

# *Mere Matters*

A Ukrainian flag, with its characteristic blue and yellow horizontal stripes, is shown waving in the wind. In the foreground, a dark, thorny branch with many sharp spines extends across the frame. The background is a blurred landscape with a church spire visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

& so does  
Ukraine

& so does

## West Knoyle

Your community magazine including  
a guide to local events

**April 2022**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

**Grove Building Mere 2pm**

A good old fashioned



**Entrance 50p**

**CLOTHES**

**TOYS**

**BOOKS**

**BRIC A BRAC**

**SHOES**

**RAFFLE**

**TEA COFFEE AND CAKE**

In aid of the Friends of

**St Michael's Pinnacles Appeal**

We are accepting donations of Jumble. Please ring 01747860 163 for collection

### 1<sup>st</sup> Mere Brownies

Sue Jeans received her 40 years award for her services to UK Girlguiding and as leader for Mere Brownies. Congratulations to Sue for her hard work with the Brownies over the years and long may she continue.

1st Mere Brownies meet Thursday evenings (term time only) from 6.20 pm to 7.30 pm at Grove Building, Church Street Mere. For girls between ages of 7-10. Brownies participate in various fun activities, learning life skills and gaining badges.

If your daughter is interested in joining 1st Mere Brownies you can register her interest on Girlguiding UK website.



'Easter Tombola' to be held on Sat 9 April at 9.30 in to raise funds for Mere Rainbows and Brownies'. We would love for everyone to come along and support us.

Nicky Lawes 1<sup>st</sup> Mere Brownies [nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk)

### Mere Gardening Club

Information is now available in the library and around the town for the **Scarecrow** competition.

Entries are now coming and we are looking forward to seeing them. So come on Mere let's put some smiles on people's faces and create a walking trail around the town. Forms available at the library or through Garden Club committee members.

Our next speaker, on **13th April** is **Emily Utgren** on **Remarkable Trees (Stourhead)** please do join us for a **19:30** start in the Grove Building. New members always welcome and it is also time to renew memberships from last year.

Rose Heesom ☎ 07791 559674 [roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk) 🌐 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk)

### Lent Lunches

The two final lunches for this year will be on Monday April 4th and then Good **Friday, April 15th**. Both will be in the **Grove Building, starting at 12.30**.

We offer soup, bread and cheese, fruit, and tea or coffee for just £5! All proceeds go directly to Christian Aid and CAFOD.

We live in difficult times and recent events will put many charities under even further pressure. So please help by coming along and giving us your support.

Sandra ☎ 861980 and Judy ☎ 860335



### Litter Pick

Mere is fortunate to have some regular litter pickers helping to keep it tidy, thank you to them. Each year Mere Town Council organize a litter picking session for volunteers to have a communal go at picking up what, disappointingly, others have dropped. This year it will be on **Saturday 9th April at 10 am**. Meet at Castle Street Car Park where we will have hi-vis vests, bags and bag holders, and grab sticks (bring your own gloves). We usually go about in twos covering various parts of town for about an hour or so. Do join us, we won't say that it is fun but it can be interesting and the pickers are all the nicest of people!

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

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

*Sonya Ward - Clerk's Assistant Mere Town Council ☎ 860701*

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### Mere Walking Group

The dates for walks this year has now been fixed and are listed below. The walks are normally around 4 miles long and cater for all as they are generally fairly easy going and not too strenuous. We meet at the Salisbury Street Car Park (by the Doctors) and when walks are outside of Mere, we share transport. All ages are welcome, just come and join us.

Sun April 24<sup>th</sup> 14:00, Sun May 15<sup>th</sup> 14:00, Sun June 26<sup>th</sup> 14:00,

Wed July 13<sup>th</sup> 19:30 , Sun July 17<sup>th</sup> 14:00, Sun Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 14:00,

Sun Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 14:00, Wed Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00, Sun Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 14:00.

Other day walks will be organised.

*Roger Laidler ☎ 863447 Mary Wilson ☎ 229609 [wilsonsmere@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonsmere@gmail.com)*

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### Mere Museum

The current exhibition will run until the end of April after which we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

If anyone has any items relating to the royal visits to Mere which they would be willing to loan for two months or can recall the events of the visits please do contact me.

More photographs have appeared on our boards in the Museum area, so please do take a look and see if you can help to identify the people in them. We have had huge success recently with several photographs.

*Rose Heesom 📞 07791 559 674*

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### New Witch's Hat at West Knoyle Village Hall

With all Victorian buildings comes the task of maintenance and repairs and for the last couple of years we have seen the distinctive Witch's Hat cowling on the chimney stack deteriorate. The rust was eating away at the metal structure and the high winds had put the Witch's Hat at such a jaunty angle that it was cause for concern.

This, together with it being a prime nesting site for ravens, squirrels and hornets, something had to be done!

So, to our rescue came West Knoyle's builder, PFP Build, who did a fantastic job in organising the fabrication of the Witch's Hat, through Gillingham's Magna Metal Craft, and installing it to make a perfect fit. Work was done to make the chimney stack secure for the Witch's Hat to sit snugly on top. The two vents are covered inside with mesh to allow for ventilation whilst preventing access to unwanted nest-builders.

The simplified design certainly looks the part and is in keeping with the building - we are sure that this Witch's Hat will last for the next 100 years!



Corinne Leonard 📞 07783 157361

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### Mere social club.

Presents local band **Rebels**. Come and enjoy an evening of great music from the 60/70s on **30th April**. Free entry all welcome **8.30pm** till late.

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### Mere Croquet & Boule Club

We are starting up again on **Saturday 16 April at 2.30 pm**, at the top of **Steep Street** in Mere.

Croquet is great fun, a game for all ages and it's easy to play. If you are free please come along any Saturday or Sunday,

We are a lovely bunch of people who like banging a ball through a hoop. We have a laugh, you may think croquet is for fuddy duddies, but it's really not. Come and give it a try.

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

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## Mere Town Council

It is difficult to comprehend, as I write my report this month, the appalling situation in Ukraine. Once again, the volunteers from our wonderful Resilience Forum and other members of the community have stepped forward helping with collections and donations for the humanitarian appeal. The Town Council agreed, unanimously, to purchase and fly the Ukrainian flag on Castle Hill and we have received many favourable comments about this poignant show of support.

Life goes on in Mere. At the March meeting, we discussed the ongoing situation at Lynch Close. The Vice Chair and I, along with Cllr Jeans, attended a meeting at Lynch Close, with Wiltshire Council officers and residents. The consultations are still in the early stages and nothing has been decided yet but I must congratulate the residents committee, led by Geoff Sams, who very effectively have ensured that Wiltshire Council are committed to keeping the residents informed with developments and ensuring that the views, needs and requirements of residents will be considered. I realise that some change is inevitable but a seamless transition is important. The Town Council is committed to supporting Lynch Close residents.

With the help of grant funding from the Wessex Water Environmental Fund, the Town Council has installed a water bottle refilling station in Salisbury Street Car Park (outside the public toilets). By installing this bottle refilling station, we are hoping to save plastic bottles from landfills and make the town more sustainable by reducing the cost and waste associated with disposable plastic water bottles.

Some of you will have noticed that works are underway at Mere School. Upstairs rooms that used to be part of Mere Children's Centre are being re- furnished to allow for more class rooms. A planning application for the new car park layout, at the school, was considered by the Town Council at the last meeting. This will make entering and leaving the grounds considerably safer by car and on foot.

Cllr John Jordan has, once again, organised a Litter Pick in April as part of the Great British Spring Clean. There is more about this in further on. Also, in April, is the Annual Town Meeting on the 20th. It will be held in The Grove Building at 7-30pm with refreshments from 7pm. On the agenda will be: - Mere Resilience Forum & Community Support- past, present and future; The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations; Cropping of Yew Arch in Mere Cemetery; Cemetery Rules and Regulations & their enforcement; Car Club and/or EV charge points in Mere; Climate Change Strategy for Mere & suggestion for a dog ban at the Recreation Ground. All are welcome so please come along and share your views.

*Lesley Traves, Chair, Mere Town Council*  
*for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.*  
[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) ☎ 860701 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)



## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Covid appears to be prevalent at present in Mere. I was informed at the area board an officer attended a meeting in Mere, where many were missing because of Covid, one in twenty persons the media informed nationally. I think it worth noting that those with Covid can self-test after 5 days and if two negative test returned over 2 days the person should not be infectious, however I note it is advised not to get into close contact with the vulnerable for 10 days.

The South West Area Board has awarded grants to the Mere Division, one for Brownies to help with the provision of free badges and further a health and wellbeing grant to help principally the older and vulnerable in Mere to have a tea party during The Platinum Jubilee at the start of June.

I understand and hope the mechanism of reporting highway and other issues will be revisited; officers seem aware of the problems. The My Wilts App for instance, you the electorate are asked to report on The My Wilts app and this can result in no real feedback, sometimes exacerbated when you get a message to the affect that no action will be taken without giving understandable reasons. I have recently had the same experience when I reported 4 highway items, all on The My Wilts app with no subsequent action.

Wiltshire Council is encouraging local groups and organisations to take part in the **Great British Spring Clean** this year, from **25 March-10 April**. Groups across the county are urged to sign up on the Great British Spring Clean website and join in to help clean up the county from unsightly litter.

Litter picking equipment has been provided by Wiltshire Council to town and parish councils and local community groups across the county, so people should contact their local town or parish council see if they have any equipment to borrow and if they are hosting a clean-up event to support.

Where possible, volunteers should dispose of bagged waste in their usual household black bins or a public litter bin that has sufficient capacity.

For large events that could collect more than 10 bags black bags full of waste, the council can arrange single collection following the event. To arrange this, people should email [streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@wiltshire.gov.uk) a minimum of 10 days before the event with as much information about the event as possible and contact details of the event organiser. Any large items or suspected fly-tips should be left where they are and reported to the council on the My Wilts app.

30 beacons for The Platinum Jubilee have been registered in Wiltshire, it is hoped for 70 across Wiltshire. The Lord Lieutenant will send a representative if requested, when possible, I assume.

In our Warminster area "speed traps" are now set in chosen areas once every two weeks. Those who speed may now hear about it more often than they did!

I said last month The Wiltshire Climate Strategy has been approved at Full Council, I also stated that one of the three actions of the strategy, for the South West Wiltshire Area Board was to help pursue an Electric Car Club in Mere which would include public charging points. I am pleased to report The Mere Town Council have now agreed space for a car and public charging points in the Mere Salisbury Street Car Park. It now looks more certain that Mere will now benefit from the above. Perhaps driving oneself to hospital when able, trying to get a feel for an electric vehicle, giving people travelling a reason to stop and spend time in our town and so on.

The Mere Day Centre at Lynch Close will have its Wiltshire Council funding removed. A new scheme is available to bid for, which looks like it is only for those with a care plan, I intend to question this as the work involved etc., may make it not worth applying for in some cases.

Development of the old Fives Court site in Mere will probably go ahead for older persons accommodation. We were informed at a meeting of Lynch Close residents with Wiltshire Council officers, words to the effect the "National Health" had not requested an opportunity to give input for the site. The future of Lynch Close is certain for a few years however consultation will cause changes in the future, I am sure.

Several in Mere have received requests for Gigaclear to cross land, to expand a Full Fibre, Ultrafast Broadband network throughout the local community. I have been informed by a Kilminster Parish councillor that if procurement has started between Wiltshire Council and BDUK local voucher schemes such as Stourhead implementation will not be able to go ahead until any such Wiltshire intervention Ultrafast Broadband plan is implemented. I have been informed by a Wiltshire Council officer that this is an interesting question and they will report back to me.


A light will now be fitted at the top of the steps from Dark Lane to the Salisbury Street car park at the very end of March. This is now happening after I have had many complaints regarding the darkness when using the steps.

Mere Town Council have shown support for Ukraine by flying the Ukrainian flag on Castle Hill. Whilst being personally involved in this I would also like to thank the Town Council operative who did most of the work. For information regarding refugees from Wiltshire Council email [refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk).

The Beaumonts site in Mere have submitted a viability plan regarding the site, which could impact on the quantity of social/affordable housing provided in Mere.

Wiltshire Council has a Family and Community Learning Service that has been in existence for 18 years, Wiltshire Council deliver courses to encourage those 19 years old and over, back to learning.

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



### Mere Theatre Club

All being well we will now be enjoying our spring programme with a visit to **Bristol Hippodrome** to see **Anything Goes**, a trip to **Salisbury** for **Sheila's Island** in **May** and an outing to Chichester for the Flower Festival at the Cathedral in June.

If you might be interested in joining in our autumn programme, do join us. Membership still only £5 per year and transport always provided to the destinations.

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

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### Shreen Harmony

It is so good to be back singing every Thursday in the United Reformed Church Hall. We are now planning a couple of concerts and we would be delighted to have your support.

The first concert is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and will be held in **Gillingham Methodist Church** on **Friday 20th May at 7.30 p.m.** during Dementia Awareness Week.

The second concert is being held in **The United Reformed Church** in Mere on **Saturday 18th June at 7.30 p.m.** and is in aid of **"Hope for Tomorrow"** the mobile cancer unit.

All are welcome, entrance is free but donations are very well received. Refreshments are provided at both concerts.

*Sandra Fisher* ☎ 861980

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### Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our informal sessions are great fun and provide an opportunity to meet other ukulele players of all abilities. It is a social gathering for strumming and singing. We plan our song list, which includes well known songs from the sixties, folk, country and most important songs that are easy to play! We meet at **The Butt of Sherry** on the second Monday of the month at **7.30pm**. Bring your ukulele and join us on **Monday 11th April at 7.30pm**. Check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt'.

*Maggie Holmes* [maggieholmes101@gmail.com](mailto:maggieholmes101@gmail.com)

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### 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

### Read Easy

Read Easy **Blackmore Vale North RE** is active in Mere and you may know by now that we offer free one-to-one coaching to adults who struggle to read. Do come to our **Phoenix Cafe Orchestra** concert of mainly 20s and 30s music

On Sunday **10th April at Motcombe Memorial Hall 3.15-4.30pm**. The hall will be set out 'cafe style', doors open 2.45pm Tickets are £10 each and tea and cakes are included. The orchestra has agreed to play the Ukrainian National Anthem, The English translation of the words will be available Donations will be invited for the Disasters Emergency Fund

Judy Phillips [judy\\_phillips22@hotmail.com](mailto:judy_phillips22@hotmail.com)

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### Mere Brownies Recycling

We have been advised by the recycling company that some of our donors have kindly sent donations directly to them. To this effect, we have unexpectedly received a further £40.00 for our unit funds. Thank you very much.

*Sue Jeans Assistant Guider.*

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### What's a "Jelly" all about then?

A Jelly is a casual co-working event, where freelancers, home workers and people running small businesses meet up in order to get out of their normal space, meet some new people and work together in a social environment. The April Mere Jelly takes place on Wednesday 27th and we will meet at Visit Hillbrush from 9am - 1pm. Come for the morning, or just drop in for a chat.

*Will you be joining us?*

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### Mere Historical Society

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 5 April at 7.30pm**. As usual this will be followed by a talk (see below). Membership subscriptions of £10 for 2022-23 will be due and will be collected before the AGM from 6.45 pm. Cheques should be made payable to Mere Historical Society and may also be sent to the Chair, Peter Landymore, at Whispers, Pettridge Lane, Mere BA12 6DG. Alternatively subscription payments can be made by bank transfer to Lloyds Gillingham account Sort code 30-93- 45 Account No 01735722. It is important that you give your name(s) as a reference: otherwise your membership renewal will not be recorded correctly.

For current Committee members please see [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk) where you can also view minutes of our last pre-covid AGM held in April 2019 as well as accounts.

Our talk on **Tuesday 5 April** is by **Sue Winch** and is entitled Saxons, Swineherds, Weavers and Convicts – one family's ties to Mere. This will begin at about 7.50pm as it will follow the AGM.

Our final talk of this season is on **Tuesday 12 April at 7.30pm** and will be The White Horses of Wiltshire by David Dawson.

We look forward to seeing current members for whom membership remains extended until the end of March 2022 and non-members for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door. All our talks are held in the Grove Building.

*Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 Diane Ellis Sec ☎ 861541  [merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)*

### Mere Bowls Club

The Club will open for the new season on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. Existing members are asked to be at the pavilion at **14.30pm** so that they can pay their fees, have a chat and generally meet other members who they may not have seen for a very long time. New and prospective new members are asked to be at the pavilion by 3pm, with a pair of flat soled shoes (our green keeper does not like stilettos on the green!) so that our coaches can get you started in the noble art of bowling.

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

* [hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/](http://hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/)*

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**Maiden Bradley Church – Save the date.**  
**Antiques and Collectables Valuation Day**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 4.00pm – 7.00pm**  
*See poster on back page*

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

Venue Key for Diary :

**AYP** - Andy Young  
**CP** - Main Car Park  
**Drs** - Surgery

**GB** - Grove Building  
**L** - Lecture Hall  
**Lib** - Library

**MSC** – Social Club  
**RMC** – Castle St Car Park  
**StM** - St Michaels Church

**URC** - United Ref Church  
**WT** – Walnut Tree Inn

1	Fri	13:45 18:30	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14:00 start. Every Fri) FoMM Evening	GB GB
2	Sat	10:30	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
3	Sun			
4	Mon	09:30 11:00	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon) Lent Lunch	L GB
5	Tues	08:00 13:00 18:20 19:30	Foot Clinic <b>Pilates (JL)</b> <b>Zumba</b> (every Tues) Historical Society (AGM)	GB GB L GB
6	Wed	09:30 12:00 13:45 18:00 19:00	Ta-Chi (every Wed) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Wed) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Wed) <b>Karate</b> (every Weds) <b>Railway Modellers</b> (every Wed)	GB L L L RMC
7	Thurs	10:00 14:00 14:00 17:15	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs) <b>Quilters</b> (every Thurs) <b>Rubber Bridge</b> (every Thurs) <b>Rainbows 17.15 - Brownies 18.20</b> (every Thurs)	GB GB L GB
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
9	Sat	09:30 10:30 11:00 19:00	Easter Egg Tombola FoStM Jumble Sale Litter Pickers Oasis Carnival Club Bingo <i>Coffee Morning</i>	Mere Square GB RMC L
10	Sun		<b>Fair Trade Stall after morning service</b>	<b>StM</b>
11	Mon	19:30	Ukes at the Butt of Sherry <i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers</i>	BoS
12	Tues	14:30 19:30	Mothers Union Historical Society <i>Pilates (JL), Zumba</i>	GB GB
13	Wed	14:00 19:30	Fitness and Friendship Gardening Club <i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB GB
14	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding, MADS</i>	
15	Fri	11.00	Lent Lunch	GB
16	Sat		URC Coffee morning & Fair Trade Stall <i>Coffee Morning</i>	URC
17	Sun			
18	Mon			

19	Tues	08:00 14:00	Foot Clinic Short Walk <i>Pilates (JL), Zumba</i>	GB CP
20	Wed	18:30	Town Council Meeting <i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
21	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, MADS</i>	
22	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
23	Sat	14:00	Mere Walking Group <i>Coffee Morning</i>	CP
24	Sun			
25	Mon		Scouting	GB
26	Tues		<i>Pilates (JL), MADS, Zumba</i>	
27	Wed	09:00 14:00 14:00	Mere Jelly Penny Bank Writers Fitness and Friendship <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	Hillbrush L GB
28	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding,, MADS</i>	
29	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
30	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	

*Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct*

## Wincanton Tennis Club Open Day

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 11am to 3pm**

Fancy a hit on a spring day? Everyone is welcome to come and find out about our friendly club on open day taking place on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 11am to 3pm**. Come along to hit with a member or join in a free session with the coach.

2 of our 4 courts will have the following sessions:

11am – 12 noon: Junior Tennis Taster

12 noon – 1pm: Adult and Older Junior Cardio Tennis Taster

1pm – 3pm: Open Play – borrow a racket and balls, have a hit, try the courts, bring the family, meet the committee

2 courts will be open play from 11.00 to 3pm.

At Wincanton Sports Ground, Moor Lane, Wincanton, BA9 9RA.

*Caroline Landymore ☎ 228819 [wincantontenniscub.co.uk](mailto:wincantontenniscub.co.uk)*

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## Link Scheme

It is really nice to see some sun and blue skies as I write. Long may it last.

We saw a reduction in trips in February when we made 68 journeys. These helped people get to medical appointments (at hospitals, surgeries, dentists, opticians and the physiotherapist) and other appointments including trips for visiting at a care home and hairdressing. We also did our weekly run delivering prescriptions from Mere and Silton surgeries to people living outside Mere.

Disappointingly, we have heard of a rumour in town that there is no point in ringing the Link as they can't help. This is simply incorrect. Whilst we are looking for more drivers, we only rarely have any difficulty in getting a driver as long as we have reasonable notice (ideally 48 hours). We are a charity and our volunteer drivers are available to help those who cannot make other arrangements e.g. with a relative or neighbour, to get to their medical and other appointments. So, once you have an appointment please call **01747 860096**, between 9 and 5 Monday to Friday, to book a Link driver.

Finally, a date for your diary – the **Link AGM** will be held on **Friday 17 June** at 7pm in the Grove Building. All are welcome.

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

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## Booking info

### Holiday Activities Pricing

1 hour session:  
Leisure card holder £2.00  
Non-Member £4.00

Leisure cards are available from reception at a cost of £10 for a year. Leisure cards can be used for activities across all Wiltshire Council centers.

To book your space please give reception a call on 01722 434240.

Nadder Centre, Weaveland Road, Tisbury,  
Wiltshire, SP3 6HJ

**Booking is essential**

**Sessions need at least 4 children to Enable them to run.**

**Closed Bank holiday  
Friday & Monday**

## Holiday ACTIVITY Programme

Keep your little ones entertained over the half term with our holiday programme!  
Monday 11 to Friday 22 April 2022



**Monday  
11 April**



#### 9 – 10AM Fun game 5-10 Years



Fun Games is an hour packed full of all your favorite playground games; including classics like Stuck in the mud and fox and hound.

#### 10 – 11AM Fun circuits 5-10 Years



Fun circuits is a session aimed to bring fitness & fun together – Just how it should be. The circuits will consist of many different stations to help improve your child's running, jumping, throwing, and catching skills

#### 11 – 12 noon Cricket 5-10 Years



Cricket is an hour packed full of all different types of fun cricket games to help improve your child's skills whilst having fun at the same time.

#### 12 – 1PM Football 10-14 Years



Football for ages 10 -14 Turn up and play a fun game of 5 – A – Side and test your nerve with a penalty shoot out to finish.

## Term time activities 2022

### Gymnastics Sessions

Day: Friday

Age: 4 +

Times: 3.30pm - 4.30pm & 4.30pm – 5.30pm

These sessions work towards the British Gymnastics award scheme.



### Soft play & Bouncy castle

Mondays 9 -11am under 4's

Our soft play session for under 4's is the perfect time for you to drop in and let your cheeky Monkeys burn off some energy and run free in our wide range of soft play.



### Toddler Gymnastics

Thursday 10.15 – 11am

A structured course which provides a foundation level introduction to the different elements & apparatus



### Roller disco 4 Years

Fridays 5.45 – 6.45pm

Come along to our roller disco for an hour of roller-skating. Skates available on a first come first serve basis. If you have your own, we advise you to bring them with you.





**Friday**  
**22 April**



**9 – 10AM Fun game 5-10 Years**



Fun Games is an hour packed full of all your favorite playground games; including classics like Stuck in the mud and fox and hound.

**10 – 11AM Jail ball & Dodge ball 5-10 Years**



Duck, dodge & dive for an hour of two classic team games.

**11 – 12noon Football 5-10 Years**



Football is session aimed at all skill levels and abilities; whether your child has never kicked a ball before, or they play every day of their life; it will be an hour filled with fun skills and games for all.

**5.45 – 6.45PM Roller disco 4 Years +**

Come along to our roller disco for an hour of roller-skating. Skates available on a first come first serve basis. If you have your own, we advise you to bring them with you.



**Tuesday**  
**12 & 19 April**



**9-10AM Fun game 5-10 Years**



Fun Games is an hour packed full of all your favorite playground games; including classics like Stuck in the mud and fox and hound.

**10 – 11AM Bouncy castle 5 - 10 Years**



Fun play session on our sports themed bouncy castle which has obstacle and a slide.

**11 – 12noon Nerf Attack 5 - 10 Years**



Nerf Wars is an hour of tactical team games and exciting free for all's which are guaranteed to get your child's imagination flowing.

(Own Nerf Gun required –blue bullets provided)

**2 – 4PM Cheeky Monkeys Soft Play Under 4's**

Our soft play session for under 4's is the perfect time for you to drop in and let your cheeky Monkeys burn off some energy and run free in our wide range of soft play.



**Wednesday**  
**13 & 20 April**



**8 – 9AM Fun Games 5 - 10 Years**



Fun Games is an hour packed full of all your favorite playground games; from classics like Stuck in the mud and Dodgeball, to brand new games such as Hot sand and Fox & hounds.

**9 – 10AM punch ball 5 - 10 Years**



Punch ball is a fun team game which requires skill and good team work to score as many points as you can.

**10 – 11AM Team Games 5 - 10 Years**



Come along and take part in a range of fun team sports & Team building challenges

**5 - 6PM Basketball 10-14 Years**



Basketball for ages 10-14 years. Turn up and play a fun game of basketball whilst learning and developing new skills.



**Thursday**  
**14 & 21 April**



**9 – 10AM Fun Games 5-10 Years**



Fun Games is an hour packed full of all your favorite playground games; from classics like Stuck in the mud and Dodgeball, to brand new games such as Hot sand and Fox & hounds.

**10 – 11AM Hockey 5-10 Years**



Hockey is a session that will give your child the ability to learn new skills and show them off in a fun game for all abilities.

**11 – 12noon Football 5-10 Years**



Football is session aimed at all skill levels and abilities; whether your child has never kicked a ball before, or they play every day of their life; it will be an hour filled with fun skills and games for all.



## Mere Rivers Group Quarterly Nature Notes (covering April - June)

We do hope you enjoyed the photo of one of our much loved Water Voles from the Shreen on last month's Mere Matters cover!! They have been much in evidence throughout the Winter and those of you who are on Facebook can still see photos and videos on the Mere Rivers Group page - along with footage of the kingfisher which has also been present!!

As we now move into the mating season the kingfisher is likely to move downstream to find banks to burrow into for nesting. The chiffchaff, willow warbler, swallows, house martins and swifts are some of the birds that are returning to our area. These birds will be building their nests and, if you watch carefully, you can often identify where they are nesting as they come and go. Of course, nests should be left well alone to ensure they are not abandoned and the eggs/babies left to perish!

Other creatures to look out for are our insects, including the likes of orange tip, brimstone and peacock butterflies, dragonflies including demoiselles and beautiful demoiselles and mayflies. In the rivers as well as the many small invertebrates, the red bellies of male sticklebacks can be seen as they also prepare for mating. Our many Bullheads (or Millers Thumb) are much harder to spot!

In the plant world we will see hawthorn and apple blossom, wild sage, wood anemone and our wonderful bluebells. As the season progresses, the verges will fill with frothy cow parsley, also known as Queen Anne's Lace! If you venture up onto the Downs you will see the classic chalk plants including cowslips, milkwort, purple and white violets and wild thyme.

We have not, previously mentioned the solitary bees, of which there are many species. These are also building their nests at this time of year. Did you know that solitary bees: Are non-aggressive, do not produce honey, do not have a queen, do not live in hives, and are very important pollinators?

These important creatures are under increasing threat through loss of hedgerow, fewer wildflower meadows and wild areas in our gardens. Each of us can help them in our own gardens by leaving wild and unmown areas, more varied planting of bee friendly species including single bloom flowers. We can also help by putting up bee hotels which can be easily bought or made. You can get more information on the buglife website at [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk) or from the RSPB at [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).

The ones we are most likely to encounter are the Masons Bee and ....., and you can help all of these by putting out bug hotels which can be bought or easily made.



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

### St Michael's Church Mere

Following extensive work inside the church to install toilets and catering facilities St Michael's Church is now future proofed as a beautiful place of worship and ready to be used as a community asset.

Now we want to make sure that the exterior is secure and complete fund raising to repair the 4 pinnacles. Stone masons from Salisbury Cathedral will be removing the tops of the pinnacles taking out rotten metal work replacing with steel inserts and rebuilding the stone work, topping each pinnacle with refurbished pennants.

We continue to raise money for this work to be completed and on **Saturday 9th April at 2pm** we are having a grand old fashioned **Jumble Sale** in the **Grove Building**.

Already people of Mere have been really generous in donating things to be sold. We continue to accept donations but we also want you all to come along for a great afternoon rummage. Once you have secured your bargains relax afterwards with a cup of tea and piece of cake.



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*Donations can be collected by ringing: Fiona ☎ 860440 or Maggie ☎ 860163*

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### Fair Trade in Mere – Big Brew

Fair Trade Big Brew: I'd like to thank everyone who braved the wet weather to support my Big Brew at The Angel Tea Room. Together with my other Fairtrade Fortnight Sales I have been able to send £60 to Traidcraft Exchange for their campaign supporting smallholders around the world to tackle Climate Change as well as selling many of the Fair Trade goodies.

NB Owing to Easter falling on the third Sunday of April, my stall at St Michael's will be held on **April 10th**

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

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### Mere Meander

Join me for a short walk of 2-3 miles around Mere's paths and lanes on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. Meet at **2p.m.** in the **Surgery Car park**. Hopefully the bluebells will be out!

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

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Letter from the Churches ~ Rev Ben Rundell-Evans writes:

**'Proud pied April dressed in all his trim'**

Finally - sun with some warmth! It is amazing how fast blubs begin to poke out of the ground, leaves begin to sprout, and the garden furniture emerges once more from the garage. Spring has well and truly sprung and what a relief to see it! We are inextricably linked with the seasons, in a way that we simply cannot avoid. As much as we use artificial light to keep us working into the night, we are tuned into the sun, the length of days, and the warmth of an afternoon, almost as much as we are tuned to our stomachs and their appetites! We always have varied weather in our part of the world, however, when the weather is good, anything is possible.

Such weather makes it harder to comprehend the challenges that we see throughout the world, and particularly at the moment in Ukraine. In the face of the beauty of creation, it is hard to discern why we allow ourselves as humans to 'lord it over' one another. We are all born equal, and yet... In a life of faith, what is central is the understanding of giving glory not to ourselves, but our creator. Not gilding the lily, but admiring the creation we have, and sharing it with those around us. On a spring morning when there is such life coming from the depths of the ground, it makes one wonder how, when we have the gift of breath and life, we can sometime use it in such selfish ways.

In the face therefore of new life that we are offered in the springtide of creation, may we have generosity to those in need, and compassion and concern for those who wish others harm.

***Giving to Ukraine***

Although we may want to give practically, there are increasing messages from aid agencies stating that unless there are key contacts in Ukraine or neighbouring countries, any collections of provisions may get in the way of planned responses. Therefore, the best way to give is financially.

Disaster Emergency Committee charities, which includes Christian Aid, World Vision and the Red Cross, are in Ukraine and neighbouring countries meeting the needs of all refugees and displaced people:

£30 can provide essential hygiene supplies for three people for one month

£50 can provide blankets for four families

£100 can provide emergency food for two families for one month

Please give to places such as the Disasters Emergency Committee  
<https://donation.dec.org.uk/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

## 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: TBA

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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	20:00	Compline
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tues	20:00	Compline
13 <sup>th</sup>	Weds	20:00	Compline
14 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday	20:00	Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by Vigil
15 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	09:30 11:00 14:00	Stations of the Cross for families Churches Together Walk of Witness up Castle Hill The Last Hour
16 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Saturday	20:00	Vigil of Readings
17 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sun	06:00 08:00 11:00	Dawn Service at Search Farm, Stourton BCP Parish Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Songs and hymns for Easter

*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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	09:30	Lay led service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins

*All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley*

Priest in Charge: TBA [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10:00	Coffee & Catch-up
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Service
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion led by Archdeacon Alan Jeans
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion



*The United Reformed Church*

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun		No Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr Gwilym Hitchcock
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev Colin Marsh
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. J Thompson

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

St Mary's has been closed and ALL liturgies are now at SS Luke and Teresa South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Parish Administrator Jo Bentley: ☎ 01963 34408 [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere Library

As from Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 Mere Library opening hours:

Monday: 10:00 – 12:00\* and 14:00 – 19:00

Tuesday: 09:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00\*

Thursday: 09:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

\* Volunteer operated opening hours.

*Sally-Ann Mere Senior Library Assistant*

Copy date for **May** Issue

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on **FRIDAY** 22<sup>ND</sup> April.

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.

## Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	<a href="mailto:admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk">admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk</a>	0771 471 8625
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	☎ 07403 845711

## 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)

## Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



At our last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March we were due to hear from our Mothers' Union member, Carol Lord on the subject of Fragile X Syndrome. Unfortunately, due to Covid Carol was unable to attend. She is now well on the road to recovery and we hope to reschedule her talk for our September meeting.

As an alternative we held an informal social afternoon with tea and charades, much enjoyed by all those present.

This month on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm** in The Grove Building we will be holding our AGM. This will follow a mini service of hymn, reading and prayers, **a reflection for Holy Week**. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you.

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

## Friends of St. Michael's - Pinnacle Appeal

The 60 people who attended the Life, Love, Heartache and Hope concert in the Church in March were treated to some beautiful music, singing and poetry reading, and gave enthusiastic feedback on how much they had enjoyed and been moved by it. Thanks to all those who supported it, £900 from ticket sales will be donated to the Pinnacle Appeal. We hope to be able to put on more musical events in the future. If you are a musician or singer, of whatever style or level, or feel able to sponsor a concert, we would love you to be involved. Watch this space for future announcements, or contact the number below.

*Mary Wilson 07550 076240*

# MERE CRICKET CLUB

Your local friendly cricket club is seeking new players young and old alike for the coming season and beyond!

Whether you're a seasoned old pro or just fancy dusting off the bat for the odd game then we're the club for you.

We play a mix of Sunday afternoon friendly games with local sides and Wednesday evening 20 over matches.

We also run junior cricket coaching and matches in conjunction with our neighbours at Kilmington Cricket Club for children at under 9, 11, 13 and 15 year age groups.

If you fancy a game or would like more details then please contact Mark Cassidy (Chairman Mere CC) on 07763 001119 or pop in to The Walnut Tree Inn and chat to him there!



## Mere Art Group

During the last month Alayne Churchill has pressed on as our co-ordinator for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. The month of June will be with us in no time so we have had a couple of discussions which Alayne will share with the Jubilee Committee members.

'Bluebells' by Sandra Fisher - Acrylics on board.

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



## Mere Amateur Dramatic Society



Everyone at MADS would like to offer several rounds of applause to our appreciative audiences who defied covid and came to support our latest production, 'Post Horn Gallop', last week. We hope that you enjoyed it all as much as we did! And just in case you should think that we shall now be resting on our laurels for a bit, we would like to alert you to the fact that we are already preparing for our next appearance later this year, in celebration of The Jubilee. Read all about it in the next issue of Mere Matters!

Finally, thank you all for your generous response to our leaving collection for the Ukraine Appeal. The donations, much appreciated, were sent to the DEC.

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

## Friends of Mere Museum

There's just time to remind everyone of the intriguing and much anticipated talk by Dr Martin Papworth (a National Trust archaeologist) entitled 'LiDAR, new visions of archaeology on the Stourhead Estate', which will take place in the **Grove Building on Friday April 1st** at 7 for **7.30 p.m.** Dr Papworth, a National Trust archaeologist, will show us how LiDAR, a technique which provides a fine laser scan of the bare earth surface stripped of surface features, thus revealing the archaeology beneath, has thrown new light on the hidden depths of the Stourhead landscape - a landscape we thought we knew. Tickets are on sale at the Library and on the door at £5 per person, and this includes a glass of wine. An event not to be missed!

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



Very many thanks to everyone who braved the wind and the rain on March 1<sup>st</sup> to share in our lively Shrove Tuesday Quiz & Pancake evening.

Together with donations from people who weren't able to come, we made well over £600 – an amazing total, every penny of which will go to good use in Suchana's work for very marginalised children and communities in West Bengal.

Suchana is now working at full strength and very busy providing support in helping the children re-learn much that they had forgotten in the two full years when the local schools were closed. As well as that they have been given a lift in their pioneering work producing first-language books by a visit from their publishers, Paul Hamlyn. These books mean that young children can begin their reading experience with books written in their own mother-tongue – a big boost to their morale and motivation.

Our next fund-raising event will be a coffee morning on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – details next month.

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



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