

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



Clock Tower - Mere

Colin Anderson 1992

OCTOBER 2016

20TH MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 10th – 16th 2016

Mon 10th	GB 7:30pm	FAY WELDON in conversation with FANNY CHARLES . The famous author discusses her recently published novel, <i>Before The War</i> , and other aspects of her writing career with the well-known local journalist * £6
Tues 11th	GB 10:15am for 10:30 The George Inn 12:00 for 12:30 GB 7:30pm	Mere Historical Society MORNING TALK – Mid 19th Century Charity Organisations in Mere-with Michael Plaxton Retiring Donations COMMUNITY LUNCH with CHRIS GOUGH on his historical novel based on a local family's story. 2 course Lunch £ 9.95. Book with venue on ☎ 01747 860427 G.J.MEYER - award-winning American journalist and author of popular history including <i>The World Undone</i> , talks about long-held legends of World War 1. * £6
Wed 12th	GB 2:30pm GB. 7:30pm	ANNIVERSARY AFTERNOON Readings to celebrate the Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte & Beatrix Potter anniversaries Free Entry BHUTAN – KINGDOM of RARE PLANTS with ROSEMARY LEGRAND . Illustrated talk on this Himalayan country. Hosted by Mere Gardening Club. Retiring Donations
Thur 13th	Lib 11:00am GB 2:30pm LH 7:30pm	PENNYBANK WRITERS - Readings inspired by trees. Free GROWING REMEMBRANCE The story of the NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM told by its founder DAVID CHILDS Retiring Donations FILM SHOW Mere Film Shows & Wilts. Moviola present <i>Florence Foster Jenkins</i> starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. * £6
Fri 14th	GB 2:30pm GB 7:30pm	WRITING & PUBLISHING MEMOIR with ALISON CLINK . Well-known author of short stories talks about writing the memoir, <i>The Man Who Didn't Go To Newcastle</i> , and her decision to self-publish. Retiring Donations AN EVENING WITH JOAN ELLIS – Wit, Wisdom & Pratfalls. The author of 5* rated books in different genres. Joan Ellis' latest show has been described as a masterpiece. You will laugh, laugh and laugh some more. * £6
Sat 15th	GB 10:00am Lib 2:15pm GB 7:30pm	WRITING WORKSHOP A practical workshop on writing popular fiction with author and university lecturer, Joan Ellis £12 CHILDREN'S EVENT with children's author MICHAEL WILLS * Free STALIN'S ENGLISHMAN: The Lives of Guy Burgess Renowned literary agent & biographer ANDREW LOWNIE , talks about his acclaimed book revealing the life of the infamous spy and what is the link with Mere? * £6
Sun 16th	LH 3:00pm	AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS Celebrate the festival's 20th Anniversary with authors, launch of MLF book, & cake Book stalls from 2:30pm Free

*Tickets from Aug 25th Mere Library ☎ 01747 860546 or Book with
Festival Organiser ☎ 01747 860475. Full details and postal booking form on
merelitfest.co.uk & in Festival Programme available September.
In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg. Charity No: 1062328

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council meet every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7.30pm** in the **Andy Young Pavilion**.

The Chairman writes:

The Goats on Castle Hill and Long Hill are there to keep the vegetation and scrub under control. Without them, as we all know, these areas would soon become overgrown and virtually impossible for people to walk along and enjoy. Sadly a goat was savagely attacked by a dog on Castle Hill and was left with horrendous injuries. I would like to remind dog owners who use this area to keep the dog under control and on a lead.

I have yet again received complaints about dog mess not being picked up in the Recreation ground and dogs running loose. I urge all dog owners who walk their dogs in this area to keep dogs under control and on a lead, and please, clean up after the dog. Could I also remind dog owners that dogs are not permitted in the Duchy Manor Grounds.

On 5th September, Shaftesbury Town Council called a public meeting at the Town Hall in order to discuss the future of Shaftesbury Hospital. Over 250 people attended, a large number of people could not attend because the hall was full to capacity. The Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group stated at the meeting that they are proposing that Shaftesbury Hospital would become a community hub hospital but would no longer have beds.

Gillingham Town Council called a meeting on the 15th September and invited Mr Simon Hoare MP and representatives of the local Parish and Town Councils. The aim of the meeting was to provide a collective response to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Groups proposals. I represented Mere Town council at the meeting.

The extensive drainage work at the new cemetery has now been completed and the cemetery footpath has been extended. I would like to thank all the residents that live along Angel Lane for putting up with the disruption while the work was carried out.

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For information on Town Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: www.merewilts.org; or contact the Town Clerk, Mrs Lindsey Wood: ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701.

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

The Vice-Chair writes:

I was walking near the cemetery, the other day, when I saw a dog-walker picking up their dog's poop. I am not sure why but I said 'Thank You'. They were most pleased that for once it wasn't a thankless task. I think it would be good if we could acknowledge those that do clear up – please join me in an "October thank you to dog owners who do "pick up" by thanking them.

While I think about it, I have talked to several people about the cemetery. The council puts a good deal of effort into its maintenance but I wonder if a little team of volunteers could help out with some TLC to parts of the cemetery. Get in touch with me and I will organise a meeting of interested people.

Finally, with my Carnival Treasurer hat on, can I say thank you to all who took part and supported the carnival by entering processions, watching them, joining in the activities, before during and after Carnival and for buying raffle tickets. We had the blessing of quite good weather and some splendid costumed individuals and troupes and floats. It was pleasing to see so many people out enjoying themselves on the streets of Mere

John Jordan ☎ 01747 861567.

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 13th September where it was reported that the Parish Council had been successful in its bid for grant funding to Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board. The grant will go towards providing a new set of swings and some benches in the play area. During the summer the Parish Council has been in communication with Euro Garages (the owners of Willoughby Hedge Service Station) regarding the need to keep the bollards alongside their loading bay area in order to stop vehicles from parking in there and obstructing visibility for cars coming out of the garage on the B3089. The garage staff has been cooperative in this matter. We also complained about the number of overfilled rubbish bins now out on display at the rear of the service station and have been assured that efforts will be made to tidy them up in some kind of compound. The Parish Council is appreciative of the efforts that Euro

Garages have made and hope that we can continue with this good line of communication.

We have urged Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans to put pressure on Wiltshire Council for New Close (the road leading from the village up to Willoughby Hedge) to go on the priority list for resurfacing. Cllr. Jeans informed us that Wiltshire Council will be deciding on the priority roads during the next couple of months and there will only be 5 roads chosen for the whole of the South West Wiltshire Area. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 22nd November**.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, WRITES:

Mere carnival has now taken place again. It was a great afternoon and evening. The garden furniture in the square with people sat eating and drinking before and after the carnival on a nice September evening was great. One float, 'Just Georges' from near Sturminster Newton had a generator fire; luckily we had the fire brigade in the procession who came back to give assistance. I understand three people had slight burns but as Mere fire officers are first responders for first aid, they were able to assist.

It has come to my attention (Co-responders as they are known) have been re-categorised with a view to reducing unnecessary call outs. I am not happy about this. I would guess their call outs have been reduced by some 70%. A recent example on Bank Holiday Monday was where an elderly lady fell off her bicycle in Ivymead in Mere. Neighbours rushed to help the elderly lady who was unconscious. Being uncertain whether or not she should be moved, the emergency services were called. It was 50 minutes before a First Response arrived in an ambulance car and a further 20 minutes before an ambulance attended. I feel that 50 minutes is not an acceptable time for an elderly lady to be lying in the middle of the road on a very hot day. I am further concerned that Mere Fire Brigade (being First Responders) were not called to this incident. Similar local incidents illustrate the change in policy. I feel sure that had Mere Fire Brigade been dispatched they would have been on site in less than 5 minutes.

On the 22nd August I attended Wendy Bailey's retirement from the Fire Service. Wendy was one of a few female retained fire fighters in Wiltshire.

Dog control orders and DPP orders (for prevention of crime by removal of alcohol) are being merged into one piece of legislation called a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order). Most, I am sure would agree, that a Wiltshire-wide PSPO for dog fouling would be acceptable, but a PSPO related to the drinking of alcohol in public places may be more problematic. With a PSPO in place a Police officer can remove alcohol in the morning before trouble may begin; this is not possible with the existing DPP. For carnivals, Fetes etc. some blanket wording is needed I would think. The police on

carnival day need the powers of the PSPO in some areas, however those drinking wine etc. in a street organised French style cafe event as Mere has, may be told to stop if they are in a PSPO area. Much thought is required to prevent inadvertent banning.

Returning to dog fouling - Your Town Council are very aware of the problem. Over 20 piles of dog muck were found on one football pitch within the Memorial Recreation Ground and much along Burton path. I understand a video is required as evidence of a dog owner committing an offence in regard not cleaning up after their dog.

After Mere Carnival Bary Hansford was out early as usual, I was very pleased to see Mr Scarborough assisting cleaning the streets. Thanks to them and all for a great event.

The next area board meeting will be **Wednesday 5th October**.

The Doctors application to extend their surgery has been withdrawn after consultation with highways, planners etc. I do not know now if the expansion will be explored again in the near future.

Zeals are one of the six out of seven winners for a large grant to enable a reduced speed limit on Main Road from 40mph to 30mph. The funds have come from The Area Board "Substantive Highway Scheme" funding bid process.

I have attended a presentation from C G Fry regarding the development of the old Hill Brush factory site (Public consultation at **GB Weds 5th Oct**). Dwellings will start to be for sale in 2018. Some three storey houses are being removed from the proposal. 13 Social houses are being retained. Quality as in The Walnut development (Powndbury style) is being retained. A pond has already been made allowing the six months required to create a wild life habitat. I personally am happy that C G Fry are building the dwellings as originally envisaged. I pressed for an informative sign of no right turning on to Woodlands Road. The main arterial roads will be 5.5 metres wide as on the existing Walnut development. The proposed three story social housing flats have now been reduced to two storeys with the balance of social housing elsewhere on the development.

As said before if you visit a Wiltshire recycling centre with a van or large trailer with qualifying waste you will need to obtain a permit from Wiltshire Council which allows for a limited number of visits per year. Do find out before you attend what qualifies as household waste. I found out the hard way and was refused entry!

Wiltshire Council now has a 21yr old Councillor breaking the mould of us 'oldies' - a real plus.

Various meetings are being organized around Wiltshire regarding the Wiltshire Council budget for next year - Salisbury would be our nearest venue. Details can be obtained from me or from the Wiltshire Council web site.

OCTOBER SHORT WALK

Monday 17th short walk of 2-3 miles around the paths of Mere. Indulge in a cuppa afterwards in the Angel Cafe - cake if you wish! Meet at 2:00pm in the Surgery Car Park.
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

HILL BRUSH FACTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

CG Fry & Son Ltd is holding a "drop-in" session to show the community a slightly revised "Phase 1" scheme and details for "Phase 2" totalling 134 dwellings on the current Hill Brush Factory site. All are welcome to attend, ask questions of the team and express their views. **Wednesday 5th October 2:00pm - 6:30** at The Grove Building. For further information, please contact:

David Lohfink ☎ 01308 482000 ✉ david.lohfink@cgfry.co.uk

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



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

Therapists: Wendy Hester and Jay Lonsdale.

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

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

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

Friday 8.45am - 5.00pm



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

Classes at Mere Lecture Hall


Watercolour Club – Mondays 7:00pm – 9:00

3rd, 10th & 17th October. 3 sessions for £35.00

from 31st October, 7 sessions for £85.00

Watercolour Practice - Fridays 10:00am - 12:30

starts 4th November, 7 sessions for £85.00

Booking essential - details & enrolments:  laura-jolliffe.co.uk

PERSONAL THANKS

I would like to thank family, friends, community nursing team and my excellent neighbours for their care and concern during my protracted illness, you have all been wonderful and I do appreciate your many kindnesses! In particular I would like to thank Jane and Peter Mason for their added generosity in looking after Alfie during my stay in hospital and walking him during my recovery. I salute you all, thank you!

Maggie Barker ☎ 01747 861893

MERE SURGERY

Flu & Other Seasonal Vaccinations- Please see below

Duty Doctor Telephone Triage times

Please note the Duty Doctor Triage sessions are: 08:30am – 09:30 & 13:30pm – 14:30

Patients telephoning after 14:30pm will be asked to telephone the surgery the following day.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

If you are interested in becoming involved with Mere Surgery's Patient Participation Group please come along to the surgery on **Thursday 27th October at 16:30pm** where you can find out more about it and meet other members of the group.

Seasonal Vaccinations

Adult Flu Vaccination

Clinic to be held on **Saturday 8th October 2016 – 09:00am to 13:00pm**

Flu vaccination is recommended for the following patients:-

Patients aged 65 and over

Carers

Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)

Patients aged 6m – 64 years at risk including the following conditions:-

Diabetes

Asthma (if you are using a steroid inhaler as well as Ventolin or Salbutamol)

Chronic Respiratory Disease

Chronic Heart Disease

Chronic Liver Disease

Chronic Kidney Disease

Chronic Neurological Disease

Patients with a low immunity

Morbid Obesity (adults with a BMI more than or equal to 40kg/m²)

If you are unsure if you fall into one of these risk categories or not please check at the surgery.

Please contact the surgery to make your appointment on ☎ 01747 860001 or appointments can be booked online. Please ask for a password at reception if you do not currently have access to this facility.

Child Flu Vaccination

Children aged 2, 3 and 4 on 31 August 2016 (date of birth 01/09/2011 to 31/08/2014) are being offered routine vaccination for flu this year. The vaccination is given in the form of a nasal spray and separate clinic times for children have been set up. Please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your child if you would like them to be vaccinated.

Shingles Vaccination

Patients aged 70 on 31st August 2016 (date of birth 2/9/1945 to 1/09/1946) or aged 78 on 31st August 2016 (date of birth 02/09/1937 to 01/09/1938) should also be vaccinated against Shingles. Appointments can be booked through the surgery, please make an appointment at Reception. If you were recalled for a shingles vaccination last year but not yet had it, you can still attend for an appointment up until your 80th birthday. Patients outside of these age groups will be called for vaccination at a later date.

MenACWY Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients aged 18 on 31/8/2016 (date of birth 01/9/1997 to 31/08/1998) and patients aged 19 years on the 31/8/2016 up to the age of 25 years on 31/3/2017 (date of birth 01/4/1991 to 31/8/1997). Vaccinations are recommended for any patient within one of these age groups, please contact Reception for an appointment.

Michele Mason, Practice Manager, Mere Surgery ☎ 01747 860001

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who took part in the Grand Treasure Hunt we raised a total of £94.00. The prize winners are 1st Evie Jethwa 2nd Don Rossi 3rd Wendy Miller. Our grateful thanks go to Tony & Angela McDonald for compiling and marking the clues, The Library, Sprout and Flower and the George Inn for being form suppliers.

A pupil of Mere School by the name of Tom Franks very kindly grew plants in the Spring to raise funds for us and we are delighted to have received £80 from him - thank you so much Tom and keep the green fingers growing! A date for all you shed and garden lovers out there.....we are having a Man Shed contents sale on **Saturday 1st October 8:30am – 11:00** at the **Clock Tower** so please come along and see what bargains can be found, and have a good rummage in our lucky boxes.

Saturday 8th October 10:00am to noon is the date and time for our famous Autumn Bazaar at the Lecture Hall. We are delighted to announce we have 4 guest stalls coming including one with the most amazing christmas decorations so time to get ready for the

festive season early! We also have Bric a Brac, Books at 5p each yes really 5p each, Tombola, Cakes, Jams, Raffle and much much more.

The plans for the Christmas Market are coming along well so make a date for your diary **Friday 2nd December** 6:00pm – 8:00. See the advert in Decembers issue.

We are always grateful for any extra 'muscle power' to help us set up and dismantle events so please contact us if you are able to help. With your amazing help, together we will beat cancer sooner.

Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712 (after 6pm)


 ***merecancerresearch@mail.com***

LINKSCHEME 20TH LITERARY FESTIVAL

MDLS look forward to meeting you at its 20th literary festival. The events are outlined on the inside front cover of this issue with thanks to Mere Matters.

The book to mark the festival's 20th anniversary is about to go to press and will be launched at the Award Ceremony on **Sunday 16th October**. At over 150 pages, with many photographs and comments, it's good value at the rrp of £7.99 but will sell on launch day for a special festival price of £7 – all proceeds going to support the Link. A great souvenir or present from Mere!

Also celebrating with MLF and sharing the anniversary cake will be authors from past festivals including, Damien Lewis, James Long and local authors. Don't miss this opportunity to buy signed books for Christmas presents and, of course, to hear who has won the Write-in-the-Week competition.

Full details in the big green programme or on  merelitfest.co.uk. The festival is now also on Facebook with thanks to its webmaster, Doug Pike. Follow MLF on Mere Literary Festival-Facebook Page

Adrienne Howell ☎ 01747 860475

TRUSSELL TRUST CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

This year the lovely Christmas shoe boxes going to the Balkans, will be gathered in St Michael's church on Sunday 20th November at the morning service. I am very happy to receive any boxes before that date.

Last year over 10,000 boxes were delivered by Richard and his team to such joy and smiles and happiness and I do hope that you will be as thoughtful, generous and caring as you were last year.

It is amazing that the gift of a Christmas box can have such far reaching effects as the Trussell Trust team become aware of where there is need as they go into the communities. Houses of opportunity for the young leaving the orphanages, an Early Year education Programme for the Roma community and the Social Enterprise scheme

providing employment and qualifications for young people are all making a huge difference to marginalized people.

So please start gathering the goodies for boxes for young and old - they are all so welcomed.

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

‘Verwood industry and life’ by Pam Reeks.

Tuesday 4th October 7:30pm in the Grove Building

Pam has lived in Verwood since she was 12 years old. She wrote her first thesis on its history in 1968. Her researches have unearthed a fascinating story. £3 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Morning talk: **Tuesday 11th October 10:15am for 10:30** ‘Mid 19th Century Charity Organisations in Mere’ by Michael Plaxton. To be held in the Grove Building. This talk is part of the Mere Literary Festival programme.

🌐 **merehistoricalsociety.org.uk** Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

CARNIVAL DRAW RESULTS

Nos: 3236 Stuart May £25.00

Nos: 2936 Steve Proctor £50.00

Nos: 2020 Fenn £75.00

Nos: 1077 Pam Lemon £100.00

Please note that all draw ticket stubs are being destroyed for security purposes

Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639

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COMMUNITY LUNCH

The first Community Lunch of the season is always part of The Mere Literary Festival and will be held on **Tuesday 11th October 2016** at **The George Inn**, Market Square, Mere 12:00pm for 12:30. During coffee Chris Gough will be talking about his novel 'Louisa's Secret' based on his ancestors who lived in Mere and East Knoyle in the 1860s. Space is limited so book well in advance. The delicious two course set meal is £9.95. Drinks not included. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Community Lunch will continue on the first Tuesday of the month, up to Easter, excluding December when we are too busy partying. The venue alternates between The George Inn and the Walnut Tree Inn. If you are new to the area, on your own or just curious come and join us.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



Activities of our local youth charity

Have you seen our website? There's a fascinating story of an Admiral hopping over a fence leading to an interview on local radio! Check it out! Go to <http://www.seeds4success.org.uk/Social%20Action> and scroll down to the Sedgemoor story. You can find out even more of our activities by coming to the Seeds4Success AGM on Wednesday 2nd November at 7:00pm at Mere Youth Centre.

The National Citizen Service Graduation was a success with a number of parents and carers coming along to see the Team's presentation about what they had achieved over the summer. The young people also received their Graduation Certificates as well as certificates for all their other qualifications and achievements. Over 80 certificates were awarded! Well done everyone.

The late summer saw those young people who are engaged in gaining Leisure Credits, gravelling the footpath by the river in Mere as well as painting railings in Tisbury, and footpath clearance work in Semley. They were able to redeem their credits through reward opportunities. Some went to the cinema; others chose to take part in a camping and outdoor activity residential at Brokerswood Country Park. Another group went go-karting in Bristol. Leisure Credits work sessions continue throughout the autumn on alternate Saturdays as well as during the school holidays.

Young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, or other additional needs, attend the 'Bridging Project' run at Mere Youth Centre on Tuesday evenings between 6:30pm – 9:00. The group have nearly completed their 3D arts project where they have created a large model fish which is going to be located at the new 'Nadder Centre' in Tisbury. We welcome new members to this group. Staff are happy to meet young people and their parents /carers before their first session if they would like this.

Those attending this project are supported by a small team of peer leaders who are taking part in the 'Young Leaders' programme.

The 'Young Leaders' and the 'Youth Committee' are now taking a greater part in carrying out a number of tasks and planning activities in support of the charity, the wider community, and their own personal development. One is the Junior Club whose next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th October when the main activities will be a variety of arts and crafts.

The young leaders are also taking part in training sessions and developing and updating social media for the charity. They are putting together some resources to raise awareness around appropriate and safe use of social media for younger children. They made a successful funding application themselves for this and have since got it up and running.

Our Healthy Living Project has restarted on Monday evenings and the group will be taking part in some outdoor activities whilst we have daylight on our side. After half term there will be 6 weeks of cooking workshops delivered by 'Anybody can cook'. We do have a few spaces on this project so if there are young people who would like to be involved, please contact me.

If you know of any young people who might be interested in becoming young leaders or helping with the youth committee, or if you would like more information about any of the projects, please contact me directly.

Jaki Farrell – Service Manager 📞 07585 723824
or ✉️ jaki@seeds4success.org.uk

<p>REMEMBER! COPY DATE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE MONDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2016</p>
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MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

As we progress towards our AGM the wishes of the members are slowly being realised. Autumn goodies include a club website 🌐 mererailwaymodellers.co.uk this is at present in its most basic form. The club would be grateful for any amazing webmasters who would like to help us make the site more appealing. We have plenty of images and design skills, but not the slickness and computer knowledge that some of the younger generation possess.

Recently we have had some samples of smart club shirts and blouses that I hope club members will feel it is worth investing in.

Finally the dates of the Didcot & Pendon trip published in the September Mere Matters were incorrect (my fault). The new proposed trip is on **Saturday 22nd October** starting from Mere at **8:00am**.

As this will be half term, perhaps there may be some interest from the community. If you are interested in any of the topics mentioned above, please contact

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

SHREEN HARMONY

With the new term underway the choir has begun learning new songs for the autumn and for the Christmas concert.

We are very proud to have been asked to sing in the Thanksgiving Concert to be held in the Mere Methodist Church on **October 20th** despite the sad circumstances.

Shreen Harmony started life in the Methodist Church Hall and stayed there for many years before and having grown too big, we moved to our current home in the United Reformed Church.

The evening starts at 7:30pm and we will be there along with the 'Pennybank Writers' and other musicians.

It would be lovely to fill the building for the evening and all are welcome to come and help say farewell to a beautiful old church in Mere.

Jane Edwards ☎ 01380 830918

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

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Contact Mary ☎ 07809 738237

CREATIVE MERE

The planning of a showcasing event (9th and 10th Sept **2017**) for 'Mere artisans and craftspeople' to exhibit, demonstrate and sell their creations is now well underway. Thank you to all those people who have registered to become exhibitors. We do still have room to accommodate a few more craftspeople, so if you make things principally 'by-hand' and would like to be involved contact

Richard Jefferies ✉ rajefferies@btinternet.com ☎ 01747 863425

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

They've started again. Rehearsals that is for **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime** - MADS' Autumn Production. It's a comedy occasionally bordering on the farcical! So far so good - but we haven't reached the point yet at which we are absolutely certain about what the crime is. But we're working on it. To make sure that you too can find out check that you've remembered to put the production dates in your diaries: **Thursday - Saturday, 24th - 26th November at 7:30pm in the Lecture Hall.** Tickets will be available by mid-October in the Library, at £7 per person. Date of next meeting is **Monday 17th October at 7.30pm in the Green Room, Lecture Hall.**

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

As part of Mere Literary Festival this month we are screening a wonderful film, **'Florence Foster Jenkins' (PG)** starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant - and these two stars alone make this film worth watching! It is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep), a New York heiress cossetted in her closed world of a 1944 hotel and pampered by her husband St. Clair Mayfield (Hugh Grant), who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice. She recruits the help of the famous singing instructor Carlo Edwards (David Haig) and an enthusiastic and personable young pianist Cosme McMoon and sets out to sing her way to Carnegie Hall knowing the only way to get there would be 'practice, practice, practice'. Carlo is aware of what he is in for but Cosme is not! Her husband supports her venture and the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins playing Carnegie Hall becomes a truly historic event.

Meryl Streep is glorious in the title role, making a difficult story both heart-rending and funny. Hugh Grant has never been better. Don't miss it! Full details on page

Friday 4th November.: 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', Jeremy Irons, Dev Patel, Stephen Fry, Toby Jones, Jeremy Northam. You will find full details on page 20

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

In association with Mere Literary Festival

The Kingdom of Bhutan. Rosemary Legrand **Weds 12th October 7:30pm** Grove Building. Rosemary is a traveller, writer and horticulturalist. She will talk about the country, its people and flora and will bring books with her on Bhutan. Retiring donations for Mere Literary Festival (Link Scheme)

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn on Thursday 1st August 2016 by: Karen Hull (Mere Children's Centre)

1st Prize (£20)	No.66	G Bianconi
2nd Prize (£15)	No. 175	K Herbert
3rd Prize (£10)	No.133	M Coward
4th Prize (£5)	No. 118	A Lander

Peter Platt-Higgins ☎ 01747 860809

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

This is the oldest club in the Town and we are in financial troubles due to the increased rent which is due on the property in Salisbury Street in the not too distant future. We are looking for support to save the Club and would appeal to any members of the community to help save this facility. We have two full sized tables and surroundings which date back to when snooker was really popular, but now interest seems to have waned. We would welcome any new members, particularly youngsters who would like to try the game and who ever may be interested.

Mike Durkee ☎ 01747 860163 or Mike Gladding ☎ 01747 861733



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

At our September meeting, our excellent speaker Stephen Wells, a Member of Actor's Equity and of the Magic Circle, baffled us with magic tricks and entertained us with anecdotes of famous magicians. At our next meeting on **Thursday 6th October 7:30pm** in the Grove Building we will be entertained

by 4 mini talks given by current members on a range of topics with some bingo and refreshments to follow. Our competition will be autumn colour, flowers, foliage and berries. Visitors are most welcome to come and join us for the evening. Looking ahead, on **Thursday 3rd November at 7:30pm** in the Grove Building, our talk will be on the Conservation of the Langford Lakes, a local conservation bird sanctuary.

Hilary Gladding (President) ☎ 01747 861733

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP



Many thanks to all who made or bought cakes at our Mary Sumner-tide cake stall in the Square on 1st August in aid of MU projects to help disadvantaged families in the UK and overseas. Members are reminded it's time to return their MU collecting boxes for this year. (Please ask if you would like to have one)

At our Meeting in the **Grove Building** on **Tuesday 11th October at 2.30pm** we are promised a lively afternoon with Lindy Elliott's talk on her time in the Navy, with the title 'A Life on the Ocean Wave!' All Welcome

MERE MUSEUM

The new exhibition, called '**The King's Arms**: a 17th-century painting in Mere Parish Church' has now been unveiled. The painting in question is the coat of arms of King James II. It is dated 1684 and hangs over the inner north porch of the church. The Friends of St. Michael's have recently had the painting conserved and it is now in the best condition possible for its 330-plus years of age. The exhibition explains the imagery and history of royal coats of arms in general and of ours in particular, and presents photographs of other King James II arms which still survive in churches in the UK. There aren't many! Close-up photographs will also demonstrate the conservation process which the painting has now undergone, and you really can see the difference! Don't miss it!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents
A Mere Literary Festival Event

'Florence Foster Jenkins' (PG)

**Meryl Streep Hugh Grant
David Haigh John Sessions**

"The inspiring true story of the world's worst singer"

**In The Lecture Hall
Thursday 13th October,
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**



STAR GAZING

New interactive maps offer most detailed ever picture of England's light pollution and dark skies.

The most detailed ever satellite maps of England's light pollution and dark skies, were recently released by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). They show that 52% of Cranborne Chase AONB is in Band 1 – which is the darkest category.

The maps, produced using satellite images captured at 1:30am throughout September 2015, show that as well as having 52% of the AONB in the darkest category, 40% of the AONB is in the next darkest category. This makes the Cranborne Chase AONB one of the darkest places in England!

Benefits of dark night skies:

- **People:**

At its simplest, our sleep can be disrupted by too much light at night. At worst, it can lead to more serious health issues

- **Wildlife:**

Many birds and animals are affected by stray light at night, affecting their breeding cycles and feeding habits. Controlling stray light helps bats, birds, moths and other nocturnal creatures to thrive

- **Enjoyment and education:**

There is increasing interest, wonder and amazement at the incredible array of stars above us. Stargazing is a fabulous educational activity

- **Money:**

Substantial savings can be made by Local Authorities, businesses and individuals from turning off or dimming down unnecessary lighting

- **Saving energy:**

There is no point shining light into the sky. Energy wastage can be considerably reduced by ensuring light is directed only where it is needed

- **Rural tourism:**

Areas designated for their dark skies have seen greater visitor numbers, even in winter, leading to increased business for B&Bs, retailers, and caterers

- **AONB: 50% of the AONB is above us!** Dark night skies are definitely outstanding, historic, natural and beautiful, and should be conserved and enhanced along with the rest of the AONB.

.See more at  <http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/our-work/dark-night-skies/>



Tuesday 25th October 7:30pm in the **Grove Building**, Mere **FOOTBALL IN THE OLIVE GROVE!** Come and learn about a unique Football Club based in Bristol, The Easton Cowboys and Cowgirls Football Club. As well as playing football, they have as much fun as possible and are part of a wider network of clubs who

recognise all people's right to equality, irrespective of their age, class, culture, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexuality. They regularly play in tournaments in the UK and abroad. Recent trips have included a solidarity tour to Palestine's West Bank, the St Pauli AntiFa tournament in Hamburg and the Anti-Racism World Cup in Belfast.

Thursday 27th October 1:00pm - 4:00 (in Half Term) In Stourton Village Hall at Stourhead **ONE WORLD FAIR**. A chance to celebrate the rich diversity of our One World, and get ready for Christmas, with stalls of all kinds (already fully booked) including Fair-Trade Gifts and Products, Christmas Cards, handcrafts, jewellery, quality bric-a-brac, information and all sorts of activities, and much else. All welcome (entrance free for both events)

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

Christmas is coming

Wonderful news! Judy Bickerstaff has volunteered to organise the 4th Churches Together in Mere and District Christmas Day lunch , so it will now be able to go ahead! It will be in the Grove Building, Mere and is for anyone on their own, or families who will find it hard to celebrate this Christmas. As in previous years, it will be a traditional lunch with all the trimmings in a good festive atmosphere finishing with tea and Christmas cake.



There will be no charge but donations will be welcome and so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 50, and the closing date is 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come or if you would like to help contact:

Judy Bickerstaff on ☎ 01747 860335



Everyone is welcome to come to a COFFEE MORNING and BRING & BUY in Aid of Suchana on **Tuesday 4th October 10:30am – 12:00pm, The Old Police House, North Street, (Alan & Gilly Gristwood's House)** ☎

01747 861768. A Diary Date: Friday 18th November 7:30pm Beetle Drive in Grove Building – more information in November's Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

For the over 60s. **Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close**
Mondays and Fridays 10:30am – 3:00pm

We all enjoyed our outing to Mere Down Falconry. Lots of our guests and volunteers attended on the day and it was a lovely sunny afternoon. We were able to see the birds in flight and some of us got the chance to get up close and handle these fantastic birds of prey.

Recently we held a concert at St Michael's Church; this was very well attended with around 100 people enjoying the music and atmosphere. We would like to thank all those involved, especially the performers and all those that came along. The amount raised was significant and is a welcome addition to funds that we need to continue providing the best service we can at the RGC.

During July we held a very successful volunteer recruitment morning outside the post office and now have enough session volunteers, thanks to everyone who stopped by to chat with us. We do still need a new washing up volunteer once a month and a driver who would pick up the lunches from Fives Court and deliver them to us in Lynch Close, also once a month; if you are able to help out please contact me on the number below.

Our Annual skittles fundraiser is to be held on **Saturday 22nd October 6:00pm** at Mere Social club. Contact me If you would like tickets for this event, they are priced at £7.00 to include a buffet as well as entry into the knockout competition. As usual there is a winner's trophy up for grabs along with great raffle prizes to be won.

Lastly, a quick heads up, our Annual quiz will be on sale towards the end of the month so keep your eyes peeled for a bit of cryptic fun!

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞 07835 272406

<p>REMEMBER! COPY DATE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE MONDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2016</p>
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FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends AGM will this year take place on **Tuesday 25th October at 7:30pm in the Museum**. We look forward to welcoming existing and, especially, new Friends. The AGM is the perfect time to pay your subscriptions for the year and support your local museum. If you are not yet a Friend, now is the time to join us!

After a brief official meeting there will be a glass of wine for everyone attending, and then a short talk by the Curator about the **Rutter Scrapbooks**, which are currently deposited at the Museum. The hundreds of items now kept in these scrapbooks were collected (and many produced) by John Farley Rutter, a solicitor and Quaker, who lived in Dewes House. They comprise documents - posters, notices, letters etc. - which tell the social history of Mere in the second half of the 19th century. They present a unique insight into the past and everyone will have the opportunity to have a close-up look at them.

Another date for your diary is **Friday 11th November** when the Friends will be holding another **Bingo Night**. Details will appear in the next issue of Mere Matters, and on posters nearer the time. We would welcome your support once again for suitable prizes for this Bingo event. If you have items that are new but not wanted by you, please consider donating them to the Friends to help them in their efforts to raise money for Mere Museum. A box will be placed in the Museum to receive any donations. Thank you.

Jenny Wilding ☎01747 860908

MERE BOWLS CLUB

By the time you read this we will have 'put the green to bed' for the winter and our Green Keepers under the guidance of Phill Powell the Head Green Keeper will have started their programme of autumn/winter treatments so as to get the green in tip top condition for when it is required again at the start of next season.

In a thrilling match held on Thursday 8th September Maggie Phillips defeated John Marks in the Novices Final, those spectators who attended were of the opinion that nerves got the better of John as the match progressed, John can now enter next year's novice competition, this is something that Maggie cannot do due to her winning this year. The Club finals day on Sunday 18th September turned out to be a two family affair between the Butchers and the Coombs, the Coombs running out victors this year. The new Club Singles and two wood champion is Richard Coombs. Chris Coombs was the 100-up winner when she defeated her husband Richard.

For any other details about the Club please contact either

Alan Inwood ☎01985 844215; Alan Spencer ☎01747 860803 or



THE FRIENDS OF St. MICHAEL'S

AUTUMN BAZAAR

Saturday, October 8th 2016

In the Grove Building

10.00am- 12.00noon

Stalls:

Cakes	Thelma Ings	01747 860262
Bric a Brac	Ann Dethick	01747 863498
Tombola	Gilly Gristwood	01747 861768
Books	Melanie Mouncer	01747 860141
Friends' Goods	Jenny Wilding	01747 860908
Raffle	Pat Isom	01747 861776

The Friends' Committee would be very grateful for donations of prizes or goods to sell on the above stalls. Please contact the stallholder, or Pat Isom on ☎ 01747 861776 to arrange collection.

Tea and coffee will be served SEE YOU THERE!

wylve valley



Saturday 27 May - Sunday 4 June 2017

WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

Saturday 27th May - Sunday 4 June 2017

We're looking for Artists, Craftspeople and Groups to take part! Over the past 15 years the Wylve Valley Art Trail has established itself as the largest visual arts event in Wiltshire, celebrating the broad range of visual arts and crafts being practised within and around the Wylve Valley in South Wiltshire.

The next Wylve Valley Art Trail will be held for 9 days from Saturday 27th May until Sunday 4th June 2017.

Artists and craftspeople who are interested in participating or anyone who would like to be involved in any capacity are invited to apply. We are also looking- out for possible exhibition venues. The art trail is open to any artist who lives, works or has a strong interest or connection with this area.

The Wylve Valley Art Trail covers Warminster, Westbury, Wylve, Maiden Bradley, Mere, Hindon, Tisbury and the villages between. It consists of open studios and workplaces, group exhibitions by art groups, schools and colleges and other exciting events including 'hands on' activities, demonstrations, workshops and talks. It is an opportunity to see the high standard of visual arts and crafts currently being carried out in the area,

across a wide range of skills, from painting to print-making, furniture making to photography and sculpture to ceramics. It offers the chance to meet the artists and, in a lot of cases, see where and how they work.

Contact: *Laura Rich* (Co-ordinator) 📞 07910 736563
✉️ info@wvat.co.uk 🌐 wvat.co.uk



THE EVE APPEAL EVENT

Wednesday 2nd November at Cucklington Village Hall from 10:00am. Chris Smith, from Pennard Plants will be giving a talk on The Walled Garden and giving an insight into being an exhibitor at Chelsea Flower Show. £5 entry to include coffee and homemade biscuits. There will also be a selection of stalls for Christmas shopping open from 11:30am. We will be serving delicious soup and cheese for lunch from noon (£5)

Rosemary Leek ☎️ 01747 860940



MERE SCHOOL REPORTS

Roald Dahl Day

Tuesday 13th September was Roald Dahl Day across the country. At Mere School the children took part in lots of fun activities to celebrate what would have been his 100th Birthday. Each class completed different activities based on several of his books.

Blue Class

The children read and acted out several of his picture book stories.

Yellow Class

The children in Yellow Class read the story The Enormous Crocodile and designed new jungle animals.

Silver Class

In Silver class the children also read the Enormous Crocodile but then designed a new trap to catch the animals.

Gold Class

The children wrote about the characters from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and then used colour mixing to paint Mr Willy Wonka.


Green Class

Green class enjoyed inventing their own Wonka style sweets.

Red/Purple Class

The children of upper Key Stage 2 looked at the life of Roald Dahl and completed reading challenges based on his books. Thank you to Mr Rich for suggesting a great creative day of learning for the children at Mere School.

STOP THE PRESS!

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

WILTSHIRE – LOCAL EVENTS

Cycle Wiltshire Sportive returns to Salisbury Sunday 2nd October, so whether you are a regular cyclist or just cycle for leisure, you will find a route to suite you and enjoy a great day out. Choice of long and short are available



southwestwilts.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/news/cycle-wiltshire-sportive/

Open weekend at Nadder leisure centre 15th & 16th October. We're also offering a no admin fee when you join the fantastic new Nadder Centre at the moment – saving you £10! Come into the centre to discuss with staff and have a look around.



southwestwilts.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/news/leisure-centre-open-weekend/

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE

Back to Church Sundays

Did you go to Church when you were younger? Did you mean to go along to Church but never quite got round to it? Would you like to try again? Why not join us on our Back to Church Sundays going ahead on the 2nd October & 23rd October.

Songs of Praise and Organ Music

All are welcome to come and join us in a service of on **Sunday 16th October at 6:00pm**. If you have a favourite hymn and/or piece of organ music that you would like played and sung we will do our best to make that happen. Please drop any written requests into St Michael's Church by **Thursday 12th October** or ☎ 01747 861212.

MERE CARNIVAL EVENING PROCESSION AWARDS

Class 1	Decorated Trade	The Georgian House Cup
1	100 Year of Trading	Jeans Electrical
Class 3	Feature	The Walton Challenge Cup
1	Shout	Kipling CC
2	Stobor	Hot Rock CC
Class 5	Junior Float	Caroline Young Memorial Cup
1	Rockin All Over the World	W H Peniket
Class 6	Hand truck/trailer/van with props	Walker Family Cup
1	Wings	Curly Wurly CC
2	Halloween	1st Mere Scouts
3	Top Cat	Chipmunks CC
Class 7	Walking single (16 years +)	Mere Fabrication Cup
1	Czarevna's Glacial Odyssey	Carina Haines
2	Teatime	Roger Muspratt Hamilton
3	Elementus	En-spired CC
Class 8	Walking group (16 years +)	Sonia Cassell Cup
1	Naughty & Nice	The Shepherd Family
2	Well, Something is better than Nothing	Dee Gees CC
3	Knights on Tour	Funtastic CC
Class 9	Walking single (under 16)	Herbert Cup
1	Faerie Betula Pendula	Izzy Wheeler
2	Queen Bee	Abigail Holt
3	Milky Way	Alice Loftus
Class 10	Walking group (under 16)	Mere Challenge Cup
1	George and the Dragon	Alfred & Oscar Penny
2	Gymbuds	Gynbuds Gmnastics

3 Let's a Go*

Class 2-6 Best Costume

1 Shout

2 Stobor

3 Rockin All Over the World

Class 2-6 Best Music

1 Shout

2 Stobor

3 Rockin All Over the World

Class 3-6 Best Routine

1 Shout

2 Stobor

3 Rockin All Over the World

Class 2-6 Best Dressed Driver

1 Shout

2 Stobor

Class 2-5 Ground Crew Award

1 Shout

2 Rockin All Over the World

3 Stobor

Class 7-10 Best Walking

1 Czarevna's Glacial Odyssey

2 Teatime

3 Naughty & Nice

Class 9-10 Best Youth

1 Faerie Betula Pendula

2 Queen Bee

3 Milky Way

Class 7-10 Best Costume - Walking

1 Czarevna's Glacial Odyssey

2 Teatime

3 Naughty & Nice

Spirit of Carnival

Diddeley Dee

Class 2-6 Reserve Champion

Stobor

Class 2-6 Champion

Shout

Best Dressed Collector

1 70 Years of MADS

Majorettes

Highwayman/Little devils*

Keysley Cup

Kipling CC

Hot Rock CC

W H Peniket

Nurden-Read Carnival Cup

Kipling CC

Hot Rock CC

W H Peniket

Hamilton Litesat Cup

Kipling CC

Hot Rock CC

W H Peniket

Den McCann Award

Kipling CC

Hot Rock CC

Cake Family Shield

Kipling CC

W H Peniket

Hot Rock CC

Jeans Hoover Cup

Carina Haines

Roger Muspratt Hamilton

The Shepherd Family

Andy Young Memorial Cup

Izzy Wheeler

Abigail Holt

Alice Loftus

Mary Chalke Memorial Cup

Carina Haines

Roger Muspratt Hamilton

The Shepherd Family

Ron Cake 60 years Cup

Just Georges

Ann Tranter Memorial Cup

Hot Rock CC

Mere Chamber of Trade Cup

Kipling CC

Bob Guy Cup

MADS

	Drum Major	Paige Lawes Cup
1	Ilchester Gems	
2	Merriot Majorettes	
3	Funky Sax	Stardust Majorettes
	Costume	Reg and Brenda Lawes Cup
1	Ilchester Gems	
2	Funky Sax	Stardust Majorettes
3	Merriot Majorettes	
	Overall Champion	Stuart Lawes Cup
1	Ilchester Gems	
2	Funky Sax	Stardust Majorettes
3	Merriot Majorettes	

*Due to a misunderstanding, this entry was judged in class 10 instead of class 8.

FINAL REFLECTIONS FROM THE METHODIST MINISTER

Dear Friends,

This is the final article I shall write for Mere Matters.

The Methodist Church in Mere will close at the end of the month – the final service in the building will take place on **Sunday 23rd October, 6:00pm** (please see notice elsewhere for details...). At that final act of worship we shall give thanks for the life of the Methodist people who have lived and served in the town and we shall ask for God's blessing on the remaining faith communities based in Mere.

In recent weeks, as the news of the closure has circulated, several people have commented with sadness, saying it is such a shame that things have to change. The themes of change and constancy have certainly been in my thoughts recently – change, because of all that is going on in the life of our church and constancy because of those enduring qualities of faith that give assurance and peace.

Change is something we must all live with – change is essential to life itself. Our bodies are in a constant state of change – old cells are dying and new ones are being created to replace them. In a physical sense, I am (literally) not the person I was a year ago! As Christians we also hold at the heart of our faith the idea of change or 'conversion' – the idea that individuals can, and indeed must, be changed from what was into what can be. This process of change that we call 'conversion' or being 'born again' is, or should be, an on-going journey as we grow in the likeness of Jesus – our constant desire is to die to what has been (our former, sinful attitudes and actions) and rise to New Life with Christ – caring, serving, working for justice and peace for his sake.

The great sadness of many church communities is that they resist change and mistake that for tradition – and I am sure that the Methodist church (locally and nationally) has been guilty of that! At its best, ‘tradition’ allows us to see where we have come from and therefore how to become the best individual/community that God wishes us to be in the future. Tradition reminds us of the constant and enduring qualities that can be relied upon – the constancy of God’s love and the perpetual availability of the Holy Spirit to inspire and equip us in our living and our dying.



As we embrace change at this time, we also hold to the promises of God who in Jesus is, ‘making all things new’ (Rev 21. 5) and trust that God’s faithfulness will enable us to respond to the new opportunities that will come our way. Constancy and change are seldom easy, but they are the essential givens of faith....

Peace.

Rev Paul Arnold



MERE METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIES

Mere had at least four Free Church congregations since the growth of nonconformity in the 19th Century. People have worshipped at the Methodist church in North Street for 170 years.

If you have any memories or anecdotes from past years, we would love to hear from you. You may have been married there, attended or taught in the Sunday School, or you may know older families who have moved away. Please join us for the final events and contact Stephen Burroughs  sandv@lordsmead.plus.com or Rev Paul Arnold or leave a message/contact number with any information or reminiscences before the **18th October**.
Stephen Burroughs  01747 860944

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE OCTOBER 2016

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev’d Carol Wilson-Barker  01747 861859
 vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden  01747 863424
Mrs Lynette Elliott  01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon  01747 861319
 office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	12:00pm	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8:00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

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

Sunday	2nd	10:30am	Harvest Festival Family Service of the word
		6:00pm	Choral Evensong
Tuesday	4th	6:00pm	Start the month
Sunday	9th	10:30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	16th	10:30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		6:00pm	Songs of Praise
	23rd	10:30am	Matins
	30th	10:30am	Benefice Service at Maiden Bradley – No service in Mere
		4:00pm	All Souls Service – to remember our loved ones

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	2nd	11:00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	9th	11:00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
Sunday	16th	11:00am	The Bible as Literature
	23rd	11:00am	One World Week Service
	30th	11:00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Thanksgiving for the life and ministry

Anyone who has any links with the Methodist Church in Mere (past or present) is invited to join us for the final events to be held in the Church before it closes

Thursday 20th October at 7:30pm Concert by: **'Shreen Harmony & Friends'**

Sunday 23rd October at 6:00pm Final service of Thanksgiving

Service led by, Rev Paul Arnold. *Followed by Refreshments...*

Sunday	2nd	----	No service in Mere
	2nd	10:30am	Gillingham Methodist
	9th	6:00pm	Holy Communion Rev D Binks
	16th	----	No service in Mere
	16th	10:30am	Gillingham Methodist
	23rd	6:00pm	Final Service Rev P Arnold

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: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall

☎ 01747 830534

Mr. Colin Seaford

☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	2nd	9:30am	Matins
	9th	9:30am	Holy Communion
	16th	9:30am	Holy Communion
	23rd	9:30am	Holy Communion
	30th	<u>10:30am</u>	Service at Maiden Bradley No service in West Knoyle

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 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	Sat	10:30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
3	Mon	9:00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday - not 24th)	L
		10:00am	First Level Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10:30am - 1:00pm	Dress Making Class (Mondays not 24th)	GB
		11:00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6:00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6:45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7:00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7:00pm - 9:00	Watercolour Club (also 10th & 17th & 31st)	L
		7:00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
4	Tue	7:30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		6:00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6:20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7:30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
5	Wed	9:30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10:30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11:00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2:00pm - 6:00pm	Consultation Mtg - re: Brush Factory	GB
		6:00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
6	Thurs	7:00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	BH
		10:00am - 11:30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10:00am - 12:00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB

		12:00am	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2:00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7:30pm	Womens Institute	GB
7	Fri	10:15am - 12:00pm	St Michaels 'Open the Book'	GB
		10:30pm - 12:30	Watercolour Club (every Friday)	L
		1:00pm - 5:00pm	Duplicate Bridge Club	GB
8	Sat	10:00am - 12:30pm	St Michaels Autumn Bazaar	GB
		10:00am	Hill Brush Factory - Brush Sale	Hill Brush Factory
		All day	Cancer Research	L
11	Tue	12:00pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2:30pm	Mothers Union	GB
12	Wed	10:00am - 11:00	Mere Forest Charities (Small Hall)	L
		1:45pm	Friends Together - Whist Drive (also 26th)	GB
		7:00pm - 9:30pm	Dress Making Class (every Wednesday)	GB
		7:30pm	Gardening Club	GB
13	Thurs	2:30pm	Mother's Union	GB
		5:00pm	Rainbows (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6:15pm	Brownies (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7:30pm	Girl Guides (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7:30pm	Mere Film Moviola "Florence Foster Jenkins"	L
14	Fri	10:00am	Merely Women (also 28th)	GB
15	Sat	7:00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
17	Mon	2:00am	Mere Short Walk	CP
		7:30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatics Meeting	LH (Green Room)
19	Wed	3:00pm	T@3 (book by Monday 17th)	Angel Tea Rooms
25	Tue	7:30pm	One World Week "Football in the Olive Grove"	GB
		7:30pm	Friends of Mere Museum AGM	M
27	Thurs	1:00pm - 4:00pm	One World Week "Fair"	Stourton Village Hall
30	Sun	9:30am - 4:00pm	Intuitive Astrology Workshop	L

CHARITY FASHION SHOW

In Aid of Tusk, Bowel Cancer UK & Cruse Bereavement Care

Ladies Clothes at Great Prices

Saturday 12th November 2016 – 7:00pm (for 7:30pm start)

Charlton Musgrove Memorial Hall, BA9 8HF

Tickets : £8 (inc. drink)


Tickets Available From : Hayley's Hair Design, Forge Garages &

Shima -  07770 872304  s.varsani@hotmail.co.uk

20TH MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 10th – 16th 2016


Mon 10th	GB 7:30pm	FAY WELDON in conversation with FANNY CHARLES . The famous author discusses her recently published novel, <i>Before The War</i> , and other aspects of her writing career with the well-known local journalist * £6
Tues 11th	GB 10:15am for 10:30 The George Inn 12:00 for 12:30 GB 7:30pm	Mere Historical Society MORNING TALK – Mid 19th Century Charity Organisations in Mere-with Michael Plaxton Retiring Donations COMMUNITY LUNCH with CHRIS GOUGH on his historical novel based on a local family's story. 2 course Lunch £ 9.95. Book with venue on ☎ 01747 860427 G.J.MEYER - award-winning American journalist and author of popular history including <i>The World Undone</i> , talks about long-held legends of World War 1. * £6
Wed 12th	GB 2:30pm GB. 7:30pm	ANNIVERSARY AFTERNOON Readings to celebrate the Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte & Beatrix Potter anniversaries Free Entry BHUTAN – KINGDOM of RARE PLANTS with ROSEMARY LEGRAND . Illustrated talk on this Himalayan country. Hosted by Mere Gardening Club. Retiring Donations
Thur 13th	Lib 11:00am GB 2:30pm LH 7:30pm	PENNYBANK WRITERS - Readings inspired by trees. Free GROWING REMEMBRANCE The story of the NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM told by its founder DAVID CHILDS Retiring Donations FILM SHOW Mere Film Shows & Wilts. Moviola present <i>Florence Foster Jenkins</i> starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. *£6
Fri 14th	GB 2:30pm GB 7:30pm	WRITING & PUBLISHING MEMOIR with ALISON CLINK . Well-known author of short stories talks about writing the memoir, <i>The Man Who Didn't Go To Newcastle</i> , and her decision to self-publish. Retiring Donations AN EVENING WITH JOAN ELLIS – Wit, Wisdom & Pratfalls. The author of 5* rated books in different genres. Joan Ellis' latest show has been described as a masterpiece. You will laugh, laugh and laugh some more. *£6
Sat 15th	GB 10:00am Lib 2:15pm GB 7:30pm	WRITING WORKSHOP A practical workshop on writing popular fiction with author and university lecturer, Joan Ellis £12 CHILDREN'S EVENT with children's author MICHAEL WILLS *Free STALIN'S ENGLISHMAN: The Lives of Guy Burgess Renowned literary agent & biographer ANDREW LOWNIE , talks about his acclaimed book revealing the life of the infamous spy and what is the link with Mere? *£6
Sun 16th	LH 3:00pm	AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS Celebrate the festival's 20th Anniversary with authors, launch of MLF book, & cake Book stalls from 2:30pm Free

*Tickets from Aug 25th Mere Library ☎ 01747 860546 or Book with
Festival Organiser ☎ 01747 860475. Full details and postal booking form on
 **merelifest.co.uk** & in Festival Programme available September.
In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg. Charity No: 1062328

BOOKING MEETING HALLS


Grove Building:

Ian Treece


 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

 01747 861063

MERE INFORMATION

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


MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

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

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:

By appointment only ( 0300 003 4569)

Thursdays: 9:30am - 11:30

'GET ONLINE'


DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00pm – 4:00

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00pm – 4:00

COPYDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the November 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 **4:0pm on MONDAY, 17th October 2016**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from

Monday, 10th October 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:

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jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com



01985 844740

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