

# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Clock Tower - Mere*

*Colin Anderson 1992*

### MARCH 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 March 2017 in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

### **The Chairman writes**

I would like to thank all the parishioners who attended the February Town council meeting. The venue was full to capacity. The views of all who spoke in the public session were certainly appreciated by members of the Town Council. The outline planning permission for 130 houses in Castle Street was not supported by the Town Council.

With regards to the development of the old Hill Brush Company site, members of the community raised concerns about future construction traffic servicing the housing development site at Woodlands Road. Although councillors felt that this issue could not be addressed on the planning applications considered at the meeting, the Town Councillors felt that the concerns needed to be raised and addressed by the developers, and Wiltshire Council informed.

Local government elections for both County and Parish Councillors take place on Thursday, 4th May. This is an opportunity for everyone on the electoral roll to vote for their local councillors. This is also an opportunity for anyone in Mere who fits the criteria to put their name forward and stand for election as a Town or County Councillor.

All current councillors welcome a contested election, it is in the best interest of local democracy and legitimacy of office. Those who would like to know more about standing for election can obtain information either by contacting The Town Clerk or approach one of the current Town Councillors.

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*

### **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.

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**07710 008744 [georgireflexology.com](http://georgireflexology.com)**

**GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR,**

## MERE DIVISION, WRITES:


When on a walk on Sunday, 12th February through Burton, Mere, I was pleased to see two healthy parallel streams of water, I doubt it will last, however it was lovely to see.

The roads are poor in some areas of the Mere Division, which is addressed mainly by pothole repairs reported, of which I report many. Patching and resurfacing is best done in the warmer weather, when I am told the surface laid has a longer life expectancy. The road through Charnage from the A303 I am also told will be brought up to standard shortly.

Broadband, especially where it is poor, is still a concern for many in the Mere Division. Kilmington has poor mobile coverage and the North of the village poor broadband speed availability. Some good news is that a Council officer has advised he has reviewed Kilmington and Kilmington Common and overall believes that the story is very positive. The majority of premises will receive a superfast broadband service via the new fibre cabinet installed in the village. The North of the village is further away from the new cabinet, but it is anticipated there will still be a good uplift in speed from approx. 1Mbps to 20Mbps, in some places. This is known as a fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) solutions.

The officer goes on to report that he has reviewed the Common, which is believed to cover the BA12 6QY, BA12 6QW, and BA12 6QN postcodes. The good news is these postcodes are in the high level plan with a view to survey and build a 'fibre to the premise' solution (FTTP) subject to the usual caveats. We expect the survey and build to be complete by end of June 2017, but the FTTP solution for the Common is subject to successful survey and can provide not just superfast broadband but has the ability to provide ultra-fast.

The big news for the larger area is the "Save our Beds Campaign" regarding the closure of beds at Shaftesbury Hospital. In order to keep you up to date with what is happening you should be aware that the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Dorset Consultation about the future of the Westminster Memorial Hospital in Shaftesbury ends on Tuesday, 28th February. Those Wiltshire residents who are affected as they are living in the area but are not resident in Dorset perhaps are not being included in the consultation, but there are opportunities for you to see this information before that date.

Cllr Anthony Austin of Shaftesbury Town Council; is the Chair, Westminster Memorial Hospital Working Group, and his Council colleague, Barbara Carter, have been good at circulating information. Barbara's e-mail address is  **BarbaraCarter@shaftesburytowncouncil.co.uk**. It appears that Dorset has delivered consultation documents door to door in many if not all its own areas, but I could not see any evidence of delivery to anyone in Wiltshire until recently, when I assume the above working group had arranged some circulation of the consultation document outside Dorset. A West Knoyle parish councillor has offered to deliver some. I will have some put in the Post Office at Mere and Zeals if required, plus where else I

can, depending on what number we can obtain for the Mere Area, which includes Zeals, Kilmington, West Knoyle and Stourton with Gasper.

There is a link to the Dorset Clinical Services Review website, for the consultation document and the questionnaire (which can be filled in on-line). 🌐: **<https://www.csr.dorsetsvision.nhs.uk/have-your-say/>** . A pop up shop is available in Shaftesbury at 45 High Street. The link has an audio alternative. It mentions Dorset as would be expected, Wiltshire I heard mentioned once, however it is a long presentation and I did not listen in detail to all. It appears the preferred option is that Shaftesbury will become a community hospital with only care home beds, when another site is found it would close. Some other links given to me are as follows:-

🌐:**<http://www.keepournhspublicdorset.com/people.html>**

🌐:**<http://southwestwilts.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/event/westminster-memorial-hospital-shaftesbury-consultation-on-healthcare-in-dorset-public-meeting/>**

🌐:**<http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=2883905f726c9fc694bef8b9e&id=4fb5e33f18&e=1e5c846807>**

I attended the public consultation event in the Grove Building on 4th February arranged by the Highways Authority for the improvements to the A303 at Stonehenge including the proposed 1.8mile long tunnel. However my conclusion was that when completed, many of us in this area from young to old will not see Stonehenge again. One of the main photographs in the entrance was taken in such a way that it appeared the public visiting Stonehenge were much closer to the passing vehicles than they are in reality. I put on my consultation response a dual carriageway is urgently needed, including for those in our area to get past Stonehenge in a reasonable time at peak hours. However I needed more justification that the cost of the tunnel section, which would be significant, could possibly be better used elsewhere.

The residential development of the old Hill Brush site will start soon, in the method statement the developer has offered to hold regular meetings with the local community to address possible future concerns. Those living in the access and egress roads for construction traffic obviously want due consideration. Points that have been raised with me: Pettridge Lane and Shaftesbury road traffic need to be assured of minimum disruption; Woodlands Road needs a sign saying "no large construction traffic beyond the site towards Gillingham" and the top of the Lynch requires a sign for those that have mistakenly come along Water Street to indicate the road is impossible for large lorries.

A community grant application for toilets within St Michaels Church, Mere was awarded at the South West Area Board on the 1st February. The church is a well used and free of charge tourist attraction in Mere. Hopefully also a further grant will be given to embellish some of our tired finger post road signs in Mere and West Knoyle. Various presentations were given during the evening, including one from the Fire Brigade, which will be offering "Safe and Well visits".

We now have a South West Community Safety Partnership; the Police co-ordinator is Amy Hardman, a Police Constable with the Wiltshire West Community Policing Team, and she was very informative at The Area Board. One piece of advice from the police was to paint your power tools pink, a thief then has a more limited market!

The next South West Community Safety Partnership meeting will have Joe Power, a Rural crime volunteer, and he will highlight the recently created Rural Crime Partnership. Marc Jackson, from the Wiltshire Police Rural Crime Team, and Andi Witcombe, the National Farmers Union County Adviser for Wiltshire, are all coming to the March meeting.....all we need now is the Audience!!!! Further information from Bev Ford ☎ 01747 871638.

The Area Board was also shown Visit Wiltshire 2017 newly produced and useful publication "2017; It's time for Wiltshire". The next South West Wilts Area Board will be Wednesday, 8th March at Tisbury in the Nadder Centre at Tisbury.

As said last month, a planning application has been received by Wiltshire Council for around 130 dwellings at the west end of Mere. The Mere Town Council discussed this proposal at its meeting in the Grove Building, on the 6th February; the building was full with standing room only. I abstained should the application come before The Southern Area Committee on which I sit. It is worth noting that the application is outside the development boundary or the built environment.

A survey of England's 152 biggest local authorities shows that one in three have already drawn up proposed council tax increases of the maximum 4.99% that is allowed without the need for a referendum, including Hampshire, Wiltshire and Bristol.

The new updated Wiltshire Council website has a great informative page dedicated to business advice support. The page provides information about grant funding available for economic development within rural areas and is packed with useful information. For more information please visit 🌐: **[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/business-advice-support)**


Rural Business Grants are available from The Heart of Wessex. For a reminder on how to apply, and to see if your project is eligible, please visit our website where you will find a library of useful documents explaining the application process 🌐: **[www.heartofwessex.co.uk](http://www.heartofwessex.co.uk)**

## DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE



At the Area Board meeting on 1st February 2017 it was agreed that South West Wiltshire (the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton community areas)

would join the Dementia Action Alliance, with the work being monitored by the Health and Wellbeing Group. More information on the South West Wiltshire DAA is available on the Internet at:

 [http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local\\_alliances/21543\\_south\\_west\\_wiltshire\\_community\\_areas](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/21543_south_west_wiltshire_community_areas).


As explained in the background, there is already work going on within the area to promote dementia friendly communities through initiatives such as Dementia Friends, Safe Places and local support groups. Dementia friendly communities are defined by the Alzheimer's Society as being 'villages and towns where more people understand dementia, there is less fear and avoidance, and people living with dementia are included and supported to live independently for longer.' The aim of joining the DAA is to draw all of this work together and support individual parishes/communities in their efforts to raise awareness of dementia and make positive changes, exchanging ideas of what can be done and sharing what impact this has made.

The Area Board has requested that Parish/Town Councils appoint a 'Dementia Champion', in a similar way that has been done with previous schemes (e.g. Rights of Way). This person would be a first point of contact for the Area Board to liaise with and could either be a Parish/Town Councillor or a nominated member of the community. We would like that person (if possible) to attend a conference after the local elections in May (date/time to be confirmed) so that the alliance can be formally launched; it is envisaged that the conference will be held once/twice a year to update communities on the latest developments in the area and give that opportunity to share learning experiences.

If this is something that you feel you would like to get involved, with please contact your local Parish/Town Council or to find out more contact me.

*Steve Harris, Community Engagement Manager ☎: 01722 434211)*


: ***stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk***

You may have been celebrating Christmas and New Year, but we have been busy supporting the youth of Mere and the surrounding districts of South West Wiltshire. As a charity we have to submit our accounts and report to the Charity Commission and you can find it at : <https://tinyurl.com/jsswn9c> . Have a look. It makes encouraging reading.

Financially, we have had a successful year receiving funding from The Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund as part of the **Building Bridges** programme. This programme supports people across South West Wiltshire who face significant challenges in developing their skills, accessing education or moving towards the world of work. The programme is a partnership of organisations who are experts at supporting people and giving them the skills and confidence they need to move forward.

Taking part is entirely voluntary and all advice and support is offered free of charge. **Seeds4Success** are working with young people aged 15 – 19 years old who are at risk of becoming or who are already NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). This is both on a 1:1 basis to develop a personalised action plan, and through weekly group work sessions.


These sessions involve practical activities to develop skills, training courses, volunteering, CV writing, and other activities that young people feel will enhance their employability. Recently they have completed a big 3D model of a fish, made nest boxes for small birds as well as participating in cooking sessions, games and a night walk.

**Are you a local employer who would be able to support a young person with work experience or paid employment? If so, please get in touch.** There is more information at : <http://buildingbridgessw.org.uk/> on the Building Bridges website.

**Seeds4Success** also run a National Citizen Service team for year 11 & 12 students. You can find out more information about any of the programmes listed, book a space, arrange transport or even meet with a youth worker before coming along. Please do get in touch with me to find out more.

If you would like to nominate a young person for the project or you are a young person who wished to get involved, or would like to be a “peer leader” we would like to hear from you. We rely on young people to help with the youth committee and general running of our work and it all forms good experience.

More information about any of the projects is available from me directly but please note my regular working hours include evening and weekend sessions with young people, therefore I may not always see my emails on a daily basis. If your query is urgent please call my mobile number below. : [jaki@seeds4success.org.uk](mailto:jaki@seeds4success.org.uk)

*Jaki Farrell, Service Manager, : 07585 723824*



## MERE COMMUNITY POLICE TEAM

### Helping us to help you

**Community Policing** is now well and truly with us. Your Police Community Support Officers are out in the community speaking to everyone and assisting with issues daily that directly affect you. We submit intelligence reports on a daily basis and our response officers

then know what is going on in the area. They will deal with any issues and can target areas where you have told us that you have a concern. This is already working well as our response colleagues stopped a vehicle being driven with no MOT and fined the driver. A drink driver in Mere was stopped as a direct result of you telling me what was happening. My mobile number is at the end of this report. Call me if you need to speak about something, but remember I may get the occasional day off! So if I don't reply, leave a message, I will get back to you when I return. Call 101 if you need it dealt with now.

**Break-ins to sheds and vehicles are being reported almost daily...** Thieves target vehicles that they suspect have tools within. Please remove tools from a vehicle, or get an alarm fitted to it. If you have power tools in a shed, fit an alarm. They are not expensive and will give peace of mind. Don't leave anything on view in a vehicle as a criminal may smash your car window to find out what it is! Fit security lights and loud alarms if you are in a rural location. Join a Neighbourhood watch.

### Keep Informed on Crime

There are lots of ways to be updated about what is going on in your area. WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY MESSAGING is free to join and you can get local crime alerts and news when it occurs or is reported and tailor it to your needs. You can get e-mail news, text messaging etc. about items that concern you. It takes about 4 or 5 minutes to sign up and you can change the way you receive alerts at any time.

MERE POLICE FACEBOOK PAGE is another way of being informed. We put reports of any scams, frauds and cybercrime on there, with reports from ACTION FRAUD, DORSET CYBERCRIME UNIT and THE NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY. We will tell you what kinds of telephone frauds are being reported by others. You will be surprised how many there are. We also post on 'MERE MUTTERS' Facebook page.

WILTSHIRE POLICE WEBSITE is a useful place to visit, they have reports and news on county wide issues there.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH is still going strong and there is a dedicated website where you can get news and even find out where your nearest watch is and join online. Also, remember your local newspapers are always available.

We are reminded that not all of our residents have access to a computer, so if you know someone who wants to speak face to face with me, call me on ☎ 07471 029519. I will arrange to come and have a chat.



## 101 or 999

Often when people panic they remember the 999 number and call it. We are here 24/7 365 days a year to help you, but if it's identified as being a non-emergency then you may have to wait for another operator. We need to free up the 999 lines as there could be a life or death emergency waiting to get through.

Advice for calling 999

- call when it's an emergency
- crime is in progress
- someone suspected of a crime is nearby
- when there is danger to life
- when violence is being used or threatened

If you don't need an emergency response, then you should call **101** or use our online reporting form on our website. This could be to report a crime or to seek advice, for example: your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged or you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood. Calls to 101 incur a 15p charge but this is a flat fee for the entirety of the call [mobiles included].

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky 📠: 07471 029519  
✉️ [peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Registered Charity no. 1062328

☎️: **01747 860096**

The clocks will be changing soon and we can all look forward to more daylight hours. Can you please also look forward to the future of Mere and District Linkscheme. We keep hearing on the news of the extra work load on the NHS. That also means an extra workload on the Linkscheme when more patients have more medical appointments.

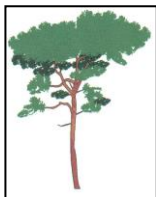
Can the Linkscheme look forward to YOU coming forward as a volunteer driver? You do exactly which journeys you wish and get repaid your costs at 45p a mile. You meet some very interesting people as well as making a worthwhile contribution to the local community. Your efforts are appreciated by everyone who uses the service.

Please at least give the possibility a thought, and if you want to know more contact us on the normal number ☎️: 01747 860096. Take care and thank you.

*Barbara Thomas. Secretary*

### **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**



## MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

### Walks 2017

Sunday	19th March	2.00pm
Sunday	23rd April	2.00pm
Sunday	21st May	2.00pm
Sunday	25th June	2.00pm
Sunday	9th July	7.30pm - moonlight walk
Sunday	23rd July	2.00pm
Sunday	20th August	10.00am
Sunday	17th September	2.00pm
Sunday	15th October	2.00pm

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Tuesday                      2nd January 2018      New Year's walk (details later)

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

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

*Jean Young ☎: 01747 860950 & Ann Newberry ☎: 01747 861184  
for Mere Footpath Group*

## NURSE NAYLOR'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

May I, and also on behalf of Nurse Janette Naylor, say a very big thank you for all involved, in any way, in her 100th Birthday Coffee and Cake Morning.

Locally to her patients she was known as Nurse Naylor and still is. She came to the area in the early 1950s as a District Nurse. She settled in Kingston Deverill as the Deverill valley was the main part of her patch along with Mere. She worked for doctors mainly from Mere but also other surgeries around. The overall area she went to when on relief duties etc., covered a big chunk of West Wiltshire. After retirement, about 40 years ago, she settled in Mere where she now lives. She has always done things like marmalade making for charities, collecting newspapers\* and all sorts of things.

Her Birthday celebration was a great do and brilliant to see so many people there. Not bad to get to 100, and then to have a "do" with 102 people coming along is very impressive, just as well everyone was not there all at once!! Thank you so much to all who sent cards, came along, made cakes, laid out the hall, wrote in the book, helped

tidy and generally gave up time to celebrate her birthday. With most of her working life based in the valley, in Mere and around, she knew so many of the people then living in the area that this 'do' was very fitting and she was both most surprised and honoured.

She was very keen not to have presents and this was very well respected, thank you. She thanks you very much for this and also for the very generous £342 donated to the Warminster Group of Save the Children, a charity very dear to her heart. From the "arrangers", thank you all very much for your respective involvement. This would not have been such a success without your willing and helpful participation.

*Tim Spinney ☎: 01985 214700*

*\*Indeed, she did. For many years our garage was the collecting, sorting and baling point for old newspapers in Mere, organised and operated by Janette, with help from her sister Barbara - Editor*

## **CARNIVAL 2017**

### **Quiz Night Fundraiser**

On Friday, 10th March, 7.15 for 7.30pm start in the Grove Building. Tables of four, includes raffle and refreshments.

### **Prizes at Carnival Fundraising Events**

Do you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them for use.

"Odd" items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, grocery, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into "prize boxes".

Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom.

### **Fundraising Bingo sessions**

Forthcoming fundraising bingos for your diary: Friday, 21st April, Friday 7th July, Friday, 1st September (This will be the one that is normally at the start of Carnival).

The venue will be the Grove Building. Doors open 6.45pm with "Eyes down" at 7.30pm. There will be a variety of prizes, raffle, refreshments. Fun for all the family.

Organised by Mere Carnival Committee with proceeds to Carnival Funds.

*Sue Jeans, For Mere Carnival Committee, ☎: 01747 860215*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE APRILISSUE**

**MONDAY, 20th MARCH 2017**

# PENNYBANK WRITERS & MLF POETRY COMPETITION

PennyBank Writers, the Mere & District Writing Group, are to be the new organisers of the Literary Festival's Biennial Poetry Competition, and this has been endorsed by the Mere & District Link Scheme (MDLS). PennyBank Writers take over from Adrienne Howell, who has run the festival competitions, as well as the events, but now wishes to reduce her workload. She wishes to thank all

the readers and moderators who helped with the preliminary judging over two decades. Mary White, speaking for PennyBank Writers, said there would be a few minor changes to the competition format but the Open, Local and one Junior Section will be retained. Full details on the competition and how to enter are available from Mere library, other outlets or on the festival website 🌐: [www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk)



PennyBank Writers now meet in the Small Hall at the Lecture Hall. This year the meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The friendly group meet to discuss and practise aspects of writing, share information and offer constructive comments on members' work as well as enjoying occasional outings, visiting speakers and reading



engagements.

New members are welcome. If you are interested in writing, be it for pleasure or profit, come along to the Lecture Hall or contact PennyBank Writers on the telephone number below for further details.

*Adrienne Howell* ☎: 01747 860475

## FLOWER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

### News

A recent meeting of interested parties in the church has set the scene for our Flower Festival with ideas in abundance regarding possible designs for floral displays to depict the "Celebration of the Community of Mere".

In addition, a great programme of musical events is planned to coincide with the festival which promises to offer something for everyone. Further details, including where to purchase your tickets, will be published in Mere Matters and on posters around the town nearer the time, but below is a taster of what will be on offer:


Thursday 8th June – Opening event with a Medley of Music for invited guests


Friday 9th June – A concert including Mere and Gillingham School choirs  
and Shreen Harmony

Saturday 10th June – An evening with the Farrant Singers (Chamber Choir)

Sunday 11th June – Church Service with the Bishop of Salisbury

In addition to these amazing concerts the church will also be open for you to wander around the floral art displays at your leisure on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

It is not too late to get involved with this event – please contact me for further details on the number below or my e-mail address is : [elisabeth@hillcrest.me.uk](mailto:elisabeth@hillcrest.me.uk)


*Elisabeth* : 01747 863324

### **‘Mere in Bloom’ week**


In Association with the Flower festival, Mere Garden Club are planning to hold a Hanging Basket and Tub Competition following the Festival. Judging will take place during the week beginning Saturday, 10th June, culminating in the following weekend, 17/18th June when, together with Friends of St Michael's, we are holding an Open Garden Weekend. Make sure you have this popular weekend in your diaries to explore those gardens hidden behind walls and hedges and view the Competition baskets! The winners of the Competition will be announced on the Saturday.

If, like me, your hanging baskets are not very successful, why not come along to the workshop we have arranged at Thorngroves, Gillingham, on Wednesday, 26th April 26 from 6.30-8.00pm. Take along your basket or tub and have help in planting them up with the Nursery's basket plants. You will be charged for the plants you use and they will supply a basket if you do not have one. Shared transport can be arranged for those who need it.


Please register for the workshop with me so that the nursery knows how many people to expect.

*Janet Way* : 01747 860884

## **THE COMMUNITY LUNCH**

After a very successful lunch in January, the next lunch will be held in The George Inn, The Square, Mere on Tuesday, 7th March 2017 at 12.30pm. The two course set lunch costs £9.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance : 01747 860427.

This monthly lunch runs from October to April for the people of Mere, new and old, young and fun, disabled and fit, lonely and sociable. All are welcome just as you are. For more details please call me.

*Lindy Elliott* : 01747 861646

## **"FAIR TRADE" NEWS**

### **Fair Trade Fortnight:**

We are now in the middle of Fair Trade Fortnight when we are encouraged to pop a Fair Trade product into our shopping baskets in order to help farmers and smallholders around the world raise themselves out of poverty. The small extra Fair Trade Premium really does make a difference to people's lives enabling them, for example, to feed their families, send their children to school, build a better home or perhaps, gain access to clean water.

I am holding my BIG BREW Coffee morning this year on Saturday, 4th March in the United Reformed Church, Boar Street from 10.30am-12.00pm. Do come along and enjoy a Fairly Traded Cuppa, share some Fair Trade Goodies, or a special cup-cake and learn more about the work of Traidcraft with some of the poor farmers who supply our everyday goods.

### **Fairly Traded Easter Eggs**

From the Real Chocolate Company. These are now ready to be bought or ordered but hurry as the supply runs out quickly. Each Egg contains a Fair Trade Snack Bar and the Easter Story and are available in Milk, Dark and a Special Edition

*Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

## **MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS**

The first month of the year has proved to be productive with good attendance from our Members. Track laying on our major "0" layout proceeds with the accuracy required for a layout of this size. Landscape work on the "00" layout proceeds and fine tuning of the electricity supply to the tracks and night time lighting.

The Club continues to attract a "panel" of many skills with the passing on of knowledge and skills to younger members. As a reminder, the club house at the back of Castle Street car park is open on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.00pm and visitors are very welcome.

Please note in your Diaries that our annual Model Railway Exhibition takes place in the Lecture Halls on Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th June 2017. For more information please see our website 🌐: [www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk](http://www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk) or contact me.

*Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977*

## **MERE CANCER RESEARCH**

We are now in full swing for the spring fundraising and we start off in style with the Spring Bazaar on Saturday, 11th March from 10.00 am to 12.00noon in the Lecture Hall. We have the usual wide range of stalls including a huge selection of Kitchenalia and of course our famous cakes! We have 4 guest stalls for you to enjoy including one selling a wide range of puzzles with all proceeds going to Great Ormond Street Hospital. Once you are all shopped out we have a nice cuppa waiting for you!

We are delighted to announce that the Warminster Military Wives Choir are coming back! Friday, 7th July at St. Michaels church. This is a joint fundraiser with the church and we will announce more details soon.

We are now starting to think about the May Fayre (Saturday, 20th May) and would be grateful if you would think about us when you are having your spring clean both inside and out in the shed or garage! We are looking for good quality items for the following stalls: Bric a Brac, Books, CDs and The Man Shed. We can arrange collection nearer the time of the big shed stuff!

We are always grateful for any help that anyone can give us to help raise funds to help us beat cancer sooner.

Contact us in one of the following ways: By ☎ below (after 6.00pm, please), by e-mail ✉: [merecancerresearch@mail.com](mailto:merecancerresearch@mail.com) or by Face book - Mere Cancer Research  
*Penny Fennon, Mere Cancer Research Press Officer, ☎ 07833 131712*

**Squeaky clean**

***Bookings now being taken from April onwards.***

***Windows, Gutters, Fascias & more***

***Call – Terry ☎: 07899 937482***

# MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

## **NEW PATIENT OFFER FREE HYGIENE APPOINTMENT**

Offer includes:

- 30 minute full examination
- X-rays
- Oral cancer check
- Gum disease screening
- Smile analysis
- Detailed treatment plan provided
- **Free 30 min hygiene appointment**
- **15% off on teeth whitening**

Dr Waheed Syed BDS, Dip dent implantology

Dr Jyothsna Mekala BDS DPDS

Dr Chris Davies BDS MSc F.odontidist



**Call us on 01747  
860365**

**Offer until March  
2017**

**Book a free  
consultation for  
implants**

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**Show your interest if  
you wish to be  
registered as NHS  
patient**

Mere Dental Practice  
Duchy Manor  
Springfield Road  
Mere  
BA12 6EW

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

## **MARCH SHORT WALK:**

Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park on Monday, 20th March for a short walk around Mere's byways and refresh afterwards with tea in the Angel Cafe.

*Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

## **WALKING IN MERE**

If you're planning to get out walking and exploring this spring, don't forget the Walking in Mere cards, which offer you a variety of walks of different lengths and abilities including one of the loveliest bluebell woods. Only £3 for 6 cards available at the Library, Angel Tea rooms, 'The Butt of Sherry' public house and 'Sprout & Flower'.

*Madelaine Morris ☎: 01747 861833*



Project  
Sunrise - Mere



VISION

## MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



### Youth Employment

There are few jobs available in this area for school leavers and other young people. We have had a request from the local youth charity **Seeds4Success** to try and find suitable local employers who could offer work experience or preferably paid employment. If you know of any possible openings, please get in touch with the Chamber on the contact details below. This would be a most worthwhile opportunity to help the local economy and give purpose to a young person's life. In the case of apprenticeships, government aid is available. A government website, <https://www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice/employer-grants-apprentices> gives more information on how these schemes operate.

### Automatic Enrolment for Pensions

This is a major topic which affects all small businesses. It is now a legal requirement for all businesses, not just large ones. If you still haven't got the information and registered, please seek advice urgently.

### Local Development

We made a verbal submission to the Council Meeting on 6th February, stating that more employment, particularly for young people, was more urgent in this area than extra housing developments. The meeting was well attended and some important points were made concerning probable strain on local facilities and infrastructure if the 130 houses in Castle Street development were to go ahead. However, the outline planning permission for was not supported by the Town Council.

### Safe Places

You may have seen the 'Safe Place' stickers which have been placed prominently in the window of businesses that have agreed to participate in the scheme, which is run by a separate organisation. The intention is that a confused person will be able to recognise the symbol and know they can be safe and receive assistance to return to their own home or relations. A personal plastic card is available for vulnerable people to carry with their name and contact details of a responsible person. The Chamber thanks those businesses which have agreed to participate.

If you are interested in helping the Chamber in any way, even if you are not in business yourself, please contact me on the number below, Julie Cousins

☎ 07856 700 576 or our email address is ✉ [merechamber@outlook.com](mailto:merechamber@outlook.com)

*Hamish Bell, President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade ☎: 01747 861717*



## TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

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

All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 13th March. Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

*Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

Would you like to meet some new people? Visit a town or city an hour or two from Mere, without having to drive yourself? Enjoy a sociable lunch and a visit to a theatre?

If that sounds like your cup of tea, why not join us, only £5 per household per year.

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

## MERE FILM SHOWS

This month we have two films for you, the first of which, on Thursday, 9th March is 'A Street Cat Named Bob' (12A) starring Luke Treadaway, Joanne Froggatt and Anthony Head. The film is from the autobiography of James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict whose life was transformed by the unlikely companionship of Bob, a stray ginger cat.

Bob adopts James, rather than the other way round, and as the relationship between the two develops the cat makes James smile again, gives him a reason to live. His social skills with people were not good, but with the cat he became stronger and happier. The film makes it clear that Bob personifies James's salvation and it was a lovely detail that one of the feline actors playing the cat was none other than Bob himself.

The second film this month on Thursday, 30th March is the much acclaimed film 'The Girl on the Train' (15) starring Emily Blunt and Haley Bennett, and is the adaptation of the best selling book by Paula Hawkins. Rachel Watson (Blunt) is an alcoholic divorcee who takes the same train to work each day and on her journey fantasizes about the relationship of Scott and Megan Hipwell who live a few doors down from her ex-husband Tom and his new wife and child.

One day, as the train passes, she sees something shocking, filling her with rage. She wakes next day with a horrible hangover, various wounds and bruises and no memory of the night before, but a feeling something bad has happened. Her unstable state leads her on a downward spiral that sees her embroiled in a missing persons investigation that will change her life forever. Full details on page 27.

## **Date for your Diary:**

Thursday, 20th April: 'Allied'

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

## **SHREEN HARMONY**

We are now settled into this year and are busy learning new songs and refreshing some old, ready for concerts to come.

The choir will be giving a concert on Thursday, 18th May, in the Methodist Church in Gillingham. It is aid of The Alzheimer's Society during its Awareness Week. We, and they, would welcome your support.

We are also performing in St Michaels Church on Friday, 9th June as part of **The Flower and Music Festival**. We are sharing the evening with choirs from both Mere and Gillingham Schools and it promises to be a really special night.

Three new members have joined us this year, but there are still a few vacancies in the Alto and Soprano sections. If you are interested please do come along and see us on any Thursday evening at 7.30 pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. There are no auditions – just have a love of singing, - and you will receive a warm welcome from us all.

Sandra Fisher, ☎: 01747 861980

## **MERE GRACENOTES...**

### **...sing for ShelterBox**

We have great pleasure in inviting you to a concert of very varied choral music on Wednesday, 29th March at 7.30 pm in St. Michael's Church, Mere.

No tickets are necessary, but donations for ShelterBox would be welcome. ShelterBox is a charity transforming lives after disaster strikes. Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218

## **SPECTRA MUSICA IN WINCANTON**

Spectra Musica, which includes several singers from Mere, are eagerly anticipating their return to the beautiful St.Luke and St.Teresa's Church, Wincanton at 7.30pm on Saturday, 1st April, All Fools' Day, with a concert entitled 'These foolish things'. However, Musical Director Peter Leech has compiled a programme which is far from foolish but as usual covers a huge range of musical genres. Anita D'Attellis will feature as usual.

Tickets, priced £12, are available from ☎: 01963 350160, from ✉: [tickets@spectramusica.co.uk](mailto:tickets@spectramusica.co.uk) or on the door.

Sally Greenhalgh, Chairman, ☎: 01749 860457

**Compton Smith - ¼ page advert**

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

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

We have recently had a couple of visits from 'Johnny Mac', a musician from Warminster, and our guests have really enjoyed him playing his guitar and banjo whilst singing along to some old favorites. A couple of guests really got in the mood and stood up and danced whilst others clapped and cheered, such a wonderful time was had by all, and we are hoping to have him back on regular occasions.

We are looking for two new volunteers, one to deliver the lunches from Fives Court to the community room in Lynch Close on the first Monday of each month, and another person to help do the washing up after lunch on the second Friday of each month. If you, or anyone you know could help, please get in touch with me on the number below.

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



## **MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Christmas seems long past although we still have the cold weather with us to remind us that Spring is still on its way. We had a most enjoyable Christmas party with guests, Mere hand bell ringers, carols, a pantomime, gifts and a buffet supper. We had no meeting in January but a New Year lunch together instead at The Ship, West Stour.

The Speaker from Codford, at our February meeting, gave us a talk about life as a country policeman's wife, certainly it was varied and colourful.

The March Meeting on 2nd March is our AGM when we shall be electing our President and committee members and enjoying a ploughman's supper and quizzes. Our next speaker will be at our normal meeting on Thursday, 6th April, 7.30 pm. in the Grove Building, a talk about 'Paradise for Birds'. Our quiz will be bird spotting and our competition, a decorated egg.

Sadly our membership is falling, due to moves away from Mere or ill health. We need a boost of new members with new ideas. Although we do have a full programme for the coming year we welcome input of suggestions, ideas and new energies. So do think about joining us, come and sample our March meeting, or if you were a former member, do think about rejoining. Hope to see you there.

*Hilary Gladding, President, ☎: 01747 861733*



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

Mothering Sunday is on 26th March this year, we're encouraging participation in MU's 'Make a Mother's Day' campaign with its imaginative ideas to bring hope and new opportunities to disadvantaged mothers and families in Argentina, Uganda, South Sudan, Papua New Guinea and other countries around the world – as well as in the UK. By giving an alternative 'gift of hope' – perhaps in thanksgiving for your own mother – you can make a real difference to poor families and communities. (Please ask me for a gift catalogue if you would like one.)

Our regular meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 7th March in the Grove Building could be an eye-opener for many of us, as Sue Allen from Warminster will be telling us about her work as a 'Street Pastor'. Everyone is welcome, as always.

*Judith Thompson* ☎: 01747 860553

## **MERE GARDEN CLUB**

### **AGM**

and

### **Spring Show**

**Wednesday, 8th March 7.30pm Grove Building**

Subs will be collected at the AGM and are £10. This is particularly good value this year as it covers 8 monthly talks, including the April and July talks, for which visitors will be charged £5, being given by speakers who have regularly appeared on TV or radio programmes. Membership also includes discounted shopping at local Garden Centres, Summer visits, a New Year Social and a Garden Party.

The AGM is a very relaxed occasion and fun as we vote for our favourite exhibits to determine the winners. Come and meet our members and enjoy a touch of Spring!

Schedules for this year's Spring Show are in the Post Office window and anyone is welcome to take part except for the Mere garden Club items (MGC).

***£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.***

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

🌐: <http://www.meregardenclub.org.uk/>

*Janet Way* ☎: 01747 860884

## GROVE BUILDINGS “100” CLUB

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for February 2017, drawn on Wednesday, 1st February by two Library volunteers, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 10	Mr Clive Hazzard
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 110	Mr 7 Mrs A Miller
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 207	Mrs J Fitzgerald

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

After weeks of rehearsals and the singing of many songs MADS pantomime ‘**Cinderella**’ takes place from Thursday, 2nd - Saturday, 4th March at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall with a matinee performance at 2.30pm on Saturday.

Don’t miss this tale of Cinders and her ‘poisonous’ sisters, the handsome prince and his loyal Buttons as things do not go quite according to plan. Will the Villain succeed in thwarting our hero and heroine or will his bungling sidekicks spoil his plans?

All this action includes many local people and topics cleverly drawn into the plot in true MADS tradition! If you are quick there should still be tickets available at £7.00 for adults or £3.50 for children from the Library, or phone ☎: 01747 861257.

Don’t miss it!

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## MERE MUSEUM

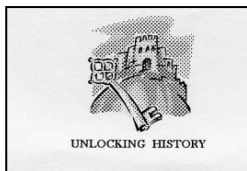
The new exhibition that recently opened in the Museum is a phantasmagoria of items gleaned from our ever-growing collection of objects and documents relating to the history of Mere. We have called it ‘**A Museum Medley**’ as that best describes assortment of artefacts on display. Just go and wander round; there are eight showcases and two display boards packed with surprising things and we are sure you will find much to delight, amuse or astonish you! The exhibition will continue until May.

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

As Spring approaches, and everyone begins to make plans lists of ‘things to do’ in the garden, may we ask you to add to your list: ‘pot up spare seedlings or surplus-to-requirements plant divisions so that they are in good shape for the Friends’ Plant Sale in May’? The date is almost certainly already inscribed in your diaries in ink, but just in case, we’ll remind you next month! (Actually it’s Saturday, 13th May!)

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*



# **Mere Historical Society**

## **Life and Times of the Iconic Vulcan Bomber**

**Tony Davies**

**Tuesday, 7th March 7.30pm in the Grove Building**

The Avro Vulcan is a jet-powered tailless delta wing high-altitude strategic bomber, which was operated by the Royal Air Force from 1956 until 1984. The last Vulcan made its final flight at the end of October 2016.

***Members, when you come please make sure you pick up your Newsletter, which includes details and booking forms for 2017 visits.***

**£3 entry for non members who are very welcome**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Morning talk: Tuesday 21st March:**

**“Will’s London – danger, vanity and vice”** Talk by Gerry Cook.

To be held in the Grove Building at 10.15 for 10.30am.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note: our AGM will be on Tuesday, 4th April at 7.00pm** for a glass of wine while you pay your **sub for 2017/18** which will be **£10**. The AGM will be followed by the talk listed in your Autumn Newsletter (September 2016).



**: merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

*Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797*

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

proudly presents

# **'A Street Cat Named Bob' (12A)**

The true feel-good story of how James Bowen, a busker and recovering drug addict, had his life transformed when he met a stray ginger cat.

**Thursday, 9th March, 2017**  
**at 7.30pm** (*Doors open 7.00pm*)

-----

# **'The Girl on the Train'**

Rachel travels every day by train past the Hipwells' house - a few doors from where her ex-husband lives with his new wife and child, and fantasizes about their seemingly perfect lives. One day she witnesses something shocking and is drawn to finding out what really happened.

**Thursday, 30th March, 2017**  
**At 7.30pm** (*Doors open 7.00pm*)  
**In The Lecture Hall**  
**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from The Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

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



## **BOWLS CLUB**

Wednesday, 1st February saw the majority of the Club gather at the Coppleridge Inn in Motcombe for our annual dinner and prize giving, a great night was had by all. The addition of a coach, provided by the Club, with suitable pick-up points on route added to the night's enjoyment. We now look forward to the new season with hope and added endeavour to win prizes in Club competitions so that we can have our names called next year!

The Club will open for the new 2017 season on Saturday 22nd April, and we have made an informed decision within the Club not to hold formal Open or

Coaching Days this year, as in the past these have not proved to be overly fruitful. If any member of the Mere and surrounding area would like to try bowls as a truly friendly and low impact sport, then just turn up at the green in the school grounds on any Tuesday or Thursday evening at 5.00pm or any Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm and a warm welcome is guaranteed, along with an introduction to the game and possibly a cup of tea and a biscuit.

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 CROQUET & BOULES CLUB**

Sadly I have to report the death of Rex Roberts last November. Rex was one of the founding members of the club and an excellent secretary. He will be much missed.

We will start the 2017 new season with an open day on Saturday, 8th April, 2.00 until 5.00pm and celebrate our opening with a glass of wine, nibbles and a raffle. New members are welcome, so please do come along and join us. Whether you are a complete novice or an experienced player, you will be welcome. No equipment is needed and if you don't know how to play, members will teach you, so come and have some fun and play some games of croquet, or boules, or both. We are a friendly non competitive club but boules players can play in league matches if they wish.

*Hilary Gladding, Treasurer, ☎: 01747 861733*



# Mere School Reports

## **Blue Class**

The children have enjoyed visits from the police and fire station.

They are learning to understand who helps them in the community.

## **Yellow Class**

Yellow class have been busy learning the story of 'We are going on a Bear Hunt'.

They have then rewritten the story for a journey to the moon!

## **Silver Class**

Year 2 have been learning all about Super Heroes.

They have acted out a superhero story and created a fantastic superhero dance.

## **Gold Class**

It's the term of growing things in Year 3. The children will be taking part in a competition to grow a sunflower.

They have learnt about the things that a plant needs to grow.

## **Green Class**

Y4 are in the world of the Ancient Egyptians!

They are looking forward to a visit from the Wiltshire Scrap Store after half term when they will be making death masks.

## **Red Class**

The Y5 children are deep in the Rainforest and are busy creating jungle art and finding out about South American countries

## **Purple Class**

Purple class have just returned from a fantastic visit to a science museum where they enjoyed many different interactive activities based on space.

## **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)**

## **ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

### **For Young Parish Intern**

Would you be interested in providing accommodation for an intern who may be coming to St Michaels Church from September 2017 to July 2018? This is under a scheme run by the Diocese of Salisbury, which is offering £50 a week to hosts, to encourage young vocations and it is particularly interested in assigning a young person to a rural parish.

At St Michaels we consider that we would be ideally placed to provide significant rural experience and would relish the opportunity this presents. Please call me on the number below for further information or to register an interest.

*Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary ☎: 01747 861319*

### **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**

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

As we start the Lent Lunches at the Grove Buildings, we are also planning Christian Aid Week itself, in the middle of May.

I do know how difficult it is to be a collector. It does require a couple of hours of your time and occasionally, but thankfully not too often, you may receive some difficult responses on the doorstep. This is not a popular job at all and recruiting help is very hard, almost impossible, especially as we are all getting older!

If you feel you could help me this year I would be very pleased if you could perhaps just cover your own road or even a few houses around you - I do not need you to walk half

of Mere. I will be at all the Lent Lunches and would be most grateful of any offer of help, however small.

In 2016, thanks to our collectors, the people of Mere gave over £1,100. With all the terrible crisis around the world today, it would be wonderful to at least equal that this year. Many thanks.

*Sandra Fisher* ☎: 01747 861980

## MERE PEOPLE AID SYRIAN REFUGEES

Samara's Aid Appeal, a self-funded appeal operating under the auspices of the UK registered charity, Feed the Hungry, which helps Syrian refugees and which Mere people have been so generously supporting, is excited to tell you that a huge lorry left on Monday 23rd January bound for Iraq and Syria, where millions are suffering unimaginable hardship. It was packed to every spare inch with boxes of clothes, shoes, bedding, care packs for babies and even the occasional wheelchair and walking frame.

Over the preceding two weeks, bags and bags of donations had been carefully sorted and packed in banana boxes (these being just the right size and kindly donated by local shopkeepers), then labelled ready to be transported when the lorry arrived. To these contributions were added those collected by other volunteers from other areas. A local farmer provided temporary, dry storage and access for both volunteers and finally access to the massive lorry.

A cheerful group of volunteers formed a chain to pass the boxes into the lorry. This time we were lucky enough to have the help of a fork lift truck as well, which made the job so much quicker than on the last packing in October. This shipment was an extra one, a top-up to the one sent in the autumn. We hoped its cargo would relieve the refugees a little as they faced the harsh weather of winter. Finally the doors were closed and the lorry set off on its long journey to the Middle East.

Collections will continue as the need is still out there!. Lots more information on this initiative can be found on 🌐: **[www.samarasaidappeal.org](http://www.samarasaidappeal.org)** This includes the remarkable and moving story of how this charity came into being.

The response to this appeal has been amazing. Local people have demonstrated their sincerity, kindness and incredible generosity. We celebrate their efforts to offer a meaningful gift to those in our world who have nothing.

*Carole Marshall* ☎: 01747 861905



## IN MERE & DISTRICT

Lent begins on 1st March (Ash Wednesday). There are two main church-based Lent Study groups this year and anyone – wherever you live - is welcome to attend either course. The Mere group's subject is 'Busyness – Finding God in the Whirlwind' and will meet at the Vicarage in Angel Lane on Sundays from 5.00-6.00pm starting on the last Sunday *before* Lent, 26th February. To book a place, please sign the list at back of St Michael's Church or phone either number below.

The Upper Stour course 'The Mystery of Everything' is based on the Oscar-winning film about Stephen Hawking, 'The Theory of Everything' and provides a lively approach to many important faith and ethical issues. There are three possible times and venues for this course (start dates given in brackets):

- Fridays 11.00am Church Room, Zeals (3rd March)
- Wednesdays 7.30pm Manor Farm, Kilmington (8th March)
- Thursdays 10.00am Randalls Barn, Bourton (9th March)

Contact Graham Perryman ☎: [parishoffice@upperstour.net](mailto:parishoffice@upperstour.net) or ☎: 01747 840221 for further details, or to book a place.

Please note you are also welcome to attend 'Stations of the Cross' at St Mary's RC Church in Mere at 11.00am on Fridays in Lent, and please come if you can to the Churches Together Taize service to be held at St Mary's on Sunday, 12th March at 6.30pm, at which the focus will be praying for peace in Syria.

Everyone is also welcome (including men!) to the Women's World Day of Prayer service which takes place at 11.00am on Friday, 3rd March at St Michael's Church, Mere, and will be followed by the first Lent Lunch in the Grove Building at 12.30pm. There will also be Lent lunches on Fridays, 24th & 31st March, and on 7th & 14th April.

### **And Finally**

Last but not least, please be sure to mark in your diary and keep clear Wednesday, 3rd May 10.00am-3.00pm for a Churches Together in Mere and District Quiet Day in the beautiful surroundings of the Franciscan Friary at Hilfield (nr Sherbourne). Don't miss it!

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884)*

*Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*

## **THE REV'D GRAHAM PERRYMAN, PRIEST IN CHARGE OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR WRITES:**

Dear Friends,

Like many people, I find it hard to say 'no'. Not simply to chocolate, another pint, or another flick around to TV channels to see if there is anything worth watching, but also to requests to take on additional responsibilities or events. Perhaps that is why I am writing this letter!

It has taken me far too long (and I still haven't cracked it!) to realise that if I am to take on something new, something I am already doing must go. And if I don't choose what is to go, then that 'new thing' will take time away from those things that are important, but not urgent.

It may take the place of sleep, time with my family, time to read or pray, time to exercise or eat sensibly. And the result of unintentionally giving up those things means that I am then no good to anyone, or for anything.

Lent is a good time to think about the big questions of life. It is the time when Christians recall the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness – his time of preparation for the beginning of his ministry. For many today, Lent is simply a time to give up something they should probably give up anyway.

May I challenge you this Lent, not only to consider what you might *give up*, but to think about what you might *take up*? Why give up something and make time to come and join us at one of this year's Lent Groups? You will find new friends, and a lively, thought-provoking discussion. Again, you will find details elsewhere in this magazine.

The Diocese of Salisbury has produced an excellent Lent resource called 'Praying Together'. For every day in Lent, it includes a short reading from the Bible, a reflection on that reading, a prayer, and an action we might take in response to the reading. Copies are available in the Anglican churches or, I'm told, you can download it on an app.


Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March, with a special service in your local church (details elsewhere). We'd love to see you there.

**And finally, to make you smile** - (especially if you made a New Year resolution to lose weight!) "I don't mean to boast, but I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes."

Your friend in Christ,

*Graham*

## LENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION

Salisbury Diocese have issued a booklet "Praying Together" for Lent to encourage Diocesan wide reflection and prayer to enable us to "reflect, pray, act". It is a daily resource, which you can get as an app from the Diocesan website : [www.salisbury.anglican.org.uk](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org.uk) or a hard copy from local Anglican churches.

Every Monday in St Michaels during Lent from 10.00 - 10.30am (please be prompt) we will study the day's reflection as a group before the Ministry Team meeting. All are welcome. This is in addition to Sunday night "busyness" course


*Sherry Dixon, St Michaels PCC Secretary, ☎: 017474 861319*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

### MARCH 2017

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:**

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


: [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

**Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎: 01747 863424**

**Mrs Lindy Elliott ☎: 01747 861646**

**PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon**

 **office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

 **01747 861319**

**Each Sunday** 8.00am

**Each Wednesday of Lent** 12.00pm

**Each Friday** 8.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion

Holy Communion (CW1)

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

Ash Wednesday 1st 12.00pm  
7.30pm

Holy Communion BCP

Wednesday Communion

Both services include ashing

Saturday 4th 4.00pm

Guild of Bellringers service

Sunday 5th 10.30am

Family Communion Lent 1

Evensong

Tuesday 7th 3.00pm

'Start the Month'

Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 12th 10.30am

Holy Communion (CW1) Lent 2

Taizé at St Mary's RC

\*19th 10.30am


Holy Communion (CW1) Lent 3

26th 10.30am

Mothering Sunday family service  
Lent 4 (no communion)

\*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

### **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday 5th 11.00am

Mrs Jane Hurd

Holy Communion

12th 11.00am

Rev'd Colin Marsh



19th 11.00am

Rev'd Margaret Laurie

26th 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 Saturday 5.30pm

Mass

Every Friday during Lent 11.00am

Stations of the Cross

Sunday 12th 6.30pm

Churches Together, Prayer  
for Peace in Syria (Taizé)

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, Lent 1
	12th	9.30am	Matins, Lent 2
	19th	9.30am	DIY, Lent 3
	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion Lent, 4

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

## DIARY DATES

### MARCH 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
1	Wed	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	Seated Core and Strength training	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute meeting	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Cinderella"	L
3	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		12.00pm	Lent Lunch (also 24 & 31)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Cinderella"	L
4	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	C
		2.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Cinderella" matinee	L
		7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Cinderella"	L

6	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Zumba Level Intermediate (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	- 1.00pm Dressmaking Small Hall (every Monday)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming Worldn(every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
7	Tue	12.30pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2.00pm	4.00pm "Get On-line" Drop-in session	Lib
		2.30pm	Mothers Union meeting	GB
		2.30pm	Seated Core and Strength training (every Tuesday)	L
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
8	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Garden Club	GB
9	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "A Streetcat Named Bob"	L
10	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 24th)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
		7.30pm	Carnival Fundraising Quiz Night	GB
11	Sat	10.00am	- 12.00noon Cancer Research Spring Fayre	L
13	Mon	7.30pm	Mere Am. Dram. Socy (MADS) Meeting (Green R.)	L
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 28th)	CC
		2.30pm	Mothers Union meeting	GB
		7.00pm	Yoga (also 21 & 28)	GB
15	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.00pm T@3	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Get On-line" Drop-in	Angel Tea Rooms
18	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
19	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
20	Mon	2.00pm	February Short Walk	CP
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
		7.00pm	Mere Town Youth Football Club Bingo	L
29	Wed	7.30pm	Mere Gracenotes Concert	St Michaels
30	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "The Girl on the Train"	L

## 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

**By appointment only** (☎: 0300 003 4569)

& DEATHS:

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 APRIL 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 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, 20th March 2017**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 13th March 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.**

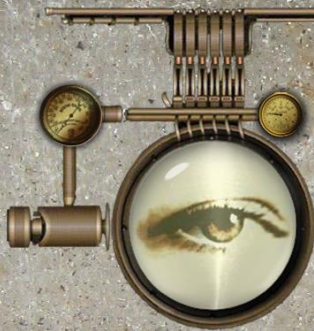
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Mrs Jane Kennedy

☎: [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)

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