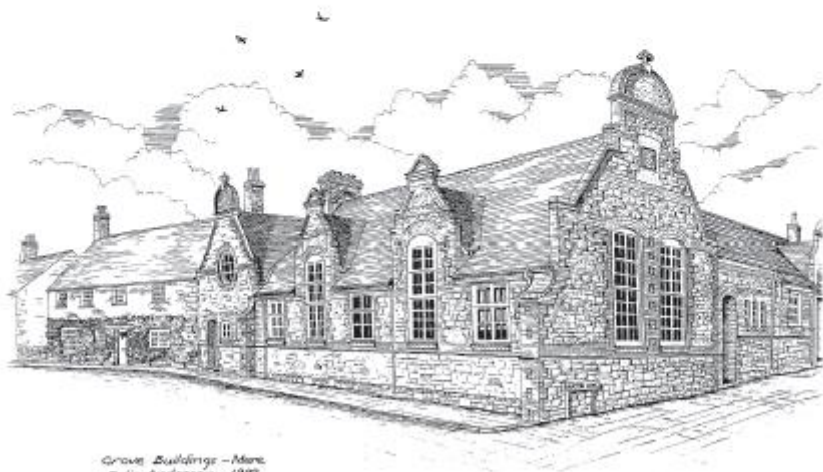


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grave Buildings - Mere.
Colin Anderson 1992*

MARCH 2016

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 meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th March 2016.**

The Chairman writes:

Wiltshire Council is conducting a public consultation on the future provision of subsidised bus services in Wiltshire. For a number of people living in Mere and the surrounding area this is a vital service which they rely on. For those people who do not use the bus services now, would you need bus services in the future? Wiltshire Council would like to know the views of bus users, residents, stakeholders and other interested parties. This is a consultation only about subsidised bus services, which are those services that are not viable for a bus company to run without Council funding. Further information can be found on <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal> and on page 7. The consultation questionnaire can be obtained from Mere Library or answered on line. The questionnaires need to be completed by Monday, 4th April 2016. The Town Council will be discussing this matter at the March Council meeting (to be held on Monday, 7th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Andy Young Pavilion) with a view to preparing a collective response to the consultation. If you have any views that you would like the Town Council to consider, please come along to the meeting or send us your views via e-mail before Monday, 7th March (✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org).

At the February Town Council meeting, Councillors decided to apply for litter picking equipment which has been made available by the South West Wiltshire Area Board for a community litter picking scheme. If there is anyone or any groups that would like to take part in a volunteer led litter picking event, hopefully during March or April, please contact the Town Clerk. Depending on how many volunteers come forward, we may be able to form groups of people who can work in certain areas of Mere, and the groups will need to decide on the date or dates they wish their event to take place.

Finally, for many, goats grazing on Castle Hill have not only been an attraction but a vital component of our programme under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme. Grazing animals mean responsibility and the Town Council has endeavoured to keep the goats confined to appropriate areas within the extensive fencing. Unfortunately, there have been times when the goats have “escaped”, and it has been seen that 25 goats in a garden cause a lot of damage in a very short space of time. On most of these occasions it has been discovered that gates have been left open. Could I ask all

who use the hill to be conscientious about closing the gates securely and report any breaks in the fence to the Town Clerk.

For information on Town 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](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) or [☎: 01747 860701](tel:01747860701)

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:

I recently attended a site meeting for the new Nadder Centre (Tisbury Campus). It is intended for use by the Mere area as well as Tisbury and is extremely impressive. It has a hall large enough in which to play a tennis match, with ample height and distance from the base line, and it has many rooms for delivering varied facilities. Tisbury is very lucky to have such an impressive facility on its doorstep.

Responsibility for fire and rescue policy has moved from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Home Office. The Government has a manifesto commitment to deliver greater joint working between the police and fire service, and it recently consulted on proposals to enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on greater responsibility for fire services at local level.

Would a fire engine be able to get to your house in an emergency? That's the question Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service is asking local people. A fire engine needs clearance of 10ft (3m) to pass safely. Anyone parking on the roadside is asked to park tightly to the kerb and to fold in their wing mirrors, plus basically to follow the Highway Code.

The Mere Town Council has agreed to contact the National House-Building Council, asking it to release what information it can regarding the assurance bond it is holding, to finally complete the roads and street lighting of the newer part of the Downside Close roads.

If anyone is intending locally to celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday, Wiltshire Council has prepared an excellent little publication "Your guide to organising a street party". This is downloadable from the web at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/comm-living-organise-street-party-guide.pdf>.

I was pleased to hear at the last South West Area Board that Child Poverty has now reduced in Wiltshire

The Wiltshire Council Budget interest many as it will determine what non-domestic rate is paid. Funding from central government continues to reduce. This combined with the increased demand for some council services, particularly for vulnerable children and adults, and the cost of inflation, means that Wiltshire Council need to make savings of

£28 million. The council remains committed to investing in services aligned to its three priority areas to protect those who are most vulnerable, to boost the local economy by creating new jobs and safeguarding existing ones, and to support and empower communities to do more for themselves.

The Police are requesting the maximum amount of £3.12 increase for the year. Wiltshire Council is likely to increase its requirement by 1.9% plus a 2% levy now allowed by Government for care provision which also needs to fund pressures such as the introduction of the living wage. More redundancies are expected at Wiltshire Council. Please note your parish rate will be extra to that above.

I am requesting another finger post for the junction of Woodlands Road to East Swainsford, Mere. The present one has only the pole left standing.

RINGWAY Infrastructure Services Limited have been awarded a £15m per year highways maintenance contract by Wiltshire Council - months after they ended their previous contract when complaints were high. Coming into force from April, the new contract takes over from the previous one with Balfour Beatty Living Places which was terminated in September by mutual agreement two years ahead of schedule.

Ringway will now be responsible for the maintenance of roads, street lights and pavements, clearing drains, gritting roads and emergency repairs. The contract will run for five years, with a possible extension of a further two years.

It is proposed to develop two new Council bungalows in Bramley Hill, Mere. The pre-application process is now underway (i.e. collating comments from the Councils stakeholder teams, planning, highways, drainage etc).

Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) has awarded Wiltshire Health & Care the contract to provide adult community health services in Wiltshire for the next five years. Wiltshire Health & Care is a new organisation formed by Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust and Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust. The new contract is due to start in July 2016, and will mark the start of a period of change, where more care will be delivered closer to local communities. People will be supported to maintain their independence, and reliance on hospital services will be reduced.

As part of WCCG's five year plan to bring health care closer to home, the changes to adult community health services will ensure that the focus is very much on patient centred care with GP practices firmly at the heart of community provision. Delivered through integrated community teams across the county, Wiltshire Health & Care will support WCCG to meet the challenges of an ageing population and to enhance partner working. A new pilot service for an out-of-hours GP service for children has been launched with the aim of avoiding unnecessary A & E attendances. Parents of children aged 0-10 can now book a same day appointment to see a GP at the Salisbury Walk in

Health Centre, at Avon Walk, Salisbury, SP1 3SL. The extended service provides health advice and treatment for minor illnesses and injuries and provides parents with a local alternative to A&E when their child is ill and their surgery is closed. The pilot service, which is already helping to reduce some of the pressure seen at our A&E departments over the winter months, will run until the end of March 2016. It is available for children under the age of 10, between 6.00pm - 10.00pm Mon - Fri and between 4.00 pm - 8.00 pm at weekends.

Parents should ring 111 in the first instance. If necessary the call handler will either make an appointment directly with the centre or advise the parents to contact the walk in centre for a same day appointment (☎: 01722 331191)

At the South West Wiltshire Area Board, the LYN (Local Youth Network) Management Group met in December, and received two Interesting presentations from potential Grant applicants. Suzanne Maxwell offered a 'hands on' session to demonstrate the work of 'Anyone Can Cook', a Community Interest Company (CIC) already providing cooking courses across the south. The LYN were treated to tasty noodles along with the information, and supported funding for cooking and accredited Food Safety courses to be delivered to young people in Wilton, Tisbury, Mere and Broadchalke.

Additional Yellow Lines for Salisbury Street and Water Street, Mere. These orders will cover more than just yellow lines as I wrote last month, therefore please regularly check the Internet for the appearance of the consultation. The address is: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations/troconsultations.htm>

The South West Area Board has three Speed Indicator devices for a while in the Mere area, but, unfortunately I have had to return a faulty one to Melksham for exchange.

A councillor was so busy attending meetings that his family reported him to police as missing. Breckland Council and Thetford Town Council member Denis Crawford had not returned his daughter's calls for two days, so she alerted the police. Mr Crawford said his 07.00am to 10.00pm schedule was "not unusual" and he had not realised he had missed telephone messages from his daughter. My schedule is more like 07.00am to midnight and no-one has noticed me missing!

WILTSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Public Transport Strategy Review

Wiltshire Council is reviewing its Local Transport Plan (LTP) Public Transport Strategy and service delivery (Wiltshire Council supported bus services). The review is being undertaken because of growing pressures on the Council's budgets, which means funding is no longer available to continue delivering services at the level that was envisaged when LTP was published in 2011.

The review of the Public Transport Strategy is part of a wider review of all areas of Wiltshire Council's passenger transport remit (except rail and taxis). The wider review will include re-examining policy and spending in home-to-school and college transport, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and social care client transport.

As a first stage in the review, a pre-consultation exercise was undertaken during July and August 2015 to provide key stakeholders and partners (e.g. town councils and bus operators) with an opportunity to shape the scope of the review.

We are now keen to hear the views of bus users, residents, stakeholders and other interested parties to help us shape a new Public Transport Strategy. No decisions have

Save a life, Save money, Save the date

Charity sale of good as new/designer clothing taking place at Convish Farm, West Knoyle, BA12 6AH in aid of St Mary's Church, West Knoyle and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. **Sunday, 17th April** 3.00-7.00pm. (Early birds) £5 entry. **Monday, 18th April** 10.00am-7.00pm. £3 entry. **Tuesday, 19th April** (Final bargains) 10.00am-7.00pm. Free entry.

been made as yet and we would like to see how far you agree or disagree with the options presented in the accompanying questionnaire (see link below).

Please note this is a consultation only about subsidised bus services, which are those services that are not viable for a bus company to run without Council funding. A list of subsidised bus services is available under the 'Supporting Documents' tab at the bottom of the page.

Questionnaire

If you are able, please take the survey on Wiltshire Councils website: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/subsidised-bus-services-consultation.htm>

Alternatively, a PDF version of the questionnaire together with other review documents (including a Frequently Asked Questions document) are available under the 'Supporting Documents' tab at the bottom of the page.

Paper copies of the questionnaire are also available on request by ☎: 0300 456 0100. Copies of the questionnaire and Public Consultation Paper will also be available on buses operating Wiltshire Council contracted services, in libraries, and in Council offices (Monkton Park in Chippenham, Snuff Street in Devizes, Bourne Hill in Salisbury, and County Hall in Trowbridge).

How to respond

Our preferred method to receive comments is through completion of the on-line electronic questionnaire (organisations can send written responses separately

referencing the relevant question in the questionnaire - see contact details below).
Please note that there is no requirement to register or log-in to the portal to respond to this consultation exercise.

Alternatively, please send your completed questionnaire by post or email to the addresses below.


By post to:

Public Transport Survey, Passenger Transport Unit, Wiltshire Council, Bythesea Road, TROWBRIDGE, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN

By e-mail:

Send as attachment to : customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

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 : 07809 738237**



Wiltshire Money

NEEDS YOU!



We are looking for volunteers to help deliver financial capability sessions and who can commit to the project for one year.

We need group trainers and/or people who are able to conduct one to one sessions.

If you would like to be involved or have any questions, please contact **Kirsten or Alice** on **01225 781946**.

Email: **wiltshiremoney@citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk**



SAVE IT! ENERGY, WATER & MONEY.....

As featured recently on BBC radio 4's Money Box Live and in the Sunday Times: switching yours or your loved ones energy supplier, could be one of the best things you could do this year! What a present to give your Grandma – a possible savings of £240 a year to help keep her cosy and warm during the cold weather!!

With this in mind, Warmer Improved Somerset Homes (WISH) along with Warm and Safe Wiltshire are holding a **FREE Save it: Energy, Water & Money** event at the Balsam Centre, Wincanton BA9 9HB on Tuesday 1st March from 12.30 – 3.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to drop in (Somerset and Wiltshire residents included); advisors will be on hand to help you save money on your heating bills, offer practical advice on how to lower your energy use, make your home warmer and let you know how switching your energy supplier could help you to save money. Just bring your bills along and see how much you could save! There will lots of freebies for you to pick up and a chance to win a slow cooker in our free raffle!

Wessex Water will also be attending the event and on hand to answer any questions you may have about your water supply, such as 'will installing a water meter save me any money?' If you already have metered water they can give advice on keeping water use to a minimum and have some useful free gadgets to help with water saving.

Staff from Warm and Safe Wiltshire will be able to answer any Wiltshire based queries around energy saving measures, saving money on energy bills, damp and mould issues and staying warm, health and safe in your homes.

So why not drop in on the day between 12.30pm and 3.30pm and meet the experts – pick up your free goodies and see if you can win a slow cooker in our free raffle!

If you are unable to come on the day, you can call the Warm and Safe Wiltshire FREE phone number ☎: 0300 003 4575 or ✉: warmandsafe@wiltshire.gov.uk for free energy advice and tips.

CHAFYN-GROVE COTTAGES, ZEALS

Vacancy

Sadly Arthur Holberry has had to give up his cottage, No 2, after 30 years, from when he finished at the Mere Brush Company, during which time he rose to be captain of the Mere Bowls Team and became a conscientious member of the Allotments. The Trustees have taken the opportunity to upgrade the accommodation to provide a bedroom with ensuite shower/toilet, to make better use of the kitchen space, as well as to update all the other services.

The rules for the cottages set in 1866 were somewhat draconian as, amongst others, there was a requirement to go to church twice every Sunday. Today the Trustees are simply looking for a single lady or gentleman of retiring age and restricted circumstances, who would benefit from the accommodation. Ideally they would come from within the Upper Stour Parish or Mere District, but almost as important is that they have a next of kin in the area.

Anyone, who would like to take up this accommodation, should contact me in the first instance for the opportunity to ask for details, answer a short questionnaire and discuss the arrangements. *David Corbin ☎: 01747 840847*

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

As the days are getting longer and hopefully warmer, it feels like spring may be around the corner. With this in mind, why not come in and have a browse through the non-fiction collection of books on gardening or Easter crafts and baking.

There are weekly 'sing and rhyme' sessions for our youngest readers on Fridays, 10.00-10.30am. This is a free activity, no need to book, just come along and join in.

For those in need of some help to get online with your own laptop, tablet or Smartphone the Digital Champion Advisors will be available on Tuesday, 1st March from 2.00-4.00pm to help you with any IT queries. Bring along your own device or use one of the library's free access public computers.

Also, on Fridays 4th & 18th March, from 1.30-4.30pm, the Health Information nurse will hold her final sessions for general health enquiries including blood pressure checks.

Sally-Ann Hooper, Mere Library Supervisor ☎: 01747 860546

POLICE NEWS



Armed Robbery at Willoughby Hedge

Two males entered the service station on Saturday 23rd January at 3.16am and demanded staff hand over money whilst brandishing a suspected shotgun. Staff handed over money and the men left on foot across the A303. A red VW Passat was recovered later on, at the top of Chaddenwick hill on the old drove road that leads to The

Deverills, it had been abandoned after being stuck in the mud. The vehicle was discovered to be on cloned plates and the vehicle was registered in Bristol.

We have had reports of a similar robbery at Nunney Catch services near Frome a couple of nights before. Enquiries are ongoing. The shop have taken precautions now and the shop doors are closed at night. Fuel is still available overnight, service is via the hatch.

Other Robberies

Gas canisters have been stolen from the burger van at Old Willoughby Hedge on the A303 overnight on two separate occasions recently. Have you seen persons overnight acting suspiciously in the lay-by? Call Wilts Police on 101 if you can assist.

A DFDS lorry had diesel worth £350 taken from it's fuel tank overnight whilst parked up overnight at the lay-by near to the Charnage turning on the A303. Again we are asking if anyone saw anything which may help us catch the offenders to please call us.

King Alfred's Tower car parks have again been targeted by thieves, this time at the main one near to the tower. This was near dusk, a female walker returned to hear her car alarm sounding and a male ran off, there were two vehicles parked in the road and both made off at speed. I have been in the car parks recently speaking to dog walkers reminding them of the danger of car thieves operating in this area. I put signs up warning people not to leave anything valuable in the car, but still see boxes etc. on display. Remember a thief will smash a window just to get a look inside what may be an empty box!! Don't hide valuables, thieves will watch and they know where you stash them. Be aware.

Mere Primary School

I have been in local schools this week talking to the new intake of children and telling them what we do and giving bits of advice. Showing them the police vehicle and explaining about how to keep safe. I have also been out on foot in Queens Road, near Mere Primary School after reports of some parents driving too fast up that road at drop off and pick up times. Any drivers who use this route, please drive at a respectful speed up to the social club car park. We don't want someone being knocked down!

Traffic Matters

This week I was at the scene of a 2 vehicle collision in the Semley area doing traffic control as the road was partially blocked. The Semley/Motcombe road is a minor road with lots of bends, and I was amazed at the amount of drivers who were still speeding along during the rush hour! Luckily the two vehicle head-on crash was minor injury only, but both vehicles were write offs. Please think about your speed and expect there to be another vehicle just around the corner and slow down accordingly!

We had a report of a vehicle incident on the A303 at Mere where a vehicle overtook and seemed to deliberately brake so as to cause a collision, then sped off. Another driver witnessed this and called in to tell us what he had just seen. An independent witness is useful for us when we only have the drivers involved accounts, so thank you to the third party for reporting it on 101.

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

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)

 ***peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.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,*

E-mail: meredental@btconnect.com, Website: 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*

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

Saturday, 11th June 2016

Please put this date in your diary

Come and help raise money for the upkeep and restoration of our beautiful parish church. If you would like to help on a stall, serve teas or hang bunting please contact me:

Elisabeth Barratt ☎ 01747 863324

GOOD FRIDAY WALK UP CASTLE HILL

The Churches Together 'Way of the Cross' walk up Castle Hill on Good Friday will start in the Square at 11.00am. Please join us if you can (those who prefer a less rigorous walk are welcome to a 'Stations of the Cross' service at 11.00am at St Mary's RC Church). The walk will be followed by a 'Lent Lunch' in the Grove Building at 12.30pm.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎:01747 860884
(joint secretaries for Churches Together)*

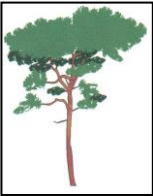
FAIRTRADE NEWS

Easter Eggs

Don't forget to buy your Fairly Traded Real Easter Eggs with the Easter Story and a small gift inside. There are many different eggs on offer this year at various prices. They will be available at the Lent Lunches on Fridays, 4th & 18th March, the Traidcraft Stalls on Saturday, 19th March at the URC or Sunday, 20th March at the 10.30am service at St Michael's, or to avoid disappointment from me directly.

Mothering Sunday.

Come and buy a fairly traded gift or card for Mothering Sunday this year and not only delight your mother with an unusual hand-crafted gift but also help a family to a better way of life. Saturday, 5th March 10.30am-12.00noon outside the PO (or in the URC at their Coffee Morning, if wet).
Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884



MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

Walks 2016

Sunday	20th March	2.00pm
Sunday	24th April	2.00pm
Sunday	22nd May	2.00pm
Sunday	12th June	2.00pm
Monday	20th June	7.30pm - moonlight walk
Sunday	3rd July	2.00pm
Sunday	31st July	2.00pm
Sunday	21st August	2.00pm
Sunday	18th September	2.00pm
Sunday	23rd October	2.00pm

Monday 2nd January 2017 New Year's walk (details later)

Walks start from the main car park in Mere. Please share cars where possible. Everyone very welcome, including dogs if on leads. Bring small picnic if you wish. Further details of destination and distances will be posted on a board outside the Post Office nearer to the dates.

Liability Disclaimer - As the group has no insurance, walkers should be aware that they take part in walks at their own risk and that neither the walk leader nor the group can accept liability for any injury or loss howsoever caused.

Jean Young, for Mere Footpath Group, ☎ 01747 860950

WARMINSTER & DISTRICT FOODBANK

A Community Venture

Local Food and Support for Local People in Crisis

Thank you very much to everyone who gave so generously to the trolley collection for this much needed and valuable local charity. By providing this food our Foodbank helps local families and individuals in crisis. Redundancy, illness, benefit delay, or unexpected expense can mean going hungry if you are on a low income.

The Foodbank is staffed entirely by volunteers, two of whom Jane and Wendy, stood all morning in the cold before Christmas "manning" the trolley. Thank you. It is also greatly appreciated that the Southern Co-op allow it to happen on their doorstep.

Ann Ridler ☎: 01747 860128

CARNIVAL

Further to our article in the February edition of Mere Matters, many thanks for the kind gift contributions towards our fundraising.

Some of these will be used at the Bingo on Friday, 15th April, in the Grove Building, eyes down at 7.30pm. There will also be a raffle and refreshments, along with two specials. Come along for a fun evening suitable for all the family and win some lovely prizes whilst helping to boost Carnival funds.

Don't forget, Carnival Day is Saturday, 17th September.

Sue Jeans , for Carnival committee, ☎: 01747 860215

MERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

We are delighted to welcome a couple of young lads to the club. They appear to be getting on famously with the old boys!! As a reminder we meet in the Castle Street car park club House on Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm.

Forthcoming Events for March:

Saturday, 12th & Sunday, 13th 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Midland Garden Railway Show at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre CV31 1XN.

Saturday, 19th & Sunday, 20th 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Dorset Model Railway Exhibition at Queen Elizabeth School, Blandford Road, Wimborne BH21 4DT. This is a new show and promises to be the biggest in Dorset with over 30 layouts.

Sunday, 20th 8:00am - 6:00pm from our Castle Street Club house. A visit to the London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace in a luxury coach. This event is organised by the Wessex Association of Clubs, of which M&DRM are members. Due to the Dorset Model Railway Exhibition there are a number of spaces available. Those people interested should contact me.

Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977

PENNYBANK WRITERS

The Mere & District Writing Group – meet monthly in the Methodist Church Hall. This year the meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month excluding December.

This friendly group meet to discuss and practise aspects of writing, share information and offer constructive comments on members' work as well as enjoying coffee and biscuits mid-session. There are also occasional outings, visiting speakers and reading engagements.

New members are welcome, so if you are interested in writing, be it for pleasure or profit, contact PennyBank Writers for further details.

Adrienne Howell ☎: 01747 860475

REMEMBER! COPYDATE FOR THE APRIL 2016 ISSUE

MONDAY, 14th MARCH 2016

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

Lent Lunches

Sale
Table



Everybody
Welcome !

Come along and enjoy delicious home-made soup with
a roll & cheese followed by tea/coffee for just £3 !

Grove Building 12.30 – 1.30pm

Friday, 4th March

Saturday, 12th March

Friday, 18th March

Friday, 25th March

All proceeds will go to Christian Aid & Cafod, Please support the lunches – see you there!

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

The first of our events for 2016 is nearly upon us with the Spring Bazaar on Saturday, 12th March 10:00am to noon, Lecture Hall, Mere. We are having our usual huge range of stalls with the old favourites including homemade cakes, jams, bric a brac, tombola, raffle, books etc and we are delighted to tell you we have 2 guest stalls coming to give you even more goodies to choose from!

Our May Fayre plans are now coming together (Saturday, 21st May), and we are now in a position to start collecting any items that you wish to donate for any of our stalls - esp the popular Man Shed stall!! If you do have anything to donate please contact us in one of the ways listed below. If your donation is of the 'large' variety we would prefer to collect it the day before if this is convenient. Please see our notice next month for all the final May Fayre details, but thank you all for your continued generous support.

As a committee we are always looking for more helpers, donations of good quality Bric a Brac, tombola and raffle prizes, man shed contents, garden items & baked goodies to sell and also any new fund raising ideas. If you can help with any of these please contact us: : merecancerresearch@mail.com or ring. (after 6pm). We also have a Facebook page – Mere Cancer Research where we have up to date news and forthcoming events.

Penny Fennon ☎: 07833 131712

MARCH SHORT WALK

This will take place on Monday, 14th March. Hopefully the sun will shine this month after February's downpour. Meet at 2:00pm in the Surgery Car Park.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 16th March 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, 14th March.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Mere Community Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 1st March 2016 at The George Inn. We meet at 12.00 noon for 12.30pm and you are advised to book in advance ☎: 01747 860437. The two course meal costs £9.95, drinks not included. As I will be away, the lunch will be supervised by Jean Kantharia ☎: 01747 861168. All are welcome. They are a great bunch of folk, so do come and join us.

The April Community Lunch will be held at The Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road on Tuesday, 5 April 2016.

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film this month, on Thursday, 31st March, is the wonderful '**The Lady in the Van**' (12A), starring Dame Maggie Smith as Miss Shepherd and Alex Jennings as Alan Bennett. It is the remarkable story of the reluctant relationship that grows between them when Bennett allows Miss Shepherd to park her old van, in which she lives, on his driveway 'for a short time'. When Alan Bennett turned this true story into a play, it was Maggie Smith who became 'the lady' and it is a delight to see her make this part her own again in this film, for which she has received BAFTA and Oscar nominations. A moving story of a very particular bond between two people. Full details on page 25.

Date for your diary:

Thursday, 28th April: 'Brooklyn'

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE GRACENOTES

Date for your Diary

Mere Gracenotes, a small ladies' singing group and their conductor Jane Hurd, invite you to come and join us as we welcome Spring in song! We are putting on a concert on **Friday, 15th April at 7.30 pm** in St. Michael's Church, Mere. No tickets are necessary, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of ShelterBox, a small Cornwall-based charity that supplies disaster relief all over the world. It has no paid fundraisers and relies on donations.

Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218

SHREEN HARMONY

I cannot believe that we are nearly at the end of February. The choir is flourishing and we now have a larger male section than ever before and it is so good to hear the difference that it makes to our sound.

We have a concert on Thursday, March 17th at 7.30 p.m. in St Marys Church Templecombe in aid of the church roof. Joining us will be the Silver Spirit Djembe Drummers, so I think this will be a lovely evening and your support is always appreciated by us all. Every Thursday we can be found in the United Reformed Church Hall in Mere at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome to pop in and see if they would like to join in.
Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is now underway, with a visit to Bath to a comedy version of the 39 Steps, which cheered us all up on a cold and wet Saturday. Many of us enjoyed a sociable and tasty lunch beforehand. If you would like to join us before the spring/early summer programme comes out, do contact Wendy or Madelaine, details below

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

MERE GARDENING CLUB

AGM and Spring Show

Wednesday 9th March 7:30pm Grove Buildings

Subscriptions will be collected at the AGM and remain at £8. This is really good value as it includes 8 monthly talks, discounted shopping at local Garden Centres, Summer visits, a New Year Social and a Garden Party.

Following the AGM, Alan Lawrence, president of the American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society, will talk about these plants. Mere born and bred, he has lived and worked in USA for many years. Now retired, and with family connections here in Mere, he regularly visits his Mere home 'Lawrences' along with his wife, Anne.

Schedules for this year's Spring Show are in the Post Office window and anyone is welcome to take part, except for the Mere garden Club items (MGC). This year we are being joined by some of the residents of Fives Court with a special joint category with Club Members. It is a very relaxed occasion as we vote for our favourite exhibits which

is always good fun. Come and enjoy a touch of Spring! £2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Don't forget to visit our website for information about all our activities and to see photos of our summer garden evening last year will remind you of warmer days!

www.meregardenclub.org.uk

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Last month we had a fascinating presentation by Shirley Richardson entitled "The Silk Road East," an adventure by Shirley and her husband Colin, both pensioners. They rode on a BMW motorbike weighing 300Kilos from Huntingford to Beijing, taking 13 weeks and travelling 30,000 miles. On 29th April, 2011, Shirley and Colin met up with their two guides, fellow biking travellers and support vehicle and within five days they were in Istanbul.

The thirteen bikes travelled through Iran and on to Ashgabat (the White City), through Samarkand, Kashgar and on the Friendship Highway to Everest Base Camp. Further east to Lhasa (Potala Palace) and on to Leshan to see the world's largest Buddha, 71 metres (233ft) tall carved out of the cliff face. Then on to Chengdu (giant pandas), and Xian to see the Terracotta Army and the Great Wall and journey's end in Tiananmen Square. Their accommodation ranged from the unbelievably basic no toilet and with hardly any washing facilities, to caves, tents and the occasional much appreciated hotel. An unbelievable journey never to be forgotten.

After that, our next meeting will seem very tame, it is our AGM when we elect our new committee and President. If you would like to be with us right at the start of our year you would be very welcome to join us on Thursday, 3rd March at 7.30pm in the Grove Building.

Our 100 items for the Trussell Trust Food Bank are growing, but we still need more. So don't forget to bring your donations to our next meeting.

Janet Fisher ☎: 01747 861323



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

On Mothering Sunday, 6th March, we'll be encouraging participation in MU's 'Make a Mother's Day' campaign with its imaginative ideas to bring hope and new opportunities to disadvantaged mothers and families in Uganda, the Sudan (North and South), Tanzania and Rwanda – as well as in the UK.

Our regular meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 8th March in the Grove Building will be of special interest to all past and present and future MU Members: Sarah Condry, who is the wife of Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury, is a new MU Trustee and is coming, bearing a cake, to help us celebrate MU's 140th Birthday! Her talk has the intriguing title 'Thanks for what has been and Yes to what lies ahead.' Everyone welcome, as always. *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**

Angela May from the Ernest and Marjorie Fudge Trust (Warminster), dropped in to see us at the end of January. We were delighted to welcome her and we are very grateful to the Trust, which has bought some items for us that we needed. We had great news from Mere Bowls Club telling us that they have nominated us for their charity Barn Dance on 9th April. This will be a huge help with fundraising.

Support from the local community means a lot to us, not just in the form of fundraising, but also because of the fantastic work our volunteers do in helping to run sessions. All these contribute to our guests feeling they are valued members of the community. If you would like to find out what is involved in volunteering, do drop in and see us. Website: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎: 07835 272406

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Rehearsals are now in full swing for our Spring Production of '**A Mere Variety Show**' taking place on Thursday, 17th, Friday, 18th, and Saturday, 19th March at 7.30pm in The Lecture Hall. Tickets are £8.00 to include a Buffet Supper and are available from the Library, or call ☎: 01747 861257. You will be pleased to hear that it is not just MADS members taking part in these evenings of frivolity and fun but also Various Others with Very Particular Talents who wish to entertain and surprise you, so it is definitely something Not To Be Missed!

The Variety Show is dedicated to Bryan Sheppard who is much missed in the Society and who so loved to take part in all MADS productions, whether it was comedy, drama or variety. But be warned – tickets are limited to fifty each evening, so be sure to book now to avoid disappointment! *Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

MERE MUSEUM



The current exhibition, which introduces Mere Historical Society's Archive, will remain on show until the middle of March, when it will be replaced by a travelling, photographic version of an exhibition entitled 'The Story of Wiltshire in 100 objects'.

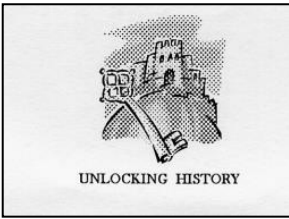
Three items from Mere Museum's collection are included in the display - quite a coup for a small Museum!
Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS "100 CLUB"

The result of the '100' Club Draw for February 2016, drawn on Saturday, 6th February by Josie Varney (Brainwave) was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 116	Roger Dennis
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 91	Mary White
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 75	Sheila Shotter
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 209	John Pellyl

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646



Mere Historical Society

SS Great Britain

From Launch to Relaunch

Ian Caskie

Tuesday, 1st March, 7.30pm in the Grove Building

SS 'Great Britain' Visitor Services volunteer, Ian Caskie, tells the ship's remarkable story from her original design through the different phases of her working life, to her incredible salvage. return to Bristol in 1970 and her restoration, preservation and 're-launch' as a multi-award winning museum of international renown.

Newsletters with visits for 2016 will be issued at this meeting.

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 15th March 2016, to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "Conservation – the Agents of Decay" by Hannah Severn (National Trust, Stourhead). **Non-members are very welcome.**

Don't forget to check out our web site:

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MERE BOWLS CLUB

ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A

CHARITY BARN DANCE

WITH THE BLACK BEAR BAND

AT THE GROVE BUILDING, MERE

ON SATURDAY, 9th APRIL 2016 AT 7.00pm

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER INCLUDED

IN SUPPORT OF ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

BAR AVAILABLE

RAFFLE

TICKETS £10 EACH FROM LIBRARY OR ☎ 01747 860775

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The Lady In The Van'

(12A)

Maggie Smith Alex Jennings
Jim Broadbent

Alan Bennett's impeccable writing tells the true story of Miss Shepherd, who takes an increasingly prominent place in his life when she chooses to park the old van in which she lives in his driveway.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 31st March, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

Visit our website www.moviola.org



Mere School Reports

E-safety

All the children have taken part in E-safety workshops this term.

They have learnt lots about keeping safe on the internet.

Blue Class

The children have been learning about people who help them.

They have thoroughly enjoyed visits with the Firemen, police and doctors.

Yellow Class

The children in Yellow Class have been busy learning about Transport.

They had a fantastic trip to Haynes Motor Museum where they all sat in a Cadillac!

Silver Class

In Silver class the children have been learning about Superheroes.

They have created an amazing superhero dance.

Gold Class

The children have enjoyed learning about plants this term.

They have all planted a sunflower seed to see whose grows the biggest!

Green Class

This term the children have been learning about Ancient Egypt.

They have made death masks with Wiltshire Scrap Store.

Red Class

Year 5 have been learning about the Rainforests and are looking forward to a walk in the woods next half term.

Purple Class

Year 6 have been busy learning about Space and even joined in with Tim Peaks live broadcast.

Extras

Our sports team have continued to play well. We came joint first in the Gillingham Family Hockey Tournament and our football team has qualified for the quarter finals of the Davison Cup.

STOP THE PRESS!

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

www.mereschool.co.uk

MERE BOWLS CLUB

April also sees the start of the new season, we open on Saturday, 23rd and would be delighted to see you at 3:00pm. All you need is a pair of flat shoes so as not to damage the green; the Club will supply all the rest! Don't feel like bowling just yet and maybe want to watch for a while and get the feel of the Club and the members, not a problem as we will even throw in a biscuit with your cup of tea or coffee.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747-860775

FR. LOUIS BEASLEY-SUFFOLK, PRIEST AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST MARY'S, WRITES:

Ever Closer Union

Within the next six or eighteen months, the Nation has the opportunity of voting whether we should stay in or out of Europe. The EU referendum debate seems always to have been in the background and one of the big questions is if we stay in Europe, are we going to lose more of our sovereignty which means are we going to have less control over our own future and be run by faceless bureaucrats in Europe. I suspect that that is one of the fears that many people have and when one considers that there are 28 nations in the European Union I suspect that such a fear is international.

There's a parallel with church unity.

I suspect that denominations are concerned over closer union because of the perception that heritage; the beliefs and the structures which one holds dear will be surrendered. That attitude is understandable because it's a fear of the unknown, a fear of surrendering fidelity. When one considers in small communities how well people know and trust each other, why is it that when the subject of faith enters the conversation there is a reticence to discuss it openly. Again, I suspect that it is because no-one would wish to cause offence over a personal choice of religion.

So let's look at the positive side. Church unity is a duty and you will recall that Jesus prayed that 'they may all be one'. As friendship and trust is based on love, surely it is possible that friendship and trust can just as easily be the basis of unity under the one God. Mutual respect of each other's denomination can so easily become part of friendship and trust which will avoid the need for unnecessary confrontation, and as we approach Easter, the core celebration of our Christian Faith, we have a glorious

opportunity to show our love for each other by taking part in celebrations which are non-confrontational.

May Holy Week give you this opportunity of being together under the Sign of the Cross, and recognising the dignity that is within all denominations.



Churches Together have another busy month! The Lent Study groups, open to everyone, using the Bible-based course entitled 'Migration and Movement' are continuing on Mondays at 10.00am in the Methodist Church (School Room) and on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the URC Church. You are welcome to join either group.

Everyone is also welcome (including men!) to the Women's World Day of Prayer service which takes place at 11.00am on Friday, 4th March at Mere Methodist Church, and will be followed by the Lent Lunch in the Grove Building at 12.30pm. There will also be Lent

lunches on Saturday, 12th, Friday, 18th March, and on Friday, 25th March the Lent Lunch will follow on from the Good Friday 'Way of the Cross' walk up Castle Hill, starting in the Square at 11.00am. Please join us if you can (those who prefer a less rigorous walk are welcome to a 'Stations of the Cross' service at 11.00am at St Mary's RC Church.)

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884
(joint secretaries for CTM&D)*



Grateful thanks to everyone who came and supported our Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake evening. It was a very happy event which seems to have been thoroughly enjoyed by all – including the organisers! – and we made just over £600. We've already booked the Grove Building for next Shrove Tuesday, so if you missed it this year, make sure you come in 2017!. The March Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at Weavers Cottage, Hazzard's Hill (Isabel Howell's house) will now be held on Thursday, 3rd March (note change of date) 10.30am-12.00noon. Everyone Welcome!

News of Suchana's progress is very encouraging, with more exam successes for Suchana 'graduates' and it is good to know that our small efforts make such a big difference in the lives of children and communities in rural West Bengal.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHRISTIAN AID IN MERE

After five years of hard work for Christian Aid in Mere, Judith Thompson has passed the reins on to me and I will now be the Christian Aid representative. This is big responsibility and I admit I do feel a bit daunted at the task ahead. Christian Aid is a charity close to my heart and the money we raise in Christian Aid Week (15th – 21st May) really does make a difference.

It all began in the 1940s in the aftermath of the Second World War and it was to aid all the European refugees who had lost everything in the war. Then in the 1950s it began to expand and look beyond Europe to Africa and Asia and to try to help and to respond to emergencies worldwide and in 1957 the first Christian Aid week was held.

Today the world is in crisis and there are so many people in need it is hard to know what we can do and where, but Christian Aid will be there helping regardless of religion.

I will be at the Lent lunches in March although I cannot make the first one in February. I am hoping I will be able to recruit some people to help me in the Christian Aid week delivering and collecting the envelopes. I hope to carry on the work successfully in the same way that Judith has over a number of years. Many thanks to anyone who will help me, and I will see you at lunch in March.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

We meet together for worship on Wednesday, 30th March at 10.30am for 11.00am in the Methodist Schoolroom. We'd love you to join us for our monthly extension of 'Pause for thought'.
Mary Siderfin ☎: 01747 861370

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE MARCH 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
Mr Michael Marsh ☎: 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎: 07754 524802
✉: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1) The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker normally has a rest day on a Friday
Tuesday	1st	6.00pm	Start the Month
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY
			Family Service (NO Communion)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	*20th	10.30am	PALM SUNDAY Holy Communion (CW1) with Palm Sunday Procession
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Monday	21st	5.00pm	Holy week Worship
Tuesday	22nd	5.00pm	Holy Week Worship
Wednesday	23rd	5.00pm	Holy Week Worship
Thursday	24th	8.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Holy Communion, Hand Washing and Vigil
Friday	25th		GOOD FRIDAY
			NO 8.00am Communion
		9.15am	Children's Good Friday Service

		2.00pm	Good Friday worship
Saturday	26th	7.30pm	EASTER EVE
			Easter Readings
Sunday	27th	6.00am	EASTER DAY
			Easter Morning Communion
			with breakfast at the Vicarage
		10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1) with
			Childrens Activities

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	20th	11.00am	PALM SUNDAY Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	27th	11.00am	EASTER DAY Holy Communion

The Methodist Church (☎: Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎: 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	10.00am	Service at Marnhull Methodist Church. NO service in Mere
Sunday	13th	3.00pm	Mrs Ann Collinson
	20th	3.00pm	Local Fellowship Service
	27th	6.00pm	EASTER SUNDAY
			Rev'd Paul Arnold, United Service

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald ☎: 01747 860867

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

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎: 01747 830534

Mr Colin Seaford ☎: 01747 830263

Sunday	6th	9.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY DIY
	13th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	20th	9.30am	PALM SUNDAY Service
	27th	10.00am	EASTER DAY Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

March 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	Tue	12.00pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Online Drop In Session"	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	L
		7.00pm	Healing Course (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 9th & 16th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi small hall (also 9th & 16th)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm	Dressmaking (also 9th & 16th)	GB
		7.30pm	- 9.00pm Lent Study Course (also 9th, 16th & 23rd)	URC
3	Thur	10.00am	11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.30am	- 12.00pm Suchana Coffee Morning Weavers Cottage	
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
4	Fri	10.30am	Open the Book	GB
		12.30pm	- 1.30pm Lent Lunch (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 11th)	L
5	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 14th & 21st)	L
		10.00am	Zumba Intermediate(also 14th & 21st)	L
		10.00am	11.30am Lent Study Course (also 14th & 21st)	URC
		10.00am	Dressmaking (also 14th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 14th & 21st)	L
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		7.30pm	Town Council Meeting	AYP
8	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB

9	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women	GB
12	Sat	10.00am	- 12.00noon Cancer Research Spring Bazaar	L
		12.30am	- 1.30pm Lent lunch	GB
14	Mon	2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
15	Tue	10.15am	Mere Historical Society, Morning Talk	GB
16	Wed	3.00pm	T@3 with 'Online Drop In'	Angel Café
17	Thu	7.30pm	MADS "A Mere Variety Show"	L
18	Fri	7.30pm	MADS "A Mere Variety Show"	L
19	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.30pm	MADS "A Mere Variety Show"	L
20	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
21	Mon	7.00pm	Church Meeting	URC
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Fri	11.00am	'Walk of Witness' up Castle Hill	The Square
26	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
30	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH
31	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "The Lady in the Van"	L

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit Mere's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

1st & 3rd Fridays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

COPYDATE FOR APRIL 2016 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 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, 14th March 2016.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 7th March 2016 to: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

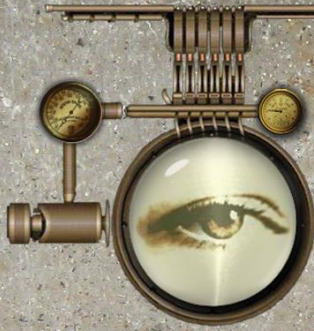
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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Teeandee Productions

Tel: 01747 841458
Mob: 07799 325214

Email: tim@teeandeeproductions.com

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