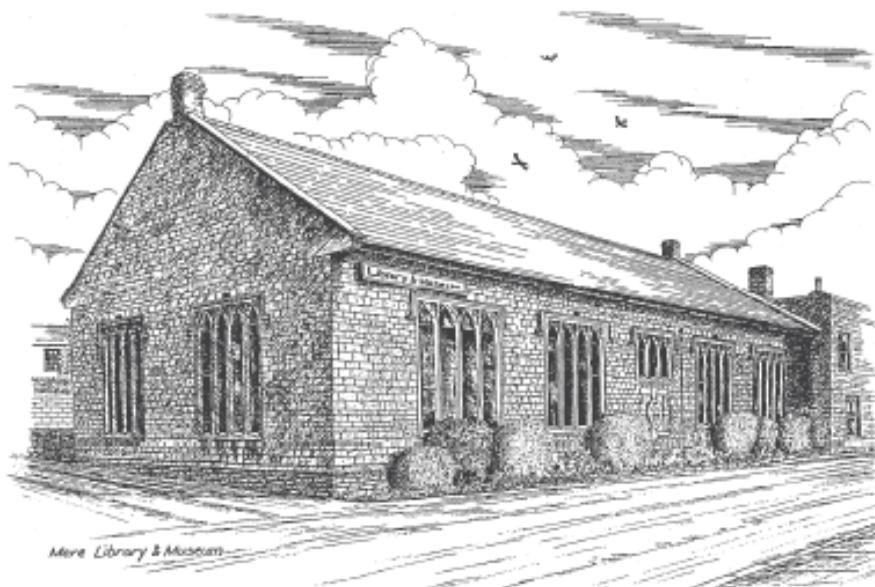


# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



**FEBRUARY 2017**

**MERE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you!

You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, 6th February 2017**. For details of the venue, please see the penultimate paragraph of the Chairman's report which follows.

### **The Chairman writes**

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Morris of 47 Downside close for winning the Mere Christmas light competition and collecting £75 in donations for the link scheme. 2nd place was awarded to Mr & Mrs Adams of 8 Deans Avenue. 3rd place was awarded to Mr & Mrs Hurst of 5 Deans Avenue. The Judges were pleasantly surprised by the number of residents who decorate the outside of their houses and gardens and felt that all participants should be thanked for their creative work. I would like to thank Jeans Electrical for donating the prizes for the competition. I would also like to thank all those involved in decorating the Town clock and the square with Christmas lights, and all residents and shop owners for making the effort to illuminate their properties over the Christmas period. I thought that Mere looked very festive this year.

The Town Council held the annual budget meeting in December to set the budget for the following financial year. This meeting is where council members have to consider likely expenditure over the next year in order to determine the precept requirement. (Town council's share of the council tax). Due to a change in the Tax Base provided to us by Wiltshire Council, we were facing a 1.45% increase even if we kept the precept the same as last year. After considerable deliberating, the Town Council approved an overall increase of 4.24% or £4.36 for the year on a Band D house within the Town.

At the February Town Council meeting, the Town council will be considering the Outline planning application for the construction of up to 130 dwellings on land at Castle Street. Councillors would like to know the views of the community regarding planning applications. Please send us a copy of your objection or support letter, before the council meeting, so that we can consider your views. Better still – do come along to the

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meeting and let us know your views verbally, in the public session. The February Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, 6th February at 7.30 p.m. – location to be

advised - please check the Mere website : [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org), the Town Council Facebook page or the Council's notice board outside the Lecture Hall prior to the meeting.

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

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:**

You will find it hard to believe that the Southern Area Planning Committee on which I sit finished its meeting at 11.15pm on Thursday, 12th January, so we were still nearly sitting on Friday, 13th! There were site meetings that afternoon, which some of the committee started to visit at 1-45 pm. I arrived home at 12.30am on the Friday morning. We had several applications to consider, and so many people attended the meeting that there were not enough seats for everyone!

Christmas decorative lighting was very successful in the Mere area, particularly so in Mere and West Knoyle, where the local councils ran a Christmas Lights competition for the private dwellings. For the town lights of Mere this year, Wiltshire Council were more receptive regarding the bureaucracy we needed to complete in order to have the lights on the highway. (I suspect it is because it does not have the resources for this bureaucracy). With the help of my wife Sue, we put a letter around in Mere and West Knoyle to encourage those who displayed outside Christmas lights, to do so again next year. We found over 120 private residences in the Mere and West Knoyle area with outside Christmas lights in some form.

The ever decreasing government rate support grant is biting harder every year. Wiltshire became a unitary authority in 2009 and now following the results of an eight-week public consultation, Dorset council executives have said Dorset residents have "overwhelmingly" supported plans to merge the county's nine councils into two. I was honoured to be asked to give a presentation at Dorchester by West Dorset District Council regarding my experience of a Unitary Council. According to officials, the most popular choice is for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to join forces, with the remaining councils forming a second unitary authority.

We live so close to the county boarder of three counties, we are impacted sometimes by our nearby County neighbours. Registering a birth, death or a marriage/civil partnership at a Registry Office, can affect all of us at some time in our lives. Dorset being so close to us, I think it worth noting that for the registration of marriages, Dorset County Council bosses have recommended the closure of five register offices. Offices in Christchurch

and Shaftesbury would cease all operations, whilst those in Gillingham, Sherborne and Swanage would continue to offer outreach services only, subject to town councils being able to pay registrars for their travel time and mileage. My understanding is that Gillingham Town Council will pay the above expenses to help maintain a register office in Gillingham, with a cost to those being married/civil partnership for functional use of a building when required.

In Mere we have a Registrar attend once a week at The Library on Thursday mornings, by appointment only, for which the Town Council does not contribute. In recent years a death can be registered at an increased financial cost out of the county, by what is known as a declaration. I am told there should be enough Ceremonial Officers available to perform marriages in approved private venues when required.

Somerset is another county very close to us, the three counties of Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset meet near Penselwood pumping station as it was, or is, known. Households in Somerset could only have their bins emptied once every three weeks under current new proposals. Wiltshire still manages to provide a two weekly service.

A little further afield, however still partly in Wiltshire is the New Forest. The New Forest District Council's review of tourism services has recommended the closure of the New Forest's dedicated walk-in visitor centre, which would leave it as the only English national park without such a service.

I noted with interest that a recent survey has shown more than half of people in some parts of the country have not seen a single "bobby on the beat" in their area during the last year. Bedfordshire was the worst; joining the county to make up the three worst areas for reported police visibility are Norfolk and Wiltshire. In the Mere Area we are very fortunate, PCSO Peter is to be seen often in a vehicle and sometimes on foot, which I consider to be practical and creates good Police visibility in our area.

Monday, 6th February is the 65th anniversary of The Queen's accession, thus starting the first UK Sapphire Jubilee in history. It is an important year for The Royal Family, The Queen and Prince Philip will celebrate 70 years of marriage in November, being their platinum wedding anniversary. Our flag on Castle Hill is looking a little tired, so I will see it is replaced with a new flag in time for the Sapphire Jubilee.

Should you be interested in the proposed 1.8 mile long tunnelling of the A303 at Stonehenge and A303 improvements, public information events are planned including one at Mere in The Grove Building, Church Street Mere, on Saturday, 4th February from 11.00am to 5.00pm.

The next South West Wilts Area Board will be on the Wednesday, 8th March in the Nadder Centre at Tisbury, when hopeful a community grant application for toilets within St Michaels Church, Mere will be discussed. The church is a free tourist attraction in

Mere, attracting many. Hopefully also a further grant will be given to embellish some of our tired finger post road signs.

A planning application has been received by Wiltshire Council for around 130 dwellings at the west end of Mere. The Mere Town Council will be discussing this proposal at its meeting on Monday, 6th February, for venue details see the Town Council Chairman's report at the top of page 4.



## COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT

Over the last few months Wiltshire Police has rolled out its Community Policing Team (CPT) model across Wiltshire and Swindon.

Any large scale restructuring is naturally likely to have its teething problems but I am delighted to say that so far the response has been positive. I extend my thanks to everybody within the community for their assistance and valuable feedback, which helps us to continuously improve the way we work and ultimately helps us provide the high quality of service you all deserve and expect.

Partnership work has been incredibly important in this process and we are keen to continue, where possible, working in a joined up approach to deliver that high standard of service.

As we head in to the New Year we can look forward to seeing the results of ongoing innovation and investment within Wiltshire Police. Senior leaders within the organisation have made a clear commitment to ensuring the workforce is fit and well for work, and have outlined their dedication to embrace innovation and technology so that officers and staff are able to do their jobs serving and protecting the people of Wiltshire and Swindon confidently, effectively and efficiently.

I would like to reassure you that we are working to improve our 101 system. We have made efforts to ensure that the service you can expect to receive when calling for non-emergencies is high quality, and we are continuing to work to reduce the time it takes to get through to us.

Going forward, as ever, we welcome and encourage your feedback. Wiltshire Police is here to serve you and we always want to know where you think we can improve, and of course where you think we have done well. I wish you all a safe and happy 2017.

### Community Messaging

Working with our local communities, we have been developing ways to reach out to all our communities and keep everyone up to date with the latest information that matters to you in your area.

The challenges that face us as we enter 2017, is getting the right messages to the right people at the right time, as well as balancing our demands with the threats/harm/risks that may be presented within our local community remains a continuing area for development. Through feedback and working with our local communities, we have developed the use of  <https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk/> and are now sending out daily updates around crimes that matter to you in your area. This is enabling us to reach as much of our community as possible, as quickly as possible, and impart any

new crime prevention advice or information about incidents that may affect you in your community that we feel you need to know about.

We have received some very positive feedback around this and encourage you to speak to all members of your community and encourage them to sign up to Wiltshire Messaging. It is free and a very good way of keeping all our communities connected.

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

*PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky 📞 101 (24hrs)*

✉️ [\*\*peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk\*\*](mailto:peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## **DO YOU NEED HELP IN A POWER CUT?**

Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE) is working to ascertain the level of people in the area who may require a little extra help or assistance should Mere suffer a power outage in the forthcoming winter months. They would like to highlight those people in and around Mere who would need assistance, and ask them if they would like to be registered with SSE so someone from the team can come out and ensure those people are looked after during a sustained outage. Called the 'Priority Service Register', it is a free service, and any information provided is strictly confidential.

SSE has registered many people in the last 12 months, but is aware there are many more vulnerable people who are not registered. People registered will now be highlighted to SSE's team should there be a power outage affecting them. SSE will ensure that every effort is made to support them and, where possible, provide assistance from generating their house to offering hot meals, drinks and reassurance. In addition SSE's Emergency Service Centre will call them during the outage, checking they are ok and giving them updates on the estimated time of power restoration.

If you meet the following criteria, you are urged to register:

- Are dependent on electricity for home medical care, for example a kidney dialysis machine.
- Have a chronic illness or short term medical condition; for example you are recovering from a major operation.
- Are disabled.
- Have special communication needs; for example because you are blind, partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing.
- Have a young baby.
- Receive a state pension.

Registration is quick and simple to do. It can be done online, on the phone or completing a 'Priority Service Register' form available from the Library and which can be returned to SSE freepost.

If there are any groups based in Mere and District, which feel it would be beneficial for someone from SSE to come along and register people on the day, SSE would be happy to do so. For more information, or a leaflet, contact SSE's Priority Services Team:

By Post: FREEPOST RTGH-TXXT-ZAEG, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AG

☎: 0800 294 3259, 📠: 0345 072 1900, Text phone: 0800 316 5457

🌐: Visit [www.ssepdc.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegister/](http://www.ssepdc.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegister/)

## MERE 'ONLINE DROP-IN' SESSIONS

Mere now has four "digital champions" to help local residents get and stay online with their computers, laptops, smart phones and tablets. They have been recruited, vetted and trained by Wiltshire Council to provide free help on the basics of the devices.

You can meet them in person at two different places in Mere each month: the first Tuesday (7th February) at Mere Library from 2.00 to 4.00pm, and at the Angel Tea Rooms on the third Wednesday (15th February) from 3.00 to 4.30pm. No booking is needed - just drop in for help.

You can also book a home session by phone on ☎: 0300 456 0100 or - if your emailing isn't e-failing! - by email ✉: [digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk), giving your contact details, and you'll be put in touch with a local digital champion.

If you are bringing your device with you to the Library, and you need to connect to the Internet, you will also need to have a mobile phone to verify your sign-up. If you don't have a mobile, it's best either to come to the sessions at the Angel, or else to arrange for a home visit.

*Steve Hoffman* ☎: 0300 456 0100

## THANK YOU

'Thank you' everybody who sent me get well cards and visited me during my stays in both hospital and nursing home last year.

Also 'thank you' for the donations to Wiltshire Air Ambulance for my 80th birthday party on 4th December. I sent the charity a cheque for £250.

*Margaret Fricker*

### **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**

## **TRUSSELL TRUST**

An enormous thank you to everyone who contributed to the amazing 170 shoe boxes, which went to Bulgaria at Christmas time. What joy these boxes bring! I followed the blog as they were delivered by Richard and his team, and smiles and laughter and singing and dancing were the way they were received. It was all so joyful. Some of the young were unable to sleep the night before, because of the excitement!

Well over 11,000 were sent this year, which is a record, so thank you all so much for your generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness yet again.

*Wendy Home ☎: 01747 861712*

## **MERE TOWN CRIER**

Our very own new Town Crier, Bob Parsons, will be standing on the Mere Town Clock island in the Square on the last Saturday in each month at 11.00am, announcing local births and deaths, events and news. You can contact him by e-mail at

✉: [meretowncrier@yahoo.com](mailto:meretowncrier@yahoo.com)

## **MERE RIVERS GROUP**

Many of you will have seen the distressed state of the upper reaches of Mere's two streams. The Ashfield Water at Burton mill pond has been dry for six months and the Shreen from the bottom of Steep Street to its source has been dry for many months.

Mere Rivers Group (MRG) has been working with Wessex Water (WW) to reduce the amount of water abstracted from Mere and pumped to Whitesheet reservoir.

An agreement, made with OFWAT, Wessex Water and MRG. was that when the river levels dropped below an agreed point Wessex Water would reduce the amount of abstraction to a minimum. The marker on calibrated boards upstream from Yapps and at Burton show the agreed levels.

Unfortunately, the reduction was not met by WW because of problems elsewhere in the supply network. It seems WW always falls back on the Mere supply in an emergency. This combined with low rainfall has resulted in the sorry state we see in the streams today.

We are also talking with the Environment Agency on the need to reduce the licence held by WW. This is for the abstraction of 9 million litres of water a day which was given in 1966 and has never been reviewed in spite of the environmental damage being caused.

MRG. will continue to lobby the Environment Agency and WW to return our streams to their former glory. You can help by using water wisely and expressing your concern to both the Environment Agency and WW.

Work by volunteers to tidy the riversides will continue this year.

We will continue to keep you informed on all these matters and there will be a public meeting held later in the year.

To contact Mere Rivers Group : [ianjsheppard@outlook.com](mailto:ianjsheppard@outlook.com)

*Adrienne Howell* : 01747 860475



## **FLOWER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL**

### **A Year in Mere 2017**



As part of the organising of the Flower and Music Festival, we have put together a handy post-card sized calendar of some of the major events happening in

Mere in 2017. It should have been delivered through your door by the time that you see this issue of Mere Matters. If for any reason you have been “missed out”, please make sure you pick one up from one of the various establishments around the town; including Sprout and Flower, The Angel Tea Rooms or the Library.

Pin it on your notice board or keep it in a safe place to make sure you don't miss out on what is going on. Other events are happening in the area throughout the year – keep an eye out for posters and articles in Mere Matters and other local publications.

*Yvonne* : 01747 860035

### **Make it your business!**

Do you own, run or work in a business in Mere? If so then you need to contact us!

We are working hard to approach all the organisations in Mere so that they can be represented in our amazing Flower and Music Festival planned for the weekend of 9th – 11th June 2017. We are also asking shop owners if they would like to take part by including a display in their window.

However, we are aware that there are many other businesses in the town that do not have the space to show something in their own premises and therefore if you are a local business owner, we are inviting you to contact us to discuss being represented in the floral displays in church to help depict your activities.

We truly do want to “Celebrate our Community” and would be delighted to work with you to enable you to contribute to our displays. We already have ideas of how this can be done, so you don't even have to know anything about flowers or floral art to be included. However, should you want to be more involved we can adjust our ideas to suit your requirements and suggestions.

It doesn't have to take up much of your time or cost much money and could even be seen as a way of advertising your business to both local residents as well as visitors to the event.

All we need for you to do is contact us (by the end of February) and express your interest. Make it your business – don't miss out!

*Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Maggie and Yvonne* ☎: 01747 863324  
or ✉: ***elisabeth@hillcrest.me.uk***

## **THE HILLBRUSH COMPANY HAS MOVED**

We have settled into our new home at Norwood Park and have resumed manufacture where we left off before our Christmas closure, so we'd just like to thank you for being so patient with us during this busy period.

Have you seen the photos of our new facility? If so, what do you think? Reply to this or give us a call - We'd love to know what you think about our new home!

We've only moved to the other end of Mere, but our new, purpose-built site gives us more capacity for manufacturing and warehousing our products.

### **Visit Hillbrush**

As part of our new facility, in early 2017 we will be opening our brand new and impressive visitor centre, '**Visit Hillbrush**'. Here you will be able to shop for intriguing gifts, eat locally sourced, high quality food and discover more about the rich history and exciting future of Hillbrush.

Keep an eye on the Hillbrush Facebook and Twitter pages, and follow '**Visit Hillbrush**' on Facebook and Instagram to be the first to know about special offers, discount vouchers and what's happening next at Visit Hillbrush.

If you have any further queries, want to place an order, or would like to know more about our move and the new facility, please get in contact using one of the methods below:

Customer Services, Hillbrush Company, Norwood Park, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6FE

☎: 01747 860494, ✉: **[info@hillbrush.com](mailto:info@hillbrush.com)**, 🌐: **[www.hillbrush.com](http://www.hillbrush.com)**

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with us on social media:

Facebook or Instagram

## THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere on Tuesday, 7th February 2017 at 12.30pm. This two course set meal costs £9.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance on 01747 861220.

The Community Lunch meets once a month from October until Easter, and is a great way of meeting people if you are new in the area and want to find out what is happening in the town.

We would love to see anyone with sight difficulties especially members of the charity Blind Veterans UK, but all are welcome, so do come just as you are. For more details please ring me. *Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646*

## 'SHOW YOU CARE AT CHRISTMAS' CAMPAIGN

I would like to thank everyone who came to my events leading up to Christmas and purchased Fair Trade cards and gifts from Traidcraft. Over £350 worth of cards were sold, which enabled me to send a donation to both CAFOD and Traidcraft Exchange which was a marvellous result. My Sales this year have also increased to £4,000 which means that we have supported so many craft groups and farmers around the world to raise them out of poverty. Thank you so much for your support.

My next stalls will be on Saturday, 18th February at the URC Coffee Morning and Sunday, 19th after the 10.30 morning service in St Michael's. Also, look out for details of my 'Big Brew' event in 'Fair Trade Fortnight' from Monday, 27th February - Sunday, 12th March. *Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

## WARMINSTER & DISTRICT FOODBANK

Thank you Mere for the huge donation of 94.4kgs of food from the collection in December outside the Co-op. Your generosity is greatly appreciated for this much needed and used service. Thank you also to Jane, Wendy and Kate for overseeing the collection.

The charity is staffed entirely by volunteers providing emergency food and support to local individuals and families in crisis, redundancy, benefit delay or illness. When you are on a low income, an unexpected expense can mean going hungry. On average with the support of local communities, we are able to distribute 25,000kg of food per annum to those in crisis.

Food vouchers in Mere can be obtained from the children's centre ☎: 01747 861108, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm. Food vouchers can be exchanged for food boxes held at the centre. *Ann Ridler ☎: 01747 860128*

## **Mere Dental Practice**

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

*Therapists Wendy Hester and Laura Moss.*

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

*✉: [meredental16@btconnect.com](mailto:meredental16@btconnect.com), [www.meredentistry.co.uk](http://www.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*

## **MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS**

Members meet weekly at The Club House in the Castle Street Car Park on a Wednesday Evening from 7.00 to 9.00pm, and work continues on the latest '0', '00' and 'N' Gauge Layouts. These will form the centre piece of the many working and visiting layouts at the Clubs' Summer Exhibition on Saturday, 17th June and Sunday, 18th June 2017 in the Lecture Hall.

Our pre-Christmas open day offered the chance of buying used model railway bits and pieces as a boost to Club funds, and this was well attended by local friends and supporters. New members are welcome, please contact me as membership of this local club is a good way of tapping in to the wider network of model railway enthusiasts in this area. From time to time we run club excursions to heritage and model railways of interest. If you are interested your name could be added to our supporters list and we would contact you at the time, and you can also visit our new website, which is now up and running and provides an up to date commentary on our activities.

Our website address is [www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk](http://www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk)

*Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977*

## **MERE CANCER RESEARCH**

The Victorian Christmas market was a huge success and raised an amazing £1,119.00 - thank you to everyone who came along as it defiantly started Mere's festive season off in style!

The Meat raffle at The George Inn raised a very respectful £135.00 - the meat was of the usual high quality and a big thank you to Pat & Jan of the George Inn for organising this for us and to everyone who came along and bought tickets.

**Diary Dates**

Here are some dates for your new 2017 diary or Calendar you had for Christmas:

11th March	Spring Bazaar	Lecture Hall
22nd April	Magic Sunny Flowers	Stars Appeal Spring Fair
30th April	Cars and Coffee	Town Sqaure
20th May	May Fayre	Town Square
7th October	Autumn Bazaar	Lecture Hall
1st December	Christmas Market	Town Square

More information and dates to follow.

It has been another amazing year for Mere Cancer Research, and we would like to say a big thank anyone who has donated, bought, attended, complied, manned, hosted, provided muscle and van power, ate, drank, smiled, enjoyed, made, baked, sponsored, grew, photographed or sewed in any way to help us raise the magnificent sum of £13,385.00.

As a committee we are always humbled, amazed and very very grateful for all of your unstinting support. So it just leaves us, Mere Cancer Research committee, to wish you all a Healthy and peaceful 2017. With all your help we will beat Cancer Sooner. Follow us on facebook - Mere Cancer Research

*Penny Fennon, Mere Cancer Research Press Officer, ☎ 07833 131712*

**FEBRUARY SHORT WALK:**

Meet in the Surgery Car Park on Wednesday, 8th February for a Short Walk of 2-3 miles around the paths of Mere with tea at the Angel Café afterwards.

*Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*



**TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY**

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 15th February at 3.00pm.

All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 13th February.

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

*Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is about to start with Billy Elliot in Southampton followed by comedy in Salisbury, drama in Bath and a Murder Mystery in Basingstoke! A new theatre for us.

You should also, by now, have received your membership renewal, do remember if you don't pay you don't get the next mailing for Spring 2017! And if you have yet to join but would like to, please contact Wendy or Madelaine, phone numbers below.

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

## MERE FILM SHOWS

Because we did not have a film in January, details of this month's film on Friday, 3rd February, '**Ethel & Ernest**' (PG), Raymond Briggs's story of his parents, were given in the last edition of Mere Matters, but for those who either did not see it or who might have forgotten about it, a brief resume follows! **Jim Broadbent** and **Brenda Blethyn** voice the title characters from their first meeting in 1928, when Ethel is a lady's maid and Ernest is a milkman, to their deaths in 1971.

The couple's experiences in setting up home together in a modest London terrace, raising their young son amid the Blitz and coping with the subsequent social changes affecting post-war Britain are typical of many households, but the story celebrates their everyday capacity for keeping calm and carrying on, as well as their quiet love for each other in their house they bought for the enormous mortgage of £875! The story's sense of quiet pride is also tinged with a wistful element too – we'll certainly never see these times again, not least the possibility of owning a London home on a milkman's salary. This film is an intimate and affectionate depiction of the life and times of two ordinary Londoners living through extraordinary events. It is an extraordinary film and not one to miss. Full details on page 23.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

Thursday, 9th March: 'A Streetcat named Bob'

Thursday, 30th March: 'The Girl on the Train';

Thursday, 20th April: 'Allied'

*Mary White* ☎: 01747 861257

## SHREEN HARMONY

The choir is now back to regular rehearsals after the Christmas holiday.

The concert in the Grove Buildings on the Saturday before Christmas was a really happy evening and very well supported. We raised £300 for Thorngrove Garden Centre, which enables disabled people to gain horticultural work experience. The evening was a great start to the festive season.

We will be working hard now in the New Year learning new songs ready for the concerts to come. We have been invited to sing at the Flower and Music Festival in Mere in June, which should be a lovely event, hopefully supported by as many as possible.

We meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, and if you think you might be interested please do come along. You would receive a warm welcome.  
*Sandra Fisher* ☎: 01747 861980

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

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

We are back in full swing after our Christmas break and have lots of exciting sessions planned for our guests. With speakers, Tai Chi, craft sessions, music sing alongs, and a couple of trips lined up, we shall be keeping busy.

Thank you to everyone who purchased one of 'Our little corner, photographs of Mere and surrounding areas' 2017 Calendars. We managed to raise £1,057.50 for the charity! Thanks also to Steve Hawkins for producing the wonderful calendar and donating the profits to the RGC.

We still currently have a waiting list for both Monday and Friday sessions, but if you or anyone you know could benefit from attending the day centre, please get in touch with me on the number below.

*Sandie Hawkins* 📞: 07835 272406 🌐: [MereDayCentre.org.uk](http://MereDayCentre.org.uk)



## **MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP**

We began the year with an enjoyable meal together at the Walnut Tree on 10th January. In February we have two main events: On Monday, 6th February at 4.15pm we meet at Shreen Vale (Thelma Ing's house) for our annual MU 'Wave of Prayer', which, like a Mexican Wave, continues all the way around the world – we're just a tiny part of it.

At our meeting on Tuesday, 14th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, Barbara Borwell will be talking about 'Pets as Therapy'. Sounds interesting? Come and join us! Everyone is welcome to both of these events.

*Judith Thompson* ☎: 01747 860553

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Sixteen dressmakers enjoyed a lovely meal at The Bell and Crown in Zeals in December, and we have now started our next six week courses, which commenced on Monday, 23rd and Wednesday, 25th January. These two courses were full, but we will have further courses throughout the year and hope to have some "Sewing All Day" sessions by popular demand. They don't want to go home once they get started! More details next month.

We meet at the small hall at The Grove Building and each session lasts two and a half hours. We are delighted that the age range of those on the courses gets ever younger and also many who have not done any dressmaking for a few years, so a wonderful age spread and experience. Above all good fun.

For more details please phone Carol on or Susanne "The Sewing Lady" on the numbers below, or pop along to Susanne's shop in North Street – Phone first.

*Carol ☎ 01747 861923 or Susanne 📱 07788 595 434*

## **REFLEXOLOGY with GEORGIE PEART**

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](http://georgiereflexology.com)**

## **MERE GARDENING CLUB**

### **The Relocation and Development of the new University of Bristol Botanic Garden**

**Nick Wray**

Wednesday, 8th February 7.30pm Grove Building

Botanic gardens are an important resource for the study of plants. Nick is Curator of the University of Bristol Botanic Garden, the first new university botanic garden to be moved and redeveloped in the UK for nearly 40 years. The 1.77 hectare garden includes the Local Flora and Rare Native Plant Collection. Nick has been awarded the RHS Associate of Honour for his distinguished service to horticulture in the course of his working life. This is the highest award the RHS gives. We will be visiting this fascinating garden in early summer.

*Nick Wray is the first of three speakers for this year who have regularly appeared on TV or radio programmes. The other speakers will be Brigit Strawbridge (Wednesday, 12th April) and Alan Power (Wednesday, 12th July). Brigit specialises in bees and has appeared on Gardeners World and other TV programmes. Alan, who is head gardener at Stourhead, has had his own TV programme on historic gardens, and once a year has Radio 4's "PM" listeners enthralled by his descriptions of Stourhead in autumn.*

**Visitors are very welcome. For these three special speakers the usual visitor entry fee of £2 will be increased to £5. So why not become a member now when our annual membership fee of £10 will be even better value than ever!** Janet Way ☎:01747 860884

## GROVE BUILDINGS “100” CLUB

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for December 2016, drawn on Monday, 5th December by Trudie Maidment (The Co-op Mere), was:

1st Prize	(£50)	-	No. 179	Pauline Prentice
2nd Prize	(£30)	-	No. 164	R George
3rd Prize	(£20)	-	No. 34	Annie Sainthill

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for January 2017, drawn on Wednesday, 4th January by Gary Gatehouse (Mere Garage), was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 19	Mr Tony Rankin
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 77	Mrs J Kantharia
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 124	Mr & Mrs J Goff

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

There's such a lot to say this month that you might want to make a cup of coffee before you start to read our notice!

First: **Cinderella** is this year's pantomime (see also below). The young lady herself and her vast entourage of sisters, rats, princes and footmen are well into rehearsal twice weekly. Lines are being learned, moves memorised and entrances and exits executed. Slippers have been found and a fairly godmother identified.

Make sure you don't miss this phantasmagoria of well-loved characters and magic, and make a note of the dates: **Thursday, Friday and Saturday 2nd - 4th March**. Performances are at 7.30 p.m. each evening in the Lecture Hall, with a 2.30 matinee on Saturday. Tickets are £7.00 each and £3.50 for children (i.e. students at school). They will be on sale at the Library by the beginning of February. Rush down there now and get yours before they are all sold out!

Next (looking back for a moment), we would like to draw your attention to our acclaimed **production of 'Lord Arthur's Savile's Crime' in November last year**. You can read a glowing review of the show online 🌐 [www.theftr.co.uk](http://www.theftr.co.uk) (The Fine Times Recorder). Select 'Reviews' from the right hand column, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select 'Older Reviews'. On the second page of these older reviews you will find a splendid account of that excellent production.

Finally, it is fitting that all this is happening at MADS during its **70th anniversary year!** The Society was founded on Sunday, 3rd November 1946, and its first production took place in the Spring of 1947. **This year's pantomime is therefore our Platinum Anniversary production** - all the more reason for everyone to come to cheer us on!

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## MERE MUSEUM

Your last opportunity to see the current exhibition about the King James II Coat of Arms will be Friday, 10th February. The new display, **'Residents' Choice; a Museum Medley'** will be of items from the Museum's collection which have been selected according to requests by you, the residents of Mere! You will find a vast array of domestic objects of yore, of maps old and unusual, of items from Mere's musical past, and a selection from our collection of children's toys. The Curators will also take the opportunity to show some of their own favourite items too!

The exhibition will open to the public on Tuesday, 14th February. We hope you will enjoy seeing this display - bring your friends too!

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

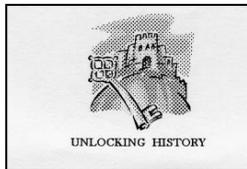
## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' Preview of the new exhibition will take place on Monday, 13th February at 6.30pm. We hope to see lots of Friends, old and new, and also anyone who thinks they would like to join.

A Preview provides a perfect opportunity to meet other Friends and see what this very popular group is about. Membership forms are always on the Museum's sales desk if you decide to join us.

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

# Mere Historical Society



***There is no evening talk in February  
but the two morning talks will be:***

## **Morning talk: Tuesday, 7th February:**

**"How the 1938 invasion of Belgium changed my life".**

Talk by Monique Turnball. To be held in the Grove Building at 10.15 for 10.30am.

Monique, whose mother was Belgium, was in that country when war was on the horizon. Her story will be an insight to how it must have felt when invasion was imminent and the subsequent effect on her life.

## **Morning talk: Tuesday, 21st February:**

**"Shackleton's 1914 Expedition to the South Pole".**

Talk by Frank Marshall, To be held in the Grove Building at 10.15 for 10.30am.

Despite the outbreak of WWI on 3rd August, Shackleton's planned 'Endurance' expedition was directed by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, to "proceed". Frank will tell the story of this famous expedition.

**Non-members are very welcome**

*Don't forget to check out our web site:*



**merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

Caroline Cook : 01747 861797

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# 'Ethel & Ernest' (PG)

**Forty years of change. One enduring love.**

Based on the book by Raymond Briggs, this animated feature is the story of his parents, two ordinary Londoners living through a period of extraordinary events and immense social change.

**In The Lecture Hall**  
**Friday 3rd February, 2017**  
**at 7.30pm**  
*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from The Library**

For more information call Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

Visit our website : [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)

## **BOWLS CLUB**

At this time of year all bowlers are looking forward to being on the green and bowling with the sun on their backs, something we have not seen a lot of during this cold and damp period, but winter will soon be over and the shivers will be a thing of the past, we hope!

Planning is forging ahead for our annual charity Barn Dance in the Grove Building, not much will change this year, in that we will still have the services of the wonderful Black Bear Band, the Fish & Chips will be as hot and nourishing as ever while the bar and raffle will be as extensive as in previous years. A date when tickets will be available will be published as soon as it is known, you can however book your tickets on 01747-860775 at any time from now until they are all sold, and you don't even have to pay for them until they are delivered.

The Club will open for the new 2017 season on Saturday 22nd April when all existing and prospective new members will be made most welcome, the kettle will be on and there may even be a biscuit available.

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

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775*

### **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT A

## **CHARITY BARN DANCE**

WITH THE BLACK BEAR BAND

AT THE GROVE BUILDING, MERE

ON SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 7 PM

FISH AND CHIP SUPPER INCLUDED

IN SUPPORT OF MERE LINK SCHEME

BAR AVAILABLE

RAFFLE

TICKETS £10 EACH FROM LIBRARY WHEN AVAILABLE OR PHONE  
01747 860775 TO BOOK NOW

## **MERE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB (MDBC)**

The MDBC will be celebrating its 100th meeting on Friday, 3rd February. Most of our players come again and again enjoying the friendship and relaxed atmosphere of the gathering.

We meet at 1.45pm on Fridays in the Grove Building small hall. Entry of £1.50 covers our costs including refreshments. If you do not have a partner, please call me to arrange one.  
*Vernon Phillips ☎: 01747 863313*

## **MERE & DISTRICT KARATE CLUB**

It has been a long time since we last put in a report, however that does not mean we have had a quiet year, it has been quite the opposite.

Our instructor, Peter Manning 7th Dan has visited and taught at many locations across the UK, including Durham, Kent, Wells, Wantage and Jersey in the Channel Islands. Last December we held an international Dan (black belt) grading at the Mere club venue with students and instructors attending the course and attempting their dan black belt grading. Karateka from Wells, Wantage, Kent, Jersey, Madeira and Portugal stayed for the weekend and enjoyed our annual Christmas meal which was held at The George, Mere.

The Mere club was established in 1988 and we used to train at the Mere Primary School. The first few weeks saw 102 children and 98 adults attending as it was so new to the area.

Over the years we have also raised money for charities such as the Salisbury CT Scanner and Cancer Research along with supporting the local primary School, and performing demo's at both the church May Fayre and School fetes.

We welcome you and your children to come along to learn karate for self protection, discipline, fitness and fun. There is never a better time to start.

If there is enough interest we would be happy to hold a self protection course over a series of weeks with specific focus on this. Just email us and let us know your interest  
✉: [tska93@tiscail.co.uk](mailto:tska93@tiscail.co.uk).

Old students or beginners are always welcome just drop in on a Wednesday night at the Lecture Hall in Mere, 6.00pm for juniors and 7.00pm for adults.

*Peter Manning ☎: 01747 860144*





# Mere School Reports

## **CHRISTMAS CRAZY!**

Last month was a great time for all at Mere school as the Christmas festivities brought lots of fantastic things for the children to take part in.

### **Aladdin**

All the children were coached to Salisbury to watch the Christmas pantomime, Aladdin. It was a fantastic production of the well known story which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

We were definitely the loudest school there! Thank you to the Friend's of Mere for funding the trip.

### **Christmas Grotto**

All the children also visited the amazing Grotto that was set up by the Friend's of Mere. They loved seeing Father Christmas and enjoyed receiving a gift from him.

### **Christmas Lunch**

Once again the children enjoyed a delicious Christmas packed lunch provided by our amazing lunchtime

staff. It was great to see the children celebrating Christmas together in the hall!

### **Christmas Productions**

The term ended with two fantastic Christmas plays performed by the children of Reception, and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

The singing, acting and costumes were all amazing as the children retold the story of the Nativity and reminded us about the real meaning of Christmas.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Williamson for all her hard work in putting them together.

### **And Finally**

**Finally we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!**

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

# 1ST MERE BROWNIES

## Recycling project

Thank you for your continued support. We are still collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches. (including broken)

Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age.

Mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but please remove the SIM card).

**Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!**

In addition, we are now collecting stamps – loose/single stamps. Albums. First Day covers/presentation packs. Collections. Single Postcards and collections.

We can recycle them for you – with proceeds to our unit funds

Collection points for all your contributions are still at Waltons Newsagent, the Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop, Salisbury Street and Jeans Chapel Showroom, Boar Street, as well as the Library. With many thanks.

*Sue Luffman ☎: 01747 861054 or Sue Jeans ☎: 01747 860215*

## CALL MY WINE BLUFF

The Friends of St Michael's are holding a "Call My Wine Bluff" evening on Friday 17th February in the Grove Building at 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 each to include a ploughman's supper and a drink.

Come along and see if you can guess which of our three local wine "experts" is telling the truth about the 6 wines which you will sample.

There will be a prize for the table that guesses the most right.

Bring along your friends to make up a table or join others to make up a table of 6 people.

Tickets are available from Pat Isom on ☎: 01747 861776 or at the Library.

It should be a fun evening.

The Friends of St. Michael's Church invite you!



**CALL MY Wine BLUFF**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**  
**7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**

in the Grove Building, Mere

**Tickets £10**

*to include Ploughman's Supper & glass of wine*

**Book early - numbers are limited**

*Tickets from Mere Library or Tel: 861776*

*Ann Dethick ☎: 01747 863498*

**Churches Together in Mere & District**

## **Lent Lunches**

**Sale  
Table**



**Everybody  
Welcome**

**Come along and enjoy delicious home-made soup,  
roll & cheese followed by tea/coffee for just £4 !**

**Grove Building: 12.30 - 1.30pm**

**Fridays: 3rd March, 24th March, 31st March**

**7th April, 14th April**

**All proceeds will go to Christian Aid & Cafod.**

**Please support the lunches - see you there**



### **Christmas Day Lunch**

A very big thank-you to everyone who helped in any way with our Christmas Day Lunch, which has now completed its fourth year. Again, it was a happy event and much appreciated by those who came, who would otherwise have been alone, or not able to do very much by way of celebration for other reasons.

Judy Bickerstaff, chair of the Christmas Lunch sub-committee, writes: "We would particularly like to thank the following: The Angel Café, The George Hotel and The Walnut Tree for giving us the use of their kitchens and the Butt of Sherry for assistance;

Sprout and Flower for giving us the vegetables; Mere co-op for the gift of various ingredients; Clive Hazzard for plants for the tables and to brighten the hall. Thanks also to George Jeans and John Jordan for their support at the start of the project this year; to the volunteers who gave their time on Christmas Eve to prepare the tables, or/and to serve and clear up on Christmas Day; to the ladies who made the puddings and Christmas cake; and to those who gave very generous monetary donations. Last but not least, we would like to thank our chef, Steve Cooke, whose hard work and expertise gave us a lovely lunch. Without the help of all these people our Christmas Day lunch would not have been possible."

## **Calendar of Forthcoming Events**

As we go to press we're busy with Week of Prayer for Christian Unity events, and, for the first time, all the local churches held a shared Sunday morning service at St Peter's, Stourton on 22nd January.

Lent begins on Wednesday, 1st March, so information for Lent and Holy Week will be included in the next Mere Matters. The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at St Michael's this year, at 11.00am on Friday, 3rd March (followed by the first Lent Lunch in the Grove Building)

Advance dates: for your diary: Our AGM is later than in previous years, and will be held on Tuesday, 25th April at 7.30 pm at Mere URC Church; and on Wednesday, 3rd May from 10.00am-3.00pm Churches Together will be holding a Quiet Day at the Franciscan Friary at Hilfield – led by one of the brothers. More details next month.

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

## **REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MICHAELS, MERE; WEST KNOYLE AND MAIDEN BRADLEY, WRITES:**

### **Comfort and Joy, from a loving church community**

I write this on what is reckoned to be "Blue Monday", rated the most "miserable" day of the year. It is down to debt, weather, bills and breaking New Year's resolutions. The flatness after Christmas can be hard to get over when all we can see before us is hard work, depleted money and unsettling news on a national scale.

For some people this flatness can become something which is a habit. Personally, they wonder what point their life has, can't see pleasure where previously there was joy and may find themselves crying frequently. These are signs of depression and it is good to see your doctor. It is especially important to support teenagers in this situation as they

have fewer strategies and no experience to draw on to help them see what can be just a setback.

I have suffered from depression. During recovery I took antidepressants for a time. But the best help was to be gentle on myself and look for things that gave joy - I bought my first motorbike. I also had counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, which was good training in my situation to consciously look for good not bad.

Now that I have been a priest for nearly 12 years I look back on those experiences and try to use them to help others. Christians believe that no experiences are a *waste* of time, we trust that God in Jesus is there living with us, beside us even in us as we trudge through. The Bible is full of encouragement to lay all our burdens on the Lord. Many people who don't come to church believe that Jesus will support them if they pray to him and leave their petitions on our prayer board.

Friendship and kindness found in a loving church community can be a very good place to find support. If we can help please come to our services or contact me or one of the churchwardens whose contact details are to be found on page 33.

Other pieces of news. On Sunday, 5th February we are holding a family communion for Candlemas with a Thanksgiving for Hector Bianconi service. On Saturday, 11th February there is our Wedding Preparation day for couples marrying in church this year. Also, we are close to completing plans for the proposed changes in the church and will soon arrange another public information evening. We are very excited about the Flower and Music Festival on the weekend of 9th/11th June, do put the date in your diary.  
With love in Christ



Everyone is very welcome to join our

## SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING

*in aid of Suchana*

in the Grove Building on Tuesday, 28th February at 7.30pm

**Licensed Bar \* Tickets £5 (children £3)\* Teams of 4**

*(\*Come on your own or come as a team)*

*To book, sign list at back of St Michael's Church,*

*or ☎: Judith Thompson 01747 860553 or Jean Kantharia 01747 861168*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE FEBRUARY 2017

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 Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎: 01747 861319

✉: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	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	5th 10.30am	Family Communion including Thanksgiving for a child
	5.00pm	Evensong

Tuesday	7th	3.00pm	'Start the Month' Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	15th	12.00pm	Holy Communion
Sunday	*19th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	26th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)

\*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

### The United Reformed Church

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎: 01747 860685)**

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	12th	11.00am	Mr R. Wyld
	19th	11.00am	Ms C. Dyer
	26th	11.00pm	Rev'd C. Marsh

### 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 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**

Sundays	5th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	12th	9.30am	Matins
	19th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	26th	6.30pm	Evensong

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE**

**MONDAY, 13th FEBRUARY 2017**

# DIARY DATES

## FEBRUARY 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	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm - 9.30pm	Dressmaking Small Hall (every Wednesday)	GB
2	Thur	10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am - 12.00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	Circuits for Everyone (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute meeting	GB
3	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "Ethel & Ernest"	L
4	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	C
		11.00am - 5.00pm	A303 Stonehenge Tunnel Public Consultation	GB
6	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Zumba Level 1 (every Monday)	L
		10.30am - 1.00pm	Dressmaking Small Hall (every Monday)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		4.15pm	Mothers Union 'Wave of Prayer'	Shreen Vale
		7.00pm	Water Colour Club	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	See page 4
7	Tue	10.30am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn
		2.00pm	4.00pm "Get On-line" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (also 7th, 14th & 21st)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
8	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		2.00pm	February Short Walk	CP

8	Wed	7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
9	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 23rd)	GB
10	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 24th)	GB
13	Mon	6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum preview	Lib
		7.30pm	Mere Am. Dram. Socy (MADS) Meeting (Green R.)	L
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 28th)	CC
		9.30am	Mere Museum's new display opens	Lib
		2.30pm	Mothers Union meeting	GB
15	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.00pm T@3	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Get On-line" Drop-in	Angel Tea Rooms
17	Fri	7.00pm	'Call My Wine Bluff' Friends of St Michaels	GB
18	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
21	Tue	10.30am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
22	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Sat	11.00am	Mere Town Crier	The Square
28	Tue	7.30pm	Suchana Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancakes	GB

## LATE NEWS

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BASE FOR A START UP BUSINESS VENTURE?

Wiltshire Council's Nadder Centre in Tisbury (Weaveland Road, Tisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6HJ) is offering amazing opportunities for start-up businesses.

It offers highly competitive work spaces for small and micro companies and entrepreneurs who work from home and need more professional office space. The 8 business units include one and two desk offices, a co-working space and meeting room. If you are just looking for a registered address, there is a post box facility too.

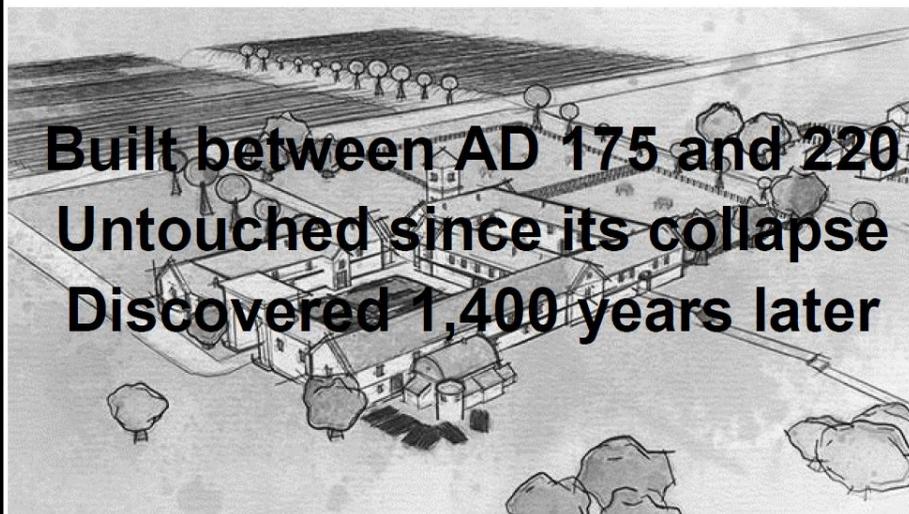
Overlooking the spectacular Nadder Valley, the Business Centre has excellent networking facilities for events, seminars, workshops and meetings as well as communal space to meet with business colleagues and clients.

All the Centre's business tenants have a special corporate discount to the leisure and fitness suites – a real added bonus. There is also free business advice and support through the Wiltshire Business Support Service. Together with the excellent location, brand new facilities and discounted leisure and gym membership it really will make work life look and feel very different.

To arrange a visit or for more information, contact a Business Team member:

: 01747 871141 : [naddercentre@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:naddercentre@wiltshire.gov.uk)

# Brixton Deverill Roman Villa



**Built between AD 175 and 220  
Untouched since its collapse  
Discovered 1,400 years later**

An Illustrated Talk by

**Dr David Roberts  
of Historic England**

*"The discovery of such an elaborate and extraordinarily well-preserved villa, unparalleled in recent years, became national news, and gives us a perfect opportunity to understand Roman and post-Roman Britain"*

In aid of the restoration of Chicklade Church

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

St John's Church, Hindon, Salisbury SP3 6DJ - Limited wheelchair access

6pm drinks & canapés

Talk commences 6.30pm

Tickets £15 from

Vicky Macaskie (Cash or cheque)

or

Tor Beer (BACS, cheque, or cash)

The Fonthill Estate Office

[Chickladelectures@gmail.com](mailto:Chickladelectures@gmail.com)

The Old Dairy, Fonthill Bishop, Salisbury SP3 5SH

01747-820435

## BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

URC Church Hall

Eileen Burfitt

☎: 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](http://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

1st Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

## COPYDATE FOR MARCH 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the March 2017 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, 13th February 2017**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 6th February 2017 to: : [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)

☎: 01985 844740

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



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**Website Design & Computer Services**