

Mere matters

... along with all our Neighbours

November 2025



Your community magazine
including a diary of local events

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society
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‘ALLO ‘ALLO 2



The Camembert Caper

By Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

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The Editor Writes

What's in a name? Quite a lot!

For many years Mere Matters included West Knoyle on the front cover. In a bid to keep up with the times and to be more inclusive this has changed. This is no slight on West Knoyle and we appreciate the contributions they have made over the years but more to recognise that more and more of our neighboring areas are contributing and using Mere Matters. Personally, I always felt the way in which West Knoyle was included demeaned their contributions. Who can find something from Maiden Bradley this month?

Richard Jefferies 863425 Editor4MM@outlook.com

Mere Town Council

Did you miss me? Apologies for missing the October issue.

Throughout October I have attended some interesting events:

Age UK are placing community support people in Wiltshire areas to support our older generation to make sure that they have appropriate support. This can be making sure that the correct financial support is being claimed amongst many other services. If you feel you would benefit from this service, please contact Wiltshire Age UK on 0808 196 2424.

Literary Festival the Vice-Chair, Rachael Hansford, and I had the pleasure of meeting and greeting the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire Dame Sarah Troughton DCVO. I found the knowledge that she had of our community a privilege and her passion for young people to be functional and ideas that could help. After a lovely lunch we watched Radhika Howarth demonstrate her cooking skills promoting her book *Flavours without Borders*. The smells and education were extremely interesting.



Seeds4Success AGM

I attended the AGM remotely, Jaki and her Team never fail in explaining their projects achieved and the support they give to communities, as I have reported before they have helped Mere Town Council with work projects on Long Hill and Castle Hill recently. They do amazing work in Wiltshire and the support for our young people is commendable.



Anti-social behaviour It is with a heavy heart that I need to report that we have a few young people who think it is acceptable to damage the hard work the Town Council do. We have experienced damage to our new toilets, throwing stones off the A303 bridges and damaging the play equipment in the recreation park. I am pleased to say that the community have stepped up and reported the names of the offenders and this information has been handed to our local police officer.

Council Meetings I am pleased to see more public attending our monthly meetings, long may this continue. We held two meetings this month as we received an outline planning application for up to 28 dwellings on land at Woodlands Road (adjacent to Lordsmead Road) for consultation and so we held a separate meeting in order to allow those interested to come along to the meeting. This also gave us the opportunity to invite the agent to the meeting in order to give a presentation and answer questions which he graciously did. We advised all to make their representations to the planning authority. Minutes of all Town Council meetings are available to view on the Town Council's website. You will see that the Town Council lodged an objection to this planning application.

By the time you receive this Mere Matters, our **Halloween Spooktacular** event will be over and I hope that you enjoyed it. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered with the event and helped to make it happen.

Remembrance Service – the Town Council will be taking part in the wreath laying service at the War Memorial on **Sunday, 9th November at 11 am**. We will be congregating at the Clock Tower at 10.30 a.m. and at 11 a.m. there will be a 2-minute silence when we will pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave Service men and women. All are welcome to come along.

Banners on Clock Tower - The Town Council would like to invite applications for banners to be erected on the clock tower for 2026 advertising community/charity events within the town. There will be a maximum of 4 banners for community/charity events within the town per year and the permission decisions will be made by the Town Council at the December meeting so please submit your applications before **Monday, 24th November**.

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

Lindsey Wood 860701 lindseywood@merewilts.org  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Wiltshire Council and Local Updates

I'm delighted to report that Wiltshire will once again have free Blue Badge parking.

Wiltshire Connect:

A reminder – if you need to travel up to 13 miles, remember Wiltshire Connect, an on-demand bus service for Mere and surrounding villages offering pre-booked rides. You can book a ride using the Wiltshire Connect app or by calling 01225 712900. The Wiltshire Concessionary Bus Pass is accepted after 9 a.m. Monday–Friday and all day Saturday.

Wiltshire Council Funding and Achievements

During 2024/25, £853,000 of Area Board funding supported 455 separate projects. These projects had a total value of £4,759,430, meaning Area Board funding leveraged 5.6 times its value. Nearly 143,000 people took part in or benefited from these projects.

135 people completed vocational training, 52 young people gained employment

Over 8,400 young people and 2,400 older residents took part in exercise initiatives, 165 projects supported Wiltshire's carbon neutrality goals, including 40 that reduced community building emissions and 35 that promoted local biodiversity.

Education and Community:

Wiltshire Council will soon invite residents to share their views on a new **School Streets trial**, designed to create safer, cleaner environments around schools by temporarily restricting vehicle access during drop-off and pick-up times. The consultation runs from **Monday 3 November** to **Sunday 15 December**, and the trial is expected to begin after **Easter 2026**. One of the participating schools is Minster CofE Primary School, Warminster.

Environment and Public Safety

A new system of registration for waste carriers, brokers, and dealers (CBD) is being introduced to help regulators better target high-risk operators.

Businesses will need to display permit numbers in their advertising, enabling the Environment Agency to identify incorrect or fraudulent listings.

Wiltshire Council is also calling on residents to help tackle illegal hare coursing, which has led to a rise in stray and injured dogs – particularly lurchers. In the past three months, 60 stray dogs have been collected, 20 of them lurchers, some underweight or injured.

Report stray dogs to the Dog Warden Team: 0300 456 0107 (24 hours).

Report suspicious activity to the Police, especially if you see groups with dogs on farmland or vehicles parked in remote areas.

Local Plan Review:

The next stage of the Wiltshire Local Plan Review 2020–2038 will take place in November and December 2025, with a further stage scheduled for early 2026. Hearings will be held at Emmanuel's Yard, Church Street, Trowbridge BA14 8RZ, on:

11–13 November 2025, 2–4 December 2025, 10–12 February 2026, 3–5 March 2026, 17–19 March 2026

Energy and Infrastructure

Wiltshire Council has installed Vehicle - to - Grid (V2G) chargers to support its electric vehicle fleet and reduce energy costs. Unlike standard chargers, V2G technology allows stored energy to be returned from the vehicle to the building or grid during peak times. Around 50% of the council's fleet mileage is now powered by electricity.

Winter Preparation:

With winter approaching and heavy rainfall likely, residents and businesses are encouraged to take steps to prepare for potential flooding, particularly in areas around Mere.

Protect property: Move valuables upstairs and prepare a flood kit.

Report issues: Use the MyWilts app or website to report blocked gullies or standing water.

Surface water flooding can occur quickly, so preparation is key.

Enforcement and Local Issues

Wiltshire Council has successfully prosecuted a resident who repeatedly failed to pay parking fines and then damaged a wheel clamp to avoid enforcement. This formed part of a joint operation with Rundles Enforcement Agents, using ANPR technology to target persistent offenders. The week - long initiative recovered £3,470, settled 32 cases, and clamped eight vehicles.

I continue to receive increasing complaints about dog fouling. By highlighting it again, I hope this reminder will help curb the problem, although improvements often seem short - lived.

Finally, Penny Fennon reported that September rainfall for Salisbury Street totalled 18 cm, with the 3rd being the wettest day, recording 5.0 cm.

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



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MERE FOREST CHARITIES - Assistance Available

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

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

9 Clements Lane, Mere. BA12 6DF

Mereforest@gmail.com

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Mere School



It is lovely to be able to share good news with you about your local school!

We are so proud of our children and their all - round achievements, whether it is, for example, in sport, music, English or maths.

The formal outcomes for Mere School during the last academic year were a source of great celebration.

- Our phonics attainment over the last 3 years has been consistently significantly above the national average, placing the school in the top 20% of schools nationally.
- Our multiplication tables check scores are well above the national average.
- At KS2 our reading standards are well above national averages.
- By the end of KS2 standards in writing in the last 2 years have been in the top 20% of schools nationally.
- By KS2 expected standards in maths in the last 2 years have been significantly above average and in the top 20% of schools nationally.
- Our overall performance in reading, writing and maths at KS2 is exceptionally strong and has been consistently above average and in the top 20% of schools nationally.

Huge congratulations to our children, staff, governors and parents.

Our year 6 children have left for their new schools and the next stage of their educational journey. They have been well prepared and we wished them every success. The whole school community enjoyed their Leaver's performance (it was so funny!) and there was not a 'dry eye in the house' after their Leaver's ceremony.

Catriona Williamson

Macmillan Coffee Morning



It is the time of year in Mere when many gather together to have a cuppa and raise some money for Macmillan, a charity that has spent more than 100 years helping people living with cancer. From the moment someone is diagnosed with cancer, they are there to help

everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can.

A Macmillan Coffee Morning Day was held at the United Reform Church at Mere on Friday 26th September. Cakes galore, Trudy Mead pictured on the right with Anne Rich held a sale in Mere Square afterwards to finally sell them all. One lucky person won a splendid glass fruit bowl.



Pictures and text by George Jeans

Mere Snooker Club

We now have new heaters and one table re-covered and several new members so we're ready for the colder weather and increased use.

Mere Snooker Club meresnookerclub@gmail.com

Copy date for the **December 2025/January 2026** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Thursday 20th November**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies 863425
Editor4MM@Outlook.com or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Walking in Mere

"Get Wiltshire Walking", Wednesday 'Starter' Walk:

Now the days are getting shorter we all spend more time indoors. Why not escape those 4 walls and join us for a 40 minute stroll around the footpaths and lanes of Mere? *We're a sociable and welcoming group, there's always lots of chat and laughter, both while we walk and afterwards at the Angel Tea Room.*

We meet by the surgery every Wednesday, whatever the weather, at 10.00 a.m. Unfortunately, for safety reasons, no dogs are allowed on these walks, except assistance dogs.

Mere Walking Group:

Mere Walking Group are now taking a break until the Spring. Huge thanks to all those who led the varied and interesting walks this year, which included admiring bluebells in the Spring, walking part of the South West Coast Path in the Summer and venturing to the far eastern boundary of Mere in the Autumn. Our next walk will be in March 2026 so watch this space.....

Dave and Wendy Drewett 07508 340105

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

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A new chapter for town's librarian - "Withdrawn from Stock".

Mere's senior library assistant retired at the end of September after almost 24 years of being in the town's good books.

Sally-Ann Hooper first took charge of the library in 2002 and immediately found herself in the midst of big changes.

The Victorian building in Barton Lane was being transformed into a community hub and Sally-Ann vividly recalls her first day as chaotic with newly-arrived people swarming everywhere.

"I had given up a secure job to become supervisor and my first thought was 'What have I got into?' Happily, the chaos quickly subsided and Sally-Ann was able to make a success of her new job.

Over the years the additional services were withdrawn and the library returned to its traditional role. But, says Sally-Ann, it is now busier than ever. Every day people borrow books, use its bank of computers, share in group activities or, in winter, use it as a place to keep warm.

Among Sally-Ann's many fond memories is the time she arrived to find a baby bat warming itself on the self-service machine. It was safely put in the care of an expert and today, what appears to be an ill-fitting ceiling tile provides a gap to allow bats to come and go in the roof space.

Sally-Ann remarked that her time at the library would not have been half as enjoyable if she not had some amazing members of staff to work with over the years.

"I have been so lucky to spend a good chunk of my working life in such a beautiful building among such friendly people.



"Mere is a very special place and I have so many memories. When I started, I imagined I would be getting itchy feet after a few years, but look what happened - Mere magic!

"Thanks to all those who have sent retirement wishes. I am very lucky to have been part of this Mere community."

She was presented with an orchid by Simon Moon on behalf of the volunteers who help at the library two days a week along with a card stamped

"Withdrawn from Stock".

Simon Moon and Pics by George Jeans



New Year! – New Bottom!

We will be setting off from the Clock Tower in Mere at 11 am on New Year's Day!

Put the date in your diary and start 2026 with a breath of fresh air.



If you haven't been on a Great Bottom walk – it is a four mile walk with a climb of 370 feet (6.6 kilometres and 112 metres, if you prefer). Splendid views and lungs full of fresh air throughout. We will be providing badges, a hot toddy or other warming drink for those who complete. Walkers will be wearing their badge and enjoying a hot drink between 12:30 and 1 pm!

Let us know that you are walking so we can prepare, register on:

<https://forms.gle/ztwV6fMWc3NZyMr7>

Or, you can leave a message for John on 01747861567 (while we still have a landline)



Like last year, an alternative shorter, level walk starting at the clock tower at the later time of 11.45 will also be available. This group will walk for about 45 minutes and meet up with the Great Bottom walkers for the hot toddy at the finish line. Contact David and Wendy on 01747 228343 to register for the shorter walk

We could do with some volunteers: a few to lead the walk and three people to serve drinks at the end of the walk. Contact John if you can help, many thanks.

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

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

Remembering in Hope

November is a month of remembrance. The days grow shorter, the air turns colder, and the Church's calendar invites us to pause and reflect on time, loss, and hope. At the beginning of the month, many Christians mark All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day when we remember all those who have gone before us in faith. Some were saints famous for their holiness and courage; others were the quiet, faithful people whose love and kindness shaped our families, churches, and communities.

Gathering at All Soulstide, we give thanks for those whom we have loved but see no longer. Names may be read aloud, perhaps candles are lit, and prayers are offered in thanksgiving and remembrance. It is a tender and holy moment in our year—sorrow and gratitude woven together, as we entrust our loved ones and ourselves to God, who holds all life, both in this world and the next.

A week later, our remembering may take on a national character. Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day—with the silences that still speak so powerfully—draw us together to honour those who gave their lives in war and conflict; gathering with our neighbours and local communities to keep silence, lay wreaths, and pray for peace.

As we share that silence, we contemplate both the horror of war and the preciousness of peace, a silence where grief and gratitude meet. The Remembrance Poppy, worn by so many, remains a fragile yet enduring symbol of remembrance: a reminder both of the cost of human conflict and of the resilience of hope.

For Christians, remembering is never only about looking back. It is also about bringing the past before God in thanksgiving and allowing it to shape how we live now. Every time Christians gather around the altar, we "do this in remembrance" of Jesus—recalling his sacrifice and resurrection, and proclaiming that love is stronger than death.

May we hold before God the pain of the world, and renew our trust that one day every tear will be wiped away, and all shall be made whole in the peace of Christ.

Graham Southgate, on behalf of Churches Together in Mere and District

Wiltshire Libraries 'Warm space'

- Our libraries provide a warm space that anyone can spend time in, find their next good read, get online, pick up information and have a friendly chat.
 - Many libraries run activities throughout the colder months from communal jigsaws to crafting groups, with a free hot drink where available, ask what's happening at your library.
 - Borrow a thermal imaging camera from any Wiltshire library to check your house for heat loss.
 - you need advice on how to stay warm this winter speak to Wiltshire Libraries and we can help you find information and support from trusted organisations.
-

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directly by email or phone. Media4MM@Outlook.com 07833-686742

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	Sat	14:30	Croquet (every Sat) Coffee Morning (every Sat)	Steep Street URC
2	Sun	14:30	Croquet (every Sun)	Steep Street
3	Mon	09:15 09:30 17:45	Pilates (every Mon) Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) Yoga (every Mon)	GB L L
4	Tues	09:00 10:30 18:20 19:30 19:00	Little Angels (every Tues) Craft & Chat (every Tues) Zumba (every Tues) Full-Body Function for Women MADS (every Tues)	GB Lib L GB L
5	Weds	09:00 09:30 10:00 14:00 18:30 19:30	Chair Yoga (every Weds) Tai-Chi (every Weds) Get Wiltshire Walking (GWW - every Weds) Pilates (every Weds) Karate (every Weds) Move Her Ignite	L GB SCP L L GB
			<i>Railway Modellers (every Weds)</i>	<i>RMC</i>
6	Thurs	09:00 10:00 10:00 10:30 11:00 14:00 17:15 19:00 19:30	Walking Zumba (every Thurs) Art Group (every Thurs) Hearing Aid Clinic Harmony 4 Health (every Thurs) Rhyme Time (every Thurs) Rubber Bridge (every Thurs) Girlguiding (every Thurs) MADS (every Thurs) Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	L GB URC L Lib L GB L URC
7	Fri	14:00	Duplicate Bridge (every Fri)	GB
8	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Croquet</i>	
9	Sun		<i>Croquet</i>	
10	Mon	18:00	Scouting (every Mon) <i>Pilates, T&T, Yoga</i>	GB
11	Tues	10:00 09:30 14:30 19:30	Keep a Beat Little Angels Mother's Union Historical Society Zumba, MADS, Craft & Chat	L GB GB GB

12	Weds	19:00	Gardening Club GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, RM	GB
13	Thurs	19:30	Ukulele Zumba, Rhyme Time, Art, Guiding, Bridge, Shreen Harmony, MADs, H4H	BS
14	Fri	10:00	Merely Women Bridge	GB
15	Sat		Fair Trade Stall Coffee Morning, Croquet	URC
16	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service Croquet	StM
17	Mon		Pilates, T&T, Yoga, Scouts	
18	Tues	19:30	Full Body Function for Women Little Angels, Zumba, MADs, Craft & Chat	GB
19	Weds	19:00	Merekits (WI) GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Ti-Chi, RM	GB
20	Thurs	19:30	MADs Production Zumba, Rhyme Time, Bridge, Art, Guiding, Shreen Harmony, H4H	L
21	Fri	19:30	MADs Production Bridge	L
22	Sat	TBC 19:30	Baby Preloved & Toddler Mini Market MADs Production Coffee Morning, Croquet	GB L
23	Sun		Croquet	
24	Mon	10:30	Historical Society Pilates, T&T, Yoga, Scouts	GB
25	Tues		Little Angels, Zumba, MADs, FBF, Craft & Chat	
26	Weds	am 14:00 19:30	Mere Jelly Pennybank Writers Move Her Ignite GWW, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, RM	VH L GB
27	Thurs		Zumba, Rhyme Time, Bridge, Art, Guiding, Shreen Harmony, MADs, H4H	
28	Fri	10:00 18:00	Merely Women Cine Club Film Night Bridge	GB GB
29	Sat		Coffee Morning, Croquet	
30	Sun		Croquet	

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

2 nd	Sun	08:00 10:30 16:00	BCP Communion Parish Communion – All Saints Sunday Service of personal remembrance- All Souls
9 th	Sun	08:00 10:45	BCP Communion Remembrance Sunday – meet at clock tower for 10.45 - followed by church service
16 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
23 rd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Joint Benefice Communion-Christ the King
30 th	Sun	10:30	Parish Communion- Advent
NB- In Dec, Jan & Feb the 8am BCP service will ONLY be on the <i>first</i> and <i>third</i> Sunday of the month			
Roman Catholic Mass is usually at 10:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month but may change. Contact John FitzGerald on 860867 - to join his email list for updates.			

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

2 nd	Sun	09:30	DIY Service
9 th	Sun	09:30	Remembrance Service
16 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
23 rd	Sun	10:30	Joint Benefice Communion at St Michael's, Mere
30 th	Sun	09:30	Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

Mere Contact: Derek Fisher – 07935 266375 delfisher@btopenworld.com

2 nd	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Jane Hurd
9 th	Sun	11:00	Remembrance Service (St Michaels)
16 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Sue Litchfield (Holy Communion)
23 rd	Sun	11:00	Mr David Burfitt

30 th	Sun	11:00	Rev Colin Marsh (Anniversary Service)
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The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

Parish Office: 01963-34408 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

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.

Julia Upton 01225 702039 julia.upton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Booking Meeting Venues

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



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From Times Gone By!

Inquest held by George Sylvester, esq.

At Mere, on James Mills, aged 44. He had served for 22 years in the 35th regiment of Foot, and was discharged about 3 months since with a pension of seven shillings per week, when he returned there and lodged with Charlotte Long, his daughter. He lived rather freely, and was known to have sleepless nights, being distressed in his mind, under the delusion that the amount of his pension would not support him. On Tuesday evening he left the house, and was discovered to have taken a razor. Search was made, but he was not found until the Thursday following, in a ditch in a field at Lambrook with the razor near him, and an extensive wound to his throat dividing the blood vessels, windpipe, and gullet. Verdict - Suicide under temporary derangement.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 23 November 1848

(Historical Note: The soldier's daughter, Charlotte Mills née Long, appears to have married Lot Long - who was erroneously identified as the thatcher on the cover of the Led Zeppelin's album!)

BEAR'S GREASE

Just received by Messrs Brodie and Dowding, Salisbury - Bear's Grease. The repeated enquiries for this article induced J Atkinson ... Soho Square, London, to form a correspondence with a House in Russia to procure for him the above article ... The vivifying properties of this Grease when procured from the animal in its native climate, has been demonstrated by a Lecturer on Physiology of the present day, so that it is unnecessary for the Importer to give any opinion of his own, further than to add that independent of making the hair grow, it is extremely pleasant for dressing it, making very soft and glossy.

Salisbury & Wilts Journal 24 November 1823

Martyn Beardsley



What makes Christmas at Care South so special?

Food

Mealtimes are a very important part of life in a Care South home and even more so at Christmas! We offer a varied menu and make sure there is always something for everyone to enjoy.

Fun

Christmas is always a very exciting period for our homes with plenty of events and activities for family and friends to get involved in too.

Friendship

Christmas is the perfect time to strengthen relationships with loved ones. Being able to get together with others to appreciate the nostalgic moments associated with Christmas can be a warm and humbling experience.

Whether it's moving into a care home, or care in your own home, talk to us.

01202 721410 | care-south.co.uk



Head Office | 39 Commercial Rd | Poole | BH14 0HU

Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia, nursing, assisted living and care at home 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

This month Merekits WI met for a variety evening at the Mere Social Club. We played skittles, did jigsaws, played games and generally got to know one another better, it was an evening of fun and friendship.

Our November meeting will be on **Wednesday 19th November** at the Grove building. We will be learning the skills of pebble art. Why not come along and join us?

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

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends of Mere Museum recently screened a film about Mere using footage from the past. The feedback has been really positive with people who weren't able to attend wanting to know if there will be another chance to see it. The earliest and most convenient date will be sometime in January 2026. Please let us know if you would be interested in attending this one by phoning me and leaving your name and contact number. We will announce the date via Mere Matters, Mere Mutters, the library and the official notice boards around town. Thank you so much for your support!



Rosie 861567 rosiejb77@gmail.com

Evensongs

An evening with Bishop Andrew Rumsey

Featuring songs from his new album and readings from his acclaimed book *English Country: A Poet's Journal* (described as "a treat delight" by Simon Jenkins). *Evensongs* follows Andrew's poetic muse through unlikely corners of our country's heritage.

Thursday 6th November - 7pm
St Michael's Church, Mere

Tickets: £10 (advance) £12 (on the day)



"Bishop Rumsey's *Evensongs* has a more intimate feel than his previous books. It's as if you are at George Bernard Shaw's *Lovers and Friends* in *The Mall*..."

Kathryn Williams



"This journal is a feast on its own terms. I hope for our Andrew's cup to be as deep as this..."

Chris Wood

Tickets available at www.friendsofmichael.org
or Sprout and Flower

THE WINTER FAIR

Somerset's most exclusive charity jumble sale!



SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

10AM-3PM

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£1 ENTRY

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IN SUPPORT OF

the *Balzan* Centre

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TRASH & TREASURE, TOMBOLA, TOYS, RAFFLE,

DELI & CAKES, PLANTS, BAGS,
ART GALLERY, JEWELLERY,

GIFTS, KITCHEN STALL & A DELICIOUS CAFÉ

Mere & District Link Scheme

We had a slightly quieter September with 104 trips but we are still averaging 115 trips/month so 2025 looks like being a really busy year! We need more drivers to help us meet the demand and if you are interested in volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096. 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 want to use the Link, once you have an appointment, please call 01747 860096 to book a driver. But please remember we are not a taxi service! 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. Also, we require, wherever possible, 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.

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

Mere Museum

We have had a busy month at the Museum and I was so pleased to welcome Trudie Maidment and Maureen Osborne to help with identifying people in photos. We had a fun morning and I am hoping to repeat it again. If you feel you can help me then please do contact me, it is not just the names but the stories which go with the photos too.

We had a very successful FOMM event with the film night too, which we will be repeating.

You may have noticed that new signs have appeared pointing visitors to the Museum. Many thanks to the groundsmen for putting them up.

Rose Heesom Hon. Curator 07791 559 674

Shreen Harmony

A date for your diary!

This year's **Christmas concert** is on **Saturday 20th December** in St Michaels Church at 4.00 p.m.

We have decided to try an earlier time as this is such a busy period for people, with so many events to attend, so maybe the afternoon will work better for everyone. We will be serving hot sausage rolls and mince pies and of course Mulled Wine. Our chosen charity this Christmas is the **Mere Food Bank**.

It will be a lovely way to start the Christmas Season and we hope to see you there.

Sandra Fisher 861980 www.shreenharmony.co.uk

Mere Art Group

Holidays and the 'bug' going round have hit us a bit in the last couple of weeks.

The Literary Fraternity are occupying The Grove on the 16th - however we are meeting at Tom Beall's House for a chin-wag and Cakes and Coffee, and a study of Toms' recent 'art work'.

This month's image is an acrylic-on-canvas of Aubrey Colman's 'Pepper'.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Harmony 4 Health

An extended activity in Mere, was supported by the South West Area Board of Wiltshire Council, on Thursday 25th September, at 11am, being the very popular Harmony for Health to sing, eat and meet others for local



offers on what can help keep you healthy. Karen Linaker from the SWWAB was on hand to help and give information. A very good spread of food was on hand produced by the Angel Corner Tea Rooms.

Text and pictures by George Jeans

Palestine - what now?

(Some may take the view that Mere Matters should not publish this sort of event but as we live in a democracy and in a bid to champion free and open exchange, I support the motives. Editor).

We are a group of locals who share a deep concern for the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza, but like many, want to learn more about the background and politics of the ongoing tragedy. To this aim, we have invited Professor Julian Townshend, who has studied the Israel/Palestine conflict for 30 years, to lead a talk and discussion on the issue, to untangle some of the complexities and address our questions. We are hoping this will be the first of a series of talks over the winter months, and will welcome anyone who is interested. Friday 7th November 7pm in the Lecture Hall, Mere Free entry, with a retiring collection for Medical Aid for Palestine in support and hope for an eventual lasting peace in Palestine, vigils will continue in the Square on Saturdays at 12 noon. All welcome.

Mary Wilson 07550 076240

Family and Community Learning

Discover Opportunities - Develop Skills - Achieve Ambitions



Resilience and Readiness

Feel ready for work with our confidence building course

This course includes:

Four in-person sessions held weekly on Tuesdays in Salisbury
(11, 18, 25 Nov & 2 Dec - 10:00-12:00, break for lunch, then
12:30-14:30)

Four online sessions held weekly on Thursdays
(13, 20, 27 Nov & 4 Dec - 10:00-12:00)



Book by
4 November
2025

- Build confidence in yourself and your abilities
- Learn how to handle challenges and become more resilient
- Manage stress, stay motivated, and prepare for work with practical tools

For bookings scan the QR code or contact: 01225 770478

familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk

<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>



Eligibility Criteria

Courses are not 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: individual income less than £26,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-military; be a person with a learning difficulty or disability; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

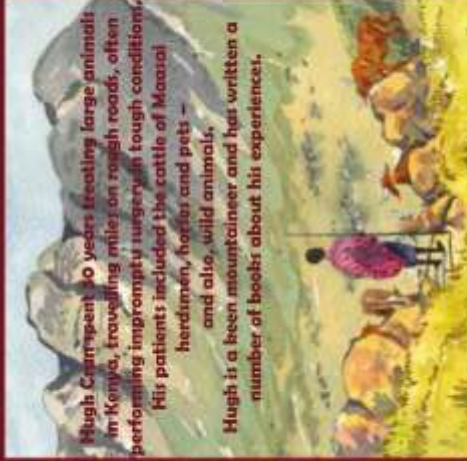
Wiltshire Council

"A BRITISH VET IN AFRICA" A TALK BY HUGH CRAN AUTHOR OF 'RIFT VALLEY FEVER'

THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

7PM (DOORS OPEN 6.30 FOR THE BAR)

MAIDEN BRADLEY MEMORIAL HALL



Hugh Cran spent 30 years treating large animals in Kenya, travelling miles on rough roads, often performing impromptu surgery in tough conditions.

His patients included the cattle of Maasai herders, horses and pets – and also, wild animals.

Hugh is a keen mountaineer and has written a number of books about his experience.

TICKETS £10 EACH

ONLINE: EVENTBRITE

IN PERSON: VIA ALEX CHANNER

(adrchanner@gmail.com)



Mere Gardening Club

In our October meeting we had a great exchange of ideas about this season's crops particularly vegetables which seem to have been hit and miss for some people. Penny Allen also gave a demonstration of ideas for Christmas table decorations and wreaths.

At our next meeting on **12th November** we will be welcoming Stuart Pocock from Pocock Roses. He will be advising us on all aspects of looking after and pruning roses.

We now have club members who are helping to look after the garden at the Doctor's surgery and also the Jubilee Gardens leading off Castle Street. We are indebted to them for helping to keep these gardens looking good for everyone's benefit.

Members, please contact us directly if you wish to attend the Christmas Social on 10th December. There will be a list to sign at the November meeting as well. Don't forget to start your table decorations too for the social!

Rose Heesom roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk

Mere Jelly

Join us for the November 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 **26th Nov**, there is no need to book.

Jenni Bell 07956-869699

Mortals Petanque Club

The hardy petanquers of Mere don't stop just because summer is over. There being no indoor boulderdromes in the area, players brave the elements and keep turning out on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturday mornings from 10.30am. It is a surprisingly enjoyable game to play on crisp winter days. Only rain and snow stop play and players from other local clubs are attracted to play boule at the old swimming pool next to Mere school as the majority of clubs stop playing in September and don't resume until April at the earliest.



Colin Senneck 706008 colin2423@sky.com

Mothers Union

There was no meeting in October because a Literary Festival event needed the venue. At our next meeting on **November 11th**, we will hear an amazing story entitled "From Lincolnshire Lad to Dean's Verger at St. Paurs Cathedral". Elizabeth Barrett will share the extraordinary story of her great great grandfather's life, with fascinating details about the workings of the Cathedral in the 19th century.

As always, we shall be pleased to welcome non-members to this talk as well as to the short Service before it. That begins at 2.30 pm.

Margaret Oliver 860111 megoliver83@gmail.com

Mere Theatre Club

The winter/early spring programme will be out by the end of October so if you fancy a trip to the theatre or a visit to an interesting historic house, do join us. You'll have to be quick! Contact details below.

We look forward to seeing members (the early birds) at the Christmas get together. And some of you in the new year.

Madelaine Morris 07482 555101. madsmorris@gmail.com

Mere Rivers Group

Still very dry. We have had no serious rain and both streams are showing the effect of it. The Ashfield has no stream support at the moment and therefore is dry as far as White Bridge the Shreen has stream support and is maintaining a low flow.

At the moment Wessex Water are abstracting up to their licenced amount by the Environment Agency, nine million litres a day of which one million is put back in to the streams as stream support.

Of the nine million liters, about five is used for local use and the remainder is exported from our area.

Both streams look a mess with over grown weeds and banks but the advice from Wessex Rivers Trust is to leave them alone until things get back to normal (what ever that is).

An average of 95mm rain fell across Wessex in September, 142% of the long - term average (LTA). Most of the month's rain occurred within the first two weeks. Monthly mean flows recorded across Wessex in September were largely normal. Daily mean flows peaked around 15 September following a period of rainfall across Wessex. The majority of groundwater sites, including most sites monitoring the chalk aquifer, reported below normal or notably low levels at the end of September. At the end of September, reservoirs were at 36% and 37% capacity for Wessex Water and Bristol Water, respectively.

We need a wet winter to refill the aquifers if not we could have a very dry 2026 summer.

We tend to concentrate our observations on the upper reaches of both streams, where in fact the natural feeder springs have dried. If you look further down the streams to Edgebridge, Swainsford and Huntingford you will find there is a good flow. This might indicate that the springs further down the aquifer are still flowing.

Ian Sheppard ianjsheppard@outlook.com

CARERS RIGHTS DAY INFORMATION FAIR

21ST NOVEMBER 2025

10am until 2pm

St John's Parish Centre,
2 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge,
Wiltshire, BA14 9EA



Join us to discover the support available to help reduce some of the pressures caring can bring to unpaid Carers.

Meet local organisations and learn more about your rights. Gain information to help you feel empowered and confident when asking for what you need and asserting your rights.

Chat with the Carers Together Wiltshire team and enjoy free refreshment.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - USE YOUR RIGHTS!



Mere Carnival Committee

The Committee is up and running again!!

The Carnival Committee is pleased to confirm that

Father Christmas will be in his Grotto by the clock at the annual Light's

This year we hope to have some Communal Carol Singing while you wait to see him led by Shreen Harmony. Make sure you and your children come along to let Santa know what you are hoping he will bring you. We look forward to seeing you - bring your loose change for a bucket Collection

It will not be possible to park outside the Co-op during this event

Look out for details of our future fund - raising events including a Quiz at The Walnut Tree Inn and Bingo Evenings

If you would like to volunteer to help at our events please contact me.

Ros Kellow 07976 647357

Fair Trade in Mere

This month's stalls are on **Saturday 15th at the URC Coffee Morning** and **Sunday 16th** after the morning service at St Michael's. I am really pleased to have been able to source some lovely Fair - Trade decorations and gifts from a wonderful shop in Bognor Regis. I will have these together with Christmas Cards and some more Bethlehem Baubles at my Christmas Pop-up shop. Bethlehem Baubles is an amazing enterprise with the baubles hand-blown from recycled glass by Moslems, then painted by Christians and shipped by Israel – a true symbol of the meaning of Christmas.

Paul has again agreed for me to hold this sale at **The Angel Tea Rooms** during opening hours on **Thursday December 4th**. Put the date in your diary and come and buy a special gift or some goodies in time for Christmas knowing that every purchase will help a family work their way out of poverty.

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

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RESTAURANT



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Christmas

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TWO COURSES £34.95 PER PERSON
THREE COURSES £38.95 PER PERSON

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