

# Mere matters

... along with all our Neighbours



*October 2025*

Your community magazine  
including a diary of local events

# Mere Literary Festival 2025

DATE	EVENT	BOOK/EVENT	START	FINISH	VENUE	PRICE
Sat 4th Oct	Local Writers Fair	Come and meet your local authors!	10am	4pm	The Grove Building	Free
Mon 13th Oct	Opening Reception	Hear all about Festival 2025	6pm	7pm	The Grove Building	Free
	Festival Quiz	An evening of fun - and prizes	7pm	9pm	The Grove Building	£10 per team
Tue 14th Oct	Tim Bouverie	Allies at War	6pm	7:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Josie Lloyd	Mrs Beeton's Murder Agency	8pm	9:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
Wed 15th Oct	Radhika Howarth	Flavours without Borders	2pm	3:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Carolyn Kirby	Ravenglass	4pm	5:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Ben Aitken	SH*tty Breaks	6pm	7:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Andrew Lowrie	Entitled (The Rise and Fall of the House of York)	8pm	9:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
Thu 16th Oct	Joanne Rush	Dancing on Knives	2pm	3:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Roger Morgan-Grenville	The Restless Coast	4pm	5:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Amy Jeffs	Old Songs	6pm	7:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Jane Moore	Planting Wild Flowers	8pm	9:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
Fri 17th Oct	Taylor Downing	The Army that Never Was	2pm	3:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	James Long	The Pepsy Conspiracy	4pm	5:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Tim Willasey-Wilsey	The Spy and the Devil	6pm	7:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Julie Beckett	The Archers Unseen	8pm	9:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
Sat 18th Oct	Duncan Minshull	Celebrating Walking for Pleasure	11:30am	1pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Regency Afternoon Tea	Bridgerton comes to Merel	2pm	5pm	The Grove Building	£29.95
	Helena Kelly	The Worlds of Jane Austen	2:30pm	3:45pm	The Grove Building	
	Chris Tutton (Poet) and Lucy Nolan (Harplist)	Imaginary Landscapes	6pm	7:45pm	St Michaels Church	£10
	Eve Smith	The Cure	8pm	9:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
Sun 19th Oct	John Blasford-Snell	Talking about Exploration	2pm	3:45pm	The Grove Building	£10
	Anita Frank	The Lost Ones	4pm	5:45pm	The Grove Building	£10

## PLEASE NOTE

These events are subject to change. In the event of an author cancelling, and a replacement not found in time, a full refund will be made. Venue may change as required.

## The Editor Writes

Would everybody please note that the Mere Matters email address I have been using for years, is changing. [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk) is to be replaced by [Editor4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Editor4MM@outlook.com) as from immediate effect.

The old one will continue to work for a while, but please change your address books, contacts etc as appropriate. This change will save some £350 annually and consolidate our brand with:

Treasurer (Alison Beall) being [Treasurer4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Treasurer4MM@outlook.com)  
Media & Advertising (Ann-Marie Long) being [Media4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Media4MM@outlook.com)  
Circulation (Viv Sheppard) being [Circulation4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Circulation4MM@outlook.com)

Richard Jefferies 863425 [Editor4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Editor4MM@outlook.com)

## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

### Flood Preparedness and Contact Information

At the last meeting of the South West Wiltshire Area Board, it was discussed that with winter approaching, flooding may become an issue for some residents. It was stated that it is your responsibility to take appropriate measures to defend your property against floodwater if you know it is susceptible to flooding.

As part of your flood planning, you should ensure you have a supply of sandbags—at your own expense. The council's supply of sandbags is reserved for protecting strategic assets and important infrastructure.

If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, please call: 0300 456 0105

You can't stop flooding, but by understanding the risks to your community and working together with local councils and other agencies, you can help develop a flood response plan that will assist in responding and recovering as quickly as possible.

Whenever there is excess water on the roads, always slow down. Driving through floods is the number one cause of death during flood events.

Flooding Contacts:

Environment Agency (24-hour incident hotline): 0800 80 70 60

Floodline (24 hours): 0345 988 1188 [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood)

Wiltshire Council: 0300 456 0105 [drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Wessex Water: 0345 600 4600 [www.wessexwater.co.uk](http://www.wessexwater.co.uk)

National Grid (Power issues): 105

Gas Supplier (Emergency): 0800 111 999

British Damage Management Association: 01858 414 278 [www.bdma.org.uk](http://www.bdma.org.uk)

### **Smoking Cessation Support in Wiltshire**

Currently, 44,000 people still smoke in Wiltshire, and the goal is to reduce this number to 22,000 by 2030. Wiltshire Council's stop smoking service is here to help. The service is free and can assist you in accessing free stop-smoking aids, including vapes.

Wiltshire Council is supporting Stoptober and encourages people across the county to 'quit together.' Whether you join forces with a family member, friend, or colleague, making a quit attempt this October could be the first step toward a smoke-free life.

Stoptober is a national campaign that motivates people to quit smoking for 28 days. Research shows that if you remain smoke-free for four weeks, you are five times more likely to quit for good.

### **Council & Community Efforts to Keep Wiltshire Clean**

Every year, the council and its contractors work hard to keep Wiltshire clean, but the cost is significant. Since February alone, the council's contractor, idverde, has cleared more than 2,100 km of A, B, and C roads, collecting almost 4,740 bags of waste and around 28,300 kg of litter. While this work is essential, it is costly and diverts resources from other vital services. Thanks to the efforts of local volunteers and community groups, the council has been able to focus its resources on major highways. So far this year, 140 community-led litter picks have taken place, removing nearly 1,370 bags of rubbish from streets, parks, and the countryside—the equivalent of more than 1,400 hours of volunteer time.

### **Holiday Activity & Food Programme Success**

More than 1,700 young people participated in Wiltshire Council's Holiday Activity and Food programme over the summer holidays, enjoying a range of activities and nutritious meals. The programme, branded FUEL (Food, Unity,

Energy, Laughter) in Wiltshire, has been funded by the Department for Education (DfE) since 2021. It provides children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals with free access to activities, food, and nutritional education during school holidays. Since the start of the programme in Wiltshire, more than 100,000 activity places and nutritious meals have been provided.

### **South Western Railway Safety Measures**

South Western Railway is expanding the use of body-worn video cameras for frontline staff, such as train guards and gateline assistants, to help tackle the rising incidents of assaults and abuse. Over two assaults per day have been recorded so far this year, and the number of reported incidents has doubled since 2020-21. A new poster campaign has been launched to warn potential offenders of the consequences, including possible criminal prosecution.

### **Road Conditions in Mere Area**

There have been several discussions about road conditions in the Mere area. West Knoyle, for example, has received a long stretch of resurfacing, which was overdue in my opinion. While some have noted it's not perfect, it is certainly a great improvement.

### **Fly-Tipping Enforcement in Wiltshire**

A couple from Swindon has been issued with fixed penalty notices (FPNs) totalling £3,000 after being caught on CCTV cameras fly-tipping in the Wiltshire Council area. Covert CCTV cameras, set up by Wiltshire Council's Environmental Enforcement team on a quiet rural road near Royal Wootton Bassett, captured the couple fly-tipping on two separate occasions. Wiltshire Council is actively pursuing fly-tippers across the county.

### **Dog Fouling Concerns**

I've been receiving an increasing number of complaints about dog fouling. By highlighting this issue again, I hope to send a strong message to curb the problem. However, any improvements in this area often seem to be short-lived.

### **Decline of Late-Night Venues**

New research from the Night Time Industries Association (NTIA), in collaboration with CGA by NIQ, shows that one in four late-night venues in the

# L C Hill & Son Funeral Directors

24hr service, Bereavement Advice, Floral Tributes,  
Private Chapels of Rest, Memorial Masonry,  
Prepaid Plans Available, Home Visits available on request

Call us for immediate support we are here to help 24hrs a day.

E: [Ichillandson@funeralpartners.co.uk](mailto:Ichillandson@funeralpartners.co.uk)

Water Street, Mere. 01747 860361

## 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](mailto:Mereforest@gmail.com)



## Heating Limited

### Plumbing & Heating

- Boiler service and repair
- Boiler replacement
- All aspects of plumbing
- Landlord certificates
- Complete bathrooms
- Drainage
- 24/7

**Scott Ward 01747 631 346**  
**07714 259 401**



Fully insured ~ Free estimates ~ Gas Safe

[info@wardheating.co.uk](mailto:info@wardheating.co.uk)

UK has closed since March 2020—resulting in a total loss of nearly 800 businesses. Gillingham once had such a venue. When I was younger, it was Carnaby in Yeovil. In Bath, it was Tiffany's. All gone. These venues were an important part of my youth, and I know they shaped the experiences of many of my contemporaries.

### **Robin Tanner Exhibition at The Young Gallery**

The Young Gallery in Salisbury is hosting an exhibition featuring a selection of plant studies by renowned artist and etcher Robin Tanner (1904–1988). The exhibition, free to visit from 19th September in Gallery 2, showcases Tanner's intricate studies of Wiltshire plants, an important part of his creative process, although he is best known for his etchings.

George Jeans 07710 441599 [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## **Historical Society**

The Society's Autumn programme continues in October with an evening talk on **Tuesday October 7th**, at 7.30pm by Dr. Francis Burroughes: "The man who rebuilt Wessex", the story of Benjamin Ferrey."

Members may remember Dr. Burroughes from April last year when he gave us an outstanding review of the story of glass, illustrated with many curios from his own collection. This time, it is the architecture of the western counties, especially its churches, that will be featured.

We welcome both current members, and non-members (for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door). All our talks are held in the Grove Building.

Peter Landymore, Chair: 228819

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](mailto:Treasurer4MM@Outlook.com)

## MERE SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

### FIRST AID AWARENESS & DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

By St Johns Ambulance

**TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2025 at 7 pm**

**UNITED REFORM CHURCH**

Please sign on at the surgery reception

Spaces are limited, so once the list is full there will be a reserve list and you will be contacted should a cancellation occur

---

## Community Support Shines at Annual Hatch House Open Garden

The much-loved Open Garden event at Hatch House, held on Saturday 6th September, welcomed hundreds of visitors, creating a vibrant atmosphere while supporting Salisbury Hospice Charity.

Through various activities the event raised over **£29,500**. This significant amount will contribute to the invaluable services provided by Salisbury Hospice, which offers compassionate care and support to patients and their families in the local community.



### FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Good quality care. Nails, Corns, Callus etc  
Tuesday at Mere Osteopathic Clinic or Home Visits

**Karen Lester** 📞 07939305369

## Mere School

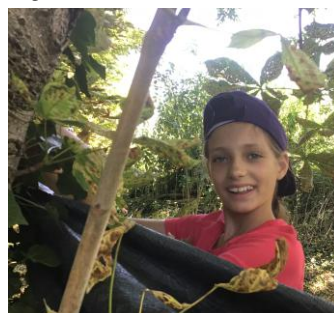
Our children all had a morning or afternoon of Forest School last term and a huge thank you to The Friends for funding this for us.



Forest School is a unique educational approach that uses natural environments, like woodlands, to facilitate learning. It's a child-centred, hands-on experience that fosters confidence, self-esteem and social skills through regular outdoor activities and exploration. The core idea is to build independence and resilience by allowing learners to engage with the natural world in a supported, risk-assessed way.

Mere Town Council kindly cleared an area of woodland at the edge of Duchy Manor Field for the children to work in and we were extremely lucky with the weather.

We are hoping that this will be a regular experience for our children which we will run 'in house' in future years.



Catrina Williamson

## Quinn Smashes his Target

Quinn walked 6 extra miles during July in the 35 miles for 35 years challenge for the Wiltshire and Bath Air ambulance

He smashed his target of £300 and actually raised a grand total of £600

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored Quinn, supported him and left some really lovely comments both on social media and when you have seen us!

On Friday the 22nd of August we were invited to the air ambulance base in Semington, unfortunately the helicopter was away having urgent repairs in London!

We did get to look around the base and we met the paramedics and one of the pilots!

Quinn absolutely loved seeing where all the action happens and more importantly seeing where the money that he raised is going.

The team at the air ambulance told us that..."the £600 pounds that Quinn has fundraised would completely cover the cost of two surgical drills for our critical care paramedics to use. So completely essential and life saving!"

So very proud of Quinn and all that he has achieved.

Ann-Marie (A Very Proud Mum)



## Walking in Mere

### **"Get Wiltshire Walking", Starter Walk:**

Every Wednesday there is a volunteer led, 40 minute gentle 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.

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 part at 2.00pm on Thursday 9th October and join me for a short walk of about 3 miles around our lanes and paths. Enjoy a refreshing cuppa afterwards and maybe indulge in a piece of Paul's delicious cake at The Angel Café.

Janet Way 860884

### **Mere Walking Group:**

Our next walk will be on Sunday 26th October, meeting at Salisbury Street car park for a 2.00pm departure, with car sharing to the start point. The walk will be approximately 4 miles. All are welcome to join in, dogs on leads please.

Dave and Wendy Drewett 07508 340105

Copy date for the **October 2025** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday 19th September**

Email contributions are preferred to: **[Editor4MM@Outlook.com](mailto:Editor4MM@Outlook.com)**  
or to Richard Jefferies 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU. Tel: 863425  
Please be sure to state your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.

## Mere Museum

Please do visit the Museum and have a look at the collection of photos which are on the boards. The ongoing task of putting names to faces and dates of events is progressing well but as we have over 6000 photos to check we do need the help of local residents. There are many residents with a long history in Mere who I would like to hear from who may be able to help with identifying people. So please do make contact.

The current exhibition has objects and photos covering a wide range of interest and will be on show for the next couple of months.

Don't forget if you are having a clear out the Museum would be interested in any items or photos relating to Mere.

I am currently updating the website with new information and photos, do take a look as our events are also posted online.

Rose Heesom Hon. Curator 07791 559 674



### Family and Community Learning

## Supporting My Teen With Wellbeing

Online Course



**Booking essential!**

- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

**Friday 14 November 10am - 12pm**

Booking closes Friday 7 November

## 1st Mere Brownies are recruiting!

1st Mere Brownies unit meet each Thursday evening from 6.15pm – 7.30pm at the Grove Building, Mere.

We run a diverse range of activities from craft to baking to yoga, pamper nights, woodwork classes as well as many visits from the likes of falconers, dog trainers, hairdressers and historians. We have parties, discos, cinema trips, as well as summer camps and various fun day trips. It is also a great way to meet other children from the local area.

If your daughter is interested in joining our pack and is aged between 7 – 10 years old, please register your interest on the Girl Guiding website:

[www.Girlguiding.org/joinus](http://www.Girlguiding.org/joinus).

Tor Reynolds [torhatton@hotmail.com](mailto:torhatton@hotmail.com)

## Mere Literary Festival - Bigger and Bolder than ever before!

Tickets have been on sale via our website since June and are going very fast!

One event has sold out already and others soon will be, with so many ticket buyers coming from distance away from Mere, including Bath, the New Forest and London! The reputation of this Festival is growing, so if you like the look of any of our 20 events, make sure you book your seats well in advance so not to lose out.

The last date for offline, cash-only ticket purchases will be during our launch event and **Grand Quiz on Monday 13th October in the Grove Building**.

Any tickets remaining will be available to purchase online via the website up to the day before the required event.

For a full breakdown of all our events, please visit: [mereliteraryfestival.com](http://mereliteraryfestival.com).

Wayne Stevens 07414 173673 [organiser@mereliteraryfestival.com](mailto:organiser@mereliteraryfestival.com)





Find us on Facebook



**HILL'S CHIMNEY**  
— SWEEPING —

**Call Tom on: 07725 354207**

[www.hillschimneysweeping.net](http://www.hillschimneysweeping.net)

[tom@hillschimneysweeping.net](mailto:tom@hillschimneysweeping.net)



All stoves, open fires, Rayburns & AGAs swept. Bird nest removal  
CCTV Inspections/Surveys. Smoke tests  
Chimney repairs & general masonry work. Cowl installation  
Fully insured



**Exclusive offers,  
excellent service and great choice.**

If you're looking for a New Kia, Used Car, Motability or Electric/Hybrid Kia we are looking forward to helping you with your search.

If it's a Service, MOT Test or Parts that you need, our team of helpful advisors can book you an appointment and answer any questions you may have.

**Remember, you can also visit our website,  
[www.fjchalke.co.uk](http://www.fjchalke.co.uk) or call our team on 01747 860244.**



**FJ Chalke**

Talbot Garage, Salisbury Street,  
Mere BA12 6HE



## Frank Legge Celebration Day Match Report

On Sunday 7th September, Mere Cricket Club proudly hosted the inaugural Frank Legge Celebration Day – a celebration of cricket, camaraderie, and our much-missed friend and long-serving (suffering) Umpire, Frank Legge, who passed away earlier this year.



The day began with rain hammering down, raising serious doubts about whether any of us would be playing cricket or simply learning to swim. Remarkably, not only did the weather relent, but we managed to squeeze in two matches – all in Frank's honour.

### Match One: The Young vs. The "Experienced"

The format of the day was The Hundred, with teams split between the under-30s (still with functioning knees) and the over-30s (armed with Deep Heat and excuses).

After a touching presentation of commemorative Frank Legge Caps and a minute's silence, the under-30s batted first. Things looked wobbly early on thanks to some sharp bowling from Sid Chatterjee, but the young guns soon found their rhythm. Kenton Ward (33\*), and Cam Heard (31\*) put on an impressive middle-order partnership, steering their side to 140-3.



The over-30s began brightly with Lawrence Yeo rolling back the years for an unbeaten 32. Sadly, the rest of the "experienced" line-up struggled to match the tempo. A spirited cameo from Kevin Whitmore (23\*) wasn't quite enough, and the golden oldies closed on 126-6. One-nil to the kids.

## Match Two: Revenge of the Elders?

The second game was shortened to 80 balls due to the rain delay, but the over-30s came out swinging – well, sort of. With a reversed batting order, Lewis Wood and Mike Ryan opened proceedings in what could only be described as "Mere CC: The 2012 Reunion Tour," albeit with slightly tighter shirts.

Mike Ryan, despite not having held a bat in six years, rediscovered his mojo in style, blasting a blistering 33\*. Contributions from the veterans saw them post a very respectable 103–4.

The under-30s also reversed their line-up, but captain Charlie Cassidy clearly had energy to burn. Cassidy (30\*) and Harry Bryson (34\*) delivered the power hitting, though Ryan wasn't done yet – rolling back the years again with the ball, taking 2–13 in a superb spell.

It all came down to the final over: elder brother Adam Standfield bowling to younger brother Ben, with the youngsters needing a single to win. Adam kept it tight, but Ben held his nerve and dispatched the final ball to the boundary. Cue cheers, jeers, and the smug satisfaction of youth. The under-30s claimed victory in both matches, officially retiring one or two creaking members of the opposition in the process.

The inaugural trophy was awarded to Mike Ryan for his all-round heroics with bat, ball, and in the field – not to mention his cross-country trek from London to Mere.

A huge thank you to umpires Tom White and David Heard, scorers Alison Heard and Steve Porter, and everyone who helped with teas, providing sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes, and the dreaded washing up.

Frank would surely have been proud. The day was played in wonderful spirit, full of laughs, friendly competition, and a fitting celebration of the game he loved.

Help us save printing costs by having Mere Matters delivered direct to your Inbox.

Register here: <http://eepurl.com/i44fBo> – its FREE.

## Mere Art Group

The Art Exhibition held on 6th September was a great success – Sunshine, a great attendance, a very successful Raffle created and managed by Sonia Knight, food and drinks managed by Alayne Churchill, and of course a wide diversity of paintings. Thanks for coming.

This month's Painting is by Mai Robert. It is an Oil-on-Canvas, completed at home, and is not for sale! Seen originally on a photo, and admired by the author, it was on display at The Exhibition.



Helge Brock [helgewallenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:helgewallenbrock@gmail.com)

## Mere Jelly

I recently came across a co-working group, who said that you would get more done in your morning of co-working with them than you would in a month of working by yourself. "Who wants



that?" I thought to myself. I want to be able to chat and connect with other people who live and work in my environment. I want to make friends as well as promote my business and what I do. Some members of the Mere Jelly do bring a device and get some work in, but I hope that they get more than just that by spending the morning with us. If this sounds good to you, come along and join us on the 29th October. We meet at The Brush and Broom at Hillbrush from 9 to noon. Come for the morning or just drop in for a chat over a coffee. Give me a call on 07956869699 to find out more, or read about the Mere Jelly here:

<https://sugarweb.co.uk/mere-networking/>

Jenni Bell 07956-869699

## Mere Bowls Club

Mere Bowls Club has had one of its most successful seasons ever, after last month reporting that we had won the Westbrook League Gala Day Shield we have now won both the Westbrook League Trophy and the Westbrook Harold Ford Cup.

The Harold Ford Cup was played on 11th September versus Amesbury



Bowls Club on the neutral green at Downton Bowls Club. We won on both rinks and overall, by 39 points to 29. The above trophies were presented by Steve Allen, the Chairman of the Westbrook League after the match.

On 13th September two of our club finals were played with Shaun Tealey winning both the 100-up cup against Richard Coombs and the Club 4-wood singles against George Savage.

The Banana Trophy was played on 16th September. This is the trophy for a match between the Tuesday and Friday Green-keeper's teams, it was won by the Friday team 5-3 and included a lot of banter, leg-pulling and general rule breaking as is usual.....

On the 18th September Jon Wright beat Shaun in the 2-wood singles 14-13. Jon took an early lead, Shaun fought back but Jon managed to hold on for the win.

On Sunday the 21st September the Aussie Pairs Trophy will be played followed by a barbeque after which the Club will close for the winter and will re-open next April

If you are interested in giving bowls a try, please contact John FitzGerald, our club secretary, for further information on 01747 860867 or via e-mail at:- [fitzgerald.jns@sky.com](mailto:fitzgerald.jns@sky.com)

Jon Wright [jon252@btinternet.com](mailto:jon252@btinternet.com)

## St. Michael the Archangel Church

We are holding a Table-Top Sale on Saturday 25th October from 10am – 12 noon in the Grove Building.

If you would like to book a table to sell your goods and crafts, please email the address below and you will be sent an application form.

Large Tables cost £12.00. Small table £ 6. Setting up will be from 9.00am

This event is for private sellers only and no dress rails or additional tables may be brought into the building.

Space is limited, so book your table now!

Ann Dethick [anndethick@aol.com](mailto:anndethick@aol.com) 863498

## 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. Or for more information please contact me.



Maggie Holmes [maggieholmes101@gmail.com](mailto:maggieholmes101@gmail.com)

*Feldenkrais Method™*

### **Heather Stone -Deep Tissue Massage**

A useful treatment for problems relating to:  
muscles – joints – movement – posture or  
simply for relaxation and wellbeing.

Practicing at Mere Osteopathy Clinic.

**Heather: 07874 079 913**

*Experience what Deep Tissue Massage and the  
Feldenkrais Method™ can do for you*

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

Venue Key:

AYP - Andy Young Pav	BS - Butt of Sherry	Drs - Surgery
GB - Grove Building	L - Lecture Hall	Lib - Library
MSC - Social Club	RMC - Castle St Car Park	SCP - Salisbury Street Car Park
StM - St Michaels Church	URC - United Ref Church	VH - Visit Hillbrush
WT - Walnut Tree Inn		

1	Weds	09:00	<b>Chair Yoga</b> (every Weds)	L
		09:30	<b>Tai-Chi</b> (every Weds)	GB
		10:00	<b>Get Wiltshire Walking (GWW - every Weds)</b>	SCP
		14:00	<b>Pilates</b> (every Weds)	L
		18:30	<b>Karate</b> (every Weds)	L
		19:30	Move Her Ignite	GB
			<b>Railway Modellers</b> (every Weds)	RMC
2	Thurs	09:00	<b>Walking Zumba</b> (every Thurs)	L
		10:00	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	URC
		10:30	<b>Harmony 4 Health</b> (every Thurs)	L
		11:00	<b>Rhyme Time</b> (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	<b>Rubber Bridge</b> (every Thurs)	L
		17:15	<b>Girlguiding</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		19:00	<b>MADS</b> (every Thurs)	L
		19:30	<b>Shreen Harmony</b> (every Thurs)	URC
3	Fri	14:00	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (every Fri)	GB
4	Sat		Mere Literary Festival	L
		14:30	<b>Croquet</b> (every Sat)	Steep Street
			<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
5	Sun	14:30	<b>Croquet</b> (every Sun)	Steep Street
		15:00	Phoenix Café Orchestra	StM
6	Mon	09:15	<b>Pilates</b> (every Mon)	GB
		09:30	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon)	L
		16:00	Keep a Beat	L
		17:45	<b>Yoga</b> (every Mon)	L
		18:00	<b>Scouting</b> (every Mon)	GB
7	Tues	09:00	<b>Little Angels</b> (every Tues)	GB
		09:00	Keep a Beat	L
		18:20	<b>Zumba</b> (every Tues)	L
		19:00	Historical Society	GB
		19:00	<b>MADS</b> (every Tues)	L
8	Weds	18:45	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, RM</i>	
9	Thurs	14:00	Short Walk (J. Way)	SCP
		19:30	Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
			<i>Zumba, Rhyme T', Bridge, Art, Shreen Harmony, MADS, H4H, Guiding</i>	
10	Fri	10.00	Merely Women	GB

		18:30	Mere on Film Bridge	GB
11	Sat		Tabletop Sale Coffee Morning, Croquet	GB
12	Sun		Croquet	
13	Mon	08:00	Literary Festival (all week) Pilates, T&T, Yoga, Scouts	GB
14	Tues	09:00	Keep a Beat Lit Fest, Zumba, MADS	L
15	Weds		Li Fest, GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, RM	
16	Thurs		Li Fest, Rhyme Time, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, MADS, H4H	
17	Fri		Lit Fest, Bridge	
18	Sat		Fair Trade Stall Lit Fest, Coffee Morning, Croquet	URC
19	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service Lit Fest, Croquet	StM
20	Mon		Pilates, T&T, Yoga, Scouts	
21	Tues	19:30	Full Body Function for Women Little Angels, Zumba, MADS	GB
22	Weds		Yapps Wine Tasting GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Ti-Chi, RM	GB
23	Thurs	09:00	Keep a Beat Rhyme Time, Bridge, Art, Shreen Harmony, MADS, H4H, Guiding	L
24	Fri	10.00 18:00	Merely Women Cine Club Film Night Bridge	GB GB
25	Sat		Tabletop Sale Coffee Morning, Croquet	GB
26	Sun	14:00	Mere Walking Group Croquet	SCP
27	Mon		Pilates, T&T, Yoga, Scouts	
28	Tues		Little Angels, Zumba, MADS, FBF	
29	Weds	09:00 14:00	Keep a Beat Pennybank Writers GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, RM	L L
30	Thurs		Zumba, Rhyme Time, Bridge, Art, Shreen Harmony, MADS, H4H	
31	Fri		Bridge	

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

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](mailto:Media4MM@Outlook.com) 07833-686742

## 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](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Harvest Festival
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
21 <sup>st</sup>	Tues	10.30	Roman Catholic Mass
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	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

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09.30	DIY Service
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Communion

## The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence 07403-845711 [elainelaurence57@gmail.com](mailto:elainelaurence57@gmail.com)

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBA
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBA
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBA
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBA

## The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

Parish Office: 01963-34408 [hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com](mailto:hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com)

St Mary's has closed and weekend Masses are on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday at 11:00am and take place at SS Luke and Teresa, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Mass at St Michael the Archangel is usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am.

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

John FitzGerald 860867

## 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](http://merewilts.org)

## Mere Library

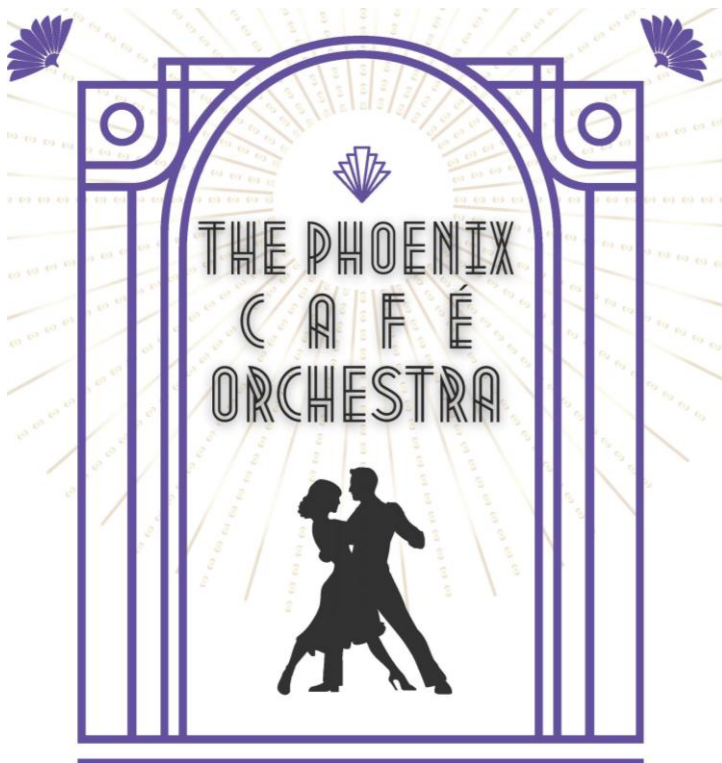
Monday:	10:00 – 14:00* and 14:00 – 19:00
Tuesday:	09:30 – 17:00
Wednesday:	10:00 – 13:00*
Thursday:	09:30 – 17:00
Friday:	09:30 – 17:00
Saturday:	09:30 – 13:00

\* Volunteer operated opening hours.

Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant 860546

## Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	<a href="mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk">administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk</a>	07942 291266
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	07403-845711



SUNDAY OCT 5TH | 3PM

Join us for tea and cake as The Phoenix Café Orchestra whisk us back to the sounds of the 20's and 30's!

Local musicians led by the brilliant David Grierson.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the musicians & the Friends of St. Michael.



FRIENDS OF  
**ST. MICHAEL'S**  
CHURCH  
*concerts*



CHURCH OF  
**St. Michael**  
THE ARCHANGEL IN MERE

Please also note there will be a concert on **Thursday 6th November** at 7pm when Andrew Rumsey Bishop of Ramsbury will perform some of his folk songs. Further details to follow next month.

## Mere Gardening Club

We held our Annual Horticultural Show on Sunday 7th September in the Grove Building and it turned out to be a great success. Many thanks to all the exhibitors who entered and made the hall resplendent with all the vegetables, flowers, homecraft and photos.

The winner of the R.H.S. Banksian Medal and certificate for most points in the show was Holly Baker and the potato growing competition was won by Kath Harrison who received a voucher from Castle Gardens, Sherborne. Photos of the day can be seen on the website.



My thanks must go to all the committee who put in a lot of hard work and effort to make the show the success it was. The judges passed on comments about the quality of the exhibits.



Our meeting on Wednesday 8th October will be our members forum sharing successes and tips with each other. This will be held in the Grove Building with refreshments from 19.00 with the meeting starting at 19.30. Membership is available at £12.00 per year for all meetings along with discounts at Plant World and Sherborne Castle Gardens. This year we have just

joined the Thompson and Morgan group discount scheme providing a discount of 50% on all seeds and 20% off sundries.

Les Manwaring Club Chair [lesmanwaring@yahoo.com](mailto:lesmanwaring@yahoo.com)



## Valley Forge East Knoyle

**We can help with your metalwork needs**

Get in touch  
**Tel: 07870 155775**  
**email: valleyforge.ek@gmail.com**  
**@valleyforge.ek**

Workshop & Showroom  
**The Street, East Knoyle, SP3 6AJ**





- ✓ Gutter wash
- ✓ Patios and driveways
- ✓ External walls
- ✓ Solar panel cleaning
- ✓ Claddings and signs
- ✓ Conservatories

☎ 07739 189 180  
 ✉ sunlightwindow8@gmail.com  
 🌐 sunlightcleaning.co.uk

**SPECIAL OFFER** ➤ Receive a **free window clean** when you order a gutter clear and fascia soffit gutter wash



**Anne Freeman**  
 Local, Reputable,  
 Honest &  
 Approachable.  
 Free No Obligation  
 Valuations and Impartial  
 Advice

**01747 356176**  
 Find us on Facebook

amuletresidential@gmail.com





**Ear Wax Removal in the comfort of your own home or at one of our conveniently located clinics.**

**07544 857 560**  
[enquiries@nowaxear.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nowaxear.co.uk)  
[www.thenowaxearcompany.co.uk](http://www.thenowaxearcompany.co.uk)



**We are a local dental practice, and our aim is to provide a comprehensive range of high quality dental prevention and treatment in relaxed and friendly surroundings.**

**We offer a wide range of treatments**

✓ General Dentistry   ✓ Dental Implants   ✓ Crowns & Bridges  
 ✓ Dentures   ✓ Teeth Whitening   ✓ Oral Surgery   ✓ Invisalign  
 ✓ Complex Restorative Dentistry   ✓ Root Canal Treatments

**Included in our new private patient exam:**

• Full Examination   • Dental Advice   • Oral Cancer Check  
 • Intraoral Scan   • Full Dental Charting   • X-Rays

**CONTACT US: Phone: 01747 860365 Email: [contact@meredentistry.co.uk](mailto:contact@meredentistry.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.meredentistry.co.uk](http://www.meredentistry.co.uk) Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. BA12 6EW**

## Mere Autumn Fair & Family Fun Day

This has become a regular yearly event in Mere. Bands musicians and performers, Kiddies Activity, bar, hot food, stalls, raffle, tombola, cafe and cakes and more took place at Mere Social Club all day on Saturday, 6th September. Fundraising in support of **Salisbury District Hospital Charity Stars Appeal for the Neonatal Unit**. It was it was a very pleasant early autumn day. Many attended. Local Caricaturist Wayne Savage seen in the photo, had steady business. A good time was had by all. A "catch up" was had by many. Music provided by several performers, including Jack Manning and Tasha Gray.

When a baby is born prematurely or critically ill at Salisbury Hospital, the Stars Appeal will offer that baby's parents free, en-suite accommodation right next to where their newborn is receiving life-saving care.

"This is exactly why I do, what I do!

Providing help not only for babies, but for parents & family members too. Making a difficult and an uncertain situation on all levels, a little easier to process and to HELP with the motions of this journey during (and after) the NICU stay."



Louise Padfield [padders8@hotmail.com](mailto:padders8@hotmail.com)

## St Micheal's Church Tower Tours

If you would like a challenging climb to the top of St Michael's tower visiting the bell ringing room, clock room, belfry and taking in panoramic views from the top with experienced guides in attendance please contact me to arrange a time and I will endeavour to appoint you an expert guide. Please use the same contact if you would be interested to learn the gentle art of bell ringing.

Margaret Durkee 860163 [margaretdurkee5@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdurkee5@gmail.com)

## GMS Lions

A great evening was enjoyed at The Royal Chase Hotel in Shaftesbury, celebrating the 46th Charter Anniversary with President Andrew (Andrew Snell), District Governor Dianne, and fellow Lions Clubs and friends. Andrew is seen welcoming guest in the attached photo. Invited Councillors from Mere, Gillingham and Shaftesbury were also present with many others including Rotary and Gillingham Town Twinning Association.



Celebrating 46 Years of GMS (Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury) Lions, started in 1979 when Cliff Moulis was President, now 46 years later Andrew Snell is the President for the following year of 2025 to 26. Fun, laughter, and friendship was enjoyed by all. President Andrew had plenty of



tasks to take on including a special "This Is Your Life" game! He was shown different photos and had to remember where and when they were taken. For every correct answer, £20 was donated to the Air Ambulance. With a little help from his wife Margaret, a great £200 was raised! GMS Lions have worked tirelessly to raise money for good causes. Four of its members over the years have been honoured with the Melvin Jones Honour, which is a very high honour. The toastmaster for the evening was Lion Martin Wingrove of GMS Lions Club. The evening continued with a lively game of Jenga with DG Dianne (lots of concentration and plenty of laughter!), a quiz, and a raffle full of prizes, including Bad Co the Lion, picture attached.

George Jeans

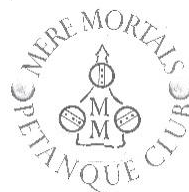
## Fair Trade in Mere

I have the Christmas Card leaflets now if you would like to order them early!

Janet Way 860884 [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

## Mere Mortals Petanque Club

Mere Mortals finished the summer in a blaze of glory. Tisbury Tossers unexpectedly lost their last two matches, therefore making MM Nadder Division champions for the first time. On a wet finals day at Broad Chalke, Colin & Anne Senneck won the League Doubles for the third year running and together with Geoff Troman won the League Triples for the first time. Club sessions continue on Tuesday evenings from 6pm (until the clocks change). Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm and Saturday mornings from 10.30am. New comers are always welcome, kit and help freely given. Fun time guaranteed.



Colin Senneck 706008 [colin2423@sky.com](mailto:colin2423@sky.com)



As we move into Autumn, Mere Day Centre will be having a bit of a rest as we will be closing during October and November while Sandie Hawkins, our Centre Manager is on post-operative sick leave. For those who have already received notice of this, please note the change of date, as Sandie's surgery has been moved forward from October 18th to October 1st. We will now be closed from then until our re-opening on Monday December 1st.

Please note that this is not related to the possibility of permanent closure, about which I wrote last month. This unhappy event would be the result of a lack of trustees, but if our recruitment drive bears fruit, it will not be necessary, and we can move forward into a bright new year.

If you would like to know more about the various volunteering opportunities (including becoming a trustee) at our lively and friendly centre do have a look at our web-site ([www.meredaycentre.org.uk](http://www.meredaycentre.org.uk)) and contact me, Jane Mason.

Jane Mason 861296 [chair@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:chair@meredaycentre.org.uk)



# is Cancelled for 2025

## WE NEED SUPPORT FOR 2026

CHAIR PERSON:	Overall co-ordination for the Proceedings
Public Relations:	For advertising, Funding, Sponsorships, Website, Social Media
Road Manager:	Organise road closure & road signs
Ticket Manager:	Obtain sponsorship and manage Golden ticket sales
Entertainment :	To organise fund raising events such as Bingo, Quiz, etc...
Helpers:	Support For all the Positions

### Please Contact:

The Vice-Chair, David Hytch at: [d.hytch@btinternet.com](mailto:d.hytch@btinternet.com)

Or the Treasurer, Michel Rousseau at: [treasurer@merecarnival.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@merecarnival.co.uk)

**YOU CAN ENJOY THE CARNIVAL AGAIN!**

**It has been a Tradition Since 1932**

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month

Next at 7:30pm at the Walnut Tree, Mere October 7<sup>th</sup>

## From Times Gone By!

*Doctor Fothergill's Tonic Female Pills.* These pills have been in the Public estimation for a very considerable time, and are particularly recommended in general Debility of the Constitution, also as a safe and excellent remedy in those periodical irregularities which females, of delicate and languid circulation, more especially the younger, are liable to.

*Devizes and Wilts Gazette, 21 April 1825*

On the 14th inst. An inquest was held at Bourton, Dorset, by Mr. Bell, Coroner, upon the body of Thomas Ryall. It appeared that the deceased had suffered much from rheumatism, and to obtain sleep he took some pills which were offered to him by a stranger whom he accidentally met on the turnpike road. Soon after he had swallowed the pills, he went into a neighbour's cottage, where he had not been a quarter of an hour before he felt very drowsy, and attempted to go home, but was unable to do so without assistance. When Ryall got home, the person with whom he lodged became alarmed, and sent an express for Mr. Newman, Mere, his medical attendant, who arrived shortly after but found the deceased in a state of insensibility which baffled every attempt to relieve him, and he died in the course of the evening. In giving his evidence, Mr. Newman expressed his belief that the deceased died from the effects of some narcotic poison, and adjournment of the inquest was proposed, in order that the body might undergo a post-mortem examination – the result of which proved that the deceased had swallowed a large quantity of opium and the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter. A warrant was immediately issued by the Coroner for the apprehension of the individual who gave the deceased the pills, and it hoped that he will be brought to punishment for his offence.

*Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 22 October 1842*

Martyn Beardsley

## Mere Amateur Dramatics

Performances start at 7.30pm with doors opening 6.45pm @ Mere Lecture Hall.

Wednesday **19th November**, Thursday 20th November

Friday 21st November, Saturday 22nd November

Tickets will be on sale at the Sprout & Flower and Angel Tea Rooms at the price of £10 per ticket.

To avoid disappointment, advanced purchase advised.

We look forward to seeing you all! Any questions or queries please do not hesitate to give us a message

Holly Robert on behalf of MADS- 07801901912

## Mere Theatre Club

We've just completed an enjoyable outing to Wilton House with an excellent guided tour and a pretty good lunch! In October we're off to Bournemouth to the Art Deco Pavilion Theatre to see a comedy. This will be followed in November by a trip to Bath to see a well-known drama.

The winter programme should be out during October so if you'd like to join us and get out and about a bit, do get in touch, details below.

Madeline Morris 07482 555101. [madsmorris@gmail.com](mailto:madsmorris@gmail.com)

## Woolley & Wallis

*matching people & property since 1884*

- Residential Sales & Lettings
- Surveys & Valuations • Auctions
- Farm & Rural • Commercial
- Planning & Development

**Mere 01747 860372 | Shaftesbury 01747 852242**



[w-w.co.uk](http://w-w.co.uk)

## Mere Carnival Committee

A big thank you to those who contacted us to offer their support. At the committee meeting in September, we were able to appoint a Secretary, Ros Kellow, and the Procession Organiser, Rachel Mead. These are critical jobs to make things happen and we are looking forward to delivering a range of Carnival focussed activities before next year's main event. Due to previous engagements some new volunteers were unable to attend the meeting and we look forward to seeing them at the next meeting. We still need volunteers to fill the roles of Chairperson, Marketing and Public Relations, Entertainment and ticket manager. In addition, there is always a way for volunteers to be involved or perhaps in the case of the Christmas Lights, helpers for Father Christmas' grotto.



We have Father Christmas booked for the Christmas Lights switch on and are working with the Council to fix the date and organise the other activities. Planning the Grotto to make him comfortable is progressing and we will share the timing and dates next time. As in previous years this will centre around the Clock Tower and the Town centre area.

To enable the Carnival to take place we will be organising a range of fund-raising activities over the next 6 months. This funding pays for the Insurance, various permits for road closures, street food, music, first aid services, stewards on the road barriers, and although some of that will come from the event itself and the trades taking stalls on the day, upfront costs are not insignificant in the known increases in prices. We are planning at least one Quiz night, a bingo night (if we can find a good caller) and open for other ideas.

The advert for Volunteers is in this edition and contains the details to contact if you can support us with your time. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, David Hytch, at [d.hytch@btinternet.com](mailto:d.hytch@btinternet.com)

The appointment of Ros and Rachel has been a huge boost to our ambition to make sure that Mere and the villages around have a Carnival to be proud of in September 2026. The next committee meeting is on the **7th of October** 2025 at 7.30pm in the Walnut Tree Inn, Mere, and you are welcome to come along and discuss your supporting the Carnival.

David Hytch



## Fern Brook Lodge

A Care South home for  
residential and dementia care



# Your trusted local care home in the heart of your community



CQC rating

**Good**

February 2022

**Fern Brook Lane | Gillingham | SP8 4QD**  
**01747 449812 | [care-south.co.uk](https://care-south.co.uk)**

Proud to be part of Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia and nursing care, as well as care at home services across the south of England.

Registered Charity No. 1014697. \* Correct at time of print.

**Care  
South**

*It's the care that counts...*

## Merekits - Women's Institute

What a wonderful summer we have all had with so many activities happening, including learning to play croquet, different walks, garden tours, an Italian evening meal and some good books to read. At our September meeting we learnt Greek dancing from the talented Yannis. It was an hilarious evening which was enjoyed by all.

Our October meeting will be on **Wednesday 16th October**, we will be holding it this time at the Mere Social Club as it is at the same time as the literary festival. We will be having a social gathering, a round of skittles and some board games. It will start at 7pm and finish at 9pm. Keep your eyes open on the Mere Motters Facebook page to find out more.

On **Saturday 18th October** Merekits will be supporting the Mere Literary Festival committee to offer a very special and innovative event to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen with a sumptuous, Regency inspired Afternoon Tea! The event will be held in the Grove Building, and we will be providing the catering in true regency style, in costume and with properly dressed tables and vintage tableware. There will be beautiful floral arrangements provided by Wrens Flowers and Floral Footprints and a fascinating talk from renowned Austen Author, Helena Kelly, it is a strictly, ticketed event limited to 60 places only, so early booking is advised. For more information about the event contact the Festival Director, Wayne Stevens by email on [organiser@mereliteraryfestival.com](mailto:organiser@mereliteraryfestival.com)

If you are interested to know more about Merekits and would like to meet new people and friends, our regular meeting is on the third Wednesday of each month in the Grove Building from 7pm to 9pm. As above we offer a varied programme of events throughout the year including talks, activities and demonstrations along with numerous subgroups which you can join and become involved in.

Verena Cooper 07971-790256 [verenacooper2@gmail.com](mailto:verenacooper2@gmail.com)

## Mere Social Club

September has been the start of the skittles season and many returning faces walked through our doors to kick off the season with the first games. Some of them were a little rusty, their words not ours, but it always nice to have a laugh with veteran customers as well as new faces!

A reminder to all that we are open to anyone, members or non-members, new faces or returning faces, four legs or two! Our new bar Pool table has been going down well, with some slight adjustments – guided by our loyal pool players – and we would like to let everyone know that even with

the skittle season being underway the club is still open, and now accessible with Pool even when skittle matches are being played!

Our dart boards have now got a steady flow of people enjoying them and even a very generous donation by one customer of some darts!

As many if you know, our lovely Bar Steward Elaine is leaving us for a well-deserved retirement! All on the committee would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the hard work that Elaine has shown over the years and her continued support to the club and community of Mere. She has been an asset and her replacement will have big boots to fill!"

Sarah Martin [sarah.martin36@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.martin36@btinternet.com)

LICENSING ACT 2003	
APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE (Section 17 of the Act)	
Name of Applicant:	Mere Social Club
Postal address of premises:	White Road Mere BA12 6ET
The application, if granted, is to enable the following licensable activities on the Premise Licence:	
<b>This application is for both a Premises Licence and Club Certificate.</b> All activities listed are Sunday to Thursday 0800-0000, Friday & Saturday 0800-0100:	
(a) Plays (b) Films (c) Indoor Sporting Events (d) Boxing or wrestling entertainment (e) Live music (f) Recorded music (g) Performance of dance (h) Anything of a similar description to: <u>e,f,g</u> above (i) Sale of alcohol (on and off premises)	
A copy of the application may be inspected by visiting <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/licences-permits-new-premises-applications">https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/licences-permits-new-premises-applications</a> or by emailing <a href="mailto:publicprotectionnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk">publicprotectionnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk</a>	
Any representations by a Responsible Authority/Interested Party or other persons must be received in writing within 28 days of this notice, by email to <a href="mailto:publicprotectionnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk">publicprotectionnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> or by writing to The Licensing Authority, Wiltshire Council, Public Protection, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN.	
Date of Notice	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025
End of Consultation	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application, punishable on summary conviction with an unlimited fine.	

## Mere & District Link Scheme

In case you are new to the area, the Link Scheme is a charity whose volunteer drivers take people from Mere and the surrounding villages to medical and welfare appointments. We are not a taxi service! 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.

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.

We had a busier than normal August with 121 trips. Our volunteer drivers choose when they want to drive and to where they want to go and receive 45p/mile to cover the additional costs of using their own car. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

With the Christmas and New Year holidays on the horizon we are happy to confirm that the Link will continue to take people to medical appointments over the holiday period. However, please note that our phone will not be "manned" on 24, 25, 26, 31 December 2025 and 1 and 2 January 2026. If you have a medical appointment between these dates, please let us know by **Friday 20 December**, if at all possible, to give us the best chance of getting you a driver.

John FitzGerald Chair 860096  [merelink.org.uk](https://merelink.org.uk)

## Letter from the Churches

What a summer we have had, wouldn't you agree? Week upon week of sunshine, lovely weather for the beach, or woodland walks, amazing to be able to attend local events so ably put on by so many and not get wet, to have a Great British summer! However, for nature, which had no option to pour a nice cold drink in the shade, it has been really tough. The grass died, trees dropped branches and leaves early as a

stress response, cracks appeared in the fields with some in the Vicarage garden over 4 feet deep. I got quite worried about the plants. Many of you worked really hard to save your allotments, vegetable patches and gardens. Our farmers have struggled to provide enough grazing for livestock and the wheat harvest came early, with yields really varied, dependent upon whether there was any nearby underground water source, of which we are blessed to have under the Downs.

What I have been amazed about is, despite the intensely dry weather, there has been an abundance of fruit! Hedgerows were full of blackberries and sloes, huge amounts of apples, plums and other fruits growing, something I wouldn't think possible given the drought. But it seems, somehow, that the dry weather spurred the trees on to produce lots of good fruit. If their roots were deep enough, they could reach a source of water that the sun could not touch, and use the sun to be fruitful.

In the Bible, in chapter 17 of Jeremiah, it says this:

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

In our lives, we often go through real periods of difficulty, maybe loss of loved ones, physical pain or illness, loss of relationships and times of intense stress. We may feel really scorched by it, like we are withering up inside, intensely suffering through the heat of our circumstances. But if we turn to God in these times, if we choose to trust in Jesus Christ despite our situation, if we put our roots down deep through prayer into the source of Living Water, we will always be ok. We need not fear difficulty, our leaves will not wither, in fact we can use our hard times to help us to grow and our lives to bear more and sweeter fruit.

As our churches hold harvest services to give thanks for our wonderful farmers and the bountiful harvest, my prayer for all of us is that we turn to the God who provided it for us and find in Him all we need to go through the hardest of times and emerge fruitful.

May God bless you all!

Revd. Michael Molano



## Family and Community Learning

### Understanding School Anxiety

#### Early Signs of Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Online Course  
Co-taught with education psychologist



Booking essential!  
Booking closes  
one week before  
course date

#### What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance?

- Strategies to support with anxiety and worry
- Strategies to support attendance
- Advice on reasonable adjustments that schools can make

Thursday 2 October 10am - 12pm or  
Friday 28 November 10am - 12pm

Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>  
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478  
or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August this academic year; they must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council



## Family and Community Learning

### Supporting My Teen to Understand Their Skills Online Course



Booking  
essential!

- Support your teenager to recognise their unique contribution
- Develop communication skills that nourish your teenager
- Appraise skills, interests and personal qualities with your teenager
- Explore how to nurture resilience and independence
- Support your teenager to use their strengths to plan for their future

Friday 7 November 10am - 12pm


Booking closes Friday 31 October

Contact [familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>  
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478  
or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August this academic year; they must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council



Hi there,  
It's Hully the Elf! I hope its not too early...  
I've snuck out to let you in on a little  
secret... Something festive is coming to The  
Brush and Broom Restaurant.  
Keep an eye out for our upcoming  
Christmas festivities!

See you soon,  
Hully



THE  
BRUSH & BROOM  
RESTAURANT



# Teeandee Productions

Web Design  
Web Hosting  
Domains

**Tim Cook**  
**mobile: 07790 113621**  
**[www.teeandeeproductions.com](http://www.teeandeeproductions.com)**