

Mere atters

& so does

West Knoyle



Your community magazine
Including a guide to local events

November 2022

Mere Town Council

As we progress into late autumn and winter, we are somewhat grateful for the respite we have experienced, so far, with the mild weather. The reality of colder weather around the corner, alas, has all households and businesses facing the prospect of high energy costs. Mere Town Council, along with churches and schools etc., are giving very serious thought to fuel saving solutions and shall be finding ways of cutting down on consumption. These decisions will be difficult, which, inevitably, makes the Budget setting meeting later this month, challenging. There is also some work being carried out at various levels (county and town) and involving various groups and committees in seeking to provide a warm spaces scheme.

A couple of months ago, I reported on the state of our rivers, quoting a Wessex Water report. It seems that a relatively positive state, at the time, has now deteriorated as the effect of an increase in abstraction from the Upper Shreen, coupled with a temporary stop on the stream support scheme, has had a more serious effect than anticipated. Ian Sheppard, from the Mere Rivers Group will be giving a report on this at our meeting on November 7th.

A working group of councillors will shortly be conducting a survey on the state of traffic and parking in Mere. I am sure it is obvious, to you all, that there is a real problem, especially with some "appalling" parking. I am certain that no one would want us to have to resort to more yellow lines, especially in the centre of Mere.

At the October Town Council meeting, residents of Lynch Close were able to talk to various officers from Wiltshire Council who gave reassurances that a monthly Newsletter would be distributed to keep everyone up to date with progress on any redevelopment or refurbishment plans for the sheltered housing on the site.

I would like to welcome Paul Hill to our grounds team and I would like to thank the Ground Staff for their continued husbandry of Mere and, the Footpath Group, who as volunteers, maintain our footpaths all year round.

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

The Remembrance Service this year will be on Sunday 13th November, held around the War Memorial. I shall be laying a wreath as Wiltshire Councillor and the South West Wiltshire Area Board chairman Cllr Nabil Najjar, will be in attendance also to lay a wreath.

At various Wiltshire Council meetings, it has been acknowledged to get those with need to attend warm spaces this coming winter, may be problematic, those requiring heat may because of pride or physical capability etc not attend. It was suggested perhaps invite a person you know and you suspect may require heat for say a cup of tea, you may then be able to further help and guide them. May be simple and common sense, however as has been done in council meetings I am simply highlighting.

At its meeting on Tuesday 11 October, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet considered a proposal to invest more money into its Parish Stewards scheme. Parish Stewards help fix minor road defects, fill potholes, and trim verges and hedges to support Wiltshire Council's highways team. They are given their priority tasks for each local community areas, through councillor and public reporting. There are currently 18 Parish Stewards throughout Wiltshire – one for each community area. The stewards focus on small jobs in their community, such as filling potholes, drain clearance and cutting hedges. All work is based on the priorities of the local town or parish council.

The council will invest a further £233,000 each financial year until 2024/25 into the new two-person Parish Stewards team and work with contractors to source the vehicle and extra equipment. At present they are limited to one-person jobs and only have a certain selection of tools. So to help with this, the council will employ



an extra two-person Parish Steward support team that will work around the community areas to undertake larger jobs with more equipment. The new two-person team will be able to help with tasks that need more than one person to complete and will also carry additional equipment to complete larger scale safety and maintenance works. The new team of two will have a new pick-up vehicle, cage trailer, mechanical weed ripper, flail mower and power tools to use across the county where required.

Earlier on this year older people across Wiltshire worked with creative artists on songs, poems and artwork reflecting their personal stories inspired by Queen Elizabeth and her 70 years on the throne. Mention on the produced video is made of Mere Day Centre being one of the contributors, the voices of them signing can also be heard in one place on the video produced. This video recorded at Wiltshire Music Centre shows a recording of the 10 pieces created as

part of this work. The Jubilee Chronicles <https://youtu.be/QBDQzWRjr0Q> please watch if you can.

Wiltshire Council has provided an update on its committed efforts to tackle the climate emergency locally, with a vast range of projects either in place or in the pipeline to respond to the global issue of our time.

The Wiltshire Climate Strategy was approved in February 2022 and since then the council has published its delivery plans, which set out how the organisation will become carbon neutral by 2030, and the actions it can take either on its own alone or in partnership with others, to lead the transition to a carbon neutral county.



The council's strategy is split into the themes of transport, housing and the built environment, natural environment, energy, green economy waste, and carbon neutral council – with progress made in each.

The council has carried out a tender process for provision and replacement of electric vehicle charging points at towns with a population of 10,000 or more. This will help, I have been informed most Wiltshire Council car park Electric Vehicle chargers are not working in much of Salisbury and this will be addressed. Public EV points are required, I assume some service areas will provide or expand EV points.

It will also be rolling out a grant to support town and parish councils to install electric vehicle charging points in their local area. A well-attended webinar was recently held to provide town and parishes more information.

To encourage active travel, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) are being developed to improve cycling and walking opportunities throughout the county – working closely with town councils.

To ensure air quality throughout the county can be monitored as effectively as possible, old monitoring stations will be replaced using community infrastructure funding (CIL).

People being encouraged to use public transport – flexible on demand service being developed for the Pewsey Vale area, and concessionary bus passes can be temporarily used all day Monday to Sunday, including bank holidays. Public transport is poor in Mere, I, SWWAB and Mere Town Council are close to getting and electric car club in Mere, it will enable those who can drive access to a car.

The council's Housing Energy Efficiency Programme will retrofit 5,000 council homes by 2030, with assessment carried out on the first 800. The aim is to reduce the amount of CO2 by 15,000 tonnes which in the process will make the properties more energy efficient and help save residents money.

Lynch Close Sheltered Housing Review has produced a October 2022 Newsletter. A survey of the current sheltered housing at Lynch Close has been undertaken and staff from the Council's maintenance team and an appointed

architectural consultant have visited and are helping to develop draft options for Lynch Close. A meeting with residents to present these options and feedback will take place. The original estimated when this would happen was October but is now likely to be later in the year.

The Council has committed to upgrading all its housing to improve insulation and reduce energy consumption. This will help respond to the Wiltshire climate emergency and reduce the cost of heating for residents. This is the minimum level of refurbishment to be undertake at Lynch Close. "Doing nothing" an option Wiltshire Council will consider. The timing of the review is linked with any development of Fives Court.

Wiltshire Council will develop the options further and include residents' feedback. Wiltshire Council will come back to the residents for comment again and only then will the findings of the review be put forward for decision.

Regarding Fives Court in Angel Lane, Wiltshire Council have confirmed that:

- The Council wants to use the site to provide social housing specifically for older people.
- This is likely to be through the provision of flats on the site to make best use of the space available whilst being sensitive to neighbours.
- As soon as Wiltshire Council get to the stage of a detailed design, Wiltshire Council will ask Lynch Close residents to get involved in commenting on plans.

The Council wants to provide older residents with sheltered housing built to the highest standard.

If there is redevelopment at Lynch Close, homes will be built to new high standards.

Although the following may not be relevant to Lynch Close or Fives Court, for information, the council has also tendered a three-year contract to find a Modern Method of Construction (MMC) delivery partner. MMC is a process which focuses on off-site construction techniques, such as mass production and factory assembly, as alternatives to traditional building. This project will deliver 1,000 new affordable zero carbon homes.

The introduction of a new collections rounds for household residual waste has resulted in a more energy efficient service and less emissions – a review will take place later in 2022 on the efficiency of garden waste rounds.

Diverting sorted black bag waste collected at the household recycling centres (HRCs) to an energy from waste facility is estimated to have the potential to save more than 10,500 tonnes of CO₂e per annum. Based on this and other data, the council is developing proposals to reduce the amount of HRC waste that is sent to landfill.

94.8% of the material collected for recycling, reuse and composting by Wiltshire Council was managed within the UK, reducing the 'waste miles' travelled


The council diverted 80.9% of the waste it managed from landfill (2021/22).

The £12m project to convert the council's streetlighting to energy efficient LED lighting is complete for all standard streetlights in Wiltshire. Any remaining units are heritage and special units. The project is predicted to be complete by the end of March 2023. The equivalent of around 1,770 tonnes of CO2 will be saved each year.

Sustained investment in solar photovoltaic technology over time, in 2021/22 the council generated over 550,000 kWh renewable electricity at its own buildings.

I have been asked to drive a mini bus for the local older persons outings at Lynch Close. I managed to keep my C3/D3 enabling me to carry on driving a mini bus. The bus is provided at a low cost by Seeds for Success (helped by Wiltshire Council) a local youth group.

Have you or someone you know considered fostering. Wiltshire Council still campaign to find more foster carers for children in Wiltshire. Fostering with your local council means all money is spent on frontline services and the child is more likely to be able to stay close to their school, friends and family networks.


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

Mere Theatre Club

We enjoyed a glorious day out at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and are considering changing our name to the Mere Theatre & Other Outings Club - preferably something snappier!

We have 2 theatre outings now booked for the winter and have started planning for a non theatre trip for the spring.

So if you fancy getting out and about next year, do get in touch.

Madelaine Morris  861833 madsmorris@gmail.com



The Mere Day Centre

Here at **Mere Day Centre** we are looking to recruit a new **Volunteer Activities Assistant**.

This volunteering role might include:

- talking with people about what activities they might enjoy.
- Researching activity options and reporting back to the Manager.
- Organising activities that are tailored to the needs of individuals, and group activities to bring people together.
- Leading activities whilst encouraging and helping our Guests to take part.
- Up to 3 hours flexible working per week, at the centre and from home.

If you are a 'people person' and fancy this opportunity to help out in your local community, please call me to arrange an informal chat.

Sandie Hawkins  07835 272406  meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere & District Railway Modellers

Autumn arrived with a lot of activity and plans for the Winter months. The club was represented at the Blandford exhibition in late September where the attendance was down on last year, this led to the author being asked to run this exhibition next year.

For Creative Mere the club is preparing two layouts, firstly the regeneration of Three Bridges the clubs first OO layout and this will be supported by Castle Keep our N gauge layout that public participation will be encouraged.

Two other layouts are being worked on ready for our participation in the Frome Model Railway Exhibition 7th & 8th January 2023. These are the O gauge layout Shaftesbury Street Yard and the authors N gauge layout Over Stour.

We meet on Wednesday evening from 7-9pm in our club house which is situated at the rear of Castle Street Car Park, so come along if you are interested, all ages are welcomed.

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

Mere Social Club – Dates for the diary

Sat. 19th November.

Table Top Sale 10am till 1 pm Only £5 per table

Open to everyone to sell their items, crafts, Xmas Gifts etc.

Christina Miles flowjo123@gmail.com

Link Scheme

Apologies, but I forgot to send in a contribution to last month's Mere Matters in my anticipation of a return trip to the Isles of Scilly. It really is a beautiful place. Anyway, the number of Link trips we are doing each month has fluctuated recently between 65 and 92. The September figure was 86 including 23 to various Covid vaccination centres. Most trips were to the Nadder Centre in Tisbury and thanks to those passengers who agreed to share a car in order to optimise the use of our drivers.



It was great to see Ben Benson's post on Mere Matters giving a big shout out for the Link Scheme after a trip to Yeovil hospital for a one hour appointment which took four hours. Ben said our driver Dick Morris was still there waiting for him with not a word of anger. He was very appreciative and thanked the great team working for the Link. We are really grateful for Ben's kind words and delighted we were able to help. We have also received a note of thanks after Derek Stevens found a client's "lost" bag in his car and returned to Mere from Maiden Bradley to give it back to its owner. These examples epitomise the work and spirit of our Link drivers who the lost bag owners say are amazing!

We were all saddened to hear that Alf Cummings has died. Alf was one of our regular clients and many Link drivers got to know him well on his frequent trips to visit his wife Jean in her nursing home. Rest in peace Alf.

On Sunday 4 September we held a very successful volunteers' buffet lunch arranged and hosted by Mary Wilson. Around 40 volunteers, partners and helpers gathered for the Volunteers' Lunch and we were very lucky with the weather as the forecast rain did not materialise. The setting, in Mary Wilson's garden, was ideal. A big thanks to Mary and Nigel for hosting us and organising the excellent food, and to Hamish Bell for arranging the gazebos from the Grove Building and chairs from St Michael's. We were also lucky to have very willing help from the Ukrainian refugees staying with Mary who were a credit to their country.

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.



As ever we are looking for new drivers so if you would like to find out more about driving for the Link please have a look at our website (www.merelink.org.uk) or call the Link number 01747 860096.

John FitzGerald Chair ☎ 860096 🌐 merelink.org.uk



**Supporting, Promoting & Celebrating
The Local Artists & Crafts People
of Mere.**

**Sales, demonstrations and some
opportunities for hands-on!**

**Sat 26th & Sun 27th November
Grove Building & Lecture Hall
+ other venues.**

Saturday 10:30am - 2:30pm

Sunday 10:30am - 1:30pm

£3 entry (Children free).

The town of Mere lies off the A303 between Wincanton and Stonehenge

Friends of Mere Museum

Plenty of news from the Friends this month! First, the AGM will be held on **Tuesday November 15th at 7.00 p.m.** in the **Library**. It's always encouraging to welcome a good number of Friends to this meeting; it enables everyone to evaluate the achievements of the year just ending and to start planning for the next.

Mere Museum celebrates fifty years of stimulating and informative exhibitions this year! That's a lot of exhibitions! The Friends were founded in 1989/90 to raise awareness of - and money for - the Museum, which has no other means of financial support. To mark the Museum's impressive anniversary, the Friends are planning a celebratory reception which will take place in the Grove Buildings at **7.00 p.m. on December 2nd 2022**. The new exhibition will be open in the Library during the evening. We look forward to welcoming as many Friends as possible to this special event.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

The date of the dress rehearsal for this year's production of '**A Ladd in Mere**' is fast advancing and it's powerfully focussing our minds! Lines are being learned, moves are being memorized and parts practiced. This will all ensure that, when opening night arrives, we shall be on top form and ready to deliver a brilliantly conceived, thoroughly rehearsed and visually ravishing Pantomime (Oh yes we will!). First night is on **Thursday November 17th at 7.30 p.m.** in the **Lecture Hall**, with productions also on Friday and **Saturday November 18th and 19th, at 7.30 p.m.** and a Matinee performance on **Saturday 19th at 2.30p.m.** Tickets are £8.00 for adults, children £4.00, and are available for all productions from The Library or 'Sprout and Flower', or by phoning 01747 861257 or 07539 329798, or at the door. Our pantomimes are among the most popular performances in our repertoire, so don't leave it too late to book! You may be lucky to obtain tickets at the door, but it's safest to get them in advance! We look forward to seeing you (Oh yes we do!).

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mere Jelly

The Mere 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. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month and the Visit Hillbrush Cafe 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 9am to 12 noon, and you are welcome to join us for the whole morning or just drop in for a chat if you like! We meet in **October on Wednesday 26th**.



Jenni Bell  860400

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	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		09:00	Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		8:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
		19:30	History Society	GB
2	Wed	09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds)	GB
		12:45	Stretch Class (every Weds)	L
		14:45	Stretch Class (every Weds)	L
		18:00	Karate (every Weds)	L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
3	Thurs	10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		14:00	Quilters (every Thurs)	GB
		14:00	Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		17:00	Girlguiding (every Thurs)	GB
		18:00	MADS Rehearsals (every Thurs)	L
4	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
5	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
6	Sun			
7	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		17:45	Yoga (every Mon)	L
		18:00	Scouting (every Mon)	GB
8	Tues	10:30	Historical Society	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>MADS Rehearsal, Zumba,</i>	
9	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship	GB
		19:30	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
10	Thurs		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
11	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
12	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
13	Sun			
14	Mon	19:30	Ukes at the Butt of Sherry	
			<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Yoga, Scouting</i>	
15	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
			<i>MADS Rehearsal, Little Angels, Zumba,</i>	
16	Wed		<i>Karate, Stretch, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
17	Thurs		Mere Armature Dramatics Pantomime	L
			<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge</i>	
18	Fri	14:00	Short Walk	CP
		19:30	Suchana Quiz and Pudding	GB
			Mere Armature Dramatics Pantomime	L

		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
19	Sat	Fair Trade Stall	Coffee Morning Mere Armature Dramatics Pantomime	URC L
		<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
20	Sun	Fair Trade Stall after morning service		
				StM
21	Mon	<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Yoga, Scouting</i>		
22	Tues	<i>MADS Rehearsal , Little Angels, Zumba,</i>		
23	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
24	Thurs	19:30	Film Show <i>MADS, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	L
25	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
26	Sat	10:30	Creative Mere	GB & L
		<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
27	Sun	10:30	Creative Mere	GB & L
28	Mon	<i>Tiddlers & Toddlers, Yoga, Scouting</i>		
29	Tues	<i>MADS Rehearsal , Little Angels, Zumba,</i>		
30	Wed	14:30	Pennybank Writers <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	L

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

Mere Rivers Group

UPPER SHREEN - No Ducks - No Moorhens - No Water Voles - No Water!

After one of the driest summers on record and the rivers at a very low level Wessex Water decided to increase the amount of water they take from Mere. This is because of the customer demand and the low levels in their reservoirs. The effect of this on the Shreen was almost immediate. The upper reaches dried completely and down almost as far as the flume (Dam) there are just a few pools.

Lots of fish and invertebrates have died but some have been saved and moved down stream.

As soon as we have significant rain we hope that Wessex Water will reduce abstraction to a level that will sustain our wildlife, but what damage has already been done?



Ian Sheppard ianisheppard@outlook.com

Traidcraft in Mere

Show you care this Christmas:I now have sample packs of all Traidcraft's Christmas Cards so why not decide to send greetings to friends and family and know that you will be supporting many charities at the same time. If you wish to have a look before you buy, you are very welcome to come here at home, request a catalogue or come to one of my November stalls.

A date for your diaries: Paul has again agreed for me to hold a sale at The Angel Tea Rooms on **December 14th** where you can pick up a beautiful hand-crafted gift for that extra special present knowing that it will be supporting someone to a sustainable life. At the same time you can indulge in one of his delicious cakes with a cuppa.

Janet Way ☎ **860884** jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Girlguiding

1st Mere Rainbows

Mere Rainbows are looking for adult helpers to help at their meetings, so more girls can have the opportunity to participate in fun activities, craft and games and help with their personal development. Rainbows are between the ages of 5 – 7 are held every Thursday during term time, between 5.15 pm to 6.10 pm at Grove building in Mere.

If you are interested in helping, please register on the Girlguiding website [Girlguiding | The Leading UK Charity for Girls & Young Women | Girlguiding](#). Subject to disclosure check to clarify eligibility status.

1st Mere Brownies

The Brownies Recycling project – For many years Mere Brownies the following recyclables:

- Used stamps
- mobile phones with the Sim card removed
- jewellery & watches including costume
- currency – any coins or banknotes uk & foreign (even out of circulation)

We are still collecting, if you have any of the above, we would be most grateful if you can drop them off at the Deposit points at Mere library, Jeans Electrical shop and the Chapel showroom. The proceeds will go to 1st Mere Brownies. Thank you for any contributions.

Nicky Lawes *Mere Brownies*

PennyBank Writers at Creative Mere 22

PennyBank Writers look forward to meeting you at the Creative Mere weekend Nov.26th - 27th

It's good to see this event up and running again after the Covid lockdowns. It showcases such a variety of local crafts and creative talent. PennyBank members are pleased to be able to participate and thank the organisers for the opportunity.

If you are looking to start your Christmas shopping, or are seeking 'present inspiration', then do visit our stall and see what local writers have to offer. Books make lasting gifts.

NEWS FLASH! There will be a special offer with a Mere title – an ideal stocking filler for residents or exiles.

Adrienne Howell 📞 860475

November Short Walk

Please meet at 2p.m. in the Surgery car park on Friday November 18th for a walk around Mere's lanes and paths

Janet Way 📞 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com



Mere Library Rhyme Time

Come along and join our Fun, Friendly Rhyme Time for Babies and Toddlers.

Held at Mere Library every Friday Morning 10-10.30 am

Lovely session filled with Rhymes and songs

For Further Information please contact the library on ☎ 860546.

Shreen Harmony

We have welcomed several new members this term and they have settled in well. We have now started rehearsals for our Christmas Concert. This is always a good evening with plenty of food and mulled wine. Please keep the date **17th**

December at 7.30 p.m. in the United Reformed Church in Mere.

Hope to see you there.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980

Mere Art Group

The Group continues to meet on Thursday mornings from 10.00 till 12.00 in The Grove - with Great Company, Tea, Coffee and Biscuits - all for £2.50!

A recent member, Jon Wright, submitted this month's image of Catherine Hill, Frome - completed mid-October whilst on holiday in Cornwall! Well done!



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Mere Bowls Club

The club has closed for the winter this year after a "could do better" season but we enjoyed our matches and the weather was very kind to us. For the record we "played" 37 matches although five were conceded by us or our opponents. We won 14, lost 22 and drew one with 1694 shots for and 1928 shots against. Congratulations to Chris Coombs, Ann Hurt, Pam Lambshead, Don Butchers, Richard Coombs, Jeff Cornford, Derek Fisher, John FitzGerald, Ron Heesom, Alan Inwood, Tony Rankin and John Sturges who won, or were runners-up, in at least one of our Club Competitions. They will receive their trophies at our Presentation Dinner to be held in January next year.

We will continue to meet periodically for social evenings throughout the cold times that we have ahead and in the meantime the hard work on getting the green in shape for next year has started in earnest. The club thanks all those who help maintain the green, and the surrounds, over the season and will work to get the green ready for play next season.

We are always on the lookout for new members, especially if they are younger than the ones we have on the register right now! If you are interested in, or curious about, the sport of bowls why not put it in your diary for next year for when we open in the middle of April 2023. We have registered coaches who can take you through the basics of the game and get you started, all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes, and we will do the rest.

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

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

Creative Mere '22' - 26th & 27th November

We are looking forward to the return of a very Special Event for Mere. The first one in 2017 was a huge success bringing people from a wide area to enjoy the diverse range of artisans and craft people in and around the small town of Mere. This year we are welcoming 30 exhibitors showcasing their art and craft skills. From clocks to card making, wood carving to water colours, sculpture to sewing and spinning, there will be a huge variety with many opportunities for 'hands on' experiences.

It will be taking place in the Lecture Hall, Grove Building and other venues in the town and entry will be by programme available on the doors at £3.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to this unique event.

Letter from the Churches

One of the features of any sporting competition is that there is always the surprise team or contestant that does far better than expected. Six years ago it was Wales in the European Football Championship, when they reached the semifinals, and Iceland knocked out England. We often enjoy the triumph of the underdog as long as it is not our favourite team or contestant that is knocked out.

The story of David and Goliath (1Sam. 17 v 38/9) is often mentioned when the unexpected team or contestant wins. Looking from the outside the fight between Goliath and David is a total mismatch, Goliath towers over David and easily wears armour and weaponry that when David is dressed in, leaves David unable to move. David when he faces Goliath is sure he is going to win, this is not misplaced confidence or bravado, but a faith in God that because God is with him, it is really Goliath that is the underdog.

In Mark 4 v37-40 the disciples do not have the same confidence in Jesus that David had in God. They are caught in a storm that is threatening to overwhelm them and their boat. When they wake Jesus it is because they need every available hand to empty the boat of water. To their surprise Jesus commands the storm to stop and it does. They see and recognise the power of God at work, and the inward reality of their situation becomes the outward reality.

The true reality as Christians is that whatever our outward circumstances are, we can have confidence in the future because Jesus is with us.

The Rev Duncan Goldie, Mere

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Calling all ukulele players. Come along to The Butt of Sherry and meet other players, of all abilities, who enjoy strumming and singing. We have great fun and play well known songs from the sixties, folk, country and songs that are easy to play!

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Bring your ukulele and join us on **Monday 14th November** at 7.30pm. Check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list or contact maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

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

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 863424

Mr Richard Wilson ☎ 07966 244373

PCC Secretary: office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

6 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Family Service
13 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Remembrance Sunday Service
20 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
27 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion

*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	Remembrance Sunday Service
20 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
27 th	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion

*All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley*Priest in Charge: TBA vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.ukContact: diana@dianabourne.co.uk

6 th	Sun	10:00	No Catch-up
13 th	Sun	10:40	Remembrance Sunday Service
20 th	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
27 th	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion

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

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence ☎ 0740 3845711 elainelaurence57@gmail.com

6 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Jane Hurd
13 th	Sun	11:00	Service at St Michaels for Remembrance Day
20 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. S. Litchfield (Holy Communion)
27 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Christine Marsh

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

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

Tuesday: 09:30 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 14:00*

Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

*Sally-Ann Mere Senior Library Assistant*Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk	☎ 0771 471 8625
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	☎ 07403 845711

Mere Information

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit merewilts.org

St Michaels**WARNING!!**

At St Michael's we have heard that there is expected to be a mass landing of Angels here in our town. Elizabeth, our churchwarden, has heard that our town was picked out because there are such lovely people here and that they will be arriving on the morning of **1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd December**. They will be landing in bus stops, on top of walls, by gates and on windowsills. Everyone is welcome to find one if they can. Good luck!

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A Christingle service is being held on the **4th December in St Michael's Church at 10.30am**. This is held for the Children's Society. It is a lovely family service where we have oranges, sweets, sultanas, candles, and red ribbon. Please come and enjoy the celebration with us and stay for fresh coffee and cake after. Everyone is warmly welcome.

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The Crib service on the **24th of December** is a service for everyone and children can come dressed up as a shepherd, king, Mary, Joseph, or an animal from the stable. If you have found an angel on the streets of Mere, please bring it for a blessing or if you have been busy knitting angels please come and see who found them.

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On the **22nd December at 6pm** there will be a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This is a traditional service which we hold by candlelight creating a lovely atmosphere. After everyone has sung with gusto and enthusiasm there will be mulled wine, mince pies and an opportunity to chat with friends, old and new. Please come along and join with us to celebrate.

Copy date for the **December 2022/January 2023** Issue

Closing deadline is: **4:00pm on Wednesday 23rd November**.

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.



You are very welcome to come to a fund-raising **Quiz and Pudding evening on Friday 18th November at 7.30pm** in the Grove Building, Tickets are £6 (£3 for children) and of

course, include a selection of lovely puddings. There will also be a licensed bar (so it's not a BYO event). Numbers will be limited so you need to book in advance by contacting me. You can also sign the list at the back of St Michael's Church. Please pay in advance if possible, and when you book please leave a phone number so we can get in touch with you.

Meanwhile, the Suchana project in West Bengal which we support continues it's fundamental educational work of helping very marginalised children and communities towards inclusion in wider society. One way of doing this currently is through pioneering the inclusion of adivasi first languages in internet language learning and provision, which will benefit similar communities elsewhere in India as well as boosting the morale and confidence of local children.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, Chair, Mere Suchana Support Group
judithvthompson@aol.com

Mere Historical Society

The Autumn Programme continues this month with "The Victoria County History of Wiltshire: Mere and Zeals" by Mark Forrest, on **Tuesday 1st November** at 7.30pm in the Grove Building,. This is followed by a morning talk in the same location on **Tuesday 8th November** at 10.30 a.m. on "Bosnia: the fighting and politicking then, and the unfolding tragedy now", by David Leakey, who commanded the intervention forces that brought an end to the fighting there in Yugoslavia's bloody break-up.

Details of the Programme to the end of December 2022 can be found at www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming back our current Members as well as Non-members for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door. Joining the Society costs just £10 and gives entry to all talks. Anyone wishing to join may do so at any of the forthcoming talks or may contact the Membership Secretary at membership@merehistoricalsociety.org.uk.

Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 plandymore@outlook.com

 merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



At our October meeting we had a very relaxed social afternoon with several members telling us of times they had shared with our late and sadly missed Queen Elizabeth. Many of us had been to the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, both as invited members and behind the scenes with some amusing stories and even a very interesting memory of King Charles, then Prince of Wales, visiting a Duchy farm and his genuine interest in Mere, visiting many times.

On **November 8th** our Speaker is Ben Carver talking about his work with British Legion which connects with Remembrance Sunday. Our meeting is held at **The Grove Building at 2.30pm.**

We have a very short service followed by our Speaker and we once again invite anyone who is interested in The Mother's Union to come along and you will be made most welcome.

We are also busy preparing for **Creative Mere.** We will have a stall with all our Mother's Union information and some crafts made by our members. Carol is hoping to demonstrate the creative pastime of Spinning yarn and there may even be an opportunity to be shown how to spin and look at the woven items made on the loom. Many members will have been making cakes and sandwiches to sell on Saturday so busy times but enjoyable.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christabelle Kriticos ☎ 861065 Christine Marsh ☎ 861212

Mere Film Shows / Moviola



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our re-opening in October. Our next film is **The Duke [12A]** with Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. It's another true story, like Phantom of the Open, about how a 60 year old taxi driver stole Goya's painting of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery. It will be great to welcome even more people to this film and don't forget you are all invited to complimentary tea and coffee!

Tickets are available from Mere library or please contact me below to arrange. If you would like to be added to our email list then please use this email as well.

Rosie ☎ 861567 rosiejb37@gmail.com

Wiltshire Council News

Household Recycling Centres to switch to their winter opening times.

From 1 November, the opening hours of all 10 of Wiltshire Council's HRCs will change from 10am to 4pm on each day that they're open. Currently they are open from 9am.

As per previous years, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Stanton St Quinton HRCs will be closed for an additional



day a week, so will not be operating on Thursdays and Fridays. The opening days of the other centres will remain as they are. **Warminster closed Wednesday & Thursdays.**

All of these temporary changes will take effect from 1 November and last until 31 March.

Highways teams getting ready for winter weather.

Our winter maintenance teams are gearing up for the colder weather by taking the gritters out on test runs in the coming weeks. Some of the council's fleet of 24 gritters will be out across the county from 25 October to test the equipment is in working order and to enable the crews to familiarise themselves with the routes.



Last year the crews were deployed 41 times when road temperatures neared freezing and distributed 5,000 tonnes of salt across approximately 730 miles of A and B roads.



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www.teeandeeproductions.com