

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



MAY 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 town - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 8th May 2017** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

The closure of Lloyds Bank in Mere was confirmed last week by letters being received by their customers. The Bank will close on Monday, 25th September. I had a meeting with the Mere and Gillingham Branch Manager and expressed my regret at the loss of the Bank in Mere. I personally prefer to do my banking at the branch dealing with a real person. Lloyds are planning to run a number of workshops in Mere to show customers how to use Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, and Telephone Banking. Lloyds also plan to operate a mobile branch service in Mere after the closure.

The planning application for the conversion and renovation of the Old Ship Hotel into seven apartments and two three bedroom cottages and the construction of a new two bedroom Cottage, was approved by Wiltshire Council's Southern Area Planning Committee at Salisbury on the 6th April.

County and Town Council elections will take place on Thursday, 4th May in Mere. The Polling Station will be in the Lecture Hall. The elections are your opportunity to vote for councillors of your choice who will work on your behalf for the next four years. Please make time to vote.

The candidates for Mere Town Council (15 seats) are:

Nicholas Beale, Aubrey Colman, Philip Coward, Rodney Coward, Clive Hazzard, Raymond Hill, Jane Hurd, Glen Ings, George Jeans, John Jordan, Alan Mead, Eric Mitchell, Brett Norris, Roy Sims, Kate Symonds and Lesley Traves.

The Poll will be taken together with the Unitary [Wiltshire Council] Election. The candidates for the Unitary Election (1 seat) are:

George Jeans (Independent), John Jordan (Labour Party) and Mike Liddicoat (Conservative Party).

Three existing Town Councillors have decided not to stand again, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors Mark Cassidy, Richard Hughes and Bob Parsons for all the work they have done over the years for the community and the Town, as all three have been active councillors and will be missed.

As I come to the end of my term as Chairman, I would like to thank the Vice Chairman, John Jordan, for all his help and support over the last two years. I would also like to thank all the members of the Town council for their hard work, support and commitment. It has been an honour to serve them as chairman. The Town council's greatest asset is its staff and they are truly superb and an absolute joy to work with. Thank you. Finally, I would like to thank the people of Mere for giving me the opportunity to represent them on the Town Council.

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

Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 7th March where it was reported that, despite the Parish Council & Cllr. George Jeans putting pressure on Wiltshire Council for the C297 New Close (the road leading from the village up to Willoughby Hedge) to go on the priority list for resurfacing, the response had been disappointing with the Highways Authority stating that the issue appeared to be with edge deterioration/verge damage and resurfacing would not fully address the problems on the road. They said that they would look at the potential of other treatments to address these issues.

The Council reported that members and volunteers had cleaned the play equipment in the play area, ready for use in the spring/summer. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had registered its interest in adopting the BT payphone kiosk in the village, following the consultation by BT to remove the phone box. Unfortunately, owing to the sad death of Mr. Cumberlege from East Knoyle who used to administer the village website, the site is no longer registered and the domain name is no longer valid. However, thanks to Mr. Tim Thornley, the website will soon be up and running again under the new address: **www.westknoyle.org** and he is hoping that he will be able to retrieve all the previous information.

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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**

There have been a few incidents of fly tipping within the village over the last few weeks with one of them being particularly problematic to deal with as land ownership responsibilities have been questioned. As I write this report, the matter is still not resolved. I would like to urge all villagers to be watchful and to take down the details of any vehicles that they think might be fly tipping.

The Parish Council has just heard that, although there will be an election for the Unitary Authority Councillor in the village on Thursday, 4th May, there will not be an election for the Parish Council members as the number of candidates is the same as the number of seats. Therefore the Parish Council election is uncontested and the candidates will automatically become Parish Councillors on Monday, 8th May. Your new Parish Councillors will be:

Jinny Brockway, Tony Davis, Andre Filleau, Cathleen Hoskins and Paul Yates.

There is, however, a contested Unitary Council (Wiltshire Council) election (1 seat). Your candidates are:

George Jeans (Independent), John Jordan (Labour Party) and Mike Liddicoat (Conservative Party).

Two of our existing members have decided not to stand as Parish Councillors again and, on behalf of the Parish Council and the community of West Knoyle, I would like to thank Ruth Dresman and Brian Wessely for all the work that they have done for the village over the last few years.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th May at 7.00 pm – this will be the Annual Parish Meeting (Public Meeting) and the Annual Parish Council meeting will follow on immediately afterwards.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

On account of the forthcoming election on Thursday, 4th May, at the time of writing, Wiltshire Council is now 'in purdah', a period that runs for six weeks. In this period I still attend regularity committees and panels such as planning, licensing etc.

On the 6th April, the Southern Area Planning Committee, on which I sit, was requested to allow change of use for The Old Ship Hotel, Mere to seven flats and two houses. The committee agreed this change. I had some conditions attached, for example allocated parking, the need for the splendid wrought-iron sign, the work of Kingston Avery, to remain a sign with a suspended sign board and not to be reduced to a bracket without a sign board. In its listing it is described as a sign. The need for the doors in the archway to remain as wood and not glass.

Future Southern Area Planning Committees appear to be brought forward to 3.00pm rather than 6.00pm as is now, which may be more difficult for working people to attend.

It saddens me the Mere branch of Lloyds Bank which is adjacent to The Old Ship will now be closing on the 25th September this year. It was perhaps inevitable. Interestingly, I was contacted by Lloyds around a year ago after I had suggested publicly that the branch being open only two days a week it was likely to close, I was told this was not the case! I appears now that it is the case.

An environmentally friendly heating system has been installed at Stourhead House, but for The National Trust to use its own supply of woodchips and to store it

undercover, known as a biomass store, has proven controversial to some local residents. I have put in much time into trying to improve the impact of this application on nearby residents, but some local residents and Stourton Parish Council were still concerned. Therefore I had the application referred to committee, which will now be decided in public, and is scheduled for the Tuesday, 30th May, at 3.00pm in Salisbury.

The Mere Snooker club is in danger of closing unless more members can be found. Recently, after publicity, some have come forward. If any of you in Mere, West Knoyle, Zeals, Stourton or Kilmington would like to play Snooker, please consider the above. The Mere Social Club has a table, however it is not dedicated just to Snooker.

Wiltshire Council still survey for the skid resistance of highways. However, at present much reliance is placed on the 'My Wiltshire' app, which is used amongst other matters to report highways issues, especially potholes, of which we have many. I read back in January that under Government plans, a national trial was to be carried out that refuse lorries were to be fitted with high-definition cameras to identify defects on roads that could become potholes. I attended the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on which I sit recently when the question was asked as to where Wiltshire could participate. It was affirmed that the Council would do so. Identification is one thing, providing the finance to remedy the situation is another!

I have been assured that some road maintenance in our area will take place in the summer. While discussing highways, I receive regular complaints regarding litter and street cleaning. I have witnessed local individuals doing litter picks themselves for which I thank them.

Potholes can be expensive. Peterborough Council has been ordered to pay £10,000 for repairs to a Ferrari owner after it was damaged from a pothole. The sum for the pothole, which could have been repaired for £53, was awarded in the small claims court with driver Scott Nicholas saying he will donate the money to charity.

I attended a two-hour slot at a Zeals presentation regarding a scheme costing tens of thousands of pounds, which will implement a reduced speed limit for Zeals. It is

proposed to introduce a priority scheme though Zeals on Main Road that many of us use. I am aware of some concerns that have arisen since the public presentation, such as a incomplete pavement at Portals Lane and traffic priority structures in some areas of the scheme.

I receive complaints of vehicles parked on pavements in the area. Parking on pavements could soon be banned in the UK if local authorities are granted more power to enforce new legislation. The DfT is examining the issue as part of its cycling and walking investment strategy and, should the ban be passed, drivers could face a fine of up to £70.



MERE COMMUNITY POLICE TEAM

Vehicle Parking and Obstructions

We have been dealing with some instances of disputes over parking in Mere and the surrounding area. Here are a few guidelines.....

Please do not block access to other vehicles and leave enough space for vehicles to exit and enter. Do not park on a dropped kerb.

The space outside of your house is NOT yours (unless it is a space marked with your house number by the council or you have a disabled marked bay). We often get calls when people who think that it is their space and have to tell them 'It is not!'.

Parking on Zig Zags by a Pedestrian crossing is illegal and police officers will ticket you.

If you suspect a vehicle has been used in crime, call police on '101'.

If a car is parked in your street and you suspect it has been dumped, you can check on the DVLA website to see if it is taxed. If it is SORN (notified off road) DVLA will clamp and tow it away! If you want to report a dumped car to Wiltshire Council, it has a web page to do this, and after putting a notice on it for 14 days the Council will tow it away.

Parking on double yellows is only allowed if you display a disabled badge, and you must not be parked where you are causing an obstruction. Traffic wardens now issue tickets for these, not Police. We only deal if a vehicle is causing an obstruction. We have the power to tow away a vehicle that is doing so.

Buses are allowed to park on yellows to load and unload passengers.

Most people park sensibly and we tend to notice the 'bad' ones. If anyone blocks someone in after being spoken to by police, then we have the option of ticketing for 'Willful Obstruction', which carries a heftier fine! Beware....

If you have an issue with parking, call me on the number below and I can advise you. Remember, my phone number at the end of this report is only to contact me. I may be on a rest day, so if you need something dealt with call 101 for non emergencies and 999 in an emergency. You can text me on my phone if you need to. You can leave a

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07710 008744 georgiereflexology.com

message on the answerphone and I will get back to you when I am back on duty. You can also e-mail me on the e-mail address also shown at the end of this report.

Hare Coursing is an Offence!

If you spot males with (usually) Lurcher type dogs and see them chasing Hares or Deer, call police on 999. If you can safely get an index of a vehicle, write it down and give it to us. We have had several convictions in North Wiltshire backed up by good evidence from the public. The offenders use 4 x 4 type vehicles and damage crops and fencing during these activities.

A green Subaru Forester was seen recently in Stourton. Offenders made off when a member of the public drove towards them! Do not confront these people, but be vigilant and get descriptions etc. If they make off, give direction of travel. At night they use lamps so be alert to this.

Warm Weather Security!

Spring is here and we ask you to be secure when in your garden; lots of criminals are opportunists who spot an open window or door. If you are in the back garden, don't leave the front door open! Close windows, especially on the ground level when you go out. Get some lamps put on timers so they come on randomly when you go out at night, you can get these from supermarkets now and they are cheap. Some for under £5!

Keep garden furniture locked away, chain it all together when you go away to make it more difficult for a thief. Lock bikes etc in sheds, so often we have them stolen as they are left outside on the front lawn or on a driveway.

Get a shed alarm fitted. Think now... What would it cost to replace my tools etc.? A shed alarm is a deterrent to the casual burglar.. A light on a sensor is also a good idea.

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky, ☎: 101

☎: 07471 029519

✉ peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk



FLOWER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, 9th – Sunday, 11th June 2017



This event is fast approaching and is getting very exciting – there are amazing ideas that will come to fruition to create a spectacular display of flowers in our beautiful church and in various shop and business windows in the town which will truly celebrate the “Community of Mere”.



Alongside this there will be musical concerts and performances throughout the weekend to suit a huge variety of musical tastes – be sure to come along to at least one of them!

A brief outline is given below and there are separate advertisements for the larger concerts within this month's edition of Mere Matters.

Friday, 9th June @ 7.00pm

Concert with local school choirs and Shreen Harmony. Tickets £5 on door (children free)

Saturday, 10th June @ 7.30pm

An evening with the Farrant Singers. Tickets £10 on door or book with : www.farrantsingers.org or : 01747 861212

During the day throughout the weekend

Short performances by local musicians including hand bells; organ music



Sunday, 11th June

Church Services at 10.30am (Communion) and 4.30pm (Songs of Praise).

The flower festival will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10am – 4pm and on Sunday from 12noon – 4pm. Refreshments of teas, coffees and light lunches will be available throughout this time in the Grove Building.

Why not invite someone else to join in this event.....

If you have not received one already, there will shortly be a post-card arriving on your doormat which is designed to be sent or given to family and friends from outside Mere to tell them about the Flower and Music Festival. If for any reason you have been “missed out”, please make sure you pick one up from ‘Sprout and Flower’ or the Library and then send it on to someone who you think might be interested to come along.

Elisabeth : 01747 863324 : festival@hillcrest.me.uk

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS (M&DRM)

Its nearly Summer and how time rushes by! Our members appear to have everything under control as we lead into the couple of months prior to our Annual Exhibition on Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th June in the Mere Lecture Halls.

Our first Saturday morning opening attracted three members who spent their time tidying up and re-arranging the furniture!

To the Youth of Mere

Are you a venture Scout or partaking in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, or enjoy camping? Well there is an opportunity for you to star for two weeks on a Channel 4 TV adventure in Scotland all expenses paid.

Love Productions, the makers of 'The Great British Bake Off', are going to build the biggest model railway ever constructed and **they need your help**. This ground-breaking TV event will use 3 metre lengths of plastic track to gauge 'O' to complete a 72

mile route along the Great Glen Way from Fort William to Inverness. Dates are from Monday, 19th June 2017 for at least two weeks!

And the not so young

Likewise if you are a professional engineer, builder or carpenter and fancy a challenge/holiday. Get involved by using your creative thinking to overcome the gradients involved by designing and making the bridges and pulley systems that will be required.

For further information on this novel project: ✉: trains@loveproductions.co.uk, text 📠: 07759 317271 or call ☎: 0207 0674820.

For further information about our active little club, please refer to our website 🌐:- www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk or contact me.

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants Available for 2017

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

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

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Friday, 30th June and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of this date.

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

VISIT HILLBRUSH

Shop, Eat, Discover

A new destination for eating, shopping and learning in Mere, has opened to the public after a £9 million investment into a Visitor Centre and purpose built manufacturing and distribution facility for the Hillbrush family business.

Hillbrush, a brushware and hygienic cleaning tools manufacturer that is one of the South West's largest manufacturing companies, has created Visit Hillbrush to provide a community hub for locals as well as a welcome alternative to travellers wanting a break from the busy A303 road.

The Visit Hillbrush restaurant will serve delicious locally sourced food and drink, as well as 'grab & go' meals, while members of the public can also purchase high quality Hillbrush products. The company's rich 95-year history is also celebrated with a stimulating and educational museum. Exhibits include How Many Brushes in your Home? Fibres from Around the World, historic videos, restored antique brush machines and imagery of Royal visits.

Based in Norwood Park, and conveniently located just minutes from the A303, The Royal warrant holders have come a long way since Hillbrush was founded in 1922 by brothers Fred and Bill Coward on Castle Hill. The company is now headed up by the third and fourth generation of Cowards; Managing Director Philip Coward and son and

nephew, Charlie and Andy Coward. It employs over 100 people, many of whom have worked for Hillbrush all their working lives.

Commercial Director Charlie Coward said at the opening ceremony in April: "We are absolutely delighted to open Visit Hillbrush to the public today. We have been planning the business relocation for many years, as well as the Visitors Centre, so this is a very special day in the company's history.

"We hope members of the public, and travellers alike, will come and enjoy what Hillbrush has to offer; be it a tasty lunch, a lovely afternoon coffee or a chance to learn about the Hillbrush company and the many quirky statistics and facts about the making of brushes. Visit Hillbrush is a contemporary yet warm and comfortable venue and we want to give back to the town of Mere and the surrounding area. That is why I am also delighted to announce that Visit Hillbrush will be sponsoring the Mere Cricket and football clubs, as well as renewing our sponsorship with North Dorset RFC. Visit Hillbrush is about giving local people a personal experience they'll want to enjoy again and again, as well as establishing ourselves as a key destination on one of the UK's busy tourist routes".

There is on-site free parking for visitors, and the Opening Times of the Visitor Centre are: Mondays to Saturdays from 8.00am - 6.00pm and on Sundays from 8.00am - 4.00pm. For more information contact 'Visit Hill Brush' ☎: 01747 440077

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 🌐: 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*

THE LATE JOY COOPER

My mother Joy Cooper lived in Burton just outside Mere for about thirty-five years. Last month she died there aged 89. She had many friends in and around the area, including some who used to go to a youth group she ran at the Grove building about thirty years ago (the 'Monday Club').

On Monday, 8th May at 3.30pm we are holding a small memorial event at the Grove Building. This is open to anyone who knew her to look back on their friendship with her, say a quiet 'thank you and farewell', and meet others who had enjoyed her company over the years. We are not planning a religious service. Rather we are thinking of a half hour or so looking back over her life - people giving their memories of her, a slide show of photos, a reading or two and brief prayer. All followed by tea, chat, and the sharing of memories.

Trevor Cooper ☎: 01903 885349

MERE RIVERS GROUP (MRG)

Open Evening & AGM

Friday, 19th May, 7.00pm in The Grove Building

In its last report the MRG promised to keep you informed about its activities. You are, therefore, invited to its Open Evening and AGM on Friday, 19th May at 7.00pm in the Grove Building. Come along and you can enjoy coffee and biscuits, hear about the history and geology of Mere's rivers and the ongoing work of the Mere Rivers Group.

When Mere's rivers are flowing prettily it is all too easy to forget the danger to these local amenities posed by commercial interests and the growing demand for water from new housing developments.

MRG value your input and support. Do join us on 19th May when any views and ideas you may have on the future of The Shreen and Ashfield Water will be welcome.

Adrienne Howell, MRG, ☎: 01747 860475



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 17th May at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday the 15th May.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

MAY SHORT WALK:

This will take place on Thursday, 4th May to the bluebell woods. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

The wait is nearly over: the 2017 Wylfe Valley Art Trail is nearly upon us. Painters, sculptors, potters, glass artists, jewellery and furniture makers, photographers and even a milliner are throwing open their studio doors to the art-loving public from Saturday, 27th May until Sunday, 4th June.


The Wylfe Valley Art Trail is the largest and most diverse open studios event in Wiltshire, and takes place in some of the most gorgeous countryside this beautiful county has to offer. There are 73 venues in locations from tiny rural outposts to bustling


market towns, all within a ten-mile radius of the centre of the Wylde Valley in south Wiltshire. Some artists are exhibiting in their own studios, others have grouped together to show in larger spaces, such as village halls and even galleries.

There are award-winning artists with an international clientele exhibiting close by others who are only just starting out along their creative path, traditionalist landscape painters near abstract digital artists, glassblowers not far from scrap metal sculptors, potters hard by jewellers: there's something to suit every taste and, if you're in the market to buy, every budget.


Artists are, in the main, a fairly reclusive bunch, working as they often do in splendid isolation; the Wylde Valley Art Trail offers both the visitor the chance to meet the artist and discuss their creative world, and the artist the chance to get direct and hugely helpful feedback on their work.


Many artists will be demonstrating their working techniques, and may even be encouraging visitors to have a go themselves in "take pArt" sessions. It's easy to find out where you can "take pArt" and how to plot your route around the venues: attractive brochures, available free from many locations from Tourist Information Centres to shops and pubs, list all the venues and artists, giving directions, opening times and an illustration of what's on view where.

If you can't get out to find a brochure, there's always the website : **www.wvat.co.uk**, which will have all the brochure bumf, plus links to artists' websites and the Wylde Valley Art Trail Facebook page.

There are 11 venues taking part in Mere and surrounding villages, showing Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Photography, Millinery, Textiles, Ceramics, Wood and much more! Find out details at : **www.wvat.co.uk**. Need any further encouragement to go out and hit the Trail? It's free!

The Wylde Valley Art Trail is an artist led, non-profit project, organised by an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

For further information contact me by : info@wvat.co.uk or by phone.

Laura Rich: WVAT Coordinator : 07910 736563

FOCAL THINGY

Local photographer, Steve Hawkins, will be exhibiting a collection of his photographs in the Butt Of Sherry, Castle Street Mere as part of the Wylde Valley Art Trail between Saturday, 27th May and Sunday, 4th June. He will be on hand to discuss his photographs and all other aspects of photography.

See more information at : **www.focalthingy.co.uk** or : **www.WVAT.co.uk**

Steve Hawkins : 07752 715288

MERE GRACENOTES

Sing for ShelterBox.

Our concert on 29th March at St. Michael's Church raised the magnificent sum of £580 for ShelterBox. Very many thanks for the great generosity of everyone there and grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening.

Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218

SHREEN HARMONY

There are two forthcoming events with the choir this summer and we would love your support.

The first is a concert in Gillingham Methodist Church in aid of the Alzheimer's Society during the Dementia Awareness Week. Thursday 18th May at 7.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the interval. It is free admission with a collection at the door.

The second concert is in St Michaels Church in Mere during the Flower and Music Festival 'Celebrating our Community'. We are performing along with the choirs from Mere and Gillingham Schools. Friday, 9th June at 7.00pm. Tickets are available on the door at £5. There is a licensed bar and it is in aid of the refurbishment of the Church.

Do hope you will come to support and enjoy one or even both of our concerts.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

THE FARRANT SINGERS IN CONCERT

SATURDAY, 10th JUNE at 7.30pm

St MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MERE

"All The Queen's Men"

As part of Mere's Flower and Music Festival, Saturday, 9th – Sunday, 11th June, this Salisbury based chamber choir are delighted to be presenting a concert of music and readings with lute accompaniment.

Pre concert and interval bar.

Tickets £10, £5 under 16s/students, and are available online

🌐: www.farrantsingers.org

or by ☎: 01722 324731 or 01747 861212

Dementia Awareness Week



Shreen Harmony

And Special Guests

In Concert

In Memory of Val Amos

Thursday 18th May 2017

Gillingham Methodist Church

Starts 7.30pm

Light refreshments

Donations in aid of Alzheimer's Society



Shreen Harmony is a Community choir based in Mere under the musical directorship of Caroline Radcliffe, they meet every Thursday evening (during term time) and perform throughout the year at various events. They sing a variety of musical genres, songs from all around the world, including Traditional English, African, Eastern European, Spiritual and American folk.

www.shreenharmony.co.uk

SHREEN HARMONY



CANCER RESEARCH

Sunday 30th April brings a garage full of Classic cars to the Town Square for you to admire and maybe even reminisce over! They will all be there from 9 am to 11am, so grab yourself a coffee from one of the local shops, and The Geroage Inn are selling Bacon Butties with 50p for each one going to Mere Cancer Research. We are also selling some home-made cakes in the Clock Tower.

The May Fayre is on Saturday, 20th May from 10.00am to 12.00noon and promises to be a great day out with loads of stalls and lots of Family entertainment. Please see our advert for more details. We are looking for donations for the following stalls so please consider us when you are having your Spring Clean: Man Shed, Books and Bric a Brac.

We can collect larger items the day before (19th May) otherwise all donations on the day please!

Tickets are now on sale for the Warminster Military Wives Choir on Friday, 7th July in St. Michaels Church. Please ring either Christine Marsh ☎: 01747 861212 or Ann Lloyd ☎: 01747 863477 to book your tickets at £10 each (£12 on the door).

A Date for your Diary

Coffee Morning Saturday, 15th July 10.00am to 12.00noon at Des's House, Salisbury Street (by very kind permission of Mr & Mrs Sainthill).

Penny Fennon 📞: 07833 137112

MERE FILM SHOWS

On Thursday, 25th May we are showing the BAFTA and Oscar nominated film 'Lion' (15). This film has two acclaimed stars in the lead role, Sunny Pawar as the young Saroo and Dev Patel as Saroo in adulthood. It was the acting debut for Sunny and if children were allowed to win Oscars he would most assuredly have won for what is an extraordinary performance from so young an actor. Dev Patel won the BAFTA for his excellent performance.

In 1986, Saroo was a five-year-old child of a poor but happy family in rural India. On a trip with his brother, Saroo finds himself trapped alone in a decommissioned passenger train that takes him to Calcutta, 1500 miles away from home. Totally lost in an alien urban environment and too young to identify either himself or his home to the authorities, Saroo struggles to survive as a street child until he is sent to an orphanage. There Saroo is selected to be adopted by the Brierley family in Tasmania, where he grows up in a loving, prosperous home. However, for all his material good fortune, Saroo is plagued in adulthood by his memories of his lost family and tries to search for them, though he tries to hide this from his adoptive family. Only when he has an epiphany does he realize not only the answers he needs, but also the steadfast love that he has always had with his loved ones in both worlds. See Page 26.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday, 15th June: 'La La Land'.

Distribution of Funds

This year Mere Film Shows is once again able to invite applications for the distribution of its accumulated funds from organisations in Mere that are currently fundraising or are in need of funds for a particular purpose.

To this end, and with the agreement of Mere Town Council, such organisations are invited to apply in writing for a share of these funds, giving brief details of their activities and requirements. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Mary White, c/o Mere Town

Council, The Council Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW to arrive by Monday, 19th June please.

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Growing into Moor Plants - achieve the dream

Gilly Hayward

Wednesday, 10th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Gilly will talk about her varied career, how she started in horticulture, gardens that have influenced her planting style, and how she set up Moor Plants with her sister Jenny. She will show plenty of illustrations.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

If you would like to enter your hanging basket or tub into our 'Mere in Bloom' Competition, please register with me by Thursday, 8th June. They should be visible from the road so we can judge them without disturbing you!

Have you put Mere Open Gardens Weekend, 17/18 June, in your diaries?

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884



MERE MUSEUM

An important and exciting new retrospective exhibition will open at the Museum in mid-May. The Museum will be dedicated to the superb work of our well known local spinner and weaver, Anne Lander. Anne has dedicated her whole life, not only to the creation of beautiful textiles from wool, flax and silk, but to teaching countless students how to acquire these skills. It will be a sumptuous display, and on show from May to September. It opens to the public on **Tuesday, 23rd May**.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The time has come at last for the Friends' Famous Annual Plant Sale! This will take place on **Saturday, 13th May** at 10.00am in the Grove Buildings. If you have plants, cuttings or seedlings which we can sell, we would be delighted to have them. Please bring them to the Grove Buildings at 9.00am on that day. If this is difficult, we would be delighted to collect them from you; just let David Longbourne or me know. You can contact David by ☎: davidlongbourne@btinternet.com.

We would also very much welcome **CAKES** to sell. If - like everyone else your time is short at this time of year, please consider making one in advance and pop it into the freezer for us! The cakes we sell make a real difference to the amount of money we

can raise for the Museum! Please bring these too, to the Grove Buildings at 9.00am on 13th, OR we can collect them. And what is more, there will be a **RAFFLE!** It will be a really bumper morning - we look forward to seeing you there.

Please also note that the **Friend's Preview** of the Anne Lander exhibition will be held at 6.30pm on **Monday, 22nd May** in the Museum. Do come along, and why not bring a friend? We look forward to seeing you then.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

This month's unmissable production is our AGM, which is on for one night only, namely Monday, 8th May at 7.30 p.m. Just to see if you are all really alert, we are changing our performance venue to the **United Reformed Church**, where we shall all assemble for *free* coffee at 7.00pm, ready for the meeting to start at 7.30pm.

Members and potential members are reminded that subscriptions are due at the meeting: a bargain at £6 per head - cheaper than a ticket for one of our regular shows. And the big advantage of prompt payment is that you get a full year's membership for your money. It's a win-win situation. Don't miss it!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

The Dressmakers have been very industrious during the last five week course with so many garments completed including the pride of the course - a beautiful blouse made by Liz from an upcycled linen sheet that had already had a prolonged life by "sides to middle" that some of us may remember, and yet beautifully white with a lovely drape. Our ladies are producing some wonderful garments with charity shop finds as well as lovely fabrics purchased from a supplier from London and locally, so sourcing fabrics becomes very interesting.

We are holding our next two five-week courses commencing on Tuesday, 2nd May (normally on a Monday but on a Tuesday due to the Bank Holiday), from 10.30am to 1.00pm and on Wednesday, 3rd May from 7.00 to 9.30 pm. The numbers are now restricted as the evening course is full, but there are one or two spaces available on the morning course.

We are also holding, by popular request, a "One day sewing event" on Tuesday, 20th June as the small hall is available from 9.30am until 3.30pm, with a few spaces still available at the time of writing. An ideal opportunity to really achieve a lot of dressmaking, apart from eating homemade cake of course!

We then commence our Autumn courses in September, which are back to six weeks duration, from Monday, 11th and Wednesday, 13th September.

We have many people who have not sewn for a number of years but soon become confident again. Please contact me if you have any queries or would like to join us. Our contact numbers are shown below, or look at our Facebook page: "Dressmaking in Mere".
Carol Lord ☎ : 01747 861923 Susanne ☎ : 07788 595 434.



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

At our April meeting, after our AGM which included a presentation to Thelma Ings and Myrene Coward to thank them for over 30 years' committed service as office-holders on our committee, The Revd John Page's '*Poems for Holy Week*' provided us with enriching food for thought and reflection in preparation for Easter.

This month, on Tuesday, 9th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, The Rev'd Mary Ridgway will tell us about a *Miracle in Minske* relating to the work of nuns in one of the prisons. All are welcome to join us to find out more.

Judith Thompson (MU Branch Leader) ☎ : 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

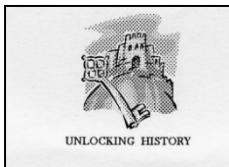
**For the over 60s. Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

We had such a lovely trip to Old Sarum Airfield. We were lucky to have the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection give us all a presentation before we looked around the hangar, which was packed full of amazing aircraft that we could climb into and play with all the controls! Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out, and to George Jeans for driving the minibus.

John Marks, one of our guests, said about the day: "The best bit was watching my wife, Vera, climbing into the helicopter. The presentation that John, from the museum, gave us was very interesting, it was a good talk all about the old planes and test pilots. The meal at 'Skies Cafe' was very nice and we all really enjoyed ourselves".

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

Mere Historical Society



Visit One

Monday, 15th May 2017

ss Great Britain

The ship is one of the most important historic ships in the world. When she was launched in 1843 she was called 'the greatest experiment since the Creation'. There are a few places remaining on this outing.

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.15am and returns around 6.00pm

Cost: MHS Members £23, non-members £26 per person

Includes coach and tip, entrance and guided tour

DEADLINE for booking 6th May

Visit Two

Wednesday, 14th June 2017

Tyntesfield

This will be the Society's third visit to Tyntesfield, one of the most important Victorian houses in the National Trust's collection. Just a few places left.

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns around 6.30pm

Cost: MHS Members £12, non-members £15 per person

Includes coach and tip. NB non-National Trust members for entry add (£12.60pp) to your payment.

DEADLINE for booking 31st May

PLEASE USE THE BOOKING FORM for both outings:

Details and booking forms available from Mere Information Point or download from the "What's On" tab on our website

 www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk


Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Archive

Did you know that Mere has its own historical archive? It contains close to 4,000 items about the history of Mere and district, about its people and events. Anyone can have access to it through the Historical Society's website (merehistoricalsociety.org.uk; look for the 'archive' box at the top right corner of the screen).

It grew from the papers of Michael Tighe, one of Mere's most productive historians, and has taken nine years to build and organise. It is still growing!

If you would like to see the archive which is situated in the gallery of the United Reformed Church, please get in touch with me on the telephone number below, or : jennyflaxmill@gmail.com. Just be aware that stairs are unavoidably involved in accessing the archive. A 'tour' takes only about 10 or so minutes! You can fit it in after doing your shopping!

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The result of the '100' Club Draw for April 2017, kindly drawn by Paul Farrow of the Angel Tea Rooms, was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 43	Mrs S G Thomas
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 2	Mrs W Horne
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 103	Mrs A Eggleton

Diary Reminder

Wednesday, 5th July - Wine and Cheese evening, 6.30pm - 10.00pm, Grove Building.

Barbara Hewitt ☎ 07946 913191

: smileyb54@outlook.com

Mere Lecture Hall:

Introduction to Watercolour - Fridays 10.30-12.30

starts 5th May 3 weeks for £45.00

Watercolour Club – Mondays 7.00-9.00

starts 8th May 4 sessions for £55.00

also at Vicarage School Room, Gillingham from 4th May 2.00-4.00 and

Creative Watercolour 6th May 10.30-4.30 £40.00 one day workshop

Details and enrolments: www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk

HENRY SPENCER & JUNCTURE JAZZ CONCERT

12TH MAY 7.30pm (doors open 7pm) Bourton Village Hall

AD HOC CHORALE CONCERT 21ST MAY 4.30pm

St Peter's, Stourton - Contact 01747 840149 for both

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'LION'

(15)

Sunny Pawar Dev Patel Nicole Kidman

A five year old boy gets lost on the streets of Calcutta, thousands of kilometres from home. He survives many challenges before being adopted by a couple in Australia; twenty-five years later he sets out to find his lost family.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 25th May, 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 at 🌐: **www.moviola.org**

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Club again held its Charity Barn Dance, with the fantastic Black Bear Band, in the Grove Building on 8th April, with proceeds going this year to the Mere Link Scheme. Provisionally we made just over £310 with a much reduced turn out. Many thanks to all those who attended and supported the event. For those who never made it, you missed a wonderful night of entertainment, which was not at a great cost. However, I am sure that the Link Scheme will appreciate the donation once the final figures have been calculated.

On Saturday, 22nd of April the Club opens its doors for the new season. If you are interested in learning the fascinating sport of bowls, enjoy good company and like a friendly atmosphere, then why not come along at 3.00pm? We have three qualified coaches who will get you bowling in no time, becoming proficient may take a little longer. If the 22nd does not suit your diary, you can come along at 5.00pm on any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, or even 3.00pm on any Saturday and you will be made very welcome.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE 2017 ISSUE

MONDAY, 15th MAY 2017



Mere School Reports

It has been another busy month at Mere School! The children have all been working hard and have enjoyed all their learning.

Blue Class

Blue Class have been learning all about Fairy Tales. They have been busy learning the story Jack and the Beanstalk and have even planted their own beans.

Yellow Class

The children in Yellow class enjoyed a day out at Haynes Motor Museum. They have also been learning about the artist Turner and have created painted seascapes.

Silver Class

Year 2 have been learning all about Joseph in RE and have used repeated patterns to create his Technicolor dream coat.

Gold Class

Gold class have become the most amazing artists and have learnt to paint their own Van Gogh 'Sunflowers.'

Green Class

Green class have become 'Awesome Egyptians' and have learnt all about that time period. They had a visit from the Scrap Store where they made Death Masks for their Parent Open morning.

Red Class

Red class have learnt all about the Rainforest, including creating a Rainforest Dance and some amazing artwork.

Purple Class

Year 6 has been busy preparing for their SAT's in May! In the afternoons they have made Space animations and have learnt to code.

Sports

Mere hosted a Year 5/6 Gillingham Family Football Tournament and it gives me great pleasure to announce that they also won it!

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



FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

Lottery Launched

The Friends of Mere School have launched a lottery where, for as little as £1 per week, someone within our school community is guaranteed to win a weekly cash prize. The more people that participate, the bigger this guaranteed prize becomes and the more money raised for our school.

On top of this, you will also be entered into a separate draw with a chance to win an amazing £25,000 EVERY WEEK!

Every Saturday, both of these draws will take place with results posted on the website and social media. Winners of both draws will be advised directly and will be paid automatically, so if you don't have the time to check who's won, we'll let you know!

To start supporting, visit : www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Mere. For further details contact me on the number below or : katejenkins77@yahoo.co.uk

Kate Jenkins : 07810 374278

HINDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Master Bakers and Buccaneers' - It's all in a day's work!!

West Knoyle is in the catchment area for Hindon Primary School and on Monday, 6th February, the older pupils in Kestrel Class took their learning to a new dimension in order to learn about Democracy, one of our most traditional and established British Values, with a trip to London!

The pupils were able to enter Parliament in the footsteps of the Queen, and sat on the red benches in the House of Lords and green benches in the House of Commons. The children learned about how our democratic system of government became established and why the Queen isn't allowed in The House of Commons.

It was a privilege to stand in Westminster Hall and imagine Henry VIII playing tennis or feasting at a banquet with his royal subjects, and to view the statues of the late and great Prime Ministers.

A trip to Number 10 was an amazing experience, especially as Teresa May was at home entertaining! The pupils were happy to be greeted by 'Palmerston' the cat who slipped out when the door was opened and were able to question the Policeman who was guarding the door.

Finally, a journey on the underground transported the pupils from our traditional, historic centre to the new, modern building of The Shard. Here, the pupils were elevated to the 72nd floor via two lifts to the highest garden in Western Europe, where they were exposed to the elements as they ate their packed lunch looking down at our Capital City. Wow! What a day to remember!

On Tuesday, 14th March, the very youngest Pupils in Little Owls Class at the school became Master Bakers for the morning when they visited Reeves Bakery in Wilton to learn how cakes and biscuits are made. With hair nets on and white coats buttoned, the children toured the factory and watched ingredients being weighed, mixed, cooked and biscuits decorated! The children were able to sample some of the delicious products before decorating their own Gingerbread! What an amazing visit!

On Wednesday, 22nd March, as part of their Creative Curriculum topics on Tudors and Pirates, the older pupils in the school travelled by train from Tisbury to Portsmouth Historic Dockyards. Pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3 became Buccaneer Pirates for the day and experienced life on The Victory, before exploring the amazing Mary Rose Museum, whilst Years 4, 5 and 6 were able to handle artefacts found on The Mary Rose and then toured HMS Warrior.

On Wednesday, 29th March, Owl Class had an amazing visit to Salisbury Cathedral. The children learned so much about how our system of justice and democracy started and how this impacts on our everyday British Values. The children began the visit by looking up at the ceiling of the Cathedral and were introduced to the concept of how things change over time. This then led on to an interactive game where the children had to agree on answers as a team, gaining points to move forward on a huge Game Board. The children were then introduced to the Magna Carta – which underpins our justice system and finally created Stained Glass windows.

Hindon School prides itself on providing excellent Curriculum enrichment opportunities for all pupils!

Jackie Gunter, Head Teacher, ☎: 01747 820260

WILTSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Ride and Stride

Would anyone like to do this on Saturday, 9th September 2017, from 10.00am - 6.00pm, in aid of St Michael's Church in Mere?

This is an annual national sponsored event with 50% of the money raised going to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust. Visit as many churches as you like, planning your own route. Seek sponsorship from friends, relations and colleagues.

Participants may be cyclists, walkers, horse-riders or drivers of mobility scooters. Interested? Please contact me by 'phone or by ✉: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Sherry Dixon ☎: 01747 861319

IN MERE & DISTRICT



Grateful thanks to everyone who helped in any way with our lively and well-appreciated Lent Lunches, and all those who supported the lunches by coming and enjoying the delicious soup and good company.

Altogether we have raised over £700 for Christian Aid and CAFOD - a marvellous result.

And grateful thanks to everyone who helped with the special events over Holy Week and Easter – especially to Tony McDonald and the team who look after the Good Friday cross.

May is a quieter month. On Sunday, 14th May the service to launch Christian Aid week and commission the collectors will be held at 6.00pm at Mere URC – you will find other details for Christian Aid Week on the next page.

A date for your diary: the annual Songs of Praise in Stourhead Gardens will be held at 3.00pm on Sunday, 25th June. Everyone is welcome!

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

CHRISTIAN AID

It is that time of the year again when I really appreciate help. I would love to have some people happy to post and collect envelopes from the doors. Just a few houses or just your road would be good. We did raise £1100 last year, and the money will go straight to help countries struggling with famine or war.

I am also going to run the Bottle Stall this year at the Fayre in May and I would be grateful for any bottle of any kind you could donate. I will come and collect it so please if you could help me in that way just give me a ring and I will be there!!! I will also be in St Michaels Church on a Sunday morning after the service with a box to collect any bottles in!! Please help me.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

ELIZABETH HOWDEN AND LINDY ELLIOTT, CHURCHWARDENS, AND SHERRY DIXON, SECRETARY, AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, WRITE:

Perhaps you wonder occasionally what on earth a churchwarden and church secretary do with their time and how much they get paid. Well first things first, we don't get paid as it is a completely voluntary job, we might have expressed an interest in or have been asked by someone in the church to consider doing. Neither job is something to be taken on lightly as they do require quite a time commitment. Both are jobs which need

lots of prayers prior to taking on the roles and a desire to give back something to the community, spread God's love and ability to keep smiling.

As churchwardens we try to keep the running of the church on an even keel. One, or sometimes both of us, attend the main 10:30am Sunday church service, welcoming arrivals, assisting the vicar and reading out any important messages before the service starts. Not too arduous, perhaps you're thinking, but preparations, sometimes lengthy, have gone into this, particularly when key services such as Remembrance Sunday, Christmas and Easter take place, they all take time. Meetings are scheduled weekly, e-mails fly back and forth, and then don't mention trying to convince an ailing photocopier to do its bit.

As for the church secretary she looks after the church administration, which is required not just by the diocese but also Wiltshire Council. Special events need to be advertised, posters need designing and minutes need taking.

It's a challenge to play just a small part in the passage of time of this ancient church but would we give it up? Never!



Suchana's very informative Annual Newsletter has recently been published in which the generosity of the people of Mere in supporting this project gets a special mention. I will gladly provide a copy of the Newsletter for anyone who would like one.

No events in May but be sure to put this date in your diary: our ever-popular Strawberry Tea will be held on Friday, 30th June from 2.30pm in Jean and Colin Kantharia's garden, Rivermead, Pettridge Lane. All are welcome.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

May 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

(Days available to Parish: Saturday - Wednesday)

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎: 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎: 01747 861212

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)
Tuesday	2nd	3.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Rogation Sunday at the Bison Farm, West Knoyle. No Service at St Michaels
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	*21st	10.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday	25th	7.30am	ASCENSION DAY Hymns at the top of the Tower
		8.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Holy Communion

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh Holy Communion
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd John Heyton
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Judith Thompson
	28th	11.00am	Mr Ken Elcock

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

**Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291
or John FitzGerald ☎: 01747 860867**

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass
Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

**Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859,
☎: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

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

Sunday	7th	10.30am	Rogation Service at the Bison Farm
	14th	9.30am	Matins
	21st	9.30pm	DIY
	28th	9.30am	Holy Communion

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

DIARY DATES

May 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	Mon	10.00am	Zumba 1st level -all welcome (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
2	Tues	10.30am	- 1.00pm Dress Making (also Mons 8th, 15th & 22nd)	GB
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		2.30pm	Strength and Core Class (every Tuesday)	L
		6.00pm	Life Drawing (every Tuesday)	L
2	Tue	6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
3	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	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm	- 9.00pm Dress Making (also 10th, 17th & 24th)	GB
4	Thur	7.00am	- 10.00pm Local Elections Polling Station	L
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.30am	Strength and Core Class (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	May Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		6.00pm	Lions Quiz Evening	GB
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Watercolour Workshop	L
8	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 15th & 22nd)	L
		3.30pm	Memorial Tea for Joyce Cooper	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 15th & 22nd)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 15th & 22nd)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 15th & 22nd)	GB

		7.00pm	MADS AGM Meeting (Change of Venue)	CC
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
9	Tues	9.00am	Jenny Franks Footcare clinic (and 23rd)	CC
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
10	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (very Thursday)	GB
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	10.00am -	12.00noon Friends of Mere Museum Plant Sale	GB
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
14	Sun	6.00pm	Service to launch Christian Aid Week	CC
17	Wed	3.00pm -	4.30pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm -	4.30pm "Tea@3"	Angel Tea Rooms
19	Fri	9.00am	Wylie Art Trail (Small Hall daily until 26 May)'	L
		7.00pm	Mere Rivers Group Open evening and AGM	GB
20	Sat	10.00am -	12.00noon Cancer Research May Fayre	The Square
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
21	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
24	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "Lion"	L
31	Wed	7.30pm	Penny Bank Writers	L

LATE NEWS



WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Wiltshire Community Foundation is an independent charity which gives grants and funding to the voluntary sector and charities

across Wiltshire and Swindon. It is an expert on local need and disadvantage in communities and offers high quality advice and support for all types of donors who want to make a difference in their local area. In 2015/16 Wiltshire Community Foundation supported 87,625 people across Wiltshire and Swindon through projects it funded. It achieved this by awarding grants of over £1.03 million to groups and individuals in need.

Wiltshire Community Foundation has made a significant contribution to local communities by making grants of £10 million since 1991, giving money and support where people in Wiltshire and Swindon need it most. Over the last 40 years, with the

support of individuals, companies and trusts, it has built an endowment of £18 million to generate grants for the future benefit of local communities and young people.

Grants to Groups

Wiltshire Community Foundation offers a range of different grant funds for community groups and charities in Wiltshire and Swindon where the majority of their beneficiaries are disadvantaged in the following ways:

ECONOMICALLY – e.g. facing financial difficulties

SOCIALLY – e.g. not able to participate in normal activities without support

GEOGRAPHICALLY – e.g. living in an isolated or disadvantaged community with limited access to services

PHYSICALLY – e.g. having additional needs, a disability or mental health issues.

The Foundation particularly awards grants to projects taking place in communities with limited financial capacity and benefitting people who cannot afford to cover the costs themselves

The #iwill Fund (Youth Social Action Fund)

Currently, 4 in 10 young people regularly engage in social action – such as campaigning, fundraising, and volunteering. The **#iwill campaign** has been launched to increase this to at least 6 in 10 10-20 year olds taking part, by the year 2020.

The Youth Social Action Fund is part of the **#iwill campaign** and offers grants to groups working with young people between the ages of 10 and 20 years old (or 25 for young people with disabilities) in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to fund social action opportunities for young people. The fund is not to cover general youth club provision nor to fund general activities for young people. The fund is to cover specific activities for young people aimed at developing their skills and confidence as volunteers in their community.

The Foundation Main Grant

The Foundation Grants Programme will support projects which will make a sustained impact in the lives of disadvantaged people in Wiltshire and Swindon. Applicants must demonstrate that the majority of people benefitting from the grant experience disadvantage either economically, socially, geographically or physically. Groups of any size may apply to this programme.

- You can apply for up to £5,000 per year, and three year funding is available (total £15k).
- If you choose to apply to, or currently hold, a Small Grant you will be unable to apply for a Foundation Grant.

Apply now - Expressions of interest close on Thursday, 25th May 2017. Closing dates for the full application will be advised if you meet the criteria to apply.

The Foundation Small Grant

Grants for organisations with an income of less than £50,000. The Foundation Small Grants Programme will support projects which will make a sustained impact in the lives of disadvantaged people in Wiltshire and Swindon. Applicants must demonstrate that the majority of people benefitting from the grant experience disadvantage either economically, socially, geographically or physically.

- You can apply for up to £2,000 per year and you can apply for two years at a time (total £4k).
- You can choose to apply instead to the Foundation Main Grant but you cannot apply to both programmes.

Apply now - Expressions of interest close on Thursday, 20th July 2017. Closing dates for the full application will be advised if you meet the criteria to apply.

For more information on how to apply for grants in any of these categories, please contact Wiltshire Foundation:

- by telephone ☎: 01380 729284
- or by interactive website 🌐: <https://wiltshirecf.org.uk>

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

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 JUNE 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the June 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, 15th May 2017**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 8th May 2017 to ✉: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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