

# MereMatters

& so does

**West Knoyle**



Your community magazine including  
a guide to local events

**JULY/AUGUST 2019**

Front cover photo with kind permission from: Ann-Marie Long

## 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 July** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion. **No meeting in August.**

### Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

One of the major items on our June agenda was to approve the accounts from last year. I am pleased to say that our expenditure last year came in under budget and confirmed that the Town Council's accounting and governance procedures were correct and in order. This was done with the knowledge that our Town Clerk takes great care managing our accounts and with the reassurance of our internal auditor, Mrs. Mary White, who provides an independent assurance that our risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively. The Annual Return, accounts and related documents have now been submitted to the external auditors and have been published on the Mere website. Details of the exercise of electors' rights and inspection of the accounts is also displayed on the website.

On the subject of finance, the Town Council is expecting to receive a substantial amount of money that was secured by Wiltshire Council as part of the legal agreement (known as a S.106 agreement) with C. G. Fry & Son, the developers of the old Hill Brush Company site in Woodlands

Road. The money will be paid to us in stages and the Town Council must adhere to the legal agreement in terms of the criteria to which it can be spent (open space & leisure facilities). The Town Council has earmarked two projects so far: one of them being the refurbishment of the Walnut Road Play Area and the second one being improvements to the footpath leading from Edgebridge to the town centre, past the cemetery. These two projects have been discussed over a number of years as being of direct benefit to the residents that will be living in the new development. However, there is a question mark as to whether the second project will meet the criteria and our Clerk will be liaising with Wiltshire Council officers as to whether this is feasible or not. At the annual budget meeting, the Town Council had also agreed that a committee of the Town Council would meet to consider and suggest projects that would meet the criteria as laid out in the legal agreement for the remaining funds. Any recommendations made by this committee will be presented to the Town Council who will agree a shortlist. This shortlist will then be

made available to the public for comment and opinion. We were asked, at our June meeting, whether it would be possible to use some of these funds to make a contribution towards improving St. Michaels Church as a Community Facility. The legal advice we received from Wiltshire Council was that this would not comply with the legal agreement as buildings are not covered in this contribution, other than changing accommodation linked to sports pitches etc. The Town Council did offer, however, to work closely with members of the Parochial Church Council to help secure the future prosperity of the building.

We are fortunate here in Mere to have many events which we often wish to publicise by putting up posters on well-placed poles around the town. I would just like to remind people that these posters should be taken down once they are out of date, and before they become shabby and unreadable. People putting up their posters should also remove or replace them when necessary.

For information on Town Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org); or contact the Town Clerk

Clive Hazzard, Chairman, Mere Town Council  
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.  
☎ 860701, ✉ [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org), 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

## West Knoyle Parish Council

We have had two meetings since my last report to Mere Matters, the first of which was on March 12th. At that meeting we decided to organise a village litter pick which was held on March 24th and was very well attended - we were lucky with the weather and had a very successful day. Thanks to all who joined in. The Parish Council also decided to apply for a grant for a solar powered speed indicator device. The application was successful and we are waiting for delivery of the device and approval for installation from the Highways Authority. The speedwatch group in the village have been busy with the speed camera as well, for which we are very grateful. The Parish Council approached the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) about the markings on the roads at Willoughby Hedge Services. Their reply was that nobody had been injured up there so they saw no reason to change anything but they did agree that the lines needed repainting. Cathleen Randall reluctantly resigned as a Parish Councillor due to time constraints and, on behalf of the Parish Council and villagers of West Knoyle, I would like to thank her for her work and commitment as a Parish Councillor during the last two years.

We held our Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meetings on 21<sup>st</sup> May. I was re-elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and Paul Yates

was re-elected as Vice-Chairman. We also co-opted Marcus Randall as a new Parish Councillor. We received a report from our Clerk on the unaudited accounts which have now been published on the website [www.westknoyle.org](http://www.westknoyle.org). It was agreed that we needed new signs by the playing field asking people not to park in front of the gates or take dogs into the playing field and Paul Yates and I have carried out some maintenance work to the play equipment and play area. We are hoping to organise a clean-up of the play equipment in the next few weeks. Also, Andre Filleau volunteered to shelve out the old telephone kiosk so that it can be used as a book-swap venue and we hope that this will be operational very soon. The Parish Council has agreed to support the Stoneybridge Residents Group in their efforts to improve the parking congestion in that area. We received a report from the group and agreed to help them in their efforts to submit a planning application and grant funding applications.

The village hall social club have been working very hard to raise money for a new roof over the bar and the toilet - requiring about £11,000. Since launching their 'Raise the Roof' appeal in February, they had already raised £2248 and have been busy organising fund raising events and applying for grants in lots of directions. Both the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board have agreed to provide a grant to support this project. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

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## **Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes**

**Baroness Jane Scott** will step down from her role on July 9 and a new leader will be elected at the full council meeting on that date. She was appointed the leader of the then Wiltshire County Council in 2003 and when the authority became a unitary council in 2009 she was voted to lead the new organisation. She was awarded an OBE in the 2010 New Year's Honours for services to local government.

The major event in this area of Wiltshire for the end of June is the **Armed Forces Day in Salisbury from Friday June 28th until 30th June**, entry will be by free ticket. When I applied for my tickets this morning of writing, only Friday appears to remain.

Being the OS Project Board Representative, I gave a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 4th June, updating the committee regarding the **Wiltshire Online Programme**. I have been attending the Broadband Contract Board for several years. The Wiltshire Online (WOL) programme is designed to provide a fibre broadband service via a variety of

technologies, including Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). We intervene in areas where commercial providers consider them to be financially non-viable. Without Wiltshire Council's investment, approx 40% of Wiltshire would not have access to superfast broadband.

Section 106 funds and CIL (Community Infrastructure Levee) are paid to Wiltshire Council, usually for use locally. The local **St Michael's Church** and or its friends are making efforts to bring the community on board, using the large beautiful building for uses other than its main function, it is the only building Mere has that could hold around 300 people. Toilets etc. would help for community use, funerals, weddings etc. The Church made a request for 106 funds and it was found it could not be used for this purpose. Long term if this building is to remain for public use, it may need external help, nationally I understand attendance is declining for its original purpose.

**Drug and alcohol abuse** was discussed and reported on at the South West Wiltshire Community Safety Group and the South West Wiltshire Area Board. We were informed one in three people drink more than the 14 units a week recommended as a maximum. Dealers were finding avenues easier to trade in outside the large cities, where trading can be very dangerous. We were advised if a resident reports suspected drug dealing, sanitized reports are made by the Police, and therefore it would be very difficult for many Police to know from whom the report originated. Recent statistics showed Mere unlike Tisbury and Wilton did not register at Salisbury Hospital for substance misuse, (other than alcohol) that does not indicate it is not happening. It was nice to see PC Richard Salter is again in our area. Apparently if you wish to make a **silent 999** call, press 2 and 5, this indicates you are unable to speak. 101 is now to be free where as it was chargeable before.

The owner of an **abandoned vehicle** was ordered to pay a total of £2,636.35 in fines, costs and victim surcharge following a successful prosecution by Wiltshire Council at Salisbury Magistrates Court on 20 May 2019. It is a criminal offence to abandon a vehicle under Section 2 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978. A person found guilty of such an offence may be punished on summary conviction with a fine of up to £2,500 or a term not exceeding three months' imprisonment or both. The council can also issue fixed penalty notices of £200 as an alternative to prosecution. You can report abandoned vehicles using the My Wiltshire online reporting or by calling 0300 456 0100.

I often get complaints if verges are not cut, I note Lincolnshire embraces flower power, grass verges left to grow long by Lincolnshire County Council to encourage pollinating insects over the summer are to be cut at the end of the season, with the cuttings sold to the National Grid to be used as biofuel in the first deal of its kind. The profits from the sale of the cuttings will be used to maintain the verges next year.

I have a facebook page: Cllr George Jeans. It is not a platform for conversation at present, therefore I do not accept friends request on the site at present; I do not view it regularly.

☎ 07710 441599 ✉ [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## **Mere & District Railway Modellers Exhibition - 2019 Report**

This year again the good people of Mere gave outstanding support ensuring that with our regular model railway enthusiasts the numbers exceeded 400 again. Many of these enthusiasts came from as far away as Derby with larger numbers from greater London and the south coast. This supports our pre-exhibition revue that our little show is becoming a must-see event within the crowded model railway exhibition calendar. Thanks to Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk for allowing us to use the St Mary Queen of Peace car park for all of our exhibitors again this – car parking is a contentious issue for events like ours in the town.

The Exhibition itself was considered by the critics to be the best to date and during the whole weekend many favourable comments were passed and this was helped by the excellent in house cuisine provided by Nancy & Brenda and our willing team of members wives, so much so that all the home-made cakes ran out an hour before the show ended!! Our Saturday night supper at the Walnut Tree Inn was well attended by the 28 members and exhibitors who thought the presentation and standard of the meal was excellent. Thank you Mark & Sam. In all, a thoroughly enjoyable weekend that generated a lot of well-being amongst the model railway community.

This is the first show that every club member without exception has helped to set and run the event. It takes a lot time to plan, get the right mix of layouts and then the physical effort of setting the show up. Unfortunately none of us are getting any younger and we urgently need some young blood in the club. Indications are that some of our exhibitors and residents may be leaning towards joining.

Next year we are planning a continental theme with layouts representing Belgium, France, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, UK, and USA. The dates for your diary are 20th and 21st June 2020.

Tom Snook, Manager

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## **Mere Gardening Club      *Wiltshire wildlife by David Kjaer.***

**Wednesday 10th July 7.30pm** Grove Buildings. David's talk will particularly relate to gardens.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

The August meeting will be a social event held in a member's garden starting at 6.30pm on **Wed 8th August** (details on website).

### ***Mere Garden Festival September 7th***

Our festival will be held in the Grove Building and the Lecture Hall. Last year we made changes to inject more fun into the show with the hope that it will appeal to a wider audience and it certainly did. The show is open to everyone whether or not you are a member of Mere Gardening Club.

Entries cover a wide selection of activities firstly the Flowers and vegetables sections, then from the kitchen there will be jams, cakes, bread & tarts. For craft enthusiasts there is an art section (in conjunction with Mere Art group) including art and photography. Finally draw a design for a scarecrow, which is open to all ages.

There is a fee of £2 per person which covers the cost of all entries. Each person is limited to one entry per class and may enter as many classes as they wish.

The full programme and entry forms (one per person required) can be viewed and downloaded from our website or are available from the library & "Sprout & Flower". The completed entry form can be taken to "Sprout & Flower" during their normal opening hours or to the Lecture Hall on Friday Sept 6th between 6pm & 8pm.

On the day from 1pm to 4pm, as well as viewing all the entries there will be additional stalls, music, tea and cakes during the afternoon. There is free entry all day; however donations are welcome to help with the running of this festival.

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

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## **Floral Sponsors**

The Town Clerk would like to report that once again, the Town Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him and we thank him for this

generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact:

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

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

Southern Co-Op	Hill Brush Company
F. J. Chalke Ltd	Jeans
Mere Bowling Club	Mr. & Mrs. F. Legge
Mr. Roy Sims	Mrs. J. Hurd
Mr. & Mrs. T. White	Mr. & Mrs. M. Avory

+ 2 other sponsors who wished to remain anonymous

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## Mere Literary Festival Quiz

This year's Literary Festival Quiz will be on **Friday 2 August** at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Teams of four, £5 per person including light refreshments. To book a place please call Bill Pike on 01747 861969.

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## Community Tea @ 3

No Community tea@3 in July or August. Next gathering is **September 18th**



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

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## 2019 Mere Literary Festival - Poetry Competition

Pennybank Writers would like to remind all poets that the closing date for the above competition is at midnight on **Monday 1st July**. Entries can be delivered, by hand to Adrienne Howell's post box at Lawrences, Old Hollow, Mere BA12 6EG ☎ 860475. Entries must not bear the name of the author but should be sent with a cover sheet with author's name, address, email where possible and title/s of poem/s submitted together with the correct entry



fee. Entry Fees:- £4.50 first poem - £3.50 second and subsequent entries. Please make cheque payable to: Pennybank Writers.

Write an original poem on any topic of no more than 40 lines for a chance to win a cash prize. Major prizes £200, £100, £50 with three runners up - £15. Senior Judge: Dr. Rosie Jackson.

Linda Jones for Pennybank Writers ☎ 8601791

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## **Mere Historical Society**

### **The American Museum and Gardens. Wed 17th July**

**Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9am and returns by 6pm. Bookings closed.**

### **Two Guided Walks around Mere. 8th and 20th August**

Both walks cover the same ground but there are limited spaces so please contact Caroline for booking forms and details, or pick up a form from Mere Information Point.

### **Wells Cathedral and The Bishop's Palace. Tues 3rd September**

The medieval City of Wells in Somerset with its historic centre, the magnificent cathedral and the unique moated Bishop's Palace is a lovely place to spend a day. Includes a guided tour of Wells Cathedral, and following a break for lunch, a guided tour of the Bishop's Palace's 14 acres of RHS partner gardens. There will be time to look around the Palace and use the café there.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30 am and return around 5.30pm.**

Cost: MHS Members £23 Non-members £26

*Includes coach and tip, entrances and guided tours at both sites.*

### ***DEADLINE 18 AUGUST***

**Booking forms available from Mere Information Point, and online:**

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 [merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

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## **Mere Rivers Group - *Wildlife Sightings for May***

May was a beautiful month and we were able to enjoy two good bank holiday weekends and half term week! As a result, many of you took advantage of the opportunity to walk through our town and alongside our lovely streams and rivers and supplied us with a good number sightings - thank you!

May's sightings were: Moorhen family and mother Mallard Duck with ducklings were all seen daily. The Water Vole was seen 8 times and small shoals of

Sticklebacks were seen three times. Seen once each were Stoat, Weasel, Red Kite, Grass Snake, Dingy Skipper Butterfly, White Admiral Butterfly, Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Eel. The following bird calls were also heard: Little Grebe, Nightingale and Cuckoo.

### ***Nature Notes***

While there were a few very early sightings of Swallows, at the end of March, it was noted that most of our Swallows, Swifts and House Martins were late in arriving. The reason was that a lot of wet weather in Africa caused a glut of insects and these migratory birds stayed behind for the feast!

We are already receiving your June sightings; the next Mere Matters will be published in September when we will report on both June and July sightings. Especially in July, the birds may be quiet as they are moulting and keeping a low profile. However, still keep your eyes open for the birds and for butterflies, moths and other insects such as damselflies, as well as flowers, mammals and any other flora and fauna that you see!

Please continue to send your sightings to us by email please.

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ [mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com](mailto:mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com)

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### **Mere Cancer Research**

Supported by the people of Mere and the local area we raised £1,723 for Cancer Research through our Mere Fair. Alongside the Carnival Club, we were also helped by Jackie Farrell and her



youth group - Seeds For Success - who really put in a tremendous level of support. Our young people were invaluable and our thanks go to them and all the volunteers who turned up to set up stalls and help clear up. Thanks also to Maggie Durkie who ran a lovely 'pop up' cafe which did very brisk business through the fair, a very successful addition to the event.

Our committee and helpers are a great bunch of people and we are very welcoming to anyone who wants to come and join us. Please get in touch either by email or telephone.

Jill Turner ☎ 860334 and Roy Sims ☎ 863328

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## Short Walks

**Wednesday 3rd July** - meet at 2p.m. in the Surgery Car Park for a ramble of 2-3 miles along some of the paths around Mere and refresh yourself with a cuppa and indulge in a piece of Paul's delicious cakes afterwards in the Angel Tea Rooms. **There will be no walk in August.**

Janet Way ☎ 860884

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## Warminster Food Bank

We are having a collection for the Food Bank on Saturday **July 20th** from 9 am to noon at **The Clock Tower**. So could you please consider buying an extra item of non-perishable food, toiletries, baby food (no formula milk), cleaning products and pet food for this collection in your next few food shops? Also a treat or 2 will always raise a smile for the food parcel recipients.

Anyone needing a food bank parcel in Mere is covered by Warminster Food Bank, so please think of those among us who are less fortunate.

The wonderful volunteers have asked if we can put a plea out for pet food - a lot of homeless people in our area need to feed their beloved pets and will feed the pet before themselves, so a tin/sachet or 2 of meat and biscuits will be very much appreciated.

Don't forget that we have a permanent collection point in Mere Library - so if you have a donation but can't make the 20th please drop in to the box there.

As always, if you have eaten today please think of those who have not.

Contact - Penny Fennon 📠 07833131412 (after 6pm please).

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Everyone is invited to two events. Please come to one or both if you can. You'll be helping to make a real and positive difference in the lives of very

marginalised children and their families in rural West Bengal – as well as having an enjoyable time. The events are:

### **STRAWBERRY TEA on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm**

(no tickets but donations for Suchana welcome) at Summerleigh, Mill Lane - home of Irene and Trevor Lucas (half way down, on the left)

### **Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy on Tues 13<sup>th</sup> August 10.30-12.00**

at Holly Cottage, North Road, Mere - home of Alison & Tom Beall  
(on the corner of North Road and Upper Water Street)

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553

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

### Venue Key for Diary :

**ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms

**Drs** - Surgery

**Lib** - Library

**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion

**GB** - Grove Building

**StM** - St Michaels Church

**CP** - Main Car Park

**L** - Lecture Hall

**URC** - United Ref Church

1	Mon	9.30am	<b>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers</b> (every Mon Term Time Only)	L
		6.00pm	<b>Beavers &amp; Scouts</b> (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
		6.00pm	<b>Slimming World</b> (every Mon)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tues	10.00am	<b>Moo Music</b> (every Tues Term Time Only)	L
		10.30am	<del><b>Dressmaking Group</b></del> (every Tues)	GB
		2.00pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session	Lib
		6.00pm	<b>Pilates</b> (every Tues)	GB
		6.20pm	<b>Zumba</b> (every Tues)	L
3	Wed	9.30am	<b>Ta-Chi</b> (every Wed)	GB
		11.00am	<b>Pilates</b> (every Wed)	GB
		2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
		6.00pm	<b>Karate</b> (every Wed)	L
		7.00pm	<del><b>Dressmaking Group</b></del> (every Wed)	GB
		7.00pm	<b>Railway Modellers</b> (every Wed)	RMC
4	Thur	10.00am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Drs
		10.00am	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thur)	GB
		2.00pm	<b>Bridge Club</b> (every Thur)	L
		2.00pm	<del><b>Quilters</b></del> (every Thur)	GB
		5.00pm	<b>Girlguiding</b> (every Thur Term Time Only)	GB
5	Fri	10.00am	<b>Rhyme Time</b> (every Fri)	Lib
		10.00am	<b>Movement for the Mind</b> (Alternate weeks)	GB
		1.45pm	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (2.00pm start every Fri)	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Carnival Bingo	GB
6	Sat		<b>Coffee Morning</b>	URC
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Bingo	L
7	Sun			
8	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meting <i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i>	L
9	Tues	2.30pm	Mothers Union <i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
10	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers</i>	GB
11	Thur	?	Patients Participation Group Presentation <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	L
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women	GB

			<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
13	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Coffee Morning in garden of Dewes Hse <i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
14	Sun			
15	Mon		<del><i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i></del>	
16	Tues	7.30pm	Mere Footpaths Moonlit Walk <del><i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L),</i></del> Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)	CP
17	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea @ 3 <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L),</i> <del><i>Dressmaking (GB),</i></del> Railway Modellers	ATR
18	Thur	7.30pm	Moviola <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB),</i> Zumba (L)	L
19	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Movement for the Mind (GB),</i> <i>Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
20	Sat	9.00am	Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall Warminster Food Bank Collection – Clock Tower	URC
21	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Walk Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	CP StM
22	Mon		<del><i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i></del>	
23	Tues		<del><i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Dressmaking (GB),</i></del> Zumba (L)	
24	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Meeting <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Mod</i>	GB
25	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB),</i> Zumba (L)	
26	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
27	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
28	Sun			
29	Mon		<del><i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers &amp; Scouts (GB)</i></del>	
30	Tues	2.45pm	Fives Court – Afternoon Tea <del><i>Dressmaking (GB), Moo Music (L),</i></del> Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)	FC
31	Wed	7.30pm	Penny Bank Writers <i>Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L),</i> <del><i>Dressmaking (GB),</i></del> Railway Modellers	L

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

### Venue Key for Diary :

**ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms

**Drs** - Surgery

**Lib** - Library

**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion

**GB** - Grove Building

**StM** - St Michaels Church

**CP** - Main Car Park

**L** - Lecture Hall

**URC** - United Ref Church

1	Thur	10.00am 10.00am 2.00pm	Hearing Aid Clinic <b>Art Group</b> ( <i>every Thur</i> ) <b>Bridge Club</b> ( <i>every Thur</i> )	Drs GB L
2	Fri	10.00am 1.45pm 7.30pm	<b>Rhyme Time</b> ( <i>every Fri</i> ) <b>Duplicate Bridge</b> ( <i>2.00pm start every Fri</i> ) Literary Festival - Quiz	Lib GB GB
3	Sat	1.00pm	<b>Coffee Morning</b> ( <i>every Sat</i> ) <b>Rosemary Goddard Skittles @ Mere Social Club</b>	URC MS
4	Sun			
5	Mon	6.00pm	<b>Slimming World</b> ( <i>every Mon</i> )	L
6	Tues	2.00pm 6.00pm 6.20pm	Digital Champions Drop-in session <b>Pilates</b> ( <i>every Tues</i> ) <b>Zumba</b> ( <i>every Tues</i> )	Lib GB L
7	Wed	11.00am 6.00pm 7.00pm	<b>Pilates</b> ( <i>every Wed</i> ) <b>Karate</b> ( <i>every Wed</i> ) <b>Railway Modellers</b> ( <i>every Wed</i> )	GB L RM
8	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
9	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
10	Sat	10.00am 7.00pm	Moo Music Summer Special Oasis Carnival Club Bingo <i>Coffee Morning(URC)</i>	L L
11	Sun			
12	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting <i>Slimming (L)</i>	L
13	Tues	2.30pm	Mothers Union <i>Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	GB
14	Wed	2.00pm 2.00pm 7.30pm	Friends Together Whist Fives Court – Afternoon Tea Gardening Club <i>Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	GB FC GB
15	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
16	Fri	7.30pm	<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
17	Sat		Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall	URC
18	Sun	2.00pm	Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service) Mere Footpaths Walk	StM CP

19	Mon		<i>Slimming (L)</i>	
20	Tues		<i>Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
21	Wed		<i>Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	
22	Thur	10.00am	Mere Footpaths Walk <i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	CP
23	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
24	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	
25	Sun			
26	Mon		<i>Tidd &amp; Toddlers (L), Slimming (L),</i>	
27	Tues		<i>Moo Music (L), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)</i>	
28	Wed	<b>2.00pm</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	Friends Together Meeting Penny Bank Writers <i>Really Sing (L), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Railway Modellers</i>	GB L
29	Thur		<i>Art (GB), Bridge (L), Zumba (L)</i>	
30	Fri		<i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	
31	Sat		Really Sing Weekend event <i>Coffee Morning (URC)</i>	L

## Mere Film Shows – Thursday July 18th

Our final film of the summer season stars Bill Nighy in **Sometimes Always Never** [12A] - based on the short story “*Triple Word Score*”. Alan (Bill Nighy) has spent years looking for his missing son who angrily leaves over a game of scrabble. Is the mystery online player his son? Part detective fantasy, part family drama, and part comedy, it is an excellent British film which gained very positive reviews. Also starring Jenny Agutter, Tim McInnerny and Sam Riley.

After the August break we look forward to showing our autumn films during the busy Carnival and Mere Literary Festival weeks. Look out for details in Mere Matters and online.

Rosie ☎ 861567

## 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

## Friends of Mere Museum

Far from resting on their laurels, the committee of The Friends is taking time over the summer to begin to revamp the Museum's sales desk with new leaflets and brochures, all specially commissioned from Mere's many and various historians. They are also planning to expand the space available for display, and hope that the new initiative, to be unveiled later this year, will enhance the turnover and so increase the funds the Museum depends on to remain solvent.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

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## Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



A good number of our members met for a Garden Meeting but enjoyed the warmth of one of our members' homes as it was raining. It was very enjoyable with wonderful cakes and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be held at the Grove Building on **Tuesday 9th July** at 2.30pm. We look forward to hearing from the "Mere Street Writers" and will have a chance to share our own favourite poems.

In August we will be celebrating Mary Sumner Day on **Thursday 8th August** with a small service in St. Matthews Chapel in St. Michael's Church followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. We warmly invite anyone who would like to join us for either of those afternoons.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923

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## Mere and District Link Scheme - *Bigger Bottom Walk*

A big thank you to all involved in organising and/or taking part in the Bigger Bottom walk on 9 June. A fantastic total of £383.00 was raised for the Link Scheme, including a £100 donation from our Co-op. We are really grateful for your support which will help us continue transporting people in Mere and surrounding villages to medical and other appointments. We also do a weekly run for both Mere and Silton Surgeries each Friday to deliver medicines to the homes of housebound patients. This is a huge benefit for the surgeries and patients alike.

### ***Surprising Statistics:***

Supporters may like to know that in 2018/19 our 36 drivers travelled a total of 1,288 journeys, covering 42,386 miles (the earth's circumference at the equator is 24,901 miles!) and all our volunteers gave a total of 2,799 hours of their time. These figures continue the trend of year on year increases and we can always do with more drivers. If you would like to know more please call us on 01747 860096.



### ***Changes in Personnel:***

At our 2019 AGM Adrienne Howell BEM and Bill Pike both stepped down from the Management Committee and as Link Scheme Trustees after 22 and 10 years' service respectively. Bill is continuing as a driver. Both Adrienne and Bill have made significant voluntary contributions to the Link Scheme and without their (and others) efforts the Link wouldn't be able to function. Another big thank you for all they have done. I am pleased to say that Peter Mason has taken over Bill's Treasurer role and Gail Garbutt has taken over running the Literary Festival from Adrienne on joining the Committee.

Adrienne's contribution to Mere as a whole was recognised fittingly in the New Year's Honours List. We wanted to recognise her particular contribution to the Link and I am delighted to say that Adrienne has agreed to become our Honorary Life President.

John FitzGerald. Chair, Mere & District Link Scheme ☎ 86096

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### **Mere Museum**

Summer holidays are on the horizon, and what better preparations could you make than to visit Mere Museum? In the current exhibition, mounted by Mere's Footpath Group, you'll find lots of ideas for lovely long summer walks in and around Mere and the surrounding countryside. There are maps, details of trails and even pictures of wildlife you can look out for, though you may have to find the perfect picnic site yourselves. The exhibition will be on until mid-August so do make the most of it.

The next exhibition will present another opportunity for you to find out more about the famous Waltons shopping centre in Mere, which dates back to the 19th century. The name still survives in 'Walton House Antiques' (which now occupies Walton's first and main shop in Mere) and over the door of the Post Office. For those who think that they may have nothing new to learn about Waltons, you will be pleasantly surprised by the number of new items the Museum has recently acquired, and for those who are new to Mere, this exhibition will provide you with rather surprising and fascinating information about the life and culture of the town you have chosen to live in. Watch out for posters for the opening date.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 ✉ [jennyflaxmill@gmail.com](mailto:jennyflaxmill@gmail.com)

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## **Healthy Mere Walking – A Bigger Bottom**

Well, we did it. There were about 80 walkers who enjoyed good weather and pleasant company. The climb was tough but worth it for the wealth of flowers and butterflies to stop and look at. Views at the top were much appreciated and with extra interest provided by John and Janet and their fabulous kites. Very important was the great donation for the Mere and District Link Scheme - £383 thank you. Watch out for notices on the notice board near the post office or on our facebook page as we will organise another Bigger Bottom walk for those who couldn't make this one. Look out for the walking group's notices as well - join in, get walking and get healthy.

John Jordan 📞 07840722835 🌐 [merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk](http://merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk)

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## **Mere Carnival**

### **Friday 5th July - Mere Carnival Bingo at Mere Social Club, Hazards Hill.**

Doors open 6.45pm Eyes Down 7.30pm. Excellent variety of quality prizes including: Wincanton Racecourse Raceday pass for 2, Family ticket to Farmer Palmer's – Poole, Raffle, Refreshments available at the Bar, Fun for all the family. Sue Jeans ☎ 860215

### **Saturday 14th September - Carnival Day**

We are once again looking for royal queen, princesses, attendants and a supergran for the carnival. If you are aged 6-60 yrs we would love to hear from you. You will receive 20.00 for a new outfit and we will supply crowns and sashes for the day. Maybe you know someone who would love to be a royal and would like to put their name forward so please get in touch by **Friday 26th July.**

Penny Allen 📧 [pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk)

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## **Mere Amateur Dramatic Society**

MADS members are extra busy this summer with two major projects afoot. One is of course, the ongoing hunt for the perfect play for the Autumn Production. The other is planning for their 2019 Carnival entry! At the moment everything is top secret, and our lips are sealed. But come the autumn, all will be unveiled! Have a lovely summer until then.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

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## Dressmaking in Mere

Susanne and I are really delighted with the progress of our students this year and particularly this last course. So many completed projects from summer dresses (first make for one lady) to our special mature student of 83 who turned a collar on a beautiful blouse with such enthusiasm. We are delighted that many of our students are using pre-loved garments from their own wardrobe or charity shops to create something very special. We cherish the fabrics we use and make clothes to last. Five items completed on our last evening! We plan on opening a bottle of bubbly to celebrate when the sun is shining (here's hoping!).

We have a break over the summer and return for a new set of courses in September and we already have names on the waiting list, more space on Wednesday evenings. Autumn Term dates are Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September and our courses run for six weeks at The Grove Building in Mere in the small hall.

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

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## Fives Court

Join us on **Tuesday 30th July** at 2.45pm for afternoon tea in the garden and entertainment from the group, Sing- a-Longs who are raising money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Bring along a fancy hat and enter into the "Crazy hat competition" always good fun and everyone welcome, refreshments provided.

On **Wednesday 14th August** we are hosting afternoon tea and garden party supported by our Wiltshire Admiral Nurse Tori Bendall who will give a short talk. We have themed the event, "Alice in Wonderland", an opportunity to dress up and for the little ones a fancy dress competition. The event is free and we welcome everyone in the community to attend, refreshments will be provided, this will be from 2pm till 5pm, we will also be having Kiddley Divey joining us at 2pm for some musical fun!

Tatum Johnson ☎ 860707

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## Mere Cancer Research

**Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Between 10am and 12 noon



By the kind permission of: Mr & Mrs Anthony Sainthill  
In the garden of Dewes House off Salisbury Street Car Park  
Coffee, Tea, Cake, Raffle and possibly a game of croquet all  
in their beautiful tranquil garden in the heart of Mere.

## Mere School

It is now near the end of our School year and everyone is busy with end of year activities.

### Pencilli Year 5 Residential

Our Year 5 class have just got back from their residential visit to Pencilli. Here is what one of our students Ella Fulford had to say about it!

"Pencilli was a brilliant adventure. It taught us trust, independence and friendship. We didn't even have to be the most adventurous person to enjoy it! It was the teamwork that counted.

When we were there we went Rock climbing and we learnt to trust in our friends who were at the other end of our rope! Canoeing was also great fun as we had to work as a team to get where we were going! Caving proved to be the most tricky due to the difficult 'letter box' gap. We tried not to be afraid and just slid through on our bellies. We didn't panic as we knew people were there to help us if we got stuck.....even the teachers needed a little bit of help.

Whilst we were there we made the most of everything.....including the great food and comfy beds. I had the adventure of my life.....it was so much fun!"



## June/July Events

**Friday 21st June:** a local Dance company called 'Viva la Dance' is visiting to teach us ballroom dancing

**Friday 21st June:** Blue, Yellow and Silver class take part in our very own mini Olympics event

**Friday 5th July:** Mere School Sports Day and Summer Fete.

That's all from Mere School for this academic year. Thank you all for your continued support. Have a great Summer!

## Rosemary Goddard Centre

The photo says it all! Very many thanks to the Bowls Club and all the people who attended the event – brilliant.

We have just had a lovely outing to Street, Clarks Village and although it rained on our arrival, it soon cleared up and we were all able to grab some fantastic bargains!

Handbags and jewellery seemed to rank highly with our guests along with the obligatory ice cream. Many thanks to George Jeans and Seeds for Success for providing the transport and driving us there and back.

Our skittles fundraiser will be held on **Saturday 3rd August at 1pm** at Mere Social Club. For tickets please contact me on the number below, £5 Adults / £3 Child (14 and under) ticket price includes a cream tea! There will be a trophy for the overall winner and a prize for the winner in our under 14's category. We will also be holding a raffle on the day to help raise funds, if you could donate a prize for our raffle we would be very grateful, please get in touch with me and I will arrange to collect it. Come along and support your local day centre whilst having a good family fun day out.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406 🌐 [meredaycentre.org.uk](http://meredaycentre.org.uk)



## St Michael's News

Thank you to all who supported and helped at the Fete. We raised around £3600 and the weather which is proving unreliable this June was perfect. We are planning to have an autumn sale to clear out some of the books, preloved clothes and bric-a-brac we have left. Watch future Mere Matters for a date.

Confirmation on 9th November in Salisbury Cathedral. If you are interested in exploring Christian faith matters please contact Rev Carol. There will be a regular group meeting but also you can read the preparation book at home and have small group preparation.

For any information for Christening, Marriage or funerals in church please contact Natasha: ✉ [administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Rev Carol ☎ 861859.

## **Letter from the Churches *Rev Carol writes:***

When people know you are a vicar they often automatically think you might try and convert them to Christianity. Sometimes people are immediately defensive to you, which is a shame. Better to talk about the weather or the price of tea then (probably not Brexit!).

One of the lines in a favourite hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* goes: "But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own". And often people who recoil from Christian experience have had a bad *human* experience of the interpretation of Christianity, which makes that line so memorable. Others have felt that God has let them down by *allowing* a loved one to die or be ill. What can be said?

In Jesus' life time his example was to be mindful of his own needs – he was never a party pooper but always noticed those around him. When he hung on the cross in helpless agony not using his "superpowers" to opt out of his horrible situation, He was showing that God in the flesh would suffer himself to understand the human condition and show solidarity. But even then not mutely or in a self-absorbed way. He granted the thief a place with him in his kingdom after death and put his mother and friend together for company. Jesus did look for the good in people and situations. As sympathisers or supporters that's what he wants us to do as well.

Hope you have a really enjoyable summer,  
Blessings.

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Rev Carol

## ***ROBINSON STONE CONCERT***

Due to popular demand the group Robinson Stone will be appearing again at St Michaels Church Mere on **Saturday 13 July at 7pm**. Tickets £10 will be available at the Mere Fete, Library, Sprout and Flower and outside the Post Office during June, available from [www.robinson-stone.com](http://www.robinson-stone.com) or phone

Graham Ward ☎ 861646

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## 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

## JULY

5	Fri	08:00am	No Service
7	Sun	08:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship for All (30/35 mins with no communion). Evensong
12	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion
14	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
19	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion
21	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
26	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion
28	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

## AUGUST

2	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion
4	Sun	08:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship for All (30/35 mins with no communion). No Service
8	Thu	12:00	Mothers Union – Mary Sumners Day Service
9	Fri	08:00am	No Service
11	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP No Service – gather at West Knoyle at 10am
16	Fri	08:00am	No Service
18	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion

23	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion
25	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
30	Fri	08:00am	Holy Communion

## 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

### JULY

7	Sun	9.30am	Matins
14	Sun	9:30am	Communion
21	Sun	9:30am	Communion BCP
28	Sun	9:30am	DIY

### AUGUST

4	Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion
11	Sun	10.00am	Holy Communion Patronal festival for Blessed Virgin Mary
18	Sun	9:30am	DIY
25	Sun	6pm	Evensong



## The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

### July

7	Sun	11.00am	Mr. David Burfitt
14	Sun	11.00am	Duncan Goldie Holy Communion
21	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Anne Budgell
28	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Dudley Coates

### August

4	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Peter Kershaw
11	Sun	11.00am	In-house service
28	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Kenneth Elcock
25	Sun	11.00am	T.B.A.

## The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 019634408 ✉ [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

### July/August

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

## Booking Meeting Venues


Grove Building:	Derek Fisher administrator@grovebuildingmere.com	☎ 07935 266375
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 <sup>st</sup> Friday	2.00pm – 4.00
Registrar of Births & Deaths	By apt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Champions	1 <sup>st</sup> 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](http://merewilts.org)

### Copy date for September 2019 Issue

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **12<sup>th</sup> August** (or earlier) via  [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk), or delivered to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

Please be sure to include your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion

The background of the business card features a detailed steampunk illustration. On the left side, there is a large brass instrument, possibly a tuba or euphonium, with a large circular bell. Above the bell are two smaller circular gauges or pressure meters. To the right of the main instrument, there is a complex arrangement of brass pipes, valves, and smaller gauges, resembling a steam engine or a sophisticated musical instrument. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background that looks like stone or metal.

# Teeandee Productions

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