



Mere Matters

*& so does
West Knoyle*

Your community magazine
Including a guide to local events

October 2023



MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2023

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday 11 October

| Time | Event | Venue | Price |
|---------|---|-------|-------|
| 2.30 pm | Jennie Elias – A Biography of Zeals House | URC | £10 |
| 4.15 pm | Rupert Robson – The Sentient Robot (AI) | URC | £10 |
| 7.00 pm | Martin Williams, The King Is Dead, Long Live the King | URC | £10 |

Thursday 12 October

| | | | |
|----------|---|-----|-----|
| 11.00 am | Libby Page – The Vintage Shop of Second Chances | StM | £10 |
| 2.30 pm | Rebecca Struthers – Hands of Time | StM | £10 |
| 4.15 pm | Roger Morgan Grenville – Across a Waking Land | StM | £10 |
| 7.00 pm | Fergus Butler-Gallie – Touching Cloth | StM | £12 |

Friday 13 October

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----|-----|
| 11.00 | Tom Fort – Rivets, Trivets & Galvanised Buckets | URC | £10 |
| 2.30 pm | Claire Fuller – The Memory of Animals | URC | £10 |
| 4.15 pm | Arthur Snell - How Britain Broke the World | URC | £10 |
| 6.30 pm | Annual party for 'Friends' of the MLF | GB | |

Saturday 14 October

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|----------|--|--------|-----|
| 10.30 am | Felice Harding – The Tennis Champion Who Escaped The Nazis | The GB | £10 |
| Midday | Siobhan Daniels – Retirement Rebel | The GB | £10 |
| 2.00 pm | Tom Parfitt – High Caucasus | The GB | £10 |

URC: United Reform Church **StM:** St Michaels Church **GB:** Grove Building

Mere Town Council

At our September Town Council meeting the police were represented by Inspector Harmsworth who talked to councillors about how they will be working in our area. We are hoping that he will also contribute, each month, to Mere Matters to give you current information. It was pleasing to see a good police presence at the Mere Carnival and we are hoping that Mere has the reassurance of seeing police in our town and across the parish. While I mention the Carnival, a big thank you to the committee for the huge amount of work that they put in to make it happen and to all of the masqueraders, float builders and performers and majorettes who made the procession a delight for my old eyes and a great treat for the many youngsters along the route. I am retiring from the carnival team and hope that some of the people who watched the Carnival will join the committee to help with future years.

We heard from residents in the public session, which is an opportunity to put ideas and requests to all of the council. Do come to the meeting and tell the Council about what you would like to happen in Mere. After the public session there is an agenda space where we can discuss your ideas or comments. We will soon be setting our annual budget and before that looking at priorities for the coming year, so now is a good time to tell us what you think is important.

The Town Council is putting in requests for some improvements to signage and road marking to help make the flow of traffic safer for all road users to Wiltshire Council's LHFIG (Local Highway and footway improvement group) for this area. We will wait to see what can be agreed and then how much of the costs will be paid for out of our precept.

In September, I asked for residents to look after their hedges where they affect the footways and roads and it is pleasing to see some work being done, thank you. This month, I am following on from requests to help improve the state of the Shreen. I am a member of the Mere Footpath Group who have a long history of helping maintain paths around the parish for the benefit of residents and visiting walkers and know first-hand how volunteers can help improve our area. There was also a Mere Rivers Group but they are short of people to help. If you can help with some time and effort, please let me know or look further on in this issue to see their contribution and who to contact. Riparian owners (people who own land alongside rivers) have some responsibilities as well as privileges but they can benefit from some volunteers to help.

Finally, we are part of Wiltshire and, like the town council, Wiltshire Council is planning for the future. The consultation for the Wiltshire Local Plan begins on Wednesday, 27th September, with in-person events being held across the county to enable communities to find out more. There are drop-in events around Wiltshire and a live webinar-style event on Microsoft Teams. People can just turn up to the in-person events, but they'll need to register beforehand for the online event which takes place between **6.30pm – 8pm on Tuesday, 10th October**. The Wiltshire Local Plan sets out the vision and framework for housing, infrastructure and land for employment growth for the next 15 years. Once adopted, all planning applications will be determined against the Plan, making it the most important place-shaping document for Wiltshire. The drop-in event closest for Mere residents will take place on Wednesday, 4th October between **3pm-7pm at The Nadder Centre, Weaveland Road, Tisbury, SP3 6HJ**. To find out more and to sign up for the online event, people should go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-plan

*John Jordan, Chair, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.
lindseywood@merewilts.org ☎ 860701 🌐 merewilts.org*

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

I am pleased to see that the dropped kerb by Mere Social Club has been reinstated along with the removal of the dip by Yapp Bros that held water, which splashed walkers. As I write the contractors are returning to further repair the area by Yapp Bros as the Wiltshire Officer who must be thanked, for noticing the contractor had not covered an area as large as was requested by Wiltshire Council, therefore the contractor must return at no cost to the council and finish the work requested.

I attended a resilience event in Tidworth, it was most interesting. I hope no flood water reaches any house however we had a demonstration that a polythene sheet is required behind the bags to make a near water tight seal. The possibility of National Power cuts was discussed, should this happen we were informed mobile phone transmission would only last for 30 minutes to 2 hours during a power cur. We were also informed copper telephone lines will now cease on 31st December, 2025. A new service called Voice can replace the traditional phone. A battery backup can be provided to all those in need. We were informed the battery would last two hours, in my opinion this is too short of a time, traditional phone lines in my experience during a power cut, functioned almost indefinitely.

Kilminster Parish Council tried hard to get ultrafast full fibre broadband to all the village not just part as now is. Having entered into discussions with BDUK, Wiltshire Council have now put a hold on this. Dedicated providers were discussed, I understand Wessex will be offering a service in Mere, extending its

roll out early next year to some properties in the centre of Mere and eventually the whole of Mere, they already cover West Knoyle and other areas. Other providers may also offer a fibre service.

I stated last month "Note Wiltshire Council are now producing shared ownership properties as well as houses for rent." Wiltshire Council agreed a major investment to provide up to 250 homes to support long term housing need in Wiltshire. Some of these dwellings will be in Tisbury. Stone Circle was set up by Wiltshire Council, Stone Circle will provide these homes. Some of these will be rented and some private sale. Wiltshire Council is the 100% shareholder of Stone Circle and provides finance to the company.

Grants for highway and footpath improvements at the South West Wilts Area Board LHFIB meeting will not cover the number of improvements requested. It has now been decided that the Parish and Town Council contribution of 25% will not be increased, therefore I assume anymore highway improvement request for this financial year may not be approved. A £2.5K grant for Kilmington to provide a 30 MPH limit on The Common in effect was overlooked, however the necessary paperwork for TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) is proceeding, assurance was given at the SWWAB that the grant will be ratified from the existing budget.

The Police at the highest level were at the September Area Board, Inspector Kevin Harmsworth, Chief Constable Catherine Roper and Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson. We hope to see improvement in communicating with the Police where its 101 for phone or reporting on the internet. The Police will make efforts to be more visible in the area. Volunteers are required for Police Stations which includes Mere. We will see a mobile Police Station (Van) in the near future. My request for a PCSO for Mere and not shared with other areas as we had previously a dedicated PCSO for Mere, appears will not materialize.

Mere Town Football Club was awarded £968.88, towards MTFC youth equipment (Youth Grant).

The 12th of December will see a Big Band Tea Party at The Nadder Centre Tisbury, celebrating age, look out for further information.

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet have agreed to invest a further £10m over the next two years into maintaining and resurfacing the county's roads. The £10m of extra funding, which is on top of the £14m the council will spend this financial year on highways maintenance, is being funded through the council's capital funding programme. The additional money will be spent on preventative maintenance and a road resurfacing programme including small, local repairs to the highways; verge repairs on rural roads and materials to support volunteers working on public rights of way. Work on potholes will continue in parallel, with £2m existing funds and the government's recent £3.6m additional grant.

Wiltshire Council has dealt another blow to unlicensed scrap metal and waste collectors operating in the county as three people have been fined nearly £30,000 in total. Wiltshire Council has also issued £1,300 in fines to two businesses concerning waste related offences. On Friday 10 February 2023, Wiltshire Council received a complaint that black refuse bags of waste had been deposited in Royal Wootton Bassett High Street. Enforcement Officers attended the site and obtained evidence to a local business. The business operator was interviewed under caution and admitted to depositing the waste. They also failed to produce any waste transfer notes for their business that would have shown how they were lawfully disposing of their commercial waste. This resulted in a £400 fine for fly tipping and £300 fine for failing to produce waste transfer notes. In May 2023, the Council received a report from a member of the public that a groundwork tradesperson from Westbury was operating in Devizes, removing waste without a licence. The business operator was apprehended and requested to produce a valid waste carrier license and all waste transfer notes relating to the business for the last two years of operating. They were fined £300 for failure to produce a valid licence and £300 for failure to produce waste documents (both were reduced to £180 as payment was made within 10 days).

If you decide to take part in The Local Plan consultation, which I shall, three areas I am aware of at present in the draft that interest me are, controlled dark night skies on new development, reduce the land supply required from 5 to 4 years in the proposed local plan which Wiltshire should be able to justify at planning appeals etc. New development to be built to very high insulation standards.

Wessex Water contacted me and have stated "The BBC specifically highlighted eight of our sites which they believed discharged sewage during dry weather. The fact is five did not spill at all and the other three were linked to high groundwater levels." I am not taking sides on this; however, it reinforces to me what I was informed when young, "read more than one newspaper".

Remember the £2 bus fare promotion is running until 31 October.

Mrs Baldock kindly provided the following rainfall figures for Lordsmead, Mere. Total rainfall for August was 64mm (2.56 inches). The wettest day was Wednesday the 2nd August and Sunday 13th, with 11mm. Days with rain 14 out of 31.

Penny Fennon kindly provided figures for Salisbury Street which contrast in places to the above. Grand total rainfall for August was 16.5 cm - wettest day was 2nd with 4cm :)

Wiltshire are still short of placements for foster children and looking for those interested.

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

Mere Girlguiding

Mere Rainbows and Brownies attended an activity day on 9th September in Shaftesbury, doing fun filled activities with a Space theme. They had a fabulous time with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from other units in the Shaftesbury area.

The Rainbows (age 5 -7) meet between 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm and the Brownies meet between 6.15 to 7.30 pm (age 7-11) during term time only. We do lots

of fun activities, learn new skills, work towards various badges, interact with other girls to work in a team and forward their ideas and opinions towards a new modern programme. The girls also have lots of opportunities to go on trips and activity days, both locally and further afield in the South West region.

We are hoping to start a Guide unit in Mere for girls age 10-14 to continue giving the girls opportunities to learn new skills and have fun. Guides can also participate in schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh awards and International trips and Jamborees.

If your daughter is interested in joining Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, please contact Girlguiding on 0800 169 5901 or register your daughter at [Girlguiding.org.uk/join us](http://Girlguiding.org.uk/join-us).

Date for diaries

Wine tasting evening to raise funds for Mere Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides to be held on **Fri 17th Nov at 7.30 pm** to 9.30pm, Grove Building, Mere, Cost £15 per person. Over 18's only. Watch out for more information next month.

Nicky Lawes nickylawes@hotmail.co.uk

The Mere Matters Team: Who's Who

Mere Matters is managed by a team of 5 volunteers:

Jane Kennedy jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com looks after Advertising

Vivien Sheppard vivsheppard@outlook.com manages Circulation

Jane Howard looks after West Knoyle circulation

Richard Jefferies rajefferies@btinternet.com is Editor and Publisher



Mere Gardening Club

Some good news to start with. On Sunday 17th September our club entered the Dorset Federation of Horticultural Societies Competition and show. We put in 5 entries and we managed to win 4 firsts and 1 second including 2 trophies for best floral exhibit and best vase of flowers, so a great result. Thank you to those members who contributed to the entries.

At our last monthly meeting we had a floral demonstration and workshop from Penny our Secretary. Also we had the potato weigh in, which was won by Clive Lambshead with a good weight of potatoes. 2nd and 3rd were Janet and Tony Barrett and 4th was Anne Jefferies. Congratulations to them all and to all who participated.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday 11th October** at 6.45 (for 7.30 start) in the Grove Building will be Lifting the Latch by Pauline and David Wright, describing their construction of an all year round cottage garden.

New members are always welcome. Membership fees are £10.00 annually which also entitles you to a 10% discount at Plantworld. Visitors are also always welcome for £3.00 entry which includes tea and biscuits

Les Manwaring (Chairman)  meregardenclub.org.uk


Merekits - Womens Institute

Merekits WI meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Grove Building at 7pm. We are a group of ladies who want to get to know other like-minded people in the local area. You can participate as much or as little as you like with an opportunity to get involved in various activities and events both locally and nationally.

At our August meeting we arrange a "Meander through Mere" with a local expert where members found out interesting facts of the local community. At the September meeting we tried line dancing, which was great fun and enjoyed by all. We have enjoyed several different social events including various walks, and an Indian meal. Future social events will include a tapas night, theatre trips and a visit to Bath Christmas markets.

Our next members meeting will be on **October 18th** where one of our members will lead a session on the 'Origins and traditions of Halloween' so why not come along, join us, and have some fun?

Finally, our planned "Jumble and pre-loved" sale will be held on the **28th October**, 11am at the Grove Building, pop along and see if there are any bargains. Coffee and cake will be available. If you have any items to donate, please let us know.

Verena Cooper  07971790256 verenacooper2@gmail.com

From Times Gone By!

INSOLVENT DEBTORS COURT OFFICE, No 33, Lincoln"s Inn Fields.

PETITIONS of Insolvent Debtors heard at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden [sic] at Marlborough in and for the county of Wilts, on the 15th day October next, the hour eleven in the forenoon: JAMES BURFITT, late of Mere, the county of Wilts.

Salisbury & Wiltshire Journal, 23 September 1822

MERE, WILTS. WHEREAS on the 10th day of October, 1823, Mr. CURLING and Miss ELLA, belonging to a party of Comedians, having contracted a Debt for Board and Lodging at the Angel Inn, left at the said inn various articles of Wearing Apparel, Books, and other effects, such as are generally used by comedians :—This is to give Notice, that unless the said Apparel, Books, &c. are called for, and the said bill discharged, with the expences [sic] of this advertisement, on or before the ninth day March, 1824, the same will be Sold to pay the said debt and expences.

Salisbury & Wiltshire Journal, 16 February 1824

Martyn Beardsley

Save the Date Friday November 24th

St Michael's Church at 7.30 CarmenCO

A concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music presented as a play, with costumes, props and a storyline which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen, but told from her point of view.

Tickets on sale from the end of October william.price15@btinternet.com

Mere Forest and Zeals Allotment Charities

As per last year, Mere Forest Charity applications will not take place in the hall this year. All existing applicants will be written to. If you have not received a letter by the end of October please contact Carolyn Loosen by email mereforest@gmail.com or on 07395 518079.

Anyone wishing to apply to the charity for this annual distribution the first time can collect an application form from Waltons front counter from October or by contacting Carolyn.

Carolyn Loosen Secretary

Reorganisation of Church Benefices

The Church Commissioners have approved the proposal that the Benefice of Mere with West Knoyle and Maiden Bradley and the Benefice of Upper Stour be reorganised and become the Benefice of Mere with West Knoyle and the Benefice of Upper Stour with Maiden Bradley. This becomes effective from 1st October 2023.

Ann Dethick (Acting PCC Secretary, St Michael's Church, Mere) ☎ 863498

Hear to Help - Hearing Aid Clinic

The Drop in Hearing Aid Clinic is held on the **first Thursday** of the month from 10.00 until 12.00 noon at **United Reform Church**. Please stagger your time of arrival otherwise you may have a long wait if everyone arrives at 10.00am !! It is for wearers of hearing aids supplied by Salisbury Audiology, please bring your battery card with you so that we can identify your hearing aids. Thank you

Lynn Snook

Petanque in Mere

Colin and Ann Senneck are the founder members of the "Mere Mortals" Petanque club, based on a temporary basis at the old swimming pool in Mere. They won the Stone Daisy doubles knock out on 10th Sept.

They are looking to establish a permanent Piste in Mere to compete with other new facilities in neighbouring Towns.

Mere Mortals took part in the Nadder division of the Nadder and Stour Petanque league this season and came a creditable third.

They have been running three practice sessions through the summer and welcome young and old, new and old players - be bouled!



Mick Ives

As autumn leaves fall, petanque playing inevitably reduces but Mere Mortals will battle on by bringing Tuesday night's time forward to 6pm (until the clock change puts paid to evening play) but continue with Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturday morning at 10.30am. Then play all depends on the elements. If it is dry we play, if wet we don't. New members are always welcome. No experience necessary. Free tuition given and we have plenty of spare boules. Nobody would sell the game as athletic but it is a mobile exercise requiring hand and eye coordination and great fun.

Colin Senneck ☎ 706008 colin2423@sky.com

East Knoyle Invites You

Come along and listen to Nick Wright's talk about his amazing passage through life. Nick joined the Royal Navy in 1968 and during the course of the next 34 years served around the world in ships with overseas postings in Norway and America. In the mid 90s he served on board the Royal Yacht Britannia witnessing many historic occasions including the 50th anniversary of D Day and The Queen's State visit to Russia.

Nick left the Navy a few years early in 2002 upon being appointed Private Secretary to The Princess Royal. He served in this position for 17 years and is now The Princess's Extra Equerry, accompanying her on her Maritime and some domestic engagements.

Venue: East Knoyle Village Hall

Date: Tuesday, 24th October 2023

Time: Doors open at 12.15pm. Lunch: 1.00pm. Talk: 1.45pm

Tickets: £15.00 – to include lunch and fresh fruit

Tickets can be purchased from East Knoyle Community Shop

Proceeds towards Save the Children (Shaftesbury)



Inspector Kevin Harmsworth writes:

Local policing is supported by many volunteers who carry out essential work in keeping our communities safe. Some of those volunteers are the Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme – 55 volunteers on horseback who act as eyes and ears for local policing, and provide intelligence for us to act upon. There's also the Rural Crime Partnership (RCP) which is comprised of Neighbourhood Watch volunteers and partner agencies (such as the Canal and River Trust, local authorities and the Ministry of Defence). This meets on a quarterly basis to share updates, discuss crime prevention activity and carry out proactive prevention activities, such as signing up community members to our watch schemes. The Police Cadets support local policing at various community events where they promote the various watch schemes in the county, issue leaflets and stickers to support crime prevention, and help sign members up to our Community Messaging service



www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk. Community Speedwatch schemes continue to drive down speed and drive up safety, combatting speeding in many local communities. Our Special Constabulary have been providing tremendous support to our summer Road Safety Campaign, which is a current focus for us in response to a worrying rise in people killed or seriously injured on our county's roads. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Our Road Safety Team continue to target excess speed hotspots through their civilian enforcement officers. The Roads Policing Team continue 'Project Zero' across the county, making our local community areas the focus of enforcement activity on the main causes of serious injury/fatal road traffic collisions, supported by our Community Policing Team between their responding to daily calls for service. Operational focus on road safety remains and we are working hard to keep our communities safe. I would prefer that people were driving safely on our roads, and our efforts were not needed. I ask all our communities to make sure they are driving safely and thinking of other road users at all times. One life lost or one person injured is one too many.

Inspector Kevin Harmsworth kevin.harmsworth@wiltshire.police.uk

Mere Autumn Fair & Family Fun Day

Bands, Kiddies Activity and much more took place at Mere Social Club all day on Saturday, 9th September. fundraising in support of Salisbury District Hospital Charity Stars Appeal. It was one of the hottest days of the year and many attended in the early Autumn sunshine. . A good time was had by all.



Louise Padfield

Pictures courtesy of Ben Avery

Mere Historical Society

The Historical Society talks resume this month, with the following three.

- **Tues. 3 October, 10.30 a.m.:** “Wills and How to Use Them” by Stuart Raymond.
Anyone who has attempted to research their family, or indeed other history, will know how useful these can be. Where to find them, and how best to interpret them?
- **Tues. 10 October, 10.30 a.m.:** “The History of Wells Cathedral” by David Hindley.
The story of one of the great glories of Wessex: including the 2nd oldest clock in Britain, still working in its original condition.
- **31 October, 7.30 p.m.:** “Follies of the West Country” by Jonathan Holt
This will include (one hopes) our own Alfred’s Tower, and various other mad, useless and costly projects.

We welcome both current members, and non-members (for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door). All our talks are held in the Grove Building.

Peter Landymore, Chair ☎ 228819 Diane Ellis, Secretary ☎ 861541

House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal 2023

In 2022 the House of Opportunity (formerly FSCI) distributed 7,588 Christmas boxes to orphanages, rural schools, homes for senior citizens and isolated rural communities throughout Bulgaria. To see the Christmas boxes being delivered in 2022 on YouTube just search House of Opportunity. It’s great to see how much impact a present can make.

Thank you to all who donated a Christmas box last year, 80 were collected from Mere.

Thank you to Jackie from Bramley Hill who knitted vast amounts of colourful baby hats and mittens and once again thank you to Shirley Thomas and friends for the lovely blankets they knitted.

If you would like to donate a Christmas box for this year’s appeal, leaflets will be available at the post office and in St Michaels church. Alternatively, the leaflet is available to view or print on [Houseofopportunity.org/christmas-box](https://houseofopportunity.org/christmas-box).

Please drop off boxes at St Michaels church or Little Myrtle, The Fields, Mere by **Sunday November 19th**

If you would like your box to be picked Shelley on ☎ 228590 or 07810 216833

Mere School

Mere School is delighted to be working very closely with Paterson Estates.

Mere School wants to update over 60 iPads so that they run the most up to date software. Joe Paterson felt that this was a great opportunity to help out.

Paterson Estates have promised if they successfully sell a property in the Mere School catchment area they will donate £50 of their commission for each child that will attend/attends Mere School to us. People buying a property in Mere, who do not have a child at Mere School, can also arrange for this donation.

Joe and Sam Paterson write:

“Paterson Estates is a business founded by identical twins, Samuel and Joseph, in order to promote a new bespoke service to home movers across North Dorset and surrounding areas. We believe that every client is unique and we strive to offer a tailored service to meet your specific needs. A local Estate Agency with a big personality, we combine traditional methods with new innovative technologies to provide you with an exceptional level of service at real value. Here at Paterson Estates we understand how overwhelming it can all be, so we’re here to ensure you are receiving the right support and advice at the time you need it.

We are focused on giving back to the community and being recognised for our professional service and aim to keep your transaction as stress free as possible.

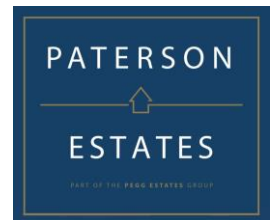
With the rise of technology and web-based traffic, the internet has changed the property market forever. However, here at Paterson Estates we believe there is more to it than just simply putting your property online. Now more than ever, local market knowledge and determination to exceed expectation is vital! Our bespoke marketing package as well as great communication and up to date advice will help your home stand out from the crowd.

It would be a pleasure to discuss any questions you have about selling or purchasing property. Please get in contact on 01747 441199 or emailsales@patersonestates.co.uk .”

Schools are in challenging financial positions at the moment and any help is much appreciated!

A date for your diary – **Mere School Fireworks, Saturday 4th November**, Duchy Manor Field, free admission. We look forward to seeing you!

Catriona Williamson Head Teacher



Mere Carnival Committee



Well it's all over and done now and what a success the Mere Annual Carnival was. There was entertainment in the Square with food, drink, music and we even had a Dalek make a special appearance (It was a good job he was friendly) The afternoon festivities were followed by a particularly well turned-out procession which had it not been for at least one large cart and another tractor trailer tableau pulling out on the day would have been our best turn out for a number of years. Also don't worry we are planning on getting new flags and bunting for next year as long as we can find volunteers to put them up.

The Mega draw winning ticket was chosen on Sunday morning at the Butt of Sherry with the winning ticket being number **0380**. The £1000 cash prize is burning a hole in our treasurer's pocket so please if you have ticket number 0380 get in touch so we can give you the prize.

And finally, I would like to thank our fabulous community that always make carnival so special and also a huge thank you to all of our volunteers and committee member, you were fabulous.

Don't forget our next event is Santa in the Square at the beginning of December, we hope to see all our local children collecting a little gift from Father Christmas then.

Thank you all

Mel Wilkinson Chairman Mere Carnival Committee 2023

Shreen Harmony (Community Choir)

We have had a good start to the Autumn term and have welcomed four new members to the choir.

We are now beginning to plan our Christmas Concert for Mere which has become quite a tradition over the years. It is always on the Saturday before the Christmas weekend and welcomes the start of the Festivities.

The date for your diaries is **Saturday 16th December** (more details to follow).

There will be the usual Mulled wine and supper served. This year we are delighted that the **Mere Primary School choir** is going to join us too.

If you would like to sing with us do come along on a Thursday evening to the United Reformed Church at 7.30 p.m. you would receive a warm welcome.

Sandra Fisher 📞 861980 chair@shreenharmony.co.uk

Mere & District Link Scheme

The Editor thought it would be good to hear from some of the people who use or drive for the Link Scheme so we asked Judy Stutchbury who has done both. Judy says *"I first came across Link when I had appointments at Southampton Hospital. I found the drivers were so kind, helpful and very enjoyable to be with on a long journey. I always said that when I was back on the road I would volunteer for Link, which I did a couple of years ago. I have found it to be so rewarding driving people to their medical appointments and, sometimes, hairdressers and shopping. The people are so lovely and, like me, so grateful for the Link service. I have met some wonderful people and had so many lovely chats, all very rewarding. I am grateful to be able to repay Link for all the support they gave me."*

New drivers are always welcome so, if you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver, please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

We did 90 trips in August which, is the monthly average so far this year. 35 of the trips were to Salisbury District Hospital.

Our volunteer drivers take clients 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 please 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 (not including Saturdays and Sundays) as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

Finally, early notice that the Link will continue to take people to medical appointments over the Christmas and New Year period but please note that our phone will not be "manned" on 25, 26, 27 December and 1 and 2 January 2024. So if you have a medical appointment between these dates please let us know by 24 December to give us the best chance of getting you a driver.

John FitzGerald Chair  860096  merelink.org.uk

Battle of Britain Week

Many thanks to all those who donated to this cause. Your efforts together raised over £220 – well done!



Roy Sims. President of the Shaftesbury Branch RAFA  863328

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 | Sun | | Tiddlers & Toddlers Sale | L |
| 2 | Mon | 09:30 | Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) | L |
| | | 17:45 | Yoga (every Mon) | L |
| 3 | Tues | 08:00 | Foot Clinic | GB |
| | | 10:30 | Historical Society | GB |
| | | 18:20 | Zumba (every Tues) | L |
| 4 | Wed | 09:30 | Tai-Chi (every Weds) | GB |
| | | 14:30 | Pilates (every Weds) | L |
| | | 18:30 | Karate (every Weds) | L |
| <i>Railway Modellers</i> | | | | |
| 5 | Thurs | 10:00 | Art Group (every Thurs) | GB |
| | | 10:00 | Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reform Church | URC |
| | | 11:00 | Rhyme Time (every Thurs) | Lib |
| | | 14:00 | Quilters (every Thurs) | GB |
| | | 14:00 | Rubber Bridge (every Thurs) | L |
| | | 17:00 | Girlguiding (every Thurs) | GB |
| 6 | Fri | 13:45 | Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. Every Fri) | GB |
| | | 17:45 | Yoga Workshop | L |
| 7 | Sat | 10:30 | Coffee Morning (every Sat) | URC |
| 8 | Sun | | | |
| 9 | Mon | 19:30 | Slimming World (Book with Sally) (every Mon) <i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i> | L |
| 10 | Tues | 09:00 | Little Angels (every Tues) | GB |
| | | 10:30 | Historical Society | GB |
| | | 14:30 | Mothers Union | GB |
| <i>Zumba</i> | | | | |
| 11 | Wed | Varies | Literary Festival | Varies |
| | | 14:00 | Fitness & Friendship | GB |
| | | 19:30 | Gardening Club | GB |
| <i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i> | | | | |
| 12 | Thurs | Varies | Literary Festival | Varies |
| | | 14:00 | Diabetes Prevention | L |
| | | 19:30 | Ukulele | Butt of Sherry |
| <i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Guiding</i> | | | | |
| 13 | Fri | Varies | Literary Festival | Varies |
| | | 10:00 | Merely Women | GB |
| | | 17:45 | Yoga Workshop | L |
| <i>Dup Bridge</i> | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|-------|-------------------------|--|----------------|
| 14 | Sat | Varies | Literary Festival <i>Coffee Morning, Fair Trade Stall</i> | Varies |
| 15 | Sun | 14 :00 | Mere Walking Group (Wilson/Laidler) | CP |
| 16 | Mon | | <i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i> | |
| 17 | Tues | 08:00 14 :00 | Foot Clinic Short Walk (Janet Way) <i>Zumba, Little Angels</i> | GB CP |
| 18 | Weds | 19:00 | Merekits Women's Institute <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i> | GB |
| 19 | Thurs | | <i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Guiding</i> | |
| 20 | Fri | | <i>Dup Bridge</i> | |
| 21 | Sat | | Fair Trade at Coffee Morning 10:00 First Aid for Parents – Keep a Beat 10:00 Art Exhibition <i>Coffee Morning</i> | URC L GB |
| 22 | Sun | | Fair Trade Stall after morning service | StM |
| 23 | Mon | | <i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i> | |
| 24 | Tues | | <i>Zumba, Little Angels</i> | |
| 25 | Weds | 09:00 14:00 14:30 | Mere Jelly Fitness & Friendship PennyBank Writers <i>Tai-Chi, Karate, , Railway Modellers</i> | VH GB L |
| 26 | Thurs | | <i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i> | |
| 27 | Fri | 10:00 | Merely Women <i>Dup Bridge</i> | GB |
| 28 | Sat | | <i>Coffee Morning</i> | |
| 29 | Sun | | | |
| 30 | Mon | | <i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i> | |
| 31 | Tues | 19:30 | Historical Society <i>Zumba, Little Angels</i> | GB |

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

Mere Matters Circulation

A recent and sudden realization that we have never publicised where we deliver our publications has to be corrected.

During lockdown we kept going with an army of volunteers to hand deliver magazines to all properties in Mere. We are back to making copies available for collection at:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Angel Tearooms | Butt of Sherry Inn | Co-op | Dental Surgery |
| George Inn | Kilmington | Mere Library & | |
| Information Centre | | | |
| Mere School | St. Michael's | Walnut Tree Pub | |
| Mere Post Office | West Knoyle | Zeal's PO | |

For those who get their papers delivered from Waltons, you should be getting a copy delivered with your papers.



Editor

Fair Trade in Mere

After the demise of Traidcraft in January, how heartening it has been these past weeks to stock up on a few gifts and lots of cards ready for Christmas. Look out for the date of my pop-up shop at The Angel Tea Rooms in next month's magazine. In the meantime if you wish to view the cards or put in an order do not hesitate to get in touch or come along to one of my stalls. I will be at the URC Coffee morning on **Saturday 21st** and after the morning service at **St Michael's on October 22nd**.

Put the date in your diaries for my pop-up shop at the **Angel Tea Rooms on November 22nd** during opening hours

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Short Walk (J Way)

This will take place on **Tuesday October 17th**. Please meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2p.m. for a walk of 3-4 miles around the paths and lanes of Mere and indulge in Paul's delicious cakes and a cuppa in the Angel Tea Rooms afterwards.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Calling all ukulele players. Come along to The Butt of Sherry on Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm for an evening of fun. Bring your ukulele and meet other players who enjoy strumming and singing. We play well known songs from the sixties, folk, country and songs that are easy to play! All abilities welcome.

Check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list.

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Mere Jelly

Working from home can feel isolating...

The Mere Jelly is an informal, co-working event for creatives, 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. The Mere Jelly meets on the last Wednesday of the month at Visit Hillbrush from 9 am - 12 noon. Join us for the morning on the 25th or just drop in for a coffee and a chat.

Jenni Bell ☎ 860400



Castle Hill Quilters

On the 31st August at our Annual General Meeting we had a visit from John Martin, a volunteer with the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. It was a pleasure for our President Tania Weller to present John with a cheque for £750.00. We have been fund raising for the Air Ambulance for the past year by having an Open Day and Exhibition in April. We have sold sewing related items and fabrics donated to us. Each year we elect a charity to help, this year we are continuing to raise funds for the Air Ambulance.

Coral Pickles coral.pickles@virginmedia.com



Mere Theatre Club

By the time you read this we will be meeting to create the winter programme. So if you fancy getting out and about during the dark months; meeting a few like-minded people; driven door to door (nearly), do get in touch and join our mailing list. Membership still only £5 per household per year.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 861833 madsmorris@gmail.com

A concert of Spanish and Spanish inspired music presented as a play, with costumes, props and a storyline which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen, but told from her point of view.

Friday
24 Nov
2023

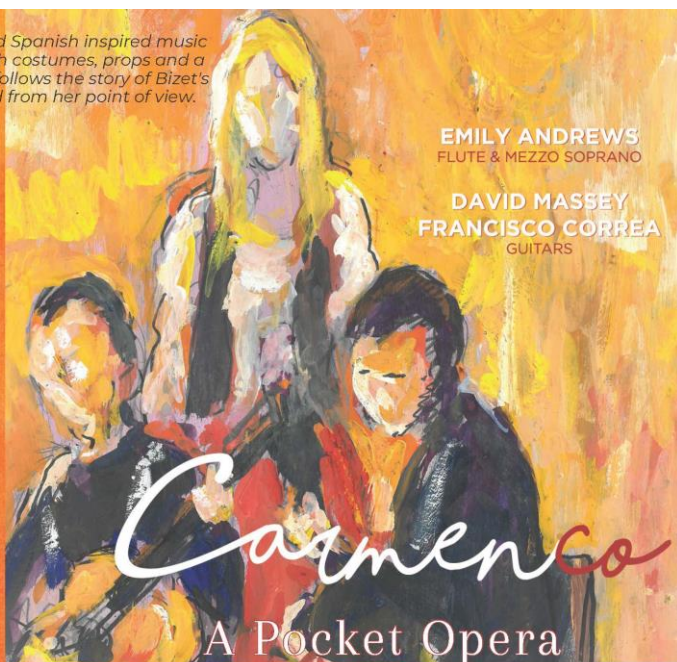
7.30 PM

St Michael's Church
Mere
BA12 6DS

Tickets:

£10

william.price15@btinternet.com
01747861233



EMILY ANDREWS
FLUTE & MEZZO SOPRANO

DAVID MASSEY
FRANCISCO CORREA
GUITARS

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01249 701628



GET ONLINE FREE EVENT

WARMINSTER
KEEP WELL

Can't afford digital devices?

Feeling left behind by technology?

Not confident with using your technology?

The Warminster Area Health and Wellbeing Forum in conjunction with Wiltshire Libraries are running drop-in sessions during Get Online week.



MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

10AM - 1PM WARMINSTER LIBRARY
2PM - 5PM MERE LIBRARY



- Find out about free skills training and support to improve your confidence
- Learn about how to stay safe online
- Bring in old and unused tech in our "amnesty" encouraging recycling
- Already confident? Find out about volunteering to help others in your area bridge the digital divide

 Wiltshire Libraries

 a campaign by
Good Things Foundation

 get
online
week

For more info call 01985 216022 or visit:

  @healthandwellbeinginwarminster

 healthandwellbeinginwarminster@gmail.com

 Wiltshire Council



Mere Day Centre

For over thirty years the Mere Day Centre has provided a safe, happy and welcoming place for older people from the locality to meet and enjoy social time together. We are there for people from all the villages around Mere, not just residents of Lynch Close. We meet on Mondays and Fridays, and we have a few vacancies, so if you or a relative would like to join us do please contact our Centre Manager, Sandie Hawkins for more information: manager@meredaycentre.org.uk, or ☎ 07835 272406

We would also like to invite all our friends and supporters to join us in celebration of another successful year at our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on Monday **October 16th at 1pm**, at the Lynch Close Community room.

Jane Mason chair@meredaycentre.org.uk

Mere Museum

Hopefully the work will have been completed by the time this goes to print.

I will be working on a new exhibition as soon as we get our collection back.

Remember if you have any old photos of Mere we are always keen to add them to our collection.

Rose Heesom ☎ 07791 559 674 meremuseum@btinternet.com

Mere Art Group

A dark cloud fell over the Art Group with the sad news of the passing of Ann Henson. Ann was a Founding-Member of The Art Group and gave so much in encouragement, guidance, recruiting effort, welcoming to new members, and more. Most of all Ann was a lovely Woman - generous, loving and truly loveable.

So sincerely missed.

This month's Art contribution is by Mary Horton - a long-standing Member. Mary used acrylics-on-paper for this portrait.

The Group looks forward to seeing and meeting visitors who attend the Art Exhibition in The Grove Building on Saturday 21st October. Open from 10.00am till 4.00pm.

Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com



Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

You will be pleased to hear that rehearsals continue apace towards our Autumn Production next month! Our chosen play is a comedy - actually the blurb on the cover of the scripts describes it as a 'hilarious spoof' - entitled '**Murdered to Death**' by Peter Gordon. You get the idea! It is a spoof in the Agatha Christie tradition, set in a country house with a cast comprising a butler (of course), an English Colonel and his wife, a shady French art dealer and his moll, the less-than sharp policeman by the name of Inspector Pratt aided by the village bobby, and Miss Joan Maple, a local sleuth. First to be murdered is the owner of the house in which all the characters are assembled, but who will be next and why? Will anyone survive to solve the various crimes before there's no-one left at all?

Come to the **Lecture Hall** to find out, on **Thursday to Saturday, 23rd to 25th November, at 7.30 p.m.** Tickets at £8.00 each will be available from mid-October at The Library or Sprout and Flower or through our website mereamdram.co.uk or by telephoning 01747 861257. They will also be available at the door.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you enjoy the show!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jennyflaxmill@gmail.com

Copy date for the **November 2023** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Tuesday 24th October**

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

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

A Great Carnival



Mere Carnival took place Saturday 16th September. Although no fun fair this year as a venue could not be found, it was a great event with a large turnout. The weather stayed dry. From 4-30 much was happening in The Square followed by a grand procession starting at 7-30pm from White Road and finishing near The Quarry Industrial estate. The procession started with a steam traction engine with an E-Type " trying to catch it". Megadraw tickets were for sale with a £1000.00 prize.



The draw took place on Sunday at the Butt of Sherry. The Walnut Inn with an adjacent burger van provided refreshments in The Square with others. The George had live music that carried on the early autumn air, nice to hear if you visited the hotel or as I was walking home. Many individuals and firms helped. Thanks, from many to the Mere Carnival Committee, much work was involved.

George Jeans



Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

Churchwardens: Mr Kit Stallard ☎ 07803 086161

Mr Richard Wilson ☎ 07966 244373

Admin Secretary: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 st | Sun | 08:00 10:30 | BCP Communion Harvest Festival Family Service |
| 8 th | Sun | 08:00 10:30 | BCP Communion Parish Communion |
| 15 th | Thurs | 08:30 10:30 | BCP Communion Parish Communion |
| 22 nd | Sun | 08:00 10:30 | BCP Communion Benefice Patronal Communion |
| 29 th | Sun | 08:00 10:00 16:00 | BCP Communion Benefice Patronal Communion and Maiden Bradley farewell Service at Maiden Bradley All Soul's Service. Remebering Loved Ones |

Advance Notice: St Michael's 8am BCP Service in the Winter months, November-February will be held on the first Sunday of each month only. Weekly 8am services will resume in Lent.

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

| | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|--|
| 1 st | Sun | 09:30 | DIY Service |
| 8 th | Sun | 18:00 | Harvest Festival (6.00pm) |
| 15 th | Thurs | 09:30 | Matins |
| 22 nd | Sun | 09:30 | Communion |
| 29 th | Sun | 10:00 | Benefice Patronal Communion and Maiden Bradley farewell Service at Maiden Bradley |

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

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

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------|----------------------|
| 1 st | Sun | 11:00 | Mr James Hepburn |
| 8 th | Sun | 11:00 | TBC |
| 15 th | Sun | 11:00 | Mrs. Christine Marsh |
| 22 nd | Sun | 11:00 | Rev. Judith Thompson |
| 29 th | Sun | 11:00 | TBC |

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

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

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

Mere Information

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

Mere Library

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

Tuesday: 09:30 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 14:00*

Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant

Booking Meeting Venues

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



Global Fund for Children is an international organisation which aims to 'find and invest in courageous community-based organizations that advance children's rights around the world.' It is great news that Suchana has not only been designated a Global Fund for Children 'partner' but is also the focus of their 'spotlight report' for this month. The people of Mere have been so generous in supporting Suchana over the years from its very humble beginnings that we thought you would be interested to see the report in full:

“In West Bengal, India many children struggle in school due to language barriers. While most families in the area speak Santali or Kora as their first language, formal schools conduct lessons in Bengali, which makes it difficult for these children to learn effectively.

To address this challenge, GFC partner Suchana promotes the use of native languages in education. Since 2004, the Suchana team has created study materials in Santali and Kora and recruited and trained native speakers from local communities to help build a foundation for children in their native languages.

As part of GFC's Partnership to Educate All Kids (PEAK) initiative, supported by the LEGO Foundation, Suchana incorporates creativity into the learning process with a mobile library, games, and other activities, which are even offered during summer vacations so that children can continue learning.

Suchana aims gradually to bring about large-scale development in first-language education in the area and exemplifies how community-based organizations fill gaps and take risks to bring about positive change.”

Please come along if you can, to help to continue our support for Suchana at a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy from 10.30am on Tuesday 3rd October at Hillcrest, Hazzard's Hill (Elisabeth Barrett's home - just up from The Shreen on the left before Spinners Way)

Jean Kantharia 📞 861168 jean@kantharia.co.uk



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Judith Thompson ☎ 860553, Chair, Mere Suchana Support Group



Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

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

Church Tower Opened for Visitors

On 9th and 10th September visitors were invited to come and explore its fascinating history with exciting things you never usually see. Optional guided tours and trips up the tower.

Picture shows the mechanism of the old chimes. Once the clock of the church had no face and gave the time only by sound. The chimes have recently been made to work, Lucy (not in the picture) wound the handle which was very hard work, pulling the weight up that turned the chimes to play a tune. The chimes are small hammers that hit the edge of the large bells, some weighing tons. The clapper is on the inside of the bell and the chimes hammer is on the edge.



Pictures courtesy of George Jeans

Friends of St Michael's Secondhand Book Stall

Thank you for recent donations that have arrived at the book stall in church. Please keep them coming as this has proved to be a popular attraction for locals and visitors. There is something for everyone from Dostoevsky to Trollope (Joanna) and only 50p a book.

Watch out for our pre Christmas Book Club coffee morning. Bring a book and go away with a swap. **Friday 8th December 10am**

Margaret Durkee ☎ 860163

St Michael's Church

Self-employed project administrator.

The Friends of The Church of St Michael The Archangel, Mere seek a self-employed project administrator to develop and deliver the Tower Stories project over an 18 month period.

This community led project aims to increase the engagement of visitors to their heritage and contextualise the history and craftsmanship of the tower for a wide audience. Starting ASAP.

For full job description and details of pay please apply to elisabethbarrett4@gmail.com

Generously supported by the National Lottery heritage fund.



Mere Rivers Group

We continue with this on/off summer. March to August (Spring/Summer) was the 6th wettest on record for the Wessex area. Therefore, both our streams have been running well, although Stream Support has now been turned on for the Ashfield and Wessex Water have stopped all export of water from our area.

The installation of the Stream Support pipeline for the Shreen will start in the near future and will run from the pumping station at Burton through to Manor Pond at Wellhead and should eliminate the chance of the upper Shreen drying, maintaining a good flow all year.

The Swifts and Swallows have left us but there is still the odd House Martin about, these will be replaced by Redwings and Fieldfares from further north and an increase in Starlings and Robins seeking warmer climes. We have had lots of Water Vole sightings this must be due to the better flows.

Please enjoy our streams as many children did during the summer holidays.

There are approximately 200 chalk streams in the world and we have two of them. Let's look after them and love them for future generations.

Ian Sheppard ianjsheppard@outlook.com

Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

We really enjoyed Ann Rich telling us about the Mere Food Bank at our September meeting. I am sure none of us quite realised just how much work is being done behind the scenes to provide food and other items for our Food Bank in Mere. So many people volunteering their time and sometimes petrol to collect food from Waitrose, several times a week. We were delighted to give a contribution towards this excellent work and thanked Ann for giving up her time to tell us in a very warm and friendly way. The people of Mere are very generous when there are collection points for the Food Bank and we do hope it helps the families at this time. There is more information about this on the internet "Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers Foodbank Group".

Our speaker this month is Reverend Gay Maynard on **Tuesday 10th October at 2.30 pm in the main hall of the Grove Building.** who has visited Maridi in South Sudan. We had a visit from Bishop Moses last year and it will be good to hear more about our link with the Heytesbury Deanery and the very needy people in South Sudan and this is bound to be a thought provoking and interesting talk.

We are sure this will be yet another interesting afternoon and please do come along. We enjoy a brief but thoughtful small service followed by the talk and tea and biscuits.

If you would like to know about Mother's Union please do contact one of us, details below, or come to one of our meetings where you will be warmly welcomed and you can decide if it is something you would enjoy.

Carol Lord 📞 861923. *Christine Marsh* 📞 861212 *Christabelle Kriticos* 📞 861065

Inspector Kevin Harmsworth ~ additional content from previous article P14:

Is anti-social behaviour (ASB) ruining your life? Are you scared and not sure what to do? Do not suffer in silence. Get help and advice!

ASB has many forms which are divided between the Police and Local Authority (including landlords/housing providers where applicable) to investigate as described in the Wiltshire Safeguarding Vulnerable People Partnership (SVPP) - Anti-social behaviour (wiltshiresvpp.org.uk). ASB is defined as 'conduct that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person, nuisance, or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises, or housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person'. My teams continue to problem solve incidents of ASB in your local communities, but victims of persistent ASB may not have heard of ASB Case Review. The ASB Case Review gives victims of persistent ASB the right to request a review of their case, where relevant agencies work together identify any further action necessary to find a resolution. An ASB Case Review can be requested by any victim of ASB, or another person acting on their behalf, and with their consent (e.g., family member, carer, local councillor or other professional). This person is referred to as 'the requester.' A requester can be an individual, business or a community group. Formal applications for an ASB Case Review are made via the relevant local authority <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-safety-anti-social-behaviour> requests can also be made by email or telephone if the requester is unable to complete the online form. While ASB in general can be reported anonymously, the ASB Case Review process requires communication with the requester throughout the process, so reports cannot be made anonymously. There is an associated threshold that needs to be met consisting of 'three or more separate, qualifying reports of ASB made to the police, council or housing provider in the past six months. Each incident must have been reported within one month of it taking place'. Where the threshold is not met, a formal ASB Case Review will not take place, but the relevant agencies may review the case to determine any further actions that may resolve the matter. Where the threshold is met a case review will take place within 15 working days, and the requester has the opportunity to speak at the review. Every partner agencies response to each incident will be discussed, as well as the wider context of the issue(s) presented, with partners collaborating to identify any further actions that may be appropriate to resolve the matter. The requester is updated at every stage of the process, including on the progress of any actions agreed. The Wiltshire Council ASB risk assessment conference (ASBRAC) then ensures progress on delivery of any action plans, including any further actions agreed through continuous review. If the requester is unsatisfied with the way in which an ASB case review has been conducted, an appeal can be made within 15 working days of being notified of the outcomes/decision.

A good source of further information outside of Policing and Local Authorities is Home - ASB HELP . I encourage local communities to report all instances of ASB, which greatly helps us understand the full extent of the issue(s) and target our problem-solving activity to best effect. No one should have to suffer in silence.



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www.teeandee productions.com