

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

APRIL 2019

Front cover photo courtesy of Steve Hawkins

The Editor Writes

I have received many concerns from readers in regard the transition to printing in colour.

I make no apology that I was keen to introduce colour from the outset of taking over as editor but was expecting the cost to be prohibitive.

Before implementing any change I undertook extensive research into printers and costs (even considering purchasing our own printing equipment). I concluded (unsurprisingly when you know the facts) that by choosing the right printer we were able to make savings in the order of 43%. It is also worth noting that it would be no cheaper to print black & white!

So we have ended up with a better product at less cost – fact! As an aside, we have also retained some advertisers who were about to leave and have recruited a few new ones – all this without having to increase charges. Advertising and donations keep us afloat and enable this to be a free publication for the community – enjoy!

The paper is premium recycled and the inks are 'green' (pun intended). For those of you who may wish to order your own booklets, posters, roadside banners etc for your own group/organisation, do feel free to make contact and I will pass on the contact details. You too could save money.

I hope you enjoy the new look, eco-friendly and cheaper copy.

Richard Jefferies  editor@meremetters.co.uk  863425  07950 797273

Advertising in Mere Matters

We offer full page, half or quarter page spreads for adverts. To find out the costs or to book an advert please contact Jane Kennedy

 jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com  01985 844740

Mere Town Council

The Town Council meet every month. While it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. Council members are working on your behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in Mere. You may raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

The Town Council met at the beginning of February where a good few concerns, in the public session, were raised about the effect of recently

announced temporary road closure on the businesses of Mere and on day-to-day life of residents. Both the nature of the closures and the lack of consultation were subjects of complaint. Concerns were raised about the effects of further development on the Beaumont's site – both the increase in housing and residents and the loss of the present facility and employment. Safety when using the mini-roundabout by The Walnut Tree Inn was raised. Later in the meeting councillors were able to comment and update the public on what has been done or what is planned. Public comments are helpful directing Councilor's time and energy toward useful progress in Mere. Councillors added to the open session with a promise to attend a public meeting about the road closure and recounted the efforts made by the Town Council to have a larger and, in our opinion, safer roundabout.





In matters arising we discussed further progress with installing a Speed Indicator Device on Castle Street under new and difficult guidance from Wiltshire Council and on our response to the consultation on the Children's Centre Rationalisation. We have been here before, fighting to keep the Children's Centre here in Mere – it is a shame that its provisions are now so limited. We had our 'local' PCSO in attendance with a policing report and were able to ask about procedures where there were concerns about young people and drugs. We also heard that a new Lost and Found Policy is coming and we will have guidance next month.

We discussed what more could be done to prepare for snow conditions in Mere and a request has gone in to recharge grit and salt bins as well as investigations into the costs and legal issues involved in scraping clear some of the smaller roads in Mere ourselves. The Green Dog Code is being launched and Councillor Mead will be out finding volunteers to help with this initiative. We hope to have the support of all dog owners in improving the state of our pavements and paths.

The Town Council works with Wiltshire Council on many things which affect day to day life in Mere and now Wiltshire Council are looking at 'Devolving' Assets and Services to town and parish councils. Mere Town Council already has a good few devolved assets and services – for example we manage our Cemetery, our play Areas, our car parks and our public conveniences. We are ready to take on more (for example we have wanted for some time to have freehold of the car parks rather than have them on a lease) but we need to be careful what sort of 'package' is offered and what sort of costs may be involved.

We heard, in the meeting, that a group of residents and councillors had met to discuss the preparation of a 'Mere Local Resilience Plan' and how they will be working in the future. It is pleasing to hear about residents helping to shape plans for Mere's future. I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to get involved – either with this group or with the Neighbourhood Planning Group (let us know if you are interested by contacting our Clerk) or by attending meetings and bringing matters up in the Public meeting.

On this theme, let me announce the **Annual Town Meeting** which will be on **Wednesday, 24th April** in the Grove Building at 7.30 pm (Refreshments will be served from 7.00 p.m.). There will be a slide show of some of the events in Mere this past year. This is a public meeting and is your opportunity to find out what is going on in and around Mere, to hear brief reports from various groups and organisations and air your views to the Town Council. We all benefit from the initiative of these groups and at this meeting they can give an account of their activities. They will provide further written detail should you wish. I hope you will attend and be prompted to join in with one or other of these groups that help make Mere the place it is

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council  chair@merewilts.org
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
 860701,  lindseywood@merewilts.org,  www.merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Road closures:

Mere and surrounding village roads have been in need of repair and it all appears to have come at once. Highways England have been working on the A303T and Wiltshire Council working on the B3092 with 5 road closures applying to "through traffic". The closures do not prevent residents accessing their houses, or for example calling out a mobile service engineer, or having friends and relatives to visit/stay, with their vehicles etc; indeed residents have a legal right to this continued access, but it may not always be immediate if works are actually taking place close to their property and therefore they may have to be patient and cooperative with the contractor's needs, in achieving access to their property. Should the need arise, emergency services will be treated with urgency and those by agreement such as school buses, will be allowed to pass. Residents and business premises owners should ALL be notified, but the responsibility for this sits with the Council's consultant, who manages the surfacing sites; they may in turn delegate that to the surfacing contractor on occasion. This notification represents good practice and is a requirement made by Wiltshire Council of its contractors and mainly takes the form of a letter drop. Occasionally some properties may be missed and

although obviously regrettable, it is not a legal requirement to post such letters, as the legal closure order is notified in advance to a standard list of recipients, including town and parish councils and elected members, as well as temporary advisory road signs being erected in advance, at either ends of the road to be closed, which include emergency contact telephone numbers.

Occasionally emergency road closures will be put in place where it is considered dangerous for the road to be used under any circumstance, by any members of the public; but such events are thankfully fairly rare.

Please bear in mind that road closures are put in place for resurfacing works either because the road is too narrow for contractor's mobile plant and road user's vehicles to pass each other and therefore without a closure the works would be physically impossible, or because keeping the road open to traffic would make it too dangerous for the contractor's operatives and mobile plant to work in the road space or both!

Narrow and busy roads cannot be maintained without occasional closures and whilst there is obviously going to be some short lived and temporary inconvenience to road users, the end result will be enhanced road conditions for all, something that Wiltshire Council and Highways England are always being asked to provide. Some short term pain, for long term gain!

Signposting:

The Old Hillbrush site is now well under development, it was advised (not conditioned) a sign be placed at the entrance to discourage vans and larger traffic in particular from using the narrow Woodlands Road towards Gillingham, I informed you last month this will happen and I can now report that I have been given a drawing of the sign, showing **"All routes"** away from Woodlands Road. I would like to thank C G Fry for paying for this even though they were not conditioned in their original planning application to do so.

Planning for Worse Case Scenarios:

The Mere Local Resilience Forum (MLRF) – a voluntary group together with Mere Town Council members are looking at developing plans for Mere and the immediate area in time of any local major incident. They held their 2nd meeting at the Visit Hillbrush facility, on the 7th March and are busy consulting with the Emergency Services, Wiltshire Council Emergency Planning Dept. and the major Utility Companies to ascertain how a local community can add value to the work of the Class 1 and 2 responders.

Have you ever struggled to find that elusive house known only by its name? Some voluntary work has already be done locally to record 'named only' houses onto hand drawn maps and this work is now being developed into digital copy. More about this initiative another day!

Parking is a problem that will only worsen, Mere Town Council have formed a sub-committee to address these issues, which is having its first meeting on the 19th March.

MERE CRICKET CLUB

IS SEEKING NEW PLAYERS FOR THE FORTHCOMING SEASON!



Your local friendly cricket club is recruiting players, helpers and spectators for the forthcoming season. All ages and abilities are most welcome to come along and join our club.

Whether your son or daughter already plays or fancies trying out the sport, or you are a lapsed cricketer who might enjoy having a bash in one of our many friendly games this season, why not give it a go! The senior team play 40 over friendlies on Sunday afternoons and midweek T20 games on a Wednesday evening.

First home game v Horningsham **SUNDAY 21ST APRIL - 2PM**

Feel free to pop on down and enjoy an afternoon of leisurely village cricket.

Diary Date: President's Charity Game **SUNDAY 30TH JUNE**

All proceeds to Salisbury Stars Appeal,
Salisbury Hospice Charity & Cancer Research



For any further details please contact Mark Cassidy (Chairman) on 07763 001119
or Bryan Yeo (treasurer) on 07721 844066
or visit the club website www.merecc.co.uk or our Facebook page.

Public Health:

Wiltshire is responsible for public health in the county. A new report from the Nuffield Trust and the Association for Young People's Health has found that the UK has the highest rates of obesity for 15 to 19-year-olds among 14 European countries. Children and young people in the UK are also far more likely to be obese if they are poor. The UK has some of the highest inequalities between the richest and poorest when it comes to the proportion that are obese, the study said. England also has the highest proportion of any European country of young people with a longstanding health condition, and there are more teens aged 15 to 19 in the UK not in education, employment or training.

☎ 07710 441599 ✉ george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

Reporting problems to Wiltshire Council ~ A Personal View

If you are 'on-line' it's well worth exploring the **My Wiltshire** feature of the Wiltshire.gov.uk website. You can use it to report problems directly to Wiltshire Council and you'll get automated email feedback and updates on actions taken. The system uses a series of 'drop-down' menus within a range of broad topics such as waste collection, abandoned vehicles, street lighting, pot holes, fly tipping, trading standards, Wiltshire car parks, highways and public rights of way problems etc.

Simply use the drop-down boxes to choose the most appropriate classification and then add your own text to describe the problem. You can also upload photos and use their interactive map to pinpoint the location. If you choose to create an account you can subsequently monitor progress on any reports you make and, of course, there is an app.

David Drewett Oak lane. ☎ 228343

Mere Carnival Bingo

Friday 12th April in the Grove Building.

Doors open at **6.45pm** for Eyes Down at **7.30pm**.

Good variety of prizes. Raffle. Refreshments. Specials. Fun for all the family

With proceeds to Carnival Funds.

Carnival Day in Mere is **14th September**

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

If you're very quick and very lucky, you may still be able to grab a last-minute ticket in a bid to be the one to solve the murder mystery of the century! MADS's spring whodunnit. 'Murder at Short Mere House', will be happening in the Lecture Hall on Thursday - Saturday, March 28th - 30th at 7.30pm. Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the Library and at Sprout and Flower, or maybe on the door, £10. Tickets include a light supper.

The cast of 'Katie's Party' (the autumn Production last year) took the play to the Woolstore One-Act Play Festival at Codford in mid-March. Adrienne Howell, the writer, won the award for the best original play, and no fewer than four cast members were short-listed for the best actor award but were pipped at the post. Congratulations to Adrienne, and to cast and crew for keeping MADS in the forefront of the local amateur drama scene!

Date of next meeting **Monday April 15th** at 7.30pm in the Green Room (LH)

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mere Bowling Club

The Club will open for the 2019 season on **Saturday 20th April**, members are requested to be at the pavilion by 14.30hrs in order to complete the formalities of paying their fees and catching up with members they have not seen since last year. A roll-up will start at around 15.00hrs weather permitting. Any prospective new members are also requested to attend in plenty of time to get fitted out with a set of bowls and get started in the most pleasurable of pursuits, playing lawn bowls, hopefully with the sun on your back.

On **Saturday 27th April** the Bowls Club will be hosting a 60s & 70s dance in the Grove Building to the music of the ReBBels, it is planned to start at 19.00hrs and the price of a ticket includes all the dancing you could possibly want and a Fish & Chip supper. There will be a bar and a raffle, there will also be a door prize as each ticket is numbered. Proceeds of the evening will be in aid of the local charity – the Rosemary Goddard Centre. So if you feel like a good night out while supporting a worthy cause, get your tickets from Don (details below) or from the library for the meagre price of £10.00 each.

Don Butchers ☎ 860775 ✉ don.butchers@btinternet.com

Mere Gardening Club Going Wild in the Garden

Dr Anne Bebbington Wednesday 10th April 7.30pm Grove Building

Dr Anne Bebbington who has worked for many years as a botanist, plant ecologist and environmental educator, will give an illustrated talk looking at the wide range of wildlife in a small garden on the edge of town and the threats to biodiversity. John Bebbington will provide the fascinating images of plants, insects and other wildlife. £2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

A date for your diaries; day trip to RHS Rosemoor, North Devon, Thursday June 27th, full details in May edition.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere Carnival

Firstly we have the Mere May Fayre coming up on **18th May** and Mere Carnival is running the event in conjunction with Mere Cancer Research so it should be a bigger, better event than ever! The fayre will be on from 10am to 2pm and besides many stalls selling a huge variety of items there will be children's games and competitions, a classic car show, food stalls, a tombola and more!

We presently have a good committee with some new members already hard at work but we are always looking for extra help either on the committee or as assistants on carnival day and at our other events so please get in touch if you are interested in helping.

We will soon be starting the search for this year's Carnival Royals. This, of course, is mostly youngsters who will be Carnival Queen, Princess, Prince and Attendants but there is also a position for Super Gran and even Super Grandpa. If you are interested in helping Mere Carnival or becoming a Mere Carnival Royal please make contact.

Penny Allen 📧 pennyinmere@gmail.com

Healthy Mere Walking

At the time of writing this, we are so pleased with the number of walkers who have become Mere March Hares. Joining us to walk on all of the footpaths of Mere, they have trekked through mud and been blown about by the wind but chatted and laughed through it all – well done to the Mere March Hares!

If you are hankering after a good short walk without special clothing and boots then take the Red Arrows Walk which, at 2.2 miles, is a pleasant stroll and a good bit of exercise. No need for a map, just go to the clock tower and follow

the red arrows. Mere Footpath group will be having a display in the Museum starting on the 9th so why not take a break from the walk to call in there.

We are still working up plans to beat the bounds of Mere Parish – a 17 mile walk around the boundary of Mere. If you are interested in a good long walk or in part of it then use the contact page on Mere Footpath Group's website or phone John.

...and an apology, we put the wrong date for A Bigger Bottom in the last edition – the date to put in your diary is the **9th June!**

John Jordan - 07840722835

Mere Historical Society

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2 April 7.00pm in the **Grove Building**. Subscriptions for 2019/20 due (£10). If you are unable to attend please send your subscription to

The membership secretary: Gerry Cook, 20 Lovage Way, BA12 6RU ☎ 861797. Subs will be taken and wine provided before the AGM which will start promptly at 7.30pm followed by:

Death at Porton Down, its investigation and inquest David Masters.

At the time of this most interesting investigation, David was the coroner for Swindon and Wiltshire.

The Mere Man, Tuesday 16 April 7.30pm in the **Grove Building**.

David Dawson (Director, Wiltshire Museum)

The Mere Man was buried under a barrow on White Sheet Hill almost 4,500 years ago. David will talk about the new evidence for the 'Beaker people' who brought the first metals to Britain and about the remarkable gold 'sun disk' that was buried with him.

£3 entry for non-members who are very welcome to both talks.

Note: There are no morning talks in April

Kew Gardens and Kew Palace visit **Tuesday 21 May**

Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 8am and return by around 7.00pm.

Cost: MHS Members £35, non-members £38 per person.

Includes coach and tip, entrance and guided tour of Kew Palace.

Deadline for booking: 5th MAY

More details and booking forms available from Mere Information Point and our website.

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mere Rivers Group Wildlife Sightings for February

Little Egret was reported most days, kingfisher, moorhen and tree creeper were each seen three times, wren, jack snipe and bumblebee were seen twice, great egret, great spotted woodpecker, song thrush, red-legged partridge, water vole and a charm of goldfinches all seen once. There were also several sightings of brimstone butterflies during the month as well as primroses and celandines along the banks of our watercourses. There was also a report of song thrush singing.

It was really special to receive reports of the snipe and great egret because these are rare sightings in this area, and a clear indication of how our waterways attract a diverse range of wildlife. However all reports, no matter how common you may think the animal, bird, insect or plant maybe, are truly welcomed by us so please carry on reporting all your sightings.

Nature Notes

We would like to say thank you to those of you who have contacted us with other sightings from around the wider town area. We have been notified of a group of six red-legged partridges in a back garden, a grey partridge in the Hillbrush area, barn owl seen over the Burton fields and celandines and primroses seen along our road verges under hedges.

Recent media reports have highlighted a 40% decline worldwide in the insect population, such an important foundation for our ecosystems. This is normally the time of year that our insects are emerging and becoming active. So we are asking you to keep a careful eye for the wide range of insects in our area and of course particularly along our watercourses. Please continue to send us your sightings.

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

C G Fry and Son. We have an open day on the **13th April** from 10.00am–4.00pm where our show homes and other plots will be open to the public on the old Hillbrush Site.

Mere Theatre Club

The summer programme is about to get started with visits to Bristol for the opera and to Chichester for a musical. There will also probably be a mystery event to celebrate our 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

If you would like to join and see why we've survived this long, then contact Wendy or Madelaine, see below.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 Wendy Horne ☎ 861712

Mere Railway Modellers

We thank the members of Mere Town Council for their agreement to approach Wiltshire Council to see whether it is possible to develop the present Railway Modellers Club house. At present we average about a dozen members on a Wednesday evening with a few members using the option of access throughout the week.

Our 'O' gauge layout. "Mere Abbas", is progressing well, ready for our June Exhibition. The builders, Richard and Peter, are now working on the type of back scene they would prefer, but we are sure it will be an outstanding layout to match the best we will have at our exhibition.

Nancy, who improves our scenery and makes wonderful model houses, added her magic touch to our "Aberdovey" layout prior to it being exhibited at the Compton Dundas Model Railway Exhibition early in March. We are pleased to report that the layout was very well received.

We have been invited to exhibit at the Vale of Berkeley Railway, so this will be our next mini project.

Graham Avory, Chairman ☎ 860439

Short Walks

Hoping that the bluebells will be early again as in previous years, the walk at the end of this month will be to the Bluebell Woods. Meet at **2.00pm** in the **Surgery Car Park** on **Monday April 29th**

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Traidcraft & Fairtrade

REAL EASTER EGGS

Fairly Traded Easter Eggs are now ready for ordering.

These come in dark or milk chocolate with the Easter Story and what is more, they are the same PRICE and same SIZE as last year. You can order them from me before **April 8th**.

BIG BREW: Thank you all the stalwart souls who braved the stormy weather to attend my Fair Trade Fortnight event at the Angel Tea Rooms. We were spoiled by the choice of Paul's delicious Fair Trade cakes made especially for the occasion and from the proceeds I have been able to send a small donation to Traidcraft Exchange for their work with smallholder cacao growers in the Cote D'Ivoire.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Author's Visit: Merely Women were treated to an excellent talk by **Marion Molteno** in March on what inspired the ideas for her novels. She stayed on afterwards answering questions and talking to people both at the Lent Lunch which followed and in the Library. Many books were bought and they are always available in the Library for those who may have missed this wonderful opportunity.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Community Lunch

The last Community Lunch for this season will be held at the **Walnut Tree Inn on Tuesday 9 April at 12.30pm**. Come and join us and catch up with all the Mere news and events, if you are new to the area, it is a great way of meeting people. All are welcome. The two course set meal costs £10.95, drinks not included. Please book in advance on ☎ 861220 and advise the pub if you need a specific diet.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Community Tea @ 3

The next Community Tea@3 is **Wednesday 17th** at 3.00pm.

Everybody is welcome. If you wish to attend please let us know by Monday the **15th April**



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Friends of St Michael's

Those who attended the funeral of the late Ann Carpenter last year, will have heard some delightful extracts from her Commonplace Book.

Ann collected snippets of poetry, quotations, proverbs and articles that she read and liked. She was also a talented botanical artist.

With her husband, Russell, she was a staunch supporter of the Friends of St Michael's, so with the kind permission of her son and daughter, the Friends have put together a selection from her book along with some of her drawings and had it published.

The booklet is on sale, in aid of the Friends', for £2 each, and is available from Pat Isom (861776) or Ann Dethick (863498).

Alternatively, put your name and contact details on the list in the church and we will get a copy to you.

Ann Dethick ☎ 863498

Everyone is invited to a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana on **Tuesday 9th April 10.30am-12.00** at Downside, North Street (home of Joan & Hamish Bell 861717)



And a huge thank-you to everyone who supported our Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake evening. A good time was had by all, and we made well over £500 which will go a long way in supporting very marginalized children and their families in West Bengal, India.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553

Wylve Valley Art Trail,

A special, extended event, from **Saturday 18th May** until Bank Holiday

Monday 27th May: ten days to celebrate the tenth Trail.

The art on show this year is just as varied as it was in the first Trail. There's everything you could possibly want to see, from painting and printmaking to illustration and calligraphy; from sculpture and ceramics to hand-forged ironwork and garden mosaics; from furniture and glass to millinery and paper crafts, and a whole heap more. This tenth Trail reflects the concerns of 2019, with many artists working with upcycled materials.

There's something for every taste and every budget, with shows by award-winning artists, talented amateurs and students just starting out on their artistic career. Some of those students weren't even born when the first Trail took place!

Laura Rich WVAT coordinator 2019 🌐 wvat.co.uk 📞 07910 736563

The Pagoda Duo

Mere Lecture Hall, Saturday 27th April 7.30pm

Sponsored and supported by Rural Arts
Wiltshire and Mere Drama Society

An evening of captivating and original music from Paul Hutchinson (accordion) and Karen Wimbhurst (Clarinets). A playful blend of folk and improvisation which can wander from klezma to classical and back via a quick tango! This is an enthralling, intimate evening of virtuosic musicianship coupled with a relaxed and laugh out loud rapport with the audience led by Paul Hutchinson's inimitable sense of humour. This unusual combination of accordion, clarinet and bass clarinet is full of instrumental colour, passion and surprises, both moving and entertaining. As one reviewer wrote 'I came away educated, entertained, amused and uplifted. Congratulations!'



Fovant Village Hall was 'absolutely jam packed' for their performance in January so please book early to make sure of your ticket. Tickets £10 from Sprout and Flower or Ring Mere 860163 or email

margaretdurkee5@gmail.com to reserve tickets which can then be paid for on the door.

These RAW supported entertainments are heavily subsidised by Wiltshire County Council to bring first class entertainment into our small towns and villages. Please support this excellent venture.

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

Our meeting on **Tuesday April 9th** is our AGM and there will be a Bring and Buy Stall. Our speaker will be Rev.Jane Shaw, our deanery chaplain, who will talk on Faith in Troubled times. Visitors and friends are welcome to join us, at **2.30 pm** in the Grove Building.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

Diary Dates for March *(Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue**).*

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

CP - Main Car Park

Drs - Surgery

GB - Grove Building

AYP - Andy Young Pav

L - Lecture Hall

Lib - Library

Lyn - Lynch Com Centre

MSC - Mere Social Club

RMC - Railway Mod Club

StM - St Michaels Church

URC - United Ref Church

1	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Mon)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tues	10.00am	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking Group (every Tues)	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tues)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba	L
		7.00pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
3	Wed	9.30am	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wed)	GB
		11.00am	Really Sing	L
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking Group (every Wed)	GB
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
4	Thur	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thur)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thur)	L
		2.00pm	Quilters (every Thur)	GB
		5.00pm	Girguiding (every Thur Term Time Only)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Thur)	L
		7.30pm	Moviola Doors open at 7.00pm	L
5	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks)	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
		6.30pm	FoM Museum Quiz	GB
6	Sat	10.30am	10.30 – 12.00 URC Coffee Morning	URC
7	Sun			
8	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
9	Tues	12.30pm	Community Lunch @ Walnut Tree	WT
		2.00pm	Mothers Union AGM with Bring & Buy <i>Moo Music (L), Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
10	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club <i>Really Sing (L), Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	GB

11	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
12	Fri	10.00am 7.00pm	Merely Women Mere Carnival Bingo <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB GB
13	Sat	7.00pm	Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	L
14	Sun	2.00pm	Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service) Mere Footpath Group Walk	StM CP
15	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	L
16	Tues	7.30pm	Mere Historical Society <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
17	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea <i>Really Sing (L), Tai Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	ATR
18	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
19	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
20	Sat	7.00pm	Coffee Morning (URC) Oasis Carnival Bingo	URC L
21	Sun			
22	Mon		<i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	
23	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
24	Wed	2.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm	Friends Together Meeting Penny Bank Writers Mere Town Council <i>Tai Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Mod</i>	GB L GB
25	Thur	7.30pm	Patient Participation Group. Prostate Cancer <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	L
26	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
27	Sat	7.30pm 7.00pm	Coffee Morning Travelling Arts Show The Pagoda Duo Mere Bowls Club	URC L GB
28	Sun	6.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	StM
29	Mon	2.00pm	Short Walk <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	CP
30	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	

Mere Film Shows

The April film is the highly regarded Stan & Ollie [PG] which brilliantly captures the friendship and loyalty between the two legendary comedians. It is an emotional film which charts the difficulties between them and their outside pressures as they embark on what would become their final tour. Praised for the excellent performances of the lead actors, it isn't just a film for fans of Laurel and Hardy.

At the time of writing we are confirming the next season's films. The provisional dates are below. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Date for your Film Diary [TBC]:

Thursday 16th May / Thursday 27th June / Thursday 18th July

Rosie ☎ 861567



Kilminster & Stourton Cricket Club

will be selling light lunches, coffees, teas and home-made cakes
in the Stourton Memorial Hall at Stourhead
on Easter Sunday and Monday 21st and 22nd April 2019.

Profits from the day will help keep our thriving junior and senior teams playing cricket, set up our new womens' softball team, maintain the playing surfaces and the upkeep of the Pavilion.

We hope to see you there to enjoy our delicious food in aid of Kilminster & Stourton Cricket Club. Information about KSCC from www.ksccl.org.uk

St Michaels News

Easter Crafts Fun Afternoon Grove Building 2.30pm to 4.00 Monday 8th April. All primary school aged children welcome. There will be a chance to make an Easter garden on a plate, decorate hats amongst other crafts. Also sing songs and learn about the Easter story.

More Tea Vicar? Angel Tea Rooms 4th April 3.00pm - 4.00. Every 1st Thursday of the month. An opportunity to chat in friendly surroundings and drink tea!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday April 28th at 6.00pm (postponed from 26th March). All welcome to review church business for the last year and check the accounts.

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA

in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents

Stan & Ollie (PG)

One giant leap into the unknown.

Steve Coogan and John C Reilly

Laurel and Hardy attempt to reignite their film careers by embarking on what becomes their swan song – a gruelling theatre tour of post-war Britain.

in The Lecture Hall
Thursday 4th April at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00

Available from the Library

For more information call Rosie ☎ 861567

Visit our website at 🌐: moviola.org

Redevelopment of former Beaumont chimney factory

Public notice by Woodlands (Mere) Ltd

Residents will be aware of the CG Fry development at the former Hillbrush factory, which is well advanced. As owners of the adjoining industrial land, we are preparing plans to 'complete' the regeneration of this area, and bring further improvements. We envisage demolishing the part-dilapidated factory, and replacing this with 60-70 homes to integrate with the current phase of development, whilst retaining existing trees and landscaping. Access would be via existing junctions to Woodlands Road.



**Current
phase of
development**

**Beaumont
chimney
factory area**

As we develop these plans we are keen to hear from local residents, and invite you to view and comment on initial proposals available via the details below. This includes initial drawings and a questionnaire. After receiving your feedback, we intend to refine the proposals and submit an outline planning application this summer.

To view proposals online: visit: www.woodlandsmere.co.uk

For a paper copy: write to Savills Planning, 2 Charlotte Pl, Southampton SO14 0TB

My apologies to Savills Planning for not including the above item last month – my error entirely. I cannot even blame the computer. Editor.

MERE CC JUNIORS



Mere CC Juniors participate in the North Dorset league at under 9, 11, 13 and 15 age groups, and welcome both girls and boys.

We have a very experienced coaching team in including the head of North Dorset Cricket and the Dorset County under 15's girls coach.

Junior training takes place on Fridays on the main school field at Mere. 1st sessions and registration take place on Friday 12th April, then every Friday until the school Summer holidays.

Under 9's Under 13's
Under 11's Under 15's

ECB All Stars



Every Saturday morning from 11th May
at 10am

Taster session Sat 27th April at 10am

Register your child today at allstarscricket.co.uk

All training equipment is provided by the club.
Joining fee £5 (training £2 per session).

Friends of Mere Museum

First, don't forget the preview for the new Footpath Group Exhibition on Monday **April 8th** at 6.30 pm in the Museum. If you can't wait to see this magnificent show, pop in on that Monday evening, join The Friends and get a sneak preview!

Next, a quick reminder that the Friends' first event this year will happen on **April 5th**, at 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Under the title '**By Land, Sea and Air**', Andrew Manning, a Senior Project Manager of Wessex Archaeology will talk about how new technology is making the past visible, and providing evidence of the life of our ancestors. From the dim distant past of the post-glacial horse hunters of Horton, through the recently discovered Neolithic monuments around Stonehenge, to the moving evidence found from recent conflicts, all have left their traces in the area. Wessex Archaeology is marking its 40th anniversary, this year so that in a very small way, the Friends are able to join in this celebration! Tickets are on sale in the Library, at £6 each, to include a glass of wine.

We also hope you are taking cuttings and nurturing seedlings in preparation for our famous **Plant Sale** on **Saturday May 11th**. Further details next month.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

PROSTATE AWARENESS
PRESENTATION AT
MERE LECTURE HALL
THURSDAY **25 APRIL 2019**
COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM
(Doors open 7.15 PM)
OPEN TO ALL
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE




Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group ☎ 860001

Dressmaking in Mere

The Great British Sewing Bee, Series 5 has had a mixed response with the Dressmakers in Mere. We are all delighted that we don't have to work to such tight schedules but nevertheless we have also been so pleased that as recycling and up cycling has been the theme, we too are making wonderful garments

from charity shop finds. At present a lovely blouse from a beautiful linen sheet, lining with different once loved but strong fabrics. Nearly everyone is using up their stash of fabrics, we have been given some wonderful vintage patterns, slight adjustment on the waist line needed sometimes!

Saving the planet, saving funds and enjoying the companionship and so much laughter. If a six week course appeals to you we have two more starting at the very end of April before our summer break. Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We are also planning a "One Day Sewing Day" date to be arranged.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923 or Susanne ☎ 07788 595434  Dressmaking in Mere

Mere Literary Festival

Poetry Competition

Pennybank Writers of Mere announce the MLF Biennial Poetry Competition is now open for entries. The Festival this year runs from 7th to 13th October. The Open Poetry Competition is sponsored by Amulet Residential of Mere. amuletresidential@gmail.com ☎ 356176 or ☎ 07543 372755.

Poems can be on any subject and of no more than 40 lines. Closing dates for all poetry entries is Monday 1st July 2019. Entry details from your local Library. or:- s.a.e. MLF Poetry Competition, Lawrences, Old Hollow, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6EG or log onto: www.merelifest.co.uk

The Senior Judge is **Dr. Rosie Jackson** – Award Winning Poet,
*Hawthornden Fellow *Lecturer and *Author of The Light Box.

Major Prizes: 1st Prize £200, 2nd Prize £100, 3rd Prize £50.

Three runners-up £15 – Certificates of Distinction and Merit

Performance Prizes: Short-listed poems will be showcased at a Festival Event – ‘**Poetry in the Grove**’. These poems will be judged by the audience, prior to the announcements of the competition results at ‘**The Adjudication and Awards Ceremony**’ on Sunday 13th October. ‘Poetry in the Grove’ is always a very popular event.

Local Awards are for poems by residents living within a ten mile radius of Mere. The short-listed poems in this section will also feature in The ‘Poetry in the Grove’ with a prize awarded in memory of Mere Poet, Peter Gillott.

Linda Jones, Pennybank Writers ☎ 860171  merelifest.co.uk

REMEMBER!

COPY DATE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2019 ISSUE
MONDAY 15th APRIL 2019 *or before*

Mere Cancer Research

The May Fair is being held on **Saturday**, the **18th May**. This year we are proud to announce that we are being supported by the Carnival Club, another very worthy body of enthusiastic people. The fair will be held in the Town Square, with plenty of stalls and other interesting entertainments.

We are delighted that the Mere Carnival Club are joining us for this major event and we hope you will come along and support us, raising money for these worthy causes.

If you wish to support us, either by hiring a stall or contributing to the tombola, or perhaps giving us some pot plants from your gardens to sell on our plant stall, we shall be very happy to hear from you.

Harvard Dallibar ☎ 07788 138003 ✉ las518@icloud.com or Jill Turner ☎ 860334

Mere Museum

Not much time left to see our current exhibition, 'Chemists, Printers and Posters' which will end on **Friday April 5th**. The next exhibition promises to be very exciting! It is being devised and installed by Mere Footpath Group and will cover the group's history, its past and present activities and it will contain a very remarkable centerpiece! There will also be lots of maps and swathes of information about walking in Mere, then and now. The exhibition will be open to the public on **Tuesday April 9th**. Entry to the Museum is always free.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Bramley House

Are you aware that Bramley House opens up its dining room to its older friends in the local community every Wednesday? They would love you to come and join them for lunch, between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Enjoy some wholesome, tasty food and excellent company in relaxing surroundings. There's no charge, but booking is essential. For more details, or to book yourself a place, ring Bramley House on ☎ 860192.

On the **second Monday** of every month, at 2.30pm, Bramley House welcomes any older friends and neighbours who would like to join the Bramley residents for some **Rural Rhymes & Reminiscences**. With a diverse and ever-growing collection of memorabilia from years gone by, residents and visitors have fun reminiscing over memories from their childhood and youth. It's completely free of charge, and there's always a pot of tea on the go, so please feel free to come along and join in.

Bramley House ☎ 860192

Mere School



Snack Time by Caiden Boughen Year 6

10.45 every day

It's time for the kids to shout hooray

Pizzas, sausage rolls and drink

A cheeky boost to help us think

The cooks bring out their creation

As the children wait in anticipation

Will it be hot? Will it be cold?

Will it be rarely packed full of mould

Money paid, time to choose

What to pick, I am confused

The fruit is served by Mrs Ross

If you take 2 pieces, she gets cross

The kids are happy with what they are getting

But there's just one thing that's upsetting

We don't expect it to be free

But please don't make it 50p!!

Mere Bowls Club Invites You To

**7 'til 11pm
Sat 27 Apr**

**60s & 70s
music & dancing
with**

**The ReBBels
in The Grove Building**

£10pp

Includes a fish & chip supper.

Bar available.

Tickets are on sale in the Library

or from 'Don' (860775)

Raffle !

In aid of The Rosemary Goddard Centre

Rosemary Goddard Centre

Paul Hooley, who many of you will have heard speak at the Literary Festival in October 2018, came and gave his talk to our day centre guests last month. Trustees were delighted to hear that after his visit he emailed Sandie to say how much he enjoyed his visit: ***"May I also take the opportunity to wish RGC every success for the future – I have visited many such provisions over the years but can genuinely say yours is one of the best organised and happiest I have attended – that is down to you and the members and you are all a credit to the community."***

Not only are we so lucky to have such a good organiser, it is the support of the community that has contributed so much to our success. An example of this is Mere Bowls Club who are holding a fund raiser on our behalf at the end of April. With Wiltshire Council facing so many financial challenges they have handed over the funding of RGC to the South West Wiltshire Area Board who will continue to support us and we WILL remain open, we value highly your continuing support. (Chris Dillion, Chair of Trustees).

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406 🌐 meredaycentre.org.uk

Warminster Food Bank

We are having a collection on behalf of Warminster Food Bank on **Saturday April 13** outside The Coop from 9.00am to noon. So please would you consider buying one more non-perishable item in your next few food shops so we can try and beat our grand total of 250 kg we collected last December.

The volunteers at the Food Bank depot are always very grateful and a bit surprised by how much the good people of Mere donate.

As always if you have eaten today please remember those who have not.

Penny Fennon; Katie ☎ 860081



In Mere and District

There are two Churches Together events in April:

On **Sunday 7th April** we are holding a Taize-style service at **6pm** at St Michael's Church, Mere.

On **19th April**, the annual **Good Friday walk of witness** carrying the cross to the top of Castle Hill will leave from **Mere Clock Tower at 11.00am**.

Everyone is welcome to both events.

Revd Duncan Goldie, Chair of Churches Together in M & D ☎ 01935 812916

Letter from the Churches

Rev. Graham Perryman, Priest-in-charge of Upper Stour writes:

As some of you will know, I shall be retiring at the end of this month. As the date approaches, I am filled with very mixed emotions.

There is a feeling of excitement about new activities to participate in, the opportunity to join a church and not feel responsible for it all (I might even become irresponsible!!). The opportunity to spend more time with our ever-growing family, and with my dear, long suffering wife, Jackie. The chance for an extended holiday perhaps.

On the other hand, there is sadness at leaving friends and losing the privilege of living in such a special place. Sadness at the things I had hoped to do while here that will remain undone, and at those things I've done that I wish I hadn't.

There is also a sense of mystery. What will it be like not to have a daily/weekly/annual structure to follow, as I have had for the last 25 years? What will it be like to walk around without a dog collar – not to be recognised, not to have a role? Will I become fat and lazy, or will I become one of those people who are so active in their retirement that they wonder how they ever had time to work? How quickly will we make new friends in Yeovil? And thank you to all those people who asked, with a raised eyebrow...'Why Yeovil'...

All these feelings combine in the Easter story, which we also celebrate this month: the sadness of Good Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and the joy of Easter Sunday.

Sometimes retiring feels a bit like death. As Woody Allen said, 'I'm not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens.'

However, for the Christian, death is not the end, but simply a doorway to something far better, even if rather clouded in mystery. Perhaps that is a way to see retirement – and a great way to see death!

So, I am looking forward to what's on the other side...but there is still so much to do here to prepare for it!

If retirement seems a long way off, how ready are we in our preparations for that moment when our earthly life comes to an end? When we see Jesus face to face, will we know him? Or, more importantly, will he know us? Thank you for the opportunity to share this beautiful part of our country with you for these last four years, and for your support and friendship. Why not come along

to some of the Easter services, and celebrate the good news in your local church.

With best wishes for a happy and holy Easter,

Graham Perryman

Church Services in Mere and West Knoyle

The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 861859,
 ✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk. *Saturday is Rest day*
 Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646
 PCC Secretary: ✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

2	Tues	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion
7	Sun	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Shortened Holy Communion. Evensong
14	Sun	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
15	Mon	6.00pm	Holy Week Compline
16	Tue	6.00pm	Holy Week Compline
17	Wed	6.00pm	Holy Week Compline
18	Thur	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion and Vigil
19	Fri	14:00pm	Good Friday Last Hour
21	Sun	Easter Sunday 8:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
28	Sun	8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie
 Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

7	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Colin Marsh
14	Sun	11.00am	Songs of Praise
18	Thurs	3.30pm	Maundy Thursday. Rev D Goldie
21	Sun	3.00pm	Holy Communion. Rev D Goldie
28	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Ken Elcock

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 019634408 ✉ hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Every Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri	9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church
Every Thur	10.00am	The Rosary of Our Lady
Every Sat	5.30pm	Holy Mass

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

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

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk. *Saturday is Rest day*

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534, Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

7	Sun	9.30am	DIY
14	Sun	9.30pm	Holy Communion
21	Sun	9.30am	Easter Sunday
28	Sun	10.30am	Service @ St Michaels, Mere

Jelly is a casual co-working event, where freelancers, home workers and people running small businesses meet up in order to get out of their normal space, meet some new people and work together in a social environment. Jelly is a mixture of work, chat, comparing ideas, passing on tips and help.



(Jelly differs from networking in that the aim is not to find new clients, pitch your business or to sell).




The Mere Jelly takes place on the last Tuesday of every month, at 9.00am – 2.2pm at Visit Hillbrush so please come along and join us. Our Jelly is a valuable

opportunity to find out more about each other's line of work and how we operate – simply by chatting over our laptops whilst working.

You don't have to spend the whole morning at the Jelly, this is a casual event so there's no expectation to turn up at the start time and stay till the end.


Jenni Bell  jenni@sugarweb.co  860400

Booking Meeting Venues


Grove Building:	???	 07754 524802 ???
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	 861063
URC Church Hall	Eileen Burfitt	 860685

Mere Information Point @ The Library

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

Wiltshire Dementia Adviser Service	1 st Friday	2.00pm – 4.00
Registrar of Births & Deaths	By apt. only Thursdays	 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Champions	1 st Tuesday	2.00pm – 4.00
Health Trainer	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am – 12.00

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  merewilts.org



Teeandee Productions

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and Computer Services

Email: tim@teeandee productions.com
Tel: 07799 325214