

Mere *Matters*

& so does

West Knoyle



*Supporting all
Ukrainians*

Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

July/August 2022

Mere Town Council

At the June meeting of the Town Council, members thanked the Mere Platinum Jubilee Committee for the excellent show they put on for this very special occasion. The events were very well attended and enjoyed. Many others were also involved in making everything run smoothly, so many thanks to those who gave their time, including George who placed the flags and our groundsman, Simon, who helped with the beacon and much more. It was a great blessing that the weather also complied.

The bench seat in Jubilee Gardens was repaired by two community volunteers, Mr. Tony Barrett and Mr. Cedric Tuck in time for the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations and our thanks go out to them for their help with this work.

We are all well aware of the parking problems in and around the town. The Town Council is, however, concerned that pram and wheelchair users are finding difficulty accessing the pavements. We do have some dropped curbs, which are there to help. Unfortunately these are regularly parked across. You may not have realised but it's actually a parking offence to block or park across or adjacent to a dropped kerb. The "Highway Code" advises drivers "DO NOT STOP OR PARK... where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles, or where it would obstruct cyclists' use of cycle facilities... except when forced to do so by stationary traffic." Could I please ask you all to consider this when parking.

MAKE A CHANGE – Become a Town Councillor. The Town Council currently has a vacancy that can be filled by co-option. If you are interested, in serving Mere in this way, or would like more information please contact the Clerk by email lindseywood@merewilts.org or Tel: 01747 860701

Mere Town Council, as you may recall, is in receipt of S.106 money as a result of the Woodlands Road development and more will come as the remaining houses are completed and sold. The Town Council has ambitions to deliver a number of projects across the town that will either enhance and regenerate existing public facilities or provide new ones that meet the criteria laid down in the legal agreement and also the statutory powers & functions of the Town Council. The work load in fulfilling these projects is enormous. So much so that the Town Council has appointed a part time Project Co-ordinator who will take up his post on July 18th.

To date, the Town Council has not yet been able to find a suitable candidate to fill our vacancy for grounds person and Simon is working really hard and doing extra hours to try and keep up with all the grass cutting. However, he is not a 'super hero' and the grass and hedges are growing faster than we can keep up with so please can I ask you to all be a bit patient over the next few weeks and bear with us – we are doing our best!

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

Mere Surgery

Introducing Airmid – a new App for Mere Surgery patients

We are introducing a new App called **Airmid** to run alongside our existing methods of communication. Airmid has more functionality for patients to send and receive information with the surgery and has the added benefit of being added direct into your patient record. If you can't access online services do not despair! The surgery understands and is ensuring that Airmid does not replace any of the existing methods of communication.

We are improving our online services



Download the Airmid App

Login using your SystmOnline details or NHS Login

Appointments

- View, book or cancel appointments
- Add appointment reminders to your calendar
- Consult by video

Medication

- View your medication.
- Re-order repeat prescriptions
- Update your nominated pharmacy

Medical Record

- View your full medical record
- Enter health data directly into your patient record from Apple Health or Google Fit

Communications

- Message us directly
- Consult online with our clinicians
- Be notified of new test results
- Receive news and updates from your GP



Make sure you say 'Yes' to Push Notifications when you set up the app on your phone, so you don't miss anything!

If you are already registered for on-line services you can simply use these log in details after downloading the Airmid App, which looks like this



If you would like to register for on-line services please visit our website www.meresurgery.co.uk complete the Register for On-line services form and we will contact you. Please note if you are newly registered with the surgery you will only be able to apply for on-line services once you have received confirmation your registration is complete.

For many of you who have registered to use the NHS App, there is some overlap in functionality between NHS App and Airmid and the NHS App allows patients to access their Covid Pass.

However, Airmid's local advantage is allowing patients to send and receive communications from the Practice and to enter data such as blood pressure readings directly into their record. It is also extremely easy to use.

Please remember, although we are introducing an alternative way to communicate it does not replace any of the existing methods of communication for anyone who prefers not to use Apps.

We are grateful to members of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) who took the time to test the various aspects of the Airmid App. At their recent meeting they all agreed it was a big step forward for Mere Surgery online services.

Carers Week

Mere surgery and Carer Support Wiltshire held an afternoon tea for Carers during Carers Week 6th-12th June 2022. It was an enjoyable afternoon and was well attended by some carers in our community.

The Community Carer Café gives carers a safe space to step back from the pressures of everyday life, meet new people and socialise with others in similar circumstances over a cup of tea. Please drop in and say hello.

The Carer Café organised by **Diana James** the **Carer Support Wiltshire Community Connector** are held at **The Angel Tearooms** in Mere and start at 2.30pm on a Monday afternoon on the following dates.

18/7/22, 15/8/22, 19/9/22

Visiting the surgery

We have recently reviewed the Infection Control requirements in the surgery and we are now asking patients to wear masks in the waiting room for the protection of patients while waiting for their appointment, unless exempt.

West Knoyle

Back in 2017 there was a large fundraising campaign to get a Public Access Defibrillator installed at West Knoyle and a very large number of West Knoyle parishioners paid financial contributions. Indeed, the village raised a staggering £3250 which is an incredible achievement given that there are only 118 people on the electoral register. Anyhow, the public access defibrillator was purchased and installed at the Village Hall. The defibrillator has been included on the Parish Council's asset register and is insured by the Parish Council.

There was a surplus of donated money which the Parish Council has used to hold a seminar into the use of the defibrillator, help towards the installation and also to pay for replacement parts for the machine as and when they are needed. Please bear in mind that some of the parts need to be replaced after the defibrillator has been used but there is a requirement to replace some of the parts after a specific period of time in order to ensure that they are effective – for example, the battery has a four-year life span.

At the recent Annual Parish Meeting I was asked to provide a breakdown of this income/expenditure so that the contributors can see how their money is being used. I have asked for this breakdown to be published in Mere Matters and will also put a copy on the West Knoyle website www.westknoyle.org

		£
29.9.17	Community Fundraising money deposited	2020.00
5.12.17	Community Fundraising money deposited	1230.00
	Total money raised	3250.00
10.10.17	Community Heartbeat Trust (net cost of defib)	-2020.00
4.12.17	West Knoyle Social Club (Donation to help with installation of defib)	-75.00
11.1.18	A. M. Donnelly (electrical installation of defib)	-60.00
13.3.18	Community Heartbeat Trust (Defib seminar)	-175.00
13.3.18	Community Heartbeat Trust (Defib parts)	-35.00
11.2.20	A. C. Long (resite and replace light switch for defib access)	-44.49
20.3.20	Community Heartbeat Trust (Defib parts)	-81.00
16.6.21	Community Heartbeat Trust (new battery)	-282.00
	Balance remaining @ 31.3.22	477.51

Lindsey Wood Parish Clerk & Responsible *Financial Officer*

Community Support



If you live or work in Mere, have you thought about being an on-call firefighter? Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently recruiting for the fire station in White Road.

When the pager goes off, an on-call firefighter can be called to a wide range of incidents, such as fires, road traffic collisions, rescues from height or water, animal rescue or flooding.

As well as protecting the local community, firefighters can also find themselves called to help in other part of the Service, and sometimes over the border into neighbouring counties.

Mere is also a co-responder station, where firefighters can opt to support the ambulance service by attending medical emergencies ahead of a paramedic arriving.

If you want to support your community, learn new skills and earn additional income, get in touch! Visit www.dwfire.org.uk/on-call-firefighters or leave a message on the 24-hour recruitment line 01722 691444.

Mere Theatre Club

It was lovely to see so many people at the Jubilee Fete! Now we are formulating the programme for the autumn, so if you fancy a theatre trip as the nights draw in, why not join us? We're a friendly lot and its easy being driven door to door and still only £5 annual membership fee.

Madeline Morris ☎ 861833 madsmorris@gmail.com

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) groups and organisations have been making use of a Wiltshire Council small grants scheme to buy much needed play equipment and facilities for their communities. As an example Barford St Martin's community is creating a playground in the village and due to the Small Grants Scheme is purchasing additional SEN equipment, which means children with SEND can play alongside their peers safely.

At its meeting on Tuesday 21 June, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will consider a new investment and regeneration plan for high streets in all 18 Wiltshire towns and its city, Salisbury, plus three large villages, Pewsey, Tisbury and Downton.

The Wiltshire Towns Programme will see £1m each year until 2025 invested into a range of different projects to attract customers and investment to Wiltshire's highstreets, to help support town centres as they continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic and rise to the challenge of online shopping. This initial extra funding will be invested into projects that will kick start the programme, including a Generating Activity Grant, which is a fund to work with town councils to drive footfall back to high streets with events and activities; a What's on in Wiltshire app, which will enable people to find out about events on their smartphones; and heritage apps, like the one already live in Salisbury, to help visitors find out more about towns. As well as these projects, each town included in the programme will receive annual funding to improve their high streets and attract visitors, so long as they produce an action plan that fulfils certain criteria and is measurable to show the success and impact of the plan. These action plans must be created by the town or parish council, in partnership with local businesses and business groups, and should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the town.

Wiltshire Council is investing £600,000 into Culver Street car park in Salisbury to carry out repairs to the facility. There will be some disruption to users of the car park while these works are carried out but we'll do our very best to keep these to a minimum. The car park will remain open for the duration of the works, but there may be some limited access to some of the floors during the build programme. There will also be some periodic closure of footpaths around the site but this will be kept to a minimum and alternative routes will be clearly signposted.

The Shared Lives Service helps people live as part of a family, within the carers home, where they receive the support or care that they need. The main purpose is to offer care or support to men and women over 18 who require support to live independently alongside other people in a family-like setting.

The service places adults who have mental health needs or learning disabilities, physical impairments, or are elderly. It's also for those who, for a variety of reasons, cannot manage to live without support. Shared Lives carers provide support with daily tasks, from personal care and accessing health services, to making decisions and learning new skills. The service mainly offers long-term

arrangements, but also offers short-term arrangements. These are usually provided as a break for other carers or as somewhere to live for a few weeks. Wiltshire Council has 65 Shared Lives carers and is always looking to recruit more. The recruitment process has been updated, which means it's now easier than ever to become a carer. For more information about the Wiltshire Shared Lives scheme, please visit <https://adults.wiltshire.gov.uk/Services/1366/Shared-Lives-Wiltshire>, email sharedlives@wiltshire.gov.uk call 01380 826451 or visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SharedLivesWilts> or Twitter account <https://twitter.com/SLWiltshire>.

Wiltshire Council has set out plans to ensure people can enjoy the Summer Solstice safely at Avebury this year, while ensuring the World Heritage Site is as protected as possible.

Wiltshire Council will be delivering its Holiday Activity and Food (FUEL) programme again this summer. The programme provides children eligible for benefits related free school meals with access to free high-quality activities, nutritious meals and food education during the school summer holidays. The FUEL programme is delivered with funding from the Department for Education and will run for four weeks during the summer holidays from 1 August to 25 August 2022. Eligible families will be able to sign up through their schools in the next few months.

Two FUEL Easter camps for young people with special educational needs and/or a disability also took place at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham and at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury. These sessions will be available again throughout August and individuals will be able to take part in activities such as dodgeball, dance, new age kurling, cricket and boccia.

For further information about the Holiday Activity and Food Programme in Wiltshire please email fuelprogramme@wiltshire.gov.uk

Salisbury has become the focus of a new localised campaign to find more foster carers for children in Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council's fostering team will and have visited key sites and enlisting the support of businesses, charities, faith leaders and organisations to highlight the need for more foster carers in the area. The council has a three-year campaign to provide 100 new foster carers by spring 2023. Fostering with your local council means all money is spent on frontline services and the child is more likely to be able to stay close to their school, friends and family networks. The council recently held a high profile tour of the county during Foster Care Fortnight to encourage more potential carers to come forward. By putting the spotlight on the Salisbury area, it is hoped local people who are thinking about fostering will want to find out more. There will be an online information session for those wanting to find out more on 30th June at 7pm on this link <https://bit.ly/3KOba5b> Please be aware you will need to have downloaded the Microsoft Teams App to join the online meeting.

A local planning application I took to committee at the request of Mere Town Council was approved. In the officers report it was stated as one of the reasons the application should be approved was, *"In policy conclusion, officers consider that in the absence of a five year housing land supply, and given that the proposal is supported in principle by the Conservation officer, the titled balance would apply to the proposal and appropriate weight should be attached to the proposal in the absence of a 5 year housing land supply."* It appears the lack of Wiltshire Council to have a 5 year housing land supply is impacting on the Mere area.

Any small highways improvements presented at the local LHFIG (Local Highway and Footpath improvement group), will in future need a local Town or Parish Council representative at the meeting for the application to progress.

I am pleased to report underground conduits will be installed on the new parking area at the Duchy Manor Site ready for electric vehicle (EV) charging points to be installed when possible.

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

Mere Museum

The Jubilee exhibition has been well received and will run until the end of June. I would like to thank everyone who kindly loaned items for the display which have contributed to its success. Year 5 children from Mere School visited the exhibition and had a questionnaire to complete, the children enjoyed their visit and asked questions about the display particularly the photos of the Queen visiting Mere in 1952.

The next exhibition will be reflecting on the history of the schools in Mere, particularly relevant as Mere School is currently undergoing changes. If anyone would like to record memories of their time at school over the years it would be great to add to them to the exhibition.

Rose Heesom 📞 07791 559 674 meremuseum@btinternet.com

Mere Walking Group

In July there are two walks, firstly the moonlight walk on **Wednesday July 13th**, starting at **7.30pm**, walk to Stourhead, pause there (take own refreshments) and then walk over White sheet Hill to see the moon rise. The 2nd walk is on **Sunday July 17th** starting at **2pm**, 4 to 5 mile walk. In **August** the walk is on **Sunday 14th** starting at **2pm**, again 4 to 5 miles. All walks start from Salisbury Street Car Park, share cars when possible. All details will be on the noticeboard outside the Post Office.

Roger Laidler ☎ 863447 Mary Wilson ☎ 229609 wilsonsmere@gmail.com

Mere Silent Auction 2022

Wow - what can I say but a massive thank you to everyone who donated and bid on the lots in the Mere Silent Auction 2022.

The 2 charities that benefited from this auction, both vital to our community are: Mere Day Centre (formally The Rosemary Goddard Centre) and Mere Toddlers Foodbank and I am delighted to announce that we raised an outstanding £432.00 which means the 2 charities each got £216.00 towards the vital work they both do in our community. Once all the monies are paid for the lots I will pay the charities straight away.

This fund raiser would not have happened without the generosity of all the bidders and the following amazing businesses: Jeans Electricals, Asda Stores, Neals Yard, FJ Chalkes, P Davie Butcher, Lou's It, Smart Step Footcare, Hayleys @ No5, Waitrose & Angel Tea Rooms.

Once again thank you to everyone.

Penny Fennon pennyfennon@mail.com

Fair Trade Stalls

I will be holding my usual stalls at the URC Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th July and after the 10.30 service in St Michael's on Sunday 17th July. Although I will not be holding any stalls in August, anyone can still request a catalogue and order from me avoiding the extra postage cost

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Creative Mere 22 – Nov 26th & 27th

Thank you to all our crafts' people and artisans who has already booked a stall for this year's event. There are still some tables left and we look forward to receiving some more bookings. Please send £5 deposit to: Richard Jefferies, 16 Underhill.

We could still do with some help with the catalogue if anyone has good IT skills and a few hours to spare please contact one of us. It would be a great project for a school leaver, something to go on your CV!

A reminder of the date: November 26/27th We will be in contact with everyone in September with further details.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com *Susanne Hayes* 07788595434

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425


Mere Gardening Club

We have had a busy time over the last couple of weeks. Firstly, the Jubilee weekend with a stall selling plants and pots. Then we had the Scarecrow competition which was very exciting and we thank everyone who entered, they were all amazing and our winners were Tatty and Tilly (31 Lynch close), Prince Charles (Brookside, Steep Street) and Mr. Sharpie, Rew Cottage, Ivymead). We will be presenting prizes at our next Meeting on 13th July.

The following weekend we had the Open Gardens event held in conjunction with the Friends of St Michael's Church. A huge thank you to everyone involved especially those who opened their gardens. The weather was kind and everyone had a wonderful time.



Our next meeting is on **13th July, 19.30pm** at the Grove Building and the speaker will be Christine Stone on Art in the garden and the garden in art. We welcome new members and visitors (£3.00)

Rose Heesom ☎ 07791 559674 roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk 
meregardenclub.org.uk

Open Gardens weekend 11th & 12th June

A big thankyou to all the people who visited our lovely gardens over the weekend, there were so many great compliments from visitors locally and further afield.

The profit on ticket sales was £1982, this figure **does not** include teas, cakes, plant sales etc which is still being counted when writing this piece. This will be spread between Friends of St Michael's, Mere Garden Club & a couple of other local charities. Full details will be noted on the Mere Garden Club website when available.

Roger Laidler <https://meregardenclub.org.uk>

Shreen Harmony

A busy but rewarding June raising funds for "Hope for Tomorrow." This charity supports the buses which come to surgery car parks enabling patients to have their cancer treatment nearer home and save the long journey to Hospital.

We had a cake stall at the Jubilee celebration in the Churchyard. This raised £115. Then, on the 18th June, we had a concert in the United Reformed Church. It was a most enjoyable and very well attended evening and our thanks to everyone who came along and supported us. Aubrey Colman gave us his great painting of the Jubilee bus to raffle and this raised £195. That together with retiring donations of £350 .45 will enable us to send "Hope for Tomorrow" a cheque for a total amount £660.45.

We shall be singing at the **West Knoyle Fete** on **July 16th** and will then start preparing our winter programme.

Anyone is welcome to join Shreen Harmony. We meet every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church in Mere. Just come along and try it - and we particularly need altos!

Sandra Fisher 📞 861980

PennyBank Writers

PennyBank's Jubilee project was well received and our thanks go again to those who helped or participated. All the poetry and prose displayed during the celebrations will form part of the Mere Jubilee archive and can be accessed at the Library.

July will also be a busy month. The group have a stall at the Frome Small Publishers Fair on July 2nd as part of the Frome Festival and on the 28th will be reading at Morrison's store, Wincanton as part of the Blackmore Vale North Read Easy Raconteurs. This activity helps raise awareness of Read Easy, a charity dedicated to helping adults who struggle to read.

Adrienne Howell 860475 howellatmere@aol.com

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	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
2	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
3	Sun			
4	Mon	09:30 18:00	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) Scouting (every Mon)	L GB
5	Tues	08:00 13:00 18:20	Foot Clinic Pilates (JL) Zumba (every Tues)	GB GB L
6	Wed	09:30 12:00 13:45 14:00 18:00	Tai-Chi (every Weds) Stretch Class (every Weds) Stretch Class (every Weds) Fitness and Friendship Karate (every Weds)	GB L L GB L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
7	Thurs	10:00 14:00 14:00	Art Group (every Thurs) Quilters (every Thurs) Bridge (every Thurs)	GB GB L
			<i>Art, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding.</i>	
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
9	Sat	19:00	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
			<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
10	Sun			
11	Mon	14:00	Short Walk	Front of Walnut Tree
			<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting</i>	
12	Tues	14:30	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>Pilates (JL), Zumba</i>	
13	Wed	19:30 19:30	Walking Group 'Moonlight Walk' Gardening Club	CP GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
14	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
15	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
16	Sat	Fair Trade Stall	<i>Coffee Morning</i>	URC
17	Sun	14:00	Mere Walk	CP
			Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
18	Mon		<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers</i>	
19	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
			<i>Pilates (JL), Zumba</i>	
20	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship	GB
			<i>Karate, Stretch, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
21	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge</i>	

22	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
23	Sat		<i>Dup Bridge</i> <i>Coffee Morning</i>	
24	Sun			
25	Mon			
26	Tues		<i>Pilates (JL), Zumba</i>	
27	Wed	09:00 14:30	Mere Jelly @ Visit Hillbrush Penny Bank Writers <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	L
28	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
29	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
30	Sat			
31	Sun			
			<i>Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct</i>	

1	Mon			
2	Tues	08:00 13:00 18:20	Foot Clinic Pilates (JL) Zumba (every Tues)	GB GB L
3	Wed	09:30 14:00 18:00	Tai-Chi Fitness and Friendship Karate (every Weds) <i>Railway Modellers</i>	GB GB L
4	Thurs	10:00 14:00	Art Group (every Weds) Quilters (every Thurs)	GB GB
5	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
6	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
7	Sun			
8	Mon			
9	Tues		<i>Zumba</i>	
10	Wed		<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
11	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge</i>	
12	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
13	Sat			
14	Sun	14:00	Mere Walk	CP
15	Mon			
16	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic <i>Zumba</i>	GB
17	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
18	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge,</i>	

AUGUST

19	Fri	Dup Bridge		
20	Sat	19:00	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
21	Sun	Coffee Morning		
22	Mon			
23	Tues			
24	Wed	Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers		
25	Thurs	Art, Quilters		
26	Fri	Dup Bridge		
27	Sat			
28	Sun			
29	Mon			
30	Tues	Zumba		
31	Wed	09:00	Mere Jelly	Visit Hillbrush
		14:00	Fitness and Friendship	GB
		14:30	Penny Bank Writers	L
		Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers		
		Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct		

Summer Reading Challenge 2022

Children often have a dip in their reading over the summer - the Summer Reading Challenge, produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by libraries, has been proven to stop this as well as changing children's attitudes in a positive way towards reading and libraries. The challenge is for 4-11 year olds to read 6 library books over 8 weeks of the summer in return for various fun prizes, including a medal and certificate on completion. This year the challenge runs from Saturday 16 July to Saturday 10 September - there will be a registration period in the first two weeks of the challenge, where children will receive a pack of resources; after this period (from 1 August) and once children have completed the challenge, they are invited to return to collect their final sticker, medal and certificate and to talk about their reading experience.



This year's theme, 'Gadgeteers', is all about science and innovation. Developed in partnership with the Science Museum Group, the Challenge will inspire children to use their curiosity and creativity to discover the science behind the everyday and celebrates the role of the imagination in both reading and the sciences. Although there is a science theme, children can read any six library books of their choice; they don't have to be linked to science and they can read more than six books! They also don't have to be able to read, reading with a parent/carer also counts.

It's free to join the challenge and to take out a library membership, visit: [Join the library - Wiltshire Council](#) and library staff will be on hand to support reading choices. Children can also take part in the challenge online via the website: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk, where they can rate and review books, download activities, and access video content, games and quizzes.

libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly brings home workers, freelancers, small business owners and entrepreneurs together in a relaxed, informal, working environment to maximise creativity and minimise the isolation that being your own boss can bring. We meet in the Cafe at Visit Hillbrush on the last Wednesday of the month, between 9am and 1pm. Come for the morning, or just pop in for a chat, you will always be welcomed.

Jenni Bell ☎ 860400

Mere Day Centre

Our guests enjoyed a wonderful party to celebrate the Queen's jubilee with music provided by the multi-talented Dan Baker. We now look forward to a summer of interesting activities and shared fun together, with the occasional outing.

The trustees would like to invite our friends and supporters to the **Annual General Meeting** for the last financial year (2021-22) to be held at the centre in **Lynch Close on August 8th at 1pm**. As many of you will know, there are changes afoot to our funding from Wiltshire Council, and I will be able to update you regarding the current situation at that meeting.

We are looking to increase the capacity of our very dedicated trustee committee to enable us to plan for an interesting new era in the life of Mere Day Centre. If you have experience of work with older people (particularly in governance or senior management), fundraising (especially digital bid-writing), publicity and marketing, or administration, and think you might like to join our lively bunch, do please contact me for a chat.

Jane Mason 861296 chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Film Shows / Moviola

Yes, it's us again and we are very much looking forward to being able to offer films again this October and November. As it's been a few years since we last opened the doors, here's a reminder of what we are about.

The films are shown in the Lecture Hall and there is nothing better than watching a recent release you may have missed at the cinema within a community setting. Bring along a cushion if you want (some available on the night) and light refreshments are available for free before the film. Tickets before enforced closure were £6 which we hope to keep close to in October. These are available in advance from the library or by phoning me. As before though we can only keep going if the support is there and it would be lovely to have full houses again. In the September issue we will release details of the films and look forward to welcoming you all – whether regular, occasional or new faces! Please get in touch if you'd like more information on anything.

Rosie ☎ 861567 rosiejb37@gmail.com

Mere Social Club

Mere social club presents reunion keyboard and guitar duo **30th July 8.30** till late all welcome free entry great duo not to be missed.

Andy Brock andybrock60@yahoo.co.uk

Mere Bowls Club

It is with much sadness that I have to report the passing of David Howell. David was a member of long standing of the bowls club, and along with Colin Read, he was very instrumental in getting the new 6 rink green in the school grounds that we play on now, he will be missed by all members of the club who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers go out the Janet his wife and to all member of his family and all of his friends.

The club has roll-ups on Tuesday and Thursday evening at 17.30hrs and on Saturday afternoons at 15.00hrs, all three sessions for a maximum of 2hrs. Just turn up with a pair of flat shoes and our friendly coaches will take care of the rest, for the first of your three free sessions.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 860775 don.butchers@btinternet.com

🌐 hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/

Mere School

Music event makes welcome return to Mere School. Children and parents at Mere School were unbelievably excited recently about the children's first live music performance in school for almost 2 years. There were a few anxious children, but the teachers worked hard to instill confidence and encourage them to take part.

The much-loved (usually annual) event is an opportunity for the children who have individual music lessons in school to perform to a sympathetic audience. There were performances on guitar, keyboard, violin, drums, piano, trombone, trumpet and recorders.

Every child performed so well and the year 3 and 4 children used the event as a dry run for the cluster schools singing event which is taking place soon at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury.

There was amazing feedback from parents and family members, who enjoyed mixing with other families after such a long time and sharing sweets while the children performed. It also acted as a welcome event for Mere School's new music teacher Mrs Jennings, who helped rehearse the singing.

At the end of the evening there was a collection for Salisbury Hospice – Mere school council's chosen charity for this year.

The children are now looking forward to their Leaver's play at the end of term – a performance of Oliver!



The Wylde Valley Art Trail goes platinum!

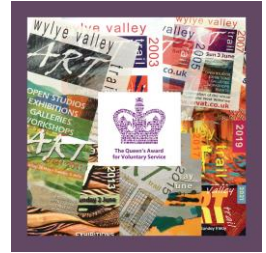
In this Jubilee year of all years, the organisers and participants past and present of the Wylde Valley Art Trail are thrilled beyond measure to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2022.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee, and in this Platinum Jubilee year the Wylde Valley Art Trail has struck more than gold by receiving the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK. The award, the MBE of the voluntary sector, is a massive honour: only 244 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups across the whole of the UK have received the award this year.

The Wylde Valley Art Trail is an entirely artist-run Open Studios event, running every other year in this most beautiful corner of Wiltshire, the next one taking place 29th April – 7th May 2023. Over the 22 years of the Trail's existence it has launched and augmented the careers of hundreds of artists – painters, sculptors, woodturners, jewellers, potters and many, many other types of makers – as well as bringing joy to the thousands of visitors that the Trail attracts.

The platinum award for a voluntary group in the Platinum Jubilee year: the Wylde Valley Art Trail couldn't have done better!

For further information, please contact Nick Andrew on na@nickandrew.co.uk



Mere Art Group

The Art Group joined the Mere community in wishing The Queen a Great Anniversary. The Contribution made on 4th June was received well in The Grove Building. Thanks go to all those who contributed to the success of the day.

Kathleen Holden was unable to participate during the event. However, Kathleen created this contribution at home and we are proud to present it in this issue.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Link Scheme

May was a quieter month with a total of 65 trips, 19 of which were to Salisbury District Hospital and 6 for covid booster vaccinations.



Thanks to everyone who came to the Link table at the Queen's Jubilee celebration on 4 June. We were busy speaking to people and handing out leaflets all afternoon and two potential new drivers have contacted us. Well done to Maggie Durkee and her team for organising such a successful and varied event.

Thanks also to everyone who came to the Link AGM on 17 June, the hottest day of the year so far. We were able to formally thank all of our volunteers and our Secretary Hamish Bell produced some interesting statistics – since 2014 Link drivers have covered 271,681 miles in 17,610 journeys and all our volunteers have given 7,908 hours of their time. Everyone enjoyed the drinks and nibbles and chat after the formalities.

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and, if resources allow, shopping. 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. Our co-ordinator isn't required to sit by the phone all day so if there is no answer please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

John FitzGerald Chair ☎ 860096 🌐 merelink.org.uk

Mere Rivers Group **Quarterly Nature Notes (covering July to Sept)**

We do hope you enjoyed Mere's various Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. We were so lucky to have good, although blustery weather for the Jubilee Party.

Now we are into July and, hopefully, the weather will be kind to us for the summer. Hopefully many of you will have enjoyed the wonderful displays of bluebell, cow parsley, red campion and buttercups in our woods and meadows. During the following months wild marjoram, wild thyme, scabious, and knapweed will be flowering on Castle and Long Hills and also on the Downs. All of these plants are loved by many pollinators, including all types of bumble bees, solitary bees and butterflies including marbled white, common blue, comma and peacock to name a few.

Has anyone else noticed that there seem to be fewer house martins nesting in house eaves around the town this year? We don't know any reason for this so we are a little puzzled! Swifts and swallows do seem to be around though perhaps in slightly fewer numbers than normal. Let's hope for a full return next year!

And we don't normally mention the fish in our streams ... but our waterways are full of fish; trout in the deeper, lower areas and bullheads and sticklebacks in the shallower upper reaches. The sticklebacks and bullheads are of particular note in that it is the male that looks after the eggs once these have been laid by the female. They spend their time fanning the eggs to give them oxygen and guarding them from predators. If anything happens to the male then all the eggs are extremely likely to be lost. So, while we do love to see the children in the streams and it is great for them to be learning about our wildlife, please do encourage them to put fish back safely (and we know that most do), particularly as the bullhead is in serious decline and is now a protected species.

Wishing you a lovely summer enjoying all the wildlife that thrives on our streams and rivers and the surrounding areas.

Lynne Bann 📞 860174

Patients Participation Group (PPG) of Mere Surgery

Fives Court Update

In April 2021 the PPG held a survey of Mere residents to find out our community's wishes for Fives Court. This was after Fives Court as a residential home for the elderly was closed by Wiltshire Council without consultation. Whilst the closure was perfectly legal, the PPG felt strongly that Fives Court should be retained for the community. We asked two key questions: should it be general housing or should it be a wellbeing centre offering much needed additional health services to Mere?

The vote was overwhelmingly for a wellbeing centre offering further medical services. Some fourteen months on Fives Court has been saved for our community and it is currently in pre-planning stages to deliver further homes for the elderly in Mere. Whilst recognising the health and wellbeing benefits of additional housing for the elderly in Mere, there remains the need to bring those health services we have lost back. This is the PPG's main focus. Wiltshire Council has asked us to wait until the pre-planning process at Fives Court has been completed before moving forward. Then an open consultation process with Mere will begin.

This is not perfect, but it is progress. The fact that our surgery is so good (for which we are forever grateful) masks residents' need to travel so far for support services that were previously available in the town.

The PPG has not forgotten the fantastic response to its survey for which we thank you. We remain optimistic that our fight for further health services and a wellbeing centre in Mere will be won, but these things sadly take time and limitless amounts of patience.

Have a great summer and we will update you again in the Autumn.

Elaine Stallard esrstallard@gmail.com

Letter from the Churches ~ Christine Marsh writes:

*'This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice
and be glad in it.' Psalm 118. Verse 24*

I have always loved to draw and paint but time pressures resulted in this being put to one side. I still remember the pleasure gained from receiving 'Painting by Numbers Kits' for Christmas and birthdays. I would always start by filling in the more interesting bits. These, for me, were the most brightly coloured areas. What I considered to be the duller colours, the greys, the browns, the blacks I would leave until last. When I retired from work I found myself with time to take up painting again, though not by numbers! I still, however, left the greys and darker browns until last but not because I considered them the most boring bits but because I had learned to love these colours as they brought the picture to life; for once the darker bits are added the picture takes on greater depth and dynamism.

Life is a bit like that. An ever changing canvas of light and dark, joy and sorrow. The bright bits are wonderful and of course we wish that they might last forever but when we look back at our lives we often find that it is the darker time that has brought out the best in us. We may not enjoy the shadows but they help us to put things into perspective. They make us take stock and re-evaluate our lives. Our focus changes and we prune away the trivia.

My Dad had a very simplistic faith. He accepted light and darkness, sunshine and rain as being essential for the growth of creation. His favourite hymn was *Glad that I live am I, that the sky is blue. Glad for the country lanes and the fall of dew. After the sun the rain, after the rain the sun, this is the way of life, since the world begun. All that we need to do, be we low or high, is to see that we grow nearer the sky.* (A Victorian Children's hymn not sung today. Not PC!!). His view was simply that what we had to do through the shadows and light of our lives was simply to focus on God, and work to growing closer to him.

As Christians we have faith that God will be with us in the day he has made, be it sunny or wet, light or dark.

As we enter the holiday season of July and August we look forward to sunshine, warmth, long, light lazy days with family and friends, fellowship, joy and laughter. A holiday time to be thankful for; a time to create and store wonderful memories so that when the colder, darker, lonelier times of winter arise we may gain strength from our good summer memories. May we all benefit from this holiday season, enjoy the sunlight, the warmth, the fellowship of family and friends so be ready to take that joyful time into any colder and darker autumn and winter days ahead.

Christine Marsh. Licensed Lay Minister St Michael the Archangel,

Church Contact and Service Details*The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:*Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 863424

Mr Richard Wilson 📞 07966 244373

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

3 rd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Family Service
10 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
17 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
24 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
31 st	Thurs	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion

JULY

7 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Family Service
14 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Benefice Service for West Knoyle Patronal (no service at St Michael's)
21 st	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
28 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion

AUGUST

*West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:*Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534 Mr Colin Seafood ☎ 830263

3 rd	Sun		Lay Led Service
10 th	Sun	18:00	Evensong
17 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
24 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
31 st	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion

JULY

7 th	Sun	09:30	Lay Led Service
14 th	Sun	10:30	Benefice Service for West Knoyle Patronal
21 st	Sun	09:30	Matins
28 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion

AUGUST

All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley

Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Contact: diana@dianabourne.co.uk

3 rd	Sun	10:00	Catch-up
10 th	Sun	10:00	Morning Service
17 th	Sun	10:00	DIY
24 th	Sun	10:30	Holy Communion
31 st	Sun	10:00	No service

JULY

7 th	Sun	10:00	Catch-up
14 th	Sun	10:00	Benefice Service for West Knoyle Patronal
21 st	Sun	10:00	Moring Worship
28 th	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion

AUGUST

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

3 rd	Sun	11:00	Mr Gwilym Hitchcock
10 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Christine Marsh
17 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Jane Hurd
24 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Colin Marsh (Holy Communion)
31 st	Sun	11:00	Rev. Peter Clark

JULY

7 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
14 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
21 st	Sun	11:00	Mr David Burfitt
28 th	Sun	11:00	Mr James Heburn

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

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere Library

As from Monday the 4th 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

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk	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

Copy date for **September** Issue

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on **THURSDAY 25th AUGUST.**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425
editor@merematters.co.uk or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

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

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society - Play Reading



In the midst of summer there is winter. At least this is the way things go at MADS. While enjoying the surprise of summer sunshine we are already pondering our November Autumn Production, looking at possible plays and of course reading them through. With that in mind, we are holding an open-to-all-of-any-age Play Reading evening in the Lecture Hall on Thursday **July 7th at 7.30 p.m.** What happens at these events is that everyone present takes part in reading the pre-selected plays - a bit like a rehearsal, to see if we like any of them and if we think our supporters will enjoy them. We also need to see if we can 'cast' the play that is whether we can count on enough people of the right age and gender to undertake each of the parts. Play readings are for everyone, even if you haven't taken part in amateur dramatics before. There's a first time for everything! We need behind-the-scene 'actors' too - MADS members who support the performance in myriad ways, from set-building and painting to costume-fitting, curtain-pulling, prop-hunting - and coffee-making! Even if you are just curious, do come along and see what happens. We hope to see a good crowd of people on **July 7th** - you will be welcomed with open arms!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

At our last meeting on the 14th June we were invited to Christabelle's beautiful garden on a gloriously sunny afternoon. We had such an interesting speaker Susanne Hayes, Mere's very own Sewing Lady who told us about her wonderful career in Fashion Design both in Italy and in the UK working for people like Paul Smith amongst many other well-known names in the Fashion Industry. We are so blessed in having her in her own emporium in North Street where she renovates, replicates and indeed these days as a must, she regenerates fashionable clothing that did once fit and we heard some interesting stories about the many Weddings she makes dresses for with the many bridesmaids dresses and even ties for the men folk and the dressmaking courses she ran with one of our members Carol Lord. With 19 of us very happily enjoying a splendid assortment of homemade cakes and tea we enjoyed those extra calories just basking in the sun.

This month on **Tuesday 12th July at 2.30pm in The Grove Building** we look forward to having Dawn Lawrence from the Born Free Foundation to speak to us about the ongoing work carried out by this excellent foundation.

During August we will meet on the **9th August at St. Michael's Church at 12 noon** for a service remembering and celebrating the Mary Sumner Day, she was our founder. We carry on this celebration with a picnic lunch and more details of this will be available from the people mentioned below after our July meeting.

As the writer of this article normally, I would like to thank all the MU for their support visits and prayers whilst I was quite ill. The Mothers Union is a very caring organisation both to members of the Mere Community and further afield but particularly to the members. I am pleased to be back in their midst.

As more and more people attend, we have a small service and then an opportunity to listen to a speaker and then tea. Anyone is welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you then.

Written by Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christabelle Kriticos ☎ 861065

Christine Marsh ☎ 861212



We go to press the day before our annual Strawberry Tea, hoping for good weather to match the lively interest in this event. We are very grateful to Nigel and Mary Wilson for hosting it and hope that a good time will have been had by all by the time you read this. Whether you enjoyed it or missed it, you are very welcome to come to Grove Cottage in Barton Lane (opposite the Library entrance) for a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in aid of Suchana on Tuesday 23rd August from 10.30am.

Meanwhile in West Bengal Suchana continues to make a positive impact on the lives of many 'adivasi' children and communities. It has recently received recognition and some funding from the Global Fund for Children which seeks to

support and enhance grassroots organisations like Suchana working with 'left behind' and seriously disadvantaged children with the overall aim of enabling all children everywhere to feel safe, strong and valued. Suchana's First Language Literacy project, enabling children to learn to read and write in their own mother tongue fits well with this aim, and as well as developing appropriate flash cards, story books and other teaching resources, they are sharing the results of this pioneering work with government schools beginning to work in this way.

And, of course, Suchana continues its core work of early learning classes, ongoing support, library and mobile library work, activities and using basic computer skills to enhance education. Local Government schools, having at last reopened after two years of Covid, closed again 2 months later for 6 weeks because of extreme heat. Suchana kept going by holding its classes early and late in the day when it was a little cooler.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, Chair, Mere Suchana Support Group

Christian Aid Week – THANK YOU!



Very many thanks to everyone who sponsored my '300,000 Steps in May' challenge for Christian Aid Week. I actually managed 394,074 steps, so reached the target quite comfortably. This has raised £820 so far: £390 from my Just Giving page, £340 from locally pledged sponsorship and £90 from other cheques and donations. It's not (quite) too late to add to this, if you would like to!

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553 judithvthompson@aol.com



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