



# Mere Matters

& so does

## West Knoyle

Your community magazine

**September 2021**

## The Week at a Glance

**Venue Key:**
**ATR** - Angel Tea Rooms  
**StM** - St Michaels Church

**GB** - Grove Building  
**URC** - United Ref Church

**L** - Lecture Hall

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

pp = per person

14:00	Fanny Charles and Gay Pirrie-Weir -DEEPEST WILTSHIRE	URC	£9.00 pp
15:00, 15:30 & 16:00	Patrick Caruth – CHILDRENS EVENT	ATR	Free entry
16:00	Hamish de Bretton-Gordon – CHEMICAL WARRIOR	URC	£9 pp
19:00	Lucy Jago – A NET FOR SMALL FISHES	URC	£10 pp

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

11:00	Writers Workshop with Tom Bromley	L	£15 pp
14:00	Keeping Readers on the Edge of their Seats – Crime Writers Panel	URC	£9 pp
16:00	Keith Stuart – THE FREQUENCY OF US	URC	£9 pp
19:00	Andrew Lownie – TRAITOR KING	StM	£12 pp

**Weds 13th**

14:00	Claire Fuller – UNSETTLED GROUND	StM	£10 pp
16:00	Stephen Moss – SKYLARKS WITH ROSIE	StM	£9 pp
19:00	Stephen Fabes – SIGNS OF LIFE	StM	£10 pp
19:30	Mere Garden Club	GB	Retiring donations

**Thurs 14th**

11:00	Getting More From Your Reading with Jo Hall	URC	£15 pp
14:00	Louise Hare – THIS LOVELY CITY	URC	£9 pp
16:00	Robin Hanbury-Tenison TAMING THE FOUR HORSEMEN	URC	£12 pp
19:00	Richard Hopton – THE STRAITS OF TREACHERY	StM	£9 pp

**Friday 15th**

11:00	Foraging walk with Dave Hamilton – WHERE THE WILD THINGS GROW. Entry fee includes a £5.00 voucher against the purchase of his foraging book	Meet at Clock Tower	£15 pp
12:00	Ian Dunt – POLITICS AND A PINT	The Butt of Sherry	£10 pp
14:00	Xinran - Discussion about China	URC	£10 pp
16:00	Roger Morgan Grenville - SHEARWATER	URC	£9 pp
19:00	Band – A KIND OF BLUE	GB	£10 pp

*Have you some good photos for the front cover? Send them in please.*





## Mere Matters Editorial

It would appear that the 'new normal' has arrived! As this publication takes on a different feel again, many references within the articles give hyperlinks to other information. The problem with printed material is that you cannot just click the mouse on the paper to get redirect.



All copies of Mere Matters are however fairly quickly posted on the Town Council website at [Merewilts.org](http://Merewilts.org) after printing and circulation. By going to the website you can view the latest (and any old copies) in your browser thus enabling you to get the links without having to type them in. Enjoy!

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

---

## Mere Town Council

Mere Town Council's last meeting was held on July 5th. Traditionally, the full council does not meet in August. This doesn't mean we have a month off, on the contrary, it is business as usual. During August it is often necessary to use "delegated powers" to address issues which have to be dealt with within a time frame e.g. planning, finance, management and maintenance, and this has been the case this year.

I am pleased to say that following the lifting of restrictions, we have now re-opened all the toilets in the Salisbury Street car park, as well as all recreational facilities. Meetings of the Council can now take place without social distancing and mask wearing will be optional and they will continue in the foyer of Duchy Manor School for the time being. If you wish to attend a meeting, there is no need to contact the Clerk and you are very welcome to come along.

At the July meeting we said "good bye" to PC Richard Salter, who worked in Mere 2007 - 2015 and came back 2.5 years ago. The Council thanked him for his service and wished him a happy retirement. We were also introduced to PCSO Dan Gill who has taken over from Pete Tcherniawsky. I am sure you will see him about town.

For many years the Mere Carnival has taken place in September. Sadly, there was no Carnival last year and there will be no procession this year although I am pleased to report that the Carnival committee has decided to hold a Carnival Fun Day on **September 18th**. There will be lots of posters around town and you can read more about this in this edition of Mere Matters.

With the approach of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next summer, a committee has been formed with representatives from the Town, the Parochial Church Council and Mere Town Council. The committee are planning events within the town and will be looking for suggestions on how to celebrate this occasion. Volunteers will also be needed to help on the day. We shall be kept up to date via Mere Matters and Mere Mutters. Mere Town Council awaits information from

the official Pageant Master, who will advise us on national events in which we can participate.

I have received compliments on the painting of bins and railings around Mere and would like to thank our Street Orderly, Sam Doman, for this. Also, I would like to thank our groundsmen for keeping Mere looking so tidy. During lockdown, all our staff have worked so hard to keep up the maintenance and running of our town. Many thanks to them. Most of all, thanks to our Clerk, Lindsey Wood, who has "battled" her way through so much red tape and kept Mere going.

*Lesley Traves, Chair, Mere Town Council*

[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) ☎ 860701 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

---

### Climate Strategy

Wiltshire Council is consulting on its draft Climate Strategy from 1 September for six weeks, as it aims to meet its pledge to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The consultation is your chance to help shape the future of Wiltshire in its journey to becoming carbon neutral county and more resilient to climate impacts. The council will be asking for your views on how you think residents, communities and businesses in the county can all play their part to achieve this.

There will be a chance to attend engagement events to ask questions and share your views during the six weeks of the consultation period, along with an online survey, so please do get involved and help to spread the word. The full consultation documents and information will be available at

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy) from 1 September.

*aren Linaker Community Engagement Manager, Wiltshire Council*

---

### Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

For many years I have taken interest in the broadband intervention (subsidized) rollout and reported on it to the electorate. It has been reported that as from 2025, all households and businesses will need the internet to make telephone calls. This has not been well publicised. What happens to things like alarms, EPOS machines (Shop tills), door entry systems, CCTV, and faxes. Many businesses have already embraced an all-digital model, moving their communications to the cloud, making calls over the internet and embracing video conferencing. PSTN (public switched telephone network – the traditional landline network) lines will cease, it is said, in 2025. You will be able to keep your current number. One of the big advantages of digital systems over traditional landlines is that you can have the same number on multiple devices, computer, iPad or mobile phone, wherever you are. It means millions of customers will be online for the first time or perhaps rely on a mobile phone instead. Ofcom enforces telecoms providers have an obligation to ensure all households have access to the emergency services during power cuts. Analogue Telephone Adapter: The most common way

of using some existing phones is with an analogue telephone adaptor (ATA). ATAs allow you to connect a standard phone to the internet, allowing you to use your existing phone with the VoIP system. On the other hand, your call quality on VoIP will be affected by the state of your broadband line - slow internet can mean compromised phone calls. That said, so long as you're using a fibre optic line, all should be okay, in much of the Mere Area we have fibre to the cabinet which I hope will be OK, some are lucky and have fibre.

I would like to congratulate Mere Surgery who had the best rating in the whole of the NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) CCG area with 100% of the 156 residents who completed the survey having a good experience at the practice.

Whilst attending the funeral of Reg Doman on Friday 6th August, I was hit by a downpour I had never experienced since possibly the mid-1970s when lightening hit the Church Tower. The Coop, Grove Building, Library and some private houses had flooding.

Carers groups meet monthly to give unpaid carers of people living with dementia a chance to socialise, share experiences, find out useful information about dementia - or just talk about something completely different! For South Wiltshire, St Michael's Church, Bemerton Heath. Please call 01380 739055 to find out more or email us.

The forthcoming Environment Bill seeks to ensure that future rates of recycling are significantly increased by obligating producers of packaging to fund the full costs of collection and recycling. Government will introduce a Plastic Packaging Tax from April 2022. Manufacturers will be incentivised to use more easily recyclable materials under an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme from 2023, which will also see funding released to local authorities to support additional recycling of packaging, and also fund litter collection activities. A national Deposit Return Scheme is proposed that could significantly reduce the impact of littering of bottles and cans etc from late 2024. The Environment Bill also proposes to mandate consistency in local authority recycling collections, to include weekly collections of food waste, and free of charge garden waste collections, with additional service costs being met by government through the "new burdens" scheme. These proposals are currently subject to a second round of stakeholder consultation

Wiltshire Council have a policy of not cutting verges to September. I wish to see wildlife however I consider safety at junctions and other situations paramount. I have made high level complaints and some of the junctions and other problems have been addressed. There are further problems of thorns and walkers' eyes, pushing older walkers and cyclist further out in the carriageway or path and so it goes on.

---

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

## Letters to the Editor

### **CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE**

In the July/August edition of Mere Matters Councillor Traves asked for ideas on how the Town Council should spend the £134k from the Woodland Road Development. Perhaps the money could be well spent on providing a park, including a play park, to the south of the town. The unusable portion of the old cemetery seems a fitting candidate. It can neither be built on, nor be used as a cemetery and lies conveniently between Woodlands and the shortest route to the town centre. The well-used play park at the foot of Castle Hill could serve as a model for one the other side of town.

As we approach the Queen's Jubilee a park would be a fitting tribute to her. The planting of trees and a scattering of benches would complete a haven for children, parents and the whole of Mere to enjoy the peace, calm and wonderful views of the Meads.

*Kit Stallard*

---

## Mere Doctors Surgery

### **Flu vaccinations**

We are currently in the process of finalising our arrangements for flu vaccinations this year. We are hoping to be able to send a link by SMS text message to patients with mobile phone numbers recorded to enable patients to book their appointment online.

As soon as the arrangements are finalised, we will update our website [www.meresurgery.co.uk](http://www.meresurgery.co.uk) with the full details of clinic dates and times. We will also give advice on how to book your appointment if you do not have a mobile phone.

Please ensure your mobile number is up to date on our records or let us have details if you are happy to receive a link to book your appointment. The easiest way to do this is via the Administration Office tab on the home page of this website.

### **Covid booster vaccinations**

We are awaiting further clarification from NHS England about this booster vaccination programme. Again the surgery website will be updated as soon as we receive it. Please check the website regularly for updates.

*Mere Surgery ☎ 860001*

---

## St Michaels ~ Advance Notice

Songs of Praise is coming back!

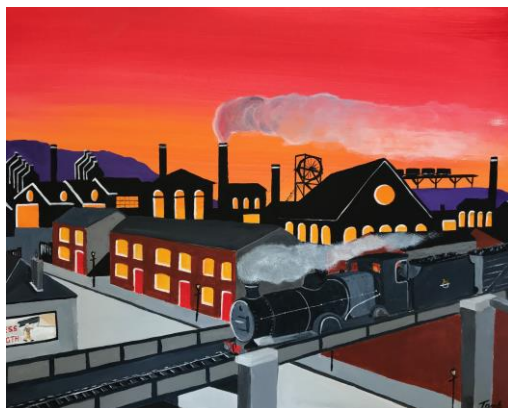
Do join us @ 18:00 on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

## Mere Arts Group

We have now moved back from St Michaels into The Grove Building, and what a fine building it is; with tea, coffee and biscuits ready to hand, and of course is excellent for our Art activities!

We have enjoyed a record attendance - some 18 Members, and on that same day we had a session of 'Still-Life' painting with exhibits set up by Chris Tuck for those who wished to take part. Chris also provided guidance to those who requested it.

One of the long-standing Members of the Arts Group, Tom Beall, specialises in 'Naive Art' - a style with strong colours, entertaining images, and always attracting attention. In recent years Tom has given a 'talk' on this Art Genre with examples from across the world. He has also held several Private Exhibitions of his work for the whole Group to enjoy. The image is from Tom's portfolio.



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

## Mere Girlguiding

Rainbows and Brownies are starting face-to-face meetings again in the Grove Building on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. Brownies go back on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September** and a return date for Rainbows will be confirmed in the near future.

Rainbows (age 5 - 7) between 17:15 to 18:15. Term time only.

Brownies (ages 7-11) between 18:15 and 19:30 pm. Term time only.

We do fun activities, learn new skills, work towards various badges and interact with other girls by working in teams.

There is a cost of £20 per term or £10 per each half term for Brownies.

Uniforms can be purchased online at the Girlguiding shop. For more information on Rainbows and Brownies online at [Girlguiding.org.uk](http://Girlguiding.org.uk).

If your daughter is interesting in joining Rainbows or Brownies, please contact Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901 or register your daughter at [Girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://Girlguiding.org.uk/joinus).

We are seeking adult volunteers who would like to volunteer and help us run our activities. If you are interested please contact Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901 who will put you contact with the local leader.

*Nicky Lawes District Commissioner for Mere & Nadder*



## Mere Library

Mere Library reopened in April and offers the following opening hours:

Monday:	10:00 -12:00* and 15:00 – 18:00
Tuesday:	10:00 – 12:00
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.*

We are currently looking for some extra volunteers to help at Mere Library. This is a great role if you have some time to spare each month, enjoy meeting people of all ages and have a love of books and reading.

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with straightforward enquiries; assisting with the self-service machines; shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public access computers.

We are looking for volunteers who can be flexible about their availability and are able to do approximately two sessions per month.

If you are interested in volunteering at Mere Library and would like further details about the Community Library Volunteer role please contact me.

Jane Hunt ☎ 01225 713792 [jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Mere Museum

I am pleased to announce that the Museum is now open again to the public.

The new exhibition is entitled Memories and Mementos of Mere and covers a variety of items received by the museum over the years. I do hope you enjoy a trip down memory lane and please leave any comments and anecdotes about the items in the **visitor's** book.

Rose Heesom ☎ 07791 559 674

## Battle of Britain Week



Yes, it is nearly that time of year when I will be collecting again on behalf of the Royal Air Force Associations help support this very worthy cause.

Whilst I am hoping to visit as many of you as possible you can always send a donation by cheque to: Don Curry, Treasurer, 19 Glyn Close, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP70 DP44

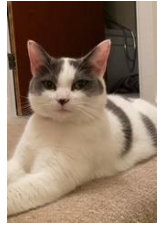
Please remember to write your name and address on the back so that he can acknowledge receipt. Thank you.

Your help is really valued and goes toward the amazing work for our veterans.

Roy Sims ☎ 863328

Missing cat from Milton, East Knoyle. Last seen Monday 26th July 09:45 wearing a red collar with white spots on. She is a very scared and shy cat and has never been far from the house before. Any possible sightings or information would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact 07975 767996 with any information.



---

### Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Update on Fives Court and future health and well-being facilities in Mere.

A positive meeting was held on Wednesday (28<sup>th</sup> July) with representatives of Wiltshire Council at Fives Court in Mere. Those attending were Cllr Phil Alford Cabinet member for Housing, Strategic Assets and Asset Transfer, Simon Hendey Director of Housing and Commercial Development, Cllr George Jeans and myself on behalf of the Mere Surgery PPG. It is early days but the fact that such a strong and well briefed team came to Mere should give confidence to the Town that its voice is being heard. As Cllr Alford wrote after the meeting "I had never been to Mere before and I am pleased I did. It is a beautiful town and I came away reassured by the positive and constructive tone of the meeting and felt confident that we can work together moving forward".

Mere Surgery PPG will continue to work with Wiltshire Council with the aim of updating everyone in September. This is the start of a long and consultative process but if we have patience and remain constructive then something very special may be added to the facilities of Mere. The meeting gave us hope ... perhaps more than we expected.

*Elaine Stallard, Chair Mere Surgery PPG* 📞 07711 350377 [MerePPG@gmail.com](mailto:MerePPG@gmail.com)

### Raising Money for Cancer Research

Graham Sheppard is cycling from Lands End to John O Groats (LEJOG) in aid of Cancer Research starting over the Bank Holiday. He did the JOGLE in 2016 at the tender age of 60 so thought he'd tackle it again at 65.

He has a Facebook page which is:



<https://www.facebook.com/Sheps-LEJOG-2021-101830568860273/>

and a Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/graham-sheppard>

### Ride & Stride 11<sup>th</sup> September

The next annual Ride and Stride will take place between **10:00 and 18:00** on **Saturday 11th September**



This is an annual national sponsored event, organised locally by County Historic Churches Trusts.

Wiltshire Ride + Stride (or its predecessor the Great Cycle Ride) has been going since 1984 and has raised over £1.5 million for the county's churches. 50% of the money raised goes to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust.

Participants may be cyclists, walkers, horse-riders or drivers of mobility scooters. They can be of any age, but under-13s must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit as many churches as you like, planning your own route.

Seek sponsorship from friends, relations and colleagues, so much per church visited or a lump sum.

*Sherry Dixon 01747 861319.*

### Keep up-to-date with improvement works

Contractors working on our behalf are carrying out road resurfacing and associated works in a number of towns across Wiltshire.



You can also see the full list of all roadworks taking place in the county by visiting the One Network map and typing 'Wiltshire' into the search box, or anywhere else!

### Mere Family Fun Day

Sadly there will not be a carnival this year but we are organising a family fun day **14:00 – 21:00** on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September** on the **Duchy Manor Estate**, Springfield Road. Various stalls and events including tombola, crockery breaking and skittles alley are planned along with bar and food sales together with live music throughout the day and evening. Fun fair rides are also being planned. We are also holding a Golden Ticket Draw at £1.00 a ticket with a whopping £500 prize. Tickets will be on sale soon in a number of outlets in Mere and at the event.

What a day it will be so come along for a grand day out.

*Penny Allen*

### New start, New venue & New day for Shaftesbury & Gillingham u3a

sgu3a which covers all local areas including Mere, are restarting their monthly meetings on **Wednesday Sept 1st at Motcombe Memorial Hall**. This is a new venue and a different day for the monthly meeting of this u3a, which has been running since 1999.

#### **Who are we and what do we do?**

u3a is a national movement which supports people in their third age to continue their learning and interests in an informal environment. It is 21 years since Shaftesbury and Gillingham u3a formed and it has about 400 members aged 50 upwards. It is a lively bunch of individuals. We have a meeting on the first Wednesday of the month with a guest speaker, and over the years a wide variety of topics have been covered; some serious some light hearted. Then there are the various sub groups. These cover all sorts of interests ; gardening, canasta, Scrabble, international history, art appreciation, digital photography, literature, family history, French conversation, German conversation to name but a few.... There is nothing fuddy duddy about u3a members! They have a zest for life and a wide variety of interests as well as a lively sense of humour!

There are no qualifications required to join, just an interest in taking part. We cover Shaftesbury, Gillingham and the surrounding areas. Membership is for all who are retired, semi-retired or getting closer to retirement and it is just £10 per year to join. Full information, including how to join, can be found on our website.

 [u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/home)

---

### Read Easy Garage Sale

**Saturday 18th September 10:00 -12:30** at 1 Boar Street by kind permission of Jean Young. Sale includes some agapanthus plants. Read Easy is raising funds to support the teaching of adults learning to read and the supply of books and materials for them. Support us if you can

*Judy Phillips* ☎ 860835

---

### Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

We are very pleased to confirm that our AGM will be held on Monday **September 13th at 19:30** in the Lecture Hall. All are very welcome as we re-launch ourselves after a very, very long intermission, and we look forward to welcoming new members, whether keen to tread the boards or to help in any way backstage. Plans for an Autumn Production are taking shape. All details in the next issue!



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

### Merely Women

At long last, it looks as though we can restart our regular meetings. We will re-open on **Friday 10th September at 10:00** in the Grove Building and will then continue with our meetings on every 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. Hope to see you all on Sept 10th.

*Jean Eyles* ☎ 863450

---

### Short Walks Around Mere

This month's short walk will take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at **14:00** in the surgery car park for a walk of 2-3miles around Mere's hidden paths

*Janet Way* ☎ 860884

---

### Mere Film Shows

Although rules have been relaxed, we have decided to show our next film early in the New Year so please look out for details of dates and films in a later issue of Mere Matters.

We have also got some ideas for the future of Mere Film Shows which we will also be sharing before December this year! As I wrote in the last issue, if you are new to Mere (or new to Moviola!) and would like to find out more about what we normally do then please get in touch with me via the details below.

*Rosie Jordan-Barr* ☎ 861567 [rosiejb77@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejb77@gmail.com)

---

### Mere Gardening Club

Garden club members enjoyed our first meeting on 11th August in the garden of Deb Harvey with a social occasion. It was good to be back after so long and we are now looking forward to our first meeting in the Grove Building on the **8th September at 19:30**. New members always welcome.

The speaker will be Stephen Hackett who will talk about Horatio's Garden. This is the garden at Salisbury Hospital set up in memory of a young man killed in an accident a few years ago.

Horatio's Garden is now a national charity creating and nurturing beautiful gardens in NHS spinal injury centres to support everyone affected by spinal injury. They help communities to support patients, their families and friends facing long stays in NHS hospitals.

*Rose Heesom Secretary* 📠 07791 559674 🌐 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk)

---



### Mere Theatre Club

At a recent committee meeting we decided to play it safe and not book any group outings at the moment. We will keep the situation under review and hopefully we can all enjoy a visit to the theatre soon. Meanwhile if you fancy supporting a local, and outdoor, event "**Murder Most Foul 1557**" is being performed in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church in Kilminster on **Saturday and Sunday the 18th & 19th September**, daytime performances. For information and bookings go to [murdermostfoul.co](http://murdermostfoul.co) (yes it is .co not .com!)

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

---

### Mere Historical Society

We are delighted to announce that the Mere Historical Society has a new Programme of talks planned for this Autumn and Spring 2022. The first talk will be on **Tuesday 28th September at 19:30** in the Grove Building and will be on **The Rivers of Mere by Ian Sheppard**.

This will be followed by a talk on **Tuesday 5th October at 19:30** entitled **Updating Pevsner by Julian Orbach**.

Details of the Programme can be found at [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://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.

Unfortunately we had to cancel all summer visits for 2021 but aim to reinstate these in 2022. With this in mind, we would welcome your suggestions for places to visit and would love to hear from anyone who would like to run a trip or take up the role of Visits Co-ordinator on our Committee which is currently vacant.

To get in touch please contact the Chair, Peter Landymore on 228819 or Secretary, Diane Ellis on 861541 or visit the website.

*Peter Landymore* ☎ 228819 🌐 [merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

---

### To the Friends of John Cox

As many of you know we sadly lost John in early April and have yet to say goodbye. So there is to be a short service at St Michael's **on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 14:00** and afterwards at John's home from home, **The Butt of Sherry**. All friends will be welcome. This is being organised by John's sister Mrs. Christine Powell and John's brother Gerald, who will be over from San Francisco. I hope to see you there.

*Madeline Morris* ☎ 861833

---

**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	Wed	09:30 19:00	<b>Ta-Chi</b> (every Wed) <b>Railway Modellers</b> (every Wed)	GB RMC
2	Thurs	10:00 13:00 14:00	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs) Quilters <b>Quilters</b> (every Thurs)	GB GB GB
3	Fri	13:45	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14.00 start every Fri)	GB
4	Sat	10:00	Mere Model Railways Open Day	RMC
5	Sun			
6	Mon	18:00	<b>Scouting</b> (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
7	Tues	13:00	<b>Pilates</b> (JL) (every Tues)	GB
8	Wed	13:45 19:30	Friends Together Whist Gardening Club <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB GB
9	Thurs	17:00	<b>Girlguiding</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Thurs) <i>Art, Quilters</i>	GB
10	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
11	Sat			
12	Sun			
13	Mon		<i>Scouting</i>	
14	Tues	08:00 14:15	Foot Clinic Mothers Union <i>Pilates (JL)</i>	
15	Wed	14:00	Short Walk <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	CP
16	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding</i>	
17	Fri	19:30	Suchana Quiz <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
18	Sat	14:00	Family Fun Day	Mere School Field
19	Sun			
20	Mon		<i>Scouting</i>	
21	Tues		<i>Pilates (JL)</i>	
22	Wed	14:00	Friends Together Meeting <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
23	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding</i>	
24	Fri	10:00 17:30	Merely Women Concert - URC Open Weekend <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB URC
25	Sat	10:00	URC Open Weekend	URC
26	Sun		URC Open Weekend	

27	Mon	<i>Scouting</i>	
28	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic
			<i>Pilates (JL)</i>
29	Wed	<i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
30	Thurs	<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding</i>	

# MERE CARNIVAL 2021

## Win £500



*Get the winning ticket at the Fun Day or from—  
Mere Post Office, Lou's It, Jeans Electricals, Sprout and Flower,  
The Butt of Sherry, The George Inn, The Walnut Tree Inn*

## CARNIVAL FUN DAY – 2PM TO 9PM

## SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

*Music from local bands and other entertainments as well as a dog show  
Food vans, licenced bar, and other refreshments  
Lots and lots of stalls—prizes to win, things to buy and things to do  
Junior rides. Fire engine and other demonstrations  
More info on Mere Carnival facebook or website*

**ENTRY FEE 5.00 PER ADULT 1.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16**

### Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Are you a patient of Mere Surgery? Could you give an hour a month to help support the Surgery team in their continuing quest to deliver the best possible service to their patients? Are you interested in the development of future health and well-being services in Mere? Mere Surgery PPG meets once a month at 9.30am. It is interesting, fun and your contribution could really make a difference. All age groups welcome, particularly those with skills in social media. Find the PPG registration form on the Mere Surgery website or contact:

*Elaine Stallard, Chair Mere Surgery PPG* ☎ 07711 350377 [MerePPG@gmail.com](mailto:MerePPG@gmail.com)

# **Mere Model Railways Open Day 4<sup>th</sup> September in Castle Street Car Park (10:00 to 15:00)**

**Operation of the two major club layouts  
300 books for sale together with O,  
OO & N Gauge Engines, rolling stock  
and buildings  
Entrance Free**



## Mere School ~ **Children enter the dragon's den**

Some years ago John Jordan (our then Chair of Governors) came up with the idea of collaborating with Mere's biggest employer – Hillbrush – to develop a Design Technology (DT) project for our year 6 children. He persuaded Chairman Philip Coward that it would be a great opportunity for our Year 6 children to visit the factory to see how the brushes are made, and to learn about the history of Hillbrush. The children then went back to school to design their own brushes, before returning to Hillbrush to pitch their creations to the 'Hillbrush Dragons.' And so our Dragon's Den Brush Project began.

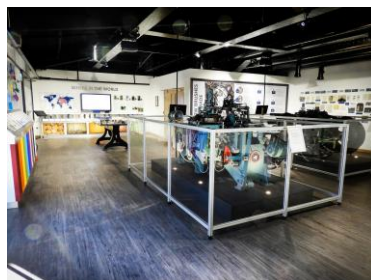


It has been one of our most successful projects, giving the children a real purpose for their learning and a valuable experience not available to many primary school children. Due to COVID restrictions, it was not possible to visit Hillbrush this year but we were determined to continue with the project. We used the Hillbrush website to find out about the history of the brush factory and the products they make and then one of the Hillbrush dragons - aka Phil Norris - came to school to listen to the children's pitches.

The children worked in small groups to think of an innovative new brush, draw their design, consider the materials it would be made from and how it would work. They then had to write a persuasive pitch about their product. In the pitches they had to include information on what was unique about their brush, who the target market would be, production and selling costs.

It is quite a daunting task for an adult to pitch to an expert, so you can imagine how scary it must be for ten and eleven year olds not only to have to present their pitch, but also to answer tricky questions on the spot.

This year the standard of pitches was extremely high. The children impressed our dragon with their knowledge about their product, the professional and confident manner in which they spoke and their ability to answer those tricky questions. Usually certificates are presented to the winning group, but this year the children were so impressive that there were 2 winning groups and the Hillbrush have taken their designs to study further!



You can read and see more photographs on the Hillbrush website at <https://www.hillbrush.com/en-gb/insights/dragons-den-2021>



## Link Scheme

I am writing this during the heavy rain showers in August and hopefully, as you read it the weather is drier and sunnier. The heavy rains this summer did not stop us from getting people to their appointments and we did a total of 149 journeys in June and July. The proportion of trips to Salisbury District Hospital increased markedly in July presumably because they are working hard to reduce their waiting lists.

Once again on some days it has been very difficult to find drivers as many are taking the opportunity to go away for a few days so if you would like to help by volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

Alan Inwood has decided to stop driving after 15 years taking people to appointments and delivering medicines on a Friday to those in local villages who cannot collect their prescription. Alan, who lives in Maiden Bradley, has agreed to continue as the Villages Representative on the Link Management Committee. I have written thanking him for his strong advocacy for the Link Scheme and his work for our local community which has been much appreciated by our passengers and those receiving their prescriptions.

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.

Following the Government's decision to reduce coronavirus restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July we have told our drivers that the use of our coronavirus safety guidelines is now optional. This means the driver and passenger can choose whether to wear a face covering while in the car and whether passengers have to sit in the back where this is practical. Where there are any concerns from either the passenger or the driver the default position is to carry on with the safety guidelines. Also, where the driver and passengers agree we can now take people from different households in the same car. Drivers still 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. Please feel free to discuss the arrangements for your trip when you speak with the co-ordinator.

---

*John FitzGerald, Chair 📞 860096 🌐 [merelink.org.uk](https://merelink.org.uk)*

## Mere Bowls Club

Members have enjoyed themselves in spite of the issues put in their way by various lock-downs during the season. The club has won approx 50% of its games across all leagues and friendly matches this year, so not a bad result considering.

Our congratulations go to a new member of the club, Pam Lamshead, for reaching the all England finals at Royal Leamington Spa in the Champion-of-Champions category. Pam moved house between winning the county title with Devizes BC two years ago and being entered into the competition as a member of Mere BC this season. Pam has already won three games in order to reach Leamington.

While offering our congratulations, may we also mention that Don Butchers will be President of Bowls Wiltshire Men next year, as such he will represent the county and Mere BC at a number of high level events throughout the 2022 season. Both Pam and Don have brought recognition for Mere BC and put Mere town on the map for a lot of people both within and outside of the county.

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

---

## Friends of Mere Museum

Inspired by the success of our open-air Plant Sale in May, the Friends have recently held a very entertaining and enjoyable Quiz evening. It was wonderful to see so many people there in these difficult times. We hope soon to be able to announce some future events for you to look forward to. Meanwhile, thank you for your continuing support.

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

---

## **Mere Carnival Fun Day**

14.00 – 21.00 on 18th September 2021

Town playing fields

We are delighted to have

### ***Riff in Time***

Guitar and banjo duo

### ***Kind of Blue***

Five piece blues band

### ***The Rebbels***

Playing 60's and 70's music

Live music at its best

Along with Mere Amateur Dramatic Society  
performing comedy sketches

And we invite you to enter the Mere Talent  
show



Our fund-raising Quiz and Pudding evening is now arranged for **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 19:30** in the Grove Building, and we're very much looking forward to welcoming you if you can come. Tickets are £7 (£3 for children) and of course, include a selection of lovely puddings. There will also be a licensed bar. Numbers will be limited and it is important to book in advance by phoning ☎ 860553 or 863324 or emailing [judithvtompson@aol.com](mailto:judithvtompson@aol.com). You can also sign the list at the back of St Michael's Church. Please pay in advance if possible, and when you book please leave a phone number so we can get in touch with you. If you're not able to come or quizzes are not your thing, please note that we'll be holding a coffee morning at 14 Lovage Way on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. More details in October Mere Matters

Thank you in advance for your support! At least you can be sure that the money we raise will make a real difference in the lives of some of the very marginalised children and their communities in West Bengal. As ever, the Suchana project is being active and imaginative in providing at least very basic education in an area where all the government schools have been closed since early 2020 and will remain closed until at least the end of this year. Although the Suchana site itself has to remain closed at present, its teachers and volunteers are busy gathering together the children in the little villages where they live, helping to maintain literacy and numeracy skills as well as providing basic life skills and an opportunity to learn through guided play and exploration. In a rather bleak situation, it is providing a little oasis of hope for the future.

---

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

## The No.57 bus.

*Over the Deverills and far away  
Why not take the bus one day  
It goes to Warminster 5 days a week  
Gives us a chance to meet and greet.*

*the scenery is great and there's loads to view  
Sheep, lambs and cows, to mention a few  
There's friendly faces and lively chatter  
Lots of trolleys cos they really matter.*

*The driver is great, he helps us all  
With a friendly smile, that says it all  
He knows all our stops, no need for the bell  
There's pushchairs and toddlers and crutches as  
well!*



*We don't all have cars so this service is great  
It's once a day so mustn't be late  
With diminishing transport all the time  
We really must save it  
PLEASE TRY IT SOME TIME.*

*Barbara Bourne 863411*

---

### Harvest Lunch for Mere Foodbank

There will be a Harvest Lunch in the **Grove Building** (starting around 12:30) on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October**. We are aiming to raise some much needed funds for **Mere Foodbank** so please come along and join us. We plan to serve two hot courses, fruit, and plenty of tea and coffee. We are hoping for a good turnout so If you do plan to attend, please let us know in advance.

*Judy 860335 and Sandra 861980*

---



## Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



At last the members of the Mere Mother's Union met again with a Communion Service at St. Michael's Church led by Judith Thompson. We celebrated 145 years of the Mother's Union and 100 years since the death of Mary Sumner our founder. We were delighted to welcome two new members and this was followed by a picnic lunch.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th September at 14:30** in the main hall of the Grove Building. It is very spacious and we can invite anyone who would like to join us for a small service followed by a very interesting talk from Susanne Hayes the 'Mere Sewing Lady' who has had an extremely interesting career in Italy and UK. She is now famous for her ability to bring clothes that somehow don't fit any more fit again and also attending to the needs of brides, grooms and their families, especially the brides' mother. It has been a summer of calming the many families who haven't known if the wedding would even go ahead so a listening ear has been part of her role.

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.

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

## Mere U.R.C.

With the renovations in the church now completed, this seems a good time to look back at its history and then to look forward.

The first Congregational Church in Mere (now the United Reformed Church) opened in 1795 in Dark Lane on the present site of Jeans' showroom. Robert Butt, who financed the building of the church, also built a house for himself, which later became the Manse, the building in Boar Street adjacent to the present church. The first minister to live in the Manse was John Hyatt. However, for the first year of his ministry and before moving into the Manse, he rode his horse from Sherborne to Mere each Sunday. (The present Minister enjoys a much easier journey!)



By 1852 the original church was too small and it was demolished and a larger one built on the same site. Although this was only used as a church for 16 years, it continued as a school until Duchy Manor opened in 1965.

The church on the present site was built in 1868 and there have been several alterations and improvements over the years. In 1993 the main area of the church was divided by a screen, leaving a smaller worship area and a hall that has been available both for church occasions and for public use.

The recent renovations have extended the area of the hall and modernised the whole layout. In addition to the worship area, there are now two rooms available for public use, one on the ground floor with a kitchen, the other in the old gallery area. This is reached either by stairs or a small lift. It is hoped that these two rooms will be well used by different organisations (either for one/off or for regular bookings) or for private functions. Enquiries re booking should at present be made to Mrs. Eileen Burfitt, ☎ 860685.

We have been asked if regular Saturday Coffee Mornings will be resumed. This will depend on finding volunteers to help. If you would be willing to help occasionally, please let us know.

We are arranging an **Open Weekend on September 24th - 26th.**

**Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 19.30 CONCERT** in the new hall.

Donations for Church funds.

**Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> Church open from 10:30 – 16:30.**

Light refreshments available.

*Mere U.R.C. Elders*

## Church Contact and Service Details

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

Priest in Charge: TBA

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwarden: Derek Fisher ☎ 861980, Jean Knapp ☎ 860142

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

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Act of Worship
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:00	BCP Parish Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP St Michael's Patronal

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

Priest in Charge: TBA

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

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

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Parish Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Act of Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	DIY
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	St Michael's Patronal

### ***All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley***

Priest in Charge: TBA

[vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Coffee Catch up
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	St Michael's Patronal

### ***The United Reformed Church*** [Open Weekend on September 24th - 26th](#)

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	14:00	Rev D Goldie
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	15:00	United Service - Rev. Mary Thomas from the Wessex Church Synod

***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:	Derek Fisher <a href="mailto:administrator@grovebuildingmere.com">administrator@grovebuildingmere.com</a>	07942 322051
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	14:00 – 16:00
Registrar of Births & Deaths	Thursdays by appt only	☎ 0300 003 4569 09:30 – 11:30
Health Trainer	Last Tuesday in month	10:00 – 12:00

**Mere Information**

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

**Copy date for August 2021 Issue****Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on MONDAY 27th September.**

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.

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

A steampunk-themed advertisement for Teeandee Productions. The background is a dark, textured surface. On the left, there is a large, circular brass lens or magnifying glass. Above it, there are two smaller brass gauges or dials. To the right of the lens, there is a brass instrument, possibly a harmonica or a small organ, with multiple reeds or keys. The text "Teeandee Productions" is written in a large, bold, yellow, serif font. Below it, the services "Web Design, Promotional Videos Computer Services" are listed in a smaller, yellow, serif font. At the bottom, the contact information "Tel: 07799 325214 or visit [www.teeandeeproductions.com](http://www.teeandeeproductions.com)" is written in a white, sans-serif font.

**Teeandee  
Productions**

Web Design,  
Promotional Videos  
Computer Services

**Tel: 07799 325214 or visit [www.teeandeeproductions.com](http://www.teeandeeproductions.com)**