

MereMatters

& so does

West Knoyle








Congratulations to Adrienne Howell who has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her services to the community.

Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

FEBRUARY 2019

Front cover photo: *courtesy of George Jeans.*

Symbol keys throughout:

 Tel number,  Email,  Web address,  Mobile,  Facebook

Contents

The Editor Writes

Firstly, apologies for some copies having missing or duplicate pages in the last issue – a mistake by our printers. Most people have given positive feedback to the use of photos on the front cover as an alternative to the sketch drawings. If you have suitable photos from our locality then do please send them to me for consideration. The February copy is different in many ways. Again, feedback please whether positive or negative.

The diary is to be found on the center-fold following reader suggestions. I hope it is easier to read as well.

Richard Jefferies  editor@meremetters.co.uk

Adrienne Howell BEM

I wish to record my thanks to all who have sent me cards, letters and other messages of congratulation on my inclusion in the New Year Honours List. My appreciation also to the team who, in great secrecy, organised for my name to go forward.

I feel I share the award with those in our community who have helped and supported me in my various activities over many years and of course, with my late husband, Bernard. Thank you all.

Adrienne

The Treasurer Writes

I would like to thank all the advertisers who have supported Mere Matters during 2018 and particularly thank all the organisations who made voluntary donations during the year.

Mere Matters is non-profit making. The editor and his team work voluntarily, the only significant cost in producing Mere Matters is the printing at around £6,000 each year. The income from advertising covers around 75% of the printing costs, the remainder is made up by voluntary contributions.

Unfortunately the income from voluntary donations was much lower in 2018 and we have had to use reserves to cover the deficit. May we please ask that if your organisation made donations in previous years but were not in the position to help during 2018, that you do your best to help this year. In addition, if your organisation provides copy regularly for Mere Matters and you are in the position to make a donation, no matter how small, this would be greatly appreciated.

Alan Gristwood ☎ 861768 ✉ alan.gristwood@btopenworld.com

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 4th February at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**





Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

It seems a long time since I wrote the last of these, indeed it was Remembrance Sunday, and while politicians and pundits have been debating endlessly about Brexit, Mere has calmly got on with the festive season. Yet again, we had the Mere illuminations and 'our Santa' saw youngsters in the Clock Tower and Councillor Glen Ings and his children with the daunting task of judging the Christmas lights on the houses of Mere.

The town council met in December and in January. We discussed the need for an Emergency Plan for Mere - while no-one wants to think about the possible emergencies which could strike the town we agreed that we should try to be prepared for all eventualities, and a group will be meeting to draft a plan. If you have experience with this sort of planning, please let us know by contacting our Clerk and we may be able to profit from your advice. (On another occasion, several councillors attended a meeting with Mere Brownies and they were most helpful with advice and in directing our attention to things they felt needed dealing with!) We heard from Ian Sheppard, Chairman of the Mere Rivers Group about ongoing discussions with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water. We are hopeful that a lower limit can be put on extraction as the state of the rivers clearly show their very existence is largely controlled by the amount of extraction. We discussed progress with several 'highways matters' that we have proposed to the Community Area Transport Group and, again, parking in Mere and the guidance we have had from the police. A group

of Councillors is meeting to draw up suggested actions that we could put to Wiltshire Council.

The group of councillors who met to discuss and agree a precept forecast and budget did so at a long evening meeting in November and their recommendations were subsequently discussed and approved at our January town council meeting. A precept which amounts to a rise of 5.9% will be sent to Wiltshire Council. We have had a request to consider applying to Salisbury Civic Society for a Blue Plaque to commemorate Mr. Wolfe Frank and we have agreed to ask Mere Museum and the Historical Society for their views and advice on this.

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

Local Issues:

- Results for the Mere Christmas Lights were:
1st Mr & Mrs Morris of 47 Downside Close
2nd Mr & Mrs Sams, of 38 Lynch Close,
3rd Mr & Mrs Cammack, of Halfways, North Street.
Highly Commended to Mr & Mrs Teally of 4 Denes Avenue and Mr & Mrs Adams of 8 Denes Avenue
- A massive fundraising venture in the Mere area at the end of last year for two charities, the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and The Wilts Bobby Van Trust. The event over several months, raffled a F J Chalke car, organized a Bollywood Rock party, an on line auction and Bag a Bargain, nearly new Designer Clothes Sale, this venture raised a staggering £50,000 or thereabouts, with £40,000 approximately given to the charities. My thanks to all involved.
- I am pleased to see some commercial buildings in Mere staying commercial. The old Salisbury District Council Office of many years ago, recently housed Hamblets and has now been let again to a new commercial user, Amular Residential.
- Mere Angling club has been formed, helped by a grant from The Lecture Hall Trust. The club is aimed at young, disabled and the elderly. Help with equipment and transport can sometimes be given. Contact **Alan Cross** on **07736371498**
- I am aware of two local residents who set off with a large sack to collect and dispose of dog excrement from Long Hill to the bridge over the A303. The sack became so heavy they had to split it into smaller bags! Please pick up

and bring dog excrement away with you. It can be put in any of the waste bins in Mere.

- Wiltshire Council are to add to the two Council Houses already built, they are now offering a few more Council houses in Mere, which are needed.
- Public Health England is producing worksheets for primary school children to build awareness of sugar consumption into maths and English classes, as part of efforts to combat obesity. Pupils will use their times tables to calculate how much sugar is in fizzy drinks and cereal, and compare the results with recommended daily amounts. In English, children will be encouraged to develop fact-based persuasive arguments against eating too much sugar.

General:

- The Government has published its Clean Air Strategy, designed to combat air pollution. Measures include a ban on the most polluting log burners within three years, coal could also be outlawed. The strategy also contains plans to reduce ammonia emissions from farming, and repeats a pledge to end the sale of new conventional diesel and petrol cars by 2040. Local authorities will be expected to take more of a lead role, with councils given more powers, including greater ability to enforce rules limiting smoke from domestic fires.
- Wiltshire Council's new Live Well programme is being introduced in Salisbury. Live Well (previously known locally as Nifty Fifties) offers adults a range of daytime activities at council leisure facilities. Sessions have been designed specifically for older residents and anyone that would like to lead a healthier lifestyle and meet new people in a relaxed and supportive environment is welcome. The weekly sessions take place on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm – 4pm at Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre. In addition, there is also access to the café, which provides both hot and cold refreshments. For more information or to register your interest please contact Five Rivers Health & Wellbeing Centre via email fiverivers@wiltshire.gov.uk or on 01722 434760.

A reminder again that I have a Facebook page Cllr George Jeans, for use to display some material. It is not a platform for conversation at present, therefore I do not accept friends request on the site at present.

Bus Passes

From **1st January 2019**, older person's Wiltshire, standard concessionary bus passes will **NOT** be renewed automatically. This is because there are approximately 20,000 passes in circulation that have not been scanned on a bus prior to renewal, indicating that the pass has not been used. In these cases the passes will not be automatically renewed.

If your pass is not automatically renewed but you would still like to receive one to use in the future, please contact Wiltshire Council on **0300 456 0100** and we can arrange for your new pass to be issued.

Wiltshire Council regrets that any charges which may occur on bus journeys are non-refundable.

Lost & Found

Over the Christmas period a ring was found in St Michael's Church. If it is yours, please make contact.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

The Green Dog Code

Supporting the local community

Mere Town Council has joined forces with Wiltshire Council to monitor dog fouling in the area and encourage responsible dog ownership under an initiative called The Green Dog Code scheme.

The Green Dog Code aims to provide an important link between the local community and Wiltshire Councils Dog Control and Animal Welfare Officers to monitor and enforce responsible dog ownership through a friendly and informed approach.

Local volunteers would sign up to the Town Council under the code and monitor the area in which they walk and live. Volunteers would wear The Green Dog Code badge (supplied by us) to identify themselves and to show members of the public that the area is a monitored area. They would carry additional dog poo bags and offer them to those who may be in need. If they witness someone not picking up after their dog they will record the date, time and location. If the address of the offender is known this will be recorded and passed to Wiltshire Council to investigate as soon as possible.



Volunteers of The Green Dog Code will offer advice and encourage responsible dog ownership in a non-confrontational manner.

Mere Town Council is inviting volunteers to join the code. We will record the contact details of volunteers, which shall only be shared with Wiltshire Council. The numbers of volunteers for that area will be published so that local residents are aware of how many volunteers are monitoring their area.

At the end of the calendar month the volunteers would report their findings to the Town Council, which will then be relayed to Wiltshire Council. The report would include if they have seen an improvement in responsible dog ownership and if there are any areas of concern. Dog Control and Animal Welfare Officers may ask us if our volunteers are able to target certain hotspots known for irresponsible dog ownership.

By proactively working in partnership under The Green Dog Code we hope to ensure dog owners are aware of current legislation and to make Mere a safer and cleaner place to live.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS – if this is something that you feel strongly about why not volunteer to help with this initiative. Please make contact for further information and register your interest.

Cllr. Alan Mead on ☎ 07880 988214

Home Library Service

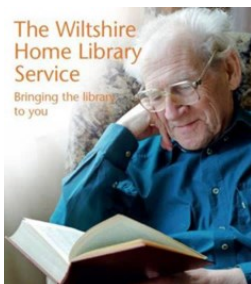
The service is for Wiltshire residents who want to continue reading or listening to books and audio items but are unable to visit the library and have no-one to collect items on their behalf. If a friend or relative can visit the library on your behalf, please ask us about becoming an assisted reader.

The home library service is there for people of any age who are blind or partially sighted, disabled in some way, suffering a long-term illness, recovering from an

operation and in need of short term help. Elderly and frail, unable to carry library books, carers who cannot easily leave home or experiencing mental health problems.

How does the service work?

A member of library staff will talk to you about what you like to read. They will then visit you at home with a library volunteer and bring you some books. Every few weeks, the library volunteer will call at a time to suit you and exchange your books.



You can borrow every kind of book, in standard or large print and also audio books on CD. Choose from crime, romance, family stories or historical novels or if you prefer, biographies, hobby and craft books, war stories and local history titles. There are no fines or charges for

this service and you can request items too.

Volunteers are also required to support this scheme – if you are interested in finding out more please contact your local library: or

Access and Volunteer Manager ☎ 01225 713706

✉ libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

Arts Society Nadder Valley

The Arts Society Nadder Valley had a successful launch in 2018 and with over 200 members joining before our inaugural lecture we had to establish a waiting list for membership. We were able to welcome all those on the waiting list into the society by the end of 2018 and our membership now stands at 240 with members from all across the communities of the Nadder Valley and beyond. Today, we are delighted to let you know we have decided to grow our membership and are welcoming applications to join.

Our society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts and our artistic heritage. By focusing on the arts we seek to provide our members with opportunities to discover and learn from the expression and application of human creative skill and imagination. We do this by offering a varied program of 9 lectures and additional events throughout the year. In 2018 this included a tour of Wells Cathedral and a Summer Party. It is also a great way to meet new friends and have fun and we find our pre lecture drinks helps with this.


The annual membership is £40 per person and the membership year runs from April to March. Members who attend the lectures are asked to give us their feedback on the lectures and to date 79% have rated the lectures as very good, excellent or outstanding. Lecture topics are varied. Some examples from this year's program include: exploring the symbolism, significance and spirituality of colour throughout the history of art; an insight into Germany's fascinating and on-going efforts to find artistic forms for the remembrance of the victims of one of history's darkest periods; 16th century sugar sculpture and 3D dessert printing!



The lectures are all one hour long and are held on Fridays at 6.30pm in the Nadder Centre in Tisbury. We start the evening with a bar serving wine from 5.45pm. Two lectures remain to be given in our first year's program:

- Women in Ancient Egyptian Art on **Friday 15th February**.

- English Caricature: From Hogarth to Punch on **Friday 15th March**.

Guests are welcome at these lectures for a charge of £7 per lecture.

More details about us on:  theartssocietynaddervalley.org. To be sent a membership form or to ask any questions please contact:

Jules Garner-Rudman  membersnaddervalley@theartssociety.org
Chairman Sean Moran  07929 609 604

Mere ~ Women's Institute

At a recent meeting it was decided to cease our affiliation to the National Federation of Women's Institutes. This is a pity because we only recently celebrated our 100th anniversary and being one of the oldest organisations in Mere. However, with diminishing numbers, rising costs (hall, speakers etc., and contribution to the NFWI) it was decided it was no longer financially viable to carry on as we were.

I personally have been a member for 19 years and many much longer than me so it would be sad to lose these friendships. We shall continue to meet informally for lunches, coffees, games afternoons, etc.

As Mere is continually growing, I really hope that with the influx of new people coming into the area, some younger people may wish to restart the WI. I do hope so - it is such a long tradition it will be a shame to lose it.

Barbara Bourne  863411

Mere Melodies Handbell Ringers

HELP! We have the bells but we need more hands to ring them. If you like making music and would like to have a go then please make contact. You don't need to be able to read music but having a sense of rhythm helps.



Kathy Herbert  861591

Mere Gardening Club

The Art and Science of Compost by Lois Philipps

If you've never quite managed to make the perfect compost, this talk will be a must. **Wednesday 13th February 7.30pm Grove Building.**

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way  860884  meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere Carnival

Do you have any unwanted new, small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them. "Odd" items are welcome also e.g. in date non-perishable items, bottles, confectionery, toiletries, stationery, books, useful, etc., as they can be made up into a variety of "prize boxes"

Donations can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom or I can collect if more convenient.

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

And now for something completely different. MADS is cooking up a delectable murder mystery for its Spring Production. Written by Chris Wood it's called '**Murder at Short Mere House**' (get it?), and don't think that all you have to do is come and watch the unfolding tale. Over a light supper during the interval you, the audience, will be required to come to everyone's aid and work out whodunnit. Scene of the crime? **Thursday - Saturday March 28th - 30th at 7.30 pm** in the Lecture Hall. Tickets, to include said light supper, will be on sale at the Library and at Sprout and Flower next month, priced at £10 each. Watch out for posters - they might contain a clue!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

MERE CARNIVAL FUNDRAISING 2019 - QUIZ NIGHT

Friday **22nd February** at 7.30pm

At the Grove Building. £2.00 per person

Raffle / Refreshments available

Looking forward to your support

Carol Payne ☎ 861639

Marion Molteno ~ An Author Visits Mere

A few years ago Marion came to talk about her latest book during the Literary Festival. We are really pleased that she has agreed to come to speak To **Merely Women** on **March 8th** about her work and writings. For those of us who are not members of Merely Women she will be staying on afterwards, from

11.30am in the Small Hall of the Grove Building where she will sign books and answer any questions. She will join the Lent Lunch at 12.30pm and is happy to stay until 2.00.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet her and I do hope you will be able to come along. If you have not already read them, a number of her books will be available throughout February for loan from the Library.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Mere Girlguiding ~ 1st Mere Brownies

Recycling project - Thank you for your continued support. We are pleased to report that we have, during 2018, raised £319.25 for Unit funds. We are still collecting with proceeds going to our group funds:

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

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

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

With many thanks Sue Luffman, Nicky Lawes and Sue Jeans - Brownie Guiders.

Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

Mere Historical Society

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

'It wasn't just Alan Turing'
by Hamish Bell

Tuesday 5th February 10.15am for 10.30am in the Grove Building.

Hamish's talk will cover the lives of some of the heroes of computing, some famous, others who are little known and very dead!

(Visitors welcome, suggested donation including coffee £3)

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mere Railway Modellers

The highlight of our activities in January of this year was exhibiting at the Wessex Association of Model Railway Clubs annual exhibition in Frome over the weekend of 5th and 6th January.

We exhibited a small layout belonging to Tom Snook, our Exhibitions Manager, based on the port of Aberdovey in Wales, which features a narrow gauge railway serving the port from local slate quarries as well as a standard gauge connection from the mainline railway.

Work continues apace in building both a new "0" gauge layout and also an "00" gauge one. Both are keeping our club members well occupied.

Finally a date for your diaries. Our annual model Railway exhibition will take place in the Lecture Halls over the weekend of **15th/16th June** this year.

Graham Avory, Chairman ☎ 860439

Mere Rivers Group

Wildlife sightings for November and December

Thank you to all who continued to send us their sightings through November and December, amidst their festivities! We have now been recording sightings for a whole year so can get a realistic picture of our rivers' wildlife, which we will review in a few weeks. There is no doubt that during the winter months the wildlife is different and more visible due to migration within the UK and from outside, as well as because of reduced vegetation on our bushes and trees. The sightings in November and December were:

November: Little egret 15 times, Kingfisher 8 times, Grey Wagtail 4 times, moorhen and grey heron both seen 3 times, flock of mixed redwing and fieldfares seen twice, a group of 3 trout of varying sizes, 4 long tailed tits, a group of three moorhen, a flock of 30 mallards, a pair of collared doves greater spotted woodpecker, a buzzard and a water vole. A hedgehog was seen nightly through most nights of November.

December: Little egret 18 times, kingfisher 5 times, group of three moorhen and a grey wagtail both seen three times, a pair of moorhen and a greater



spotted woodpecker both seen twice. There were also single sightings of a pair of coal tits, a pair of water rail and on a separate occasion the call of a water rail, a pair of mallard ducks, a moorhen, a jay, song thrush, wren, a flock of redwing, water vole. There were also two pairs of buzzards seen to join up and circle together.

Nature Notes

No doubt many of you started your new year with the intention of getting fitter and maybe doing more walking. Now that we are into February it would be great if those of you who are still getting out there could keep your eyes peeled and let us know of other wildlife you see in the wider area. This too will in part be sustained by and reliant on our rivers and streams. For example, at dusk, Barn Owls have been seen quartering the fields behind The Walnut Tree pub. At this time of day many birds will also be calling prior to settling for the night and their song can be indicative of the species' we have in our area. If you are not too sure of bird song, the RSPB website has recordings of most species of British birds  rspb.org.uk. Of course, it is your river sightings that we particularly need, but please keep all your observations coming to mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com. Thank you so much for all your support in this valuable work.

Lynne Bann ☎ 86017 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

Mere Theatre Club

If your new year's resolution was to get out more, then why not come and join us, we're a pretty friendly lot!

And to current members, if you haven't paid your membership subscription and want to see the next mailing, please do it soon. Thanks!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 Wendy Horne ☎ 861712

Short Walks

The first walk of 2019 will take place on **Monday February 18th**. Meet at **The Walnut Tree at 2.00pm** for a short walk of 2-3 miles around Mere's lanes and footpaths and refresh yourself afterwards with a cuppa at the Angel Cafe.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Shreen Harmony

We have started the New Year with fresh songs to learn and plans for further concerts in 2019.

We had a full house for our December Christmas concert at The Grove Building and generous donations from our audience allowed us to pass on the sum of £450 to charity. 'After Umbrage', the charity we chose this year, provides respite care for carers at a gorgeous cottage just south of Bath.

Are you interested in joining us? If so do please come along on a Thursday evening to the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.30pm. No auditions are necessary, just a joy of singing. It is a wonderful way of meeting new people and relaxing.

Caroline Landymore ☎ 228819

Traidcraft & Fairtrade

Unfortunately I will not be holding any stalls this month but it is with a huge sigh of relief, that due to excellent sales running up to Christmas and the huge world-wide support that Traidcraft, the pioneering company, is to continue trading into 2019, its 40th year. Fair Trade Fortnight runs from **February 25th-March 10th** so please consider popping one or two Fairly Traded products into your shopping basket knowing you will be helping support a family work their way out of poverty. And put March 6th in your diaries when I will be holding a Big Brew Event in the Angel cafe by kind permission of Paul and Marilyn.

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Diary Dates for February

Venue Key for Diary :		
ATR - Angel Tea Rooms	AYP - Andy Young Pav	MSC - Mere Social Club
CP - Main Car Park	L - Lecture Hall	RMC - Railway Mod Club
Drs - Surgery	Lib - Library	StM - St Michaels Church
GB - Grove Building	Lyn - Lynch Com Centre	URC - United Ref Church

Recurring events are first shown in Bold then with no time or venue.

1	Fri	10.00am	Rhyme Time (every Fri)	Lib
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
		2.00pm	Movement for the Mind	GB
2	Sat			
3	Sun	10.30am	Family Christingles	StM
4	Mon	9.00am	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
		7.00pm	Water Colour Club (every Mon)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
5	Tues	10.00am	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only)	L

		10.15am	Mere Historical Society	GB
		10.30am	Dressmaking Group (<i>every Tues</i>)	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		1.00pm	Pilates (<i>every Tues</i>)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (<i>every Tues</i>)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba	L
6	Wed	9.30am	Ta-Chi (<i>every Wed</i>)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (<i>every Wed</i>)	GB
		11.00am	Really Sing	L
		6.00pm	Karate (<i>every Wed</i>)	L
		6.00pm	Dressmaking Group (<i>every Wed</i>)	GB
		7.00pm	Railway Modellers (<i>every Wed</i>)	RMC
7	Thur	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	Art Group (<i>every Thur</i>)	GB
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (<i>every Thur</i>)	L
		2.00pm	Quilters (<i>every Thur</i>)	GB
		5.00pm	Girlguiding (<i>every Thru Term Time Only</i>)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (<i>every Thur</i>)	L
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	GB
9	Sat			
10	Sun			
11	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB), Water Colour (L)	L
12	Tues	12.30pm 2.00pm	Community Lunch @ Walnut Tree Mothers Union Moo Music (L), Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)	WT GB
13	Wed	11.00am 2.00pm 2.00pm 7.00pm	Really Sing Friends Together Whist Short Walk (Leaving from Walnut Tree Pub) Gardening Club Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers	L GB WT GB
14	Thur	7.30pm	Moviola Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)	L
15	Fri	2.00pm	Movement for the Mind Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	GB
16	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Bingo	L
17	Sun			
18	Mon	2.00pm	Short Walk Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB), Water Colour (L)	WT

19	Tues		Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)	
20	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers	ATR
21	Thur		Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB) , Zumba (L)	
22	Fri	10.00am 7.30pm	Merely Women Carnival Quiz Night Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	GB GB
23	Sat			
24	Sun			
25	Mon		Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB), Water Colour (L)	
26	Tues		Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)	
27	Wed	2.00pm 2.30pm	Friends Together Meeting Penny Bank Writers Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers	GB L
28	Thur		Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)	



Everyone is very welcome to join our popular

SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING

in aid of Suchana in the Grove Building, Mere, on

Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm

Licensed Bar * Tickets £6 (children £3)* Teams of 4

(Come on your own or in a team – please give details)

Advanced booking essential

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

Elisabeth Barrett ☎ 863324 or Jean Kantharia ☎ 861168

Community Lunch

The next Community Lunch will be held at the **Walnut Tree** Inn on **Tuesday 12th Feb 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 **20th February** at 3.00pm



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Friends of St Michael's ~ 'Call My Wine Bluff '

The Friends of St Michael's are holding another Call My Wine Bluff evening on **Saturday March 2nd** in the **Grove Building at 7.00pm** for 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10 which includes a Ploughman's Supper and your first drink.

This was a very popular event when we last held it two years ago so as space is limited get your tickets early from either the Library or Pat Isom ☎ 861776.

Make up a table of six or come on your own and join with others.

Ann Dethick ☎ 863498

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with

MERE TOWN COUNCIL



proudly presents

The Wife (15)

with Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce.

A wife questions her life choices as she travels to Stockholm with her husband, where he is due to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature.

in The Lecture Hall


Thursday 14th February 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**



MERE SURGERY PPG

(Patient Participation Group)

- Are **YOU** keen to remain fit and well?
- Would you **LIKE** to help other people to remain fit and well?
- Would you **ENJOY** having some input into how our local surgery services are provided?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions why not come and join the PPG. We are seeking **NEW** members **NOW**. All ages are welcome and we would especially love to hear from you if you have a **YOUNG** family.

- Meetings are held once every two months and usually last just an hour.
- The PPG can make a difference to **OUR** community's health and wellbeing, and **YOU** could be part of this.

If you would like more information about joining us please contact Mere Surgery Practice Manager on 01747 860001.

WE NEED YOU.


Thank you

Dressmaking in Mere

Our courses commenced on Tuesday and Wednesday the 15th and 16th of January with a straight set of six lessons. The Tuesday Course is full but there is a little space on the Wednesday evening. Our six lessons are two and a half hours long, we have wonderful space and exceptionally good light at any time of the year, looking forward to the lovely blue skies we sometimes see through the window to the sky, as we call it. The Wednesday evening course is held from 7pm to 9.30 pm. So good to have uninterrupted time to create with plenty of help and guidance.

We enjoyed an excellent Christmas Meal at a pub close by and new friendships as well as the joy of creating something we cannot find to fit is obviously why we are well into our fifth year of courses. Our waiting list soon provides a space so worth getting in touch for more information.

Our special offer for the Wednesday evening course is a Taster Session of two lessons for £30. This is an ideal way to find out if this is for you and the logistics of getting to us is going to work. Our next course commences on Tuesday and Wednesday 5th and 6th March and enquiries are coming in for that, so do get in touch if this year is the year to sew, especially with the return of the "Sewing Bee".

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

Mere Library

We are currently looking for extra volunteers to get involved at Mere Library. Our Community Library Volunteers help to extend the library's opening hours with two volunteer operated sessions on Mondays from 10am – 2pm and Wednesdays from 9.30am – 1pm. This is a great role if you enjoy meeting people of all ages and have a love of books and reading.

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with straightforward enquiries; assisting with the self-service machines; shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public access computers.

We are looking for volunteers who can be flexible about their availability and are able to do a minimum of two sessions per month. Volunteer sessions normally last between 2 -3 hours and are either on a Monday or Wednesday. Please see below for the library's full opening hours:

Monday	10am – 2pm (volunteer led) 2 – 7pm
Tuesday	9.30am – 5pm
Wednesday	9.30am – 1pm (volunteer led)

Thursday 9.30am – 5pm
Friday 9.30am – 5pm
Saturday 9.30am – 5pm

If you are interested in volunteering at Mere Library and would like further details about the Community Library Volunteer role please make contact.

Jane Hunt ☎ 860546 ✉ jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mere Cancer Research

Our last event in 2018 was a Christmas Concert, held in conjunction with St. Michael's Church. The Warminster Military Wives Choir did not disappoint. Everyone who came (and the church was full to bursting) was treated to a wonderful celebration of music and verse. Together, we raised a total of £1,406 making our share £703 for Cancer Research - which was an excellent result and we thank the church for their support.

We are working very hard to bring back the May Fair around the square and there are plans afoot behind the scenes, so watch this space!

Could this be the year you decide to join us to make a difference to beat cancer? Our committee are always seeking new members or helpers and we shall be very happy to welcome you aboard.

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

Mere Museum

Our latest exhibition 'Chemists, Printers and Posters' tells the very interesting story of four Mere men who kept Mere informed about daily life and events for over 160 years between them! It has been attracting a good audience and some nice comments in the Visitors' book. It's certainly one of the more rewarding ways of spending a wet winter afternoon! Entry to the Museum is always free.

Readers may like to know that following the sad death of our great patron and benefactor Anne Lander, her executors have given to the Museum several examples of Anne's weaving and many other items relating to her work, and to her fathers' Cuthbert Lander. We are extremely pleased and grateful to be able to add these items to our permanent collection.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Healthy Mere Walking

Mere is blessed with lovely scenery and a great network of footpaths. There are groups and individuals who regularly walk in the area – just look through the calendar in Mere Matters most months. Last year, we organised the Great Bottom walk and 94 people went out for a hearty and enjoyable walk on one of our most significant features. We are starting to plan for more walking this year under the banner of 'Healthy Mere Walking'. Our thinking includes a 'Bigger Bottom Walk' and we hope to 'Beat the Bounds' of Mere which means walking around the boundary of Mere and we also hope to walk every path in Mere (there are 77) during the month of March. Please see the links to find out more. Do please join in and enjoy our footpaths with a group or on your own. We could do with some help in organising events and if you have the time and inclination get in touch with John.

John Jordan ☎ 07840722835



merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk



MereFootpathGroup



Healthy-Mere-Walking

Friends of Mere Museum

The Friends are already planning an exciting series of fund-raising events to entertain you during the coming year. The first will take place on **April 5th**, so this is an extremely early notice for your diaries. Andrew Manning of Wessex Archaeology will talk to us about the work of WA and latest discoveries. You might like also to know that our famous Plant Sale will this year be on Saturday **May 11th**. Many more details, of course, in later issues.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mere School

The children are working hard on their new topics, which by class are:

Blue Class - People who Help Us; Yellow Class - Journeys;
Silver Class - Heroes; Gold Class - Adventurers and Explorers;
Green Class - Ancient Egyptians; Red Class - The Rainforest;
Purple Class – Space.



Local Links

Before Christmas the children in Gold Class were visited by two local artists and were shown how to draw a portrait of Henry VIII. The children really enjoyed being shown how to create their artwork by Mrs Rich and Mrs Swann and were delighted with their amazing paintings.

A local theatre company, Treehouse Theatre, visited the school in January to perform their show, Robin Hood. It was an afternoon full of fun and laughter where some of the children even took to the stage! Maybe some of them will become the future budding actors of the screen or even on stage in Mere!

Blue Class will be getting out and about in Mere this month to find out all about the people who help them. This will include visits to the vets, police and fire brigade. Green class will be using the valuable resource of the Wiltshire Scrapstore to create their own Egyptian death masks. Red class will be off to Alfred's Tower to study a local wood and Yellow class will visit the Haynes motor museum to learn about different forms of transport.

Sports Update:

Mere have an exciting term of sports tournaments ahead of them. Watch this space to find out how we do in our Hockey, Football and Netball tournaments against other local schools!

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

 mereschool.co.uk

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

We had a full Church for our Deanery Carol Service on December 11th. Led by Rev. Carol and supported by the Choir, the readers were from our fellow churches, our members and Claire (a young mum) led a responsive prayer. Afterwards we shared a light lunch in the Grove Building, including a celebration cake to celebrate 100 years of the Mothers Union in Mere. Our grateful thanks to all who contributed to the Service and to the Lunch.

Our next meeting is on the **12th February at 2.30pm** in the Grove Building. Our speaker is Laura Kichali who will tell us about her role as a Project Development officer for Mothers Union in the Salisbury Diocese. Visitors are very welcome to join us.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

Rosemary Goddard Centre

We are looking forward to a full programme of activities with speakers, singers, quizzes, crafts and lots more exciting things to do during the next month. We are very grateful for contributions over the festive period, thank you to everyone that bought our annual quiz which raised £191 and congratulations to Ann Dethick for being our winner.

'Our little corner' calendar sales went well and I will be able to let you all know how much we raised in the next edition of Mere Matters.

The RGC has welcomed some new volunteers recently and sadly we have said goodbye to a few long standing guests. With this in mind, and although we are still operating a waiting list, if you or anyone you know could benefit from a place at the RGC please get in touch with me on the number below.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

Family Cristingles ~ St Michael's Church

You and your family are invited to join us to celebrate with a thirty minute service followed by coffee in the Still Chapel. **Sunday 3rd February at 10.30am**

Children of any age are requested to bring a drawing, photograph or toy of the animals from the four corners of the world America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you all so much for the 122 beautifully packed boxes which you so thoughtfully and kindly gave to the very poor and disadvantaged children and adults in Bulgaria and Syria. The kindness even amazed Richard, who co-ordinates the checking and packing and delivery from Salisbury. So many volunteers turned up to help this year, that the packing room was simply overwhelmed and approx. 11,500 wonderful boxes were collected and sent on their way to bring smiles and happiness. . Quite wonderful!

Thanks also go to the amazingly talented Mere Knitters who filled bag after bag of beautifully made clothes and blankets that Richard was delighted to take with him for the orphanages and the safe houses and the refuges.

Also huge thanks to Madelaine, Pamela, Chris and Penny who took over on collection weekend, as I nursed a broken hip!

Wendy Horne ☎ 861712

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust

Grants Available for 2019

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community and welcomes a wide range of creative initiatives.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is **30th April** and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of this date.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to: The Grants Committee, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, c/o Monkswell Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6DA.

Warminster Food Bank

A massive thank you to everyone who very kindly donated to our collection for the Christmas Hampers - we collected a staggering 250kg!! The car was full including the passenger seat! Thank you to Michael and Wendy Horne for transporting this precious cargo to the Food Bank depot. We also had £40 in cash donations that was spent on urgently needed items. This made a huge difference to all of the hamper recipients over the Festive Period. We would also like to thank the Co-Op for allowing us to collect outside the shop and the Library and KM Beauty for also having collection points.

We have sorted out the collection dates for 2019 and they are as follows: 13 April, 20 July & 23 November. More details of times and places to follow. In the meantime can you please consider buying one more non-perishable item in your next few food shops towards our collections?

As always, please if you have eaten today remember those who have not. Thank you once again for all your generous donations and support.

Penny Fennon; Katie ☎ 860081



In Mere and District

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

We would particularly like to thank the following:

Mere Co-op, The George Inn, Gillingham Waitrose, Clive Hazzard for the lovely poinsettias and Jane Fitzgerald for making and donating the Christmas cake; the many kind people who gave monetary donations, and the volunteers who gave up their day to serve and wash up. Last but not least, a special thank you to our chef, Steve Cooke who produced a lovely meal which was enjoyed by everyone who came. However, it was unfortunate that half of the people who had booked didn't come or let us know that they were unable to do so. This was disappointing and means we will need to think carefully about plans for the future.

As we go to press we're busy with Week of Prayer for Christian Unity involving daily events and a lively and well-attended united Sunday service, held in Maiden Bradley. We hope there will be an equally good attendance for our AGM on Wednesday **27th February 7.30pm** at URC, Boar Street, Mere with a talk by Revd Colin Marsh (deferred - by snow! - from Lent last year)

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at 11am on **Friday 1st March** at St Michael's Church, Mere and is being planned and arranged by members of St Mary's Church, Mere. All women (and men too!) are very welcome to attend this service, held on the same day in churches throughout the world, with the aim of promoting worldwide peace and understanding.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553 Janet Way ☎ 860884
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere and District

Letter from the Churches

JESUS'S COMMAND TO LOVE.

There are some elephants in the room that you cannot ignore no matter how much you want or would like too. In Gospels one such elephant is Jesus' impending death on a cross and resurrection, and as much as the disciple try to ignore it and hope it will not happen, it draws ever closer, and the date the God's will and means of salvation for all people is to be fulfilled.

For our country there is an elephant that cannot be ignored as much as we might like too, and that is Brexit, and the date of the 29th March on which it is currently scheduled to happen. As I write this letter it is uncertain what will happen, whether there will be a Brexit and if there is what type of Brexit, and how the current political deadlock will be broken.

Whatever the outcome, one thing is clear is that as a country we are divided on this issue, and whatever the outcome half the country is not going to like it.

And so there is significant challenge for the leaders of the country, whatever the outcome as how they try and unite a divided country. One way might be to show greater love and respect to those that disagree with what you hope for. In Matthew 5:41 Jesus says; "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now I tell you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you

may become children of your father in heaven." In our situation, that means praying for both those who represent our views.

In the life of faith it is not what people say about us that defines who we are, and it is not what people do or try to do to us that defines us either, it is the way we respond that defines us. What Jesus says should define his disciples, is that we do not seek revenge, but that we will react with love, and pray for all including those who persecute us, or we disagree with.

For us as Christians there is the challenge to love and pray for all, including the ones that cause us to shout out at the television or radio.

In Jesus' command to love and pray for our enemies we cannot choose which ones we will love and pray for, we have to pray for all we know about, because Jesus death and resurrection, is about both bringing us to God, and uniting us.

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: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 861319, ✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

3	Sun	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Christingle Service (30mins) Evensong
5	Tues	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion
10	Sun	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
15	Fri	8.00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
17	Sun	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
24	Sun	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

3	Sun	11.00am	Mrs Jane Hurd
10	Sun	11.00am	Rev Colin Marsh
17	Sun	11.00am	Mr David Burfitt
24	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

3	Sun	9.30am	DIY
10	Sun	9.30pm	Holy Communion
17	Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion
24	Sun	9.30am	Matins

Ian Flower, Memorial Talk 14th March in St Martin's Church, Zeals

Ian was a well-known local gardener who lived in Zeals with wife Diana. He suffered a heart attack in July 2018 and despite the best efforts of the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance crew, he unfortunately died.

In memory of Ian, there is to be a talk by Charlotte Rowe MSGD who is an internationally acclaimed award winning garden designer, including Gold at Chelsea. There will also be a short talk by Phil Merritt, a helicopter pilot from Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, on the work of these incredible emergency rescue teams.

All the proceeds from the evening will be divided equally between the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and The Friends of St Martin's Church.

Tickets cost £10 each and are available from Zeals Motors or St Martin's Church, Zeals or from Lyndi d'Ambrumenil, Zeals Green House, Zeals BA12 6NH (stamped addressed envelope please). Please make any cheques payable to The Friends of St Martin's, Zeals.

STOP PRESS:

- Friendship Tea and Chatter in Angel Tea Rooms 3pm-4pm on 1st Tuesday of the month. First tea on 7th February. All welcome, information from Rev Carol 861859.
- Skittles and Social Evening at Mere Social Club. With hot meal for £3 per head children free. Saturday 16th February at 6pm. A family occasion and all welcome. Information from Rev Carol 861859.

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	Ian Treece	☎ 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 appt 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

☎ 860546

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

Community Open Day – Nadder Centre.

The Nadder Centre in Tisbury is holding a community open day for all the family to enjoy on Saturday **2 February** from 10am – 4pm. There will be a whole range of activities to try throughout the day alongside a marketplace of community and sports clubs and groups providing you with an array of information.

Fake TV Licencing e-mail

Action Fraud has received more than 5,000 reports about fake emails and texts purporting to be from TV Licensing. The messages contain links to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal personal and financial information.

Neighbourhood Watch Launches New Web.

Our new website is up and running and you can access it at www.wiltshirenhw.org New features on the site include links so you can contact the committee member representing your region of Neighbourhood Watch in Wiltshire.

