

# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**November 2015**  
**MERE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the town - come and hear what they are doing for you!

You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 2nd November 2015**.

### **The Chairman writes:**

Remembrance Sunday falls on Sunday, 8th November. We will be congregating at the Clock Tower from 10.30am. There will be a hymn before the two minute silence at 11.00am with the sounding of Last Post and wreath laying around the war memorial afterwards. All are welcome to come along. There will be a 10 minute road closure in The Square from 10.57am until 11.07am. A service will be held at St Michael's church after the ceremony at the clock Tower.

The Literary Festival week has just drawn to a close. I was invited to the Nineteenth Mere Literary festival award ceremony held on the 18th October. I am proud to say the Literary Festival attracts local, national and indeed international participants and has grown to be one of the biggest events in the Town's calendar and has helped put Mere on the map. Funds raised through the Literary Festival go towards our local Mere and District Linkscheme charity, providing a truly valued service to people in and around the community. I would like to congratulate the festival's Director, Mrs Adrienne Howell, as the driving force behind this successful literary festival week. I would also like to thank all the organisers, sponsors, and participants - well done.

Wiltshire Council is conducting a review and consultation concerning the future of Children's Centres in Wiltshire. At present Wiltshire Council operates thirty children's centres around Wiltshire. The proposal put forward is to reduce the number of these to fifteen. Where children's centre buildings are closed, services will be delivered by staff in the community through outreach support. Mere children's centre at Duchy Manor is one of the centres earmarked for closure. The nearest proposed children's centre to Mere will be the new campus building in Tisbury. I have attended two meetings with Wiltshire Council and children centre staff over this issue. I have been assured that this is a genuine consultation. I will submit a report to the Town Council at the November meeting so that we can send a collective response to the consultation.

With reference to the request from Mere Town Football Club for the two covered seating areas to be erected in the Recreation Ground as reported in last month's Mere Matters,

I can confirm that the Town Council has agreed to conduct some public consultation. The Football Club will be providing us with scaled plans and drawings of the seating areas, and these will be displayed in the Recreation Ground to show users where the buildings will be located etc.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: **[www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)**, e-mail the Town Clerk at ✉: **[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)** or ☎ 01747 860701.

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES**

In line with Government requirements, Wiltshire created 30 designated Sure Start children's centres between 2006 – 2011. The initial centres were located within areas with the highest levels of deprivation, and additional centres were set up in areas with a higher population of children aged under five. Children's centres are facing budget cuts this year. An annual census by the charity 4Children, which shows two-thirds of England's children's centres, more than 2,300, have had their budgets cut in the past year. The census, which was conducted over two months in the summer, is based on 388 responses from managers in 124 local authorities across England. More than half of those who had experienced a cut said it would mean reductions to frontline services. 4Children warns that around 130 centre sites are at risk of closure, on top of hundreds that have already closed over the past five years.

The Government's policy on free entitlement to childcare for disadvantaged two year olds and the recent announcement on the increase of free entitlement to childcare for three and four year olds of working parents (from 15 to 30 hours) means that the council needs to look at how to create more childcare places as part of its early years strategy. There is an opportunity to consider this agenda alongside delivery of children's centre services. Mere's Children's Centre future is not guaranteed. One proposal of consultation is to close the Mere Centre and provide a service from Tisbury. On line Consultation is open and available to all.

Requests for repairs, or other services from Wiltshire Council, needs to be done by individuals or Parish and Town Councils via the WC website (**[www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)**), or the 'My Wiltshire App'. Examples of issues I have lodged on the app in the last month are: Kilmington Street deep pot holes; Fords Water, Zeals/Gasper poor road and pot holes; Mere down B3095 long cable in road; Pettridge Lane, Mere, pot hole, and poor pavement condition outside F J Chalke and Son, Mere.

As I mentioned last month, I have asked for Downside Close roads to be finally surfaced. I have chased this again this month, although it was pointed out that the final

surface should not be laid in very cold weather, with which I agree.

This brings me on to inclement weather. I read recently that heavy snow and strong winds welcomed in 1976, with snow falling heavily from the afternoon of 31st January and within a couple of hours roads had become treacherous for drivers. UK is sure to see a repeat of this type of weather at some time. Wiltshire Council has snow ploughs, but possibly no snow blowers, which I remember being used in 1963. With further cuts expected from Wiltshire Council, I have asked if the farmers, who agreed to assist will be kept on stand-by, and I am told this will still be the case. Kilmington, West Knoyle and Mere I know use stand-by farmers. Mere, Zeals and Stourton have spinners and Salt. Also West Knoyle and Kilmington have salt, plus there is a hand spinner in Mere. Snow shovels and salt shakers have been given to some, to clear areas outside and adjacent to their property. I have a few snow shovels stored by the Salisbury Street car park given by The Hill Brush Company. Hopefully none of the above will be required this coming winter, however it is there if required.

Wiltshire has 14,000 tonnes of salt in stock, which is strategically placed throughout the county, and there are three new salt depots with undercover salt storage. During the winter people obtain updates on both the weather and road conditions on Twitter by following @WiltshireWinter and @WiltshireRoads

If a resident thinks a gully is blocked superficially, with leaves or grass, they can, with care on the highway, clear it themselves. If the blockage is not easy to clear or they have any other concerns, these can be reported to Wiltshire Council using one of the following methods:


- On line at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts) where users will be able to leave their e-mail address and receive updates.
- By using the MyWiltshire app on a smart phone, which again will provide updates to users.
- By telephone on 0300 456 0105 – the customer services team will provide a log number

After attending a Mini Bus training course, I shall be taking some sheltered housing residents on much needed days out. Already, on Sunday, 4th October, I took a group from Lynch Close and Bishops Close for an outing in a Wiltshire Council minibus. They had a ride in a barge along the canal at Bradford on Avon. I took a wrong turn in Trowbridge on the way home, however we made home and a good time was had by all.

Our community SID (Speed Indicator Device) is at Kilmington for an extended period, the total closure of the B3092 Mere to Frome road has caused many to divert along this road, therefore there is an increased need for the SID at this time.

As part of The Chairman's announcements at a recent South West Area Board, the

question was asked about whether there was any need to consider the plight of dairy farming. Granted it was not on the agenda, however no one requested that we should consider it on a future agenda. Kilmington has lost dairy farms recently, cows in the local fields will be a sight we shall see less of.

Seeds4Success had 15 places available for students in Year 12 to attend an Autumn NCS (National Citizenship Scheme), which included a Residential course at the end of October, followed by 30 hours work on a community project that will run through November and early December. More details are available from Jaki Farrell  [jaki@seeds4success.org](mailto:jaki@seeds4success.org)

Exceptionally, Seeds4Success has been given up to £60K by Wiltshire Council to run a youth service in Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. This will be for a two year contract. The recent Community Youth Officer's (CYO) report to the South West Area Board on 23rd September 2015 showed that there have not been many applications for funding for positive activities from the Youth Grant fund, resulting in the cancellation of the LYN (Local Youth Network) in September. The next planned event is a Consultation on Tuesday, 10th November 2015 which will be open to existing members of the LYN

Management Group, as well as previous members of the ChatLYN's (Local Youth Network chatlines), and any other interested parties from the community. It is hoped that this event will either create interest from existing organisations to apply for a Youth Grant, or will suggest suitable activities or projects that the Area Board may like to procure.

The Bowls Coach who attended the activity session in Tisbury came from Mere Bowls Club, and expressed an interest in making the sport available to young people in Mere. The CYO has discussed this further with members of the Mere Bowls Club, and they are now in the process of submitting an application to fund the set up of this facility in Mere.

I read with interest that BT has announced a strategy to make the UK the fastest broadband nation. It revealed plans to connect 10m homes to ultrafast broadband by the end of 2020 and raise the minimum broadband speed for homes that cannot get fibre to 5-10 megabits per second. Although much of Mere has access to fibre broadband, I shall be interested to see if the more rural parts of the Mere Community Area benefit from this announcement anytime soon.

The South West Wiltshire Area Board (SWWAB) still has funds to help fund community projects. Do you have one? A presentation was made to SWWAB regarding a proposed railway station for Wilton. It was claimed this would reduce the travel pressures on the A36, reducing the need for Network Rail to provide additional commuter parking in Salisbury as commuters would be able to use the Wilton Park and Ride (P&R). This could also be a location for visitors to Stonehenge travelling by rail to

be able to transfer to coaches for their visit to the World Heritage site, which would again relieve the traffic problems of Salisbury. A local group is determined that there will be a train station in Wilton again and have done much to see the project on its way.

On 1 September 2015 Balfour Beatty Living Places transferred their sub-contract to The Landscape Group (TLG) working directly under the management of Wiltshire Council. TLG is now providing local services for grounds, street cleaning and minor maintenance. Wiltshire Council is currently working on preparing the new highway contract for 1st April 2016, taking into account local views and the innovations and improvement priorities to be introduced. The Community Day Service to Towns and Parishes has ceased, but, in its place the council intends to return the Parish Steward Scheme to Towns and Parishes in the new highway contract from 1st April 2016.

Mere has control of its Public convenience. Please remember to give us your views on Wiltshire's public convenience consultation which ends on Friday, 11th December at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/publicconveniencessurvey.htm>

Bonfire night, Thursday, 5th of November, will soon be upon us. Please be aware, that should you have the need, it is the police you contact regarding fireworks let off after 11.00pm or 12.00 midnight on the night and not Wiltshire Council.

## MERE LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to all who completed a survey when they visited the library recently. All the results will be collated and the comments scrutinised, so your opinions are really helpful in planning for the future.

The final children's activity of the year will be on Saturday, 28th November between 10.30am and 12.00noon, and will be all about preparing for Christmas!

The “**Digital Drop Ins**” have proved very popular, and the next one will be on Tuesday, 3rd November between 2.00 and 4.00pm. One tip – if you are planning to bring your laptop or tablet and want to use the WiFi in the library, it makes it a lot quicker to sign up if you bring a mobile phone with you as well. This is because the code needed to register can be more easily sent to you by text.

If you need to stock up with books for the cold winter evenings, we are holding our next **book sale** over two weeks which began on Monday, 26th October, so come quickly and pick up a bargain.

*Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546*



## **POLICE REPORT**

### **Keeping you informed**

A timely reminder to ladies out for the night. Keep a watchful eye on your handbag. We had a theft at the George Inn in Mere. The customer only realised that it was gone when someone found it in the toilets, minus cash and credit cards. With the festive season fast approaching and parties galore - be aware.

The firearm found in the vehicle at Zeals turned out to be an air rifle and the owner will be given advice about leaving such a weapon in an insecure vehicle. I would like to add that it was not linked to the pub!

Two thefts from motor vehicles whilst parked in beauty spot car parks. One was targeted as we think someone was watching the owner as he stashed his wallet in the glove compartment. We put signs up warning not to leave any valuables in your vehicle as even an empty box inside may get you a smashed window by a thief.

The Street in Kilmington and Westfields in Zeals have had lots of police activity linked to two residents who have caused issues. We are working with Wiltshire Council and other agencies to deal with these people, who will ultimately be evicted, if they do not heed the warnings.

We sometimes get calls from worried walkers who see the kids (goats) on Castle Hill on the wrong side of the fence. Happy Wanderer (sic) who owns them assures me that they will find their way back to their parents! The worry is that they will wander onto the A303, but I have never seen them that far down.

We have had a few reports of suspicious activity around rural locations especially around heating oil tanks as thieves will be aware that they are being filled now for the onset of the colder months. Please beef up security around yours, ie, lights that come on when approached, locks and alarms on tanks all make them harder to steal from.

Finally, please remember to wear something bright at night, darker evenings make it more difficult for pedestrians to be seen...

### **Carnival night**

A good night was had by all who attended Mere Carnival last month. Two officers from Warminster assisted your two local PCSOs for the event. The only issues that we had to deal with were 2 cars parked in Pettridge Lane at the narrowest part blocking the road to other road users. We were just about to have one towed away (which would have cost the owner £160 to recover!) when he returned and was given strong words of advice about where not to park in future! Loud persons singing on their way home later on were given words of advice about being quieter.

The Daytime parade went off without a hitch, but we did have concerns about the lack of marshals stopping traffic and putting road closures on. We will bring this up with the Carnival Committee, along with perhaps cones in Pettridge Lane to stop people blocking the road. The funfair was well attended and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Road closures at the carnival are put on by marshals and they all seemed to be doing a great job. We did not have to deal with any irate drivers and everyone had a great time.

Thanks to Barry our cleaner who got up at 5.00am on Sunday and did a great job of clearing the litter. I know the Carnival Committee do a lot of hard work to run it, so a big thank you to them all.

## **NPT Priorities**

Anti social behaviour - Toilets, and surgery area, Salisbury Street car park and in Hillside Close and Long Hill.

## **Call '101' for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency.**

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)  
 [\*\*peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk\*\*](mailto:peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## **MERE LIPREADING CLASS**

'Use it or lose it!' – as the saying goes. That is what has happened to Mere Lipreading Class. Various factors have led to this closure, which is a shame for the people who have gained so much over the past 5 years and for any people who might have been thinking of joining.

There are no government grants for Lipreading classes; lipreading tutors train at their own expense, and they are not paid for their services, only taking minimal expenses. It is truly a labour of love – and we thank our past tutors, Liz Messer and Sheila Thomson.

We would also like to thank the Lecture Hall Trust and Moviola for past grants.

*Barbara Bourne (former group member)*

## **THANK YOU FROM THE LINK LITERARY FESTIVAL**

The Mere & District Linkscheme thank all those who supported in any way this year's Literary Festival. The help and generosity of the community in this annual fund-raising event are greatly valued by the Link and the festival organisers. The 2015 festival was an enjoyable and successful week and thanks to all who made it so.

A fuller report will follow in next month's issue.

*Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group ☎ 01747 860475*



## ARE YOU A CARER?

### Come to our Carers Cafe



Do you help or support a partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who could not manage without your help? Caring is not easy and you may have unanswered questions regarding care. Why not come along and meet other carers and discuss your problems over a cup of tea or coffee. Our new Carers Support Café meets every second Monday of the month at the Angel Tea Rooms in Mere's main square.

**Our next meeting will be on Monday, 9th November from 10.30am - 12.00noon.**

If you would like more information on The Carers Support Café and carers support contact your Local Wiltshire Good Neighbour, Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557922023



### **Mere Dental Practice**

*The practice has three Dentists: Stephen Sherrard,  
Christopher Davies and Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.*

*It also has Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale.*

*Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,  
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,*

*E-mail: [meredental@btconnect.com](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://meredentistry.co.uk),*

*Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,*

*Tuesday 8.45am - 7pm & Friday 8.45am - 5pm*



*The practice is sited in the grounds of Mere Primary School, first building  
on your left when you go through the school*

### **Mobile Foot Health Clinic.**

**For the professional treatment of:** Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails  
• Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary ☎07809 738237**

## MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Now that the nights are drawing in, it may be time to think about a winter project.

As a member of Mere & District Railway Modellers you will have access to a host of new and second hand equipment in O, OO & N, the three most common gauges modelled. We are lucky to have some of the best national contacts within the second-hand network in this country, that will allow members to save a considerable amount of money should they wish to create a layout. If an item is beyond the retail market, then we have an engineering facility that may be able to produce it.

Membership of your local club is £50 per annum, which includes all family members. We meet in the club house every Wednesday evening from 7.00pm. Some members have their own set of keys, which affords them 24/7 access, so if you are interested in becoming involved with the club, why not come along one Wednesday evening and see what we have to offer.

### Future Events

Wednesday, 4th November

A talk and DVD about the Welsh Highland Railway.

Wednesday, 2nd December

James Hudson presents DCC Train Automation.

Saturday, 12th December

CLUB OPEN DAY 10.00am – 4.00pm

Come and have a chat and a cup of tea and get your Christmas goodies.

Wednesday, 16th December

CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

For further information please contact:

*Nancy Broach ☎ 01747 861654 or Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977*

## TRUSSELL TRUST

Well, time has whizzed by and on Sunday, 22nd November, the Christmas shoe boxes will be gathered together to begin their long journey to bring happiness to the forgotten young and old in Bulgaria. They are SO appreciated, and I do hope that you can find the time to make up a box this year.

The Trussell Trust is working with organisations in the Balkans, to help them help themselves, by setting up kindergartens in Roma communities, safe Houses of Opportunity for those leaving school and the orphanages, and jobs for young adults. If you would like to support these aims, under the auspices of the Trussell Trust, please put your donation in the gift envelopes enclosed in the Christmas box pamphlets, which are in St Michael's church. It will give somebody the chance of a safe, happy and fulfilling life. Thank you all SO much.

If you are unable to be in St Michaels's church for the 10.30am service on the 22nd of November, I am very, very happy to receive your boxes and donations at The Cottage, Waterside (over the old stone bridge!)

*Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712*

## CANCER RESEARCH


The Autumn bazaar and art sale was a huge success and we raised a stupendous £549.00 from the sale of Dr Anderson pictures - the crowds were massive!! The bazaar raised a fabulous £618.00 - making a total of £1167.00 - not bad for 2 hours!!! Thank you to everyone who came, bought, donated, helped and had a cup of tea.

I cannot finish without a big thanks to our 'muscle power' on the day - Ed, Craig and Colin - without you we would not have done it all on time!

The next week we held the sale of art work by Val Toms and we raised a massive £543.00 - a HUGE thank you to everyone who came and supported this event and now have a fantastic piece of art hanging in pride of place on their wall!

I must say a big 'thank you' to Tamsin Guy of Cheese House Studios who very kindly hosted this event for us - and gave us loads of good art kind of advice! Thank you one and all.

Great news – we are planning the Christmas Market alongside the Christmas light 'switch on' and a visit by Father Christmas! It looks like it's going to be great night for the town – more details next month, but for now the date for your diary is Friday, 4th December 6.00 – 8.00 pm in The Town Square.

As a committee we are always grateful for any donations, ideas, funds and volunteers. We are also in need of some helpful 'muscle power' to help us set up and dismantle events. If you can help us in any way please contact us in one of the following ways:  
 [merecancerresearch@mail.com](mailto:merecancerresearch@mail.com), Facebook – Mere Cancer Research – phone me (after 6.00pm). Thank you.

Together we will beat Cancer sooner.

*Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712*



## THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



## AGM

The Chamber will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 25th November 2015 at 7.30pm in The George Inn, Mere.

For further information please contact Chamber Secretary Julie Cousins, on the number shown below.

### **Date of next Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, 18th November 2015, 7.30pm at Mere Social Club (small room).


*Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film on Friday, 6th November is 'A Royal Night Out' (12A), and whilst based on the true fact that Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret did go out to join the crowds on VE Day, this is a story of what might have happened rather than what did happen. Nonetheless it is an entertaining and amusing story of the sisters joining in with the revels and losing their escorts, and at one point each other, as they sample all too briefly a life of anonymity. Rupert Everett and Emily Watson play the King and Queen, who give their permission for the excursion and then perhaps question the wisdom of their decision! See notice on page 22. *Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

The Committee is looking for a Secretary to help with the organising of paperwork etc. for the 2016 Carnival. We meet once a month from February and organise fundraising events throughout the year to cover the cost of Carnival.

The current Secretary will be there to help and explain the various procedures required to put on this event. It can also be a lot of fun as we are a friendly lot, so if you would like to join us, please contact me for more details, either by email or telephone,  [luciechesh@hotmail.com](mailto:luciechesh@hotmail.com) *Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639*

## SHOW YOU CARE

### Coffee Morning:

At the home of Jean and Colin Kantaria, Rivermead, Pettridge Lane. Come along from 10.00am-12.30pm on Saturday, 7th November and 'show you care' this year by buying Fair Trade gifts from Tearfund and Traidcraft. There will be plenty of goodies, too as well as Christmas cards and beautiful crafts.

If you miss this opportunity, I will be 'At Home' at Wits End, North Road on Tuesday/Wednesday, 24th/25th November from 8.30am-7.30pm when there will still be plenty of time to order for Christmas.

Details of both sales from:

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



**T@3**

### Community Tea Party

The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 18th November. The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms and the timing, of course, 3.00 -4.30pm.



The laughter and chatter of Tea @3 is definitely something not to be missed. If you have not come along yet to one of these teas as you are unsure about coming on your own, do not hesitate, as you will be made very welcome and surrounded by a group of fun loving conversationalists.

Once again, some of the digital champions are going to be setting up in the café alongside us. If you have queries regarding your computers come along and see the experts.

Seating is limited at the Tea rooms so if you would like to attend the tea, it would be a great help if you could let me know you are coming and also Paul makes sure he has enough cake!

If you would like to attend the November tea party please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 16th November.

*Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life*

## **COMMUNITY LUNCH**

The next Community Lunch will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere (☎ 01747 861220) on Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 at 12.30pm. The two course set meal is £9.95, drinks not included. There will be a short talk about the names on the war memorial in Mere's town square.

Please note that there will not be a Community Lunch in December because we will be out partying, so why not have a belated New Year Lunch at the George Inn, The Square, Mere (☎ 01747 860427) on Tuesday, 5th January 2016). With the success of our previous lunches, it is advisable to book in advance.

If you are new to Mere, are alone, wish to know more about the events, activities and people of Mere do come and join us. We are a very friendly bunch and would enjoy your company. For further details, please call me. *Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## **NOVEMBER SHORT WALK**

Why not join me for a gentle 2-3 mile walk around the by-ways of Mere for a breath of late Autumn air. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm on Monday, 16th November and warm up with a cuppa at The Angel Tea Rooms afterwards.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is underway having started with a visit to the Bristol Old Vic to see Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible', a tour de force! Visits to Salisbury for The Magna Carta plays; Bath for 'Handbagged', and Wells for the Candlelit Christmas Music still to come.

The winter programme will be out before Christmas, so if you fancy some cultural stimulation in good company do join us. For details on how to join, contact Wendy or Madelaine, details below.

*Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833. Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712*

## SHREEN HARMONY

We are now well into the autumn term and have welcomed several new members. We raise the roof of the United Reformed Church with song every Thursday night at 7.30pm, and anyone who would like to see if this is for them is welcome to come along and give it a try, with no obligation.

When this edition of Mere Matters goes to print we will have performed at the 'One World Fair' in the Grove Building in Mere. We will have sung songs in African, Japanese, North American Indian and English, all beautiful and very different.


We are now learning our Christmas repertoire for this year. We will be appearing in Maiden Bradley on the Thursday 17th December and then in the Grove Building, Mere on Saturday the 19th December, and your support would be very much appreciated by us all. The Mere concert seems to me to be the real start of Christmas, with the music - mulled wine - a good supper and the warmth of the audience. We always finish with everyone singing their favourite carols. It is a lovely night to look forward to. I will put more details of our concerts in the next edition. *Sandra Fisher, ☎ 01747 861980*

## SPECTRA MUSICA

### An American Christmas in Bath

Spectra Musica is delighted to be performing at The American Museum, Bath, on Saturday, 5th December at 7 00pm as part of the museum's Festive Celebrations.

Musical Director Peter Leech has arranged another exciting, eclectic mix of music for the group from early American Music, Spirituals and Carols to 20th Century Christmas songs and a selection from Porgy and Bess. The wide range of composers includes William Billings, Daniel Read, George and Ira Gershwin, Mel Tormé and Henry Mancini.

Tickets may be obtained only from the Museum ☎ 01225 820866, or  [workshops@americanmuseum.org](mailto:workshops@americanmuseum.org)

For further information, please call me. *Sally Greenhalgh ☎ 01749 860457*



## WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

Well our main celebrations are over, but we are still on a high. 100 years of the WI is something to celebrate and we hope that we did justice to all the centenary events.

Our meeting in October was a very informal affair with a mini show and two challenging quizzes, one on famous women and the other a whirlwind tour around the world. We also collected our "tete a tete" bulbs to be planted for the 2016 spring competition.

On 20th October, five members attended the Annual WI Council Meeting in Salisbury, which included a talk by Michael Portillo, the guest speaker. He talked about his interesting family life as well as his well known television and political careers.

If you have ever been grateful to the hospital in Shaftesbury, either for an emergency or for an appointment that you thought you would have to go to Salisbury or Yeovil for, then you will be very interested in the talk that Jenny Wood is giving us on Thursday, 5th November, in the Grove Building at 7.30pm. Jenny was, until quite recently, the Chairwomen of the fund raising committee for the Westminster Memorial Community Hospital in Shaftesbury. She will tell us about: the history of the hospital, its function and the many services that it now offers; the role of the League of Friends and the contribution that its fund raising has made to the many improvements to the hospital.

A real asset right on our doorstep, that we hope will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

*Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323*



## MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our meeting on Tuesday, 10th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, we are being treated to *A Virtual Visit to Salisbury Cathedral* with John Collier: a chance to experience the delights of this wonderful building – which some say is the most glorious Cathedral in the UK – from the comfort of the Grove Building! Everyone is welcome to join us for this meeting.

And a date for your diary: our MU Carol Service this year will be held on Tuesday, 8th December in St Michael's Church at 12.00 noon – followed by soup and mince pies in the Grove Building. All welcome as usual.

For more details, please call me:

*Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Rehearsals proceed apace towards the denouement of Agatha Christie's '**The Unexpected Guest**' which is our Autumn Production this month. All is in place for the final discovery of exactly who might have dunnit as well as who did dunnit (and who definitely didn't), and all will be revealed after a thorough investigation on Thursday, 19th; Friday, 20th and Saturday, 21st November at 7.30pm in The Lecture Hall.

Tickets at £6.00 are available from The Library or telephone ☎ 01747 861257. Don't miss it!  
*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We have one further six week course of Dressmaking commencing at the beginning of November with one or two spaces left. We are delighted that some ladies who have taken courses earlier in the year have come back to learn some more. We are also so pleased to see our ladies finishing their items so quickly, but with lovely finishing touches. Are they aiming to compete in the next Sewing Bee!

We then have a break and plan our first six week course for 2016 in February.

We meet at the Grove Building in Mere in the Small Hall. Do phone if you would like to know more: *Carol Lord* ☎ 01747 861923 or *Susanne* ☎ 07788 595434

## MERE MUSEUM

The Museum played host to a splendid launch party at the end of September for the second of five travelling exhibitions put together by the Wiltshire at War Project (WWI). It is called 'Wiltshire Does its Bit' and will be in Mere until mid November.

For more information on the project and to upload any personal WWI stories that you would like to contribute to the growing archive, go to **[www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk](http://www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk)**.

The next Mere Museum exhibition, '**Introducing Mere Historical Society's Archive**' will do exactly what it says on the tin! The origins of the archive, the people who have contributed to it, its present form and location will all be celebrated. And of course one or two 'treasures', as well as more typical items from the archive will be on display. Watch out for posters announcing the opening date (as yet not finalised).

The Frederick Holmes memorial fund (to provide a permanent headstone in the cemetery) now stands at close to £500! *Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

### **St Peter's Stourton (Stourhead) Christmas Concert**

**The St David's Singers** (Exeter) Singing sacred and secular Christmas music

**5<sup>th</sup> December 7pm Tickets £10** includes glass wine

From: Jane Joyce 01747 840149 **[j-joyce@dircon.co.uk](mailto:j-joyce@dircon.co.uk)**



## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

A busy month lies ahead for the Friends! This year's **AGM** will take place on **Monday, 16th November** at 7.00pm in the Museum. After a brief meeting (and the exciting presentation of a cheque to the Museum from money raised by the Friends is always the highlight), light regreshments will be served, and then Friends will be given a tour of the new exhibition, 'Introducing Mere Historical Society's Archive' by the curator.

Later, on Friday, **27th November**, Peter Ginn (well known from 'Victorian Farm' amongst other popular TV programmes) will come to Mere to talk about an exciting new archaeology project called '**Waterloo Uncovered**'. This is - literally - 'a ground breaking project' initiated this year, which of course marks the bicentenary of Waterloo. The project aims 'to reveal the secrets [of Waterloo] that have been buried underground for 200 years'. The talk will be held in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm. Tickets are available in the library at £7.50 each, to include a glass of wine. For more about the project, have a look at [www.waterloouncovered.com](http://www.waterloouncovered.com)

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

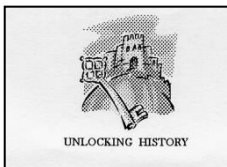
The Day Centre for Mere and district, Lynch Close  
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am – 3.00pm

The Skittles fundraiser was a great success and in total we raised £187! Thank you to all the local establishments and individuals who donated a raffle prize for the evening and huge thanks to Mr John Marks who organised the prizes and collections.

Coming up in November we will be having our usual Tai Chi session and Noel will be along with his keyboard to play all our favourite songs that we can sing along, and dance to. We also have a Desert Island Discs session, an outing to Orchard Park and a bric-a-brac afternoon to look forward to.

Please remember our donations from the green token scheme at Asda in Gillingham. If you happen to be shopping there, please show your support by putting your green token in our box, thank you. Also our Annual quiz is now on sale at the library.

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*



# **Mere Historical Society**

## **The Last Russian Countess of Pembroke**

**Ros Liddington**

**Tuesday, 3rd November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building**

As Archivist for Wilton House, Ros will have a wealth of information about the Countess Ekaterina Semyonovna Vorontsov who became the second wife of the 11th Earl of Pembroke. **£3 entry for non-members who will be very welcome**

### **Morning Talk**

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 17th November (*not Thursday 19th as AGM Newsreview*), to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "The Society's Archive; Open for Business", by Jenny Wilding.

**Non-members are very welcome.**

**Don't forget to check out our web site:**

**[www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)**

*Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797*

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**

**in association with**

**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

**proudly presents**

**'A Royal  
Night Out' (12A)**

**Sarah Gadon   Bel Powley  
Emily Watson   Rupert Everett**

V.E. Day 1945. Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret are allowed out into London to join the celebrations. It is a night full of excitement, danger and the first flutters of romance.

**In The Lecture Hall**

**Friday, 6th November, at 7.30pm**

*Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from The Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

Visit our website at: **[www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)**

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### Gardening Folklore Castle Gardens speaker

**Wednesday, 11th November at 7.30pm, in the Grove Building**

Speakers from Castle Gardens are always enjoyed by members and this is sure to be an interesting talk. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## GROVE BUILDING “100” CLUB

The result of the ‘100’ Club draw for October, drawn on Friday, 2nd October 2015 by Mrs Rose Cox, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 119	Mr Peter Mason
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 191	Mr Tony McDonald
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 184	Mr & Mrs Graham
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 17	Mr Peter Knapp

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## MERE CRICKET CLUB

Another cricket season has flown by... The 2015 season opened with a 5 wicket defeat to Frome Incidentals on 19th April and finished with a 5 wicket defeat at Chilmark on 13th September. I am happy to report that there were some impressive victories in between, the highlight being a 223 run victory over Buckhorn Weston. The victory was part of a 5 match winning streak resulting in an unbeaten month of August. All good things have to come to an end.

The evening T20 fixtures were captained by Becky Yeo who won Dorset Young Volunteer of the Year recognising her efforts with coaching junior cricket at Mere CC and North Dorset District. Results:- Played 16, Won 7 and Lost 9

The weekend fixtures were a mixture of 35 overs, 40 overs and timed games. Results: - Played 16, Won 6, Drew 1 and Lost 9.

Up and coming George Cassidy was a 'stand out' player this season narrowly missing out on the batting cup to Duncan Weir. His 74 against East Meon had spectators on the edge of their seats hoping he would make his first century at the tender age of 17, but alas it was not to be. Next season George...

Bryan Yeo and Charlie White tied as top wicket takers as the committee are left deciding how to select a winner for the bowling cup. Some would say 'averages' is the natural conclusion, but others have suggested a bare knuckle boxing contest as the

only sensible option. We await the tense outcome at the Annual Awards Dinner at The Walnut Tree on Friday, 13th November. Those who witnessed Bryan Yeo negotiate a hotel bill on tour in Weymouth will know he will have put forward a persuasive case.

With 32 games in total, not to mention 7 games lost to weather or opposition unable to raise a side, it is a miracle some of us are still married!! A special thanks to our patient families who during the season become supporters, tea makers, taxi drivers, child carers, doctors, sports psychologists and a cricket whites laundry service.

Several other people deserve a quick mention - Bryan Yeo organises all 39 fixtures and selects every Mere side and we appreciate his efforts. Matt Pitts heads the dedicated volunteer team of groundsmen and without his commitment we would not have a pitch to play on. Mark Cassidy, Chairman and all round good egg has done more than his fair share of tea making this season. Only the English can invent a sport where eating cakes half way through the match is an integral part of the day's play. Thank you Mark for providing us all with the extra blubber needed to keep us warm over the cold winter months.

*Duncan Weir ☎ 01747 822005*

## **MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB**

The 2015 season is rapidly coming to a close but it is gratifying to see week-end play still being so well supported, in spite of the chilly days.

Our end-of- season Open Day was very well attended by both Boule and Croquet players, together with some very welcome visitors. It does not herald a cessation of play, this will go on until the weather finally brings it to a halt.

The Mere Boule Team attended the finale of the Keystone League, to which it belongs, at Semley when trophies were handed out. Sadly, Mere were not one of the recipients, although they had still acquitted themselves very well, winning an appreciable number of their matches through the year.

The Croquet lawn started the season in a rather poor state, but thanks to the dedication and hard work of member volunteers it is now immeasurably improved and should be in pristine condition ready for 2016.

Play will commence during the first week of April in 2016, the precise date will be advised nearer the time. The customary Between Seasons Get Together will once more be held at The Home Guard Club in Kilmington during the winter, again the date will be published in due course.

*Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

## **DUPLICATE BRIDGE IN MERE**

Our club has been meeting weekly on Fridays since January. A regular group of players have enjoyed the convivial atmosphere of the Grove Building's smaller hall, and the excellent facilities there. A tea/coffee break at half-time adds to the social side of the day. Results are published that evening and are distributed to email users.

There is no membership fee, but £1.50 per session covers our costs. Even without a partner, new members will be guaranteed an afternoon's bridge - please arrive by 1.45pm for a '2 o'clock' start, finishing about 5.00pm.

*Vernon Phillips ☎ 01747 863313*

## BOWLS CLUB

We finally put the green to bed on Saturday, 26th September with a match between teams captained by the Vice-President and the Chairman, the victorious Vice-President and his team were raucous in celebrating their defeat of their opponents. This match followed on from a 'spider' where our Chairman, Alan Inwood, won a bottle of port for being closest to the target (called a spider) when all the bowls had stopped moving.

On the previous Saturday we held our singles Finals Day, when all four of the Club singles Championships were decided; Trevor Mead defeated Maggie Phillips in the Novices Trophy, Richard Coombs was the winner over Don Butchers in the Colin anTeresa Read 100-up Trophy, Chris Coombs proved triumphant over Mary Butchers in the 2-Wood competition and then Chris went on to defeat her husband Richard in the Club Singles final, a great day was had by all competitors and spectators.

Earlier in the season Club competitions, other than the singles, were played to a conclusion, the results were as follows;

### TRIPLES:

Winners: Alan Inwood, Mike Oram & Karen Guy

Runners-up: Isobel Naughton, Colin Rankin & John FitzGerald

### MIXED PAIRS:

Winners: Peter Lord & Karen Guy

Runners-up: Ann Hurt & John FitzGerald

### 2 WOOD PAIRS:


Winners: Alan Isgrove & Richard Coombs

Runners-up: Sheila Spencer & Karen Guy

### OPEN PAIRS:

Winners: Alan Isgrove & Chris Coombs

Runners-up: Alan Spencer & Don Butchers

For any other details please contact either Alan Inwood on 01985 844215, Alan Spencer on 01747 860803 or call me at the number below or by :  
**don.butchers@btinternet.com**

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860775*

## CHRISTMAS 2015

### ‘REMEMBER THE CHILDREN’



"Approximately 200,000 children in England and Wales have a parent in prison. This is over three times the number of children in care and over five times the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register. Figures reveal that, in 2009, more than double the

number of children were affected by imprisonment of a parent than by divorce in the family", said the Prison Reform Trust in 2014. *(continued on page 28)*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER  
2015/JANUARY 2016 ISSUE**

**MONDAY, 16th NOVEMBER 2015**

# Mere School Reports



### Blue Class

The children have been looking closely at the book 'Owl Babies'. They have been retelling the story using puppets and making owl babies.

They have also brought in photos of themselves when they were babies.

### Yellow Class

The children in Yellow Class have been busy learning about the Jewish festival of Shabbat.

They are also planning on making and eating Challah bread.

### Silver Class

In Silver class the children have been making posters about the Great Fire of London.



They will also be building cardboard houses to create a London street scene.

### **Gold Class**

The children have enjoyed a visit to Montecute House where they learnt about the life of the rich Tudors.

Whilst there they made spice bags and learnt how to write and paint like a Tudor.

They enjoyed going outside to take photos which they then used to write Haiku and Renga poems.

They will then have some of their poetry published.

### **Red Class**

Year Five have enjoyed a Science day this half term. The girls took part in a science event run by a local school whilst the boys enjoyed science activities here at Mere School.

They have also had a visit from a Roman who told them all about life in Roman times.

### **Green Class and Purple Class**

This week the children have enjoyed a visit from a poet, Catherine Simmonds, which was organised by Sue Evans as part of the Mere Literary Festival.

**Angel Tree** set out with a mission to tackle that number, and remember the prisoners and their families during this celebrated and joyful time.

**Angel Tree** supports prisoners and their family relationships by funding Christmas Presents that we send to their child or children. Each **Angel Tree** gift is sent as though it is from the parent in prison and is accompanied with a personal message written by the parent.

Once again this year Mothers' Union is working with **Erlestoke Prison**, in Wiltshire, and **Guys Marsh Prison**, in Dorset, to buy and send presents to prisoners' children who are eligible and approved to be part of the Angel Tree Project.

Each donation of £15 includes buying the present, wrapping and posting to the child. Please help if you can and tell others about the project.

### **STOP PRESS!**

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to:

[www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)

This is a very special opportunity and we need your help urgently. Please **“BE AN ANGEL”** and send a **cheque** direct to: Mothers’ Union Office, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury SP1 2QB stating that it is for the Angel Tree project, as soon as possible so we can purchase and prepare and post the presents.

For any further information please contact:

*Brenda Birt ☎ 01258 472219 or Ann Cowburn ☎ 01380 816878*

## **NEWS FROM HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Pupils at Hindon Primary School, for which West Knoyle is in the catchment area, have had a very busy start to the new academic year. The Little Owls have settled quickly into the new routines of school life and have already enjoyed Forest School in the new outside ‘treehouse’ classroom!

Outside learning is a strength of the school and wellington boots are an essential part of the school uniform as children have access to the wild area during playtimes and can play amongst the trees, building dens and making mud pies.

Years 1, 2 and 3 are enjoying being ‘Explorers’ as part of the whole school Geography focus this term, and are exploring Food and Farming. At the beginning of term, the children enjoyed a tour of the village allotments and looked at the different parts of the plants we eat. The children also enjoyed a trip to Cholderton Farm, where they were able to feed the animals and ride on Charlie the Tractor!

Years 4, 5 and 6 are exploring ‘Our European Neighbours’ and have enjoyed two trips already this term; the first took them to Salisbury City Hall, where they joined other Primary Schools in a musical production of European Fairy tales and Fantasy with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra! How amazing to listen to and join in with so many instruments. The second trip took them to Waitrose Cookery School, where they made Greek Spanakopita – delicious!

*Jackie Gunter, Headteacher ☎ 01747 820260*

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE IN MERE.

We gather at the Clock Tower in the Square from 10.30am on Sunday, 8th November for our annual act of remembrance, silence and wreath laying. Procession to church and family friendly church service following on in St Michael's.

Refreshments in Grove Building afterwards with display of memorabilia kindly provided by Mr. Havilland Vincent, which particularly focuses on women's involvement in war.

*Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859*

## FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

### King James II Coat of Arms, (*Part 7*)

At the end of last month's instalment of this episodic account of Mere's Coat of Arms, we asked if anyone could suggest why Arthur Coward undertook his renovation of the painting when he did (1896). A welcome response has come from the Rev'd. Ben Elliott, who was the vicar at St. Michael's from 1981 - 1999, who took - and takes - a very great interest in the painting. He points out that Frances Lovibond, the daughter of the well-known Mere Historian, T.H. Baker, was, at about that time, painting 16 shields bearing coats of arms on the balcony above the Still Chapel at the end of the north aisle.\* At that time, the Coat of Arms hung on the wall above the balcony. It is clearly visible in that position in a photograph taken by Frederick Holmes dating to about 1910, though it would originally have hung above the chancel arch.

The Rev'd. Elliott himself had the Arms moved to its present position above the north porch in about 1997, where it is more visible from the body of the church. He suggests that if (and we can't at present be sure of this) the coat of arms was hanging on the wall above the chapel in the last decade of the 19th century, the brilliant colours of the newly-painted shields with their coats of arms on the balcony below might have suggested to T. H.Baker or to the then vicar of Mere, the Revd. John Lloyd, that Arthur Coward, as a professional painter and decorator, might be asked to renovate the large coat of arms, repainting it to match.

*\* The present coats of arms are fixed over those painted by Frances Lovibond.*

*Jenny Wilding, Conservation Project Manager ☎ 01747 860908*

## MRS JANE HURD, MERE BASED LICENSED LAY-MINISTER IN THE HEYTESBURY DEANERY, WRITES:

Autumn, 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as the poet Keats wrote, is also the season of Remembrance. At the beginning of November there is All Souls' Day, when we remember and pray for the souls of those who have departed from this earthly life.

Later in the month we have Remembrance Sunday, when we honour and give thanks for those who gave their lives in the service of our country, in particular two World Wars.

November can seem a melancholy month as the days grow shorter and the leaves fall from the trees. But Keats' poem continues by telling us that Autumn has beautiful music of its own too and brings different joys into our lives. Is remembering always sad? We can have happy memories too. Sometimes a place, an object or even a song can remind us of happy occasions in our past and the good times we spent with those we love and those who loved us.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life' said Jesus. This is indeed the good news of the Gospel. As we stand in solidarity with our companions on Remembrance Sunday, let us thank God with joy in our hearts for those who have gone before us, who are now at rest and peace in Paradise. 'Eternal God, help us to entrust the past to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your wisdom'. Amen.

**St. Michael the Archangel, Mere**

## **Songs of Praise**

**Sunday, 15th November @ 6.00 pm**

Do come along to join us at this informal service of praise and worship and sing favourite hymns chosen and introduced by local people.

## **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

### **Please Shop Locally for Christmas.**

Churches Together in Mere and District, in association with The Mere and District Chamber of Trade, are warmly encouraging you to say "Thank You, and have a Happy Christmas" to the local businesses which serve us so excellently throughout the year. We can do this by making a real effort to **shop locally**.

To help you to do this more easily we have produced a leaflet. Look out for it. It will come through your door and be available in the shops in good time for you to do your **Christmas shopping locally**.

You will be amazed at how much choice there is in our small country town with a village feel. *Chris Gilbert, Chairperson of Mere & District Churches Together*

 01747 860179

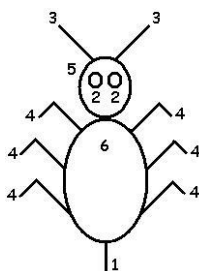
# Christmas is coming....

For the third year, Churches Together in Mere and District are providing a **Christmas Day lunch** in the Grove Building for anyone on their own, or families who will find it hard to celebrate this Christmas. It will be a traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a good festive atmosphere, finishing with tea and Christmas cake.

There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome, and, so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 60, and the closing date is Monday, 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come, or if you would like to help, please telephone:

*Christine Marsh ☎ 01747 861212/ Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*





**ALL WELCOME TO A BEETLE DRIVE**  
**On Saturday, 14th November**  
**at 7.30pm in the Grove Building**  
**in aid of Suchana.**

**Tickets £5.00 (Children £3.00).**  
**Supper included – licensed Bar available.**  
**A fun evening for all ages. To book:**

**☎ 01747 861168 Jean Kantaria or**

**☎ 01747 860553 Judith Thompson**

**or sign list at back of St Michael's Church.**

## **METHODIST CHURCH NOTES**

### **Café Worship**

Café Worship on Wednesday, 25th November at 11.00am preceded by coffee from 10.30am. Everyone welcome.

### **Foot Care Clinic**

Tuesdays, 10th & 24th November with Jenny Franks SRN in the Methodist School Room. For appointments, contact Jenny Franks ☎ 01747 853162.

### **SOS**

Mere Methodist Church may be closed in the near future. Did you go to Sunday School here, were you baptised, married here? After 169 years this will mean the end of the Methodist Church in Mere. Apart from the building, which breathes peace as you enter and all are welcomed here, whoever they are, do you really want to see an empty space or a building site or a warehouse instead? Do you worship God anywhere or would you like to try it? We cannot afford to keep the building going without support.

If you cannot always manage the evening service, there is a coffee morning in the School Room at the back where every Wednesday coffee is served with chat and a few minutes pause for thought and meditation. It is an informal gathering and we don't mind if you come in gardener's togs or overalls!

Do consider this, if you are in need of a hall there are good facilities, kitchen, toilets, and disabled access. It is warm and comfortable - to hire, rates are very fair. Why not start with the Church Anniversary!

*Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*



*You are invited to begin  
Advent with a reflective  
Taizé-style evening  
service for Advent Sunday, 29th November  
at Mere Methodist Church at 6.00pm*

*Churches Together in Mere & District  
Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## NOVEMBER 2015

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

**Priest in Charge:** Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉: [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

**Churchwardens:** Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

**Church Administrator:** Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: [administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day			
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Benefice Service for All Saints Festival in Maiden Bradley Church.
			NO service in Mere
		4.00pm	All Souls service with refreshments afterwards
Tuesday	3rd	5.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Remembrance Service Gather at the Clock Tower in the Square and continue in church
	*15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Songs of Praise
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	29th	10.30am	ADVENT SUNDAY Parish Communion (CW1)

\*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

### The United Reformed Church

**Mere Contact:** Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	8th	10.30am	Remembrance Sunday in the Square followed by a service in the Parish Church.
	15th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	29th	11/00am	Martin Heal Anniversary + lunch



**The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)****Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370**

Sunday	1st	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Church Anniversary
Sunday	8th	6.00pm	Local fellowship service Holy Communion
	15th	6.00pm	Songs of Praise at the Parish Church
	22nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Denise Binks
	29th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page Taizé style evening service

**The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's****Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291****or John FitzGerald ☎ 01747 860867**

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass  
 Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

**West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin****Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,****✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk****Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534****Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263**

Sunday	1st	9.30am	Benefice Service for All Saints Festival in Maiden Bradley Church NO service in St Marys
	8th	9.30am	Matins
	15th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	22nd	6.00pm	Evensong (no morning service)
	29th	9.30am	DIY service

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad - Indicates traditional language)

**DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2015**

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre;  
 CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building;  
 L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre;  
 MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club; RMC-Railway  
 Modellers Clubhouse**

2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking in small hall (every Monday)	GB
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB

2	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	9.30am	Card Making Class	L
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn
		2.00pm - 4.00pm	"Get On-line" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (also 10th & 23rd)	L
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB
4	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm	Dressmaking in small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
5	Thur	10.00am - 12.00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
6	Fri	10.00am	Open The Book	GB
		10.00am - 12.30pm	Traidcraft Coffee Morning	address on p15
		1.45pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 13th & 27th)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola: "A Royal Night Out"	L
7	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
8	Sun	10.30am	Act of Remembrance	The Square
		1.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
9	Mon	10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	12.00noon Carers Support Café	Angel Tea Rooms
		11.00am	Zumba Gold	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	MH
		2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
11	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB

11	Wed	7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
14	Sat	7.30pm	Suchana "Beetle Drive"	GB
16	Mon	2.00pm	November Short Walk	CP
		6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum AGM	Lib
17	Tue	10.15am	Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
18	Wed	3.00pm	4.30pm Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Get On-line" Drop-in session	" " "
		7.30pm	M&D Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
19	Thur	7.30pm	MADS production "The Unexpected Guest"	L
20	Fri	7.30pm	MADS production "The Unexpected Guest"	L
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
		7.30pm	MADS production "The Unexpected Guest"	L
24	Tue	8.30am	- 7.30pm Traidcraft "At Home"	Wits End, North St
		9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	MH
25	Wed	8.30am	- 7.30pm Traidcraft "At Home"	Wits End, North St
		10.30am	Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends together	GB
		7.30pm	M&D Chamber of Trade AGM	George Inn
27	Fri	7.30pm	- Friends of Mere Museum Talk with Peter Ginn	GB
28	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club BINGO	L

## TISBURY LEISURE CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council,  
where everybody matters

## New Campus facilities available soon

The Campus is progressing well, and will be opening in the New Year. Our new Gym facilities looks great, and more space means more activities can be accommodated, so watch out for further details in the coming months. We are aiming to increase our programme for everyone's enjoyment.

For further details, or any other enquiries about our current facilities and activities, please contact us:

- Reception, ☎ 01747 871141,
- e-mail us ✉ [tisburyssc@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tisburyssc@wiltshire.gov.uk),
- visit the website at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Follow us on Twitter@TisburyLC or Facebook.

## BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

## 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 Mere's own website; [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)

## MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Clinics/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

Fridays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

**By appointment only** (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm

## COPYDATE FOR DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the December 2015/January 2016 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at the Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4.00 pm on MONDAY, 16th November 2015.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 9th November to: [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)

Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please **add their name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.**

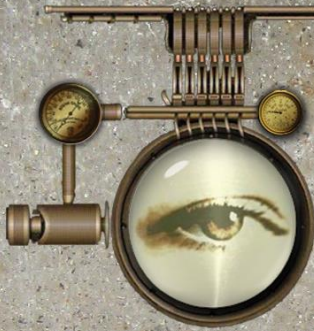
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Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)

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