

A small brown vole with dark eyes is shown in a close-up, eating a piece of white food. It is surrounded by green grass and other vegetation. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the natural environment.

*M*ere atters

& so does

West Knoyle

Your community magazine including
a guide to local events

March 2022

Mere Matters Diary

It is unfortunate that I have to ask ANYONE & EVERYONE who wishes to have **ANY** event published within the Mere Matters Diary to notify me directly of their dates and details on a **monthly basis** until further notice.

This is as a consequence of many events not having been published through no fault of Mere Matters. This includes bookings which you may have on a regular basis with any of the public venues – Churches, Halls, Pubs etc.

This means the following groups (and others) will not have their bookings published here unless they contact me directly: **Art Group**

Bowls	Jubilee Committee	Rivers Group
Bridge Club	Karate	Scouting
Carnival	Link Scheme	Shreen Harmony
Chamber of Trade	Literary Festival	Snooker
Churches & Friends	MADS	Stretch Class
Creative Mere	Mere Jelly Group	Suchana
Fair Trade.	Mere Museum &	Tai Chi
Fitness and	Friends	Theatre Club
Friendship	Merely Women	Tiddlers & Toddlers
Foot Clinic	Mothers Union	Zumba
Footpath & Walking	Moviola	Library
groups	Pennybank Writers	Mere School
Friends United	Pilates	Mere Day Centre
Gardening Club	PPG	Ukes at the Butt
Guiding	Quilters	
Historical Society	Railway Modellers	

If you wish your event to be published with dates/times in the diary, you will need to email me the details directly. If you are not on the list, apologies – not a deliberate omission and this request probably also applies to you.

The diary will no longer be published if it is not supported.

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 rjefferies@btinternet.com

Mere Town Council



Lynch Close: Attending the February meeting was a delegation representing the residents of Lynch Close. The future of the sheltered housing at Lynch Close was an item on the agenda and a recent consultation, carried out by Wiltshire Council with residents, had taken place. This had caused some consternation and uncertainty amongst them. In order to have as open and informative discussion as possible, the Town Council invited Christine Brown, Residential Development Project Manager of Wiltshire Council, to the meeting. We were told that discussions were very much in the early stages but were assured that we would be kept informed of any

developments. The Town Council has, therefore asked Wiltshire Council to invite a representative from the Town Council to all future meetings and discussions involving residents and Wiltshire Council officers in relation to the proposals and decisions for the future of Lynch Close

Youth Centre: During the lockdown, it was unfortunately necessary to put some projects, temporarily, to one side. One such was the re-building or renovation of the Youth Centre in the Recreation Ground. The building is owned by the Town Council and run by the charity Seeds for Success. The building is not energy efficient. It needs insulation and new windows. The general consensus is that a new building is the best way forward and a couple of schemes have been drawn up. At a meeting with Jaki Farrell, Charity Director, she outlined that the most urgent need at the centre was the toilets. There is no disabled provision, at the moment, and the existing toilets are in a poor state. As the funding, planning and building of a new building will take some time (possibly several years), it is imperative to re-furbish the toilets now. The Town Council will be seeking quotations for this work. The Youth Centre is a vital facility for our youngsters and is very well attended and run by Jaki.

Queen's Jubilee: The Town Council has been kept up to date with the Jubilee Committee's plans for the Queen's platinum celebrations. They have a full programme of events planned. Inevitably, as the Council well knows, costs are involved. Public liability insurance is obligatory and expensive and strict health and safety measures must be adhered to. I must thank all those who have made donations to help with these expenses. The Town Council will be helping with those expenses too and also helping the Jubilee Committee with the practical side of their planned events. The Town Council will also be planting a commemorative tree in Jubilee Gardens and is currently seeking permissions to participate in the official Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons by lighting a beacon on Castle Hill.

Local Resilience: As I write, we are dealing with the aftermath of Storm Eunice and currently in the throes of Storm Franklin. I would like to thank Cllr Rachael Hansford & Richard Jefferies and others from the Mere Resilience Support Network for opening up the Grove Building as a safe and warm haven and for contacting and helping those who are struggling at home without power.

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

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

While writing this we are experiencing adverse weather and power cuts to some people over three nights. Along with others, I am sure would like to thank those that helped others across the Mere area and also those that opened the Grove Building in Mere.



In the budget for the coming year Wiltshire Council Cabinet have continued to set aside £1m to Support Wiltshire's market towns. At full council this was not used to give continued support for free parking for blue badge holders, free car parking for some event days as had been and an increase of 10p per hour was introduced. Blue badge holders will now have to pay to park in Wiltshire Council car parks. Mere Car Parks although leased from Wiltshire Council, are not car parks administered by Wiltshire Council and will remain free. Our "high street" businesses have seen a gain of one residential property converted to a business premises, which is unusual, this being Hayley's Hair Design. It was stated at Full Council help would be given to bring some empty shops back into use. Some councillors felt shops in town and city centres would demise further as they felt the future was out of town shopping and the internet. To visit a town or city centre would be for a cultural/historical experience and coffee shops, food etc with perhaps museums would constitute the centre of many Towns and Cities.

With the shortage of housing I was pleased to hear that £180 million is available for new council housing construction.

The Wiltshire Climate Strategy has been approved at Full Council, which I attended on Tuesday 15th February, it was a marathon. From leaving home to returning was 13 hours. The agenda was nearly 600 pages. Environmental groups were present, before the meeting began, councillors spoke to them on an outside platform - the Strategy seemed well received. Wiltshire Council scored well on the Climate Emergency Score Card, which compared many councils. The three actions of the strategy for the South West Wiltshire area board to help pursue are an Electric Car Club in Mere, which would include public charging points and an established car club in Tisbury, thirdly delivered and delivering environmental workshops. If developed the Mere Car Club cars would each come with a dedicated charge point, with the cost of charging included in the hire. Public charging would also be available, helping locals make the switch to electric cars whilst giving people travelling on the A303 a reason to stop and spend time in our town.

I said last month I would like to see a B3092 Acceleration Lane at Coombe Barn Farm junction, a local resident after seeing this information has come up with a very interesting alternative proposal which I will also put to the traffic engineer.

Area Board funding for community grant funding is reduced and the South West Wiltshire Area Board will retain the lost funding for highway use, implemented by the Community Action Transport Group or whatever the new name will be. There

has been 150% increase in the cost to make tarmac, I expect this will impact on highway maintenance.

Remember general waste collection day will change in March.



The Mere Day Centre at Lynch Close will have its Wiltshire Council funding removed over about three years. A new scheme is available to bid for. At Full Council it was agreed to let this new scheme go before scrutiny so as providers amongst others can have some input to its implementation.

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

News from MLRF (Mere Local Resilience Forum)

Things have been fairly quiet on the Resilience Forum front lately, with few requests for help due to Covid isolation.

As I write this though, we're just starting to recover from severe storms and 53 hour long power cuts in some areas of Mere, which tested our community spirit yet again. Needless to say Mere passed the test with flying colours 😊

Richard Jefferies took decisive action and opened the Grove Building early on Saturday for residents without power or heating. Thanks to local businesses and the power of Facebook - in particular Mere Mutters - he was able to get the word out. Many people were glad of a flask of boiling water or the chance to warm up and have a hot drink. Inspired by him, I was able to do the same on Sunday morning. Several people popped in with donations of snacks and teabags or offers of help, which was much appreciated.



While this was really positive, Richard and I were conscious that the most vulnerable people might not see

the Facebook messages or be able to get to The Grove Building. This is where Facebook comments were really useful, identifying where help might be needed most. Town Councillor Debbie Beale and son Zenon kindly volunteered to go knocking on doors and checking up on specific older residents. We were able to deliver hot drinks to those who hadn't been taken off to stay with relatives, and later to source and deliver hot roast dinners very generously donated by The Walnut Tree. With the help of Jane Belcher we were even able to provide insulation materials for one resident's tropical fish tank.

Mere Resident and local MP Dr Andrew Murrison dropped in, and reassured us that he was in regular contact with the power company. I know some residents were concerned that Mere had been forgotten, so it was good to know that we had Dr Murrison on the case.

There were so many messages, offers of help, people helping each other out, looking out for neighbours and so on. Thank you everyone - it was really satisfying to witness.

Local action like this is often the quickest way to help people in need, but we realise it's not perfect. We'd like to be prepared in case something similar happens in future, so we'll be discussing how we could do better. If you are interested in getting involved in these discussions, please get in touch. We all have a part to play!

Rachael Hansford, MLRF Co-ordinator ☎ 860168

Mere & District Karate Club

It's great to have a local club thriving once more after the Covid situation. It has been difficult getting people back into their gi's (karate suits) and through the doors and that has been the biggest challenge to many after so long being kept at distance.

At a national course and grading held in Weymouth in October 2021, 2 local members and instructors and an instructor from the Channel Islands obtained Senior Dan black belts in karate. The grading exam is physically and mentally very tough to obtain such high grades.

Pat Manning (Mere) attained 4th Dan, Ian Reason (Salisbury) also 4th Dan and Ray Dubras (Jersey) 5th Dan. The National examiners were Sensei's John Euden 7th Dan and Bill Gorthy 7th Dan.



In December we held a course and Dan Grading in Tisbury and although there were some passes there were also a number that didn't quite make the grade on this occasion. However, a true test of dedication is to be back in the dojo (training hall) the next time and not to just give up. However, Dave Reason who also trains with us locally, passed his 3rd Dan. Congratulations to them all.

Ladies Self-Protection

Finally, we are about to start our ladies only self-protection course in March.

If learning a martial art or to participate in a ladies self-protection course are of interest to you please get in touch. 01747 860144 or email

tska93@tiscali.co.uk. Facebook @tska.

Mere Jelly

A Jelly is an informal co-working event where freelancers, home workers and small/micro business owners bring their laptop or other work and work, chat and collaborate with other small business owners. The Mere Jelly meets on the **last**

Wednesday of the month and **Visit Hillbrush** very kindly provides us with space, access to their internet and free parking. Tea, coffee, breakfast and lunch is available if you would like. We are there from **09:00 to 13:00**, and you are welcome to join us for the whole morning or just drop in for a chat if you like.



Jenni Bell jenni@sugarweb.co

Mere & District Chamber of Trade

For the last two years, since Covid struck, the Chamber has suspended all its activities and individual businesses were encouraged to support the general efforts of the local Resilience Forum. With the improving situation and the prospect of all restrictions being lifted, we are again considering what support we can give to local businesses. During those two years, the nature of business has changed with the emphasis now being on working from home, reducing commuting, and online meetings.

The Committee will be meeting shortly to review this changing landscape and how we can provide support and information for small, home-based workers in this new environment. In particular we need to plan for a much-delayed AGM. This is likely to be in April. The demand for H&S, First Aid, and Food Hygiene courses we have run in the past also needs assessing.

We shall be contacting those small businesses whom we know, but expect that many new ones will have started up or moved to Mere in the meantime. If you are one of these and wish to know more, please contact me.

Hamish Bell ☎ 861717

Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Photograph

There are plans to create an historic photograph of an historic occasion with photographs of a segment of the current Mere population and copies will be available for sale. Copies will go to Mere Museum and other archives and perhaps, one could be sent to the Queen.

- Were you living in Mere at the time of the Queen's accession **Feb.6th 1952** even as a babe in arms?
- Are you living in Mere now at Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations either because you continued to live here or have returned to your roots?



- Then join others for Mere's historic HERE THEN/HERE NOW group photograph on **Wed. June 1st 3pm. at St. Michael's Church**. There'll be refreshments and a chance to talk over memories of seven decades.

If the above criteria applies to you and you would like to take part on **June 1st** then please assist the organisers to assist you, perhaps with transport or other queries, by contacting me (details below).

Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475 Howellatmere@aol.com

Jubilee Stalls

There are still a few spaces for Stall holders, so if you want to promote your club, society or charity, or just turn your entrepreneurial skills into reality, come and join in the fun.

Maggie Durkee 860164 margaretdurkee5@gmail.com



Mere Platinum Jubilee Car Show

4th June 2022 12:00 -5pm
Celebrating 70 years of British
Motor Cars
Own a British Car Made
between 1952 and 2022?
Entries Invited



kitstallard@mac.com

Mere and District Day Centre (The Rosemary Goddard Centre)

Annual General Meeting

To be held at The Day Centre, Lynch Close on Monday 14th March at 13.30.

Please come along and join us for our 'Covid-delayed' AGM. Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, we have much to celebrate as we now return to normal working - to the great joy of our guests, the management committee and our volunteers.

Any matters to be raised at the AGM should be sent to the Chair of Trustees, Jane Mason, at the address below, no later than **Friday March 4th**.

Rosemary Cottage, Dark Lane, Mere, Wilts, BA12 6DT

Charity No. 1033900 www.meredaycentre.org.uk

Jane Mason ☎ 861296 chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Gardening Club

Hopefully by this time there will be many signs of Spring in our gardens and the surrounding countryside.

Our AGM will be held on **Wednesday 9th March at 19.30pm**. Subscriptions are due this month and the committee has decided to keep the annual fee at £10.00. This will be followed by our speaker Mr David Usher giving a talk on Herbaceous Plants.

The forms are now available for the Scarecrow competition at the library and we have changed the theme to include an element of royalty to encourage as many people as possible to join in. There will be three prizes and we are looking forward to seeing them all.

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

Link Scheme

In January we did 83 trips which is an increase on December. This included 26 trips to Salisbury District hospital and 20 to other hospitals.

We are keeping a close eye on the developments on covid restrictions as the Government relaxes some of the legal requirements. We considered whether to make any changes to the hygiene guidelines for Link trips to help prevent the transfer of covid between driver and passenger. The Link Committee noted that our guidelines seemed to be working as we have not heard of any covid cases which may have arisen from a Link journey. We also noted that all the medical settings to which we take passengers have retained the covid control measures that have been in use since before Christmas. We have, therefore, decided to continue to require the use of our covid hygiene guidance.

With the number of covid cases is continuing to rise locally (at the time of drafting) it seems sensible to be cautious. Nevertheless, we will regularly review the use of the guidelines in the light of covid developments locally and national requirements. Watch this space!

In case you have recently moved into the area, our volunteer drivers are available to take you to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and shopping, if resources allow. Once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. Please try to give us 48 hours' notice, if possible, as we cannot guarantee to arrange last minute requests. Also, please remember that our co-ordinators work in their own homes so keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the **01747 860096** number. Any other number you have recorded will most likely be a co-ordinator's private number. Please do not use it.

We still need more drivers. If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

John FitzGerald Chair ☎ 860096 🌐 merelink.org.uk

PennyBank Writers and MADS

As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, PennyBank Writers and MADS are joining forces to produce street performances about Mere characters and events spanning the last seventy years. It is planned these should take place at the Saturday celebrations. PennyBank Writers will also be posting poems and prose on national and local events of the Queen's reign at suitable points around the town.



Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475 Howellatmere@aol.com

Mere Bowls Club

It is with a heavy heart that I have to announce the passing on the 14th January of one of the stalwarts of the club over the past few years, **Alan James Spencer**, apart from being our Fixtures Secretary for a number of years he was also a larger than life member, always organising games, coffee mornings and events in support of one cause or another. Alan always lead the singing of "Good night our Green" (to the tune of Good night Irene) on the event of closing the club for the winter, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts are with his family left behind, especially his wife Sheila who always supported him in all his endeavours.

On the 8th February the club held its presentation dinner night at the Olive Bowl in Gillingham, a great night was had by all, our thanks to the staff at the Olive Bowl for helping it become such a fun occasion.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 860775 don.butchers@btinternet.com
 hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/

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 14th March at 7.30pm**. Check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt'.

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Shreen Harmony

Since the sad but unavoidable cancellation of our Christmas Concert, the choir has been enjoying rehearsals of a new repertoire in preparation for future concerts. Two are planned for the spring and will as usual be free entry with retiring donations to our chosen charities.

Please look out for notifications in Mere Matters and on posters around town. We have been delighted to welcome some new members recently, so if you are interested in joining us - please contact Caroline, our choir director at radhouseis@aol.co.uk

Angela Siderfin 📞 07816752869

PennyBank writers

We would love to receive stories or anecdotes from you going back over the last 70 years if you have been a Mere Resident. These could be used directly or for inspiration regarding the poetry writing over the decades.

Adrienne Howell 860475 email: Howellatmere@aol.com



Queen's Jubilee Weekend

After the planned and hopefully wonderful Sat 4th event day, relax with your family, friends and neighbours for a street or garden party on a day that has been earmarked nationally - Sunday 5th. Lots of people are organising their gatherings already. Don't forget your bunting!



Schedule for the Mere Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend:

- Weds 1st June 3:00pm St Michael's Church - Commemorative photograph for Mere septuagenarians.)
- Thurs 2nd – 5th Flowers in St Michaels Church
- Thurs 2nd June Lighting the Beacon on Castle Hill
- Sat 4th June Mere Jubilee Party
- Sun 5th June Thanksgiving Service at St Michaels
Street Parties in Mere
Plus
Theatre, Music, Poetry, Peal of Bells,
Best dressed House in Mere Award,
Best Dressed Dog Award,
Best Hat Award

Mere Historical Society

Our programme of talks for March and April continues with a couple of date changes to note.

On **Tuesday 8 March**, Ian Caskie will be giving a talk on SS Great Britain at **10.30am**. This is followed by a rescheduled talk by **Russ Foster** on Tuesday **22 March** at **7.30pm** on Florence Nightingale and the Herberts. On **Tuesday 29 March** at **10.30am** **Johnny Fenn** will present his rescheduled talk on Nepal and the Gurkhas.

Looking further ahead, Notice is given of our **AGM** to be held on **Tuesday 5 April** at **7.30pm**. As usual this will be followed by a talk.

Membership subscriptions of £10 for 2022-23 will be due then and will be collected before the AGM from 7.00pm. Cheques should be made payable to Mere Historical Society and may also be sent to the Chair, Peter Landymore, at Whispers, Pettridge Lane, Mere BA12 6DG. Alternatively subscription payments can be made by bank transfer to Lloyds Gillingham account Sort code 30-93- 45 Account No 01735722.

Notices and/or Committee Nominations for the AGM must be submitted in writing to the Secretary or a member of the Committee by **Friday 18 March**. *For current Committee members please see www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk where you can also view minutes of our last pre-covid AGM held in April 2019 as well as accounts.*

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

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

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

Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 Diane Ellis Sec ☎ 861541 🌐 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

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

Venue Key for Diary :

ATR - Angel Tea Rooms

Drs - Surgery

Lib - Library

StM - St Michaels Church

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion

GB - Grove Building

MSC - Social Club

URC - United Ref Church

CP - Main Car Park

L - Lecture Hall

RMC - Castle St Car Park

WT - Walnut Tree Inn

1	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		13:00	Pilates (JL)	GB
		18:00	Suchana Pancake Quiz	GB
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
		19:30	MADS (every Tues)	L
2	Wed	09:30	Ta-Chi (every Wed)	GB
		12:00	Stretch Class (every Wed)	L
		13:45	Stretch Class (every Wed)	L
		14:00	Fitness and Friendship	GB
		18:00	Karate (every Weds)	L
		19:00	Railway Modellers (every Wed)	RMC
3	Thurs	10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		14:00	Quilters (every Thurs)	GB
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		19:00	MADS (every Thurs)	L
		17:00	Girlguiding	GB
4	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
5	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning	URC
6	Sun			
7	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		18:00	Scouting (every Mon Term Time Only)	GB
8	Tues	10:30	Historical Society	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
Pilates (JL), MADS, Zumba				
9	Wed	19:30	Gardening Club (AGM)	GB
Fitness & Friendship Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers				
10	Thurs		Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding, MADS	
11	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
Dup Bridge				
12	Sat			
13	Sun			
14	Mon	19:30	Ukes at The Butt of Sherry	
Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting				
15	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
Pilates (JL), MADS, Zumba				
16	Wed	09:30	Wiltshire Scrap Store	L
Fitness & Friendship Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers				
17	Thurs		Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding, MADS	
18	Fri		Dup Bridge	
19	Sat		Traidcraft Stall after morning service	URC
		19:00	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
20	Sun	15:00	Spring Concert at St. Michaels Church	StM
			Traidcraft Stall after morning service	

21	Mon	11:00	Lent Lunch	<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting</i>	GB
22	Tues	19:30	Historical Society	<i>Pilates (JL), MADS, Zumba</i>	GB
23	Wed			<i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
24	Thurs			<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding,, MADS</i>	
25	Fri	10:00	Merely Women MADS Production	<i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB L
26	Sat		MADS Production		L
27	Sun				
28	Mon	11:00	Lent Lunch	<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Scouting</i>	GB
29	Tues	09:00	Mere Jelly	<i>Pilates (JL), MADS, Zumba</i>	Visit Hillbrush
30	Wed	14:00	Penny Bank Writers	<i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	L
31	Thus			<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding,, MADS</i>	

Grove Building

Newer residents of Mere may not be familiar with the Grove Building – older residents know it well and will probably have both happy and sad memories of events held there in the past. Perhaps you've found out about it during the recent high winds when it was opened as an Emergency Relief Centre to provide hot water, drinks, and computer/phone re-charging facilities.

It is located in Church Street, opposite the church. It was built in 1891 and renovated about 11 years ago. It belongs to the church but is available for community use and anyone can hire.

The building consists of a large and a small hall, a well-equipped kitchen and a full set of crockery and cutlery. The website <https://grovebuildingmere.org.uk/> describes its history, full information of the facilities it offers and how to hire it.

It has hosted children's parties, family gatherings, lunches, lectures, creative activities, dances, musical events, and equipment demonstrations. The small hall in particular is suitable for small group meetings and company training courses. The two halls are equipped with hearing loop system.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Grove Building Administration Team admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk

Mere Art Group

The Art Group is up-and-running again following the recent suspension.

The importance of the social aspect of our Group has been considerable during those periods we have been together in both The Grove Building and the environs of St Michaels Church. Exchanges of artwork via our email-broadcasting arrangements in those periods of separation have helped in maintaining both contact and morale.

The image this month is by Kathleen Holden - it featured in our November Exhibition. The painting is watercolour-on-paper and is proudly displayed in Kathleen's home - it is easy to see why. With a white surface, a brush and some watercolour paints in Kathleen's hands - 'hey-presto', there is another eye-catching image.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Mere surgery PPG

My name is Nicky Waltham-Weeks and I am a new member of the Mere Surgery PPG, Mere's patient participation group. I have been asked to share with you about an exercise that I have found very beneficial, especially over these stressful times. Tai Chi Qigong, is a traditional exercise that has been around for thousands of years. It is effective because it works with the mind, as well as the body. In the west we tend to associate exercise with being physical and strenuous. Qigong takes a very different approach, the aim is to loosen the body, release tension and to relax. It takes the elements that make the greatest difference to our health, posture, breathing and mental focus. It incorporates these with soft, flowing movements. With practice, Qigong brings lots of health benefits, strength, flexibility, balance and coordination. Above all it is enjoyable and a great way to release stress and increase energy and vitality. Anyone can do Qigong, regardless of age or fitness level, as it is a gentle alternative to the more traditional forms of exercise. Even those recovering from illness or injury, as it can be done seated or standing. My teacher, Denise Mason, as well as running local classes, will be at Shaftsbury wellness event, again this year, it starts on 30th April, where she will run free Qigong classes every Saturday, throughout June. Why not give it a go! Nicky.

For more information, Denise can be contacted on - 07941 796635

Letter from the Churches ~ Christine Marsh writes:
Through All The Changing Scenes Of Life

In our journey through life one thing we can be certain of is change. Some of these life changing events may already be known but there are likely to be many others that we don't yet know about. These events may be happy or sad, wanted or unwanted. How we respond to such happenings in our lives, particularly those which cause pain and stress, is influenced by what we believe. On March 2, Ash Wednesday Christians enter the Lenten season: a time where we are encouraged to reflect on our lives and faith values, on our actions and motives. Such reflection is aimed at helping us to understand ourselves and explore our relationship with God more deeply.

The challenging exercises for Christians that Lent brings may well lead to the making of life changes: changes in how we think, how we do things, how we relate to the people and environment around us and how we relate and commit ourselves to God.

The Month of March is in itself a month of change. March 20/21, the vernal equinox, has for many traditionally been seen as the first day of Spring, but meteorologically that first day is now identified as being March 1. Whatever the date, it is in March that we move from Winter into Spring

As the new life of Spring bursts into full glory maybe we might all begin to look anew at creation and perhaps meditate not only on the beauty of creation but also consider our part in the practical experience of caring for all aspects of it. Maybe we can think about ways in which we can each work in our own individual ways to help mend the destruction already caused to our planet and all its life forms and so help to reconcile both people and environment in our fractured world.

I heard of a vicar who put up a large notice in the vestry saying "Change is here to stay". He was right! The only certainty in life is that change at some point will happen. It is up to each one of us to try to make each change a positive rather than negative experience so that it will benefit our planet, our community and ourselves

Christine Marsh

Licensed Lay Minister in the benefice of St Michael the Archangel Mere, St Mary the Virgin W Knogle and All Saints Maiden Bradley.

St Michaels – Jumble Sale

Jumble Sale Saturday 9th April. Raising funds for St Michael's Church

All donations of Jumble we are happy to receive from now as we have storage. Ring these numbers for collection.

Maggie ☎ 860163 or Fiona ☎ 860 440

Spring Concert at St.Michaels Church

Sunday 20th March at 3 pm. Enjoy music song and poetry with the theme of Life Love Heartache and Hope reminding us of the resilience of the human spirit. Pianist David Perkins is joined by members of the Sonore String Quartet the young and enthusiastic Loveday Singers and performer Caroline Dooley to lead us in words and music on a colourful meander from cradle to grave.

Cash bar and refreshments. Tickets £15 (children free)

online: <http://ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-st-michael-the-archangel-church>

Or from Mere Library 860546 and on the door subject to availability.

Proceeds to the Pinnacles Appeal



Friends of Mere Museum

We are looking forward, at long last, to be able to announce an actual event! Dr Martin Papworth, who has been an archaeologist with the National Trust for many years, will give a talk entitled 'LiDAR, new visions of archaeology on the Stourhead Estate'. LiDAR provides a fine laser scan of the bare earth surface stripped of surface features and revealing the archaeology beneath. This is an archeological tool undreamt of by previous historic landscape researchers and provides amazing insights into unknown aspects of a site. This is cutting-edge technology applied to our local landscape, and promises to be a very exciting talk from an excellent speaker. The talk will take place in the **Grove Building on Friday April 1st at 7 for 7.30 p.m.** Tickets are on sale at the Library at £5 per person which includes a glass of wine.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Copy date for April Issue

Closing deadline is: **4:00pm on THURSDAY 24th March.**

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.

St Michael's Butterfly Garden

A call to the butterfly lovers and plant growers of Mere!

A small Jubilee butterfly garden is planned for the Church yard for which we need plants!



Can you sow some extra seeds? Can you divide some plants in your garden? Are you a whizz at cuttings? Can you spare us any butterfly friendly plants? Some suggested plants would be: lavender, buddleia, verbenas, valerian, arjoram/origanum, knapweed, hemp agrimony, field scabious, michaelmas daisies, candytuft, wallflowers etc.

Please let us know via Mere Mutters or message me, so we don't end up with 500 Buddleia's and nothing else! Thank you.

kitstallard@mac.com

Stars Appeal

Rodney Snook from Mere has been fundraising for the Stars Appeal since the beginning of the covid pandemic and has just reached a fantastic total of £10,113.

Rodney has spent the last two years raising money for the Stars Appeal by selling various items from a gazebo on his doorstep. The items on sale are sourced from his home and local community with residents dropping off contributions every day.



Bicycles golf clubs and books are just some of the items sold by Rodney Snook outside his home raising an amazing £10,113 to help patients and staff at Salisbury District Hospital. Rodney said: "We're just trying to give a little bit back for all the help the hospital has given us. Everyone on our road has had help from the hospital and we are fortunate to have them."

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Hurrah, we're back! By the time you read this we should be booking up some outings: music, humour or floral - what would be your choice? If you would like to join us, transport provided, contact details are below.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 madsmorris@gmail.com

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Jane Kennedy directly by phone or email.

jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com ☎ 860450

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church

St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwarden: Derek Fisher ☎ 861980

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

2 nd	Wed	10:30	Ash Wednesday Service
6 th	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Family Service
13 th	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
20 th	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Parish Communion
27 th	Sun	08:00 11:00	BCP Mothering Sunday Service

West Knoyle Parish Church

St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 830534

Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 830263

6 th	Sun	09:30	Lay Led Service
13 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
20 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
27 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion

All Saints Church

Maiden Bradley

Priest in Charge: TBA

vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwarden: Mrs Celia Blay ☎ 01985 844817

6 th	Sun	10:00	Sunday Catch-up in the hall
13 th	Sun	10:00	Morning Service
20 th	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion
27 th	Sun	10:00	Mothering Sunday Service

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Molly Burden ☎ 860007

6 th	Sun	11:00	Mr J Hepburn
13 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. D Goldie Holy Communion
20 th	Sun	11:00	Mr P Kershaw
27 th	Sun	11:00	TBA

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

Mere Library opening hours:

Monday: 10:00 – 12:00* and 15:00 – 18:00
 Tuesday: 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00
 Wednesday: 10:00 – 12:00*
 Thursday: 14:00 – 17:00
 Friday: 10:00 – 13:00 and 14:00 – 16:00
 Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00

** Volunteer operated opening hours.*

Sally-Ann

Mere Senior Library Assistant

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk or text on:	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

Mere Snooker Club

The Mere Snooker Club Open Night will be held as usual at **19.30, on Tuesday 8 March**. All are welcome to come along and see what the club has to offer, with no obligation.

Kevin Smith, (secretary) ☎ 0780 3006077.

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

At our last meeting on 8th February we were delighted to have such an interesting speaker, Peter Oliver who is a local Forester, his talk was enlightening and I am sure the work he will be involved in following the dreadful storms of 18th February will be phenomenal.

This month on **Tuesday 8th March at 2.30pm in The Grove Building** I will be giving a talk about "**Fragile X Syndrome**". This is a condition which affects many children and indeed people of all ages and causes Learning Disabilities which we hear so much about these days, thankfully there is now so much help and support available. Thankfully with the experience of two grandsons with it who are now 19 and 23 respectively I can talk about the lighter side of my wonderful and sometimes funny and very loving grandsons. The Fragile X Society have been so supportive, I can pass their details on to anyone interested.

We were so pleased at our last meeting to have many 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.

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



Friends of St Michael's Pinnacles Appeal

Jumble Sale Saturday 9th April 2pm at The Grove Building

Please put the date in your diary and in the meantime we are happy to accept donations of clothing, Bric a Brac, Paperback books and toys.

Please ring Fiona on ☎ 860440 or Maggie on ☎ 860163 to arrange collection

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Here at MADS we are working flat out to keep up with current rehearsal deadlines. In fact time is literally flying by as we step up the pace of preparations for our Spring Production which is entitled 'Post Horn Gallop'. It's a farce - so good for laughs which we all need these days - and the cast of characters includes a gun-toting Lord, a love-sick maid and a couple of paying tourists, not to mention a pair of crooks intent on revenge! The production is dedicated to the memory of June Hewett.

Performances will be in the **Lecture Hall** as usual, and will take place on Thursday to Saturday evenings, **24th-26th March at 7.30 p.m.** Tickets are £8 each, and available from the Library and Sprout and Flower, or by telephoning 01747



861257 or 07539 329798, or through our website at

tickets@mereamandram.co.uk. Places are limited to allow for social distancing with masks. You should probably purchase your tickets post haste as we predict that many theatre-goers will be running after them.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

TRAIDCRAFT EXCHANGE'S BIG BREW:

Wednesday March 16th 9a.m.-4p.m.

Again by kind invitation of Paul at The Angel Tea Rooms I will be holding a Big Brew in aid of Traidcraft's charitable arm to support those producers cope with the effects of climate change. Come and sample a Fair Trade brew, enjoy one of Paul's delicious fruit cakes made with Fair trade ingredients and browse some of the cards and gifts just right for Mothering Sunday or Easter.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Short Walk.

This will take place on **Wednesday 23rd March**. Meet at **2.00pm** in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of 2-3 miles around Mere's hidden byways and enjoy a cuppa at The Angel Café afterwards.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

CREATIVE MERE 2

Calling all Artists, crafts – people, engineers and crafty people
Don't forget the inaugural meeting of all those interested in taking part in this year's weekend celebrating your amazing skills! Come and hear how you can be involved.

When? **March 14th at 19:00.** Where? **The URC Boar Street**

(If you are unable to attend, but would still like to be involved, please do not hesitate to contact me)

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com



Our ever-popular Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake evening is almost fully booked as we go to press. If you're reading this on or before March 1st and phone straight away you might just be able to book the last table (£7 pp £3 for children). If you missed out, there's always next year, or you could come along to our coffee morning early in May: details next time.

Meanwhile in far-away West Bengal, Suchana is back to full strength at last, and very busy with programmes supporting disadvantaged children right through from pre-

school, primary school, secondary school and even beyond, helping 'graduates' find appropriate training or employment. Recently the government schools have been following Suchana's pioneering work in providing first-language learning for adavasi children (who don't speak Bengali). Suchana has been able to help teachers in government schools learn the script for Santhali, the mother tongue of some of the children. This has been very well received: another 'first' for Suchana.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553 judithvthompson@aol.com



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