

A photograph of Stonehenge at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright orange and yellow glow from the setting sun visible through the gaps in the stone structures. The foreground is a green grassy field.

Mere Matters

*& so does
West Knoyle*

June 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.


Heritage
Fund



FRIENDS OF
ST. MICHAEL'S
CHURCH

THE
Tower
STORIES

Mere Town Council

We had our Annual Town Meeting at the end of April. This year we tried something new. While we felt there were many benefits, we shall be looking at how we can improve further the opportunity for all of the groups in Mere to be represented and to give residents the chance to question and suggest how the town progresses. The real ambition is to make this a more popular event in the Mere calendar and to have more residents participate. The town council will be publishing responses to the questions raised, at the meeting, on our website, on social media and in the minutes,

The Town Council also had its Annual meeting at which I was returned as the Chairman for the coming year, ably supported by Glen Ings as the Vice Chair. Councillors were allocated roles as representatives with external bodies and they will soon be contacting those groups and associations. Our Clerk presented the council with the end of year budget and expenditure report which shows that our accounts are in good order and our balance is sufficient to meet our ambitions for the coming year. A more thorough eye than ours, the auditors, will be giving the accounts a final check but I am confident that they will confirm our opinion.

Our next meeting is not on the first Monday of the month but on the **10th of June**, do look through the published agenda, which is on our website and in the display case in front of the Lecture Hall. It may be that there is something for which you would wish to speak in the public session or something which you want to hear the councillors discuss. Our clerk publishes the agenda at least three working days before our meetings.

We will be represented at the wreath laying and last post at the **War Memorial** on the **6th June at 11 am**. On the advice of the Royal British Legion, this will be a simple but meaningful commemoration of the **80th Anniversary of D-Day Normandy landings**.

Planning for AIM, Activities in Mere continues and it looks like the **9th to 11th of August** will have many opportunities for the over fifties to try new activities or to revisit ones they used to take part in. Personally, I am booking myself in for the Modern Jive dancing session and hoping there is enough swivel left in my hips to not embarrass whomever is my dancing partner.

John Jordan, Chair, Mere Town Council

for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.

lindseywood@merewilts.org ☎ 860701 🌐 merewilts.org

Dr. David Longbourne MBE

There will be a memorial service at St. Michael's Church, Mere to celebrate David's life on Wednesday 10th July at 2pm.



Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

It has recently been the busy time of year when all Parish Councils locally have their Annual Parish Meetings also annual council meetings when chairmen and others are appointed. I sit on Mere Town Council and I regularly attend Zeals, West Knoyle, Stourton with Gasper and Kilmington Parish Councils. I try and attend most Annual Parish Meetings, at Zeals those present received a presentation regarding Blackmore Vale North Read Easy, which is a body of people who help those to read who otherwise find it difficult. If you can encourage someone to approach them, they would be pleased to help. Text 'call me' or phone Fran on 07594318571. Also at the same meeting Zeals News were asking for more detailed and interesting input. The new Chairman of Wiltshire Council is Bridget Wayman who lives locally. The new Vice Chairman is Chris Newbury the who has sat on Wiltshire Council since its inception in 2009 as I have.

July 4th is usually mentioned in the media as it is American Independence Day, this year the medias priority will probably be voting in one of Wiltshire's 300 plus polling stations, REMEMBER please, photographic identification is now a mandatory requirement. 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 [Voter ID | Electoral Commission](#). Alternatively, if people have a Voter Authority Certificate, because they don't have photo ID, they should bring that along to vote. If you want more information on Voter ID and what to do if you don't have photo ID, please visit [Registering to vote - Wiltshire Council](#). Also remember to apply for a postal vote or proxy vote should you require, the provision date to apply for a proxy vote for the 2024 General Election is 19th June, 2024, postal vote application will need to be applied for sooner than the proxy vote application of the 19th June.

Please note, Wiltshire Household recycling centres, which our nearest is Warminster, now stop all vans from the 13th May. A permit costing £20 is now required which is annoying to some who appear to have a valid permit. Despite officers emailing me saying now cars with trailers are allowed, they have now agreed a trailer up to 1.8 metres is allowed on a car.

The Council Chamber was full recently at Trowbridge largely because of a notice of motion regarding Solar Farms to consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the constitution:

"Whilst not opposed to the principle of the development of solar farms in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, this Council is increasingly concerned at the concentration of solar farms, battery storage and associated infrastructure in Wiltshire. Some villages are now completely surrounded by solar farms and their continued concentration represents a significant cumulative impact and

industrialisation of the countryside. Wiltshire Council therefore calls on the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to define more closely what is meant by 'cumulative impact' regarding solar farms and to take clear steps to ensure that solar developments are more evenly spread across the UK and not concentrated in specific areas effectively industrialising the countryside.

We would also ask for clarity of the priority given to ensuring that food production and farming are not destroyed as industries in specific areas through an excessive concentration of solar farms given the massive impact that would have on the rural way of life in villages that have been farmed for time immemorial. “

The motion was passed largely as above with agreement with most councillors present.

I have attended the Postmaster Conference at Warwick recently. Some Postmasters in very built-up areas are doing well however many are working for less than the minimum wage. The Government and many want the Post Office to survive, with some claiming about 200 have closed in recent years and the Post Office seem to be claiming there are still about 11500 Post Offices and about 7000 Postmasters, someone is possibly wrong. It appears many Drop and Go points have opened which seems to be classed as a Post Office. I was interested for our area what additional services and hence income may be on the horizon for Post Offices I could hear of none except retail which many Post Offices have done as an extra for decades.

Wiltshire Council has made an Order to temporarily close the roads below to all vehicles. The Order, which previously came into operation on 23 October 2023 will now recommence on 29 June 2024. It is required to enable carriageway patching, surface dressing and associated maintenance works. Access will be maintained where possible although delays are likely due to the nature of the works. The closures are anticipated to take place between 29 June 2024 and 03 August 2024.

1. The roads affected will be Bells Lane, Zeals and Stourton with Gaspar; from its junction with C380 to its junction with High Street.
2. Butts Lane, Kilmington; from its junction with New Road to its junction with Cokers Lane.

Wiltshire Council supports “No Mow May”, a national campaign that looks to allow grass to remain unmown for the month to create habitats for pollinators. As ever, the challenge is to find a compromise that attempts to meet the requirements of those who want grass cut regularly, and those who would rather grass was left to grow to encourage wildlife to thrive. Wiltshire also have to ensure highways are safe, and that communities still have opportunities to play, for example, on community football pitches. This May, as in previous years, Wiltshire have continued to support No Mow May, but only in specific areas.

Wiltshire Council has created the Wiltshire Summer Arts Programme, cultural, creative and entertaining activities taking place across the county throughout this summer for everyone to take part and enjoy. The programme includes information from large arts events such as the Devizes Outdoor Arts Festival and Salisbury International Arts Festival through to local village fetes. So, whether people are looking for something to entertain the kids, or a workshop to have a go at and take part in, the programme contains a wide range of activities and events to suit all ages and abilities. People wishing to find out more and to view the full programme can visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/arts-galleries-enjoy-experience-arts

A review of the boundaries of Mere town was requested by Mere Town Council, specifically in relation to the boundary with Zeals near and including The Hill Brush site. Full Council have voted for this area to become part of Mere and not Zeals as it is at present. I abstained as I represent both Mere and Zeals, their Town and Town Parish Council was not in agreement with the proposal.

Wiltshire Council has confirmed that holders of Wiltshire concessionary bus passes will be able to use their passes for travel from 9am on local bus services on weekdays from 1 May.

I am pleased to report, Wiltshire Police has been taken out of 'special measures' due to the significant and sustained improvements made to the service it provides

Penny Fennon gave April rainfall for Salisbury Street as 18.5cm with the 1st April being the wettest with 4cm of rain.

Fostering is highlighted with an attended stall at County Hall. I learnt from that stall that some children when fostered must be fostered as a family of children, which for example could be three children. Wiltshire are still short of placements for foster children and looking for those interested. There are situations that arise unexpectedly which mean young people need emergency care and support at short notice. Foster carers under this scheme provide temporary emergency care to any child or young person needing a safe place to stay until a suitable home is found. Young people in this situation are dealing with uncertainty and may also be traumatised and will need extra support. Emergency foster carers receive £900 per week per child when they have a child to stay with them and £500 per week when they don't have foster children to care for. The council would like to recruit more carers to help meet the demand.

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

D Day 80th Anniversary Thursday 6th June.

D-Day was a monumental campaign to rid Europe of NAZI horror, and the 80th anniversary of this remarkable operation deserves the recognition and gratitude of our country. Please join us at the **Mere War Memorial on Thursday 6th June at 10:50** for a short wreath laying ceremony by the Town Council dedicated to those brave men and women who gave their lives to allow us to enjoy the freedoms that we have today.



Stewart Walker (Lt Col(retd))

Hidden Gardens of Mere Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June

Peep behind the gates and walk along our meandering pathways to discover some of Mere' hidden gems.

There will be 19 gardens open of all shapes, styles and sizes - many of whom are opening for the first time. Refreshments and toilets available at St. Michaels Church on Saturday, and the Grove Buildings on Sunday from 11 a.m. onwards.

Tickets and maps available in advance from the Angel Tearooms, or from both refreshment venues on the day. £6.00 per adult. Proceeds to the Gardening Club, Friends of St. Michael's and local charities.



Mary Wilson ☎ 229609 wilsonsmere@gmail.com

Mere School



Musical Entertainment Evening Amazes again!



Mere School pupils, parents, staff, governors and the wider community of Mere were treated to a musical extravaganza on Wednesday 6th of March 2024. From piano playing to violin, epic drum solos right through to beautiful vocal duets, there was something for every taste. Some of our beginner students demonstrated their initial musical talent, while some of the older students wowed us with their continued musical ability. There was a range of musical styles on show, even our staff band performed.



Catriona Williamson Head Teacher

From Times Gone By!

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

Salisbury & Wilts Journal 12 June 1809

Mere

Nisi Prins Court, Wednesday. John Larcombe, John Phillips, John Mitchell, Henry Jukes, Charles Lander, and eleven others, in all 16 persons, indicted for feloniously rioting on the 1st of June, 1835, and with force and arms, collecting to disturb the peace near there, and destroying a cottage, situate in the road leading from Mere to Shaftesbury, which had, it was alleged, been in the possession of Mr. Brine and his family for a period of 35 years, were acquitted.

Salisbury & Wilts Journal 13 June 1835

Martyn Beardsley

Salute To All Mere COVID Volunteers

Whilst cases of Covid 19 in its various guises still prevail, it is difficult to believe that it was back in March 2020 (4 years ago) that we were presented with lockdown. This was an event that touched everyone in one way or another around the world and many are still suffering the after effects.

It was way back in 2022 that I was honoured to accept Her Majesty's award of the British Empire Medal and to receive an invitation to a Royal Garden Party and later an invitation to attend the Her Majesty's State Funeral at Westminster Abbey.

Hospital visits in 2022 and again in 2023 stopped me going to London for the Garden Parties and the State Funeral but last week my wife (Anne) and I finally made it to Buckingham Palace. I understand that there were some 8,000 in attendance. How we were all served with sandwiches, cakes and cups of tea was remarkable. It was absolutely amazing to think that the vast majority



attending were also being honoured with invites for their services. It was a wonderful to witness; pomp and ceremony at its very best and to be able to glimpse sight of Prince William and the other Royals through tiny gaps between a vast assortment of umbrellas fending off the stair-rods falling from on high. It didn't let up all afternoon but we just ignored it.



I know I bang on about volunteers, but without the 109 who helped make life bearable by collecting medications, shopping, posting, walking the dogs, checking on neighbours etc etc., lockdown would have been far worse for many. Not all communities rose to the challenge as Mere did, and once again I salute you all for supporting those who were in need.

The medal has my name engraved around the periphery but I like to think the wording reads: **Mere Covid Volunteers.**

Richard Jefferies Esq BEM

Mere Bowls Club

If you have not heard, Richard Coombs and I are through to the next round of the Secretary & Treasurer Competition; we beat the pair from Chippenham Park Bowls Club by 27 shots to 8. This is a county wide competition that runs throughout the season with a final being played at Devizes Bowls Club in early September, it used to be run on a north/south basis with the final being between the winners of each section, but with a slightly falling number of entrants it is now a single area, county competition. The next round is against the pair from Purton Bowls Club, watch this space for an update on the game and the result.

If you are at all interested in trying the sport of bowls yourself, or the whole family for that matter, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Don on the number, or email, below and he will take it from there. All you need to supply is a pair of flat soled shoes (no stiletto heels) and a load of enthusiasm.

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

Don Butchers - Club Secretary 📞 860775 don.butchers@btinternet.com

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our next session is on Thursday 13th June 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 and laughter guaranteed!

You can check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list.

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com



Mere Art Group

Group attendance remains good, but there is always extra space for those who enjoy Art and a sociable gathering.

We are ready to go from 10.00 till 12.00 noon every Thursday in The Grove Building, at a modest charge of £3.00 including refreshments.

This month's painting was by Hilary De La Ceaux on card.



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Mere Museum

The new exhibition represents the history and various aspects of St. Michael's the Archangel Parish Church. This is running in tandem with the Tower Stories and with current research taking place new information will be added to the exhibition over time. If anyone has any links to people involved with the church, eg sextons, stone masons or information they would be happy to share I will be pleased to hear from you.

I have also completed a tribute to Dr. David Longbourne in one of the cabinets recognising his wonderful lifelong commitment to Mere and its residents. Please do visit the museum and leave a comment.

Rose Heesom, Hon. Curator 07791 559 674 meremuseum@btinternet.com

The Friends of Mere Museum

We are pleased to report on the huge support we had for our plant sale this year with takings of over £1000. Hardly a week later we had a great time with our quiz in the Grove Building, again, well supported. This event raised over £200. This means that the Friends will be able to help the museum with purchases to ensure continued worthwhile displays. At the moment, we have a special display where we are honoured to commemorate the great work done for Mere Museum by Dr David Longbourne.

John Jordan, Treasurer, Friends of Mere Museum

Princess Trust

I want to thank everyone who donated to my 'gofundme' page in aid of The Little Princess Trust. We managed to raise an amazing **£433** which will help the charity make more wigs for children in need. I've been so overwhelmed by people's generosity and kindness with this fundraiser including the wonderful Mere Matters team for this advertising campaign.



Freya Nixon-Davingoff

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

1	Sat	10:30	Church Plant Sale	GB
		10:30	Coffee Morning (every Sat)	URC
		14:30	Croquet and Boules- (every Sat)	Steep Street
2	Sun	14:30	Croquet and Boules- (every Sunday)	Steep Street
3	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
4	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		09:30	Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues)	L
5	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 <i>Railway Modellers</i>	GB
6	Thurs	10:00	Art Group (every Thurs)	GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic @ United Reformed Church	URC
		10:30	Harmony for health Respiratory wellness thro' music (every Thurs)	L
		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
7	Fri	10:00	Walking Zumba (every Fri)	L
		13:45	Duplicate Bridge (14:00 start. every Fri)	GB
		19:00	LINK Scheme AGM <i>Dup Bridge</i>	GB
8	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Croquet and Boules</i>	
9	Sun		<i>Croquet and Boule</i>	
10	Mon		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
11	Tues		<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
12	Weds	10:45	NHS Diabetes Prevention <i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	GB
13	Thurs	14:00	June Short Walk (J Way)	CP
		19:30	Ukulele <i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>	Butt of Sherry
14	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB

		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
15	Sat	Gardens Open Day All Day Railway Modellers Exhibition		L
		<i>Croquet and Boules</i>		
16	Sun	Gardens Open Day All Day Railway Modellers Exhibition		L
		<i>Croquet and Boules</i>		
17	Mon	<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>		
18	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>		
19	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		19:00	Merekits Women's Institute	GB
		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>		
20	Thurs	<i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>		
21	Fri	<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
22	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall, Croquet and Boules</i>		
23	Sun	09:00	NoEarWax	GB
		Fair Trade after morning service		StM
		14:00	Mere Walking Group (Laidler & Wilson)	CP
		<i>Croquet and Boule</i>		
24	Mon	<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>		
25	Tues	<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>		
26	Weds	am	Jelly Group	VH
		14:30	Pennybank Writers	L
		<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>		
27	Thurs	<i>Harmony Health, Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>		
28	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
29	Sat	09:00	Food Bank	L
		<i>Coffee Morning, Croquet and Boules</i>		
30	Sun	<i>Croquet and Boules</i>		

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

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

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

Copy date for the combined **July/August** issue

Closing deadline is: **16:00hrs on Friday June 21st**

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.

Mere Gardening Club

Just a reminder that there will not be a meeting in the Grove Building on Wednesday 12th June as we will be visiting **Blooming Wild Nursery**. We will meet in Salisbury **Street car park at 6.30pm** to sort out drivers and passengers so that we go in as few cars as possible.

Our visit to **Sherborne Castle Gardens** will take place on **Tuesday 4th June**. Please make your own way there offering lifts where possible, for **2.30pm**. The club will be given tea and biscuits along with a short talk. Don't forget your Club membership cards.

The **Hidden Gardens of Mere** will take place on **15th and 16th June** from 11am to 5pm. We have 19 gardens open and tickets are now available from Paul at the Angel Tea Room priced £6 each for adults, under 16's are free. Please take cash along to purchase them. We would like to thank Paul for his continued support of the club events. Tickets will also be on sale on both days from outside the Church on Saturday and the Grove Building on Sunday. We are grateful to Paterson's Estate Agents for putting up the advertising boards at each of the gardens and supporting our event. Members, please do not forget to bring your Petunia plant to the July meeting for judging. There will be a prize for the winner.

The Jubilee Gardens, for which the club has responsibility, have now been completely replanted and are looking wonderful. Many thanks to Trevor and Irene Lucas along with Tony and Janet Barrett for all their hard work.

Good gardening

Les Manwaring Chair 📞 861941 lesmanwaring@yahoo.com

Mere Theatre Club

We'll be putting the autumn programme together soon, so if you fancy a trip to the theatre with some like-minded people, join us to go on the mailing list. Subscription only £6 per household per year.

We're off to Berkeley Castle in July and Chichester in September - so who knows where we will go this autumn?

Madelaine Morris 📞 861833 madsmorris@gmail.com

Mere Short Walk (J Way)

June's Short walk: Thursday June 13th. Meet at 2p.m. in the Salisbury Street Car Park for a short walk of about 3 miles around the lanes and footpaths of Mere with a refreshing cuppa and piece of Paul's delicious cakes afterwards at The Angel Tea Rooms.

Janet Way 📞 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Mere Model Railway Exhibition – 15th-16th June 2024

Just a reminder that Mere & District Railway Modellers two-day exhibition will be held in the **Lecture Halls, Salisbury Street, from 10.00am until 4.00pm on Saturday, 15th and Sunday 16th June.** With the support of our eminent trader, Ray Heard Models, we are offering several major layouts together with some smaller layouts, which will illustrate that the hobby can easily be carried out in a limited space. In all we will display 10 layouts across 6 gauges, so most of our visitors will be able to identify with their particular interests from what is on show.



As usual we have the facility for paying for purchases by credit card. Refreshments will be provided by our in-house team together with some excellent home baked cakes. So please come along and support your local club.

Graham Avory, M&DRM Chairman, ☎ 860439



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

Shreen Harmony

We would like to say a huge thank you to the people of Mere for the support we received at our concert on the 16th May.

On the night we raised £580 for the Mindful Café in Gillingham which supports people suffering from dementia and their families. Singing to a packed audience is always such a pleasure. Also a special thank you to the United Reformed Church who have very kindly waived their fee for that night. We continue to meet every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. in the U.R.C and all are welcome to join us.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 861980

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



activities will be free!

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



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

Mere Walking Group

We have one walk this month, **Sunday afternoon on June 23rd, meet 2pm** in Salisbury Street Car Park to share cars, if required. We welcome all ages, walk will be around 3 to 4 miles.

The “Get Wiltshire Walking” campaign started last month and is a weekly short one-hour flat walk for those people who wish to become more active or are recovering from surgery, illness or injury. The walks are **every Wednesday** and finish with a visit to The Angel Tea Rooms. Meet by the surgery in the car park at 10am.

Roger Laidler ☎ 863447 roger46laidler@talktalk.net

Mary Wilson ☎ 229609 wilsonsmere@gmail.com

Mere Carnival Committee

Here we are in June already or it should be by the time you read this, or looking at it another way it's only some three months until carnival is upon us.

I have a couple of things to report so I had better get going now.

First of all the perennial problem of the Fun Fair has cropped up again. We have, as I am sure you know, been looking for a suitable venue but again there are no private landowners that either have a suitable area or are willing to host the event. It is in this light that we have approached Mere Town Council in a bid to host it on the rec. As of this time we have not had a decision but we will be making representation at the next council meeting on June 10th. We are aware that this is a contentious issue but it is something the young members of our community are particularly vocal about. Fun Fair has been a substantial part of Carnival and without it we just don't seem to be able to put on a spectacle that meets the approval of all age groups. I can't say anymore at this time but please keep your eyes on our social media feeds and indeed Mere Matters for updates.

Fundraising is in full swing with Megadraw tickets already on sale in various outlets. The draw this year is slightly different in that we have four prizes. We have the usual £1000 but also a £500 and 2x £250 prizes.

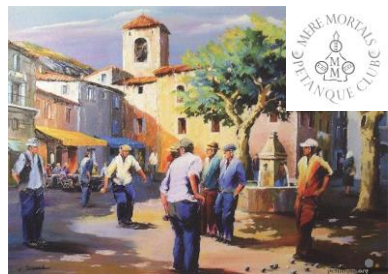
We are hoping to host at least 2 quiz nights leading up to the carnival with the first hopefully at the end of June (Look out for posters when the venue and date have been confirmed.)

Additionally we have more Bingo nights at the Social club with the next being July 5th

Mel Wilkinson melvinwilkinson@gmail.com

Mere Mortals Petanque Club

Mere Mortals are enjoying playing on their new terrain at the old swimming pool site next to the Primary School. The weather has been against us but there are signs summer is arriving. So why not come and try this fascinating French game. No commitment or previous experience required, all ages shapes and sizes welcome at anytime. No dress code. Kit and tuition provided for free. Just call Colin on 706008 for more information.



Colin Senneck 📞 706008 colin2423@sky.com

Mere & District Link Scheme

In April we again did 104 trips so we are still averaging 100 trips per month this year. As ever, Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 26 trips.

One of our passengers, James Bunton, says I have been using the Link Scheme for eleven years and during that time have found the co-ordinators and drivers very helpful and friendly. When I had more serious medical issues the link scheme provided a simple way to attend my hospital appointments without stress and I still use them for medical appointments that would be difficult to get to by other means.

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.

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

John FitzGerald Chair  860096  merelink.org.uk

St Michael's Summer Book Club

~ Coffee Morning ~

Come along to the church for a literary natter
and a cup of coffee on

Thursday 6th June
10.30 to 12 noon.

Pick out some summer reading at just 50p per
book.

Coffee and a book £1.... Bargain!!

Maggie Durkee 01747 860 163

Donations of paperback novels always welcome.



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

The club has been pleased to welcome a number of people to the Open Sessions held to date, and the events have proven to be most enjoyable for all concerned. The last Open Session will be held on **Wednesday 12 June 2024, at 14.30** hours. There are still places available if you would like to come along and try your hand at croquet. Equipment and tuition is provided by the club. To book a place telephone Jill on 07393 560459.

Jill Beadle  07393 560459 jill49jim@hotmail.co.uk

Mere Rivers Group

April showed a slight reprieve to the very wet weather of the previous few months. An average of 68mm of rain fell across Wessex, 128% of the long term average. While April was not a record breaking month in terms of rainfall, the last 3, 6 and 12 months have been the wettest since records began in 1871. Monthly mean river flows were exceptionally high, notably high or above normal across the area. Throughout April reservoir levels for Wessex Water remained close to 100%, with Bristol Water reservoir levels remaining consistent at around 95% capacity.

Both our streams are still running well and do not need stream support, but the effect of the winter storms has been to change the river beds and bringing to the surface broken glass and china which was previously buried. With the warmer weather coming more children will be paddling in the streams so please make sure that they are wearing something on their feet. Dogs in the streams are also at risk, so be aware.

Portland Bird Observatory have reported a reduction in the numbers of House Martins arriving this year, this appears to be the same in Mere, plenty of Swifts and Swallows but not Martins. Have you found the same?



Ian Sheppard lanjsheppard@outlook.com

Merekits - Women's Institute

Merekits WI meet on the third Wednesday of every month in the Grove Building at 7pm. We are a group of ladies whose aim is to get to know other like-minded people in the local area and have fun.

For our May meeting we were thoroughly entertained by Lt. Gen. David Leakey who came to talk to us about *"The Laughs and Sagas of life as a General and Black Rod"*. About 70 people attended, both members and non-members. It was great to see a mixed audience gathered who enjoyed the fascinating and humorous presentation.

We will be having our first birthday party on the **19th of June** which will allow us to reflect on and to celebrate our first year. If you would like to join a fun group, that has a programme of events throughout the year including talks, demonstrations as well as various activities outside of meetings, please come along to any of our evenings to find out more. There's always something going on outside of meetings such as walks; books, crafts, plays and dining out which you can get involved in and participate in as much or as little as you would like. You will be able to make new friends locally and share in common interests while having fun.

Verena Cooper ☎ 07971790256 verenacooper2@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

Admin Secretary: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

2 nd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Informal Worship
9 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
16 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
23 rd	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
18 th	Tues	10:30	Roman Catholic Mass
30 th	Sun	08:00 10:30 15.00	BCP Communion Parish Communion Songs of Praise at Stourhead – meet by the Bristol Cross

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

2 nd	Sun	09:30	DIY Service
9 th	Sun	09:30	Communion
16 th	Sun	09:30	Matins
23 rd	Sun	09:30	Communion
30 th	Sun	15.00	Songs of Praise at Stourhead – meet by the Bristol Cross

The United Reformed Church

Minister - Vacancy

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

2 nd	Sun	11:00	Rev. Colin Marsh (Holy Communion)
9 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Christine Marsh
16 th	Sun	11:00	TBC
23 rd	Sun	11:00	Ms Jane Hurd
30 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

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS:

Do you have a hobby or skill? Are you a keen crafter? Could you inspire other people with your work?

If so, we need you!!

The third Creative Mere weekend on November 16th/17th will be a showcase of all the talented people in and around Mere. We already have many people who have reserved a table or space but there is still room for a few more. Everyone will not only be displaying their crafts but also demonstrating aspects of their work. So hurry and book your place before all the tables are taken.

Should you be unable to commit to the whole weekend, we have a new opportunity this year of running timed workshops in the United Reformed Church during the afternoons. Should this appeal to you please get in touch to arrange a time and day.

We are particularly looking for someone who could demonstrate the techniques of Face Painting, running children's craft activities and flower arranging.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Janet Way 📞 860884 Richard Jefferies 📞 863425 and Susanne Hayes 📞 861107

Mere Jelly

Are you a freelancer, self-employed or working from home? The Mere Jelly is your place to meet. Come along and share, network and support others in your area.

We meet at The Brush & Broom at Hillbrush on the last Wednesday of the month, from 9am until 12 noon. Come for the whole morning, or just drop in for a quick chat, we'd love to see you!

Jenni Bell 📞 07956 869699





**Teeandee
Productions**

Web Design
Web Hosting
Domains

Mob: 07799 325214
www.teeandee productions.com