

# Mere Matters



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## West Knoyle

Your community magazine

**May 2021**

*Cover photograph with kind permission from Anne Marie Long.  
Have you some good front cover photos? Send them in please.*

## Mere Town Council

In April we held what we think will be our last Zoom meeting. (At the present time, we are waiting to hear from central government on how we should proceed with holding Council meetings but it is thought that there is no wish to extend powers to hold virtual Council meetings).

Our Annual Town Council meeting will be held on **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May** – this is a week later than our normal scheduled Town Council meeting because, in a year of elections of Town Councillors, we are required to hold the Annual meeting of the Town Council within 14 days after the day on which councillors take office.

On the subject of elections, I'm sure I don't need to remind you all that elections will take place on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** and our polling station will be in **The Lecture Hall** – the hours of poll will be between 7 am and 10 pm. Mere Town Council has 15 seats and 17 people have been nominated to stand as Town Councillors – it therefore follows that a contested election will take place for Mere Town Council. You will be asked to vote for the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner, your local Wiltshire Councillor and your Town Councillors at the same time. The elections are your opportunity to vote for councillors of your choice who will work on your behalf for the next four years. Please make time to vote.

Nominations for Town Councillors are:

<i>Debbie Bealle</i>	<i>Nicholas Bealle</i>	<i>Louise Bennett</i>	<i>Aubrey Colman</i>
<i>Philip Coward</i>	<i>Rodney Coward</i>	<i>Rachael Hansford</i>	<i>Clive Hazzard</i>
<i>Raymond Hill</i>	<i>Glen Ings</i>	<i>George Jeans</i>	<i>John Jordan</i>
<i>Eric Mitchell</i>	<i>Sandra Rose</i>	<i>Linden Stone</i>	<i>Kate Symonds</i>
<i>Lesley Traves</i>			

Further details can be found at:

[https://merewilts.org/?lsvr\\_notice=mere-statement-of-persons-nominated](https://merewilts.org/?lsvr_notice=mere-statement-of-persons-nominated)

Two of our current Town Councillors have decided not to stand for re-election – Brett Norris and Roy Sims. Both these people have worked hard for the benefit of Mere and its residents for a number of years - Brett has been a past Chairman of the Town Council and Roy has represented the Town Council on numerous groups and committees – we would like to take this opportunity to thank you both for all the time and effort that you have given to the town.

Clive Hazzard,  
Chairman, Mere Town Council



## **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:

Michael, Joy & Grandchildren	Post lady Alison	Mrs. Jane Hurd
Mr. & Mrs. T. White	Mr. & Mrs., East	Frank & Geraldine Legge
Chris Mills	Mere Bowling Club	

One tub sponsored in memory of John 'Gripper' Hancock

One tub sponsored in memory of Millie Ann Sims

## **Litter Pick in Mere**

As part of the **2021 Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean** a community litter pick is taking place in and around Mere on **Sunday 23rd May 2021** at 10 am.

Litter picking equipment will be provided, including gloves and hi-vis vests.

COVID-19 health and safety precautions will be in place for this event.

If you would like to take part in the litter pick please contact Mere Town Council 01747 860701 or email [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org).

If you cannot join us then, please help keep Mere beautiful by using our litter bins or taking your litter home.

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

## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Like most, I was saddened to hear of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh. The Union flag was lowered to half-mast on all Wiltshire Council buildings as a mark of respect. Wiltshire Council opened an online book of condolence to leave messages and share memories. Wiltshire last had the pleasure of HRH's company at The Orders of St John Care Trust's Haywood Care Centre in Devizes and the opening of the Prince Philip Barracks at REME Lyneham Garrison.

No-one wants to work on Good Friday but after receiving several complaints in regard a Greggs Food sign erected at Willoughby Hedge in a way that was a danger to motorists, I was impressed with their response to West Knoyle Parish Council Chair - Jinny Brockway and my notifying them of the potential dangers. They responded swiftly to remove the sign. Well done Greggs!

The government is proposing law changes to boost ongoing efforts to improve connectivity for people who live, work and travel in rural areas. The reforms will remove one of the biggest barriers to better coverage in the countryside by reducing build time and costs for new infrastructure while protecting rural areas by minimising any visual impact. Under the proposals, mobile companies will be allowed to make new and existing masts up to five metres taller and two metres wider than current rules permit. This will increase the range of masts and allow operators to fit more equipment on them so they can be more easily shared. Wiltshire Council already have invested in intervention to improve broadband services across the county.

On **6 May**, registered voters will be able to have their say in the Police and Crime Commissioner, unitary, and town and parish council elections. To manage the amount of elections, and to keep everyone safe, the verification and counts will be spread over four days. The Unitary results will be declared on the **8<sup>th</sup> May**. The Town and Parish Councils' on the **9<sup>th</sup>**. The Police and Crime Commissioner on the **10<sup>th</sup>**. Wiltshire Council is organising one of the biggest elections in the country. 348 polling stations, over 2200 nominations. At present over 18% of the voters have requested the opportunity to vote by post.

Bus passes in Mere now only apply from 9-30am, this could impact the Salisbury and Gillingham busses. I have asked if this can be addressed.

Chippenham Area Board, Chippenham Borough Lands Charity, Morrisons, and Wiltshire Council are working together to offer a range of support packages for community groups who are looking to re-launch as we work toward the next 'unlock' step on 17th May. These packages are aimed at the voluntary and community sector who run activities such as; coffee mornings, luncheon clubs, nit and natter, book clubs, social support groups, to name a few. I have supported that the same principal be supported by our area board.

Wiltshire Council has successfully bid for more than £4.4m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce carbon emissions

by upgrading the heating systems in many of its buildings. Wiltshire Council is currently developing its Climate Strategy and a series of engagement events have been organised during May in support of this process. On **Thursday May 20th 10.00 – 11.30 am** Wiltshire are hosting an event via Microsoft Teams, dedicated to engagement with Town/City/Parish Councils. Wiltshire are asking each council to nominate one representative, potentially the clerk but not limited to this role.

The 3 questions below will be considered:

1. What do you feel are the 3 priorities for Wiltshire (not just the council) in becoming carbon neutral by 2030?
2. Does the organisation you represent have carbon neutral targets? If so, what are they?
3. In what way could you support the council's Climate strategy?

The issue of Dog fouling and the depositing of plastic bags with excrement in public places is high on the agenda of local concerns. I with Mere Town Council are exploring ways of providing more usable bins.

Wiltshire's policy of not allowing application forms to be printed from their web site or in some cases not providing any, for amongst other applications, blue badge applications, tree works in conservation area applications etc., has caused complaint to me. Please note if you phone customer services on 03004560100, should you have no access to IT equipment, they will phone you back for a verbal application.

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

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### West Knoyle Parish Council

During our latest Zoom meeting on Tuesday 30th March one of the items that came up for discussion was Wessex Internet who are laying internet fibre in the village. A large part of the village has already got fast fibre connection but there seems to be rather a delay for the rest of us! My husband and I did have a visit from them a couple of days ago planning a slightly different route for the fibre so hopefully it will be happening in the next month or so.

Another thing that also came up under discussion was the play area. It is amazing how much it has been used all through the winter and not just by villagers. We have got a couple of pieces of equipment taped off due to worn components but we called in some local play equipment contractors who will be replacing components and repairing the equipment for us. Thanks must go to Paul Yates and Marcus Randall for their work over the winter keeping all of the rest of the equipment and area in good condition. It is now also mowing season and thanks must also go to Rob Pearce for keeping the grass side of it so tidy - thanks Rob.

Since the last meeting we have had a road closure through the centre of the village whilst ash dieback trees were cut down by the playing field. It is very sad to see such lovely old trees cut down but necessary, I'm sure.

I am very lucky because my husband and I have a couple of dogs and we do a lot of walking. The sounds of the birds at the moment are fantastic. With all that this world has been going through in the last year let's hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel now with the vaccinations. I feel we must still be cautious as we certainly do not want a third lockdown but we are certainly heading in the right direction.

Don't forget that local elections will take place on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**. You will be asked to vote for your **Police & Crime Commissioner**, your local **Wiltshire Councillor** and your **Parish Councillors**. Please take the time to go and vote – we usually have a very good voting turn-out in West Knoyle.

*Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council*

### West Knoyle Local elections – Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May

**West Knoyle Village Hall** will be the polling station and the hours of poll will be between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm. This poll will take place with Wiltshire Council Unitary elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire election.

Election of Parish Councillors for West Knoyle – the following 6 people have been nominated for election as a Parish Councillor for West Knoyle. The Parish Council has 5 seats and so therefore a contested election will take place on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

Jinny Brockway	Alex Davies
Anthony (Tony) Davis	Marcus Randall
Paul Vita	Paul Yates

For further details, please see Wiltshire Council's website:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1283/Town-and-parish-elections>

*Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk, West Knoyle Parish Council*

### Mere Resilience Forum Update

Richard has been formally awarded his British Empire Medal by Lady Sarah Rose Troughton, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, for service to the community. Graciously accepted on behalf of all the volunteers in and around Mere.



Things have been comparatively quiet again this month for our resilience forum volunteers, but many of them have continued to support one or two people they have come to know over the lockdowns. As one volunteer commented, "There is a couple who have, on occasion, forgotten something in their online shop and know that they can rely on me to get them whatever they need when I do my own shop." One has been regularly helping pick up weekly dosette (pill) boxes,

plus helping the Foodbank collect donations from Warminster and delivering to people in need, and is now also kindly going to help out at the Toddler group when available. Other volunteers continue to pick up the occasional prescription, or provide contact with the outside world with a friendly chat – and even a spot of gardening help!

In the last issue of Mere Matters, Blou Fenn from the Patient Participation Group (PPG) wrote an article about the Living Well Scheme at the GP surgery. As a result, one elderly resident got in touch with the surgery, explaining that they were feeling a little isolated and would appreciate some contact. The resident only moved to Mere just before the first lockdown, so hadn't had chance to get to know anyone and was reliant on a family member with a challenging full time job. They are also partially sighted and hard of hearing, and were having hearing aid issues. They were put in touch with the resilience forum, and it was very satisfying to arrange a telephone call from a volunteer within 24 hours. We were able to help them resolve the hearing aid issue, and support them to attend appointments at the GP surgery. All of this was done within a few days of initial contact – something official channels would struggle to beat, if the support was even available.

In a perfect world we'd see this community spirit all the time, so it's fantastic that several volunteers have said they'll continue helping in future. If you are struggling to support someone, or know of someone who could do with assistance, please get in touch and we will do what we can to help.

If you are interested in being involved, even on a very small scale, please do let us know. It won't take over your life, but you could change someone else's.

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*Rachael Hansford* ☎ 860168 [mlrfcoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:mlrfcoordinator@outlook.com)

### Mere Doctors Surgery

#### Long Term Condition Patients

Please note with effect from April 2021 we will be altering the way we invite patients with Long Term Conditions for their annual review. This will now be based on your month of birth although you will have an option to change this. Please bear with us whilst we introduce this new system.

### **COVID VACCINATIONS FOR UNDER 50s**

When we have completed vaccinating all those patients over 50 and any younger patients with specific long-term conditions, the COVID vaccination service at the **Michael Herbert Hall** will close.



**We strongly recommend that all remaining patients take advantage of the two vaccinations on offer, 11 - 12 weeks apart.**

All other patients aged **under 50 years old**, can book an appointment for vaccination at a **Mass Vaccination Centre**.

You can book these by going to:

<https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination>

or by phoning 119

Please do not ring the surgery for these appointments, as we will not be able to book these for you

*Mere Surgery ☎ 860001*

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### Mere Rivers Group

#### **Wildlife Sightings for March 2021**

This article was written in early April. From mid-March onwards we had very cold nights with frosty mornings but the days, although chilly, had been dry and mainly sunny. Ideal weather for getting out walking and seeing our wildlife. However, March is a time when our winter water wildlife, e.g. little egret and kingfisher, go elsewhere to breed. However we were very pleased to receive sightings of the first ducklings and the month's sightings included:

Along Waterside a duck and her ten ducklings were seen daily, from the middle of the month. Unfortunately by the end of the month there were only three ducklings left.

Either one or two mallard drakes were frequently seen near her. She was very protective of her ducklings, often sheltering with them under one of the bridges.

A pair of moorhen were seen twice and seen once were a solitary moorhen, pair of grey wagtails, a slow worm, peacock butterfly, brimstone butterfly and a stoat was seen swimming in the Ashfield stream.

People noted the calls of several birds including chaffinch, black cap, wren and woodpecker.

#### **Nature Notes**

Although early spring can be a quiet time for seeing our wildlife it is a wonderful time for hearing our birds. We would recommend standing in a quiet area, beside one of our streams, and just listen to the birds and see how many different bird songs you can hear. Either early morning or early evening are ideal times for doing this.

During March, as we predicted, the primroses and lesser celandines covered the path edges and roadsides with their different shades of yellow. During April it will be the turn of the wood anemone, bluebell and wild garlic in the woods with the cow parsley's frothy flowers beautifying our road sides.

Next month will be our last article on wildlife sightings. We have been extremely grateful to all of you who have contributed since November 2017 and your information has helped us tremendously with the discussions we have had with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency. We will include in our last article all the wildlife sightings you will have sent us during April and early May. Please send them to [mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com](mailto:mereriverwildlife@btinternet.com)

We will continue with our Nature Notes articles but they will be quarterly instead of monthly.

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

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## Mere School

We are all smiling and happy that school has returned to some form of normality during these challenging times.

At Mere School we have always been proud of the curriculum enrichment and special activities we offer to our children, and it has been our pleasure to support special charity days like Children in Need and Comic Relief.

Red Nose Day 2021 was Friday 19th April - but unfortunately we were not able to sell red noses. However, we did have some special activities planned. You can read all about these on the School Council Page of our website: <https://www.mereschool.co.uk/school-council/>

Our aim was to cheer up our communities.

Children came to school wearing red clothes in return for a small donation towards Comic Relief.



The children also brought their favourite joke to school and we plan to create class joke books for us to look at when we need a chuckle!

We also wanted to cheer up our home communities, and we asked our children to do a 'Share a Smile' poster which could be displayed in a window at home. Hopefully you may have spotted some around the town.

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to: [www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)

*Catriona Williamson, Headteacher* ☎ 860515 🌐 [mereschool.co.uk](http://mereschool.co.uk)

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## Fair Trade in Mere

It has been a long time since I have been able to hold any sales in the town, but I am hoping as restrictions are relaxed it may soon be possible to begin my monthly stalls again. In the meantime I can still take orders from the catalogue so please get in touch if you would like to look at one as there are many lovely gifts as well as the Fairly Traded foods.

*Janet Way* ☎ 860884 [jwaywitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwaywitsend@gmail.com)

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### Mere Theatre Club

Hopefully theatres will start opening in late May, but unfortunately this will not be for the theatre club as social distancing means only booking for small groups of up to 6. We live in hope for the autumn.

Meanwhile, for the adventurous, Theatre Royal Bath has a good programme including Ralph Fiennes in Quartet and Michael Frayn's Copenhagen.

For those who would prefer to watch from home there is still an excellent selection. Here are a few websites to look at: ntathome.com (National Theatre) globeplayer.tv (mainly Shakespeare) stage2view.com (mainly musicals) bristololdvic.org.uk

Hope to see you soon.

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

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### Mere Croquet & Boule Club

**CROQUET** is great fun, a game for all ages. We are having a Cream Tea on **Sunday 16th May at 2.00pm** where you can drop into the Club at the top of Steep Street in Mere, meet the members, find out more about the game and play croquet, boule and table tennis. Family, friends, neighbours and visitors are welcome at a cost of £3 each. We have started playing on Saturday's and Sunday's at 2.30 pm until the end of September. We would love to see you, please come and try, you will be hooked.

*Avril Fletcher ☎ 861285 [avril.fletcher52@gmail.com](mailto:avril.fletcher52@gmail.com)*

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### Mere Historical Society

I have started to draft a booking form with details of our proposed visit to **Forde Abbey on Thursday 8th July**. If I am able to run the visit, I expect to send out booking forms to members late May or early in June. There might be some special requirements from Forde Abbey or the coach, so be prepared to bring face-covers and observe social spacing where requested. I should be able to keep the cost to under £30 per member.

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

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### Mere Snooker Club

Good news! Subject to regulations allowing, and members respecting social distancing rules, Mere Snooker Club will be open from 17<sup>th</sup> May. We therefore welcome any enquiries for membership of the oldest club in Mere.



*Kevin Smith 📞 07803 006077 [meresnookeclub@gmail.com](mailto:meresnookeclub@gmail.com)*

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## Rosemary Goddard Centre.

### Mere and District Day Centre for Over 60's

Calling all community-minded folk who love to share in the life of our small town. The Mere and district Day Centre for older people, which is a registered charity, needs some new members to join our team of lively volunteers who support the centre organiser, Sandie Hawkins.

In normal times, the centre runs twice weekly on Mondays and Fridays, from 10.00am to 3.00pm, providing social contact, with a hot lunch, and stimulating entertainments in a safe and happy environment. Volunteers help in a variety of ways, with different levels of time commitment, from session helpers, to washing up, or drivers delivering the insulated lunch boxes. Full training is provided, so even if you have no previous experience of working in a social care environment, but are wondering what you can do for the local community as life returns to some sort of normal, do give us a call.

The trustee team, without whom no charity can operate, are busy planning our re-opening, hopefully at the end of June when restrictions allow. We are a friendly and mutually supportive bunch committed to the welfare of older people in Mere but sadly we will be losing some of our members as life takes them in new directions. We are urgently looking for some 'new blood' to join the trustees. In particular we are seeking someone with financial management experience as we will be needing a new Treasurer.

If you would like to know more about any of these exciting opportunities to be involved in the life of Mere please call the Chair of Trustees, I would love to hear from you and tell you more!

Jane Mason ☎ 861296 [jane.mason@gmx.com](mailto:jane.mason@gmx.com)

## Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

As part of the Fire Kills campaign, we are asking people to test their smoke alarms regularly and make testing them part of their regular household routine. Why not circle the first of every month on your calendar and tick it off when you have tested your alarms?





### Mere Art Group

Warmer days are on the way! Come and join us in an 'outside art session'. The date, time and place will be sent to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like to be included please contact me.

*Helge Brock ☎ 861972 [helgewallenbrock@gmail.com](mailto:helgewallenbrock@gmail.com)*

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### Mere Bowls Club

The club will be holding two Open Days on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May** and **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May** from 11.00am until 4.30pm each day, all are welcome. Please bring along a pair of flat soled shoes, bare feet are also acceptable and bags of enthusiasm for a sport that provides competitiveness, social gatherings and lots of non-invasive exercise. We are located in the Mere school grounds opposite Mere Dental Surgery.

Fully qualified and insured coaches in addition to other team members will be available to give members of the public a fun style introduction to the art of bowling. It only takes minutes to learn the sport, but a lifetime to master it.

For existing and possible new members remember **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** is our opening day, keep your eyes on your email in box for details of what we need to do under the current Covid19 guidelines.

*Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 860775 [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)*

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### Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



In April we had a very successful AGM on Zoom with most of our members either using the Zoom facility or listening on their phones. We were able to tentatively plan to have our meetings eventually in The Grove Building on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm. Our next meeting on Zoom is on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm**. We are also hoping to have a Garden Meeting this year, possibly in August. We are still quite active in the community of Mere offering help to families with more baking planned this month, we like making cakes and eating them! It is our way of offering Christian love. We now see more members able to attend our Church services at St. Michael's, recognising each other behind the masks.

Mother's Union is a Christian Worldwide Organisation to support families and people who need our care and prayer in our own parish and further afield. We would welcome anyone who would like to join our very friendly organisation. Our contact details are below:

*Christabelle Kiriticos ☎ 861065 Christine Marsh ☎ 861212 Carol Lord ☎ 861923*

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## Link Scheme

Unfortunately, I have to begin this update with the sad news that Bill Pike died in Salisbury hospital on 9 April after a long illness. May he rest in peace. Bill was a great supporter of the Link over many years as a driver, our treasurer and quiz master and he will be sadly missed. We have passed on our condolences to his son Doug who, thankfully, we were able to take to the hospital so he could see his dad on the day before he died.

Once again our main work in March was to Covid vaccinations and we took 27 local residents mainly for their second jab. Because patients at Mere Surgery are given appointments on one or two days a week a couple of drivers went to Wilton twice on the same day to meet the demand.

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and shopping, if resources allow. Once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. Please try to give us 48 hours notice if possible.

We continue to use the safety guidelines we introduced to protect both clients and drivers from the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Both driver and passenger have to wear a face covering while in the car and passengers have to sit in the back where this is practical. Drivers carry hand sanitiser and wipe down all surfaces that may have been touched by the passenger while in the car at the end of each trip. Unfortunately, we are unable to take people from different households in the same car.

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*John FitzGerald, Chair ☎ 860096 [merelink.org.uk](http://merelink.org.uk)*

## Friends of Mere Museum

As we write, the sun is shining and everything in the garden is burgeoning like mad! We are, of course, busily taking cuttings, potting up surplus-to-requirements 'volunteer' seedlings from last year and thinning out over-enthusiastic bulbs which are getting above themselves, all in aid of creating a cornucopia of plants to sell at our Annual Plant Sale in aid of the Museum. All continuing to be well, we shall hold the sale on **Saturday May 22nd at 10 a.m.** in the churchyard, by kind permission of the Vicar and Church Wardens. We shall of course meticulously adhere to Covid 19 requirements, and we hope to be able to take card payments. If you have been gathering plants for us to sell, please bring them to the churchyard gate on Church St. from 9.30 a.m. and simply leave them for us to collect and distribute to various tables. Then please come once we are open to stock up for the summer! Thank you in advance for your optimistic support. We look forward to seeing you on the day!

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

You will know from the news that the Covid second wave in India has suddenly become extremely serious, especially in the cities



where, in some areas, hospitals are completely overwhelmed, essential supplies exhausted and very sick patients having to be turned away. Rural areas, so far, are not so badly affected, but Suchana has had to close again because of a few local cases. Ishani, daughter of Suchana's founders, Kirsty and Rahul, has had Covid quite badly, but is now making a good recovery.

Suchana's teachers and volunteers have a good track record of resilience and innovation and we're sure they will, as they did before, find ways of supporting local children and communities, but it is too soon to have news of this as yet.

Meanwhile, Mere's Suchana support group is very grateful to everyone who gave or bought cakes at our stall in April, which, together with some very generous donations, made £176.58. Our next venture is an outdoor coffee morning and Bring and Buy in the garden of Grove Cottage (in Barton Lane, opposite the Library), to which everyone is very welcome, from 10.30am onwards on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. If Covid restrictions are lifted as planned, up to 30 people will be allowed to meet outdoors by then so there won't be a problem. However, if numbers are still restricted, please ring first to book your time.

We're still planning a **Quiz-and-Pudding** evening on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**, but this will depend on further lifting of restrictions and the availability of the Grove Building, which isn't yet known. Please see details in June Mere Matters. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming you on May 25<sup>th</sup>!

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

Copy date for June 2021 Issue

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on **MONDAY 24th May**.

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.

## Mere Amateur Dramatic Society



In 1947, the year Mere Amateur Dramatic Society began, we ambitiously launched ourselves with a much-heralded 'Triple Bill'. This included a scene from one of Oscar Wilde's most famous plays. Four years later, in 1951 (70 years ago, almost of the month!), the company tackled the whole play. It was, of course, 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Described by the author as 'A Trivial Comedy for Serious People', it was first performed on 14 February 1895 at the [St James's Theatre](#) in London. Probably everyone reading this will have seen a production of it, on the stage or as a film. It is a farcical comedy full of sparkling wit and hilarious dialogue, but which is at the same time a satire on the ways of conventional [Victorian London society](#). It marked the high point of Wilde's career and certainly also inaugurated the long life and success of your local theatre company. We are all longing to get back into action!

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

## Letter from the Churches ~ Rev Carol writes:

This is my final letter for Mere Matters after 8 ½ years in the three parishes of Mere West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley. I have a new post in Teignmouth. My farewell service is in St Michaels at 10.30 on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

I have been reflecting on the many experiences that we have shared, it is difficult to choose one or two. There was the flower festival when many town organisations got together to produce lovely displays and the fetes accompanied by laughter, fun and fund raising for the church. A wedding with uniformed soldiers playing their trumpets from the top of the rood screen and funerals where to honour those who had passed a motorbike, a family heirloom was ridden up the aisle. And then the occasion when, to my surprise I shook hands with Prince William after a service. Churches are a focal point for community and having such beautiful buildings draws people in to explore. Enhancing the facilities of St Michael's is a real source of pride to me, the congregation and the many wonderful people in Mere who have financially supported our project and made it happen *despite* Covid. Thank you – we could not have achieved this without you.

This year has extended our idea of church locally beyond the walls using online media. This has been a way to share God's care, love and hopeful perspectives to a wider suffering and struggling world. Who would have thought a year ago that the Mother's Union would hold their Lessons and Carols Service on Zoom?! It is a different way of doing things but shows that the Spirit can reach us wherever we are.

On 9<sup>th</sup> May we hold our Annual Church Meeting. It marks a time of one season passing and another beginning as new people come forward to lead and serve the church. I wish them all well. A time of transition and change is always a

challenge but the reading for that Sunday (John 15. 9-17) is one to encourage and guide us all. Jesus says “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” for in that way “your joy maybe complete”.

The church is the people. I want to thank all those people in the congregation who have faithfully served the church and enabled us to serve our community week after week.

With every blessing,

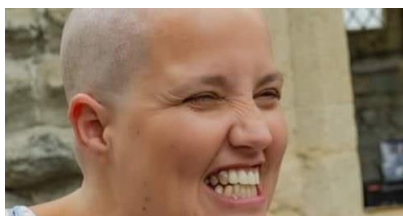
Rev Carol Green

Priest in Charge Mere with West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley

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### Fund raiser for Amy Nugent's funeral

Many of you will have known or recognise Mere Mum Amy Nugent, who sadly died of cancer on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. Amy leaves behind her husband Ben and three children aged 7, 8 and 9.



The last year has meant financial struggles for many due to Covid-19. As you can imagine, for the Nugent family it has been a particularly hard time - financially and emotionally.

Amy's friends are doing all they can to help, and have set up a 'gofundme' to raise £3,000 for her funeral. The response has been amazing, but there is still a little way to go. They would be really grateful for any donations, however small.

If you are able to contribute, you can donate via the secure gofundme fundraising platform at [https://www.gofundme.com/f/amy-nugents-funeral?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/amy-nugents-funeral?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer)

### **Fundraising raffle – win a football shirt signed by Marcus Rashford**

Amy's friends are also organising fundraising raffles with some great prizes – including a Manchester United football shirt signed by Marcus Rashford, and a beautifully upholstered foot stool from Nick Beale in Mere. Tickets can be purchased from Nanna Moon's catering van, which is based in Sydenhams in Gillingham.



*Thank you for your support.*

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## Church Contact and Service 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: Isabel Page ☎ 860297, Richard Wilson ☎ 07966-244373

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

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	8.00am	BCP
		10.30 am	Rogation Bison Farm West Knoyle
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	8.00am	BCP
		10.30 am	Act of Worship followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	8.00am	BCP
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	8.00am	BCP
		10.30 am	Parish Communion Rev. Carol's Farewell Service
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	8.00am & 10.00	Parish Communion

### ***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

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	10.30 am	Rogation Bison Farm West Knoyle
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9.25 am	DIY
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9.25 am	Matins
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10.30 am	Carol's farewell service Mere
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9.25 am	Holy Communion

### ***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

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sun	10.30 am	Rogation Bison Farm West Knoyle
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.00 am	Morning Service
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.00 am	Parish Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10.30 am	Carol's farewell service Mere
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10.00 am	Matins

***The United Reformed Church***

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

2nd	Sun	2.00 pm	Service in Balcony Cottage led by Rev. Duncan Goldie - celebrating Easter.
16th	Sun	2.00 pm	? service at Balcony Cottage – phone to confirm

***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

**Booking Meeting Venues**

Grove Building:	Nicky Ravenhill <a href="mailto:administrator@grovebuildingmere.com">administrator@grovebuildingmere.com</a>	??
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Eileen Burfitt	☎ 860685

**Mere Information Point @ The Library**

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

Wiltshire Dementia Adviser Service	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday in month	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Registrar of Births & Deaths	Thursdays by appt only	☎ 0300 003 4569 9.30am – 11.30
Health Trainer	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](http://merewilts.org)


### **Covid-19 Telephone Coordinators**


Name	Home Phone	Mobile
Ann Rich	01747 861493	07413 512023
Isobel 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.

If you would like to help in any way or wish to make comment then please contact:

Rachael Hansford

 01747 860168

 07989 470278

 [mlrfcoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:mlrfcoordinator@outlook.com)



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Tel: 07799 325214

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?  
To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Jane Kennedy  
directly by phone or email.

[jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)  860450