

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



Clock Tower - Mere

Colin Anderson 1992

OCTOBER 2017

21st MERE LITERACY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 9th - 15th 2017

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MONDAY 9th **NOT THE RED BARON** - Writer, actor & filmmaker, **Geoff Pridmore**, talks about his biography of display pilot, **Robin Bowes**, killed in an aerial dogfight display at Stourhead Gardens in 1995. **Grove Building 7.30pm. *£6**

TUESDAY 10th **Mere Historical Society MORNING TALK** - **James Bradnock** on Popham, a 16th Century lawyer who made good. **Grove Building 10.15 for 10.30am** Retiring Donations

COMMUNITY LUNCH + coffee-time talk by **Sue Evans** on the compiling of *Merely a Festival* (2 course Lunch £9.95 Book with venue on 01747 860427). **The George Inn 12.00 for 12.30pm.**

THE UNFORTUNATE CAPTAIN PEIRCE & THE WRECK OF THE HALSEWELL
Philip Browne on one of England's most dramatic maritime disasters. **Grove Building 7.30pm *£6**

WEDNESDAY 11th **...AND THE RAINS CAME.** **Joyce Lewis** talks about her life as a missionary in Bangladesh as recalled in her recent book. **Grove Buildings 2.30pm.** Retiring donations.

NOT JUST GERTRUDE JEKYLL A talk by **Christine Stones** on women who have influenced garden design. Hosted by **Mere Gardening Club.** **Grove Building. 7.30pm.** Retiring Donations

THURSDAY 12th **EVERY SECRET THING** with **Rachel Crowther.** The author talks about writing and her latest novel published this summer. **Grove Building 2.30pm** Retiring Donations

FILM SHOW Mere Film Shows & Wilts. Moviola present *Their Finest* with a stellar cast including Bill Nighy, Gemma Arterton, Richard E. Grant & Jeremy Irons. **Lecture Hall 7.30pm. *£6**

FRIDAY 13th **THE WELL BELOVED: The Women in Thomas Hardy's Life and Fiction.**

Peter Tail talks about his new book on Thomas Hardy. **Grove Building 2.30pm** Retiring Donations

AN EVENING WITH BRIAN FREELAND. A long and varied career touring the world with theatre companies is described in Brian's humorous autobiography. **Grove Building 7.30p.m. *£6**

SATURDAY 14th **POETRY WORKSHOP** A practical workshop on writing poetry with prize-winning poet and writing tutor, **Rosie Jackson.** Contact organiser **Grove Building 10am-12noon £10**

CHILDREN'S EVENT with children's author **MICHAEL WILLS. Library 2.15pm *Free**

Ticket POETRY in the GROVE Reading of the competition shortlist. **Grove Building**

2.30pm Free

THE LIFE of EDWARD THOMAS Readings by **Mere Drama Society** tell the moving story of poet Edward Thomas and his links with Wiltshire. **Lecture Hall 7.30pm *£6**

SUNDAY 15th AWARD CEREMONY for 2017 **Poetry Competition** with poet **Dawn Gorman**

and the local and junior section judges. **Lecture Hall 3pm** Book stalls from 2.30p.m. **Free**

Tickets from Mere Library 01747 860546 or Book with Festival Organiser 01747 860475

Full details / Postal Booking Form on **www.merelifest.co.uk** & in Festival Programme.

In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg. Charity No: 1062328

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. 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 held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 2nd October 2017.**

The Chairman writes:

We had a long September meeting with much to discuss and an emphasis on housing in Mere: planning applications as usual, further news on the bungalows being built on Bramley Hill and much discussion of the Draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocation and the provision of affordable housing. I know that many residents in Mere worry about large scale developments in the town, but we must also try to meet the need for more housing by sensible development and the site allocation is part of that process. As we develop our Neighbourhood Plan there will be consultation with you about how we can manage the development of Mere in terms of housing, employment, education and recreation – I hope you will be enthusiastic in responding.



I have been hearing more compliments about how Mere is looking and will pass one on myself. I have had a good few visitors, family and friends, who always get a walk about the town and, without fail, they comment of the well-kept look of so many houses and front gardens. Thank you, Mere. May I also compliment Mere Surgery on their outstanding rating in the Annual GP Patient Survey – a result of the hard work and the high standards maintained by the staff there.

Under the aegis of Mere Town Council, Mrs. Mary White and two other committee members have been organising the Mere Film Shows. These have proved to be very

popular and over the last 14 years have raised £6,500 which has been given out in community donations. After 14 successful years, Mrs. Mary White has decided that the time has come for her to step down as the organiser of Mere Film Shows. I am sure you will join me and the Council in saying an Oscar-sized thank you to Mary.

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**

Construction of the two Wiltshire Council affordable rented bungalows for the over 55s on land at Bramley Hill was to commence on Monday, 4th September. The two bungalows will be completed during the spring of 2018 and further information regarding the bungalows and how to apply for tenancy will follow during the winter. Should you wish to discuss, or have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Andy Mead, Commissioning Officer ( AndrewM.Mead@Wiltshire.gov.uk or : 01225 716672), who will be pleased to assist. The footpath which runs north/south connecting Homefield to Bramley Hill, adjacent to the existing garage site, will be closed for safety reasons during the construction process. Hoardings/signage will be erected at the appropriate time.

Writing this the day after the Carnival, I must congratulate the carnival entrants for the brave way they resolutely paraded despite the weather. Thank you too, to the many people who also stood in the rain to watch and cheer them as they passed. This is another event in the full calendar of Mere where volunteers make a big effort, which benefits so many of us – so thank you to the Carnival Committee.

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere 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.

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

I have recently come across a book I have not previously seen, by Ralph Whitlock entitled 'Wiltshire published in 1976. It has several references to Mere. It states 'Once as lonely and remote as a frontier town should be, Mere has lately become far too busy for its comfort, for since the A303 has come to be regarded as the main highway from

London to the West, its narrow, sharp-angled streets are frequently, and especially at holiday week-ends, jammed with traffic. Normally adequate car parks, however, help to make it a popular mid-day halt for travellers'. This as I remember it (cannot quite remember it being a frontier Town!), not much has changed, complaints of slow moving traffic, over full car parks and a refreshment stop after travelling across Salisbury Plain.

I have in previous months referred to the now removed skips in The Salisbury Street Car Park at Mere. I have been asked several times face to face and also by some on the local facebook site, will the mini recycling centre return to the Salisbury Street car park? The Town Council was against its continuation; Wiltshire Council stated the closing of approximately seven sites would save about £7,000, plus stop commercial operators using them. I was against the removal of the skips, the paper bank did produce £350 per load in revenue, and the collection cost under half of this, the other banks may have cost money to maintain. Also much of the commercial use now goes to Landfill. The local school I understand will still take paper.

The parish areas of West Knoyle and Mere have seen road improvements recently. I have been questioned many times over the last year, regarding Barrow Street Lane (Old Barrow Street) and West Knoyle being resurfaced when it is all used so infrequently. The reason was its lack of skid resistance. Once a highway fails this test it jumps in effect to a high priority.

The South West Area Board still has funds to help fund community projects and the youth. Do you have a project? I am helping Lynch Close residents with an application at present, for a community greenhouse and shed. This will be considered at the next Area Board along with an application from West Knoyle village hall, both of which I currently support.

The National Trust has kindly agreed to sponsor a wooded pole for occasional use of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Stourton Lane. Also a good neighbour has agreed along Shaftesbury Road at Mere, to the same use. The community SID will be moved around the area, and a consortium of Kilmington, Stourton and possibly Zeals will also have access to a further grant aided SID.

Transport for London has successfully trialled virtual speed bumps at 45 locations across the capital. Officials painted a design on the road which acts as an optical illusion, tricking drivers into slowing down. A number of boroughs across London have also adopted the idea, and local authorities in other parts of the country might now be tempted to follow suit, particularly in light of Environment Secretary Michael Gove's call for speed bumps to be removed as part of efforts to curb pollution. Cambridgeshire County Council used inlaid bricks to create a 'fake' roundabout last November.

Sometimes political correctness can go a little too far. Women-only swimming classes that were scrapped by Stroud DC have been reinstated. The authority cited the Equalities Act 2010 when explaining its reasons for admitting men to the weekly

sessions at a Gloucestershire leisure centre, but now says it "should have taken legal advice" before acting.

I have been encouraging the local parish and town councils which I attend, to allow and promote very small social housing schemes in the same vein as that developed recently at Gasper to house local workers and those with local connections. In my opinion Gasper has been very successful. In decades to come, if such housing is not allowed, it is unlikely any key workers will be able to afford to live in our rural area. The Wiltshire Council housing needs survey is so complex in my opinion it does not give an accurate picture. I and many others and locally are aware of the situation and a locally developed housing needs survey is required, which I will encourage Mere Town Council and other parishes to do. Nationally as we know housing need is acute for many. I see an extreme case recently that Flintshire County Council has begun using the Pontins Holiday Camp in Prestatyn, North Wales, to house homeless people because of growing pressure on a housing waiting list, which has grown by a third since September last year. To make it clear, all I am promoting are very small schemes that are controlled, for local workers or those with local connections.

Refuse firm Biffa has called on the Government to rethink its national policy on handling waste amid concern about stalled recycling rates, not enough incinerators being built and insufficient landfill space. A report from the company says the UK is now recycling about 45% of household waste and 59% of commercial and industrial waste, but existing measures are only likely to see modest improvements. CEO Ian Wakelin also says that local authority waste disposal projects will provide long-term returns but there is a deficit of commercial investment money available for such schemes



South West Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership (SWWCSP) will meet four times a year, with invited representatives from Wiltshire Police and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. A meeting was held at the end of September when the agenda included Local concerns raised on: Drug taking; road safety regarding tractors, and hoax callers. Local needs, priorities and outcomes were discussed.

At a recent meeting regarding planning, I learned the government is considering changing the community infrastructure levy (CIL) again. At present it is attracted mainly by domestic property, now I understand the government to be considering an infrastructure levy to include many commercial buildings when developed. Another planning issue I have read of with interest, bus operator Stagecoach has warned that its fleet is being forced to avoid a number of newly built housing estates because planners are failing to provide wide enough roads. Sharp bends, overzealous traffic calming measures and parked cars have also been cited as concerns. The company has issued guidance to councils, urging them to build roads at least 6.5m wide. The Walnut development has 5.5m roads, which I championed at the time of development as The Fields development, which just preceded it, were 4.5m. I am aware of our ever

decreasing number of buses and have displayed the new X4 time table locally. I have copies for those who request.

In the Children and Social Work Bill 2016 the Government has signalled a clear intention to extend services offered to care leavers. This will ensure that every young person who has been in care will be entitled to personalised support until their 25th birthday (it currently terminates when reaching 21). This will also increase the financial burden on Wiltshire Council.

Government figures suggest the number of pupils in England's secondary schools is set to rise by almost a fifth by 2026. The increase in pupil numbers is equivalent to 267 average sized secondary schools. The Department for Education commented that the increase is "primarily because increased births from 2002 onwards means there are now larger numbers entering secondary schools at age 11 than are leaving them at age 16."

A reminder again I have a facebook page 'Cllr George Jeans', which I use to display some events I have attended and some other material. It is not a platform for conversation at present; I do not view it regularly, whereas e-mails to : **george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk** or by telephoning : 07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.



FIRE SERVICE OFFERS FREE FIRE SAFETY CHECKS

Free fire safety checks and smoke alarms are being offered by Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

Service.

As part of its ongoing focus on preventing fire-related incidents in the home, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is providing one-to-one advice in the home, which incorporates fire safety and health and well-being. Wiltshire residents can arrange for a member of the Fire Service to visit them at their property and provide smoke alarms and safety advice as part of a Safe and Well visit.

The visit will identify potential risks within the home and how to reduce or prevent these risks. It covers electrical safety, escape plans, cooking, smoking, personal safety and the immediate installation of smoke alarms, if needed, all free of charge.

If you live in a thatched property, or are over 65, or smoke, or have mobility or long-term health problems, or have children under 5, please ☎: 0800 038 2323 or visit 🌐: www.dwfire.org.uk to request a free Safe and Well visit. Specific information about thatched properties is also available.

Karen Pearson, Safe and Well Advisor, D&WFRS ☎: 01722 691259



Mere Dental Practice

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Christopher Davies

Dental Hygienists : Laura Moss, Jenny Minors

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

✉: meredental16@btconnect.com

🌐: www.meredentistry.co.uk

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

Friday 8.45am -5pm

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



goodpractice



Denplan

At the heart of dental care



MERE SURGERY SEASONAL VACCINATIONS

Adult Flu Vaccination

Clinic to be held on Saturday, 14 October 2017 – 9.00am to 1.00pm

Flu vaccination is recommended for the following patients:-

Patients aged 65 and over
Carers
Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy)

Patients aged 6months – 64 years at risk including the following conditions:-

Diabetes
Asthma (if you are using a steroid inhaler as well as Ventolin or Salbutamol)
Chronic Respiratory Disease
Chronic Heart Disease
Chronic Liver Disease
Chronic Kidney Disease
Chronic Neurological Disease
Patients with a low immunity
Morbid Obesity (adults with a BMI more than or equal to 40kg/m²)

If you are unsure if you fall into one of these risk categories or not, please check at the surgery.

Please contact the surgery to make your appointment ☎: 01747 860001 or appointments can be booked online. Please ask for a password at reception if you do not currently have access to this facility.

Child Flu Vaccination

Children aged 2 and 3 on 31st August 2017 (date of birth 1/9/2013 to 31/8/2015) are being offered routine vaccination for flu this year. The vaccination is given in the form of a nasal spray and separate clinic times for children have been set up. **Please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your child if you would like them to be vaccinated. Children aged 4-8 years will be vaccinated at school.**

Shingles Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients who turn 70 or 78 (date of birth 2/9/1945 to 1/9/1946) or (2/9/1937 to 1/9/1938) during the year are encouraged to make an appointment for vaccination against Shingles. If you were recalled for a shingles vaccination last year, but have still not yet been vaccinated you can still attend for an appointment up until your 80th birthday

MenACWY Vaccination (only required if not previously vaccinated)

Patients aged 18 on 31/8/2017 (date of birth 1/9/1998 to 31/08/1999) are encouraged to attend for vaccination. This vaccine is also recommended for anyone up to the age of 25 years on the 31/8/2017 if you have not been previously vaccinated. **Please contact Reception for an appointment.**

**MERE SURGERY
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP**

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is pleased to confirm a further event, which we hope residents of Mere will find of interest.

“Understanding Macular Degeneration”

A talk performed by a representative from the Macular Society on this condition.

This will take place on **Tuesday, 10th October 2017 at 10.30 am** in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Patient Participation Group please ✉: **mereppg@yahoo.com** or contact the surgery ☎ 01747 860001

CREATIVE MERE

Many thanks to all those who supported the event held on the 9th & 10th September. It seems it may be some time before village stops talking about what a success it was. Photos have been posted on Mere Mutters and Creative Mere Facebook pages, so if you missed it then have a browse to see everyone in action.

Listed below are all the lucky Raffle Prize winners in no particular order. Please make contact if you have not received your prize.

Yellow	554501 208	Mary Wilson	Blue	766911 178	P Martin
Green	755463 405	Shirley Thomas	Blue	766911 115	Collard
Blue	766911 440	Thelma Smith	Green	755463 61	Marcus
Blue	766910 167	Clive Hazzard	Yellow	554501 148	Crystabelle
Blue	766910 377	Coltham	Blue	766911 52	Herbert
Yellow	554501 263	Barbs	Blue	766911 160	Smith
Yellow	554501 283	Clutterbuck	Blue	766910 248	Mr Bain
Blue	766910 373	Sherry Dixon	Blue	766910 443	Ebdon
Blue	766911 140	Loram	Green	755463 88	Steadman
Blue	766911 291	Penny & Roger			

Richard Jefferies ☎: 01747 86342 ✉: **rajefferies@btinternet.com**

CARNIVAL

Many thanks to the businesses and individuals that so generously donated prizes, money and vouchers to use for Fundraising during the year. These have been used predominately at the Bingos, but also the Quiz to take place on Friday, 6th October in the Grove Buildings.

Businesses

Nectar, F J Chalke, The George, Mere Down Falconry, Hardy Bros. Mere Pharmacy, The Co-op, Golden Valley, Jeans Electrical, Waltons Newsagents, Theatre Royal Bath, Palmers Brewery Bridport, East Somerset Railway, Cranmore. Haynes International Motor Museum, Sparkford.

Individuals

Janet Marshall, Mary-anne McCrow, Julia Seal, Elizabeth Hames, Sue Wilcox, Renee White, Sam Roberts, Gill Roberts. Sue Luffman and Thelma Ings.

Some prizes were left with no names; also there were those who chose to remain anonymous.

Thanks also to everyone on the Carnival Committee that helped with the Bingo evenings. Special thanks also go to Chris, Dawn and Eve, also Jean Young, Julia Seal and Gordon Payne for serving refreshments and Katy at K M Beauty for so beautifully wrapping and packing the prize boxes.

Thank you to everyone who has attended and supported the three carnival bingos this year.

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

“Odd” items are welcome also, i.e. in date non-perishable items, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, etc., as they can be made up into “prize boxes”. Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom.

Sue Jeans, for the Carnival Committee, ☎: 01747 860215

Mere Carnival 2017 Evening Procession Awards

From Saturday's very wet Carnival the following awards were made. Many thanks to all who helped make it happen and to everyone for persevering despite the weather.

Class 1, Decorated Trade,
1, 100 Years of Trading, Jeans Electrical

The Georgian House Cup

Class 2, Tableaux,
1, Secrets of the Loch, Magnum CC

The Philip Coward Cup

Class 3, Feature,
1, Norty, Highwayman CC

The Walton Challenge Cup

Class 4, Humorous/Comic,	The Hazzard Family Cup
Class 5, Junior Float,	Caroline Young Memorial Cup
Class 6, Hand truck/trailer/van with props incl. music assisting walkers of any age	Walker Family Cup
1, The Deadly Fynoby, Curly Wurly CC	
2, Balatro, Muppets CC	
3, Storms Little Farmers, Storm CC	
Class 7, Walking single (16 years +),	Mere Fabrication Cup
1, Witch Way!?, Funtastic CC	
2, Gardeners Delight, Ann Cook	
3, Stitch in Time, Tracey Cook (Amethyst CC)	
Class 8, Walking group (16 years +),	Sonia Cassell Cup
1, Dead Dapper, Inferno CC	
2, Ole!, Dee Gees CC	
3, Rock Lobsters, Just Georges CC	
Class 9, Waking single (under 16),	Herbert Cup
1, Bake Off, Alice Loftus	
2, Knit One, Purl One, Lotty Wheeler	
3, The Sami Wanderer, Izzy Wheeler	
Class 10, Walking group (under 16),	Mere Challenge Cup
1, Infinity Dance, Infinity Dance	
2, Harliquin Brothers, Alfred & Oscar Penny	
3, Little Devils - 'Swashbucklers', Little Devils JCC	
Class 2-6, Best Costume,	Keysley Cup
1, Secrets of the Loch, Magnum CC	
2, The Deadly Fynoby, Curly Wurly CC	
3, Norty, Highwayman CC	
Class 2-6, Best Music,	Nurden-Read Carnival Cup
1, Secrets of the Loch, Magnum CC	
2, Balatro, Muppets CC	
3, Norty, Highwayman CC	
Class 3-6, Best Routine,	Hamilton Litesat Cup
1, Balatro, Muppets CC	
2, Storms Little Farmers, Storm CC	
3, The Great Rival Adventure, Arneys CC	
Class 2-6, Best Dressed Driver,	Den McCann Award
1, Secrets of the Loch, Magnum CC	
2, Storms Little Farmers, Storm CC	
Class 2-5, Ground Crew Award,	Cake Family Shield
1, Norty, Highwayman CC	
Class 7-10, Best Walking,	Jeans Hoover Cup
1, Bake Off, Alice Loftus	

2, Knit One, Purl One, Lotty Wheeler
 3, Dead Dapper, Inferno CC

Heather Stone: DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

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

Class 9-10, Best Youth,	Andy Young Memorial Cup
1, Knit One, Purl One, Lotty Wheeler	
2, Infinity Dance, Infinity Dance	
3, The Sami Wanderer, Izzy Wheeler	
Class 7-10, Best Costume - Walking,	Mary Chalke Memorial Cup
1, Knit One, Purl One, Lotty Wheeler	
2, Luck of the Irish, Abigail Holt	
Spirit of Carnival,	Ron Cake 60 years Cup
Infinity Dance, Infinity Dance	
Class 2-6, Reserve Champion,	Ann Tranter Memorial Cup
The Deadly Fynoby, Curly Wurly CC	
Class 2-6, Champion,	Mere Chamber of Trade Cup
Secrets of the Loch, Magnum CC	
Majorettes,	
Drum Major,	Paige Lawes Cup
1, Ilchester Gems, Ilchester Gems Majorettes	
2, Cygnets, Castle Cary Majorettes	
3, Enigma , Enigma Majorettes	
Costume,	Reg and Brenda Lawes Cup
1, Ilchester Gems, Ilchester Gems Majorettes	
2, Stardust 80s Heartbreakers, Stardust Majorettes	
3, Enigma , Enigma Majorettes	
Overall Champion,	Stuart Lawes Cup
1, Ilchester Gems, Ilchester Gems Majorettes	
2, Enigma , Enigma Majorettes	
3, Stardust 80s Heartbreakers, Stardust Majorettes	

John Jordan, Carnival Treasurer

Carnival Raffle Winners:

First prize	£100	ticket number 1199	J. Burfitt
Second prize	£75	ticket number 0404	Bella Wallace
Third prize	£50	ticket number 1874	Jan Waghorne
Fourth prize	£25	ticket number 2029	George Pester

Bottle of wine
Bottle of wine

ticket number 0571
ticket number 3817

P. Staples
Wayne

Mere Carnival Quiz

Friday, 6th October at 7.30pm in the Grove Building
£2.00 each - tables of four

This is our first fundraiser for Carnival 2018. Please come and support us and have a fun night with varied subjects and questions. Something for everyone. Raffle and refreshments available.

Carol Payne, for the Carnival Committee, ☎: 01747 861639

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

Sunday, 9th – Sunday, 15th October

In 2016 Link volunteers drove 32,222 miles in answering requests from Mere & District and this year may exceed that distance. The Link hopes you will go an extra mile to support this year's Mere Literary Festival, which is its annual major fund-raiser. As the festival enters its third decade it features stories from Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, community involvement and both afternoon and evening events.

An outline of the programme appears on the inside front cover of this issue with thanks to Mere Matters. Full details are in the big green programme or on the festival website 🌐: **www.merelifest.co.uk**

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

SEEDS FOR SUCCESS

A Title Well Deserved

On Wednesday, 16th August I was delighted to attend a Coffee and Cake morning organised by the young people of Seeds for Success. The lovely idea was to entertain the more elderly residents of Mere and surrounding villages and to make them aware of recent group activities. The limitless coffee and cakes were cooked and served by the Five Star team who then joined us for a chat. The confidence and aspirations of the young people was so inspiring. Their individual successes for the future must be a foregone conclusion. All praise must go to Jackie Farrell and her team of supporters for nurturing and guiding the young people to achieve their goals.

Many of us were not aware of the Organisation or what they did. We do now, following a short Presentation describing some of their activities. Team building exercises involved a recent trip to South Wales where they took part in kayaking, surfing, coasteering, etc.. They also went to the Magdalen Project in Chard which is an Organic



Farm learning about crops and gardening. Then a Fund Raising exercise at Morrisons bag packing and - 'bagging' an enormous £515 towards their own funds. If this was not enough, they then went 'Ragwort Picking' for a local farmer.

After the Presentation a Grand Raffle was held – the table groaning with lovely prizes. Then a very thoughtful addition to the proceedings when a representative from the local Fire Brigade gave us a short talk on keeping ourselves safe in our homes and offering home visits.

I am sure I speak for all who attended when I say thank you to Seeds for Success for such a wonderful morning and giving us the opportunity to meet such inspirational young people.

Linda Jones ☎: 017



HERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Emergency First Aid at Work Training Course

‘HSE approved course’

Mere Chamber will be running this one day course on Emergency First Aid at Work from 9.00am – 4.30pm at Mere Social Club on Wednesday, 18th October 2017.

This course is designed to meet the requirements of Health & Safety [First Aid] regulations 1981, which states by law, that all businesses must have one or more qualified first aiders.

Course Overview

Would you know what to do if someone was.....

- unconscious?
- had a heart attack?
- were bleeding badly?
- has burnt or scalded themselves?
- had a fall and suffered a fracture?

Knowing what to do could help save a life

Upon completion of the course delegates will be awarded with a certificate valid for 3 years.

Places for Chamber members are £72 per delegate and places for non members are £87 per delegate.

For further information or to book a place please contact us at

✉: merechamber@outlook.com or by phoning Chamber Secretary Julie Cousins on the telephone number below

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 4th October 2017 at 7.30 pm in Mere Social Club.

Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎: 07856 700576

REFLEXOLOGY with GEORGIE PEART. MAR

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

Gillingham 01747 590714

07710 008744 georgiereflexology.com

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

The club enjoyed a goodly turnout of visitors (over 100) during the Creative Mere Weekend and it was interesting to see that the greater majority were families and those

of the younger generation. A few who stayed for more than an hour, appeared to immerse themselves in the activities offered. Some threatened to return to join our numbers, so for those, our club is open from 7.00-9.00pm each Wednesday evening. Should this be inconvenient for anybody who wishes to have a look around, before thinking of joining, then please contact me at the number below to arrange a suitable time. Please note that **one annual membership fee encompasses all family members** living under the same roof.

Both me and my wife are both former teachers, who have current DBS certificates to work with Children.

We still have an O gauge and OO gauge layout for sale.

For those of a more studious nature there is a 'Creative Mere' display in the Museum section of the Library that includes a model railway theme of hand built items.

Dates and Events for your Diary

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

Weekend 16th & 17th June 2018 Mere Model Railway Exhibition in the Lecture Hall

For further information please contact me

Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The first Community Lunch of the season is always part of The Mere Literary Festival and will be held next month on Tuesday, 10th October 2017 at The George Inn, The Square, Mere, 12 noon for 12.30pm. During coffee, Sue Evans will be talking on the

compiling of 'Merely a Festival'. Space is limited, so book well in advance (☎: 01747 860427). The delicious two course set meal is £9.95. drinks not included. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Community Lunch will continue on the first Tuesday of the month, up to Easter, excluding December, when we are too busy partying. The venue alternates between The George Inn and the Walnut Tree Inn (☎:01747 861220) on the Shaftesbury Road, Mere. 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**



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 18th October 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, 16th October, please. Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome. **Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524**

The Friends of St Michael's



Michaelmas Fair



Saturday 30th September

10.00am to 12.00noon

the Grove Building

Lots of stalls - grab a bargain for Christmas!

Cakes, Raffle & Refreshments

MERE GARDENING CLUB

in association with Mere Literary Festival

Not Just Gertrude Jekyll

Christine Stones

Wednesday, 11th October 7.30pm Grove Building

Members thoroughly enjoyed Christine's talk on WWI gardens last year. This time she will be talking about Gertrude Jekyll and other women gardeners in the history of gardening.

Retiring donations for Mere Literary Festival (Link Scheme)

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

Classes at Mere Lecture Hall:

Watercolour Club – Monday evenings 7.00 - 9.00

starts 30th October 7 sessions for £100.00

Watercolour Techniques – Friday mornings 10.30 – 12.30

Tuition includes painting Stone, Moving Water, Glass, Trees,

Metal, Fur and an individual project

starts 3rd November 7 sessions for £100.00

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

OCTOBER SHORT WALK

Join me for a short 2-3mile walk around Mere's hidden ways to see the Autumn colours. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park on Thursday, 19th October and indulge afterwards in a piece of cake and tea in the Angel Tea Rooms.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

TRUSSELL TRUST CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Last year we were able to send a wonderful 170 Christmas shoe boxes, via The Trussell Trust, to Bulgaria and Syria to bring such happiness and joy to people who live in great poverty. An amazing total of 11,724 boxes were hand delivered and these all came from people who care about the individuals who have so little compared with ourselves. Thank you SO much to everybody who gave their time, money and thoughts.

This year the collection day, at morning service at St Michaels, will be Sunday, 19th November, but I am very, very happy to receive boxes at my home, The Cottage, Waterside (over the old stone bridge!) before that date.

Please ask your work mates, club members and friends to join in and have fun filling a box! Mere knitters- they LOVE your hats, scarves and gloves!


Thank you so much.


Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

The Autumn Bazaar is going to be an amazing event! Not only do we have our usual stalls including Cakes, Jams, Kitchenalia, Bric a Brac, Tombola, Raffle & Books, we are also having a 50p bargain table and 'The Man Shed' is going to be open! On top of all that, for your entertainment, we are absolutely delighted to announce that Steve Hawkin is launching the Mere 2018 Calander, in aid of the Rosemary Goddard Centre, at the Bazaar. He will also be selling prints of his stunning photos and has very kindly going to donate 50% of the proceeds from the sale of each copy of 'The Storm' to Mere Cancer Research. We are also very happy to accept all 'old' round £1 coins to save you taking them to the bank! See you at the Lecture Hall on Saturday, 7th October from 10.00am until 12.00noon.

Christmas is coming, and to start it all off in style we have the Christmas Market on Friday, 1st December from 6.00 - 8.00pm in the Town Square. We have had word from the North Pole that Father Christmas will be there and a very special festive guest will be turning on the tree lights.

As a committee we work hard to raise funds to help beat cancer sooner but are in need of some help... if you, or you know of anyone, can help us set up and pack up at our events, we would love to hear from you and your muscles, and maybe even a van. If you do please contact us by : merecancerresearch@mail.com, Facebook: Mere Cancer Research or by phone.

Penny Fennon : 07833 131712 (after 6.00pm)

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film for Mere Literary Festival on Thursday, 12th October is **'Their Finest' (12A)** and stars Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin and Bill Nighy. Set in London at the height of the Blitz, the film tells the story of Catrin (Arterton) who comes to London from South Wales and finds herself hired by the Ministry of Information to write 'the slops', or women's interests and views, in a propaganda film. But the film shifts from an emphasis on women to a general rallying call to the nation. The casting of stars shifts from heroines to a past-his-prime actor Ambrose Hilliard (Nighy) to an American fighter pilot with appalling acting skills! With beautiful cinematography 'Their Finest' nostalgically evokes the tensions and deprivations of London in 1940 and it poignantly captures the fragility of life in the London Blitz. Whilst it is described as a comedy drama, the film is also surprisingly moving. Come and support the Literary Festival and enjoy a wonderful film. Full details on page 28.

Dates for the Diary: Friday, 10th November: 'Hidden Figures'

When Mere Film Shows started in 2004, it was not intended to be a profit making venture, but with good audiences over the last fourteen years we have given back

almost £6,500 to nearly twenty different organisations in Mere in need of funds, so perhaps it can be deemed a successful venture. However, the time has now come for me to stand down from organising Mere Film Shows and to hand over to someone new. It is not too onerous a task, but a gently busy one. So if you would like to know more, come and speak to me at the films or give me a ring. David and Jean will carry on so you won't be on your own!

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

PRESENTATION BY EXPLORER COLONEL JOHN BLASHFORD-SNELL OBE

When & Where

Saturday, 28th October 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Grove Building.

Tickets

£10 per person to include light refreshments.

Col. Blashford-Snell is one of the world's most renowned and highly respected explorers and founder of the registered charity Scientific Exploration Society which has its Expedition Base at Motcombe, where he now lives. He has organised and led more than 100 expeditions and this illustrated talk will be 'The Eighth Wonder' led by him.

It covers the discovery of strange underwater ruins and wrecks by a large team of Royal Engineer divers off Paphos, Cyprus. There is also a local connection here in that another team member with an important role in that undertaking, then serving with the British Army in Cyprus, is living in Mere.

As some of you may know, John is an accomplished and much in demand speaker whose presentations are always very interesting and often appropriately humorous. There will be time for questions and comments afterwards.

Tickets are available from Mere Library on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am--5.00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9.30 am--1.00 pm. All proceeds, including from a raffle, will go to the Scientific Exploration Society registered charity No 267410.

For more details, please contact me:

Ros Wardall ☎: 07928 305003

ARTISAN AUTUMN

Arts and crafts seem to be the flavour of Mere at the moment with the wonderful exhibition of Ann Lander's weaving in the Museum followed by 'Made in Mere'. And our very successful weekend 'Creative Mere' showcasing the amazing talents of people living in our vibrant town.

This year's Traidcraft catalogue is highlighting the various traditional crafts from people all over the world, and the Fair Trade premium they all receive is helping so many families raise themselves out of poverty. I shall have a large selection at the One World

Week Fair on 21st October but also look out for my stalls in November and December to find a unique hand-made gift for Christmas.

The beautiful range of Christmas Cards are also now ready for ordering from Carole Marshall at St Mary's or myself, please ask for a catalogue or see the poster in the Church porch. Every purchase helps Traidcraft's work in developing Fair Trade products, and supporting poor communities around the World.

The One World Week theme this year is being 'Good Neighbours'. We do a great deal in Mere already and buying Fair Trade gifts and products is just another way of how we can 'Show We Care'.
Janet Way ☎: 01747860884

SHREEN HARMONY

We are singing at the One World Fair on Saturday, 21st October at 11.30am in the Grove Building. Please do come along and support us and of course enjoy and support the Fair too!

Our Christmas concert will be held on the Saturday, 16th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. We will be serving mulled wine and various nibbles as usual. It is a good way to start Christmas, but more about that later.

We have welcomed some new members this term, which was good, but we still are looking particularly for altos so if you enjoy singing and believe you are an alto, we would love to see you. Come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. in the United Reformed Church Hall. You will be given a very warm welcome.

Sandra Fisher, ☎: 01747 861980



MERE MUSEUM

After the very successful, displays of contemporary work by Mere's multifarious creative artists in mid-September, the Museum is delighted to be able to follow this up with an exhibition which demonstrates how very imaginative, inventive and skilled past (and some present) residents of Mere have been! In our new exhibition '**Made in Mere**' you can see a large brass clockface and a small silver pocket watch, children's toys and a child's chair, model trains and model animals (snuff-boxes!), photographs and posters and, as they so often say these days, 'much, much more!' Don't miss this intriguing exhibition. Entrance to the Museum is always free.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Subscriptions to the Friends is due for renewal on Sunday, 1st October and, as you will remember, we have agreed that they should go up so as to continue to be able to support the work of the Museum.

If you pay by cash or cheque, you will be receiving a reminder letter around the middle of October with details of the new rates. Thank you to everyone for your support of Mere's Museum.
Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

MADS players are currently in the nets and practising for their up-coming display of skill in the field (and on the stage). '**Outside Edge**', the title of MADS's autumn production, is now in rehearsal, with Bowler Bob Modlen putting everyone through their paces.

To be sure not to miss the final match, please put **Thursday, 23rd November to Saturday, 25th November** in your diaries. We're confident that we won't need more than three days to pull off a great sporting triumph! Tickets will be available at the Library from the end of October.
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

The Dressmakers thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many people visiting their stall at 'Creative Mere'. A rota of 10 very keen ladies were kept very busy with enquiries about our courses, but more importantly appreciation for the work they have proudly produced and admiration for their expertise and enthusiasm. They made an excellent team.

We also raised around £50 for Alzheimer's Research, which was an added bonus.

I was close by enjoying my own pastime of spinning and weaving with help from my Granddaughter Mia, who is learning how to use the Drum Carder for spinning and felting. So plenty of textile expertise and learning.

The Dressmaking courses have commenced for Autumn with a further two courses in November. For details about availability on Tuesday morning and Wednesday evenings please contact me on the number below, or through our Facebook Page: "Dressmaking in Mere".

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or Susanne 📠: 07788 595434

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

As well as our Half Term children's event (see below) our regular meeting this month at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 10th October in the Grove Building is a joint event with Mere Literary Festival, and features members of Pennybank Writers sharing prose and poetry with us, providing a varied and entertaining afternoon. Everyone welcome!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎:01747-860553



**Mere Mothers Union invite
Mums with children for a**

Half-Term Fun Afternoon

and Teddy Bears' Picnic

on Tuesday, 24th October 2017

2.00-4.00pm in the Grove Building

**Toys & games for little ones; games & craft activities for
older children; Tea and cakes for everyone
Husbands/Partners welcome – and Teddies!**

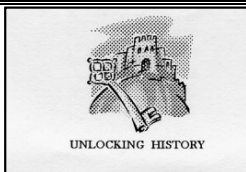
Just come along, or for more info please phone the number below.

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎: 01747-860553

Antique Furniture Restoration Workshop Closing Down Sale Bennetts Field Trading Estate Wincanton BA9 9DT

October 16th – 27th the remaining contents of Mike Durkee's workshop will be up for sale. Come along and see if you can find something for your shed!!

**Brass fitments, polish and wax, veneer, tools, timber and wood for
burning .**



Mere Historical Society

Sadly the lecture that was to have to have been given by Peter Fitzgerald on Tuesday, 3rd October has had to be postponed and we hope that it can be

re-arranged for a later date.

At short notice Ralph Jerram has kindly agreed to give the following talk:

The History of Desert Island Discs

Peter Jerram

Tuesday, 3rd October, 7.30pm in the Grove Building

£3 entry for non members who are very welcome

Morning talk: Tuesday, 10th October:

'Popham- a 16th century lawyer who made good', by James Bradnoch.
To be held in the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am.

This talk is part of the Mere Literary Festival programme and there will be a retiring collection.

Non-members are very welcome.

Our programme for the rest of 2017 is on our website together with newsletters and much more. Do have a look!



merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

for the over 60s

Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere

Mondays and Fridays 10.30am to 3.00pm

We are very pleased to have had such a positive response to our Open Day which we held during August. Thank you to all those people that turned up to see what we get up to and organisations that came along on the day, including members of the Bowls Club, and residents of both Bramley House and Fives Court plus the wonderful staff that work

there and made it all possible. We had fun and laughter, brilliant entertainment from
(Continued on page 29)

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents
a Mere Literary Festival Event

'Their Finest' (12A)

Gemma Arterton Sam Claflin Bill Nighy
Richard E. Grant Jeremy Irons

Comedy drama directed by Lone Scherfig (*An Education, One Day*). At the height of the Blitz, Catrin (Gemma Arterton) lands a job writing propaganda films for the Ministry of Information and joins the cast and crew of a major production while the Blitz rages around them.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 12th October
at 7.30pm

(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257

Visit our website at : www.moviola.org

Johnny Mac, lots of dancing and a fantastic buffet provided by Fives Court. We are classing this as a warm up event for our 30th Anniversary next Year! Our guests enjoyed a trip to the new Brush Factory last month, it was interesting to see what the new building offered. The staff were very accommodating and the food was very nice.

If you are reading this before Saturday, 30th September, we are holding a charity bingo fund raiser on the night at Mere Social Club, 7.00pm doors open, 7:30pm eyes down. We have lots of good prizes up for grabs, a raffle and a cash flyer! Please come along and support your local day centre whilst having fun with friends. Who knows, you could be one of our lucky winners!

Steve Hawkins will be producing another calendar for next year with a percentage of the profits going to the RGC, which will be launched at the Mere Cancer Research Autumn Bazaar on Saturday, 7th October in the Lecture Hall.

We are 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, RGC Organiser : 07835 272406
: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

MERE BOWLS CLUB

To start, a quick resume of the clubs successes and failures in the past season. Earlier this month Don Butchers and Richard Coombs paired up to win the Wiltshire County Secretaries & Treasurers Competition.

Mere Ladies under the Captainship of Mary Butchers won the North Dorset League for the second time in three years. They came second last year. In the Westbrook League we came third, while in the Wessex League we have a lot of work to do in order to improve on our last place.

The Aussie Pairs Competition that was scheduled for 10th September was rained off, so a very enjoyable game of indoor curling was arranged in the pavilion at very short notice: A good time was had by all who remained. The Club Singles Competitions were held on Sunday, 17th September with the following results: The novice singles was won by Derek Fisher with a narrow victory over Les Mainwaring; John FitzGerald proved to be too strong for Richard Coombs in the 100-Up competition; John FitzGerald again triumphed in the two wood singles by beating Mary Butchers and finally Richard Coombs defeated our Captain, Karen Guy, in the Club singles final. Well done to all who participated.

As we now enter the closed season for outdoor bowling a number of our members are looking to continue bowling indoors at Clarrie Dunbar, which is an indoor bowling facility on the A36 at Standerswick just outside Frome. We will also start planning our monthly social evenings and putting the first details for our Spring Barn Dance in place. We will also start looking at our free "try before you buy" package, which we will introduce at the start of next season in April 2018. Watch this space for more news in the coming months.

At the AGM held on Monday, 25th September, our Chairman, Alan Inwood, and our Vice-President, Sheila Spencer, stood down. Theirs are hard acts to follow. Finally, as a Club we have had a great season, we could have done with a few more members and we could have had some better weather, but overall a good year. The green has played better than ever due to extra work being put in by our Greens Team under the admirable leadership of Phill Powell while our Social Evenings, with catering being provided by Alan & Chris Isgrove have proved to be as popular as ever with those that attended.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775



Mere School Reports

The 6 weeks holidays are now a thing of the past and the children and staff at Mere are back in school ready for a fantastic year of learning.

Blue Class

The children have been enjoying their first few weeks of school and are settling in well.

They have been learning all about the new routines and rules of Blue Class.

Yellow Class

Yellow class have settled in well and have been busy learning about what makes them and their family special.

Silver Class

Year 2 have ventured into the jungle and have been reading 'The Tiger Child'.

They have also been working hard painting their own tigers.

Gold Class

The children are enjoying being part of Key Stage 2 now and have enthusiastically taken part in the Friday afternoon Games lessons.

Green Class

The Year 4 children are travelling back in time to World War Two. They are starting to read a time travellers story and have discussed the things they would like about time travel.

Red Class

Red class are focusing on the Romans this term and have been busy learning about the city of Pompeii.

Purple Class

Year 6 have settled in well to their final year at Mere. They are starting to investigate the life and times of the Saxons and Vikings.

Sports Ambassadors

The new sports ambassadors for this year are Matthew Wade, George Rich, Lilly Ralph and Summer Gray. Congratulations to them all!

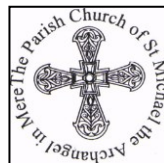
STOP PRESS!

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



www.mereschool.co.uk

COMING UP AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, IN OCTOBER



Sunday, 1st October 2017.

Harvest Festival

Service at 10:30am officiated by Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam. Pets are invited to join in the Service. Followed by Harvest Lunch at 12:00 pm in the Grove Building. Tickets: Adults £7, Under 12s £4, available from Jenny ☎: 01747 821335 or Sandra ☎: 01747 861980.

Sunday, 8th October 2017

10:30am Thanksgiving Service

for the Church and all who support it.

Sunday, 8th October 2017

6:00pm Literary Festival Service

Sunday, 22nd-Sunday, 29th October 2017 One World Week

Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary ☎: 01747 861319

PUB BANTER WITH THE VICAR

At the 'Butt of Sherry' Pub from 7.00pm on Monday, 16th October and Monday, 20th November.

This is an opportunity for a discussion about Christianity and how it can be relevant in the modern world. The first session will be about the nature of God. Please bring your questions, concerns and comments. Join us to do Pub Theology in one of our friendly local pubs.

Details from me:

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

CHRISTINE MARSH, LICENSED LAY MINISTER AT ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, WRITES:

October Thoughts

Did you know that a word for patience in Arabic is cactus? They both have the same root meaning 'to endure thirst'.

The Cacti, like other drought resistant plants, manage to survive against all odds in the most inhospitable environments. They are an illustration not only of living in harmony with the environment but also of patience, adaptability and perseverance.

Some years ago I visited the Namibian desert. Trudging along a dry dusty valley floor we suddenly came across one lone thorn bush, a Narra plant, the only sign of life in this barren landscape. Due to its bitter taste this prickly plant is not eaten, but its fruit, a melon shaped gourd, when ripe, splits and disperses thousands of seeds. These in turn are eaten by animals which are then eaten by larger animals which in turn are eaten by bigger creatures. This plant had, over some 20 years, persevered and patiently adapted all around it. It was now providing shelter and sustenance for many to make its small world a better place for many not just itself.

In our journey through life change is one of the few certainties. Things change, sometimes slowly and imperceptibly over many years, other times suddenly and challengingly.

Some of our life changes may be known or expected, but more will be as yet unknown. The changes may be wanted or unwanted, happy or sad but they will come regardless.

How we deal with these changes and challenges is likely to be affected by our own personalities and beliefs.

One of the most popular of church hymns is:

‘Through all the changing scenes of life, through trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still, my heart and tongue employ’.

A hymn not asking that any problems be removed but pointing to God for strength to face challenges ahead.

September in particular is a month of great change. Children go back to school; some for the first time, some to a larger school, some from school to college, some into the workplace.

Life experiences and social groups change; many challenges and maybe much upset often loom ahead.

September is the month when the freedom and light of summer fades, the dark nights lengthen and we move towards the autumn. Moving from light to dark always unsettles.

As we face any changes that this month brings, be they trouble or joy, may we, like the cactus and the Narra have the patience and perseverance to adapt and support. May we always sow seeds of harmony, kindness, tolerance and love that we and others can be supported through any challenges and dark grey days ahead, so that changes become manageable and dark grey clouds turned to autumnal gold.



A Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy will be held at Hillcrest, Hazzard's Hill (Rob & Elisabeth Barrett's house) on Tuesday, 3rd October from 10.30am-12.00noon. Everyone Welcome!

(continued overleaf)

Beautifully Preened Mobile Beauty Therapist, Makeup Artist

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

Please contact Heather on 07876 642637

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE
MONDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2017

And a date for your diary: We are holding a Skittles Evening at Mere Social Club on Friday, 17th November to which everyone will be welcome. Details in November edition of Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747-860553

GOOD NEIGHBOURS
'My World Depends on Us'
October 2017



ONE WORLD FAIR

Saturday, 21st October
11.00am-2.00pm

GROVE BUILDING

Stalls of all kinds, face-painting, games, singing with Shreen Harmony, and featuring guest Indian dancer, Pooja Rajguru

Delicious lunches, refreshments, & more!



IN MERE & DISTRICT

Our celebration of One World Week this year begins with the Fair (see above) and a service at the URC Church at **6.00pm on Sunday, 22nd October led by Jane Hurd** and with **a speaker from Christian Aid**. We will have our usual Remembrance Sunday service beginning in the Square at 10.45 on Sunday, 12th November; and we're already beginning to look ahead to Christmas and beyond:

Looking Ahead: Urgently needed for Christmas

Churches Together urgently needs a chef to cook the Christmas Day community lunch. We have an organiser for the event and lots of willing volunteers, but without a chef we will be unable to provide a Christmas lunch for those people of Mere and District who would otherwise be spending the day alone or unable to celebrate. Is there anyone with appropriate skills who is willing and able to give a few hours of their time to bring a little Christmas festivity for people who might otherwise be left out? For details please ring Judy Bickerstaff, Treasurer Mere and District Churches Together ☎: 01747 860335.

Looking Further Ahead: Needed for March

Seems a long way ahead, but a planning meeting will need to be held in December/January for next year's Lent Lunches on 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March – and for that to happen, we need an overall organiser. Volunteers from our various churches will provide soup etc and service at tables, but it won't happen at all without someone in overall charge of arrangements. Could that someone be you? To find out more or offer to help, please phone either number below.

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

Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

OCTOBER 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

Rest Day - Saturday

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden

☎ 01747 863424

Mrs Lynette Elliott

☎ 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon

☎ 01747 861319

✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		12.00pm	Holy Communion
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Harvest Festival Bishop Nicholas Holtam
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	3rd	3.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise, Literary Festival
	15th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	18th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	*22nd	10.30am	Holy Communion
		6.00pm	One World Service at URC
Sunday	29th	10.30am	No service at St Michaels Please come to Patronal Festival at All Saints, Maiden Bradley
		6.00pm	All Souls Memorial Service

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎: 01747 860685

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh
			Holy Communion
	8th		NO Morning Service
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise, Literary Festival
			Service in St Michael's Church
	15th	11.00am	Mr Dudley Coates
	22nd	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
		6.00pm	Churches Together
			One World Service
	29th	11.00am	Mr James Hepburn

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's
Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk
Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald
☎: 01747 860867

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

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:
Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859
✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk
Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534
Mr. Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	1st	9.30am	Holy Communion
	8th	9.30am	Matins
	15th	6.00pm	Evensong
	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday	29th	10.30am	No service at St Marys. Please come to Patronal Festival at All Saints, Maiden Bradley

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

DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 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	Sun	12.00pm	Harvest Festival lunch	GB
2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 9th, 16th & 30th)	L
		10.00am	Zumba First level (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm -	9.00pm Water Colour	L
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	10.30am	Sandra Catley (every Tuesday)	L
		10.30am -	12.00pm Suchana Coffee Morning	Hillcrest
		10.30am -	1.00pm Dressmaking (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		2.00pm -	4.00pm 'Get On-line' Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB

		6.00pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society talk	GB
4	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	- 9.00pm Dressmaking (also 11th & 18th)	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
5	Thur	10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.30am	Sandra Catley (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
6	Fri	1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Carnival Quiz	GB
7	Sat	10.00am	- 12.00pm Cancer Research 'Autumn Bazaar'	L
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
9	Mon	7.30pm	'Not the Red Baron' Literary Festival	GB
10	Tue	10.30am	- Patients Liaison Group Lecture	L
		10.15am	Mere Historical Society, Morning Talk	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch (Literary Festival) The George Inn	
		2.30pm	Mothers Union/Literary Festival	GB
		7.30pm	'The Unfortunate Captain Peirce etc' Literary Festival	GB
11	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		2.30pm	'...And The Rains Came', Literary Festival	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club/Literary Festival	GB
12	Thur	2.30pm	'Every Secret Thing' Literary Festival	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows/Moviola 'Their Finest'	L
13	Fri	9.00am	- 1.00pm Adult Flu Vaccinations	Surgery
		10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
		2.30pm	'The Well Beloved' Literary Festival	GB
		7.30pm	'An Evening with Brian Freeland' Literary Festival	GB
14	Sat	10.00am	- 1.00pm Poetry Workshop, Literary Festival	GB
		2.15pm	Childrens Event, Literary Festival	Lib
		7.30pm	'Life of Edward Thomas' MADS/Literary Festival	L
15	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Walking Group October walk	CP
		3.00pm	Award Ceremony, Literary Festival	L
16	Mon	7.00pm	Pub banter with the Vicar (also 20th) Butt of Sherry	
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
17	Tue	7.15pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
18	Wed	9.00am	- 4.30pm M&DCT Emergency First Aid Course	MSC
		10.00am	- 11.00am Registration -Mere Forest Charities	L
		3.00pm	4.30pm Community Tea Party Angel Tea Rooms	
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm Get On-line Drop-in session Angel Tea Rooms	

19	Thu	2.00pm	October Short walk	CP
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
		11.00am	- 2.00pm One World Fair	GB
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
24	Tue	2.00pm	- 4.00pm MU 'Teddy Bears Picnic'	GB
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends together	GB
28	Sat	7.30pm	Presentation by Col. John Blashford-Snell OBE	GB

BLACKMORE VALE AND YEOVIL NT ASSN

Winter Programme 2017-18

Saturday, 7 October 2017

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc presents a talk by Peter Tait (ex-Headmaster, Sherborne Preparatory School): ***In One Lifetime: Rapidity and Change in 19th century New Zealand***, at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne / 2.30pm / £3.00 / £5.00 (includes tea and biscuits).

🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com Peter has an abiding interest in the history of New Zealand and is interested in the different interpretations of history, and offers a view of New Zealand from a colonial viewpoint.

Saturday, 4 November 2017 Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc presents a talk by Pam White (NT Corfe Castle): ***Mediaeval Masons and Tumbling Towers***, at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne / 2.30pm / £3.00 / £5.00 (includes tea and biscuits).

🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com

A translation from the Latin of the Exchequers Accounts of Edward I has given us quite detailed information about the castle build from 1280 - 94. This, together with the access afforded by the recent conservation work, has fuelled our curiosity about both the castle build and subsequent 'home improvements'. It's an exciting time to be involved with such an iconic building.

Saturday, 2 December 2017

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc presents ***The Trinity Entertainers*** who will get the Christmas season off to a festive start at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne / 2.30pm / £5.00. Festive refreshments will be served at the end of the afternoon. There will be a raffle. 🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com

Saturday, 6 January 2018

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc presents a talk by Shaun McCormack: ***The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard***, at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne / 2.30pm / £3.00 / £5.00 (includes tea and biscuits).

🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com

Shaun will entertain us with a descriptive talk on how he became a Yeoman, what it entailed and how the Queen's Bodyguard came into existence.



Saturday, 3 February 2018

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc presents a talk by Susan Vincent (Member of the Lawrence Society): ***T E Lawrence: his life & friends in Dorset*** at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne | 2.30pm | £3.00 / £5.00 (includes tea and biscuits).

🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com

Susan's talk will cover the time T E Lawrence spent in Dorset from 1923 to his death in 1935. She will focus on his time as Private Shaw at the Army Barracks in Bovington, why he bought Clouds Hill nearby and who he had as visitors there, and his closest friends in Dorset, who included Thomas Hardy and his wife.

Saturday, 10 March 2018

Blackmore Vale and Yeovil NT Assoc will hold its **AGM @ 2.30pm** at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne. After tea and cake this will be followed by a talk by Emily Utgren (NT Stourhead): ***The Remarkable Trees at Stourhead***.

🌐: www.BVYNTassoc.wordpress.com

Tree care is core to a lot of the work at Stourhead, ensuring that there are young trees preparing to be magnificent one day. They are currently re-visiting the past to explain why Stourhead was built and how it was conserved since the 1700 to make the estate we see today.

In aid of the Churches: St. George's Fovant, All Saints
Fonthill Bishop, All Saints Chicklade

‘ESCAPE OR DIE’

**King Charles II's escape and exile after the Battle of
Worcester 1651**

**An illustrated talk by Paul Cordle with images of & insights
into this fascinating yet overlooked story**

Friday, 17th November 2017 at 7.00 pm

Dinton Village Hall, Bratch Lane, Dinton SP3 5EB

**Tickets £15 including a glass of wine and canapés
Cash Bar**

Sponsored by: Rural View Ltd., Tisbury Dental Centre, InStore
(South West) Ltd

Tickets from:

Gray Gilbert, Brook House, Fovant SP3 5JL


✉: bhfovant@gmail.com

☎: 01722 714 254

Payment by Cheque: Payable to: PCC Fovant (on reverse 'Escape') send to above address with Tel. No. & e-mail address & SAE for return of ticket.

The talk will be followed by the raffle of four generously donated prizes:

- 2 entry tickets with grandstand seats for the Cowdray Gold Cup Polo Finals, July 2018, with picnic lunch and bottle of champagne given by the Cowdray Estate.
- 6 bottle case of award winning Champagne Gremillet Brut Selection NV given by the Three Cheers Pub Co.
- Voucher towards lunch for two at a Wright Brothers restaurant in London given by seafood merchants Wright Brothers Ltd
- 2 tickets for Beating Retreat by the Household Division on Horse Guards Parade. 3rd week June 2018.

Raffle tickets available from Valerie Heal ☎: 01722 714351,
: [**valerieheal@aol.com**](mailto:valerieheal@aol.com)

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 NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the November 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, 16th October 2017**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 9th October 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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☎: 01985 844740

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