

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle

Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

OCTOBER 2019

Monday 7th October

2.00 pm	Catherine Bailey – Lost Boys	Grove Building	£9.00 pp
4.00 pm	Writers Workshop with Keith Stuart	Grove Building	£10.00 pp
7.00 pm	Ruth Wilson – Before and After	St Michael's Church	£12.00 pp

Tuesday 8th October

10.15 am	Mere Historical Society	Grove Building	Retiring donations
12.00 for 12.30 pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn	£11.95 pp
3.00 pm	Julie Beckett – A Life in Ambridge	Grove Building	£10.00 pp
7.00 pm	Harriet Sandys – Beyond that Last Blue Mountain	Grove Building	£7.00 pp

Wednesday 9th October

2.00 pm	Paul Hooley – The Undercover Nazi Agent	St. Michael's Church	£7.00 pp
4.00 pm	Victoria Hutchings – Messrs Hoare Bankers	The Grove Building	£7.00 pp
7.30 pm	Mere Garden Club	The Grove Building	Retiring donations

Thursday 10th October

2.30 pm	Christopher Hart – Lost Children	The Grove Building	£7.00 pp
7.00 pm	Clare Empson – Mine	The Grove Building	£7.00 pp
7.30 pm	Film Night	The Lecture Hall	TBC

Friday 11th October

10.00 am	Nick Perry – Rogue Trader	The Lecture Hall	£5.00 pp
12 noon	Josie Goodbody – The Monte Carlo Collection	The Lecture Hall	£7.00 pp
2.00 pm	Adrian Dangar – Life on the Edge	The Lecture Hall	£7.00 pp
7.30 pm	The Moscow Drug Club	Bourton Village Hall	£20.00 pp

Saturday 12th October

7.30 pm	Poetry in The Grove	The Grove Building	Free
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Sunday 13th October

2.30 pm	Poetry Competition Prize Giving	The Grove Building	Free
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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 7th October at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

Firstly, a big thank you to all of those involved in organising and arranging and taking part in Mere Carnival – what a wonderful occasion it was, helped by the glorious weather and appreciative crowds. I hope that enough money was raised to safeguard the future of the carnival for Mere. I would also like to add a special thank you to Barry Hansford who, by magic, manages to ensure that the streets are free of litter by the Sunday morning after carnival.

Before the winter comes and along with it, the risks of flooding, can I remind all riparian landowners of their responsibilities (If you own land or property next to a river, stream or ditch you are a 'riparian landowner'): –

- If a watercourse runs alongside your garden wall or hedge you should check your property deeds to see if the wall or hedge marks your boundary. If the watercourse marks the boundary, it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse.
- You should keep the banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk, either on your land or downstream if it is washed away. You are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. You should also clear any litter and animal carcasses from the channel and banks, even if they did not come from your land.

The environment agency has a very good guide to the rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership called 'Living on the Edge' which you can download or view on their website.

Also, this is the time of year that home owners and landowners need to trim back hedges and trees that directly abuts a road, footway or a public right of way, especially hedges growing on the side of road junctions.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Grounds Person, Simon, to the staff of Mere Town Council. We wish him all the best for his new role and trust that he will become a valuable member of the team. Also we would like to take this opportunity to thank James, the head groundsman, for managing single-handedly during the busy grass-cutting period over the last couple of months.

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 outcome of the Local Boundary Review will be known on the 1st October, we should then know if Maiden Bradley will be part of The Mere Division and if West Knoyle will be taken away from Mere. I am informed both villages have protested regarding the proposed changes.

“A day in the life of a Wiltshire Councillor” I continue to attend local events and try and get those events publicized in the media, this can lead to busy periods for me. On the 2nd September I attended around 6-30pm Mere Museum where it was announced Rose Heesom was to be the new curator and I wish her every success. Then I attended The Walnut Tree Inn for the crowning of the royals at 7pm. I then further attended the Mere Town Council at 7-30pm putting on the usual planning presentation, for which I must thank Bret Norris for loan of his projector until I can obtain a replacement, the last one departed with a rather large bang at a previous council meeting. During the day I had downloaded the presentation, besides seeing to all the usual casework. I sent text and pictures to the media of the two local events, which were published. Now here I am sat on my birthday writing it all up.

I understand that Wiltshire Council are now considering changing to budgeting for three year periods as some other authorities have been doing.

Our local population are not all young. Wiltshire Council are responsible for public health, therefore it may interest some, a preventative digital risk assessment app called Safe Steps has helped reduce falls at care homes by 28% in just nine months. It is being used at over 100 homes, having been licensed at a local level to Clinical Commissioning Groups. It costs £100 per care home, and could now be rolled out across Britain. It is expected to provide a return on investment of 500% per area, by preventing the cost of falls and hospital admissions. The app works by using a number of measures, such as vision, environment and medication, to allow carers to determine the level of risk each patient has of falling and tailor their treatment accordingly.

Historic English shopping centres will benefit from a £95m regeneration fund, the Government has said. In all, 69 towns and cities will receive money, with projects aimed at turning disused buildings into shops, houses and community centres. The South West will receive £13.7m. Hopefully some of it will find its way to a town near us.

We should all applaud the recent work done by Dick Morris and Barry Hansford in clearing Pennybank Lane using their own tools and transport. Well done lads – an example to us all.

In Mere I have received numerous complaints regarding non-working street lights, probably once a month I contact the Wiltshire Council and some are repaired. A few have been replaced with LED lights which is to be applauded.

While on the subject of Street Lights, I noted Bat-friendly street lights are to be installed on a crossing in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council believe they are the first bat-friendly street lights in the UK and that they would also assist pedestrians walking in the area.

To remind you with the 5th November approaching, if you are intending to have a large bonfire, please advise **Fire Control on 0306 799 0019** or use the on line form, this can save a false call out.

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

The Community Lunch

The first lunch is part of the Mere Literary Festival and is to be held at The George Inn, The Square 860427 at 12.00 noon on **Tuesday 8th October**, cost £11.95 for a two course meal drinks not included. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Mere Library Book sale

Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November

Adult Fiction and Non Fiction both Hardback and Paperback Books

Junior Fiction- Picture books and Story books

Come along and have a browse and pick up a Bargain.



Contact Mere Library ☎ 860546

Mere Historical Society

Kingston Lacy ~ The mediaeval manor house. Martin Papworth

Tuesday 1st October 7.30pm in the Grove Building.

The history of Kingston Lacy during the medieval period is largely unknown. Martin is an archaeologist working for the National Trust and will talk about what has been revealed by archaeological investigations round the present house.

£3 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Morning talk: Tuesday 8th October ‘John Aubrey – A C17th Wiltshire Antiquary.’ By Gerry Cook. To be held in the Grove Buildings at 10.15am for 10.30am. This talk is part of the Mere Literary Festival programme where there are more details. There will be a retiring collection.

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mere Patient Participation Group

Who are they and what do they do, you may be wondering?

All GP surgeries in England are required to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to help provide the practice with the patient's perspective. They act as a route for patients to advise and inform GP practices on what matters most to them and help to identify solutions to problems. It's not a forum for complaints, which should go direct to the practice through the normal channels.

PPGs are initially set up by each surgery, who invite volunteers from within their patient population to form the group. The PPG then set up a committee, decide on their objectives and run their own meetings with input from the surgery. The activities of each PPG vary depending on the needs of the practice population, which they need to identify and respond to.

What does Mere PPG do?

We're very lucky in Mere to have a surgery that has been ranked 7th out of over 7000 surgeries in England for quality of service*, which means that we don't spend all our time dealing with issues. Our activities can be broken down into three main areas:

1. Acting as a 'voice' for your issues and working with the practice and wider network to find solutions to meet the needs of our community.
2. Organising health promotion events to help you understand common health issues and how to prevent or manage them.
3. Helping to fill gaps in services by signposting the support that is available locally.

We currently have 13 members plus a surgery representative who meet bi-monthly, with smaller sub-groups meeting more frequently as required. Over the coming months we will highlight some of the activities we've undertaken so far and let you know about key issues we are currently discussing and upcoming events. If you have any questions for us or would like to raise any issues, then please email: MerePPG@gmail.com

*NHS England. 2018 GP Patient Survey.

Current questions - People often ask us questions about the defibrillators in Mere. We would like to highlight that these come under the remit of the Town Council

and not Mere Surgery. Therefore, if you have questions please contact them (details in the Town Council section).

Upcoming events

- 10.30am, Friday 15th November 2019 in the Lecture Hall – **talk on Minor Childhood Ailments by Dr Eve McBride.**

This will be a great event for parents, carers, grandparents, nursery and school staff, and anyone else interested in child health. Dr McBride will be explaining about common childhood illnesses, how to look after a sick child and when to contact your doctor. More information to follow - watch out for our posters around town and online adverts on Mere Mutters.

Mere Theatre Club

Although the autumn programme is now fully booked up to Christmas, we shall be meeting soon to put together the winter programme. If you would like to participate in some interesting and sociable outings, do join us - membership still only £5 per year!

Wendy Horne ☎ 861712 Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833

Short Walks

Friday 25th October: Join me for a 2 hour National Trust Estate Walk through **Bonham Woods** for the Autumn Colours. This is **free** but need to be booked through the National Trust **01747 841152**. Meet outside the **Main Reception at 11am**. Please phone me if you would like a lift.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Wiltshire Digital Help: Now by Appointment Only

Mere's Wiltshire-appointed "digital champions" - Hamish Bell, Peter Mason and I - have decided to stop holding the digital help drop-in days at Mere Library because of a lack of clients at the monthly sessions.

This is a sign of success, not failure! We have helped so many in Mere to solve the mysteries of their laptops, mobile phones and tablets that they no longer need us. More realistically, people are getting

help from their grandchildren or computer-savvy friends. Our local councillor George Jeans, says, "I would like to thank all the digital champions who have given their time and skill in providing this service to our community".



If you need digital help please phone 0300 345 0100 quoting Wiltshire Online computer support or leave your contact details at Mere Library. One of us will then get in touch to give you help. The service is free. We are DBS cleared for making home visits or can meet you in a public place for an initial chat, where you can bring along your device and seek help.

Steve Hoffman, Hamish Bell and Peter Mason

Fives Court

Friday 4th October – Macmillan Coffee Morning

Join us for the world's biggest coffee morning, we have themed our event and all staff and residents are wearing green for the day, everyone is welcome join in, we will be having a general knowledge quiz during the morning and refreshments will be provided.

Friday 18th October - "Wear it Pink" coffee morning.

Join the residents and staff who will be wearing Pink! to raise money and help support lifesaving breast cancer research. During the morning we invite the community to join us and entertainer Yannis for some Greek dancing. Refreshments will be provided. The event is from 10.30am to 12pm. if you need any further information please contact the Home Manager, Brenda or the Activities Co-ordinator Tatum on 860707.



Mere Cancer Research

In August we joined residents and staff at Bramley House Fete and despite the heavy rain our stall raised £63 for Cancer Research. It was a lovely event with stallholders and residents enjoying a social time within the house.



So now we leap into autumn with two events - firstly, the ever popular Autumn Fair on **Saturday, 5th October** at Mere Lecture Hall. Doors open at 10.00 am until 12 noon. Expect all the usual stalls: tombola, raffle, bric a brac and of course our famous, fabulous home-made cakes. There will also be a chance for you to snap up a few early Christmas gifts!

On the **12th October** we are hosting a **Race Night** (18+ only) at Mere Social Club. There is a licenced bar, a raffle and an opportunity to watch thrilling racing. Doors open at 7.00pm and the first race starts at 7.30pm.

We are grateful to the many businesses and individual supporters within Mere who have agreed to sponsor this event. So come along and pick a winner - we hope the evening will be a galloping success!

For tickets and other enquiries, please call Aubrey 860 847 / Mandy 860751 or e-mail: eventsmerecr@gmail.com

Jill Turner ☎ 860334 and Roy Sims ☎ 863328



A **Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy**, in aid of Suchana, will be held at 16 Home Field (Pat Isom's house) on **Tuesday 15th October** 10.30-12.00. Everyone is welcome.

And a date for your diary: We're holding a '**Sleigh Drive**' (a Christmassy version of Beetle Drive!) in the Grove Building on **Friday 15th November at 7.30pm** – everyone welcome. Details in November Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson 01747-860553

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends are delighted to announce their first fund-raising event of the 2019-2020 season. On **November 2nd** at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Building, Dr. Matthew Morgan will come to give us a talk entitled "Two Tales of a City: Turner and Constable in Salisbury". Matthew Morgan is an art historian and lecturer who has delivered talks extensively around the country. He is Adult Learning Curator at the Royal Collection and was previously at the National Gallery. He also teaches at Birkbeck, University of London, where he gained his PhD. Prior to working in the museum sector he was in the commercial art world, which included a decade as Director of the Valuations Department at Christie's. We shall be very honoured to welcome him to Mere. Tickets, priced at £6 per head to include a glass of wine, are obtainable from the Library.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Hearing Aid Clinic.

The Hearing Aid Clinic is held at the Doctor's Surgery on the first Thursday of the month. This clinic is run by volunteers from Action On Hearing Loss- Hear to Help. We are a 'drop in' service and are open from 10.00am - 11.30am, so there is no need for everyone to arrive at 10.00am, it is far better for you and us if arrivals are staggered. We provide the service for users of hearing aids provided by the NHS through the Audiology department at Salisbury Hospital. It is of great help if you would bring with you your card/book provided by the hospital in connection with your hearing aids, this tells us exactly which aids and tubes you require. If you have already registered with us, we also require the small card from Action on Hearing Loss. If you are attending for the first time, we will also ask you to fill in a consent form.

Gillian Drayson ☎ 01722 580014 ✉ gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk

Mere Carnival



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

Many thanks to the businesses and individuals that so generously donated prizes, money and vouchers to use for Fundraising during the year.

Our local contributors are listed below, but those outside the area were acknowledged in the carnival programme:

Mary-Anne McCrow, Julia Seal, Elizabeth Hames, Sue Wilcox, Renee White, Sam Roberts, Gill Roberts, Elizabeth Nightingale, Mrs Lowe, Mary Hooper Claire Shaddick. Yapp Bros. Jeans Electrical, Waltons Newsagents,

Some prizes were left with no names; also there were those that chose to remain anonymous. Thanks also to everyone on the Carnival Committee that helped with the Bingo evenings. Also Mere Social Club for their hospitality

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

"Odd" items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into "prize boxes"

Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom.

Sue Jeans On behalf of Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 860215

Mere Gardening Club

Mere's Second Mini Garden Festival

There was a busy path forged between the 2 halls in Mere where the Festival was staged. The usual display of garden and home produce showed some amazing exhibits from a sputnik kohlrabi, delicate floating flowers and trugs brimming with a huge range of vegetable. Visitors were asked to use their noses to judge the sweetest smelling rose as well as to cast their vote on art works produced by Mere's Art Group on the theme of Flowers and Gardens. These were accompanied by other pieces of their work and some stunning photos. Delicious cakes were served in the Grove Building where many local stalls exhibited and sold their wares. A great deal of interest was shown in the amazing Bonsais exhibited by the Blackmore Vale Bonsai Group and the whole Show was helped by young people from Seeds For Success. Children from Mere School submitted wonderful scarecrow designs as did some adults and a number of Mere's clubs, advertising their activities. We are hoping these will give people ideas and inspiration when we hold a Scarecrow Competition during an Open Garden Weekend next June. Thanks to all.

Amazing Garden Innovations ~ Abigail Ballinger

Wednesday 9th October 7.30pm Grove Building

Abigail is an arts and gardening writer and will be talking about garden innovations. More details in the Mere Literary Festival programme.

In association with Mere Literary Festival with retiring collection.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

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	Tues	10:00	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)	L
		10:30	Dressmaking Group (every Tues)	GB
		13:00	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
		18:00	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		19:30	Historical Society	GB
2	Wed	09:30	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11:15	Pilates (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
3	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
4	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
5	Sat	10:00	Autumn Fair for Cancer Research	L
		19:30	Call My Bluff for RGC	GB
			Coffee Morning	URC
6	Sun			
7	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)	L
		19:30	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
8	Tues	10:15	Historical Society	GB
			Community Lunch @ The George Inn	
		18.20	Zumba	L
			<i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB)</i>	
9	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Whist	GB
		19:00	Dressmaking Group (every Wed)	GB
		19:30	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	
10	Thur	10:00	Mere Forest Charities Grant Application	L
		19:30	Moviola	L
			<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	

11	Fri	10.00	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
12	Sat	14:00 19:00 19:00	Mere Museum 'Big Museum Event' Oasis Bingo Race Night for Cancer Research <i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	L MSC
13	Sun			
14	Mon	18:00 19:30	Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only) MADS Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	GB L
15	Tues		<i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
16	Wed	15:00 18:00	Tea at 3 Illustrated Talk – Voyage on a Container Ship <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	ATR St Marys Church
17	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
18	Fri	17:30	St Michaels Re-Ordering Presentation <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
19	Sat		Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	
20	Sun	14:00	Mere Footpath Group Walk Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	CP StM
21	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
22	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
23	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Meeting <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	GB
24	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
25	Fri	10:00 11:00	Merely Women Short Walk at Bonham Woods National Trust <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
26	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
27	Sun			
28	Mon	10:00	Textiles Group <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	GB
29	Tues		<i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
30	Wed	14:30	Penny Bank Writers <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	L
31	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	

Mere Film Shows – *Autumn Season begins in Carnival Week.*



Thursday **10th October** is our next film with profits going to Mere Literary Festival Week fund-raising. All is True (12A) starring Judi Dench, Kenneth Branagh and Ian McKellan, focusses on Shakespeare's retirement years.

These films will be directly supporting our local communities and it will be great to see as many of you as possible at the films and helping boost these deserving local causes.

Rosie ☎ 861567

Warminster Food Bank

A massive thank you to all who donated goodies for the 'school holiday' collection - the total weight was 41.4 kg. The depot were very grateful as demand was high for August. All the food boxes for Mere come from Warminster. Our next big collection date in November has been moved to **Saturday 9th** in the **Clock Tower** from 9am to noon.

St Michaels Church is having the annual Harvest Service on **Sunday October 6th** at 10.30 am and are asking people to bring something for the food bank as the collection. If you cannot make the service then offerings can be left in the Still Chapel - to the left of the altar.

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

If you, or know of someone, are in need of an emergency food box please contact either Rev Carol Wilson-Barker 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).

Mere Rivers Group - *Wildlife Sightings for June and July*

In August 2018 our rivers were flowing well despite being the driest summer on record, because there was no abstraction until October. As a result there were eight sightings, during August 2018 of our precious water voles.

In contrast the water levels this year are very low, even though rainfall has been higher this summer, and we can only conclude this is because water abstraction has been continuous since October last year (although only at around 50% of the permitted level during the summer months). As a result up to August 3rd, there were regular sightings of water voles, mainly on the Shreen. Now as the river levels have significantly dropped there has only been a single sighting since 4 August. We have to take from this that our riverside environment has become unsuitable for them and they have moved elsewhere. The pattern of low numbers of vole sightings has been reflected across all our wildlife. Where they can, people have been saving stranded fish.

In early September BBC Radio Wiltshire broadcast live interviews with members of Mere Rivers Group about the state of our streams, with an item also broadcast on local BBC TV. Anybody who feels strongly about our streams may like to add their voice by writing to Wessex Water, the Environment Agency and/or our local MP highlighting their concerns.

So our sightings for August were: Water Vole 3 times, Kingfisher and Song Thrush seen twice. All seen once were Goldcrest family, pair of Coal Tits, Emperor Dragonfly, Grasshopper, Tawny Owl and c. 12" Trout. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard calling!

Nature Notes

It is great to be receiving reports on wildlife in our wider Mere area and this included male and female Roe Deer, family of Red Kites and Buzzards, Painted Lady and Common Blue Butterflies. With the advent of October and the winter months we can expect to see winter migrants such as Redwing and Fieldfare, which will benefit from the glut of hedgerow fruit and berries. Please continue to support us by reporting your sightings, particularly from the riversides, to the address below. As always we really appreciate your help!

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

KIND OF BLUE - the band

Alan Benson (formerly of Mere) with Mike Durkee, Vicky Louth, Steve Fletcher and Matt Glide make up the band. They played at The Shaftesbury Fringe in July to a packed house at The Grovesnor Arms. In August, they were at The Bourton Bash. On October 19th at The Grove Building in Mere at 7.30, the band will be hosting an evening of Blues and Country in aid of Dorset and Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Later in the month, the band will be recording their first album.

Alan Benson ☎ 07802 457 220 ✉ alanhbenson@hotmail.co.uk

Mere School



New Year

The children have come back rested from the summer break and are already settling really well into their new school. They will all have a busy few weeks ahead of them learning all the new routines with their new teachers.

Blue Class

For the children in Blue Class it is their first time at school! They have got to know their new teachers and are quickly finding their way around the school.....with a little help from the older children.

Yellow Class

For some of the children in Yellow Class it is also their first time at Mere School. However they are lucky to have some Year 1 children in their class who already know the school who are willing to help them.

Gold Class

The children now feel very grown up being part of Key Stage Two! They are now getting to ready to explore the wonderful world of the 'Terrible Tudors'!

Red Class

The Romans have invaded Year 5 with the children beginning to explore life in Roman Britain. Watch this space for finding out in a later issue about the visit of a Roman Soldier to the school.

Green Class

World War Two fever has hit the children in Year 4 as they begin to explore the ideas of rationing, evacuation and the Blitz. They are already looking forward to their trip to Nothe Fort.

Silver Class

In Silver class the children are getting very excited about finding out all about 'The Great Fire of London' this term. Let's see if they can use their history skills to find out why it started and why it spread so quickly! They are also looking forward to a visit from our local fire safety officer.....fire fire, pour on water, pour on water!

Purple Class

It's an exciting time in Purple Class as the Year 5's from last year become top of the school! The children are already working hard and looking forward to learning all about the Anglo Saxons.

Dressmaking in Mere

The dressmakers got off to a very busy start to their Autumn Course. We were pleased our courses were full this time but there is a waiting list for the next course which will be six weeks long giving plenty of time to learn and gain confidence.

There seems to be more interest now in creating clothing from our stash of fabric which many of us have, we share patterns and try as much as we can to think not only of the wardrobe but also the environment and using natural wool whenever we can.

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

Mere Museum

Our new exhibition '**The Town Store In The Country**' opened at the beginning of September, featuring quite a number of new items received into the Museum's collection since we last looked at John Walton & Co. Ltd. So even if you think you've seen everything, do go and look again!

As announced last month, we are busy planning another 'Big Event' in the Museum on Saturday **October 12th** between 2 and 5 p.m. We shall throw open the Museum so that members of the public can take a closer look at how we run things, both in the Museum office and behind the store-room doors. We plan to display some of the many photographs of Mere people whose names we don't know in the hope that you may be able to help identify them. There will also be an opportunity to pass on your memories of - or stories about - Waltons when it was still a thriving business. The highlight of the afternoon will be a talk by one of the conservators who is working on the Rutter Scrapbook project, who will tell us about the challenges they are facing and how they are getting on. And, of course, there will be tea and cake!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 📧 jennyflaxmill@gmail.com

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Rehearsals are under way for a very special Autumn production - a play specially written for MADS by our very own talented playwrights. It is based on one of the most famous of all Christmas stories and features ghosts! This is all we are prepared to reveal at present, but we can tell you that the performance dates are **Thursday - Saturday, 21st to 23rd November**, with a matinee on the Saturday. Tickets at £8 will be available next month - watch for details in the next Mere Matters.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Rosemary Goddard Centre

We have had lots of speakers come and talk to us recently. It is always enjoyable and interesting to hear of others experiences! We would love to hear from you if you think you could share your stories, tales of travel or hobbies etc. A warm welcome and cup of tea with a friendly bunch of people awaits you.

We are looking for a new volunteer to pick up the lunches once a month on a Friday, please get in touch if you feel you could help. We also 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 we have our fundraising event coming up, **'Call my Bluff'** 7:30pm Saturday **October 5th** in the Grove Building, tickets are priced at £7.00 and include a drink, contact me to reserve your ticket.

Sandie Hawkins ☎ 07835 272406 🌐 meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Bowls Club

Congratulations to Richard Coombs and Don Butcher - pictured with the President of Bowls Wiltshire Men after winning the final at Devizes BC yesterday morning against Rodborne Cheney from Swindon.



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

An illustrated talk on a voyage in a container ship.

From Germany down the coast of Africa, across the Atlantic, and down the coast of South America.

Also to the island of St Damien of the Lepers, and the “Gone with the Wind” houses of Louisiana.

In **St Mary’s Catholic Church**, Pettridge Lane.

Wednesday October 16th 6p.m.

Contributions to the Apostleship of the Sea invited.

For tickets, contact ☎ 830461.

Say it With Flowers

Come along to St Michael's Church **Monday 7th October** and see a display of letters accompanied by some small flower arrangements.

We are hoping for a selection of letters to share with you as poignant or amusing memories along with a pretty bunch of flowers to accompany the words.

If you have a letter that you would like to share for this exhibition please contact me before Sunday 6th October.

Maggie Durkee ☎ 860163

St Michael's - HARVEST FESTIVAL

All are invited to celebrate Harvest Festival with a Songs of Praise service at **10.30am Sunday 6th October** followed by a **Ploughman's lunch** in the Grove Building costing £5. The children are welcome to do a drawing of a Scarecrow to be exhibited in the Church.

The community are encouraged to bring contributions for the Warminster Food Bank for the less fortunate in our and surrounding villages and towns. We are requested to bring tins, packets or boxes of vegetables, meats, fish, soup, UHTmilk, cereals, jams, teabags, coffee and maybe a treat or two.

If you wish to contribute but are unable to attend the service, please leave your food parcel in the Still Chapel on the left of the altar. All contributions are gratefully received.

To book the Ploughmans Lunch, please contact Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Mothers' UNION and Open Members' Group

Our next meeting will be held in the small hall in the Grove Building on **Tuesday 8th October** at 2.30 pm. This will be a very short meeting as we are then invited to join the Literary Festival event in the Main Hall. This will be a talk by Julie Beckett the producer of The Archers. There will be seating available for all members and we really look forward to a very interesting afternoon.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923



A service marking the beginning of Mere Literary Festival will be held at St Michael's Church on **Sunday 6th October** at 6pm.

Please also support the Quiz-and-hot-supper evening to be held at Sutton Veney Village Hall at 7 for 7.30pm on **Friday 11th October** in aid of the Chaima Christian University in South Sudan – a brave and much-needed venture in this war-torn country. Tickets £10 from Meg Oliver 01747 860111

This year's theme is Climate Changes Everything – Now is the Time to Act! Our keeping of One World Week begins with a service at St Mary's RC Church, Pettridge Lane, Mere, at 6pm on Sunday **27th October** with a speaker from Shared Interest; and finishes with our One World Fair in the Grove Building Mere 11-2 Sat 2nd November. We're fully booked with a wide range of stalls and there will be hot lunches, refreshments, music, singing from Shreen Harmony, face-painting, and a chance to learn more or/and buy unusual gifts in support of good causes. As David Attenborough says 'We all share responsibility for the future of life on earth' – so, if you can, please come and support these events.



The Revd Duncan Goldie ☎ 01935 812916

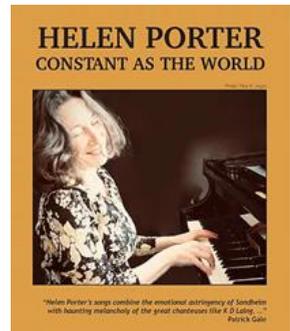
Helen Porter, a highly versatile and accomplished singer and jazz pianist, is coming to Port Regis' Farrington Hall in October. She is performing her solo project '**Constant as the World**' which has toured venues across the South West from September 2018.

'Constant as the World' is a mixture of her own songs and piano solos, interspersed with timeless classics by the greats – Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael and Allie Wrubel. A mix of haunting vocals and wry observations with new takes on old favourites .

Helen, who lived locally for many years, is in great demand as a choir trainer all over the country. She will be familiar to many local amateur singers from her uniquely effective style of vocal training, and as the founder of Shreen Harmony in Mere.

Farrington Recital Hall, Port Regis SP7 9NS 5th October – 7:30pm

Tickets £10 on the door or via  helenportermusic.co.uk



Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle

The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:

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

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

Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

6	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Harvest Service Literary Festival Service
13	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
20	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
27	Sun	08:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

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

6	Sun	9:30 am	DIY
13	Sun	6:00 pm	Harvest Service
20	Sun	9:30 am	Matins
27	Sun	9:30 am	Holy Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

6	Sun	11.00am	TBA
13	Sun	11.00am	Mrs. Christine Marsh
20	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
27	Sun	11.00am	Judith Thompson

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

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

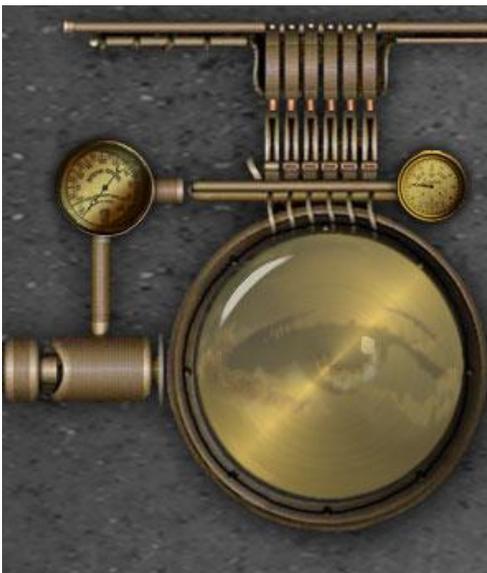
For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of “Mere Matters”, please visit  merewilts.org

Copy date for November 2019 Issue

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 21st OCTOBER.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **14th October** (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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