

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



JULY/AUGUST 2016

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish 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 meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 4th July 2016**. There is no meeting scheduled for August.

The Chairman writes:

On Saturday evening of the 4th June a woman emptied two litter bins full of rubbish onto the skate park. Her reason for doing this was to make a protest about the mess the youngsters make around the skate park. The matter is being dealt with by the Police. The rubbish was cleared from the skate park when I checked at 2:30pm on the following Sunday. I would like to thank all the community minded people for cleaning up the mess on the skate park.

Since January of this year a small group of councillors have been looking at improving the drainage at the new cemetery. Four contractors who have expertise in land drainage were asked to advise and quote. After careful consideration and with budget constraints, the contract to carry out the drainage work has been awarded to Gartells. The Contractor has also been asked to lay 42 meters of path on the east side of the cemetery. The start date for the work has been planned for this September.

The gates and railings of the old Cemetery are currently getting a long overdue fresh coat of paint. Wiltshire probation service is supplying the labour through the community sentencing scheme.

Our Town clerk has been working very hard preparing end of year accounts, and the end of year budget/expenditure report to send to the external auditor. I am pleased to say that our expenditure last year came in under budget. The Annual Return accounts and related documents will be available for public inspection on reasonable notice on application to the Clerk. Details of the exercise of electors' rights and inspection of the accounts will be displayed on the Town Council noticeboard outside the Lecture Hall by 30th June. Information on the accounts is also published on the Mere website.

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Mr Jarvis from the keep Wiltshire Frack Free group gave a presentation about fracking to Councillors at the June meeting. I found it very interesting.

The Chairman of the Mere rivers group Mr Ian Sheppard gave a brief report on the group's activities over the last twelve months. It was encouraging to hear that work has been carried out clearing parts of the neglected Ashfield River.

I would like to thank the parishioners and businesses for their contributions towards the cost of the firework display on the 11th June. We received enough donations to put on a good display. I would also like to thank the Councillors, staff and volunteers for the planning and preparation that went into organising this event to make it a night to remember. As I wrote this article before the event, the only thing that had not been organised was the weather!

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

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

On 17th May we held our Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting. Both meetings were quite well attended, largely due to the fact that we discussed a second planning application for 2 semi-detached houses on land adjacent to 6 Oderne, The Street (the first planning application for four 1-bedroom flats, submitted last year, was refused by the planning authority). The general feeling of the public present was that the planning application was inappropriate for the village for various reasons. The Parish Council echoed this feeling in its formal consultation submission to the planning authority. I can report that Wiltshire Council's Planning Authority has refused the planning application.



I was re-elected as Chairman of the Parish Council and Paul Yates was elected as Vice-Chairman. Training for the Community Speedwatch Scheme will be underway shortly and we hope that this scheme will get up and running in the next month or two. We shall be sharing a speed camera with Hindon Community Speedwatch team. Unfortunately the Speed Indicator Device installed in the village is not working at present. Cllr. George Jeans has agreed to try and address this problem.

I note that various roads around the village have been resurfaced recently and I would urge drivers to take great care as the new surfaces are much higher than the surrounding verges – if you need to pull over to let someone pass, you may find it difficult to get back on the road. The Parish Council did request that New Road (from Willoughby Hedge down to the Village) be given priority for resurfacing but it seems that the Highway Authority did not agree. We will keep pursuing this matter.

To mark the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, we have ordered commemorative medals, which will be distributed to children in the village when they are received.

Jinny Brockway. Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION WRITES:

The cost of a school bus pass has been questioned recently in Mere and local villages. The government has extended education to 18 years old without any extra funding for transport. A parent may now be required to pay for a pass or request assistance towards the cost. The pass provided by Wiltshire Council actually states it may not be the lowest cost of transport, therefore the parent may have to compare the cost of differing methods of transport and or operators. The main reason for this is because the cost is a flat rate across Wiltshire, which includes some children being collected by taxi etc. The cost of running one school bus for a year is £40,000.00. Should you have further questions contact : buses@wiltshire.gov.uk or : 01225713365

Questions have been raised as to why some very little used roads in West Knoyle, Kilmington etc., have been resurfaced when higher use roads though West Knoyle, Castle Street and Old Hollow, Mere and elsewhere have been missed. I have asked that Castle Street and Old Hollow Mere receive more than pothole repair as soon as possible.

I helped those preparing for a Firework Spectacular on Castle Hill, Mere, organised by Mere Town Council for the Queens 90th official Birthday on Saturday, 11th June which, combined with the 12th, saw street parties up and down the country. I attended local ones at Kilmington, West Knoyle, etc. plus Church Services etc. It was a busy weekend!

A Doctor's Surgery extension in Mere is receiving my support. However, many people drive in from the villages and the outskirts of Mere, some cannot walk very far and need transport, and this with limited parking space is proving challenging.

I now sit on The Scrutiny Management Committee at Wiltshire Council where I have received a councillors presentation on Fracking, which is the unconventional extraction of gas. The nearest interest shown appears to be Warminster.

Planning applications in the South of the UK have risen. While the number of successful applications in London rose by less than 10% last year, it almost doubled in many surrounding towns. Commercial law firm EMW found the number leapt by 82% in Tunbridge Wells, Kent in 2015 and by 111% in Swindon, Wiltshire. The rise in applications also jumped in places much further, such as Boston, Lincolnshire, up 78%, and Selby, North Yorkshire, up 73%.

Trowbridge Town Council has proposed boundary changes. The area within the proposed urban extension, which lies between West Ashton and Trowbridge is to provide 2500 new homes. Salisbury, I believe, has 1,300 proposed on one site, which I think will impact on roads and much else as far out as us in Mere. The Mere Town Council have been approached regarding the development of about 130 new homes on "Gillingham Corner" being Castle Street opposite The Quarry Industrial Estate. I thought this would not happen in my life time, however please note the proposal is not a planning application and if one appears, I have been informed it would be after consultation in venues in the area.

The South West Area Board has worked with providers of youth facilities in Mere and Zeals to provide two mini buses. These buses will be for community use also, the cost of hire is reasonable for a qualifying group.

I have worked with Stourton and Gasper Parish Council and The National Trust, for several years to open up the junction of Stourton with the B3092 Frome Road for improved safety. The National Trust has improved the junction by removing a tree. I have made a mock-up of proposed signs, the original sign was moved temporarily over the road on the east side after the original was impacted by a vehicle putting all the road signs for that junction in one area. The local council wanted an even less distracting arrangement although 400,000 visitors a year use the junction. The officers have overruled me on any further improvements and state "The replacement signs have already been ordered. These signs will replace the existing sign assembly in the eastern verge opposite the junction. We, as the Highway Authority, have chosen this layout as this is how a junction of this nature would be conventionally signed. The legends on the sign faces are the minimum that we consider appropriate for the road user". I cannot always win, however I believe I have helped achieve an improved junction.


Hope you all enjoy the summer months of July and August. The Council slows down for August and there may be little to report to you before September.

SEEDS4SUCCESS

Activities of a local youth charity

Are you looking for something to occupy your children in the long holiday now looming? For young people aged 12 years and upwards, you could consider a place for them on the Leisure Credits Scheme. This is run locally by *Seeds4Success*. Two days a week during August will be arranged when young people can carry out specific jobs which benefit the community. This earns them credits. These credits enable the children to take part in "reward activities". The jobs usually involve footpath clearance, repairing stiles and fences, painting railings, restoring benches etc. The possibilities are endless

and all done under proper supervision. Useful, enjoyable, and rewarding! The scheme also runs on alternate Saturdays during the year.

Are you 15-17 years old? The National Citizens Service (NCS) is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Don't miss out this summer. More than 200,000 young people have already said *Yes to NCS*. It is an intensive programme over 5 weeks for a team of 15 young persons. It includes two residential periods, and team building activities. Young persons on the course gain skills and qualifications and learn to work together as a team. They plan and run a social action project. A team from across South West Wiltshire has been formed and there are currently FOUR spaces available for this summer. There's much more about how it works at  <http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/> but locally, contact me on the number or email address below to obtain the dates and details of our specific programme.

Throughout the year we have run our weekly session for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities from the centre on a Tuesday evening. This project works with young people with SEND from across the area as well as providing the opportunity for a small team of more able young people to support the group in the role

of peer leaders. This is invaluable experience and training for those acting as leaders, and provides a welcome stimulation for the disabled participants.

Once again, our thanks are due to all the trustees, staff volunteers, and members of the local community. Without their dedication and the enthusiasm of the young people involved, very little of this would be possible. If you have a specific skill or area of expertise that you feel you could offer, or just want to help by supporting the committee, or even becoming a trustee, we would love to hear from you.

*Jaki Farrell, Service Manager, Seeds4Success, ☎: 07585 723824 or
: jaki@seeds4success.org.uk*



Mere Dental Practice



The practice has two Dentists:

Stephen Sherrard, and Christopher Davies.

It also has Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale.

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

✉: meredental@btconnect.com, 🌐: 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*

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

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MERE CHURCH FETE 2016

Thank you for a splendid day. Our thanks to everyone who has pulled out the stops to make this event so successful. So many to name – the stallholders who worked so stoically, the fete preparation team who moved tables, gazebos, bunting and then took it all down again; all the local and not so local businesses who were so generous with their donations towards the raffle prizes; all those who gave their goods for the stalls; the Dogwise human and not human crew; the teddies who were parachuted down from the tower by the Cancer Research team; the Gillingham Training Band; the Butt of Sherry BBQ, the Fire Service and the Fete openers. It couldn't have been done without you all.

Finally thank you to all of you who came along to join in, we raised the sum of £3,800.

MERE SURGERY

Flu Clinic

The surgery will be holding a Saturday clinic again this year for patients who are recommended to have the vaccination. Dates and how to book information will be advertised shortly on our website, in the surgery and Mere Matters.

Michele Mason, Practice Manager, ☎ 01747 860001

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

☎: 01747 860096

I do hope that you are all enjoying the summer months. This is a notice to prick your consciences a little and remind you that the Linkscheme is yours. Without volunteer drivers we would obviously be unable to fulfil the many requests that we do each month. Remember we do not just take "old and infirm" people to hospital, we will take YOU if for some reason you are temporarily unable to drive. Also it is just not to hospital, we consider many other circumstances.

YOU MAY NEED US ONE DAY

If you are able to give some time, no matter how short, and can consider being a volunteer we would be pleased to hear from you. If you would like to know more about the scheme and how it works please give us a call.

Thank you. I hope that you at least consider joining us and helping with this rewarding service.

Barbara Thomas, Secretary



LINKSCHEME FESTIVAL QUIZ NIGHT

Friday, 22nd July

A reminder that the Link's popular quiz night is on Friday, 22nd July at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Join the battle of wits with a team of 4, or come along and make up a team on the night. To book a table in advance phone Bill ☎ 01747 861969. Entry is £6pp which includes a delicious Ploughman's Supper and the unveiling of the annual Literary Festival programme.

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

'CREATIVE MERE'

An exciting new event for next year 9th & 10th September 2017

We are seeking expressions of interest from any local crafts people or artisans who create things mainly with their hands, to be involved in a major 2 day event showcasing their skills and products. It is anticipated that over the two days you will be able to display some of your work, sell or obtain commissions, demonstrate things being created and where possible give opportunity to allow some 'hands on' by visitors. This 'not for profit' event will be based in and around the Lecture Hall and the Grove Building. It will offer enormous potential as a visitor attraction to Mere, promoting and celebrating the many and varied skilled people who live in the area.

Register NOW to become an exhibitor - space will be at a premium; or if you just want to know more, please contact me, preferably by email.

Richard Jefferies  : rajefferies@btinternet.com

☎: 01747 863425 **☎: 07950 797273**

CANCER RESEARCH

The May Fayre was a great success, despite the best efforts of the British weather, and was held in the Lecture Hall. We raised a magnificent £2,977, so a huge thank you to everyone who came, bought, donated, helped and supported us, especially the stall holders who came and set up with big smiles and a "can do" attitude!

The Parachuting teddy bears were their usual brave and fearless selves at the church fete and raised a very respectful £70, so thank you all the bears, owners, launch crew and the highly trained stunt bears that came and flew!

A couple of dates for your July Diary:

Saturday, 9th July Summer Coffee Morning, Dewes House, Salisbury Street by very kind permission of Mr & Mrs Saint Hill. Please note that access is through the Salisbury Street car park. We have tea, coffee and of course lots of fabulous cakes for sale, also a raffle and some select quality Bric-a-Brac items. So please come along from 10:00am to 12:00pm to support us in these lovely gardens.

Friday, 15th July, a joint fund raising event with St Michael's Church, and are proud to present The Warminster Military Wives Choir in concert in the church at 7.00pm. This choir is amazing and sound like angels! Tickets are £10 each and are available from Ann Lloyd ☎: 01747 863477. We also have a bar where drinks can be purchased pre-show from 6.00pm, and during the interval.

From 6th June - Wednesday, 31st August we are very lucky to be the recipients of the 'Green token' scheme at Asda in Gillingham, so if you are shopping in there please, consider us as the beneficiary of this amazing scheme. Plenty of time to fill our box!

As usual a big thank you to everyone who support us in any way to help us Beat Cancer.
Penny Fennon ☎: 07833 131712

MERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS.

July is the month when members very kindly invite the club to afternoon events to enjoy the running of their garden railways. There are three such occasions planned, one for the end of June and two during July.

For members of the community who wish to be part of the club for the Summer Season only, the committee have a special rate of £20 from June to September.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, 28th September at 7:15pm in the Clubhouse.

Finally we are working on a number of new OO gauge and N Gauge layouts, so if anybody who is not member is interested, we meet at 7:00pm on a Wednesday evening in the club house, which is situated in Castle Street car park.

Nancy Broach ☎: 01747 861654, Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977



Mere & District
CHAMBER OF TRADE


MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Pensions Auto Enrolment

As you may now be aware, under the Pensions Act 2008 every employer in the UK will be required to put certain staff into a pension scheme and contribute towards it. This is called 'Automatic Enrolment'.

The Chamber has arranged for a Guest Speaker from Work Place Advice Group to come along and speak to local businesses on what Pensions Auto Enrolment means, how to comply and some of the costs involved.

The date for the presentation is Wednesday, 28th September 2016 at 7:00pm in the Grove Building. Please take this opportunity to come along and find out more about what this will mean for your business.

Please contact us at : merechamber@outlook.com for more information or contact Chamber Secretary, Julie Cousins, on the number below.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 20th July 7:30pm at Mere Social Club.

Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, : 07856 700576

LIONS CLUB OF GILLINGHAM, MERE AND SHAFTESBURY

In April the club completed its annual glasses collection for the charity SPEKTREK which collects used spectacles and recycles them, before sending them off to less fortunate countries. Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury Lions Club hosted Clubs from Warminster (also brought specs from Westbury), Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Blandford, and Blackmore Vale, to a collection lunch. The Club collectively handed over a total of 26,332 spectacles + 698 sunglasses + 23 hearing aids to Petersfield Lions club who took them all into the regional collection centre for onwards processing.

A big thank you to all the local opticians and surgeries in our areas who kindly allow our collection boxes to be placed into their stores so a huge thank you. (Mere - Surgery, Chemist, Brainwave charity shop and Waltons News Agents).

On 20th May, the Club hosted a quiz night at the Grove Building in Mere, which was highly successful in raising £450. Thank you to all of you who attended and supported the event; it was a great night.

Alastair McKechnie, Club Press Secretary, ☎: 01747 835939

MERE CARNIVAL 2016

Saturday 17th September

Carnival Bingo - Friday, 9th September in the Grove Building at 6.45pm . Eyes down at 7.30pm

Carnival Quiz - September date to be confirmed.

Carnival Film Show - Carnival week - film to be advised

Carnival raffle tickets will be on sale from July with all proceeds going towards funding this event. The draw will take place on Monday, 19th September at 8.00pm in The Walnut Tree Inn.

Afternoon and evening entry forms will be available from the Post Office on Friday, 19th August - to be returned by Wednesday, 14th September at the latest.

Carnival Day - Saturday, 17th September

Remember to pick up your free Carnival Programme with full details of all events and our Carnival Royals for 2016. Children's afternoon parade at 3.30pm and evening parade at 7.30pm.

Funfair in field at the end of Mere from Wednesday, 14th September until Saturday, 17th September.

Penny Allen, Carnival Secretary ☎: 01747 860721

✉: pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk

MERE THEATRE CLUB

By the time you read this we will be taking a short break for the summer but not for long. Come July we will be planning the autumn programme. So if you don't want to miss out on a wide range of theatrical outings join the mailing list by contacting Wendy or Madelaine below.

Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712 Madelaine Morris ☎: 01747 861833

JULY - SHORT WALK

Wednesday, 13th July

This will be slightly different this month as I will be joined by former Mere resident, David Hope. Together with the Mere Historical Society, and now supported by Mere and District Chamber of Trade, we developed 'A Mere Meander' leaflet you may have seen

for sale in the Library or the Angel Tea Rooms. This walk will follow a very short route around the centre of the town to look at some of the key features and places of historical interest. We will finish for tea at the Angel cafe.

If you would like to learn a little more about our lovely town, especially if you have recently moved here please join us at 2:00pm outside St Michael's Church.

There will be no short walk in August.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our new season of films will begin on Thursday, 15th September with a film for Carnival Week. We have not yet received our new film list for the autumn, but look out for posters in the second half of August when tickets will be on sale in the Library as usual. I must say a big thank you to our Librarians and our Library Volunteers for the selling and reservation of tickets and of course a big thank you to all of you who come to the screenings and support our Moviola film shows. It has been a good year of films this year with the promise of more to come for our new season, so we look forward to seeing you all back again in September.

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

By the time you read this notice we will have chosen the play which we plan to present for your delectation in the autumn. Rehearsals will begin in September - plenty of time to join us if you fancy having a part in it - large or small, or behind the scenes; just phone Mary White (☎: 01747 861257) to learn more. But, have a wonderful refreshing summer in the meantime.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

SHREEN HARMONY

We are about to start the last half term before our summer break and are preparing for a concert in the church in the centre of Castle Cary on Thursday, 14th July. We had a very successful performance in Gillingham last month and raised £400 to be shared between the Alzheimer's Society and the Rare Dementia Support.

We are always happy to welcome anyone who may be interested in joining the choir to come along on a Thursday evening at 7:30pm in the United Reform Church hall and just see how they feel and if they would like to join us.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Gardens of WWI

by Christine Stones

Wednesday, 13th July 7.30pm Grove Building

Christine has a background of broadcasting having worked for the BBC as a producer and a presenter before turning to the academic world. In 2004 she gained the Bristol University Masters degree with Commendation in Garden History. She has visited and recorded over 160 gardens in the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Ecuador, India, Holland, Russia and Germany.

Her talk will be about trench gardens, Horticultural shows in POW camps, vegetable growing at Versailles and all aspects of gardening during the Great War. £2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Members' Garden Visit, Wednesday 10th August

Don't forget the members' garden visit starts at 6:30pm and members are asked to bring some "nibbles". Drinks will be provided.

Annual Show, Saturday 3rd September

In the Lecture Hall from 3:00pm. Don't miss the fun! Just 50p including tea and biscuits. Don't forget that nearly all categories including arts and crafts and household are open to ALL and it is not too late to enter! Schedules are available from Sprout and Flower including entry forms for the Family Group categories. Entries by Wednesday, **31st August** to Wits End, North Road

Let's make this the biggest and best Show ever! *Janet Way* ☎: 01747 860884

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

As we near the end of our Summer Season of Sewing we will enjoy wearing the summer clothes we have been making and the company of new friends.

We have a break over the summer and commence the same courses Monday morning and Wednesday evening from Mid-September. There are many names eagerly already on our waiting list but still a little space, so do contact us quickly if you would like to do a six week course in either September or November. We have ladies travelling from far afield these days as word gets around, but there is no pressure if you are new to dressmaking or have not done it for a while, we enjoy teaching you.

For more information, see us on our popular Facebook Page "Dressmaking in Mere" or telephone:

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or

Susanne (The Sewing Lady) 📠: 07788 595 434

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



There was a last minute change for our June meeting due to a cancellation from The Labrador Rescue Trust. Instead, Daphne Atkinson, President of Deverill Valley WI gave us a talk on birthstones, their specific healing properties and beauty. Some stones, Daphne had found in their location in the UK during her career running a family jewellery business, others she had collected or purchased from abroad. The colours, variety and textures were beautiful. Many people believe that each stone crystal emits a certain energy which can have a beneficial effect on our well-being.

Later in June, members will be lunching at Compton Abbas Airfield, a venue with spectacular views. We also plan a theatre visit to Shaftesbury Art Centre.

Our next meeting is Thursday, 7th July at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Our speaker, Dr Yvonne Varley, will talk on the books of Arthur Ransom. Our competition will be "a book remembered from childhood", with a few lines about the choice. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

On Saturday, 30th July at 9.45am we will be running a produce stall from the Mere Clock Tower. Come and buy homemade/homegrown, jams, chutneys, cakes, vegetables and plants. Proceeds to support Mere WI.

Hilary Gladding (President) ☎: 01747 861733



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

After a lively 'Mainly Music' afternoon with parents and children at the end of May and a relaxing Garden Meeting at Mere Down Farm in June, we return to a more regular meeting in July followed by a break in August.

Our meeting on Tuesday, 12th July at 2:30pm in the Grove Building (advertised for October in the programme for the year but happening in July!) is a talk with the intriguing title of 'The Tree of Life' by Wendy Pugh. You are welcome to come and join us to find out more.

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

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

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

By the time this is printed we will have had our trip to Swanage, thanks to those who purchased a seat on the coach, I am sure we all had a great time! We would very much like to thank Mere Bowls Club for choosing us as the charity to benefit from their Barn dance fund raising event. A cheque for £500 was presented to us at the day centre and will go a long way to help us continue providing stimulating activities for our guests.

We are eagerly awaiting the imminent launch of our new look website, so keep your eyes peeled. Currently we have to operate new guest waiting lists for both Mondays and Fridays but we are still seeking new volunteers. On Saturday, 2nd July we will be outside the Post office between 10:00am and 1:00pm offering free tea/coffee and cake for anyone who is interested in chatting to us about volunteering.

A date for your diaries, our next fund raising event will be a Concert at St Michael's Church on Saturday, 3rd September at 7:30pm. Free entry but donations welcome, refreshments will be available.

All are welcome to our AGM on Monday 4th July 2016 at 2:00pm to be held in the Community Room, Lynch Close, Mere.


Sandie Hawkins ☎: 07835 272406  www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Castle Hill Quilters is a very friendly relaxed group who meet every Thursday afternoon during term time at the Grove Building from 2:00pm – 4:45pm. It is a mixed ability group catering for the complete novice through to the experienced traditional and contemporary quilters whose common ideology is the love of sewing.

You can join in on the current project or if you prefer you can concentrate on your own sewing project.

Why not join us next term from Thursday, 8th September for our exciting new programme. The current membership is £15 per annum plus £2 per week each time you attend be that weekly, monthly or whatever suits your life style, or you can come as a visitor for up to two meetings at £3.50, after which we hope you will decide to join us.

Please look at the web site : [**castlehillquilters.org.uk**](http://castlehillquilters.org.uk) for current projects and programmes. We look forward to welcoming you.

Gill Grout, President ☎: 01747 860914

MERE MUSEUM

Our acclaimed exhibition 'The Silk Road to Mere' will remain on display throughout the summer; do make absolutely sure you don't miss it. It's an ideal show for visitors too, so bring them along with you! Give yourselves plenty of time - there is so much to see and learn!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS "100 CLUB"

The 100 Club raises money solely for the upkeep and maintenance of the Grove Building. For £12 a year you are entered in a monthly draw, the prizes being £20, £15 & £10 each month with prizes of £50, £30 & £20 in December.

Subscriptions for the present draw expire in August 2016 and applications for the year 2016/17 are now invited from existing and new members – payment by Wednesday, 31st August 2016 please.

Payment should be made to Lindy Elliott (☎: 0747 861646) or Sue Phelps (☎: 01747 861361) – cheques payable to 'Grove Building', please. Should you so wish, standing orders would assist the administrators. These can be made to:

Account name: Grove Building, **Sort Code:** 30-93-45,
Account Number: 00616045, **Reference:** 100 Club

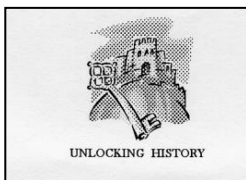
Please advise Lindy or Sue if you choose this method of payment.

Draw Result

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for June 2016, drawn on Wednesday, 1st June by Sue Jeans, was:

1st Prize (£30)	-	No. 25	Mr J Pattison
2nd Prize (£20)	-	No. 179	Mrs Pauline Prentice
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 24	Mrs J Coward
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 107	Mrs Jenny Jackson

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646



Mere Historical Society

Visit Three

Wednesday, 6 July 2016

Seaton Tramway and Jurassic Visitor Centre

**Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.00am, returns by
6.30 to 7.00pm.**

*Cost: MHS Members £29, non-members £32 per person. Includes
coach and tip, tramway and Jurassic Visitor Centre entrance.*

Visit Four

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

Bletchley Park

Once Britain's Best Kept Secret, today Bletchley Park is a heritage site and vibrant tourist attraction. Visitors can explore some of the iconic WW2 Codebreaking Huts and Blocks and marvel at the astonishing achievements of the Codebreakers whose work is said to have helped shorten the war by two years.

Bletchley Park is run by the Bletchley Park Trust, a charity formed in 1992 to preserve the site for the nation. Today, the Trust is working towards transforming Bletchley Park into the world-class heritage and education site it deserves to be. Work has been completed to create a new Visitor Centre within Block C where Hollerith punch-card machines carried out rapid analysis of encrypted message systems to assist the Codebreakers. In parallel the iconic Codebreaking Huts 3 and 6 have been restored and opened up for visitors and the landscape has been returned to its 1940's appearance. New exhibitions have been developed to significantly enhance the visitor experience at Bletchley Park.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 8 00am and return
around 8.30pm.**

Cost: MHS Members £32 Non-members £35

Includes coach and tip, and entrance to Bletchley Park

DEADLINE 18 AUGUST

For more details please ring Booking forms available from Mere
Library and our website.

🌐: **merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Caroline Cook 📞: 01747 861797



Mere School Reports

PENCELLI RESIDENTIAL

The week before half term, the children of Y5 went on their residential trip to Pencelli in the Brecon Beacons .

This was a week of outdoor and adventurous education activities that also included sleeping away from home!

Monday

On arrival the children were allocated their rooms and groups for the week. They then unpacked and made their own beds! This in itself was a bit of a challenge!

Once unpacked, they went on an adventure walk around the local area.

Tuesday and Wednesday

Once up and breakfasted the children spent the days caving and rock climbing.

The children really enjoyed both activities as they felt that is was something that they would not normally do but were highly successful at.

Thursday

The children spent Thursday canoeing the local canal. Each group started off at different places along the canal and eventually after a lot of hard work and effort met up at the allocated meeting point.

The whole week was a huge success for all the children. Miss Beckwith would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for their excellent behaviour throughout the week.

The children would also like to thank Miss Beckwith and the accompanying adults for organising and supporting them on the trip. They had a blast!

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

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE
MONDAY, 15th AUGUST 2016

MERE BOWLS CLUB

On the last Saturday of May we held our internal Club Triples competition matches, this ended up with a win for the team of Mary Butchers, Sandy Fingerhut and David Anley with Karen Gut, Maureen McCormack and Gary Fingerhut coming in as valiant runners up. A very good result for David who only took up the sport this year, he has however done some short mat bowling at Buckhorn Weston. The Club Pairs competitions will take place on the last Saturday of each of the next three months.

Three new members have joined the Club from our Open Day, they are David Anley, Tony Morgan-Nash and Alfie Dodds, along with Bryan and Maureen Newman who are new social members. Welcome to you all and may you all have a long and happy time with the Club. Our Coaching Day was also a resounding success for those who attended, everyone gaining something from the sessions, be they newcomers, improvers or seasoned bowlers.

We are also proud to announce that we have been sponsored for the 2016 season by FJ Chalke of Mere. With the support provided we have purchased planters, soil and plants to commence our efforts to beautify the green and its surroundings.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎: 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by phone below or by

✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

On 5th June we marked National Croquet Day with an Open House Barbecue. This was a very well attended and a thoroughly enjoyable day helped along by the warm, sunny weather. A great deal of work for the organisers, especially Hilary and Michael Gladding and Margot Boyes, plus, of course, all those who contributed foodstuffs, but how gratifying when the event proved so successful.

The Boule players have a busy schedule of matches ahead and are going from strength to strength. The Croquet supporters continue to flourish, and new members have come along for both games. We will always warmly welcome interested visitors; do drop in from 2:00 to 2:30pm on any Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Rex Roberts ☎: 01747 860873

FLOWER FESTIVAL

“THE QUEEN’S DIARY”

A celebration of her 90th birthday

ALL SAINTS CHURCH MAIDEN BRADLEY

JULY 9th and 10th 10am to 5pm

Evening service will be at 6.00 on Sunday July 10th

Refreshments available Plant Stall

Children’s Hunt the Church Mouse game

MORE BELLS!!

There will be a visiting team of expert Bell Ringers from the Salisbury Diocesan Guild ringing a Quarter Peal on Wednesday, 13th July starting at 11:00am. The bells will be ringing continuously for 45 minutes.

There is a monthly ringing practice which takes place in Mere St Michael's Church tower on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:30pm – 9:00. If you are interested to learn bell ringing this would be an ideal time to come and see what we do.

Maggie Durkee ☎: 01747 860163



If you're lucky, you may just receive this copy of Mere Matters in time to remind you of our annual Songs of Praise in Stourhead Gardens (near the Bristol Cross) at 3:00pm on Sunday, 26th June. (All are welcome: bring a chair or a rug, and, if you like, a picnic to share after the service)

Our next big event after that is the **One World Fair** to be held this year at **Stourton Village Hall 1:00-4:00pm Thursday, 27th October**. This seems a long way off, but Stourton proved a very popular venue for the event two years ago and several stalls have already been booked. If you want to be sure of having one, please book straight away – see details below (No charge, but your organisation needs to be in sympathy with the aims of One World Week – encouraging us all to live together peaceably and sustainably in the one world which we all share). Book now to avoid disappointment!

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

CHRISTIAN AID

I would like to send a real thank you to the people of Mere for their generous donations during Christian Aid week when we raised almost £1,300. This money together with that collected by other towns and villages in the UK will be used almost immediately by the charity to help less fortunate people around the world.

A special thanks also to the team who gave up their time to help with the door to door collections.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MICHAELS, WRITES:

As I write this article, we are in the middle of a weekend of celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday. In the midst of national struggles about EU membership, identity and immigration it has been uplifting to think about the Queen's service to our country, but also her kindness to people as individuals. It is striking to know who she is and what she does is underpinned by a deep Christian faith and a thoughtful prayer life. Her life of kindness and service is, to her, made possible because of a living faith.

Living faith is the lifeblood of Christians in both happy and sad times. Good things seem to have extra sparkle to them when shared with God, and in bad times there is a strength, a tenacity and a peace that comes from God's real and loving presence. The Bishop of Salisbury is asking his churches to "pray, serve, grow"; in being dedicated to

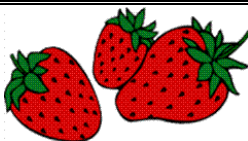
God and rich in prayer life we can listen more carefully to people locally and nationally and be ready to serve. Growing as a church would be lovely too!

St Michael's church is passionate about loving God and serving our community. We feel privileged to gather in such a beautiful building but we know that the real meaning of church is being the body of Christ – in other words his feet and his hands on the earth today.

To have closer links with our community we have formed a Ministry Team which meets every week consisting regularly of the Churchwardens and their assistants. We are very excited about a new collaboration with Mere Cancer Research jointly organising a concert by the Warminster Military Wives Choir on Friday, 15th July at 7:00pm in St Michaels. Tickets on sale from Christine ☎: 01747 861212 and other places. There will be a bar too in the church grounds from 6.00pm. Please come along.

I want to finish by paying tribute to our friends in the Methodist church who have had to make the sad decision to seek to shut their church here. I worked closely in training Methodist people and have great respect for their spiritual, can-do approach to Christianity. Their presence will be missed but not forgotten.

With every blessing for a happy and relaxing summer.



**You are invited to a STRAWBERRY TEA
in Aid of**



**on Friday 1st July from 2.30pm
at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane (Jean & Colin's house ☎: 01747 861168)**

Everyone Welcome!

(We've changed the date so it doesn't now clash with Wimbledon semi-finals!)

On **Tuesday, 16th August from 10.30am-12.00noon**, you are invited to Grove Cottage, Barton Lane (just opposite the Library entrance) for a Coffee Morning. Both events are raising money to support the extension of Suchana's work in very isolated villages in West Bengal through the provision of a second mobile library complete with teachers and a travelling health worker. One of the Suchana teacher-drivers had never sat inside a car before her first driving lesson! Requests for Suchana's unique support for children and families in the area continue to grow. Please come to one or both of the events to enjoy yourself and help in the innovative work of this very special small charity.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE JULY 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

Church Administrator: Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@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	3rd	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Tuesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the Month
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Saturday	9th	6.00pm	Confirmation Service
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	*17th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	24th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	31st	10.30am	Matins

**Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service*

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	10th	11.00am	Peter Kershaw
	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	24th	11.00am	Andrew North
	31st	11.00am	Jane Hurd

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Sunday	3rd	6.00pm	Service arranged locally
	10th	6.00pm	Mr Dudley Coates
	17th	6.00pm	Service arranged locally
	24th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
			Holy Communion
	31st	6.00pm	Rev'd Denise Binks

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

The 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	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10th	9.30am	DIY

Sunday	17th	9.30am	Matins
	24th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	31st	9.30am	DIY

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

AUGUST 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

Church Administrator: Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@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	7th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	9th	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	14th		Benefice service at St Mary's, West Knoyle. NO service at St Michaels
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
No Traidcraft stall this month, back in September.			

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
			Holy Communion
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	21st	11.00am	James Hepburn
	28th	11.00am	Hymn Choices

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Service arranged locally
	14th	3.00pm	Mrs Christine Marsh
	21st	6.00pm	Service arranged locally
	28th	3.00pm	Mr David Webb

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	7th	3.30pm	Lammastide service in the village hall with tea to follow
	14th	10.30am	Benefice Service (BCP)
	21st	9.30pm	Holy Communion (tbc)
	28th	9.30am	Matins (tbc)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662
 CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

DIARY DATES

JULY 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; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Fri	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Open the Book"	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
2	Sat	10.00am	Rosemary Goddard Centre Coffee	Outside PO
2	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
3	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
4	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 11th, & 18th)	L
		10.00am	Zumba First Level (every Monday)	L
		10.30am - 1.00pm	Dressmaking (also 11th & 18th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Rosemary Goddard Centre AGM	Lynch

4	Mon	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts	GB
		6.00pm	Laura Joliffe Water Colours (also 11th)	L
		6.45pm	Cubs	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	AYP
5	Tue	2.00pm - 4.00pm	"Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
6	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers meeting (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm - 9.30pm	Dressmaking (also 13th & 20th)	GB
7	Thur	10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute Meeting	GB
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
9	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Coffee Morning	Dewes House
11	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
12	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
13	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		2.00pm	July Short Walk	CP
		6.00pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
15	Fri	7.00pm	Military Wives Concert	St Michaels Church
16	Sat	10.00am - 1.30pm	Mere Pre-school Table Top Sale	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
17	Wed	7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
22	Fri	7.00pm	Linkscheme Festival Quiz	GB
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB

30	Sat	9.45am	Womens Institute Produce Stall	Clock Tower
31	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP

AUGUST 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; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse URC-United Reformed Church.

1	Mon	10.00am	Zumba First Level (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
2	Tue	2.00pm - 4.00pm	"Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
3	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	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
4	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	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	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am - 1.00pm	"Open the Book"	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
10	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
13	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
21	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece


☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

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

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 003 4569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am


'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the September 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, 15th August 2016.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 8th August 2016 onwards to : editor@merematters.co.uk

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

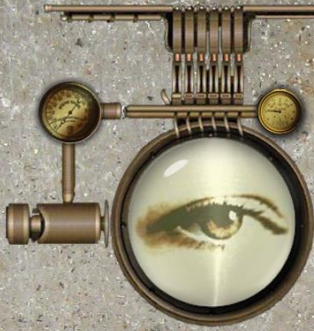
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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