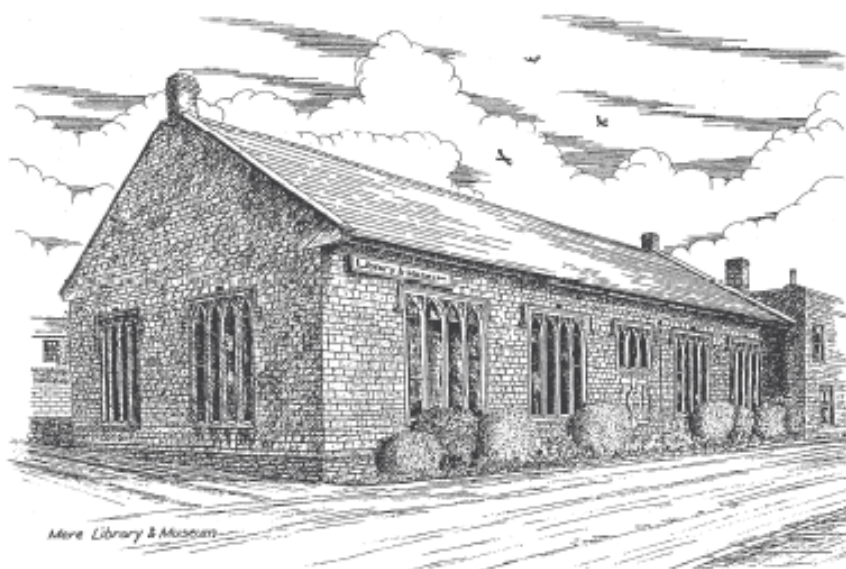


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



MAY 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 town - come and hear what they are doing for you!

You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 9th May 2016**.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman write:

At the meeting of the 4th April, town councillors and members of the public had the opportunity to have a look at drawings of a proposed extension to Mere Surgery and to hear from Doctor King and a representative from Med Centres. They were able to ask questions about the design and to have a preliminary discussion about the difficult balance between better surgery provision in the town and significant loss of parking space. Further discussion and a decision will take place when the planning application is published by Wiltshire Council, meanwhile the drawings will be available for public viewing at the Annual Parish Meeting later this month.

The councillors were pleased to hear that some further small progress was being made towards action to improve the road and lighting in Downside Close.

Details of the arrangements for lighting a beacon on Castle Hill for the Queen's Birthday on the 21st April were discussed as were donations for fireworks for the June celebrations.

The Town Council was pleased to see that proposals for traffics schemes (TROs – yellow lines) had finally been published for consultation as these had been proposed and sent to Wiltshire Council about two years ago and discussed publicly at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. It was hoped that these would lead to quick action once the consultation was completed as difficulties with parking and driving through Mere are a source of concern to many residents.

A request for the Town Council to provide financial support to the St. Michael's Church Flower Festival in 2017 was turned down.

On a blustery Sunday morning on the 10th April, a group of nine volunteers met at the Town clock to start a three hour litter pick around the Town. The group split up into pairs and selected the areas in the Town to litter pick. At the end of the session the volunteers managed to collect four large black sacks of rubbish. I was also surprised at the size of the area the volunteers managed to cover during the litter pick. The group said that they would like to do another litter pick event in September. I would like to thank all the volunteers for participating in the litter pick and also thank two additional volunteers for litter picking along the Mere to Zeal's road on the previous weekend.

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

 *Brett Norris, Chairman, and John Jordan, Vice Chairman*

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 1st March 2016, where we received a report from Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans on a meeting he had recently attended where it was revealed which roads would be resurfaced in the coming financial year. It seems that three roads coming into the village from the A303 will be resurfaced but the one that the Parish Council had requested as a priority is not on the list for resurfacing. The Parish Council agreed that we should submit a further request for New Road from Willoughby Hedge down into the village to be given some kind of priority treatment.

Following announcements from Highways England, the Parish Council agreed to send in a letter of disappointment that there were no plans for dualling or improvements to the A303 in the West Knoyle/Mere areas.

The Parish Council also considered the consultation on the recent bus services review being carried out by Wiltshire Council and agreed to submit a response stating that although there are no timetabled buses that travel to or from West Knoyle, parishioners place a high value on the Taxibus service that can play a necessary part in meeting essential appointments or accessing essential services in rural and isolated areas such as West Knoyle.

A community litter pick in the village took place on Sunday, 13th March which was very successful with a good turnout and a large amount of litter was collected. Everyone agreed that this was a worthwhile exercise and it was satisfying to see the difference everyone's work had made to the appearance of the village. Grateful thanks go to all those that took part.

With regards to the superfast Broadband project, members were given an update on the situation as far as Parish Council funding was concerned. Cllr. Wessely confirmed that the Wessex Internet apparatus for superfast broadband had now been installed thanks to the funding raised by Mr. & Mrs. Wayman. If anyone in the village wanted to link up to the apparatus then they needed to subscribe.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

Independent Experienced Carer CRB NVQ

A personal service for all your care needs

01747 860998

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

As I write this I am helping those preparing for a beacon to be lit on Castle Hill, for the Queen's 90th Birthday on Thursday, 21st April. The Queen usually spends her actual birthday privately, but the occasion is marked publicly by gun salutes in London.

On The Queen's official birthday, Her Majesty will be joined by other members of the Royal Family at the Trooping the Colour parade on Saturday, 11th June this year, otherwise known as The Queen's Birthday Parade

The following day, Sunday, 12th June will see street parties up and down the country. You may need to inform Wiltshire Council four to six weeks in advance, if you plan a Street Party. The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a guide on how to organise a street party, complete with an application form for you to send off to your local authority.

One of my fellow Wiltshire Councillors, Jeff Osborn, who represented Trowbridge Grove was not well at the last full Council meeting, and very sadly he died not very long afterwards, which brings home to me that life can be relatively short.

In line with current council funds available, The South West Area Board has set just £500 aside for the Mere Area for the June celebrations. I would like this put towards a £2,000 fire work celebration for all, young and old in the area, to see free in Mere. Many voluntary contributions have been received towards the display, but more voluntary funds are still required, Mere Town Council and a well know local person who has organised firework spectacles at the school previously have all agreed to participate. If you feel you can give a little, no matter how small, could you please give it to The Mere Town Council Clerk, Lindsey Wood, who can be contacted on ☎: 01747 860701 or by e-mail at ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org.

I attended a Planning Site Visit regarding a proposal to regenerate part of the disused psychiatric Old Manor Hospital site in Salisbury. The site is behind the very long dark red brick wall on the right when entering Salisbury by road from the Wilton direction. The listed buildings are now in a very bad state of repair. Patients spent years and sometimes decades there, with underground tunnels to wheel them around out of sight of others, "primitive" electric shock treatment and buildings that look like cottages, but were all connected together by lockable rooms. It was a thought provoking experience for the members of the southern planning committee who were on the site.

Dog faeces are much of a problem in Mere and I am sure in the villages around. People with wheel chairs track through it, think of their hands, and, these chairs have to enter those people's houses. Bags of faeces are put in and on peoples property, children play around it and are at risk of losing their sight if they come in contact with

loose faeces . I know some dog owners have been approached and in reply indicate to those making the approach that they are anti- dog, but this is often not the case, it is just they are asking for the dog owner to follow what the majority think is reasonable, that there is no excuse for not taking your dog faeces home or disposing of it in a waste or designated dog bin. These bins can then smell afterwards, being rural, as they are often not emptied daily. I and, I believe, the Mere Town Council will get some smaller informative signage put up. The police can sometimes prosecute with evidence, although, at present I believe people get a warning.

The consultation has now finished for proposed Parking Places, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting in Mere. I returned a detailed e-mail of my feelings based on comments I had received. I supported the case for yellow lines on the south side of Salisbury Street Mere when leaving the Salisbury Street Car Park, and yellow lines in the pinch point of Water Street to help the flow of traffic, especially buses to Mere School. I also set out the case that in the square of Mere, there is much more of a need for residents, visitors, shops, hotel, café to work together regarding traffic flow and parking, which is no easy task. I also supported some other comments that affected other areas of Mere.

The South West Area Board is working with providers of youth facilities in Mere and Zeals to provide two mini buses. These buses will be for the elderly also. I sometimes transport older people with the present youth mini bus and this should be able to continue, however in future these mini buses will be supported locally and not by Wiltshire Council. I and other councillors sitting on a task group have visited youth groups all over Wiltshire to see how the new community lead model is working. Although it has been in place for less than two years, the time scale is a long time to a 13 year old, who probably has no experience of the old model totally funded by Wiltshire Council. Further cuts in finance to the youth will be inevitable, however from what I have seen, a youth service locally and across Wiltshire will largely continue.

The Wiltshire Council Parish Steward, Fred Winter, often meets with me, for which I thank him, as many small problems get resolved as a result of his efforts.

The B3092 to Frome was closed again recently, but no advanced notice of the closure was sent to me or the local councils. Wiltshire Council officers, I am sure, will now try and prevent this type of situation happening again.

The national media ran what I thought was an interesting story. A fine was issued after a disabled bay was painted around a car. Matt Armstrong of West Norwood in London has criticised Lambeth Council after a disabled bay was painted around his parked car, which had then been issued a £110 fine. A council spokesman confirmed the fine will be cancelled, saying the authority will investigate "confusion around the marking of the disabled bays." I would have thought the wet paint on the traffic officer's shoe would have given him or her a clue!

FREE ESSENTIAL FIRST AID TRAINING SESSIONS IN SOUTH WEST WILTSHIRE

Are you interested in first aid and helping to make your local community more resilient? South West Wiltshire Area Board has announced details for its final set of free essential first aid sessions covering basic first aid. There will also be an opportunity to find out what some Parishes in South West Wiltshire are doing to identify and train key local people in first aid, for the benefit of their local community.

The Essential First Aid (certificated) course is run by St John's Ambulance, lasts for 3 hours and covers the following:


- Primary Survey
- Resuscitation Adult Child & Infant
- Recovery Position Adult Child & Infant
- Choking Adult Child & Infant
- Bleeding

At the end of the first aid course there is also an additional 30 minute 'Use of AED (Automated External Defibrillation)' session, if you would like to stay on for this part.

Once you have received this training we will encourage you to join up with others in your parish to consider a strategy for providing first aid support to your local community.

There is a course in Mere on Tuesday, 17th May, 9.30am – 12.30pm in the Lecture Hall. For more information please contact me.

Steve Harris, Community Engagement Manager ☎: 01722 434211

: [**stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk**](mailto:stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk)

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

We will be holding a Book Sale in the Library from Monday, 16th May for two weeks. Come along and have a look and find a Bargain.

There is a weekly sing and rhyme session 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, 3rd May to help you with any IT queries. Bring along your own device or use one of the library's free access public computers.

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

THE SUNDAY TIMES PUTS MERE ON THE MAP!

On 20th March, the Sunday Times printed its annual survey of the whole of the UK, and nominated the best places to live in specific regions. In the South West, Mere and Tisbury were included. Bath, as you might expect, came top.

Of Mere the survey said (in typical Sunday Times fashion): "You'd be forgiven for thinking that not much happens in Mere, off the A303, which is making its debut in Best Places this year. Union Jacks flutter from casement windows, and the church bells and chiming town clock do their baleful duty. The odd reveller falls out of a half-timbered pub, and the town's latest council report reveals that there's progress with the new model railway (Club) and that the Mere Meander trail is a great way to explore its historic gems.

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**

"OK, high-octane this is not, but its residents absolutely love this place, where the Blackmore Vale meets the chalk downs that extend westward from Salisbury Plain, and the community spirit is strong. There's something for everyone here, cat-lovers and quilters alike. Large farmhouses with land on the outskirts of town cost £600,000, but quaint terraced houses near the market square (which, er, doesn't have a market any more) cost less than half as much.

"For proper shopping, locals have to head north to Warminster or south to Shaftesbury; the nearest secondary school is in Gillingham, where there's also a direct rail link to London.

What the locals say: Don't rush me.

Why we love it: Merely the perfect country town."

Of its methodology, the survey organisers wrote: "We scrutinised much of the hard data - statistical surveys of: crime data, school performance, life expectancy and house prices - then dug deeper to look at the beauty of the countryside and the services on offer, including transport links. We called on the local knowledge of Sunday Times writers to consider not just whether the pub was any good, but if the food on offer was tasty enough. We wanted to know if there was true community spirit (and if you could get a seat on the train)".

The overall winner of the Best Place to Live in Britain is Winchester and the

South West region contained, in full, and in alphabetical order, Bath, Bridport, Bristol (Redland), Chagford, Cheltenham, Exeter (Topsham), Falmouth, Fowey, Frome, Mere, Mudeford, North Bovey, Tavistock, and Tisbury. So just two places in Wiltshire. Didn't we do well! *Graham Avory, Editor*

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Our Model Railway EXHIBITION this year is from Saturday, 18th to Sunday, 19th June in the Lecture Hall and we will be open from 10:00am – 4:00pm each day. It is the intention to improve our annual exhibition to a higher standard than last year and also we have reversed our previous decision so that this year children under age of 12 will be allowed FREE entrance when accompanied by an adult.

This year is rushing along. Slow, but sure progress has been taking place with the club's main exhibit 'Blackmore Vale', which is to be featured in the main Lecture Hall room at the Exhibition.. It is now set up in the club house on its stand and we are fortunate to have Carol Lord making the front drapes for this layout.

Our junior membership has continued to use the club's OO gauge layout and have bonded together and are threatening to design their own layout!! As usual our doors are always open to visitors from 7.00 – 9.00pm on a Wednesday evening, other times can be arranged, should members of the community so request. Our guest speaker for Wednesday, 11th May is Barrie Chappell who will demonstrate what can be achieved with radio control in his working model boats. Reference will further be made to using servo motors in model railways.

On Sunday, 15th May we hope to have a minibus trip to Cornwall to explore Launceston Steam Railway and Museum. This is very much a working environment, and usually there is something for everybody with an excellent bookshop and cream teas on site.

Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977 or ✉: Tom@Freewinds.co.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*

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants Available for 2016

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community, and welcomes a wide range of creative initiatives.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Tuesday, 31st May and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of the closing date.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to: The Grants Committee, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, c/o Monkswell Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere Wiltshire BA12 6DA.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Annual Church Fete



Saturday 11th June 2016, 2:00 – 4:00pm

We will be celebrating the Queen's official 90th birthday.

Special events planned so far are a Teddy parachute, a demonstration by the Dogwise team, music that is being provided by Gillingham Junior Silver Band and a visit from the local firemen.

There will be lots of games for children and many thrilling raffle prizes including tickets for the Swanage Railway, Wincanton Races, Stourhead and many further prizes kindly donated by local businesses.

There will also be the Quiz. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the Grove Building.

Lots of stalls including: cakes, books, bric a brac, preserves, bottle tombola, jewellery

If you are making preserves, re-organising your garden, having a Spring Clean and de-cluttering please store your goodies for the Fete.

Elisabeth Barratt ☎: 01747 863324

FREE HELP IN THE DIGITAL JUNGLE

Mere now has four "digital champions" who are helping local residents to get online and make their way through the digital jungle of laptops, tablets, smart phones and desktop computers. The volunteers give their time in two drop-in sessions every month, one at Mere Library, the other at the Angel Tea Rooms. They also do home visits.

The champions help people with the basics of computers, phones and tablets, things like logging into and using websites, sending emails and attachments, organising and printing photos, and buying things online. These are free one-to-one sessions, not classes, so we go at the learner's own pace.



To use this service come to one of our two monthly drop-in sessions at either Mere Library: 1st Tuesday in the month (3rd May this month), 2:00 – 4:00pm, or Angel Tea Rooms: 3rd Wednesday in the month (18th May), 3:00 - 4.30pm.

If you can't make either of these two sessions, you can phone the Wiltshire Online team on ☎: 0300 456 0100 or ✉: digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk with your contact details and you'll be put in touch with a local digital champion. The champions have been vetted and trained by Wiltshire Council as a part of its Digital Inclusion programme. More than 20 people in the Mere area were helped by local champions during the past year. *Steve Hoffman, Wiltshire Online. ☎: 01747 860514*


MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME AND LITERARY FESTIVAL



This year's Mere Literary Festival (MLF) in aid of the Linkscheme takes place from Monday, 10th until Sunday, 16th October. The programme will be officially launched at the ever popular Quiz Night on Friday, 22nd July.

There are plans to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary at the Award Ceremony on the final day of festival week. We hope you will feel that two decades of community service from the Link assisted by its festival is something to celebrate and will join the party on Sunday, 16th October. If you have any photos, memories or comments from previous festivals do send them to : info@merelitfest.co.uk

The anniversary also highlights that the trustees and organisers are twenty years older and younger people are now needed to take the Link and festival into the future. If this rewarding community work is of interest, do please contact the Link on : 01747 860096 or the festival organiser on : 01747 860475 for more information.

The MLF competition this year is Write-in-the-Week for timed flash fiction. It's a fun competition requiring no more than 350 words to be written in one week.

Full details will be in the programme, on the Link/MLF notice board and : www.merelitfest.co.uk

Footnote from last year: Marion Molteno who spoke about her novel, Uncertain Light, gained many new fans in Mere who may like to follow her blog on : www.marionmolteno.co.uk *Adrienne Howell* : 01747860475

CANCER RESEARCH

Firstly the total raised at the Spring Bazaar was a magnificent £342.00, so a huge thank you to everyone who came and supported us. Our Magic Sunny Flowers at the Stars Appeal April Fair went down well I am delighted to tell you that we sold out - we raised a magical £105.30p - Mere will be looking bright and sunny with all these sunflowers growing!

We are now full steam ahead for the May Fayre, please see the advert overleaf on page 14 of this magazine, and would be very grateful for any donations for the following stalls we are running: Man Shed table - this includes shed and garden items, bric-a-brac, homemade cakes and home grown plants.

If you have items that we can sell please contact us in one of the following ways mentioned below. Please note we cannot accept furniture or electrical items. We can arrange collection the day before if you have any 'big/heavy' items.

We have 25 stalls in the Town Square, family fun in the Church Field, classic cars, food stalls, emergency vehicles and much much more - so please come and have the best day out and support our worthwhile and amazing cause, last year we raised over £4,000 - help us try and beat that this year! Face book - Mere Cancer Research.

Penny Fennon ☎: 07833 131712 (after 6.00pm)

✉: merecancerresearch@mail.com

MERE FILM SHOWS

We march in time with an old friend this month as our film is 'Dad's Army' (PG) on Thursday. 26th May at 7:30pm. The classic TV show has been given a big screen treatment, with Toby Jones's deluded Captain Mainwaring and Michael Gambon's smiley Private Godfrey being the standouts in an impressive parade of British character actors, including Bill Nighy, Tom Courtenay, Daniel Mays, Alison Steadman and Sarah Parish. The film is full of laughter, expanding the action from parochial intrigue to espionage and actual conflict, while boosting female participation, which not only includes Catherine Zeta Jones as a glamorous reporter who sets male hearts a-fluttering, but also the first flesh-and-blood appearance of the formidable Mrs Mainwaring (Felicity Montagu). Annette Crosbie and Julia Foster are a delight as

Godfrey's sisters, a pair of sibling Miss Marples. It is all great fun and well worth seeing. I know – I have seen it! Full details on page 24.

Date for your diary:

Thursday, **16th June** 'Bridge of Spies'- Mark Rylance and Tom Hanks

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

MAY FAYRE

21st MAY 2016 – 10 00am to 2.00pm

Town Square & Church Field

25 stalls selling an amazing range of items, many from Mere's own suppliers and artisans!

Man Shed Table, Bric a Brac, Cakes, Jams, Books, Plants,
Raffle, Tombola

Classic Cars, emergency services, coconut shy, food, drink,
and much much more..... !!

So come along have a great day out and help us beat cancer
sooner

MERE CARNIVAL

Carnival Quiz

Wednesday, 18th May, Grove Building

7.15pm - £2.00 per person

Tables of 4

(1, 2 or 3. We can make you a 4!!!)

Raffle and Refreshments

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING

Carol Paine ☎ 01747 861639



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday,
18th May at 3.00pm.

All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on
☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday,
16th May.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

NEXT SHORT WALK

I am afraid I am unable to arrange a Short Walk for May because of other commitments. The next one will therefore be on Thursday, 2nd June. For all those who come regularly, please make a note of it in your diaries as it is at the very beginning of the month.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Musicals are proving very popular with our members - after a trip to 'Chicago' we're now off to 'Singing in the Rain' and in June we're going to an evening of live jazz at Lford Manor. But for those who like something more serious, a new play by a brilliant young French writer awaits in Bath.

If you'd like to join our club before the autumn programme comes out contact.

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

SHREEN HARMONY

The choir has enjoyed a very happy start to 2016. We have welcomed new members and we performed in The Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Templecombe in March. This was a successful evening, very well supported, and hopefully enjoyed by all - certainly by the choir.

We have returned from our Easter break and begun to rehearse for our next public performance. We are singing in the Methodist Church in Gillingham on Thursday, 19th May at 7.30pm. This is an annual concert in aid of the Alzheimer Society and all are welcome.

If you think you would enjoy the choir we would love to see you on any Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall in Mere. We sing a wide variety of music ranging from songs from the film "The Hunger Games" spirituals and folk songs to Croatian Drinking songs!!

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

THE SHAFTESBURY AREA TALKING NEWSPAPER FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

A search for Editors

Clearly, you enjoy reading Mere Matters; do you also enjoy reading any of your local weekly newspapers? If so, we wonder if you could help us on the Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper (SATN) Team.

We are looking for volunteers who, once every six weeks or so, would be happy to spend a few hours scanning three or four local papers for entertaining and informative articles that are suitable for inclusion in our Talking Newspaper. After selection, the task involves cutting and pasting the articles onto plain paper.

Opportunities for some creativity also exist in that each chosen article needs a brief written introduction. Further creativity is possible through the selection of interesting photographs and other images from the local papers and writing descriptions of them.

Copies of the local papers, ahead of publication, are available for collection in Shaftesbury early on Thursday mornings. Selections and scripts are then required to be delivered to the SATN office in Father's House, Christy's Lane, Shaftesbury, by 3:00pm the following day. The creative work can therefore be performed in the comfort of one's own home - or indeed wherever one chooses.

Full mentoring is provided so if you feel that this activity might interest you, or you would simply like to learn more, do please contact

Colin Francis, Chief Editor ☎: 01747 851803

WHAT DID WE FIND AT THE FONTHILL ESTATE?

ONE ESTATE - 10 HOUSES

How ten such differing houses came and went within just 100 years.

An Illustrated Talk by Professor Caroline Dakers

at Bake Barn, Chicklade, SP3 5SY - Limited wheelchair access

6.00 for 6.30pm, Friday, 13th May 2016

In aid of the restoration of Chicklade Church

Tickets £15.00, including drinks & canapés, in advance from:

Victoria Beer ☎ 01747 820435 or ✉ chickladelectures@gmail.com)



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

Philip Coward of the Hill Brush Company was our speaker in April. We learned about the history of the Company from its start in 1922.

The two Royal visits, firstly the Prince of Wales in 1932 and then Her Majesty, The Queen in 1952, prior to her Coronation, before then gaining the honour of the Royal Warrant in 1981. He then went on to explain the reason for the famous salmon logo that appears on all the brushes. When Philip's grandfather was asked why, he replied that it reminded him that he would rather be going fishing than selling brushes.

We were all astonished to learn that they make four million brushes each year and export to eighty five countries with products in nine different colours. The colour is for the requirements of the food preparation industry. Philip then described their new development at Nor Wood Park, named after the wood to the west of Mere, due to be completed on 30th November.

The building will not only house the new factory but will also have a restaurant and a fitness centre for the staff, together with a shop and a visitor centre including a restaurant and a brush museum to be ready this time next year. While the factory is going up a time lapse film is being taken every half hour to record the story of the development which will be fascinating to see when completed. It was good to see so many members and visitors at this very interesting local talk.

Later in the month eleven of us enjoyed a really good lunch at The Ship in West Stour and the monthly games afternoon was as popular as ever.

Next meeting is Thursday, 5th May at 7:30pm in the Grove Building. We will be discussing the two resolutions for the WI AGM to be held in Brighton. The first being "avoid food waste, address food poverty" and the second being "appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia". Both are issues which are particularly relevant and important in our modern world. There will also be a short talk with the intriguing title of "Bottles and Bottle Tops." Members are asked to bring an interesting bottle for this month's competition. We are also re-introducing the feature of "from my garden today." This requires a flower or vegetable, in fact any interesting garden item that you have. We also really need more food items to complete our Trussell Trust commitment.

Also in May we have the Wessex Group meeting with a talk entitled "The History of Knitting" and later in the month a walk and treasure trail in Devizes.

If you feel that any of the above interests you, please come and join us, you would be very welcome.

Janet Fisher ☎: 01747 861323



April was busy! As well as our AGM and much-enjoyed 'Members' Afternoon' sharing interesting, amusing or special readings and poems with one another at our main meeting, thirteen of us, on 16th April, attended the splendid triennial MU Diocesan Festival in Salisbury Cathedral followed by a very good meal together at Sarum College; and we also hosted the Heytesbury Deanery meeting on April 28th.

May will be quite busy too. At our main meeting on Tuesday, 10th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, Jenny Wilding will be sharing memories, pictures and her own views on her recent visit to China. If you would like to find out more, please join us as all are welcome. We'll also be holding a 'Music and Fun' afternoon for parents and children on Tuesday, 31st May – details below.

Judith Thompson (MUBranch Leader) ☎: 01747 860553



**Mere Mothers Union invite
Mums with children for a
Half-Term Fun, Games & Music Afternoon
on Tuesday, 31ST May 2016
2.00-4.00pm in the Grove Building, Mere**

Music, toys & games for little ones; games & craft activities for older children;
Tea and cakes for everyone! Husbands/Partners welcome.
Just come along, or for more info please contact

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 or ✉: judithvthompson@aol.com

Stourhead Farm Shop - ¼ page advert

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Calling All Budding Thespians!

Have you ever thought that you would rather like to have a go at being in a play? Now is your chance!! MADS is looking for enthusiastic people to join our very happy and successful company, particularly those who would like to take part - in every sense - in our next production. We are especially eager to meet young people - i.e. 50-ish, or even younger!! To get a feel for things, do pop along to the next meeting on Monday, 9th May, which will take place immediately after the AGM. You are assured a very warm welcome, and on this occasion, a cup of coffee and a biscuit too!

Our AGM will take place on Monday, 9th May at 7.30pm in the Small Hall as usual. Extremely light refreshments are available from 7:00pm. Members are reminded that the treasurer would be heartened to receive your annual subscriptions of £10. We hope to see everyone there.

Mary White ☎ : 01747 861257

MERE MUSEUM

A brand new exhibition is now open for everyone to enjoy over the summer! It is called 'The Silk Road to Mere' and it answers just about all the questions you can think of relating to the period roughly spanning the whole of the 19th century when silk was the main textile industry in our town. Why Mere? Who was involved? What was involved? What happened in the end? Visit the Museum from now until August to find out!

Jenny Wilding ☎ : 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends proudly invite everyone to not one, but two fund-raising events in May! First, we are holding a Bingo Night on Friday, 6th May in the Grove Building. Doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 7:30pm. There is a treasury of prizes and a raffle, and refreshments will be available at half time. We do hope you will support this new-to-us event.

Then on Saturday, 14th May we are holding our traditional and famous Plant Sale, at 10:00am in the Grove Building. We shall be delighted to receive donations of plants to sell - please let David Longbourne ☎: davidlongbourne@btinternet.com or me know and we will be happy to collect. Or, you can bring items to the Grove Building at 9:00am on Saturday, 14th. We would also warmly welcome cakes to sell - please get in touch as above. Make sure you're there at 10:00am, remember it's the early bird that gets the worm (in the pot containing the healthy soil and the superb plants you will then take home!).

Jenny Wilding ☎ : 01747 860908

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

for the over 60s

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

We have been very busy over the last month enjoying art and craft with Sue Wilcox, sing along sessions with Noel, a Desert Island Disc session and as I'm writing we are planning a trip to The Hawk Conservancy this Friday. We were also fortunate enough to have a visit from Paul Buxton, a representative from Age UK. It was lovely to meet him as Paul is new to this position, he spoke to our guests and provided any assistance and information that he could and then stayed and had lunch with our guests.

A big thank you to Chris Dillon, our Chair of Trustees, for being the latest victim in our recent Desert Island Disc session, the guests and volunteers really enjoyed getting to know Chris that little bit better!

A date for your diaries! We are planning our Annual seaside outing for Monday, 20th June and will have a limited number of extra seats to sell, which will be priced the same as last year at £10 each. This Year the guests voted for Swanage as our destination.

We now have a Facebook page! Upcoming events, pictures, details of volunteering opportunities and updates will all be posted there, just put Rosemary Goddard Centre into the facebook search bar and you will find it, log on and take a look.

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

MERE GARDENING CLUB

The History of the Flower Pot

Jonathan Garratt

Wednesday, 11th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Dorset based potter Jonathan Garratt has specialised in making distinctive and unusual terracotta pots for over 30 years and currently enjoys a reputation as one of Britain's foremost garden artists. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

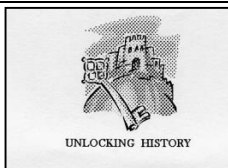
Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

CLEAN TEAM

Regular cleaning - Housekeeping - One off cleans - Second home
caretaking - Holiday let turnarounds - After party/wedding clean ups -
Lawn mowing - Shop and office cleaning

Call: 01747 590268 E-mail: cleanteamenquiries@outlook.com

www.cleanteam.create.net



Mere Historical Society

Mata Hari – Eye of the Day

Kathy McNally

Tuesday, 3rd May, 7.30pm in the Grove Building

The story of the beautiful and clever double agent.

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Visit One

Tuesday, 17th May 2016

John Boyd Textiles and Castle Cary

There are a few places remaining on this outing, which leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.20am returning by 6.00pm

Cost: MHS Members £16, non-members £19 per person

Includes coach and tip, guided tours and museum entrance donation.

Visit Two

Thursday, 9th June 2016

Dunster Castle and Village

Dramatically sited on top of a wooded hill, a castle has been at Dunster since at least Norman times and has many stories to tell from its 1000 year history. It was the fortified home of the Luttrells for 600 years and remodelled in the 1870s to create a splendid Victorian country house. From a feudal stronghold to a family home, this magnificent castle has breath-taking views over Exmoor and the Bristol Channel. Entrance to the Castle is by timed ticket for around noon. There will be time for coffee, to admire the view and explore some of the estate before. After your visit you are free to find lunch and explore the lovely medieval village, and the working water-mill.

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.00am returning by 6.30pm

Cost: MHS Members £16, non-members £19 per person

Includes coach and tip. Entry to Dunster for non-National Trust members is £8.80 (group rate). Please add this to your Payment if applicable.

For more details ring Caroline Cook (number below)

Booking forms are available at Mere Library and our website:

🌐 **www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Dad's Army' (PG)

**Toby Jones Bill Nighy Michael Gambon Tom
Courtenay Catherine Zeta Jones**

The Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon deal with a
visiting female journalist and search for a German spy as
World War II draws to its conclusion.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 26th May, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

Visit our website at  **www.moviola.org**

GROVE BUILDING "100" CLUB

The result of the '100' Club draw for April, drawn on Wednesday, 6th April 2016 by Joe Donohoe (This & That), was:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|---------|-----------------|
| 1st Prize | (£20) | - | No. 175 | Judith Thompson |
| 2nd Prize | (£15) | - | No. 46 | Shelagh Brown |
| 3rd Prize | (£10) | - | No. 39 | Colin Kantharia |
| 4th Prize | (£5) | - | No. 190 | Angela McDonald |

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

Our delayed opening day was on 16th April, whilst the rain held off it was a particularly cold spring day. Nevertheless there was a very impressive attendance of both Croquet and Boule devotees together with some very welcome new players. The Boule enthusiasts did get in ahead and had some play earlier in the week.

The lawn, which has had a great deal of loving care and treatment over the winter months, is vastly improved. Michael Horne has proved a near miracle worker. The new grass like the rest of us does need a longer spell of warmer weather.

As in previous years there is always a good attendance on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Anyone who is interested in our activities can be sure of warm welcome. Do come along, all the equipment is provided, all that is needed are flat soled shoes for Croquet.

Rex Roberts ☎: 01747 860873 ✉: bramleythesteep@btinternet.com

BOWLS CLUB

Mere Bowls Club together with Bowls England, under the auspices of Bowls Wiltshire are promoting the game of bowls by hosting an Open Day on Sunday 8th May, from 10am until 3pm when qualified coaches and experienced members of the Club will be on hand to take you through the basics of the sport; if we can kindle your interest then there will be four more free coaching sessions – all you need is bags of enthusiasm and a pair of flat soled shoes with no heels. Under this scheme you will get five free sessions instead of the normal three made available before you need to decide if you wish to join the Club or not.

On Saturday the 9th April the Bowls Club hosted its annual Charity Barn Dance, once again it was a great success with everyone enjoying the music and chat even if they didn't dance. This year we are supporting the Rosemary Goddard Centre and while final figures for the evening are not yet to hand, we hope to make a substantial donation to this worthy local charity.

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

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE 2016 ISSUE

MONDAY, 16th MAY 2016

**HELP US FIND MERE'S
BUDDING BOWLERS**

OPEN DAY



SUNDAY 8th MAY

MERE BOWLS CLUB

10.00am till 4.00pm

Coaching - Refreshments

Free admission - Prizes



Mere School Reports

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS!

This has been an amazing academic year of sport so far for Mere School. Children from Key Stage 2 have had a busy couple of terms competing in a wide variety of sports.

Tag Rugby

Children from Year 5 and 6 entered the Gillingham Family Tag Rugby tournament in the Autumn term and successfully qualified for the North Dorset finals.

During this tournament the team played exceptionally well and with second place progressed to the School Games County finals in Bournemouth.

On a beautifully sunny day in March the team travelled to the county finals and came a very respectable 6th out of 24 teams. The children not only played well but represented the school with great pride.

Football

Our successes continued with a fantastic year of football. The boys of Years 5 and 6 played several amazing qualifying matches in the local Division Cup Tournament and managed to get

through to the semi-finals and finals! It was a nail biting finish as the team sadly lost in the final on penalties.

The following week, the team played in a Gillingham Family tournament where they came 1st.

Netball

A mixed team of Y5/6 boys and girls qualified for the North Dorset finals after coming 2nd in our local Gillingham family tournament.

Hockey

Our Year 5/6 team came joint second at our Gillingham family tournament.

Website

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

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



Huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way with Lent Lunches (which were very much appreciated) and with our special events over Holy Week and Easter. Our main events for May are both on the same day! Whitsunday or Pentecost, Sunday, 15th May is being celebrated with a 'Kite Fest' in the afternoon (for details, see below); and at 6.00pm in St Michael's Church we are holding a Songs of Praise with Commissioning of Christian Aid Collectors. All welcome to both events.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎: 01747860884
joint secretaries CTM&D*



Whitesheet Hill BA12 6RP
May 15th From 12:30 tel: 01985 844817
Bring a picnic and kite or make on the day

Churches Together in Mere and District

**REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP,
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:**

In Search of Celestial Light

I borrowed a small tripod and read up on: "How to get the best photos of the Aurora Borealis". Thermal clothes were packed; including my ridiculous insulated hat with

earflaps and strange plaits, crampons and a small torch. Off I went to Iceland (the cold, windy and wet, very expensive country- not the store formerly known as Bejam). We marvelled at bubbling thermal pools and spouting geysers, were finely sprayed by some stunning waterfalls, walked to the snout of a glacier, had instructions about the hazards of visiting areas with active volcanoes and almost got used to the smell of rotten eggs whenever the bathroom tap was turned on.

Our local guide studied solar activity levels, Aurora predictions and the weather. Solar winds were very lively and the Aurora activity expected to be about 5 or 6 (good). A site was chosen far from light-polluted Reykjavik and shortly after 9:00pm we set off in search of the Aurora Borealis. It's been seen in Scotland and even as far south as Oxford, but on our Tuesday night, a thick blanket of cloud enveloped Iceland and in spite of strong winds would not offer us a clear sky. The lights were dancing but remained unseen from the ground. Our search to see the celestial phenomenon was fruitless. The four day visit was good but not what we'd hoped for.

I was always annoyed by Pollyanna's "Glad Game" because it seemed to deny that really bad things do happen. Life is not always fair: good people can suffer, children die, people are let down, accidents happen, hearts are broken and we do not always live "happily ever after". No amount of being told to think of something to be glad about will undo injustice and suffering. By the time the next issue of Mere Matters has been read, we will as a nation have either expressed a wish to remain in the EU or to leave it. Whichever our future path, for some it will feel like bad news, like a future they didn't opt for: my hope is that voting over, people will do what they can to make the present and the future good for everyone. During the month of May I shall be moving to another pastorate and I'm not naive enough to think my new post will be plain sailing and that the sun will always shine. I hope to find good people to share laughter and tears with. I have considered myself fortunate to have been working in Mere over the past five years and have always told people that Mere is a genuinely diverse and caring community. May the days ahead bring you good companions to share your sunshine and wise companions to share their umbrellas when it rains. Shalom.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 15th – 21st MAY

Christian Aid works swiftly to provide support and immediate relief to people in disaster situations and to help them start to rebuild their lives.

Amongst the current priorities is providing hygiene kits, blankets, and food to the millions of Syrian refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries.

Last year 20,000 churches united to deliver seven million envelopes and raised an amazing £11 million! I could do with some willing helpers to deliver and collect envelopes in Mere. Could you please do a street or two for me? (It takes about an hour

to do fifty houses). It is a much used but true saying that 'every little helps'. Many thanks for reading my piece and please give me a ring if you think you could help. Thanks also to those who have already 'signed up'.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980



Everyone is invited to a Coffee Morning and a Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana on Tuesday, 10th May, 10:30am–12:00noon at Hillcrest, Hazzards Hill - home of Rob & Elisabeth Barrett ☎: 01747 863324

And a diary date: Our ever-popular Strawberry Tea will be held on Friday, 8th July from 2:30pm in Jean and Colin Kantharia's garden, Rivermead, Pettridge Lane.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE MAY 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: 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 has a rest day | |
| Sunday | 1st | 10.30am | Family Communion |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| Tuesday | 3rd | 6.00pm | "Start the Month" |
| | | | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Thursday | 5th | | ASCENSION DAY |
| | | 7.30am | Holy Communion Service |
| | | | followed by breakfast |
| Sunday | 8th | 10.30am | Benefice Service at Bison Farm |
| | | | NO service at St Michaels |
| | *15th | 10.30am | Holy Communion (CW1) |
| | | 6.00pm | Songs of Praise with Christian Aid |

Collectors Commissioning Service

22nd 10.30am

Holy Communion (CW1)

29th 10.30am

Holy Communion (CW1)

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎: 01747 860685

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|---|
| Sunday | 1st | 11.00am | Rev'd Hazel Barkham |
| | 8th | 11.00am | Jane Hurd |
| | 15th | 6.00pm | United Songs of Praise and Christian Aid Service at the Parish Church |
| | 22nd | 11.00am | Everyone choose a favourite hymn |
| | 29th | 11/00am | Rev'd Hazel Barkham |

The Methodist Church (☎: 01747 823777)

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|--|
| Sunday | 1st | 6.00pm | Rev'd Paul Arnold |
| | 8th | 6.00pm | Rev'd John Page |
| Sunday | 15th | 6.00pm | United Christian Aid Service at the Parish Church |
| | 22nd | 6.00pm | Rev'd Mike John |
| | 29th | 6.00pm | Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion |

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 | 1st | 9.30am | Matins |
| | 8th | 10.30am | Benefice Service at Bison Farm NO service in St Marys |
| | 15th | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 22nd | 9.30pm | DIY |
| | 29th | 9.30am | Holy Communion |

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES

May 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


| | | | | |
|----|------|-------------------------|---|----------|
| 2 | Mon | 7.30pm | Slimming World (every Monday) | L |
| 3 | Tue | 2.00pm - 4.00pm | "Get On-line" Drop-in session | Lib |
| | | 6.00pm | Pilates (every Tuesday) | GB |
| | | 6.20pm | Zumba (also 10th & 23rd) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Historical Society | GB |
| 4 | Wed | 9.30am | Tai-Chi (every Wednesday) | GB |
| | | 10.30am | Tai-Chi (every Wednesday) | GB |
| | | 11.15am | Pilates (every Wednesday) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Karate (every Wednesday) | L |
| 4 | Wed | 7.00pm | M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday) | RMC |
| | | 7.00pm | Dressmaking in small hall (also 11th & 18th) | GB |
| 5 | Thur | 7.00am - 10.00pm | Police & Crime Commissioner Election | L |
| | | 10.00am - 12.00pm | Mere Art Group (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 10.00am - 11.30am | Hearing Aid Clinic | Surgery |
| | | 2.00pm | Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Women's Institute | GB |
| 6 | Fri | 10.00am | Open The Book | GB |
| | | 10.00am - 10.30am | Sing & Rhyme (every Friday) | Lib |
| | | 2.00pm | Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Zumba Gold (every Friday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Friends of Mere Museum Bingo Night | GB |
| 7 | Sat | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday) | CC |
| 9 | Mon | 9.30am | Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 16th & 23rd) | L |
| | | 10.00am | Zumba, first level (also 16th & 23rd) | L |
| | | 10.30am | Dressmaking in small hall (also 16th & 23rd) | GB |
| | | 11.00am | Zumba Gold (also 16th & 23rd) | L |
| | | 6.00pm | Beavers (also 16th & 23rd) | GB |
| | | 6.45pm | Cubs (also 16th & 23rd) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Scouts (also 16th & 23rd) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | MADS AGM (Small hall) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| 10 | Tue | 9.00am | Foot Care Clinic (also 24th) ☎: 01747 853162 | MH |
| | | 2.30pm | Mothers Union Meeting | GB |
| 11 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together Whist Drive | GB |
| 11 | Wed | 7.30pm | Gardening Club | GB |
| 12 | Thur | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (every Thursday) | L |

| | | | | |
|----|------|---------|---|-----------------|
| 12 | Thur | 5.00pm | Girl Guiding (every Thursday) | GB |
| 13 | Fri | 10.00am | Merely Women (also 27th) | GB |
| 14 | Sat | 10.00am | - 12.00noon Plant sale -Friends of Mere Museum | GB |
| 16 | Mon | 10.00am | Two week book sale starts | Lib |
| | | 10.30am | - 12.00noon Suchana Coffee Morning | Hillcrest |
| | | 6.00pm | Water Colour Course (also 23rd) | L |
| 18 | Wed | 3.00pm | 4.30pm Community Tea Party | Angel Tea Rooms |
| | | 3.00pm | - 4.30pm "Get On-line" Drop-in session " " " | |
| | | 7.15pm | Carnival Quiz | GB |
| 20 | Fri | 6.00pm | Lions Charity Bingo | GB |
| 21 | Sat | 10.00am | - 2.00pm Cancer Research 'May Fayre' (see ad p14) | L |
| | | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft | CC |
| | | 7.00pm | Oasis Carnival Club BINGO | L |
| | | 1.45pm | Friends together | GB |
| 22 | Sun | 2.00pm | Mere Footpath Group Walk | CP |
| 26 | Thur | 7.30pm | Mere Filmshows/Moviola: "Dad's Army" | L |
| 31 | Tues | 2.30pm | MU 'Music & Fun' afternoon | GB |

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 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 JUNE 2016 ISSUE

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

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 9th May 2016 onwards ✉: **editor@merematters.co.uk**

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: **jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

☎: **01985 844740**

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson



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