



# *M*ere *atters*

& so does

# West Knoyle

Your community magazine including  
a guide to local events

**September 2022**

## MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2022 WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Tuesday 11 October

Time	Event	Venue	Price
4.00 pm	Maggie Mortimer – Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies	URC	£10
7.00 pm	Barney Norris - Undercurrent	URC	£10

### Wednesday 12 October

2.15 pm	Louise Hare – Miss Aldridge Regrets	URC	£10
4.00 pm	Angela Findlay – In My Grandfather's Shadow	URC	£10
7.00 pm	General Sir Richard Shirreff – War With Russia	URC	£12

### Thursday 13 October

2.15 pm	James Crowden – Cider Country	St Michaels	£10
4.00 pm	Kate Morgan – Murder, The Biograph	St Michaels	£10
7.00 pm	Natasha Solomons – I, Mona Lisa	St Michaels	£10

### Friday 14 October

11.30 am	Sally Page – The Keeper of STories	URC	£10
2.15 pm	Andrew Hunter Murray - The Sanctuary	URC	£10
4.00 pm	Roger Morgan Grenville – Taking Stock	URC	£10
7.00 pm	Zoe Somerville – The Marsh House	URC	£10

### Saturday 15 October

11.00 am	Susanne Masters – Wild Waters	GB	£10
12.30 pm	Hannah Bourne Tayler - Fledgling	GB	£10
2.30 pm	Kate Hughes – Going Zero	GB	£10

## Mere Town Council

There is no doubt that over the last few weeks, the very hot weather has inevitably changed the landscape of Mere. Following the downpour of rain that we had in the middle of August, there was some localised flooding. The Town Council would be interested in recording these locations so that we could build a picture of the areas affected and inform those authorities and organisations that may be able to help in the future. Please let us know if you were affected. There is some information on the Town Council's website on 'What do I do if I get flooded' <https://merewilts.org/notices/what-do-i-do-if-i-get-flooded/> and if you are concerned about any blocked road gulleys that may cause highway flooding, please report these on the Wiltshire Council reporting page: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Cllr Kate Symonds, who is the Council's spokesperson on all river related issues reports that this exceptional dry spell has presented an obvious challenge to maintaining the flow of our two rivers, the Ashfield and the Shreen. We have a voluntary commitment by Wessex Water to limit abstraction of water, from Mere sources, for export to neighbouring areas when the flow drops below agreed levels. However Wessex Water tells us that since mid-July, in order to meet customer demand through the dry spell and heatwave, export to Whitesheet reservoir has been occurring. In order to support stream flow this year the Ashfield Stream Support (SS) trial commenced on June 14th with water recirculated back to the source to try to maintain the flow. 2022 is proving to be a more challenging year compared to 2021 and the rate is being adjusted to hopefully maintain a stream flow at the flume. Observationally, the Shreen is still flowing, despite these pressures, though not at a level optimum for all the wildlife we would like to see. Let us hope that some steady Autumn rain will slowly replenish the flow. It seems that Wessex Water is fully aware of the need to maintain our streams and that they are attempting to do so despite the obvious pressures of this exceptional summer. Wessex Water do not intend a hosepipe ban, at the present time.

I am pleased to report that our newly appointed Groundsman took up his post in July and is settling into the job. Also taking up his position in July, our Project Coordinator has been very busy familiarising himself with the area and preparing substantial logistical information to enable the Council to see through the projects we have and propose to have for the benefit of the Town.

I am very much aware, through postings on social media and the correspondence we receive, that there are many residents in Mere who show an active interest in the work of the Town Council. We currently have 2 Town Councillor vacancies and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in joining us. Do contact the office on 01747 860701 for more details.



On behalf of all Councillors, I would like to congratulate Hill Brush on their centenary year. A wonderful achievement for a small business founded in Mere and now an internationally acclaimed company.

*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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### Creative Mere 22 – Nov 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Incredible to think that our first Creative Mere was back in 2017. We welcome back some of those who exhibited then and many new artisans and crafts folk from in and around Mere.



We have booked both The Grove Building and The Lecture Hall and still have space for a few more exhibitors so we invite anyone who may be interested in exhibiting to come forward. If you paint, draw, knit, sew, do pottery work, make dust and shavings from wood, sculpt or do anything remotely artistic why not come and join us. It would be great to have people demonstrating how they produce their art. You can bring items just to display and/or to sell or take commissions. If you are arty/crafty do please get in touch – we have a space for you!

Janet Way ☎ 860884 [jwvawitsend@gmail.com](mailto:jwvawitsend@gmail.com) Susanne Hayes 📞 07788595434

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425

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### West Knoyle Church Fete.

Our fete on the 17<sup>th</sup> July raised a total of £1,395.30 – thank you for your support.

A great big THANK YOU, to Martin and Sheila for their contributions, hard work and letting us use the garden. Another big thank you to the sponsors: The Fox and Hounds, White Horse Marquess, and two others who know who they are. Donations and help were provided by 'Fitness by Design', Wessex Internet the New Blackmore Vale Magazine, Shreen Harmony for wonderful singing and Alex Davies.

Lastly thank you to all other helpers and contributors who made the fete such a success, even on one of the hottest days of the year!

Jill Randall [jillrandallwk@gmail.com](mailto:jillrandallwk@gmail.com)

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### Lynch Close Community

Please look out for residents from the Close who will be in the town Square over the next few weeks. They would like to raise awareness of the proposals being made by Wiltshire Council for the future of Lynch Close which would also impact on Mere itself. Please do come and talk to them as the Community would be grateful to Mere residents for any support.

*Geoff Sams Chair of the Lynch Close Committee*

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### Mere Girlguiding

**Guides** are back in Mere!!!

1<sup>st</sup> Mere Guides is starting again on **Thurs 8 Sep 22** for girls are welcome between the ages between 10 -14. Do various fun activities to help develop them and learn new life skills. Guides meeting Thursdays (term time) between 6.20 pm to 7.30pm at The Grove Building, Church street, Mere.

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides, please register her on the Girlguiding UK website.

**Rainbows**, between ages 5-6 - meet on Thursdays at Grove Building between 5.15pm to 6.10 pm

**Brownies** between ages of 7-10 - meet Thursdays at Grove Building between 6.20 pm to 7.30 pm

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, have termly subscription fee of £30.

If you would like to volunteer to help at Brownies, Rainbows or Guides please register via Girlguiding website. We love you to come and help.

*Nicky Lawes Mere Girlguiding [nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk)*

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### Mere Social Club

Mere Carnival disco at Mere Social Club on Carnival Day 8.30 p.m. until late. Great music from DJ John Baker - all welcome

*Andy Brock ☎ [andybrock60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andybrock60@yahoo.co.uk)*

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### **Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?**

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Jane Kennedy directly by phone or email. [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com) ☎ 860450

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I am pleased the Mere area has a good functioning fire and rescue service, Kelly Aplin who has joined as a much-needed member, I hear she has had high marks for her training, well done Kelly. I understand more members are still required.

*Kilminster recently had a well-attended Parish Council meeting when a planning application consultation was discussed. I did not attend as I only attend the local villages planning applications when asked, then only to give facts. I try and support Town and Parish Councils. In the case of Mere Town Council, I again try to stick to facts if I speak and abstain when voting takes place. Then in my opinion I can then sit on a Wiltshire Council Planning Committee with an open mind on the local issues. As a councillor I have known recently of several local councillors (Mere and the surrounding villages) with interest of a pecuniary (money) or non-pecuniary nature being unsure how to act at a council meeting. I am not an officer and the following is as I would do. Pecuniary I believe is simple, do not vote and do not speak and leave the room. Leaving the room or not may be influenced depending on the council's code of conduct and standing orders. The decision in all cases of council standards is with the councillor, if the councillor calls it wrong the meetings decision may be void. Non-pecuniary interest is more difficult. For instance, if a councillor knows a local person that is impacted by the council's discussion, it is how it is perceived by the average person in the street. If the councillor is good friends with the person, then its best if the councillor withdraws from the meeting and perhaps sits in the public area. However, in the above situation if the person who is impacted by the council's discussion is only an acquaintance, meeting each other sometimes when passing etc., then the councillor could declare a non-pecuniary interest and speak and vote stating he is entering into the discussions with an open mind.*

I have removed some Union Jacks which were put up for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, however I have left some around Mere Square, I have noted many places have left The Union Jack flying. I have noted businesses as I have travelled around the south of the country, that have displayed the Union Jack upside down, this applies when flown horizontally or vertically. 40 years ago when I was initially involved with flying flags, at that time on my own property, I would have been reprimanded for such an act. Now I see product and books sometimes with The Union Jack upside down.

*Narrow white band underneath red stripe.*



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August I returned home about 6PM, to find about 8 inches of water at the rear of part of my house and shop. I thought the drain was blocked at first, however it was not. The drains just could not take the volume of water. It came under 3 doors, entered part of my living accommodation getting under carpets. Inside it was getting under some roof tiles and staining an area of ceiling. Our front door has wood panels that must have shrunk in the heat, water was getting around the joints and entering the property. The water came under the shop door, however in that area it ran away between the open floor boards. I had

never known anything like it, I have lived in the property all my life. Penny Fennon my immediate neighbour records the rain fall locally and said 16 cm of rain had fallen in 24 hours, in less than two hours most of the rain fell mid to later afternoon, it is the first time our drains for the rear of the property would not take the surface water. I am informed Wood Farm had more than 3cms, Kilmington less than 2.5cms. I was informed by a resident of Kilmington when turning at "Gillingham corner" noticed a very dark cloud over the centre of Mere. It was a record amount of rain for me and I was contacted by several who were affected. As I have said before highway drains are intended to drain the highway only and not private property. The law allows for highway run off on to private property. I am now going to get storm boards fitted as a resident has done in Water Street Mere. It is a rubber type seal in front the door that a board is pushed into, in times of storm.

Further fibre broadband is finding itself around the area, it has just been installed commercially at Whitemarsh, Mere. I am aware of at least four broadband infrastructure providers operating or trying to operate in the Mere area.

An elderly resident from Stourton contact me. He said he has to walk about a metre out in the road as the verge is cambered that the growth forms on, he said he is faced with vehicles coming towards him further in the road than normal. I asked on the grounds of road safety was any cut going to be made in this area before September and I was informed no. The Wiltshire Council have been good and responded to my request for verge cutting on dangerous junctions during the summer months. Human life must come first and I still think their present verge cutting policy can be dangerous.

Wiltshire Council still campaign to find more foster carers for children in Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council's fostering team will and have been visiting key sites and enlisting the support of businesses, charities, faith leaders and organisations to highlight the need for more foster carers in the area. 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.

To contact me please use [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.

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

### Lynch Close Community

Please look out for residents from the Close who will be in the town Square over the next few weeks. They would like to raise awareness of the proposals being made by Wiltshire Council for the future of Lynch Close which would also impact on Mere itself. Please do come and talk to them as the Community would be grateful to Mere residents for any support.

*Geoff Sams Chair of the Lynch Close Committee*

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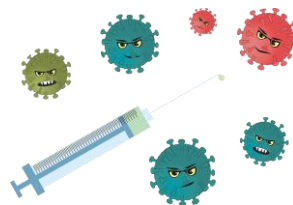




Mere Surgery - FLU CLINICS

Please find details of the Surgery's flu vaccination programme below

Clinics will all be held at Mere Surgery

WHO IS ENTITLED TO THE FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR?

- Anyone aged over 50
- Carers
- Pregnant women
- Any adult with following conditions:
  - COPD
  - Chronic heart disease
  - Chronic kidney or liver disease
  - Chronic neurological disease i.e motor neurone
  - Parkinson's
  - Learning disability
  - Diabetes
- Weakened immune system due to chemotherapy or auto immune disorders
- BMI greater than 40.

WHEN WILL THE CLINICS BE HELD? - **Under 65`s**

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	8.00 – 10.00
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	16.00 -17.00
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	8.00-10.00 -
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	16.00-17.00
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	16.00-17.00

**Over 65`s**

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30-12.30
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	14.00-16.00
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	10.30-12.30

## HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

Anyone with a mobile phone registered with the surgery to accept text messages will be sent a text message which will contain a unique link to book an appointment

For patients who do not have a registered mobile number with the surgery then a letter will be sent to you with details on how to book an appointment.

Appointments may also be booked by telephoning the surgery on 01747 860001

## VACCINATIONS

**THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF VACCINE, ONE FOR UNDER 65's AND ONE FOR OVER 65's**

## **CHILDREN'S FLU CLINICS**

Will be available at the end of October we are awaiting delivery dates so please check updates on our website.

**IF YOU NOT WISH TO HAVE A FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR, PLEASE LET THE SURGERY KNOW SO WE DON'T SEND YOU REMINDERS.**

**Please bear in mind that we are reliant on the vaccinations arriving as planned, so please check our website for any updates.**

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## Fair Trade Stalls

It is always exciting at this time of year to receive the Autumn/Winter catalogue to see what new goodies and beautiful crafts will be on offer. I will be holding my usual sales in time for those special gifts for Christmas when you will have the opportunity to buy something 'to show you care' this Christmas and help the crafts folk and smallholders around the world struggling to feed their families. In the meantime, why not pick up a catalogue from one of my stalls or contact me if you would like one

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

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## The Mere Day Centre

*Are you finding it difficult to get going again after months of staying in?  
Have you lost a bit of confidence socially?*

Our lovely day centre provides a safe and sociable place for older people from Mere and the surrounding area to meet together and enjoy a rich variety of stimulating activities, along with a delicious two-course lunch, supplied by The Walnut Tree Inn. From time to time we arrange outings to places chosen by the guests.

We love to welcome new guests. So if you, or someone you know, would benefit from a regular day out in a happy environment, please contact the Centre Manager Sandie Hawkins, who will be delighted to tell you all about the centre. Her contact is: 07835 272406, or email: [manager@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@meredaycentre.org.uk)

Alternatively, do come along to meet us at our stand in the Square on Saturday, September 24th from 10am to 12.00. You can find out more on our website.

Jane Mason ☎ 861296 [chair@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:chair@meredaycentre.org.uk)

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## Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group



In August The Mother's Union celebrated Mary Sumner Day, Mary is our founder and as Mary died 100 years ago on the 9<sup>th</sup> we had a special service in church with Communion to celebrate her life and the Organisation which is worldwide. We followed that with a very friendly picnic lunch held in the servery area of the Church to keep cool on a very warm day. We were once again delighted with the high attendance.

On **13<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm** in The Grove Building we will be meeting again with a very interesting speaker. Gill Grout who lives in Mere has had a very full and interesting career in Nursing and many of us may have also met her when having our Covid Booster Vaccinations at Wilton. She will be talking about her life and career as she now has definitely retired, she thought she had pre Covid and once again came to the helm for us all.

Gill is also an established artist so she will be telling us her plans now she really has the time to carry that out. We have a very short service followed by our speaker and tea and biscuits. We once again invite anyone who is interested in The Mother's Union to come along and you will be made most welcome.

*Written by Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christabelle Kriticos ☎ 861065*

*Christine Marsh ☎ 861212*

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### Mere Girlguiding

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1<sup>st</sup> Mere Guides is starting again on **Thurs 8 Sep 22** for girls are welcome between the ages between 10 -14. Do various fun activities to help develop them and learn new life skills. Guides meeting Thursdays (term time) between 6.20 pm to 7.30pm at The Grove Building, Church street, Mere.

If your daughter is interested in joining Guides, please register her on the Girlguiding UK website [Girlguiding / The Leading UK Charity for Girls & Young Women / Girlguiding](#)

**Rainbows**, between ages 5-6 - meet on Thursdays at Grove Building between 5.15pm to 6.10 pm

**Brownies** between ages of 7-10 - meet Thursdays at Grove Building between 6.20 pm to 7.30 pm

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, have termly subscription fee of £30.

If you would like to volunteer to help at Brownies, Rainbows or Guides please register via Girlguiding website. We love you to come and help.

*Nicky Lawes Mere Girlguiding [nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk)*

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### Mere Social Club

Mere Carnival disco at Mere Social Club on Carnival Day 8.30 p.m. until late. Great music from DJ John Baker - all welcome

*Andy Brock ☎ [andybrock60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andybrock60@yahoo.co.uk)*

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### Mere Theatre Club

The theatre club forges on with 25 new members so far this year!

The booking for this autumn's programme is now closed but the winter programme will be following on soon.

In October we are visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, in November we're off to Chichester for a new musical version of Local Hero and December will see us at the Bristol Old Vic for a theatrical re-telling of The Nutcracker.

If you feel you may be missing out, don't delay, join today!

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

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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	Thurs	10:00 14:00	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs) <b>Bridge</b> (every Thurs)	GB L
2	Fri	13:45	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
3	Sat	10:30	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
4	Sun			
5	Mon	09:30 17:45 18:00	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon) Yoga <b>Scouting</b> (every Mon)	L L GB
6	Tues	08:00 09:00 13:00 18:20 19:30	Foot Clinic <b>Little Angels</b> (every Tues) <b>Pilates (JL)</b> (every Tues) <b>Zumba</b> (every Tues) <b>MADS Rehearsals</b> (every Tues)	GB GB GB L L
7	Wed	09:30 12:45 14:45 14:00 18:00	<b>Tai-Chi</b> (every Weds) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Weds) <b>Stretch Class</b> (every Weds) Short Walk (JW) <b>Karate</b> (every Weds)	GB L L Front of Walnut Tree L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
8	Thurs	10:00 14:00 14:00 17:00 19:30	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs) <b>Quilters</b> (every Thurs) Bridge <b>Girlguiding</b> (every Thurs) MADS Rehearsals	GB GB L GB L
			<i>Art, Bridge, .</i>	
9	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
10	Sat	Fair Trade Stall 19:00	Coffee Morning Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	URC L
			<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
11	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
12	Mon	10:00 12:30 19:30	Textile Group <b>Baby Yoga</b> (every Mon) Ukes @ the Butt of Sherry	GB GB BS
			<i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers, Yoga, Scouting</i>	
13	Tues	14:30	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>	
14	Wed	14:00	Fitness and Friendship	GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Stretch, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
15	Thurs	14:00	<b>Diabetes Prevention</b>	L
			<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>	
16	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	



17	Sat	<i>Carnival Judges</i>		<i>L</i>
18	Sun	<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
19	Mon	<i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers, Baby Yoga, Scouting</i>		
20	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
21	Wed	<i>Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>		
22	Thurs	<i>Karate, <u>Stretch</u>, <u>Tai-Chi</u>, Railway Modellers</i>		
23	Fri	<i>Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge</i>		
24	Sat	10:00	Merely Women	GB
25	Sun	<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
26	Mon	<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
27	Tues	<i>Tiddlers &amp; Toddlers, Baby Yoga, Scouting</i>		
28	Wed	<i>Little Angels, Zumba, MADS</i>		
29	Thurs	09:00	Mere Jelly @ Visit Hillbrush	GB
30	Fri	14:00	Fitness and Friendship	L
		14:30	Penny Bank Writers	
		<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>		
		17:00	St Michaels AGM	StM
		<i>Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Girlguiding</i>		
		18:00	Friends of Mere Museum	GB
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		

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

## Mere Rivers Group

At the time of writing along with the rest of southern England, our streams are struggling in this hot and dry weather.

The Shreen is dry just upstream from Steep Street and the Ashfield is only just running but only with the help of stream support. Wessex Water are now pumping 1.5 million litres a day into the Ashfield at its source which means there is water in the mill pond at Burton.

But it's not all bad news, the birds love these low flows they are finding food in areas they could not reach before, even Blackbirds are catching bannytickles (fresh water shrimp) and small fish.

Thank you to the boys who were catching Sticklebacks and Bubbleheads and taking them down stream where there was more water.

July was the 2<sup>nd</sup> driest on record with only 18% of average rainfall in the Wessex area.

The storage in Wessex Water reservoirs was at 56% so we need lots of rain.

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



## Mere Jelly

Working from home can get a bit lonely. So if you are looking to meet others in a similar situation, come along and join in at the Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly is an informal, co-working event for freelancers, home-workers and small business owners. It's a chance to work in a different environment, bounce ideas off others, get some office chat in or just get your head down in a co-working environment.

You'll be surprised how much you get done in an atmosphere of industry.

We meet at Visit Hillbrush on the last Wednesday of the month, from 9am until 1pm. Come for the whole morning on the next date, which is **September 28th**, or just drop in for a quick chat, we'd love to see you.



*Jenni Bell ☎ 860400*

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

Sunday 14 August was a big day for Mere Bowls Club and our Secretary Don Butchers who is the President of Bowls Wiltshire (Men) for 2022. On a very hot afternoon, Don brought a County men's team to play Mere men for one of the highlights of his Presidential year. 40 players took to the green for the match, which was followed by a two course meal prepared by a group of our lady members and player's wives led by Don's wife Mary.



The match was played in a great spirit, with a drinks break in the middle because of the weather, and was enjoyed by all. For the record, Bowls Wiltshire (Men) won by 102 shots to 64 and on all rinks bar one, Don's!

The day would not have been so successful without the great efforts by club members to set up a gazebo and marquee, prepare and run the bar and make and serve the delightful meal. Much work was also done to ensure the green didn't just play well but looked at its best. A big thanks to all concerned, you know who you are, but a special mention for the green team led by Rich Coombs and Jeff and Geraldine Cornford for all their work on the surrounds.

You may have seen and even been inspired by the lawn bowls at the Commonwealth Games. If you want to see some bowls locally on **Wednesday 14 September** Mere Bowls Club will host a match between Bowls Wiltshire (Men) and Bowls Wiltshire (Women) at 2pm. Spectators welcome.

*John FitzGerald Captain, Mere Bowls Club*

### Mere Museum

The Museum welcomed two classes from Mere School in July to see the current exhibition, A history of Schools in Mere. The children were all keen to see the photos of the school in Dark Lane as some of their parents attended the school. They were also amazed at the photos showing the stern faces of the staff in the 19th century comparing them to their teachers today.

The children then produced some work from their visit which is now displayed in the Museum. Do come along and see their work and the exhibition. If anyone has memories of their school days in Mere to add to our collection then please write them down and let me have them for the display.

Rose Heesom ☎ 07791 559 674 [meremuseum@btinternet.com](mailto:meremuseum@btinternet.com)

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### Mere Gardening Club

The members enjoyed their annual social evening in the garden of Irene and Trevor Lucas this week. It was a perfect evening in a lovely garden offering plenty of shade. Many thanks to Irene and Trevor for hosting the evening.

In September there is no evening meeting as the club are visiting **Wisley Garden Centre on 22nd September.**

October's meeting will be in the Grove Building on Wednesday 12th October at 19.30pm and our speaker will be from the Countryside Regeneration Trust. New members always welcome and a small charge is made for visitors.

We are now planning ahead for next year and we have some new ideas for our meetings.

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

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### Battle of Britain Week

Yes, it is nearly that time of year when I will be collecting again on behalf of the Royal Air Force Associations help support this very worthy cause.



Whilst I am hoping to visit as many of you as possible you can always send a donation by cheque to: Don Curry, Treasurer, 19 Glyn Close, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP70 DP44

Please remember to write your name and address on the back so that he can acknowledge receipt. Thank you.

Your help is really valued and goes toward the amazing work for our veterans.

*Roy Sims. President of the Shaftesbury Branch RAFA ☎ 863328*

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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 12th September 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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### Mere Bridge (Duplicate) Club

Bridge players who would like to try their skills in friendly competition are reminded that the Mere Bridge Club plays duplicate bridge every Friday at 2 p.m. (to 5 p.m. approx.) in the Grove Building, opposite St. Michael's Church in Mere. We welcome players of various standards and encourage everyone to enjoy the game, regardless of results (points do not mean prizes). If you would like to try us out, please contact me.

*Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 [plandymore@outlook.com](mailto:plandymore@outlook.com)*

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### Friends of St Michael's AGM

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September. 5pm St Michael's Church

You are invited to join us for a glass of wine at the AGM of the Friends of St Michael's Church. Current members are welcome as well as anyone who would like to find out how we raise money and support our wonderful parish church. The continued fund raising to repair the pinnacles will be on the agenda.

*Friends Committee*

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Make a note in your diary for the 17<sup>th</sup> September as there will be a Carnival Procession through Mere.

The plan for the day will be:

- ❖ From 4 pm there will be stalls, entertainments and events in the Square.
- ❖ There will be Domenico's Pizzas, Charlotte's Potatoes, Dan's Ice Creams, and Sugar and Slice coffee and cakes van.
- ❖ From 4:30, entertainments- the Ukes at the Butt, Mike Durkee, Vicky Louth with Alan and Matt, Jack Manning and maybe more will provide music.
- ❖ At 5:30 pm there will a children's fancy dress competition for the children of Mere. So, bring your young ones along in their fancy dress – they will have a chance to show off their outfit and get a thank you sweet from us. Our judges will award cash prizes to the two best entries.
- ❖ Then more entertainment!
- ❖ Mere Carnival Megadraw tickets will be on sale until 6pm – don't miss out and get some – this is your chance to win **£1,000**.
- ❖ The Megadraw will be done at 6:30 pm and announced immediately. The prize can be claimed later if you are not there.
- ❖ The Procession starts at 7:30pm. As in the past it will head off from Hazzard's Hill, along Salisbury Street, through the Square and along Castle Street. Marshalls and barriers will be there to make things safe. As usual our Carnival Royals and their entourage will be part of the procession. We have heard from the Wessex GP Carnival people that they are excited to be back on show and hope to have a great procession for you to enjoy. Do get an entry form from the Mere Carnival facebook page if you want to join in the procession. There is appearance money and our judges will be making awards to entries so why not have a go yourself!

As usual, we hope you will bring along plenty of change and money for our collectors' buckets and for our collection van. This goes towards paying for the event itself (which costs over £1000 to put on) and then gives the Carnival Committee the opportunity to support local groups with some financial support. Please be generous.

Hope to see you on the day – Mere Carnival is Back!



### Mere Historical Society

The Autumn 2022 Programme of talks for Mere Historical Society gets underway in October. The first talk is on **Tuesday 4 October at 7.30pm** in the Grove Building and is entitled **Environmental Archaeology** by **Dr Ines Lopez-Doriga**. This will be followed by a talk on **Tuesday 11 October at 10.30am** in the Grove Building and will be given by **Richard Backhouse** who will talk about **The Forward Family and its Connection to Mere**.

Details of the Programme to the end of December 2022 can be found at [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://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](mailto:membership@merehistoricalsociety.org.uk).

We still have a vacancy for a volunteer Visits Co-ordinator and so unfortunately have been unable to run summer visits in 2022. However, we would like to reinstate these in 2023 and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to run a trip or take up the Visits Co-ordinator role on our committee.

To get in touch please contact the Chair, Peter Landymore on 228819 or Secretary, Diane Ellis on 861541 or visit the website.

Peter Landymore ☎ 228819 [plandymore@outlook.com](mailto:plandymore@outlook.com)

 [merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)

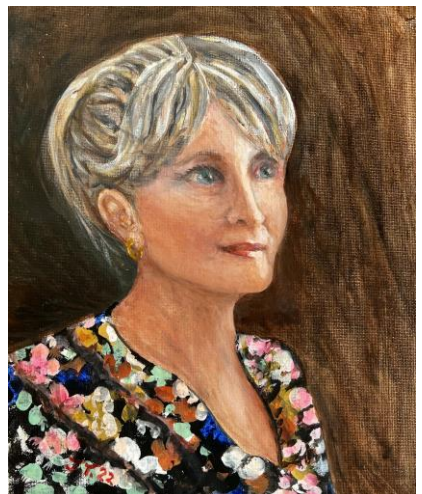
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### Mere Art Group

The Group has met each week during July and August, bar one week, whilst The Grove Building kitchen floor was made good. Attendance during the recent weather has been good.

This month's fine contribution is by Jill Turner - painted in Acrylic on canvas-card. The subject is a local Lady.

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



## Link Scheme

The Link Scheme has continued to be busy over the summer with a total of 79 trips in June and 89 trips in July. As usual the most trips were to Salisbury District Hospital which we went to 46 times and we also did 25 trips to RUH Bath over these two months.



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.

We have welcomed two new drivers recently and are really grateful for their support. If you would like to find out more about driving for the Link please have a look at our website

([www.merelink.org.uk](http://www.merelink.org.uk)) or call the Link number 01747 860096.



We are very grateful for the work of all our volunteers and are looking forward to holding a buffet lunch in September as a thank you for them and their partners.

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

## Shreen Harmony

Another year of singing great songs, sharing good company, and having fun is about to begin!!!

We thoroughly enjoyed our summer concert in The United Reformed Church and were so pleased to have raised £815 for the Charity 'Hope for Tomorrow' – who fund the cancer bus which comes into surgeries saving patients the long journey to hospital.

Shreen Harmony is a very different choir. We are led by the very talented and enthusiastic Caroline Radcliffe – we sing acapella, four-part harmony. You do not need to read music, there is no audition, just enjoy singing. The choir performs a variety of musical genres from around the world, including traditional British, African, Eastern European, Spiritual and American folk.

Just come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. to the United Reformed Church and see what you think. We are a very friendly group and look forward to seeing you or why not check us out on Facebook?

*Sandra Fisher* ☎ 861980

### Mere Drama Society

Huge thanks to everyone who came to our play reading back in August. Your response was heart-warming! And finding such support we are now able to cast our pantomime so that everyone who came to the play reading, and those who were unable to be there but want to join in, has a part. If you haven't heard from us already (we're really fired up with enthusiasm!), we want to let you know that rehearsals begin on **Tuesday September 6th promptly at 7.30 p.m.** in the Lecture Hall. Scripts will be distributed, and this will be followed by a preliminary read-through. Then it's just two-and-a half months to the First Night! Oh - the Pantomime is based on 'Aladdin' (the chap with the magic lamps) but re-written by MADS members to have lots of Mere references and jokes. It's title is 'A Ladd in Mere' (you see what we mean!). It's all going to be great fun and we're hugely looking forward to getting started. See you on the 6th.

### Friends of the Museum

Although it's still technically summer, the Friends are already planning their first fund-raising event of the new season. It will be a QUIZ, held on Friday September 30th at 7 for 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Buildings. Come in ready-made teams of four if you wish, OR just as you are, and we'll get you into a team on the night. This is always a very enjoyable evening, and what is more, there are prizes! There is also a raffle, and refreshments too, so it is what you might call a win-win event! We'll remind you next month of the details, but do pop the date in your diaries now before the autumn takes over!

## Letter from the Churches

*Mere has a new Catholic priest called Fr. Francis Eyo, who is based at St Luke and St Teresa Church, Wincanton. We're delighted to welcome Fr. Francis to our community, and we asked him a few questions about his life and mission.*

### **Q. Can you tell us something about your family, and home?**

I am from a lovely family of eight girls, and four boys, and growing up in this great family gave me lots of joy. We shared a common life and benefited from the support of our parents. Originally from Nigeria, I lived with my lovely parents and siblings in the southern part of the country known as Cross-River State, a beautiful coastal area, endowed with abundant seafood and fertile land for agriculture.



### **Q. How and why did you decide to become a priest?**

The inspiration to become a catholic priest came after I completed college. I was inspired by the faith of my parents who were committed Catholics and through them I had contacts with some of the priests from the local parish community who encouraged me.

### **Q. Why did you choose the name Francis as a priest?**

My parents gave me the name Francis at my Baptism. I discovered they really liked St. Francis of Assisi and his prayer for Peace. I grew up to like the prayer, “Lord, make me an Instrument of your Peace ...”, often said by my parents during the family morning prayer. I felt inspired by the life of St. Francis when I read his stories, and so I retained the name Francis as a priest. My parents are now deceased and may their souls and all the faithful departed rest in peace, amen.

### **Q. In what other communities have you served?**

I have deep interest in parish ministry, and I have a rewarding and fruitful ministry experiences in many Catholic parishes, schools, and communities where I have served in about twenty years. I worked in Nigeria, the Gambia, Senegal, Wales, and England, in Kent, Slough and London as parochial vicar, parish priest, school manager, foundation governor, youth chaplain, spiritual director/counsellor, pastoral team leader, administrator, and community project supervisor.

### **Q. What are your hopes and plans for the parish?**

The Parish Community in Wincanton, and the surrounding communities, such as Mere, have many good and wonderful people, and I am happy to serve as the parish as parish priest since May 1st 2022. So far, my ministry in the parish is bearing fruits and I can see the joy participation of many in the weekly liturgical celebrations and other church activities. I hope for the very best with the wonderful people of the parish. There is willingness to participate, and it is my prayer and hope that the good Lord will build us into a great Eucharistic Family, united in faith, love, and service.

## Q. What is your message to local residents?

We are a friendly and welcoming community of Jesus; all are welcome in this place of worship and friendship. As friends of Jesus, we have so much to learn from one another. With the help of God, we can all contribute to building an attractive life of solidarity and community for all. Please connect with us wherever you are - by phone 0196334408 and by email: [hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton.org.uk) and if you would like a copy of our weekly bulletin, kindly share your email contact with us.

*Interview by Dr. Alex Channer, 5 August 2022*

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Copy date for **October** Issue

Closing deadline is: 4:00pm on **FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER.**

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

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

## Mere Film Shows / Moviola – finally!

It is great to be able to inform you of the important dates for your film diaries: **Friday 14th October** and **Thursday 24th November**. As before, doors will open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Free tea and coffee will be provided beforehand allowing you to catch up with others about all things film and cinema.

On Friday 14th October we re-start with Phantom of the Open [12A] starring Mark Rylance (an Academy Award winner from Bridge of Spies) and Sally Hawkins. This is the true story of Maurice Flitcroft who managed to gain entry to the 1976 British Open Qualifying Golf tournament despite being a novice at the sport. Both Mark Rylance and the film received excellent reviews for this heart-warming comedy. Our second film will be The Duke [12] with Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent. Moviola is unable to provide copies of posters and tickets now but we are keen to keep the price as before at £6 although we will possibly need to review this in light of the new copying involved. Meanwhile we will be very excited to see lots of you at our community cinema in October!

Tickets available from 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](mailto:rosiejb37@gmail.com)*

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)

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 863424

Mr Richard Wilson 📞 07966 244373

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

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Family Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Parish Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Benefice Service for St Michael's Patronal Festival

*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

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Lay Led Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Holy Communion
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	Benefice Service for St Michael's Patronal Festival

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

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Catch-up
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Lay Led Service
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	Benefice Service for St Michael's Patronal Festival

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)



*The United Reformed Church*

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

Mere Contact: Elaine Laurence ☎ 0740 3845711 [elainelaurence57@gmail.com](mailto:elainelaurence57@gmail.com)

4 <sup>th</sup>	Sun		TBC
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. S. Litchfield (Holy Communion)
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBC
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mrs C. Marsh (Harvest Festival)

*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](mailto:hope@stlukeswincanton)

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

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*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



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