

Mere Matters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

MARCH 2019

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 March at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

Mere Town Council -The Chairman Writes

The Town Council met at the beginning of February and were informed, in the public session of further difficulties with large vehicles using The Lynch. This was discussed later with several road issues but I draw attention to it because I would, again, recommend you to come to council meetings. In the public session, you can make your feelings known on local issues and draw the council's attention to them but also, in the council meeting you can hear how decisions are made and on what basis. I cannot, like Barnum, call it 'the greatest show on earth' but it is your local democracy in action and deserves your attention.

Matters 'highway' featured large and we discussed several matters which I will take forward to the next Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting where our requests are considered by County Councillors of the area (including our own George Jeans). We are pressing the cases for a width restriction for The Lynch, an improvement in the Gillingham Junction provision for pedestrians to make it safer to cross and for additional provision of dropped kerbs on Clements Lane. Mere's requests have to be considered alongside those of other communities like Tisbury and are subject to constraints of funding and highway's engineers recommendations. We have another Speed Indicator Device which is first intended to be placed along Castle Street, though it sounds a simple matter there are many constraints about where and how this is done – indeed, I have been given a 6 page guidance leaflet so it is not just knock a pole in the ground and get on with it! We are waiting for a group of councillors to meet and make some recommendations about parking in Mere but we did have draft proposals from Wiltshire Council on building two council houses on land adjacent to Castle Hill Crescent and changes to garages

Symbol keys throughout:

 Tel number,  Email,  Web address,  Mobile,  Facebook

front cover photo courtesy of Clive Norman.

there alongside the provision of more parking. This is a developing matter which will concern us again at future meetings. We heard about a series of temporary road closures for road re-surfacing in March – please find further information below.

At a site meeting in Castle Street car park, many of the councillors had seen how proposed enlargement of the old band hut by the Railway Modellers Club would affect parking and what size building it would provide (it would still belong to Mere Town). The council agreed to take the next step and find out how Wiltshire Council, who own the car park and lease it to us, would take to any development of the site. Another development that will interest residents in Mere is the 'scoping discussion' that we had with the owner of Beaumonts Business Park and Savills with regard to developing the site as 70 residences to go alongside the 'Hillbrush' development. This is still in pre-planning but we are assured that there will be a public consultation in the next month or two where you can see plans and give your opinion.

We heard from our Clerk that our tree expert had given his opinion on our groundsmens' concerns about the state of health of some of the Lime Trees in the Square. The recommendation, which we have agreed with, is to prune them back further than previously. This may be enough to save them but it may be that some will need to be replaced. We have a considerable number of trees to maintain and sadly sometimes the advice is to remove them but pleasingly we also have guidance on what replacements to make and there is a planned programme so to do – I know that many of you find our trees an important part of the pleasing ambiance of Mere.

Our next meeting is on Monday, **4th March** do come along and take part. These formal meetings are not the only ones which take place and I was pleased to hear that a group of volunteers and councillors had an excellent first meeting to establish a 'Community Resilience Plan for Mere', my thanks to them for their efforts.

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

The Town Council has received notice of temporary road closures for the Mere area. These are:

1. Notice of Temporary Road Closure to enable Tarmac to carry out carriageway reconstruction and associated works. B3095 Castle Street, Mere from its junction with Gillingham Road to its junction with Manor Road. This Order will come into operation on **18th March** and the closure will be required daily between the hours of 09.30 and 15.30 until **29th March**. Alternative route: via B3095 (unaffected length) – A303 – A350 – Out of County (Dorset).
2. Notice of Temporary Road Closure to enable Eurovia to carry out carriageway patching, reconstruction, surface dressing, road markings & associated works:
 - i. **Phase One:** B3095 (Part), Gillingham Road, Mere; from its junction with B3092 to its junction with C278. This Order will come into operation on **6th March** and the closure will be required between the hours of 09.00 and 15.00 for one day. Alternative route: via B3092 – A303 – B3081 – B3095 (unaffected length) and vice versa.
 - ii. **Phase Two:** B3092 (Part), Mere and Zeals; from its junction with Crab Lane to its junction with B3095.
 - iii. **Phase Three:** B3092 (Part), Stourton; from its junction with Crab Lane to its junction with The Street.
 - iv. **Phase Four:** B3092 (Part), Maiden Bradley; from its junction with White Sheet Lane to its junction with Bradley Lane.
 - v. **Phases Two, Three and Four:** operating **7th March** between the hours of 09:00 and 15:00 until **14th March**. Phases Two to Four Alternative routes: via B3092 (unaffected length) – A361 – A36 – A350 – B3095 and vice versa.
3. A303 Mere to Zeals westbound resurfacing works
 - i. Dates: Evening of **25th February** to morning of **20th March**
 - ii. Hours of work: Overnight 8pm to 6am Monday to Thursday and 9pm to 6am Friday.
 - iii. **Phase 1: 25 February to 5 March and 19th March** westbound overnight closure from Mere to Zeals: A303 westbound (including A303 to B3081 exit slip) – access to Castle Street will be maintained for local traffic. All other traffic will be diverted from the Furze Hedge junction (A303/A350) to travel south on the A350 then north on the B3081 to re-join the A303 westbound.
 - iv. Access to West Knoyle Services will be maintained.

- v. Laybys will remain closed 24/7 throughout the works.
- vi. In addition to the overnight slip road closures Zeals westbound exit slip (leading to B3081) will also be closed during the daytime of Tuesday, **5th March**.
- vii. **Phase 2: 6 March** to the morning of **20 March** westbound overnight closure from Zeals to Tinkers Hill
- viii. A shorter diversion route will be in place which will take traffic through Zeals via New Road to re-join the A303 at Tinkers Hill.

If you would like copies of the notices or maps of the diversion routes, please contact the Town Council via email: lindseywood@merewilts.org

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council for information on
Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.

☎ 860701, ✉ lindseywood@merewilts.org, 🌐 merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

An inaugural meeting of the '**Mere Community Resilience Group' (MCRG)** – a voluntary group together with Council members are looking at developing a plan for Mere and the immediate area in times of any major emergency, was held at the Visit Hillbrush facility.

Did you know that Hillbrush have a large function room and other rooms that are available for hire? This is another asset for the Mere area. Contact 860494. For any newcomers to Mere who may not be aware, there are other venues available, some with restrictions: The Mere Social club hall (free), The Andy Young Pavilion (Usually free for community groups), The Grove building and The Lecture Hall (No alcohol), they are all well used. I understand the school hall is available to hire for organizations as well. See diary on the centre fold for details of what goes on.

South West Wiltshire Community Safety Group at the Nadder Hall, Tisbury.

It was brought to our attention that any residents from Wilton to Mere who may have concerns regarding the misuse of drugs etc. can report information anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111, use 101 or report to their local Police. Anyone with community interest can attend these three monthly meetings. It is a good venue to meet with the emergency services and others.

Neighbourhood Watch. As an offshoot of Neighbourhood Watch, our John Hancock has kindly agreed to spend some Saturday mornings trying to sign up people in the Mere Area to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging. Once signed up the police can send alert messages directly.

Speeding. Many have concerns in this regard. If you report to 101 or 03004560100 at Wiltshire Council feedback shows that historically little is done. The advice is contact your local Wiltshire Councillor or better, attend The South West Wiltshire Area Board, who can try with your local parish or town council and obtain a MetroCount, which is a “hosepipe” across the road to monitor speed and volume of vehicles. This can lead to Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), Community Speed Watch (CSW is a group of volunteers with a speed indicator camera). It can even lead to further speed limits and speed control measures over a longer period of time.




The Old Hillbrush site is now well under development, it was advised (not conditioned) that a sign be placed at the entrance to Woodlands Road hopefully to discourage vans and larger traffic in particular from using the narrow roads towards Gillingham. I am informed this will happen.

I was present at The Mere Town Council when the owner and an agent of the old F.E. Beaumont site (adjacent to the former Hillbrush site, currently under development) attended. We were shown an outline plan for a proposal of 70 dwellings. The Town Council were asked for any information they would like to feed back. On site play areas, social housing and roads wide enough to park on while allowing others to pass were some of the requests. Should the scheme develop and planning permission be sought, the Town Council would vote on the merits of any scheme. (See plan towards rear of this publication).

The Calor Rural Community Fund gives grants up to £5,000 to off-grid communities. The scheme has £70,000 to award. Projects previously supported included redecorating village halls, funding for youth clubs and scout groups.

Former Lloyds Bank building. I am sorry Wiltshire council have agreed for the building to become 4 flats. I am sure we will welcome any new residents but, I for one, will not be extending the same welcome to any potential over spill of vehicles into the surrounding streets.

Please note the road closures listed previously.

 [cllr george jeans](#)  07710 441599  george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mere Carnival AGM

Monday 4th March 6.45pm at the **Andy Young Pavilion.** All welcome to attend to find out how our carnival is organised.

Carol Payne  861639

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

MADS' Spring Production "**Murder at Short Mere House**" is coming on a treat and has got the cast guessing whodunit, how and why; as the writer hasn't told them yet! Was it death by natural causes? Were they pushed or did they fall? but then again perhaps it was suicide, or maybe gruesome MURDER. Why are they fed up with Mutton and what have Bacon and Eggs got to do with it or Annie Hilation for that matter? Finally WHO will inherit the title under the new "Equality Act"? You will have to use your wits and pay close attention to see if you can unravel the mystery before the Inspector does. Come along and have your chance to solve the case. **Thursday - Saturday March 28th - 30th at 7.30 pm in the Lecture Hall**. Tickets, to include a light supper, will be on sale at the Library and at Sprout and Flower this month, priced at £10 each.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908

Mere Historical Society

Nathaniel Ireson of Wincanton, Architect, Master Builder, & Potter
Peter and Sarah FitzGerald

Tuesday 12th March 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Nathaniel has long deserved to be restored to his rightful place as one of the leading West Country architects of the early 18th century. Peter makes a strong case for the importance of this neglected architect-builder-entrepreneur, who became Wincanton's biggest employer and principal citizen. Members, when you come please make sure you pick up your Newsletter.

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

'Dunsterforce' by Peter Landymore.

Morning talk: **Tuesday 5th March 10.15am** in the Grove Building for 10.30am.

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

Note: our **AGM** will be on **Tuesday 2nd April 7.10pm** for a glass of wine while you pay your sub for 2019/20 which will be £10. The AGM will be followed by a talk: "Death at Porton Down, its investigation and inquest." by David Masters. Please see our website link for AGM Report to view minutes of the AGM 2018.

Caroline Cook ☎ 861797 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mere Bowling Club

“A date for all to remember”, **Saturday 20th April**, existing members are asked to be at the pavilion to renew their subs at 2pm, while prospective new members please turn up at around 2.45pm and one of our coaches will show you the ropes and have you bowling in no time. Even if you just want to see what it is all about just show up and we will do the rest, there is no pressure to join (not at first anyway!)

Also in **April** on **Saturday 27th** the Bowls Club will be hosting a 60's night with a live band and a Fish & Chip supper included in the price of your ticket, the night is all in the aid of the Rosemary Goddard Centre. So put the date in your diary. Ticket prices and details of where to get them in the next issue.

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

Mere Gardening Club Spring Show and AGM

Wednesday 13th March 7.30pm Grove Building

Schedules for this year's Spring Show are in the Post Office window and anyone is welcome to take part except for the Mere garden Club items (MGC).

Subs will be collected at the AGM and are £10. This includes 8 monthly talks, discounted shopping at local Garden Centres, summer visits, and a mid-summer Garden Party. New this year is MGC's membership of RHS which entitles us to a free visit. We are therefore planning a trip to Rosemore in June.

The AGM is a very relaxed occasion and fun as we vote for our favourite exhibits to determine the winners and while the votes are being counted there will be a fun quiz

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Don't forget to visit our website for information about all our activities and to see photos of our summer garden evening last year to remind you of warmer days!

After the success of last year's **Mini Festival**, MGC will be holding another one this year on **September 7th**. More details later.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere Rivers Group Wildlife Sightings for January

January was not a particularly cold month and so the wildlife did well and was not facing too much stress; food was reasonably abundant for our bird life and snowdrops were seen in flower! The absence of leaves on plants meant you were able to see birds clearly and we are grateful – as always – to those of you who took the effort to report them to us.

Sightings for January were:

Daily – Little Egret, a small group of Starlings, a colony of House Sparrows and between one and four Moorhens, appearing along the Shreen; Kingfisher was seen 4 times and Wren and Grey Wagtail seen twice. Single sightings were reported of Goldcrest, Dunnock, Water Rail, and a group of 4 Mallards comprising one duck and three drakes, a group of 10 magpies, a large flock of Fieldfare with a few Redwings. The Water Rail was heard calling on a separate occasion. Our beloved Water Vole was also seen once!

Nature Notes

Previously we have written about the importance of ivy for wildlife. The colony of House Sparrows and the Starlings mentioned above, live in a large ivy growth in the vicinity of the Shreen. As you may be aware, both of these birds have seen a serious decline in their numbers in recent years and now feature on the RSPB Red List which is for birds of the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. This is another reflection of how fortunate we are in Mere with the wildlife that lives with us, and how important our water courses are in supporting a diverse and threatened range of species.

As we requested in our last article, you have also reported sightings of other species seen slightly further afield, and these reports include male and female Blackcaps and a Red Kite seen flying over the town.

As always please keep your sightings coming in. We do ask for these by email, if at all possible, as it is important for us to have a written trail of people's sightings. Thank you so much!

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174 ✉ mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com

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.

Movement for the Mind

We meet on the **1st and 3rd Friday** of each month in the Grove Building, between **10.30am – 12pm**. Movement of the Mind is a very friendly gentle exercise group with singing for people living with dementia and a family partner to enjoy together. It is led by a professional and supported by volunteers. Volunteers welcome! It is one of seven groups across Wiltshire run by the charity Alzheimer's Support. ☎ 01390 739055 to book a place or find out more.

Short Walks

I will be leading a walk in the Stourhead Estate on **Friday 29th March at 11a.m.** leaving from the Visitor Reception. It takes about 2 hours and is no more than 3 miles with one steep slope and a stile. If anyone would like to join this FREE walk they should book with the Stourhead Office ☎ 842030 You do not need to be a NT member to come along

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Shreen Harmony

Shreen Harmony are well into the new repertoire for this year and will be performing at a concert at **St Mary's Church in Templecombe at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March** in aid of the Church Restoration Fund.

If you are interested in joining us do please come along on a Thursday evening to the United Reformed Church Hall, Mere 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

'READY STEADY COCOA'

Come along to my Big Brew Event during Fair Trade Fortnight **Feb 25th – March 10th** at the Angel Cafe and support all the Fair Trade producers of our everyday foods. Paul will be baking a special Fair Trade Cake and serving Fairly traded drinks throughout the day. There will be a range of goodies and crafts for Sale and a chance to order your 'Real' Fairly Traded Easter Eggs. If you are unable to come don't forget to pop in a Fair Trade goody into your shopping basket from the range at the Co-op and Show you Care during these special 2 weeks. Or come along to one of my monthly stalls (see diary). The focus this year is on the cocoa farmers providing us with our luxury food when they often do not have enough to feed their own families and have never tasted chocolate themselves!

Janet Way ☎ 860884

Community Lunch

The March lunch will be held on **Tuesday 12th March** at the George Inn at **12.30pm**. The two course meal will cost £10.95, drinks not included. The lunch is for anyone in the Community who may wish to meet more people, catch up with the local news and events etc in the town, or just enjoy a good meal in pleasant company. Please ring and book directly with the George Inn ☎ 860427 and let them know if you require any special diet.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 861646

Community Tea @ 3

The next Community Tea@3 is **20th March** at 3.00pm



Paul Farrow ☎ 860524

Mere Film Shows

Our third film will be 'First Man' [12A] which focuses on Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) and the decade leading up to the historic Apollo 11 flight. The film explores the oft-forgotten costs of the historic mission on Armstrong, his family and his colleagues. Claire Foy is also excellent as his wife and won a Golden Globe for her performance. The effects have been nominated for 4 Academy Awards. Your support, as ever, is very much appreciated. If we have enough people at a showing then we are able to make a small profit and these profits go back to the community. Last year we were able to make donations to Mere Literary Festival, Mere Carnival and to this magazine. However, reserves are limited and it would be a pity to lose our community cinema in Mere.

Therefore, it would be great to welcome even more of you this year to our films. If you have any queries then please phone me.

Date for your Film Diary: **Thursday 4th April**: Stan and Ollie

Rosie ☎ 861567

Say it with Flowers

During **Literary Festival** week **7th – 11th October** we are planning to mount a small event in St Michael's Church showing some letters each accompanied by a small arrangements of flowers.

Have you any letters that you would like to share with a wider audience? We are not looking for long epistles or private correspondence but just snippets from letters that you might have in your attic that perhaps tell a story or make us smile that you are willing to share with a wider audience. Something from the past or even recent times. The originals could be photocopied.

Elizabeth Barrett ☎ 863324 ✉ elisabeth@hillcrest.me.uk
Maggie Durkee ☎ 860163 ✉ margaretdurkee5@gmail.com

Save the date **Saturday 27th April - The Pagoda Project**, two fantastic musicians playing in the Lecture Hall with support from **Rural Arts Wiltshire** and **Mere Drama Society**. Not to be missed.

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE TOWN COUNCIL
proudly presents



First Man (12A)

One giant leap into the unknown.

with Ryan Gosling and Claire Foy.

Neil Armstrong and the legendary space mission that led him to become
the first man to walk on the moon on 20 July 1969.

in The Lecture Hall


Thursday 7th March 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***

Healthy Mere Walking

Mere March Hares

A series of walks, which touch on all of the footpaths of Mere, are being held this March. They are listed in a booklet in the library and on posters about the town and on the Healthy Mere Walking facebook page and on the website of the Mere Footpath Group. The walks vary from simple walks on the paths in town or the 'Red Arrows' walk to longer walks out in the fields and hills around Mere. They are intended to be a good introduction to walking in our lovely area with the longest being about four and a half miles or about an hour and a half walking time. DO come along and enjoy lovely Mere and bring along a friend.

A **BIGGER BOTTOM** is on its way! Watch this space for more information but put **A Bigger Bottom** in your diary on the **12th May**.



facebook.com/Healthy-Mere-Walking  merefootpathgroup.btck.co.uk

John Jordan ☎ 07840 722835

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

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

CP - Main Car Park

Drs - Surgery

GB - Grove Building

AYP - Andy Young Pav

L - Lecture Hall

Lib - Library

Lyn - Lynch Com Centre

MSC - Mere Social Club

RMC - Railway Mod Club

StM - St Michaels Church

URC - United Ref Church

1	Fri	10.00am 10.00am 1.45pm	Rhyme Time (every Fri) Movement for the Mind (Alternate weeks) Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start every Fri)	Lib GB GB
2	Sat	10.30am	10.30 – 12.00 URC Coffee Morning	URC
3	Sun			
4	Mon	9.30am 6.00pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Mon Term Time Only) Beavers & Scouts (every Mon Term Time Only) Slimming World (every Mon) Parish Council Meeting	L GB L AYP
5	Tues	10.00am 10.15am 10.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm 6.20pm	Moo Music (every Tues Term Time Only) Mere Historical Society Dressmaking Group (every Tues) Digital Champions Drop-in session Pilates (every Tues) Zumba	L GB GB Lib GB L
6	Wed	9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm 6.00pm 7.00pm	Ta-Chi (every Wed) Pilates (every Wed) Karate (every Wed) Dressmaking Group (every Wed) Railway Modellers (every Wed)	GB GB L GB RMC
7	Thur	10.00am 10.00am 1.00pm 2.00pm 3.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Hearing Aid Clinic Art Group (every Thur) Bridge Club (every Thur) Quilters (every Thur) Friendship Tea & Chatter Girlguiding (every Thur Term Time Only) Zumba (every Thur) Moviola Doors open at 7.00pm	Drs GB L GB ATR GB L L
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women <i>Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)</i>	GB
9	Sat		Coffee Morning (URC)	
10	Sun			
11	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting <i>Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)</i>	L
12	Tues	12.30pm 2.00pm 7.30pm	Community Lunch @ George Inn Mothers Union Mere Historical Society	GI GB GB

			Moo Music (L), Dressmaking (GB), Pilates (GB), Zumba (L)	
13	Wed	2.00pm 7.00pm	Friends Together Whist Gardening Club Tai-Chi (GB), Pilates (GB), Karate (L), Dressmaking (GB), Railway Modellers	GB GB
14	Thur		Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)	
15	Fri		Movement for the Mind (GB), Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	
16	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Bingo Coffee Morning (URC)	L
17	Sun			
18	Mon		Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)	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 7.00pm	Merely Women FoM Museum Quiz Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	GB GB
23	Sat	10.00am	Coffee Morning (URC) Fair Trade Stall Cancer Research Spring Fair	L
24	Sun		Fair Trade Stall (after 10.30 service)	StM
25	Mon		Tidd & Toddlers (L), Slimming (L), Beavers & Scouts (GB)	
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 Mod	GB L
28	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Production 28 th to 30 th Art (GB), Bridge (L), Quilters (GB), Girlguiding (GB), Zumba (L)	L
29	Fri	10.00am 11.00am	Merely Women Short Walk (Stourhead Visitor Centre) Rhyme Time (Lib), Duplicate Bridge (GB)	GB
30	Sat		Coffee Morning (URC)	
31	Sun			

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Spotlight on health and wellbeing services available to the community

Working with the surgery are two Care Co-ordinators and through referral from the GPs they are able to offer support to families who are coping with various long term health issues including mental health and also life style issues that may have a long term impact on their wellbeing such as diabetes, raised blood pressure, anxiety etc. They are also able to provide help toward applying for certain financial benefits such as Attendance Allowance (AA) or Disability Living Allowance now known as Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Contact the surgery for more info.

Wiltshire Council provide sessions with a dedicated health trainer in the library on alternate Tuesdays 10-12pm. Advice on offer includes:

- How to improve your general wellbeing
- Eating healthier food and being a healthy weight
- Smoking cessation
- Being more active
- Drinking less alcohol
- Blood pressure checks

As well as signposting and supporting people to access specialist services and activities the health trainer is also able to provide one to one sessions for people for six sessions building motivation and confidence to make and maintain necessary health and wellbeing changes to their life.

If you would like to refer yourself to this service please ring 0300 003 4566.

The PPG will shortly be providing further health and wellbeing presentations in the Lecture Hall. These will be:

- Prostate Awareness
- End of Life Planning – to include Bereavement, Wills and Powers of Attorney

The dates and times will be published shortly in Mere Matters and also via posters around the town.

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group ☎ 860001

Dressmaking in Mere

As we completed our course in February we all look forward to making something for Spring and Summer, with longer days to sew. We feel we have a relaxing hobby but watching “The Sewing Bee” on BBC2 with interest we are so pleased we don’t have those deadlines to meet!

Wonderful to see the BBC have realised that Dressmaking is so popular, maybe four million watching the final of the last series was a clue. If watching that has your sewing machine begging to be used do get in touch with us. Our courses are popular but somehow we manage to fit people in on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. We have a strict limit on numbers, but a waiting list is the ideal way to join us if we are full. We are happy to teach you if you are new to sewing or just want to make something that really fits.

Our next courses start on **March 5th and 6th** with a break for Easter and then a new course in May. Do get in touch if you are interested. We have had several people very new to the area so making friends and sewing is great.

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

Link Scheme - Still Wanting Drivers!

Easter Operating Arrangements: The Link Scheme service will **close on 19th April and resume on 22nd April**. Planned trips *may* be possible if notified well in advance. Our drivers have family celebrations like everyone else.



Call for Drivers: Once again we have had an increase in the number of journeys we undertake. Our coordinators need 48hours notice of any proposed trip to find an available driver. Sometimes it may be not be possible to find anyone. If you would like to know more about volunteering as a driver, ring the Link Scheme number. We have had two new drivers join recently, but we cannot have too many.

Privacy Notice: How we deal with peoples' private details is governed by the recent GDP Regulations. The formal notice of how we deal with this can be found on the Link Scheme website.

Noticeboard: You may have seen that the LitFest/Link Scheme notice board outside the Coop has been re-furbished and re-installed. Our thanks go to Elaine Noble for her handiwork.

AGM Advance Notice: The AGM will be held on **31st May** in the Grove Building at 7.00pm. There will be a talk by a speaker from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust on "Home Security".

Hamish Bell, Secretary ☎ 860096

Mere Cancer Research THE SPRING FAIR

Thoughts are turning to our two exciting events that are on the horizon. This month we are holding our **Spring Fair** in the Lecture Hall on **Saturday 23rd March**, from **10.00am** until 12 noon. A good selection of stalls will be on hand

to seek out bargains and of course, a good raffle. Please do come along and support us.

Next, we are pleased to announce that the **MAY FAYRE** is scheduled to be held in town on the **18th May** between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm. There is still a lot of planning to get done and everyone is working hard to deliver a fayre that is on a par with the events of previous years, with some additions to the programme ... more of which will be in next month's copy.

Mere Cancer Research meets in The George pub once a month. We are a friendly, welcoming group and if you want to support us, either by volunteering to help with running our various events or to join us on the committee. You will be warmly welcomed.

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

Meet the Author – March 8th

Marion Molteno is a prize-winning novelist and writer whose fiction draws on inspiration from the cross-cultural range of her life experiences. Born in South Africa she had to leave after being involved in student demonstrations, she lived in Zambia for a number of years, has worked for Save the Children and taught English to immigrant and refugee women in London. There will be the opportunity to meet her in the Grove Building at 12.00, after she has spoken to Merely Women, or the library from 1.00p.m. Bring along any books of hers you may have for her to sign or dip into one of the copies available in the library.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 🌐 meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere School



We have now completed a whole half term of work with Christmas now nothing but a distant memory! All the children are busy learning about their new topics and some have even been out and about on school trips!

We are Curious

This month Year 6 have spent the day at the fantastic 'We are Curious' science centre in Bristol. Despite the early departure time of 08.30 all the children were on the bus on time! The day was spent at the centre with the children learning all about their topic of space. They were able to watch two short films about 'Rockets' and 'The Solar System'. The rest of the day involved them engaging with a huge variety of hands on science activities. These included making their own films, creating still shadows wall prints and experimenting with falling parachutes. Oliver Puffett, a Year 6 child said "It was a great day and I learnt loads!"

Blue Class

The youngest children in the school have been busy making fantastic links with the local community. They have had lots of visits out and about in Mere and have had lots of visitors into their classroom. These have included the fire service, the police, the vet and the dentist. It was great to see them coming back from their visit to the doctors covered in bandages.....don't panic....they were role playing!

Gillingham Family Dance Festival

Five schools, including Mere took part in the annual dance festival held at Mere School this month and what a fantastic morning of dance it was! All the children performed their routines with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. Watch out for some of them appearing on 'Strictly' in years to come!

Upcoming Events:

Fridays: Open the Book sessions with members of the local church

Easter Assembly with Reverend Carol

Life Bus: Sessions for each class in personal, social and health education.

28th February: visit from Paralympics Sprinter Katrina Hart



Mereschool.co.uk

Hindon CEVA Primary School

St Mary's and St John's

Celebrating Success at Hindon Primary School

Pupils, Staff and Parents at Hindon Primary School are celebrating the start of the New Year with not only a Good Ofsted rating following a recent inspection, but also as one of the highest achieving Primary Schools in the country based on the 2018 SATs assessment tests.



The school is proud to provide a broad and balanced creative curriculum with a topic based approach to teaching and learning and a holistic approach to educating the whole child. The diverse range of learning experiences on offer at this small primary school underpins the commitment of staff to provide a valuable learning experience for all pupils.

Set in idyllic surroundings with an established Forest School and an outdoor environment where children can interact with the natural world, Hindon School provides an ideal setting where happy children learn.



Friendship Tea and Chatter.

Meet-up on First Thursday of the month at 3-4 in Angel Tea Room. Everyone welcome next date **Thursday 7th March.**

Rev Carol.

Lent Lunches 2019

The Lent Lunches will be held this year on four alternate Fridays. They will start on the **8th March** and end on **Good Friday the 19th April**. All are welcome to come along and enjoy a lunch with good company in pleasant surroundings.

The cost for a meal of soup, bread, cheese, fruit and tea or coffee is just £5 and all the money raised will go to Christian Aid and CAFOD. We welcome your support.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980 and Judy Bickerstaff ☎ 860335

Spectra Musica - What's On

Spectra Musica will be singing at St Luke & St Teresa's Church, **Wincanton** on **Saturday 30th March, 7.30pm**. '**All the Pleasures Prove**' promises to be an enjoyable evening led by Peter Leech, their talented Musical Director. Concert pianist, Anita D'Attellis, will feature throughout the evening.

Tickets priced £12, are available from 01963 350160, from tickets@spectramusica.co.uk or on the door.

Mere Town (St Michaels) Fete

Saturday **8th June** in St Michael's church ground. Meeting at Mere Social Club at 7.30 on **Thursday 7th March**. Meeting open to anyone interested in organising the fete or just taking a stall. The fete is to help pay for the upkeep of St Michael's Church. Details Rev. Carol 861859.

Fives Court

Monday 4th March–We are holding a “Time for a cuppa” coffee morning to fundraise for Dementia UK, everyone welcome to join us from 10.00am till 12.00.

Friday 8th March – We are holding a memorial service for the late Peter Gillott.- everyone welcome, and we will be serving cream teas from 11am till 12pm. (If you knew Mr Gillott and would like to attend please ring the home on 01747 860707)

Tuesday 26th March– Join us from 2.30pm till 4.30pm and the group the Sing-a-Longs to raise money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Everyone is welcome and afternoon tea and cake will be served

We are always looking to recruit volunteers for many different roles in the home. If you are interested please contact the Home Manager ☎ 860707.

Tatum Johnson 📧 tat.johnson@osjct.co.uk

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

We are looking forward to our meeting on **Tuesday March 12th** when Graham Avory will talk about the 'Transport of Delight' - the Seaton Railway. Our meeting starts at **2.30pm** in the Grove Building. Visitors are very welcome to join us.

Jenny Larder ☎ 861397

Rosemary Goddard Centre

We are very pleased to announce that we raised £411.85 through sales of the 'Our Little Corner' calendar, thank you to Steve Hawkins!

Recently we welcomed Paul Hooley, author of 'Nuremberg's Voice of Doom', to the centre who spoke about the life of Wolfe Frank, everyone found this very interesting especially given the local links. We were also entertained by 'The Singalongs' who raise funds for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, we all joined in with classic pub songs from bygone days.

Coming up, we have a trip to a local garden centre and live music from Johnny Mac to look forward to.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞 07835 272406

Letter from the Churches Rev Carol from St Michaels writes:

Brexit was going to be so easy and painless we were told in the run up to the Referendum. Just vote "leave" and we will be on our way within a matter of years and will save so much money. Instead it has turned out to be a bitter period with increases in hate crime and racism, with people being polarised into pro/leave like a mini civil war

It has caused a deep questioning of our identity – who are the Brits or for that matter who are the English? Our island geography plays an important part in that identity and our recent history too: I feel that at our roots as a nation we are still traumatised by two world wars despite our being on the winning side. Growing up in the 70s the effects of WW2 on my grandmother and parents ran deep after a short chat about family life at Sunday lunch we always returned to that same subject. TV and films didn't help: The Great Escape, Guns of Navarone, Colditz, Dad's Army etc were family culture. I'm sure many families were the same. The trauma of those wars left their mark and unlike people on continental Europe we did not work consciously at peace with former enemies. The French soon dropped antipathy between them and the Italians and Germans to build peace we, on the other hand we have niggled away at the

continentals. Playing football against the Germans is much more than beating another side in the World Cup for us English!

Our current struggles are nothing new, sibling rivalry is sewn into the story of Britain and Europe. In the Beatitudes Jesus taught to look for God's kingdom which would have a different perspective and influence than the worldly one. Yes, the path of a Christian has its challenges – but those who follow Jesus would be truly blessed. So as we wonder where we will end as a nation after Brexit, now is the time to seek divine guidance and pray for a better nation for all: fairer, more charitable and generous where all can feel valued. If we steer our nation that way, we will raise our people's self-esteem and life chances at the same time patriotically honouring those who died for our nation. Jesus' request to love our neighbour as ourselves is never easy but is always rewarding.

With blessings

Rev Carol

PS. I told our MP that we regularly pray for him and parliament and he thanked me with feeling.



MERE CRICKET CLUB

With the new season fast approaching we are on the lookout for new players, young or old regardless of previous experience.

If you fancy taking up the game or have sons or daughters or grandchildren who would like to try it out then we're the club for you! If you would like any details about when we practice and play, our junior teams or either of our two friendly sides then please either phone Mark Cassidy on 07763 001119 or Bryan Yeo on 07721 844066, or visit our website **www.merecc.co.uk**

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

1	Fri	8:00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
3	Sun	8:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship for All (30/35 mins with no communion). Evensong
5	Tues	6:00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion
6	Wed	6:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
8	Fri	8:00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
10	Sun	8:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
15	Fri	08:00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
17	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
22	Fri	08:00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
24	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion
29	Fri	08:00am	Common Worship Holy Communion
31	Sun	08:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion BCP Sunday Worship for Mothering Sunday

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 860685

3	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Colin Marsh
10	Sun	11.00am	Rev. Duncan Goldie - Holy Communion
17	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Martin Heal
24	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Dudley Coates
31	Sun	11.00am	Mr. Peter Kershaw

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	6.00pm	Evensong
17	Sun	9.30am	Matins
24	Sun	9.30am	Holy Communion
31	Sun	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Holy Com

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 apt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Wiltshire Digital Champions	1 st Tuesday	2.00pm – 4.00
Health Trainer	Alternate Tuesdays	10.00am – 12.00

Mere Information

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of “Mere Matters”, please visit  merewilts.org

Copy date for APRIL 2019 Issue

Closing date for receipt of Copy is **4:00pm on MONDAY 18th MARCH.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 from **11th March** (or earlier) via  editor@merematters.co.uk, or delivered to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU or alternatively handed into The Library, Mere in an envelope marked ‘MERE MATTERS’. Please be sure to add your name and a contact telephone number to ensure inclusion.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF FOR WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

IF you or someone you know would like to take on new or exciting challenges in 2019, then Wiltshire Air Ambulance has a choice of events.

Our bumper events calendar includes an abseil, skydive and a Snowdon challenge. As well as being a personal challenge, by taking part you will be helping us to keep saving lives.

If an abseil appeals to you, experience the thrill of a controlled descent down Avon Gorge, Bristol, on Sunday **14 April**.



You can explore the stunning landscape of Snowdonia National Park by tackling our triple challenge of cycling, climbing and kayaking on Saturday **8 June**.



If you want to see Wiltshire from a great height take part in our skydive at Old Sarum Airfield, near Salisbury, on **2 June**. Jumping in tandem with a professional instructor from either 10,000 or 15,000 feet, you can see the sights of Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge.

We are a charity and rely on donations to keep saving lives. It costs £3.75 million a year to keep the air ambulance flying and we are not funded directly by the Government and receive no National Lottery grants.

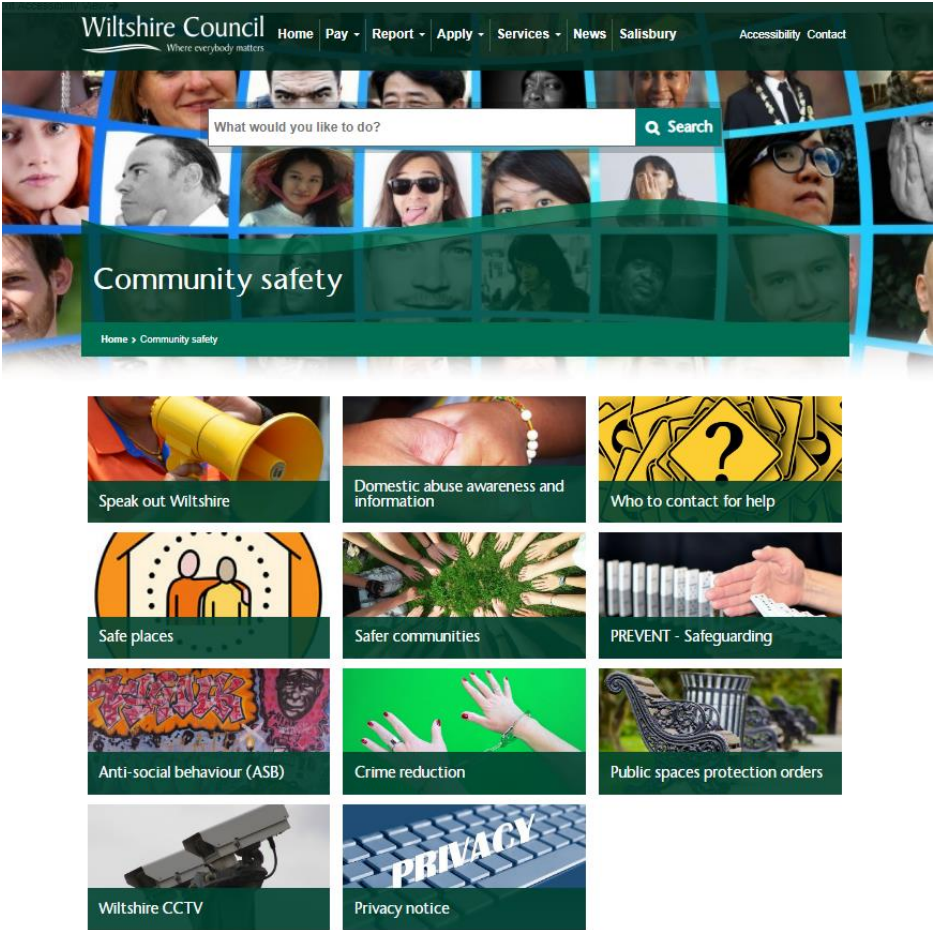
For more information about our events go to our website <https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events/> or call the charity team on 01225 300536.

Registered charity number: 1144097

Wiltshire Council Website

Have you looked at what information is available recently from the website?

Loads of local information and facts at the touch of a button. Don't have a computer? Pop into your local library and use one there.





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