

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

**YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS**



DECEMBER 2016 / JANUARY 2017

Mere Events Diary

A number of people from different organisations have asked me to remind all organisers of events to which the community are encouraged to attend, to enter their events in the Events diary, which has been held for many years in the Library. Its purpose is to make organisers aware that another group may have already booked the date you are intending to book. There have been occasions this year where double booking has occurred to the detriment of both events, so please consider the Mere Events diary in your event planning.

Does Everyone in Mere Know of Mere Matters?

Not so long ago it was noticeable that the principal stock of editions of Mere Matters would disappear from Waltons, the Newsagent, within the first week after arrival. Now I notice that a fortnight after each delivery there are still copies in the box available to late comers. There is a continual turnover of residents in the community and newcomers may not be aware of the communities own regular publication that is free of charge to all. If someone, or a couple, or a family have moved in close to you in recent times, would you mind just asking them if they know of Mere Matters and from where they can obtain copies, please.

Graham Avory, Editor

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 parish - 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 two meetings will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 5th December 2016 and at 7.30am on Monday, 9th January 2017.**

Independent Experienced Carer CRB NVQ

A personal service for all your care needs

☎: 01747 860998

The Chairman writes:

I would like to thank the Town Clerk and her assistant for organising the road closure, and the Councils groundsmen Josh and James Suter for implementing the temporary road closure during the service in the Town Square on Remembrance Day. I would also like to thank Penny Fennon for tidying the war graves and replacing the dead rose bush in the cemetery. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Town Council. The service was very well attended both in The Square and at St. Michael's church.

This is the time of year that home owners and landowners need to trim back hedges and trees that directly abuts a road, footway or a public right of way, especially hedges growing on the side of road junctions.

Mere Town Council is taking part in the parish emergency assistance scheme operated by Wiltshire Council. Although we cannot top up the grit bins, we do have a supply of road salt, and a spreading machine. We have a priority road plan to clear snow and ice from junctions and access ways. The Town Council also has a supply of sand bags and road signs in the event of flooding issues. Please contact the clerk if you need any road salt, or sand bags.

At the December Town Council meeting we will be discussing a planning application for the Old Ship Inn. The application is for a Conversion and renovation of the existing Grade II* listed building into 8 Apartments and 2 three bed Cottages, and also to include the demolition of outbuildings and the construction of a new build 2 bed Cottage to the rear. Also in December, Mere Town Council will hold the annual budget meeting, as always very challenging, both for the Councillors and the Town Clerk.

The Victorian Christmas Street Fayre in aid of Cancer Research will be held on **Friday, 2nd December**. This event has become a real success and well worth attending. At the event, the town Christmas lights will be switched on. As there will not be a Mere Matters now until the New Year, on behalf of the Town Council, I would like to wish all parishioners of Mere 'a merry Christmas and a happy new year'.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: : www.merewilts.org, e-mail the town clerk at : lindseywood@merewilts.org or : 01747 860701.

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

Parish Steward Service

Wiltshire Council provides us with a Parish Steward service. The Parish Steward comes to Mere for two days each month to carry out tasks on the highways, footpaths or open spaces which have been identified or prioritised by the Town Council. The limitations in the extent to which the Parish Steward can do his work are those that result from the capabilities of one man working alone with hand tools and a small vehicle. Here is an indicative list of the tasks he is likely to become involved in:

- Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers

- Hand clearing of blocked drainage gullies, culverts, pipes and pits
- Clearing storm debris from the roads and footways
- Clearing collision debris, clinical waste etc
- Pedestrian barrier repairs, preparation and painting
- Cleaning, re-installation and straightening of small road signs, street nameplates and bollards
- Installation of small road signs, verge marker posts and supplied street name plates
- Removal of limited graffiti from road signs, bollards and street nameplates
- Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas
- Hand treatment of weeds in rural areas
- Removal of Ragwort and other noxious weeds
- Clearance of encroaching growth and soils from footways
- Repair of minor surface defects in roads and on footways

If you are aware of any jobs of this nature that need doing around the Town, please contact Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, so that she can add them to the list ☎: 01747 860701 or ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Wiltshire Council has, over the years since 2009, closed many of its buildings concentrating on three hubs, Chippenham, County Hall Trowbridge and Salisbury. There are about four campus-type buildings that have been opened in Wiltshire which includes Tisbury's superb Nadder Centre. At one time the corporate response would be that officers would perform home calls when required and indeed they did for a few years. Now I assume as finance is ever tighter some individual officer teams resist home calls in our remote area. I expect a corporate response may challenge my statement, however I have specific examples. For instance, officers insisting that an older new garage tenant visits Salisbury to sign an agreement and collect a key, several older people with no transport needing Council stamps on documents, being told to visit Salisbury.

I have agreement now that I can stamp foreign pension 'proof of existence' forms, and I have got the agreement of the team that encompasses garage rentals to visit the person mentioned above. If you should have occasion to need to contact Wiltshire Council in person and cannot easily do so, please contact me.

I attended Seeds for Success (S4S) annual meeting in "Mere Youth Club" and was pleased to see in their annual report for the last year:-108 open access evening youth

work sessions delivered; 1278 attendances; 139 individual young people attended sessions and 44 young people signposted to, and currently accessing, other targeted projects or opportunities provided through S4S. The area board have given sizable grants to the above and it appears worth it to me. After the meeting I am pleased to report that in my opinion S4S will be secure for another year.

To report problems such as pot holes etc. you can use the 'My Wiltshire' app or your local Parish or Town Council can use the services of The Parish Steward who calls regularly to Mere and the surrounding villages of Stourton, Zeals, Kilmington and West Knoyle. The steward can, with a Priority Sheet order placed from the local council, carry out the functions listed in the Parish Steward item on page 5 of this issue.

A planning application, which will be significant to the area has been received for The Old Ship Inn, planning number 16/10183/LBC. The details are included in Brett Norris's report on page 4 of this issue.

A list has been published of local highways schemes. We as an area board (SWWAB), get several highway schemes offered to us before the end of the financial year to prioritise. In my Mere Division I would wish to see resurfaced Castle Street Mere, B3095 at the bottom of Mere Down (Warminster Hollow), also the main street and hill to Willoughby Hedge at West Knoyle. I have asked if we can choose to replace schemes and put listed schemes back a year, or are we just to prioritise a list given to us?

Being local to Salisbury Street, I was able to note that an electricity cable link across Salisbury Street for emergency use needed repair. The contractors said they were unable to progress for several reasons including, I believe, traffic lights with 24 hour on site supervision being required. I pressed that the work should continue, and I am sorry that many found the works delaying them, however part of Mere will be thankful next time the power gets cut from one of the two electricity feeds to Mere.

The first analysis of the use of CPN (Community Protection Notices) has revealed that 107 councils issued a total of 3,943 CPNs in the 12 months to October last year, with Newham in east London issuing the most at 1,486, followed by the 802 handed out in Wakefield. The report by campaign group the Manifesto Club has raised concerns that CPNs can be handed out for seemingly erroneous misdemeanours, such as having unclean windows.



Local Town and Parish Councils have received, in the form of a newsletter, the following statement from Wiltshire Council:- "It is the time of year that I ask the parishes and towns to assist in helping maintain access to their areas by working with local landowners in trimming back private hedges and trees.

"Anything you can do is of assistance. Unmanaged hedges have big implications to our residents. It is not just the safety issues caused by limited access, but it can be the implications to vital services such as gritting vehicles. We do not want to be in a position of not gritting some roads due to encroachment of the highway. However, there can also be implications to emergency services including the fire service. Even gulley tankers are affected, as well as waste collection vehicles. So it is very important we all do our bit.

"I am asking towns and parishes to remind landowners to: Trim hedges and trees to ensure growth does not obscure the view of road signs; trim roadside hedges to maintain visibility for road users, particularly at junctions and on the inside of bends; trim any hedge that directly abuts a road, footway, cycleway or public right of way so that growth does not prevent the passage or affect the safety of the highway user, including cyclists and pedestrians; remove dead or decaying trees and other growth that may fall across the highway; remove branches and other growth that may prevent the passage of high sided vehicles or obstruct light from a public lamp (street light) and ensure the highway (including the footway and drainage features) is left clear of debris from the cutting operations.

"It is easier for all concerned if landowners/occupiers maintain their own trees and hedges to a good standard. Where roadside growth is becoming a problem the Council may serve a notice on the owner/occupier requiring the necessary work to be completed within a stated period. Failure to comply may result in the Council undertaking the work and claiming back the cost incurred. Obviously I would like to avoid this wherever possible.

"If a resident thinks a gulley 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 us using one of the following methods:

- On line : **www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts** where you will be able to leave your email address and receive updates.
- Using the '**MyWiltshire**' app on a smart phone, again you will receive updates.
- By telephone : 0300 456 0105 – the customer services team will give you a log number."

On 14th November Age UK brought its bus to Mere. With money from Wiltshire Council and government getting ever tighter, the charity's advice is welcome. I have learned that there is a County Council disappointing farmers in its area in order to fund care. Farmers in Herefordshire have expressed regret at Herefordshire Council's decision to sell around 40 of its smallholdings. The local authority, however, has said it needs to save money in order to fund the "growing bill" for caring for elderly and vulnerable people in the county.

I have had it confirmed that the broadband green cabinet that has appeared in the centre of Kilmington will bring superfast broadband to parts of the village. It may be possible for

a local help yourself group to enhance areas of the village the cabinet may not reach. I reported to Scrutiny Management on the 1st November, 2016 regarding broadband.

The Wiltshire Online programme was designed to provide a fibre broadband service to those premises which commercial providers considered to be financially non-viable. Without Wiltshire Council's investment, approximately 40% of Wiltshire would not have access to superfast broadband. The Council's approach is designed to deliver fibre broadband to the greatest number of premises for the budget available. This sometimes, as must be expected, discounts the very remotest of properties. For these situations an alternative of Satellite or a financial contribution of £350 to use an alternative provider, subject to conditions, one of which is the present speed being less than 2 Mbps, is available until November 2017.

To date over 83,000 homes and businesses have access to fibre broadband due to Wiltshire Council's Wiltshire Online investment. This is a great overall achievement as I see it from the scrutiny prospective. Problems have been experienced where BT have fallen slightly short on promised numbers in a given period, however with Wiltshire being a very rural county, this has not largely impacted on the programme. It is true to say our officers have had complaints from those not connected, this is to be expected and the team and I sympathise. There is a gain share clause in the contract that brings additional funds back into the contract investment pot to allow us to extend our build footprint further, which possibly Kilmington has gained from.


Gain share is calculated on the rate of take-up of the service available via the infrastructure we deploy. To date take-up rates on Contract 1 have exceeded expectations and are currently over 30%. This level of success has resulted in a gain share proposal from BT to the value of £2.8m which results in additional build serving 3,500 new premises, which again I consider is very good news

Stemming from the work I am involved in with The Broadband Project Board, I have requested that Wiltshire's planning committees need to be made aware that from now (November 2016) Openreach will provide fibre to premises (FTTP) of developments with 30 or more dwellings, if the developer will agree. A good broadband service, I am told, will add at least 3% to the worth of a domestic property, which may encourage the developer. The Wiltshire Council Cabinet member has agreed this request.

Pensions in local government as elsewhere have funding problems; a Council rejected a request for £100m to bail out a pension scheme. Trustees of the £11.5bn West Midlands Pension Fund have asked councils for an extra £100m a year to fill a £2.8bn deficit, but they are unable to afford the bailout.

I have several highways in my area requiring attention. I said last month it has come to my attention that the public in Devon have been voluntarily recruited to pothole repair roles. I have had some local people volunteer and say they would be prepared to participate in the Mere area. I will raise this suggestion at the JSA (Joint Strategic

Assessment) meeting later in November. This meeting allows local people to help prioritise those issues most pressing to this area.


Statistics will be given at the JSA meeting. One interesting one I have noted from information I have independently seen, is that of the percentage of children with excess weight in Reception year and Year 6 by Community Area (National Child Measurement Programme 2014/15). Mere has 36.7% of its children in year six with excess weight. Mere is second in Wiltshire to Trowbridge at 39.2%. In the reception year Mere is at number one with 32.5%. Here is a link that may be of interest to some of you should you be interested in local information, : [**http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk**](http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk)

The next area board meeting will be on Wednesday, 7th December at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury, starting at 6.30pm.

Christmas and New Year Waste and Recycling Collection Changes

There will be no waste or recycling collections in Mere and District on Monday, 26th December 2016. The collection this week will be one day later than normal, with a collection on Tuesday, 27th December. Collection days will return to normal from Monday 2 January 2017.

Garden Waste collections will be suspended from Monday, 26th December and restart on Monday, 9th January 2017. If you have paid for a garden waste collection you can leave your real Christmas tree alongside your garden waste bin on Monday, 9th January and we will ensure it is composted.

To check your collection days at anytime visit : www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-collection-days

Household Recycling Centre Opening Hours

All household recycling centres will be closed from 1.00pm on Saturday, 24th December and all day on Sunday, 25th December, Monday, 26th December and Sunday, 1st January. At all other times normal opening hours will apply, 10.00am – 4.00pm, five days per week.

Visit : www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres to check which days your local centre is open.

Merrell's 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 on 07809 738237**



A national charity since 1911

We are looking for a Volunteer!

Could you spare 2 hours per month to help at our hearing aid clinic at the surgery in Mere on the first Thursday of every month 10.00 to 11.30 am

- Supplying batteries for hearing aids
- Re-tubing hearing aids (but not compulsory)
- Help record client information

Full training will be given, one day induction course and expenses paid

Please contact me by:

☎: 07570 670 643

✉: gillian.drayson@hearingloss.org.uk

or by phone:

Gill Drayson ☎: 01722 58001

Mere Dental Practice



Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, and Christopher Davies.

Therapists: Wendy Hester and Laura Moss.

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,

Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6EW ☎ 01747 860365,

✉: meredental16@btconnect.com 🌐: meredentistry.co.uk,

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

Friday 8.45am -5.00pm



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

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Registered Charity No:1062328

☎: 01747 860096

It is the time of year when Christmas is approaching. This year we will be closing from **Monday, 19th December** and reopening again on **Tuesday, 3rd January 2017**.

We are aware that some people will have appointments in the early part of Christmas week. If you have please ring, giving as much notice as possible, and we will try to provide you with transport, but please remember it is the holiday season and our drivers will have family commitments of their own.

The telephones will be monitored over this time so please leave a message if you have an appointment early in the new year. Again as much notice as possible will be a great help.

If you are looking for a new year resolution please consider helping your community by becoming a Link driver.

Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to you all.

Barbara Thomas, Secretary

WARMINSTER & DISTRICT FOODBANK

Christmas is coming and we will be collecting for the Foodbank, which also supplies families in Mere. We will be outside the Southern Co-operative in Mere on the morning of Saturday, 3rd December asking you to buy one extra item for our trolley.

Please remember those who are really struggling and for whom the Foodbank is vital. Thank you so much.

Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712 and Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218

SHOW YOU CARE THIS CHRISTMAS

Did you miss the Sale in the Angel Cafe? Why not come along to my 'At Home', enjoy a Seasonal Drink and some Fair Trade Goodies and buy those last minute Fairly Traded gifts, cards and goodies.

The dates are Tuesday, 6th and Wednesday, 7th December, 8.30am-6.30pm at 'Wits End' North Road, BA12 6HP.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

BRAINWAVE

The Charity Shop has been part of the Mere community for many years and continues to be an informal bus shelter whilst waiting for one of the Salisbury buses on a Tuesday, or a chance meeting place for neighbours and others that we may only see walking down the other side of the street.

Brainwave continues to support children by working with families to deliver individual home-based therapy and exercise programmes that help children with disabilities and Developmental Delay to achieve their potential. The children have a range of diagnoses such as Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, Autism and more. Day by day the children are learning to sit upright, crawl, stand, walk, run, ride bicycles, communicate better, solve problems and improve self-help skills such as dressing and feeding. The children are becoming increasingly engaged with the world around them, more active and happier people.

This is made largely possible by the income generated from the 20+ Brainwave Charity Shops. We are regularly overwhelmed by the number of donations we receive in our shop, the generosity of the community and the support we receive from so many of you.

The last couple of years have seen a number of new faces, but thankfully a larger number of familiar ones. We owe a great deal to the loyalty and tenacity of our team of volunteers, many who have been with us for many, many years. They should be under no illusion that without them the shop would not be the success it is today. Thank you all!

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, to help in the shop for a few hours per week, please call into the shop for further information.

As the Festive Season approaches, so does **Late Night Shopping** on **Friday, 2nd December** and we will be thrilled to welcome you in to the shop until 8.00pm to say hello and join us for a mince pie.

We will be holding a Christmas Raffle again this year. Tickets go on sale on **Friday, 2nd December** and it will be drawn on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 20th December**. We already have a collection of wonderful prize and will be canvassing local businesses for donation of further prizes. Any offers of prizes will be gratefully received between our normal opening hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Saturday.

Don't forget to come and purchase your 'Christmas Pudding and message' to hang on our tree. Pop into the shop for more details. Also, please come and see our 'Twelve Days of Christmas' window display.

With very best wishes to all our customers, donors and supporters, for a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year, from all at Brainwave.

Michelle Elkins, Act. Manager ☎: 01278 429089 🌐: brainwave.org.uk

'MERELY A FESTIVAL'

Charting the story of Mere Literary Festival, this well illustrated book of over 162 pages makes an ideal Christmas present from Mere.

It is available from Mere Library @ £7.99, or by post @ £10.00 (including postage and packing). Contact ✉: info@merelifest.co.uk or 🌐: www.brimstonepress.co.uk

Proceeds go to the Mere & District Linkscheme to further its work in the community.

The Mere Literary Festival wish all its supporters a Happy Christmas and New Year

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

REFLEXOLOGY with GEORGIE PEART. MAR

The relaxing foot massage that can relieve all tension, re-balance the whole body whilst helping with many problems thus stimulating wellbeing.

Gillingham 01747 590714

07710 008744 georgiereflexology.com

MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere Chamber would like to wish you Season's Greetings and to thank all of those who joined us this year for our business meetings. We are planning more for next year on topics which we hope will be of interest to you. So watch this space for further details and we look forward to seeing you at a future event or meeting in 2017.



Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 14th December 2016 7.30 pm at Mere Social Club

Wednesday, 18th January 2017 7.30 pm at Mere Social Club

If you would like to know more about the Chamber and its activities as well as details and benefits of membership, please contact us at ✉ merechamber@outlook.com, or by phone. *Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ : 07856 700576*

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

The social calendar, together with the activities prior to the festive season, always offer an interesting conclusion to the years events. This year we are at the Mere Cancer Christmas Fayre on **Friday, 2nd December** where we will be offering 'CHOO-CHOO' orbital train sets with batteries for £15 each. These are suitable for age 4 and upwards.

A few of our members have had a lot fun, together with their relatives, assembling and playing with these compact units.

We hope to see you, and invite you to our Club House Open Day from 10:00am to 3:00pm on **Saturday, 10th December**. The clubhouse is situated in Castle Street car park and seasonal refreshments and a good selection of '00' gauge model railway rolling stock, railway books, second-hand tools, and some railway memorabilia for donations can be obtained by the early birds!!

Our Christmas Lunch will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn on Wednesday, 14th December, which will conclude our formal events until Christmas is over.

Please remember that the West Camel Club just down the Wincanton Bypass has its open day **Saturday, 31st December** from 10:00am – 3:00pm, which is always a good laugh!

So to end the year, we must wish all those who have supported us, the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

As we will all be busy shopping and partying in December, it has been democratically decided not to have a lunch in December. So we plan to start with a big bang on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017 at 12.30pm in The George Inn, The Square, Mere. The set 2 course meal cost £9.95, drinks not included, and we are delighted to have with us Graham Avory, who will talk over coffee about being Editor of Mere Matters.

Book now direct with The George ☎:01747 860427. All welcome, particularly any sight impaired or Blind Veterans UK. For more details, please contact me

Lindy Elliott ☎:01747 861646



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 21st December at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message, or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 19th December, please.

Again, in January 2017, Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 18th January at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message, or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 16th January, please.

Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Pennard Plant's Famous Potato Days

Mere Garden Club are pleased to announce we are again hosting one of Pennard Plant's Famous Potato Days. There will be over 80 varieties of Seed Potatoes on offer, sold by the tuber.

So whether you have a tub to fill or rows on the allotment, there will be something for you. Chris Smith also brings a selection of fruit bushes and trees, onion and shallot sets and Heritage Seeds.

This time it is being held on Wednesday, 11th January in the Grove Building between 4.30 and 6.30pm before our Club's New Year Social. Refreshments will be available.

Social Evening

Garden Club members are invited to a social evening with quiz on **Wednesday, 11th January at 7:30pm in the Grove Building.**

Note: There will be no December meeting. *Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE

MONDAY, 16th JANUARY 2017

DECEMBER SHORT WALK

With its usual seasonal twist, the December short walk will take place on Tuesday, 20th December. Meet as usual in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm. No muddy footpaths will be involved!

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE WALKING GROUP

Our New Year walk will be on Monday, 2nd January 2017 and will be based on the Buffalo Inn at Wyke, Gillingham. We will meet at Salisbury Car Park at 10.00am and share transport to the pub, go for a four mile walk, followed by the lunch. This year it will be a buffet lunch at £10 per person consisting of an Italian mix of rice & pasta salads, cold meats and pizzas. Please let us know if you would like to join. Non members will be very welcome.

The annual planning meeting to arrange the 2017 group walks, to which all are invited, will be held at the "George Inn" on Wednesday, 18th January 2016 at 7.30pm.

Roger Laidler ☎: 01747 863447 ✉: roger46laidler@talktalk.net

Mere Cancer Research - ½ Page Advert (New)

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

Victorian Christmas Fayre


Friday, 2nd December 6.00 - 8.00pm in the Town Square. We have over 20 stalls selling a wide range of goodies that will help solve all your Christmas present problems! Also Festive food and drink to fuel you along the way. Mere's new Town Crier will be there, the festive lights are being switched on and the Carnival Father Christmas will be in the Clock Tower to see all the good boys and girls. All the local businesses will be open as well.

Some dates for your 2017 diary:

Spring Bazaar	Saturday, 11th March	Lecture Hall
Cars and Coffee	Sunday, 30th April	Town Square
May Fayre	Saturday, 20th May	Town Square
Autumn Bazaar	Saturday, 7th October	Lecture Hall
Christmas Market	Friday, 1st December	Town Square
And more to follow!		

Once again thank you to everyone who has come along, bought, donated, volunteered to support us at any of our events - we appreciate everything you do to help us 'Beat Cancer Sooner'. The total raised for 2016 will be announced in the February 2017 edition.

Meanwhile it just remains for me to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Wealthy 2017 from all the committee members of Mere Cancer Research. See you in 2017.

You can read more about us on Facebook: **Mere Cancer Research**, or reach us by  merecancerresearch@mail.com

Penny Fennon, Mere Cancer Research Press Officer  07833 131712

MERE THEATRE CLUB

By the time you read this our winter programme should be out and soon our thoughts will be turning to spring!

It's been a lively and varied programme this year including drama, comedy, musicals and concerts - so do join us if you fancy widening your theatrical experiences with some friendly people.

Thank you to our committee for scouring the area for more theatrical gems, and thank you to our members for making it all worthwhile. Happy Christmas and a culturally exciting new year!

Wendy Horne  01747 861712 *Madelaine Morris*  01747 861833

MERE FILMSHOWS

As has become our custom, we have no film in December and our next screening should have been in January. However, on looking through the few available films for January from our new list we were disappointed to find nothing that we felt was good enough to present to you. This is not the fault of Moviola but rather because of the lack of good films that have come out generally in the autumn months. We have always asked you to trust that the films we choose are good films with much to recommend them and therefore we have decided not to show a film in January.

However, the films for the rest of the spring season will more than make up for this, particularly with our next screening on Friday, 3rd February, which is to be **'Ethel and Ernest'**. Author Raymond Brigg's loving tribute to his parents inspires this animated feature which retains the original – and award winning - book's homely drawing style in chronicling their decades of marriage. **Jim Broadbent** and **Brenda Blethyn** voice the

title characters from their first meeting in 1928, when Ethel is a lady's maid and Ernest is a milkman, a job he continues to do all his life, to their deaths within a few months of each other in 1971.

The couple's experience in setting up home together in a modest London terrace, raising their young son amid the Blitz and coping with the subsequent social changes affecting post-war Britain are typical of many households, but the story celebrates their everyday capacity for keeping calm and carrying on, as well as their quiet love for each other in their house they bought for the enormous mortgage of £875! The story's sense of quiet pride is also tinged with a wistful element too – we'll certainly never see these times again, not least the possibility of owning a London home on a milkman's salary. This film is an intimate and affectionate depiction of the life and times of two ordinary Londoners living through extraordinary events.

Have an excellent Christmas and a very Happy New Year.






MERE MUSEUM

Our current exhibition, 'The King's Arms', will remain in place for the rest of this year and into the next, giving you lots of time to discover just what the fuss is about concerning the Royal Coat of Arms which hangs in St. Michael's church. The display includes

a blow-by-blow account of its restoration, with lots of splendid detailed pictures.

But don't forget that we are aiming to install a New Year exhibition, sometime in January/February, which will make it possible for you, the Residents of Mere, to choose what you would like to see from the Museum's permanent collection. All you have to do

is to tell us what aspect of life in Mere, or the history of Mere, that especially interests you and we will do our best to display everything we possibly can relating to it! Do please get in touch. You can contact us by means of a note left at the Museum, or : **davidlongbourne@btinternet.com** or : **jennyflaxmill@gmail.com**. Meanwhile have a very happy Christmas season! *Jenny Wilding* : 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends were simply delighted at the excellent turnout for our Bingo Night earlier this month, and everyone seemed to have had a very good evening. We certainly enjoyed it! The financial result of the event isn't known at the time of writing, but we anticipate a very positive addition to the Friends' funds. Thank you to everyone who supported us, and may everyone also enjoy a very Happy Christmas.

Jenny Wilding : 01747 860908

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &

Carols in the Square, Mere

Christmas Eve 11.00am Everyone welcome

St Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday 18th December 4.00pm Lessons and Carols

Thursday 22nd December 9.30-11.30am Christmas Craft Fun

Morning, including rehearsal for Crib service. Grove Building

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib Service (Children invited
to dress as nativity characters)
'pleasebring a torch'

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Communion with Carols

United Reformed Church, Mere

Sunday, 18th December 6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30am Service for
Christmas Morning

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Mere

Christmas Eve	8.30pm	Carols followed by
	9.00pm	Mass of Christmas, followed by mince pies & mulled wine
Wincanton: Christmas Eve	6.30am	1 st Mass of Christmas
	11.30pm	Carols and Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.30am	Mass of the Nativity

St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle

Sunday 18th December	6.30pm	Candlelit Carol service
Christmas Day	10.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)

DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2016

Parish of Upper Stour

Sunday, 18th December	6.00pm	Carols at the Christmas Tree Bourton Village Green
Monday 19th December	6.00pm	Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Kilminster
Wednesday 21st December	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Martin's Church, Zeals
Friday 23rd December	6.00pm	Village Carol singing starting on Zeals Green
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service, <i>all ages welcome</i> St George's Church, Bourton
	6.30pm	Traditional Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Stourton
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St Martin's Church, Zeals
Christmas Day	10.00am	All Age Christmas Communion St Mary's Church, Kilminster

For more details re Upper Stour please see the Parish Magazine, or contact Rev'd Graham Perryman, ✉: parishoffice@upperestour.net, or ☎: 01747 840221

Visitors are most welcome at all services

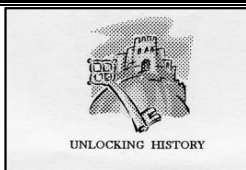
All the Churches wish everyone a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

If you hurry you might just be able to pick up last-minute tickets at the door to see MADS's Autumn Production (**Friday, 25th or Saturday, 26th November.**) and to find out at first-hand what Lord Arthur Savile's Crime actually was. Certainly by now the cast have got it sorted out. For those of you, who already know, promise not to tell!

The Next Big Thing is Christmas, of course, but never fear: Spring 2017 will bring forth a Pantomime! We're quite sure of this, though we're less sure at the minute, which Pantomime will emerge as the favourite. Watch this space; you'll be the first to know! But we can tell you the performance dates, to put into your new diaries: **Thursday, 2nd, Friday, 3rd and Saturday, 4th March.** Have a lovely, crime-free Christmas while you're waiting!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



Mere Historical Society

Inner Sanctums

Rob Curtis

Tuesday, 6th December from 7.10pm in the Grove Building

The talk starts at 7.30pm and will be preceded by **mulled wine and mince pies**, so please come along early to enjoy! Rob Curtis is a very popular speaker with the Society and his talk is sure to be entertaining.

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Morning talk: Tuesday, 17th January:

"Royal Naval Hovercraft in the Falkland Islands 50 years ago". Take 12 men, 2 cocoa tins and a vacuum cleaner, mix them with penguins, sheep, Darwin and Brunel to get a string of coincidences.

Talk by Vernon Phillips (MHS member). To be held in the Grove Building at 10.15 for 10.30am.

Non-members are very welcome.

NB There is no morning talk in December and no evening talk in January.



merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our last meeting on Thursday, 3rd November on the Conservation of the Langford Lakes, a local conservation bird sanctuary, was changed at the last moment due to the illness of the speaker. Instead we had a very interesting and informative talk by Ruth Kimber from Kimber's Farm Shop, Charlton

Musgrove. The farm has been in her family's ownership for 300 years and the shop has been extended to include a range of home produced grass fed beef, pork, turkeys and geese as well as milk plus local cheeses, vegetables, fruit and craft gifts.

Our Christmas celebrations start early on Thursday, 1st December in the Grove Building with members and invited guests enjoying music from the Mere hand bell ringers, carols and entertainment from the committee followed by a plate buffet supper and gifts from under the tree. In January we will enjoy a New Year Lunch in East Stour.

On Thursday, 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building, our talk will be 'Life as a Country Policeman's wife', followed by mystery board games and a competition to make a biscuit policeman. Visitors are most welcome to come and join us for that evening.

Hilary Gladding (President) ☎ 01747 861733



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our December meeting:



Mere Mothers Union would love you

to join us for our

MU Carol Service

on Tuesday, 13th December 2016

at 12.00pm in St Michael's Church Mere

**Followed by sandwiches & mince pies in the Grove
Building**

We hope that the earlier-than-it-used-to-be time for the Carol Service will make it possible for younger Mums to join us and still be able to collect children from school. Everyone is welcome to come.

In January, instead of our usual meeting we'll be enjoying a New Year lunch together at the Walnut Tree on Tuesday, 10th January.

All past and present MU members and partners/spouses are very welcome to come, as well as friends and anyone who might join in future. If you haven't already booked, please phone me asap!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎: 01747-860553

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We were delighted that both the Monday morning and Wednesday evening courses before Christmas were quite full with the sound of busy sewing machines and over lockers. There were many new faces as well as those now quite experienced dressmakers and we are looking forward to celebrating two years in Mere of our courses with a festive meal out a few days before Christmas.

Our 2017 five and six week courses commence on **Monday, 23rd January** from 10.30am to 1.00pm and **Wednesday, 25th January** 7.00 to 9.30pm, are now booked through to the summer. We are always keen to take people onto our waiting lists and somehow manage to fit them in, although we don't have too many people at once so that everyone has adequate time with Susanne, our experienced tutor who is so popular. We enjoy a lovely selection of teas and coffees and of course our famous chocolate biscuits. No wonder no-one wants to leave us! For details see our Facebook page "Dressmaking in Mere".

We all wish our readers and very Happy Christmas and a happy and creative 2017.

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or Susanne 📠: 07788 595434

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

**Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am to 3.00pm**

Well done to Colin Kantharia for winning the skittles trophy this year! We managed to raise £256.00 so thank you to all those that helped to make this possible. Continuing with the fund raising theme, our calendars proved very popular and sold out quickly, but I will report back about this in the February edition of Mere Matters. Our Annual Christmas quiz is still on sale (£1 each) in the library, if you fancy giving it a go.

Our guests are going to be very busy in the run up to Christmas; we have Tai Chi, Art, a Christmas production with season special sing along, and then a Christmas dinner

followed by prize bingo on **Monday, 19th December**. The centre will then close for Christmas and New Year to reopen on **Friday, 6th January**.

On a last note, we currently have vacancies for new volunteers to help wash up after our lunches on the second Friday and third Monday of each month, if you are interested please contact me on the number below, thanks.

On behalf of everyone at the RGC I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞: 07835 272406
🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

GROVE BUILDING “100 CLUB”

The result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for November, drawn on Wednesday, 2nd November, by Debbie Langley of The George Inn, was:

1st Prize (£20) -	No. 121	Mrs J Wilding
2nd Prize (£15) -	No. 55	Mrs M Herbert
3rd Prize (£10) -	No. 142	Mrs B Flexney-Briscoe

The results of both the December and January draws will be published in the February issue of Mere Matters.

Lindy Elliott 📞 01747 861646

MERE BOWLS CLUB

During this quiet time for any Bowls Club there doesn't seem to be anything going on, nothing could be further from the truth! We might not have any games to keep the members busy, but there is plenty of activity going on in the background to make sure we are ready for next season.

To that end we are well advanced in our planning and preparation for the Annual Dinner and Presentation evening that will be held at the Stag's Head in Yarlington at the end of January, but let's get the New Year festivities out of the way first.

A small group of members are also working on the actions required of the Club in order to sponsor a flower tub in Mere next year as part of the town council's efforts to beautify the centre of town and make it a better place to be.

A small group of our members also continue bowling throughout the winter months by using the facilities at Clary Dunbar Indoor Bowls Club on the outskirts of Frome, the surface is quicker and so different to an outdoor green, but the principles of bowling are still the same.

May the Club take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year, one can be rich but without your health it is very difficult to enjoy life.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎: 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers on the number below, or by ✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE

MONDAY, 16th JANUARY 2017



Mere School

Tag Rugby

Two teams of Y5 and Y6 children took part in the Gillingham Family Tag Rugby Tournament. This consisted of an hour of coaching with the young leaders and then a competition.

The A team came 4th and the B team came third.

As a result of the positive attitude and outstanding behaviour of the A team they have been selected to take part in a Spirit of the Games Tournament in Blandford.

Thank you so much to all the children involved.

Netball

Six children from Y3/4 took part in an afternoon of coaching at Gillingham school this month. They learnt a lot of new netball skills and behaved beautifully throughout the afternoon.

Whilst this was happening, a team of Y5/6 children took part in a tournament and, after coming second, have now qualified for the North Dorset finals after Christmas.

Maths Day

On Wednesday 9th November the children of Mere School took part in a Maths Day. This involved the older children working with the younger children to help improve their maths skills, a maths scavenger hunt and several difficult problem solving activities.

The day was a huge success. Thanks go to Mrs Edgar for organising it.

Christmas

The children are now busy learning their songs for their upcoming Christmas Productions. They have also been designing and creating Christmas cards that will be sent off to the printers to be made into cards that can be bought.

STOP THE 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

MERE TIDDLERS AND TODDLERS

Christmas Party

This year as usual, we are having our Christmas party on Monday, 12th December, in the Lecture Hall, starting at 9.30am as per the usual session.

We will be expecting Father Christmas to come, and there will be party food, seasonal singing and parachute games. If you would like to come along, please see Anne at Toddlers by Monday, 5th December, and provide a small present for your child/children, wrapped and named, for Santa to give them on the day.

The cost will be £4 per child (under ones go free) to cover the party food, payable in advance please.

Merry Christmas from all at Ivers House, and Toddler group!

Anne Rich, ☎: 01747861493, 📠: 07413512023



IN MERE & DISTRICT



*You are invited to come to
a Churches Together
reflective Taizé-style
evening service for Advent*

*on Sunday, 4th December at St Michael's Church, Mere
at 5.00pm**

****Please note time** (we gave this incorrectly in the November issue
of Mere Matters)*

As we go to press we're busy delivering leaflets for our **Christmas Day Lunch**. We want to be sure that families who would find it difficult to celebrate this Christmas, and all those who would be alone, know that they are very welcome to join us in the Grove Building on Christmas Day. A traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a festive atmosphere, will be followed by tea and Christmas cake. (No charge, but donations are welcome). You should have booked by now, but if you haven't, and would like to come, please ☎: 01747 860335 asap. Volunteer drivers on Christmas Day still very much needed.

For full details of **Christmas Services** at all our churches please see the **Centre Pages**. Everyone is welcome at any of our services – and also to join us singing carols on Christmas Eve in the Square at Mere at 11.00am.

January is also busy! As usual, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th – 25th January, and a very short informal service will be held each weekday, to which everyone is welcome, as shown below:

Wednesday,	18th January	10.30am at St Michael's, Mere
Thursday,	19th January	10.30am at Maiden Bradley Church
Friday,	20th January	10.30am St Mary's RC Church, Mere
Saturday,	21st January	10.30am at Mere URC Church
Sunday,	22nd January	10.00am at St Peter's Church, Stourton*
Monday,	23rd January	10.30am at West Knoyle Church
Tuesday,	24th January	10.30am at St Michael's, Mere
Wednesday,	25th January	10.30am at St Martin's, Zeals

***Please Note: On Sunday, 22nd January the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service to be held at 10.00 at St Peter's, Stourton, will be the main Sunday morning service for all our member churches. All welcome!**

It's hard to believe, but we also need to be thinking ahead to Lent! **A Lent Lunches planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th January at 10.30am in the Small Hall of the Grove Building.** At least one rep. from each church is invited – and anyone else who would like help or be involved.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎: 01747 8608840)
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District

DEACON MICHAEL HUGHES, PRIEST AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST MARY'S, WRITES:

As a newcomer to Mere, this town reminds me of the way Shaftesbury was 30 years ago; in its peaceful friendliness, quiet roads and the care people have for one other. Plans are afoot for a lot of new housing, and we must hope that the new residents will, as we all try to do, shop locally and keep our shops and services viable. Mere is a great place to be.

Fr Louis, our Catholic priest, is based in Wincanton and celebrates Holy Mass in four different churches, and now has two deacons to assist him.

A Catholic deacon is an unpaid ordained minister, called to be a sign of God's love by serving all His beloved children. Many deacons work in prisons, schools, hospitals. I was a chaplain in Guy's Marsh prison for several years, have worked in Damascus House for the homeless in Salisbury, and also in schools in Blandford and Shaftesbury.

In October, I was in Rome at the meeting between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Holy Father, Pope Francis. They asked that “Catholics and Anglicans will work together to give voice to our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to bring relief to the suffering, to bring peace where there is conflict, to bring dignity where it is denied and trampled on”. As we of different parts of the Christian family get to know each other better in Mere, let us do precisely that, supporting those in our community, and beyond, in any kind of need, and trumpeting God's love for every person.

The Mere Catholic Church is a rare thing: a Nissen Hut put up as a temporary structure in 1946, and still here today. If you have not been inside it, you would be most welcome any Saturday for Holy Mass at 5.30pm. We pray for the people of Mere and around at morning prayer every weekday at 9.00am, except on Thursdays when at 11.00am we pray the rosary, asking our patron, Our Lady Queen of Peace, to pray for peace for the people of Syria and those in the other parts of the world where war, hate and cruelty persist.

Our church, on Pettridge Lane, the Shaftesbury road, is a lovely simple space in which to rest in God's love for you. It has something of the feel of a stable, and is a fitting place to celebrate the birth of God in a stable in Bethlehem. Our Christmas Eve Mass is at 8.30 pm.

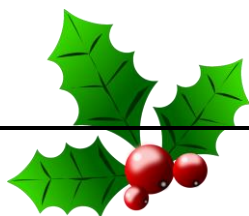
JOURNEY TO THE STABLE

Gillingham Methodist Church, in the High Street, invites you on an interactive journey to the 'Heart of Christmas' over a week in December and is an opportunity for Adults and Children to reflect on the Christmas Story.

Saturday 10th	10.30am - 2.30pm	
Tuesday, 13th	10.30am - 12.30pm	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thursday, 15th	10.30am - 12.30pm	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday, 16th	10.30am - 12.30pm	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Saturday, 17th	10.30am - 2.30pm	

This interactive event includes 'hands-on' activities, items to take away and a visit to the stable (allow approx 30 minutes).

For more details call: *The Methodist Church, Gillingham* ☎: 01747 823777



“TOP OF THE POPS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL”

Featuring West Knoyle's exclusive band:



LIVE IN CONCERT

Fun Festive Favourites

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER

7.00pm in WEST KNOYLE CHURCH



Tickets £10.00

to include refreshments

Tel: 01747 830534 or 830263

In aid of St Mary the Virgin's Church

NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS CHURCH

Calling all budding singers!

Would you like to become a voice on the St Michael's Church Choir? We have a new Choirmaster who is keen to enlist new choir members to enhance the existing group. If so, please email James MacDowell-Scott ✉: James@applehouse9.uk

Christingle Family Service

10:30am, Sunday, 4th December 2016

The celebrations are the perfect event to take children along to, and can be enjoyed by people of all ages. By taking part in Christingle this year, you too can enjoy the warmth and vibrancy of this wonderful celebration.

Children's Christmas Craft Morning

This will be held on Thursday, 22nd December, from 9.30 - 11.30am in the Grove Building. Morning craft activities will be based on the nativity story of Jesus' birth.



Parents/carers/childminders are asked to stay with any children under 6 years of age. (Age limit up to and including school year 6)

Three Counties Choir

The choir, with members of the ad hoc chorale, will sing the Christmas music from Messiah and other seasonal anthems in St Michael's, at 7.30pm on Saturday, 28th January, 2017. The soloists will be Linda Brown and Michael Kearney, the organist will be Stephen Binnington and the conductor will be Peter Lattimer. Tickets will be £5.00 and refreshments will be available in the interval. Tickets to this event are available from early January from Mike Marsh ☎: 01747 861212 or John Page ☎: 01747 860297. Proceeds after expenses will be shared between St Michael's Church and Christian Aid.

Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary, ☎: 01747 861319



The Mere Suchana Support Group has had an enjoyable and successful year fundraising for this unique project supporting 'adivasi' children and communities in rural West Bengal, based around their little two-storey centre in Khanjanpur village. The mobile library (+ healthworker), which we have particularly supported, continues to help and encourage 14 village communities further afield and even visits a government school which has no library! If you would like a copy of Suchana's annual newsletter (due out soon) please ✉: judithvthompson@aol.com or phone the number below, or come to one of the advertised events.

To keep up the good work, we need your support! So please come, if you can, to our coffee morning and bring & buy on **Tuesday, 31st January 10.30am-12.00noon** at Wits End, North Road (Janet Way's house); and, a date for your diary: our ever-popular Suchana Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake Evening will be held in the Grove Building at **7:30pm on Tuesday, 28th February**. Details in February Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE DECEMBER 2016

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 01747 861319

✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	12.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker normally has a rest day on a Friday

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Christingle Family Service without Communion
		5.00pm	Taizé service
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Advent Service
Tuesday	13th	12.00pm	Mothers Union Carol service
	18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Services - see centre pages

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: (☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Mrs Jane Hurd
	11th	11.00am	Mr James Hepburn
	18th	6.00pm	Carol Service

Christmas Services - see centre pages

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk

Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald

☎: 01747 860867

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

	Mr. Colin Seaford	☎ 01747 830263
Sunday	4th 9.30am	Holy Communion
	11th 9.30am	Matins
	18th 6.30pm	Carol Service with Christine Marsh and Right Rev. Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury

Christmas Services - see centre pages

JANUARY 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 01747 861319

✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		12.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Friday		The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker normally has a rest day on a Friday	
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	3rd	3.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Family Communion
	*15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	18th	10.30am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday	22nd	10.00am	United Service at Stourton
			NO service at St Michaels
Wednesday	24th	10.30am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday	29th	10.30am	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 Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	8th	11.00am	Mrs Christine Marsh
	15th	6.00pm	Mrs Jane Hurd
	22nd	10.00am	United Service at Stourton
			NO service at URC
	29th	11.00am	Songs of Praise

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk

Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald

☎: 01747 860867

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Sunday 22nd **10.00am** United Service at Stourton

Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall

☎ 01747 830534

Mr. Colin Seaford

☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	1st	9.30am	DIY
	8th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	15th	9.30am	Matins
	22nd	10.00am	United Service at Stourton
			NO service in St Marys
	29th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2016

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; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		10.00am	Seated Circuit's for All Abilities (every Thursday)	L
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
2	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm - 8.00pm	Victorian Christmas Fayre	The Square
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 9th & 16th)	L
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, & 24th)	CC
		7.00pm	Mere Town Youth FC Bingo	L
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 12th & 19th)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (also 12th & 19th)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking	GB

		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 12th & 19th)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (also 12th, 19th & 27th)	L
		7.00pm	Water Colour course (also 12th)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tues	8.30 am -	6.30pm Fairtrade sale Wits End, North street	
		2.00pm -	4.00pm 'Get On Line' Drop-in Session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (also 13th & 20th)	L
		7.10pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
7	Wed	8.30am -	6.30pm Fairtrade sale Wits End, North street	
		10.00am	Mere Charity Grant distribution pay out	L
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 14th & 21st)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
8	Thur	1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	10.30am	Watre Colour Class (also 16th)	L
		11.00am	Merely Women	GB
10	Sat	10.00am -	3.00pm Mere Railway Modellers Open day	RMC
		7.00pm	Oasis Club Bingo	L
12	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
13	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	CC
		12.00pm	Mothers Union Carol Service	St Michaels
14	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
19	Mon		Linkscheme closes for Christmas and New Year	
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
21	Wed	3.00pm -	4.30pm Community Tea Party Angel Tea Rooms	
		3.00pm -	4.30pm Get On Line Drop-in Session Angel	Tea
Rooms				
22	Thur	9.30am -	11.30am Childrens Christmas Craft Morning	GB
25	Sun	12.00pm	Churches Together Christmas Day Lunch	GB
28	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB

January 2017

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; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

2	Mon	10.30am	Mere Walking Group - New Year walk	CP
3	Tue		Linkscheme reopens after christmas break	

		12.30pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm 'Get On-line' Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
4	Wed	11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
5	Thur	10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am	Seated Circuits for All Abilities (every Thursday)	L
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
6	Fri	10.00am	Open The Book	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
7	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
9	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
11	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		4.30pm	- 6.30pm Gardening Club Potato Day	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club Social evening	GB
12	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
17	Tue	10.15am	Mere 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	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
23	Mon	10.30am	Dressmaking	GB
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends together	GB
		7.00pm	Dressmaking	GB
28	Sat	7.30pm	Three Counties Choir Concert	St Michaels
31	Tue	10.30am	- 12.00noon suchana coffee morning	Wits End, North St

LATE NEWS



AGE UK WILTSHIRE

**An independent local charity
championing older people in
Wiltshire.**

The Age UK bus visited Mere in November and residents who did not visit it may like to know more of the charity which runs it

Age UK Wiltshire's mission is to promote the well-being of older people in Wiltshire and Swindon, and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

Its values are to enable older people to live independently and exercise choice and control over their lives. It draws strength from the voices of older people and works to ensure that those voices are heard, by being innovative and constantly looking for ways to support older people.

The charity is passionate about what it does and strives to care about each individual and seeks to be authoritative, trusted and quality-orientated

It takes the principle that ageism is unacceptable and is against all forms of unfair discrimination, and will challenge unfair treatment on the grounds of age. It believes that all people have the right to make decisions about their lives and its aim is to help older people to exercise these rights.

When people are less able to help themselves they should be offered support; the charity seeks to support older adults to live their lives with dignity.

Diversity is valued in all that it does and it recognises the diversity of all who use, work or volunteer for Age UK Wiltshire, and the strength that their different experiences, cultures and values bring to the organisation

The charity believes that there is value in working together and only through working together can it use local, regional and national presence to the greatest effect.

What Age UK Wiltshire does

The number of older people in Wiltshire is growing. For many of us, later life can be an active and fulfilling experience, however there are thousands of local older people and their families who contact Age UK Wiltshire for help. It may be a bit of information and advice or practical support at a time of real life crisis.

The charity offers confidential information and advice on a wide range of subjects. It explains the choices available and helps you decide what you want to do. If you need help, the charity may be able to take action on your behalf.

Many older people have difficulty in locating a reliable and safe trades-person to undertake basic tasks around the home. Age UK Wiltshire and Trading Standards can reassure people that basic checks have been carried out on the traders on the list.

Age UK Wiltshire has a dedicated team of presenters who deliver talks to groups and organisations on subjects and issues affecting older people, and it offers support and friendship to isolated older people in their own homes, by matching service users with volunteer visitors who have similar interests and can form good friendships.

Age UK Wiltshire supports more than 25 independent groups in Wiltshire. If you or someone you know is looking for a local day centre or lunch club to visit or even help out at then the charity can help.

As people get older they can be faced with a number conditions that make it difficult to reach their feet and cut their toenails. There is strong evidence that suggests that remaining physically active in later life can help to maintain both physical and mental health and well being, remaining active is one of the best investments to help maintain quality of your life. Age UK Wiltshire have established several Fitness and Friendship Clubs offering gentle exercise that is designed to help maintain independence and promote balance.

This can only be a snapshot of what Age UK can do, but for more information the charity has an extensive web site : **ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire** or the nearest offices can be reached by telephone:

Salisbury ☎: 01722 335 425 or Devizes ☎: 01380 727767

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

URC Church Hall

Eileen Burfitt

☎: 01747 860685

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2:00 - 4:00pm

**REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:**

By appointment only (☎: 0300 003 4569)

Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

COPYDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the February 2017 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 **4:00pm on MONDAY, 16th January 2016**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 9th January 2017 to: ✉: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

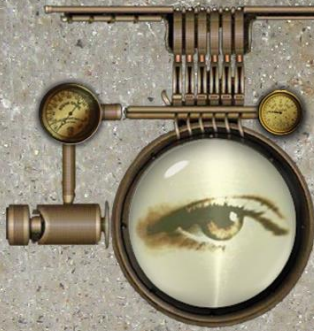
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Owen Rees



Teeandee Productions

Tel: 01747 841458
Mob: 07799 325214

Email: tim@teeandeeproductions.com

Website Design & Computer Services