A vibrant field of red poppies in full bloom, with green stems and unopened buds visible. The background shows a line of trees under a dramatic, cloudy sky.

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle

Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

November 2019

MERE POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS.

The two events organised by PennyBank Writers for the Mere Literary Festival, Poetry in the Grove and the 2019 Competition Award Ceremony, attracted good audiences. Thanks go to all entrants, judges, helpers and to Amulet Residential of Mere for their sponsorship of this year's Poetry Competition.

JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS

Whitesheet Academy: 1st. Brooke Wilmot 2nd. Lani Wellington

Highly Commended: Nathaniel Winter-White, Georgia Higgins, Albert Ransome

St. George's Bourton (2 groups): 1st. Lillianna Sandy Highly Commended: Daisy Rodgers,,Barni Csicso, Arthur Robinson

1st. William Toms Highly Commended: Amelia Coward, Jasmine Burfitt

Mere Primary: 1st. Talia Jackson 2nd. Sonny Rich

Highly Commended: Amelia Dyson, Tilly Hanson, Thomas Ashlin, Edie Wilson

LOCAL SECTION Open to those living within a ten mile radius of Mere

1st. *Her 80th. Birthday* Bob Breach East Melbury (Wins the Peter Gillott Award)

2nd. *The Crack in the Wall ...* Nicolette Gunn Gillingham

3rd. *The Pond.....*David Anley Gillingham

OPEN SECTION

1st. *Someone Told Me.....*Louise Wilford, Elsecar, Barnsley

2nd. *Inner Weather.....*Richard Hughes, Llanmaes, S.Glam.

3rd. *Hill Farm.....*Sue Chadd, Malmesbury

Runners-Up: - *E.T.A. Not Sure...*Jane Williams, Wells

*Winter Kitchen.....*Ian Royce Chamberlain. Teignmouth

*Nightwatches.....*Nicola Grove, Horningsham, Wilts.

POETRY IN THE GROVE Chosen by audience vote after readings of shortlists.

LOCAL SECTION:

1st. *Nightwatches* Nicola Grove, Horningsham

2nd. *Fields of Memory* Betty Ingram, Mere

=3rd. *Old Flo.....*Unity Sparrow, Shaftesbury. *The Crack in the Wall....*Nicolette Gunn, Gillingham

OPEN SECTION: 1st. *Nightwatches* Nicola Grove, Horningsham

2nd. *Ultraviolet & Infrared* Paul Hooley, Gillingham

3rd. *Winter Kitchen* Ian Royce Chamberlain, Teignmouth

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 4th November** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

I had the pleasure of attending the Literary Festival prize giving for the Poetry Competition last weekend. It was a very well attended event and it was a delight to see so many of the children's' entries. I would like to congratulate Gail Garbutt and the Literary Festival organisers for arranging a week of successful, varied and popular events.

On the subject of events, the Town Council will be attending the annual Remembrance Service which will be held on **Sunday 10th November**. The service starts at the War Memorial in The Square at about 10.45 am. The Town Council has applied for a temporary 10 minute road closure in The Square so that we can stop the traffic.

At our October Town Council meeting, we were very pleased to hear that the Boundary Commission has made a final recommendation to the government for the Mere electoral ward to remain the same. In their report they said *'As part of our decision to modify our proposals for divisions in southern Wiltshire, we proposed further draft recommendations in which West Knoyle would be replaced in Mere*

division by Maiden Bradley. In the light of a large number of objections from both of those parishes and the confirmation by Mere Town Council that the current division most closely reflects community interactions in south-west Wiltshire, we are restoring the current division as part of our final recommendations.' It seems that people power worked on this occasion - I am aware that a number of parishioners wrote to the Boundary Commission to support this outcome and I would like to thank those that did so.

We also had a number of people attend the October Town Council meeting to inform us that the **Butt of Sherry Public House** was being put 'on the market' with a view to 'alternate use potential'. The Town Council was asked for its support in listing this building as an Asset of Community Value. The Town Council agreed to support the patrons in this venture and I am told that momentum has gathered pace since our meeting and a Facebook Group 'The Butt of Sherry Preservation Society' has been set up and a committee of people formed to investigate the possibility of purchasing the building as a community asset. I would like to point

out that, at the present time, planning permission for a change of use has not been sought or granted for this premises. Whilst the application to list the building as an Asset of Community Value will not stop the building from being sold nor will it prevent any owners from applying for change of use, it can delay the whole process and give opportunity for community groups to raise money to buy the property themselves.

There will be a public meeting on **Monday 18th November at 7.00pm**

in the **Andy Young Pavilion** to generate more interest in the **Mere Neighbourhood Plan**. This Neighbourhood Plan will provide a platform and strategy to help shape the future of Mere and is an extremely important venture but, unfortunately, it cannot be done without more public support. Please come along to the meeting to show your support and help shape the future of Mere.

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

The first phase of the **Woodlands Development** in Mere have four units that are about to be handed over to The Guinness Partnership for social housing, these are 42,43,44 and 44a. Wiltshire Council I am assuming will have the nomination rights for these.

The Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has been named Britain's best stargazing spot, after being recognised as an official dark sky reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). The IDA recognises areas which have "exceptionally starry skies," and this is the first time a full area in the UK has been granted the status. The managers of Cranborne Chase spent more than a decade working to meet the strict criteria required, working with residents, councils, highway departments, businesses and schools

to ensure outdoor light was only used at night "when it is strictly needed." The area's director, Linda Nunn, noted that Wiltshire Council, which administers two-thirds of the area, "has already agreed to upgrade its street lighting" to help. Mere town is not in the AONB

On the subject of lighting, I continue to receive many complaints regarding non-working street lights. Whilst I apply constant pressure to Wiltshire Council in regard this issue, some get repaired and of these a few fail within days. Some are replaced with inappropriate lights which in one case Mere Town Council has fought and won. The infrastructure for them is about 60 years old.

A number of councils have chosen to ban 5G technology amid the spread of rumours that it can cause health

problems. Totnes in Devon announced that it was joining the Somerset councils of Glastonbury and Frome in opposing 5G until they were satisfied that it was safe. Shepton Mallet, also in Somerset, has followed suit, saying it would not endorse the technology "until there is more independent, disinterested scientific consensus that 5G wireless radiation is harmless".

After a local resident fell where no pavement was available, I found the following information. Wiltshire Council sweep pavements where this has been identified as a local priority by the Town Council. Road sweeping is very similar, as we are more reactive than scheduled. Wiltshire Council are responsible for the safety of the highway. Wiltshire will undertake sweeping where there is a safety concern, but this will follow a report or an inspection by a council officer.

Following on from the above, this time of the year when it is wet, farmers and builders tend to leave more deposits than in dry weather. The law requires them to put up a sign indicating slippery road at the beginning and end of the work, then sweep the road at least once a day, not scrape it which can cause damage. If Wiltshire Council have to clean the road, they will bill the offender. It is usually left to Wiltshire Council to enforce removal of deposits on the highway and not the police, however the police can become involved.

I have witnessed the financial cost of cancer on an individual and their

family. If you are affected by cancer, Macmillan Cancer Support can help you apply for benefits. 08088080000. They produce an excellent book *Help With The Cost Of Cancer*.

Wiltshire Council officers were awarded Queen's Birthday Honours. Staff at Wiltshire Council, in recognition of their work during and after the 2018 incidents in Salisbury and Amesbury, Executive Director Alistair Cunningham has been awarded an OBE. Director Robin Townsend and Network Operations Manager Simon Rowe have received MBEs for services to the community in South Wiltshire. Simon has always been very helpful to the Mere area in times of inclement weather. It is worth noting a 24-strong fleet of brand new gritters will be taking to the streets of Wiltshire this winter to keep the county moving whatever the weather. As well as the most up-to-date technology, the new winter fleet is also fitted with the very latest low emission engines. The gritters will be used on Wiltshire's primary road network of A and B roads, covering 726 miles and spreading approximately 150 tonnes of salt each time they are sent out. In severe or prolonged cold weather, the network can be increased to 50% by treating secondary routes. During winter, people can get updates on both the weather and road conditions on Twitter by following @WiltshireWinter

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; I do not view it regularly.

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

West Knoyle Parish Council

West Knoyle Parish Council last met on October 1st where we were informed that the outcome of the Local Boundary Review had been a successful one, remaining with Mere. Many thanks must go to a group of ladies from the village who knocked on doors to encourage villagers to submit comments on the Boundary Review saying that we wanted to remain as we were. These efforts were rewarded.

Our telephone box is now up and running as a book swap so please do make use of it.

I did go to a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting where I asked if the arrows and keep clear sign at the end of the lane by Willoughby Hedge services could be repainted. I was very pleased to see the arrows being painted a few days ago but sadly they didn't do the keep clear sign- hopefully they ran out of time or paint and will return to do it soon!

We have now got our new Speed Indicator Device which shows up well by the playing field. Our thanks also go to the ladies for doing the community speed watch as well.

It was discussed at the last meeting that we should ask the Highways Authority to install some chevron signs for the bends between Park Corner and the bakery. So many cars go in the ditches there but are usually pulled out by farmers so the accidents don't become a police statistic, one day someone will get hurt there.

Congratulations must go to the West Knoyle Social Club for raising a substantial amount of money to mend the roof in the bar of the village hall. The committee took on a major task and with a lot of hard work have made a great success of it.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman of West Knoyle

Shape the Future of Mere – We Need Your Help

The ***Mere Neighbourhood Planning*** process has started. However the steering group is small and the task is too much for just a few volunteers. We are therefore appealing for more help and volunteers to help shape the future of Mere. Clive Hazzard, Chairman of Mere Town Council, has agreed to convene a **public meeting to be held on Monday, 18th November at 7.00 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road.** The aim of the meeting is to explain the process of the Mere Neighbourhood Plan and to generate more group members

Neighbourhood Plans are community-led and provide a powerful planning tool for local communities to shape and influence where development will go and what it will look like in their local area. It was recently introduced by government through the Localism Act 2011. The process will provide the opportunity for local communities to exercise greater influence through plans, policies and orders that meet the needs of the local community.

The Community Lunch

The Community Lunch will be held **Tuesday 12th November** at 12.30pm at the Walnut Tree Inn. Come and join us and catch up with all the Mere news and events. If you are new to the area, it is a great way of meeting people. All are welcome. The two course set meal costs £11.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance on **861220** and advise the pub if you need a specific diet. Please note that there is no meeting in December as we are too busy partying!

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers:

We are putting out a request for a few extra volunteers to help with our weekly Monday sessions in term time from 9.00 - 11.30am. If anyone would be keen to help, please contact Anne.

Christmas party:

Every year we have a lovely session (9.30am - 12.30pm party week) with a visit from Santa, entertainment, plus a buffet lunch. This year it will be on the **9th December**. If you would like to join us please let Anne know by the **30th November** at the latest. This year we have been able to access a small amount of funding to help with costs, so thanks to Jeans Electrical, Hill Brush Co. and Neales Yard so it will hopefully be a minimal charge as usual to cover the rent.

Big thanks go to Sandra Catley and her Core training group for all their kind help all year round, including Tracey, Selena, Wendy and Dave.

Usual sessions, term-time only:- Monday 9.30-11.30 in the Lecture Hall , with refreshments for all, including a healthy snack for the children, crafts, and singing with parachute games at the end included. £1.50 per child over 1 yr. Adults free.

The Foodbank is a very welcome addition, and is provided weekly by Waitrose and Asda, organised through FareShare . All parents who attend with their children can pick up useful additions to the weekly shop.

Hope to see you there!

Reminder: **Nov 11th 2019** next session after half term due to a TD day.

Last session before Xmas is **16th December**.

First session in the New Year **13th Jan 2020**.

Merry Christmas from us all!

Anne Rich ☎ 07413 512023 ✉ arich4@icloud.com

Mere Bowls Club

The Club is now closed for the season. We do not reopen for active bowling until somewhere around the **18th April 2020**, there are however a number of social events held by the Club during the winter months. Watch this space in future issues for detail of timings, they are nearly always held on a Tuesday evening in the Andy Young Pavilion, unless we hold a Skittles Night when we will be in the Social Club.

Our annual dinner and prize giving will be held at the **George Inn, Longbridge Deverill on Tuesday 28th January 2020**, this will be another great evening!

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

Mere Historical Society

Tuesday 5th November 7.30pm in the Grove Building

General Pitt-Rivers, Adrian Green (Director, The Salisbury Museum)

Distinguished soldier, compulsive collector, archaeologist, major landowner, and anthropologist. General Augustus Henry Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers (1827 – 1900) was a man of many talents and achievements. This talk is an introduction to this Victorian polymath.

£3 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Tuesday 12th November, Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am

“The History of the Internet” by Peter Mason (Digital Champion) The internet is so ubiquitous that many people will never have known a time without it. However, the back story is much older than you may think, and actually starts in the 19th century. Peter’s talk will look into this fascinating story, and we’ll learn how to pronounce 'router' correctly.

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

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Community Tea @ 3

Next T@3 is **November 18th**



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Mere Rivers Group - Wildlife Sightings for September.

Fabulous sunny days in September resulted in more butterflies and moths seen around the town, particularly on ivy flowers. Those reported to us were: humming bird hawk moth - seen several times, comma butterfly seen twice, angle moth and painted lady butterfly both seen once.

Other wildlife reported was: slow worms (a two and a three) and kingfisher seen three times, water vole and coal tit seen twice. All seen once were frog, hedgehog and grey wagtail! Bullfinch call was heard once. More widely around Mere there was a flock of pied wagtail reported on the recreation ground ... we know these are often present. Ravens and red-legged partridge were seen on the downs. One resident is lucky and very happy to have bats roosting in their fascia!!

Nature Notes

At the time of writing this article (end of September), we have just had a lot of rain, yet our watercourses remain extremely low. For example, the Burton Mill pond is completely dry. So we will watch with interest to see what level of rainfall may be required to have our rivers and streams running back to their full capacity. Of course we can all do our bit to help by reducing the amount of water we use at home wherever possible, while also keeping pressure on the bodies involved.

In November the water levels should have increased, and we should see the return of the little egret to our rivers. Following sightings last year, please also keep your eyes peeled for the larger and rarer great white egret. We also hope our other treasured wildlife, like kingfishers and water voles, will return in good

numbers. As always, do let us know of any wildlife you observe while you are out and about to the email below. Very many thanks!

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

1st Mere Brownies - Recycling project

Thank you for your continued support, we are still collecting Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age.

Mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card). Jewellery & Watches (in any material even if damaged or broken). Currency – Any coins or banknotes, UK & foreign (even if out of circulation). We are also collecting the “round pounds”. Cameras (old film, digital and video). Stamps (Loose, single, albums, first day covers, presentation packs, collections, postcard collections). Gadgets (Sat-Navs, Ipods, MP3 players, games & accessories & Tablet Computers.

In addition, we are now collecting stamps – loose/single stamps. Albums. First Day covers/presentation packs. Collections. Single Post cards and collections.

Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!

Collection points for all your contributions are at the Library, Jeans Electrical Shop, Salisbury Street and Jeans Chapel Showroom, Boar Street.

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215 – at Jeans Electrical

Short Walks

Don your wellies and waterproofs and join my Short Walk of 2-3 miles in and around the paths of Mere. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2p.m. on Monday 25th November

Janet Way ☎ 860884



Mere Cancer Research

I have been asked to apologise, on behalf of the Cancer Committee that due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unfortunately forced to postpone the race night last month. I am looking back at all the events and the fun our small committee has had this year and in the years before. The Mere branch of Cancer Research UK has been raising funds to fight this terrible disease for over forty years. However, we are a limited group and when illness strikes or other things impinge on our members or volunteers, we struggle to deliver the events we would like to present to you.



Our recruitment drive last month was not successful and we do need new members to swell our ranks. So the future looks uncertain.

On a lighter note, we had a successful Autumn Fair and managed to raise over £300 for Cancer Research funds. Thank you for coming and supporting us at this event.

Jill Turner ☎ 860334 and Roy Sims ☎ 863328



There will be a **Teddy** and **Toy Tombola** in aid of Children in Need in the Square on **Saturday 16th November**. Also **Name the Teddy**.

Please come and support this worthy cause.

Kathy Herbert ☎ 861591



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO A SLEIGH DRIVE

(A Christmas version of Beetle Drive)

Friday 29th November 7.30pm

Grove Building

Tickets £6 including supper (Children £3) Licensed Bar

Sign list in St Michael's Church or ☎ 860553 or ☎ 861168

+++in Aid of Suchana+++

Mere Film Shows - *Yesterday* [12A] on Friday 15th November

Our final screening this year is *Yesterday* [12A]. Written by Richard Curtis and directed by Danny Boyle, this is a very entertaining and musical film revolving around the central characters Jack (Himesh Patel) and his girlfriend (Lily James). What would you do if you woke up one day after a global blackout, only to find out that no one in the world, apart from you, remembers The Beatles? Start recording their songs and pretending you wrote them? Find out what Jack does and how it affects him and his girlfriend.



As we have mentioned at screenings, we are now very low on money to enable us to cover costs when films make a loss. Due to inevitable Moviola price increases (the first in 6 years) we are currently deciding on our price for next year. One way to ensure we are able to continue throughout 2020 would be to bring along your friends and buy tickets in advance. Finally we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year!

Rosie 📞 861567

Warminster Food Bank

A massive thank you to everyone who came along to the Harvest Festival at St Michaels and donated items for the food bank - I am delighted, and slightly blown away, to let you know that a hefty 222.2kg was taken to the food bank the next day. This also included the donations collected recently in The Library. The food bank volunteers could not stop smiling as they helped unpack the car! Thank you to Wendy Horne who always takes the food to Warminster.

Our next big collection is our festive one on **Saturday 9 November** from 9 am to noon at **The Clock Tower**. So please could you buy one extra tin, packet or box of food items for this collection. We are also in need of pet food, gluten free foods, baby food (no formula milk) and toiletries. A festive treat or two would be much appreciated as well.

The permanent collection point in the Library is a big success so please don't forget to buy an extra tin, packet or box or 2 and drop them in there if you cannot make the 9th.

If you, or you know of someone who are in need of an emergency food box please contact either Rev Carol Green 861859 or George Jeans - 07710 441599

As always please if you have eaten today remember those in our community who have not.

Contact - Penny Fennon 📞 07833131712 (after 6pm please).

Volunteers needed to help at Mere Library

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

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with straightforward enquiries; assisting

with the self-service machines; shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public access computers.

We are looking for volunteers who can be flexible about their availability and are able to do a minimum of two sessions per month. Volunteer sessions normally last between 2 -3 hours and are either on a Monday or Wednesday.

Jane Hunt ☎ 01225 713792 ✉ jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mere and District Link Scheme

The Link Scheme service will close 5pm on **Friday 20th December** and resume at 9am on **Thursday 2nd January**. Planned trips may be possible between Christmas and New Year if notified before **18th December**.



Polite Notice: We would just like to remind users that we are not a taxi or emergency service. Our coordinators need 48 hours' notice of any proposed trip to find an available driver. Sometimes it may be not be possible to find anyone. If you would like to know more about volunteering as a driver, please ring the Link Scheme number. We cannot have too many, especially as the number of visits is continually increasing.

Noticeboard: Keep watching the noticeboard outside the Coop for any information about the Link Scheme or the annual Literary Festival. We are grateful to the LitFest, which is the main source of funding for the Link, making up the deficiency between users' contributions and the Scheme running costs.

Hamish Bell ☎ 860096

Stir Up Sunday: 24th November 2019

Are you ready to don an apron and join with the family to make your Christmas pudding this year? When you stir and make a wish, they are meant to come true! Why not come along to my Pop-up-shop and buy the delicious Fair Trade ingredients you will need (together with a recipe) and at the same time help the small holder farmers around the world to a better life!

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Diary Dates (*Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**.*)**Venue Key for Diary :****ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms**Drs** - Surgery**Lib** - Library**StM** - St Michaels Church**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion**GB** - Grove Building**MSC** - Social Club**URC** - United Ref Church**CP** - Main Car Park**L** - Lecture Hall**RMC** - Castle St Car Park

1	Fri	10:00	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10:00	Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)	GB
		13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14.00 start every Fri)	GB
2	Sat	11.00	One World Week – Fair	GB
		Coffee Morning		URC
		19.00	Friends of Mere Museum	GB
3	Sun	10.:30	'Prelude to Remembrance' Service	StM
4	Mon	18:00	Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
		19:30	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
5	Tues	10:00	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)	L
		10:30	Dressmaking Group (every Tues)	GB
		13:00	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		18:00	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		18:20	Zumba	L
		19:30	Historical Society	GB
6	Wed	09:30	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11:30	Really Sing	L
		18:00	Karate (every Wed)	L
		19:00	Dressmaking Group (every Wed)	GB
		19:00	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
7	Thur	10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	DRS
		10:00	Art Group (every Thur)	GB
		14:00	Bridge Club (every Thur)	L
		14:00	Quilters (every Thur)	GB
		17:00	Girlguiding	GB
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
9	Sat			
10	Sun	10.45	Remembrance Ceremony at the War Memorial	
11	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)	L
		19:30	MADS Meeting <i>Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	L
12	Tues	10:15	Historical Society	GB
		12:30	Community Lunch @ The Walnut Tree Inn	
		14:30	Mothers Union <i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
13	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Whist	GB
		19:30	Gardening Club	GB

			<i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
14	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
15	Fri	10:00 19:30	Patients Participation Group – Dr E McBride Talk Moviola <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	L L
16	Sat	19:00	Oasis Bingo <i>Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall</i>	L
17	Sun		Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	StM
18	Mon	19.00	Mere Neighbourhood Plan Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	AYP
19	Tues		<i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
20	Wed	15:00	Community Tea @ 3 <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	ATR
21	Thur	19.130	MADS Production <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	L
22	Fri	19.30 10:00	MADS Production Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	L GB
23	Sat	14.30 19.30	MADS Matinee Production MADS Production <i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	L L
24	Sun		Stir Up Sunday (FairTrade)	
25	Mon	10:00 14:00	Textiles Group Mere Footpath Group Walk <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	GB CP
26	Tues	19.30	Friends of Mere Museum AGM <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	Mus
27	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Meeting Pennybank Writers <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	GB L
28	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
29	Fri	19:30	Suchana A Christmas Sleigh Ride, Beetle Drive <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
30	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	

Traidcraft PoP-Up Shop. 7th – 9th November

At Susanne's Sewing Corner: on the Corner of North Road and North Street
This year I will be holding my Christmas Sales at the Sewing Corner by kind invitation of Susanne. There will be the usual range of Fair Trade Goodies, beautiful hand-made crafts, Christmas and Greetings Cards, Stocking Fillers and that special gift for family and friends. If you have never been to one of my sales, why not come along and have a look - you may be surprised at the range now available. And with the extra Fairtrade premium paid to the producers and farmers, you know that you are helping them to a better, more sustainable life. And of course you can pick up your ingredients for your Christmas Puddings!!!

Opening Times: **Thursday 7th**; 10-5 **Friday 8th** 10-5 and 7-9 **Saturday 9th** 10-12 Tea, coffee and tasters will be served.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Mere Patient Participation Group

We help provide our local doctor's surgery with the patient's perspective. We act as a route for patients to advise and inform the practice on what matters most to you and help to identify solutions. We also organise health promotion events to help you understand common health issues and how to prevent or manage them.

Upcoming events:

Dealing with Minor Childhood Illnesses by Dr Eve McBride. **10.30am Friday 15th November** in the Lecture Hall. This will be a great event for parents, carers, grandparents, nursery and school staff, and anyone involved in childcare. Ever wondered what that rash is, what to give a child with sickness or diarrhoea, or when to call the doctor? Dr McBride will talk about common childhood illnesses, how to look after a sick child and when to ask for more help. Doors will open at 10.00am for refreshments and the talk will start at **10.30am**. Please do come along.

Current questions:

We've had some questions about the possibility of holding a **Well Woman Clinic** in Mere and for Baby Weigh Ins / Q&A Sessions by the Health Visitors to return to the Mere Tiddler & Toddler Group. These will be discussed with the surgery at our next meeting.

If you have any questions for us, then please email: MerePPG@gmail.com

St Michael's Appeal

Mere's Parish Church, having served our community for over 800 years, is now in need of improvements to bring it into the 21st century and the congregation cannot undertake this project alone.

We have the opportunity

As a result of a generous legacy we have the seed capital to modernize the Church's community facilities. After extensive consultation, the Diocese has given provisional permission to install a pair of toilets in the Church tower, a kitchenette in the North West corner and to improve access through the North porch with an inner glass porch, wider steps and handrail.

The front row of pews will be relocated making more room for a variety of events together with a row of pews from the rear enabling circular disabled access to refreshments served from the kitchenette, for the toilets and for the children's corner.

The appeal already has some funding sources and by raising a further £20,000 we will have reached a position to apply for matched funding from grant giving bodies.

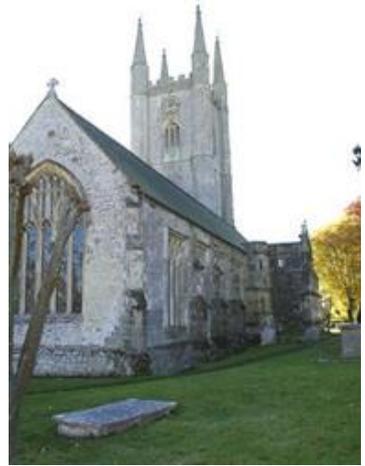
We have a problem

The pennants fitted to all 4 of the tower spires 130 years ago were all made of iron. They have rusted, resulting in damage to the stonework and one having become detached. The estimated cost for this repair work is in the order of £60,000 – the bulk of this being for scaffolding.

This combined appeal requires help from the community at large and if you would like to know more about how you can help or to make donations please contact the Appeal Treasurer Elizabeth Barrett, Hillcrest, Hazzards Hill, Mere.

If you would like to make a donation to just the Spire works, please say so when making your donation.

Elizabeth Barrett ☎ 863324 ✉ merechurchappeal@gmail.com



Update on Shreen Catchment

Last December I wrote in Mere Matters letting you know that the Group Chief Executive of Wessex Water (WW), Colin Skellet, had indicated to Mere Rivers Group that four million litres of water abstracted from the bore holes at Burton Field were sufficient to service the local community and, also, that after real improvements to the water supply network this could remain an annual target. Four million litres a day is the protective amount that OFWAT, the water industry watchdog, allows Wessex Water to abstract under an agreed Abstraction Incentive Mechanism (AIM) which comes into force when flows in the Shreen and Ashfield, both rare chalk streams, are below a particular very low level.

So, after eight years of meetings and discussions the Mere Rivers Group hoped that the Environment Agency (EA) would finally agree to lower the present permanent licence to abstract 9.5 million litres a day from Burton Field, This high rate allows export, usually northwards, out of our natural catchment area. However, the EA Water Resource Section is reluctant to do so – they want the licence to stay at 9.5 million litres a day.

In mitigation, the EA propose either of two methods of ‘stream support’ which means keeping the 9.5 million litres a day license and, when the rivers look a bit dry and slow flowing, putting more water into those upper reaches which are so badly affected by taking water out of the chalk under their sources.

They would ask WW to either pump water up from the chalk aquifer close to the natural sources of our rivers so that they would look as if they are flowing naturally (a cosmetic visual amenity solution) or, secondly, pump water up a pipe, presumably lying on the river bed, from downstream where there is a flow, up to the dry source. The first option would mean that there would be additional depletion and lowering of the water table. It would also mask over abstraction so that the aquifer could be depleted without overt observation from our wild life observers. The second option would potentially affect all the little springs around Waterside, Lords Mead and Holwell which contribute to the natural flow at present. Mere Rivers Group do not support either option and discussions continue.

Dr. Paulette McManus ☎ 861524

One World Fair

Don't miss our tenth and last Fair on Saturday **2nd November** from 11-2.00 in the Grove Building. As usual there will be lots of stalls from local, national and international charities all helping to make a difference to our world in the face of Climate Change. We will be entertained by Bourton School choir, Shreen Harmony and the JMS Folk trio. And of course there will be the usual delicious lunches and refreshments! Come and support these good causes, pick up a Fairly Traded present or two, a stocking filler, Christmas card or even a bird box for our feathered friends!



And if you missed the speaker from Shared Interest at our Service on Sunday 27th October, there is still the chance to contribute to our Group Account (see below). Forms can be found in St Michael's Church or from me.

We look forward to seeing you there. Judith Thompson and Janet Way

How YOUR small gift can make a BIG difference for many people.....

Shared Interest has a unique approach in supporting groups in the very poorest parts of the world with loans to enable them to set up, or improve their business so that they can generate a vital income. Such loans are unobtainable from other sources, and have the extra value that, as soon as the loans are repaid, the money is re-invested to help another group – sometimes 2 or 3 times in a year!

You now have the opportunity to be part of this life-giving process! To celebrate the 10th year of the Mere One World Fair, we are setting up a Group Account for which we all can contribute a little (**minimum £2**) enabling us to make a valuable loan between us.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Silton Art Group

There are vacancies for next term at Silton Art Group. We are a group of about 25 amateur artists who meet every week in Penselwood village hall. Members come from all round the local area and meet on Wednesdays from 10.30 till 3.30pm. We have instruction from different tutors in a variety of media and styles on alternate Wednesdays and the other weeks we practice what we have learnt. The group is very friendly and has a wide range of ability, the more experienced artists offering advice if required, to less confident painters. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information please make contact.

Pammy Coward ☎ 830270 ✉ oxleaze.farm@btinternet.com

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Time is whizzing by and it will soon be collection time for your lovely Christmas Shoe Boxes. Please take them to St Michael's church by **November 16th** or telephone Wendy for another local dropping off point.

Thank you everybody for your kindness which gives such happiness to really poor and isolated people in the Balkans. Without your gifts they would have nothing at Christmas time. These boxes show that they are not forgotten despite the dreadful conditions that they live in.

Wendy Horne ☎ 861712

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends would like to remind you that Dr. Matthew Morgan is coming to give us a talk entitled "Two Tales of a City: Turner and Constable in Salisbury".

This will take place on **November 2nd** at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Building.

Dr. Morgan is the Adult Learning Curator at the Royal Collection and teaches at Birkbeck, University of London. He previously worked at the National Gallery. We are very much looking forward to Dr. Morgan's visit to Mere. Tickets, priced at £6 per head to include a glass of wine, are obtainable now from the Library.

Another important reminder is that the Friends AGM will take place on **Tuesday November 26th at 7.30 p.m.** in the Museum. At this event we shall be launching our exciting, brand new range of sales items which will revolutionise the Friends' Sales Desk and generate, we hope, more much-needed funds for the Museum. There will also be a presentation based on some of these new materials - do come and find out all about it!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Dressmaking in Mere

It's the finishing touches that make a dress, jacket, trousers or a dress to do Ballroom Dancing like those in Strictly Come Dancing. (We chat a lot about that over coffee). Over and over again our seamstresses' show us with pride those little details that make their latest beautiful "make" look not just finished but beautifully finished. It is lovely to see the confidence they have built and looking forward to wearing it, maybe over Christmas, using all the now familiar techniques including using their overlocker with confidence.

Well, we have celebrated our fifth birthday, things have changed a little as up-cycling is giving us great pride and sustainable fabrics are sought.

Between now and the beginning of December we are opening our courses to folk who would like to try just two lessons to find out if they would enjoy a course, or there is still room on the pre-Christmas course. Our January courses at the moment seem fairly full but do get in touch. Plenty of photos on our Facebook page "Dressmaking in Mere". We are visiting Hillbrush for a celebration dinner on **6th December** so if you would like to become a *Mere Seamstress* get in touch.

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

Side by Side

"Side by Side" is a one-to-one volunteer service to help people living with dementia to keep on doing the things they love – and try new things too! It's a fun, friendly and flexible volunteering opportunity through which you'll receive expert training and support. You can become a one-to-one volunteer and accompany someone with dementia to go for a swim, catch the latest movie, or walk into town for a chat and a cuppa. Side by Side is a two way street. There's the feel-good factor of knowing you're changing someone's life, but our volunteers are amazed by how much they learn from the people they support too. So become a Side by Side Volunteer and get dancing, jogging, chatting and smiling.



Clare Lucas ☎ 01249 443469 ✉ clare.lucas@alzheimers.org.uk

Mere Gardening Club - Plant Poisons and Potions, Adrian Hutchinson

Wednesday 13th November 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Adrian will take us through a wide range of plants, some beneficial to man and some most certainly not if misused! Everything you wanted to know, and more, about the nightshade family, giant hogweed, ragwort, elder etc. Adrian illustrates his entertaining talk with quotes from herbalists and folklore.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere Museum

Thank you to everyone who supported our Big Event in October, making it such a brilliant success! Lots of names were added to photographs (this was a huge hit!), two stories were recorded (so far) about Waltons, and we heard a fascinating talk from paper conservator Sophie Coles. It was exciting to see work being done on our Rutter Scrapbooks. Our Waltons exhibition will continue for quite a while yet, but we plan to continue to make the photograph-naming sheets available in the Museum so that you can continue to help us identify Mere people. More prepared photographs may well appear from time to time, so don't stop popping in!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 ✉ jennyflaxmill@gmail.com

Mere School

Mrs Elizabeth Ings, our Finance Officer is retiring at the end of this term after over 30 years of loyal service to Mere School. We are going to miss her terribly but would like to celebrate her time with us by inviting any members of the community to do this with us!



We will be holding a tea party on **Thursday 19th December at 2.00pm** we would love to see you. Please phone the office (860515) to confirm attendance.

We also asked one of our Year 6 children, Jessica Koch to write something about Mrs Ings and her time at Mere. This is what she wrote.....

'The wonderful Mrs Ings is a truly amazing person to be around. Everyone I know gets on with her and she always has the widest, brightest smile across her face. Even though she's often busy and sometimes stressed in the office it always feels like a calm and happy place to be. I'm very glad that she has worked here because she is so knowledgeable about the school'

She also wrote an acrostic poem!

M is for magnificent!
R is for respected!
S is for Smart!

I is for important!
N is for nice!
G is for great!
S is for secretary.

The whole school would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Ings for all that she has done over the years. She will be greatly missed. If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please hand in to Rebecca in our school office.

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

We are working hard on the Autumn production of A "Mere" Christmas Carol that is to be performed at the **Mere Lecture Hall** on **21st, 22nd and 23rd November at 7.30pm** with a **2.30 pm matinee on Saturday 23rd**. There's lots of local twists in this home grown script based on the famous Charles Dickens story, so please tell your friends, lovers, enemies, strangers and anyone else you can think of to come along to see it. "God Bless You Everyone"! Tickets at £8 (adults) and £4 (children) are available now at the Library, at 'Sprout and Flower' and online. They will also – as always – be available on the door.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

An excellent number of Mother's Union members enjoyed a very short meeting and then an invitation to hear Julie Beckett the producer of The Archers at the Literary Festival. Our next Speaker joining us on **Tuesday 12th November at 2.30pm** is Joanne Wood with "Nadine's Story, A young Mum from Marsabit". Do come along if you are interested in hearing her story and a little more about Mother's Union.

We are busy planning our popular **Mothers Union Carol Service** at St. Michael's Church 12 noon on **Tuesday 10th December**. We invite many guests from MU around the Heytesbury Deanery. We listen to the familiar readings and sing Christmas Carols, this is followed by light refreshments, homemade mince pies and a warm drink. If you would like to join us do come along.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923



IN MERE & DISTRICT



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We meet for the annual Remembrance Sunday service on **Sunday 10th November**, at **10.45** for the ceremony at the War Memorial followed by a service in St Michael's Church at 11am. See separate entry for One World Week events

The Revd Duncan Goldie ☎ 01935 812916

Rosemary Goddard Centre



Our 'Call my Bluff' fundraising event was well attended and we raised £400 for the RGC. Thanks to all who came along on the night. We recently held a dementia awareness session at the centre with Sandy Woodbridge, the lead dementia care advisor at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust. Over 20 volunteers from both the RGC and Mere Link Scheme attended and we found it very informative and interesting. Sandy has also agreed to come back and talk to our guests about what personal steps we can take to keep ourselves healthy. We still have spaces for new guests on both a Monday and Friday for the full day. Where else can you get good company, a two course lunch and lots of great activities for £7.50?

A reminder that our annual quiz is now on sale (£1) in the Library and usual outlets. The 'Our little corner' calendars are now on sale in the newsagents priced at £10 each. This year it is a collaboration of local photos from both Steve Hawkins and Ben Avery, all profits will be split between the RGC and The Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Sandie Hawkins ☎ 07835 272406 🌐 meredaycentre.org.uk

St Michaels Early Christmas Fair and lunch

Grove Building 23rd November 11.30-2.00pm in aid of the church. Something for everyone, all welcome.

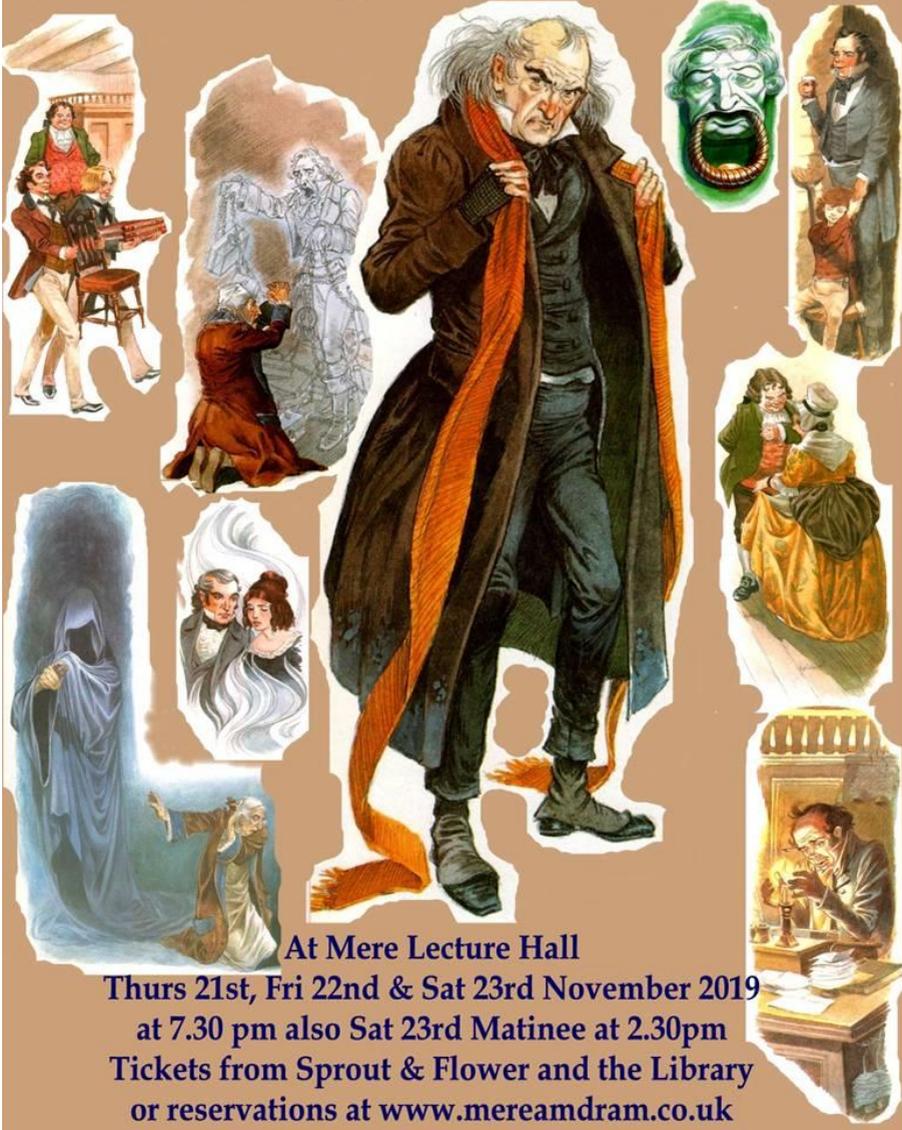
Stalls include: Pre-loved clothes, bric-a-brac, Christmas stall with activities for children, cake stall and bottle tombola. Raffle with Christmas hampers including wild bird one.

Can you help with donations please? Bottles, good quality clothes, cakes, Christmas items and items suitable for small Christmas gifts. Please leave in church or ring Rev Carol. Lunch and refreshments available.

Rev Carol ☎ 861859

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society
proudly presents

A "Mere" Christmas Carol



At Mere Lecture Hall

Thurs 21st, Fri 22nd & Sat 23rd November 2019

at 7.30 pm also Sat 23rd Matinee at 2.30pm

**Tickets from Sprout & Flower and the Library
or reservations at www.mereamdram.co.uk**

Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle

The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

1	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
3	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am 04:00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship on theme of remembrance All Souls – remembering Loved Ones
8	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
10	Sun	08:00 am 10:40 am	Holy Communion BCP Remembrance Sunday Service starting in Town Square processing to church
15	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
17	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
22	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
24	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
29	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534, Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

3	Sun	10.00 am	No Service please attend Maiden Bradley for Patronal Service
10	Sun	09:30 pm	Remembrance Sunday
17	Sun	09:30 am	Holy Communion
24	Sun	06:00 pm	Evensong

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

3	Sun	11.00am	Mr Peter Kirshaw
10	Sun	11.00am	Remembrance Sunday No Service in URC
17	Sun	11.00am	Church Anniversary and Holy Communion Rev Duncan Goldie
24	Sun	11.00am	Mr Ken Elcock

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

Remembrance Season

On Sunday **3rd November** St Michaels Church are holding a service which is arranged by lay people, so is less formal. At **10.30am** Ben Carver has arranged a service called '**Prelude to Remembrance**', during which the group Robinson Stone will be playing, followed by coffee. We would love it if you could join us to help commemorate the remembrance season.

Lindy Elliott 861646

Services in All Saints Maiden Bradley

3	Sun	10.00 am	Benefice Service for All Saints Day
10	Sun	10:30 pm	Remembrance Service
17	Sun	10:00 am	A lay led Service of the Word
24	Sun	10:00 am	Christ the King, Parish Communion
29	Fri	6:30pm	Christmas Fair in the village hall

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 appt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Help	By appt. only	☎ 0300 345 0100
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

Copy date for December/January 2019/20 Issue

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **11th November** (or earlier) via editor@merematters.co.uk or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Please be sure to state your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.



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