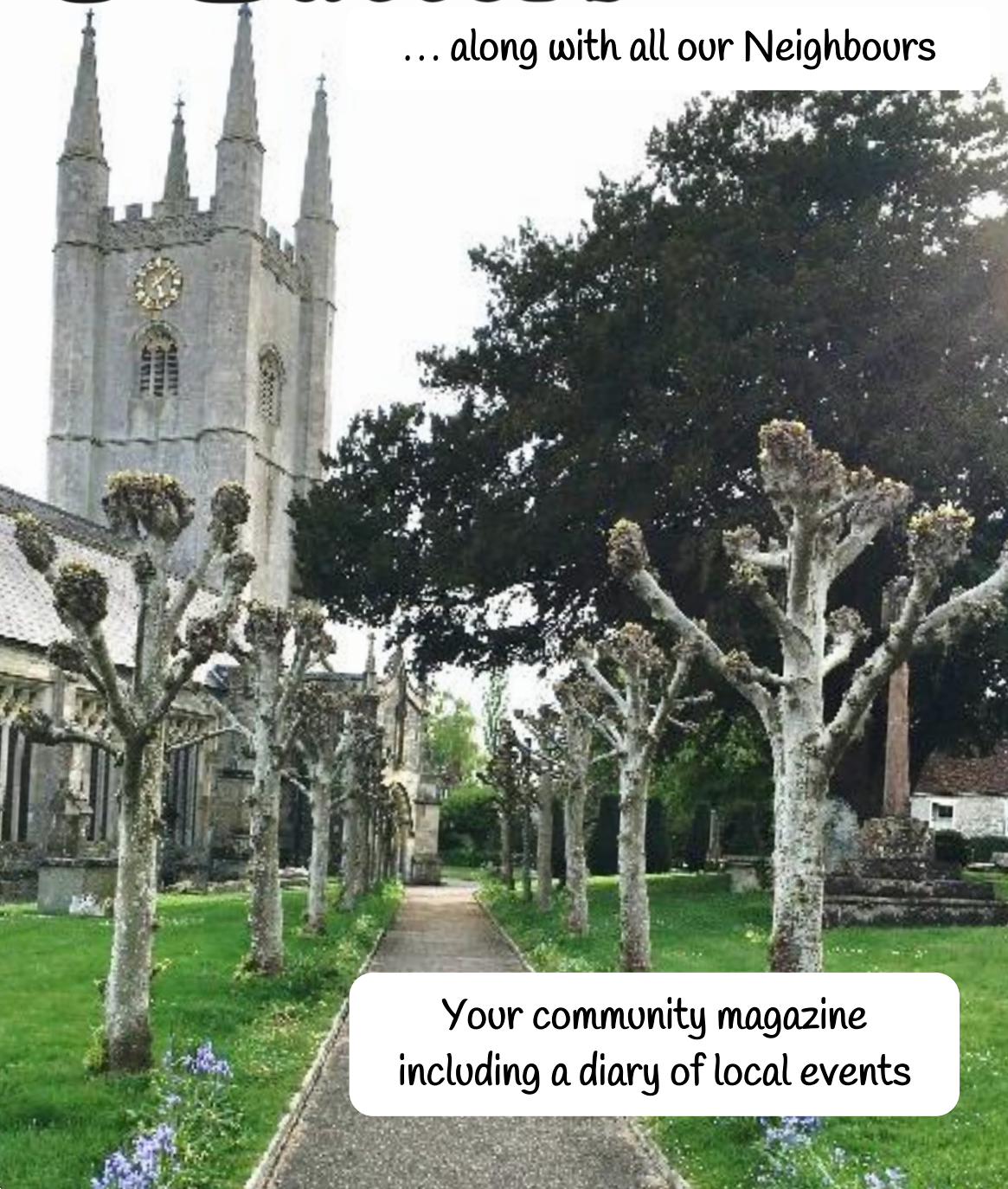


Mere Matters

June 2026

... along with all our Neighbours



Your community magazine
including a diary of local events

ZERO TOLERANCE OF ABUSE IN PHARMACIES



There is a strict zero tolerance policy for any form of abuse towards staff working in a pharmacy. This includes verbal or racial abuse.



This poster has been created as part of the PDA's Violence in Pharmacy campaign. For more information, visit: the-pda.org/violence-in-pharmacy #ENDviolenceinpharmacy

It should not be necessary to add anything to the above poster which is displayed in our Pharmacy. The message is equally appropriate elsewhere of course and also refers to verbal abuse. It is a shame that people have to be reminded.

Why is it that some people think it is okay to abuse others; especially those who work so hard to provide such an excellent and much needed service?

Once upon a time we had a local police presence but without it I feel we all have a duty to call others out on their bad manners and behaviour. I would like to think that shops in general have a right to refuse service and would support this response as well as reporting individuals to the authorities.

Editor: Richard Jefferies Editor4mm@outlook.com

Front cover picture with thanks to Ann-Marie Long

**First
Monday
of the
month
3.00pm**

Bramley House Dementia support tea/coffee afternoon

You're invited

Caring for a loved one who is beginning to show signs of dementia or memory loss can be a challenging and often overwhelming experience. It can raise many questions: What should you do? What should you avoid? How can you best communicate? Where can you find help and support?

We understand the experience you're going through, and we want to offer a space where you can connect with others in our local community who are encountering similar challenges. That's why we're hosting a free tea/coffee afternoon once a month, specifically for those caring for someone living with memory loss or dementia.

Whether you're looking for advice, support, or just a friendly chat, come along and have a cup of tea/coffee with someone who understands and wants to help.

We look forward to seeing you at **Bramley House, Castle Street, Mere BA12 6JN**



Who is it for?

- People living with memory loss or dementia
- Carers, family members, and friends

What to expect:

- A warm, welcoming environment
- A chance to share experiences and ask questions
- Support and guidance from those who truly understand
- A perfect opportunity to strengthen bonds, share stories and uplift one another.

For more information, please contact us on **01747 855844** or email **info@bramleycare.com**

Mere Town Council

It has been a busy time in our Town and as always, the council team have been working hard. We have a new member, so we are happy to welcome Cllr Steven Porter.

Fire Station proposed closure:

Thank you to everyone that has completed the consultation form, attended the meetings online and face to face. The Vice-Chair, Rachael Hansford, and I attended a meeting at County Hall on May 19th to support Cllr George Jeans and Cllr Pauline Church in the campaign to save Wiltshire Fire stations from closure. Rachael and Ashley Gray, Chair of Stourton Parish Council, spoke well in support of the Motion.

The motion called on Wiltshire Council to:

- Ask the government to review the way the fire service funding is calculated, as it currently disadvantages rural communities
- Oppose the planned closure of four Wiltshire fire stations, including Mere

The proposal received overwhelming support from Councillors across Wiltshire:

- 83 voted in favour
- 3 abstained
- None voted against

We hope this strong political support from Wiltshire Council will help protect our fire stations.

Neighbourhood Policing:

Our Neighbourhood policing team have been spending more time in Mere, engaging with the community. I often got asked why we don't see police in Mere; I now get asked what is happening in Mere that requires so many police to be here. The Town Council listened and heard the communities' concerns relating to the lack of police presence in Mere and we continue to work closely with them to ensure that the community see more police presence in our Town.

Planning:

On April 23rd Rachael and I attended a Planning meeting at City Hall concerning an application for 28 dwellings at woodlands Road. We reiterated the Town Councils objections. The Planning application has been refused by the committee.

Old Nurseries Site Burton:

There has been a lot of communication from the public concerning this site and seemingly a lack of work the Town has completed. At our Council Meeting May

11th we provided a summary of what we have done so far. Please read the summary below:

Summary of Town Council activity in Gypsy & Traveller site at the Old Nursery Field since September 2025

Since becoming aware of the unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampment at the former nursery site off the A303 in September 2025, the Town Council has consistently raised concerns and pursued action with the relevant authorities.

The Council placed the matter on its agenda, sought updates from Wiltshire Council Enforcement Officers, and repeatedly pressed for enforcement action, particularly in relation to highway safety, environmental risks and public safety concerns. Wiltshire Council advised that the legal position had changed significantly because the occupants have Gypsy & Traveller status and because Wiltshire Council cannot currently demonstrate a five-year supply of Gypsy & Traveller pitches. As a result, they stated that enforcement action was unlikely while a retrospective planning application was being prepared.

Throughout late 2025 and early 2026, the Town Council have:

- *Written to Wiltshire Council leaders, enforcement officers, National Highways, Wessex Water, the Duchy of Cornwall and other agencies including local MP Andrew Murrison; raising concerns about safety, environmental impact and infrastructure issues.*
- *Raised concerns regarding suspected contaminated soil removal, fly tipping, uncontrolled dogs, water contamination risks, restricted access for utility providers, barriers to crime reporting and ongoing large vehicle movements near the A303.*
- *Encouraged residents to continue reporting incidents to the appropriate authorities so that evidence could be properly recorded and acted upon.*

Wiltshire Council has repeatedly maintained that, under current planning policy and legal guidance, immediate enforcement action is not considered expedient while the occupants prepare a retrospective planning application supported by highways and environmental assessments. The Town Council has continued to challenge delays, seek accountability and ensure that residents' concerns are consistently represented to all relevant agencies.

From the Town Clerk:

In line with government advice, the Town Council has now changed to a GOV.UK email address. This means council emails will come from an official government domain rather than personal or generic email accounts.

For residents, this should make it easier to recognise genuine council emails and gives greater confidence that messages are secure, official and easier for the Council to manage properly.

Please note that the Clerk's new email address is therefore:

clerk@meretowncouncil.gov.uk

Sandra Catley, Chair, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
Lindsey Wood 860701 clerk@meretowncouncil.gov.uk  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Fire Stations:

Consultation regarding the fate of the local much needed Mere Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Station finished on the 15th May, along with 7 other stations across the Fire Authority. I have submitted the 2 hand written petitions from Waltons of Mere and Brainwave, which had a total of 459 signatures. Approximately 11500 leaflets were distributed in and around Mere, Gillingham, East Knoyle and much of the Deverills. I put leaflets in the Shops of Tisbury, Wincanton Post Office and Hindon Stores for distribution. I must thank Mere Town Council Chair and Vice Chair, Sandra Catley and Rachael Hansford for attending meetings including Full Wiltshire Council speaking for the Fire Service to be maintained as is and more. I must also thank our local MP Andrew Murrison for his support at Westminster.

I am very much against any closure of Mere Fire Station or the other 7 across the fire authority, Mere is close to the A303 and the response time will, in my opinion, near 10 minutes longer than now. A final decision on the closures is expected on June 30, I would encourage people to attend that Fire Authority Meeting, at The City Hall, Salisbury. Wiltshire councillors on the 19th May, put politics aside to deliver a powerful show of support for firefighters and rural communities, overwhelmingly backing a motion opposing plans to close four fire stations. Wiltshire Council voted 87 in favour, none against and three abstentions (assumed they were some of those that sit on the fire authority) to oppose the proposed closures of Bradford-on-Avon, Mere, Ramsbury and Wilton fire stations. The motion, brought to full council by Cllr Pauline Church for Wilton and myself as seconder, called on council leader Cllr Ian Thorn to write to government ministers and Wiltshire MPs to press for a review of funding for Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS). It also asked him to formally oppose the proposed station closures. The debate was marked by strong cross-party backing, emotional speeches and repeated praise for Wiltshire's firefighters. Council leader Cllr Ian Thorn said "*It's another motion where we'd be shocked if we didn't all agree,*" Backing the motion, he warned that response times were crucial when lives were at risk. He said timing was critical, adding "*every second and every minute matters*". Opening the debate, Cllr Church asked: "How can this be in the public interest?" I stated "*opposition to the proposals had been immense.*" I also

stated, *"If this were to go ahead, it has no public backing,"* Several councillors shared personal stories about the fire service helping them, their families or residents during emergencies. I and others have done and will do all we can to maintain the service. This is an emergency and I think the Fire Authority need think outside the box and maintain the service as unanimously required by the public.

A303 - Stonehenge

Wiltshire councillors have united to demand answers over the future of the A303 near Stonehenge after the collapse of the long-planned tunnel scheme. At a Full Council, councillors unanimously (apart from one abstention) backed a motion calling on Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander to urgently explain what comes next. The motion was proposed by Amesbury member Cllr Dr Monica Devendran and Cllr Kevin Daley for Till Valley. It focuses on the growing frustration over traffic congestion around Amesbury and Stonehenge, and the knock-on effect for nearby villages. Those from the Mere Area are affected when using the A303. Businesses, commuters and residents have all felt the impact. The motion asks Wiltshire Council to call on the government to provide short-term help for communities hit by congestion and rat-running. It also calls for a clear, funded alternative to the tunnel and a timeline for consultation and delivery. One Councillor stated, "We've spent £179 million of taxpayers money and got nowhere."

Steady on Your Feet

Steady on Your Feet supports people to take control of their health in a simple, positive way. It's about helping residents feel confident doing the everyday things that matter to them. Steady on Your Feet is a practical, easy-to-use website that helps people understand what might put them at risk of falling and what they can do about it. Falls are common, particularly as people get older. Around one in three adults over the age of 65, and around half of people over 80, experience at least one fall each year. In Wiltshire, around 330 people a month attend Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust because of a fall. The service focuses on everyday actions that can make a real difference. After completing a short self-assessment, users receive a personal action plan covering things like balance exercises, reducing trip hazards at home, and staying active. Steady on Your Feet has been shaped with older people in mind and avoids complicated medical language. Many people who have already used the service elsewhere say it has helped them feel more confident and aware of how to stay safe. The website is free and available at any time, whether someone is worried about falling, has had a fall already, or is supporting a friend or relative.

Dementia Awareness Group

A sum of money was awarded from the South West Wiltshire Area Board to help set up a Dementia Awareness Group in Mere, at present it is proposed for Thursday

June 11th at 14:00 to have a meet and greet at the new Castle Lodge Care Home, who has kindly agreed to host for the first year.

Recycle

Wiltshire recycles 42% compared with 48% being recycled nationally. This will improve with the new collection arrangements proposed. Food waste will go to make two products, methane gas for power and fertilizer.

Medical Support

Wiltshire Council a decade ago promoted defibrillators, now at Full Council a 100 plus bleed kits were budgeted for and will be publicly available, many die from accidents etc as a result of bleeding.

Dog fowling

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

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



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Louise: 07743 780609



We have been busy here at Mere Day Centre enjoying our usual activities plus our new monthly visits to Castle Lodge Care Home, they have been entertaining and looking after us very well, thank you to the

wonderful team there.

We also took our guests to The Coppleridge pub in Motcombe for a cream tea which was enjoyed by everyone, the sun shone for us and we were able to sit on the terrace after eating which was just lovely, thanks to the brilliant staff who always go the extra mile for our visits.

MDC will be having a table at the upcoming **Church fete** on the **6th June**, please do come and say hello, especially if you would like to hear some more about our volunteering opportunities, we would love to speak to you.

[Sandie Hawkins MDC Manager 07835 272406 manager@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@meredaycentre.org.uk)

Charities on a winner from new lottery

Local charities and good causes are being offered a chance to raise funds by signing up to a new lottery launched by Wiltshire Council.

Clubs, groups, charities and organisations that support local residents are being invited to set up their own page on the Wiltshire Community Lottery site and earn 50p from every £1 ticket their supporters buy.

There are no set-up fees and admin costs are included in the ticket price. Players will have a chance of winning a top prize of £25,000 each week.

Jane Mason, chair of Mere & District Day Centre, welcomed the initiative, and also pointed to another way people can support good causes at no cost to themselves.

Easyfundraising partners with more than 8,000 retailers. When people shop using their app, part of what they spend is donated to a cause of their choice with the money coming from the retailer.

"Small charities are in a constant struggle to raise funds and both these schemes offer a win-win for them and their supporters," said Jane.

[Simon Moon Treasurer treasurer@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@meredaycentre.org.uk)

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

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

Fun Dog Centre in Mere Wiltshire



www.dogwisetraining.net

info@dogwisetraining.net



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ST MICHAEL'S MERE CHURCH FETE

6 JUNE 2026
2 PM

Raffle with lots of exciting prizes,
dog show, live music, tower tours,
cream teas, bottle tombola and so much more.

Draw will take place at the Fete



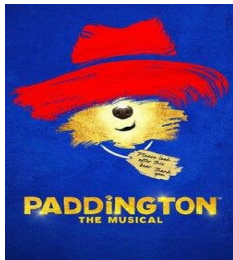
Mere School

At Mere School we pride ourselves on the varied and exciting curriculum we offer our children as well as our children's academic success. When our children leave us, we aim for them to be well-rounded children, well-prepared for their next stage of education and life in general.



We offer our children a rich experience and enhance this learning by welcoming visitors into school or going on exciting educational visits. As I write this article our year 6 children are away in Wales, our year 5 children are at Glastonbury Abbey and a group of our lower KS2 children are taking part in a tennis tournament. We are a busy school and our children thrive with us.

All of these exciting experiences are expensive and our funds at school are limited. The Friends of Mere School pay for 'extras' for all of our children to benefit from – a trip to the pantomime, an artist in residence, science days, library books, computer equipment etc and our children and parents really appreciate the dedication of this group.



We are also extremely grateful for the assistance our children, living in the parishes of Mere and Zeals, receive from Mere Forest Charities. This charity has generously supported many families who are unable to pay for some of our more expensive extra-curricular activities. A huge number of our year 6 families received financial help for their child to go to Pencelli in Wales, some have benefitted from support to go on our London theatre trip to see Paddington

and others funding to help with swimming and the associated transport.

Help has also been received for uniform. In this cost of living crisis this charity has made a huge difference to the lives of many of our children for which we are extremely grateful.



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Mere Model Railway Exhibition

<https://mererailwaymodellers.co.uk>

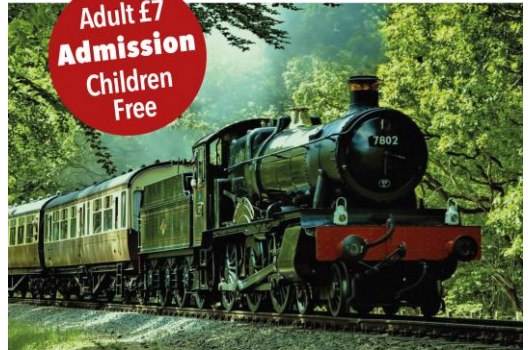
The exhibition will feature some superb working model railway layouts in a wide variety of track gauges, sizes and styles, including a couple of layouts created by club members, as well as 10 or more excellent visiting layouts. At least two layouts will offer the opportunity for children as well as adults to drive the trains, one of which will feature the all-time favourite Thomas the Tank Engine, and his friends, on a visit to the seaside. Light refreshments including home-made cakes will be on sale at the venue, and free car parks are located near by.

We hope this event will provide a wonderful day out for all the family to enjoy.

www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk

MERE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June 2026
10am - 4pm



10+ Layouts
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Mere Bowls Club

The season has finally started. The first match in the new league we have joined; the South Wilts League, against the Avon Remoulds team from Avon Bowls Club at Melksham, we won.

We played the next week at Sixpenny Handley and usually lose there as they play on an artificial green, but this time we won by 2 rinks to 1 and won overall on points.

Sadly we lost against Wilton Wizards, again in the new South Wilts league, and, after winning the Westbrook League, Harold Ford Cup for the last two years running we lost against Salisbury. This match is a 'home and away' match, with one team at home and the other away at Salisbury.

We had our club open weekend last weekend, 9th & 10th May and had 11 attendees which was considerably better than last year.

All our internal club competitions have now started, there are 3 rounds before the finals which will be played on the **5th September**, although the Mixed Triples will be played on 24th May.

If anybody is interested in trying bowls, you are welcome to come along to the club, opposite Mere Primary School in Springfield Road either Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.30pm or Saturdays at 3pm. You can alternatively contact our Secretary, John FitzGerald using fitzgerald.jns@sky.com

Jon Wright jon252@btinternet.com

Friends of Mere Museum

Many thanks to those who came to our plant sale where we raised over £1000 to put towards the running costs of Mere Museum next year. A particular thanks to Clive for the quality plants, to other plant donors and to the members who helped with the sale.



We will be looking at dates later in the year for one of our popular quizzes led by our curator quizmaster Rose. She has also told us the exciting news that the next exhibition will be about Mere Carnival. The Friends would like to put together another film, this time about Mere Carnival. If you have some film clips of previous Carnivals over the years that we could have copies of (no matter what format) please get in touch with me at friendstreasurer@meremuseum.org or 07840722835. We are certain that our curator would like to hear about Mere Carnival memorabilia that you may wish to loan for the exhibition - contact her at curator@meremuseum.org

John Jordan friendstreasurer@meremuseum.org

West Knoyle Parish Council

Thanks to the recent hard work of George and Louise Davis, not to mention the very generous loan of a pressure washer by Martin Haskett (<https://www.facebook.com/MartinHaskettAgriculture/>), West Knoyle has a far cleaner and more welcoming play area for the children of the village this year. More pictures of our sparkling clean playground can be seen at: <https://www.westknoyle-pc.gov.uk/community/west-knoyle-parish-council-21160/latest-news/>



Paul Yates Chairman West Knoyle Parish Council



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Saturday 27th June - 3pm

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David Syrus - Piano

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1st Mere Rainbows and Brownies

Brownies meet their helping hand, the Lions Club of Gillingham Mere and Shaftesbury (GMS Lions)



Sue Jeans said "We have been very fortunate to receive £170 donation to enable us to purchase up to date badge books and we were very pleased to welcome 4 members of GMS to join us at our units' meetings and meet the children."

The donated money is through the club members working hard fundraising to then redistribute to local individuals and organisations on application, in addition to their own commitments.

Mere Brownie Pack goes on holiday 24th April to the 26th, earliest it has been in recent memory, with a day visit from Mere Rainbows. Two nights spent at Berwick St James with a Woodland Animal theme. Absolutely incredible weather. Lots of safe enclosed areas to enjoy working independently and teamwork. During the visit the Brownies enjoyed Camp fire, building dens, outside games and activities, Making animals with air drying clay, Hedgehog Chocolate cupcakes with irresistible chocolate buttons for the spines. Excellent silent disco with headphones and glow accessories. Lots of friendships throughout the weekend. Not too much sleep for the leaders with the 5.15am first morning wake up and the Brownies were hungry and looking for breakfast, then waiting patiently for a while doing quiet activity. Components of the English breakfast to choose from, bacon, sausage, eggs, toast, cereals and drinks. Lunch prepared as a food station (buffet), everyone can have what they liked and avoiding unnecessary food waste. Also catered for allergies and special diets with cooperation with the parents' The Brownies in their relevant groups prepared, cooked and served then washed up, everyone involved got stuck in independently and also teamwork.



Lots of live hares that were boxing and running around to entertain, the surroundings are just perfect. 10 girls slept and some came to just enjoy a day visit.

Mere has Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. If you're interested in knowing more about Mere Girl Guiding and the exciting times that they have during their meetings and experiences external to meetings such as Pack Holiday. Please contact mereguiding@gmail.com who meet at the Grove Building opposite St Michael's Church, Church Street, Mere on Thursday evening term times only. Rainbows 5.15pm Brownies 6.30pm



During the Brownie meeting of the 23rd April, the Mere Brownies donned hi viz and litter grabbers and toured the churchyard paths to the Cemetery and the Meads and back to central Mere. Half a black sack collected and people were delighted to see the children serving their community commenting on their enthusiasm and behavior.

Sue Jeans, Vicky Wagland, Snowy Owl and Sparkly Owl



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info@thebrushandbroom.com

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

Venue Key:

AYP - Andy Young Pav

GB - Grove Building

MSC - Social Club

SCP - Salisbury St Car Pk

VH - Visit Hillbrush

St&Ki - Stourton and Killmington Home Guard Club

BS - Butt of Sherry

L - Lecture Hall

MSG - Mere Sch Grounds

StM - St Michaels Church

WT - Walnut Tree Inn

Drs - Surgery

Lib - Library

RMC - Castle St Car Park

URC - United Ref Church

1	Mon	09:15	Pilates (every Mon)	GB
		09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		16:30	Seated Strength & Stretch (every Mon)	GB
		16:30	Brick Creators Club (every Mon)	Lib
		17:45	Yoga (every Mon)	L
		18:00	Tone, Balance & Flex (every Mon)	GB
2	Tues	09:15	Jade Deverill Move Her (every Tues)	L
		09:30	Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		10:00	Sally's Fitness (every Tues)	L
		10:30	Craft & Chat (every Tues)	Lib
		13:30	Little Building Buddies (every Tues) NEW	Lib
		18:00	Pétanque (every Tues)	MSG
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
19:00	MADS (every Tues)	L		
19:30	Full-Body Function for Women: Bands, Balls & Boards (every Tue)	GB		
3	Weds	09:00	Chair Yoga (every Weds)	L
		10:00	Get Wiltshire Walking (GWW - every Weds)	SCP
		14:00	Pilates (every Weds)	L
		14:30	Pétanque (every Weds)	MSG
		18:30	Karate (every Weds)	L
		19:30	MoverHer Ignite (every Weds)	GB
			Railway Modellers (every Weds)	RMC
4	Thurs	09:00	Walking Zumba (every Thurs)	L
		10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	URC
		11:00	Rhyme Time (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		17:00	Church of Christ (every Thurs)	L
		17:15	Girlguiding (every Thurs)	GB
		19:00	MADS (every Thurs)	L
19:30	Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	URC		
5	Fri	13:30	Duplicate Bridge (every Fri)	GB
6	Sat	10:30	Pétanque (every Sat)	MSG
			Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
7	Sun			
8	Mon	10:30	Mere Kits	L
			Pilates, Strength & Stretch Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	
9	Tues	14:30	Mother's Union	GB
			Pétanque, Little Angels, Bands, Balls & Boards Move Her, Sally's Fitness, Zumba, MADS	

			Craft & Chat, Little Buddies	
10	Weds	09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds) MHI Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	GB
11	Thurs	19:30	Ukulele Art, Guiding Zumba, CoC, MADS, , Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	BS
12	Fri	Railway Modellers 10:00	Merely Women Bridge	L GB
13	Sat	Railway Modellers	Pétanque Coffee Morning	L
14	Sun	Railway Modellers		L
15	Mon		Pilates, Strength & Stretch Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	
16	Tues		Pétanque, Little Angels, Bands, Balls & Boards Move Her, Sall's Fitness, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat, Little Buddies	
17	Weds	19:00	Merekits (WI) Pétanque, Tai-Chi Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	GB
18	Thurs		Art, Guiding Zumba, CoC, MADS, , Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	
19	Fri		Bridge	
20	Sat	10:30	Fair Trade Stall	URC
		19:30	Bingo NEW	St&Ki
			Pétanque Coffee Morning	
21	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
22	Mon		Pilates, S & S Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	
23	Tues		Pétanque, Little Angels, Bands, Balls & Boards Move Her, Sall's Fitness, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat, Little Buddies	
24	Weds	am 14:30	Jelly Group Pennybank Writers Pétanque, MHI, Tai-Chi Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	VH L
25	Thurs		Art, Guiding Zumba, CoC, MADS, , Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	
26	Fri	10:00 19:30	Merely Women Cine Club Bridge	GB GB
27	Sat		Pétanque Coffee Morning	
28	Sun			
29	Mon		Pilates, S & S Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	
30	Tues		Pétanque, Little Angels, Bands, Balls & Boards Move Her, Sall's Fitness, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat, Little Buddies	

Any events shown in **RED** are unconfirmed

Repeat events implied order: | [Grove Building](#) | [Lecture Hall](#) | [Other](#) |

A few extra dates (do you like these??)

1 st	An international celebration of milk and the milk industry. It was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food.
1 - 7 Child Safety Week	Organised by the Child Accident Prevention Trust to promote safety issues for children.
1 Global Day of Parents	Created in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
1 - 30 Pride Month	Pride Month, sometimes specified as LGBTQ Pride Month, is a month-long observance dedicated to the celebration of LGBTQ pride, commemorating the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) culture and community.
3 World Bicycle Day	This UN created day celebrated the bicycle as a simple, affordable, clean and environmentally fit sustainable means of transportation. The day is celebrated globally by organising bike rides at a local and national level.
5 Sausage Roll Day	A day dedicated to the tasty treat that is the Sausage roll. Whether you like to make you own or purchase them ready made, today you must eat a sausage roll! (Vegetarian sausage rolls do count).
5 World Environment Day	The United Nations' principal event for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.
6 - 14 Great Big Green Week	The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature, celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change.
8 World Ocean Day	Event organised by The Ocean Project to raise awareness of the oceans and the living creatures that make their home there.
9 - 15 Bike Week	Organised by Cycling UK, this is an annual opportunity to promote cycling and show how cycling can easily be part of everyday life.
11 International Day of Play	Founded in 2024, this is a day to preserve, promote, and prioritize playing so that all people, especially children, can reap the rewards and thrive to their full potential.
11 - 19 FIFA Men's World Cup 2026	Held every four years, the 2026 Men's World Cup will be held in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

19	Juneteenth commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States. It has been recognised as a federal holiday in the US since 2021.
20 The King's Official Birthday	Celebrations of the monarch's official birthday are held in June across the Commonwealth, and include the Trooping of the Colour in London.
21 Father's Day	Father's Day is the celebration of fathers in the UK, the US and most of Europe and many other parts of the world. This date was chosen for Father's Day when it was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd in the US.
21 World Giraffe Day	Annual event to raise support, create awareness and shed light on the challenges giraffe face in the wild.
21 Make Music Day	Also known as World Music Day or Fete de la Musique, is an annual music celebration where citizens and residents are urged to play music outside in their neighborhoods or in public spaces and parks.
23rd - 30 International Women in Engineering Day	An international awareness campaign to raise the profile of women in engineering and encourage women to study science and to go into the science, engineering, mathematics and computing industries.
24 World Refill Day	World Refill Day is a global public awareness campaign to prevent plastic pollution, help people live with less waste and help make single-use plastic a thing of the past.
24 National Writing Day	A day for everybody across the UK to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), unleash their imagination and make their voices heard.
24 International Fairy Day	This is a day to appreciate the magical, mystical beauty of fairies, and a celebration of fairyfolk and fae.
25 Global Beatles Day	This day is an annual celebration of the cultural importance of British band The Beatles. The date was chosen to commemorate the date that the Beatles participated in the BBC show Our World in 1967, performing "All You Need Is Love".
29 - 12 Wimbledon Fortnight	This annual international tennis championship is held in Wimbledon, UK. The top tennis players from around the world gather to take part in one of tennis' most prestigious tournaments.
30 Asteroid Day	Asteroid Day is a United Nations sanctioned day of public awareness of the risks of asteroid impacts.

Help for Ukraine

A year ago, Mike, my husband, took a vehicle from Wiltshire to Ukraine on behalf of the charity Pick ups for Peace (P4P) <https://www.pickupsforpeace.co.uk/> so many kindly supported him in his fundraising efforts.

That trip, in May last year was a great success: with the support of friends and family, his fund-raising campaign went well which enabled him to buy a Ford Ranger 4x4 which he filled with generators, jerrycans, tools, medical supplies and the like, all of which items had been very kindly donated by friends and local firms.

That the war with Russia is now in its 4th year means that there is a continuing need to provide support to Ukraine where we can. P4P have just returned from their 27th convoy, so far, they have taken a total of 867 trucks to Ukraine and they hope to reach 1000 by the end of this year.

Despite the dreadful world situation, Ukraine is doing pretty well in holding its lines and they are now world leaders in drone technology, but there is still a requirement for low level support of the kind that charities like P4P provide. The supply of 4x4 pickups, medical supplies, generators, etc, are still key to basic administration at unit level and Mike proposes to make another trip with the charity P4P to help the Ukrainians in their fight.

This time, Mike will be joined by Colin Seaford a retired farmer who was our neighbour when we lived in West Knoyle, and they plan to join the July convoy. The task is as before, they have to raise some funds to buy a truck, fill it with useful stuff and then drive it out to Lviv where the whole lot is handed over to the Ukrainian military for their use.

The good news is that because people were so generous in their support last year and because he managed to fill his truck (plus a couple of others), with donated kit he still has some 'cash credit' with the charity, so his target to be raised is a bit lower this time. Mike also anticipates that, as before, he should be able to find useful cargo to take to Lviv at little or no cost to themselves.

As a start Mike has set up a JustGiving page, the link is as follows:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/michael-tulloch-2>

Emily Tullock emilyhillgrove@gmail.com

Gardening Club

We had an excellent turnout at our last meeting and an enlightening talk by Arthur Cole from the Newt who was an excellent speaker.

In June we are hosting the Hidden Gardens of Mere with 15 gardens open on **13th and 14th June** from 11.00 to 17.00 each day. Tickets are £7.50 per person for both days (accompanied children under 16 free). These will be available from The Angel Tea Rooms from Monday 1st June. (cash only). The Art Group will be exhibiting in the Grove Building where we will be serving refreshments from 10.30 to 16.30. The gardens will be signposted by Paterson's boards again this year to help visitors locate the properties.

On 8th July we welcome **David Boag** with a talk on "**Our fabulous Flowers**". David is a photographer and author.

Looking forward to the summer months now so happy gardening.

Les Manwaring, 07827 671653 Chairman lesmanwaring@yahoo.com
Rose Heesom 07791 559 674 roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk

Fair Trade in Mere

Hopefully summer will be here. Why not come and buy some of the delicious Zaytoun Olive oil from Palestine to enhance your salads and picnics? You can call me directly or come to one of my stalls this month:

Saturday 20th June: URC Coffee Morning 10.30-12.00

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

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Creative Mere

We are pleased that plans are in place to hold this popular event again this year, so long as there are enough people wanting to have a stall! So all you wonderful craft folk and artists, why not take this opportunity to showcase your work and talents?

When?	November 7/8
Where?	The Grove Building
Cost?	£15 a table

Full details and application Form can be obtained from Gill Grout 860914 gill.grout@gmail.com

or Mark Dunham 07852724512 mrmrdunham@gmail.com

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

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Walking in Mere

Short Walk - Monday 15th June

Meet at 2 p.m. in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of about 3 miles to enjoy the leafy lanes of Mere

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

'Get Wiltshire Walking'

At the end of May we welcomed approximately 100 walkers to Mere from across the county to take part in a 'challenge' walk event. There were three levels of walks, ranging from 1 mile to 6 miles, and a great time was had by all. For many it was their first time visiting Mere and all left with a great impression of our lovely town, the wonderful views and the many sights of historical interest.



Our regular 'starter' walk takes place every Wednesday. We meet by the surgery at 10.00am for a 40 minute gentle stroll. Unfortunately, for safety reasons only assistance dogs are allowed on these walks. New walkers are always warmly welcomed so why not give it a try?

Mere Walking Group

Our next walk will be on **Sunday 28th June**, meeting at **2.00pm** in the Salisbury Street car park, with car sharing to the start point for a 3/4 mile walk in the nearby countryside. Come and join us, we're a friendly group and love to welcome new members. Well behaved dogs welcome.

Wendy and Dave Drewett 07508 340105

Mothers Union

We were delighted to welcome Janet Way to our May meeting and to hear of her "Calendar Year" - her main interests and happenings in each month of the year. Through this we learnt quite a lot about her life and career. It is always so interesting to hear about a person before they became the person you know now!

There is no meeting in June as there will be a Diocesan MU

Service in Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate 150 years of the Mother's Union. A few of our members are hoping to attend and there should be a report on that in the July Mere Matters

Margaret Oliver 860111 megoliver83@gmail.com

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

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

Admin Secretary: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

7 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Informal Family Service
14 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
21 st	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
28 th	Sun	08:00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall 830534 Sir Charles Burnett 812089

7 th	Sun	09:30	DIY
14 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
21 st	Sun	09:30	Matins
28 th	Sun	09:30	Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

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

7 th	Sun	11:00	Mr Dudley Coates
14 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Kate Rawlings
21 st	Sun	11:00	Mrs Christine Marsh
28 th	Sun	11:00	Mr David Burfitt

The Roman Catholic Church

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 but there will be no Mass in June so our next Mass will be on Tuesday 21 July at 1030am.

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

John FitzGerald 860867

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.

New Group

Little Building Buddies (for children age 1+) – join us in a World of creativity and imagination as we explore Duplo. Every Tuesday 1:30pm-3:00pm

'Tech made simple'

Free digital support appointments at Mere library. Learn more about using your smart phone, tablet, laptop or the library public computers at a free digital support appointment.

To find out more or to book an appointment with our volunteer Steve, speak to a member of the library team or call the library on 01747 860546.

Merely Books Reading Group

Merely Books – reading group at the library, 3rd Tuesday of the month 2-3:30pm. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a member of staff.

Julia Upton 01985 216022 julia.upton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	07942 291266
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	861063
URC Church Hall:	Derek Fisher	07935 266375



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Our annual Songs of Praise in Stourhead Gardens is at 3pm on Sunday 28th June. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us for this very enjoyable Summer event, whether or not you are attached to any of our Churches. And you don't have to pay for entry to the gardens. If you're a National Trust member you are asked to bring your card; if not, just tell the staff at the entrance that you have come for the service, and you will be allowed in for free. Similarly for using the car park by the Visitor Centre: members are asked to scan their NT card in to the ticket machine as usual; non-members can get a free car parking ticket from the Visitor Centre.

You are also very welcome, to choose one of the hymns/songs for the Songs of Praise. Please email me so I can send you a form to fill in with the details of your choice (forms are also available through the Church representatives). Completed forms need to reach me by Monday 8th June, to allow time to coordinate choices and prepare service sheets.

On the day, we meet by the Bristol Cross (to the left just inside the entrance to the Gardens). Very important: you need to bring a chair or something to sit on! You are also welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy in the gardens after the service. If it's wet, we'll meet instead at St Peter's Church, Stourton, which is right opposite the entrance to the Gardens.

We'll look forward to being together for that event at the end of the month. Meanwhile you're very welcome at any of our Churches. You will find details of our services elsewhere in this edition of Mere Matters.

Ravi Butalia ravibutalia@outlook.com

Letter from the Churches

I have recently joined *Churches Together* as a representative from All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley and have been deeply impressed with the unity of local Churches and their congregations.

In a nutshell, *Churches Together* is about the coming together of different churches in the Mere district. Regular joint events that take place are the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* held each January, the very successful *Lent Lunches*, the *Walk of Witness up Castle Hill* on Good Friday, and *Songs of Praise* at Stourhead, in the summer.

However, *Churches Together* is more than that. Much, much more.

Coming together, especially at a time when the peoples of the world are beset with enormous challenges, is crucial. Throughout the ages, people have gathered in times of need. Each society is an interconnected web of relationships - relationships of all kinds. But none is more important than our capacity to love and care, to be kind and compassionate, to nurture and inspire each other.

Despite best efforts, as we've seen so often recently, this does not happen at the international or national level. It can only happen at the local level. In accordance with the laws of nature, progress starts at the grassroots level, which then influences growth and development at the national and international levels. It may not seem like much, but this is the kind of faith that moves mountains, slowly but surely, as so often been attested by history.

By coming together at the local level, we demonstrate our willingness and capacity for change, to make a difference. Through empathy and loving unity, we understand better, accomplish together, often developing profound bonds of friendship and community growth.

It is in this spirit, we warmly invite you to join us at the Songs of Praise at Stourhead, on 28th June at 3 pm.

Judith Thompson judithvthompson@aol.com

Maiden Bradley - Open Gardens

June 7th 13:00 - 17:00

Gardens include Bradley House and various village gardens

Tickets: £10 for all Gardens Tea & Cake at Bradley House

Parking in Kingston Lane BA12 7HL

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 Many thanks

Seating in Church in Tudor Times

Until the C19th you had to pay for the right to a seat in church. In C16th Mere it was generally fourpence or sixpence, though the best seats for the gentry cost one shilling. Before the current pews were made in 1640/41 seats were usually made by the local carpenter and the layout was chaotic. An insight into the lack of space can be gathered from the entry in 1586 where churchwardens John Sheppard and Leonard Cowley had to arbitrate over a clash between two women fighting over a seat.

It is agreed at this daie That where contencon is between the wife of Thomas fforward of Seales and the wife of Robte Chislett that they both shall sitt in the seats wherein they now sitt until such tyme as there doth fall some convenient seate. And then the Churchmen by their discrecon' to place one of them in the foresaid newe seate ...

No similar disagreements are recorded between men – perhaps they found other ways to resolve matters.

In 1591 six men each received 6d in compensation for losing their seats when the organ was moved:

... it is agreed That Thomas Hawker Thomas Byrte, Peter Coleman Robte Perman Willm Dick Thomas Lawrannce butcher shall have vj a peece repayd unto them w^{ch} they before paied for their seates in the place where the Organs doe now stand



From a forthcoming book 'Mere Voices in the time of Elizabeth 1' by Kate Symonds

Copy date for the **July 2026** issue

Closing date deadline is: **16:00hrs on Thursday 19th June 2026**

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

Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly is a relaxed monthly co-working and networking morning for local business owners, freelancers, creatives and home workers from Mere and the surrounding area. We meet at **The Brush and Broom at Hillbrush** on the last Wednesday of every month from 9am to noon.



Some people come to work for the morning, some pop in for coffee and breakfast, and others come for the conversation and company. There's no membership, no formal structure and no pressure - just a friendly group of local people who enjoy working alongside each other and supporting independent businesses in the area.

New faces are always very welcome.

More details can be found here: <https://sugarweb.co.uk/mere-networking/>

Jenni Bell 07956-869699

Mere Art Group

The Art Group was very saddened with the Passing of Mary Horton and Joanne Warner. Mary has been our longest-serving member. We will so miss Mary's animal paintings, and 'Jo's landscapes.

The Art Group are supporting the **Mere Gardening Club**, who will be using the Grove Building as a base for the Open Gardens Weekend on **Saturday & Sunday, 13th and 14th June**. There will be refreshments, and The Art Group will be displaying examples of their work, and some pieces will be on sale.

The weather has sort of changed, but attendance has been very good. The Art Group meet in The Grove Building every Thursday from 10.00 till 12.00, for only £4.00, including coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits, and of course a great community atmosphere. Come and join us!

The weather has sort of changed, but attendance has been very good. The Art Group meet in The Grove Building every Thursday from 10.00 till 12.00, for only £4.00, including coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits, and of course a great community atmosphere. Come and join us!

This month's Art work has been painted in Acrylic, by Jon Wright.

Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com





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Mere New Croquet Club

The Croquet Club is open to all, absolutely no experience needed. It is great fun to play and all are welcome - any age at all.

First few sessions and tuition are free of charge so why not give it a try, and make new friends. We meet every Saturday at 14.30 and Tuesday evenings at 17.00.

The Croquet ground is situated on the Duchy Manor playing field by the pavilion. Do come along and see if this is a game for you. If you would like to know more, please feel free to call us.

Sandra and Derek Fisher 861980

Shreen Harmony A date for your diary.

Our Summer concert this year is being held on **July 9th** in the **United Reformed Church** in Boar Street at **7.30 p.m.** We will be serving Pimms and nibbles in the interval. Free admission with a retiring collection for the Mere Foodbank and all money raised will go to the charity.

This is such a worthwhile cause. Please do come along, enjoy the music and a drink and support our chosen charity too.

Sandra Fisher 861980 www.shreenharmony.co.uk

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

We are a group of ukulele enthusiasts who meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month for an informal evening of strumming and singing. We play a wide range of popular songs and welcome all abilities. If you don't have a ukulele, but would like to join us you would be most welcome. Let me know if you would like to come along and we can have a ukulele for you to try. 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

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

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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 address envelope to:

9 Clements Lane, Mere. BA12 6DF Mereforest@gmail.com



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

Mere & District Link Scheme

The Link AGM will be held on Friday 5 June at 7pm in the Grove Building. After the meeting we will have a drinks and nibbles social. Everyone is welcome.

In April we did 110 trips. As ever, Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 37 trips.

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

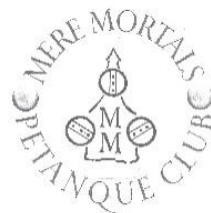
If you want to use the Link, once you have an appointment, please call 01747 860096 to book a driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. Also, it is a great help if you can give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays). Our co-ordinator has to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

Do you want to volunteer as a Link driver? We are a local charity and we take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. **New drivers are always welcome.** You choose when you want to drive, use your own car and we pay 45p/mile to cover your costs. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096, come to our AGM on 5 June or visit our stall at St Michael's fete on Saturday 6 June.

John FitzGerald Chair 860096  merelink.org.uk

Mere Mortals Petanque Club

The cool winds of May are hopefully giving way to balmy June. Perfect weather for throwing boule about and having fun on Mere's excellent terrain of four pistes. The league season is well underway and going well for Mere Mortals. Players are regularly turning up at our club sessions but plenty more can be accommodated. All ages and experience (or none) are welcome, kit and tuition provided free. We meet at 6pm on Tuesdays, 2.30pm on Wednesdays and Saturday morning from 10.30am. Come when it suits you and the terrain is open all day every day.



Colin Senneck 706008 colin2423@sky.com


Mere Museum

Roll up! our next exhibition will be Carnival which goes back over 100 years in Mere. Did you know that there used to be two weeks of fun, games, races, dances, shop competitions treasure hunts and so much more. The crowning of the Queen used to take place at a dance at the Duchy Manor School so it was a big occasion. There were so many floats and the shops entered too. Families used tractors to pull wagons decorated in various themes. The walking entries were fabulous with so many children dressed up and quirky costumes, does anyone remember the Tooth Fairies in 2004?

If you have any memories, photos etc you would be willing to have in the exhibition please do contact me by email.

Thank you to everyone who gives me names for the photos. We have a lot in the Museum on the wall needing names so please do pop in when you are passing.

Rose Heesom Hon. Curator 07791 559 674 curator@meremuseum.org



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- ✓ **Residential Care**
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- ✓ **Respite Care**

With modern facilities, welcoming lounges, landscaped gardens, and a dedicated care team, Castle Lodge offers a place where residents feel truly at home.



For more information call

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