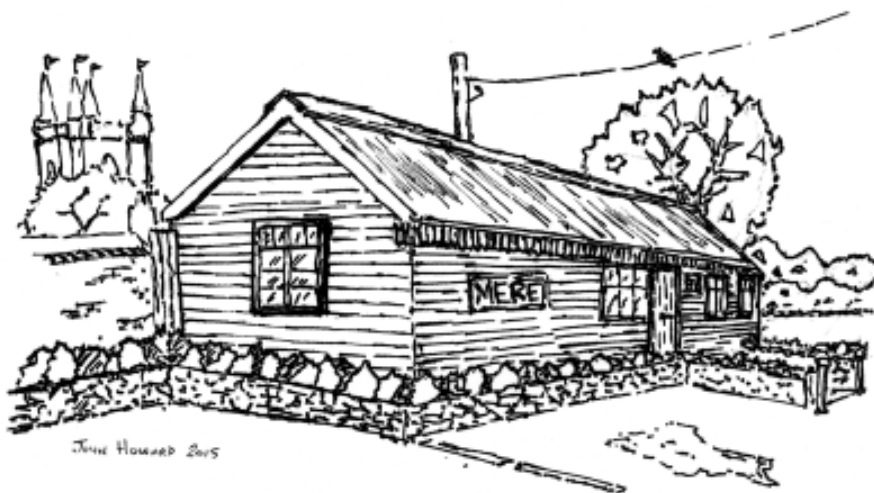


# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



Mere Railway Modellers Clubhouse

**JUNE 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, 4th June 2018.**

### **The Chairman writes:**

We had the Annual Town Meeting on the 28th April, which is different to our monthly Town Council meetings. This is an opportunity to hear from the many groups who contribute to daily life in Mere. I was able to remind those there of the accomplishments of the past year and to look forward at the planning being made for the future of Mere. I took the opportunity to thank councillors for their advice and support, and to comment on the good service provided by the council staff. We heard from our clerk about the accounts for the past year and were able to reflect on the good value we had obtained.

Our Parochial Charities trustees, chaired by Rodney Coward, have developed their properties and continue to provide support for Mere residents. The young people of Mere continue to benefit from the work done by Jaki and her team at Seeds4Success. In her brief report she was able to highlight the variety of opportunities given to Mere youngsters and the responsibilities that they have taken on. John Fitzgerald told us about the work of the Link Scheme and the many journeys provided by the volunteer drivers which, in a rural area like ours, are such a great help to residents. The funding that they receive from Mere Literary Festival is so important. Hamish Bell gave an account of the accomplishments this past year achieved by the Mere and District Chamber of Trade. The realisation of this document that you are now reading is the product of a group of volunteers working in well organised co-ordination as we heard from the editor Graham Avory. Mere is fortunate to have such an informative guide to local activities and events and its archive on the town website is also a useful journal. George Jeans looked back over his year's work as a Wiltshire Councillor and the

### **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**

progress that had been effected. Local policing matters were given to us by PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky in his account of the past year. Reverend Carol talked about the

work of Churches Together, who work with members of the community of all faiths. We then heard from Ian Sheppard, Chair of Mere Rivers Group, about how our relationship with Wessex Waters has continued and the effects on our rivers and, in particular, the wildlife to be found in them.

We had an opportunity to discuss the coming Public Inquiry into the Appeal by Richborough Estates with regard to the planning application for 130 houses on Castle Street. The appeal will have been held by the time you read this and hopefully a decision which reflects the desires expressed by many Mere residents will be made. Brett Norris brought us up to date with the work of the Mere Neighbourhood Plan team and gave us an account of what that will provide for the town. We also heard about the developing plans for the centenary of the end of the First World War which includes a refurbishment of the War Memorial this June.

I hope that we will be able to attract more Mere residents to the next annual Town Meeting, and we shall look at ways of doing this. I can assure you that my account of the event does not give the full picture of the work done by so many volunteers in the organisations which benefit Mere and for which I am most grateful.

*John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council* ☎: 07840722835

## **Floral Sponsors**

The Town Clerk would like to report that once again, the Town Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year, and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him, and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors, and we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact:

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. Tel: 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs last year:

Southern Co-Op, Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury Lions Club, E. J. & P. M. Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. T. White, Mrs. J. Hurd and M. J. Avery.

## **Bonfires and Smoke Nuisance**

The Town Council has recently received some complaints about bonfires and smoke nuisance. The Town Council does not have powers to take action on this but this is the advice and guidance found on the Wiltshire Council website:

There are no byelaws restricting bonfires in Wiltshire's Area and there are no specific times of day restricting bonfires.

If you must have a bonfire to burn any waste that cannot be composted, then it is advisable to follow these simple guidelines.

- Warn your neighbours – this gives them an opportunity to close windows and doors, remove washing off the line, and they are much less likely to complain.
- Ideally burn later in the evening when people are less likely to use their gardens.
- Only burn dry material.
- Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days. If it is too windy, smoke blows into neighbours' gardens and windows and across roads.
- Avoid burning when air pollution levels in your area are high or very high. You can check **air quality** on ☎: 0800 556677.
- Keep your fire away from trees, fences and buildings.
- Warning: Never use oil, petrol or methylated spirits to light a fire - you could damage yourself as well as the environment.
- Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder - put it out.

If smoke caused by a bonfire is creating a nuisance, Wiltshire Council has powers to take action under the provisions of the **Environmental Protection Act 1990**. Private individuals can also take action through a Magistrates' Court. If a bonfire is causing smoke to drift across a road, please contact the **police**.


If you are affected by smoke, we would recommend that you discuss it initially with your neighbour, as they may not realise that they are causing a problem. Always try to be reasonable, otherwise your discussions may end up in further arguments and create unwanted future neighbour tension. Explain the details of your concern and try and agree a reasonable solution or compromise.

If the situation does not improve, then feel free to contact the **Environmental Protection Team**. We would ask you to fill out a smoke nuisance log sheet for two weeks and then return it to us. The nuisance log sheets are very important and the Council will not take any further action unless it has received completed nuisance log

sheets from you. If the log is not returned without a reasonable explanation within 21 days, the complaint will be closed.

Once we have received your log sheets the case officer will assess them and contact you to discuss what will happen next. We may write to the alleged offender bringing their attention to the matter and providing them with a simple guide on how to have a bonfire whilst reducing the risk of it being a nuisance to neighbours. We may also make visits in an attempt to witness the smoke. Officers will usually undertake a maximum of three visits to substantiate your complaint. If after the three visits no nuisance has been established, the council will close the investigation.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. Please refer to the Mere website : **[www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)**, e-mail the Town Clerk at : **[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)** or : 01747 860701

*Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk : 01747 860701,*

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

I and my wife Sue have been blessed with a grandson named Charlie on 3rd May. This month of May also sees more Data protection regulations in the form of The (European) General Data Protection Regulations, GDPR, and apparently Charlie when he is old enough will be able to write to Mere Matters plus other local magazines to request the above personal information be removed! I joke: however for the average person the impact will be the ability to request personal information that is held by virtually any body and request to have it removed, which it would have to be, if not part of a legal agreement, as I understand. For example an agreed guarantee, account owing etc. To me no- one seems quite sure as yet the full interpretation of the act!

Children are entering a world in my opinion of ever less respect for the value of the pound and comparisons between workers employment remuneration. Shropshire Councillor Clive Wright could see his salary increase by 50% if new pay guidelines are adopted. A report to councillors says a review by the Local Government Association recommended increasing his pay from £103,000 to £150,000. The body also recommended increasing the pay of directors from £100,928 to £120,000-£130,000. It follows an almost 6% increase in council tax in Shropshire last month in the face of "challenging" finances. The local authority said the proposed pay rises reflect the "need to recruit and retain" the best staff in a "competitive market."!!!

From July, I am informed, your black box will be for glass only; however most plastics except black plastic will be able to be placed in the blue recycling bin. You will receive a list of what may now be recycled. The collection days or times may change.

I recently attended a Licensing Hearing for alcohol at The Nadder Centre, Tisbury re The Chalke Valley History Festival, always held in June or July. About 20 people turned up to support the application, three turned up to give representations (usually to object), one of which was the barrister/solicitor, the other two were the inhabitants of a nearby property. Also present were Wiltshire Solicitors, licensing officers etc, and, of course, there were we three councillors who had to make the decision! This must have cost both parties a considerable sum; in an ideal world it would be nice if these types of differences could be settled for a lesser cost.

Many are in need of housing and sometimes when they find housing, it is not fit for purpose. A rogue landlord has been fined £11,600 for exposing tenants, including a family with children, to dangerous living conditions. A resident of Devizes, admitted 24 breaches of the Houses of Multiple Occupation Regulation and four counts of failing to undertake works following the issue of an improvement notice. The trial at Swindon Magistrates Court followed a prosecution taken out by Wiltshire Council. The most serious defects included: faulty fire detection, exposed wiring, no hot water, no heating and significant disrepair. The court was told that his tenants were eastern European workers who had difficulty finding homes in Devizes. The owner was ordered to pay costs of £1,894.50 and a victim surcharge of £170. The Government has confirmed that the extension of mandatory Houses of Multi Occupancy licensing is due to come into force from 1 October 2018, subject to Parliamentary approval. It tightens up the rules on when a landlord must apply for a licence to rent out multi-occupancy houses. We have had houses of multi-occupancy in the Mere area.

We have blocked gullies in Mere. There will be an introduction of a town discretionary gulley service to see blocked gullies addressed, that Wiltshire Council deems a low priority. A number of trials have been carried out this year to assess the opportunities available to allow the town and parish councils to address these discretionary gullies. The capacity of the sewer service is limited and Wiltshire Council only have the available resource to provide a service to the town councils. The trial for the service is to provide town councils with a highway gully emptying facility to enable them to clear problematic gullies, which do not meet the council's intervention level for priority emptying. Where town councils have identified gullies that require emptying, requests must be sent to Wiltshire Council from the town council nominated highways representative. However the local council may have to make a contribution in some circumstances.

I sit on The Southern Area planning committee and have been involved in hours of debate over the exact height a proposed build form can take, and some retrospective applications. A family has been told to take down their new home or spend £200,000

on a new roof after it was found to be 30 inches too tall. Stoke-on-Trent Council turned

### **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](http://www.reallysing.co.uk)**

down two retrospective planning applications for the £500,000 house due to complaints over the height. If you build it to big, you might pay for it!

I personally have seen some appalling road surfaces, often not in Wiltshire. Research by the AA indicates that potholes cost drivers at least £1m each month nationally, with road conditions worsening. Some 4,200 claims for damage related to potholes were lodged in the first four months of 2018, which is more than the figure for the whole of last year. The number of motorists affected is also expected to be far higher because many do not make claims for fear of losing their no-claims bonus. A Local Government Association spokesperson said: "Councils are fixing a pothole every 21 seconds". Plus the Farmers' insurer NFU Mutual has warned that increasing numbers of potholes on rural roads are putting horse riders and cyclists at risk, and a combination of severe weather and a lack of maintenance means some roads are in such a poor state they might need to be closed altogether.

The Government has announced a major expansion of schemes which see NHS patients given control of spending on their healthcare and home-help needs. Up to 350,000 regular users of healthcare will be given "personal budgets", using allocations from NHS and council budgets, when a green paper on social care is published this summer. Adult care is something we all might need later in life. An Adult care firm nearby in Somerset, which was set up by a national company, said although nearly 200 staff left, they had now been replaced, while the council said the staff turnover was an acceptable price to pay for the transformation of the service. I know of cases in Wiltshire where old people were left all day in the recent cold weather, in bed with no help, through lack of capacity of the provider. (No suggestion that it was the fault of the Somerset provider).

I attended "Mere Makes Music" on Saturday, 28th April 2018 at Mere School and Children's Centre. We were lucky to have the opportunity to have available to local people so many valuable instruments and the opportunity to use and get involved not just on the day but to be offered further musical assistance.

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](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk) or ☎: 07710 441599 I can usually answer quickly.

## Experienced Carer

for all care needs in dementia and all other aspects of care.  
Full CRB checked and insured. Excellent references  
call 01747 860998 mobile 07990 621597



## WILTSHIRES BIG PLEDGE CHALLENGE

Dear South West Wiltshire *Community Area Network* member,

Take the time today to sign up for Wiltshire Council's health-boosting campaign Big Pledge: "Beat the Clock" – and this year,

every second counts.

The campaign, which runs from 14 May to 8 July, is open to enter now for all ages and every level of fitness and ability.

Participants can choose from a wide array of pursuits to complete their personal challenge, including football, cricket, tennis, basketball, athletics, dance, cycling, walking, running and badminton.

There are four levels of involvement:


- **Beat the Clock Challenge** if you are new to activity or have a disability
- **Beat the Clock Plus Challenge** if you are already active and looking to push yourself
- **Beat the Clock Team Challenge** to do with colleagues, friends and family.
- **Beat the Clock Schools Challenge**, with no limit on the numbers of pupils who can join in.

Chris Williams, Wiltshire Council's portfolio holder for communities, said: "Beat the Clock" is a brilliant, enjoyable way of improving your fitness and getting the healthy benefits from taking exercise.

"Our annual challenge is always massively popular and thousands of people have already taken part and got a lot of pleasure out of it. It's a terrific way to boost your wellbeing."

Wiltshire's double Paralympic gold medallist Jennifer Kehoe is supporting this year's challenge, she said: "I am delighted to be supporting this year's Big Pledge Challenge. This is a fantastic event that everyone can join in and get active regardless of age or

ability. I know there is nothing better than setting yourself a goal and then achieving it! It is so simple to take part and I urge you to sign up now and get active, have fun and go for that gold!"

To take part, simply sign up at : [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bigpledge](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bigpledge) where you can also see a full list of the activities available. You will get your own Challenge Record page where you can plot your progress as you go along.

Kind regards,

*Stephen Harris, Community Engagement Manager (South West Wiltshire), Area Boards Team, Communities, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN. ☎: 01722 434211, 📠: 07584 274055*



## CALLING ALL CARERS

Did you know that, statistically, three in five of us will become carers at some point in our lives? A carer is defined as someone who looks after a family member or friend, unpaid, who could not manage without their support. In Wiltshire alone it is estimated that we have over 47,000 of these amazing people, many of whom provide 50 hours or more of voluntary care a week for a loved one.

Caring can start at any age - as a small child helping care for a sibling, or parent with physical or mental issues; as parents managing the life-long commitment to a child with disabilities; as an adult taking on the care of ageing parents, or as an elderly person looking after a sick spouse – or any variation and combination of these.

Becoming a carer has massive implications in terms of personal finances, social life, education and employment, and general health and well-being. At Carer Support Wiltshire (CSW) we help carers of all ages to access services, information, education and training, respite, and breaks from their caring role. We ensure carers in Wiltshire have a voice, and we work with health and social care professionals and employers to raise carer awareness and develop best practice. Our aim is to create carer friendly communities where carers are recognised, valued and supported.

So whether you're caring full time, for a few days a week, or juggling work with looking after someone, we will work with you to look at how we can help you access the support that's right for you.

If you are one of these secret heroes in our local community (or you know someone who is and needs some support), please come and join us for a free cuppa and cake at The Angel Cafe, Mere, on **Monday, 11th June** between 2:00 and 4:00pm.

*Jane Mason ☎: 01747 861296, or 📧: [jane.mason@gmx.com](mailto:jane.mason@gmx.com)*

# BERYL GRAY, MRS. SMITH-DURHAM 1919-2018

## Founder of Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

### A TRIBUTE

At the recent AGM of MADS, tribute was paid to the society's founder, Mrs. Beryl Smith-Durham, who has died in New York at the age of 98 years. The chairman, Howard Smith, led members in a minute's silence and then spoke of how she had formed and led MADS in the aftermath of WW2.

Older 'Mereites' may well remember Beryl as Miss Gray, their first teacher at the Infants School in Dark Lane. She was also a talented dance teacher and ran classes with Mrs. Hole of Mere Youth Club. They put on shows – a little dance drama – with their pupils.

It was in November 1946 that Beryl gathered budding thespians to a meeting at her parents' house in The Lynch and proposed they form a drama group in Mere. The spring of 1947 saw MADS first production - three short plays performed in the Lecture Hall. The tradition of live theatre in Mere, which had lapsed during the war years, was revived thanks to Beryl's drive and initiative.

The first production was followed by more ambitious ones. These included an imaginative staging of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, directed to great acclaim by Dick Smith-Durham, an American actor stationed locally. His wartime romance with Beryl became the talk of the town until he was discharged back to his former life across the pond.

Beryl moved to a headship in Tollard Royal but continued her work with MADS – on one occasion, when snow prevented car travel, she walked to Mere to direct a rehearsal. For the Festival of Britain she devised and directed the society's first community play, *Charles II at Mere 1651*, and also organised a One Act Play Festival. A talented calligraphist, Beryl produced many MADS posters. She also penned and illuminated Mere's Loyal Address to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of the coronation.

Then, as in all good romance stories, a happy ending. Dick returned to Mere. He and Beryl were married in the Quaker Meeting Room of the Lecture Hall where they had worked together for MADS. Beryl went to live in New York and taught dance at some of the city's top schools.

Beryl kept in touch with family and friends in Mere and loved to hear news of her hometown. On MADS 60th anniversary its members, including Doug Lawley and Peggy Jukes (founding members), phoned Beryl from the celebratory exhibition at the library. Last year MADS sent its founder a photograph of the 70th anniversary production with thanks and good wishes.

*Adrienne Howell* ☎: 01747 860475

## WARMINSTER & DISTRICT FOOD BANK

A massive thank you to all the generous people and businesses of Mere who kindly donated to our food bank collection in April - we are thrilled to let you know that the total collected was a 'hefty' 296 kg of food! We were also given £95 in cash that the food bank staff will use for the supplies they are short of.

Also a big thank you to The Co-Op Mere for having a collection bin and allowing us to be outside for the Saturday collection. Katie at KM Beaty was the main person behind this collection - so thank you Katie for all your hard work and new ideas!

We are doing another collection on **Saturday, 21st July** - more details to follow next month. Let's see if we can get the magic 300 kg!

Once again thank you on behalf of Warminster & District Food Bank.

*Penny Fennon ☎: 01747 860081*

## MERE CANCER RESEARCH UK

In April we hosted a 'Cars and Coffee' meet, by kind permission of Philip Coward, at the new Hillbrush Factory on the outskirts of Mere. A truly magnificent line-up of cars were on show and soon they were attracting a buzz of enthusiastic interest amongst Mere's petrol heads!

Despite the cool and windy weather, we had a full car park of supporters, and the cake stall did a brisk business. Altogether we raised £162.50 towards Cancer Research, for which we gratefully thank all those who came and participated that morning.

Next month, on **Saturday, 14th July**, we shall be holding our annual Coffee and Cakes morning in the garden of Dewes House, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Sainthill.

Their beautiful garden is easily accessed from the main car park in Mere, and if you have not attended before you are in for a treat with delicious cakes on sale, plus a cup of coffee or tea. Our stalls will be offering an array of things and there will be a raffle for some excellent prizes. Do come and join us.

We are always mindful of the strong support we have from the community of Mere and we are so grateful that you elect to spend some of your free time with us to help us to raise funds for Cancer Research, and win the battle against cancer. Thank you.

*Harvard Dallibar, ☎: 07788138003 ✉: las518@icloud.com  
or Jill Turner ☎: 01747 860334*



# MERE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

## Proposed Gillingham Corner Development



The Public Inquiry into this was held in Salisbury on 15th May, so it's possible the result may be known by the time this is read. During the discussions a few months ago on this proposed new housing development, the Chamber pointed out the need for improvement of the utilities infrastructure before any planning approval should be given. In addition, there are "brown-field" sites that should be considered before encroaching on the green fields which surround our town, on the edge of the Cranborne Chase AONB. We have further concerns that the development will only result in an increase in commuter traffic and not bring more trade to the town. It is to be hoped that the Town Council and Wiltshire Councillor will have made a strong enough case to achieve rejection.

## Employment

It is our view that the town needs employment opportunities and industrial facilities before new housing. We hope that the proposed industrial units near to the new Hillbrush site will stimulate some progress.

An ideal situation would be for an existing large business on Quarryfields to follow the Hillbrush example and consolidate in modern facilities on the new site. This would release a number of small units at Quarryfields suitable for incoming start ups or local smaller businesses wishing to expand. We hope to have discussions with the Town Council over the next few months to explore these possibilities.

## WiBiM

A group of local women have set up a new Facebook Group named "**Women in Business in Mere**". It already has 28 members. Its intention is to provide support for women working from home or running small businesses, who might otherwise feel isolated. The aim is to provide for both social and business needs, and to highlight the large number of entrepreneurial women in the town. The Chamber applauds this initiative and is happy to provide any help and support that may be needed.

If **you** are interested in helping the Chamber in any way, please contact me or Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576.

Our email is ✉: [merechamber@outlook.com](mailto:merechamber@outlook.com)

*Hamish Bell, President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade ☎: 07856 700 576*

## MERE RIVERS GROUP

### Wildlife Sightings for April

During April there was lots of activity on our water courses, with birds pairing up ready to mate! We asked last month for you to let us know when you saw the first swallows, swifts and martins. The first Swallows were reported mid April and Swifts were seen at the end of April. House Martins were still to be seen at the end of the month.

The total wildlife sightings for April are: Moorhen - 4 times plus a pair were seen on The Shreen at Waterside and one on its nest on the Ashfield Lagoon. The Little Egret was seen 3 times, Kingfisher seen twice. Heron, Wren, Barn Owl, Chiff Chaff and Great Spotted Woodpecker were all seen once. A pair of Water Rail were seen on the Ashfield Lagoon.

A pair of Mallard and their 13 ducklings were seen on the Shreen at Waterside. By the end of April there were still 10 ducklings left and these were often seen sleeping, huddled together on the bank. Finally the water vole was seen twice as was the Brimstone Butterfly.

We are aware that, with the leaves coming out on the trees and shrubs, it becomes more difficult to spot wildlife but do please keep your eyes open especially for young birds, mammals, insects and plants and report any sightings to:

: **mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com**

### Nature Notes

As of April the 6-month season for monitoring our rivers and reporting to the local Wildlife Trusts has now started. We monitor sites on the Shreen and Ashfield for invertebrates which are key indicators on the health of our rivers. This involves a 3-minute river kick test to net and analyse the species in the river and count the number of the key indicators that are present.

This information is supplied to the local wildlife trusts (Wiltshire and Dorset), with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust being responsible for highlighting any variation from acceptable levels to the Environment Agency.

*Lynne, for Mere Rivers Group, ☎: 01747 860174*



## MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

### Healthy Mere Walking

**Join us on Sunday, 10th June.**

Starting between 10.00am and 12.00noon from Manor Road, Mere there will be fresh air, good company, splendid views and a goody bag. What a **Great Bottom** you will have!

Mere Footpath Groups have helped landowners maintain footpaths in Mere parish and, also, organised walks for many years. This year, we hope to encourage even more people to enjoy the benefits of walking. The walk and the company will be good for all of us. It is just 3.3 miles of country path but involves a climb of 370ft to a splendid view.

We are asking for a contribution to help us buy kissing gates that will make walks on the footpaths of Mere more accessible. Your £5 donation will go toward buying the next kissing gate that we install and our sponsors will reward you with a goody bag and a Great Bottom badge to wear with pride. Full details in the library or on our website : **[www.merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk](http://www.merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk)**.

Please let us know that you are going to join us so that we can plan for the walk, you can:

- Join the event on our facebook page: ***merefootpathgroup***
- Register on our website : ***www.merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk***
- : ***merefootpathgroup@gmail.com***
- : **07840 722835**
- Meet us in the library on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 12.00noon

*John Jordan, Treasurer, Mere Footpath Group* : **07840 722835**

## GMS LIONS HELP OUT SEEDS4SUCCESS

### Donation

A group of peer leaders from Seeds4Success were presented with a cheque so that they can buy group hoodies to identify them whilst carrying out their leadership role. The young people who attend regular young leaders sessions, work together to plan and deliver a monthly youth club sessions for children in school years 4,5 & 6 on the second Wednesday of the month at Mere Youth Centre.

These sessions have proved very popular with the children attending and they have taken part in a wide range of activities including sports and games, a nature trail, cooking, arts and crafts and team building activities. The peer leaders, who attend weekly sessions to plan the junior activities, enjoy taking on additional responsibility for

these sessions and within the charity generally, and have received training in safeguarding and leadership, increasing their knowledge and developing their skills.

The charity and the young people are very grateful for the donation from Gillingham, Shaftesbury and Mere Lions and the young people are looking forward to receiving and wearing their hoodies with pride in due course.

*Dave Rose, GMS Lions PR Officer, ☎: 01935 389816*



### 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](mailto:meredental16@btconnect.com)

🌐: [www.mereditistry.co.uk](http://www.mereditistry.co.uk),

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

Friday 8.45am - 5:00pm

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



## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH VISITOR'S BOOK

The following is an extract from the many new entries in the church's Visitor's Book over the last month:

Jean and Graham Taylor, Somerton

'We wish the vicar and churchwardens and the congregation every success with your exciting re-ordering. If you have time check out St Michael and All Angels at Somerton. The Lord bless everyone who worships in this place.'

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

## LINK SCHEME QUIZ NIGHT

### Friday, 27th July 2018

Mark the date on your calendar! Friday, 27th July sees the Link's popular Quiz and Supper Night back in the Grove Building for an evening of brain-teasing fun. 7.00 for 7.30pm. Teams Max.4 @ £6pp inc. supper.

Genial quiz-master, Bill Pike, will again be in charge, and to make sure of your table do book with him ☎: 01747 861969.

During the supper interval details of this year's Literary Festival programme will be revealed with the issue of the first flyers. Lots of interesting speakers coming to Mere, 8th – 14th October!  
*Adrienne Howell, ☎: 01747 860475*

## MERE CARNIVAL QUIZ NIGHT

Friday, 29th June 2018

Grove Building

7.15pm for 7.30pm

£2.00 per person

Tables of four

Raffle and Refreshments.

All proceeds towards this year's carnival on Saturday, 15th September.

Please join us for a fun evening and a work out for your memory!

*Carol Payne ☎: 01747 861639*

## FREE HELP WITH DIGITAL DEVICES

"Digital champions" trained by Wiltshire Council offer a free service twice a month in Mere to help local people get on line . These sessions are at Mere Library (1st Tuesday in the month 2.00 - 4.00pm) and the Angel Tea Rooms (3rd Wednesday 3.00 - 4:30pm).

The Wiltshire On-line team can help de-mystify your mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer and your landline phone, and can help you get the best from these devices. Housecalls can be arranged where it's more convenient. These are 1-to-1 sessions focused on your particular problem or area of interest.

If you can't make either of these two days and times, ☎: 0300 456 0100, and a local digital champion will ring you back to learn more about your digital problem or interest and arrange a meeting.  
*Steve Hoffman ☎: 0300 456 0100*

# MERE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS PRESENT

## The Mere Model Railway Exhibition on Saturday, 16th & Sunday, 17th June

Our annual exhibition is to be held in the Mere Lecture Halls on Salisbury Road. Opening hours are 10.00am to 4.00 pm each day, and admission is free for all children under twelve years of age if accompanied by an adult. The adult entrance charge being £4 for the sixth year running!!

### Amenities

Mere has **free car parking** in its car parks.

Disabled access.

Refreshments provided.

### Features

'Llanfair Caereinion (009)-Andy Cundick

'Wantage N.G. Tramway (OO9)-Richard Holder

'Ashburton' (N Gauge)-John Bickett-Smith

'Brockleigh' (N Gauge)-David Harrington

'Margate Road' (OO Gauge)-Lee Thorp

Three Bridges by the Sea (OO Gauge) MERE club Layout

'Cotehele Quay L' (7mmNG)-Tom Snook

'Baldwick' (O Gauge) Dave Bowers & Andy Jones

'Tor Halt' 16mm Live steam similar to the "Great Glen Challenge" with Dick Strawbridge. This is an indoors presentation of the skills involved in garden railways by the Salisbury Group.

**Trade Support:** Books & Buildings (Mere Club), Railway Scenics (Electronic components & Scenery)

Ray Heard Model Railways (An all gauge second hand Trader)

We are always on the look-out for members of the community that would like to help with this event as it grows in prominence within the district.

Please contact me on the telephone number below or for further information refer to our website



**www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk**

*Tom Snook ☎: 01747 861977*

## 'BAKE OFF FOR LIFT OFF' IN AIR AMBULANCE WEEK

This is advance notice, but If you like cakes then why not host a bake sale or bake off and help Wiltshire Air Ambulance to keep flying and saving lives?

'Bake Off for Lift Off' is our theme for National Air Ambulance Week, 10th – 16th September 2018.

We're asking individuals, community groups, schools, colleges and businesses to get their bake on and fundraise for our lifesaving charity.

Organise a bake off with your friends, family or colleagues, hold a bake sale, dress up at a Mad Hatter's Tea Party or hold a Teddy Bears' Picnic.

We've been saving lives for over 28 years thanks to the incredible support and generosity of the public who donate. But, we have to raise £3.25 million a year to keep our lifesaving service operational.

Join us in our mission to Bake Off for Lift Off and help us save lives. Register your interest by ✉: [bakeoff@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](mailto:bakeoff@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk) or call us the telephone number below.

Let us know what you're planning to do and we can send you your pack to kick-start your fundraising!

*Jill Crooks, Wiltshire Air Ambulance ☎ 01225 300536*



### TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 20th June 2018 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, 18th June, please. Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Please note that there will be NO community TEA@3 in July or August, but it will return in September.

*Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524*

### **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**

## TEA IN THE TOWER

Come and have the highest cup of tea in Mere.  
St Michaels Church Bell Tower  
Sunday 17th June 2.30 -4.00pm  
Tea and Cake £2.50 children free.

In aid of bell funds

*Maggie Durkee, Tower Correspondent, ☎: 01747 860163*

✉: *margaret.durkee@btopenworld.com*

## MERE FILMSHOWS

Our next film scheduled for Thursday, 14th June, in the lecture Hall at 7.30pm, is the Oscar-nominated **The Greatest Showman** (PG). This film has been very popular across all age groups and I personally know some people who have seen it several times already but still want to see it again!

Hugh Jackman is in excellent form as P. T. Barnum, a man who is determined to follow his dreams and also give his childhood sweetheart the life she had once enjoyed with her wealthy but disapproving family. So do get your ticket and enjoy the colour, the music and the energy of this totally feel-good Hollywood film.

Tickets are available from the library. Further details on page 33.

### **Dates for your Film Diary:**

Thursday, 12th July 7:30pm: Darkest Hour [PG]

No film in August – we will be back for Carnival week in September!

*Rosie ☎: 01747 861567*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Keep a sharp eye open for notices about play readings which MADS will be holding during the next month or two as we prepare for the Autumn Production. We are always on the lookout for new members of all ages to join our back-stage as well as on-stage teams, and it doesn't matter whether you have amdram experience or not! Do come along to the play readings and let's get to know each other!

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### **Slightly Naughty Plants. Castle Gardens speaker**

This will be an entertaining encounter with plants that cheat, steal, deceive, alter minds and provide aphrodisiacs! The slides no doubt will provide suitable support for the speaker's assertions, and will be most enlightening. Wednesday, 13th June 7.30pm Grove Building

£2 entry for visitors, who are very welcome.

 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk) Janet Way  01747 860884

## DRESSMAKING IN MERE



We have a Summer Offer this year for a taster session of two lessons of two and a half hours each for £30 in total and do hope that this will encourage someone who is not sure if this is for them to give it a try. We hear more and more from people with very little dressmaking experience or who are nervous of using their sewing machine.

At this time of the year we have a little more room to allow us to do this. In the autumn the courses are often quite full. We have also rescheduled our **"Sewing All Day" to Tuesday, 3rd July** from 10.00am to 3.30pm with spaces still available.

We have heard that the "Sewing Bee" is coming back on TV and know how this encourages so many people to sew again, so we are thrilled. There has been a lovely variation of makes lately including two beautiful coats and more dresses for little girls than we have ever had. We are delighted that we seem to attract 20 - 80 year olds! There is a lot of laughter especially over tea and those famous chocolate biscuits, but confidence building as well.

Our Facebook Page "Dressmaking in Mere" gives a good idea of what they achieve. Susanne has been making Wedding Dresses and Bridesmaid's dresses by day and teaching on Wednesday evening and Tuesday mornings: a very busy lady!

Our courses run through June and start again in September. Do contact us through the Facebook Page or telephone:

Carol  01747 861923 or Susanne, The Sewing Lady  07788 595434



## MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

In November Mere Womens Institute will be celebrating its 100th anniversary – a fact of which we are very proud. It is significant to note it was possibly set up as a celebration of the end of WW1. In those days hardly any women worked and it was something to look forward to, to get out of the house, meet their friends and catch up with their

news. There were offshoots in the shape of a tennis club, Drama Group, walking group etc.

Nowadays, with many women working, the hectic pace of life, tv, computers, mobile phones etc., our numbers have sadly dropped. We are still a lively, but small, group and would love to welcome new members.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month, at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. We have good speakers, competitions, outings and a bi-monthly lunch date. Why not come along and see for yourself.

*Barbara Bourne, ☎: 01747 863411*

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

Did you know that you – or anyone – are always welcome to get a coffee or a snack at the café at Salisbury Courts? It's open from 9.00am – 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, and you'll appreciate its reasonable pricing and the warm welcome that comes with it. We learnt this from Joanne Wood, the speaker at our May meeting, who explained how the MU responded to the request to open the cafe; the tricky process of setting it up; the wonderful volunteers fulfilling the needs of visitors to the Courts, and the staff who work there. It is much appreciated and has become a remarkable success.

Our June meeting, by tradition, is a relaxed Garden Meeting, which will be on Tuesday, 12th June at 2.30pm. This will be held at Christabelle's home, Meads House, which is a short distance down the lane from Edgebridge. If you would like a lift or directions to get there please ring one of the numbers below. All present, past and possible future MU members are very welcome to join us. We had glorious wall-to-wall sunshine last year, so here's hoping!

*Joint Branch Leaders: Christabelle Kriticos ☎: 01747 861065, Jenny Larder ☎: 01747 861397 and Christine Marsh ☎: 01747 861212*

Friends of St. Michael's Church, Mere

SHREEN HARMONY

# SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 23rd June 2018

7.30pm

St Michael's Church, Mere

Refreshments

Retiring Collection

## MERE MUSEUM

We hope that you have kept Saturday, 16th June free so that you can come and take part in the Museum's 'BIG EVENT' from 2:00 – 5:00pm. Not only will the Wiltshire Museum Services's Conservator, Sarah Volter (who will be carrying out the conservation of the Rutter Scrapbooks) be giving us an entertaining talk about her work at 2.30pm, but there will be lots more to this exciting day. We shall be mounting small displays on Museum activities like box-making, and how objects new to us are logged and added to the collections. We shall be showing you how we catalogue all these objects and you can also inspect the stores and see how we keep tabs on the items that live there. There will be a small display of Museum objects that you can handle - or try on! We're planning also to show you a display of copies of photographs of local people and events so you can help us to identify people in them. We shall also triumphantly launch the Museum's entire catalogue online, made possible by Steve Hoffman's skill, ingenuity and perseverance in the face of almost insuperable difficulties. This represents the achievement of a long-held curatorial aim for the Museum. And of course, Tea and Cake after the talk! How could you not come to such an exciting event? We shall hope to see lots of you there.

Can we also remind you that until mid-June, we are showing two WWI travelling exhibitions from Wiltshire Museum's Service: 'Keeping the Home Fires Burning' and 'A Child's War'. We hope you will find the time to pop in.

And finally, our new exhibition, jointly mounted by the Mere Rivers Group and the Museum called 'A Tale of Two Rivers' will open to the general public on Tuesday 12th June. Entrance to the Museum is always free.

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

## THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way (growing, baking, selling or buying) to our fabulous Plant Sale in May. We raised a record total of £1,162 for the Museum including the final £60 needed to complete the fund-raising for the Rutter Scrapbook conservation project. A wonderful result! Thank you all, and may your gardens flourish as never before this summer!

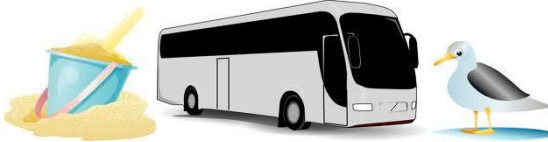
We hope to see as many people as possible at the Friends' Preview of the next exhibition 'A Tale of Two Rivers' on Monday **June 11th** at 6.30pm as usual.

*Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908*

**PROVIDED BY THE ROSEMARY GODDARD  
CENTRE**

# TRIP TO WEYMOUTH

**Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June**



**Our guests from the centre are having a trip to the seaside and we have seats left for anyone that would like to take advantage of a cheap excursion.**

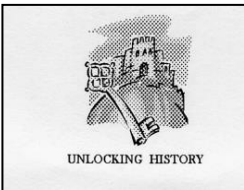
The coach leaves Lynch Close at **10:00am**

It will leave Weymouth at **4:00pm** to return.

Please let me know if you wish to book a seat.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser, ☎: 07835 272406

**Tickets £12.00 per person**



**Mere Historical Society  
Mottisfont Abbey and Garden  
(National Trust)**

**Tuesday, 19th June 2018**

**Booking is closed; but for those who have booked:**

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns by around 6.00pm

**Chavenage House and Tetbury**

**Wednesday 18 July 2018**

Before visiting Chavenage House, we will stop in Tetbury where there are plenty of options for food. You will have time for lunch or a snack and to meander down the medieval cobbled Chipping Steps where the 'Mop Fairs' were held. The Heritage Centre is in the original Court House and contains a Police Museum with free entry.

After lunch we will visit Chavenage House, a Grade I listed building, which is a beautiful Elizabethan house of mellow Cotswold stone built in 1576 by Edward Stephens. Only two families have owned it, and we will be shown round by one of the current owners.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9am and return by around 6pm**

Cost: MHS Members £27, non-members £30 per person.

*Includes coach and tip, tour and cream tea.*

**DEADLINE for booking 9th JULY**

**PLEASE USE THE BOOKING FORM:**

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

 **merehistoricalsociety.org.uk**

*Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 86179*

## **ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

Increasing numbers of people are moving to Mere to make it their home and are keen to get involved in the community. When they arrive this publication and Facebook's Mere Mutters are both useful sources of information in settling in and working out the lay of the land. However, there are hidden gems that offer goods, services and job opportunities that may not be so obvious and this feature will tell you more about the great things that are right here in (or near) Mere.

If you have a local business and want to let people know about it, then please submit 200 to 300 words (contact details on page 41) and through 'On Your Doorstep' Mere Matters will be happy to let people know about your venture.

*Graham Avory, Editor*

**MotoGlide**

MotoGlide is based in Mere, just passed the old Brush factory that is starting to morph into a new housing development. Our site is a hive of activity with an eclectic mix of business'.




At MotoGlide we have been busy creating a range of electric bikes to suit all needs. If you are after a bike to take in your caravan, boat or you just want a bike that fits into the boot of your car then the GTF will do the job. The MotoGlide fold up electric bike has been cleverly designed and is compact and neat.

With fat tyres the GTF makes for a comfortable ride on rough terrain and is available with either a 250 or 500 watt motor.

If it's the open road that you crave we have a mens and ladies bike that will ease you up any of the hills that the surrounding area has to offer. If like me you feel you can get there, just need the reassurance of some assistance getting back this is the answer. The GMK or GLK 250 have a range of around 30 miles and the lithium ion battery pack can be charged from a standard domestic socket.

For those who venture off road then we have the GT available in 250 and 750 watt versions. The fat tyres make easy work whether you are on sand, snow, mud or uneven surfaces. Even potholes seem less of a danger.

For more information contact us on the telephone number below or visit : **[www.motoglide.co.uk](http://www.motoglide.co.uk)**

You are also welcome to come and see us. Just give us a call to check we are not out and about on a MotoGlide.

*Jonathan Sheppard* ☎: 01747 861086

## **MERE SNOOKER CLUB**

We are happy to announce that due the benevolence of the Lecture Hall Trust, we have managed to secure a reduction in rent for the premises for the foreseeable future which will hopefully enable the Club to continue, as well as a considerable interest from several new members. However we are always looking for new members and supporters and would like for anyone interested to get in touch.

There will be fund raising event at the Butt of Sherry in Mere in the form of a quiz night on **Thursday 31st May** to which everyone is invited. To book a seat please contact Glen lngs at the pub.

*Mike Gladding Secretary* ☎: 01747861733

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

Those of us who play bowls are well aware of the multiple benefits that playing brings: there is the benefit to health that socialising with others achieves, there is also the added bonus of being out in the fresh air, plus there is the immense aid to health that the physical exercise brings.

John FitzGerald, a bowler at the club, recently showed me an article in a magazine that covers this aspect of the sport perfectly, and I quote "According to Sara Nicholls of Bowls Wales, a total of 134 muscles are used in a game and bowling burns roughly 240 calories an hour. It improves your heart and respiratory fitness, and strengthens and conditions your arms, chest, shoulder and leg muscles".

So what are you waiting for? Come and give us a try, and you never know, we may help the NHS by cutting down the queues in the surgery!

Tisbury Bowls Club are hanging on! Regular readers will have read my last report that the closest club to Mere may have to close, however the members are trying to make a go of it, and we wish them all our best in keeping the club afloat. We know that these are trying times for Bowls Clubs across the country but a few more keen and interested new members could make all the difference.

For any other details about the Club, please contact either David Anley ☎ 01747 822216, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by phone below or by e-mail ✉: [Don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:Don.butchers@btinternet.com).

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2018 ISSUE**  
**MONDAY, 18th JUNE 2018**

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
**in association with**  
**MERE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**proudly presents**

# **'The Greatest Showman'**

## **(PG)**

**with Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams**

**An Oscar-nominated musical telling the story of P T Barnum, who rose from humble beginnings to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.**

**in The Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday, 14th June at 7.30pm**  
*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from the Library**

*For more information call Rosie ☎ 01747 861567*

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



# Mere School Reports

## Gold Class

This term Gold Class has a new topic: Adventurers and Explorers! They will be exploring the Antarctic and the Sahara. They will also be learning all about maps and how to locate places.

### Information Texts

The children have been busy researching Antarctica ready to write their own information text all about it. They have especially loved reading all about the wildlife that lives there, including the Emperor Penguin.

### Dance

In PE the children have been creating their own modern style dance to Pink's song 'What about Us'. The creative moves designed by them were put together in a final piece which was performed to both the whole school and their parents during open morning.

## Cake Sale

As part of their learning in RE the children were finding out about how different religions look after the earth. They then decided how they would like to help protect the animals of the earth. They baked and sold cakes at our cake sale where they raised an amazing £150. The money will pay for a bird of prey visit from the Hawk Conservancy. In addition to this the children have voted to adopt a penguin!

### Science

This term the children have already competed lots of investigations into Forces. They have thoroughly enjoyed finding out which objects have magnetic properties.

## STOP THE PRESS!

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

 [www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)

## CLEANING & IRONING SERVICE

Fast friendly and reliable. Ironing collected and delivered

Call **Maddie 077393 79775 or 01747 840131**

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CRANBORNE CHASE?

Mere is one of the many towns in the area of Cranborne Chase, which is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) - a landscape considered so precious that it is protected for the nation. The criteria for designating an AONB include valuable wildlife, habitats, geology and heritage, as well as scenic views.

The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, now and for future generations.

This nationally designated AONB covers 380 sq miles of countryside overlapping the boundaries of Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset. It is a diverse landscape offering areas of rolling chalk grassland, ancient woodlands, chalk escarpments, downland hillsides and chalk river valleys each with a distinct and recognisable character. The landscapes of the AONB today, as they were in the past, are extraordinarily rich.

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are equal in landscape status to National Parks and there are ½ million people within thirty minutes drive of the Cranbourne Chase AONB in surrounding market towns and the Bournemouth and Poole conurbations
- The AONB covers an area of 983 square kilometres or 380 square miles of countryside overlapping the boundaries of Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset.
- The AONB has an extensive network of Rights of Way, the combined length of over 1,500 km (927 miles) would take you from Southampton to Edinburgh and back again
- The long distance footpaths of the Wessex Ridgeway, Jubilee Trail and the Monarch's Way all criss-cross the AONB and there are a myriad of ancient droves and track-ways bristling with history waiting to be explored
- There are at least 550 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and more than 50 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (important areas for nature) within the AONB
- Farming is by far the biggest land use with more than 89% of the AONB classed as farmland
- Almost 14% of the UK's important chalk grassland is found here
- The AONB abounds with many ancient woodlands
- There are over 350kms (220 miles) of chalk rivers
- We have over 33,000 residents within the AONB, which is one of the lowest population densities in the South West.

## FRIENDS OF St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Shreen Harmony are putting on a Summer Concert in aid of the Friends of St Michael's on Saturday June 23rd, at 7.30pm in the church. (See the poster on page 27).

The programme will include their usual eclectic mix of spirituals, songs from around the world, British folk songs and even the theme from a TV show.

There will be refreshments served in the interval and a retiring collection.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Ann Dethick ☎: 01747 863498*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT

Churches Together in Mere and District are delighted to welcome among us the Rev'd Duncan Goldie who is the new URC Minister for Mere - among many other places. One of his first duties is to write the Letter from the Churches for this issue of Mere Matters and his letter follows.

*Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884*

*Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District*

## LETTER FROM THE CHURCHES

**Rev'd Duncan Goldie, the new Mere United Reformed Church Minister, writes:**

**Hello.**

This Easter my journey of faith has brought me to be the minister in the Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Wincanton & Mere pastorate, and a minister in the Methodist Yeovil and Blackmore Circuit and the URC Wessex Synod. I am now enjoying being with you and finding out all about you and the area, all of which is new to me.

Prior to joining you, I will have been a minister of a group of four URC Churches in South Cambridgeshire and North Herts, for over eleven years. Before that I was a minister of a group of six Churches in the Forest of Dean, for eleven years, and before that I was in Crawley where I was ordained in 1992 as a URC Minister, having trained at

## Watercolour Club Exhibition

at The Bowridge Gallery

Sunday 24th June to Sunday 8th July

an eclectic mix of contemporary watercolours

open daily 11.00-6.00 Unit 3, Bowridge Hill Farm, SP8 5QS

Watercolour Club: [www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk](http://www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk) [www.thebowridgegallery.co.uk](http://www.thebowridgegallery.co.uk)

Westminster College in Cambridge, that was a part of the Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. During which time I have always looked to work positively with other churches to tell people about the person of Jesus.

Before my time as a minister, after being born in Birmingham, I was brought up and went to School in Hale, South Manchester. I left school at sixteen and went to work at GEC in Trafford Park, as a technical apprentice. Later, after gaining an engineering degree at UWIST in Cardiff, I continued to work at GEC, as a design engineer, until I left to train as a minister in the United Reformed Church.

In my time I have been involved in youth work, and more recently have been for the past seven years the Faith in Action advocate for the Eastern Synod of the URC.

My interests apart from church work include, Sport, Music, and Dog Showing.

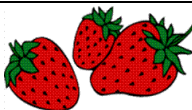


IN MERES AND DISTRICT

***Songs of Praise at Stourhead***  
***Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00pm***

***We meet near the Bristol Cross***  
***Bring a chair or rug, and, if you like, a picnic tea***  
***to enjoy after the service***

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



**You are invited to a STRAWBERRY TEA  
in Aid of**



**on Friday, 6th July from 2.30pm  
at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane  
(Jean & Colin's house ☎ 01747 861168)  
Everyone Welcome!**

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE**

**June 2018**

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:  
Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,  
(Rest Day - Saturday)**

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

**Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424  
Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646**

**Please note: The PCC Secretary, Mrs Sherry Dixon is taking a break in  
December**

✉: [office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each 1st Tuesday</b>		6.00pm	Holy communion (BCP)
<b>Each 3rd Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	*17th	10.30am	Parish Communion with Sunday Club for Children
	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion
		3.00pm	Songs of Praise at Stourhead

*\*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service*

## **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev John Hayton
	10th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	17th	11.00am	Mr Dudley Coate
	24th	11.00am	Mr Ken 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 Monday to Wednesday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Thursday	10.00am	Rosary
Every Friday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Every Saturday	5.30pm	Mass

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

## **WEST KNOYLE**

**The 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	3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
	10th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	17th	6.00pm	Evensong
	24th	9.30pm	DIY

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

# **DIARY DATES**

## **June 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	Fri	10.00am	Alzheimers group (also 15th & 29th)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - every Friday)	GB

1	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.00pm	Self Defence	L
4	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (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	Watercolour (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Town Council meeting	AYP
5	Tue	9.30am	- 1.00pm Life Drawing (every Tuesday)	L
		10.00am	- 11.00am Moo Music (every Tuesday)	L
		10.30am	- 1.00pm Dressmaking (also 12th & 19th)	GB
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm "Get-Online" Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
6	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers meeting (every Wednesday)	RMC
		7.00pm	- 9.30pm Dressmaking (also 13th & 20th)	GB
7	Thur	10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		11.00am	- 1.00pm Really Sing	L
		1.00pm	- 3.00pm Bridge (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		6.20pm	- 7.20pm Greek Dancing	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute Meeting	GB
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		7.00pm	Self Defence	L
9	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
10	Sun	10.00am	Healthy Mere walking	Manor Road
11	Mon	10.00am	Textiles	GB
		6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Preview	Lib
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
12	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	Meads House
13	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
14	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 21st & 29th)	GB
		6.20pm	Karate	L
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "The Greatest Showman"	L
16	Sat	10.00am	4.00pm Mere Model Railway Exhibition	L
		2.00pm	5.00pm Mere Museum's BIG event	Lib
17	Sun	10.00am	4.00pm Mere Model Railway Exhibition	L

17	Sun	2.30pm	4.00pm Tea in the Tower	St Michaels
20	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 27th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (also 27th)	GB
		2.00pm	Acoustic Concert	GB
		3.00pm	- Tea@3, Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm	- 4.30pm "Digital drop In" Session	Angel Tea Rooms
23	Sat	7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Concert	St Michaels
27	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
		6.00pm	- 8.00pm Penny Bank Writers	L
29	Fri	7.30pm	Carnival Quiz	GB

### **BOOKING MEETING HALLS**

Grove Building:

Ian Treece



07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson



01747 861063

URC Church Hall

Eileen Burfitt



01747 860685

### **MERE INFORMATION**

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit Mere's own website, : [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org)

### **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

The following Support/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2:00 - 4:00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

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

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

## COPYDATE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2018 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the combined July/August 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, 18th June 2018**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Send from Monday, 11th June 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***

*The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson*



# Teeandee Productions

**Web Design**

**Promotional Videos  
and Computer Services**

**Email: [tim@teeandee productions.com](mailto:tim@teeandee productions.com)  
Tel: 07799 325214**