

Sunday 15th Father's Day

Mere Matters

& so does West Knoyle

JUNE 2025

**MERE'S MEDIEVAL
FESTIVAL OF FUN!**



A SIMPLY EXTRAORDINARY DAY FOR ALL AGES

10:30 - 17:00 JUNE 21ST
NO NEED TO BOOK. ENTRY FREE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS

PROGRAMME

*Meet Human Statues, Stilt Walkers, Jesters and Knights
throughout our site all day long*

Churchyard

- 10.30 Quarter Peal
- 10.30 Plant sale
- 13.00 Medieval Cookery demonstration and tasting
- 14.00 Folk music from Reel Deal

*All day guided tours up the newly restored Church Tower.
See one of the best views in Wiltshire!*

Rectory Field

- 11.30 Medieval Circus Workshop
- 12.30 Introduction by The Rt Hon Andrew Murrison MP. The Tower Stories Choir sings Windlestan – an Anthem for Mere led by Richard Nye, Mere's Composer in Residence. Readings by Jane Borodale, Mere's Writer in Residence
- 13.00 Jester Fire Act
- 14.30 Medieval Circus Workshop
- 16.00 Jester Fire Act
- All day information centre led by The Black Knight. Master of Revelries*
- 19.00 Rock concert by WHITE LIGHTS

Angel Lane

Try out the medieval stocks!

Cemetery Car Park

- 11.00 Medieval Surgeon show
- 14.00 Medieval Surgeon show
- In addition to his shows the medieval surgeon will be showing off his medical medieval skills all day*

Chantry Field

Children's area : Bouncy castles and face painting...

- 11.00 Fighting Knights demonstration
- 12.30 Medieval Knight School
- 13.30 Fighting Knights demonstration
- 15.30 Medieval Knight School
- 17.00 Medieval Day finishes, time for a break as preparations start for the Family ROCK CONCERT

The Editor Writes

Remember COVID and the lockdowns? Gosh, it does seem so long ago. During that time, I put out an appeal for IT equipment to help schools and UK families who were short on computers for children to use at home. The response was so brilliant that we were able to supply over some 30+ computers of various specifications.

I have recently teamed up with a group who are doing something to help those remaining in Ukraine and the volunteer groups who are going out there. They need **WORKING** portable computers/tablets. I have recently sent out 6 working Apple iPads and 2 Windows based portables but they need loads more. They DO NOT require desktop PCs – the sort that have a separate screen, keyboard and mouse but genuinely portable devices – with charging packs as well if you have them.

We can receive virtually any **portable** computers and tablet devices. They need to be reset so they are not locked with passwords/iCloud accounts etc. I will check and wipe any residual data and configure them before they are sent out.

Please give this support if you can. There is no point keeping old tech when it can be put to good use!

Please drop of anything you have at 16, Underhill. Mere BA126LU – behind Bramley House and turn left.

Richard Jefferies 863425 editor@merematters.co.uk



Mere Pharmacy - Midnight Walk 2025

We are pleased to say that we completed the Midnight Walk for Salisbury Hospice Charity in just over two hours.

The walk was 6 miles around Salisbury and we really enjoyed it.

Thank you so much to everyone who came in to the pharmacy and wished us luck and sponsored us.

We raised a total of £400 which will go towards the fantastic work that the hospice does.



Ann-Marie Long

Medieval Festival of Fun! June 21st 2025 Information for Visitors

We hope this will help you make the most of your visit.

- The gates to the event will open at 10.30am. Join the Medieval Surgeon, the Human Statue and Stilt Walkers from 11.00am
- The medieval programme concludes at 5.00pm, whilst the site is prepared for our Rock Concert in the Rectory Field which starts at 19.00. We would be grateful if everyone would allow for cleaning of the site and soundchecks between 17.00 and 1830 when the Rectory Field re-opens.
- There will be bins and litter pickers but we ask you to please take any rubbish with you if possible.
- Please access the Medieval Festival ON FOOT by either the Churchyard (and picnic area) or Angel Lane.
- Children should not be left unaccompanied at any time. Children will not be allowed to enter or leave the site unaccompanied.
- Event parking in Mere is extremely difficult. **Please walk to these events if you can.** Castle Street public car park will be for local residents and disabled parking only. All other public car parks will be open. We ask you always respect local residents access when deciding to park your car. Do not block access to driveways, emergency access or park irresponsibly.
- Dogs are welcome at the event but they must be kept on a lead at all times.
- Do bring a camp chair/small table to help enjoy your day. Please do not bring gazebos for lack of space.
- Catering is from all the main food providers of Mere (many thanks to those who have increased their opening hours to cater for our visitors). There is also a pizza van in the Rectory Field. In addition to our excellent local pubs we also have 2 pop up bars. One next to the Churchyard and one in Rectory Field.
- You can bring your own food and drink. We appreciate not everyone's tastes can be catered for so you can bring your own. We hope that the catering throughout the site appeals to many though as it is an important source of income for Mere Town.
- You absolutely can dress up in medieval gear– it is entirely your choice!
- If it rains we all get wet – but we will still enjoy our medieval day and rock concert!!
- Programmes are available upon arrival and are a suggested £2 donation (by no means compulsory). By donating £2 for your programme, you are directly supporting The Friends of St Michael's

Church, a wholly independent charity which supports the upkeep of the St Michael's Church medieval building.

- Accessibility: The majority of the site is flat and accessible to visitors with varying needs. There are paths throughout and the grassed areas are maintained and firm (depending on the weather), suitable for assisted walking. There are some undulations and visitors should always remain aware of changes to ground level.

Have a fantastic day!

For further information go to www.thetowerstories.co.uk

Model Railway Exhibition

Once again, Mere & District Railway Modellers are proud to present their annual Model Railway Exhibition, which will be held in the Lecture Halls on Fathers' Day weekend, **Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th of June**. This year, with its 11th exhibition, the Club will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the opening of its clubhouse premises at the back of the Castle Street public car park. As a tribute members have created a new OO Gauge layout, 'Mere Cross', which will be shown for the first time, together with the return of a familiar favourite young people's layout, 'Thomas and Friends', also in OO Gauge. These club layouts will be complemented with a further 13 superb visiting layouts in a wide variety of gauges and styles provided and operated by other local model railway clubs which, it is hoped, will help to make this event the best railway exhibition in the South West this year. Trader support will be provided for the first time by Model Railway Solutions, and as always, our friends from the Ffestiniog Railway will be on hand to help us celebrate.

Admission prices start at £5 for an individual adult with children under 12 years of age being allowed in free of charge, if accompanied by an adult. New, this year, is a £10 family ticket for up to 2 adults and 2 children. A supply of light refreshments, including home-made cakes, will be available on site and we sincerely hope it will all make for a great family day out, not just for Father!

Graham Avory, M&DRM Chairman: graham.avory@btopenworld.com

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Ann-Marie Long directly by email or phone. Media4MM@Outlook.com 07833-686742



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Home Manager.



OPEN DAY

Wednesday 18 June
2 - 4pm



Mere Town Council

I would like to thank all of those in the community that took the time to vote on the 1st of May 2025, it is truly appreciated. A special recognition for Lesley Traves and Kate Symonds who have stepped down as Mere Town Councillors and with a huge thank you for their commitment and hard work that they have accomplished over the years. I wish them all the best for the future. This has enabled fresh faces on to the team, so we welcome Councillors Alan Mead, Steven Pester and Samantha Dean. To those who were not elected please don't get disheartened continue your path to become a future Mere Town Councillor. And it goes without saying we congratulate Councillor George Jeans on his re-election as Wiltshire Councillor.

We thank Councillor John Jordan for his commitment and achievements as the chairperson over the past two years equally of his vice-chair Councillor Glen Ings.

As of the Town council meeting on the 12th of May I was privileged to be elected as Chairperson and delighted that Councillor Rachael Hansford was elected as vice-chair. Both Rachael and I are committed to put our best efforts into the role.

As I had only chaired one meeting and been chair for 9 days before the publication deadline for Mere Matters, I have only a few points to raise in this report:

On the 12th May meeting, the Town Council approved for Coles Funfair to use Salisbury Street car park for a small funfair on carnival day/evening, 13th September. They intend to arrive on the Friday night and will pack up and pull out on the Saturday night. It is exciting to have the fair return at carnival for all to enjoy.

We also supported a planning application for the demolition of the old Beaumont's Business Park in Woodlands Road. The site, which already has outline planning permission for residential development, has been purchased by Redcliffe Homes and they are anxious to make the site less hazardous prior to them submitting a detailed planning application for the site.

With thanks to Councillor John Jordan for organising recognition of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on behalf of the Town Council.

The 80th anniversary of VE day (Victory in Europe), was commemorated on Thursday the 8th May at 11am at the Mere War Memorial in The Town Square.

Also, St Michael's Church Mere rang out the bells at 6.30pm. Amongst the ringers was Joseph Tibbit from Mere aged 15,




picture attached. New bell ropes were used, part funded by The Lecture Hall Trust and Mere Carnival. Also pictured is Col. Walker in attendance at 11am with the Vicar Michael Malano. The Town Council Chairman John Jordan laid a wreath as did Kit Stallard who is ex-military and Church Warden plus the Wiltshire Councillor.



The next Town Council meeting will be on Monday, 2nd June at 7.00 pm – you are welcome to come along.

Sandra Catley, Chair, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.

lindseywood@merewilts.org 860701  merewilts.org


Floral Sponsors

The Town Clerk would like to report that once again, the Town Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs & four planting display areas within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs & deadhead the flowers. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact:

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. Tel: 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs during the 2024/25 financial year:

Michael, Joy & Grandchildren, Jane Hurd, Johnnie & Georgie Moore, Frank & Geraldine Legge, The Hill Brush Company Ltd, F. J. Chalke Ltd, G. E. & S. M. Jeans + 8 other sponsors who wish to remain anonymous.

lindseywood@merewilts.org 860701  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

May Day this year was the day of elections for Wiltshire, Town and Parish Councillors in Wiltshire. I am very honoured to have been re-elected to Wiltshire Council. I understand the Mere Division had the highest turnout in Wiltshire at 46.5%. I would like to thank all of those in the community that took the time to vote, whether it was for Parish, Town or Unitary, without you, democracy cannot function. A special thank you for all the Councillors of Mere, Zeals, Kilmington, Stourton with Gasper and West Knoyle who were elected or re-elected plus a further thank you for all the effort put in by those who have stepped down.

I have continued to participate in many local events and tried to get them publicised where possible.

Road conditions in Mere, Kilmington, Stourton, West Knoyle and Zeals was something I heard much about while the election was in progress, I have contacted the new leader of the council and said I will support in principal, any motion to improve highway condition across Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council is asking parents to talk and play every day with their children to help boost language skills as part of a county-wide campaign. In partnership with BBC Tiny Happy People the council is sharing helpful advice and support to help families with early language development from pregnancy to age five. The campaign encourages parents and carers to use simple, everyday activities both at home and while out and about, to help their children thrive. Early language development is vital to a child's overall wellbeing. It helps children manage emotions, to build relationships as well as learning to read and write - all of which influence education, employment, and mental health. By age three, children from disadvantaged backgrounds can be up to 18 months behind their peers in language development.

Farmers across England will be able to apply for grants totaling £50m to improve access to new technology able to boost productivity, profitability and food security. From seed-planting robots that decrease costs to pesticide spreaders which help reduce chemical use, or slurry separator systems that bring down reliance on expensive fertilisers, the grants will enable farmers to cut costs while increasing efficiency and sustainability. The £46.7m Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) will support farmers with three types of grants, worth up to £25,000 each, to invest in day-to-day equipment to boost productivity, manage slurry or improve animal health and welfare. The FETF will open for applications on Thursday 29 May and close to applications at midday on Thursday 10 July.

I am getting increasing numbers of complaints about Dog fouling again. By highlighting it here it will hopefully send out a message to minimise the problem, however any improvements always seem to be forgotten in a short period of time.

Penny Fennon gave April rainfall for Salisbury Street as a total of only 6.5 cm with 2.0cm being the wettest on both 23rd of April.

George Jeans 07710 441599 george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mere Art Group

What a delightful environment The Grove Building gives us in this fine weather.

Some members have been on holiday, but attendance has been good.

The 2 hours on each Thursday are a combination of Artwork, a bit of chat and coffee-and-cakes - and has a very strong community atmosphere.

This month's artwork is contributed by Hazel Keen.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com



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Make a Donation by BACS to support Mere Matters?

A/C Name: [Mere Matters](#) Sort Code: [30-93-45](#) A/C No: [00600262](#).

Please enter your surname in the Reference Field.

Treasurer - Alison Beall Treasurer4MM@Outlook.com

Shreen Harmony

We are enjoying singing this term with two performances coming up in Mere this summer.

We will be part of the Mere Choir formed to sing the Mere Anthem at the Medieval **Festival of Fun on 21st June in St Michaels Church yard.**

Thursday July 10th at 7.30 p.m. we have our summer concert in St Michaels Church, as it will hold more people comfortably than in our Christmas concert in The Grove! Please do come along and support us we will be singing to raise funds for the Mere Day Centre. It will be an evening of music and Pimms. Free admission, donations for our chosen charity as you leave.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Sandra Fisher 861980 www.shreenharmony.co.uk

Merekits - Women's Institute

At our monthly meeting we celebrated our second birthday, along with the AGM and election of officers. The two years have been great fun as we continue developing as a group and we now have approx. 25 members of all age groups. Given it was a celebration, we shared some wine and nibbles which were all well received. Our secretary also gave a fantastic insight into what the group has achieved over the last year, which made you just go WOW!

Each month we offer a variety of other activities for our members including guided walks around the local area, skittles evenings, an active book club, international dining groups, days out and a craft group. This month 11 members went to the Thai Kitchen in Shaftesbury for supper again a fantastic evening with lots of laughter and fun.

As a group, Merekits WI normally meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Grove Building from 7pm to 9pm. We are always looking to welcome potential new members, so ladies why not come along and join us to find out more. Our meetings offer a varied programme of events throughout the year including talks and demonstrations as well as many other activities previously mentioned. We provide an opportunity for you to meet like-minded people and make new friends in the area. There's always something happening both nationally and locally for you to participate in as much or as little as you would like.

Our next meeting will be on **18th June** where we will be holding a farm walk including the identification of some wild meadow flowers and a social evening. Please meet us at the Grove Buildings at 7pm walk. Please do come along and join us to find out the fun we have.

Verena Cooper 07971-790256 verenacooper2@gmail.com

— www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk —

MERE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th June 2025
10am - 4pm



10+ Layouts
Refreshments
Free Car Parking

Mere Lecture Halls
Salisbury Street
Mere BA12 6HA

— www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk —

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Mere Snooker Club,

The club is being well used at the moment helped by the snooker on telly!

We are about to have the front table re-covered and we have new heaters so we are getting ready for winter and league games as well as our regulars. If you are interested contact:

Mike Durkee 860 163 or mdurkee51@gmail.com

Patients participation Group - Garden Party

In aid of the Surgery Defibrillator appeal – A GARDEN PARTY **Saturday 5th July 2 - 4.30pm** St Annes, Church Street, Mere (By kind permission of Mr and Mrs N Wilson)
Free entry - cream teas - cake and produce stall - tombola - garden games for all ages
(Donations for the cake and produce stall appreciated please phone Lucy Woolley or Judy Stutchbury 07980 302140)

Lucy Woolley (Chair) lucywoolley1@gmail.com



Mere and District Day Centre has been providing a safe and comfortable place for the older community in Mere and the surrounding area since 1988.

To help us continue this service, we are looking for two lively and community minded people to join the Management Committee.

Firstly, a treasurer is required to replace our current post-holder who is moving away, so will be stepping down soon.

We are also seeking another trustee with experience in the charity sector, school governance, or health and social care.

The committee meets 4 times a year.

- We welcome adults of all ages and backgrounds.
- Full induction and all necessary training will be supplied.
- The time commitment is flexible and can be fitted around existing commitments.

To find out more about these interesting volunteer opportunities, please contact

Chair: Jane Mason, on 01747 861296, or 07517863926 chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

We are a group of ukulele enthusiasts who meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month for an informal evening of strumming and singing. We play a wide range of popular songs and welcome all abilities. If you don't have a ukulele, but would like to join us you would be most welcome. Let me know if you would like to come along and we can have a ukulele for you to play. An evening of fun, laughter and song is guaranteed. You can check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list.

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

PILATES AND MOVEMENT CLASSES IN THE GROVE BUILDING

Monday Mornings 6 week term (30th June to 4th August incl.)

General Pilates & Movement Class 9:15 to 10:30 (75 min class)

Intro/Refresher level suitable for beginners or those with some Pilates experience **£75**

Senior Pilates & Movement Class 10: 45 to 11:30 (45 minute class)

Gentler class for those with more limited mobility. **£45**

Call Jules on 07778 412349 or email julia1666@me.com for more details.

Free taster class (fee deducted from this term fee)



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PennyBank Writers

At last month's meeting member, Ian Cade, showed fellow PennyBankers copies of his first book, *Langamull*, and described his journey to publication with Mercer Books.

Ian, who lives in Stourton, is passionate about nature and its conservation and this concern is evident in the poetry and stories he has written since joining PennyBank, some of which have featured in the group's Mere booklets.

Ian continues this theme in *Langamull*, the story of a rockpool community facing a microplastic Armageddon from rubbish dumped in the sea. He says,

'I believe there is a book or story in all of us. Langamull is mine. It is a children's book, but I hope reading it to your children or grandchildren will show them that our generation is trying to clean up the oceans and shorelines, just like the rockpool community do in the book.'

Ian's underwater characters are wonderfully illustrated by artist Lauren Hammersley. Mercer Books write,

'Whimsical and engaging, this tale is a poignant reminder that we are all intricately connected within the web of life.'

PennyBank wish Ian every success with the book – a story for all ages.

Adrienne Howell 860475 howellatmere@aol.com ian.cade@outlook.com

Mere Rivers Group

The news are preaching gloom and doom about the water situation for the coming summer but we are very lucky as our water supply is based on chalk which holds water and releases it slowly.

Both our streams are still running well considering the amount of rain we have had.

If the dry conditions continue stream support will commence in about two/three weeks which should maintain a lower flow but will help the wildlife.

April largely saw a continuation of the dry weather from March with a few interspersed days of higher rainfall in the latter half of the month. An average of 36mm, 68% of the long-term average (LTA) fell across Wessex. In total, 90% of rain in April fell between 15 April and 22 April. When considered alongside an exceptionally dry March, this has been the fifth driest two-month period (March to April) since records began in 1871. Monthly mean flows recorded across the north and west of Wessex were largely below normal to exceptionally low while the majority of sites to the south of Wessex reported normal monthly mean flows due to baseflow from the Chalk aquifer. Groundwater sites monitoring the chalk reported between normal and notably low levels at the end of April. Reservoirs ended April at approximately 90% capacity for both Wessex Water and Bristol Water. We may be better off than most as far as water supply but we must not be complacent. Save water when you can, do not leave hoses running, maybe you do not need to water your lawn, but my favourite is, share a shower with a friend.

Ian Sheppard ianjsheppard@outlook.com

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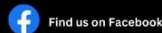
MERE FOREST CHARITIES - Assistance Available

The charities exist to support those persons resident in the Parishes of Mere and Zeals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Currently supporting a number of individuals with an annual grant before Christmas, applied for in October. Applications for assistance are welcome at any time during the year. For further details and application form please write and enclose an AS stamped addressed envelope to:

9 Clements Lane, Mere. BA12 6DF

Mereforest@gmail.com



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Walking Groups In Mere (All ages are welcome to join in all of these walks)

“Get Wiltshire Walking”, Starter Walk:

Every Wednesday there is a volunteer led, 40 minute stroll around the footpaths and lanes of Mere for those who wish to become more active, or are recovering from illness, injury or surgery. All walks are on flat, stable terrain and finish at the Angel Tea Room.

These walks have now been going for just over a year and have proved to be extremely popular. In our first year there has been a walk every single Wednesday except Christmas Day. This amounts to 52 walks, attended by 748 walkers in total, averaging 14 walkers per week. At an average of about a mile a week that means cumulatively we've walked from Mere to John O'Groats and beyond, into the North Sea!

If you'd like to join us we meet by the surgery at 10.00am. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, no dogs are allowed on these walks, except assistance dogs.

Dave and Wendy Drewett 07508 340105

Short Walk:

Meet in the surgery car park at 2.00pm on Thursday 19th June and join me for a short walk around the paths and lanes of Mere, learn a bit about its history and refresh yourself with a cuppa at the Angel Tea Rooms afterwards.

Janet Way 860884

Mere Walking Group:

Our next walk will be on Sunday 29th June, meeting at Salisbury Street car park for a 2.00pm departure, with car sharing to the start point. The walk will be in the Shaftesbury area and approximately 4 miles. Further details of the walk will be posted on Mere Mutters Facebook page nearer the time. All are welcome to join in, dogs on leads please.

VE Day Celebrations

Residents of Steep St and Old Hollow held a VE Day 80th anniversary celebration with a street party on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May.

A warm welcome was made and a good time was had by all. It was a free event with free food, donated by residents.

The weather didn't disappoint!



Text and photo by George Jeans

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

Venue Key:

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion

SCP - Salisbury Street 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

VH - Visit Hillbrush

WT - Walnut Tree Inn

1	Sun	14:30	Croquet (every Sat & Sun)	Steep Street
2	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
			Food Bank	L
		18:00	Scouting (every Monday)	GB
		17:45	Yoga (every Mon)	L
3	Tues	09:00	Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		19:00	MADS (every Tues)	L
4	Weds	09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds)	GB
		10:00	Get Wiltshire Walking Group - Starter Walks (every Weds)	SCP
		14:00	Pilates (every Weds)	L
		18:30	Karate (every Weds)	L
			<i>Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
5	Thurs	10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reformed Church	URC
		10:30	Harmony for Health (every Thurs)	L
		11:00	Rhyme Time (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		17:15	Girlguiding (every Thurs)	GB
		18:00	Yoga (every Thurs)	L
		19:00	MADS (every Thurs)	L
		19:30	Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	URC
6	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start - every Fri)	GB
		14:00	Short Walk (J.Way)	SCP
			Mere and District Link Scheme AGM	
			<i>Dup Bridge Little Angels</i>	
7	Sat	14:30	Croquet (every Sat & Sun)	Steep Street
			<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
8	Sun		<i>Croquet</i>	
9	Mon		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga, Food Bank</i>	
10	Tues	14:00	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>Little Angels, MADS</i>	
11	Weds		<i>Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
12	Thurs	19:30	Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
			<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Guides, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, MADS, Harmony</i>	
			FH	
13	Fri	10.00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
14	Sat	10:30	Scarecrow Festival Teas	GB
			<i>Coffee Morning & Fair Trade, Croquet</i>	

15	Sun	10:30 Scarecrow Festival Teas 14:00 Mere Walking Group Fair Trade Stall after morning service Croquet	GB SCP StM
16	Mon	Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga, Food Bank	
17	Tues	Little Angels, MADS	
18	Weds	19:00 Merekits Women's Institute Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Railway Modellers	GB
19	Thurs	Rhyme Time, Art, Guides, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, MADS, Harmony FH	
20	Fri	Dup Bridge	
21	Sat	Coffee Morning, Croquet	
22	Sun	Croquet	
23	Mon	Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga, Food Bank	
24	Tues	Little Angels, MADS	
25	Weds	14:30 Pennybank Writers Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers	L
26	Thurs	Rhyme Time, Art, Guides, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, MADS, Harmony FH	
27	Fri	10.00 Merely Women 19:00 Cine Club	GB GB
28	Sat	Coffee Morning, Croquet	
29	Sun	Croquet	
30	Mon	Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga, Food Bank	

Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct



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01722 434437



karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk

Catherine Pearcey -

01225 718685

catherine.pearcey@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Mere School



We are incredibly proud of our music provision at Mere School and one of our very special musical events is our Musical Entertainment Evening held in March every year, co-ordinated by Mrs Jennings.

Our parents and families had the opportunity to come and hear our young musicians perform. The children who have instrumental lessons played and sang, individually or as a small group, and we enjoyed class performances on the djeme drums and ukuleles and our school choir.



Our peripatetic music teachers generously attended the evening and as Mrs Jennings said to them:

"Your pupils were an absolute credit to you. Their professionalism, talent and continuous improvement each year were truly wonderful to see."



Mr Lickard, our percussion/drum teacher commented:

"it's always such an uplifting evening and I'm so proud to be part of it. It's amazing to see such a strong focus around the creative arts within the school, there are a lot of very talented children and they all performed incredibly well."

The children, despite some nerves, loved the evening and the opportunity to perform to their families.

We are looking forward to our Recorder Assembly, Leaver's performance and Tower Stories service during this term.

Catriona Williamson



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Mothers Union

Our last meeting in May was a joy to attend. We had an excellent number joining us for a visit from Antonia Chetwynd showing us how she paints Mandalas and telling us a little of their history. She bought us beautiful examples of her work but then we all had an opportunity to colour in our own. It was so nice to have another creative afternoon with a real difference and so amazing that with so many there they worked in complete silence. It was such a meditative afternoon. It followed amusing readings from Sandra Fisher, beautiful prayers and we finished with tea and chocolate cakes. Thank you so much to Antonia and Mother's Union for organising it.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th June at 2.30pm** Grove Building and we will welcome Colin Senneck, he is known to many of us and his wife Anne a member. He will talk about his life and interestingly life in the "Met" having worked in the Metropolitan Police. We always offer a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us for a short service and of course refreshments after. Maybe you are new to Mere and district and looking for something a little different.

Vicky Goodfellow 840443 or Carol Lord 685429.

Mere Theatre Club

By the time you read this, bookings for our autumn programme will be about to close - if you hurry you may be able to join us in time!

We plan a visit to Wilton House, a trip to the Bournemouth Pavilion to see Fawlty Towers and an outing to the Theatre Royal Bath for a production of To Kill a Mockingbird.

If you would like to join our mailing list, membership still only £8 per year.

Madeline Morris 07481-555101 madsmorris@gmail.com

Mere Mortals Petanque Club

Mere Mortals Petanque Club have been enjoying the wonderful Spring weather. The lovely hot days have made our terrain resemble the south of France, only the bojolli and pastis have been missing as we haven't a bar on site. However, our headquarters, the Social Club, is only a short walk away and it is where we retreat after evening play and to entertain our opponents after matches. Young folk from Seeds of Success have sauntered down from their clubhouse to try this enjoyable game and we always welcome new members of all abilities to come and join us Tuesday evenings at 6pm, Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturday morning from 10.30am. Come when you please to give the game a go, boule and tuition provided.

Colin Senneck 706008 colin2423@sky.com





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Nick 07702 363672

Copy date for the **July/August 2025** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday 20th June**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies 863425
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.

Mere Bowls Club

Summer is here, Mere Bowls Club is open for play.

26th April saw the start of the outdoor season which lasts until the end of September. The Club have worked hard to keep the green and the facilities in such excellent order.

If anyone is interested in taking up Bowls, great fun, friendly and as competitive as you wish, contact John FitzGerald on 0174786867 or email:- fitzgeraldjns@sky.com.



Pictures show those in attendance at the opening event, further pictures show a game of spider in which the prize was an Easter Egg presented by Les Mainwaring to the winner Richard Coombs.

Pictures and text George Jeans

Mere Gardening Club.

We had an excellent evening on 14th May with Paul Martin from BBC's Flog It programme. He was very entertaining.

June sees our Scarecrow competition taking place over the weekend of **14th and 15th**. Trails will be available from **The Angel Tea Rooms on 9th June until 15th June** at a cost of £1 each. Refreshments will be provided by the Merekits W.I. at the Grove Building on Saturday and Sunday alongside The Angel Tea Rooms.

Our June meeting is a trip on **11th June** to the **RHS Gardens at Rosemoor**. We currently have a few tickets spare and if anyone would like to join us the cost is £27 including the coach and entry plus membership of the gardening club. We will be meeting at Salisbury Street car park at 9am and hope to return by 7.30pm. Please contact me on 07791 559 674 if you would like to join us.

Rose Heesom, Membership Secretary roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk

Letter from the Churches

Well for once we cannot complain about the wet weather. As I write this, there is still no appreciable rain; such a contrast to the dreary wet winter. The Mere Benefice took advantage of this fine spell to hold a Rogation Service at Bush Farm in West Knoyle. It took place near the lake in glorious sunshine.



Rogation takes its name from the Latin verb 'rogare' meaning 'to ask'. So we did ask God for a good farming season and harvest. We also asked for help with the difficulties our countryside is experiencing now.

Rogation was the day, and still can be, for 'beating the bounds'. It began in the Middle Ages when people from the Parish walked the boundary to reinforce their sense of community through prayer and blessing. Sometimes young boys were 'bumped' against significant markers to help them remember the boundaries as this was a time when drawn maps were few. Nowadays they used Google Maps...

Whatever change happens through time; we still need to hope and ask God for a good growing season and harvest. Somethings are enduring.

Jill Randall jillrandallwk@gmail.com

Mere Literary Festival

Tickets are now on sale for this year's literary festival and you could save by booking early. Buy one or more tickets to any festival event before the end of June and you will save 10% on the price. So a £10 ticket will cost just £9.

We have signed up a fascinating list of authors you won't want to miss this October. Please visit www.mereliteraryfestival.com. And look out for details of our short-story competitions for children and grown-ups - coming soon.



Wayne Stevens - Festival Director: organiser@mereliteraryfestival.com

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

Churchwardens: Mr Kit Stallard 07803-086161 Mr Richard Wilson 07966-244373

Admin Secretary: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

1 st	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Informal Family Service
8 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
15 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
22 nd	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Tower Stories Thanksgiving Communion Service- with the Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Andrew Rumsey
24 th	Tues	10:30	Roman Catholic Mass
29 th	Thurs	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall 830534 Sir Charles Burnett 01747 812089

1 st	Sun	09.30	DIY Service
8 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
15 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
22 nd	Sun	09:30	Communion
29 th	Sun	09:30	Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence 07403-845711 elainelaurence57@gmail.com

1 st	Sun	11:00	TBC
8 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
15 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
22 nd	Sun	11:00	TBC
29 th	Sun	11:00	TBC

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

St Mary's has been closed and weekend Masses are now at SS Luke and Teresa, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Parish Office: 01963-34408 hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com

Mass at St Michael the Archangel usually on the third Tuesday of each month but in **June** Mass will be on **Tuesday the 24th at 10.30am.**

Coffee morning at Visit Hillbrush on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.

John FitzGerald 860867



In Mere & DISTRICT

Very reluctantly we have had to cancel our planned Songs of Praise in Stourhead gardens which was to have taken place at the end of June. Events in the main garden can no longer plug in to Stourhead's electricity supply and the keyboard we could have used doesn't have its own battery. We could, instead, have met on the lawn at the back of Stourhead House but we felt the long walk would have put off many of our members from coming. We'll try to get ourselves fully equipped for next year so if you were looking forward to joining us make a note to keep clear the last Sunday in June next year!

Judith Thompson

Thinking of Advertising in
Mere Matters?

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Mere Museum



A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported our plant sale on Saturday 10th May. We raised just under £1,000 which is incredible. All proceeds are used to support the running costs of the museum. We are indebted to the generosity of Clive Hazzard for supplying the wonderful plants

We are in the process of updating the website and introducing new information and web pages. We have a new email address which is curator@meremuseum.org. Through legacies we have also been able to update the computer system which will make a big difference to research and working practices.

Friends of Mere Museum would like you to save the date – **Friday 10th October** at The Grove Building. We will be hosting a special evening all about Mere using film footage from the 1950s and 1960s. This promises to be a fascinating insight into Mere's past and with a chance to share memories and anecdotes. More details to follow over the coming months!

Rose Heesom, Hon. Curator 07791-559674 curator@meremuseum.org

Mere Jelly

Join us for the June Mere Jelly - a friendly, informal co-working and networking morning for local creatives, freelancers, business owners and home workers.

Whether you need a change of scene, want to meet others in the area, or simply fancy working alongside friendly faces for a few hours, Mere Jelly is the perfect place to connect and collaborate. Taking place at the Cafe at Visit Hillbrush in Mere, the event runs from 9am to 12pm with free Wi-Fi, plenty of chat, and refreshments available to buy.

Drop in anytime on the 25th June, there is no need to book.

Jenni Bell 07956-869699



From Times Gone By!

THREE GUINEAS REWARD. Escaped from Justice — John Clothier alias Smith, of Gillingham in the county of Dorset, labourer. The said John Clothier was placed by me (handcuffed) in the care of Thomas Lawrence and Charles Sheppard on the 19th instant for divers misdemeanors, when he bursted the said handcuffs, knocked down the said Thomas Lawrence and Charles Sheppard, and escaped: he is about 28 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches high, well grown, and rather comely; light eye brows, has a scar one side of his chin, and talks rather quick: wears a fustian jacket and corduroy breeches. Whoever will apprehend and detain the said John Clothier alias Smith shall on his being delivered to me receive the above reward. W. GLOVER, Constable of Mere. May 28th 1818

Salisbury and Wilts journal, 1 Jun 1818

Inquest held by George Sylvester, Esq. — At Woodlands, in the parish of Mere, on Rachael Cowley, aged 18 years. From the evidence it appears the deceased was sent to Mere by her mother, and not returning at the proper time her mother went in search, and, finding her in very bad company, took her home and threatened to tell her father of her conduct: the deceased shortly after left the house, and was discovered in Woodland Pond two days after — Verdict, Found drowned.

Wiltshire Independent, 22 June 1848

Martyn Beardsley

Mere & District Link Scheme

The Link AGM will be held on **Friday 6 June at 7pm** in the Grove Building. After the meeting we will have a drinks and nibbles social. Everyone is welcome.

In April we did 115 trips. Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 35 trips.

Our co-ordinators work in their own homes – we do not have an office - so please keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number.

If you want to use the Link, once you have an appointment, please call 01747 860096 to book a driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. Also, it is a great help if you can give us a minimum of 48 hours' notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays). Our co-ordinator has to ring round to find a driver who is available to take you to your appointment and we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

Do you want to volunteer as a Link driver? We are a local charity and we take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. New drivers are always welcome. You choose when you want to drive, use your own car and we pay 45p/mile to cover your costs. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

John FitzGerald Chair 860096  merelink.org.uk

Wylve Valley art trail

In early 2022, Queen Elizabeth II approved the QAVS National Assessment Committee's recommendation that the volunteers of The Wylve Valley Art Trail should receive the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). Wylve Valley Art Trail is now a very important event across South West Wiltshire. Some exhibitors have had prestigious commissions, examples being Ms Judy Clark was commissioned for work for Portcullis House (Part of the Palace of Westminster which includes "Big Ben"). Laura Rich was commissioned and provided paintings to the cruise line P&O.

All the venues were very pleasant as was the weather, some were set in very attractive venues. The Wylve Valley Art Trail was founded in 2000. It is a non-profit organisation, funded entirely by the participating artists, groups and galleries. It is organised by a team of volunteers. This year it was the 13th Wylve Valley Art Trail from 3 -11 May 2025. Wylve Valley Art Trail is a 9-day festival of visual art and craft in southwest



Wiltshire. This year celebrating 25 years since the wonderful art trail was founded. Visitors were able to experience open studios and workplaces, group exhibitions and galleries and talk to artists & craftspeople, many sales of original art were made. Many yellow trail marker signs were visible as a visitors approached each venue. Venues were open daily from 10.30am – 5.30pm from 3 – 11 May, unless otherwise stated. Some on selected evenings stayed open to 8pm. Good quality Art Trail guides were available from late March from Visitor centres, Libraries, Arts centres and many other places in and around Wiltshire.

George Jeans

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

Mere Library

Monday:	10:00 – 14:00* and 14:00 – 19:00
Tuesday:	09:30 – 17:00
Wednesday:	10:00 – 14:00*
Thursday:	09:30 – 17:00
Friday:	09:30 – 17:00
Saturday:	09:30 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant 860546

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	07942 291266
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	07403-845711

Mere Footpath Group

We are looking for new members to join us in working on the many rights of way in Mere. We work on Thursday mornings for a few hours each week. The work consists of maintaining stiles and gates and keeping paths and signage clear. On the job training, and when available professional training, can be offered. Contact Alan on 07880988214 or John on 07840722835.

We also produce the packs of six walks in and around Mere. A new set of walks is coming out soon, do keep an eye out for them and get out there walking!

John Jordan john.a.jordan@hotmail.co.uk

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