



# *Mere Matters*

*& so does  
West Knoyle*

• Your community magazine  
Including a guide to local events

*September 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**

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**

Town Councillors have a break in August, with no monthly meeting. This does not mean that nothing happens – groups of councillors meet to discuss and prepare items for the whole council and urgent decisions are made under rules of delegation by the Chair and Clerk. Most councillors have a link to some group in Mere which they regularly follow up and, I know from experience, that once people know that you are a councillor, they are keen to discuss what should be done or be undone!



I am certain that you have ideas about what Mere should be like and how Mere Town Council should help make it a better place for us all. I would urge you to find out more about our Town Council – we have a good website [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org) which is packed with information. Then, I hope that you come along to a Town Council meeting and see and listen to the work of councillors. Finally, I am asking you to consider being a part of this. Yes, in 18 months there will be elections for the councillors of the future and you could be a part of that next council. Find out more about the governance of Mere and consider putting your name forward for election and, hopefully, contribute to the future of this splendid town.

Well, that was for the future, what is happening now? We have been asking the various groups in Mere to bid for some of the money made available in the Wiltshire Towns Fund to support their events. This fund is meant to be used to attract people to visit Mere and use its facilities. We are looking at ways to improve and make safer the traffic flow in Mere. We are planning improvements to the public conveniences in the Salisbury Street car park. We are organising the use of the money we receive from the development at the Hill Brush site on improvements to the footpath from there into town. We are arranging for the clock tower bell to chime again. We are working with the football club to regenerate adult football and of course we continue to manage all the sports grounds, open spaces, cemetery, allotments & car parks....

I am keen on walking about Mere and also very interested in road safety. If you have a hedge or shrubbery which verges on the roadside or on the pavement, please, consider the safety of others and manage your hedge, shrubs or overhanging tress. This time of year, the birds will have left any nests and it is a good time to prune back, well clear of the pavement or road. Thank you, in advance for doing so. While I am talking walking – many people had a No-Mow May – can I encourage you to take part in a No-Drive September. For those able to do so, let us walk into town instead of driving – get some exercise, meet more people and not have to fret about where to park!

Finally, a word in support of Mere Carnival – it will be here on the 16<sup>th</sup>. I have been a part of the committee for some time and know how much work there is to putting the brilliant event together. Do come along and watch the procession,

come to the centre of town beforehand to enjoy entertainments and refreshments and please support the Carnival with donations in the collecting buckets or by buying Golden Tickets.

*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)

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

Many are interested in the speed of traffic. Phones can do far more than make voice calls as we all know. A local resident informed me an app was available that recorded the speed of traffic, the App cost a credit each time to use, it is not 100% accurate I have found, however it gives a good indication.

Local clubs and local community events continue to raise money for good causes, it is good we still have all our community venues. Several from Mere were present on Saturday 22nd July, which saw the charity golf day presentations at Kilmington Home Guard Club which I enjoyed attending. Golfers had a well-earned rest at The Home Guard Club, Kilmington after being on the coarse at Wheathill Golf Coarse, Castle Carry, in very wet weather. Presentations were made at The Home Guard Club, Kilmington. Simon Crab won the main trophy, second was Richard Strong. The longest drive was Nick Howel. Richard Czemerda won nearest the pin. Nigel Ore won the much coveted "last" cup, he was suffering with a bad back. A great number of raffle prizes were up for grabs. Mere Social Club also hold community events as West Knoyle, Stourton and Zeals that benefit good causes, I have attended several this summer and have tried to get the events published in the local media where possible.

Thelma Ings was part of Mere being born in Salisbury Street Mere, on the 29th January 1932. Besides carrying out administration for her husband's business Thelma found time to be involved in many community functions in Mere, including The Church and Girl Guiding. Thelma eventually became a Division Commissioner in which role she also had leadership of a Ranger Unit. She was given the Good Service Award and became Divisional Vice President. Thelma was honoured by The Girl Guiding Standard being brought to her funeral by Jo Manship. The Talbot Dog was put on The Standard in 1952 and represented Mere. Thelma sadly passed away on the 18th July, 2023.

The Beaumont site was given outline planning permission in July. This will increase the traffic using Petridges Lane further justifying Mere Town Council decision to provide an alternative enhanced pedestrian route to the centre of Mere on an existing footpath, Clements Lane to Edgebridge remains with no pavement.

A briefing note has been prepared in advance of the publication of the emerging Local Plan Review (LPR), so that Members are informed about the way in which housing land requirements are calculated and any implications emerging from government changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Local authorities have a statutory duty to make sure that they are planning for sufficient homes to meet the need for their area. For the period 2020-2038, Wiltshire needs to provide for sufficient land to deliver 36,738 homes. The LPR will only be allocating enough land that is absolutely required. It will take account of homes that have already been built since 2020 and committed (including housing with planning permission or allocated within existing plans that are not yet built), together with other sources of new housing supply that will be provided over the plan period. Wiltshire are proposing to make changes that will take effect from spring 2023. The LPR is one of the most important strategic documents for Wiltshire Council. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to renew their Plan every five years and should have an up-to-date plan. Wiltshire's Local Plan is already eight years old. The lack of an up-to-date Local Plan is harming the council's ability to plan for the right growth, in the right locations. A new Local Plan will help the council to meet its zero carbon aspirations for all future developments. Failure to have an up-to-date Local Plan affects the council's five-year housing land supply (see below), encouraging speculative development. Lack of progress on updating the Local Plan puts the council at risk of having its planning powers removed through government intervention. A new Local Plan will allow the council to secure high-quality development, in keeping with the county's heritage and setting. The LPR will deliver a choice of housing types, including affordable homes, to meet future housing needs and not leave this to speculative housing developers. The LPR delivers much more than housing. It secures high-quality employment space for businesses, providing jobs for local people and more. The Plan will now move to the final public pre-submission consultation, which will be the opportunity for all interested parties to have their say on the proposals. The consultation for the Wiltshire Local Plan begins on **Wednesday 27 September until Wednesday 22 November**, with in-person events being held across the county to enable you to find out more and have your say. There are 16 drop-in events at libraries and leisure centres around Wiltshire and a live webinar-style event on Thursday 10 October on Microsoft Teams. The in-person events are informal drop-in sessions where you can meet officers and find out more about the Local Plan and how to respond to the consultation. The online session will feature a presentation, followed by an opportunity to ask questions. In our area the area the closes will be The Nadder Centre, Weaveland Road, Tisbury SP3 6HJ on Wednesday 4 October between 3pm to 7pm. At Full Council it was decided in affect to 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.

Grants for highway and footpath improvements at the South West Wilts Area Board LAFIG meeting will not cover the number of improvements requested. Debate is taking place as to how much a local parish or town should contribute where it be from the precept or personal contributions and should it be less for small villages?

Kilmington and Stourton Cricket Club applied and won a £2,600.00 grant from the board towards refurbishment of practice nets.

The £2 bus fare promotion is running until 31 October. The offer now runs all summer.


A resident from Lyneham has recently been issued with £400 fixed penalty notice (FPN) by Wiltshire Council for fly-tipping waste in the area. At £400, the FPN is the maximum amount that can be set by local authorities. Once a fixed penalty is issued, the recipients cannot be named as it is not a conviction in an open court.

A Wiltshire man has been prosecuted by Wiltshire Council for not having an identification tag on a collar or a microchip registered for their dog. The man from Trowbridge, was prosecuted under both the Control of Dogs Order 1992 and the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulation 2015.

Wiltshire Council hope to build 33 affordable houses at Lower Park Farm, Caen Hill, in Devizes. The application is part of the council's ambitious plans to deliver 1,000 affordable homes over a decade for people on the Housing Register and unable to afford a home on the open market. The council have also bought back ex council houses as they have done with a few in the Mere Division. To further support the council's commitment to tackling climate change, the houses would be highly insulated and fitted with heat pumps. Houses with a south-facing aspect would also have solar panels. A mix of housing, from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom houses, are proposed and these would be a mix for rent and shared ownership. Should planning permission be granted, the site would be managed and maintained by Wiltshire Council. Please note that Wiltshire Council are now producing shared ownership properties as well as houses for rent.

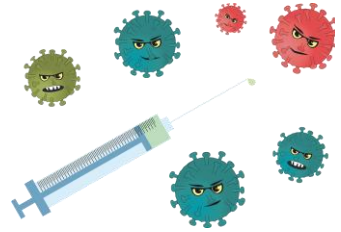
Mrs Baldock kindly provided the following rainfall figures for Lordsmead, Mere. Total rainfall for July was 152mm (6.08 inches). The wettest day was Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> July, with 37mm (1.48 inches). Days with rain 16 out of 31.

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

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

## **Mere Surgery – Flu Clinics**

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



### **WHO IS ENTITLED TO THE FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR?**

Anyone aged over 65

Carers

Pregnant women

Any adult with following conditions:

COPD

Chronic heart disease

Chronic kidney or liver disease

Chronic neurological disease i.e motor neurone

Parkinson's

Learning disability

Diabetes

Weakened immune system due to chemotherapy or auto immune disorders

BMI greater than 40.

### **HOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

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

Please do not contact the surgery to make an appointment until you have been contacted with an invitation.

### **CHILDREN'S FLU CLINICS**

Information regarding flu clinics will be available at a later date.

**IF YOU NOT WISH TO HAVE A FLU VACCINATION THIS YEAR, PLEASE LET THE SURGERY KNOW OR RESPOND VIA TEXT WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE INVITATION.**

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

*Thank you*

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## **Battle of Britain Week**

Unfortunately, I am unable to make my collecting rounds this year on behalf of the Royal Air Force Associations helping towards this very worthy cause.



You can always send a donation by cheque to: Don Curry, Treasurer, 19 Glyn Close, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP70 DP44

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

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

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

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## **From Times Gone By!**

On the 5th instant died at Mere, in this countv, Mary Jane Grove, daughter of John Chafin Morris, Esq. Commander of the Royal Navy. This is the third infantile victim in his family to lament the dreadful ravages of hooping-cough.

### **Salisbury & Wiltshire Journal 15 September 1828**

*(The child was around 16 months when she died. John Chafin Morris' father had married Jane Grove of Chantry House in Mere and was thus a relative of Julia Chafyn Grove, who gave Mere the Grove Building.)*

FOR SALE by AUCTION, by Mr. Jeanes, at the Ship Inn, in Mere - All that newly-built and very convenient DWELLING-HOUSE ... well supplied with water, and replete with every convenience. Also, Forty-three Acres of rich Freehold Arable and Pasture land, and Forty-four Acres of Arable, Pasture, and Down Land delightfully situate, at and near Prospect Place, a short distance from the turnpike-road, and near the town of Mere... The London, Taunton, Exeter, Bath and Poole coaches pass daily.

### **Salisbury & Wiltshire Journal 16 September 1833**

*(This is almost certainly what came to be known as Prospect Farm, the location of which is now marked by 'Prospect Place' off Long Lane in the Bramley Hill area.)*

*Martyn Beardsley*

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## **Merekits - Womens Institute**

The newly forming 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 July meeting we had a fun meeting called an "Evening with Bacchus". Bacchus is the ancient god of agriculture and wine, so we therefore had a wine and cheese tasting competition led by one of our members, it went down very well, especially as supplies had been donated by local retailers. Our August meeting was a "Meander through Mere" led by a local individual identifying local spots of historic interest. We have also organised additional members events including a walk around Penselwood, a visit to the sunflower fields and an Indian meal in a local Indian restaurant. Future events are likely to include trips to the cinema, and theatre. Our next members meeting will be on September 20th where we will be trying line dancing so why not come along, join us and have some fun? Finally, we are also planning a "pre-loved" sale on 28th October at the Grover Building so if you have any items to donate, please let us know.

Verena Cooper 07971790256 [verenacooper2@gmail.com](mailto:verenacooper2@gmail.com)

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## **In Memorial 1932 - 18th July, 2023**



**Thelma Ings** was part of Mere being born in Salisbury Street Mere, on the 29th January 1932. Besides carrying out administration for her husband's business, she found time to be involved in many community functions in Mere, including The Church and Girl Guiding. Thelma joined the Guides at the age of 12 in 1944. Guiding became an important part of her life, eventually becoming a Division

Commissioner and leader of a Ranger Unit. Thelma was given the Good Service Award and became Divisional Vice President only retiring from active Guiding when she reached 65 years old. Thelma was honored by The Girl Guiding Standard being brought to her funeral by Jo Manship. The Talbot Dog was put on The Standard in 1952 and represented Mere.





**Wiltshire Council**



# **Grow Your Community**



**Residents of the Mere community  
are welcome to join the course at**

**Mere Primary School**

**Tuesday 19 September**

**9:30 -11:30 5 x weeks**

**Learn practical skills to grow  
your own produce.**

**Find out how to care for the environment  
and your community.**



**Call 01225 770478  
to book your place**



**Email: [Familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

**Website: <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>**

## **Explore:**

- **how to make your world greener**
- **ways of growing and using your own vegetables**
- **how to make a difference in your neighbourhood**
- **how to become a citizen of science**

**Join the fun, \*free and friendly course and  
brighten up your open spaces!**

**\*FaCL online courses are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.**

**Courses are no cost to learners if 19+ and have been a resident in UK/EU for 3+years, Wiltshire postcode and can tick any of these criteria:**

- **have less than 5 GCSEs grades A-C**
- **in receipt of benefits**
- **are a service family**
- **are a family with SEN children**
- **are unemployed**
- **Ukrainian guests and asylum seekers welcome**



**Please call us on 01225 770478 if you want to find out more.**

## **Mere School – Eco Club**



We have a very enthusiastic club running weekly at our school with a group of children who are determined to reduce our energy usage and deploy as many environmentally friendly strategies as possible, ably headed up by Mrs Debs Shannon. Their main aim is to make our school carbon neutral by 2030 – a challenging target given that we have gas and oil boilers. However, I admire their aspiration.

The children in the club are fascinated by a computer program which links to our Smart Meter. The program provides charts weekly to illustrate how much energy we have used, how much energy we have saved compared to last year and most importantly in these challenging financial times how much money we have saved. The children love sharing this information with Mrs Hyde! We have monitors who regularly patrol the classrooms telling the staff off if they have left lights on! Wessex Water spent a few days in school talking about how we can save water and have kindly provided us with water butts to collect rain water in to water our school garden.

The Eco Club also keep our school garden tidy. They have been drying out bulbs kindly donated by Mere Town Council ready to plant. The club has also created a new 'bee friendly' patch near the car park with help from Seeds for Success and Simon, groundsman for Mere Town Council. They are in the process of filling it with appropriate plants and would appreciate any donations from the community. Each class has also raised a planter in the garden and they grow something to eat in there every year.

As well as this the children manage our recycling. We recycle food waste, paper, cardboard, glass, metal and we have a clothing bank on site which anyone (not just the school) can put unwanted clothing in. The children are also meticulous about keeping our site litter free.

A focus for our governor monitoring this term has been to consider how knowledgeable our children are about environmental issues. Our governor was most impressed – the children demonstrated that their overwhelming desire is to make our world a better place to live for future generations.

We pride ourselves at Mere School on everyone being a learner from our cleaning team to our teaching team and of course the children!

We organise regular events in school for parents to work with their children and now we have the opportunity for our community to be involved in this as well. Please do enrol on the course so we can all learn together and 'save the planet' at the same time.

We look forward to seeing you!

*Catrina Williamson Head Teacher*

## Mere Brownies

It has been time for celebration for Mere Brownies!!! Mollie Gulliver is first Mere Brownie to achieve all her Brownie interest badges. For her fantastic achievement she was presented with a Girlguiding camp blanket. Well done Mollie.



Also, congratulations to Nicky Lawes (Fluffy Owl) presented with an award for 30 years service to Girlguiding.

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## Mere & District Link Scheme

June was again a busy month with 104 trips including 27 to Salisbury District Hospital. July, however, was much quieter with only 74 trips, possibly reflecting the start of the holiday season and the junior doctors' strikes.

Our volunteer drivers take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. We do both long and short trips. For example, we have recently had trips to Basingstoke, Bath, Southampton and Weston-Super-Mare hospitals and to appointments in Mere and Gillingham. 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.

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.

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

Copy date for the **October 2023** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

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

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

## **Mere Carnival Committee**



Well the big day is very nearly upon us; get that smile on your faces and be prepared to be entertained. Carnival is all planned out and the Committee are raring to go. We want to bring an enjoyable day to all of our wonderful residents and visitors alike.

As last year there is no afternoon children's procession, but instead come along from 4-30 and enjoy some entertainment in the Square. There will be food stalls, a bar and various other attractions, but we would ask that you support the businesses that are supporting our Carnival. All those that have donated and booked pitches will be displaying an "Official Vendor" poster on their stalls. Again, please try and support these local businesses by buying from them.

Also there will be a children's fancy dress competition with cash prizes; the competition is open to anyone up to the age of 11. Just come along in those splendid outfits your parents have made for you, and you could be leaving with a super prize.

Megadraw tickets will be on sale throughout the day and until everyone goes home; again this year's prize is £1000 cash! with the draw taking place on **Sunday 17th at the Butt of Sherry.**

We have a first for the Carnival Procession this year, which will excite those that have never seen one before or if you have will bring back memories of times gone by. What am I talking about? A steam traction engine will be leading the procession so get your place in the crowd to enjoy this spectacle.

All that is left for me to say is please enjoy Carnival and bring lots of coins for the collectors so that we can once again make much needed donations to local good causes.

*Mel Wilkinson Chairman Mere Carnival Committee 2023*

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

Short Walk: September's Short Walk will take place on **Tuesday 5th September**. Join me for a 2/3mile walk around the paths and lanes of Mere and refresh yourself afterwards at the Angel Tea Rooms with a welcome cuppa and indulge in piece of one of Paul's delicious cakes. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2p.m.

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

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### **Mere Social Club**

Our Summer skittles competition took place in July with 16 teams taking part. This was once again a success, with teams of regular skittlers and some who get together for the competition. Congratulations to the winners.

Now that September is here, the Mere and District league and the Hunt League begin and the club boasts teams across all the divisions of these leagues. For more information please contact the club.

During September the club will host the **Mere Autumn Fair and Family Fun Day** which Louise Padfield runs in support of the Stars Neonatal Unit at Salisbury hospital. This takes place on **Saturday 9th September** from 11am onwards.

**Saturday, September 16th** brings Mere Carnival. The club will be open throughout the evening and **Stuart Saye** will be performing from 9pm onwards.

On September 30th we will have more live music from **Jack and Mark**. Once again, this is free entry and all are welcome.

*Elaine Laurence, club steward.*

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### **Mere Bowls Club**

As previously reported and further to damage done at the pavilion we do have pictures of three youths on the roof of our changing rooms and on the roof of the pavilion. The youths are readily identifiable and the still pictures and the video have been sent to both the police and the Town Council.

We would ask these three youths to come forward, or at least for their parents/guardians to acknowledge that they have reprimanded them. If we do not hear further then we may just have to take legal action.

You can contact me as below about this or any other club matter.

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

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### **Mere Toddlers Foodbank Quiz results:**

A very well supported event, making £313.90, and match funding has been organised by the wonderful Penny Fennon. Penny also wrote the questions, finding teams, getting sponsorship for the £100 prize money plus the cost of hiring the hall and organising the evening. We had best not mention the jokes however... The brilliant Winning team was - 'The Shreen Dream Team' but it was a very close result. Thank you to them for kindly returning some of their winnings.



The Winners of the Wooden spoon and best name were 'The Permanators ,' and also a mention for giving the best answer :

Question: Who was the Roman god of wine?

Answer : Mr Yapp!

Thanks go to all the helpers on the night, and everyone who helps collect and deliver for the foodbank, also to Yapps, The Butt of Sherry , Hillbrush Cafe and all the other kind donors for their invaluable support for the raffle. Finally thanks go to Mere Co-operative for all their brilliant and constant support.

Anne Rich: ☎ 3512023 [arich4@icloud.com](mailto:arich4@icloud.com)

### **Petanque in Mere:**

Enquiries about petanque in Mere have increased, albeit slowly. The appalling 'summer' weather has failed to dampen our enthusiasm and luckily Mere Mortals has successfully completed their league season without any interference from the elements. The league finals day takes place at Tisbury FC on **Sunday 10th September**. All the pupils of the Primary School were given a taste of petanque on their French day last term and appeared to enjoy the experience. Open sessions will continue on Saturdays at 10.30am, Tuesdays at 6.30pm and Wednesdays at 2.30pm for as long as folk want to play. Sometimes it is as nice playing in the winter as the summer, believe it or not. I have submitted ideas to the Town Council regarding possible improvement of our current playing surface. New members are always welcome.



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

### **Fair Trade in Mere**

Fair Trade stalls: This month I will be at the URC coffee morning on Saturday **September 16th** and after the Morning Service in St Michael's on **Sunday 17th**. The new company, We are Fair Trade, founded after the demise of Traidcraft is gradually adding more products to its range as well as stocking some of our favourites. So why not come and see what there is to offer and support the producers as they struggle in these difficult economic times. Janet Way 860884

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

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### **PennyBank Writers**

PennyBank Writers took part in the Frome Small Publishers' Fair in early July. The Silk Mill Gallery, Saxonvale, was packed with stalls manned by authors, illustrators and publishers offering books, information and advice. As well as manning their own stall which attracted a fair amount of interest, PennyBank members enjoyed meeting fellow writers and members of the public.

Congratulations go to Ross Thompson as both volumes of his book, *Ten Ways to Weave the World*, are now available. Vol.1: *Outgrowing Materialism*, was published in 2022 and Vol.2: *Embodying Mind*, this year by Cascade Books, an imprint of Wipf & Stock. Both are available on Amazon in hard copy or on Kindle. Ross has been interviewed about this achievement for a video to be produced by Tim Hull in the Timeline Series. PBW will report when this is available on You Tube.

And, as a result of the sale of PBW's booklet, *Mere Metre*, at Frome, Ross' poem, *Original Sorrow*, was featured in the Somerton Church Magazine.

Adrienne Howell ☎ 860475

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### **Shreen Harmony (Community Choir)**

Shreen Harmony, the Mere community choir is now in its 23rd year. We perform a variety of music genres from traditional, folk, soul and African. We sing in 3 or 4 part harmony, acapella. Our lovely Musical Director is Caroline Radcliffe.

Caroline brings a great deal of experience but above all, fun and informality to rehearsals and concerts.

We meet every **Thursday at 7.30 pm** (finishing at 9) in the **United Reformed Church** in Mere. No auditions - just come along and see if you like us - we are a very friendly group.

Our autumn term begins on the first **Thursday in September (the 7th)**. So maybe we will see you then!

Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980 [chair@shreenharmony.co.uk](mailto:chair@shreenharmony.co.uk)

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## **Operation Awake - A Wiltshire Initiative to Support Women in Public Life**

Local women in public life who are at the receiving end of abusive emails and social media posts will receive additional support from the police as part of a new pilot scheme.

Developed jointly by Salisbury Soroptimists (the local club of a global women's organisation) and Wiltshire Police, **Operation Awake** will enable female councillors and other women in public life to receive support when reporting any such abuse, whether written, verbal or on social media.

Once the codeword is used, police will know to ensure that incidents and offences can be analysed to identify serial perpetrators or inform patrol strategies and will support publicity campaigns and engagement to encourage reporting. Where appropriate these will be dealt with as crimes and investigated and where the matter does not meet a criminal threshold for investigation, the information supplied will be used to help identify patterns of behaviour and ultimately to pinpoint repeat offenders. We hope that by building a stronger intelligence picture, the police will be able to deploy resources to proactively target potential perpetrators and prevent offences.

Unlike MPs, until now there was no bespoke reporting structure for female councillors or women who work or volunteer in public service. Liz Batten of the Soroptimist project group said: "We are saying 'it's not ok' to be personally abusive to any woman – but we believe that those women who give of their time and energy to serve their local community deserve to be better protected from this kind of gender-based abuse. We are pleased that Wiltshire Police agreed with us that women should be encouraged to report the gender abuse they receive so that enquiries can be made to identify the perpetrators and assess any immediate risk."



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## **Waltons shop and postoffice.**

### **Royal mail.**

Not at home to receive your packages or mail? We have a local collect service available in Branch.

Click and collect / returns services also available through amazon hub and DPD. Stationery, Gifts and cards also available.

***Shop Mere ~ Shop Local***

## 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	Fri	13:45	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
2	Sat	10:30	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
		19:30	Shreen Harmony	StM
3	Sun			
4	Mon	09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		17:45	Yoga (every Mon)	L
5	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		14 :00	Mere Walking Group (Janet Way)	CP
		18:20	<b>Zumba</b> (every Tues)	L
6	Wed	14:30	<b>Pilates</b> (every Weds)	L
		18:30	<b>Karate</b> (every Weds)	L
			<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
7	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
		14:00	<b>Rubber Bridge</b> (every Thurs)	L
		19:30	<b>Shreen Harmony</b> (every Thurs)	URC
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		17:45	Yoga Workshop	L
		19:30	FoMM Talk	GB
9	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning</i>	
10	Sun			
11	Mon		<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i>	
12	Tues	09:00	<b>Little Angels</b> (every Tues)	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>Zumba</i>	
13	Wed	09:30	<b>Tai-Chi</b> (every Weds)	<b>GB</b>
		14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		19:30	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>, Railway Modellers</i>	
14	Thurs	17:00	<b>Girllguiding</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30	Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
			<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony,</i>	
15	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
16	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Fair Trade Stall</i>	
17	Sun	10:00	First Aid for Parents – Keep a Beat	L
			Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM



18	Mon	<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i>		
19	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
			<i>Little Angels</i>	
20	Weds	19:00	Merekits Womens Institute	GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>	
21	Thurs	<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony,</i>		
22	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
23	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
24	Sun			
25	Mon	<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Yoga</i>		
26	Tues			
27	Weds	09:00	Mere Jelly	VH
		14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		14:30	PennyBank Writers	L
			<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>	
28	Thurs	<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony,</i>		
29	Fri	<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
30	Sat			

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



# u3a

Shaftesbury & Gillingham

learn, laugh, live

## RETIRED?

Now is the time to make the most of life. But to enjoy life to the full, you need to keep your mind and body active.

Shaftesbury & Gillingham u3a gives you the chance to develop your interests and make new friends.

Our monthly social meetings, featuring guest speakers, are at the New Remembrance Hall, Charlton, SP7 0PL, on the first Thursday of every month at 10.00am



A warm welcome awaits anyone from the two towns and surrounding villages at Shaftesbury & Gillingham u3a.

With over 20 groups to choose from, offering physical activity, intellectual challenge and plenty of fun activities, you are sure to find something to enjoy and make new friends.

u3a is a wonderful way to learn, laugh and live!

You are never alone with u3a.

Contact Barbara: 01747 825646  
barbara@pbhurst.com

Find us online at <https://u3asites.org.uk/sgu3a/home>

### **Ukes at The Butt of Sherry**

Calling all ukulele players. Come along to The Butt of Sherry on **Thursday 14th September** at 7.30pm.

Bring your ukulele for an evening of fun 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](mailto:maggieholmes101@gmail.com)

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### **Mere Jelly**

Once a month, Mere's creatives, freelancers, home-workers and small business owners emerge in public! You will find us, armed with cappuccinos and shiny laptops, at Visit Hillbrush on the last Wednesday of every month between 9am and noon

Join us for the morning or just drop in for a coffee and a chat on the **27th September**

Jenni Bell ☎ 860400

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### **Mere Theatre Club**

Enjoy visiting stately homes? Love a good musical? Intrigued by Christmas from the East? The Theatre Club could be for you. Coach travel always included plus some time for lunch, shopping or just having a wander.

Autumn booking now closed but the winter programme will be out before long. So do get in touch and join our mailing list.

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

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### **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)

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

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



You are invited to **St Michael's Church** on

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**

to celebrate our patron Saint's Day.

Our visiting preacher will be

**Canon Eric Woods, the "Loose Canon"**

who writes in the

**New Blackmore Vale Magazine**



### **Mere Day Centre**

We have had a lot of fun at the day centre recently with all sorts of different activities. From Quizzes to Polish meat tasting (thank you to 'Little Poland' Gillingham for donating the meat, bread and butter), Exercise classes to Craft sessions, Peter the guitarist to Musical bingo and much more. We were also lucky enough to be invited once again for a cream tea in Georgie Moore's delightful garden, the sun shone and the scones were delicious! Thank you to Georgie & Johnny for hosting us again this year.

We have a load of different activities coming up so if you would like to join us, please give me a call on the number below, we currently have a few spaces on both a Monday and a Friday. The cost for each session is only £10 and that includes all your hot drinks, your two-course meal and any activities!

I am on the lookout for another volunteer to cover the Friday sessions (9:45am-3pm) this involves serving teas/coffees/lunch, joining in with the activities and chatting with our guests. Please get in touch if you think you could help.

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

### **Mere Museum**

We now have our two new cabinets in place as part of the permanent collection. Please do visit and leave feedback. Also if there is anything you would like to see exhibited leave me a message.

At present I am still unable to change the exhibition as the work has not yet been completed in the store room. I will however change some of the posters currently on show in the Rutter exhibition.

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

## **Mere Amateur Dramatic Society**

Thank you very much to those who came to our play reading evenings in July. Your support is heartening. After much deliberation, the play we have chosen to present as our Autumn Production is 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon. It is a rather wonderful spoof of the Agatha Christie 'whodunnits', featuring one Inspector Pratt, and is, may we reassure you, a comedy! So far, so good. We now begin casting among our available MADS members, and then this month begins the exciting but demanding process of rehearsals. These are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Lecture Hall, 7.30 - 9.30 p.m., beginning on **September 5th**. A challenging schedule indeed, but as MADS members know so well, practice makes perfect when aiming for another first rate entertainment! The production dates for your dairy are Thursday to Saturday, **23rd to 25th November**. Don't forget to write them in now!

As well as all this, MADS is proud to present, by popular demand, on **Friday 15th September in the Grove Buildings**, a further edition of its very successful '**Would MADS Lie To You**' panel game in which you the audience, in teams of four or more, decide who is telling the truth and who is not! Come in your own teams or on your own to form a team with others, and be prepared to win prizes! The tickets for this event are available from The Library and from Sprout and Flower (or email [pennyinmere@gmail.com](mailto:pennyinmere@gmail.com)) and are priced at £10 per person, to include a fish and chip supper. Wine will be available by donation. There will be tickets on the door at £5 but without supper. Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.30 start. The tickets are selling like the proverbial hot cakes at the moment, so get yours now to avoid disappointment and come and join the fun!

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Jenny Wilding  860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)

## **Restorative Yoga**

Are you looking to try a deeply relaxing form of yoga? Restorative yoga uses props such as bolsters straps and yoga blocks to support the body. This gives the body a chance to fully relax, inviting release of tension in the muscles. Classes include mindful breathing techniques and meditation to give body and mind opportunity to recharge and renew. People often report feeling refreshed after deep rest. Six week restorative yoga course begins Friday 8th September to Friday 13th October inclusive at Mere Lecture Hall, 6pm to 7pm. £48. I will provide props but please bring mat and blanket. To book please contact Claire on 07517803611 or email [clairefrancesca4@gmail.com](mailto:clairefrancesca4@gmail.com). Regular Monday Hatha Yoga classes every week at Mere Lecture Hall, 6pm to 7pm. Feel free to contact me for any further information.

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Claire Francesca [clairefrancesca4@gmail.com](mailto:clairefrancesca4@gmail.com)



## **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

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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Family Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	08:30 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Benefice Patronal Communion

### ***West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:***

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	09:30	Lay led service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Parish Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	Benefice Patronal Communion at Mere

### ***All Saints Church, Maiden Bradley***

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

Contact: [diana@dianabourne.co.uk](mailto:diana@dianabourne.co.uk)

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	10:00	Catch up in the Village Hall
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	DIY Service
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:00	Morning Worship
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	10:30	Benefice Patronal Communion at Mere

## **Mere Information**

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

### ***The United Reformed Church***

Minister - Rev'd Duncan Goldie

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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBC
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr. Dudley Coates
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. Colin Marsh (Harvest Festival)
24 <sup>th</sup>	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](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

### **St Michael's Church**

Open every day but over the weekend of **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September** the church is joining in with a country wide initiative to showcase the best of our heritage buildings.



On Saturday from 10am to 4pm and 1pm to 4pm on Sunday the church will be opening up some little seen parts of the church and introducing you to some fascinating information about our place of worship. There will be trips up the tower and up some winding steps into the little known Parvise room. There will be guided tours around the church and activities especially designed for children. It's all free apart from the cup of tea and snacks served in the Grove Buildings. So please make a date and bring friends and family.

*Margaret Durkee*

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### **St Michael's Church**

The Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church in Mere is awarded a £247,843 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

In August, The Friends of St Michael's Church received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £247,843 for an exciting heritage project named The Tower Stories.

Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on restoring the pinnacles of the Church and building an important community project named The Tower Stories. Work on the Tower Stories project will start in September 2023 with building work on the Tower being undertaken January – July 2024.

The Friends bid made clear that The Tower Stories will not only restore the Church pinnacles but also offer new, exciting and practical opportunities relating to the history, heritage and community involvement in this wonderful building for those of all ages in Mere. Thanks to those who supported the Friends in their bid particularly Seeds for Success, Mere School, Mere Museum, The Bishop of Ramsbury, Andrew Murrison MP and Mere Town Council. Also, thanks to those in Mere who kindly supported the original appeal to restore the pinnacles. All those donations make up the 5% contribution of the Friends to the pinnacles project together with a grant of £3000 by Wiltshire Churches Trust.

Commenting on the award, Felicity Wilson, Chair of the Friends said: "We are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players and are confident the Tower Stories project will enhance the lives of all who live in and around Mere as well as Mere Church. The hard work begins now!"

## **Mere Art Group**

The Art Group shared the very sad loss of Jill Turner in July - a loss felt throughout the Community, witnessed by the attendance at Her Funeral in St Michaels. Jill had been introduced to The Group by Chris Tuck some time ago. A recent fine Portrait painted by Jill featured in the September 2022 Edition of Mere Matters.

Attendance at our weekly gatherings has been increasing - at times demanding the use of the long tables!

The contribution in this edition, using acrylics-on-paper, was painted by Molly Mercer, a long-standing member.

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



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

We enjoyed our Service and enrolment of a new member for the Mere Mother's Union followed by a very sociable picnic in the church to stay dry and warm.

Our next meeting is with Anne Rich on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm in the main hall of the Grove Building** telling us of the wonderful work done by the Mere Foodbank which has served particularly young families in Mere and the surrounding area for many years now, with an opportunity to contribute to their ever needed resources. These days there is a growing need for people like Anne and those who help her.

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 often nice cake 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. Christabelle Kriticos Christine Marsh ☎ 861212

## Mere Gardening Club

Firstly, a big thank you to Johnny and Georgie Moore for hosting our annual Garden Party at their house. We had an excellent turn out and the weather was kind to us.

Our next meeting is on **13th September** at the Grove Building starting at 7pm. This will be a floral demonstration by Penny Allen. Please bring your own flowers, bases, cutters and containers if you would like to have a go and create your own display.

We will also be weighing the potatoes this month, so bring in your bag with the foliage tops cut off and we will do the weighing and judging.

Below are the full results of the scarecrow competition.

Visitors always welcome, £3 entry and new members too.

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

No	Address	Winners	Scores
10	The Thatched Cottage, Steep Street, Big Friendly Giant	1 <sup>st</sup>	895
7	Birchwood Cottage, Ivymead White Witch (Snow Queen)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	868
24	26 Castle Hill CrescentThe Three Billy Goats Gruff	3 <sup>rd</sup>	817
8	Brookside, Steep Street Worzel Gummidge	4 <sup>th</sup>	791
9	The Cottage, Old Hollow, Wind in the Willows	5 <sup>th</sup>	781
6	Rew Cottage, Ivymead Paddngton Bear	6 <sup>th</sup>	766
1	3 The Bartletts, Shaftesbury Road The Witch Room on a Broom		758
19	Southwell, Church Street Shrek		753
25	4 Underhill Long John Silver		749
27	2 Prospect Place Gangster Granny		736
21	8 Heritage Mews, Castle Street Paddington Scare		734
17	St. Kilva The Little Mermaid		714
14	1 Boar Street Goldilocks		706
3	Villa Verde, Pettridge Lane Mr Fun		686
15	Brainwave Shop Worzel Gummidge & Family		673
20	Blandings, Castle Street Captain Hook		656
23	Lynchets, Castle Hill Lane The Invisible Man		648
16	4 The Square Frankenstein's Monster		636
11	16 Denes Avenue The Guys Tale		616
5	Portarro, Water Street Scarecroo7		614
18	Mere Library The Very Hungry Caterpillar		608
4	14 Lynch Close The Tin Man		587
13	St. Andrews, North Road The Cat in the Hat		586
2	3 Oak Lane, (near the Walnut) Fat Man in the Flowerbed		576
12	C/o Wyvern Cottage, North Road Mr Bump		558
22	Bramley House, Castle Street Hungry Caterpillar		521

Thank you so much to everyone who took part, the standard was excellent.



## **Pay for parking using your phone**

If you have a smartphone, you can pay for your parking session using the MiPermit app in all Wiltshire Council pay and display car parks.

Cash payments are still accepted for people who wish to pay with coins, but for many people, payment using the MiPermit app is quicker and easier - and there is no extra charge.

Anyone who opts to use the MiPermit app can benefit from additional features including extending your stay from the app without returning to the car park, the ability to book stays over multiple days and purchase season tickets.



*We do appear to be being pressurised into having umpteen apps on our phones for this purpose, especially if you travel around the country a bit. I now have JustPark, MiPermit, Apcoa, PayByPhone, NCP, YourParkingSpace ..... and probably a few more by the time you read this. To save the frustration of having to install them in a car park in the rain, why not download them now – they are free!*

Editor: [rjafferries@btinternet.com](mailto:rjafferries@btinternet.com)

## **Mere Rivers Group**

What a year so far weather-wise in the Wessex area.

Feb 1/3 of average rain fall.

March 1/3 wettest since records began.

April rain fall above average.

May 88% of long term average rain fall.

June Hot and dry.

July 6th wettest since records began.

All the above has a big effect on our rivers, but not in a bad way both the Ashfield and the Shreen have good flows.

Last year at this time the upper Shreen was dry and the Ashfield was kept flowing with stream support.

Next year we should be trialing stream support on the Shreen.

We have had a very good year for Water Voles with many sightings and we believe young voles, not so good for Ducks and Moorhens. The parts of the

Shreen which dried last year are gradually being repopulated with fish as frequent visits from the Kingfisher seem to indicate.

Swifts have left us for warmer climes and they will soon be followed by Swallows, Martins and Warblers which will be replaced by our winter migrants.

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

## Save the church organ

Our historic church organ which has performed magnificently for over 100 years and survived being moved to its current position in the 1920s, is now in need of extensive, and expensive, repairs. Although it is playable now - just, - we are missing the full effect of a beautifully rounded sound we would enjoy if it were in better condition. Sadly, the quality of sound will only deteriorate if we don't carry out these repairs.



The **Friends of Maiden Bradley Church** are organising an online Auction of Promises to kick start the fundraising. Anyone can join the fun, just search [www.jumblebee.co.uk/savethechurchorgan](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/savethechurchorgan) and the auction items to bid for will come up. It is really easy to make a bid and receive alerts if someone bids against you. We have had some fabulous promises donated for all sizes of pockets.

The Auction will open on **10th September** and run to **10th October** to give everyone a chance to bid as often as you like. As usual, the Village has been amazingly generous with their time and offers of things they can donate - thank you to all of you.

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Kate Symonds

## Friends of Mere Museum

After the very well attended and much enjoyed talk by Jennie Elias about Zeals House in July, we take a break while we finalise a programme of talks to excite and entertain you during the coming Winter season. This programme is taking shape, and we hope very soon to be able to give you a glimpse of our upcoming schedule. Meanwhile enjoy the rest of the summer, and have your diaries at the ready for the next edition of Mere Matters.

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Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 [jenny@flaxmill.org.uk](mailto:jenny@flaxmill.org.uk)



. Kirsty Milward, who founded Suchana in 2004 now lives mainly in the UK but still visits Suchana regularly and continues to play a role in shaping the organisation and

translating its objectives into real practice. She is also primarily responsible for communications and fundraising, and helps to guide new projects in the preparation and early stages. To find out more about this unique and lively project enabling education and opportunities for 'adivasi' children and communities in rural West Bengal have a look at their website: [suchana-community.org](http://suchana-community.org)

To help support all this Kirsty is seeking sponsorship as she takes part on 16<sup>th</sup> September as one of a crew of 6 rowing in the Great River Race - London's River Marathon! It's a spectacular boat race covering 21.6 miles on the Thames from Millwall in East London to Richmond in the West. Kirsty has only recently learnt to row, so this is quite a challenge. If you would like to support her effort for Suchana you can donate through her Just Giving page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/kirsty-milward1691768561754?utm\\_term=eDaNYP2dR](https://www.justgiving.com/page/kirsty-milward1691768561754?utm_term=eDaNYP2dR)

or if you prefer you can write a cheque to 'Friends of Suchana.

To learn more, and to support Suchana's work – and to enjoy meeting each other - everyone is welcome to a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy from 10.30am on Tuesday 3rd October. This will be held at Hillcrest, Hazzards Hill (home of Elisabeth Barrett – on the main road a few yards up from the Shreen)

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



Our next meeting is at **10.30am in Mere URC on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September**. As well as one or two representatives from each Church, members or friends of any of our local Churches are welcome to attend, as we seek to find the best ways of working together in challenging times.

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

## **Bridging the Digital Divide Mere Library, 2-5pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Are you feeling left behind by technology?

Are you struggling to afford digital devices?

Are you lacking in confidence with using technology?

You are not alone!

The Warminster Area Health and Wellbeing Forum is running a FREE drop-in session as part of Get Online Week: 2-5pm, Monday 16 October 2023

Come along and:

- Discover affordable or even free\* options to purchase and run devices, and to purchase data. (\*Dependent on eligibility criteria)
- Find out about free skills training and support to improve your confidence.
- Learn about how to stay safe online.

You can also bring along certain old and unused tech encouraging recycling and reuse.

If you are already confident in using technology, come along and find out about volunteering opportunities to help others in your area bridge the digital divide.

[healthandwellbeinginwarminster@gmail.com](mailto:healthandwellbeinginwarminster@gmail.com) 01985 216022 (Warminster Library)

Facebook: [@healthandwellbeinginwarminster](https://www.facebook.com/healthandwellbeinginwarminster)

**Over a third of items put in the rubbish skips at Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres could be recycled.**

**Let's Sort It before you bring it!**

Some of the items you can recycle at our sites include:

 <b>Textiles and clothes</b>	 <b>Metals, cans and aerosols</b>
 <b>Plastics</b>	 <b>Electrical items</b>
 <b>Paper</b>	 <b>Wood</b>
 <b>Cardboard</b>	 <b>Soil and rubble</b>



**Wiltshire Council**



# Teeandee Productions

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