

Mere Matters



& so does

West Knoyle

Your community magazine



*We plough the fields and scatter the
good seed on the land*

October 2021

Mere Matters Editorial

The community monthly calendar now adorns the centre fold again. Regular bookings for the Grove Building and the Lecture Hall usually get fed to me automatically but for those more ad hoc bookings or events taking place elsewhere in the town I would be grateful if organisers could let me know the details. I cannot include them if I don't know!



Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 editor@merematters.co.uk

Mere Town Council

At the September meeting of the council, we were pleased to hear from members of the public on the subjects of re-wilding, speed limits and planning. We are happy to hear from the public at meetings, about agenda items. If you are not able to attend but would like to make a comment, do contact the clerk. If you wish to comment on a planning application, be sure to submit your comments to Wiltshire Council as the planning authority but send a copy to the Town Council too.

I am pleased to report that work is due to start on **October 11th** weather permitting, to provide a roadway from Angel Lane into the cemetery. There will inevitably, be some disruption on Angel Lane but we hope to keep this to a minimum.

The council is well aware of the state of the public toilets in the Salisbury Street Car Park. They regularly become blocked which is partly due to a drainage issue and unfortunately, it has been necessary to close the ladies. However, the other toilets have been adapted and remain open for unisex usage. It has become obvious that a long-term solution needs to be found if the toilets are to be fully functional and to meet an acceptable standard.

The Town Council has been asked, by a local resident, to support a request to Wiltshire Council for a review of the 40mph speed limit on Shaftesbury Rd. The Town Council has agreed to submit the request. We have also supported The Bowls Club with their application to the Area Board for a grant to buy some new equipment and carry out some essential repairs.

Wiltshire Council is currently consulting residents, businesses and local groups in the county on their draft Climate Strategy, which will help to shape the next five years of their action on climate change. The consultation is open until **17th October**. At the same time, they are consulting on A Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy called 'Our Natural Environment Plan', looking to mitigate the effects of climate change through nature-based solutions. Mere is well placed, with its rivers and green spaces, to contribute to these strategies and the Town Council will be reviewing Wiltshire's consultation documents.

For more information about the Climate Strategy see:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate

For more information about the GBI Strategy see:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-bio-green-blue-infrastructure

Cordwood for sale

Mere Town Council has a large quantity of well-seasoned cordwood for sale.
Please contact the Town Clerk for further information.

*Lesley Traves, Chair, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
lindseewood@merewilts.org ☎ 860701 🌐 merewilts.org*

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Wiltshire Council are now cutting verges from September. I have received a number of complaints regarding the verges in some areas. Whilst I wish to see wildlife, I consider safety at junctions and other situations paramount. I have reported junctions as I have noticed problems, in the main they have been cut back. Next season I understand the cutting will be further considered to minimise dangerous situations.

Many of us visit Salisbury. From 17 June-18 July, the council held a public consultation on the proposals to improve the three junctions at Exeter Street Roundabout, Harnham Gyratory and Park Wall Junction. At Exeter Street, the council offered two potential options for people to give their views on. To find out more about the project go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways/salisbury-junctions

At the Licensing Committee, it was mentioned that the Government had launched a public consultation on 5th September, regarding making outdoor measures for high streets permanent. In March 2020 the Government

introduced a number of temporary permitted development rights under planning legislation in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Some of these rights were introduced to help support business in reopening and provide flexibility to encourage use of outdoor spaces. This includes marquees being put up in pub grounds, to street markets operating all year round. This new consultation, which runs from 5th September 2021 to 14th November 2021 seeks evidence of the impact of the rights as they currently exist in their temporary form, and views on the future of those rights if they were to be made permanent.

Proposed changes to the schedule of fees and tariffs for Hackney Carriages (Taxi) will take place on 4 January 2022, subject to the proposals being advertised and standard consultation processes.

Following the Wiltshire Local Plan Review consultation (The direction of development planning in plain English), held between 13 January and 9 March, Wiltshire Council have now prepared a full consultation report with the

submitted responses, and have also published the statement on the Gypsy and Traveller Plan consultation, which took place at the same time. The timeline for the Wiltshire Local Plan Review is being reviewed to allow for new evidence to be prepared. Wiltshire Council will hold the next stage of consultation as soon as possible next year, once the draft Plan has been completed and approved by Cabinet and Full Council. Wiltshire are still aiming to have the plans in place by end of 2023.

While in Cornwall I noticed a display regarding the environment which is now much in the news. It stated 10% of the electricity used now is for IT and the use of computers should be reduced. It also noted for archive purposes sometimes paper should be used as it used no power and traps carbon. It seems going mainly paperless is not enough, also required is minimising IT use as much as possible and using electricity from wind and solar which goes some way to help towards the high electric needs of IT equipment.

Wiltshire want residents, businesses and local groups to have their say on their Climate Strategy, which will help to shape the next five years of Wiltshire's fight against climate change. The consultation on the draft strategy, which covers seven delivery themes: transport; built environment; waste; green economy; energy generation, storage and distribution; natural environment,

food and farming; and carbon neutral council, is open until **23:59 on Sunday 17th October**. At the same time, Wiltshire Council are also consulting on their Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy, Wiltshire Council Natural Environment Plan, which looks at the future for Wiltshire's natural environmental assets and how Wiltshire Council can help protect and enhance them for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

I have taken interest in broadband intervention (subsidised) rollout and reported on it to the electorate. Now non-commercial intervention aid in our area has finished, it is down to individuals and commercial forces to provide what fibre broadband is provided, unless the internet service providers provide a universal service likened to the postal service, which might or might not happen. Some areas claim that they cannot get any help from Openreach or BT, these areas look to providers such as we have in our area like Wessex. Kilmington was previously flagged up as a trial area for a universal service in affect, using vouchers, this was discussed at Kilmington Parish Council with residents. This did not come to fruition however Mr Tim Davis approached Openreach, who agreed to provide him with fibre which in turn could benefit others in the area, therefore I would advise individuals to make an approach for fibre broadband.

George Jeans 📞 07710 441599 george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk

Letters to the Editor:

In reply to Kit Stallard's letter in the September issue: Why would Mere with all its fields, woods, river walks, Castle Hill and the Downs require a suburban park?

There is a children's play-park south of the town (behind the Walnut Tree Inn) and the other two are hardly a bus ride away.

Let's allow mourners to bury their loved ones in peace and quiet as now and encourage children to use the natural playgrounds they have in abundance in Mere.

Adrienne Howell

Mere Duplicate Bridge Club

Do you want to develop your bridge skills through friendly competition? Or do you miss the human contact after a year of on-line bridge? Then try our Friday afternoon games at the Grove Building (opposite St. Michael's Church), from 2 till 5. We play without masks (the hall is large) but will wear masks at the request of any player. All players are expected to have had the double vaccination.

Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 plandymore@outlook.com.

Waltons Post Office & Shop Opening Times

Monday to Friday 7.00 to 16:30

Next day delivery to be in by 16:00

Saturday 8:00 to 13:00

Next day delivery to be in by 12:30

Beat the rush & Post on a Sunday morning

Sunday 8:00 to 12:30

Support your local Post Office & Shops



Mere Doctors Surgery – Flu Clinics

You will be aware from the National Press there are delays with the delivery of flu vaccinations this year and we have therefore cancelled the clinic for Saturday 9 October. Our first clinic will be Saturday 23 October and we will be holding a further clinic on Saturday 6 November.

Adult clinics

This year we are inviting adults to book their flu appointment via responding to an SMS text message. If you have your mobile number as preferred method of contact, you will receive a text message over the next couple of weeks from Mere Surgery. By clicking the link provided you will be asked to confirm your date of birth and then you will be able to select from the drop-down menu a date range where you will be able to book into these specific clinics:

Saturday 23rd October
Saturday 6th November
Monday 8th November
Wednesday 10th November
Tuesday 23rd November
Wednesday 24th November

If you do not have a registered or preferred mobile number with us, please telephone reception to book your appointment after 20 September 2021.

Eligibility:

This year flu vaccinations will be offered under the NHS flu vaccination programme to the following groups:

- People aged 50 years or over (including those becoming age 50 years by 31 March 2022)
- People living in long-stay residential care homes
- Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
- Close contacts of immune-compromised individuals
- All pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- Those aged from six months to less than 50 years of age, in a clinical risk group such as those with:
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five or chronic liver disease
 - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease,
 - learning disability
 - diabetes
 - splenic dysfunction or asplenia

- a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)

Flu clinics will be held in the surgery but we must continue to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

- Patients must have a pre booked appointment
- Please do not attend before designated appointment time as we will not be able to let you into the building no matter what the weather.
- Patients will be instructed to queue outside the surgery as limited numbers are permitted inside the surgery in order to maintain a safe footfall at all times.
- Please would all patients attending the surgery wear a face mask or covering.
- Please wear short sleeves so that it is easy for you to be ready for your vaccination.
- To enable us to comply with social distancing regulations and to manage our delivery of vaccine, we will only be vaccinating patients in the specified clinics.

Child clinics – 2-3 years

These clinic dates will be set up over the next couple of weeks and again you will either receive SMS text message to book your child's appointment directly or a letter inviting you to contact the surgery to book the appointment.

School age children outside of this age group will be vaccinated in School.

There is a Facebook video showing how to book your appointment available by following this link: <https://m.facebook.com/mere.surgery1/>

Mere Surgery ☎ 860001

The Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers

We are back up and running - Mondays, term time, in the Lecture Hall, drop in, opens 9:30-11:30 with all the crafts, the singalong with instruments all back in place. All children 5 and under, with their parents or carers very welcome

Anne Rich ☎ 861493 arich4@icloud.com

Short Walks Around Mere

Come and enjoy the Autumn colours on a short walk of 2-3 miles around the paths and lanes of Mere and enjoy a cuppa at The Angel Café afterwards. Meet at 14:00 in the surgery car park on **Thursday 21st October**

Janet Way ☎ 860884

The Mere and District Day Centre

We are delighted to say that the Day Centre is now open again after the prolonged closure due to the pandemic. However, we remain cautious and have strict protocols in place to minimise the risk of infection. For this reason, we are not yet operating at full capacity, to enable our guests to maintain a degree of social distance in a well-ventilated space.

We are hoping to welcome new guests from in and around Mere gradually over the coming months, so if you, or a relative or friend would benefit from a weekly day out, with companionship, a hot lunch and enjoyable activities, do please contact our Centre Manager, Sandie Hawkins. She will be very pleased to discuss your needs and tell you about the centre.

Sandie Hawkins 📞 07835 272406 rgcorganiser@outlook.com

Mere Gardening Club

Wednesday 13th October 19:30 Robin Walter -Living with Trees in the Grove Building

Living with trees is a cornucopia of practical information, good examples and new ideas that will inspire, guide and encourage people to reconnect with trees and woods in their community so we can all discover how to value, celebrate and protect our arboreal neighbours.

All are welcome, members and non-members. The event is free with a retiring collection.

Penny Allen 📞 07539 329798 pennyinmere@gmail.com 🌐
meregardenclub.org.uk

Mere & District Railway Modellers

Due to the success of our open day on 4th September when over 70 people viewed the club it has been decided to hold another event on **4th December** which will be full of Christmas promise. Being winter the club will be open from 10am to 2pm. Our Chairman Graham will be mine host. We open the invitation to the town councillors who may wish to look at the Covid extension to the towns building.

Frome Model Railway Exhibition 8-9 January 2022 at the Cheese & Grain.

The club and its members will be entering two layouts in this popular event. The author has been chosen as the exhibition manager yet again!!

The club is open from 19:00-21:00 of a Wednesday evening and is at the rear of Castle Street car park. Paid up members have a set of keys so they can model at their convenience. So why not come and enjoy the many privileges that your local club has to offer.

Tom Snook 📞 861977 tomsnook29@hotmail.co.uk

Mere Footpath Group hosts first Teddy Bear's Picnic Walk

As part of Healthy Mere walking's programme of events, Mere Footpath Group held the first ever Teddy Bear's picnic on Wednesday 18th August. The event was a great success with 41 grandparents, parents, and children enjoying a short walk around Mere, as well as a free picnic lunch at White bridge provided courtesy of the ASDA Foundation community fund. The aim of the event was to reinforce the simple (and free!) pleasure of walking around our local area with young children.

Having made sure the picnic spot was tidy and attractive, the footpath group provided 21 teddy bears hidden along the route - all of which were adopted into new homes.



The children were also delighted that Mere PCSO Dan Gill came along and joined them.

Mere Fish Farm kindly gave permission for the walkers to pass through their property from Mill Lane, offering an idyllic route past the duck pond and safe passage back to Mere School away from the traffic on The Lynch.

One grandparent asked if the walk would be an annual event, and organisers John Jordan, Alan Mead, and Rachael Hansford agree it would be great!



Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Have we got news for you! Provided all remains well, we are planning an Autumn Production as in the days of yore, though with a bit of a difference. We are currently rehearsing not one, nor even just two, but four, various entertaining pieces, published and original, for your delectation and delight. The dates to keep free are **November 18th to 21st**, and there will be free entry with a retiring collection. The production will be dedicated to three staunch MADS members who died during the months of lockdown: Peggy Jukes, Melody Parfitt and Bill Pike. Numbers will be limited so as to abide by Covid guidelines. Full details will be announced in the next issue of Mere Matters.



Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Fair Trade in Mere

The Autumn/Winter catalogue (with a whiff of Christmas) has landed on my doorstep and it is always exciting to see what new items are on offer. It is still undecided when the coffee mornings at the URC will restart but monthly stalls will resume at **St Michael's** after the **10.30 service on Sunday October 17th**.

In the meantime please ask for a catalogue to place an order as many popular items often whizz off the shelves. Look out too for details of my usual pre-Christmas Sale in November's Mere Matters.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Bowls Club

The club wishes to thank both Mere Town Council for the kind grant of £200 and South West Wiltshire for their kind grant of £500. Both sums will be used to repair items around the green that have had no maintenance during the 2020 pandemic due to lock down and social distancing, these will include the grass clamp that we use to store grass cuttings from the green and the fence that runs along the rear of the green.

We are now closed for the winter season with only our monthly social evenings to look forwards to. Maintenance of the green has now commenced in earnest as the greens teams follow the advice given in the plan to improve the playing surface of the green.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 860775 don.butchers@btinternet.com
[🌐 hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/](https://www.hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/)

Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) - Care in our Community

I met with Helen Wotton, Care Coordinator with Wiltshire Health & Care and Gail Volney, the Elderly Care Facilitator for Sarum West Primary Care Networks, who works three days a week at the Mere Surgery. They cover a huge area Mere, Tisbury, Hindon, Silton & Sixpenny Handley. Helen also covers Old Orchard Partnership of Wilton, Fovant & Codford. We should applaud them as they both do a great deal of work, particularly for Mere, and are mostly concerned with the very elderly population and people with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

GPs refer their patients to Helen and Gail who liaise with Social Services, Age UK Coordinators and the Fire Brigade and the Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living (who have Health Trainers). They also work with the Bobby Van Trust in Wiltshire over all matters to do with home security both for the over 60s & the over 18s with a registered disability. Gail tends to work with the over 65s but Helen works with 50%/50% elderly and anybody over 18 who might be disabled in some way or have learning difficulties. They both tend to deal with peoples' social aspects and tend to get involved with occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

On the whole, their aim is to prevent hospital admission, support patient's discharges from hospital and support patient's wishes to remain at home or move to a care home.

There is a WhatsApp group for private carers. It might be something as ordinary as providing respite care for somebody in a care home, to give a carer a break. You need to register with the Surgery and to say whom you are caring for.

Helen and Gail look after about 35-40 referrals a month, besides their regular customers, so they are kept very busy.

Jane Thomson, Mere Surgery PPG MerePPG@gmail.com

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



On **12th October** we will be welcoming "Mere Melodies the Handbell Ringers". They will entertain us with a medley of well-known music. It will start at 14.30 in The Grove Building in the Main Hall which is spacious for everyone.

It will be so nice once again meet in person and be entertained and learn more about our own Hand Bell Ringers in Mere. We welcome anyone who would like to join us and we look forward to seeing you then.

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

Diary Dates (*Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in **Blue***).**Venue Key for Diary :****ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms**Drs** - Surgery**Lib** - Library**StM** - St Michaels Church**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion**GB** - Grove Building**MSC** - Social Club**URC** - United Ref Church**CP** - Main Car Park**L** - Lecture Hall**RMC** - Castle St Car Park

1	Fri	19:00	Self Defence	L
		13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start every Fri)	GB
2	Sat			
3	Sun			
4	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		18:00	Scouting (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
5	Tues	13:00	Pilates (JL) (every Tues)	GB
		19:00	Historical Society	GB
		19:30	Mere Amateur Dramatics (every Tues)	L
6	Wed	09:30	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		14:00	Pilates (every Weds)	L
		18:00	Karate (every Weds)	L
		19:00	Railway Modellers (every Wed) <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	RMC
7	Thurs	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		17:00	Girlguiding (2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th /5 th Thurs)	GB
		19:30	Mere Amateur Dramatics (every Thurs) <i>Art, Quilters</i>	L
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		19:00	Self Defence <i>Dup Bridge</i>	L
9	Sat			
10	Sun			
11	Mon	10:00	Quilters <i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting</i>	GB
12	Tues	09:45	Historical Society	GB
		14:00	Mothers Union	GB
		18:00	Oasis Carnival Bingo <i>Pilates (JL), MADS</i>	L
13	Wed	14:00	Short Walk	CP
		19:30	Gardening Club <i>Tai-Chi, Pilates, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
14	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, MADS</i>	
15	Fri	18:00	Festival Band <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
16	Sat			
17	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after 10.30 service	StM
18	Mon		<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting</i>	
19	Tues		<i>Pilates (JL), MADS</i>	
20	Wed		<i>Pilates, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
21	Thurs	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB

		14:00	Short Walk	CP
			<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, MADS</i>	
22	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		19:00	Mere Link Scheme AGM	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
23	Sat			
24	Sun			
25	Mon			
26	Tues		<i>Pilates (JL), MADS</i>	
27	Wed	14:30	Pennybank Writers	L
			<i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
28	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, MADS</i>	
29	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	

Merely Women

In September we successfully resumed our regular meetings after the long lay-off, with good attendances at both.

A schedule of events has been developed for all meetings up to Christmas and we continue to work on future programmes.

Look forward to seeing you at our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month in the Grove Building at 10.00am.

Jean Eyles ☎ 863450

Link Scheme

We had another 70 journeys in August a third of which were to Salisbury District Hospital which has become very busy. Looking to the future we are expecting an influx of requests to take people to their covid booster vaccinations and to their flu vaccinations so we are likely to have a busy end to 2021.

We now have 23 available drivers, down from 38 before the pandemic, and it can be very difficult to find drivers for all the requested journeys. Link drivers use their own cars, give their time for free and are paid 45p/mile to cover their expenses. You only make a commitment when you accept a drive. All drivers have a free DBS Safeguarding check. If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

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, as we cannot guarantee to arrange last minute requests. Also, please remember that our co-ordinators work in their own homes so keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number. Any other number you have recorded will most likely be a co-ordinator's private number. Please do not use it.

Having been unable to hold an AGM last year for obvious reasons we are delighted that the Link Scheme's 2021 AGM will be held on **Friday 22nd October** in the Grove Building at 19:00. All are welcome.

John FitzGerald, Chair ☎ 860096 🌐 merelink.org.uk

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Songs of Praise

Sunday 17th October @ 18.00

Do come and join us to sing your favourite hymns,
hear much-loved readings
and join in well-remembered prayers.
Everyone is very welcome.

Friends of St. Michael's the Archangel Church

Parish churches, for centuries, have played a significant role in their towns and villages. They are places of celebration, comfort and worship, always at the centre of the community in good times and bad. In Mere, we are fortunate enough to have a stunningly beautiful building, of valuable historical and architectural interest, with majestic pinnacles which stand out as a landmark from miles around - a homing beacon for those of us returning to Mere.

The Friends of St. Michael's is a registered charity which exists to raise funds to help maintain the fabric and furnishings of the Church, and to support its use for community involvement and worship. Most of our members are not church-goers, and others live elsewhere, but they nonetheless value this asset in the heart of our community, and are glad of opportunities to support it and partake in its social and fund-raising activities.

To become a Friend, please pick up a leaflet from the Church, or contact me.

Mary Wilson (Mem Sec) ☎ 229609 wilsonsmere@gmail.com

Harvest at St Michael's Church - 3 October 2021

10:30 Harvest Service. We ask for donations of non-perishable foods for the Mere Foodbank.

12:30 Harvest Lunch. Grove Building. **POSTPONED**

Christmas Box Appeal 2021

Firstly thank you to those who donated Christmas boxes last year. We collected 77 boxes which is low compared to previous years, but circumstances were challenging! Thank you also to Jenny Wood and John Williams for their help.

It's now time to plan for this year's FSCI Appeal. Leaflets will be available from St Michaels church or the post office soon. Alternatively the leaflet is available to view or print from www.fscinet.org/christmas-box.

Boxes can be dropped off at St Michaels church or Little Myrtle, The Fields, Mere. Please note that the deadline is November 21st.

Shelley Hunt ☎ 228590 or ☎ 07810 216833. catswhiskers999@gmail.com

In Memory - Gerry Cook: 30th November 1939 – 22nd August 2021



If Gerry had his way, this obituary would be in a spreadsheet; as a statistician, he thought they were the greatest invention of the 20th century.

Born in Southampton, Gerry's fondest childhood memories were of his "aunt Hilda with the chip shop" and riding on the running boards of the cars his father bought post-war to run a taxi service.

His early education was at boarding school in Brockenhurst. Excelling at mathematics, he was not so keen on sports and put much effort into avoiding them. Gerry did keenly follow Formula One and rugby union though, and had spreadsheets to track scores through the season.

His working life was spent as a mathematical statistician for the UK government's Meat and Livestock Commission. Living near Milton Keynes, he particularly enjoyed attending club races at Silverstone and attending The Stables live music venue.

When Gerry retired to Mere in 2003, he originally planned to "do nothing", but this soon changed.

With more free time and wanting to become embedded within their new community, Gerry joined the Mere Amateur Dramatic Society, volunteered as a Mere & District Link Scheme driver and created the popular fundraising quizzes for Mere Day Centre. He was also an active member of Mere Historical Society. He gave several talks, prepared in Excel of course, and went on to become membership secretary and later Chairman.

Gerry loved Mere. He said the surrounding countryside had beautiful views and fascinating geology, and he was spoiled for choice with good local food and drink. He particularly enjoyed the sense of community, and the friendly and welcoming locals.

Gerry's family have been touched by the many messages they have received and thank you for your kind words. They would love for those who knew him to leave a personal message or photo on the online tribute page: geraldcook.muchloved.com.

Gerry leaves his wife, Caroline, children, Annabel and Stephen, and granddaughter Sophie.

A memorial gathering will be held on 20 October in the Grove Building; please contact Caroline if you wish to attend, on 861797.

Annabel Cook - Gerry's favourite (and only) daughter - 861797

Hugh Wolfe Frank

The Chief Interpreter at the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals, will receive belated, but permanent, recognition as from 1st October 2021. At 2.00 pm that afternoon a Blue Plaque, conferred by Salisbury Civic Society, recording Frank's achievements and services at 'the greatest trial in history', will be unveiled on the façade of his former Mere home – the Malt House in Castle Street – which is now owned by Chalky and Cathy Chalk.



Exactly 75 years earlier, a world-wide radio audience of 400 million had listened as Wolfe announced to the most prominent leaders of the Third Reich the sentences imposed upon them by the Court – a duty that earned him the sobriquet 'The Voice of Doom'.



Following author Paul Hooley's presentation at Mere Literary Festival of his two books on the life, times and achievements of Frank (copies available from Mere Post Office), it was local resident Wendy Mitchell-Turner who suggested applying for the Blue Plaque – which is the first to have been awarded in Mere.

Queens Jubilee 2022 Celebrations

The UK will celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch.

The **May Bank Holiday** Weekend will be moved to **Thursday 2nd June** and an additional Bank Holiday on **Friday 3 June** will see a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee - the first time any British monarch has reached this historic milestone.



Watch out for more details in future Mere Matters.

Anne Rich ☎ 861493 arich4@icloud.com

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 ☎ 860450

Mere School

Normality returns to Mere School:

Normal life has resumed at Mere School and we are keeping our fingers crossed that this will continue through this academic year – COVID permitting.

We have welcomed many new children across the school but we were particularly delighted that our new reception children have settled in so well to Blue and Yellow Classes. We hope that our new transition book helped to make this easier for them (and their parents) as we were not able to run our normal full induction programme. These young children are already very much part of Mere School life.



Now that we no longer have to work in 'bubbles,' the children are enjoying mixing across the school again and taking part in the many activities that make our school so special. Purple Class have already visited the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne as part of their learning about Vikings and Anglo Saxons, and each class will be having a visit or special visitor this term to bring their learning to life. Clubs, music lessons, school council, sporting fixtures and swimming (to name a few) have restarted and we are thrilled to welcome back so many volunteers who help our children.



FoMS fund raising

The Friends of Mere School (FoMS) have a packed programme of fund raising events for this year including a recipe book, Christmas Cards, Christmas Fair and an Auction of Promises. Thanks to the hard work of these parents, all our children are enjoying Forest School sessions and some are learning to fly the new school drone.

If you can support The Friends with promises for the auction or in any other way, or you would like more information about volunteering in school, do please do get in touch.

Mere Annual Carnival

The Carnival Fun Day, on the 18th September, drew a big crowd who enjoyed many varied entertainments from big animated kites to small, many legged creatures. Local bands played great music, stall holders had things to buy and demonstrations to show. We were blessed with good weather on the day and are pleased to have raised enough funds to ensure a normal Carnival next year (all being well in the world). Many thanks to the people who gave time and effort to help the committee realise the event - we can always use help and would welcome some new members to our committee. Contact our Chairman, John on 07831 572831 if you are interested in joining us.

The fancy dress competition and the dog show drew many good entries. We owe the school and the Trustees of the Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground an apology for the presence of some dogs on the Sports Fields and not the recreation ground where the dog show was held.

The Golden Ticket 1103 was drawn by our Mere Carnival Ernie machine and was claimed the next day. The £500 prize money was handed over at the Social Club where the winner had bought the ticket.

John Jordan, Treasurer 📞 07840 722835

Friends of Mere Museum

We are simply delighted to be able to announce that we now have definite plans to resume our fund-raising activities next year. **April 1st 2022** may sound a very long time ahead, but do put it in your diaries as soon as you get your new one! It is the date of our first post-pandemic event! More details nearer the time. In the meantime we shall hold our AGM on **Tuesday November 2nd at 18.30** in the United Reformed Church. Everybody is very welcome to attend, and there will be wine and nibbles after the meeting! Hope to see you there.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Copy date for NOVEMBER Issue

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on MONDAY 25th October.

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425
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.

Letter from the Churches ~ Christine Marsh *writes*

October Musings

Did you know that a word for patience in Arabic is cactus? They both have the same meaning 'to endure thirst'. Having evolved a way of conserving the energy and moisture necessary to maintain life Cacti manage to survive against all odds in the most inhospitable environments. They are an illustration not only of living in harmony with God's world but also of patience, adaptability and perseverance.

I once had the opportunity to visit the Namibian desert. Travelling along a dry dusty valley floor we suddenly came across one lone thorn bush, a Narra plant, the only sign of life in this barren landscape. Due to its bitter taste this prickly plant is not eaten but its fruit, a round melon shaped gourd, when ripe splits and disperses thousands of seeds. These in turn are harvested by small rodents which are then eaten by snakes which in turn are eaten by birds. This plant was in fact providing shelter and sustenance for many.

At this time of year we often hear sung 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land'. A hymn that acknowledges the bounty of God's gifts to us.

In his teachings Jesus made many references to farming and harvesting as an illustration of the need for us to grow spiritually and in harmony with God's word. We all have the seeds of the Gospel teachings sown within our hearts and minds. Like the cactus we need the patience and perseverance, no matter how difficult our life may become, to nourish and care for these seeds. This has been especially so in these Covid times.

In talking to his disciples Jesus speaks of the harvest being plentiful but the workers few. It is the challenge to us all to let the seeds sown in our hearts bear fruit so that we can continue to help others to share in the love of God's creation.



True to form, the Suchana project is determinedly (but cautiously) beginning to re-open its little library and to provide a space where local children can come to read and learn. Its full programme has to wait a bit longer, as all schools in West Bengal are still closed. However, Suchana teachers and volunteers are continuing to gather groups of children together informally in their home villages to help to maintain and build on basic literacy skills until the Centre is fully open.

Like all charities, Suchana has suffered a drop in income during the pandemic, so we were especially pleased that our Quiz and pudding evening, in mid-September, as well as being a very happy event, made the amazing total of £601.55. In addition to that, a third of the very generous donations given at Mark Lillie's funeral will come to Suchana and help the project to make ends meet and continue to provide a better start in life for very marginalised children in rural West Bengal.

If you missed the Quiz (or if you came) please come along if you can to our Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at 14 Lovage Way (home of Jean and Colin Kantharia) on **Tuesday 19th October** from **10:30** onwards. And a date for your diary: **Friday 26th November at 19:30** our popular 'Sleigh Drive' evening returns to the Grove Building. Details in November Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553 judithvtompson@aol.com

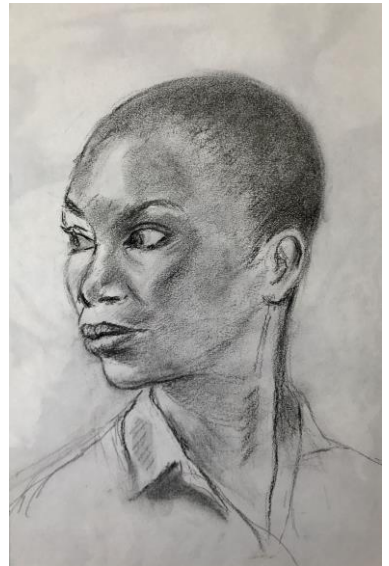
Mere Art Group

We were pleased to welcome a new member to the Group a few weeks ago, influenced by our article in the September Issue, and Tom Beall's painting of 'Train in Industrial Setting'.

This month we feature a work by Ann Henson. Ann is a Founder-Member of the Arts Group. The image shown is drawn on Card using Charcoal Sticks.

The TV Papers are a great source of subjects for those who enjoy Portrait drawing and painting.

Helge Brock ☎ 861972
helgewallenbrock@gmail.com



Mere Girlguiding

Both Rainbows and Brownies are back in the Grove Building.

Second-hand uniform

If anyone has any Rainbow/Brownie/Guide uniform (current) that their daughter has outgrown, Mere Guiding District would appreciate any second hand/not wanted anymore uniform to help new Girls joining guiding, who may not be able to afford uniform. Please put uniform in a bag and hand in to Jeans Electrical Shop.

Nicky Lawes District Commissioner for Mere & Nadder

Fives Court and future health and well-being facilities in Mere

Following on from the successful first meeting on 28th July, on 23rd September representatives of Wiltshire Council, Mere Town Council, Mere Surgery and Mere Surgery PPG met in Mere to discuss two key issues. Firstly, to assess current provision of affordable housing (particularly for the elderly) in Mere and secondly to consider how to improve the provision of health and well-being services to Mere and its environs. This arose from the paper presented in June by Mere PPG to Wiltshire Council which can still be read on the Mere Surgery website (PPG section).

It was decided that the next step will be to undertake an in-depth consultation with Mere residents led by Mere PPG and Wiltshire Council. Fives Court will be included in this consultation as part of the affordable housing provision for the elderly in Mere and the Council is not intending to dispose of this site.

The consultation will take place over the winter months and the partnership will continue to update you as this important project progresses. "This is residents' opportunity to have a say in the future council housing provision in Mere as well as re-shaping the way Mere Surgery is supported by bringing much needed health services back to the area," says Cllr Phil Alford, Cabinet member for Housing, Strategic Assets and Asset Transfer for Wiltshire Council and Cllr George Jeans, Wiltshire Council.

Now the really hard work really begins.

Elaine Stallard. Mere PPG  07711 350377

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church, St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwarden: Derek Fisher ☎ 861980, Jean Knapp ☎ 860142

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

3 rd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Harvest Festival
10 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
17 th	Sun	08:00 10:30 18:00	BCP Parish Communion Songs of Praise
24 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
31 st	Sun	08:00 10:00	BCP All Saints', Maiden Bradley, Patronal Festival

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

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

3 rd	Sun	18:00	Harvest Festival
10 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
17 th	Sun	09:30	Lay Led Service
24 th	Sun	10:30	Holy Communion
31 st	Sun	10:00	All Saints', Maiden Bradley, Patronal Festival

All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

3 rd	Sun	10:00	Coffee & Catch up
10 th	Sun	10:00	Harvest Festival
17 th	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
24 th	Sun	10:00	Parish Communion
31 st	Sun	10:00	Patronal Festival for All Saints' Church

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

See Notice Board outside church for details of services***The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.***

Father Louis Beasley-Suffolk: ☎ 01963 34408

hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere Library

Mere Library opening hours:

Monday: 10:00 – 12:00* and 15:00 – 18:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00*

Thursday: 14:00 – 17:00

Friday: 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

*Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant***Booking Meeting Venues**

Grove Building:	Derek Fisher administrator@grovebuildingmere.com	☎ 861980
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Eileen Burfitt	☎ 860685

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

Mere Historical Society

The Talks programme continues this month in the Grove Building, starting with “Updating Pevsner” by Julian Orbach, on **Tuesday 5 October at 19:30**. For those unfamiliar with this famous name, Pevsner (a refugee from Hitler’s Germany) was the inspiration, and the main author, of the Buildings of England series of county guides to England’s chief architectural treasures, published between 1951 and 1974. His body lies in Wiltshire soil, at Clyffe Pypard. This is followed by a morning talk, on **Tues. 12 October at 10.30**, by Gerald Meyer on “The Borgias”.

More details of forthcoming attractions can be found on our website at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming current members for whom membership is extended to the end of March 2022 and non-members for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door. New members may join us for just £10. We ask you please to remember to bring your face-covering.

Peter Landymore (Chair) 228819, Diane Ellis (Secretary) ☎ 861541

Respiratory illnesses in children on the rise

Young children typically pick up coughs and colds during the cooler months of the year, but the NHS are seeing more children with respiratory illness now.

The main signs and symptoms to look out for are:

- Laboured/rapid breathing
 - Dehydration (sunken eyes, drowsy or not passed urine in 12 hours)
 - Drowsiness (excessively sleepy)
-

A dark silhouette of a person, possibly a woman, with their head bowed and hand near their face, suggesting distress or contemplation. The background is a dark blue gradient.

It's ok to talk about domestic abuse

We're here to take your calls
If you're the victim of domestic abuse or you're worried about someone, get in touch

Splitz **01225 775276** (weekdays)
Out of hours
01225 712880
In an emergency call **999**

SPLITZ
Support Service



Wiltshire and Swindon
pcc

Wiltshire Council

A detailed image of a vintage mechanical watch movement, showing gears, springs, and a large circular lens or crystal.

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