

The background image shows a stone church with a clock tower and a large stone cross (war memorial) in front of it. Colorful bunting is strung across the scene. The church has a clock face on its tower and a stone archway at the entrance. The war memorial is a tall stone cross with a plaque at its base.

# Mere Matters

& so do all of  
those in  
**Ukraine**

& so does

**West Knoyle**

Queen's Jubilee Supplement

Your community magazine including  
a guide to local events

**June 2022**

### Mere Town Council

James Suter, our Head Groundsman left us last month to pursue another career. He was an excellent employee for 8 years and we wish him well in the future. His colleague, Simon Cook, has subsequently been promoted to Head Groundsman. The Town Council is currently in the process of selecting someone to fill the vacancy we now have. Inevitably, this means a tremendous workload for Simon in the peak grass cutting season and this with the preparation for the jubilee events, combines to make the workload even more so. Please bear with us over the next few weeks, we are doing our best!

I am sorry to have to report that one of our defibrillators has gone missing. Every avenue of investigation has been followed up and we now have had to concede that it has been stolen. This is a sad state of affairs. To replace the defibrillator will necessitate making an insurance claim, the premium for which has increased by £1000 this year!

Following a meeting with the contractors carrying out the work at the Duchy Manor site, I must inform you that from June 6th, parking will be extremely limited for all users of this site. We did manage to negotiate some non-vehicular access for the Bowls Club, Cricket, Football and Archery Clubs and signs will be placed with directions. After the school breaks up on July 22nd parking will become easier until the beginning of September when staff return.

I am ending my report on a very sad note. Cllr. Eric Mitchell who served on the council for 23 years and as Chairman 2009-2011, passed away on May 10th. This was totally unexpected and a great shock to us all. Eric was a great source of knowledge on Mere and land and farming and cared very much about planning and Mere's future. His passing is all the more devastating for his children as their mother, Pauline, died in 2020. Our heartfelt condolences go out to them and the family.

We are going to miss him very much.

### Floral Sponsors

The Town Clerk would like to report that once again, the Town Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs & four planting displays within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and

we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact: Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. Tel: 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs during the 2021/22 financial year:

Michael, Joy & Grandchildren

F. J. Chalke Ltd

Mr. & Mrs. East

Jane Hurd

Frank & Geraldine Legge

Mere Matters

Mr. & Mrs. Payne

Di Potter

One tub sponsored "in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Whitty"

+ 4 other sponsors who wish to remain anonymous

Post lady Alison

P. Davis in memory of Pauline Davis

The Hill Brush Company Ltd

G. E. & S. M. Jeans

Dr. David Longbourne

Mrs. Doreen Pinnock

Cdr. & Mrs. Vernon Phillips

Two Counties Farm

*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)*

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### Mere Rivers Group

Here comes summer or not?

After one of the driest winters and April delivering only 45% of normal rainfall it looks like a difficult summer for our streams.

Wessex Water have already reduced the abstraction amount to supply only the local area and are about to turn on "stream support" for the Ashfield. If the stream support keeps the Ashfield running and Burton pond full, in what promises to be a dry summer Wessex Water plan to do the same on the Shreen.

The boards, part of the flume on the Shreen, were removed for a short time to allow the build-up of silt to wash down stream. They are now back and the ducks and moorhens can swim and not walk. We must remember that these are wild creatures and should not be fed every day (only by small children). We have what appears to be an imbalance of drake to ducks, its easy pickings when you are fed each day.

How good it is to hear the swifts screaming overhead and watch them swirling with the swallows and housemartins.

I know we want the best of both worlds, water in the streams and warm sunny weather. We will just have to wait and see.

*Ian Sheppard [ianisheppard@outlook.com](mailto:ianisheppard@outlook.com)*

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## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I am at currently putting up the Union Jack flags for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which the Mere Town Council have supplied. The masts were provided by The Hill Brush Company. .Eric Mitchell, who very sadly at the young age of 66, died suddenly on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, paid for bunting plus hand flags etc to be distributed. A lovely legacy.

I recently attended a Postmasters meeting at Stratford-upon-Avon. It has become clear that without a retail operation, the majority of Post Offices will be forced to close. As from January 2023 we may see some Post Offices performing many banking functions. Some Post Offices may diversify to include alternative mail management such as DPD. The government are still supporting Post Office Ltd financially.

I am soon to be serving on "The Pension Fund" Wiltshire Council committee which deals with vast financial investments.

Wiltshire Council are now cutting verges from September except for road junctions. I received a number of complaints last year regarding the verges not being cut sufficiently at some areas and other areas that forced pedestrians into the road etc. Junctions should be cut and visibility maintained. There has to be a balance between wildlife but safety at junctions is crucial. Please report any junction visibility problems to the My Wilts App however please inform me also if you can. I had noted when I was in Zeals a few weeks ago, a metre of the verge was cut back on the north side of Zeals and some junctions appeared to have had their visibility maintained, I had seen this compromise also elsewhere and had thought this year safety of junctions and vegetation causing wetting of clothes, pedestrians being forced out into the road by wet or volume of vegetation may be acceptable this year, now I have seen and received complaints regarding Mere Down and the Roman Road junction and other nearby laybys with obscured visibility, I have reported and hope this is a one off. I must thank Wiltshire Council for quickly responding to Fordswater's complaints regarding problems with vegetation a few weeks ago.

I have previously reported that Area Board funding for community grant funding is reduced and the South West Wiltshire Area Board will be finding it more difficult to satisfy applications. The removed funding will be used for local highway and footpath projects funded through CATG (Community Area Transport Group). The group has been renamed as LHFIG (Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group). I was hoping that funding could be found via this group in the form of a substantive grant for a B3092 Acceleration Lane at Coombe Barn Farm junction. Kilmington Parish Council have supported this. I have now been informed the cost would be in the region of £250 000.00, this is unaffordable by the LHFIG. The Kilmington Parish Council have agreed to pay about £400 towards 'slow' being painted on the road which I must thank them for. I would like to see perhaps a low speed limit and traffic calming for the safety of us all at this junction. In terms of progressing a junction realignment long-term, the idea would need to be taken forward as a strategic network improvement. The best way of achieving a junction realignment would be through its inclusion in Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) which will start to be drafted in the next year or so by the Transport Planning Team. LTP4 will be delivered on the ground from 2026 onwards.

Various changes have been made to the way Area Boards operate since the Cabinet/Scrutiny review exercises during the first quarter of this year. A presentation on all the changes will be given at the **29<sup>th</sup> June South West Wiltshire Area Board meeting**, these changes and their implications will impact on the function of the area board and Parish and Town Councils and others, especially regarding local grants. The main changes are:-

Grant applications will not be accepted after the 4 week deadline which this time is the 1st June (because of the processes involved in (5) below)

Parish Councils can no longer apply for capital “community area” grants, but they can for revenue grants from the Health & Wellbeing Budget and Youth Budget (this includes SIDs, Pedestrian Gates, and Finger Posts)

The maximum amount an applicant can apply for without needing to find match funding is £500, reduced from £1k.

The maximum amount an applicant can apply for with match funding is £5k

The local CEM and/or local area board can refer an application to a new Grant Assessment Panel (Cabinet Member for Communities and Assoc Director for Communities) where the applicant is

Requesting over £5,000

Not from a voluntary or community sector organisation

Applying to multiple boards (more than 3)

The SWWAB's intention to cap all capital grant requests received in 2022/23 to 10% of the overall 2022/23 budget allocation, i.e. £2487 – due to the 50% reduction in this budget allocation.

Karen Linaker is the SWWAB Community Engagement Manager should you wish contact the board. [karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk) 01722 434697 or 07917 751 728

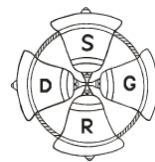
In Mere we are lucky in the fact Mere School has a full complement of Governors however some areas are not so lucky. Wiltshire Council has teamed up with Inspiring Governance to help schools in Wiltshire to find people to become school governors. School governing boards play an essential part in leading schools. They set the strategic vision and direction, approve the budget and hold the senior leadership team to account. Every school in Wiltshire has a board of governors and many have vacancies. There are several categories of governors including community governors, parent governors, foundation governors and local authority governors, and across Wiltshire many schools have vacancies they need to fill.

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



## Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers - Mere Branch



The local Branch of the Salisbury Guild of Ringers will be holding a display of ringing related material and videos as part of the Mere Jubilee Celebrations. This will be held in the Parish Church on the afternoon of **Saturday 4th June**, where there will be an opportunity for members of the public to chime the Treble Bell. Branch Members are arranging a Quarter Peal to be rung prior to the start of the celebrations which commence at midday.

At the close of celebrations all local ringers will have an opportunity to ring the bells at St Michael's where in honour of the occasion the sequence of ringing known as "Queens" will doubtless feature prominently.

*Maggie Durkee* ☎ 860163

### Mere & District Railway Modellers

It is with regret that we have to mention the sad loss of our Founder and Honorary Member Jenny Seaward who was responsible for the creation of our club and negotiating and guiding the author so that our present clubhouse was established. Jenny was a very practical lady, from building the largest O gauge layout in Mere to constantly improving her property.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Mere & District Railway Modellers are delighted to be able to present to the community what will probably be the best small town railway exhibition in the Southwest this year. With the support of our eminent traders, Ray Heard Models and Railway Scenics we are offering some award winning layouts. Club members have supplied four small layouts to illustrate that the hobby can easily be carried out in a limited space. Three layouts represent Norway, Switzerland and the USA. In all we have 14 layouts representing 9 different gauges. The Rheilfford Ffestiniog Narrow Gauge Railway Display will be present.

This year we have a facility for using credit cards. Refreshments will be provided by the usual team, together with some excellent home baked cakes. So please come along and support your local club.

*Tom Snook Exhibition Manager for Frome and Mere Model Railway Exhibitions.*

### Mere Social Club

Entertainment **4<sup>th</sup> June Jubilee Weekend party** - Karaoke 8.30 'til late

**25<sup>th</sup> June Stuart Saye** guitar vocalist 8.30 'til late

Free entry - All welcome.

*Andrew Brockway*



### Digital Voice – VOIP

Some of our residents in Mere have already been moved over from the traditional telephone system of old, to the new Digital Voice system.



It would appear that if the power to the house where this system is installed is lost, then the residents are left without any telephone connection. This is a critical failing for those who rely on emergency push button, pendants and nurse call systems.

As a result of this situation I understand that future roll-out of Digital Voice systems has been put on hold for the moment.



*Editor 863425*

### Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Our Jubilee plans are pretty well settled as the momentous date approaches. As we suggested last month, MADS Players will be on the streets of Mere on the day, wandering around the various areas of celebration, and they will be pleased to entertain you if you so wish. Just choose a card or envelope from the Jubilee Basket when prompted, and they will respond with a mini-performance just for you. And any by-standers of course! Have a wonderful day! And again our congratulations to Her Majesty on her magnificent 70-year anniversary.



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



## Creative Mere

It's Coming Back! - Creative Mere 2022 November 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (am)

It is now 5 years since the first ever Creative Mere event and there is still a constant interest in the web-site so we are sure the second event will prove to just as popular and exciting as the first. For those who are new to the town this event promises to draw together the many craft and art skills and artisans from in and around Mere. An exhibition with some 'hands-on' experiences for all to enjoy. A wonderful opportunity to purchase locally made gifts for Christmas!



The Grove Building and Lecture Halls are booked so now is the time to invite all you wonderful craft and art folk to book a table as exhibitors. We are asking for a £5 deposit to be paid to **Richard Jefferies** as soon as possible and no later than **July 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

If you are new to Mere or the surrounding area and would like to know more about the event, please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to show off your skills.

*Richard Jefferies, Treasurer, 16 Underhill, 863425*

*Susanne Hayes, The Sewing Lady ☎ 0788 595434 Janet Way ☎ 860884*

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## Mere Snooker Club

Many of you will have enjoyed watching the recent World Championship, and marveled at the skills (and flukes) which are all part of the game of snooker. The club's next **Open Night**, is on **June 14th at 7.30pm**, so if you are interested in finding out more about snooker or the club's facilities, do come along, without any obligation. We welcome players and novices alike.

*Mike ☎ 860163 [meresnookerclub@gmail.com](mailto:meresnookerclub@gmail.com)*

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## Mere Jelly

Once a month, Mere's freelancers, home-workers and small business owners emerge in public!

You will find them, armed with cappuccinos and shiny laptops, at Visit Hillbrush on the last Wednesday of every month between 9am and 1pm.

Working in groups gets you away from the isolated experience of working at home, and the Mere Jelly is a chance to meet new people in your environment. Come along for the whole morning or just pop in for a chat.

*Jenni Bell ☎ 860400*

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## Mere and District Link Scheme & Mere Festival

The purpose of this article is to let you know that the Mere Literary Festival will in future be raising funds not just for the Mere and District Link Scheme but also for other Mere based charities.



The Mere Literary Festival was set up in 1997 by Adrienne Howell BEM to raise funds for the Mere and District Link Scheme. The Festival has become a regular annual feature in Mere and has provided much entertainment and funding for the Link Scheme. Adrienne retired in 2018 and the Festival has since been run successfully by Gail Garbutt who is working hard on the programme for the 2022 Festival from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The Link Scheme Trustees have considered legal advice about the link between the Scheme and the Festival and the currently healthy financial position of the Link Scheme. They have decided that from now on the Link Scheme should not be the sole beneficiary of the funds raised by the Festival.

Gail has agreed to carry on running the Literary Festival to raise funds for the Link Scheme, Mere Day Centre and Seeds for Success. Following a suggestion by Adrienne, 50% of the funds raised will be available to other charities operating in Mere on application.

You can get more information on the Festival at [mereliteraryfestival.com](https://mereliteraryfestival.com) where you can become a Friend of the Festival.

**April** was a busier month with a total of 92 trips, 21 of which were for covid booster vaccinations. Most of these were to Haynes Motor Museum or Westbury as Wilton is not being used for the booster programme.

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 she will get back to you as soon as she can.

You will see in the section above that from this year the Mere Literary Festival will be raising funds for other Mere based charities as well as the Link Scheme. The Literary Festival has raised a lot of money for the Link Scheme in the last 24 years and the Link's Trustees were delighted to be able to make a contribution to help Seeds for Success replace one of their minibuses which had come to the end of its useful life.

We will be having a table at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee party on Saturday 4th June so please come and have a chat if you would like to volunteer as a driver or to know more about the Link.

All are welcome to come to the Link AGM on Friday 17 June at 7:00pm in the Grove Building.

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

*Gail Garbutt, Organiser, Mere Literary Festival* [gfgarbutt@gmail.com](mailto:gfgarbutt@gmail.com)

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### Mere Walking Group

This month's walk will be on Sunday June 26th, a 4 to 5 mile walk around Yarlington. Meet at Salisbury Street Car Park at 2pm, we will share cars to go to the start of the walk. All are welcome to join us.

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

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### Mere Doctors Surgery – Carers Week

It is **Carers Week 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June**. With the success of the monthly Carers Cafe in Mere, Diana James and I wanted to organise an event for our Carers. We have decided to hold it during Carers week as this seems appropriate and have booked the **United Reformed Church** for our event on **Tuesday 7th June from 1.30pm to 4.30pm**.

We plan to have an informal afternoon tea and invite our registered carers so they can learn about what we offer our Carers in Mere.

Diana James the Wiltshire Community Connector from Carer Support Wiltshire will talk to the Carers and be available to chat together with staff from Mere surgery.

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### Race Night at West Knoyle

Another great evening at West Knoyle's Social Club at their first Race Night. Members enjoyed a chat over drinks and given a number of betting tokens before settling down to study the race card. Deciding which horses to place bets on was no mean feat, however, it was probably a case of which horse's name was the most appealing!

With easy to understand 'West Knoyle betting odds' our 'bookies' for the evening were Martin and Simon. They swiftly took everyone's bets before the pre-recorded races were shown, to the sound of much encouragement from the punters. After each race the bookies paid out for 1st and 2nd places.

Tickets were only £10 each which included betting tokens and supper. The racing paused after the fourth race for a buffet supper of Hot Dogs, chips and baked beans followed by a selection of delicious homemade desserts and then the racing continued.

The evening ended with a count up of 'betting tokens' and prizes of wine, easter eggs and flowers were awarded to the top three winners, Dan, Sam and Sheila.

Whether a horse racing follower or not, it was a fantastic fun evening with a lot of good humour, enjoyed by all and we look forward to the next Race Night.

Annual Membership to the West Knoyle Social Club is only £5 and is open Friday 7.30-9.30pm and Sunday 1-3pm.

*Corinne Leonard* 📞 07783 157361

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

22	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
23	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge</i>	
24	Fri	10:00	Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
25	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
26	Sun	14:00	Mere Walking Group	CP
27	Mon		<i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers</i>	
28	Tues			
29	Wed	am 14:30	Mere Jelly (last Weds of month) Pennybank Writers	Hillbrush L
30	Thurs		<i>Zumba</i>	
			<i>Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct</i>	

### Fair Trade Stalls

I will be at the Jubilee Fair with a wider range of Fair Trade goodies for sale. Please support me if you can to help support struggling farmers and craft folk around the world

*Janet Way 860884*

### June's Short Walk (with a Royal theme).

Meet at the Churchyard for a walk with a difference at **2:00pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Janet Way 860884*



### Mere Theatre Club

If you'd like to know more about us do come and visit our stall at the Mere Jubilee Party on **June 4<sup>th</sup> between 12.00 and 4.00pm**. We should be somewhere in the churchyard and there might be a glass of wine for you! We look forward to meeting the theatre lovers of Mere.

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



### Mere Rubber Bridge

We meet in the small hall in the Lecture Hall every Thursday at 2.00 and play for about two hours plus, with a break for tea or coffee and biscuits. We are a small friendly group and always welcome beginners as some of us are still learning, and we have a good laugh so it is a very relaxing enjoyable way to spend the afternoon. Do come and join us.

[janet.meadows@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.meadows@btinternet.com) or Avril 01747 861285

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Queen's Platinum  
Jubilee Supplement

*June 2022*

## Program of Events:

*National events are printed in italics*

**2nd May – 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Mere Library Museum  
Exhibition Celebrating 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's Reign 1952

**27<sup>th</sup> May Mere School**  
Day of 'Royal' activities including a street party and entertainer

**30<sup>th</sup> May:** Mere and District Day Centre (RGC) :  
Event for Clients only 10:30am - 3pm  
10:30-11am Welcome teas and coffees  
11-12pm Sing along songs  
12 - 1pm Buffet lunch  
1 - 2pm Musician - Dan Baker  
2 - 2:30pm Royal Quiz  
2:30pm Refreshments



**2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June** Bank Holiday weekend

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June:** Festival of Flowers in Church  
Bring your jam jar of flowers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> June and place in St Michael's ready for the festival

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> June** Commemorative photograph  
3.00pm at St. Michael's Church photos of septuagenarians and over, living in Mere at both the accession and now.

**Thurs 2 June** *Trooping the Colour*

**Evening:** Beacon on Castle Hill. This is NOT a public event to attend. Please just admire from a distance. Will be lit at dark.

**Fri 3 June:** *National Thanksgiving Service.*

**Sat 4 June:** *Derby Party @ the Palace*

**Saturday afternoon - Mere Big Jubilee Party  
from 12:00 TO 4.00PM.**

**A whole afternoon of fun and celebrations for young and old.**

***CHURCH STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC***

## Mere Big Jubilee Party Program of Events

**12:00 Celebrations start with Peal of Bells from St Michaels Church.**

All attractions open from 12.00

**Free admission.**

Wander the poetry and prose trail,  
Enjoy the roving ad hoc theatricals

**Church Street**  
Various market  
Stalls, and in the  
Churchyard

**Throughout the Town**  
Gardening Club Scarecrow trail  
around the town

**In the Grove Building:**  
Refreshments, Tea, cake & lunches  
Craft area for children  
Art group Exhibition

**Outside the Grove Building:**  
1.00pm Zumba demonstrations  
Ukulele band

**In St Michaels Church:**  
1.45 til 2.15. Hand bell ringing  
2.30-3.30pm a Duo are giving a free  
concert of favourite old songs  
Music from the 70's

Have a bit of fun and perhaps win a  
prize!  
Bring your dressed up dog  
Wear your decorated hat  
Make sure to adorn your house, to win  
prizes!  
Wander the sites on the day to be  
chosen for the finale

**Vicarage field**  
Various live music including a  
band, bar, coconut shy, BBQ  
food stall

Children's area for **Face  
Painting**, animals and the  
**Bouncy Castle**

**At The Meads**  
Try your hand at Archery

**4.00pm - Finale:** Meet at the Church if you have been  
nominated by our spot checkers, for an overall winner to be  
picked, awards, and the commemorative photo!

**Sun 5 June:** *Big Jubilee Lunch, Jubilee Pageant*

11.00am Thanksgiving Service at St Michaels:

Organise your own Street Parties in Mere

**Legacy:** Commemorative Tree planting and Film of the Event Day, by Johnny  
Fenn, plus local photographer's work to be held as a copy in Mere Museum



## Come and Join the Party

11am Peal of Bells

Events starting at 12 noon

Church Street becomes

'Market Street'

St Michael's Church and

Grove Buildings

Flowers Music Stalls Plants Teas

Vicarage Field

Music Food Bar Games

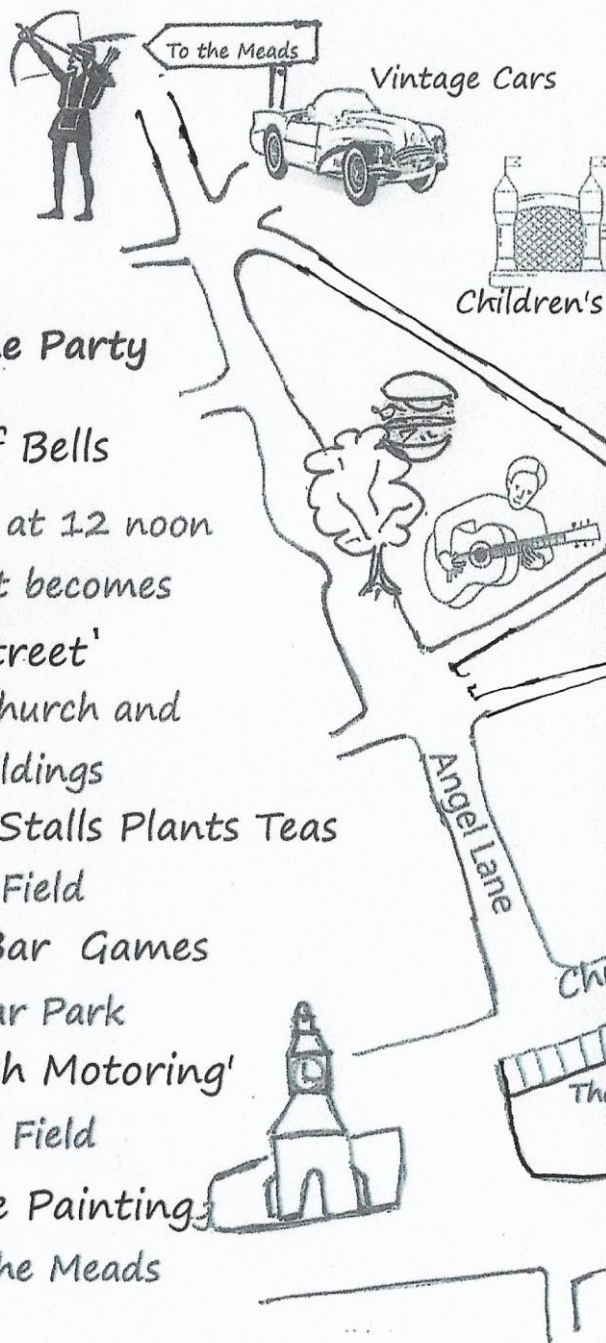
Cemetery Car Park

'70 Years of British Motoring'

Children's Field

Bouncy Castle Face Painting

Archery on the Meads





Mere Jubilee Party  
Saturday June 4th  
from 12noon



## Times Past

"On 3rd July 1952, Queen Elizabeth II visited Mere, but because of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease she could not visit any farms, and met the Duchy tenants at the Hill Brush company's premises, and at the Burton Field Nurseries. The Queen showed great interest in the manufacturing processes at the brush factory and overstayed her time. She was presented with two miniature brooms, for Prince Charles and Princess Anne. She then drove slowly round the crowded Square, and then to the Recreation Ground, where about a thousand children from the district were gathered to see her. "

In the new edition:

"At the Recreation Ground a great crowd of children greeted her before she went to see the greenhouses at Burton field, where Her Majesty was presented with a spray of orchids grown by Mr Walter Burden."

In the photograph: Royal visit of July 3rd, 1952. The Queen is shown in the Recreation Ground; walking beside her is the late Mr Alan Coward, then Chairman of the Parish Council, the late Mr A. C. Wardle Headteacher at the Secondary Modern School, and immediately behind her the Rev. N. E. E. Johnson, then Vicar of Mere.





## Hillbrush Celebrate 100yrs.

This year marks the 100th birthday of Hillbrush, the UK's largest, and longest established, manufacturer of traditional brushes and specialist cleaning tools.

Founded in 1922 by brothers Fred and Bill Coward in the rural town of Mere in Wiltshire, Hillbrush is still family owned and run, currently by the 4<sup>th</sup> generation family members Charlie and Andy. While the company originally manufactured brushes for the dairy and agricultural industries, it has in recent years diversified and now also offers high performance specialist brushes and cleaning tools for the food and beverage industries.



BY APPOINTMENT TO HM THE QUEEN  
MANUFACTURERS OF BRUSHWARE  
THE HILLBRUSH COMPANY LTD  
MERE, WILTSHIRE

Hillbrush is a British manufacturing institution that has innovated and diversified with the times but stayed true to its family values. To mark Hillbrush's milestone birthday, chairman Philip Coward, has brought together memories, photography and insight into a beautiful commemorative book, which is available to purchase on the Hillbrush website or for sale in the Hillbrush visitor centre shop. £5 will be donated from the proceeds of every purchase to the RWH Charity Fund.

Hillbrush is very proud to combine their centenary celebrations with 40 years of being Royal Warrant Holders, during the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Royal Warrant membership recognises companies who provide fine quality goods and/or services to the Royal Households. Hillbrush was granted the Royal Warrant in 1981 and is delighted to be part of the Royal Warrant Holders Association. This year, all fund raising will be in aid of the Royal Warrant Holders Charity Fund.

Hillbrush are busy planning events for later in the year. The new 'Centenary Warehouse' will be opened along with staff celebrations in mid-summer and they will be hosting a charity day for local residents and dignitaries – where visitors can tour the factory and see how the Royal brushes are made!





We wish to thank the following for their kind donations:

AS Hoare  
Autotechnics  
Broadpeak Car Storage  
C Hazzard  
Carnival Committee  
Eric Mitchell  
FJ Chalke  
Gillingham, Mere, and  
Shaftesbury Lions  
HillBrush  
Jeans Electrical  
JJS Fabrications  
Kate Symonds  
Lavendar Lane  
Mere Forest Lands Charity  
Mere Matters  
Mere Town Council  
RJ Coward  
Sprout and Flower, Cooperative  
Mere and other local store's  
for donations and prizes.  
St Michael's Church  
Wiltshire Council



Grateful thanks also to all those who have given freely of their time and energy in planning and organizing the events.



### Journey Without a Map

Don't miss the opportunity to hear the renowned novelist Marion Molteno speak on her latest book. It maps her journey as a writer and the influences which informed her novels (including her two previous visits to Mere!). It has had excellent reviews and she is an engaging speaker. The library will be holding a number of her books during June to borrow and she will be bringing some of them to buy.

The talk is to be held in **Mere Library** on **Monday June 13<sup>th</sup>** at **3p.m.** and it is essential to book a place either at the library (01747 860546 or with me on 01747 860884) . There is to be a retiring collection.

PS Please note the revised time shown in May's Mere Matters

*Janet Way 860884*

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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 13<sup>th</sup> June 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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### Shreen Harmony

We have had a busy and most enjoyable month since the last Mere Matters. We performed together with Caroline Radcliffe's other choirs from Frome and Trowbridge. The combined choirs formed the '100 voices' singing for Ukraine on 29<sup>th</sup> April. It was a wonderful evening and over £3000 was raised for the Ukraine appeal.

We will also be singing in Mere on **Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June**. The concert is being held in the **United Reformed Church at 7.30 p.m.** Admission is free and there will be refreshments in the interval, but donations will be welcome. We are raising money for the Mobile Cancer Unit in Wiltshire. "Hope for Tomorrow", this is a charity which sends 14 mobile cancer care units into the local communities.

I look forward to seeing you and your support in June.

*Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980*

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## Mere Day Centre



Our day centre for older people in and around Mere is now fully functioning and back in the swing. We are looking forward to an exciting week to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, beginning with a party on May 30th, when multi-talented musician Dan Baker will be performing. Dan came to play for us a few weeks ago under the auspices of the Celebrating Age jubilee fund, and was so popular we asked him back! In fact, our Jubilee celebrations have already begun, with help from another artiste working with Celebrating Age. Louise Jordan is a talented singer-song writer, who specialises in collecting people's stories and turning them into song. She is working with our guests over three sessions to collate their memories of significant moments during the Queen's reign, drawing these together into a song which the guests will finally sing together.

If you, or a relative or friend would like to join our happy band at the day centre we have a few places available on Mondays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm. Do contact our Centre Manager, Sandie Hawkins to find out more. Her phone number is 07835272406, or email [manager@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@meredaycentre.org.uk)

Sandie is always keen to hear from folks who might like to volunteer with us, so do ask her about opportunities, or look up our web-site [www.meredaycentre.org.uk](http://www.meredaycentre.org.uk)

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## Mere Silent Auction 2022

Good news – the Mere Silent Auction is live and ready for bids from 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. The auction will be held on Facebook - Mere Silent Auction.

All the lots have been very kindly donated by various local business and individuals, to whom we are very grateful. All the details of donors is on each lots description.

The 2 charities that will benefit from this auction, both vital to our community are: The Rosemary Goddard Centre and Mere Toddlers Foodbank.

No expenses are being taken by the organiser so 100% of all monies raised will be split 50/50 between the 2 charities.

Please keep any eye on the Facebook page (which will be updated every night with the top bid). If you would like to add a lot please drop a message via Mere Silent Auction facebook page. The final bids and the grand total will announced in Mere Matters.

Happy bidding!

*Penny Fennon 07833131712*

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### Tiddlers and Toddlers

**Anne Rich** of Food Bank fame has for the best part of 16 years run the Tiddlers and Toddlers group at the Lecture Hall on Monday mornings. In that time many children and parents have benefitted from a morning of fun activities, coffee and a chat.

Being a new parent can be a very lonely experience and as a community we should be very grateful to Anne for running this group giving parents and children a chance to meet up and make new friends. However Anne has decided to retire from this voluntary post. The last term of Tiddlers and Toddlers starts on **June 13<sup>th</sup>** and runs until the school holidays. Perhaps if you have benefitted from this wonderful group in the past you might find time to drop by – 9.30 to 11.30 to say farewell to Anne.

Anne hopes that someone else might take on the responsibility of running this group and welcomes offers of willing volunteers.

*Maggie Durkee*

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## Mere Art Group

On **Saturday 4th June** there will be an Exhibition of our work in the Grove Building - do come and visit us.

This month's art contribution is from Aubrey Colman - he does like his buses! - front cover and in 'The Children's Corner' of St Michaels.

The Art Group meet in The Grove Building each Thursday from 10.00 - 12.00. £2.50 with coffee and biscuits - that can't be bad.

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



## St Michael's Appeal

As there will be no Church Fete this year, the friends of St Michael will be serving lunch from the Grove Building from 12-2pm on **Saturday 4th June** to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

There will be stalls from 12 - 4pm and we will be serving teas 2 - 4pm

Bric a Brac, Jewellery, Books, Plants.

We would appreciate donations of Cakes etc to serve during this time as well as plants and any gardening equipment that can be sold on the stall.

Cakes can be delivered to the Grove building from 11am on Saturday 4th June.

Items for the plant stall can be left at the Chantry in Church St from **Monday 30th May**.

If you enter through the arch, there is a car port on the left just inside and all items can be left there.

*Bill Price, Chairman St Michael's Appeal*

## Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Our Jubilee plans are pretty well settled as the momentous date approaches. As we suggested last month, MADS Players will be on the streets of Mere on the day, wandering around the various areas of celebration, and they will be pleased to entertain you if you so wish. Just choose a card or envelope from the Jubilee Basket when prompted, and they will respond with a mini-performance just for you. And any by-standers of course! Have a wonderful day! And again our congratulations to Her Majesty on her magnificent 70-year anniversary.



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



## Mere Bowls Club

The club has opened and we have yet to lose a match to the weather, so not a bad start to the season. More playing members would be a welcome bonus, but with a little arm twisting we are managing to put out a team for most games.

We do have one new bowler, who at the tender age of 12 has really taken to the sport, he even went up to Swindon over the last weekend and joined the Bowls Wiltshire Youth in a day of coaching and mixing with bowlers of his own age, well done to Lewis Cornford (who by the way lives in Mere, and not Gillingham as stated last month.)

Mere Bowls Club will have a presence at the upcoming Queen's Jubilee Celebrations and look forward to having a chat with all our readers about the sport and its benefits to health and wellbeing.

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](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

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



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)

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 09:00 11:00	BCP Communion Parish Communion Jubilee Thanksgiving Service
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 11:00 15:00	BCP Communion Parish Communion Songs of Praise at Stourhead

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

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

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun		No Service
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion with Archdeacon Alan Jeans
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	9:30	Holy Communion

***All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley***Priest in Charge: TBA [vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	No Service
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	15:00	Songs of Praise at Stourhead

***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 Priest: Fr Francis ☎ 01963 34408 [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867



*The United Reformed Church*

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

5 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	No Service – Joining with St Michaels
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr P Kershaw (Holy Communion)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mrs Christine Marsh
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11.:00	Rev S Litchfield

Mere LibraryAs 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 ☎ 860546*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)

## Mere Karate Club

Recently 3 of our members achieved their senior grade black belt promotions Pat Manning, 4<sup>th</sup> Dan, Ian Reason 4<sup>th</sup> Dan and David Reason 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan. They were all graded by TSKA Senior Grade (Black Belt) Grading Panel and they were recently presented with their certificates at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury on 26<sup>th</sup> March by Sensei Shinji Akita visiting us from Japan.



Prior to the presentation Sensei Akita conducted a course which was well attended by students travelling from all areas of the UK. Many locals do not realise that Mere is firmly on the map as the HQ of the TSKA. The Association is recognised for its high standards and excellent karate.

We also held a course in Mere Lecture Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April with Sensei John Euden 7<sup>th</sup> Dan, from Margate who is the Assistant Chief Instructor of the TSKA. The course was crammed and those in attendance were taught the subject of street applied techniques using basic karate. It was a very enjoyable and sociable course.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 we held a grading where students undergo an examination covering the 3 elements of karate – Kihon (basics), Kata and Kumite. They have to demonstrate the correct level of attainment in order to progress to the next grade level which is designated with coloured belts. Some of the Mere students underwent their grading and were successful in achieving their next kyu grade level.

*For more information check our Facebook page @tska or call 📞 860144.*

## Friends of Mere Museum

We were very pleased to see so many people at our mid-May plant sale, and delighted now to tell you that we raised well over £840 on the day. This will form part of the annual grant which, later this year, the Friends will present to the Museum to enable it to continue its important work. It is an absolutely vital grant, as the Museum has no other source of funds. So a very warm 'thank you' to everyone who helped us to achieve this very satisfactory result!

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



You are invited to a STRAWBERRY TEA  
in Aid of Suchana  
on **Friday 24th June** from **2.00pm**  
St Ann's, Church Street (Nigel and Mary Wilson's house)  
For more information ☎ 860553  
***Everyone Welcome!***

#### PennyBank Writers

##### **Pause, Read & Enjoy.**

As part of Mere's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, PennyBank Writers are displaying poems and prose around the town and its environs.

The display features work from members of the writers' group (PBW) and contributions from others, past and present, who have a connection with Mere.

Our thanks go to all contributors and to the Town Council, churches, businesses and households who have so willingly displayed the work.

As you celebrate this unique occasion we hope you will pause, read and enjoy.

*Adrienne Howell 860475 [howellatmere@aol.com](mailto:howellatmere@aol.com)*

#### Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



On **14th June** Mere Mothers' Union will hold their Annual Garden Meeting at **Meads House, Edgebridge**, Mere, starting at 2.30pm.

We are very excited to have as our guest speaker Susanne *aka* The Sewing Lady. Susanne is an extremely talented and gifted seamstress and dressmaker.

We are so fortunate to have her here in Mere and look forward to hearing about her working life in haute couture with some of the World's leading fashion houses and top designers.

Fine weather will be a bonus! Refreshments will be served and all are welcome.

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



### Searching for Spring at Mere Preschool

Fully rested and brimming with energy after the Easter holidays, children, staff, and parents took part in our Spring Sponsored Walk. On an overcast and slightly chilly morning in early May we set off from the preschool heading to White Bridge, pausing there to enjoy the sounds of the stream and look for fish. From here, on past the horses, we managed to count five altogether, stopping to watch the sheep as well. On we went to the mill pond where we were offered some bread to feed the ducks. With energy levels beginning to dip we headed back along the path, back past White Bridge to the park for a well-deserved drink, cake and a play. Well done to all the children who took part and thank you to the parents who joined us and helped raise some much needed money to start off our garden project fund.

All half term we have enjoyed getting out and about in Mere, watching the Winter turn to Spring and edging ever closer towards Summer. During our walks we have seen the bare branches begin to bud and, full of wonder the children watched these grow into new leaves, taking the time to listen to the sound of the wind in the trees and the birds singing. We have been to visit the ducklings by Upper Water Street, noticing the differences between the male and female ducks. Here we practiced our counting; female ducks, male ducks and the ducklings and even managed to work out how many ducks we had seen altogether.

Back at preschool we enjoyed watching our tadpoles swimming about their tank. We had a go at drawing them and some of us even had a go at copying some words from our 'tadpole to frog' book. As the days passed we were amazed to see their legs slowly begin to grow before finally one Monday morning we discovered that we no longer had tadpoles but tiny froglets. Some of us were brave enough to hold one while we talked about the changes that we had seen and why we couldn't keep them any longer. At last, it was time to say goodbye to our froglets as we released them back into the pond.

We are looking forward to a fun filled second half of term full of trips, Sports Day, and for our school leavers' visits to school - getting to know their new classroom before moving up in September, as well as a special Graduation and end of term party. It's going to be a great Summer!



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