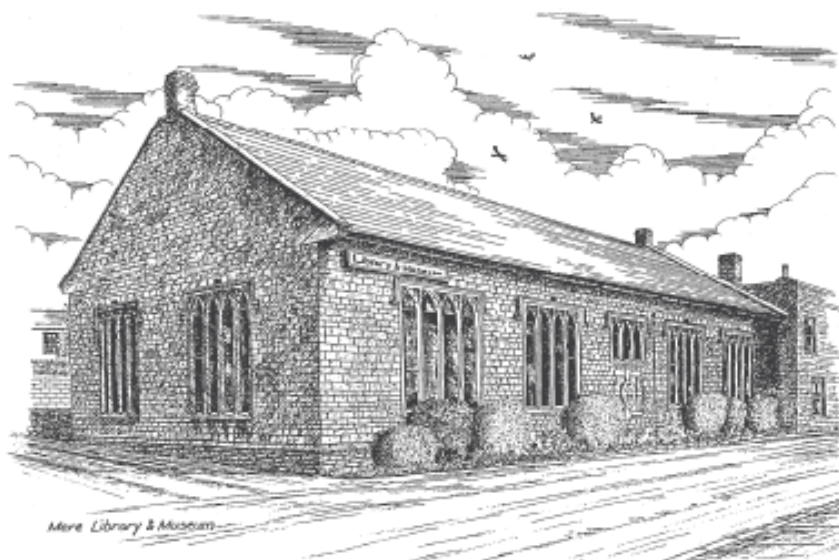


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

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



FEBRUARY 2018

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 in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 5th February 2018.**

The Chairman writes:

In our January meeting we finalised plans for planting an oak tree in the cemetery grounds to commemorate WW1 – this will take place at 11.00am on Thursday, 8th February. It is our hope that this will grow to become another permanent feature of remembrance in Mere. We will also be putting large poppies on selected lamp posts in November and are looking for some local sponsorship to extend this throughout Mere – do contact Councillor Roy Sims if you wish to contribute.

2018 is the 150th anniversary of the Clock Tower and we shall be celebrating this with several events. We are researching the date of the original opening ceremony and what happened on the day. If you have any information, do let Councillor Hazzard or me know through the Town Office contact on the next page. The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire will be attending and, if it can be accommodated in his busy schedule, so might Prince Charles. We have not set a date as yet, but hope to reflect the original opening. We are also looking forward to seeing art work created by pupils at Mere School based on the Clock Tower.

We sometimes receive comments and complaints from residents about the general matter of parking restricting the flow of traffic throughout the town. Specific points which are most mentioned are the eastern end of Salisbury Street, Hazzards Hill and Boar Street with parking identified as creating unsafe conditions for traffic flow. We discussed the matter and will be taking the following course of action, with PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky taking this forward for us at Community policing level. We have stated that judging whether cars parked are infringing traffic law is a police issue, and we want the following actions to be taken:

- If traffic law is being broken, to enforce the law.
- If laws are not being broken but parking is creating a hazard we will request that police advise those who are parking that they are creating a hazard.
- We will request that these problem areas are regularly checked.
- If these steps have no effect or the police advice is that no laws are broken, we shall ask the police for recommendations, which would have an enforceable effect on traffic safety.

- We will consider the police recommendations and, if deemed appropriate, take them to wider consultation.

We will inform residents what is being done, and intend having done all the above by April 2018.

Residents may be wondering what is happening about the appeal by Richborough Estates for outline planning to develop the land at Gillingham corner. Their appeal will be heard in May, in Salisbury, where I and several councillors will be attending to restate our position on this application.

We have been asked about bee-keeping on allotments in Mere and the advice given by The National Allotment Society precludes the use of Mere Allotments for various reasons. Meanwhile, we would like to encourage bees in the area as they are important pollinators and are looking for suitable sites – if you have a site that you are willing to offer then, please, let us know through the contact below.

Finally, at the start of the year, it is usual to make some resolutions and I have a few aspirations that I personally, as Chairman, would hope to achieve. I would hope to encourage the sensible development of Mere with more opportunities for employment and appropriate accommodation for local people – our Neighbourhood Plan will be an important part of this. I hope that this year we will continue to improve the facilities in Mere - starting with an improvement in the Public Toilets - but also to find ways to help with the development of Mere Surgery. Similarly, I hope to make real progress with developing the old swimming pool site – we now have some of the necessary quotes for this and are in the process of gathering funding from various agencies. Mere is a good place to be, with much to do and see, and I hope to generate more interest in Mere as a place to visit through, excuse the phrase, raising our internet profile. Finally, I hope to make positive and substantive responses to the comments and concerns that I hear from residents.

For information on Town Council activities, details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: : www.merewilts.org, e-mail the town clerk at : lindseywood@merewilts.org or : 01747 860701. To contact the chairman directly, : chair@merewilts.org

John Jordan, Chairman, 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

I am happy to report that the Public Access Defibrillator has now been installed outside the village hall. A HUGE thank you to all the villagers who donated towards this facility. The defibrillator has been registered with the ambulance service and is ready for use. We are in the process of arranging an awareness session, so please keep an eye on the notice board if you are interested. I am also pleased to report that the kitchen refurbishment in the village hall has been completed and has already been used to great effect. A HUGE thank you to the Village Hall Social Club and to Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board for making this happen.

The Parish Council now owns the BT telephone kiosk in the village and we are in the process of smartening it up – suggestions for its use are still welcome – the only one received so far has been for a community book swap/library.

The Parish Council is required to have the play equipment inspected by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) each year. Unfortunately, the swings in the village hall site failed to meet standards, and the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee agreed that they should be removed. If parishioners feel that they would like these replaced with new or alternative equipment, please let us know. Also, repair work is being carried out to the play equipment in the playing field in order to bring it up to required standards.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 13th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. *Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council*

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Recently one proposal from Wiltshire Council has been that Mere be put in The Trowbridge housing market area rather than as of our recent history, which is the Salisbury Market Area. We have a History of pre-parished areas being in The Salisbury Diocese with Salisbury Cathedral. About 100 plus years ago we became a parished area, with Mere and Tisbury rural District Council who used the services of Salisbury for valuation. 1974 saw us join with Salisbury District Council. After the 2009 Unitary Council we were, and still are, in the Salisbury market area. Most of the public transport goes east to Salisbury, rather than north to Trowbridge, and the main road route on the A303 leads most east/west rather than north/south, certainly not to Trowbridge. Buses from Mere travel principally to Salisbury and Gillingham, Dorset, few if any make it to Trowbridge. From Gillingham station, residents of Mere again travel east/west. Some residents do work north of Mere and in Trowbridge, but I have argued Salisbury is thought by most to be where we associate, not Trowbridge.

It has come to my attention, that DIY items taken to household recycling sites in Wiltshire could become chargeable, I will report again if this measure is proceeded with.

Libraries have been a success story, being maintained across Wiltshire by many volunteers. Extended Library hours are now available at The Nadder Centre at Tisbury, because of more volunteers coming forward.

West Knoyle Parish council and local residents have contacted me over approximately the last twelve months, regarding the parking situation at Stoney Bridge. This includes lack of parking and the possibly inevitable parking on the road and pavement at the entrance, making it necessary for some to have to walk in the road. I have met with a Wiltshire Council officer on site who has stated that in principal, she would not be against using the Wiltshire Council land to develop further parking and access. However, no funds are available from Wiltshire Council, therefore it would have to be financed by the residents or by a locally funded scheme. Some may consider this, as it may put value on their house, others may not be interested.

Our South West Area Board (SWWAB) has agreed to question why our defibrillator at Castle Street was not used in a recent emergency and why the relative was not pointed towards the one at the local school. I can report all was well with the person eventually. Ross Thompson monitors and reports on the device, for which I thank him.

Mere Snooker Club in Salisbury Street has survived for a little longer. After recent publicity more members have come forward, however more are needed.

The Gillingham Corner Junction in Mere could pose danger for those walking back to Mere. A hedge has been cut back and The Area Board Community Action Transport Group (CATG) are looking at further measures. It is one of their top five priorities, as is a request at a recent CATG that about £4,000 be awarded to survey the possibility of some double white lines in the areas of the Stourton junction with the Mere to Frome Road (B3092), which has been accepted. Mere Town Council has requested some of the pavement improvement budget awarded earlier in the year to the SWWAB. The proposal is to screed the pavement from Mere Post Office to St Michaels Church to help the ambulant disabled.

Although probably obvious, it should be remembered high speed broadband is required and it is to be found in your area, although a sign up procedure is required to receive it. Across Wiltshire, it appears some have assumed that because it is in their area, they will receive it. I recently reported back to the Wiltshire Council Management Scrutiny Committee, the following plus more detail. I have sat on the broadband project board since its inception. In 2011 40% of the Wiltshire Council area was in need of broadband or improved broadband. When our project is finished in 2019 this will be down to 4%, having used the combined efforts of our intervention scheme and commercial role out. This 4% may still benefit from payback Wiltshire Council will receive from the project.

Those presently with less than 2Mb/s can use £300 to £350 government vouchers to club together forming a self-help scheme; however they then will be discounted from our intervention area (white area). Our small team has worked to win LEP (Commercial development Finance) and BDUK (Government Broadband Finance) funding whilst satisfying European directives regarding the spending of public money. The project has come in under budget. We have had our problems, for instance when BT had projected a number of premises to be completed by a certain date, then fell short. We cannot totally satisfy the final 4%, but if we look at this project as a whole, it is something Wiltshire Council and others can say is a success story. Currently, the government appears to be pursuing a universal provision by 2020; which should help address the last 4%.

All is on schedule for the completion of the first council bungalows in Mere for a long time, Leaflets will be distributed to all 254 affordable homes within the Parish, and amenities within the Town, as well as the addresses I and The Town Council have previously discussed.

Once the leaflets are within the community, each recipient, if interested in one of the bungalows, will have until the end of March to register with **Homes4Wiltshire**, before the adverts are made live for one week. Therefore, by mid-April we will know the occupants for the two bungalows. The lucky residents will be able to choose and arrange (carpets/curtains), and any additional grab rails etc that may be required.

The Police have been consulting regarding a £12 a year increase on a band D property. This hopefully will improve the general situation. I note the closure of police stations and sale or closure of police buildings. The number of stations with front counters where the public can speak directly to officers has fallen from 901 in 2010 to 510 now. Alternative contact methods that have been provided in some areas across the country, including an unmanned electronic "contact point" in a Warrington shopping mall, civilian volunteers staffing a police contact point in a Dorset library two days a week, and scheduled police meet-ups in cafes. We may see more Police nationally, however I doubt we will see more Police stations.



Dog fouling is often complained about to me. I was pushing my mother in law along in her wheel chair narrowly missing dog excrement in Water Street. Had the wheels gone through it, with a user propelling themselves, they would have probably had this on their arms and may-be hands. Those who do not pick up, it is antisocial, nearly as bad as picking up and then leaving the bag suspended or thrown in the side. These acts can lead to blindness in children. Although extremely rare, just one is too many. Ocular toxocariasis is a rare infection caused by roundworms, *Toxocara canis* and *Toxocara cati*. It was first recognized to be associated with dogs in the 1940s. It typically affects children and can lead to profound monocular loss of vision despite known medical and surgical therapies.

When walking a dog in the country the problems with dog fouling was highlighted in a Country File article. Veterinary surgeon Laura Higham said: "Neosporosis is an infectious disease of cattle caused by a parasite transmitted in dog faeces, and is the most commonly diagnosed cause of abortion in cattle in the UK". I understand owners can help by having the dogs and cats "wormed", but you would need consult a vet.

Health minister Jackie Doyle-Price has said the proposed £72,500 cap on social care costs due to come into effect in England will be scrapped. The proposed limit was to be on an individual's care costs, at which point that person would have been state funded.

I attended a meeting in Mere, when it was agreed a music making event, called "Mere Makes Music", is proposed for Saturday, 28th April 2018. I believe this date to be correct. Wiltshire Rural Music School based in Trowbridge but also a county-wide charity, are trying to work out in communities more. Wiltshire Rural Music School is also offering funding of 6 workshops afterwards.

Ann-Marie Dean, the Health and Well Being Champion for our South West Area Board, has booked The Andy Young Pavilion as a 'Pop Up' café for afternoon teas, from 3.00 to 4.30pm on Tuesday, 20th February and again on Tuesday, 20th March. I hope this will bring many people in the area of Zeals, Mere, Kilmington etc. together.

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  george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk or  07710 441599 I can usually answer quickly.

To finish, some councils have less than a festive cheer. A minicab driver has criticised Durham County Council after officials ordered him to remove Christmas stickers from his car for breaching rules!!

MERE LIBRARY

We had a new Health Trainer starting at the end of January in Mere Library. The hours are 10.00am - 12.00pm on alternate Tuesday mornings, and the Health Trainer will be available for many general aspects connected with general well being, Stop Smoking advice and Weight issues. The Health Trainer will also be able to offer the chance to have your blood pressure checked. This is a free service, so well worth a visit.

We have for many years had a Community Diary in the Library which can be filled in by anyone who is thinking of having an Event in Mere.

This is already used by many of the Local Fund-Raising Organisations so that they can see what dates are available, so that hopefully not too many Organisations hold Events on the same day. The Library is Open Mondays 10.00am - 7.00pm, Tues/Thurs/Fridays

9.30am - 5.00pm and Wednesdays and Saturdays 9.30am - 1.00pm, so if you are thinking of planning an Event, do pop in and enter the details for others to see.

We are always more than happy to put up a Poster to advertise your Event or display some Leaflets in our Local Information Area.

For any further information do call in or contact Mere Library Staff on the number below.

Sally-Ann Hooper, Mere Senior Library Assistant, ☎: 01747 860546

✉: ***merelibrary@wiltshire.gov.uk***

THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Home Security & Stay Safe Online Schemes

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust is an Independent charity, which works closely with Wiltshire Police to provide an invaluable home security service. The Trust has been operating this scheme for the past 20 years helping to secure homes for the elderly, vulnerable and disadvantaged throughout Wiltshire.

Responding to the changing needs of the community, the Trust has launched a new scheme to offer advice on keeping safe whilst online.

Through raising awareness about computer fraud and what to do if you have concerns about your online safety, the Trust aims to help reduce the risk of this type of crime.

If you are aged over 60, or 18+ registered disabled and have concerns about your Online Safety you can request a home visit or to arrange a group talk.

To enquire about a Home Security check for your home ☎: **01380 861155** or

✉: **bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk**

For all enquiries regarding the Stay Safe Online Scheme ☎: **01380 861191** or

✉: **bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk**

Or complete the online form by visiting 🌐: **www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk**

DO YOU FEEL SAFE ONLINE?

Anyone over 60, or 18+ registered disabled is eligible for online safety advice.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Stay Safe Online team of Police trained and vetted volunteers can provide:

- ☐ Improved Digital/Cyber security awareness.
- ☐ Cyber and Scam prevention advice.
- ☐ Signposting to future advice and resources.

- ☐ Basic practical skills to check and understand privacy settings.
- ☐ The team are also available to give talks at community events.

To make an appointment:

Email: bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Call: 01380 861191



The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

Registered Charity No. 1153790

WEST KNOYLE VILLAGE HALL AND SOCIAL CLUB

We are pleased to announce that the Village Hall now has a new modern kitchen, which will enable the Hall to be used to the full for any Village gatherings or functions. This kitchen came about with the support of the South West Area Board which very kindly made a substantial Grant available towards the cost, and with the guidance of our local Councillor, George Jeans, for which we are extremely grateful.

Those of you who know the Hall will appreciate that this new kitchen is long overdue, and we hope that more villagers will be encouraged to use the Hall for private parties now that we have ventured into the 21st century. Indeed, we would welcome you all to join the Social Club and be a part of a good community spirit. The Club is an ideal hub for local knowledge, friendship and help – we'd love to meet you.


As a result of clearing out the old kitchen, there are several plates which have been left following various events where people have kindly brought a plate of food to share. So please come along and claim your crockery, check out the new kitchen and have a drink! The Club is open on Sundays from 1.00 - 3.00pm, and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8.00 - 10.00pm.'


Corinne Leonard ☎: 07783 15736)

MERE RIVERS GROUP

Wildlife Sightings

In the 7 weeks since the last lot of recordings, the following have been seen by Mere residents: Grey wagtail – seen daily, Little Egret - 9 times, Kingfisher - 5 times and Water Vole - 4 times. Heron, Tree Creeper and Bullfinch were all seen once. Most exciting to see was a Water Rail in the river by the bridge near the Lynch. This small brown bird has long legs and a bright red bill.

Please email any sightings at all to : mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com. Of course, the same creature could be reported many times or may be seen just once. Multiple recordings of the same creature shows that the habitat is just fine for it, so this counts as valid information about the biodiversity of The Shreen and The Ashfield. Please keep those sightings coming in by going for a walk along your rivers, keeping your eyes open for any wildlife and spend a relaxing time with nature.

Lynne Bann : 01747 860174

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Record numbers attended the inaugural Wessex Association of Model Railway Club's Exhibition at the 'Cheese & Grain' in Frome during the first weekend of this year. Mere supplied two layouts that were very well received by over a thousand people who came through the doors. Most of our membership attended, but some found it a little cold on Sunday morning, as it snowed!!

The club has been invited to take its 'Blackmore Vale' layout to Sedgemoor 'O' Gauge Exhibition, so this layout is now being readied for the great event.

This year will see two new layouts under construction. One will be an OO9, 4mm scale with an OO element to it. The other will require members to use their own creativity and be based on a segmented OO gauge layout that the club can adjust to fit varying spaces. It will become the club's main portable OO gauge layout. So throughout early February members will be thinking and designing what they wish to construct.

Railway modelling is now the second largest hobby in the UK to fishing. This is a quote from 'The Biggest Little Railway in the World', a Channel 4 TV programme series on Sunday evenings. So if you would like to see similar locomotives and rolling stock, they will be present at our Mere Model Railway Exhibition this year, (see dates overleaf).

Our club is situated in Castle Street Car Park and opens from 7.00-9.00pm on Wednesday evenings. Should this be inconvenient for anybody who wishes to have a look around before visiting, then please contact the author to arrange a suitable time.

Dates and Events for your Diary for Spring 2018

Weekend of 10th & 11th February: Gartell Model Railway Exhibition, Templecombe

Weekend of 17th & 18th February: Sedgemoor O Gauge Exhibition at Highbridge

Sunday, 25th March: Coach Trip to the London Festival of Railway Modelling, Alexandra Palace

Weekend of 16th & 17th June: Mere Model Railway Exhibition, Lecture Hall

For further information please contact me: *Tom Snook* : 01747 861977



MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Chris Davies

Dental Hygienist : Laura Moss

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

email: 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)



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**

ARTISAN CHRISTMAS

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me by buying their Fair Trade goodies from Traidcraft over the year.

I have again surpassed last year's sales to £4,000, which is a marvellous result as it will have helped so many people to a more sustainable living whether a farmer, smallholder or crafts person.

Christmas Card Sales too were up, and thanks to all those in St Michaels and the town we have been able to send donations to both CAFOD and Traidcraft Exchange.

Your support really 'Shows You Care'. Don't forget I am at the URC Coffee morning every third Saturday of the month, and if everyone committed to buying one item it would make an even greater difference.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Registered Charity No:1062328

☎: 01747 860096



New Year – New Secretary!

Happy New Year from all at the Link.

2018 has begun busily for us, despite reports of cancelled outpatient appointments in the news, so we have been delighted to welcome new drivers from Gillingham and Maiden Bradley. We still need more drivers, especially for Thursdays, so I was pleased when our **new Secretary, Hamish Bell**, called to tell me he had been stopped in the street by someone interested in becoming a Link driver. It's not onerous. You choose when you want to drive and there is no regular time commitment.

If you are thinking of becoming a driver please feel free to let Hamish know.

Many of you will have seen the wonderful Christmas lights on houses around Mere. Link driver **Dick Morris and his wife Brenda** decorated their house and invited donations for the Link. They collected a fantastic £140. Thanks to all who donated and especially to Dick and Brenda.

Without the Link service, elderly and less mobile people, or those living a distance away from the surgeries, would find it almost impossible to have their medical needs satisfied.

Please consider becoming a Link Scheme Driver

John FitzGerald, Chair, Mere & District Link Scheme

BINGO, ANYONE?

I have booked the following Fundraising Bingo Sessions at The Grove Building, so here are dates for your diaries with further details to follow:

For Mere Carnival

Fridays: 20th April, 6th July and 7th September

For Mere Brownies

Friday, 11th May

If you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that you would like to donate for prizes during the 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 Mere Carnival and Mere Brownies ☎: 01747 860215

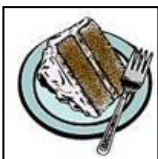


TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 21st February at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message, or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 19th February, please.

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

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524



POP UP CAFÉ

Chase away those winter blues with a free cup of tea, home made cakes and friendly conversation

Come and join us on Tuesday, 20th February at the Andy Young Pavilion from 3.00 to 4.30pm.

Do you need a lift? Give me a call no later than Monday, 19th February

Ann-Marie Dean ☎: 07704 783742



TRUSSELL TRUST

Christmas has now long gone but a HUGE thank you to all the kind, thoughtful, generous people who packed a shoe box to send to Syria and Bulgaria, via the Trussell Trust. 110 boxes from Mere, joined many thousands from other areas, to go to the desperately poor and marginalized in those countries. There those gifts gave enormous joy and lasting pleasure. Thank you also for the exquisitely warm and beautiful knitted garments and the huge boxes of warm clothing, which Richard was able to tuck into a space on the lorry!

The work to help disadvantaged people keeps on going and the delivery of the boxes, so welcome anyway, opens up areas where the need for help can be seen and acted upon. The opening of nursery schools, Houses of Opportunity and for respite short breaks for traumatized children, are a result of you caring enough to give a gift to a stranger.

Thank you!

Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712)

Singing Lessons now available in Mere

Sing and perform with confidence - All ages & abilities
Learn about technique and production - Individual or
Group sessions
Contact: KATIE SMITH B Mus - 07427 684269 or
www.reallysing.co.uk



GMS LIONS

GMS (Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury) Lions would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated money when Father Christmas was out and about on his float. Our gross collection was £3,977. With this money we will be able

to help a lot of good causes and really make a difference. PS We have been told by Father Christmas he will be out and about on his float again this year (2018).

GMS Lions would like to thank the following for assistance, without whom it wouldn't have been possible, to run our Christmas float:

Chris Cox of CJ Cox Ltd for loan of tractor

Richard Coward for Permanent storage and tractor fuel

Thomas Fairbank for temporary storage

Burdens Nurseries for temporary storage

Waitrose (Gillingham) for collecting facilities

Revellers and Muppets Carnival Clubs providing collectors

Co-op travel Gillingham providing collectors

Gillingham WI for providing collectors

Other Individual collectors including Lions family members

Dave Webber for his tractor

Father Christmas assistance by Mike Shoemark, George Loader, Richard Arnold, and Alan Raishbrook

Paul Franks for driving

South West Packaging

Hall & Woodhouse for sponsorship

Why don't you try something different in 2018. Support your local area. Volunteer and join GMS Lions. We have lots of exciting social events. Our members range from twenty three to eighty one. They come from all walks of life. Give something back to your local community .

Leave a message on our website or Facebook and we will get back to you.

Dave Rose, GMS Lions PR, ☎: 01935 389816

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held at the **Walnut Tree Inn**, Shaftesbury Road, Mere on **Tuesday, 13th February 2018** at 12.30pm. Cost: £10.95 per head, drinks not included. Please ring in advance ☎: 01747 861220. Everyone is invited to join us, we are a very friendly bunch, so if you are on your own, new in the area or just fancy a meal with company, come and join us. For further details contact me.

Lindy Elliott ☎01747 861646

FEBRUARY SHORT WALK

After our New Year break, we will again explore the by-ways around Mere on Wednesday, 7th February. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park for a 2-3mile walk.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is now underway offering humour, drama and music.

During the summer we try to offer something a bit different - if you want to know what this year will bring, do join us! Our outings include coach travel nearly door-to-door and usually time for lunch or shopping. For more details, contact:

Madelaine Morris. ☎ 01747 861833

Wendy Horne. ☎ 01747 861712

FOUND IN MERE

Found in Mere in October 2017, a Cross and Chain. If anyone wishes to claim this item please contact the undersigned with a full description.

Madelaine Dixon ☎: 01747 84159

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Bonsai Basics

Geoff Hobson

Wednesday, 14th February 7.30pm Grove Building

If you've ever wondered how these miniature plants are grown, this talk will be your chance to find out how it is done, and which species are most suitable to train. You might be inspired to have a go yourself!

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Mere Garden Festival

After a break from our usual Annual Show last year, Mere Garden Club are planning a very different event for 2018. It will be bigger and better with the opportunity for everyone to take part! There will be the usual show benches but exhibiting the best we can grow - without any cups or prizes! We have invited a number of Gardening stalls, and are planning a Gardener's Question Time plus much more.

Put Saturday, 1st September 2018 in your diaries now so you will not miss this new venture for Mere:

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

After 12 years The Friends of Fives Court have made the decision to disband. Since its inception the Friends have held various activities to raise money for the benefit of the residents. As well as an annual Autumn Fair we have organised many other events such as barn dances, bingo and quiz evenings.

A huge project that we undertook was the refurbishment of the garden, which included a vast amount of landscaping with raised vegetable beds, a greenhouse and of course the inevitable water feature! Many of the residents enjoyed pottering in the garden and took immense pleasure in growing their own vegetables and flowers.

As well as fund raising, we were also happy to support the staff on occasions by helping with activities and accompanying residents on outings.

Whilst we had enjoyed our time being involved with Fives Court we began to realize that we no longer had the energy to commit ourselves to any future activities. We would like to thank the residents of Mere for showing support to The Friends over the years.

Jenny Wilding, Carol Vigars, Angela McDonald, Chris Bixby, Christine Marsh

SHREEN HARMONY

We are back again starting the New Year, learning new songs and thinking about our plans for 2018.

We all enjoyed our Christmas concerts at Maiden Bradley and here in the Grove Building. After the Mere concert we were able to donate £200 to the Rosemary Goddard Centre.

Are you interested in joining a choir, meeting new people and relaxing? If so, please come along on a Thursday evening to the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30pm. No audition, just a joy of singing.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

ARTS SOCIETY NADDER VALLEY

The Arts Society was formerly known as NADFAS, and with inspiring monthly lectures given by top experts in their fields, together with study day events, educational visits and cultural holidays, the Arts Society is a great way to learn, have fun and make new and lasting friendships as well as supporting arts within the local community.

We are hoping to launch a local branch of the Society in the Nadder Valley covering all communities in the area and holding our lectures at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury.

Over 100 people attended a taster lecturer at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury in October 2017 and expressed an interest in starting a new society and joining as founder members so we are well on our way. We will need 150 members to join for us to be

viable and launch, so we need to know if you would be interested.

The annual membership will be £40 per person. We plan to hold 10 lectures in our first year so that represents amazing value at £4 per lecture.

We are planning our inaugural lecture at **6.30pm on Friday, 20th April 2018** at the Nadder Centre Tisbury. The title of the lecture is **Red White and Blue - A story of three colours in Art**, exploring the symbolism, significance and spirituality of colour throughout the history of art.

Our lecturer will be Alexandra Epps, Official Guide and Lecturer at Tate Modern, Tate Britain and the Guildhall Art Gallery in London. Alexandra's background is in design having practised as a graphic designer running her own design consultancy for many years.

If you are interested in joining and reserving a place at the inaugural lecture, then please contact the Chair of Arts Society Nadder Valley, Sean Moran via : **seantisbury@icloud.com** or call : 07929 609604.

We are currently creating a website and facebook page to keep everyone informed and we will write and tell you about this in the next edition of the newsletter. We hope to meet you in April.

Kate Prior  01747-871559

MERE FILMSHOWS

If you haven't been to a Mere Film Show for a while, or not at all, do come along in 2018! Your support is most welcome and you will also be helping to support local causes. When there is sufficient money in the pot, we are able to distribute funds. An excellent reason to buy tickets, while you get to enjoy the films on a big screen in the Lecture Hall!

Our next film, on Thursday, 8th February, is **'Victoria and Abdul'** (PG), the true story of the friendship between the elderly, depressed Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) and a young clerk from India, Abdul Karim (Ali Fazal). This is Judi Dench's second time as Queen Victoria, having also portrayed her in the 1997 film 'Mrs Brown'. The friendship between the Queen and the clerk is viewed with increasing alarm by her household and concerted attempts are made to destroy it. Directed by Stephen Frears, it has received some excellent reviews and nominations for awards. Full details on page 24.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rosie Jordan-Barr  01747 861567



MERE MUSEUM

The Museum has just launched its first exhibition of the New year! It is called '**Mere's Amazing Neighbours!**', and it shines a spotlight on aspects of life - past and present - in each of the five parishes surrounding Mere.

You will be amazed at some of the stories we

tell about events in the past: from leper maidens, through dastardly murder and an Elizabethan poet to WW2 airfields, a special Garden of Remembrance and devastating floods! If you'd like to know more, come and see the exhibition which is **now open!** Visits to Mere Museum are always free.

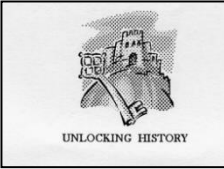
Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Another year, another production! We are already rehearsing for 'A Mere Variety Show' which gives us all the chance to show what we can do. The performances will take place on Thursday to Saturday, **22nd-24th March** at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall, and are dedicated to the memory of Sharron Glide, a gifted and treasured member of MADS who very sadly died last year. Tickets will be available shortly at £10 a head, to include a ploughman's supper. Do book early as ticket numbers will be limited.

If anyone has a party piece or a talent hitherto hidden, and you are willing to have a go, please contact Penny Allen ☎: 07539 329798 who will invite you to come to the next rehearsal. We look forward to your call!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



Mere Historical Society

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

Emergency Planning and Practical Salvage in Historic Houses

Hannah Severn

(Senior House Steward, National Trust, Stourhead)

**Tuesday, 20th February 10.15am for 10.30am in the Grove
Building**

Many members will remember Hannah's previous interesting talk on conservation. This time she will focus on how heritage organisations plan, prepare and mitigate against 'disaster scenarios' such as fire and flood.

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

Don't forget to check out our web site:



: www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

We began the year with an enjoyable meal together at the Hillbrush restaurant on 9th January. In February we have two main events: On **Tuesday, 6th February at 2.30 for 2.45pm at Shreen Vale** (Thelma Ing's house) we meet for our annual MU 'Wave of Prayer', which, like a Mexican Wave, continues all the way around the world – we're just a tiny part of it. At our meeting **on Tuesday, 13th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building**, Tom Burr will be sharing his behind-scenes view of the National Trust, based on 40 years experience. He has a reputation as a very entertaining speaker and everyone is welcome to join us.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747-860553

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our new course commencing in January followed a very enjoyable Festive Dinner at a pleasant pub in Hardway. We have a further six week course commencing in March with a break over Easter. We have quite a full Wednesday evening group but always manage to take people from our waiting list, so it is worth getting in touch. At the time of going to print there is some space on Tuesday mornings, from 10.30 am to 1.00pm.

Our courses run in the small hall at the Grove Building. We enjoy teaching those with little or no experience of dressmaking, or those who have not sewn for a while and need to renew their skills and gain confidence.

We were delighted that so many of our course members completed some beautiful items before Christmas and are now keen to start something even more adventurous, such as coats and following more detailed patterns.

Please look at our Facebook Page or telephone for an informal chat and arrange to come along and visit us.

Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or Susanne 📠: 07788 595434
Facebook Page "**Dressmaking in Mere**"

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am to 3.00pm

Could **Volunteering** be your new year's resolution? We would love to hear from you if you decide that you can spare a couple of hours each month for a good cause.

We have one 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 have lots of fun activities planned for our guests in the first part of 2018 including quizzes, brain training, arts & crafts, Tai Chi, bingo and live music.

We are very grateful for contributions over the festive period, thank you to everyone who bought our annual quiz, which raised £200. There were 9 correct entries with **Antony May** being the winner, pulled out of the hat by John Marks. His prize money was gratefully returned to the RGC, thank you.

Calendar sales went well with a total of £404 being raised for the RGC, thanks to Steve Hawkins for producing the wonderful Mere Calendars and all of you who purchased them.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📠: 07835 272406

🌐: **www.MereDayCentre.org.uk**

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Victoria and Abdul' (PG)

Judi Dench Ali Fazal Tim Pigott-Smith
Eddie Izzard Adeel Akhtar

Worn out and depressed after Albert's death, Queen Victoria gains a new interest in life when she meets a young Indian clerk, named Abdul Karim.

in The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 8th February
at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from the Library

For more information call Rosie Jordan-Barr ☎ 01747 861567

Visit our website at 🌐 www.moviola.org



Mere School Reports

CHRISTMAS AT MERE!

The children at Mere are back at school and working hard. However, the weeks leading up to the end of term were very busy with all our Christmas activities.

Christmas Productions

Key Stage 1 and Reception performed their play 'Nearly No Nativity' to a packed hall of parents. The children clearly enjoyed showing them all their hard work. Key Stage rocked the hall with their production of 'Cinderella Rockerfella'.

The parents thoroughly enjoyed the performance commenting on the amazing solo singers.

Christmas Lunch

Once again the kitchen staff provided a very tasty bag of Christmas treats for the children. The hall was full of laughter and singing as the children celebrated together.

A surprise visit from Santa was enjoyed by all.

Santa's Grotto

A second visit from Santa happened during the school day. The children

were collected from their classrooms by Santa's elves and taken to the amazing grotto where they each received a gift from Santa.

Pantomime

During the final week of term the children were loaded onto buses for their annual trip to the pantomime. This year it was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

The children behaved beautifully and were a real credit to the school.

Thanks

The children would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and members of the FRIENDS of Mere School for all their hard work in making Christmas another great school event!

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 APPEAL

Many thanks to everyone who has donated recycling. We are pleased to let you know that we have raised in excess of £300.00 during 2017. This enables us to offer our Brownies extra activities, and this will go towards our "Taste of Adventure" sleepover at Foxlease during February half-term.

Please continue to remember us when you are sorting out.

Contact Sue Jeans at Jeans Electrical ☎:01747 860215

Sue Luffman, Sue Jeans and Nicky Lawes – Brownie Guiders



HINDON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's and St John

Celebrating Success

Once again, the children at Hindon Primary School have achieved amazing results in the national 'End of Key Stage' Assessments and in Year 1 Phonics screening.

The Year 6 SATs results have placed the school in the top rated 'Assured' Local Authority category, which means that Hindon School is once again ranked as one of the highest achieving schools in the country!

In Maths and Reading, the school has achieved well above the National Average scores, and Writing is in line with the National Average.

The writing topic enjoyed by the older children in the school this term has been based around a video entitled 'The Ridge', by Danny Macaskill, a famous Mountain Bike rider, who challenges himself to ride along knife-edge ridges of some of the highest mountains in Scotland. This topic has really inspired high quality writing at the top of the school.

The youngest children in the school were inspired to write about Jack and the Beanstalk when a magic beanstalk grew as high as the classroom ceiling, and a Giant took up residence in the Book Corner.

A trip to Salisbury Playhouse just before Christmas to watch a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk at the pantomime brought this writing project to a very successful and happy conclusion!

At the end of term, a Christmas Forest School, a very muddy welly walk and a traditional Nativity concert were enjoyed by the children and staff.

Mrs J Gunter, Head Teacher Tel: 01747 820260

✉: [**admin@hindon.wilts.sch.uk**](mailto:admin@hindon.wilts.sch.uk)

GRAVE TALK

It's time for some *Grave Talk* : a café space to talk about death, dying and funerals.

Come and tackle this difficult subject in a lighter-hearted way
with Carol and Jane at the Angel Café

On Wednesday, 7th February 2.00 – 4.00pm.

Free tea and cake provided.

Carol Wilson-Barker ☎: 01747 861859 Jane Hurd ☎: 01747 860218



IN MERE & DISTRICT

A very big thank-you to everyone who helped in any way with our Christmas Day Lunch, which has now completed its fifth year. It was a happy event and much appreciated by the 36 people who came, who would otherwise have been alone, or not able to do very much by way of celebration. We are very grateful to Judy Bickerstaff, who organised the lunch again this year. She writes:

We would particularly like to thank the following:

Mere Co-op for their very generous donation of food and Christmas crackers; also: Gillingham Waitrose for including us in their green token scheme; Wilcox Dairies for their donation of milk; Sue Fitzgerald for making and donating the Christmas cake; others who made puddings; and the many kind people who gave monetary donations. We also want to thank Clive Hazzard for the lovely poinsettias to decorate the tables and to brighten the hall. And, a very special thank you to our chef, Liz, of 'Beautiful Buffets' who worked voluntarily to produce a lovely meal, which was enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks also go to the volunteers who gave their time on Christmas Eve to prepare the tables and the hall; and to those who came to serve on Christmas Day and to clear up afterwards. Thank you to everyone involved in producing a very successful lunch.

As we go to press we're busy with Week of Prayer for Christian Unity daily events and a united Sunday service. Lent follows soon after, beginning on Ash Wednesday 14th February. Information about Lent and Holy Week services is included under the individual churches.

A Churches Together Lent Study Group will be held in the Grove Building at 6.00pm on Sunday Evenings 18th & 25th February and 4th, 11th & 18th March with the title 'Same but Different' reflecting on different understandings of Christianity from the perspective of different churches and denominations.

Lent Lunches will now go ahead! Amazingly, two people have volunteered to organise them and the dates this year are 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March all from 12.30 to 1.30pm in the Grove Building. More details in March Mere Matters.

STOP PRESS: To ensure that all goes smoothly, a planning meeting will be held:

Date: Monday, 29th January Time: 10.30am

Place: Wits End, North Street. (Janet Way's house).

To be attended by: At least one representative from each church.

Anyone else willing to help with Lent Lunches by providing soup, serving or on the door or stall, is very welcome to come.

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at Mere United Reformed Church (opposite the Post Office) at 11.00am on Friday, 2nd March, followed by the first Lent Lunch in the Grove Building.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884
for CTM&D*

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE & ST MARYS, WEST KNOYLE, WRITES: Cheer up it's February!

Received wisdom is that February can be an even flatter month than January, but we don't think that in Christian circles! In February we are going to doing a number of different things along with our usual programme of worship – here is more detail.

Monday, 5th February **Pub Banter with the Vicar** returns in the Butt of Sherry at 7.00pm. On your first visit I'll buy you a drink. We talk about anything and everything to do with faith matters.

Tuesday, 6th February at 7.00pm in the church we are presenting our **plans for the proposed work in St Michael's church** and this will be an opportunity for you to make your comments. There has been a lot of listening and reviewing of plans up until now and we think we've got it right now. Please come and see.

Wednesday, 7th February there will be **GraveTalk** in the Angel Tea Rooms. Who likes to talk about death, dying or funerals? Come to this relaxed and safe space to get some sympathetic help from me and Mrs Jane Hurd, together with cake and tea.

Shrove Tuesday is in half term this year, Tuesday, 13th February, and we will be running a Fun morning for children from 10.00am to 12.00noon including making pancakes and having pancake races.

Ash Wednesday. The beginning of Lent falls on Valentine's Day this year, Wednesday, 14th February, a chance to reflect on romantic love in another way. Christians begin a period of fasting, prayer and thoughtfulness to try to become more grounded spiritually. As a symbol of our intention to try to love God better we allow our foreheads to be marked in ash and oil with the sign of the cross and is called ashing.

Part of the Lent practices to deepen faith is by study and prayer. This year the Churches Together study course is: **Same but Different: reflections on different Christian perspectives.** There will be talks by local church leaders, questions and worship. 6.00pm on Sunday night in the Grove Building small hall.

There is an ongoing **Confirmation** group, which you are welcome to join with a service probably on Easter Day in the Cathedral. Please contact me for details.

With love in Christ

Rev'd Carol ☎: 01747 861859

St Michael's Church Enhancement Plans

There will be presentation of the final plans for enhancing and adding facilities in St Michael's on Tuesday, 6th February at 7.00pm in the church. Everyone is welcome. This meeting follows the consultations that have previously taken place.

These plans will shortly be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, for their consideration before a 'Faculty' (the Church of England's equivalent of planning permission) can be applied for.

Elisabeth Barrett ☎: 01747 863324



Everyone is very welcome to join our popular
SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING
in aid of Suchana

in the Grove Building on Tuesday, 13th February at 7.30pm

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

(Come on your own or IF IN A TEAM PLEASE

LET US KNOW THE DETAILS)

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

or ☎: Judith Thompson 01747 860553 or

☎: Jean Kantharia 01747 861168

ST MICHAELS CHURCH FETE **Saturday, 9th June**

Preparations for this year's fete are now under way. It is planned that some new attractions and stalls will appear alongside our old favourites – all with the emphasis on fun.

We are looking for some of the good folk of Mere to help us make the day a success (running or helping with a stall, serving food, selling raffle tickets etc.). If you would like to get involved, in any way, small or large, please, please contact us on the number below.

Sandra & Derek Fisher ☎: 01747 861980



CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

FEBRUARY 2018

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 8 61859

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 3rd Wednesday | | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| Each Friday | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (CW1) |
| Sunday | 4th | 10.30am | Family Communion with Candlelight procession |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| Tuesday | 6th | 6.00pm | "Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday | 11th | 10.30am | Parish Communion |
| Wednesday | 14th | 7.30am | Ash Wednesday Communion with ashing |
| Sunday | 18th | *10.30am | Parish Communion with Sunday Club for children |
| Wednesday | 21st | 10.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday | 25th | 10.30am | Parish Communion |

* Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

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

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|-----------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 11.00am | Rev'd J. Heyton |
| | 11th | 11.00am | Mr P Kershaw |
| | 18th | 11.00am | Mrs J Hurd |
| | 25th | 11.00am | Mr K Elcock |

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 | 4th | 9.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 11th | 10.30am | Holy Communion |
| | 18th | 9.30pm | DIY |
| | 25th | 9.30am | Matins |

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES

FEBRUARY 2018

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 | Thur | 10.00am | - 12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 10.00am | - 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic | Mere Surgery |
| | | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (every Thursday) | L |
| | | 2.00pm | Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 6.20pm | Greek Dancing | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Womens Institute | GB |
| 2 | Fri | 1.45pm | Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Zumba (every Friday) | L |
| 3 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, & 24th) | CC |
| 5 | Mon | 9.30am | Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 19th & 26th) | 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 | Slimming World (every Monday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | 9.00pm Water Colour course (also 19th & 26th) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Pub Banter | Butt of Sherry |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| 6 | Tue | 10.00am | - Moo Music Launch, for Babies, Toddlers & Mums | L |
| | | 2.00pm | - 4.00pm 'Get On Line' Drop-in Session | Lib |
| | | 2.30pm | Mothers Union 'Wave of Prayer' | Shreen Vale |
| | | 6.00pm | - 8.00pm Life Drawing (every Tuesday) | L |
| 6 | Tue | 6.00pm | Pilates (every Tuesday) | GB |
| | | 6.20pm | Zumba (every Tuesday) | L |

| | | | | |
|----|------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | 7.00pm | Yoga (also 20th & 27th) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | St Michaels Church Enhancements | St Michaels |
| 7 | Wed | 9.30am | Tai-Chi (also 14th & 28th) | GB |
| | | 10.30am | Tai-Chi (small hall - also 14th & 28th) | GB |
| | | 11.15am | Pilates (every Wednesday) | GB |
| | | 2.00pm | February Short Walk | CP |
| | | 2.00pm - 4.00pm | 'Grave Talk' | Angel Tea Rooms |
| | | 6.00pm | Karate (every Wednesday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday) | RMC |
| 8 | Thur | 5.00pm | Girl Guiding (also 22nd) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Victoria & Abdul" | L |
| 9 | Fri | 10.00am | Merely Women (also 23rd) | GB |
| 12 | Mon | 7.30pm | MADS Meeting (Green Room) | L |
| 13 | Tue | 10.00am | 12.00noon Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races | GB |
| | | 12.30pm | Community Lunch | The Walnut Tree Inn |
| | | 2.30pm | Mothers Union | GB |
| | | 3.00pm | First Aid - Patients Participation Group | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake evening | GB |
| 14 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together Whist Drive | GB |
| 14 | Wed | 7.30pm | Gardening Club | GB |
| 17 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall | CC |
| | | 7.00pm | Oasis Carnival Club Bingo | L |
| 20 | Tue | 10.30am - 1.00pm | Dressmaking (also 27th) | GB |
| | | 10.30am | Historical Society Morning Talk | GB |
| | | 3.30pm - 4.30pm | Pop Up Cafe | AYP |
| 21 | Wed | 3.00pm - 4.30pm | Tea@3 | Angel Tea Rooms |
| | | 3.00pm - 4.30pm | Get On Line Drop-in Session | Angel Tea Rooms |
| | | 7.00pm - 9.30pm | Dressmaking (also 28th) | GB |
| 28 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together | GB |

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:
Lecture Hall:
URC Church Hall

Ian Treece
Sally Johnson
Eileen Burfitt

☎: 07754 524802
☎: 01747 861063
☎: 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
& DEATHS:

By appointment only (☎: 0300 003 4569)
Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

COPYDATE FOR MARCH 2018 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the March 2018 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, 12th February 2018**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 5th February 2018 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:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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