

Mere atters

... along with all our Neighbours

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September 2025

Your community magazine
including a diary of local events

Important Update from Mere Dentistry



Mere Dentistry would like to share some important news with our local community regarding changes to the services we provide.

After much thought and careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to cease offering adult NHS dental care from December 1st, 2025. This decision has not been taken lightly, but reflects the growing challenges faced by NHS dentistry across the country.

Please rest assured, we will continue to see children under the age of 18 under the NHS, and their care remains a priority.

We are incredibly grateful to all our NHS patients for their loyalty and trust over the years. It has been a genuine privilege to care for you, and we value the relationships that have been built within our community.

While this change marks the end of one chapter, it also signals the beginning of an exciting new one. We are now offering private dental care, designed to provide even more personalised attention and comfort for our patients. Our private care services will offer:

- Longer, more relaxed appointments
- Greater flexibility with scheduling
- A wider choice of treatments
- Continuity and consistency in high-quality, individual care

We want to assure all our patients that our dedication to your dental health remains unwavering. Whether you are an existing patient or new to the practice, we are here to support you every step of the way through this transition. If you would like to enquire further about NHS dental services, please visit www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist

If you have any questions or would like to explore the private care options available, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We're happy to help you find the best plan to suit your needs and ensure you continue to feel welcome and well cared for at Mere Dentistry.

Contact Us:

📞 Phone: 01747 860365 📧 Email: contact@meredentistry.co.uk

📍 Mere Dentistry, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

🌐 Website: www.meredentistry.co.uk

Thank you once again for being part of our dental family. We look forward to continuing to serve the community with the same warmth, professionalism, and commitment that you've come to expect from us.

With warm regards,

The Team at Mere Dentistry

The Editor Writes

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their photos for future front cover consideration. Do please keep them coming – upright (portrait please). Who knows, it could be yours on the next edition.

Thanks to Brenda Martin for her copy.

To all those who devote many hours to organising life in Mere, many thanks for your contributions for publication and for all you do.

Richard Jefferies 863425 editor@merematters.co.uk

Those planning to visit The Art Exhibition on 6 September, please be advised that The Art Group has surrendered the last hour for a Kiddies Birthday Party. So please come between 10.00am and 3.00 pm

Mere Town Council

July and August has certainly been busy in Mere Town and our office.

Eric Mitchell Way: To bring you the latest news, a meeting has taken place to identify what the hold-ups are that need to be completed on the Eric Mitchell Way and I am pleased to say we are on target to have the lights working by the change of clocks at the end of October 2025.

Police Station: Mere Police station has now been closed, unfortunately we were unaware of this action until it was closed. This will now be replaced with drop-in days to a police van at the Fire Station. Please keep your eye out on social media for dates in Mere.

Police and Crimestoppers: I have had an opportunity to meet with the Sergeant for our area to highlight issues that I have been approached with by the community; from here we will be building a better relationship to communicate the safety for our community. It is quite often that crime is not reported due to fear of the consequences of the perpetrator. I have spent time with Crimestoppers and Fearless to understand the process of reporting crime anonymously. I do have a little more work to do, though I will start to place information around the

town via posters and leaflets. Please keep an eye out, if we report crimes then we can make a difference in stopping it. I hope in the future to arrange informational presentations from the police and Crimestoppers for anyone who wants not only to gain more information but also to get involved in spreading the education of the great work the police, Crimestoppers and Fearless do.

Beaumont Building: We received the Reserved Matters planning application for the development of the old Beaumont's Business Centre in Woodlands Road during July and held a meeting in August in order to consider this. As outline planning permission for the erection of 70 houses had already been approved, the Town Council felt able to support the application for 58 houses that had been submitted by the new owners of the site, Redcliffe Homes. The 58 homes will be a mix of housing with 41 mixed dwellings to go on the open market and 17 mixed dwellings as affordable homes (either rented through a housing association or shared equity).

Mere Cemetery Buddies: I would like to announce that Cllr Mead has organised a group of volunteers to support the Town Council's grounds staff in caring for the cemetery. I look forward to seeing the progress of this teamwork. Cllr Mead would be happy to include any volunteers that wish to help. He will be starting this project on August 26th at 11am. Please feel free to go and have a chat with him or contact Lindsey Wood.

Seeds4Success: Cllr. Rod Coward met with Jaki Farrell from Seeds4Success up on Castle Hill and Long Hill to assess scrub clearance work that the youth can help with. Jaki's youth team have been working hard and have achieved a lot of scrub removal. We are very fortunate to have Jaki and Seeds4Success. These young people work hard which gives a sound foundation for future employment.

WELL DONE all of you.

Recreation Ground: Living so close to the Recreation Ground, I wanted to say how great it is to see all the activities buzzing, Tennis, Football, Seeds4Success, families enjoying the lovely weather having picnics while the children enjoy the skatepark and play area.

Dog fouling: Having spent time wandering around Mere, I have been pleased to see a reduction in fouling in the areas I have been, such as Dark Lane. As a dog owner myself I thank each and every other dog owner that picks up after their

dogs, to the few that don't, please be more mindful of our lovely town and keep it clear of mess.

Training: I am now 4 months into the role of Chair of the Mere Town Council, and I am enjoying learning and building relationships in areas to be the best I can for our community. This has been made possible by the knowledge of current councillors and thanks to George Jeans for answering my constant phone calls and questions. But a big shout out to Lindsey Wood our very knowledgeable Clerk who always points me in the right direction and makes sure I have access to any training to enhance my role to serve the community.

Halloween: Halloween is fast approaching. Halloween is always popular in Mere and we would like to have a Halloween event this year. Please volunteer to help so that we can make this event as creative, fun and scary for all ages – we really want to hear your ideas. If you are keen to get involved, please either send me an email: sandracatley@hotmail.co.uk or phone: 07975558102.

Foodbank: I have asked Anne Rich to give a little feedback on what has been happening with the Foodbank – Anne thank you for all the hard work that you and your team do: Within one busy week in August, the kind hearted people of Mere, Kilmington and Bourton were able to help two families in the town, with donations of many pieces of furniture, bedding, towels, toys and various other things. The voluntary help of local businesses to transport these items was also invaluable. Mere Toddlers Foodbank and Mere Forest Charity are very grateful for the assistance, as are the families involved who were overwhelmed by such generosity.

Vice Chair Rachael Hansford attended the Area Board meeting on my behalf and her feedback and comments are as follows.

What is an Area Board?

The South West Wiltshire Area Board is one of 18 Area Boards set up by Wiltshire Council to connect them more closely with local communities. South West Wiltshire covers places like Mere, Tisbury and Wilton.

Quarterly Area Board meetings are a chance for Wiltshire Councillors to tell Wiltshire Council about the key problems and opportunities in their areas, and to keep up to date with what is going on in Wiltshire as a whole. Contd page 7



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Entry: Adults £5 | Children £2



www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk

What was discussed at the 16th July meeting?

Policing: There was an update from the local neighbourhood policing team. They highlighted a successful operation in Mere in July which prevented a daytime robbery at Quarryfields industrial estate – thanks to a member of the public who called police, and the rapid response of several police vehicles. One man was arrested, but five others got away. The first police officers on the scene were luckily in Gillingham already but George Jeans reinforced that since police response has moved recently from Warminster to Trowbridge, response times will only get worse. We were glad to hear that the local PCSO would be returning from an extended sick leave.


Funding: The Area Board gives grants of up to £5000 to support local projects/events in our community. For more information, contact Karen Linaker, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Manager, Karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk or speak to George Jeans or any town councillor.

Support for vulnerable people: The meeting heard about the Shared Lives project. This is an adult social care scheme supporting vulnerable adults in the homes of trained carers rather than in institutions, either short or long term. See <https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/1366> Alzheimer's Support spoke about the services they offer, like a one hour 'understanding dementia' workshop. If you need help or want to volunteer, email AnnieC@alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk or call 01985 624005.

New Mere bus service: A new demand-led transport service is coming to Mere from **1st September**. It's a bus which can be booked via an app/phone up to half an hour before you need to travel, and has no fixed routes – it will take you where you need to go in the area. Visit Wiltshireconnect.co.uk or call 01225 712900 to book. See <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/south-west-wiltshire-mere-warminster/> for more information.

Free Event: Harmony for Health takes place on 25th September, 11am–2pm at the Lecture Hall. You can sing, have a light lunch and find out what else is available in Mere to keep you healthy and well. Call Karen on 01722 434697 for more information.

Sandra Catley, Chair, Mere Town Council

for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
lindseywood@merewilts.org 860701  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

At full council a fairly rare event took place at full council on the 22nd July, 75 councillors present voted unanimously in favour on a motion. Wiltshire Council resolves that the Highways Department work in collaboration with Wiltshire Police to develop and implement an effective enforcement mechanism for roads with weight restrictions.

I mentioned in previous months Practical Help with Technology would be available at The Grove Building, Mere on 1st July. Bring your phone, laptop or tablet. Free of charge and refreshments provided. At the IT function at the Mere Library to help some develop IT skills, the internet went down for a while. This has reminded me, we have a need for a good reliable broadband connection for many in the Mere area, with the availability of ultra-fast fibre where required. West Knoyle and Stourton plus parts of Kilmington have had improvements in recent years. Kilmington at present is one Wessex Internet as a provider can further enhance, enabled by schemes from BDUK as a government body, however not Mere as I am informed. A commercial provider (private finance) may do so, who that provider is I cannot find at present.

I understand that an on-demand bus service from September 1st that covers Mere and locality is still to go ahead.

Road condition 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 in principal support any motion to improve highway condition across Wiltshire. "In Wiltshire over 30% of your highways network is classified as amber or red according to the DfT's Road Condition Statistics." Manor Road has had repairs as has Kilmington recently, which is an improvement however much more needs doing and in some cases to a better standard. Manor Road Mere where fairly extensive Bobcat patching works have taken place, badly delaminated patches in the centre of the road at both the Castle Hill end and also the Jack Paul Close may see a revisit in months to come.

A Wiltshire press release publicised the following: -

"Bric-a-brac wanted! Help us boost reuse at recycling centres

Since the reuse shop opened on 28 February at KFR (Kennet Furniture Refurbiz) in Devizes, over 17 tonnes of material have been reused or diverted from our Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Thanks to your generous donations and the incredible efforts of KFR, nearly 1,500 items have been given a second life, helping us increase reuse by 2.5 tonnes compared to same time in 2024. Now we're asking for your help to keep the momentum going. Got bric-a-brac? If you're clearing out cupboards or decluttering your home, don't throw it away, donate it! Items like kitchenware, ornaments, toys, and small household goods can be dropped off at your nearest recycling centre. Your unwanted items could be just what someone else is looking for. Our partners at KFR (Kennet Furniture Refurbiz) are doing fantastic work refurbishing and reselling donated goods. Whether you're after affordable furniture or unique finds, KFR offers a wide range of quality items ready for a new home. Reusing items reduces waste, supports local jobs, and helps build a more sustainable future. Every donation makes a difference. Let's keep reusable items out of the bin and in use. Donate today and help us do even more!" Sounds interesting, I hope the idea spreads.

Mere and our surrounding villages have areas that flood; you might like to make a note of the following regarding who you can you contact about flooding?

Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 807060

Floodline 24-hours 0345 9881188 www.gov.uk/flood

Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0105 drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wessex Water 0345 6004600 www.wessexwater.co.uk

National Grid 105.

Gas supplier 0800 111999.

Insurance abi.org.uk (Association of British Insurers) and FloodRe.co.uk

British Damage Management Association 01858 414278 www.bdma.org.uk

Wiltshire Police has seen a significant 14% increase in the reporting of drug offences over the past year according to new figures published yesterday (July 24th) by the Office of National Statistic – a rise which indicates an upward trend in community intelligence. The latest figures, covering the year ending March 2025, show 1,194 drug offences recorded across the county, up from 1,048 the previous year. Regionally across the South West, there has also been a 14% increase, with reports rising from 9,932 to 11,295.

Operation Scorpion is a collaborative initiative between the five South West police forces and their respective Police and Crime Commissioners which aims to make the region a hostile environment for drug dealers and organised crime groups. A crucial part of this work involves encouraging residents to report any concerns around drug related crime to enable the force to build a richer intelligence picture.

Wiltshire Police are continuing to reduce crime in Wiltshire and Swindon. Wiltshire has the lowest total recorded crime rate in England and Wales of 53.3 crimes per 1,000 population against a national average of 87.2 per 1,000 population.

The reporting of sexual offences in Wiltshire rose by 190 reports to 2,116 (+10%), which indicates increased public confidence in reporting.

South West Wiltshire Area Board Priority and Action Plan is being updated. *The Area Board's primary purpose is to deliver the Council Plan at a local level through engaging with its communities and delivering agreed actions.*

Mere was not technically a police station; it's owned by the fire service. The previous arrangement was that the Police had access to a small room and a toilet within the building, public footfall was poor (no Police there, they had to report to Warminster from a few years ago), space was rarely used by officers only volunteers in years past and the PCSO. Then the PCSO was informed to loose time each shift some considered and report to Warminster firstly. As a result, the Police have cancelled the contract, which saves £6000 a year, however the fire service have still said the Police are welcome to use it as a drop-in point at no cost. I spent much time when Mr Stone worked at Wiltshire Council heading up centres for each community area, we had to share one with Tisbury being The Nadder Centre, the Police station was agreed so as Mere had something. Warminster is now just community Police, PCSOs and some officers. Response has been moved to Trowbridge, it takes on average longer to attend emergency incidents. I have asked and they have agreed, The Area Board will be contacting the Police regarding response being moved to Trowbridge with Community Police being left at Warminster, response should return to Warminster. I personally think we have to get through to the Police, we sympathise with the

many cuts they have endured; however, we consider they are taking too much from us.

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

Penny Fennon gave July rainfall for Salisbury Street as a total of only 5.5 cm with 2.0cm being the wettest on 20th July.

Pam Baldock this month gave the rainfall for Lordsmead in July, 15 out of 31 days had rain however too little to measure some days. Heaviest rainfall was on the 20th at 6.00 mm. Hail fell on 17th. Total for the month was 19.5mm (0.78 inch) Rain fall in July 2024 was 99.5mm 3.98 inches.

Every month I publicise the fact Wiltshire Council is recruiting foster carers, (children are waiting) with a range of flexible roles on offer including full time, short break or emergency care. To find out more about fostering in Wiltshire, people can visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering or contact the team at fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk, I believe you can also call 0800 169 6321 or text the word Foster to 60002.

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

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!

anndethick@aol.com Tel 863498

Gifts galore at fundraising sale for Wiltshire Bobby Van



The popular Devizes Autumn Fair, which has been running for more than 20 years, will once again be featuring unique gifts, clothes and crafts to raise funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust at **The Corn Exchange in Devizes from 10am to 4.30pm on October 3.**

The fair will feature dozens of stalls from craftsmen and women and producers from across the South West. There will also be refreshments available at the event's pop-up café.

Tickets are £5 per person but anyone booking online in advance can get two for the price of one. Tickets are available at devizesautumnfair.co.uk.

The charity operates two vans, both staffed by former police officers, which visit homes across Wiltshire and Swindon to offer free practical home security measures, fire safety assessments and online safety guidance for people over 60 or over 18 with a registered disability

It works in partnership with Wiltshire Police and other organisations including Victim Support, Age UK, housing associations and Wiltshire Council's trading standards department to identify people who need help and reassurance.

Director Jennie Shaw said: "This will be a wonderful chance to get started on the Christmas shopping, with so many stalls featuring some unique hand-crafted gifts from local producers – and help us to continue keeping older and vulnerable people safe in their homes."

Pre-loved ladies' designer bargains, fabulous accessories

BAG A BARGAIN

NEARLY NEW DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE

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Wednesday September 3,
10am to 6pm
Tickets £6
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tickets: wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events



**MERE
ART GROUP
EXHIBITION**

THE GROVE BUILDING

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

10:00 – 3:00 pm

REFRESHMENTS

FREE ENTRY



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THE BEND
TOURS**

Join Wessex Water for a **FREE** visit of your local water recycling centre!
There are nine locations to choose from.

Choose from nine locations to visit:

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Victory in Japan Day

The Town clock chimed out at exactly 12:00 noon as Mary Burfitt played the Last Post signaling two minutes silence on Friday 15th July. It was a warm July day. A small ceremony was organised to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day at 11.45 a.m. Friday, 15th August, which marked the end of WW2. The laying of the wreaths was at the War Memorial in The Square at Mere. Revd. Michael Molano,



vicar of St Michael church led a short service. The ceremony was organized by Col. Stuart Walker. Rachael Hansford (Mere Town Council Vice Chairman) took the attached photograph of the 3 wreath layers, being left to right, Kit Stallard for the Army, Mere Town Council Chairman, Cllr Sandra Catley and George Jeans Wiltshire Councillor.



George Jeans

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Service expansion: South-West Wiltshire



The popular Wiltshire Connect demand responsive bus service will be expanding to serve the south-west Wiltshire area from 1st September 2025. The service has been successfully operating in the Pewsey Vale and Marlborough area for over two years and has received positive feedback from passengers. Unlike a traditional bus service, Wiltshire Connect does not have a fixed route or timetable and operates to pre-booked ride requests which can be made on the Wiltshire Connect app or by phone. Rides can be booked up to 7 days ahead and on the day with 30 minutes notice subject to availability.

Key features

- Tap and Travell**
24/7 booking on our App or online up to 30 minutes before departure.
- Operating hours**
Rides available from 6am-8pm Mon-Fri & 8am-7.30pm on Saturdays.
- Modern accessible vehicles**
Let our modern Mercedes minibuses whisk you to your destination.
- Real-Time Information**
Keep a track of your vehicle in our app.
- Low Fares**
Adult fares £2 or £3 & half fare for young people aged 18 & under.
- Special promotions**
Look out for our promotions and special offers.

Q. Where will the service operate?

Please see map overleaf. The service will operate in two zones in the Warminster/Frome area and Warminster/Mere area with rides available to Gillingham and Shaftesbury in North Dorset.

Q. How many vehicles will operate and are they wheelchair accessible?

All Wiltshire Connect vehicles are wheelchair accessible. Four vehicles will operate each day, two in each zone. The vehicles will be brand new Mercedes minibuses, and we will be piloting an electric vehicle on one service.

Q. Where can passengers be picked up?

We will have a large number of pick up and drop off points available including normal bus stops and virtual stops which are normally local landmarks. In addition, passengers who have a disability or mobility impairment can request a home pick up/drop off.

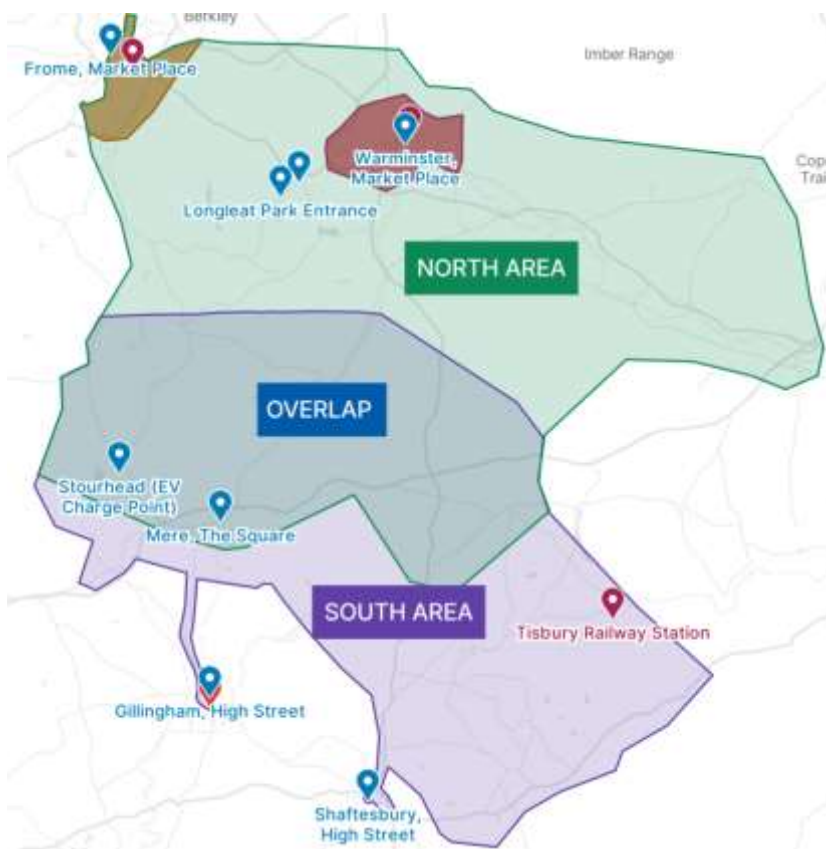
Q. Where can you travel to?

The service can be used to go anywhere within each zone up to a maximum journey distance of 15 miles. Local journeys within Warminster itself can not be made as a Town bus service is available. (If a timetabled bus service is available to make the journey around the pick-up time requested, passengers will be asked to use this instead).

Q. Will there be changes to other bus services in the area?

Yes, we will be making changes to services 54, 56, 58, 82 (Fridays only) and the Mere shared Taxi bus scheme will end and will be replaced with Wiltshire Connect. A new timetabled service 57/57A will operate between Warminster – Sutton Veny – Mere – Gillingham to compliment the new Wiltshire Connect service. More information will be available shortly.

More information on Wiltshire Connect can be found at www.wiltshireconnect.co.uk although specific information for South-West Wiltshire is not yet available.

Operating Area Map:

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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



Sing, Breathe, Munch and More!

Come and join an extended, popular activity in Mere

Harmony for Health is a firm favourite which meets weekly in Mere - come for a sing, a spot of light lunch and a chance to meet with a range of other activity group leads showcasing what's on offer locally to help you keep healthy and well



Thursday 25 September 2025



11.00am - 2.00pm



Mere Lecture Room, BA12 6HE



Email: karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01722 434697



Let's do something amazing

Let's do a Macmillan Coffee Morning

Come along and help us do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: UR Church MERE
Date: FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER
Time: 10.30 - 12.30
Contact: JUDY COOPER 861045
Mob: 07592567366
Jos Holmes: 07977334451



Simply scan this QR code with your phone to donate direct to your local Coffee Morning.
It's easy, quick and secure. Thank

St Micheal's Church Tower Tours

If you would like a challenging climb to the top of St Michael's tower to visit the bell ringing room, clock room, belfry and take in panoramic views from the top with experienced guides in attendance please add your name on the Tower Stories site with preferred dates.

Margaret Durkee 860163

Sound equipment and TVs seized from noisy neighbour

Sound equipment including several CD players, a sound bar, record player, CDs, vinyl records and four televisions were seized from a property in Devizes recently. The enforcement action followed complaints about noise from music first made in January this year.



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

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

Mothers Union

Our meeting in July was not very well attended, maybe because the idea of sharing Holiday Memories did not appeal or perhaps because members were away making new ones! Anyway, it was good to share the ones we did hear, and we were most grateful to Hamish for coming to join us and making sure that we could hear! The August meeting followed our usual custom of holding a short Communion Service in memory of our Founder, Mary Sumner on the Anniversary of her birthday. Rev. Judith Thompson compiled and led the Service in St Michael's the Archangel which was followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the Refreshment Area of the Church.

We don't have a speaker coming to our September meeting because our Vicar, Rev Michael Molano, is going to be with us as a guest so that he can get to know us and find out about Mere Mother's Union. If any more of you would like to do the same we always welcome guests. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm in the Grove Building.

Margaret Oliver 860111 megoliver83@gmail.com

Going, Going, Gone!

Wayne Stevens held an auction in the Grove Building in Mere on the 2nd August.

Refreshments were available with all proceeds from food and drink going to the local Church of St Michael's. Nice to see a local auction of many interesting and affordable items.



Wayne Stevens has also kindly agreed to head up our Literary Festival

George Jeans

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Mere School

We were delighted to be invited to take part in The Tower Stories events.

In August 2023 the National Lottery Heritage Fund awarded The Friends of St Michael's £247,000 to undertake 2 programmes of work. The first, completed in May 2024, was to restore the church pinnacles, the gilded pennants and the face of the Church clock.



The second was to undertake a series of practical, creative and inclusive events to involve and enrich the Mere community through its heritage.

On Friday 20th June every child from Mere School sang the first ever performance of Richard Nye's *Anthem for Mere* and heard the first reading of Jane

Borodale's *Stories about the St Michael's Tower*.

After working intensively with Richard and Jane, 2 small groups of our older children also performed to a church



packed with children and parents. These small groups were also invited to perform at the Medieval Festival of Fun.

What an amazing opportunity for us!



Catriona Williamson



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Copy date for the **October 2025** issue

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

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.

Walking in Mere

Walking offers numerous benefits for both physical and mental health. It can improve cardiovascular fitness, aid in weight management, boost mood, strengthen muscles and bones and even improve cognitive function. We are fortunate that here in Mere we can offer three levels of walking, to meet the needs of all abilities and fitness levels. All our groups are friendly and welcoming so why not come and join us?

"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 Monday 15th September and join me for a short walk of about 3 miles around our lanes and paths. Enjoy a refreshing cuppa afterwards at The Angel Café.

Janet Way 860884

Mere Walking Group:

Our next walk will be on Sunday 21st September, 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

Family History Research

A small group of us met recently to share our stories and tips about our family histories. We heard of fascinating stories linked to key moments in the past and covering the world! *We plan to meet occasionally in the autumn so if you'd like to join us as a total beginner or as an expert, all will be welcome!* If you would like to know more and when we will next meet then please get in touch with me.

Rosie 861567 rosiejb77@gmail.com

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



Mere Day Centre

Could be closure for Mere and District Day Centre if a treasure and trustee are not found by 31st December, 2025. Jane Mason seen chairing the AGM. Wiltshire Council withdrew funding and many day centres have closed across Wiltshire

Jane indicated. It would be sad if closure came after 30 plus years, with full capacity of 14 guest and 2 sessions a week. 19 volunteers help at the centre plus providing employment for some. It was hoped a new improved facility at the proposed rebuilt Fives Court would be used in years to come. The centre hopes someone in this area will come forward, they do not have to live in Mere, those well outside Mere would equally be welcome.



Picture and text 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	Mon	09:15 Pilates (every Mon) 10:00 Fitness with Sally 17:45 Yoga (every Mon)	GB L L
2	Tues	18:20 Zumba (every Tues) 19:00 MADS (every Tues)	L L
3	Weds	09:00 Chair Yoga 10:00 Get Wiltshire Walking Group – Starter Walks (every Weds) 18:30 Karate (every Weds) <i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	L SCP L
4	Thurs	09:00 Walking Zumba 10:00 Art Group (every Thurs) 10:00 Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reformed Church 11:00 Rhyme Time (every Thurs) 14:00 Rubber Bridge (every Thurs) 19:00 MADS (every Thurs) 19:30 Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	L GB URC Lib L L URC
5	Fri	13:45 Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start - every Fri) Valuations - Mark Barney <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB L
6	Sat	10:00 Art Group Exhibition & Sale 14:30 Croquet (every Sat & Sun) <i>Coffee Morning</i>	GB Steep Street
7	Sun	10:30 Gardening Club Show 14:30 Croquet (every Sat & Sun)	GB Steep Street
8	Mon	09:30 Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) 09:15 Pilates (every Mon) 18:00 Scouting (every Monday) <i>Fitness with Sally, Yoga</i>	L GB GB
9	Tues	09:00 Little Angels (every Tues) 09:00 'Moveher' (Jade Deverill) (every Tues) 10:30 Mum Moves 14:00 Mothers Union 19:00 Historical Society <i>Zumba, MADS</i>	GB L L GB GB
10	Weds	09:00 Chair Yoga 09:30 Tai-Chi (every Weds) <i>Wiltshire Walking Group, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	L GB
11	Thurs	09:00 Walking Zumba 10:30 Harmony for Health (every Thurs)	L L

		17:15 Girlguiding (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30 Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
		Rhyme Time, Art, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, MADS,	
12	Fri	10.00 Merely Women	GB
		Dup Bridge	
13	Sat	Coffee Morning, Croquet	
14	Sun	Croquet	
15	Mon	14:00 Short Walk (J.Way)	SCP
		Pilates, Scouting, Yoga	
16	Tues	19:30 Full Body Function (every Tues)	GB
		Little Angels, Moveher, MADS	
17	Weds	18:30 Merekits (WI)	GB
		Wiltshire Walking Group, Tai Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers	
18	Thurs	Rhyme Time, Art, Guides, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, MADS, Harmony FH	
19	Fri	Dup Bridge	
20	Sat	Coffee Morning & Fair Trade, Croquet	
21	Sun	14:00 Mere Walking Group	SCP
		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
		Croquet	
22	Mon	Pilates, Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga	
23	Tues	Full Body Function, Little Angels, MADS	
24	Weds	14:30 Pennybank Writers	L
		Wiltshire Walking Group, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers	
25	Thurs	Rhyme Time, Art, Guides, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, MADS, Harmony FH	
26	Fri	10.00 Merely Women	GB
		18:00 Cine Club	GB
		Dup Bridge	
27	Sat	Coffee Morning, Croquet	
28	Sun	Croquet	
29	Mon	Pilates, Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga, Fitness with Sally	
30	Tues	Full Body Function, Little Angels, Zumba, MADS	

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 07833-686742

Letter from the Churches

Old people are past it: it is young active people who have all the power, money and influence. WRONG!

Our King, Putin, Trump and the leaders of India and China are all in their 70s, while those of Saudi and Iran are in their 80s. Antique pop stars like the Rolling Stones still attract huge crowds, and David Attenborough is a world personality at 99.

Age does not diminish our ability to make a difference – for good or evil.

But few of us are presidents or world leaders. It is easy for us to make the mistake of thinking that when we start to draw our pension, we lose our force, our importance, our ability to influence the world around us.

Stronger than all the bombs and deadly drones, more powerful than money and every sort of wickedness, is what we have in our hearts. The power to love. However old or ill we are, we can use this power to make the world a better place.

Mother Theresa said "do small things with great love". Every day each of us can do small things with great love.

HOW?

God is Love. When we desire to love, we are opening ourselves to His power, so that His love, an unstoppable force, flows through us. Christians go to Church to draw closer to the source of Love, which strengthens us so we can go out filled with JOY to bring Christ's love to those in trouble around us, by prayer, by smiles and by generosity with time and money.

The money we give to charity, the smile we give to the troubled, the company we give to the lonely, the prayers we pray for Peace and Justice: these all are part of transforming the world with Christ's love.

Deacon Michael Hughes

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

7 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Informal Family Service
14 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
16 th	Tues	10.30	Roman Catholic Mass
21 st	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
28 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Patronal Festival Service with the Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Andrew Rumsey

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

7 th	Sun	09.30	DIY Service
14 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
21 st	Sun	09:30	Matins
28 th	Sun	10:30	No service here – Benefice Patronal Service at Mere-10.30

The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

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

7 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Jane Hurd
14 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Penelope Dent
21 st	Sun	11:00	Rev. Sue Litchfield (Holy Communion)
28 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Christine Marsh

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.

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

Weekend Mass at St Luke's, Wincanton on Saturday at 5.30pm and Sunday at 11am

John FitzGerald 860867

CineClub gears-up for new season

CineClub Mere is finalising its Autumn / Winter film programme and is already planning what members can enjoy in 2026.



The monthly films since we started have included a mix of classic and contemporary British, European and American productions, with refreshments provided with the help of committee members and a dedicated band of volunteer club members.

Enrolment for 2026 membership will begin in October when current members will be invited to renew for the year starting in January. Anyone interested in joining as a new member can find out more by emailing membership@cineclubmere.org.uk.

CineClub Mere's communications are supported by a grant from Wessex Water Foundation's Community Fund, which helps the club provide information to film-goers in the community who do not use the internet.

Spenn Gunn spengunn@aol.com

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Merekits - Women's Institute

During the lovely summer Merekits been busy with several different activities including walks, visits to local gardens, book club and skittles. We had a presentation by Rose Heesom from Mere Museum at our July meeting hearing about the history of the ladies of Mere, which was a fascinating and informative evening. In August we learnt how to play croquet and shared a picnic together for our summer social. We also had a well-attended evening meal at Tambarinos in Sherborne as part of our international dining club.

Coming up, the next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17th September** in the Grove Building at 7pm, please keep your eyes open on the Mere Mutters Facebook page to find out more about our speaker.

If you are interested to know more or want to meet likeminded people and new friends, please come along 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

Mere Surgery PPG

PPG organized a Garden Party on Saturday 5th July, at St. Anns, Church Street, Mere supporting Mere surgery Defibrillator Appeal. The defibrillator will be for children as well as adults. £1271.00 was raised. Although there was rain in the morning it stopped for the garden party, making the conditions just right. Being near the church gave a wonderful setting.

Musicians played. Cream teas were served, croquet, boules, tombola, Treasure hunt and the cakes all sold well. Cakes were very fresh, many brought on the afternoon. Help came not just from Mere but the villages around.



Photos and text by 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 – 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:	administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	07942 291266
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	07403-845711

PennyBank Writers

A third PennyBank member has published a novel ideal for summer holiday reading.

PennyBank's congratulations go to Jane Wade who, writing as Jane Wade Scarlet, has just published *Shadow's Land*. This novel completes Jane's trilogy which tells the story of an enigmatic boy named Cub growing to manhood among the early settlers on the plains of America.

The first two books in the trilogy, *Wolf Wind* and *Wolf Shadow*, have proved popular and *Shadow's Land* has been eagerly awaited by readers wanting to complete Cub's story.

All three books are available on Amazon.

Adrienne Howell howellatmere@aol.com



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Website: www.meredentistry.co.uk Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

Fitness for all over 18 organized at Mere Surgery on the 5th July

Many joined in to find out more about the fantastic fitness options available locally for adults of all ages and abilities, like Zumba, Bounce or the Gym. Colin Fricker kindly opened his home gym as well for the morning, where they helped those



wanting it a little more leisurely experience. Some preferred something more gentle like a walk or chair yoga.



Pictures and text by George Jeans

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (MADS)

We welcome everyone, no matter how keen to act on stage or help backstage.

Unleash your inner actor, Be part of our story. If you'd like more information and would like to speak to someone prior to attending please do not hesitate to contact us.

We're more than just a group, we're a community. Come and be part of something special. Let's Laugh, learn and grow together!! Our next production will be in November with 4 evenings of entertainment showing "ALLO ALLO 2" so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates in the near future.

If you feel you'd like to be part of our story please do not hesitate to contact us, either on Facebook or on the phone number below.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Mere Lecture Hall at 7.00pm.

Holly Robert - 07801901912

Whitesheet School

A fete was organized by the Friends of Whitesheet School, Zeals, which was held on a fine Summer's afternoon, on Saturday 19th July, Zeals missed the rain that was heavy further east that day. Many stalls inside and out., coconut shy, BBQ, bouncy castle, pony rides and much more. Nearly 30 sponsors helped to support the event. Even the Police arrived to see that *"order was kept"*. Many children sat in the Police Car which pleased the children no end.



Photo and text by George Jeans

Mere Social Club

A great function was held Saturday at 6pm at Mere Social Club. It was nice to see all the children sat playing pass the parcel, they were really enjoying this traditional game. Below is a report from AJ who is well known locally, I attended the function. Food was fantastic, stored in what appeared brand new food warmers in shining stainless steel. Lasagne and many more choices for £5.

George Jeans

"Hey everybody just wanted to say a HUGE thankyou too all of the local businesses and collectively all of Mere who supported and donated to our local preschool fundraiser this evening, it went amazingly well; better than I could have hoped. Hope everyone who attended had fun and left satisfied and another big thankyou to all my friends and family that helped make this event possible, will be calling all the winners of the raffle to drop off your prizes or arrange collection. We Raised a total of £438.80!

I will be continuing to fundraise for them until the 16th of August when I do my 'Tough Mudder UK' Run to reach our target of £1000! So keep an eye out for other fun things planned in the weeks to come and thankyou again! "

Mere Mortals Petanque Club



A gleaming, unused, set of leisure boule has been bought at Brainwave to add to the MMPC collection. Why not come down to the old swimming pool site piste and have a throw with them?

Nobody would call petanque athletic but it is good for movement and stretching in the open air. Mere Mortals

have finished their league season, once more runners up to champions, Tisbury Tossers. Club social play when we have a lot of fun continues on Tuesdays at 6.30pm (until the clocks change), Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturday mornings from 10.30am. However, try outs and private instruction can be given at any time as, just like the Windmill Theatre, we never close and the pitch is open all day every day.



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

From Times Gone By!

On the 5th instant died at Mere, in this county, Mary Jane Grove, daughter of John Chafin Morris, Esq. Commander of the Royal Navy. This is the third infantile victim in his family to lament the dreadful ravages of hooping-cough.

Salisbury & Wilts Journal, 15 September 1828

Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Society

Passing on to Hill Deverill, the speaker said it would have been a disgrace to leave a horse in such a place as the church which once existed in this parish, but now they had a building with all the adornments needful for a small place of worship - and the same might be said of the church at Kingston Deverill; but passing on to Mere, the church there reflected infinite disgrace upon the neighbourhood, and he cared not who heard his remarks.

Wiltshire County Mirror, 27 September 1853

[Martyn Beardsley](#)

Mere Bowls Club

Big news for Mere Bowls Club is that on Sunday 17th August the team of Les Manwaring, Marie Wright and Shaun Tealey won the hard-fought Westbrook League Gala Shield held at Salisbury Bowls Club in rather warm temperatures. We won from a field of 21 teams, including Salisbury, Sixpenny Handley, Alderbury, Amesbury and Wilton amongst others, winning all four rounds therefore obtaining a maximum points total. A great success after being runners-up last year.

We are also in the final of the Harold Ford Cup to be played on 11th September at Downton, and we are currently top of the Westbrook League with one game in hand.

We had an away match against Salisbury Bowls Club on Friday 15th August which we won 3 rinks to nil with the team of Chris Coombs, Jon Wright and John Marks scoring a maximum of 9 points on one end and so will be applying for a 'Hotshots Award'

The club 3-wood pairs was played on 28th June with the winners being Tim Courtney and Shaun Tealey and runners-up John FitzGerald and Jon Wright.

All other club competition finals will be played on 6th September.

If you are interested in giving bowls a try, please come to the club on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm or Saturdays at 3pm for our Roll-up (practice) sessions, all you need are flat-soled shoes and we supply the rest including refreshments afterwards.

Please contact John FitzGerald, our club secretary, for further information on 01747 860867 or via e-mail at: -fitzgerald.jns@sky.com

Jon Wright jon252@btinternet.com

Mere Surgery – Flu & Covid Vaccinations

Various dates in October at Mere Surgery to be announced

More details will be in the October copy of Mere Matters..

Anyone with a mobile phone and registered with the surgery to accept text messages will be sent a text message which will contain a unique link to book an appointment.

If you need to contact the surgery to make an appointment, **please wait** until you have been contacted with an invitation to book an appointment.

Please **DO NOT** contact the surgery until you have been sent an invitation.

Fair Trade in Mere

This year my two stalls fall within Fair Trade Fortnight and therefore provide a unique opportunity to show our support to struggling farmers, smallholders and craft folk around the world. Having had an exceptionally hot summer, we know that our farmers have also struggled and can appreciate how difficult it can be with the effect of Climate Change on vulnerable livelihoods. An increase in pests has particularly affected the coffee and cacao plants – what would we do without these, now so much part of our daily lives? By buying these with a Fair Trade label means that the farmers are at least being paid a good price for their products even if they may cost us a few pence more. I also have a number of Zaytoun products if you feel able to support farmers in Palestine. I do hope you will feel able to come to my stalls this month. They are on:

Saturday September 20th at the URC Coffee Morning

Sunday September 21st after the morning service at St Michael's

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends of Mere Museum committee is excited to present a special film featuring the people and places in Mere from previous decades (the 1950s and 1960s).

This takes place on Friday 10th October at 7pm in The Grove Building. The film will be shown in 2 parts with a chance, during the interval, to discuss what you've seen! Tickets cost £7.50 and this includes a welcome drink on arrival. There will also be a raffle and drinks for donations in the interval. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets will be available each Monday from the Library between 10am and 1pm from a member of our committee. If you cannot get there, contact our Treasurer at john.a.jordan@hotmail.co.uk to arrange.



Rosie 861567 (Secretary of FoMM)

Historical Society

The Society's Autumn programme begins in September with a talk on TUESDAY September 9th at 7.30pm by Dr James Taylor FRSA on "Grace Darling and the Fine Art of Saving Lives at Sea".

I should like to remind the membership that the Committee is badly in need of reinforcement, as a result of recent and forthcoming departures. Specifically, we will be needing a new Treasurer, Secretary, and Programme Manager within the next 12 months. There is really not very much work involved, and it can be shared (perhaps by a couple?); but without reinforcements there is a real risk that the Society may fall into a terminal decline. If you can help, please contact me through the MHS website <https://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk> or by telephone.

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

Mere Art Group

Attendance is telling us it is Holiday Time. Preparation for the Exhibition is receiving attention. We do hope you will attend on the 6th of September, but please note that the closure time has been changed from 4pm to 3pm to let some kiddies have a Birthday Party before bedtime!!!

This month's submission is this fine work by 'Ty' Crook.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Mere Museum

I apologise for not being available for a couple of weeks. Hopefully I will be able to return soon. Meanwhile if anyone has any queries or items for the museum please email me at curator@meremuseum.org and I will be able to reply to you.

Rose Heesom Hon. Curator 07791 559 674



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Patients' participation Group

The Patients' Participation Group (PPG) has been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of the patients of Mere surgery in its bid to raise money for a specific defibrillator for the surgery. Following our coffee morning earlier in the year, we held a garden party in July serving cream teas with a few garden games, a tombola, cake stall, a raffle and some delightful music from local musicians. Despite the not entirely perfect weather so many people came to support us, demonstrating how much the surgery is valued by us all. We raised £1,431.25p including some generous contributions. A wonderful sum which, when added to the coffee morning money raised, has taken us to the sum of £2,106.25p which is just above our target of £2k and therefore will enable the surgery to buy the defibrillator. We would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions. You are truly amazing and we are very grateful.

There is further equipment that would enhance the services of the surgery so the PPG will continue to think of good and entertaining ways to raise money to facilitate this.

We are very lucky to have such a good GP surgery in Mere – at the very top in Wiltshire!

Lucy Woolley (Chair) lucywoolley1@gmail.com

Mere & District Link Scheme

We had a busy June and July doing 126 trips each month. These included taking a passenger to Southampton General for a daily course of radiotherapy treatment. July was the largest monthly mileage on record at 5,690 and one of our drivers did over 1,200 miles. A remarkable effort helping people to get to their medical appointments.

We have welcomed a number of new drivers recently but we still need more. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

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.

John FitzGerald Chair 860096  merelink.org.uk

Shreen Harmony

First of all thank you to everyone who came and supported us in July at our summer concert in St Michaels Church. It was a lovely warm evening, the Pimms went down well and it was extremely well attended. With your support we were able to raise £630 for The Mere and District Day Centre.

The choir will be back in the new term, meeting on a Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church Hall. All are very welcome to come along and join us.

Sandra Fisher 861980 www.shreenharmony.co.uk

Party Time at Bramley House

Bramley House held a Summer Garden Party on Saturday 9th August. The residents celebrated in the sunshine, enjoying the fun and laughter, and sharing a delicious garden buffet with their families. Many attractions were available, bouncy castle, majorettes, stalls including cake stalls, and a sizzling BBQ, the atmosphere was very pleasant on a sunny summer afternoon. £589.16 was raised, which will be shared between Dementia UK and the defibrillator fund at Mere Surgery.



Councillor and our 'Roving Reporter' George Jeans



is Cancelled for 2025

WE NEED SUPPORT FOR 2026

CHAIR PERSON:	Overall co-ordination for the Proceedings
Secretary:	Respond to queries, meeting Minutes etc...
Procession Manager:	Responsible for the procession, the entrant's application, the Classification, notify the Judges & Winners. <u>Work done mainly mid-July to Carnival Day</u>
Public Relations:	For advertising, Funding, Sponsorships, Website, <u>Social Media</u>
Road Manager:	Organise road closure & road signs
Ticket Manager:	Obtain sponsorship and manage Golden ticket sales
<u>Entertainment :</u>	To organise fund raising events such as Bingo, Quiz, etc...
Helpers:	Support on Carnival Day

Please Contact:

The Vice-Chair, David Hytch at: d.hytch@btinternet.com

Or the Treasurer, Michel Rousseau at: treasurer@merecarnival.co.uk

YOU CAN ENJOY THE CARNIVAL AGAIN!

It has been a Tradition Since 1932

We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month

Next at 7:30pm at the Walnut Tree, Mere September 9th

Anyone for Footy?

Mere Town Football Club (the Moonrakers) achieved 2 wins at Home in a doubleheader **Mere vs Westfields** (from near Yeovil). In glorious Mere sunshine. Two matches, one kicking off at 12.30pm, the other kicking off at 3pm at The Mere Sports and Recreation Ground on Saturday 9th August.



The senior team having a comfortable win of 5-0.

Goals scored: Malachi Benjamin 2, Sam Paterson 1, Danny Smith 1, Jacob Rowley 1.

The newly formed Reserve Team, who played excellently being together for first time, winning 6-2.

Goals scored: - Eboni McCann 2, George Rich 1, Ethan Mazarura 1, Jack Brundish 1 plus OG

Food and drink tent in the summer sun was well received.

George Jeans



Mere and District Day Centre has been supporting the elder community in the town and surrounding area for the past 37 years.

As reported at our AGM on 18th August, we are financially in good shape, with a full guest membership, but we have an urgent need for human resources in the shape of more volunteers, both to assist at sessions and to join the management committee as trustees. So, we are sending a 'call-out' to readers of Mere Matters – **YOUR DAY CENTRE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Most importantly, we need a permanent Treasurer to replace our current post holder who is relocating. The commitment isn't onerous, but without someone who has the skills to manage our finances, we cannot operate. If we are unable to fill this position by Christmas, a viable and much-loved organisation could flounder.

If you (or anyone you know – please spread the word) would be interested to learn more about any of our volunteering opportunities, please do contact me.

Jane Mason 861296 chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Carnival Committee

The decision to cancel the Carnival this year was taken after much soul searching and consultation with a number of other people around Mere and Knoyle. The Carnival does not happen by magic and takes work by a number of people and organisations and whilst the support was there from participants, supporters and sponsors, we ran out of volunteers to work together to get it done to the high standard we wanted.



We are not letting this stop the work to deliver the Christmas lights and Father Christmas at the Clock Tower. We have had a lot of support from our fellow Carnivals in the Wessex Group, who have all had to deal with similar situations and so there is determination with the support of Mere and Knoyle residents, or others, to deliver a Mere Carnival in 2026.

There is an advertisement in this edition with information on how to get involved to help deliver the 2026 Carnival, the planning for which will start shortly: insurance, council road closures and organisations like the police and the Emergency services.

Please ring Michel or myself or email with your details and any particular role you would like to take. We have a meeting on the 9th September at 7.30pm in the Walnut Inn, who have been consistent supporters, to answer questions, meet potential volunteers and start to plan for the Christmas events. We look forward to seeing you there and helping to bring Mere Carnival in 2026 as a great success!

David Hytch

Mere Gardening Club

This month the Club will be having its annual horticultural show for members only. So members, I do hope you are all preparing your exhibits now. The show is on **Sunday 7th September** at the **Grove Building** from 2pm to 4pm. The show is open to the public as well as members of the club and we will be serving refreshments, offers of cakes welcome. There will be a raffle and entry is free for all. So do come along and see the show and remember we always welcome new members to our club.

For more information about the club please visit our new website.

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

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A Triumph to have Stags in Wiltshire

Triumph Stags are and have been for many years a classic car of distinction. Sunday 10th August saw the Stag Owners Club meet up in Stourhead by the Bristol Cross for a Summer country experience. Bristol High Cross is a monumental market cross said to have been erected c.1373 in the center of Bristol, In 1764 it was moved to the Stourhead Estate in Wiltshire, where it still



stands. The Stags then moved off to Alfreds Tower nearby, the 49-metre-high (161 ft) triangular tower is climbed by means of a spiral staircase, some Stag drivers took the challenge, it is a folly built in 1722 on the site where it's believed that King Alfred the Great rallied his troops. It commands views over three counties. The Stags then moved onto the Old Brewery at Wyke, Gillingham, a restaurant known locally for its display of motorbikes. Henry Cole an English TV presenter, producer and director, best known for World's Greatest Motorcycle Rides, highlighted the business recently.

Some of the Stags are approximately 50-year-old vehicles, however still travel significant distances. Although the club is named Somerset and Dorset, they sometimes visit Wiltshire as today. One owner purchased a Stag in 1972 for about £2,300.00 which was a £100 over the new cost, you had to pay then if you wanted one as they were in short supply.

Gary Martin and George Jeans

Mere Rivers Group

It has been a very difficult time for our streams with very little rain and two heatwaves. Demand on our drinking water was so great that Wessex Water were forced to turn off the stream support a number of times because of shortages in their network. But even with no support for a short time the upper reaches of both streams dried and we lost a number of small fish and many invertebrates. Our support is back on at the moment but with very little rain in the forecast we could be in the same position again.

July was the fifth consecutive dry month in Wessex. An average of 30mm of rain, 50% of the long term average (LTA) fell across Wessex. When considered alongside the preceding 4 months, this has been the second driest 5-month period (March to July) since records began in 1871. Soil moisture deficit (SMD) initially increased in July before briefly falling following a period of rainfall in the middle of the month. By the end of July, SMD was rising again and was close to the historic maximum. Monthly mean flows recorded across Wessex in July were largely below normal or notably low. The majority of groundwater sites, including most sites monitoring the Chalk aquifer, reported below normal or notably low levels at the end of July. Overall reservoir levels for Wessex Water were approximately 57% capacity at the end of July while for Bristol Water, levels were approximately 52% capacity.

We need a prolonged period of rain for the gardens, farmers and our streams but let it rain at night.



Picture by Brenda Martin

Ian Sheppard ianjsheppard@outlook.com

Mere Social Club

September brings the start of the Skittles season, with our 10 home teams taking part in the Mere and District League, the Hunt League and the Ladies league. Welcome to the Ladies in Green, a women's institute team who are competing in the Ladies League for the first time....Good Luck to you all.

We are once again hosting Louise Padfield's fundraising Autumn Fair on Saturday 9th September. All proceeds go to **Salisbury hospital's Stars Appeal** so please come along and support this amazing day. It all kicks off at 11 am.

As you may have heard by now, I am retiring as Bar Steward at the end of September so we are looking for a new Steward and bar staff. Details of the positions are:

Bar Steward:

Desired Qualities: - Highly organised- Diligent - Good Communication - High attention to detail - Honest - Good team player - Motivated - Independent - Great customer service and patient conflict resolution - Compassionate - Empathetic - Due to location reliable transport is required.

The job role is a management role with guidance from the committee. The direct manager is the Club Secretary.

-£26,000 per year - Baseline of 30hrs a week although will need flexibility that covers holidays, functions and sickness. Duties will include: Line Cleaning

- Back bar management; stock ordering and stock takes - Cleaning and upkeep of bar and function area - Staff management - Responsible for shift coverings and managing staff levels for functions - Organising and taking function bookings - Cash management - Assisting committee with managing till levels as well as cashing up at end of shift. - Organising and advertising events - Customer relations - our customers are our bread and butter, it is very important that the individual is able to communicate effectively and manage an environment. - Development for the right candidate to gain personal license and cellar qualifications.

Hours required: We have a great deal of flexibility but evenings and weekends are required. Some duties will require weekday working and independent working although this is an average of 5-10hrs a week

Bar Person:

- No experience required but desired. - £12.50ph - Transport essential due to location and working hours- Organised - Good time keeping - Honest and reliable - Great team player but able to work independently.

Method of application, a CV and covering letter to be emailed to ourselves. The closing date for applications is Friday 5th September 2025.

Email; meresocialclub13@gmail.com

Elaine Laurence, club steward elainelaurence57@gmail.com



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



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