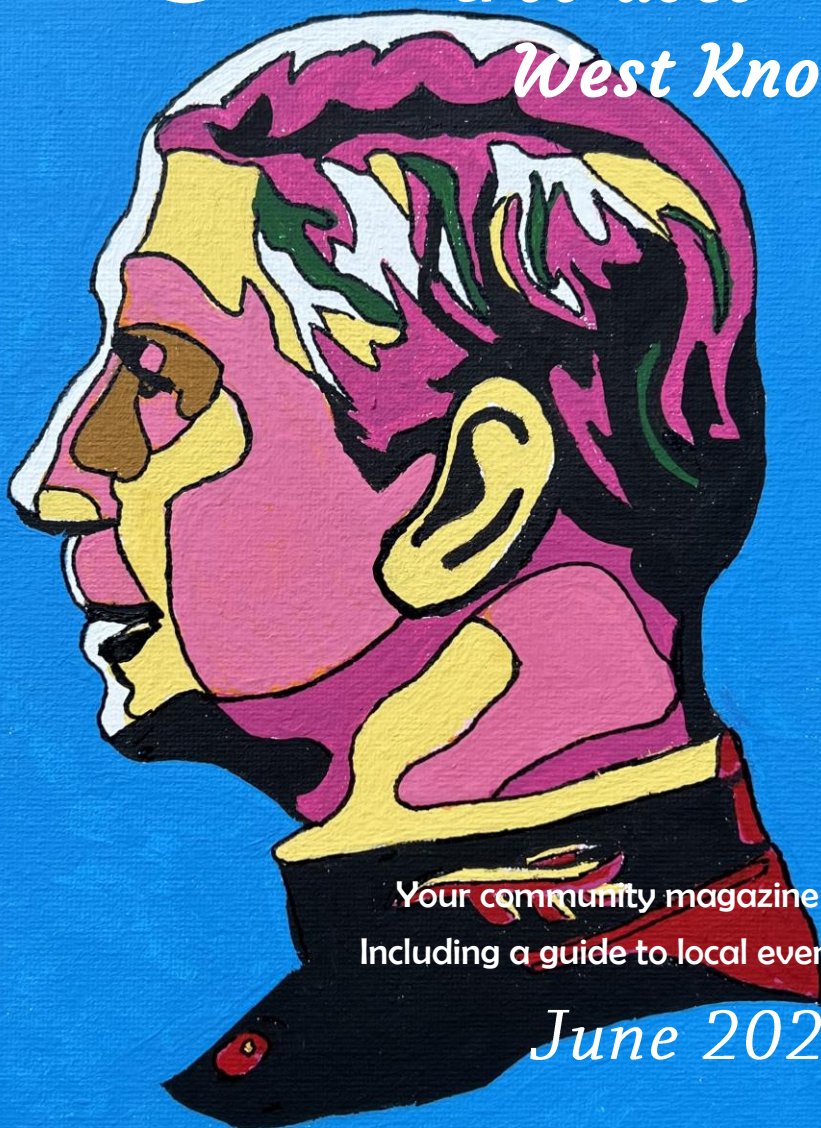


# *Mere Matters*

*& so does  
West Knoyle*



Your community magazine  
Including a guide to local events

*June 2023*

---

Mere Town Council is looking for a Minute Secretary or Committee Clerk. For further information please contact Lindsey Wood 01747 860701 or [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)

---

### **Mere Town Council**

I regard it as an honour to have been elected to be Chair of Mere Town Council by the councillors and I am pleased that Glen Ings will be Vice Chair. My first act will be to say thank you to Lesley Traves for the work and guidance that she has given the Council these past two years. In this, she has been ably and constantly supported throughout by Kate Symonds - thank you Kate.



At our May meeting, we had the opportunity to meet and hear from Sergeant Matthew Roberts. He talked to us about how the police force worked and how this would be seen in Mere. We will be seeing him and PC Michael Obern and PCSO Stuart Hunt regularly. I know that residents have passed on concerns and reported incidents to the Town Council Office and to our Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans but Mat explained that whilst this may be helpful, all incidents and criminal acts should be reported directly to the police. 999 in serious incidents or by calling 101 or through the Wiltshire Police website at <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/>.

A group of councillors have looked at ways in which the routes in and through Mere can be made safer while providing good access. Their suggestions have now been reviewed by a Wiltshire Council Traffic Engineer and a final plan will be drafted based on that consultation. This will then be translated into actions with the agreement of Wiltshire Council. Our local Parish Steward has been relieved of other duties and is solely occupied with potholes. In my opinion, and from conversations with fellow residents, on many of our roads it is complete resurfacing that is needed!

I am pleased that we have been awarded money from Wiltshire Council to promote Mere and attract visitors, we will be writing to interested groups with information on how this funding can be used to support local activities and local enterprise.

By the time this issue has been printed the redevelopment of the Walnut Road Playground should have started, indeed may be finished. This is the first of several projects that we have been able to take on with section 106 funding that comes to Mere from residential developments. From our own town funding we will be improving the Public Toilets in Salisbury Street Car Park and extending the Cemetery. These, and other developments come on top of day-to-day maintenance that takes place across the Town and we are fortunate to have a good team working for us.

Many of my fellow councillors and our Town Clerk have considerable experience of Mere and how it has become what it is - me, I am a newcomer having been here only 18 years! I hope to be able to find out soon, from residents, what they hope for in the future of Mere and to work with our Town Council to realise those ambitions for Mere.

*John Jordan, 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)

---

### **Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes**

I attended the Post Masters conference in Stratford-on-Avon where approaching 200 Postmasters attended. It was acknowledged that many Post Offices are finding life very challenging, increasing cost of energy and the minimum wage. Royal Mail strike and so on. It was acknowledged that many Post Offices cannot survive on the remuneration generated and without retail could not survive. The Government Minister was present and spoke. The issues were raised again today 23rd May, 2023 in Westminster.

Hamish Bell has announced that he is stepping down from the position of Chair for the Chamber of Commerce. I would like to thank him for his many years of voluntary service. Nominations for chairman are now required, one nomination has come forward for Clive Hazzard. Jenny Bell attends Chamber meetings and has set up a successful Mere Jelly group bringing together those who are self-employed or home workers. They meet at Hill Brush on the last Monday of each month, those interested from the area not just Mere, please be aware.

With the help of others we erected around 80 Union flags around Mere as my part for Mere Town Council to celebrate The Coronation of Charles III and Queen Camilla. I would like to thank all those who allowed use of their buildings and the volunteers who helped, Glen Ings, Andrew Bristow, Clive Hazzard, Nick Beale, Mr J Gual and Charlie Perry, and many others who just stopped in the street and helped. I was very pleased to see the other parishes in the Mere Division of Wiltshire Council having their celebratory events, West Knoyle, Kilmington joined with Stourton with Gasper plus Zeals, all having organized events, well done to all. I attended all plus functions in Steep Street and Wellhead allotments, in fact I attended 9 events the day after The Coronation and 2 on the day of The Coronation. (*Sounds like The Vicar of Dibley Christmas Meal - Ed*). The villages had great events, Zeals was huge, The Stourton with Gasper/Kilmington event I had never seen so many vehicles parked outside The Homeguard Club. West Knoyle was so nice to see families sat in the sun and enjoying themselves. See copies of some of my photos in the following pages.

Freak rain storms seem more common, on the 9th May the rain was very heavy and entered some properties again. Mrs Pam Baldock provided the following rainfall figures for April 2023, the readings were taken at Lordsmead at Mere. Total rainfall was 2.94 inches 73.5mm. The wettest day was the 27th when 13.5mm of rain fell and it rained 13 days out of 30. By contrast Penny Fennon recorded for Salisbury Street, Mere, 16.5cm (165mm) of rain falling in April and the wettest day was the 12th, when 3cm (30mm) of rain fell.

Kilmington Parish Council have voted to pursue a reduction from 40MPH to 30MPH speed limit for The Common, readers will need be aware should it is introduced which is likely being reinforced by the Kilmington Parish Council paying 25% of the cost.

I have been asked by Wiltshire Council to share the following survey with my communities.

As part of our Business Plan commitment to improve road safety in the county, Wiltshire Council are planning to apply to the Secretary of State for the power to enforce moving traffic offences. Moving traffic offences, which are currently only enforceable by the police in Wiltshire, include driving offences such as going the wrong way down a one-way street; driving through a No Entry sign; ignoring a weight limit; or turning left or right where it is not permitted.


Local authorities are able to apply for new powers to enforce moving traffic offences and will be able to issue fines to drivers for these offences. In Wiltshire, we have identified an initial six sites that would benefit from enforcement, and we are asking residents for their views on whether these sites are suitable.

The survey is open until 23:59 on Wednesday 28 June. To request a paper copy of the survey, email [highwaynetworkmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:highwaynetworkmanagement@wiltshire.gov.uk) or call 01225 713497. I would assume this will involve automatic number plate recognition cameras (ARP), again I assume giving a further revenue stream to Wiltshire Council.

The £2 single bus fare promotion has been extended until 31 October, and Wiltshire Council are encouraging residents to continue to enjoy cheap and convenient travel until the autumn.

Foster Care Fortnight starts on Monday 15 May and throughout the two weeks Wiltshire Council will be sharing quotes from foster carers on their Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as providing online drop-ins and face-to-face events for residents to come along to. Sorry but again 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. On my travels I note this campaign is not just limited to Wiltshire.

---

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



## Steep Street party.



## Angel Corner - flags



**Seeds for Success** a local youth charity provided a mini bus at a very reasonable cost for the residents of **Lynch Close Mere** to have a day out on Thursday 4th May. Food and shopping for the Coronation.



**Corinne Leonard** welcomed all the residents of **West Knoyle** to the Coronation Celebrations

## Denes Avenue



**Mrs Betty Ingram** in her 90s organised a Coronation Party at her house in Mere, one of her guests was over 100 and has now seen 3 Coronations



A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving to celebrate The Coronation of King Charles III. Sunday 7th May 2023 at 11.00am. **Mrs Jane Hurd** took the service. which lasted less than 30 minutes when 'bubbles' were served. The service included rousing hymns which were sung with much gusto.

**Lynch Close Residents** enjoying the Coronation celebrations.



**North Road Allotment holders**



## **West Knoyle celebrates the King's Coronation**

With the bunting and flags flying we just needed to keep our fingers crossed for good weather and thankfully we had a beautiful sunny Sunday for celebrating the King's Coronation. Villagers with family and friends brought their own picnic and spent an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon catching up with friends and neighbours. The children kept themselves amused playing games and prizes were awarded to those kids who came in fancy dress. The 'bake a cake and donate' stall was popular where cakes and a cuppa were available for a donation. Thank you to those who baked, the cakes were delicious, and to everyone who donated, which the Social Club topped up to £125 and was sent to Julia's House, Childrens Hospices.



Last year, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, it was decided to buy a specially engraved commemorative bench seat for the village. With donations from villagers and the Parish Council it was bought and, recently, work was finished on a paved area to site the bench. So, it was rather fitting that the West Knoyle's new commemorative bench seat was ready for King's Coronation.



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

*Corinne Leonard 07783 157361*

---

## **Save the Children**

**'Annual Family Fun day and Fun Dog Show'** which will be held at **Upper Leigh Farm** on **Sunday, 4th June 2023 - 11.00am-5.00pm.**

---

## **Mere Short Walk (J Way)**

Meet for a short walk around the lanes and paths of Mere at 2p.m. on **June 20<sup>th</sup>** by The Walnut Tree Pub

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

---



## **From Times Gone By!**

### **June 1809**

*Inquest Mere on the body of John Wilkins, late Somerset militiaman, but who had volunteered into the regiment of foot. Going on Wednesday from Mere to Hindon and being somewhat intoxicated, he would take off his clothes, and attempt to cross the pond, but was unfortunately drowned. Verdict accordingly.*

*Salisbury and Winchester Journal*

### **June 1834**

*Caution to Mothers — Mr. Whitmarsh held an inquest during the past week at Mere, on the body of Samuel Thomas Lapham. From the evidence of the mother of the deceased, it appeared that her child was four weeks of age; and that she had boiled a white poppy-head, mixed the liquor with sugar, and given about two large table-spoonfuls of the same to her infant, for the purpose of procuring sleep as well for it as for herself. The medical gentleman who attended the child, found on his arrival...the child was apparently in a dying state. He discovered that it was labouring under the effects of some narcotic poison, and applied the usual remedies for its recovery. For a short time it got much better, but soon relapsed into its former torpor, and died. On examining the body, he found no remains of the poison in the stomach, it having passed into the intestines, and emitted a strong smell of opium. Verdict, That Samuel Thomas Lapham came by his death in consequence of his mother having given him an over-dose of poppy-syrup, for the purpose of procuring sleep, she not knowing the due quantity required.*

*Salisbury and Winchester Journal*

*Martyn Beardsley*

---

## **Mere Bowls Club**

We opened as planned on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Starting with a “spider”, this entailed all bowlers taking part to have one foot in the ditch and then bowling one bowl at a point in the middle of the green, this point is normally marked by a mock up of a spider, hence the name. The bowlers pay a small fee to enter a spider, winning normally a bottle of something nice and alcoholic. This year we nominated the spider in the name of the Alzheimer’s Society; this was to aid a fellow bowler from Spencer Melksham Bowls Club who has been diagnosed with this terrible disease some three years before. To that end we raised the sum of £85, this means that Duncan Baxter has raised over £10,000 since he was diagnosed, a great effort on his part.

Club web site at “<https://www.hugofox.com/community/mere-bowls-club-10160/home/>”.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 860775 [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

---



## **Mere School**

*At the end of this term Mere School will be saying goodbye to Mrs Loxton. She will be retiring after many years of service to education.*

***If you would like to come and say goodbye please pop into school on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 between 9.30 am to 11.30 am or 1.30 pm to 3 pm for some light refreshments, a chat and watch the children ballroom dancing! We look forward to seeing you.***



*Mrs Loxton has shared details of her career below for us all:*

It will be forty years ago this September that I embarked on my BEd degree at Newton Park College of Higher Education (now Bath Spa University College) to begin my teacher training. I emerged in 1986 at the tender age of twenty-one, ready to start the career that has kept me busy ever since.

Now I must be one of the few teachers left who can remember life before the National Curriculum. With my first class of reception children at Milborne Port, I was free to teach more or less what I wanted. There were no demands on getting through schemes of work, no lesson plans... As long as I heard every child read every day, the head was happy and so were we! I loved my days in the classroom and my carefree evenings gallivanting around Somerset with the Young Farmers!

In 1987, I moved on to work in Huish - Yeovil's oldest and flagship school - under the leadership of an enthusiastic new young head where "first hand experiences" were key, much to the horror of the stalwart teachers nearing retirement. In 1990, the year I got married, the first big changes of my career came. Not only did my school move across the Queensway to free up space for a Tesco supermarket, the National Curriculum came into being. We were all duly presented with a spiral bound copy of the first English National Curriculum and told to look after it - I still have mine!

With the advent of the National Curriculum, teachers were told for the first time what we had to teach. But with some team effort devoted to 'cutting and sticking' our photocopied sheets, we managed to share out our new curriculum and develop topics for our children that were pretty similar to what we usually did. Then (to show we were at the forefront of progressive thinking) we produced topic webs and a few ideas of key lessons to show we were covering everything effectively. Infants were rebranded as Key Stage 1 and Juniors as Key Stage 2 but life in school continued to be good.

In 1991, SATS were introduced for Years 2 and 6. As Year 2 teacher, I found myself doing a lot of long-winded activities with the children and marking off on grids what they knew or didn't know. Honestly, we didn't really know what we were doing, but no one was overly concerned. The head told me, after national results were published for the first time, that we didn't have enough children at

Level 3 and that our children were as good as any other schools. So the following year we simply graded our assessments more generously and all was well again.

Emergency staff meetings are rare in school life and are usually called to deliver one stark warning: Ofsted is coming. I still clearly remember our first, in 1994, and everybody sitting in stunned silence when the head announced we'd be having our first inspection – in eighteen months' time! Nowadays we get a day's notice. I've lost count of the inspections I've endured enjoyed. Although each time there is a supposedly new and better inspection regime, *la plus ça change la plus c'est la meme chose*. I can't say I shall miss Ofsted in my retirement.

It was 1998 that brought the biggest change to how I (and all other teachers) taught. In an effort to raise standards the government imposed the extremely prescriptive 'Literacy Hour' on all primary schools. Every teacher was now expected to deliver a precisely timed four-part English lesson every day: a quick introduction would be followed by fifteen minutes of whole class teaching, followed by twenty minutes of group work (the government hadn't quite considered the pitfalls of letting twenty-four children get on 'independently', while the teacher listened to the other six read), followed by the dreaded ten minute 'plenary', a new and baffling term to us all. Exhaustion set in for teachers and children but the government declared the enterprise a great success and promptly introduced the 'Numeracy Hour'. Enabled by the ready availability of computers for teachers, suddenly detailed daily lesson plans had to be written for each and every lesson, a task so onerous that many teachers left the profession, including my year group partner.

I kept teaching, and in 2000, I moved my family to Mere in time to take up my post as reception teacher at Mere First School and enjoy my first of many Mere carnivals! By now I was learning that the world of teaching never stood still and it was just my luck that in this year the government had another one of their much dreaded anticipated 'good ideas': reception infants were going to become part of their new Early Years phase, with a shiny new "play-based" curriculum. At Mere, we set out on a mission to make our learning for the reception children fun and full of play. We came up with many great ideas, although scorching shadow puppets on overhead projectors and letting chocolate burn holes in the microwave were perhaps not our best ones! On one day we had so much fun we didn't hear the fire alarm go off!

In 2004, Duchy Manor Middle School was closed and we became Mere Primary School. I bravely relocated from Key Stage 1 to teach the 'big children' in Year 4. I loved the change in pace and stayed with Year 4 for the next eight years. However in term of work load it was a tough time. Driven by relentless Ofsted initiatives and countless government research reports, schools and teaching changed phenomenally. Every lesson had to be planned and typed up on increasingly complicated gridded formats. More and more information had to be included – learning objectives, differentiation et al. Then every lesson had to be

assessed - more writing and thousands of boxes to tick. Progress and attainment became our watchwords and marking became the bane of every teacher's life. Evenings and weekends were swallowed up by paperwork. It was around this time that the positioning of Yapp's wine merchants on my route home became quite fortuitous.

As the years rolled by, I moved on to teaching Year 5 and then Year 6, where I have been happily installed for the last decade. In 2016, I was thrilled to take up the post of Deputy Headteacher. Change continued in the wider world of education over this time; in September 2014 we were given yet another new National Curriculum and I learned more about Saxons and the subjunctive than I ever anticipated. Michael Gove's "knowledge rich" curriculum was certainly new, although many educationalists have detected more than a whiff of Victorian thinking about it. Nonetheless, the workforce reforms of 2016 have been less divisive, and put the balance of marking, planning and assessment back to a sensible and reasonable level.

As I look forward to my own retirement, I hope that future changes will be focused not only on making children literate and numerate but confident and well-rounded people who will have the skill set for a quickly evolving world. Thankfully the one constant in my career has been the children. They are the reason I went into teaching and, along with many amazing colleagues, the reason I have kept teaching for thirty-seven years. I have had a wonderful and fulfilling career and feel privileged to have touched the lives of over a thousand children. But now as my former students' own children are beginning to filter through the playground gates, the time is right for me to gracefully bow out of teaching. However, having lived here for twenty-three years, I will certainly not be retiring from Mere and look forward to finding a new role in our lovely little town.

*Paula Loxton*

**Connecting Wiltshire**  
Travel made simple

**Get around for £2**

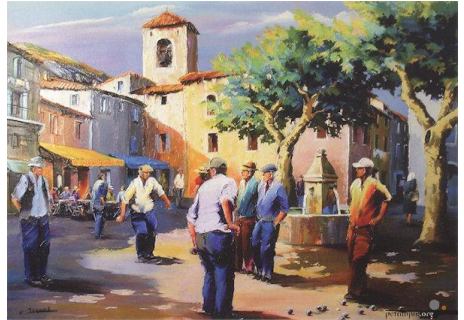
Until 31 October, most single bus fares in Wiltshire are £2 or less [www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/bus](http://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/bus)

**Help for Households**  
HM Government

**Wiltshire Council**

## **Petanque in Mere:**

Mere Mortals Petanque Club is taking time to establish itself (probably the ghastly weather has got something to do with this). However by the time of publication at least a couple of league matches will have been played. The local league has been renamed, following a change of sponsor from Keystone Brewery to Stone Daisy, and is now the Nadder & Stour Petanque League. The league is a fun one and very informal and no great standard is required to participate. Work on the old swimming pool has stopped at two pistes until numbers pick up but novices and all standards of players are welcome to club sessions on Saturday at 10.30am, Tuesday at 6.30pm and Wednesdays at 2.30pm. Why not come and try this great French game for all the family.



Colin Senneck ☎ 706008 [colin2423@sky.com](mailto:colin2423@sky.com)

## **Mere & District Link Scheme**

I said last month that, with the four day junior doctors' strike, it looked like April could be a quieter month and, for once, I was right. After 109 trips in March we did 69 trips in April but the co-ordinators have said May has been busier again. With drivers taking well earned breaks we are finding it more difficult to meet all the requests for trips so **if you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.**

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when 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 remember that our co-ordinators work in their own homes – we do not have an office - so keep calls to 9-5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number.** Also, please try to give us a minimum of 48 hours notice, if at all possible, as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

A final reminder that the **Link Scheme AGM** will be held on **Friday 23 June at 7pm in the Grove Building.** After the meeting we will have a drinks and nibbles social. Everyone is welcome

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



## Wylve Valley Artists in Mere

**Steve Hawkins** launched his study of the demise of sodium street lighting in a book that will become part of the history of Mere. The work is called Sodium. Steve participated in the Wylve Valley Art Trail, stationed in The Butt of Sherry, Mere.



**Mark Dunham** in Salisbury Street at Mere, participated in the Wylve Valley Art Trail, showing his hand sculptured art work in wood. Very skillful pieces he makes.

## Mere Surgery

### Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We are inviting patients registered at the surgery to join our Patient Participation Group (PPG) to improve communication and patient care.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mere Surgery on 01747 860001, email Michele Mason, Practice Manager [michelemason@nhs.net](mailto:michelemason@nhs.net) or visit [www.meresurgery.co.uk](http://www.meresurgery.co.uk) and go to the Patient Participation Group page

### **Merekits - Womens Institute**

The first official meeting of The Merekits WI was held at the Grove Building on 17<sup>th</sup> May. There was a happy buzz of ladies getting acquainted, being involved, and generally enjoying the occasion. We were treated to a demonstration of Indian Block printing by Rachel Wilkinson who then invited us to create our own designs with the paint and materials supplied. Following refreshments, we discussed WI business. Our next meeting is on **21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7:00 pm** and we will be celebrating midsummer's day with a picnic and quiz. If you're thinking that the WI might be for you then you're welcome to bring along picnic goodies to share, meet new friends and have fun at the Grove Building.

Pat Talbot [a.r.talbot@btinternet.com](mailto:a.r.talbot@btinternet.com)

---

### **Mere Snooker Club**

Mere Snooker Club is thriving, but still looking for new members. Whatever your skill level, you would be welcome to join this friendly club.

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

---

### **Mere Gardening Club**

There will be no meeting at the Grove Building this month as we are having a visit to Bere Marsh Farm

Our Scarecrow Festival is fast approaching and over the weekend of 17th and 18th June all the scarecrows will be up and around the town.

Trails will be available for £1 from the library and the Angel Tea Rooms and on the day from the United Reformed Church in the afternoons.

Refreshments along with a plant sale will be available on both afternoons at the Church and The Angel Tea Rooms. Please complete your trails as ten completed trails will be selected from all those returned to win a prize.

So PLEASE keep those scarecrow entries coming in, let's put Mere on the map!

We are very thankful to all our sponsors, F J Chalke, L C Hill Funeral Services, Jeans Electrical, The Beauty Box, The Butt of Sherry and Walton House Antiques who have helped to make our Scarecrow Festival bigger and better.

Les Manwaring Chair Mere Gardening Club

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

---

### **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

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

### Venue Key for Diary :

**AYP** - Andy Young Pavilion  
**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  
**VH** - Visit Hillbrush  
**WT** - Walnut Tree Inn

1	Thurs	10:00	<b>Art Group</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reform Church	URC
		11:00	<b>Rhyme Time</b> (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	<b>Quilters</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30	<b>Shreen Harmony</b> (every Thurs)	URC
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	17:45	<b>Yoga</b> (every Mon)	L
		18:00	<b>Scouting</b> (every Mon)	GB
		09:30	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon)	L
6	Tues	09:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		09:00	<b>Little Angels</b> (every Tues)	GB
		09:10	Walking Group (Mary & Roger)	Town Triangle
		18:20	<b>Zumba</b> (every Tues)	L
7	Wed	14:30	<b>Pilates</b> (every Weds)	L
		18:30	<b>Karate</b> (every Weds)	L
			<i>Tai-Chi, Pilates, Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
8	Thurs	14:00	<b>Health Diabetes Prevention</b>	L
		14:00	<b>Rubber Bridge</b> (every Thurs)	L
		17:00	<b>Girlguiding</b> (every Thurs)	GB
			<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony.</i>	
9	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
10	Sat	09:00	St Michaels Fete	GB
11	Sun	19:20	<b>MADS Rehearsal</b>	L
12	Mon		<i>Scouting, Yoga</i>	
13	Tues	14:30	<b>Mothers Union</b>	GB
			<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
14	Wed		<i>Karate, Railway Modellers</i>	
15	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Guiding</i>	
16	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
17	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
18	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
19	Mon		<i>Scouting, Yoga</i>	
20	Tues	14 :00	Mere Walking Group (Janet Way)	WT
			<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	

21	Weds	09:00	Mere Jelly	VH
		09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds) GB	
		14:00	Fitness & Friendship GB	
		19:00	Merekits Womens Institute GB	
			<i>Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>	
22	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	
23	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		19:00	Link Scheme AGM GB	
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
24	Sat	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers L	
			<i>Fair Trade Stall &amp; Coffee Morning</i>	
25	Sun	14 :00	Walking Group (Mary & Roger)	CP
26	Mon		<i>Scouting, Yoga</i>	
27	Tues		<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
28	Weds	14:30	PennyBank Writers L	
			<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>	
29	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Girlguiding, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	
30	Fri	19:30	MADS Quiz GB	
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
			<b>Events shown in RED are not confirmed.</b>	
			<i>Times, events and venues shown cannot be guaranteed as being correct</i>	

## Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly brings local creatives, home workers, freelancers, small business owners and entrepreneurs together in a relaxed, informal, working environment to maximise creativity and minimise the isolation that being your own boss or working from home can bring. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at Visit Hillbrush from 9 am - 12 noon. Join us for the morning of the 28th or just drop in for a coffee and a chat.



Jenni Bell ☎ 860400





# SUMMER FETE

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

**2pm**



CREAM TEAS



PLANTS

in the Church, Churchyard, & Grove Building



BOOKS



BRIC A BRAC



BOTTLE TOMBOLA

**AND SO MUCH MORE....**

## **St Michael's Fair - Bottle Stall**

The Friends of St Michael's are running the Bottle Stall at this year's Church Fete on Saturday 10th June. Everyone loves a flutter on the Bottle Stall but we need a great supply of bottles to maximise funds for the church. Alcoholic or otherwise!!

During the first week of June we will be knocking on doors and hope you will be generous. If no one calls on you I am happy to receive donations at 4 The Square (next to the Coop).

Maggie Durkee ☎ 860163

### **A Greener Future for the Church of St. Michael's?**

The proposal to install an array of Solar panels on the south roof of the South Aisle of St. Michael The Archangel has the full support of the Parochial Church Council and The Friends of St. Michael's. The only place from which the panels will be visible is the top of the tower. From the ground and from neighbouring houses the panels will be hidden by the walls which enclose this section of roof on all sides.

If approved by the Planning Authority, the panels will make an important contribution towards offsetting the electricity bill and, by means of a storage battery and additional pew heaters, they will reduce dependence on the gas boiler for heating the church.

Sponsorship will be needed to fund this project which it is hoped will follow on from repair of the Tower and Pinnacles now being actively pursued.

*Friends of St Michael's Church*





St Michael's Fete  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 2-4pm**



After 3 years without a Fete, it's almost here! All we need now is fine weather and lots of people to come.

The Fete will be opened at 2.00pm by Revd. Simon Evans.

Stalls will include Preserves, Plants, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Bottle Tombola, Paperback Books, DVD/CDs, Jewellery/Accessories, Toys, Water into Wine, FairTrade, and Cream Teas

There will be an Art Exhibition, a display of Dog Obedience to Music by DogWise, a session by The Ukes at the Butt, tours of the tower and bells, poems by the Pennybank Writers, the local firefighters with a fire engine for the children to explore (duties permitting), and a demonstration of handbell ringing.

To decorate the Church, we would like to have jam jars of garden flowers so bring along your contribution the day before.

Children from Mere School will be showing their decorated pots, grown with cat-grass for "hair", with prizes for the two best ones.

There will be lots of fun things for children to have a go at - Hook the Duck, Slap the Rat, Coconut Shy, Lucky Bucket a candy floss stall and an ice cream van.

Before the event, a Quiz sheet will be on sale for £1 with a prize for the winner.

Contact Ann Dethick for an entry form – phone number below.

Tickets for the Grand Draw will be on sale next door to the Post Office on 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May and 3<sup>rd</sup> June and at the Fete with lots of exciting, valuable prizes.

If you haven't already been roped-in and would like to help, please contact one of us.

*Ann Dethick 863498, Jean Knapp 860142, Angela Mc Donald 861602.*

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

Last month on a particularly wet afternoon we were transported to Africa and heard a very interesting talk about TUSK a charity which works with wardens protecting the wildlife, especially the elephants. Our speaker was excellent and we were very happy to support it.

As the Church fete is being held on **June 10<sup>th</sup>** and many of our members will be baking cakes for the popular cake stall once again, we have decided not to have a meeting but look forward to our July meeting on **11<sup>th</sup> July**. We would also ask if anyone would like to make a cake for our stall and deliver it to The Grove Building on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> June it would be so appreciated, with a description of the ingredients used in making it. The stall is very popular, selling out very quickly.

The Salisbury Mother's Union Diocese has a 6-berth holiday home at Rockley Park, Poole in Dorset for families wanting a chance to get away and relax. Perhaps you are coping alone or feel that this could give you or your family a well-earned break. The school holiday dates are now fully booked so they now need to find families with under school aged children, couples, at very competitive prices then this may be for you. There may be funding for those who need it.

Please contact the Mother's Union telephone: 01722 333402 or 07812 365906 or email [murockleyholidayhome@gmail.com](mailto:murockleyholidayhome@gmail.com) and leave a message with your name and contact details.

We look forward to seeing some of you at our cake stall on **June 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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

---

## **Mere surgery event for carers**

**5-11 June 2023**



Carers Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.

Mere surgery are hosting an event for carers in our community on Thursday 8th June 2023 at United Reformed Church, Mere 12.30pm to 2pm. Please come along for a cup of tea and cake and meet other carers in the community

*Rachel Harrison Mere surgery*



### **Mere Walking Group**

Two walks this month, firstly a walk from Gillingham to Mere on **Tuesday 6th June**. We catch the bus from the triangle at 9.10 a.m (£2.00 single) then walk back to Mere via fields and footpaths with stunning views. It's about 5 miles, and should be fine underfoot, if uneven in parts. No stiles that I remember (maybe one or two!), and no steep gradients. Everyone welcome. Optional drink and/or lunch at The Walnut Tree.

The second walk (approx 4 miles) will be on **Sunday June 25th**, meet 2pm, Salisbury Street car park, to share cars to East Knoyle, again all welcome.

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

---

### **Mere Theatre Club**

At the end of May we're off to Hampton Court - a different kind of theatrical experience! In June we're back in Bath for a musical. We usually take a break in July and August returning for the autumn programme, still being devised.

If you fancy joining us it's still only £5 per household per year and who knows where it may take you...

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

---

### **Visit by The William Barnes Society.**

On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> in glorious sunshine, members of the Society mad a visit to Mere to visit those places associated with William Barnes the Dorset Dialect poet. He was a schoolmaster here from 1823 to 1835 initially in the Market House loft and afterwards running a boarding school with his wife Julia in The Chantry. The day included a short talk and accompanying poems on his time here as a schoolmaster, a walk to view the sites associated with him and finally a visit to The Chantry gardens, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Wilson. The day was enhanced by a magnificent display of the artefacts held in the Museum by Rose Heesom and a performance of Linden Lea by members of Shreen Harmony in the gardens itself - all fuelled by tea and coffee and magnificent cakes and biscuits provided by Friends of St Michael's! Members who attended commented on the welcome and friendliness of the people of Mere including The Butt of Sherry and the Angel Tea Rooms where many had lunch. And members of the choir were delighted to be singing in the very garden about which Linden Lea was written:

With 'painted birds' 'whistling,' 'up on the timber tops' and 'in cloudless sunshine overhead' . It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all with many thanks to all those who helped in any way.

Janet Way

---

## **Editorial**

Last month I wrote in regard the worrying number of copies of Mere Matters not collected at the end of the last few months. I have received some 23 emails expressing support and wanting the magazine to continue but I can only conclude that the remaining 6,000 odd residents of Mere and the surrounding area are ambivalent. This presents us with something of a conundrum.

Richard Jefferies Editor ☎ 863425 [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)

---

## **Mere Film Shows / Moviola - Update**

Since our last film different ideas have been considered for us to be able to continue in some form with our Mere Film Shows, but we regret to say that we have made the decision to mothball Moviola. With very little money left, it isn't possible to continue in the current format. Different venues and formats, including a film week, have been costed but, at the moment, these haven't proven possible. However, the community being able to access films is still so important to us and we would like to gauge interest in a Film Club with shared transport to other local film venues. Please email me on [rosiejb77@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejb77@gmail.com) if you would be interested in this! We also have a very modest pot of money left over and would welcome any local charity groups who would be interested in receiving a donation. Please send any requests for us to consider to the email above. Deadline June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, I would like to thank all the cinema goers over the years who have supported the venture and also a huge thank you to the volunteers who have helped keep it running. I'm not aware of all the people involved in the past and apologise for not naming you all but I would like to especially mention Mary White who led the Film Shows for so many years and to Jean Young, Bridget Hailes and David Lamb who have been a rock-solid support crew for so many years selling tickets, serving teas, washing up, clearing chairs, assembling the screen, and munching a few biscuits along the way.

Rosie ☎ 861567 [rosiejb37@gmail.com](mailto:rosiejb37@gmail.com)

---

## **Fair Trade in Mere**

More stock is being added weekly for me to buy from the Company set up in place of Traidcraft- 'We are Fair Trade'. Therefore, I will be able to continue holding my stalls. This month they will be on:

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June** after the morning service at St Michael's Church and

**Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>** at the URC Coffee morning

I hope to see you at either.

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

---

## **Letter from the Churches -**

I love stories. I usually have at least two books 'on the go' at the same time.

Books are to me like music or paintings are to others. They draw me into their world, whether it be a factual or fictional story. I also find that it is often in the most unlikely secular stories that a phrase, a word or maybe an anecdote prompts me to stop and reflect. This in turn often leads me to a Bible reference.

*Take, for example, the following story which led me to Hebrews 11:1 (Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.)*

There once was a French aerialist called Charles Blondin. He had an death defying act whereby he would walk across a tightrope suspended over Niagara Falls. On an occasion in 1859 he embellished this feat and walked across whilst pushing a wheelbarrow in which there was a bag of cement. The gathered crowds watched with bated breath. When he reached the other side the crowd cheered wildly.

To the crowd's amazement Blondin turned to them and announced his intention of doing the same act again but this time he would take a man in the barrow. Blondin then turned to a group of news-reporters. Focusing on one of the reporters he asked the man if he had faith that he, Blondin, had the ability to succeed. The reporter assured Blondin that he had complete faith in him. Smiling Blondin then asked the man to get into the barrow. Within seconds the reporter had melted away into the crowd.

There is a difference between faith in a general sense and a faith so strong that full commitment is given without regard to personal cost.

We all have different faith beliefs and experiences which lead us to different hopes and expectations for the future. Now in June we are halfway through the year. At the beginning of January we all had different hopes for the year ahead and faith that they would be achieved. As with all things some hopes will have been achieved maybe even exceeded, whereas others will have fallen short. Some faiths will have been strengthened, while others will have been tested so that the faith and hope, like the reporter who melted into the background, will have disappeared.

As June progresses I pray that those whose hopes have been achieved and faith has been confirmed may continue in strength and commitment as new challenges arise; while for those whose faith and hopes have been challenged and destroyed, I pray that you may find the strength to prepare for tomorrow's new hopes and find some joy in the new days and months to come.

*Christine Marsh, Licensed Lay Minister at St Michael the Archangel Mere and St Mary West Knoyle*

---

## **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 Communion Family Service
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	07:30 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

### ***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	09:30	Holy Communion

### ***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 in the Village Hall
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	Lay led service
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Holy Communion

**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	11:00	Mrs Jane Hurd
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Christine Marsh
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr David Burfitt
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev Peter Clark (Holy Communion)

**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 Office: 01963 34408 [hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com](mailto:hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com)

Coffee morning at Visit Hillbrush on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.

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:	<a href="mailto:admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk">admin@grovebuildingmere.org.uk</a>	☎ 0771 471 8625
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 861063
URC Church Hall:	Mrs E Laurence	☎ 07403 845711

**Mere Information**

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of "Mere Matters", please visit [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)



## **Mere Day Centre**

We had a fabulous party on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate the King's Coronation which was well attended. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and wore either fascinators or hats. We sang good old fashioned songs, Carol Payne did a royal quiz for us and we had a lovely buffet. Thanks to Asda in Gillingham for the food donations, Sue Slack and Ann Lloyd for the cakes and all of our lovely volunteers and guests for making it a right royal knees up!

We are currently in the middle of three art workshops provided by *Celebrating Age Wiltshire* with the theme being 'Noticing Nature'. We are looking forward to having a talk from Wiltshire Air Ambulance in the near future and also our annual summer cream tea party.

We still have a couple of places for new guests, so if you would like any further information about attending the day centre, please get in touch with the manager, Sandie Hawkins (details below).

The charity is currently looking to recruit new Trustees. Our Trustees are volunteers that are responsible for overseeing the running of the day centre, it's policies and governance. Are you an enthusiastic person with a few hours to spare each month? Do you have any skills that might enrich our charity? Would you just like to make a difference to the lives of older people in your community? If so, we would love to hear from you!

*For further details about becoming a Trustee, please contact Jane Mason, our Chair of Trustees on 01747 863926 or email: [chair@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:chair@meredaycentre.org.uk).*

*Sandie Hawkins, Manager ☎ 07835 272406 [manager@meredaycentre.org.uk](mailto:manager@meredaycentre.org.uk)*

---



The Suchana project in West Bengal continues to flourish, reaching 25 'adivasi' villages already and currently developing 5 additional learning centres in remote areas,

from its original base in Khanjanpur village. Their imaginative supplementary education programme enabling children from otherwise left out rural communities to get a foothold in mainstream education and society has made a huge positive difference in the lives and communities of many people over the last 20 years. They have also had recognition for their pioneering work in first language teaching for adivasi children, and are currently helping government schools with this approach.

The Mere Suchana support group has made a significant contribution to Suchana's work through many enjoyable fund-raising activities over the last 14 years, and hopes that this work will continue. However, the 7 members of our support group are all getting older and some are getting frailer and we are beginning to recognise that, unless some people with more youthful energy are able to join us, we may not be able to continue much longer. If you would like to help support this small but life-enhancing project, we would love to hear from you. Everyone is welcome to a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at Holly Cottage, North Road (home of Alison and Tom Beall - near the junction with Upper Water Street) from **10.30 am on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**. Hope to see you there, if you can come.

Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, Chair, Support Group [judithvthompson@aol.com](mailto:judithvthompson@aol.com)

---

## **Mere Rivers Group Nature Notes June – August**

We think everyone would agree that the months of March to April were cold and wet. Early spring seemed to start well with February being exceptionally dry and often sunny. There were drifts of snowdrops under hedges, on the banks of the Ashfield river and in local woods. The brimstone butterfly was seen a few times. Then came the very wet March and who would want to go out in that weather. However, nature always give us something to enjoy and, if you did venture out, there were daffodils everywhere; in peoples gardens, along the roadside verges and in the woods. Stourhead woods were full of the wild welsh daffodils. It was wonderful to see these small daffodils forming a yellow carpet under the trees. April came and with it the lesser celandines and primroses gave us two different yellows to enjoy. From the middle of April the bluebells were out replacing the daffodils yellow carpet under the trees with their beautiful blue. Finally the trees were coming into leaf displaying the many greens of spring. By the beginning of May birds were singing their early morning chorus, marking their territories, insects were becoming prevalent and pollinators were foraging for nectar.

June is the start of summer when there is so much wildlife and nature to see and hear. The dawn chorus will reach it's loudest with all the migratory birds having returned to Britain for breeding. It is worth waking early and either opening a window or standing outside just to listen to it. The male millers thumb fish or bullhead will be reaching the end of its spawning. Their eggs will have been laid underneath stones or in pits and the male will have guarded them attentively. Throughout the summer the water voles will be busy building their burrows in the banks of our waterways for their young. Dragonflies will be visiting our waterways and garden ponds. Butterflies will be seen in gardens and the surrounding countryside. They particularly love the wild marjoram that is abundant on both Castle and Long Hill. Hedgehogs will be mating and rearing their hoglets, Please be careful when cutting or strimming long grass as hedgehogs like to sleep in it during the day.

We are truly lucky to live where there is a wide range of habitat, providing a variety of wildlife. So we wish you a beautiful summer with plenty of opportunities to enjoy our wildlife.

Lynne Bann ☎ 860174

Copy date for the **JULY/AUGUST 2023** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

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 & District Railway Modellers - The Mere 2023 Model Railway Exhibition

This our ninth exhibition, highlights layouts of all sizes and gauges giving the visitor an excellent representation of what the hobby has to offer. Most of the layouts can be transported in the average hatchback as some are for sale. We welcome you to talk to our members and exhibitors and to enjoy the/ local catering that Nancy and her team provide.

*Tom Snook tomsnook29@hotmail.co.uk*

— [www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk](http://www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk) —

# **MERE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023**  
**10am - 4pm**



**14 Layouts**  
**Refreshments**  
**Free Car Parking**

**Mere Lecture Halls**  
**Salisbury Street**  
**Mere BA12 6HA**

— [www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk](http://www.mererailwaymodellers.co.uk) —

## Mere Carnival

We all enjoyed the celebrations for the Kings Coronation and now the Carnival Committee need to get to work and ensure that Mere's Annual Carnival is just as well organised and enjoyable as that great event.



We are in the final stages of planning a number of events over the next few months on the run up to the actual carnival itself. We will of course keep everyone informed as to what is going on and give you dates for your diaries on a regular basis.

Firstly we now have the Megadraw Raffle Tickets which we will be selling at all of our events and in outlets across Mere. Once again we have a huge £1000 cash prize for one lucky winner so please if you see our ticket seller volunteers please help to make them smile by purchasing your tickets.

Secondly our first event will be a Bingo evening at Mere Social Club with super prizes and 2 bonus rounds with cash prizes. The date for your diaries is **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of June**. Doors open at 7pm for eyes down at 7-30

We will also be holding the second of our fund raisers in the Square on Saturday **24<sup>th</sup> of June** at 10am which is a grand cake and Megadraw ticket sale. The cake sale will be at Jean Young's garage which for those that do not know is adjacent to the Post Office, so please come along and get yourself a fabulous cake or two. There will be cakes of all sizes and flavours which have been lovingly baked by our volunteers.

I hope to see you at the Cake sale, and don't forget there will be members of the committee on hand if you have any questions for us.

*Mel Wilkinson Chairman Mere Carnival Committee 2023*

---

## Mere Social Club

For those newcomers to Mere we are situated in White Road, at the top of Hazards Hill.

We are a membership club, but anyone is welcome to come and try us before committing to our very reasonably priced membership.

Here we have 2 skittle alleys, 2 pool tables and darts boards.

We are home to several skittles teams, a karate club, and the Hot Rock Carnival Club

Once a month we have a music night with either a live band or a karaoke evening.

At our next event we will be presenting **SLIDESTORM**, a three piece rock band, on Saturday 24th June, from 8.30pm. Free entry. Come along and join us

---





### **Best in Show designed for Horatio's Garden**

UK-based charity that nurtures wellbeing after spinal injury in vibrant sanctuaries in NHS spinal centres, Horatio's Garden Chelsea is an adaptive garden that puts the priorities of all those with different mobility needs at its heart.

The first garden on Chelsea's famous main avenue that has mobility needs at its heart will be relocated to the Princess Royal Spinal Cord Injuries Centre in Sheffield in 2024. It will be eight times the size of the Chelsea show garden and become the eighth and latest of the charity's gardens at NHS spinal centres.

Dr Olivia Chapple, Founder and Chair of Trustees, Horatio's Garden said :“To be presented with the Best in Show award feels incredible. We are so grateful to Project Giving Back for this wonderful opportunity and Harris Bugg Studio for pushing the boundaries and creating such a thoughtful, pioneering and exquisite garden. This will have such an important legacy in improving the lives of thousands of people in Sheffield and every donation helps us reach our target to make this garden a reality.”

Earlier in the day the garden was presented with a Gold Medal. Speaking about the awards, Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg from Harris Bugg Studio, said: “We are so delighted to win both a gold medal and Best in Show for this garden. From the very start, the charity's mission really spoke to us. Connecting people with nature is at the heart of everything we do at Harris Bugg Studio and this garden reflects all the stories and needs of the people we spent months listening to before even picking up a pencil to design. This garden is a story of people coming together to make something very special. From the inspiring individuals that make up the transformative community that is Horatio's Garden to all the dedicated and talented people that worked with us to create the garden - from the contractors to the skilled British craftspeople to the horticulturalists and planting team - the spirit of all of those people made this gold medal a reality.”

Planting is layered to accommodate different ways of seeing, a garden room providing welcome relief from the busy ward. Smooth, cement-free terrazzo paths are patient-friendly, environmentally-friendly and aesthetically beautiful, with a 77 percent reduced carbon footprint compared to regular cement.



# Teeandee Productions

Web Design  
Web Hosting  
Domains

**Mob: 07799 325214**  
**[www.teeandee productions.com](http://www.teeandee productions.com)**