

Mere Matters

& so does
West Knoyle



your community magazine
including a guide to local events



February 2020

Mere Town Council

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

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

A belated Happy New Year to all readers. Christmas seems like a distant memory now but the Town Council would like to thank all those who participated in the Xmas illuminations – you all certainly helped to make the town look festive and merry. The week before Xmas I was contacted by BBC Wiltshire Sound about participating in their Xmas show but they wanted me to go all the way to Swindon for a 3 minute slot on Mere which I was unable to do. However, I eventually persuaded them to come to Mere and Ben Prater, the Breakfast Show presenter, came along the next day and to see how Mere celebrates Xmas. The show was aired on Xmas eve and mentioned various businesses and their wares along with the Xmas lights and festive spirit of Mere.

The Town Council held its Annual Budget meeting in November. This meeting is where members have to consider likely expenditure and income over the next financial year in order to determine the precept requirement (Town council's share of the council tax). This is the most challenging and longest meeting of the year but eventually a set of recommendations were agreed and

subsequently approved by the Town Council at the December meeting.

I attended the recent public meeting called by The Butt of Sherry Preservation Society and I must congratulate their committee on organising such a well-attended event and for their progress with community engagement on this issue.



Once a year the Town Council has an opportunity to submit a request for waiting and parking restrictions to Wiltshire Council. The Town Council discussed this and agreed to form an advisory group to consider whether there are any areas in Mere that would benefit from further waiting or parking restrictions in terms of road safety, i.e. areas where accidents have occurred, highway visibility is obstructed by parked vehicles or sight lines obstructed by parked vehicles at junctions. If you have any areas that you would like the advisory group to consider, please email them in to the Clerk.

Friday, 8th May marks the 75th anniversary of **Victory in Europe Day** (VE Day) and this day has been designated by the Government as a

Bank Holiday with licensing hours extended to enable people to join in the VE Day 75 celebrations and organise events over the VE Day weekend of the 8th – 10th May. There will be encouragement for church services, street parties, celebrations at pubs, clubs, hotels and halls providing people with the opportunity to pay a personal tribute to those millions at home and abroad who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy the freedom we share today. We would be interested in hearing from groups and organisations, streets and residents groups on what

you are planning to do to celebrate this occasion.

We find ourselves in the possession of some goods that we are able to offer free to community groups and organisations in Mere. We have 3 X gas cookers, 1 X electric cooker, 1 X fridge and 1 X dishwasher as well as a number of 17" computer monitors, keyboards and mice with associated cabling. If any groups are interested in these goods, please contact the Clerk of the Town Council.

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

West Knoyle and Mere **Christmas lights** were a sight to behold. West Knoyle with a small population performed above themselves.

I am sorry to report the passing of Ted Draper of Bishopstone who was a Western Area Chairman during the life of Salisbury District Council and Pat Spencer of St Martins Farm, Zeals who was Chairman of Salisbury District Council in 1995. Mrs Pat Spencer of St. Martins Farm, Zeals was a very well-known local councillor in past decades. The family would like to ensure that all those who knew Pat are aware that she has died and know that there will be a thanksgiving Service for her. The service will be at St Martin's Church in Zeals **1st February 2.00pm**.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published a report saying that although 65 has traditionally been seen as the start of old age, 70 could be considered the "new 65" because many people who reach this milestone birthday can still expect to live another 15 years.

Fly Tipping: You run a grave risk if you should do this yourself. If you employ someone to dispose of your rubbish:

- Check that the person who is taking the waste away has an upper tier waste carrier's license to collect waste issued by the Environment Agency.

- Note the registration number of any vehicle taking the waste away, as well as the vehicle description and that of the collectors.
- Ask for a receipt detailing where the waste is going. This is a legal obligation for businesses, but householders are also advised to request this information.

State schools and colleges in England can now order free period/sanitary products for students as part of a Government scheme to tackle period poverty. Tampons, pads and menstrual cups will be available for primary and secondary institutions if they opt in. The scheme aims to help prevent children missing school if they do not have access to products at home.

The A303 at **Stonehenge** affects many of us. I note The Financial Times quotes The Treasury is pushing for the £2bn Stonehenge tunnel to be axed. I am not saying where I am for or against it, however I am aware many want the A303 improved at this point, all be it some may be in favour of a lower cost scheme.

Our local **broadband infrastructure** is largely fibre to a nearby cabinet (FTTC), it is not fibre to the premises (FTTP). There are several properties in the Kilmington area where they have FTTP and there are initiatives to extend this with local support such as one pilot hopefully involving the National Trust.

A current problem exists where a FTTC cabinet is at maximum capacity within the Mere Exchange. Wiltshire Council's Openreach colleagues are going to look into this. This cabinet has been at capacity since November 18th 2019. Wiltshire Council do not have visibility of any commercial upgrades from any providers. As contracts progress, fibre to the house is increasing. Contract 1 with Openreach was 100% FTTC Contract 2 with Openreach was 65% FTTC and 35% FTTP Contract 3 (Lot 2 South) with Openreach is 15% FTTC and 85% FTTP.

Local residents who wish to ask questions in regard their broadband provision with Wiltshire Council should contact the Wiltshire Online team who will try and assist them, (Email at broadband@wiltshire.gov.uk)

I am still receiving many complaints regarding non-working street lights. Please report any not working near you. The following are noted:

- Victorian standard junction of Church Street and Angel Lane.
- Top of Barnes Place along footpath near cemetery still out and has been for possibly 2 years.
- Junction of "Church Lane" lane which leads to The Church of St Michael with Castle Street B3092, the light has been removed.
- By Mere Social club out..... the list goes on

The new type LED street lights are designed not to pollute the sky with light, however they are 4 times brighter in the immediate area below the luminaire. They do however give less effective light at a distance as noted by a resident in

Penny Bank Lane. The Wiltshire Council LED program is programmed in for Mere, these issues of localized brightness need consideration for the Mere area affected being Mere, Zeals and Kilmington. The vast majority of the electorate in Mere (often the silent majority) want the street lights to work, however not at an intensity that the light penetrates into bedrooms etc and the fact the effective splay of the light seems to work less well in reality. Mere Town Council have already asked for consultation.

For information the Wiltshire Council Mere Depot on the B3092 will be reviewed for possible closure.

For those in need of the local food bank, a voucher can be obtained from the local Vicar Carol Green for a food box, which can be collected from Mere Library or Mere Post Office.

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

Hearing Aid Clinic - temporary change of venue.

The next Hearing Aid Clinic will be held on the **6th February** in the **Lecture Hall**, from 10.00am until 11.30am.

This will be a drop-in session, people will be seen in the order in which they arrive, so there is no need for everyone to be there for 10.00am.

The clinic will move to this temporary location until we can again hold it in the Surgery. Please keep a look out for posters, messages on facebook (Mere Mutters) for any future changes in venue.

We hope that not too many people were inconvenienced by the cancellation of our January Clinic, through unforeseen circumstances. We did try and put up posters and send out messages, but it was a last minute cancellation.

Gillian Drayson Community Support Officer Salisbury ☎ 01722 580014

The Community Lunch

The Community Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 11 February** 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 01747 861220 and advise the pub if you need a specific diet. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646 📩 lindyelliott22@gmail.com

Mere Historical Society

There is no evening talk in February but the morning talk will be:

Captain Charles Fryatt and the SS Brussels. With Ben Carver

Tuesday 4th February 10.15am for 10.30am in the Grove Building

At about 7pm on 27th July 1916, the Germans committed one of the most controversial incidents of WWI causing international outrage. Captain Charles Algernon Fryatt was executed by the Germans after a show trial. Ben, who has written a book on the subject, will explain what was behind this incident and its outcome.

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

Caroline Cook  861797  merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

COME TO SUCHANA'S - QUIZ & PANCAKE EVENING

Shrove Tuesday 25th Feb 7.30pm

In the Grove Building

Tickets £7 including supper (Children £3) **Licensed Bar**

 860533 or 861168 or sign list in St Michael's Church



Fives Court

Monday 3rd February Kiddley Divey – Music and sing along coffee morning from 11am to 12pm, join us for some refreshments and sing along to some good time favourites.



Friday 7th February Knit and Natter group, we will be holding our new group on the first Friday of every month. This month it will be on from 10am to 12pm in our sun lounge. Please feel free to bring along your own knitting or sewing projects or join in with our project, we have plenty of wool and knitting needles available. Refreshments and cake provided.

Saturday 15th February Valentine's Lunch, celebrate the season of love by sharing a delicious lunch with us on from 12.30pm. Book now as spaces are limited, tickets are £5, please ring to book or for more information regarding any dietary needs.

3rd February & 17th February Holy Communion – We have a Communion Service in the library starting at 1030am, please feel free to join us.

Brenda Martin  860707

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Our annual Christmas box appeal has once again been a great blessing to many people in Southeast Europe during a time of year when many there feel isolated and forgotten. The presents not only spread a good deal of joy, they also have opened doors to further opportunities that will support our long-term work with young people at high risk of being trafficked and children from marginalised communities who lack access to education. It was especially touching to be invited into Roma communities where families have next to nothing. The Christmas boxes caused a great deal of excitement, of course, but many people were simply delighted to receive some positive attention. We are very grateful to the Christmas box donors in Mere for their contribution in 2019 – your presents brought joy to a lot of children and families! Thank you.

Rich Parsons, Operations Manager, FSCI (UK).

Healthy Mere Walking

Lover's Red Arrows Walk

We have not posted news for a while but we have been scouting out new walks and planning for 2020. If you are reading this, then we hope you come and join us later in the year.

Lovers? Red Arrows? Yes, the footpath group are going to refurbish the red arrows and on **14th February** there will be 20 bunches of mistletoe alongside the now famous walk. What more incentive could there be to take your loved one out on the paths of Mere to enjoy the fresh air and scenery – AND enjoy twenty kisses with them on the way! For those of you not familiar with the walk, you start at the Clock Tower and follow the red arrows on a walk of just over two miles on hard surfaces all the way returning to the Clock Tower.

More news of walks will be in next month's Mere Matters and on notices in the library and the surgery as well as on Social media. If you have ideas about helping others to enjoy the benefits of walking use our contact page on the website or call John on the number below.

John Jordan  07840 722835  [Healthy-Mere-Walking](#)  merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk

Creative Mere 2020

It is 3 years now since we held our first **Creative Mere** weekend. It was enormously successful and as there has been continued interest ever since, we are organising another event this year on **24th – 25th October**.

Many local artisans and craft people are expressing a renewed interest in having a stall and demonstrating their art but we are conscious that there may

be people new to Mere who would like to know more about the event and who would like to join us. In you live within the immediate area and would be willing to exhibit, demonstrate and/or sell your artwork please make contact.

Susanne Hayes ☎ 07788 595434 and Janet Way ☎ 860884

The more astute of you will notice my name missing from the line above. Editing and producing Mere Matters takes up so much time that I cannot devote time to Creative Mere this time around. We therefore need a person with a modicum of IT knowledge – particularly in using Microsoft Word to help the team with producing the booklets and fliers etc. Most of the hard work is already done. This would ideally suit a teenager thinking of a career in IT or Media Studies – you just need to have a sensible, mature attitude and show a willingness to learn! You will be given help. This experience would look great on your CV when applying for a job!!

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 ✉ rajefferies@btinternet.com

1st Mere Brownies Recycling appeal

Many thanks for continuing to support our ongoing recycling appeal for mobile phones, coins, stamps and portable gadgets. During 2019 we raised £438.30 for our unit funds and we have another full sack ready to send.

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215



We're back with a one off talk on **Friday 20th March** at St. Michael's Church.

Will Theakston will be talking about his experience of rowing the Atlantic in 2018 and

Why Adventure Matters. Tickets are £12.00 pp and available at Mere Library or via the website www.mereliteraryfestival.com. If you are a 'Friend' of the Mere Literary Festival then tickets are £6.00 pp. Full details on the website.

Gail Garbutt ☎ 860446 ☎ 07940 381004 ✉ mereliteraryfestival.com

Mere Snooker Club - AGM

The meeting is to be held in the club on Salisbury Street on **Friday 28th at 7.30pm**

Old and new members welcome.

Mike Durkee Chairman ☎ 860163

Mere Film Shows

Our first film will be a matinee showing of Downton Abbey [PG] on Sunday **2nd February at 3pm**. Do come along from 2:30pm to enjoy some free tea and

cakes before the film. King George V and Queen Mary are due to visit and upstairs and downstairs have to prepare in their different ways for this grand visit. All the favourites from the TV cast are present including Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern.

Our other films will be The Good Liar [15] with Helen Mirren and Ian McKellan on **Friday 6th March** at 7:30pm and then Mrs Lowry and Son [PG] on Thursday 23rd April at 7:30pm. As ever all tickets are available from the library. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Rosie ☎ 861567

Community Tea @ 3

Come and join us on **Wednesday 19th February**. You know the time.

Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Short Walks

Wednesday 12th February. Blow away the February blues with a short walk of 2-3 miles around the lanes and paths of Mere. Meet at 2pm in the Surgery Car Park and enjoy a cuppa at the Angel Tea Rooms to recover afterwards.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 📩 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Shared Interest Account

After last October's One World Week Service and Fair, many people contributed to a joint group account with Shared Interest. It was a celebration of Mere's 10 year's participation in this International Event and commitment to helping small businesses and smallholders around the world have access to loans to further their work or to help combat the effects of climate change. It is now possible for anyone who would still like to take part to contribute to the fund for as little as £2. Forms are still available in St Michael's Church or from myself.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 📩 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Can you help?

The Mere and District Day Centre (The Rosemary Goddard Centre) is a registered charity providing a social base for older people in danger of isolation. The Board is looking for a treasurer to manage their accounts as a **volunteer**. You would not be a trustee or expected to come to meetings.

If you have accountancy or book-keeping skills and can spare a few hours a month they would be delighted to hear from you. They need someone who is happy working with excel and online banking; they provide a laptop. They have one employee but dealing with PAYE is not a requirement of the treasurer's role. If you think you might be able to help, please make contact.

Chris Dillon ☎ 07806669376

Warminster Food Bank

Well what an amazing year. Thanks to your outstanding generosity we took a hefty 763.00 kg and £70 in much needed donations to the depot in 2019. The awesome volunteers at the food bank dept. were so pleased with every load we took up there.

So..... onto 2020 as always we will be doing 3 annual collections at The Clock Tower (dates to follow), but the permanent collection point in The Library will be there and we will do a run to the depot every few weeks. A huge thank you to Wendy Horne who does the run to the depot - her car is officially loaded to the roof every time!

If you, or you know of someone who are in need of an emergency food box please contact either Rev Carol Green 01747 861859 or Mr George Jeans - 07710 441599

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

Contact - Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712 (after 6pm please).

Dressmaking in Mere

Our present six week courses running on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings are very busy with a good number of people taking part, some of whom have done courses in the past and are keen to learn more. We are very happy to teach you to feel confident when using a new sewing machine or overlocker. We await the return of "The Sewing Bee" on TV very soon.

We do offer, if space allows, a two week taster to see if this is for you, contact us for more details. Our next course commences the first week in March. Our encouragement to up-cycle fabric or something in the wardrobe that needs adjustment to wear, or a charity shop find is a very important part of our role.

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

Mere Carnival

We have started working on Mere Carnival 2020, again a big thank you to all who helped and sponsored us last year. This year's carnival will be on 19th September.

The Mere Carnival committee are hoping to keep the struggling May Fayre alive and are seeking budding event organisers to help organise a provisionally planned event on 16th May. If we can get a small team together to help the Committee then we can give the go ahead for the event. It will be easy work for anyone who can put on a party. It is voluntary but on the day free admission and some food and drink will be available to those who have helped make the event happen.

John Gammie ☎ 07831 572831 📩 john@gammie.info  Mere Carnival

West Knoyle Village Hall - We've Raised the Roof!

I'm delighted to report that West Knoyle's Village Hall now has a new roof over the bar area and with repairs to the gent's toilet and stockroom, we are now watertight!

The Social Club's Committee and Club Members have worked extremely hard putting on events and together with the generosity of many villagers, friends and local businesses; we have raised an amazing amount of £14,670. This includes grants, totalling £6,250, from Wiltshire Council's South West Area Board, Mere Lecture Hall and West Knoyle's Parish Council. And all this in just 7 months of fundraising!

So the old tin roof and valley guttering have gone and a new rubber covered timber roof is now in place. The gents and stockroom roof tiles were removed, then either reused or replaced, after the roof was re-felted. The stockroom ceiling was made good and the new ceiling in the gents is now insulated and plastered. Obviously a substantial chunk of the fund has now been used, and the remaining amount has been earmarked for other maintenance work. On the list are such things as replacing the cowling on the main roof and repairs to the path leading to the front door.

We are so very grateful to everyone who has helped and supported this project. It has meant that this much needed work could be carried out in good time as far as the weather is concerned! Our Victorian built Village Hall is now set to serve the community for many years to come.

Corinne Leonard ☎ 07783 157361

February 2020 Diary Dates (*Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in *Blue**).

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms	AYP - Andy Young Pavilion	CP - Main Car Park
Drs - Surgery	GB - Grove Building	L - Lecture Hall
Lib - Library	MSC - Social Club	RMC - Castle St Car Park
StM - St Michaels Church	URC - United Ref Church	

1	Sat	Coffee Morning			URC
2	Sun	14:30 Moviola			L
3	Mon	09:30 Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)	18:00 Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)		
			19:30 Parish Council Meeting		
4	Tues	09:00 Baby Moo			
		10:00 Crafting Group			
		10:00 Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)			
		10:15 Historical Society			
		10:30 Dressmaking Group (every Tues)			
		18:00 Pilates (every Tues)			
		18:20 Zumba			
5	Wed	09:30 Ta-Chi (every Wed)			
		11:00 Really Sing			
		18:00 Karate (every Wed)			
		19:00 Dressmaking Group (every Wed)			
		19.00 Bell Ringers AGM			
		19:00 Railway Modellers (every Wed)			
6	Thur	10:00 Hearing Aid Clinic			
		10:00 Art Group (every Thur)			
		14:00 Bridge Club (every Thur)			
		14:00 Quilters (every Thur)			
		17:00 Girlguiding			
7	Fri	10:00 Rhyme Time (every Fri)			
		10:00 Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)			
		13:45 Duplicate Bridge (14.00 start every Fri)			
		18:00 Friends of St Michaels Quiz			
8	Sat	19:00 Oasis Carnival Bingo			
		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>			
9	Sun	15:30 Love Changes Everything			
10	Mon	<i>Beavers & Scouts (GB), Tidd & Toddlers (L)</i>			
11	Tues	12:30 Community Lunch			
		14.30 Mothers Union			
		<i>Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Moo Music (L), Zumba (L)</i>			
12	Wed	14:00 Short Walk			
		14:00 Friends Together Whist			
		19:30 Gardening Club			
		<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Dressmaking(GB), Really Sing (L), Karate (L)</i>			

<i>Railway Modellers</i>					
13	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Quilters(GB), Bridge (L)</i>			
14	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB	
		19:15	Healthy Mere Walking – Red Arrow Walk Mere PPG Understanding Bowel Cancer Talk	The George Inn	
			<i>Duplicate Bridge (GB), Rhyme Time (Lib)</i>		
15	Sat	Coffee Morning (URC)	Fair Trade Stall	URC	
16	Sun	Fair Trade Stall after am service		StM	
17	Mon	<i>Beavers & Scouts (GB), Tidd & Toddlers (L)</i>			
18	Tues	<i>Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Moo Music (L), Zumba (L)</i>			
19	Wed	15:00	Community Tea @ 3 <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Really Sing (L), Karate (L)</i> <i>Railway Modellers</i>	ATR	
20	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Quilters (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>			
21	Fri	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>			
22	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>			
23	Sun				
24	Mon	10:00	Textiles	GB	
			<i>Beavers & Scouts (GB), Tidd & Toddlers (L)</i>		
25	Tues	19:00	Suchana Shrove Tues Pancakes	GB	
			<i>Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Moo Music (L), Zumba (L)</i>		
26	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Whist	GB	
		14:30	Pennybank Writers	L	
			<i>Tai-Chi (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Really Sing (L), Karate (L)</i> <i>Railway Modellers</i>		
27	Thur	<i>Art (GB), Quilters (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>			
28	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB	
		19:30	Snooker Club AGM	Club	
			<i>Movement for the Mind (GB), Duplicate Bridge (GB), Rhyme Time (Lib)</i>		
29	Sat	11:00	Jumble Sale	L	
			Hot Rock Carnival Club	L	
			<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>		

Thinking of Advertising?

We currently offer a variety of sizes for adverts to which we are thinking of adding more options. To find out the costs or to book an advert please contact Jane Kennedy directly using her new phone number or by email.

jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com  **860450**

Mere School

The Christmas holidays feel a very long time ago already with all the children back at school and working hard in their classes.



We would like to thank everybody in the community for contributing to our farewells to Mrs Ings in December. Her last day was emotional but not too sad as she has already been asked by teachers to return to help on school trips and with hearing readers! There is no getting away from us Mrs Ings!

The term has started with all the children beginning to learn about their exciting topics for the term.

Blue Class: People who help us

Yellow Class: Journeys

Silver/Orange Class: Superheroes

Gold Class: All around the World

Green Class: The Egyptians

Red Class: The Rainforests

Purple Class: Space

Pantomime

All the children spent an enjoyable afternoon in the school hall watching 'The Snow Queen' performed by our local Treehouse Theatre group. It was great to see so many children from Y2 to Y6 actually taking part in the show.....oh yes it was!

Mere North Side Residents Action Group

The North-siders are fighting to retain Footpath 78 following its closure by the developers of the Walton Buildings who have locked the gate opposite the Clock Tower. This path has been used for well over a century by the people of Mere. The path is part of Mere's heritage but, in today's traffic, it also provides a safe passage from the north side to The Square avoiding the busy and narrow lower Manor Road used by many large vehicles and farm machines. Wiltshire



Council has taken a neutral stance and concluded that a decision on Footpath 78 should be made by the Secretary of State after a Public Inquiry. The inquiry is due to be held in Mere in 2020, probably earlier rather than later, and the

North-siders need local support – YOUR SUPPORT – to ensure Footpath 78 is added to the definitive map.

CAN YOU HELP SAVE FOOTPATH 78 FOR MERE?

Check out 1-5 below and make contact

janintheuk47@gmail.com or Tel: 01747 861623

1. Have you have used the path or have knowledge of its use.
2. Have you experienced safety concerns in lower Manor Road.
3. Have you any relevant photographs or other information.
4. Can you offer expert advice or a donation, however small, toward legal representation for the inquiry?
5. If you would like further information, notice of the group's meetings or would hope to attend the inquiry.

Next Meeting: **Thursday February 13th 7.30pm** Small Lecture Hall - All Welcome.

The Butt of Sherry Preservation Society.

The support we had at our first public meeting was absolutely overwhelming; with the Grove Building being filled to maximum capacity. We announced our membership acceptance by the Plunkett Foundation, an organisation that distributes grants for worthy community asset projects. We further indicated that the committee are almost ready to issue shares in a Community Benefits Society that is currently being set up.

Thanks to all the people of Mere for this overwhelming support and indeed for pledges of financial help that we have received.

Please contact us via bospreservation@gmail.com

Shreen Harmony

It was a full house at the Grove Building on 20th December for our annual Christmas Concert, and as a result the retiring collection amounted to £470, in aid of "It's in the Bag.". This is a small charity, based in Bristol, offering support and advice to men suffering with testicular cancer.

The choir would like to thank everyone who came and supported us and donated so generously.

We have already started the new term rehearsing some new songs, which we hope to perform in the summer, if we're asked!!!

Mere Amateur Dramatics Society

We are currently underway with rehearsals for our next production, performances will be on the weekend of **26th - 28th March**. So remember to put the date in your diaries.

We are always looking for new members to join our group both on stage and off stage with any skills you may have. Rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Lecture Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Rose Heesom (Chair)  07791 559674

Mere Museum

The Walton's exhibition has been well received and sparked a great deal of interest. We have had a good response to our photo identify requests. This will continue, so please do keep visiting the museum and have a look. It adds great value and provenance to the photos if we can identify people. The book recording memories of Walton's will also remain, so again please keep adding your anecdotes and recollections.

Our next exhibition, opening on **4th February**, will be "Mere Union Workhouse" giving us an insight into that period of our history. It also ties in with one of our new booklets.

Our new sales material comprising greetings cards, bookmarks and a series of booklets on Mere history are now available. There has been a lot of interest and sales are going well so if you haven't yet had the opportunity to look please do.

Rose Heesom  07791 559674  roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk

Mere & District Railway

Record numbers attended the 2020 Wessex Association of Model Railway Club's Exhibition at the Cheese & Grain in Frome during the first weekend this year. Your club exhibited "Mere Abbas" that was very well received by the eleven hundred people who attended. A number of invitations to exhibit at other club exhibitions were received and due consideration is being given to them. A further pleasing result was that a railway modeller in Mere is thinking of joining the club as a result of visiting Frome.

With the new year comes aspirations of building new layouts. This year we have two new N gauge layouts being modelled together with and On30 American layout that will be exhibited at our exhibition in 20/21 June this year.

As railway modelling is now the largest indoor hobby in the UK it is being supported by both the television channels and famous personalities, so the future with increasing numbers attending exhibitions looks sound for our little exhibition in June.

Your club is situated in Castle Street Car Park and opens from 7-9pm on a Wednesday evening. Should this be inconvenient for anybody who wishes to have a look around before visiting, then please contact the author to arrange a suitable time.

Dates and Events for your Diary for spring 2020

14th & 15th March Wessex Association Exhibition at QE2 School, Wimborne.

22nd March Coach Trip to the London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace.

20th & 21st June Mere Model Railway Exhibition

Tom Snook  861977

Rosemary Goddard Centre

Happy New Year from all of us at the RGC. We have lots of planned activities and a few trips arranged for the first part of 2020. We would like to thank Warminster food bank for their kind donation of surplus items, it's nice to know that some of Mere's older residents can benefit from the community's generosity. We have one full day place for a new guest on a Friday, please get in touch with me on the number below for more details. Thank you to all that supported our annual quiz before Christmas, there were 9 people with the top score of 37 points and Di Potter was picked out of a hat as our winner, congratulations to Di and all that entered, we raised £204.

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

Mere Gardening Club

New tricks for Old Gardeners with

Katherine Crouch

Wednesday 12th February 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Katherine is a Chelsea Gold medalist, BBC Gardener of the year and BBC Gardener of the decade. This will be an opportunity to pick up some hot tips from an old hand.

For this very special speaker £4 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way  860884  meregardenclub.org.uk



Mere Bowls Club

Lawn bowls is a great way to keep active and meet new friends so why not give it a go, everyone can have a go with three free coaching sessions before they make a decision whether to join the Club or not. If you want to give it a try come along to the Club when we open on Saturday 18th April at 3pm with a pair of flat shoes and we will do the rest, so put the date in your diary.

Another date for your diaries, Saturday 11th April 2020 when Mere Bowls Club will host a 60s & 70s night, with The ReBBLeS playing live again. Next year will be in aid of the Mere Link Scheme. More details as and when they become available.

Don Butchers  860775  don.butchers@btinternet.com

Mere Rivers Group - *Wildlife Sightings*

Thanks to all of you who took the time to send us your sightings during November and December, including Christmas, when we appreciate that you may have been very busy.

The weather during this period was very wet, and showed in the high flows on our waterways. The flow - almost a torrent at Burton Mill was a real pleasure to see. As a consequence the little egret and kingfisher were seen several times as shown in the reported sightings below:

Kingfisher 13/7 incl one pair each month, Little Egret 8/10, Coal Tit 2/-, Great White Egret 1/-, Grey Wagtail 1/1, Goldcrest 1/-, Wren 1/-, Flock of Long Tailed Tits 1/1, 7 Mallard Ducks 1/-, Moorhen -/1 and Water Rail -/1 (Nov/Dec).

Nature Notes:

With the kingfisher much in evidence, people have asked where they are most likely to see it. It is most often seen on the Shreen, along Waterside and sometimes on the Lynch. It is usually heard before it is seen, so do listen for a short 'seep seep' call as the bird flies along the water. If you are on the internet the RSPB website (www.rspb.org) has a recording of the call. Clearly some of you were walking on the downs, and saw buzzards, red kites, yellowhammer, stonechat, corn bunting and flocks of fieldfares and redwing

As we head into February and depending on the weather, we may continue to see fieldfares and redwing. Or there may be early signs of spring with insects, lesser celandines, primroses, wild snowdrops and other spring plants appearing.

We would love you to keep up the good work and send your sightings to our email address below.

Lynne Bann  860174  mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

New Crafting Group for Mere

The aim of this group is to unite people old, young, local and warm hearted meeting on the **first Thursday** of each month at 10.00am-11.30am in St Michaels Church starting **5th March**. Focus will be on various crafts as a group project but bringing your own is welcome also.

The cost is £3 per adult, £1 children over 2 - under twos free.

If you have any freshened but unwanted sheets or flat materials that can be cut up to craft rugs these would be welcomed!

Clare Woodley Cadey ☎ 07704984233

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



Our new year started well with lunch at Hillbrush and our next meeting is on **11th February** a 2.30 pm at The Grove Building. Janet Way, well known to many of you, will be telling us about her travels to Bhutan in India, the Land of the Dragon. Maybe a chance to hear about somewhere warm and sunny. We then have refreshments.

We welcome visitors to our very informal afternoon meetings held once a month. We have twenty six members and it is a very friendly meeting with a chance to have a short time of worship and to meet new people.

Christine Marsh ☎ 861212, Christabelle Kiriticos ☎ 861065, Carol Lord ☎ 861923

St Michael's News

Thanks to all who sang carols outside the Coop on Christmas Eve. We raised £40 for Embrace, a charity that supports needy in the Holy Land. Thanks to Michael Gatehouse and members of the band for the music.

St Michael's Re-ordering project. Behind the scenes we are getting the final consents to begin work in the church and the money is coming in. We are greatly touched by people's generosity – thank you very much. The pinnacles project is also progressing. The height of the tower and the expense of scaffolding make the project more tricky as we try to find ways to safely and carefully repair and replace all 4 pinnacles.

Rev Carol ☎ 861859

Mere Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We recently held an event on common childhood illnesses and Dr McBride delivered a brilliant and really practical talk. Unfortunately, attendance was

quite low so we will be looking to re-run it at different times/venues – watch this space for more information.

Thurs 14th February 7.30pm at The George Inn – Understanding Bowel Cancer presented by Bowel Cancer UK

Cancer isn't something that any of us really want to think about but understanding the warning signs and dealing with them early can save lives and simplify treatment, so please come along to this valuable event to learn more.

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK and the second greatest cause of cancer deaths. Although most cases occur in older age, it can affect anyone of any age and over 2,500 new cases are diagnosed each year in people under the age of 50. 1 in 15 men and 1 in 18 women will be diagnosed with bowel cancer during their lifetime.

Vicky Furmidge-Owen ☎ 861986 📩 v.furmidgeowen@gmail.com

Women's World Day of Prayer Service 6th March 2020

Please put the date in your diary for the annual service for the Women's World Day of Prayer which will be held this year at 11am on Friday 6th March at St Michael's Church Mere. This years' service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and has the theme 'Take your mat and walk'. Our speaker will be Tatum Johnson, activities organiser at Fives Court, who was born and lived her early years in Zimbabwe. Everyone – men included! – is welcome to this service, which will be followed by refreshments.

Christine Marsh ☎ 861212

February 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

2	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10:30 am	Family Worship
		06:00 pm	Evensong

7	Fri	08:00 am	Holy Communion CW
9	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10:30 am	Parish Communion
14	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
16	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10:30 am	Parish Communion
21	Fri	08:00 am	Common Worship Holy Communion
23	Sun	08:00 am	Holy Communion BCP
		10:30 am	Parish Communion
26	Wed	10:30 am	Ash Wednesday Service
28	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

2	Sun	09.30 am	Matins
9	Sun	09:30 am	Holy Communion
16	Sun	06:00 pm	Holy Communion
23	Sun	09:30 am	DIY

All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk Saturday is Rest day

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

2	Sun	10.00 am	Sunday Catch-up, coffee and croissants or roll and bacon in the hall.
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9	Sun	10.00 am	Matins
16	Sun	10.00 am	B.C.P. Communion
23	Sun	10.00 am	Parish Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

2	Sun	11.00am	Mr Ken Elcock
9	Sun	11.00am	Mr Dudley Coates
16	Sun	11.00am	Mrs Christine Marsh
23	Sun	11.00am	Rev Colin Marsh Holy Communion

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

Copy date for March 2020 Issue

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

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **10th February** (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.



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
Health Trainer (As from Jan 2020)	Last Tuesday in month	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

St Michael's Church Mere

St Michaels Church Mere

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9th at 3.30pm

'LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING'

Enjoy a romantic afternoon with the
Gillingham Top Brass and Wind Concert Band

Plus guests

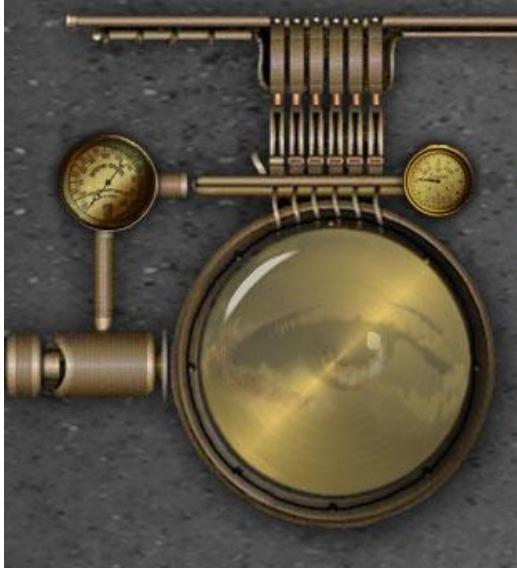
Kiera Batchelor singing, also Mike, Steve and Vicky who
will keep you in the mood with their choice of songs.

The band music for the concert is being carefully produced with
thanks to Jackie Adams, band leader and conductor, who has played
to packed audiences recently with the concerts in Gillingham.

Admission free Interval refreshments

Donations towards the Church Pinnacles

Bill Price 861233



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