

# Mere Matters

& so does

# West Knoyle



Your community magazine including  
a guide to local events

## October 2020

## Mere Town Council



The Town Council managed to hold a meeting outside in September but I fear that we may need to resort to virtual meetings for the winter given the current bleak prospects in respect of the COVID-19 risks. We will endeavour to publicise how to access and participate in these meetings on our website [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org) We will try to keep to the monthly meeting schedules i.e. first Monday of each calendar month.

Whilst we were holding our September meeting outside in the Duchy Manor grounds, we noticed that a number of people were walking through the site with dogs – some were on leads and some were not. I would like to remind you that NO DOGS are permitted in the Duchy Manor Grounds. This is for the safety of the children using the Sports Grounds. Dogs on leads are permitted in the Recreation Ground which is nearby but please remember to pick up any dog mess and put it in the bins provided. We also provide dog poo bags in the Recreation Ground. I would also like to remind residents that there are NO DOGS permitted in the cemetery. The Town Clerk has received complaints about dogs being allowed or encouraged into the cemetery also. We appreciate that these dogs may have simply escaped through the hedge and have now tried to block up any holes but please, can we ask, that you stop dogs from wandering into the cemetery.

At the September meeting the Town Council discussed the Cemetery Rules and Regulations with a view to either reviewing them in the future or adhering to the current regulations. Members agreed that the Town Council's existing Cemetery Rules and Regulations remain unchanged. The Regulations can be found on the Mere website

We had a number of people attend the meeting to air their concerns about the goings on at Burton Field (the old Nursery site). The Town Council has little powers to act in this respect as the legal issues relating to land sales and access rights etc. are all civil ones. However, we have and will continue to report any concerns relating to planning breaches, trespasses, Right of Way obstructions etc. to the relevant departments and relevant officers where possible.

At the time of writing this report we have just been informed of the closure of Fives Court Residential Home. We have expressed our extreme disappointment over this closure and the fact that there has been absolutely no local consultation. Indeed, we have expressed our anger to the Leader of Wiltshire Council and discussed our concerns with our MP, Dr. Andrew Murrison.

*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)

## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

The Fives Court closure has come as a shock to me and many others in the Mere area. A grant application to The South West Wiltshire Area Board for the Mere area, which will be on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6-30pm, mentions Fives Court Residential Home that “Wiltshire Council” are agreeing to close. As one benefactor of the possible grant, the closure is much against my wishes. No consultation was offered to me and I am informed Wiltshire Council own the ground but they cannot inform their contractor to provide the care where it is needed only that it is provided for Wiltshire residents.

When the pandemic finishes if ever, a Town the size of Mere with its elderly population, partners having to travel to Warminster to visit with practically no public transport and the possible cost of Taxies, travel time taken especially for younger working relatives, large 100 bed impersonal home, which at present has about 80 occupants and enough capacity to take those from Fives Court.

My wife when discharged from rehabilitation care was informed she would need a home, it would be anywhere in Wiltshire where space could be found. Now Warminster will be near capacity, where will the elderly and those needing care be sent in the county or perhaps outside of the county? Other private homes exist in Mere and Gillingham, Dorset (which is more joined to Mere than Warminster) however I doubt this option will be much used by Wiltshire Council.

Schools: It is proposed that Whitesheet CE Primary Academy provides for its children solely from the Zeals site and that the Kilmington site is closed permanently. Before any major decision can be made about the future of an academy there has to be consultation with those people likely to be affected by the change. The Whitesheet CE Primary Academy community will now be consulted along with all others who have an interest in the future provision of education for children in the area. This document gives background information and asks for views. It will be circulated to parents of current and prospective parents (wherever possible); local pre-school providers; staff; the Diocese of Salisbury; The Parish Council of Upper Stour; local councillors and MPs; local parish councils; Heads and Chairs of Governors of other local schools; Wiltshire Council. Copies are available from the Zeals site, through the local church, the school and Trust websites.

Land at Burton Field Mere - the old nursery site, has caused me much correspondence now the land is for sale, some having been sold. Some of the nearby trees now have Tree Preservation Orders placed on them.

HGV Signage: The last meeting of the community action transport group (CATG) discussed under agenda item d) Issue 6248 Mere Water Street/The Lynch - HGV Signing. A signing scheme to prevent HGV's from using Water Street and The Lynch will cost approximately £2000. The group agreed to fund the scheme subject to a contribution of 25% from Mere TC. Mere TC have agreed to fund

25%. This work has now been ordered and is awaiting programming by the contractor.

Mere Library is still not open despite volunteers being available, I understand October may see it open again for reduced hours.

Highway's Maintenance: Last month I stated "I have had complaints of the poor quality minor highway repairs", one being from West Knoyle Parish Councillors. I now have complaints from some Kilmington Parish Councillors regarding the poor quality of the latest resurfacing of The Street, Kilmington.

Public rights of way, Footpaths and bridleways are being well used at present and especially during lockdown. I have received many complaints regarding condition, types of use and so on." I would like to explain this is no reflection on Mere's excellent footpath group. Examples of complaints to me being are more with regard to the surface condition of The Meads and Burton footpath that at one time was hard topped and is now in poor repair. Persons blocking footpaths, crossing them with vehicles (legally in many cases), poor condition of some pavements and so on.

On a brighter note some street lights are being replaced by more efficient LEDs and hopefully more reliable.

Please use [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.

*George Jeans* 📞 07710 441599 [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk)

---

### Mere Amateur Dramatics Society

MADS members are very pleased to announce that...well, a production is not exactly in rehearsal, yet, but we are considering various ideas currently effervescing right, left and centre for the next steps forward for MADS (along the lines of last month's dramatic proposals). Looking forward with positive intent is our plan and so far said plan is working well and keeping us all occupied and excited about the dramatic possibilities we may present as soon as circumstances permit and we can bring a little bit of normality back into our lives. As we said last month, we're working on it! We do hope that members will support the MADS committee in wanting to look positively forward rather than hesitantly back, and it is greatly to be hoped that in the next issue of Mere Matters, we shall have some genuine news to report!"

*Jenny Wilding* 📞 860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)

---

### *Quote from one of our Local Resilience Volunteers:*

"I didn't offer to support with the expectation of thanks, but I have very much appreciated when people have said thank you and that they are glad that I (on behalf of the scheme) have been there".

## Mere Local Resilience to Covid-19



As a community we have been fortunate to avoid most of the horrors of the virus. As the number of infections increase nationally, let's hope that we continue to stay on the periphery.

At the outset of our response to the pandemic, we established a small team of Telephone Coordinators who would be the first port of call for

anyone requiring help. They have been in this role for some 6 months taking enquiries and allocating other volunteers to assist with collecting prescriptions and getting basic shopping for people who have been unable to go out themselves. One of that team has had to pull out to return to work. (Latest list on rear cover).



It is no surprise that most people requiring help have established good working relationships with the individuals who have supported them – new friendships even. As time has progressed the calls for help to the Telephone Coordinators has reduced, people have become more independent and those continuing to require assistance are supported by their own long term 'buddy'.

Should anyone suddenly find themselves having to self-isolate then rest assured that the helpline team of volunteers still exists along with all the other volunteers who can still be deployed to assist you.

As the situation changes be assured that we are ready to respond.

There are occasions where the volunteers have really put themselves out there to help. Repeated queueing for prescription collections, waiting in line outside the shops has all put them at risk. They are a wonderful bunch of people giving freely of their time and petrol in some cases. They don't have to do it.

We all stood on our doorsteps to clap for the NHS workers but if you have

received help from someone in the community – have you said thank you to them? A little appreciation goes on long way!



Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 📠 07950 797273 [rajefferies@btinternet.com](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)

### From Mere Surgery

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, how you contact the surgery will be different at the moment. This is to limit face-to-face contact whenever possible and help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Mere Surgery is open and if you need to see your GP, please ring us on 01747 860001 or contact us through our website [www.meresurgery.co.uk](http://www.meresurgery.co.uk)

You can also call NHS 111.

If you are waiting for a check-up, please be assured we will be in touch

Appointments are being delivered face-to-face and available to all patients, online and over the telephone. You may be asked to discuss your conditions over the phone or online first to assess what would be most appropriate for you.

Please do not come to the surgery unless you have a booked appointment and avoid arriving early for an appointment as we are trying to limit footfall within the surgery.

Please remember you can register for online access or download the NHS App to request repeat prescriptions or book an appointment.

If you are asked to come into the surgery for a face-to-face appointment, please remember to wear a face covering, sanitise your hands as you enter the surgery and respect the current social distancing guidance.

Measures are in place to keep you safe from infection during your visit to the surgery.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding at this time.

*The Doctors at Mere Surgery ☎ 860001*

---

### Warminster Food Bank

If you, or you know of someone in need of an emergency food box please contact either Rev Carol Green ☎ 861859 or George Jeans 📞 07710 441599.

*Penny Fennon 📞 07833 131712 (after 6pm please).*

---

### Mere Theatre Club

There are small glimmers of light on the horizon - at the time of writing, the Theatre Royal Bath are putting on 3 excellent plays this autumn with many safety measures. The Bristol Old Vic are also putting a foot in the water, do look at their website. As with all theatres, the situation is fluid at best.

Sadly, we will not be organising any trips as a group of 6 wouldn't be viable, even if it were advisable. We live in hope for next year. Stay safe.

*Madeline Morris ☎ 861833 [madsmorris@gmail.com](mailto:madsmorris@gmail.com)*

---

### Patient Participation Group

Mere PPG is a body, made up of volunteers, which acts as a liaison between the GP surgery and the local community. The group supports the surgery and gives feedback on local needs and issues. Under normal circumstances, the PPG also runs health promotion events.

Many of the original members have now stood down at the end of their term and we would appreciate any new blood! We have a new Chair and are looking for a Treasurer (not very onerous), Secretary (required to take the minutes every other month which can be done straight onto a computer) and new Committee members generally. Any patient from the surgery can volunteer. The commitment is only a bi-monthly meeting and other communications are by email. There is a maximum term of 3 years, but we welcome anybody for less time. Contact **Michele Mason** at the surgery on 01747 860001 for an application form. This is a very good way to engage with the community of Mere and support our excellent GP surgery.

### **Keeping well in winter – 5 top tips**

Winter always sees a rise in illnesses, so is there anything you can do to try and stay as healthy as possible?

#### **1. Keep warm**

The NHS recommend heating your home to at least 18°C if you're over 65 or have a health condition. For babies, a temperature of 16-18°C is considered ideal and for everyone else it's a matter of maintaining a temperature that you feel comfortable at.

#### **2. Stay hydrated**

Our bodies are around 60% water. As we use this water and expel it (e.g. in sweat and urine), we need to make sure that it's replaced so that our bodies work effectively. Aim for at least 6-8 glasses of fluid per day to stay hydrated.

#### **3. Keep moving**

Staying active is known to keep us all healthier. It helps avoid weight gain, boosts mood and reduces the risks of many diseases. The NHS recommend that we aim to do 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise a week or 30mins/day on 5 days of the week.

#### **4. Eat well**

Eating a healthy balanced diet is the best way for your body to get all the nutrients it needs to function as well as possible, including keeping your immune system ready for action. It also helps us to maintain a healthy weight, alongside exercise. Try to eat a balance of all the 5 main food groups. Include whole grains and eat at least 5-a-day of fruit and veg. See the Eatwell Guide on NHS.uk for more detailed information.



## 5. Put the D into your diet

Vitamin D is known for being important for the health of our bones, teeth and muscles. The Department of Health recommend that everyone from the age of 5 in the UK considers taking a 10µg supplement of vitamin D per day in the autumn and winter months, as our bodies are not able to make enough from sunlight at this time of year (Oct to early March). Different amounts are recommended in infants and children at different ages - visit NHS.uk for more info.

---

### Link Scheme

The Link Scheme continue to operate and we even have a few new drivers to help keep things moving. More drivers needed please

*John FitzGerald, Chair ☎ 860096*



---

### Friends of Mere Museum

Readers may be encouraged to know that the Committee of the Friends of the Museum, like other Mere community groups, are planning in the near future to consider various thoughts and ideas that have arisen during lockdown. One of these is of course how we shall eventually celebrate our 30th anniversary! For now, as we haven't been exactly overwhelmed by ideas for a virtual celebration, perhaps we should just raise a glass of whatever takes our fancy on Sunday October 4th 2020, the anniversary date of our inaugural meeting.

Since then the Friends have raised thousands of pounds for the Museum and perhaps we can quietly cheer them on to raise thousands more!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)*



## Pennybank Writers

*Members miss the monthly meeting but keep in touch by email and phone with news of writing achievements, competitions and a literary quiz.*

*The future being somewhat hazy here are some PennyBank words set in the past and present.*

### PEASEHILL

The steepness of this gently rising hill would surprise those who followed the trodden path to its summit. From there you had a bird's eye view of Mere; old stone cottages at its base, more along the river, the jumble of town-house roofs in red-brown clay or slate grey, and the square tower of St. Michael's church with its gold- flagged pinnacles at each corner. If you stood on tip-toe and squinted you could imagine yourself higher than Castle Hill and certainly equal to its consort, Long Hill, strung out to the west.

Peasehill, the perfect childhood playground for myself, my brother and friends. A few steps from our back gate and we were under the watchful eye of men working their allotments behind Gladstone Terrace and close enough for mother to call us home. In springtime Peasehill was covered in cowslips, enough to gather a basketful for making wine without appearing to diminish their number one jot. In summer we watched the haymaking and played among the sweet smelling ricks on Peasehill's other side. Autumn would see us sneak under the boundary wire into adjoining fields to go gleaning which helped feed the chickens for a while. And when snow fell in winter, sledges, tin trays or bits of old lino were hauled to the top for the thrill of a quick, cold descent.

As we grew, my brother and I ventured further afield using Peasehill as the way to Plantation, the HQ of our gang, or to Mere Knoll where we took our dogs in the hope of catching a downland rabbit for dinner. (They tasted far better than those caught on the clay!) Our mother and her brothers had played and walked on Peasehill. It was here that they took a last look at Mere and the family cottage before leaving to work away or going off to war. And Peasehill had once been a familiar sight to travellers because at its foot was the old coach road which ran from London to

Exeter. I'm convinced that Peasehill is the hill shown on an old print of coach travel through Mere and not Castle Hill, which is an entirely different shape.



In latter years, as small farms disappeared, Peasehill became waste land but this neglect meant it became a haven for wild life. There were anthills, lizard colonies in abundance, wild orchids, spiders, grasshoppers, butterflies and badgers. The

grass quivered with life as it had in earlier times. People walked there, re-established the old paths and valued the views. Alas, such land is valuable and, in spite of attempts to register it as a village green, it became a site for housing. Peasehill was cut away, reduced, diminished, no longer a rival to Castle Hill, even its name now gone.

I once thought the name unique but now find there are Peasehills all over the British Isles and in America. The name most certainly derives from the making of pease-pudding, a thick sauce-like dish made from dried peas. This was a staple food in the Middle Ages which kept famine at bay. It could be eaten hot or cold, often with boiled bacon, and reheated as often as required as the old rhyme tells us:

*Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold,  
Pease pudding in the pot, nine days old.  
Some like it hot, some like it cold,  
Some like it in the pot, nine days old.*

Any hill which caught most of the day's sun – as did our Peasehill- would be used for drying the peas for this important food. There are many places, roads, public buildings, houses and hotels which commemorate this bit of history with the name Peasehill but, alas, not in Mere.

Adrienne Howell

MY FAVOURITE THINGS  
*Music.'*

*To be sung to the tune from 'The Sound of*

Deck chairs and beach huts  
And brine covered toeses,  
Sun cream and suntan  
And red peeling noses,  
As bright coloured parasols twirl in the wind  
There's no doubt that summer's my favourite thing!

It's the season, it's the reason I don't feel so bad.  
When I run through the sand  
And splash in the sea,  
Summer sets me free.  
As bright coloured parasols twirl in the wind  
There's no doubt that summer's my favourite thing!

Tony Davies

### Mere Rivers Group - Wildlife Sightings for August 2020

At the time of writing it is the beginning of September. We are hoping that you had a really good August. It was a variable month weather-wise; very hot at the beginning until storm Francis brought in rain and wind. This was followed by more normal, changeable summer weather.

August is normally a quiet month for wildlife, due to birds moulting and young birds and mammals leaving their parents. Moulting birds and newly lone young both tend to be shy and secretive so not so visible! As a result there were not a lot of wildlife sightings reported.

Sightings were:

Moorhen family seen daily, kingfisher seen seven times, water vole seen twice.

Seen once were: spotted flycatcher, comma butterfly, grey heron

### Nature Notes

In August you reported sightings round about the Town including great tits, blue tits, long tailed tits, nuthatch and bullfinches, jersey tiger moth, elephant hawk moth caterpillar and slow worms. Most excitingly, one of the slow worms was pregnant. As a point of interest, the young are born live, in an egg case

There won't be a Mere Rivers Group article in the November edition, which means our next article will appear in the December issue of Mere Matters and this will include your September and October sightings!

September and October are very good months for looking out for wildlife because of the amount of fruit and nuts available. You will have noticed that our hedgerows are bursting with fruit, oak trees are full of acorns and there is a good crop of nuts on the hazels!

Do keep your eyes open and please let us know if you see anything of interest and it will be included in our November article. Happy viewing! Thank you!

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

---

### Clearway at Sheerwater Lake

Like me, you may have missed the terribly small and overgrown signs on the road which abuts Sheerwater Lake. Evidently the road is a strictly no parking area and many were recently caught out. I escaped fortunately – whew!



## Mere Historical Society

It remains unclear when the Grove Building will be able to re-open and our talks programme can start. In the meantime, we have been thinking about our summer programme of visits. Even if we cannot run our usual full programme, we will try to run something, albeit much reduced.

With our 50th Anniversary in April 2022 approaching, you may like to read some long-standing members' recollections of our Society's early years, starting with those of one of our founder members' Dr David Longbourne.

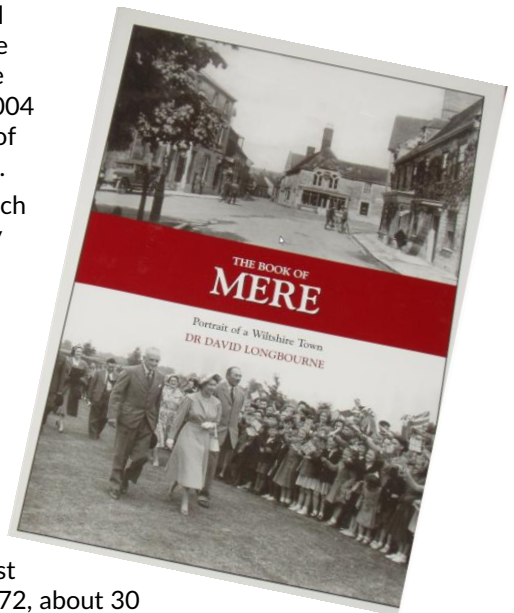
### Mere Historical Society – How it began

In a 1956 competition, Mere Women's Institute compiled a "Scrapbook" on the history of the town and, under the leadership of Miss Joyce Rutter, it was used to put together a local history book entitled "The Story of Mere" which was published in 1958. In 1975 a shorter local history book for Mere – "Mere, a Wiltshire Country Town" – was produced under the leadership of Mrs. Norah Rutter and in 2004 David wrote another up-to-date version of Mere's history called "The Book of Mere".

In 1970 the vacant former school in Church Street was used for a new County Library and it was suggested that it might also house a museum of local history. David asked that with a new museum, three or four showcases might be spared from the county's furniture store, and this wish was granted. Once the museum was up and running it was evident that a separate society was needed to provide a talks programme using the material that was accumulated by local research.

At Mere Historical Society's first meeting in Mere Library on 20th April 1972, about 30 people signed up as members paying an annual subscription of 50p. Christine Wallis was elected as Secretary, a post she held for 20 years with great distinction.

Another member, Joan Sutton who moved to Mere in 1977, joined the Society in 1981. She had worked at Heathrow which had the relatively egalitarian values of London and recalls the Society when she joined as rather amusing and to her eyes somewhat feudal. She recalls that when she joined the library had a completely different layout from today. At meetings all the members helped put out chairs in an arc facing what is now the librarians' desk. The front row was



strictly for the committee and it seems that the women on the committee felt they should have their hair done that day and were smartly dressed. To Joan's eyes their hair style made them look just like a row of Queen Elizabeth clones. She also remembers that if the speaker came from a distance, a member of the committee would meet the train if that was how they were coming, take them home, put them up for the night, give them a good dinner and breakfast, and deposit them at the station the following morning. That was still the practice when Caroline joined the committee in 2004 and Mike Hannon was Chair.

With our anniversary approaching we would welcome further recollections from members.

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

---



Our mid-August outdoor coffee morning, which took place just after the deadline for September Mere Matters, rather to our surprise, was an especially joyful and successful event. Heavy rain had been forecast, but instead we had bright warm sunshine all the morning. To keep within guidelines, we had an early group and a later group, and we were busy all the morning. It was so good to be able to welcome people and everyone seemed happy to be together (at a distance!) and supporting a good cause. The Bring & Buy stall, together with generous donations, made the remarkable sum of £251

Encouraged by the success and appreciation of this event, we had hoped to hold a tea-and-cake afternoon in mid-September, but the Rule of Six, sadly, put paid to that – and most other fund-raising events for the time being. However we have plans for a cake stall in the Square and maybe, a craft stall nearer to Christmas, guidelines permitting. Suggestions (and donations) will be very gratefully received.

Meanwhile Covid-19 is still on the rise in India, but lockdown is being relaxed a little, and there are hopes that Suchana may reopen in October. The Suchana teachers and volunteers are keeping in touch with the children in scattered communities, and providing support where they can, as well as continuing to prepare first-language story books and other teaching resources. They are very grateful for the continuing good support from the people of Mere.

*Judith Thompson ☎ 860553 [judithvthompson@aol.com](mailto:judithvthompson@aol.com)*

---

## Editorial

I was speaking to the retired Rev Ben Elliott not too long ago who was one of the founders of Mere Matters. I won't say it was produced using a quill pen on parchment as he is nowhere near that old but it was a very different publication then compared to now. When I took over the 'pen' from Graham Avory we moved to printing in colour and on better quality paper and even saved money as well.

The publications are only possible through monies raised from the competitively priced advertising and by donations from various groups, organisations and individuals.

2020 has been an exceptional year and has presented us with many challenges, of which I fear, there are more to come. With the exception of the May edition, when I was busy coordinating the Town Council's volunteers, we have published as normal; latterly hand delivering the copies to every residence in Mere (thanks again to all those who continue to help).

Mere Matters remains at the centre of our community and whilst we currently have a reasonably healthy set of accounts I would ask especially those organisations and groups who depend upon the publications, to review and where possible perhaps reinstate your donations.

*Richard Jefferies* ☎ 863425 📠 07950 797273 [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)

---

### Quote from one of our Local Resilience Volunteers:

"I am glad to have done it. It's not wholly altruistic – I have gained as well, particularly at the beginning when there was such a sense of feeling overwhelmed and helpless, it was a direct, tangible way in which I knew I was doing something."




## Life in Mere

A new illustrated history called '*Life in Mere*' is now on sale, with all proceeds going towards the repair of the pinnacles of our parish church. It is researched and illustrated from entries in the Churchwardens' Accounts for St. Michael's Mere which begins in 1556, near the end of the reign of Mary Tudor through to the mid nineteenth century. Our accounts are amongst the earliest and most complete in the country.

Far from being the sort of dry financial document you might expect, the detail of how money was raised and spent centuries ago allows a glimpse of everyday concerns – not just for the church but for Mere as a whole.

# Life in Mere

1556 - 1853



*Learn about everyday life in Mere, based on written evidence from the Churchwardens' Accounts.*


Mere Market House 1804

KATE SYMONDS

## £5

all proceeds donated to the appeal to repair the pinnacles of our church.

**Order by phone:** 01747 863324  
**or email:** [elisabethbarrett4@gmail.com](mailto:elisabethbarrett4@gmail.com)



From the accounts we can learn fascinating, and sometimes amusing, detail of how people in Mere lived, maintained their parish church, cared for the poor both locally and nationally, and how they celebrated – often with copious amounts of alcohol!

Order by phone: ☎ 863324 or email: [elisabethbarrett4@gmail.com](mailto:elisabethbarrett4@gmail.com)



### The Butt of Sherry Preservation Society

It is still a difficult time in terms of the pandemic but we at the BoSPS have remained busy trying our hardest to keep the Butt as a pub even though the efforts that have been put in have at times been super human.

It is a rollercoaster and we are aware that the new owners have been looking for a new landlord but obviously with the current situation it's not surprising that as of this time they have not been successful. Should you or anyone you know be interested in running a pub please contact us either via my Email or the BoSPS Facebook page and we will put both parties in touch with each other.

We have further been informed this morning that a planning application has been submitted for a 3 x double bedroom dwelling which is described as a holiday let to be built on the end of the beer garden on Castle Hill Lane. This is a part of the Mere Conservation area and we are totally against this type of development and would ask all those interested to oppose any efforts to build this structure within the pubs boundary.

It is also worth mentioning that the Mere Benefit Society as per their promise should they not be successful in purchasing the pub, have some funds remaining which is to be given to local good causes or charities. If you would like to see any organisation benefit from these funds please use the contact details below and we will allocate as appropriate.

If you are interested in getting in touch, please contact us on the Butt of Sherry Preservation Society facebook page or alternatively via [melvinwilkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:melvinwilkinson@hotmail.com) or [secretary@merecbs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@merecbs.co.uk) and your communications will be passed to the committee or current owners.

---

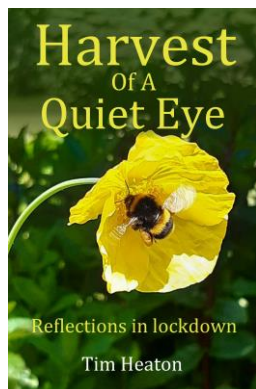
### A Fair Trade Harvest

Come along outside the Post Office on the morning of **October17th 8.30am – 12.30pm** for the opportunity to win a Fair Trade Hamper to celebrate all the smallholders around the world who grow and supply our daily needs. At the same time you will be supporting my trek along The Pilgrim's Way in celebration of my 40 years association with the Fair Trade Movement. As I write this I have already completed a third of the route from Winchester and will hopefully reach Canterbury (depending on any new Covid restrictions) by 10th October.



*Janet Way* ☎ 860884

---



On Tuesday, 17 March 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic took hold across the UK, the Archbishop of Canterbury announced that public worship in the Church of England would be suspended to help slow the spread of the virus.

The following day, and every day thereafter until public worship resumed on Sunday, 5 July, the author emailed a short “thought for the day” to everyone in his church family.

And so it was that for a strange one hundred and nine days in the spring and summer of 2020 these reflections came into being. They tell the story of a peculiar time, a period first of fear and later of hope, a time of soul

searching, of seeking a greater future for humanity, and dreaming of the better life we would one day resume.

Available now from Amazon. £1.99 Kindle or £4.99 paperback.

All royalties received – minimum £1 per book – will be donated to the parish churches of Gillingham, Milton on Stour and Silton.

*2 extracts from the book to give you the flavor .....*

Day 69

Monday, 25 May

I saw a Holly Blue in the meadow behind the house on our walk this morning – easy to identify, the only blue butterfly you're ever likely to see in all of Europe. A beautiful thing, a sign of the kingdom. Its caterpillars feed on the flowers and fruits of holly and ivy, which I suppose is why it's called a Holly Blue. We've got a holly tree in the back garden, so we're lucky. Holly and ivy. The Passion of Christ and everlasting life. Just made me think of Christmas. Will life be back to normal by then do you think? Will our Christmas services be just as they were last Christmas?

Day 70

Tuesday, 26 May

It was reported last week that global daily emissions of carbon dioxide in early April were down 17 per cent on average compared to 2019 levels. In the UK, the drop was a staggering 31 per cent. This is the “green lining” or “green dividend” of coronavirus. There is evidence already that more lives have been saved in China by cleaner air than were lost to Covid-19. The call now is for a “Reset”, the necessity for these levels to be maintained after the pandemic has passed. It will mean making personal sacrifices, it will mean going without, it will mean doing things differently. Just how far are we prepared to go with that?

*The Reverend Tim Heaton* 📞 841076

## MyWilts. goes live on Tuesday 22 September



We are excited to announce we be going live with our new online reporting system, MyWilts on Tuesday 22 September.

The new system replaces the previous MyWiltshire, which was introduced in 2013. MyWilts allows you to report issues such as:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Fraud
- Weather emergencies
- Fly tipping
- Dog mess
- Graffiti

Over time we will be adding more services to the app and website, making it simpler, quicker and easier for you to access our services digitally, when you choose to.

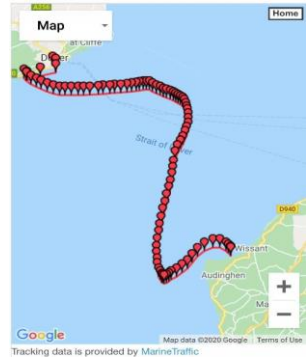
The new MyWilts will be available shortly via your internet browser,

App Store (Apple) and Google Play (Android).

## St Michael's Appeal

Channel Swim successful and nearly £1000 raised for St Michaels. Mark, Simon, Kirsty and Andy swam the channel in relay taking 13 hours and 57 minutes. They overcame currents, tides, the wake of tankers, exhaustion and the primitive toilet on the boat. The swim started at 1am and Mark's first turn in the water was 4.20am. The sea temperature was max. 18/19 degrees but the night time air temp fell to 11.

The map shows the route the swimmers took closely shadowed by the Sea Leopard boat. They covered around 46 miles instead of the 21 miles as the crow flies and Andy in the middle was the one who swam and landed on the beach in France.



The photo is 3 of the team stood under the statue of Captain Matthew Webb who was the first person to solo swim the channel. A big thank you to everyone who has donated to this cause, we are really grateful. The current sum is nearly £1000 which is amazing. Donations are still being accepted on

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/swimstmichaels>

Or to the Honorary treasurer Nigel Leek, 11 Walnut Road, Mere, BA12 6FG 07788858985 cheques payable to the PCC of Mere.

*Thank you Rev Carol*

**Booking Meeting Venues**

<b>Grove Building:</b>	Graham Ward	
<b>Lecture Hall:</b>	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
<b>URC Church Hall:</b>	Eileen Burfitt	☎ 860685

**Mere Information Point @ The Library**

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

<b>Wiltshire Dementia Adviser Service</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Friday</b>	<b>2.00pm – 4.00pm</b>
<b>Registrar of Births &amp; Deaths</b>	By appt. only Thursdays	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
<b>Health Trainer</b>	Last Tuesday in month	10.00am – 12.00pm

**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](https://www.merewilts.org)

---

### Church Contact Details

#### *The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:*

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) Saturday is Rest day

Churchwarden: Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 861646

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

**St Michael's and St Mary's** are open for Sunday services but in a limited way. Access to St Michael's is through the door beneath the Tower and just inside there is hand sanitiser. There is social distancing and face masks need to be worn for all services. Safe seating is indicated by a notice. Communion bread only is given after the priest has carefully sanitised their hands. Congregational singing is still not permitted but there is music.

St Michael's remains open all day Sunday for private prayer. We are conducting modest weddings and funerals for not more than 30 people.

Harvest service a small choir will sing.

Grove Building please contact Graham Ward to book, we are taking each application on an individual basis.

#### **St Michael's services**

4th October 10.30 Harvest Service – please bring Foodbank donations

11th October 8am (BCP) and 10.30 short service followed by Annual Meeting

18th October 10.30 (CW) St Luke's Day Communion with prayers for healing

25th October 8am (BCP) 10.30 (CW) Communion Preacher Jane Hurd

#### *West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:*

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) Saturday is Rest day

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

#### **St Mary's Services**

4th October 9.30 DIY

11th October 4pm Harvest in Bison Farm

18th October 9.30 HC (BCP)

25th October 9.30 Matins



*All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley*

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Green ☎ 861859

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk) Saturday is Rest day

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

*The United Reformed Church*

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

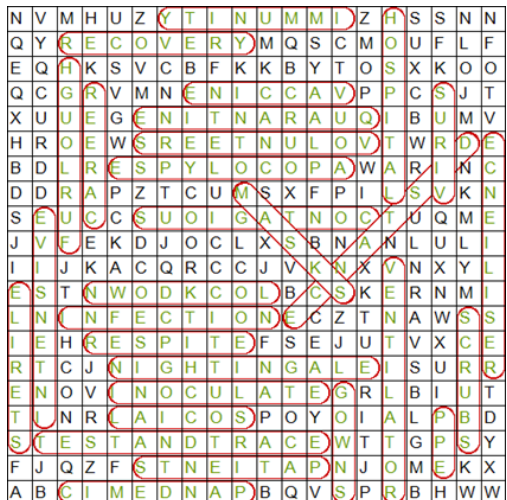
*The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.*

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 01963 34408

[hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Answers to September's  
wordsearch



**Copy date for November 2020 Issue - CHANGE TO SCHEDULE!**

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on MONDAY 19th October. Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk) or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

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

# ‘Normal’ Activities In Mere

L S B T J H O L R Y F B L B C J S J X V I W C L D  
 V S U P F R S R H K H K F G H H G M M O S I V S H  
 O U J M A X K G H D D A H B O N D O B C S Z R R M  
 J F C M I A D E Q B N H I R I S V C O U V E S B G  
 I M Z O R E R H N R T M T D R I C U M Q L U Z U N  
 H E O T T N Y E G Z H W I E O S T O H D M Y U L I  
 Z R F H R Y L S S H A U T L S S O U D X F N M C M  
 E E T E A V S V W L G I A U F M E O A Q Z U B E M  
 E M W R D R N F K L R G C Z T X T T Z Y T S A G I  
 X U B S E O W S R W S H O L D & K H Y W R B Z D L  
 O S L U K Y C I K Y A R Z C S A B P Y E T I U I S  
 U E B N H Z G N F N I W L R R P V I T T A P H R Z  
 M U H I I J A X A M H J E A V O W L P P R N C B M  
 O M Y O S B U S M O U L T E I C I A I E J L N E O  
 J K Q N Y Z H R H Z D E I E W U M T N W M U U T A  
 D C F N F P N Y P D I B D V Q V W E Q O E S L A S  
 B T N U Y V S L I I N U L I R O N S Q Y G Y Y C I  
 P E Z Y G T J T U Y M N E M O W Y L E R E M T I S  
 P Z Q K O E M I T E M Y H R H U S L D N T Q I L B  
 S J T X Y T E I C O S L A C I R O T S I H J N P I  
 O V V D C A N R E H T E G O T S D N E I R F U U N  
 C D E T X 3 @ A E T F Y L P I I I N O R N J M D G  
 K M P E G Q J W I N R H N X N X R A O I V W M R O  
 S R E L L E D O M Y A W L I A R S T S I H W O G P  
 M O P U O R G T R A D C H Q H E X F W B A J C K H

ART GROUP  
 COMMUNITY LUNCH  
 DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB  
 FAIR TRADE  
 FRIENDS TOGETHER  
 GIRL GUIDING  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 KARATE  
 MERE MUSEUM

MERELY WOMEN  
 MOO MUSIC  
 MOTHERS UNION  
 MOVIOLA  
 OASIS BINGO  
 PENNY BANK WRITERS  
 PILATES  
 QUILTERS  
 RAILWAY MODELLERS

RHYME TIME  
 SCOUTS  
 SHORT WALKS  
 SLIMMING  
 SUCHANA  
 TEA @ 3  
 TIDDLERS & TODDLERS  
 WHIST  
 ZUMBA

*Answers in the next edition*

Telephone Coordinators:    Local Resilience Group for Covid-19

Name	Home Phone	Mobile
Ann Rich	01747 861493	07413 512023
Isabel Page	01747 860297	
Jane Batten	01747 860583	
Joanne King		07740 858923
Mary Wilson	01747 229609	07550 076240
Rachael Hansford	01747 860168	07989 470278
Rose Heesom		07791 559674
Roy Beavis		07878 903178

If you are self-isolating and have absolutely no other family, friends or neighbours who can help you, then please contact one of these volunteers between the hours of 8.00am - 6.00pm.

Or contact:

Richard Jefferies    01747 863425    ☎ 07950 797273

✉ [rajefferies@btinternet.com](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)

## Advice on car sharing

At this time please **avoid car sharing**, but if you have to, please follow these simple steps



Share with the same small group only



Sit as far away as possible



Keep windows open



Wear face coverings



Wash hands or use sanitiser before and after your journey



Clean the car after every journey (including handles)



# Teeandee Productions

**Web Design**

**Promotional Videos  
and Computer Services**

Email: [tim@teeandeeproductions.com](mailto:tim@teeandeeproductions.com)  
Tel: 07799 325214