces are, but that this highlights the other roads in Mere that need work. At a recent meeting that I attended, there was a presentation by a Wiltshire Highways Engineer who presented a graphic about road quality in Wiltshire and told us that South West Wiltshire had the worst roads in Wiltshire (and Trowbridge, the best) - something about which I have

been complaining at these meetings for years. Pleasingly, new funding is going to be directed to the areas that need it most. At our council meeting we heard from the 'Parking in Mere' group about their first meeting which looked at the Castle Hill Crescent area and their first suggestions which were to be developed further after discussion with residents.

Councillor Norris and I are planning a Litter Pick for the 5th May. It is what it say on the tin – volunteers will go out and pick up litter. Please meet us at 10am by the Clock Tower, we will provide equipment and go out and pick up for about an hour or so, certainly finishing by mid-day. My thanks to those residents who already do this regularly and I hope you can join us. The tulips in the flower beds and tubs are making a beautiful display at the moment so it will be great to not have litter spoiling the view.

We said a sad goodbye to Councillor Jane Hurd who has found it necessary to resign as a Councillor. We would like to thank her for all that she has done for Mere, in her own inimitable style, and wish her well for the future. A Notice of Vacancy had been posted and at the time of the meeting we were waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council about whether an election would be held. We have now heard that there will be no election and that the Town Council will co-opt a councillor at the next meeting. If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor, then please contact our Clerk (details below) who will provide you with information on the role and the process of co-option.

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

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

The recent **road re-surfacing** certainly led to some consternation although I am sure everyone will agree that it has made a huge improvement. We will look at other and hopefully better ways of communicating road closures in the future.

Speed restrictions around Woodlands which is the old Hill Brush site, have been called for by some of the residents of Shaftesbury Road and others. I will endeavour to get a SID (Speed Indicator Device) displayed from time to time.

While sitting on the Southern Planning Committee recently it was mentioned **World War 2** heritage assets such as Anderson shelters left remaining in gardens, could be listed if wished for.

I attended an extraordinary meeting in relation to the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council to approve a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on their draft recommendations. The Mere Division area appears on course to stay as it is.

The Government announced a new £3 billion **Affordable Homes Guarantee** scheme, to support delivery of around 30,000 affordable homes. Wiltshire Council are developing more Council Houses and promoting social housing.

Wiltshire is responsible for public health. A subject that needs advertising I believe is The Chancellor announced that the Government will fund the provision of free sanitary products in secondary schools and colleges in the next school year.

A **Mere Litter Pickers** group may be formed, anyone interested please let me know and I will pass on your name. Speaking of litter the following may interest. A **Plastic packaging tax**. This consultation is seeking views on the design of the tax on plastic packaging announced at Budget 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plastic-packaging-tax>. This consultation closes on **12 May 2019**

Mere Town Council have formed a panel (**Parking subcommittee**) which has had its first meeting on the 19th March. It was agreed to work on one area of Mere at a time, parking and traffic management is a challenge as it is for many towns and villages.

The '**Mere Local Resilience Forum**' (MLRF) – a voluntary group together with a few Council members is developing a plan for Mere and the immediate area in times of any major emergency. Their most recent meeting was attended by a representative from Wiltshire Council Emergency Planning Team who helped steer the group on a way forward. It seems there is support for Mere and the Area for minor emergencies to be included in their remit, for instance support and detailed planning to help us all move around next time we get snow and ice

for several days. I find real interest is being taken in this group and those not part of it are feeding information in.

Perhaps as a sign of things to come. Gloucestershire County Council has said **robot cats and dogs** could help with elderly care in the future. The machines are made to reduce anxiety in old people living alone. The council is displaying the new tech at St Oswald's retirement village.

At a meeting at The George Hotel in March it was decided to mount a campaign "**Mere is Open**", as a result of pending road closures. Sarah at Sprout and Flower called the meeting, the public, myself and Mere Chamber of Trade were present. Mainly businesses put up 3 x £150 in generous prizes. These have now been drawn and the recipients informed, they were Mrs. A Grant, Mr & Mrs A Phillips and Mrs E Broom.

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

Anne Pester's Story

After an initial diagnosis of having a brain tumour, Anne was transferred to Salisbury Hospice on Monday 22nd January 2018 and was treated and looked after extremely well by the amazing staff there. She was given a large room and a bed was provided for me so I could stay by her side every night until the end.

Anne put up a terrific fight but unfortunately she lost her battle on 10th February 2018, just over 3 weeks from the initial symptoms.

As Salisbury Hospice and staff were so brilliant and caring both toward Anne and the family, we as a family, would like to repay them in some small way by fund raising to help maintain the high standards of this amazing service so that it continues to be available to others. Please see the **Living Arms poster** on the inside cover of this publication.

Event to be held on the **1st June at Milton On Stour.**

The Hospice is only 40% funded by NHS and the other 60% is funded by donations. We hope that you will be able to support this event, your support will be greatly appreciated to help maintain this wonderful service.

Richard Pester 📞 07970 059301

Mere Gardening Club

Wednesday 8th May 7.30pm Grove Building

The circle of life and our place in it

Mandy and Simon Martyn

With Mandy's superb photography backing Simon's talk we can look forward to an interesting and thought-provoking evening.

£ 2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

MERE'S SECOND MINI GARDEN FESTIVAL and DESIGN A SCARECROW COMPETITION:

Saturday September 7th. Building on the success of last year's mini festival, Mere Garden Club are busy arranging this year's event. It will take place in both the Grove Building and the Lecture Hall with the usual Garden Show exhibits, an art display, and a hall full of stalls from local organisations and garden centres with all things gardening on offer. Schedules for the Show should be ready soon so put the date in your diaries now and get busy growing! A new category this year will be a special competition for both adults and children to create an A4 design of a scarecrow in any medium. Mere school are already keen to take part and we hope local clubs will enter a design reflecting their activities. We look forward to receiving your imaginative designs!

Thurs June 27th A day's outing to **RHS Rosemoor** is planned - a beautiful large garden in North Devon, cost will be £12 per person including coach & entry for members, non-members may have to pay extra for entry (alternatively join the club only £10 per year).

Janet Way  860884  meregardenclub.org.uk

Healthy Mere Walking

Planning is still going ahead for the big walk this year. Please put the date in your diary – **'A Bigger Bottom' the 9th June!** It is a similar walk to last year but a bit longer, about 4 miles and this time views to the North can be enjoyed as well as to the South East and West as part of the walk is along the track at the top of Big Bottom. We are hoping to have something very special going on at the top to delight walkers. This year we will be raising money for the Mere and District Link Scheme – a deserving and local cause. Badges, goody bags and a great walk are part of the walk again – so join us on the path to 'A Bigger Bottom'!

John Jordan  07840722835  merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk

Mere Historical Society

Tuesday 21 May Kew Gardens. Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 8.00am and returns around 7pm. *Bookings closed*

Thursday 20 June Montacute (National Trust)

Montacute House was built between 1588 and 1601 by Sir Edwards Phelips who was Speaker of the House of Commons and Master of the Rolls. It came to be regarded as the epitome of grand Elizabethan architecture and displays the rich and comfortable final era of Elizabeth's reign. It is one of the very few Elizabethan houses to have retained its garden setting.

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

Cost: MHS Members £11, non-members £14 per person. *Includes coach and tip and guided tour.*

Entry to Montacute for non-National Trust members is £12.10 (group rate). Please add this to your payment if applicable.

PLEASE USE THE BOOKING FORM provided: DEADLINE 9 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 Croquet & Boule Club

Croquet is great fun, a game for all ages to play. We are having an Open Day on **Saturday 1 June at 2pm** where you can drop into the Club at the top of Steep Street in Mere, meet the members, find out more about the game and play croquet. Wine and Nibbles will be available. Our usual times for playing are from 2pm on Saturday's and Sunday's from April to the end of September. We would love to see you, please come and try, you will love it.



Avril Fletcher ☎ 861285

Community Lunch

The Community Lunch has now finished until the Literary Festival in October when details will be announced in the Festival Programme. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the George Inn and Walnut Tree Inn for providing us with such lovely lunches over the past few months and look forward to seeing again our faithful supporters in October.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Mere Rivers Group Wildlife Sightings for April

The warm weather in the latter part of March really brought out our wildlife. The sightings were: Little egret 11 times, water vole 5 times, the call of the chiff chaff was heard five times ...on the fifth occasion the report was of a pair of birds calling to one another. Seen twice were grey wagtail, water rail, great spotted woodpecker, sparrowhawk and a trout. Seen once were a flock of 9 pied wagtails, grey partridge, great white egret, buzzard, hedgehog, male teal, pair of kestrels and a heron. Butterbur was also seen flowering alongside one of our streams. The call of the green woodpecker and the yellowhammer were both heard once. Butterflies have also been out in the fine weather and both Brimstone and Peacock butterflies have been seen.

Nature Notes

We are anticipating in April that, for those of you who are keeping your eyes open further afield than just around our waterways, we should all start to see the arrival of swifts, swallows and house martins. A swallow was seen as early as February at Portland Bird Observatory on the Dorset coast. This was unusually early but numbers gradually increased and we had our first report of four swallows flying over our area on 30 March! Please let us know, using the email below, of all your wildlife sightings including emerging flowers and the insects they attract too!

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

Short Walks

Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm for a short walk around the lanes and paths of Mere on **Thursday 23rd May**

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Community Tea @ 3

The next Community tea@3 is on Wednesday the 15th May.

Can you guess what time it starts?



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Traidcraft & Fairtrade

It is 40 years since Traidcraft began its journey supporting craft and food producers around the world to trade fairly and 39 years since I have been a Voluntary Rep selling their gifts and goodies. Everyone is delighted that in spite of trading difficulties last year the company is to continue into 2019 and

beyond, all be it on a smaller scale. In order to celebrate this 'double' birthday, I will be holding 2 events, so please join me and enjoy a Fairly Traded party!

FAIR TRADE BREAKFAST: I am repeating this popular event after a number of years on Tuesday 14th May from 8.30 at Wits End, North Road.

(suggested donation £4)

COFFEE MORNING with a special birthday cake - **MOTCOMBE METHODIST SCHOOLROOM Thursday May 30th at 10.00am.**

Janet Way ☎ 860884



In Mere and District

We are looking forward to our Quiet Day 10.00am-3.00pm on **Wednesday 15th May at Sedgell**

Manor led by Pepi Hughes. If you haven't already booked and would like to share in this special opportunity of peace and refreshment in a beautiful setting, please book as soon as possible by phoning 860884 or signing the list in any of the Mere churches. (Places limited and filling up fast)

A date for your diary: the annual Churches Together **Songs of Praise in Stourhead Gardens** will be held at **3.00pm on Sunday 30th June** led by Canon Trevor Denley of Bristol. More details next month.

The Revd Duncan Goldie,
Chair of Churches Together in Mere & District ☎ 01935 812916

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

At our meeting on **Tuesday May 14th** Revd. Rob Martin and his wife Sue will be showing slides accompanied by a talk on the Mothers Union in Marsabit, an area of Kenya. We meet at 2.30pm in the Grove Building and visitors are welcome to join us.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

Shreen Harmony

Our next concert is at Gillingham Methodist Church at 7.30 on **Thursday 23rd May**. Light refreshments will be served in the interval and donations are in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

Save the date also for **1st June** when we will be performing at the Buffalo Farm; more information about that to follow next month.

Shreen Harmony are a local community choir based in Mere under the musical direction of Caroline Radcliffe. If you are interested in joining us do please come along on a Thursday evening to the United Reformed Church Hall, Mere at 7.30pm. No auditions are necessary, just a joy of singing. It is a wonderful way of meeting new people and relaxing.

Caroline ☎ 228819

Mere Film Shows

Thank you very much to everyone who has come along to our films so far this year. It's been great to see larger audiences for some of these. Our summer films have an award-winning feel to them. Our next one on **Thursday 16th May is Bohemian Rhapsody** [12A] which won 4 Oscars including Best Actor. It is a 'foot-stomping celebration' of Queen but also a film which portrays the other influences in Freddie Mercury's life. On **Thursday 27th June** we have a very contrasting film with the award-winning 'Green Book' [12A] which won Best Film at the Oscars this year. Finally on **Thursday 18th July** 'Sometimes Always Never' [TBC] a comedy/drama/mystery with Bill Nighy. No awards yet for this film but who knows?!

Rosie ☎ 861567

Friends of Mere Museum

We go from strength to strength! After our very successful fund-raising talk by Wessex Archaeology's Andrew Manning about how modern technology is used to help reveal the past for the present, we are now preparing for our annual Plant Sale which will take place on **Saturday May 11th** at 10 a.m. in the Grove Building. There will as always be a feast of professionally-grown bedding and perennial plants for you to buy at competitive prices, and also a tempting collection of plants, cuttings and seedlings donated by Mere gardeners (that's you!) among which are often quite unusual specimens. If you have been kind enough to produce some plants for us to sell, we are more than happy to collect them during the week preceding the sale - just phone Jenny (860908). Or you can bring them to the Grove Building on the morning of 11th, before 10.a.m. please.

As usual there will also be a cake stall for which we would likewise be delighted to receive contributions. Please bring them to the Grove Building before 10am or we would be very glad to collect them the evening before. Please ring

as above. We look forward to seeing lots of you at 10am. Don't forget, it's the early bird that gets the worm!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Grove Building Bookings

Please note that we have a change of contact for making bookings. Please use:

Derek Fisher 📧 delfisher@btopenworld.com 📞 07935 266375

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

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

CP - Main Car Park

Drs - Surgery

GB - Grove Building

AYP - Andy Young Pav

L - Lecture Hall

Lib - Library

Lyn - Lynch Com Centre

MSC - Mere Social Club

RMC - Railway Mod Club

StM - St Michaels Church

URC - United Ref Church

1	Wed	9.30am	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wed)	GB
		11.00am	Really Sing (every Wed)	L
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking Group (every Wed)	GB
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
2	Thur	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thur)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thur)	L
		2.00pm	Quilters (every Thur)	GB
		5.00pm	Girguiding (every Thur Term Time Only)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Thur)	L
3	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
4	Sat	10.30am	10.30 – 12.00 URC Coffee Morning	URC
			Mere School Jumble Sale	L
5	Sun			
6	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Mon)	L
7	Tues	10.00am	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking Group (every Tues)	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tues)	L
8	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB

			<i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
9	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
10	Fri	10.00am 6.00pm	Merely Women Lions Quiz Night <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB GB
11	Sat	9.00am 7.00pm	FoM Museum Plant Sale Oasis Carnival Bingo	GB L
12	Sun			
13	Mon	7.30pm 7.30pm	MADS Meeting Parish Council Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	L AYP
14	Tues	8.30am 2.30pm	Traidcraft Breakfast Mothers Union <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	Wits GB
15	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	ATR
16	Thur	7.00pm	Moviola – Bohemian Rhapsody <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	L
17	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
18	Sat		Cancer Research Fare Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	L URC
19	Sun		Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	StM
20	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
21	Tues	8.00am	Historical Society to Kew Gardens <i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	CP
22	Wed	2.00pm 7.00pm	Friends Together Meeting Penny Bank Writers <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Mod</i>	GB L
23	Thur	2.00pm 7.30pm	Polling Station – European Elections Short Walk Shreen Harmony @ Gillingham Methodist <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	L CP
24	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
25	Sat		Coffee Morning	URC
26	Sun			
27	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L),</i>	

			<i>Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
28	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
29	Wed	7.30pm	Penny Bank Writers <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Mod</i>	L
30	Thur	10.00am	Fairtrade Coffee Morning @ Motcombe Schoolroom <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	MOT
31	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	



Loud & Clear

With Vincent Poole, Perish the Thought and Nicola Wallis

Beaumont Gallery in Mere welcomes Vincent Poole, Perish the Thought and Nicola Wallis with their fabulous exhibition of mixed media artworks. **Loud & Clear** runs from **Friday 3 May to Sunday 19 May** with the gallery open at weekends or by appointment at any other time. Admission is free and refreshments are available. Art work to left is by Vincent Poole.

Sarah Flanagan ✉ flanaghansarah@gmail.com ☎ 07771 510811

Mere Local Resilience Forum

I write this month whilst wearing a new hat – Chair of the voluntary working group along with Council Members looking at formulating local community support for Mere and the immediate locality in the event we ever suffer a major incident. Hopefully it will never happen and I am not so much talking about a local flood or a deep fall of snow but an event similar to say the Novichoc outbreak in Salisbury, a major air crash or any other event which causes a risk to life, the local economy or the environment where we would see attendance of the 999 services.

On behalf of the group, I can report that we are encouraged and reassured by the preparedness of the emergency services and Wiltshire Council being able to respond in a timely and efficient manner; but is our community ready for such an event?



Are you a 'good neighbour' and would you come forward to give help to others? Whilst our group can make strategic plans to identify places of safety for relocation of displaced persons, ascertain details of key holders of public buildings and the like, if such an event happened, the community will need volunteers to turn out to give physical help. The help could be no more than making sure people are aware of an emergency – going around telling home owners to close their windows to keep fumes outside, pushing someone in a wheelchair to a relocation area, helping to provide much needed refreshments as required; but more than this, we need someone from every small geographic area of Mere (probably by road – call them area wardens if you like) to take positive action to ensure that we know our neighbours and locality. We are not talking about meddling in other people's affairs or 'curtain twitching' but building up a local knowledge that can quickly identify people who may require priority support and help resolve local problems. In regard any major event, community involvement would be initiated and managed by the emergency services – not MLRF members. I should add that the emergency services are 100% behind initiatives like this which are happening all over the country, there is much that the community can do to compliment and support their work and to help themselves.

I feel that Mere is quite unique in many ways by virtue of the voluntary activities which operate every day – many of which are included within this publication, along with all the other initiatives which bring the community together. If you don't want to be bored then this is the place to live!

There is much that can be done to prepare for a major event, some of which can be done by each and every one of us. It is a fact that many emergencies can be avoided by pre-planning. Our work is as much about being pro-active as being reactive. Do you have a supply of candles? A working torch (checked the batteries?)? Did you know that a 'vulnerable person' can communicate enroll with the utility companies (Gas, Electric, Water etc) in order to ensure you are looked after as a priority should an emergency arise - this is not just an age related issue, it could apply to you if you are a single parent family or have specific medical needs etc.

Our planning is very much at an early stage and I am not sure what form it will take and how we will communicate the outcomes to the community at large but no one person or a group of strategic thinkers will be much good in a crisis, it will take able bodied volunteers to come forward and help.

I would be interested to hear your views on this issue and also as whether you would be willing, if required, to represent your immediate locality as a volunteer in some capacity.

Richard Jefferies  mlrf@btinternet.com

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Murder having been done - and the culprit(s) arrested, MADS members are looking forward to the free cup of coffee they hope to enjoy on the occasion of their AGM. This will be held on **Monday May 13th** at 7.30 p.m in the **Small Hall**. This is a good time to join MADS as you get a full year's membership for your subscription. Come at 7.15 and you might even get a biscuit with your coffee! The regular monthly meeting. will follow the AGM.

Jenny Wilding  860908

Mere Bowling Club

Late spring and summer has finally arrived and we are hopefully bowling with the sun on our backs, there is no better way to spend a summers' afternoon than bowling with friends and colleagues, en-route for a wonderful social event at the end of the match, be it tea and biscuits or a full blown afternoon tea.

Want to give it a try, come along any day that we have roll-ups with a flat pair of shoes and our coaches will do the rest, otherwise call Don on the number below and he will try and fit in a private session of 'one to one' if that is what is required.

Don Butchers  860775  don.butchers@btinternet.com

Hatch House Open Garden Sunday June 2nd

In aid of Salisbury Hospice Charity

Idyllic Hatch House in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside, by the kind permission of Sir Henry and Lady Rumbold, will hold its annual Open Garden on Sunday June 2nd. This is a great event for all the family and a chance to see the 17th Century walled Dutch garden with amazing views over the Vale of Wardour, enjoy cream teas with family and friends and browse a wide variety of stalls.. All proceeds will again go to the Salisbury Hospice Charity. Over the years this event has raised thousands of pounds to help the charity continue its valuable work.

Admission per person: Adults - £5 Children - £1 Opening Times: 2-5pm

READ EASY IS COMING TO MERE

Read Easy provides free coaching for adults who want to learn to read, or need to build up their confidence with reading. Trained volunteers work on a one-to-one basis with adults who wish to improve their reading skills, in a suitable neutral location at times convenient to both reader and coach.

Sessions last 30 minutes and take place twice each week. Some people will reach their goal in under a year, while most will take longer. Everyone goes at their own pace. If you know someone who struggles to read and could benefit from help, do please invite them to contact the local Read Easy coordinator Jenny on 07748 977330 for a confidential chat.

Alternatively, if you think you would be interested in helping, as a coach, to transform a person's life, Jenny would be pleased to hear from you. You can also take a look at the Read Easy website - www.readeasy.org.uk

Mere Museum

Before you go for your next walk in and around Mere, make sure you visit the Museum's latest exhibition, called Take a Walk on the Mere Side! It has been created, designed and installed by members of the Footpath Group and tells you all you ever wanted to know about the group, what it is, what it does, and the difference its members have made to the network of paths in Mere which so many people enjoy. And you can now see for yourselves their rather splendid - and amusing - centrepiece! The exhibition will remain in place until August, and entry to the Museum is always free.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

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

The role of the PPG includes:

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

If you are a patient of Mere Surgery and have any issue that you would like to bring to the attention of the PPG, please provide brief written details and submit them to the Group through the Mere Surgery Practice Manger.

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

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 844

Dressmaking in Mere

We had five new dressmakers on our last course and we are delighted they have all signed up for the following six week courses commencing on **Tuesday 30th April** (morning) and Wednesday **1st May 7pm** to 9.30pm. They have all relaxed into the learning and some of them even using the overlocker.

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, where space allows. Also our SEWING ALL DAY on **SATURDAY 1st June** from 10am to 3.30pm with homemade cake and coffee to keep them going. 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. Do get in touch.

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

Mere Literary Festival

The Mere Literary Festival has a new website with some information about the festival in October. Please have a look at  mereliteraryfestival.com to keep up to date with what's happening then please sign up to the on-line mailing list.



Gail Garbutt ☎ 860446  mereliteraryfestival.co.uk

Mere Cancer Research

Have you got your "Golden" Ticket? You will not find one in a chocolate bar, but they will be on sale in the village on the first two Fridays of **May 3rd & 10th** next to the Post Office, by Jean Young's garage. We are referring, of course, to the Mere Cancer Research raffle tickets, with great prizes on offer.

There will be plenty to see and do on Fair Day, the 18th May and we have Mere Carnival Club alongside to swell the amount of stalls and entertainments.

If you would like to come along and help on the day, in any capacity, you will be very welcome and it only takes a telephone call to the numbers below to get started. We look forward to seeing you all at the fair and having a thoroughly good time, as well as raising money for a great cause.

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

Mere School

Mere School Reports

What another busy month at Mere School! The children have all been working hard to compete their learning on their current topics and many have been out and about on school trips in the local area.



Cluster Sing Event

On Thursday 4th April all the children from Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a Cluster Schools Primary Sing event organised by the head teacher of Chilmark. Mark Walker, our recorder teacher, spent the last few weeks teaching the children to sing songs written by him. With his usual enthusiasm and craziness he managed to get the children singing and dancing to the beat! Then on

Thursday the children travelled to the Nadder Centre in Tisbury to perform with a small but very energetic orchestra. It was a fantastic experience for all the children involved and the children at Mere School represented both the school and our local community with great enthusiasm and outstanding behaviour. The teachers and children still can't get the tunes and especially the dance moves out of their heads!

Paralympian Visit

This term we have been lucky enough to fund a morning visit from a Paralympian. Katrina Hart, who has cerebral palsy, won a gold medal for England at the 2010 Commonwealth Games competing in the woman's 100m. The morning was amazing with the children taking part in an intensive circuit training session alongside the athlete. Katrina then spoke to the children about her career and the obstacles that she had overcome to gain a place in the Olympic squad. The children were very inspired by her story and left the event believing that anything was possible in their own lives.

Fives Court

To support Dementia Action Week which runs from Monday the **20th May to Sunday 26th May** we are holding a coffee morning with Guest speaker – Admiral Nurse Tori Bendall who will be talking about the Life Story Work that we used to provide Person Centered Care to the Residents living with dementia, she will also be available to answer questions and offer support to those living in the community, all welcome to join us, from 10.00am to 12 on **Thursday 23rd May**.

On **Thursday 30th May** join us at 2.30pm for afternoon tea and entertainment from the Sing-a-longs they raise money and support the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and enjoy singing along to some favourites.

We are looking for a hairdresser to visit the Home once a week, to provide cuts and perms, sets and gents beard trims, we have a purpose built salon.

Brenda Martin ☎ 860707

Rosemary Goddard Centre

We have just had a lovely outing to Otter Garden Centre in Wincanton, our guests were able to walk around making various purchases ready for spring before sitting down together for a delicious two course meal in the cafe. We also welcomed back Johnny Mac after a four month break, our guests were very pleased to see him return and we all sang along to our favourite songs. We

were lucky to have a number of speakers during April and we started a monthly chair Zumba session which everyone enjoyed.

In the April copy of Mere Matters we said that Wiltshire Council had handed over our funding to the South West Wiltshire Area Board, subsequently we had another email from Community Commissioning advising us that the previous decision for the financial year 2019-2020 has been revised: we will remain with Wiltshire Council and they will work with groups over the coming year to develop a model way of working with us

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

St Michael's News

“More Tea Vicar?” **Thursday 2nd May 3.00** in Angel Tea Room. Opportunity for friendship, chat, tea and cake, all welcome.

Ascension Day service **Thursday 30th May 7.30pm**. Begin with hymns up the tower continues with communion at 8am and breakfast. Signup sheet in the church for numbers.

St Michael the Archangel church Fete. The fete will be on a Sunday this year. **Sunday 9th June** from 12-3pm. There will be all the usual fun things to do like bottle stall, DVD stall, coconut shy, cream teas in the Grove Building, and newer favourites, BBQ, bar and pre-loved clothes stall. If you would like to help, donate or ask questions please contact us 📧 merechurchfete@gmail.com

GraveTalk, The George from **7.30, 16th May**. Another opportunity to ask those questions and have that discussion about the last taboo in a relaxed atmosphere.

Confirmation. Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and being confirmed in your faith? Weddings and Christenings. We are always delighted to hear from people about booking these services.

Contact Rev Carol 01747 861859.

Letter from the Churches Duncan Goldie writes:
SIGNS OF THE RISEN CHRIST.

The celebration of Easter is in many ways the celebration of the impossible that has come true. It was impossible or so it seemed, that Jesus, God's Son should die on a cross outside Jerusalem, and do so in a way that did not bring condemnation, and the end of the world. But instead brought forgiveness, and opened up the world of God's forgiveness to us. But that is the reality of what happened. It is in marked contrast to our current world in which extremists of various types take the life of others to further their cause, and the ongoing knife crime, in which individuals not only seeks to kill rival gang members, but people at random to further their gang career and position.

It would have seemed impossible that the religious leaders of Jesus' day should not recognise who Jesus was, but that Roman Army Centurion in charge of his execution, who knew nothing about Jesus and God's promise to send His son into our world, should in Jesus' death see who he really is.

The Day of Jesus' resurrection is again God making the impossible come true. But the truth is that Jesus rose from the dead, and we meet him as a risen Saviour. It might not be how or where we expect, but as with the first disciples, including the two walking to Emmaus, we will continue to be surprised by our meetings with the risen Jesus.

There is much in world today that seems impossible, that a solution or away forward can be found, whether that is the ongoing conflicts or Brexit or knife crime in our own country. The message of Jesus' resurrection, is what seems to be impossible for us, but is with possible with our God. It is a message we need to hold onto, because our God is a resurrection God, which means the impossible for us does come true.

Hope you had a Happy Easter

Duncan.

Church Services in Mere and West Knogle

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

3	Fri	08:00 am	Holy Communion Common Worship CW
5	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP

		10:30 am	Sunday Worship for All (30/35 mins with no communion).
		6:00 pm	Evensong
7	Tue	6:00 pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion
10	Fri	08:00 am	Holy Communion CW
12	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP No 10.30am service in Mere come to Rogation Service at Bison Farm, West Knoyle
17	Fri	08:00 am	Holy Communion CW
19	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
24	Fri	08:00 am	No service
26	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
31	Fri	08:00 am	Holy Communion CW

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

5	Sun	11.00am	Mrs Catherine Dyer
12	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Duncan Goldie Holy Communion
19	Sun	3.00pm	Mr. Martin Heal
26	Sun	11.00am	T.B.A.

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

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

5	Sun	9:30 am	DIY
12	Sun	10:30 am	Rogation Service
19	Sun	9:30 am	Matins
26	Sun	9:30 am	Holy Communion

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	Derek Fisher ✉ delfisher@btopenworld.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



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