A person wearing a red helmet and a blue jacket is rafting down a river. The water is turbulent and brown, splashing around the person. The person has a determined expression. The background is a dense forest of green trees.

Mere Matters

*& so does
West Knoyle*

July & August 2024

Your community magazine
Including a guide to local events

ENTRANCE
FREE
FOR ALL THE
FAMILY

The Proms

IN MERE

July 13th 2024

Gates open at 4.00pm Concert starts at 5.30pm

By Shrewton Silver Band

In St Michael's Churchyard, Church Street, Mere BA12 6DS

Please walk if you can to the event - you know
parking can be limited in Mere!



A celebration to mark the restoration of St Michael's Church Tower.

Live music from a 26 piece big band.

Bring a picnic or buy food from our excellent food outlets in Mere.

Butt of Sherry pop up bar on site from 4.00pm - 8.30pm.



FRIENDS OF
ST. MICHAEL'S
CHURCH

THE
Tower
STORIES

Mere Town Council

With the summer weather our groundsmen are kept busy with managing the growth of grass and plants on the playing fields, other open spaces and the cemetery. All of these require special equipment and are often weather dependent. I am always pleased to see the quality of their work but I am aware that work in the cemetery is fraught with difficulty. Many awkward spaces with all manner of objects to negotiate around those special places where parishioners go to be with the memories of their loved ones do mean that we sometimes disappoint, I would ask for your forbearance and hope that you appreciate our concern to get this task done with respect, care and as well as time allows.

The council has, what are called assets but are better thought of as aspects of Mere. Our attention is both to preserve and improve. This month we heard from our project coordinator about the plans to maintain and improve the play area at the bottom of Castle Hill. This is a popular space for children and picnicking families. Once this has been done, we will be turning our attention to the very much used children's area in the recreation ground. This will be a larger project and we will be consulting with all of the user groups about what they would like the space to include and how it will look.

At our June meeting we heard from both the Carnival team and the Funfair providers and other users of the recreation ground about having the funfair, which accompanies Mere Annual Carnival, take place in the recreation ground. After considerable discussion we have agreed to a trial year with the funfair situated on protective surfaces in the recreation ground.



I was proud to play a small part in the commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day Normandy landing. My thanks to Stuart Walker for the organisation and the

words he used to set the scene, and Mary Burfitt playing the last post and the many Mere parishioners who attended, which altogether meant that we shall remember those brave individuals.

Planning continues for AIM, Activities in Mere, which takes place on the 9th to 11th of August & will create many opportunities for the over fifties to try new activities or to revisit ones they used to take part in. Leaflets, with details of what will happen and what you need to do to take part will be soon coming through your door, delivered by volunteers, don't miss this opportunity!



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

Summer is here. I have attended Mere Gardening Club's 2024 Hidden Gardens open weekend of the 15th and 16th June. 19 gardens were open over the 2 days, every garden was a credit to its gardener. There were hundreds in attendance across the various open gardens and travelling between gardens, some coming from outside the area.

The same weekend was the *Mere and District Railway Modellers 2024 Exhibition*, a layout was done for the children which was well used. Many came for the exhibition from afar as well as locally.

Further it was the weekend Yapp Bros. left Mere for Sparkford, which is sad. They had helped put Mere on the map for decades.

Polling opens on Thursday 4 July from 7am and continues to 10pm.

Postal votes must be returned by Royal Mail. If people are not able to put their postal vote in the post, they can only hand them in at County Hall reception in Trowbridge by completing a form provided on arrival. People should not post postal votes directly in the post boxes at the council's three main offices (County Hall, Monkton Park and Bourne Hill) as they will be rejected. Alternatively, on polling day people can hand postal votes in at the polling station. People can only hand in a maximum of five postal votes and your own (six in total).

Don't forget to take photo ID with you to vote at a polling station. Accepted forms of photo ID include passports, photographic driving licences, biometric immigration documents, and certain concessionary travel passes. A comprehensive list can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id.

Those without an accepted form of photo ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024. The Voter Authority Certificate can be used at all elections and people are advised to apply as early as possible.

More information can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/general-election.

Fly posting is taken to be the display of advertising material on buildings and street furniture without the consent of the owner. If permission is gained from the landowner, which would include Wiltshire Council Highways, then it is not fly posting as permission is given. The council will allow advertising on the highway by charities and community groups. There are also more serious implications such as the placement of notices that could cause a distraction for drivers or effecting the visibility at junctions etc. Hence, it is important that all groups seek permission before advertising their event. In most cases with community groups it will be about the location, size and number of notices that advice may be needed before approval.

The council will publicise how community groups should apply for permission to advertise their events to avoid any problems with fly posting. Visit the website page Litter - Wiltshire Council.

Penny Fennon gave May rainfall for Salisbury Street as 15cm with the 2nd and 14th May being the wettest with 3cm of rain. Pam Baldock gave May rainfall for Lordsmead as 66.75mm.

Wiltshire are still short of placements for foster children and looking for those interested. Wiltshire will provide with ongoing support and training. Fostering with your local council of Wiltshire means all money goes into fostering. Wiltshire Council payments to foster carers reflect the importance Wiltshire Council place on fostering.

Payments for parent and child foster carers are from £1,020 per week for one parent and one child. For more information go to Fostering Home - Fostering with Wiltshire Council email fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk, call 0800 169 6321 or text the word Foster to 60002. Those interested can join an online fostering session to find out more about fostering at one of Wiltshire Council events in June or July – more details here - Fostering events - Fostering with Wiltshire

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

Mere Surgery

Change to opening hours

With effect from 1 July 2024, the opening hours for the surgery will be: **Monday to Friday 08:30 – 17:00 hours**

Mere Surgery  860001

Could You Please Spare A Little Time per Month?

Many of you will know that Jane Kennedy has managed our advertising for Mere Matters for approx. the past 25 years. Unfortunately, she now finds herself needing time to devote to other priorities. On a personal note, I have valued her contribution very much and she will be sorely missed.

Most of our costs are covered by advertising revenue and whilst we are extremely fortunate to have a core of advertisers, just occasionally there are enquiries for new adverts. The systems and processes are well established to manage all of this and is not an onerous job. We just need someone who would be willing to work with the small and fantastic team.

If you would like to contribute to the running of our well respected 10 monthly magazine please do contact me for more info:

Richard Jefferies (Editor)  863425

The Proms in Mere – 13 July 2024

We are looking forward to the Proms Concert in Mere in St Michael's Churchyard on **13 July**. Gates open at 4.00pm and the concert starts at 5.30pm. The event will be over no later than 8.30pm. Further details are on the inside front cover of this issue of Mere Matters.

Please do walk if you can. If you do drive, please do not park in Church Street however there is additional parking available up Angel Lane in the Cemetery carpark (which Mere Town Council is kindly opening for us) and in the field off the Cemetery car park (kindly opened by the Wilson family). Angel Lane is single track so please have patience and respect for other drivers both when arriving and leaving!

If it rains on the 13th (surely not more rain...) the plan is to move the concert into the Church but hopefully the weather will be sunny and warm. Do bring picnics or buy food from our excellent food outlets in Mere. Thank you The Angel Café (and Mr Whippy) for staying open late especially for the event. The Butt of Sherry pop up bar will be on site from 4.00pm – 8.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you on the 13th. Entry is FREE.

Elaine Stallard, The Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church

Mere Appoints First Writer in Residence



Jane Borodale has been appointed as Writer in Residence for The Tower Stories, a ten month community project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by The Friends of St Michael's Church in Mere. The residency will run from September 2024 – June 2025.

Jane will be researching, writing and publishing fiction that interprets and brings alive the medieval 124 ft Tower of St Michael's Church in Mere, Wiltshire. Jane, who lives in Somerset is a successful published writer of historical fiction with her primary interest being in the history of

place and the ordinary lives of the past.

She says "I am keen to write a of six short stories that explore the rooms in the Tower. These would be stories plausibly rooted in the Tower which aim to flesh out and breathe life into existing clues and fragments of the everyday past in Mere, to create vivid, affecting and engaging moments".

Jane will be working closely with Mere School, Mere Museum and the entire Mere community. She will also be holding a series of writing Workshops within the community. "My own passion for history was sparked by childhood visits to local museums and by reading historical fiction, and I am particularly keen for my Tower Stories to enable children and young people to connect imaginatively with the history of their own locality. I can't wait to begin!"

Felicity Wilson, Chair of The Friends of St Michaels' the Archangel adds "We were thrilled to receive 42 high quality applications after the position was advertised nationally. The whole community in Mere now has the incredible opportunity to work with someone of Jane's calibre and I would like to thank again the players of the National Lottery who have made all of this possible."

Elaine Stallard, The Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church

Mere Appoints its First Composer In Residence



Richard Nye has been appointed as Composer in Residence for The Tower Stories, a ten month community project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and supported by The Friends of St Michael's Church in Mere. The residency will run from September 2024 – June 2025.

Richard will be researching, composing and workshopping music that interprets and brings alive the medieval 124 ft Tower of St Michael's the Archangel Church in Mere, Wiltshire. Richard lives in Dorset and has 22 published works and is a house composer with a UK music production company, numerous national and international concert performances, experience in orchestration, sound recording, field recording and audio production along with experience in the latest music technology and 30 years of teaching experience. He says "During the last thirty years I have been fortunate to have had music commissioned, performed, published and broadcast. My music has been performed at the Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall and the Fairfield Halls in London, at venues in the United States, Asia, Australia and Europe and at festivals both in the UK and abroad."

Richard continues "People of any age are wonderful creators and I relish the opportunity to share The Tower Story project with them and to compose something special and lasting for Mere."

Felicity Wilson, Chair of The Friends of St Michael's the Archangel adds "the post was advertised nationally, and we were thrilled to receive 20 high quality applications. All of us in Mere are incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to work with someone of Richard's calibre and I would like to thank again the players of the National Lottery who have made all of this possible."

Elaine Stallard, The Friends of St Michael the Archangel Church

Mere School

Plas Pencelli is a wonderful place for a Year 6 Residential Trip which we were lucky enough to have visited in May.

With the surrounding greenery and overall great grounds, the centre was thriving with nature and had enough space for us all to play and explore during the week.



An early start each morning, followed by an impressive 3 course breakfast which filled us up for the day ahead was needed as we were on the go all day.

The week was full of challenging experiences; on the first day we went on an adventure walk, the second day caving or climbing – vice versa on the third.



The fourth day took us down to the water where we paddled calmly on the canal.

On the final day, we went on a Gorge Walk where we slid under a waterfall and immersed ourselves into a pool of crystal clear water.

The activities offered here left us thrilled and full of knowledge. It was incredible week – one I would not have wanted to miss.



The front cover this month is a photo of Henry deciding to finish the session with a splash!

Jarad Boughen, Purple Class

Mere Jelly

Attending a Mere Jelly networking event can be a game-changer for those who are self-employed or work from home. It's a fantastic opportunity to break out of isolation, meet like-minded professionals, and share ideas in a relaxed, informal setting. At our Jelly, you can collaborate, gain fresh perspectives, and even find potential partners or clients.

Plus, it's a great way to stay motivated and inspired by being part of a supportive community. Don't miss out on the chance to expand your network and grow both personally and professionally!

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at the Brush and Broom Cafe at Hillbrush from 9 until noon.



Jenni Bell 📞 07956 869699

From Times Gone By!

Mr. Whitmarsh held an inquest on Thursday in Mere on the body of George Jukes. The deceased had been mowing hay and went with James Maidmen, who worked with him, to have some beer; they drank no more than about two pints each, and returned to the meadow to resume their labour; they both laid down to sleep, and James Maidment awoke, and found the deceased still sleeping; he then returned home. The following morning, he found the deceased still lying on the ground. He hastened to a surgeon, who attended, but the deceased died. The Jury returned a verdict "Died by the visitation of Almighty God." They were of opinion that the deceased had not drunk enough to cause his death, but that it was owing to the extreme heat of the sun during the severe day's labour he had gone through.

On the same day, Mr. Whitmarsh held an inquest at Ridge, on the body of Sarah Gane who on the preceding evening was carried home in a dying state in consequence of having drunk cold water several times during the day, being at the time much exposed to the rays of the sun and in a state of great perspiration. Less than twenty minutes after drinking the last time, she complained of being ill, and desired to be carried home, and she died shortly after. Verdict "Died in consequence of drinking cold water whilst in a state of perspiration." The day before, a man at Tisbury was found dead in consequence of drinking cold water whilst warm; and another man at Chilmark was saved by prompt measures being adopted in resisting the fatal effects of drinking cold water whilst in a state of violent perspiration. The above accounts ought to have a good effect on those who may be tempted to allay their thirst whilst warm, during hot weather.

A further Caution to Labourers Working in the Fields during Warm Weather – A few days since, a man at Charlton Marshall, whilst very hot at mowing, drank a quantity of small beer and died soon after. Another person at Sturminster Newton being very thirsty and very warm, drank a pint of cider, and died shortly after.

Salisbury & Wilts Journal, 3 July 1820

Martyn Beardsley

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our next session is on Thursday 11th July at 7.30pm at The Butt of Sherry.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month for an informal evening of strumming and singing. We play a wide range of popular songs and welcome all abilities. If you don't have a ukulele, but would like to come along you would be most welcome. We do have a ukulele for you to play. An evening of fun, laughter and song is guaranteed.



You can check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list. Or for more information contact maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

Mere Day Centre

Thank you to those of you that are now following our new Facebook page, it is a lovely way to let you know what we have been getting up to with videos and picture evidence! If you don't already follow our page, please look us up (Mere Day Centre). We have lots 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 either a Monday or a Friday. The cost for each session is only £10 and that includes all your hot drinks, your two course meal and any activities! We are currently looking for another volunteer who would be able to pick up the lunches in the hot box from The Walnut Tree, wash up after lunch, then take the box back. This would be once a month, please call/email if you can help us out.

Sandie Hawkins MDC Manager 📞 07835 272406 manager@meredaycentre.org.uk

Pennybank Writers

On **Saturday July 6th**. PennyBank Writers will again be attending the Frome Small Publishers' Fair. This annual event is part of the **Frome Festival** and is held in **The Silk Mill, Saxonavale, BA11 1PT from 10am – 3pm**. Here visitors will find authors, publishers, illustrators, artists and lots of lovely books.

PennyBank Writers will have members' work on display and for sale. If you are in Frome that Saturday do call in at The Silk Mill, browse the varied stalls and come and meet us.

Adrienne Howell 860475

Railway Modellers Exhibition

Many attended over two days the Mere & District Railway Modellers Mere 2024 Exhibition was held on Saturday 15TH & Sunday 16TH June in the Lecture Hall, Mere. A great selection of model railway layouts in various scales were on offer covering most scales. Attendees came from local plus far and wide. One layout 5184 with Mr Lapham and Graham Sheppard in attendance was designed for and attracted many children.



Graham Avory, M&DRM Chairman, ☎ 860439

1st Mere Brownies recycling project

Nelson Reynolds (husband of one of the Brownie leaders) took 20 girls from the 1st Mere Brownies and Guides through his tools in his tool box and demonstrated how to use them. He then helped them all make a key rack to give their Dad's for Father's Day. This included drilling, screwing hooks in, sanding and decorating their racks.



Pictures and text by Sparkle Owl



MERE ART GROUP
ARE HOLDING AN
EXHIBITION AT
THE GROVE
BUILDING
ON
SATURDAY 7TH
SEPTEMBER
10am ~ 4pm
FREE ENTRY
NOT TO BE
MISSED



Marvellous Makers Summer Reading Challenge 2024

The Summer Reading Challenge is for children aged 4 to 11 to read six library books (or the equivalent) over the eight weeks of the summer in return for various prizes. The 2024 Summer Reading Challenge is called Marvellous Makers, with a theme celebrating creativity. It will run in Wiltshire libraries from Saturday 13 July to Saturday 7 September. Children can register for the challenge from 13 July and start to collect stickers and other prizes from Monday 29 July.



When registering, children will receive their own special poster to record their reading, plus a Marvellous Makers sticker. When they've read 4 books,



they'll be given an origami activity sheet and on completion a badge and certificate. It's all free and can make a real difference to a child's motivation and enjoyment of reading. Although the challenge is to read six books, there is flexibility in this number, especially for children who struggle with reading or read longer books.

For children who want a further challenge and those older than 11 we have the Story Adventurers' Club, a personal reading challenge where children set their own reading goals, the target to read 100 books. For children aged under 4, in the early summer we will be launching a new book sharing initiative called 'Story Sharers', more information to follow.

For more Information, ask the staff or Volunteers at Mere Library, or email:

libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

Venue Key for Diary :

AYP - Andy Young Pavilion

CP - Main (Salisbury St) 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

JULY

1	Mon	09:30 Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon)	L
		18:00 Scouting (every Mon)	GB
		18:00 Yoga (every Mon)	L
		19:00 Slimming World (Book with Sally) (every Mon)	L
2	Tues	08:00 Foot Clinic	GB
		09:30 Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		18:20 Zumba (every Tues)	L
3	Weds	09:30 Tai-Chi (every Weds)	GB
		10:00 Get Wiltshire Walking Group – Starter Walks (every Weds)	CP
		14:00 Pilates (every Weds)	L
		18:30 Karate (every Weds)	L
		14:00 Fitness & Friendship	GB
		<i>Railway Modellers</i>	
4	Thurs	All DAY Election at Lecture Hall	L
		10:00 Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00 Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reformed Church	URC
		11:00 Rhyme Time (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00 Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		17:00 Girlguiding (every Thurs)	GB
		14:00 Quilters (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30 Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	URC
5	Fri	09:00 Walking Zumba	L
		13:45 Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. every Fri)	GB
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
6	Sat	09:00 Food Bank (every Sat)	L
		10:30 Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
		14:30 Croquet and Boules- (every Sat)	Steep Street
7	Sun	14:30 Croquet and Boules- (every Sunday)	Steep Street
8	Mon	<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
9	Tues	<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
10	Weds	10:45 NHS Diabetes Prevention	GB
		19:30 Gardening Club	GB
		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
11	Thurs	19:30 Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>	
12	Fri	10:00 Merely Women	GB
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
13	Sat	<i>Croquet and Boules, Food Bank</i>	

14	Sun	14:00	Mere Walking Group (Laidler & Wilson) <i>Croquet and Boules</i>	CP
15	Mon		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
16	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic <i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	GB
17	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		14:00	Mere Walking Group – The Gillingham Walk	CP
		19:00	Merekits Women's Institute <i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
18	Thurs	14:00	Short Walk (J Way) <i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>	CP
19	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
20	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall, Croquet and Boules</i>	
21	Sun		Fair Trade after morning service <i>Croquet and Boule</i>	StM
22	Mon		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
23	Tues	09:00	NoEarWax <i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	GB
24	Weds		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
25	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>	
26	Fri	09:00	Walking Zumba <i>Dup Bridge</i>	L
27	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Croquet and Boules, Food Bank</i>	
28	Sun		<i>Croquet and Boules</i>	
29	Mon		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
30	Tues	09:00	NoEarWax <i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	GB
31	Weds	am	Jelly Group	VH
		14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		14:30	Pennybank Writers <i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	L

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

Copy date for the combined **September** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday August 22nd**

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.

AUGUST

1	Thurs	10:00	Yoga (every Thurs) Art Group (every Thurs)	L GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reformed Church	URC
		11:00	Rhyme Time (every Thurs)	Lib
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs)	L
		14:00	Quilters (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30	Shreen Harmony (every Thurs)	URC
2	Fri	13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. every Fri)	GB
3	Sat	10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
		14:30	Croquet and Boules- (every Sat)	Steep Street
4	Sun	14:30	Croquet and Boules- (every Sunday)	Steep Street
5	Mon	18:00	Yoga (every Mon)	L
		19:00	Slimming World (<i>Book with Sally</i>) (every Mon)	L
6	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
7	Weds	09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds)	GB
		10:00	Get Wiltshire Walking Group - Starter Walks (every Weds)	CP
		18:30	Karate (every Weds)	L
		10:45	NHS Diabetes Prevention <i>Railway Modellers</i>	GB
8	Thurs	19:30	Ukulele <i>Yoga, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	Butt of Sherry
9	Fri	10:00	Walking Zumba (every Fri)	L
		14:00	Wiltshire Council Activities <i>Dup Bridge</i>	L
10	Sat	11:00	Wiltshire Council Activities <i>Croquet and Boules</i>	L
11	Sun		<i>Croquet and Boules</i>	
12	Mon		<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
13	Tues	14:00	Mothers Union <i>Zumba</i>	GB
14	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship <i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
15	Thurs		<i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	
16	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
17	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall, Croquet and Boules</i>	
18	Sun		Fair Trade after morning service <i>Croquet and Boule</i>	StM
19	Mon		<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
20	Tues		<i>Zumba</i>	
21	Weds		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
22	Thurs	19:00	MereKits WI <i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>	GB
23	Fri		<i>Dup Bridge</i>	

24	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning, Croquet and Boules</i>		
25	Sun	<i>Croquet and Boules</i>		
26	Mon	<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>		
27	Tues	<i>Zumba</i>		
28	Weds	am	Jelly Group	VH
		14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		14:30	Pennybank Writers	L
		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>		
29	Thurs	<i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Shreen Harmony</i>		
30	Fri	<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
31	Sat	Art Exhibition		GB

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

Mere Social Club

Mere Social club is here for the community of Mere and surrounding areas. Whether you have lived in Mere all your life or have recently moved into the area we would love you to pop in and see what we have to offer.

Our summer skittles are now in full swing with 16 teams of four players (skittlers and non-skittlers) taking part.

We are open during the week from 7 pm - 11.30 pm and will show the EURO football matches. We will also open at earlier/different times for any England or Scotland matches during the tournament.

Do you enjoy a refreshing fruit cider? Throughout "sizzling" July and August we will be showcasing various fruit ciders.

Unfortunately we need to review our Sunday opening hours. We have had mixed views on this, so for a **TRIAL PERIOD** of two months we will be open from 3 pm-10 pm on Sundays (not 12 - 4) The committee will review this in September.

Our live music night this month is **Saturday 29th July** and this will be provided by **Stuart Saye**

Saturday 31st August will be **Karaoke night with Sue**

Elaine Laurence, club steward. elainelaurence57@gmail.com



The “Pharmaceutigirls” raising money for The Stars Appeal

On the **7th July 2024**, six of my colleagues and myself from Mere Pharmacy will be taking part in the **Walk for Wards** at Wilton to raise money for The Stars Appeal.

We will be walking 10k.

The Stars Appeal is a local charity that raises money for Salisbury hospital.

The money raised from this walk will go towards the £1Million that The Stars Appeal is aiming to raise this year to fund various projects at the hospital which will help thousands of patients and the NHS staff who care for them.

Some examples of where the money raised will go are:

- ❖ 6 high definition videoscopes, totalling £115,000, to diagnose head and neck cancer quicker
- ❖ 6 sleeper chairs, costing £1,400 each, so vulnerable patients and those at the end of their lives can have a loved one stay by their side in comfort
- ❖ Stars Appeal Wi-Fi
- ❖ Emergency packs for patients including clothing, toiletries, and TV card
- ❖ Helping provide play therapy for children in hospital

These are only a few of the things that the money will go towards, there are many more.

If you or anyone you know has been a patient at Salisbury hospital chances are you will probably have benefited from The Stars Appeal in some way.

If you would like to sponsor us please pop in the pharmacy or go to www.justgiving.com/team/merepharmacystarsappeal

I have also put a link on the Facebook Mere Mutters page.



Ann-Marie Long



Mere Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We are inviting patients registered at the surgery to join our Patient Participation Group (PPG) to improve communication and patient care. In particular, we would like to welcome parents / guardians of young children to join.

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

Activities in Mere (AIM)

An event specifically for the over 50s !!

9th-11th August 2024. Activities will take place across the town using a variety of different venues



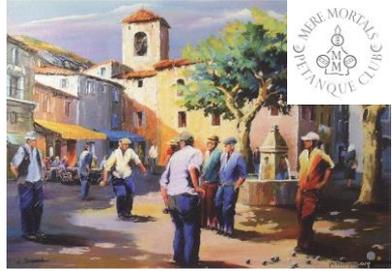
A range of activities from Archery to Zumba. There will be an opportunity to try something new and re-try some familiar sports and activities
All activities will be free!



Roger Pipe Project Co-ordinator Mere Town Council:
rogerpipe@merewilts.org

Mere Mortals Petanque Club

The weather has not been the best friend of petanquers this 'summer' but Mere Mortals have not been deterred and numbers playing have steadily increased. Always room for more on our 4 piste terrain which will be in use at the forthcoming Town Council Activity Day. Nadder & Stour League matches are underway and MMPC are holding their own. Members are also entering various knock out competitions. The petanque area is open all day every day. Contact for more info.



Colin Senneck ☎ 706008
colin2423@sky.com

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

MADS is happy to announce it is holding a Murder Mystery Evening! Entitled '**Murder At The Manor**' this will take place in the Grove Buildings on **Friday 5th July** with doors opening at 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. Come along and see if you can discover who is the murderer, who is telling the truth and who is not! Tickets for the evening priced at £10 each to include a Ploughman's Supper are on sale in the Angel Tearoom and Sprout and Flower or email pennyinmere@gmail.com A limited bar will be available. There will also be a raffle, the proceeds of which will go to Mere Brownies. Come and test your skills as a Miss Marple or Monsieur Poirot and find the murderer!

As if all of that is not enough, on Monday July 8th at 7.30pm MADS will be holding its monthly meeting in the Small Hall at the Lecture Hall at which we will be discussing our wonderful pantomime 'Alice in Blunderland' planned for the Autumn Production at the end of November. We would like to invite children and adults of all ages from 8 to 80 and who would like to take part in the pantomime to come along and hear all about it. We hope also to show some film of its previous production twenty years ago just to whet the appetite. Rehearsals for this will start at the beginning of September. If you are not able to come along to the meeting on the 8th and would like to hear more about taking part please ring Mary White on 01747 861257. We look forward to seeing you - *Oh yes we do!!!*

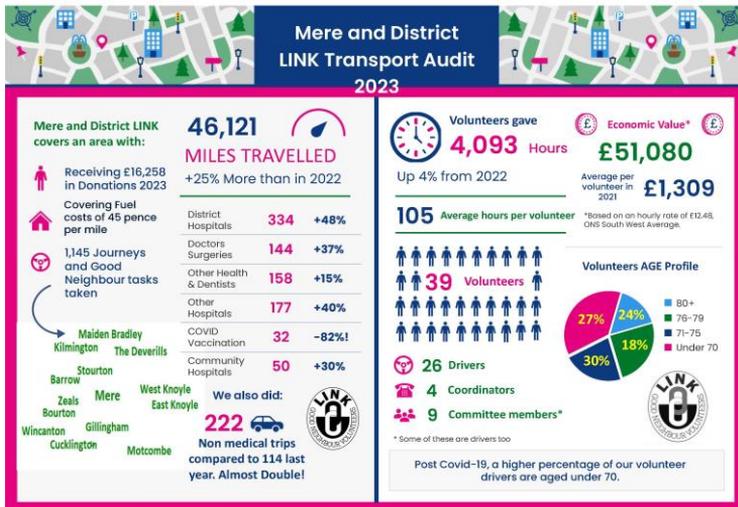
Jenny Wilding ☎ 860908 jenny@flaxmill.org.uk

Mere & District Link Scheme

The trips keep rolling in this year with May being the busiest month so far with 115. We are now averaging 104 trips per month this year. As ever, Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 33 trips.

A big thank you to everyone who came to our AGM on 7 June. There were around 30 volunteers and supporters present and we were able to thank everyone who volunteers for the Link and to report that we are in a good position financially. The drinks and nibbles after the meeting were very enjoyable!

You may have seen the infographic with last month's report showing the work of all of Wiltshire's Link Scheme in 2023. We have produced the infographic below showing Mere and District Link Scheme's work in 2023.



Do you want to volunteer as a Link driver? We are a local charity and we take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. **New drivers are always welcome.** You choose when you want to drive, use your own car and we pay 45p/mile to cover your costs. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver please call our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

If you want to use the Link, once you have an appointment please call 01747 860096 to book a 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, it is a great help if you can give us a minimum of 48 hours notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays). Our co-ordinator has to ring round to find a driver who is available to take you to your appointment and we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests.

John FitzGerald Chair ☎ 860096 🌐 merelink.org.uk

Mere Croquet and Boules Club - Steep Street, Mere BA12 6ED

The club's Open Sessions have now come to an end and we were pleased to welcome all of those people who came along to try their hand at croquet. The croquet season continues until the weather forces us to hang up our mallets, usually by the end of September or early October. In between times, if you would like to try your hand at croquet come along for a taster session any Saturday or Sunday afternoon from 14.30 hours onwards. All equipment and tuition is provided by the club.

Jill Beadle ☎ 07393 560459 jill49jim@hotmail.co.uk



Creative Mere
A Focus on Crafts in Mere

Demonstrations, Exhibition and Sales

Free Entry

Refreshments available 16th - 17th Nov 2024
Sat 10.30 - 5.00 Sun 10.30 - 3.30
Grove Building, BA12 6DS
Mere Lecture Hall, BA12 6HF

We still have some spaces for a few more exhibitors.



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**July**

7 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Informal Worship
14 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
16 th	Tues	10.30	Roman Catholic Mass
21 st	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
28 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

August

4 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Informal Worship
11 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Patronal Festival - Benefice Service at St Mary's West Knoyle
18 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
20 th	Tues	10.30	Roman Catholic Mass
25 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

July

7 th	Sun	09:30	DIY Service
14 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
21 st	Sun	09:30	Matins
28 th	Sun	09:30	Communion

August

4 th	Sun	09:30	DIY Service
11 th	Sun	10:30	Patronal Festival - Benefice Service
18 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
25 th	Sun	09:30	Matins

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Vacancy

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

7 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Peter Clark (Holy Communion)
14 th	Sun	11:00	Jane Hurd
21 st	Sun	11:00	Christine Marsh
28 th	Sun	11:00	TBC

AUGUST

4 th	Sun	11:00	Rev. Judith Thompson
11 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
18 th	Sun	11:00	Dr David Burfitt
25 th	Sun	11:00	TBC

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

St Mary's has been closed and weekend Masses are now at SS Luke and Teresa, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Parish Office: 01963 34408 hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com

Mass at St Michael the Archangel usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am but please check with John FitzGerald

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

Contacts: 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

Historical Society

Are you far-sighted? If so, look ahead to 10th **September**, and save the date for the next MHS talk.

It is centred on the Wiltshire landmark now so famous to Russians, Salisbury Cathedral. The Cathedral's Archivist, **Emily Naish**, will speak on **Archiving Salisbury Cathedral**.

The talk will be on **Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Mere Short Walk (J Way)

Meet at the **Surgery Car Park at 2p.m. on Thursday 18th** for a short walk around the paths of Mere and discover some hidden corners! Enjoy a cuppa and piece of one of Paul's delicious cakes afterwards.

There is no walk in August.

Janet Way ☎ 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Top 3 tips for preventing tooth decay



1 Reduce the amount and frequency of foods and drinks that contain sugars.



2 Brush teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste (1350-1500ppm), last thing at night and at least one other occasion. After brushing, spit don't rinse.



3 Take your child to the dentist when the first tooth erupts, at about 6 months and then on a regular basis.

Parents/carers should brush/supervise tooth brushing until their child is at least 7.

Under 3s should use a smear of toothpaste.

0-3



3 to 6 year olds should use a pea sized amount.

3-6



Children and young people 7 years and older should continue brushing with a fluoride paste.

7+



Mere Gardening Club

A huge and grateful thanks to all the people who opened up their gardens for the Mere Hidden Gardens weekend. The weather was not very kind to us on Saturday but Sunday brought sunshine and many visitors to the town.

The feedback from these visitors, who came from a range of places, not only Wiltshire but as far away as Devon, was very positive with most saying the gardens were not only a credit to their owners but also to the town. It was also mentioned that the many hours of hard work that had been put in by garden owners produced a very high standard of beautiful gardens. I am well aware, from my own experience, just how much effort goes into producing a garden fit for opening to the public. Well done.

There are many people to thank for making the weekend such a success. Firstly, and most important all the people who opened their gardens. The helpers and cake makers who contributed to the refreshments. Paul at Angel Tea rooms who has been a great supporter of the event selling advance tickets. Patersons estate agents who kindly sponsored the weekend and provided and erected all the boards to identify the "open gardens". And finally, all those people who purchased tickets in support of the weekend.

When the final receipts are known I will let everyone know how much money was raised. The event brought many visitors to the town over the weekend and it is hoped that local business also benefitted with extra trade.

On other matters club members had a most enjoyable visit last month to Blooming Wild nursery. It was a lovely evening (even the weather was kind to us) and the Host's made us all very welcome.

Our next meeting will take place in the Grove Building on **Wednesday 10th July** when I will be giving a talk and demonstration on how to prepare exhibits for our club show in September. Please bring along your petunia plant for judging by the members present.

Whilst the club remains very successful and financially viable there is an urgent need for additional committee members. Duties are not arduous and take up very little time; the rewards are minimal except for a feeling of self-gratification. Membership now stands at 90 and discussions are taking place as to whether a cap should be placed on new membership as the capacity of the Grove Building stands at 100. If you are considering joining us the message is to get in quickly. Becoming a member entitles you attend all our very informative monthly meetings and events and a 10% discount at Plant World.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

GOOD GARDENING

Les Manwaring Chair  861941 lesmanwaring@yahoo.com

Mere Bowls Club

At last!!! Some good weather... We played our first 'sunshine bathed' match yesterday (Tuesday 24th June) against Severalls from Crewkerne, unfortunately we lost overall, but at least the sun shone...

So far this season; the season runs from the end of April to the end of September, much the same as cricket, we have nearly broken even on results. Don and Richard are through to the last eight of the Secretaries and Treasurers competition, so good luck to them in the next round.



At the Spring Bank Holiday weekend we took part in the 'Big Bowls Weekend', organised by Bowls England in which nearly 800 clubs took part nationally to attract new members to the sport. We had quite a lot of interest and have recently had several new members join, the most noticeable of which is Shaun who has taken to it like a duck to water and although has only been playing for about 4 weeks has already played in matches with some very good results; good luck for the future Shaun....

We have 'Roll-ups' (practices) every Tuesday and Thursday from 5.30pm, and on Saturdays at 3pm at the Bowls Club in Springfield Road, off Ivy Mead so if anybody would like to give Bowls a try, please come along; we are a friendly lot and will make you most welcome.

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

Mere Carnival Committee

Well I can't believe it ...yes the sun is shining... at the moment anyway, but who knows it may even be snow this afternoon....



Anyway down to business I guess. First of all we have a couple of events coming up during the two months that this edition of Mere Matters is due to be on the street as it were.

First of all on Friday June 28th we have the first of our quiz nights at the Grove Building. These are always good fun and we hope you can come along. Doors open at 7-00pm Teams are a maximum of 6 members and tickets are £4 pp which includes nibbles and a drink. You are welcome to bring along your own drinks if you wish.

Secondly on Friday 5th of July we are holding another of our ever popular Bingo nights at the Social Club. Doors open at 7-00pm. There are cash prizes and a raffle with some really nice items up for grabs.

Now I guess I should give you news of the Funfair for this year's Carnival. As you are aware we have been trying for a number of years to get somewhere to hold the fair and at the beginning of June we finally came to the conclusion that the Recreation Ground was our last resort. I am pleased to announce that on a 1 year trial basis we

have been given the go ahead by the Town Council, something for which we are very grateful. We are however well aware that this doesn't sit well with some people but we can only ask that you wait and see how it works out. We are of course hoping that everything goes off smoothly and without any hitches. We also took note of the comments made last year about no flags or bunting and we are also looking to address this issue.

Please help us to put on a carnival like the ones of old that all the family can enjoy. This is a community event so let's see the entire community out there on Sept 14th enjoying the entire event.

Mel Wilkinson melvinwilkinson@gmail.com

Hidden Gardens of Mere

Firstly a huge thanks to the 19 residents who opened their gardens this weekend. Wow what surprises there are behind the houses and a lot of dedicated gardeners.

Thank you to all the helpers of both community groups, church and gardening club for your help with refreshments and to all the wonderful cake bakers we have in Mere.

A huge thank you to Paul at the Angel Tearooms for being our sales point for the tickets. I apologise for running out again even though we did more than last time.



Thank you Patersons too for supporting our event, another big job putting up the signs. Without any one of you the event wouldn't have taken place.

We had some wonderful positive feedback from visitors too some of whom came a long way to visit Mere.



Rose Heesom, Les Manwaring, Mary Wilson.



Teeandee Productions

Web Design
Web Hosting
Domains

Mob: 07799 325214

www.teeandeeproductions.com