MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



NOVEMBER 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 November 2017 in the Andy Young Pavilion**.

The Chairman writes

I am writing this after having the most pleasant task of giving the closing remarks at the Mere Literary Festival. It was a delight to see a packed Lecture Hall and to hear the poetry of so many local people as well as poems from writers across the globe. Mere Literary Festival attracts interest from far and wide and is one of the things that puts Mere 'on the map'. Many thanks to Adrienne Howell, Mary White, The Penny Bank writers and volunteers, and to the supporters who make this splendid event happen.

The town council had a long November meeting with, among the regular items, a first look at what we should do about the Car Parks and Public Toilets. The lease for these comes to an end next April and we need to have some firm ideas about what we wish to do. We need to discuss this now so that allocations of funding can be made at the budget meeting in November so that our Clerk can organise clear negotiations with Wiltshire Council for the future.

We had the benefit of some costings and estimates obtained by Councillor Colman and council staff, but we felt that we needed further estimates and will be having a second meeting to discuss the matter further. I know that the councillors want to get the balance right between the benefits to the community, and costs to the ratepayers of these two major items in the council's budget.

The councillors in the Neighbourhood Planning Group have had their first meeting with Wiltshire Council representatives and we now have a direct link through a county official, Richard Nash. The group will be setting up a noticeboard, both physical and on the internet to keep everyone in Mere informed.

Some of you, in the area around Southbrook, Whitemarsh and Mill Lane, will have seen me riding around on my little motorcycle. I have been looking around at roads, pavements, verges and streetlights to see if anything should be reported to Wiltshire Council for their attention or if there are things which town council team should deal with. This is my patch and other councillors are doing the same thing in the other parts of Mere. Do, please, join us by reporting matters of concern on the My Wiltshire website or by informing the town council office.

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please view the Mere website: ****: www.merewilts.org**, or contact the Town Clerk, Mrs Lindsey Wood: ****: lindseywood@merewilts.org** or ****:** 01747 860701. To contact the chairman directly, ****: chair@merewilts.org**

Community Public Access Defibrillators (CAPD)

We have two Community Public Access Defibrillators in Mere (one in Castle Street, near the junction with Barton Lane and one outside the dental surgery at Duchy Manor, just off Springfield Road). I have been asked to give a brief explanation of how the CPAD system works because there seem to be one or two rumours being spread around Mere that our CPADs are out of order or not working.

Both CPADs have a volunteer that carries out weekly checks, monthly checks and annual checks on the defibrillators and the equipment and these checks are recorded on a web based notification system, which forms part of our governance agreement with the Community Heartbeat Trust and which is approved by the ambulance service. In the case of the Castle Street CPAD, the checks are carried out by Mrs. Judith Thomson and in the case of the Duchy Manor CPAD, the checks are carried out by Mrs. Wendy Bailey of the Dental Surgery. Replacement of parts are also necessary when they become out of date or when they have been used and this is recorded in the regular checks.

The CPADs are designed to be simple to use for the layman. They are registered with the ambulance service and the location of the nearest cabinet, together with the unlocking code will be given to you by the ambulance service once you have telephoned 999 and they suspect that your emergency would benefit from the use of a CPAD device. The defibrillator unit has the ability to autonomously analyse the patient's condition — it automatically diagnoses the heart rhythm and determines if a shock is needed and will administer the shock. The device also uses an electronic voice to prompt users through each step and, as users should be on the telephone to the ambulance service at the time, they can get reassurance from the ambulance service.

The Town Council will be happy to arrange a Community Awareness session on the use of the CPADs if there is interest. Please contact the Town Clerk to register your interest.

Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, Mere Town Council

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

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met in September where it was reported that highways maintenance and repairs to the verges and lay-bys along New Road were being carried out. It was also reported that volunteers had carried out a cleaning session in the play area and by the time this report is printed, the RoSPA Annual Safety Inspection on the play equipment should have been carried out. The BT telephone kiosk now belongs to the Parish Council and we are considering ideas for its use – if any member of the parish has any proposals, please let us know.

Thanks to some very generous donations from parishioners, we have been able to gather enough funds to purchase a Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) which should, by now, have arrived. Once it has been installed we will arrange for an awareness session for members of the public to come along. Please see Mere Town Council's report in this magazine as it contains some useful information on the Community Public Access Defibrillators. The Village Hall Social Club has applied for a South West Wiltshire Area Board grant in order to refurbish the kitchen facilities in the village hall. As the CPAD requires an electrical feed, the installation will be carried out during the electrical phase of the kitchen refurbishment although the CPAD itself will be erected on the exterior wall of the village hall.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:

This morning I have met with Jenny Wilding at the Mere Museum based in Mere Library. The museum have had donated to them by the Rutter family, two large locally very interesting scrap books including material relating to the local Quaker movement dating back well over 100 years. It is proposed to try and conserve these delicate papers for future generations, perhaps with the help of an area board community grant.

Planning application 16/12217/007 for over 100 dwellings on the Castle Street field near Gillingham Corner Mere is now being appealed by the applicant, after it was refused by Wiltshire Council. If you wish to make written comments on the proposal, they should be sent in triplicate direct to the Planning Inspectorate, quoting reference APP/Y3940/W/17/3182598, at Room 3/10b Kite Wing, 2 The Square, Temple Quay House, BRISTOL, BS1 6PN, to be received by Wednesday, 15th November 2017.

An area board grant has now enabled the sheltered housed residents of Lynch Close, Mere to have a green house, garden shed and bbq. I would like to thank Marilyn Doel, who is one of the sheltered residents, who organised much of the work of the grant application. Marilyn also organises mini bus trips for the residents, for which I drive, and

Seeds for Success allow us the use of their mini bus. The next outing being on Wednesday, 29th November.

At the last area board it was announced that those who wish their electric blankets tested can do so free at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury on Monday, 13th November from 2.00 to 4.00pm. The area board has continued funding for two persons to be the voice of older people in the area board neighbourhood of Wilton to Mere.

An initiative to provide and plant trees to commemorate the end of The First World War is currently underway. Parish and Town Councils have to submit an application by

30th November 2017. The Mere Parish Council chairman was present, both he and I agreed Mere should try and plant t least one. Perhaps West Knoyle, Zeals, Kilmington or Stourton with Gasper may be interested.

On leaving the board meeting, I noticed some prominent life size images, one was promoting karate, the person in the picture was Peter Manning from Mere who has achieved national awards in the past.

I am pleased that the Mere Town Council decided to fund a local street cleaner, and Cliff Stafford on their behalf is doing a very good job, importantly being visible to the public. Several people have asked me to pass on their thanks.

As partly indicated last month, The National Trust has kindly agreed to a sponsored Speed Indicator Device (SID) pole in Stourton Lane, plus a good neighbour has also agreed to have a pole sited on their property along Shaftesbury Road at Mere. The community SID has now moved from Kilmington Common to Shaftesbury Road, Mere. I am looking for a resident on the west side of Mere on the north side of the B3095 to agree a SID pole painted black, to be used on occasions. In my division, a consortium of Kilmington, Stourton with Gasper and Zeals will have access to a further grant aided SID, if the grant is awarded. Mere is also applying for a grant aided SID to stay largely in one position as does the one at White Road, Mere at present. West Knoyle also has its own SID.

The South West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership has now been renamed the South West Wiltshire Community Safety Group (SWWCSG), after concerns regarding the former name from the Police. The group met on 27th September at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury, one of four meetings a year, with invited representatives from Wiltshire Police and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Regarding Police priorities, the overwhelming consensus was for a Speed Check (Trap) to be placed in a prominent position in Wilton, Mere or Tisbury on at least one occasion before the next group meeting, therefore look out for a "Trap" as you drive by within the speed limit.

A pledge to place a cap on social care costs by 2020 has been officially dropped. I was made aware at Wiltshire Council of a promise to bring in an upper limit of around

£75,000 on the amount people must pay towards their own care, and who and how it was to be funded.

At present Wiltshire Council is inviting replies to a waste consultation, in which the public can participate. This possibly will result in more recyclable plastics being put in the blue bin, with glass only in the black boxes. Consideration is being given to charge for non-household waste taken to a recycling station such as Warminster.

An investigation by the Press Association has revealed that 76% of 326 local authorities across England collect non-recyclable rubbish twice a month. A further six councils are emptying the bins once every three weeks, a decision recently taken by Wigan Council, which says it will help increase recycling and save £2m a year. Salford, Rochdale, Oldham and Bury already have three-weekly pick-ups, as does East Devon Council.

Wiltshire Council's work to support the Armed Forces was officially recognised by the Ministry of Defence at a special awards ceremony. Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council, met Prince Harry and Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon as, alongside her team, she was presented with the MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award.

The accolade is the highest badge of honour for organisations that have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and demonstrated outstanding support for those who serve and have served.

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

MERE RIVERS GROUP

Help Needed

Mere Rivers Group needs to collect information about wildlife on and around our rivers – The Shreen, Ashfield and contributors like Southbrook.

If you are out and about, near our water courses, and see any wildlife please advise us by **a**: **mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com**.

Your help is vital. We need to protect the streams from the effect of the water abstraction licence. Water courses are protected by the Environment Agency if they have evidence of biodiversity. Our chalk streams should have a notable biodiversity with a good flow of water.

What to Send us

We are particularly interested in records of: Water Vole; Otter; Mink; Frogs, Toads and their tadpoles; Newts; Wagtails; Egrets; Trout; Grayling; Bullhead; Stickleback;

American Signal Crayfish and Native Crayfish. If you see anything else you think is interesting please let us know.

Let us have the following information:

- Date
- Location as precise as possible please
- Name of creature(s) or description. Photos are welcome.

To help you with identifying wildlife please go to the RSPB identifier website : www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife

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

TRUSSELL TRUST NEWS

Christmas Shoe Boxes

This year, the Christmas gift boxes will be gathered up at St Michaels Church at the morning service on **Sunday**, **19th November**. They will then set off on their long journey to Bulgaria, with Richard and his team, where they will be hand delivered to the very, very poor children and men and women. These gifts give such pleasure as they are just about the only really nice thing to happen to them in their whole year.

I do hope that you will be able to find the time and money to fill one, or share the filling of one with your friends.

If you are unable to be at the church then you can leave them at K & M Beauty in Salisbury Street, or with me at The Cottage, Waterside (over the old stone bridge across The Shreen). A huge 'Thank You' for your generosity and kindness.

Wendy Horne 🕿: 01747 861712

CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival Quiz Results

Here are the results for the Carnival Quiz, held on Friday, 6th October:

Quizzicals 95, Memories Past 89, The Refugees 88, MADS 87, 'Captain's Table' and 'Mystified' 86 each, The Young Ones 85, No Pets 81, Late Arrivals 80, 'Mere Misfits' and 'Tailenders' 79 each, We don't know yet 72 and Him and Us 64

Many thanks to everyone for their support of our first 2018 Carnival fundraiser.

Our next quiz, with a Christmas theme, is on Friday, 8th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building.

Carnival Grand Draw

Could P. Staples, ticket 0571, please contact me on the telephone number below.

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

Thank You From The Link

Many thanks from the Mere & District Linkscheme to all who supported this year's Literary Festival – its annual fund-raiser. The Link hope you enjoyed the variety of talks and events. Thanks go to the festival's main sponsors – Nectar Imports Ltd., Hillbrush and Freebird Campers - and to all who made donations of any kind either money, time, goods or prizes, including Mere Co-Op and Mere Lecture Hall Trust.

The Link also appreciate the support of clubs and societies who take part or forego their meetings and help make festival week a success. The Link is a widely used charitable service and the support of our local community is vital and much appreciated

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018 ISSUE

MONDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 2017

The festival closes just as the November edition of Mere Matters goes to press so details of competition prize-winners etc. will appear in the next issue.

Adrienne Howell & MDLS Lit.Fest. Group : 01747 860475

Poetry Competition Results

The Mere Literary Festival reached its final day on Sunday, 15th October with the Adjudication and Prize Giving for the Poetry Competition. This year the Pennybank Writers of Mere, supporting Mere and District Link Scheme arranged the Competition and wish to thank all those who took part. It was agreed by all the judges that the standard was extremely high. There were 243 entries overall, 90 in the local section. We were especially pleased to receive 128 junior entries. It was wonderful that a few of the children were able to read their own winning poems at the Prize Giving Ceremony. Our sincere thanks to all of our judges for their hard work choosing the winning poems. Of course, the Festival would not happen without Adrienne Howell and her hard working team, so congratulations for another very successful year.

The results of all sections are as follows:-

The winners of the Open Competition, judged by Dawn Gorman are:- 1st 'Knowing is Believing' by Jocelyn Simms of France; 2nd 'The Ageing Mountain Climber Remembers How' by Gill McEvoy of Chester; 3rd 'Chapel of Rest' by Michelle Diaz of Glastonbury.

Runners Up: 'Jem Hobbs, Stonemason' by Marilyn Francis of Radstock; A Single Bead' by Judith Drazin of Bristol and 'First Britons' by Paul Jeffcutt of Co. Down.

Because of the high quality of the entries there were three Adjudicator's Prizes awarded to: 'Conservation' by Jocelyn Simms of France; 'Canal Country' by Philip Burton of Bacup, Lancashire and 'Due' by Paul Jeffcutt of Co. Down.

The winners in the Local Section (10 miles radius of Mere) judged by Jenny Wilding are:-

1st 'The Hug' by Peter Wright of Gillingham; 2nd 'A Tale of Two Chairs' by Robert Breach of East Melbury and 3rd 'The Shell' by Joanne Durham-Matthews of Wincanton. There was one Adjudicator's prize awarded to Jacqueline Longley of Tisbury.

In the Junior Section for 12 years and under, judged by Angela McDonald the winners are:-

1st 'The River' by Rory Wilson of Mere School. 2nd 'Stourhead Poem' by Charlie Barton also of Mere School. 3rd 'Dogs' by Elsie Bowen of St. George's School, Bourton. The winner of the Grace Wines Memorial Prize for a junior living in Mere or attending Mere School was Ben Cassidy of Mere.

In the Poetry in the Grove Showcase Event for the 24 shortlisted entries the winner of the audience vote was 'Grandpa' by Camilla Nelson of Mere. 2nd was 'Old Hall Marshes' by James Nash of Hinton St. George and in joint 3rd place was 'Chapel of Rest' by Michelle Diaz and 'A tale of Two Chairs' by Robert Nash of East Melbury.

Linda Jones, for Pennybank Writers : 01747 860171

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

After careful consideration the Community Lunch will now be held on the second Tuesday of the month, after which everyone will be welcome at Mothers Union at the Grove Building. The next Community Lunch will therefore be held at the WALNUT TREE INN, Shaftesbury Road, Mere on Tuesday, 7th November 2017 at 12.30pm costing £10.95, NOT including drinks. Please book in advance \$\oldsymbol{\text{const}}\$: 01747 861220.

If you are new to the area, on your own or just curious come and join us. Look for further details in Mere Matters or ring me. Lindy Elliott : 01747 861646

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS

Why not come along to one of the following events and browse the beautiful handmade crafts, all fairly traded through Traidcraft. Pick up a special gift or stocking filler; buy a Charity Christmas Card or treat your family to one of the seasonal goodies.

Wednesday, 8th November: Pop in to the Angel Cafe during opening hours and enjoy a piece of Paul's special Fairly Traded Fruit Cake with your Fairly Traded cuppa!

Friday, 24th & Saturday, 25th November: 'At Home'. Just before Stir Up Sunday- come and stir the Fairly Traded Pudding mix and have a wish! There will still be plenty of time

to order for Christmas so come and relax, enjoy some seasonal nibbles and do your Christmas shopping in peace even if it is being held at 'Wits End', North Road!

Janet Way **5**: 01747 860884

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

What a fantastic morning at our Autumn Bazaar.... A massive thank you to everyone who came along, bought, donated, helped, raffled, tombolared, caked, jammed, planted, bought a book or 10, supplied muscles and vans and, of course, the launch of the stunning Mere 2018 Calendar from Steve Hawkins.

We were very lucky to have about 1000 books given to us from a Mere lady and these caused great joy to all the Mere Book Worms who had a good rummage and found some amazing books and some real treasures - Winter reading all sorted!

We are delighted to tell you that we raised a magnificent £742.80.

The Christmas Market is our next event and the plans for this are coming along at great pace, and next month we will have some great news on our Festive Celebrity who is going to turn on the Festive Lights! The date for your Mere Calender is Friday, 1st December, Town Square 6.00 - 8.00pm and we have had word from The North Pole that Father Christmas will the there!

We are a small, but hard working, committee who would like to welcome any new members along who can help us to raise funds for this charity that is close to all our hearts. If you think you can help us in any way please do get in touch - we are looking for anyone, of any age, as long as you have a willing heart, we welcome you, but if you also know of someone who does not want to be on the committee, but is willing to help set up and pack up events then please get in touch.

Dates for your new 2018 Mere Calander - Spring Bazaar, Saturday, 17th March; Cars and Coffee, Sunday, 29th April, May Fayre, Saturday, 19th May, Coffee Morning, Saturday,14th July, Christmas Market, Friday, 7th December. Contact us in one of the following ways: By below, by merecancerresearch@mail.com or by Face book - Mere Cancer Research

Harvard Dalibar, for Mere Cancer Research, ⊞: 07788 138003

NURSE JANETTE NAYLOR

Many of you reading this will know that Janette died peacefully in her flat on 3rd September. She has often said how safe she felt in Mere and generally cared for so didn't want to be anywhere else! She was also very grateful to all those who, from many places, took time to go and see her. Could I use this space to say a very big thank you, on her behalf, to everyone who was involved with her over the last few years.

Janette's funeral, and "do" following, was on 20th September at Kingston Deverill. It was her adopted home in Wiltshire since going there from London where she was brought up as a child. Thank you so much to so many people who contributed in such a multitude of ways to that day for her. It was brilliant to have lots of people both in Church and at the Hall afterwards. I think as a send off she would have approved, but possibly not admitted it easily!!

Tim Spinney : 01985 214700

NEWS FROM GILLINGHAM, MERE AND SHAFTESBURY LIONS

GMS Lions held a Macmillan coffee morning in Mere on 29th September with lots of delicious cakes and a drink to wash it all down. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event . We raised a total of £200 for Macmillan.

We are looking for volunteers to help out throughout December for our Christmas float. If you have some spare time in the evening or at the weekend please contact us via or website : http://gmslions.org.uk/contact-us/ or Facebook or by telephone.

Dave Rose, PR Officer for GMS Lions =: 01935 389816

Squeaky clean

Bookings now being taken from April onwards.
Windows, Gutters, Fascias & more
Call – Terry :: 07899 937482



Mere Dental Practice

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Dental Hygienists: Laura Moss, Jenny Minors

⚠: meredental16@btconnect.com

: www. meredentistry.co.uk

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

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







NOVEMBER SHORT WALK:

Wednesday, 22nd November. Join me for a short walk of 2-3 miles around the Mere pathways and indulge in a welcome cuppa at the Angel Tea Room afterwards.

Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm



Janet Way 75: 01747 860884



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

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

All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on **3**: 01747 860524 and leave a message or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 13th November. Come in and have a ll are welcome. Paul Farrow **3**: 01747 860524

chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film on Friday, 10th November is 'Hidden Figures' (PG), an adaptation of the book of the same name, and a true story following three black women who worked in NASA's computer section in 1961, when electronic computers took up an entire room and it was talented mathematicians who did the calculations for the space programme by hand. Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer), Katharine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monae) are three talented women in their fields of programming, mathematics and engineering, held back from progressing in their fields by being women and because of segregation. The film is marvellously entertaining, telling its story accurately and engagingly and giving us moments of humour and just plain fun! Don't miss it! Full details on page 22.

Dates for the Diary:

There is no December film; details for January in the next edition of Mere Matters.

Mary White **a**: 01747 861257

'ESCAPE OR DIE'

Personal courage, a cool head and bluff characterised King Charles II during his escape after the Battle of Worcester in 1651, the last battle of the Civil War on English soil. On the run for 6 weeks and passing through Mere and the Nadder Valley he eventually made it to freedom.

Insights into this fascinating and multi-layered escape story will be given, in aid of three Nadder Valley churches, in Dinton Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Friday, 17th November by history enthusiast Paul Cordle in an illustrated talk using paintings and images of that turbulent time.

Tickets are available from me.

Gray Gilbert, **T**: 01722 714254

★: bhfovant@gmail.com

SPECTRA MUSICA

Spectra Musica, a local choir with members from Mere, is delighted to be appearing at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Gillingham on Saturday, 25th November at 7.30pm. The concert, 'Autumn Leaves' will be the group's first performance at the church under the direction of the experienced, internationally known musician Peter Leech, who brings such energy and enthusiasm to Spectra Musica.

The programme will include two works by Mozart – the Ave Verum Corpus and less well known Misericordias Domini which was written in less than a week for High Mass in Munich in 1775. Also included is Jeremiah Clarke's anthem 'Praise the Lord' which was performed for the coronation of Queen Anne in April 1702. Many more composers will feature, and it is hoped that some of the lighter pieces will bring a smile to your face.

Concert pianist Anita D'Attellis will be accompanying the group and will feature throughout the evening.

Tickets are £12 each from **5**: 01963 350160, on the door, or at **2**: **tickets@spectramusica.co.uk**

For more information go to ***: www.spectramusica.co.uk**

Sally Greenhalgh, Chairman, a: 01749 860457

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

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

Calendar sales are going very well, if you haven't already got your copy please contact Steve Hawkins : 07752 715288. We were delighted to receive our 50% share from the sale of one of Steve's silent auction prints at the Mere Cancer Research Autumn Bazaar. The print finally sold for £100 with a close battle between two interested parties at the very end!

Our Bingo evening was a great success as we raised £251. Thank you to all those who came along and supported on the evening: John Marks for collecting the prizes; all the people and organisations who donated prizes including the Co-op hamper; Sue Jeans

and the Carnival committee for providing the tickets; Sam Dean and Fives Court for calling on the night and the loan of their bingo machine, and Jean Rodriguez for helping on the night and selling raffle tickets.

We now have a place available on a Monday for a new guest. If you or anyone you know, feels socially isolated and would benefit from attending the day centre or would like further information, please get in touch.

We are still looking for a couple of new volunteers to help wash up or collect lunches, if you are interested please contact me on the number below.

Sandie Hawkins 🖃: 07835 272406 🏶: MereDayCentre.org.uk

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

We are delighted that we have three new members joining our November courses having shown keen interest at the Creative Mere Exhibition in September. The final total for our fundraising for Alzheimer's Disease Research was £62 so we feel the exhibition, although a lot of hard work, was very successful.

The November to December courses are full but we are now taking names for January 2018 and cannot believe how this year has flown by! We are planning yet another Christmas Meal travelling a little further afield this year. There have been some firm friendships made as well as confidence and knowledge in Dressmaking.

For details about our courses next year on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings please contact us on the telephone numbers below or through our Facebook Page "Dressmaking in Mere", and we will be pleased to tell you more.

Carol Lord **☎**: 01747 861923 or Susanne **⊞**: 07788 595434



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our meeting on **Tuesday**, **14th November at 2.30pm** in the Grove Building we are being treated to '*Crafty Capers*' with Gill Grout. As well as her beautiful paintings, patchwork and all manner of craftwork skills, Gill is the creative genius behind the wonderful Mere 'tapestry' now hanging in the Grove building. All are welcome to join us. Lt. General David Leakey, aka 'Black Rod', who was to have been our speaker this month is unable to come because of unexpected work commitments, but he has promised to come on another date to be arranged.

And a date for your diary: our MU Carol Service this year will be held on **Tuesday, 12th December** in St Michael's Church at 12.00 noon – followed by sandwiches and mince pies in the Grove Building. Everyone is very welcome as usual.

For more details please me at the number below.

Judith Thompson **T**: 01747 860553

MERE GARDENING CLUB House Plants for Christmas Tony Das Castle Gardens

Wednesday, 8th November 7.30pm Grove Building

Castle Gardens speakers are always enjoyed by members. Tony, will be giving this timely talk. There will be plants for sale, so don't forget your purses!

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way : 01747 860884

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

MADS players are continuing to practise hard for the rapidly approaching **70th anniversary** match later <u>this</u> month, and are now brilliantly handling googlies and yorkers from Captain Bob Modlen with confidence, style and panache.

Tickets for the final match (or play as it's otherwise known, entitled 'Outside Edge' by Richard Harris), which takes place in the Lecture Hall on Thursday November 23rd to Saturday November 25th are selling fast. Book now so you are sure to be present at the final event. Tickets are available at the Library and 'Sprout and Flower' now, at £8 per person which includes a programme. Make sure you're there. We guarantee you'll be hit for six!

Jenny Wilding : 01747 860908

CHURCH BELLS

On Saturday, 25th November, Mere Branch of Bell Ringers will be celebrating 25 years as a Branch. Officially the Mere Branch came into being in 1993 following a decision the previous year to increase the then eight Branches to nine.

Ted Barnett was elected secretary and the branch was formed with 14 towers from the North Dorset Branch and 7 from the Salisbury Branch. In 2001, with the demise of the North Dorset Branch, further towers were added bringing the number up to the present total of 32 towers. The Branch covers ringers in church towers all around the area from Stourton to Sturminster with just Gillingham and Mere having 8 bells.

Regular committee meetings over the years have helped to keep the tradition of campanology alive in the area with training programmes, support for young bell ringers and social events.

Listen out for the bells during the afternoon of the 25th, as ringers from all over the Branch will be ringing in St Michael's tower followed by a church service of celebration and then a wonderful supper is being served in the Grove Buildings.

Maggie Durkee, St Michael's Tower Correspondent, **☎**: 01747 860163

MERE MUSEUM

No sooner is one new exhibition is launched than we begin to plan for the next! For the new year we are planning an exhibition to showcase our neighbouring parishes, namely. parishes of West Knoyle, Zeals, Stourton with Gasper, Kilmington and Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield.

The Museum holds a fairly good collection of suitable items, but we would love to hear from residents or former residents of these parishes for ideas, items and information which will make the proposed exhibition really up-to-date. We're very keen to borrow objects which relate to the life in each village, past and present. If you can help, please get in touch by phone, or cavidlongbourne@btinternet.com or period in the museum on a Monday morning between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

Meanwhile, of course, there is the 'Made in Mere' exhibition to go and enjoy! Make sure you get there before Christmas starts to take up all your tine! Entry to the Museum is always free.

Jenny Wilding : 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends are holding an exciting fund-raising event on Friday, 10th November 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in the Grove Building.

It is a Wine Tasting Evening, and is just in time to help you decide on your selection of wines for the upcoming festive season! Tickets at £8.00 are available from the Library.

Get yours now so that you don't miss it!



Mere Historical Society Peace Without Victory;

Could the Great War have been ended in 1917?

Peter Landymore

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Morning talk: Tuesday, 14th November:

"Paul Maze, a Frenchman in khaki; the last impressionist" by Philip Schofield. Paul Maze had a reputation as one of the great artists of his generation. He was born in 1887 into an artistic circle in Le Havre. He was also a brave and highly decorated soldier. To be held in the **Grove Buildings** at 10.15am for 10.30am.

(Visitors welcome, suggested donation, including coffee, £3)

merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

in association with

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

proudly presents

'Hidden Figures' (PG)

Taraji P. Henson Octavia Spencer

Janelle Monae

Kevin Costner Kirsten Dunst

'Meet the women you don't know, behind the mission you do'
The story of a team of female African-American
mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the
early years of the U.S. space programme.

In The Lecture Hall Friday, 10th November 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

BOWLS CLUB

As stated in my last missive, Sheila Spencer our Vice President and Alan Inwood our Club Chairman for the past ten years have both stood down from their respective offices. They were replaced at our AGM held on Monday, 25th September by Anne Sidford and David Anley respectively. We all wish them well in their new posts.

On Saturday, 23rd of September, we held our annual closing day with the traditional match between teams representing our Chairman and our President. This year the Chairman's team won by a resounding number of rinks, we did not even count shots!

Even though the Club has closed for the 2017 season, no one on the Committee is idle: the Annual Dinner Committee have had their first meeting and planning for this event at the end of January 2018 is well under way.

Club Social Evening organisation has started. We held the Fish and Chip supper in October and we are organising a Grand Raffle in November, with proceeds helping towards the cost of a coach for the Annual Dinner, and a Skittles evening at the end of February, with lots more to follow.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood **3**: 01985 844215, Alan Spencer **3**: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by phone below or by **2**: **Don.butchers@btinternet.com**.

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Please contact Heather on 07876 642637

Creative Days - £40.00 each per day at Vicarage School Room, Gillingham

Watercolour Cards: 23rd October and Creative Printing 26th October 10.30 to 4.30

Weekly Classes at Mere Lecture Hall:

Watercolour Club - Monday evenings 7.00 to 9.00

Individual guidance and demonstrations from 30th October 7 sessions for £100.00

Watercolour Techniques – Friday mornings 10.30 to 12.30

Tutored sessions start 3rd November 7 sessions for £100.00

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



Mere School Reports

Design Technology Day

On Wednesday, 27th September the children at Mere School took part in a Design and Technology day. They spent the day looking at how to design and build various things.

We would like to thank Mrs Wilson for all her hard work in organising it.

Anybody Can Cook

The younger children had a session with Vanessa and Sarah where they learnt to make couscous sandcastles and fruit structures.

It was great to see the children confidently using the safety knives to cut ingredients correctly.

Kite Making

John and Janet Elvin, who are members of 'Brighton Kite Flyers', showed the children in Y3 and Y4 how to design and make their own kites.

The whole school then went out to the playing field to watch the large kites being flown.

Paper Aeroplanes

George Revill joined us for the day and worked with the children to design and make their own paper aeroplanes. The children loved learning about the ways to make their planes fly better.

Dyson

Danya Walker spent the day with Y5 and Y6. She discussed the role of an engineer and then involved the children in a variety of activities including Balloon Kebabs, Geodesic Domes and Floating Ping Pong Balls.

Coding

One of our parents, Steve Brown, kindly volunteered to come in for the day. He showed the children how to code using the popular Scratch programme.

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

1st MERE BROWNIES RECYCLING PROJECT

Thank you for your continued support. We are still collecting:

- Foreign and UK coins and notes any currency and of any age.
- Mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card).
- Jewellery & Watches (in any material even if damaged or broken).
- Currency Any coins or banknotes, UK & foreign (even if out of circulation) We are also collecting "round pounds".
- Cameras (old film, digital and video).
- Stamps (Loose, single, albums, first day covers, presentation packs, collections, postcard collections).
- Gadgets: Sat-Navs, Ipods, MP3 players, games, accessories and tablets.

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

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

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

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

With many thanks, Sue Luffman and Sue Jeans - Brownie Guiders

For more details contact: Sue Jeans at Jeans Electrical **a**: 01747 860215

VACANCY FOR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Church of St. Michael the Archangel, the parish church of Mere, seeks to appoint a Director of Music who will play the organ, lead and develop the choir, which is augmented for special services and festivals, and help worship flourish and grow.

We are aware that a weekly commitment is a lot to expect and are willing to consider flexible arrangements. We enjoy traditional and contemporary hymns and anthems and a sung Communion Service. There are a small number of musicians who are able to assist by playing the organ or piano when necessary. There is a fine 3 manual Makin digital organ and, in addition, an 1870s 2 manual pipe organ and two digital pianos.

Salary is in line with RSCM rates, plus wedding and funeral fees.

Go to : www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk on the Internet for more information.

If you are interested, please e-mail an up to date CV to Rev'd. Carol Wilson-Barker, Priest in Charge at ♠: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary, : 01747 861319

COMING UP AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, 19th November 2017 at 4:30 pm. Three Counties Choir Concert. Faure Requiem & Music for Remembrance. Tickets: £10 inc. refreshments, proceeds to the Grenfell Tower Fund. Available from: Sandra : 01747 861980 or Elisabeth : 01747 863324. Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary, : 01747 861319

'CATHEDRALS WORLDWIDE'

The above named talk, lavishly illustrated, will be given on Tuesday, 5th December at 10.15am for 10.30am in the Grove Building by Tony Davies, local historian and cruise ship lecturer.

An Advent treat. There will be a retiring collection to raise funds to repair St Mary's RC Church (our iconic Nissen hut). All are welcome. Come and enjoy.

Wing Commander Tony Davies : 01747 841023

PUB BANTER WITH THE VICAR

Come and join us at the friendly and welcoming Butt of Sherry pub on Monday, 20th November at 7.00pm. An informal group to talk about anything to do with church, Jesus, religion, families, the meaning of Christmas.....whatever you wish really. The Vicar, Rev'd Carol, will buy you a drink on your first visit.

Details from me:

Rev'd Carol a: 01747 861859 or : vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk



We meet for the annual Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday, 12th November, meeting for the ceremony at the War Memorial at 10.45am. Details for Christmas in the next Mere Matters, but:

Christmas is coming....

For the fifth year, Churches Together in Mere and District are providing a **Christmas Day lunch** in the Grove Building, Mere, for families who will find it hard to celebrate this Christmas or anyone who would otherwise be on their own. It will be a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, in a good festive atmosphere, finishing with tea and Christmas cake.

There will be no charge, but donations* will be welcome, and, so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 60, and the closing date is 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or

know of anyone who would like to come, or if you would like to help, please telephone **a**: 01747 860335 (Judy Bickerstaff).

*Any surplus monies to be given to the Trussell Trust Food Bank



You are invited to come to a reflective Taizé-style evening service on Advent Sunday, 3rd December at

All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley at 6.30pm

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

Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District

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

Success at St Michael's Church: caring for the building and for our people

A church is both the building and the people. We don't need a building to worship God but generations in Mere have blessed us with a very fine building. We are also blessed with a group of enthusiastic volunteers who care for it led at present by the Churchwarden, Lindy Elliott. A recent achievement is a splendid new roof for the leaking St Matthew Chapel. Works in progress include new gates (kindly funded by residents in Church Street) and removal of dangerous branches on the yew tree.

The Grove Building also had much-needed repairs to guttering. The plans for the work in the church are reaching the final stage and money is coming in from the Friends of St Michaels and with applications to funders, which is great.

Today's church also requires careful keeping of paperwork including health and safety, care of church property and valuables, child protection (safeguarding) and church records. Recently we had our Visitation (a three-yearly check of documents) and though the full report isn't in St Michael's was warmly commended for the care and accuracy of our work. Thanks go to the Churchwardens Elizabeth Howden and Lindy, Sherry Dixon and all Council members who worked behind the scenes recently and in the past.

The church at heart is the people gathering to worship God with a responsibility to care for our neighbours in a challenging and at times chaotic world. It is lovely news that five more people have come forward to train to be church pastoral assistants to join the rest of our team, together we want to do more to bring hope and encouragement where needed. I'm really grateful to all those who come forward to serve in this way.

Before taking communion the words "this is my body broken for you" are used signifying that in Christ all things are made new, that love and forgiveness are the cornerstone of living. We often seek "perfection" in our lives which makes us like children gutted to have made a mistake and discouraged from moving on.

That is not Jesus' teaching or his way of living. Jesus, the human, recognised frailties of all kinds and asked that we forgive. We all know about forgiving others but how good are you at forgiving yourself?

With love in Christ.

Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker

Kado Garden Maintenance

Qualified Gardener working in and around Mere now available General Gardening Pruning Hedge Trimming service

Please call Mostyn Tel: 07999771680



Huge thanks to the anonymous donor who gave £1,000 in response to our appeal, in last month's Mere Matters, to keep Suchana's Early Learning programme going. Together with other donations, this has provided a great boost towards the £5,000 needed.

Thank you also to all who supported our happy coffee morning which raised £104.95. We're hoping to raise a bit more for this very special project at our Skittles Evening (see below).

ALL WELCOME TO A SKITTLES EVENING On Friday,17th November at 7.30pm

at Mere Social Centre, White Road in aid of Suchana Tickets £6.00 (Children £3.00) Supper included – licensed bar available

A fun evening for all ages

Please book in advance: sign list at back of St Michael's Church or ক্র: 01747 863324(Elisabeth Barrett) or ক্র: 01747

860553 Judith Thompson

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE NOVEMBER 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker 2: 01747 861859

Rest Day - Saturday

A: vicar@stmichaelsmere,org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden 2: 01747 863424

Mrs Lindy Elliott 2:01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon

7: 01747 861319

A: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

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

Each Friday 8.00am Holy Communion (CW1)

Sunday 5th 10.30am Family Communion & Baptism 6.00pm Evensong

Tuesday 7th 6.00pm 'Start the Month'

Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 12th 10.45am Remembrance Sunday Service.
Commences at Clock Tower

followed by service in St Michaels

Wednesday 15th 10.30am Holy Communion
*19th 10.30am Holy Communion
26th 10.30am Holy Communion)

The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Mr Peter Kershaw
			Holy Communion
	12th	10.45am	Remembrance Day. Meet at the
			War Memorial in the Square
			followed by service in the Parish
			Church
	19th	11.00am	Anniversary Sunday
			Rev'd John Heyton
	26th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

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

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

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

^{*}Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker 2: 01747 861859,

A: vicar@stmichaelsmere,org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall 2: 01747 830534

Sundays 5th 9.30am DIY

12th 9.30am Matins with Remembrance

19th9.30amHoly Communion26th9.30amHoly Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER 2017

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

1	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm -	9.30pm Dressmaking Small Hall (every Wednesday)	GB
2	Thur	10.00am -	11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic Su	rgery
		10.00am -	12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.30am	Sandra Catley Exercise Class (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute meeting	GB
3	Fri	1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 10th & 17th)	L
4	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	С
6	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB

6	Mon	6.45pm		Cubs (every Monday)		GB
		7.00pm		Scouts (every Monday)		GB
		7.00pm		Water Colour Club (every Monda	ay)	L
		7.30pm		Parish Council Meeting		AYP
7	Tue	10.30am	-	1.00pm Dressmaking Small Hall (GB
		10.30am		Sandra Catley Exercise Class (e		
		12.30pm		Community Lunch Walnut Tree Inn		
		2.00pm		4.00pm "Get On-line" Drop-in se	ession	Lib
		6.00pm		Pilates (every Tuesday)		GB
		6.20pm		Zumba (also 7th, 14th & 28th)		L
		7.30pm		Mere Historical Society		GB
8	Wed	1.45pm		Friends Together Whist Drive		GB
		7.30pm		Gardening Club		GB
9	Thur	5.00pm		Girl Guiding (every Thursday)		GB
10	Fri	10.00am		Merely Women (also 24th)		GB
		7.00pm		Friends of Mere Museum. Wine	Tasting Evenin	g GB
		7.30pm		Mere Filmshows/Moviola "Hidde	n Figures"	L
13	Mon	7.30pm		Mere Am. Dram. Socy (MADS) I	Meeting (Green	R.) L
14	Tue	10.30am		Mere Historical Society Morning Talk GB		GB
		2.30pm		Mothers Union meeting		GB
		7.15pm		Yoga (also 21st & 28th)		GB
15	Wed	3.00pm	-	4.00pm T@3	Angel Tea F	looms
		3.00pm	-	4.30pm "Get On-line" Drop-in	Angel Tea F	looms
17	Fri	7.30pm		Suchana Skittles Evening		MSC
18	Sat	10.30am		Drop In Coffee Morning + Traido	raft stall	CC
		7.00pm		Oasis Carnival Club Bingo		L
19	Sun	4.30pm		Three Counties Choir Concert	St Mid	chaels
22	Wed	1.45pm		Friends Together		GB
		2.00pm		November Short Walk		CP
23	Thur	7.30pm		MADS Play, 'Outside Edge'		L
24	Fri	7.30pm		MADS Play, 'Outside Edge'		L
25	Sat	7.30pm		MADS Play, 'Outside Edge'		L

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BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:Ian Treece□: 07754 524802Lecture Hall:Sally Johnson☎: 01747 861063URC Church HallEileen 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 (2: 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

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

🙎: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

Ta: 01985 844740

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