

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



Lily Jones

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

EDITORIAL NOTE

Front Cover Drawing

As a departure from the usual town scene at Christmas used in recent years, a competition was held by the Art Club at Mere School to find a new drawing for this edition's front cover. There were a good number of entries and the winning drawing was the entry from nine year old Lily Jones. Her success was acknowledged by the presentation of a Certificate at a School Assembly in late November.

Graham Avory, Editor

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 4th December 2017.**

The Chairman writes:

I am writing this a long time before Christmas and New Year, but I will start by wishing everyone in Mere and nearby a happy holiday season. I know that a good few public events are planned (just look in the rest of Mere Matters) and I hope that you, one and all, can participate in at least some of them.

The town council had an additional October meeting to consider what we would wish to do with the Car Parks and Public Toilets. There was a good representation of people at the meeting and considerable discussion. We resolved to negotiate with Wiltshire Council to have these assets transferred to us or, failing that, to lease them again. We also resolved to make appropriate improvements to the toilets and to not charge for their use nor for car parking. We hope to find a way to prevent car parks being used for

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

long term parking so that spaces are available for everyone to use. We also plan to look for more sponsorship for these facilities from local business. Before the meeting, I went door knocking to find out what residents thought and the opinions were many and varied. If you have opinions or suggestions then do let me, or other councillors, know what they are.

When discussing the car parks and toilets the word 'free' came up quite often. Several of us pointed out that these facilities are not free and have to be paid for out of the precept or by sponsorship. In November a committee of councillors will be meeting to look at the budget for next year. This is a difficult meeting where we try to balance the cost of what we feel Mere wants and needs, against the cost of providing those things. We also have to build into the budget contingency funding in case emergencies arise. By the New Year, the full council will have considered the recommendations made at the annual budget meeting and will have agreed the precept to be made on Wiltshire Council for the 2018/19 financial year. All the Minutes will be available for public inspection on the Mere website.

Yesterday I had the privilege to place Mere Town Council Wreath at the War Memorial, and at our last meeting we resolved to mark next year's WWI centenary by planting an Oak Tree. We will also be joining in a larger Wiltshire Scheme of planting, putting trees in several other public spaces.

Another centenary comes to mind – our clock tower will be 150 years old next year and plans are being made to celebrate it. Our recent expenditure on the clock itself meant that it rang out 11 beats precisely at 11.00am at the Remembrance Ceremony.

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

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION WRITES:

Councils are increasingly short of funds. Wiltshire Council has fortunately not found itself as Northamptonshire County Council, whose workers have been told they must take a day's unpaid leave as part of the council's plans to save £2m a month before the end of the financial year.

A planning application in Kilmington for 5 shepherd's huts for tourist use has been very controversial, probably more so than many other larger applications in my division. The problem of alternative uses for agricultural land can often be challenging, especially when many villages are losing their local services, housing development boundaries etc., becoming little more than dormitories. Whatever the outcome I have found it is true you can never get a hundred percent agreement.

The loss of services is not just confined to rural areas, new figures have revealed that almost 1,000 shops have disappeared in five years from 12 towns nationally that were awarded Government funding through the "Portas Pilot" scheme to get consumers spending in their local area. The towns were given access to the expertise of retail guru Mary Portas, but she was critical of the scheme, saying it was a "weighted PR campaign" that hadn't kick-started growth.

Broadband is often not good in the rural environment, which is also true of mobile signals. With the finance Wiltshire has injected and grants received, which has helped many with little or no broadband in the non-commercial areas or 'intervention areas' as Wiltshire Council call them, plus the roll out of commercial areas, within a reasonable time, 96% of Wiltshire will have access to workable broadband. It is also notable Wiltshire Council have come in under budget so far for this project, which in my opinion is unusual for public projects.

I would like to say thank you to an ex-resident of Mere who was visiting, found a wallet by Castle Hill, visited the owner's present and previous address plus the Local Police Station, but finding no one at home came to me. I took the wallet in and returned it to its owner. There are some very thoughtful and honest people living in this area.

For the benefit of Kilmington, Stourton with Gasper and Zeals, Wessex Water is visiting the Mere area giving free visits to repair leaky taps etc. Therefore subject to positive ID you may choose to let them in.

I attended The Wiltshire Assembly, which is a forum that discusses current issues of many public bodies; on this occasion mostly discussed was regarding the Army rebasing. Those coming back from Germany are being rebased in Wiltshire; one quarter of the British army will then be based in Wiltshire. The process has started and soon 4,000 troops and 3,200 family members will be rebased around Salisbury Plain. Apparently The Army have permission for more dwellings than they intend building, which was considered unfortunate by some, as we all know there is a housing shortage. An expansion to Porton Down has brought investment to Wiltshire, which will start opening after Christmas.

A Local Plan consultation is now taking place, the number of future dwellings etc. to be considered. One option being considered regarding Wiltshire Council's development planning department is, three areas, these being Swindon, Chippenham and Salisbury. This would require a partnership between Wiltshire Council and Swindon.

Wiltshire needs affordable homes. Suitable sites with good infrastructure is what the plan will try and achieve. Some councillors present at the briefing suggested perhaps four new small settlements within Wiltshire, with the roads, schools etc. all developed together, rather than tagging more and more houses on to existing settlements that often have not the services or roads to cope. In my opinion existing settlements need

some room left for limited growth for local people and/or local workers. Remember to have your input. Research by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) shows that builders are missing targets for affordable homes in the countryside by 18 houses a day, meaning a shortfall of 33,000 such properties can be expected over the next five years. Analysis of 60 local plans found that the average rural authority needed 68% of new homes to be affordable. Over the past three years, only 26% of new homes in the countryside were classed as affordable.

Many of us visit Bath. It may be of interest to you, the last remaining Georgian sedan chair garages in the UK, built in 1734, have been sold for £159,000 at auction after being listed with a guide price of £25,000 each. The Grade II listed buildings were sold for commercial use by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Dog fouling continues despite the knowledge it can cause children to lose their sight. To the public: Please do not let your dog poo on farmer's fields especially when the grass is being cut. This is winter food for the cows, also please not when animals are grazing. Dog excrement can cause Neosporosis/abortion of calves which could lead to a cull. Farmers work hard all year round to look after the cows and a 5 minute run for an uncontrolled dog can cost the lives of animals and money.

All please note that an initiative to provide and plant trees to commemorate the end of The First World War is underway. Parish and Town Councils have to submit an application by 30/11/2017. Mere Town Council has now decided, however my division has several other villages considering proposals.

If SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) are continually triggered, of which there are a few that move around in this area, indicating excessive speed, locals will report their findings, as has happened at Shaftesbury Road, Mere, and the police will put in "speed traps".

A reminder again that I have a facebook page 'Cllr George Jeans', for use to display some events I attend and may be other material. It is not a platform for conversation at present; I do not view it regularly, whereas : george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk or : 07710 441599 I can usually answer quickly.

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions on the following: "Medway Council has said it will assess the appeal of a grandfather who received a parking ticket after wrestling a gun from a robber attempting to hold up a store."

Being the time of year, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.


MERE RIVERS GROUP

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our request for wildlife sightings. From mid-October to mid-November Mere residents have seen the following: Kingfishers - 6 times, Water Voles - 5 times, Grey Wagtails – 4 times , Little Egret – 3

times, Greater Spotted Woodpecker – twice, Signal Crayfish – once, Toad – once, Goldcrest – once, Tree Creeper – once.

You may have noticed the rivers are very low at the moment and we are agitating with the environment agency to try and make conditions better for biodiversity.

Please keep sending details of your sightings to : mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com especially over the holiday season. We cannot emphasise enough how valuable your data collection is to our efforts to preserve the biodiversity of our rivers and ensure their continued flow.

Details of your sightings are also shown in the Footpath display in the Clocktower.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

Lynne Bann, For Mere Rivers Group, ☎: 01747 86017

An important message from Wessex Water

Mere Town Council and Mere Rivers Group want to make sure you do not miss Wessex Water's **Free Home Check service** in the Mere area now!

This is a very valuable service, available for a limited time – so:

- You may receive a letter from Wessex Water. Do not throw it away.
- Do not worry if a Wessex Water technician knocks on your door (once you have checked their official ID of course!)

The letter to you will say - Lower your bills with our **FREE Home Check**.

This will be carried out by one of our technicians ... We'll do the following at no cost at all:

- We'll visit your home **at a time that suits YOU**
- We'll identify and **fix simple leaks** we find, at no cost to you.
- We'll fit **water saving products**, absolutely **FREE OF CHARGE** (worth up to £50).
- We'll advise you on simple ways to further reduce your household utility bills.



Mere Dental Practice

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Dental Hygienists: Laura Moss, Jenny Minors

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

✉: meredental16@btconnect.com

🌐: www.meredentistry.co.uk,

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,
Friday 8.45am - 5:00pm

**The Practice is now offering Dental Implants and Six months smile
(minor teeth correction for adults)**



goodpractice



Denplan

At the heart of dental care



DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

Mere Dental Practice wishes everyone "A very Merry Christmas and Happy new year".

The Practice is now open on some weekends for Denplan and private patients. Please contact the practice for more information on ☎: 01747860365".

Mere Dental Practice is introducing open days for Dental implants and six months smile for minor teeth correction. Please contact the practice for information on ☎: 01747860365. *Jyothsna Syed, Practice Manager* ☎: 01747 860365



MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME (MDLS)

Registered Charity no. 1062328

☎: 01747 860096

Drivers - Can you spare some time?

The Link Scheme relies upon drivers who volunteer to take Mere and District residents to their medical related appointments. Can **YOU** spare a few hours a month to help?

Most journeys are quite local or to Salisbury or Bath Hospitals. You choose when you want to drive. There is no regular time commitment and usually you would have two or three days' notice of journeys. Sometimes you may be able to help on more than one occasion: at other times you may have other commitments. It's when you CAN help that makes the difference.

Why do we need more drivers? First of all we have had a number of retirements, but more significantly, the demand has grown. We covered some 40% more miles this year than three years ago. We are a Charity and your time, of course, is freely given, but

there is a mileage allowance to cover running expenses. Age is not a barrier if you feel you are happy to drive others safely.

We do ask all drivers to take a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

Without this service, elderly and less mobile people, or those living a distance away from the surgeries, would find it almost impossible to have their medical needs satisfied.

Please consider becoming a Link Scheme Driver

To find out more call our Link Scheme number.

Hamish Bell, Secretary, Mere & District Link Scheme ☎: 01747 860096

MERE CARNIVAL 2018 FUNDRAISING QUIZ

Come and join us in the Grove Building for a quiz with a Christmas theme. It is fun and a test for those little grey cells!

Friday, 8th December at 7.30pm, £2.00 per person - Raffle and Refreshments.

The Committee would like to thank everyone for their support this year.

And Wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Carol Payne ☎: 01747 861639

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS

Do you still need a last minute present, card or stocking filler? Why not come and find just what you need at one of my last Fair Trade stalls before Christmas.

Saturday, 16th December: At the URC Coffee Morning 10.30am-12.00noon

Sunday, 17th December: After the Churches Together service at the URC

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

Due to all our fun loving attendees, being out shopping or partying, there will be no Community Lunch in December.

Heather Stone: DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

A useful treatment for problems relating to: muscles ~joints~ movement
~ posture~ injuries (old and new) ~ circulation~ hormone balance~
digestion~ nervous system~ Or simply for **relaxation and wellbeing.**
Practising at Mere Osteopathy Clinic. **Heather: 07874 079 913**

The next Community Lunch will be at THE GEORGE INN, The Square, Mere on Tuesday, 9th January 2018 at 12.30pm cost £10.95 per person, drinks not included. Please book in advance ☎: 01747 860427, We have the pleasure of a talk during coffee from Mr Graham Avory called "The Fastest Way of Slowing Down" on his time with British Waterways. Do come and join us. For further details, please contact me.

Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646

HERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

As winter evenings draw in, the urgency to provide exhibition layouts accelerates so as to fulfil the requirement for the greater number of exhibition venues. A recent new exhibition with good car parking held at Wincanton drew in over 800 visitors over the weekend which is very good for a new show.

The next exhibition that the club is committed to, is the WAMRC Exhibition at Frome in the first weekend of the New Year. To this end our little club is making a huge effort supplying two of its three exhibition layouts.

So up to Christmas the final touches are being applied to our existing OO layout 'Three Bridges by the Sea' and the new 'N' gauge layout 'Mere 2025'. This will be shown for the first time at Frome.

The members will start a new layout in 2018, which is to be in 4mm OO9 scale, and be mainly a narrow gauge layout based in the South Wales Coalfield. The base board is nearly completed and is different from most as it folds back on itself!!

Our Christmas Lunch this year is to be held at hillbrush at noon on Wednesday, 6th December.

Unfortunately we have lost one the original members this year through ill health, so we are always glad to receive new faces. Our club is situated in Castle Street Car Park and opens from 7.00-9.00pm on a Wednesday evening. Should this be inconvenient for

anybody who wishes to have a look around before visiting, then please contact the author to arrange a suitable time.

Dates and Events for your Diary

Saryrday, 30th December. West Camel Model Railway Society at Davis Hall Post code BA22 7QZ, opening 10.00am - 3.00pm.


Weekend of 6th & 7th January 2018. The Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs Exhibition at The Cheese and Grain in Frome.

Weekend of 16th & 17th June 2018. Our club's Model Railway Exhibition in the Lecture Hall.

For further information please contact me. *Tom Snook* ☎: 01747 861977

CANCER RESEARCH

All the Elves are ready to go and the Mere Cancer Research Christmas Market is looking to be a fabulous event in the Town Square on Friday, 1st December from 6 00 - 8.00pm. Mere's very own Christmas Princess - Josie Varney - has her wand all ready to make the magic happen and turn on the lights at 6.00pm on the tree and Clock Tower to launch Mere's festive season off in style! We have over 20 stalls selling a wide range of festive present ideas, food & drink, Father Christmas will be in his Tower Grotto and The Warminster Military Wives choir will be singing some of your favourite carols. Please see our advert for more info.

As this is our last news of the year we would like to thank every single one of you have helped us in any way to raise funds to Help us Beat Cancer Sooner. We will have the news from the Christmas Market and the 2017 total for you in February's 'Mere Matters'. but as always without your unstinting support, help, donations, baking, jamming, raffling, tombolaing, sewing, driving, muscles, ideas, hosting and just being there - Thank you from us all on Mere Cancer Research Committee. We are a small but happy band who are looking for more helpers, members, muscle power to set up and pack up events, vans drivers, idea makers and any other help - if this is you, or you know someone who this is, please get in touch: Facebook - Mere Cancer Research or e-mail  merecancerresearch@mail.com *Harvard Dallibar* - ☎: 07788 138003

MERE THEATRE CLUB

A very happy Christmas and New Year to all our members and their friends and families. We have had another action packed year with visits as far afield as Chichester, and stretching our resources to produce a contribution to the wonderful Flower Festival in Mere.

Our winter programme should be out by the time you read this, but new members are always welcome, so do get in touch.

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



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 20th December at 3.00pm and again on Wednesday, 17th January 2018. 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, 18th December, and/or for the January tea, again on Monday, 15th January, please.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

DECEMBER'S SHORT WALK:

December's Short Walk, with its usual Seasonal Twist. Meet at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 19th December outside The Walnut Tree Inn. *Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

MERE WALKING GROUP

Our New Year walk will be on Tuesday, 2nd January 2018 and this year will be based on The George Inn at Longbridge Deverill. We will meet at Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.00am and share transport to the pub, go for a five mile walk (very few stiles), followed by the lunch. Please let me know if you would like to join us by Friday, 15th December (at the very latest), as we will need to pre-order our food. Non-members will be very welcome.

The annual planning meeting for the group, to which all are invited, will be held at the George Inn (Mere) on Wednesday, 7th February 2018 at 7.00pm.

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

MERE FILM SHOWS

As has become our custom, we have no film in December and our next screening is Thursday, 11th January. At the time of writing we have only just received the new film list for the Spring programme and so cannot confirm the title for January, but with a

good number of excellent films on offer, including 'Dunkirk', 'Victoria and Abdul', 'Goodbye Christopher Robin' and 'Murder on the Orient Express', to name but a few, you can be sure that all those coming up are well worth seeing! Posters will be in town and in the Library, and tickets will be available there, around mid-December.

Moviola have recently been trialling a new venture – under the title 'Cinegi' – which is to show films of live performances of West End theatre, opera, ballet and music. This does, however, have particular technological requirements which we are investigating with Moviola, to screen perhaps once or twice a year, in addition to our regular film screenings – and always providing you, the audience, think it a good idea!

I am now stepping down from organising the Film Shows, but happily my place has been taken by Rosie Jordan-Barr who now takes up the reins and is the person to contact for any queries you might have. David, Jean and Bridget remain as part of the small committee, so Mere Film Shows will continue – with your continuing support, and I'll be there to watch the films!

Have an excellent Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Mary White and Rosie Jordan-Barr ☎: 01747 861567

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Well - what a result! The stumps are drawn, the match, and the play - and the 70th Anniversary come to that - all went with a terrific swing and we're rather sad that it's all over. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. But we never close, and we're already planning for the new year and thinking along the lines of another variety show. Variety is, after all, the spice of life.

If you have a 'star turn', or know a person who has, please let us know. Why not practise it for your friends and family over the Christmas holiday? We look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Seasons Greetings meanwhile to all our supporters.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

SHREEN HARMONY

Two Lovely Christmas Concerts in December.

Maiden Bradley: All Saints Church on Thursday, 14th December at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served and a retiring collection. Please come and join us.

The Grove Building, Mere: Saturday, 16th December at 7.30pm. Mulled wine and a finger buffet will be served with a retiring collection. We would love to see you at our friendly and popular Christmas Concert. *Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980*

MERE GARDENING CLUB

There will be no December meeting. A Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our members.

Gardening Club members are invited to a **Social Evening on Wednesday, 10th January 2018** at 7.30pm in the Grove Building - details available from me nearer the time. Our website address is : <http://www.meregardenclub.org.uk/>

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our dressmakers are thinking about Christmas and sewing machines are producing special dresses including a beautiful Ball Gown. We are also delighted, thinking of children at this time of the year, that we have two new Mums making little dresses for their tiny daughters, Granny's making coats, there is even a special warm, cosy red coat being made for a very special visitor to Mere School. I had a lovely time taking my

Spinning Wheel to the Craft Club there, so the festivities will be celebrated in style when our course concludes in December with our Celebration Meal. Even more special as we have just celebrated our third birthday, we have kept going longer than the Sewing Bee!

Susanne is busy making her shop look very festive following up from Creative Mere.

Our next courses start Tuesday's (9th) and Wednesday's (10th) in January and our Facebook Page is looking very festive with a special video of Costumes being made for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Happy Christmas to everyone.

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or

Susanne (The Sewing Lady) 📱: 07788 595434 or

Facebook: Dressmaking in Mere



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our December meeting:

Mere Mothers' Union would love you to join us for
our

CAROL SERVICE

In St Michael's Church, Mere

On Tuesday, 12th December

at 12.00 noon

Followed by sandwiches and mince pies

in the Grove Building

Please bring your friends and family with you!

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

In January, instead of our usual meeting, we'll be enjoying a New Year lunch together on Tuesday, 9th January 2018. All past and present MU members and partners/spouses are very welcome to come, as well as friends and anyone who might join in future. Venue (in Mere) is to be decided just after we go to print, so please ask for details - and please book by Tuesday, 12th December.

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

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

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

From the Trustees

Research by Age UK shows that more than two million over 75s live alone, and report that isolation and loneliness is their biggest problem. More than a million said that they can go for over a month without speaking to friend, neighbour or family member. The lack of mental stimulation has been shown to exacerbate feelings of depression, and can hasten the progress of dementia, as well as making physical ailments less bearable. All this places extra burdens on already hard pressed social services and the

NHS. Research shows that the lonely are more likely to visit a GP, have a higher use of medication, higher incidence of falls and increased risk of needing long-term care.

Currently 15 guests are registered at the Day Centre, 11 are over 75 and of those 4 are over 90. With the onset of winter and shorter days many of us may be less inclined to venture out without a specific incentive, but at the centre we provide just such an incentive. Here guests feel they are valued and can make a positive contribution to the community; new friendships are forged, and opinions are valued and respected. We know from feedback from guests and their families that this has a highly positive effect on general well-being.

As we approach the Christmas period, a time of increased susceptibility to loneliness and its attendant issues, we will be providing entertainment, carols and a Christmas lunch. During the weeks leading up to Christmas our guests take part in a concert

Beautifully Preened Mobile Beauty Therapist, Makeup Artist

Treatments include Facials, Indian Head Massage, Brow Shaping, Lash Lift, Manicures, Gel Manicures, Pedicures, Waxing, Spray Tanning, Bridal and Special Occasion Makeup. Female clients only. Patch test for some treatments. **Please contact Heather on 07876 642637**

devised and directed by our centre manager Sandie, ably assisted by her deputy Jean and our cheery volunteers. We will be closed for the week between Christmas and New Year, but look forward to a fresh programme beginning on Friday, 5th January 2018.

The Trustees take this opportunity to wish the guests of Rosemary Goddard Day Centre, their families, our volunteers and all our supporters in the community of Mere and district a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Chris Dillon, Chair of trustees

To contact the Centre: Sandie Hawkins ☎: 07835 272406

🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

MERE MUSEUM

There is still time to visit our very popular current exhibition '**Made in Mere**'. We have had appreciative comments from as far away as Vancouver!

However, we are now well into the planning of the new exhibition which will open in mid January. We are gathering all kinds of material - texts, photographs and objects - which will illuminate the history and lives of our neighbouring parishes (West Knoyle, Zeals, Stourton with Gasper, Kilmington, and Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield). We would love to hear from anyone who can contribute to this collection. Just get in touch by phone, or ✉: davidlongbourne@btinternet.com or ✉: jennyflaxmill@gmail.com. Or pop into

the Museum on a Monday morning between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Thank you, and meanwhile may you all have a very happy Christmas.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends held a very successful wine tasting event in November which again raised much-needed funds for the Museum. Thank you to everyone who was able to come. Things will go a bit quiet for a while, until the new year. Watch this space for future news, but meanwhile we wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

CJK Decorating Services

Internal and External works undertaken

Free quotes, No VAT

for help and advice please call

Chris King on: 07851 215682 or email: cjkdecorating@gmail.com

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &

Carols in the Square, Mere

Christmas Eve **11.00am** Everyone welcome

St Michael the Archangel, Mere

Celebrating Christmas at St Michael's.

Sunday, 3rd December 10.30am Advent Christingle Service.

Come and celebrate the promise of Christmas by joining our service and receiving your Christingle. Thoughtful and fun for all ages

Saturday, 9th December 10.00am Choir Workshop.

Would you like to sing in our lessons and carols service on 19th December at 7.00pm? Today we are having a workshop in the church to prepare for this. All are welcome to help make a joyful sound

Monday, 18th December 10.00 am in the Grove Building a Christmas Children's Craft Morning. Come and make decorations and Jesus in a crib to take home. We will also practice for the crib service. All primary school age children are welcome

Tuesday, 19th December 7.00pm Lessons and Carols by candlelight. Come and join this very atmospheric and special occasion, also sing your favourite carols

Thursday, 21st December 10.30am Remembering our Loved ones at Christmas Service. A chance to remember simply and lovingly those we will miss at Christmas. Write your loved ones name on a star to put on the Christmas tree.

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Crib service with a donkey. Children welcome to dress as an angel, shepherd or wise person.

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 10.30am Holy Communion

United Reformed Church, Mere

Christmas Day 10.30am Service for Christmas day

DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2017

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Mere

Saturday, 23rd December	5.30pm	Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve	8.00pm	Carols followed by
	8.30pm	Christ Mass, followed by mince pies & mulled wine
Wincanton: Christmas Day	10.30am	Solemnity of the Nativity

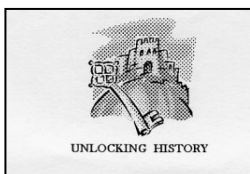
St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle

Christmas Day	9.30am	Holy Communion
---------------	---------------	----------------

Parish of Upper Stour

Sunday, 17th December	6.00pm	Carols at the Christmas Tree Bourton Village Green
Monday 18th December	6.00pm	Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Kilmington
Wednesday 20th December	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight at St Martin's Church, Zeals
Friday 22nd December	7.00pm	Village Carol singing starting on Zeals Green
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service, <i>all ages welcome</i> St Martin's Church, Zeals
	6.30pm	Traditional Carol Service at St Peter's Church, Stourton
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion at St George's Church, Bourton
Christmas Day	10.00am	All Age Christmas Communion St Martin's Church, Zeals n

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



Mere Historical Society

Dartmoor Mindscapes

Peter Knight

Tuesday, 5th December, 7.10pm in the Grove Building

The talk starts at 7.30pm and will be preceded by **mulled wine and mince pies**, so please come along early to enjoy! Archaeologist Peter Knight has written many books including work on West Kennet Long Barrow near Avebury, and on Symbolism taken from paganism by Christianity. This should be a fascinating talk.

£3 entry to ALL talks for non members who are very welcome

Morning talks: Tuesday 12th December: "Kings of Music", by Tom Weare.

Tuesday, 9th January 2018: "Famous Women of Dorset", by David Beaton. This talk tells the stories of some of the remarkable women who came from Dorset or who lived in the county.

Both morning talks are to be held in the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am.

NB There is no evening talk in January.



merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Our annual dinner and prize giving date has been set as Tuesday, 30th January 2018. It is to be held at The George, Longbridge Deverill, and members are requested to be there at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. We are all looking forward to a cracking evening of good food and drink, and above all good company.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE
MONDAY, 15th JANUARY 2018

We are now coming to the festive season and most members are not even thinking about bowls or the club, however there is still work going on during this quiet time; the green is getting its' autumn and winter treatments from the Greens Committee, under the watchful eye of the Head Green Keeper, Phill Powell. While numerous e-mails and lists fly back and forth between the Club and the County by yours truly, this is making sure that we are all registered and insured for next year.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families all the best for the upcoming festivities and may they all have a healthy New Year. I would like to extend these season's greetings on behalf of the Club to the Editor, Publishers and Distributors of this wonderful publication, and above all to the readers and advertisers, without whom this means of communication would not exist.

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 e-mail ✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775



Mere School Reports

Sport

This has been another very busy term of Sport for Mere School.

Tag Rugby

Two teams of Y5/6 children took part in the Gillingham School family event. The B team played incredibly well and won their tournament! The A team showed a great attitude to the sport throughout all of their games and came second in the final, losing by one try.

The children would like to thank Mr Barton for all his support.

Netball

Two teams of Y5/6 also took part in a netball tournament at Gillingham. The children were a real credit to the school with the B team coming 5th and the A team coming 2nd. The A team have now qualified for the N. Dorset finals. A small group of Y3 and Y4 children also joined in on the day with an afternoon of coaching.

The children would like to thank Mrs Cripps and Miss Fletcher for their help.

Football

Mr Rich has been training the boy's football teams during lunchtimes in preparation for their tournaments this term.

On a very foggy day in November they played St Mary's Marnhull in the Davison Cup. Mere School won in the last 10 seconds of the match thanks to a goal by Ryan Ward.

They have also taken part in a tournament organised by Yeovil Football club.

The boys would like to thank Mr Rich for all his help.

We now look ahead to next term for yet more football, a hockey tournament and a Dance festival.

STOP PRESS!


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



www.mereschool.co.uk

FATHER CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO MERE

Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury Lions are getting ready to go out and about with Father Christmas on his float. We plan to come to Mere on Saturday, 9th December at 2.00pm and again at 5.00pm, although routes and times are subject to change.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us make this happen. So if you have any spare time and would like to help us raise money for lots of worthwhile causes. Please contact us via our Facebook page: **GMS Lions** or our website  <http://gmslions.org.uk/> Don't forget to look out for Father Christmas. He will be coming very soon to a street near you.

Dave Rose, GMS Lions PR, ☎: 01935 389816

HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years Little Owl Class

West Knoyle is in the catchment area for Hindon Primary School. Our new Little Owls have settled into the routines of school life and are enjoying new learning experiences with their friends. The bright, colourful and well-equipped classroom with its own outside learning area has enabled the children become independent, co-operative and confident learners. A focus on using Nursery Rhymes as a basis for developing number, language, reading and writing skills has produced amazing paintings and displays.

Owl Class

The children in Owl Class have been investigating 'Materials' as part of their Science topic this term. In October, the children enjoyed a visit to Salisbury Cathedral where they learned how different materials have been used in the building and restoration of Salisbury Cathedral. The children were amazed to see fossilized shells in the marble pillars and to feel the difference between cold stone and warm wood. Becoming Stone Masons for the afternoon was the highlight of the visit! The children were taught stone carving techniques and were able to use real tools.

Kestrel Class

The older children in the school have been studying the paintings of Constable during their Art lessons. They discovered that he painted a picture of the bridge in Gillingham High Street, so they decided to go and investigate!

REFLEXOLOGY with GEORGIE PEART. MAR

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

Gillingham 01747 590714

07710 008744 georgiereflexology.com

Despite being hidden amongst overgrowing trees and foliage, the children could clearly see the bridge and were able to stand in the place where constable created his painting. The children recreated the painting of the bridge from sketches that they made and could compare their painting with the original.

The children also visited Gillingham Museum where they learned more about Constable and the history of the town. The staff and children at Hindon School are very grateful for the expert help and information that they received from the volunteers at Gillingham Museum.

Curriculum enrichment visits are valued at Hindon School as they provide a first-hand experience that gives a real purpose to learning!

Jackie Gunter, Head Teacher, ☎: 01747 820260

LETTER FROM THE CHURCHES

Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, Priest in Charge of St Michael the Archangel, Mere; St Mary's West Knoyle and All Saints Maiden Bradley, writes:

The yearly battle is on between the big retailers to catch your attention and to entice us to buy from them this Christmas. We wonder between the big glossy adverts: John Lewis, Debenhams, Iceland....the list goes on? There is so much choice and all designed to part us from money we can't afford on excessive presents and food. It is nice to be thoughtful and thankful to others but also easy to be seduced by the drive to "spend more".

I'm just reading the book "No and Me" by Delphine de Vigan about Lou, a school girl, who befriends an 18 year old street girl called No. Lou is making a class presentation about the homeless and No agrees to answer lots of questions for drinks in warm cafes. Lou wants to "befriend" her but No becomes very angry saying: "this isn't your life...go away". Lou suddenly hates her friend and thinks that all homeless people need to do is be nicer, less dirty and they'd be fine. Such a human reaction to someone who won't be like us or do things our way.

Beneath our modern cosy Christmas certainties is the story of Jesus' birth in a makeshift home. His family faced cold, uncertainty, fear and anxiety about where the next meal was coming from. As we surround ourselves with material comfort we can forget about the needs of refugees, the homeless and those who live in poverty in our own country. We too are guilty of wishing they would be more like us – settle down, get a job or go back home.

Jesus came as a fellow human being full of care, kindness and love and was an adorable baby too for a while. He came as one who constantly challenges us to live thoughtful lives, loving not just the easy friends and family but our neighbours too whoever they are.

May you find the peace, joy and love of the Christ child in your deepest heart this Christmas. Blessings.

ONE WORLD WEEK

The Fair was again a great success with 18 stalls representing a wide variety of local and National Charities. 5 local Primary Schools provided colourful hand prints after their workshops and assemblies with messages of how they were going to help meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The kitchen was kept busy serving delicious food, and we were entertained by Shreen Harmony in good voice, and a folk trio to keep the Hall buzzing. Visitors showed a great deal of interest in the various stalls (2 selling out) and although One World Week is one of awareness, we were able to send a donation of £162 to the Disasters Emergency Committee from the proceeds of the refreshments.

On the Sunday we welcomed Samuel Williams from Christian Aid who gave a wonderful address based on The Good Samaritan, which was very appropriate for this year's theme of 'Good Neighbours'. Thank you everyone who supported us at both of these events.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884)
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*



IN MERE & DISTRICT



*You are invited to come to a Churches Together
reflective Taizé-style evening service for Advent
on Sunday, 3rd December at All Saints Church,
Maiden Bradley at 6.30pm*

As we go to press, and thanks to the wonderful lady who has offered to cook (in response to last month's appeal), we're busy delivering leaflets for our **Christmas Day Lunch**.

We want to be sure that families who would find it difficult to celebrate this Christmas, and all those who would otherwise be alone, know that they are very welcome to join us in the Grove Building on Christmas Day. A traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a festive atmosphere, will be followed by tea and Christmas cake. (No charge, but donations are welcome). You need to book by Sunday, 10th December by calling Judy Bickerstaff ☎: 01747-860335. Volunteer drivers on Christmas Day are also needed. For full details of **Christmas Services** at all our churches please see the **Centre Pages**. Everyone is welcome at any of our services – and also to join us singing **carols on Christmas Eve in the Square at Mere at 11.00am**.

January is also busy! As usual, the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** runs from: Thursday, 18th – Thursday, 25th January 2018.

On Sunday, 21st January 2018 the main Sunday Service for all our member Churches will be at 11.00am at Mere URC Church. Everyone is welcome to join us for this service, and for the very short, informal, weekday services which will be held as follows:

Thursday, 18th January:	9.30am at St Michael's, Mere
Friday, 19th January:	9.30am at St Mary's RC Church, Mere
Saturday, 20th January:	9.30am at Mere URC Church
Sunday, 21st January:	11.00am at Mere URC (opposite post office)
Monday, 22nd January:	9.30am at St George's Church, Bourton
Tuesday, 23rd January:	9.30am at All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley
Wednesday, 24th January:	9.30am at St Martin's, Zeals

Thursday, 25th January: 9.30am at St Mary's, West Knoyle

NO LENT LUNCHES? It begins to look as if, for the first time in over 40 years, there will be no Friday Lent Lunches in 2018. There are plenty of volunteers willing to make soup, provide food and serve at the tables, but as yet we have been unable to find an overall organiser to make it all happen. Lent is early in 2018 so a Lent Lunch planning meeting would need to be held early in January. If by any chance you think you might be able to do this, and if you feel brave enough to give it a go, please get in touch straight away.

People enjoy Lent Lunches very much and the friendly, sociable atmosphere they provide, and will be very grateful to you. You will also ensure the continuance of a major Churches Together fundraising event for CAFOD and Christian Aid.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*



The Mere Suchana Support Group has had another good year fundraising for this unique project supporting 'adivasi' children and communities in rural West Bengal, based around their little two-story centre in Khanjanpur village. Recent research has shown that the regular supplementary education classes provided, together with a wider range of creative learning experiences and the opportunity to read books in their own first languages (which Suchana has pioneered), significantly improves results.

The number of little villages helped and encouraged through Suchana's mobile library (+ healthworker) – which we have particularly supported in the past – has increased to 24 so that about 1600 children are now involved every week. This year our focus has been especially on raising funds to enable Suchana's Early Learning Project to continue and we're delighted, with the help of an extremely generous donation, to have raised over half of the £5,000 needed.

To keep up the good work, we need your support! So please come, if you can, to our **coffee morning and bring & buy on Tuesday, 16th January 2018, 10.30-12.00noon** at Holly Cottage, North Road; and, a date for your diary: **our ever-popular Suchana Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake Evening** will be held in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 13th February 2018. Details in February Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

Camelot Acoustic Music Night
comes to Mere for a Christmas
special
in St Michael's Church
Wednesday, 13th December
Doors open at 7.30
Mulled Wine and some fantastic
music
£4 entry, payable at the door
All proceeds to St Michael's Church

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

DECEMBER 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:
Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
(Rest Day - Saturday)

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

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

Please note: The PCC Secretary, Mrs Sherry Dixon is taking a break in
December ✉: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each 3rd Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Advent Christingle with Family Communion
Tuesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Advent Service
	*17th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Advent Service
Tuesday	19th	7.00pm	Christmas Service of Remembrance
Wednesday	20th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday	21st	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
CHRISTMAS EVE			
Sunday	24th	11.00am	Carols at the Clock Tower, NO 10.30am service
		4.00pm	Crib Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Monday	25th	8.00am	NO Service
		10.30am	Family Communion
Friday	29th	8.00am	NO Service
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Holy Communion
<i>*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service</i>			

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	10th	11.00am	Mrs Christine Marsh
	17th	11.00am	Mr Dudley Coates

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday	24th	11.00am	Carols in the Square
--------	------	---------	----------------------

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday	25th	10.30am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
Sunday	31st	11.00am	To be arranged

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk
Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald
☎: 01747 860867

Every Monday to Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Thursday	10.00am	Rosary
Every Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Saturday	5.30pm	Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE,	8.00pm	Carols
	8.30pm	Christ Mass (Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards).

CHRISTMAS DAY Masses in Wincanton (please
☎: 01963 34408 for times)

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

WEST KNOYLE

The Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

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

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

Mr. Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	3rd	9.30am	DIY
	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	6.00pm	Lessons and Carols Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday	24th	No service
--------	------	------------

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	31st		NO service. Come to Mere, please

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

January 2018

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:
 Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859,
 (Rest day Saturday)

✉: 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 3rd Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Year"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion
			Rev'd Andy Muckle
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday	17th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday	18th	9.30am	Worship and discussion on Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday	21st	11.00am	Service at URC for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Holy Communion

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Judith Thompson
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh
			Churches Together United Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	28th	11.00am	Mrs Sharon Hawkes

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's
Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291
or John FitzGerald ☎: 01747 860867

Every Monday to Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Thursday	10.00am	Rosary
Every Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Saturday	5.30pm	Mass

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

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin
Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859,
✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎: 01747 830534
Mr Colin Seaford ☎: 01747 830263

Sunday	7th	9.30am	DIY
	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	21st	6.00pm	Evensong
Thursday	25th	9.30am	Worship and discussion on Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	28th	9.30am	Matins

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

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2017

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MSC-Mere Social Club; RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Fri	1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Cancer Research Christmas Market	The Square
2	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		7.00pm	Mere Town Youth FC 'Bingo' evening	L

4	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 11th)	L
		10.00am	Zumba First Level (also 11th)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold	L
		6.00pm	Water Colour Club (also 11th)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	AYP
5	Tue	10.30am - 1.00pm	Dressmaking	GB
		2.00pm - 4.00pm	"Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Life Drawing (also 12th)	L
		6.20pm	Zumba (also 12th)	L
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB
6	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi	GB
		10.00am - 11.00am	Forest Charities Pay-out	L
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 13th)	L
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers meeting (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm - 9.30pm	Dressmaking	GB
7	Thur	10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (also 14th & 21st)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute Meeting	GB
8	Fri	7.30pm	Carnival Quiz	GB
9	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
11	Mon	6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Preview	Lib
11	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
		10.15am	Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		12.00pm	Mothers Union Carol Service	St Michaels Church
		6.00pm	Pilates (also 19th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
13	Wed	7.30pm	Camelot Acoustic Music Night	St Michaels Church
14	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 21st)	GB
16	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Concert	GB
19	Tue	2.00pm	December Short Walk	CP
20	Wed	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Tea@3, Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm - 4.30pm	"Digital drop In" Session	Angel Tea Rooms
24	Sun	11.00am	Carols under the Clock Tower	The Square
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB

January 2018

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MSC-Mere Social Club; RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

2	Tues	10.00am	Mere Walking Group's New Year Walk	CP
		10.00am	Sandra Catley (every Tuesday)	L
		2.00pm - 4.00pm	'Get-Online' Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
3	Wed	11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
4	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am	Sandra Catley (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	1.00pm	Alzheimer's Group (every Friday)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
8	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Zumba (First level - every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
8	Mon	7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Water Colour Club (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	MADS Meeting (in Green Room)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
9	Tues	10.15am	Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		10.30am - 1.00pm	Dress Making (every Tuesday)	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	George Inn
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
10	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi, (Small Hall every Wednesday)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.00pm - 9.00pm	Dress Making (every Wednesday)	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB

		5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (very Thursday)	GB
		7.30am	Mere Filmshows/Moviola (Film to be arranged)	L
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
16	Tue	10.30am	Suchana Coffee Mornimg	Holly Cottage, North St.
17	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.30pm 'Get Online' Drop-in session	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Tea@3"	Angel Tea Rooms
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
24	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB


BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:
Lecture Hall:
URC Church Hall

Ian Treece
Sally Johnson
Eileen Burfitt

☎: 07754 524802
☎: 01747 861063
☎: 01747 860685

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

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

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:


By appointment only (☎: 0300 003 4569)
Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION
HEALTH TRAINER

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


COPYDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the February 2018 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at the Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4:00pm on MONDAY, 15th January 2018**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 8th January 2018 to : editor@merematters.co.uk

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com
☎: 01985 844740

The picture on the front cover is by Cover Competition Winner, Lily Jones

