

# Mere Matters

& so does  
West Knoyle

Your community magazine  
Including a guide to local events

March 2024

## Mere Town Council

March has been described as a month pulled back by winter's cold and forward by spring's warmth, this year I think we would all ask for it to be either, but dry! At the last Town Council meeting we heard from a group of councillors about ways in which we might make the most of the grounds and open spaces available to us in Mere. There are a great many activities which take place here from archery to tennis and much more, but we will be looking to extend what is available to residents. Our plan looks to find enthusiasts in activities which do not already have a place on the Mere calendar and to hold an event later in the year for others to try these activities out, watch this space for news of what will happen. One such newcomer, which you will have seen information about on these pages, is pétanque and we shall be improving the facility on the old swimming pool site.

I have been to the LHFIG (Highways) meeting where, with our Project Co-ordinator and our County Councillor, we were able to put forward plans to make Hazzards Hill, Edgebridge and the end of Manor Road safer places for all road users. This is one step in a process which can take some time, but we will keep engaged until we realise our aim – of safer roads in Mere.

I had asked for suggestions for the commemoration of 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in June and am pleased to report that we have had representations and will be holding a quiet tribute at the War Memorial. Though it will not be large, in the way of some recent commemorations, it will be important and will mark this day with due respect.

While it is not our business to provide banking in Mere, we are concerned about news that the Lloyds Bank mobile service is due to end in May. My thanks to Ted Hanson for drawing our attention to this. Here is a link to the information about this: <https://www.lloydsbank.com/banking-with-us/mobile-branch/closures.html>. If this change is going to affect you then do contact Lloyds Bank. Do let us know as well, we would then make a representation from the Council about the impact on the community.

The Town Council has embarked upon a joint project with Wiltshire Council to make improvements to the footpath running from Clements Lane to Angel Lane – which is to be named 'Eric Mitchell Way'. Work will start on **4th March** which will mean that the footpath will be closed for the duration of the works. The official footpath closure is for 8 weeks but we will endeavour to re-open the footpath as soon as it is safe to do so.

*John Jordan, Chair, Mere Town Council*

*for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.*  
[lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) ☎ 860701 🌐 [merewilts.org](http://merewilts.org)

## Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

**Yellow weather warning regarding rain and possible flooding.** We seem to be getting more intense rain fall of late. Penny Fennon gave January rainfall for Salisbury Street in January as 17cm with 4<sup>th</sup> January being the wettest with 5cm of rain. Pam Baldock gave rainfall for Lordsmead area as 59.5mm, the wettest being 1<sup>st</sup> January with 16mm. Days with rain 10 out of 31. This is about half the rainfall at Lordsmead for 2023, which was 124.5mm. For Southern England the average monthly precipitation in January is 13 days in Bristol with 73mm.

**Inflation.** I was informed at full council at Trowbridge, Council House rents are up 7.7% this year making a 21% increase over four years.

**Mere's first Silent Disco**, can be enjoyed at the Grove Building, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00pm – 4pm, Join in for a couple of hours of gentle musical fun to dance, sing, or just to sit and tap your feet to music from the 1950s/60s/70s – and cocktails (all alcohol free) called Mocktails. For more information:- [karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Digital Inclusion:** A series of digital inclusion support sessions for older people living in and around Wilton, Tisbury and Mere, have been funded and led by the council's South West Wiltshire Area Board to support residents in engaging online. The sessions are delivered in partnership with AbilityNet, a technology and disability charity to provide local residents with the confidence, knowledge and skills to use technology, including support with emails, online grocery shopping, prescriptions, booking train tickets and much more. To register your interest [Karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk) or tel: 01722 434437. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury.

**Fun whilst walking:** In Mere and the surrounding villages, walking is well enjoyed. Street Tag, an interactive app which encourages people to explore their community parks and greenspaces while keeping active and earning prizes, is coming soon to Wiltshire. Street Tag launches on Monday 29 January and encourages people to scan virtual tags at locations across Wiltshire to record the distance they have walked, cycled, run or used a wheelchair between virtual tags. People will collect points for visiting Street Tag locations and they can compete as an individual, team or with their school to win prizes. The app encourages people to explore their local community and green spaces and keep physically active. People can see their points add up on the app and get inspired to climb to the top of the leaderboard.

**Found a stray dog?** Call 03004 560107 24 hours a day. Any finder of a stray dog must legally report it to the local authority. Wiltshire Council dog warden's carry microchip scanners and have access to all Defra approved microchip databases to help reunite lost and found animals. Wiltshire never puts a healthy dog down.

**Wiltshire's Best Kept Village Competition** has been running annually since 1959. Mere has won before when our population was less, however some of the surrounding villages may now be interested. It encourages village residents to work together, both to present their surroundings attractively as a contribution to enhancing the countryside and also to build a stronger community Entries have to be

submitted by mid-April and will be judged sometime during the period mid-May to mid-June to produce the first-round winners

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.

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

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### Creative Mere 3 (2024)

*A showcase by crafts people of Mere, demonstrating their skills and crafts alongside the opportunity for sales/commissions.*

We are hoping that Creative Mere will make an appearance again this year and we are planning to be in the **Grove Building** and the **Lecture Hall** on the **16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November**. We are hoping that exhibitors will be able to offer some practical demonstrations and perhaps allow for some 'hands-on' by visitors.

**This time visitor entry is going to free!**

Do you have a craft skill you could share with others? Do you make craft items you could exhibit and/or sell? We already have a range of local craft people keen to show and sell their craft work but we can accommodate many more, so don't be shy.

We are holding a meeting on **Monday 18th March in the URC at 7pm**, so if you are an interested and 'crafty' person then do come along.

In order for this to be a success we urgently need some help with marketing – someone adept with Facebook, and someone to help with poster & booklet production. Several individuals would be best to spread the load. If you can offer a little of your time it would be much appreciated.

Can you Help please?



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

Susanne Hayes [sushayes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sushayes@yahoo.co.uk)

Richard Jefferies ☎ 863425 [rajefferies@btinternet.com](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)

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## Mere Theatre Club

Spring will see us visiting **The Vyne** a Tudor house and garden in Hampshire as well as a trip to Salisbury Playhouse. A further outing will be planned for later in the summer. So, if you fancy getting out and about this summer, why not join us? For more details do get in touch.

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

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## The Tower Stories

A big thank you to all who came to the launch of our Mere community programme last night (February 20th) at St Michael's. The Friends of St Michael's greatly appreciated your enthusiasm for The Tower Stories.

Please put **13 July 2024** at 5.30 pm in your diary for the first community event in the Tower Stories programme! This is a Proms performed in the Churchyard of St Michael's by The Shrewton Silver Band (look them up on YouTube to see how fantastic they are!). Enjoy the 30 piece band and bring a picnic, bring your friends and family and have fun! Entry will be free.



Do look at [www.thetowerstories.co.uk](http://www.thetowerstories.co.uk) to see our latest news. Please register your interest there if you would like to be part of this project. You will also find details of the two positions that are currently available to support and develop the project - the Writer in Residence and the Composer in Residence. Read what they will be doing to add real excitement and depth to our community project.

A particular thank you to Brian Watts, our Architect who updated us on the stunning Tower repairs and to Catriona Williamson, Head of Mere School whose backing for the project was instrumental, amongst others in helping us win the grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A final thanks to Madelaine Morris for her wonderful photo which she took as she left the launch full of anticipation for the music, the drama, the numerous activities and the fun to come! Roll on The Tower Stories.

Elaine Stallard [elaine@thetowerstories.co.uk](mailto:elaine@thetowerstories.co.uk) 🌐 [thetowerstories.co.uk](http://thetowerstories.co.uk)

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## Lent Lunches 2024

We will be serving Lent Lunches in the Grove Building for three Mondays in March and finally on Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup>.

The first lunch is on **March 4<sup>th</sup> from 12.30 p.m.**

We will be serving jacket potatoes with various fillings, plus a side salad and fruit, tea and coffee. The cost is £7 and all money raised will go to the Christian Aid and Cafod charities. Please do come along and support our fund raising. Enjoy a pleasant meal with friends and neighbours.

*Sandra Fisher and Judy Bickerstaff.*

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## Strong support for new CineClub

Well over 100 local people have registered their interest in CineClub Mere, the new independent community cinema club that a group of enthusiasts and founder members is working to establish.

The group says it's been pleasantly surprised and heartened by the level of support, giving it the impetus to take the next steps – including developing a programme of film showings and other movie-related events to be rolled out over the coming months.

Aiming to fill the gap left by Mere's 'Moviola', CineClub Mere plans to show a mix of classic, recently released and maybe even foreign-language films in a social setting – something for everyone and accessible to all.

All those who have registered an interest so far will be invited to help shape the club's programme through a questionnaire seeking views on types of films and preferences for days and times of showings. If you've registered an interest you should already have received one. Ideas so far include an inaugural event or film night and possibly a talk from someone involved in the film industry.

Please register your interest if you've not already done so:

Or post your details to CineClub Mere, The Cottage, Castle Street, Mere BA12 6JF  
Your details will only be used to inform you about club membership and programme and won't be passed to anyone else.

*CineClub Mere would like to thank Mere Matters editor Richard Jefferies for designing its new logo.*



Rosie Jordan-Barr [rjordanbarr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rjordanbarr@hotmail.co.uk)

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### Who's Who in the Mere Matters Team:

Mere Matters is managed by a team of 5 volunteers:

- Advertising: Jane Kennedy [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)
  - Circulation for Mere: Vivien Sheppard [vivsheppard@outlook.com](mailto:vivsheppard@outlook.com)
  - Treasurer: Alison Beall [ajbpebble51@gmail.com](mailto:ajbpebble51@gmail.com)
  - Circulation for West Knoyle: Jane Howard
  - Editor and Publisher: Richard Jefferies [rajefferies@btinternet.com](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)
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### From Times Gone By!

On Thursday last was committed to Fisherton gaol, Richard Welch, of Mere, horse jockey, for having had in his possession a £1 forged note, and aiding and abetting John Everett to utter [forge] the same.

*Salisbury & Winchester Journal, 8 March 1802*

Inquests held by George Sylvester esq at Maiden Bradley

At Zeals, in the parish of Mere, on Joseph Mitchell, aged 4 years. The deceased was taken by his school mistress to Mere to the "Independent Chapel," in a tilted cart, with 16 other children. They were so crowded that some were obliged to stand, and others to sit on the bottom of the cart. On returning to Zeals, the deceased was discovered lifeless, and from the evidence of — Newman, esq., surgeon, it appears the deceased had been suffocated, Verdict, Accidental death from suffocation.

*Wiltshire Independent, 27 March 1845*

*Martyn Beardsley*

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Copy date for the **April** issue

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

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.

## A 'George Hotel' Event.

A free valuation Day with Paul Martin, best known for being the presenter of various BBC television antiques programmes including Flog It, Trust Me, I'm a Dealer and Paul Martin's Handmade Revolution, was held at The George Hotel, Mere on Wednesday 7th February, 2024.

The George Hotel at Mere was full of many hoping for that "valuable find".



Picture of Paul Martin with Karen and Dennis Rymill with their Japanese lacquered bowl with mother of pearl inlay, made around 1918

*George Jeans*

## Fair Trade in Mere

I will be holding my stall at the URC Coffee morning on **March 23rd** (the 4th Saturday) and after the Morning Service at St Michael's on **17th March** (the usual 3rd Sunday). There will be plenty of chocolate ready for Easter and lovely Easter Cards. Why not come along and support the Fair Trade Groups represented by the goodies and crafts I display

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

## Mere Short Walk (J Way)

**March/April Short Walks:** As I am away in April, there will only be one Short Walk at the end of March. This will take place on **Monday 25th March**. Meet in the Surgery car park at 2p.m. for a Spring walk of 2-3 miles around the paths and lanes of Mere.

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

## Mere Mortals Petanque Club

We gained three new members last month and now regularly engage two pistes. Work continues, between showers, on the building of two more playable surfaces which will make the terrain able to accommodate as many as 24 players at the same time. Play continues on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturday mornings at 10.30am. When the clocks change play will resume on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm as well. New comers are always welcome. We have plenty of spare boule tuition is free and fun is guaranteed.



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

## Mere School

Gold Class at Mere School are currently involved in an exciting new project. They are in contact with a year 3 class in Paris.

Miss Hanby (our year 3 and French teacher) reached out to Maitresse Anna – a very enthusiastic teacher, who shares her educational journey and good practice on social media.



Miss Hanby contacted Maitresse Anna over social media and after a discussion they started this 'pen-pal' initiative. Both classes filled in a form "Tout sur moi/All about me" and then Miss Hanby and Maitresse Anna paired up the children based on their shared interests.

Both classes then met over 'Zoom'. They sang a song to each other and met their pen pals online. The children at Mere School made Miss Hanby proud by saying "Bonjour, enchanté" to their new friend.

After the meeting a child from Mere said that 'it was magical' and another 'at first I was scared but then I was very happy to meet my pen pal!'.

After half term the children will start a book project together. The teachers will select a book that both classes will study together. This will help the children to use their language skills and exchange questions and ideas about the story.

The plan is that the 2 classes will meet every week via 'Zoom' to share a favourite song or poem or to start other projects.

Maitresse Anna's social media is getting lots of attention in France and this project was even mentioned on national radio, France Bleu.

Our children are very keen to go and visit their friends in Paris but I am not sure the school budget will stretch to this!

*Catriona Williamson Head Teacher*

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# Sshh ... Silent Disco For Seniors



Grove Building, Church St., Mere, BA12 6DS

**Tuesday 5 March, 2-4pm FREE!**

An afternoon of 50's/60's/70's music and a dance too if you fancy, from your chair or on the dance floor. We serve mocktails!

Headphones let you listen or not, you choose, chat, watch, listen, or dance.

No need to book but if you have any enquiries please contact Karen Linaker:

[karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Kindly supported by:

**Wiltshire Council**

**HOODWINK**  
**Pound**  
Arts

## 1st Mere Brownies

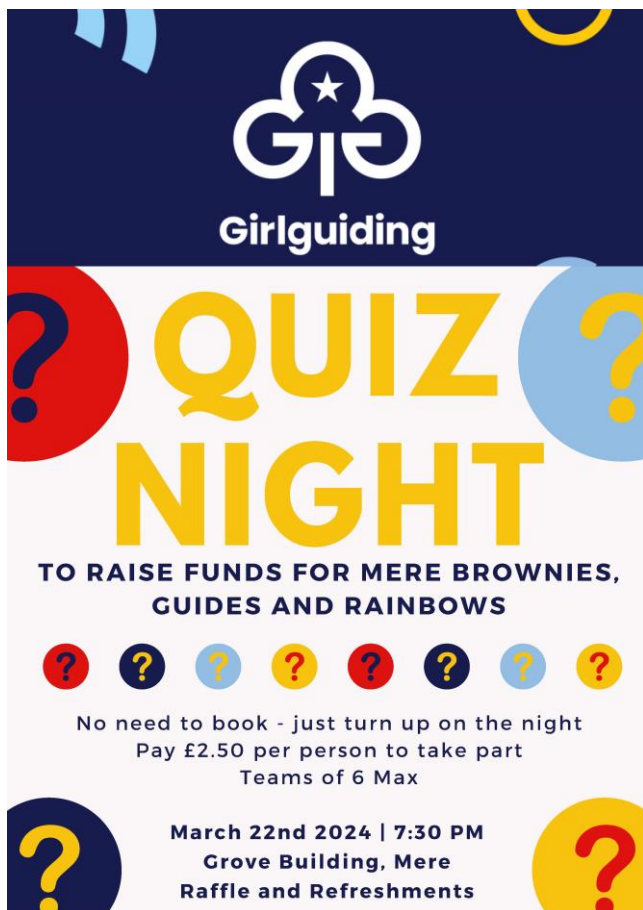
We celebrated The Chinese New Year of the Dragon at our meeting on Thursday 8th February.

Each six constructed a Dragon made from recyclable junk eg. boxes, bottles, bubble wrap and decorated with surplus scrap fabrics and accessories. They then devised a dance to demonstrate the movement of the Dragon.

The evening concluded with Chinese food to sample and each Brownie was given an individually wrapped fortune cookie inside which was a piece of paper with a fortune message. Great fun was had by all.

*No Brownies were eaten!*

*Picture by Sparkle Owl (Tor). text by Barn Owl (Sue Jeans)*





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	10:00	Walking Zumba	L
		13:45	<b>Duplicate Bridge</b> (14:00 start. Every Fri)	GB
2	Sat	10:30	<b>Coffee Morning</b> (every Sat)	URC
3	Sun			
4	Mon	09:30	<b>Tiddlers and Toddlers</b> (every Mon)	L
		12:30	Lent Lunch	GB
		18:00	<b>Scouting</b>	GB
		18:00	Yoga	L
		19:30	<b>Slimming World</b> (Book with Sally) (every Mon)	L
5	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic	GB
		10:30	Historical Society	GB
		18:20	<b>Zumba</b> (every Tues)	L
6	Wed	09:30	<b>Tai-Chi</b> (every Weds)	GB
		10:45	NHS Diabetes Prevention	GB
		14:00	NoWaxEar	GB
		14:00	<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 Reformed 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
		17:00	<b>Girlguiding</b> (every Thurs)	GB
		19:30	<b>Shreen Harmony</b> (every Thurs)	URC
		19:30	Ukulele	Butt of Sherry
8	Fri	10:00	Merely Women	GB
			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
9	Sat		<i>Coffee Morning, Fair Trade Stall</i>	
10	Sun			
11	Mon	12:30	Lent Lunch	GB
			<i>Scouting, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
12	Tues	09:00	Little Angels (every Tues)	GB
		14:30	Mothers Union	GB
			<i>Zumba</i>	
13	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship	GB
		19:30	Gardening Club	GB
			<i>Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
14	Thurs		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Rubber Bridge, Shreen Harmony, Guiding</i>	

15	Fri	<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
16	Sat	<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
17	Sun	Fair Trade Stall after morning service		StM
		14:00 Mere Walking Group (Laidler & Wilson)		CP
18	Mon	12:30 Lent Lunch		GB
		<i>Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>		
19	Tues	08:00 Foot Clinic		GB
		<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>		
20	Weds	19:00 Merekits Womens Institute		GB
		<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>		
21	Thurs	MADS Production		L
		<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>		
22	Fri	10:00 Merely Women		GB
		MADS Production		L
		<i>Dup Bridge</i>		
23	Sat	Fair Trade at Coffee Morning		URC
		MADS Production		L
		<i>Coffee Morning</i>		
24	Sun			
25	Mon	14:00 Short Walk (J Way)		CP
		<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>		
26	Tues	<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>		
27	Weds	10:45 NHS Diabetes Prevention		GB
		14:00 Fitness & Friendship		GB
		14:00 Pennybank Writers		L
		<i>Tai-Chi, Karate, Pilates, Railway Modellers</i>		
28	Thurs	<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Guiding, Shreen Harmony</i>		
29	Fri			
30	Sat	18:00 Bowls Charity Event		GB
31	Sun			

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

### Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our next session is on **Thursday 14th March** 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 is guaranteed with an Irish theme to reflect St Patrick's Day later in March.

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



Maggie Holmes [maggieholmes101@gmail.com](mailto:maggieholmes101@gmail.com)

## Mothers' Union and Open Members' Group

Following our successful and interesting meeting in February we are now looking forward to hearing from Julia Coles from Mere Surgery talking about "Health and Wellbeing". She will tell us about the various initiatives within the NHS. It will be so nice to have someone from our own GP Surgery.

This meeting will be on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm at The Grove Building.**

We do hope that if you would like to join us you will feel welcome as we do have a friendly afternoon with a short time for prayer and reflection, we sing a hymn and then our speaker is invited to bring us this month an interesting talk and time for questions. We will follow this with a time for Socialising and refreshments. Another asset for people in Mere and surrounding villages.

Please contact one of those listed below for more information.

Carol Lord ☎ 861923. Christine Marsh ☎ 861212 Christabelle Kriticos 861067

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## Mere Carnival Committee

Well here we are in March already; time is flying by as we head into summer. In February we had our second committee meeting so as you can imagine we are already in the process of planning out this coming year's events.



What we really need however is new volunteers to join us on the committee, we have lost an awful lot of expertise over the last few months with people leaving. It is something we were aware of because some of those people were long serving members who only stayed on last year in an effort to pass on their knowledge, it has however left a number of gaps that need filling.

***I know you have heard it before but without bringing in new people the carnival is under the real threat of dying out.*** This is yet another plea to the people of Mere to think about joining us, to paraphrase Lord Kitchener "Mere Carnival Needs You." So please get in touch with our secretary by emailing Jaïne at [secretary@merecarnival.co.uk](mailto:secretary@merecarnival.co.uk) And again this really is very important for the future of this great tradition.

Also we would ask that you try to also support our fund raising events by coming along and enjoying an evening or afternoon out. There are two events planned for March the first being a Grand Bingo Evening at the social club on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7pm and a first for us the following day, Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> when we will be holding a Children's Easter Hat competition and Craft Fayre at the Grove Building which will run from 11AM to 3PM. Please watch out for further details on social media, our website and posters around Mere.

Please come along and support us and if you think you can help out with the committee then why not email Jaïne.

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Mel Wilkinson [melvinwilkinson@gmail.com](mailto:melvinwilkinson@gmail.com)

## Mere Art Group

Attendance has been good, despite some permanent losses such as Kathleen Holden who has moved away to be closer to her Family members.

We are brightened up with Bob Steven's colourful version of A Scarlet Macaw - painted using Acrylics on card.

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

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## E'vents in Mere' Facebook Group

In a bid to complement both Mere Matters and Mere Mutters, this Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/EventsInMere](https://facebook.com/groups/EventsInMere)) is for organisations, businesses and individuals to promote upcoming events and things to do in Mere.

**Only events taking place within Mere**, or organised by clubs or societies based in Mere are accepted.

*To keep the page uncluttered, no general advertising of businesses or services is accepted and no posts unrelated to organised events.*

[facebook.com/groups/EventsInMere](https://facebook.com/groups/EventsInMere)

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## 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](mailto:administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk)

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Informal Worship (Family Service)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Mothering Sunday Parish Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Passion Sunday Informal Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fri	10:00	Roman Catholic Mass
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Palm Procession from the Clock Tower followed by Palm Sunday Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	19:00	Holy Week Compline
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	19:00	Holy Week Compline
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	19:00	Holy Week Compline
28 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	19:00	Maundy Thursday - Eucharist of the Last Supper
29 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	09.30 11.00 14:00	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross Walk of Witness – starting from the Clock Tower The Last Hour service
31 <sup>ST</sup>	Sun	06:00 08.00 10.30	Sunrise Vigil and Service of Light BCP Communion Easter Sunday Parish 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	DIY Service
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Mothering Sunday Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Passion Sunday Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Palm Sunday Matins
31 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Easter Sunday Communion

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

Minister - Vacancy

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

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev Colin Marsh ( Holy Communion)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mrs. Jane Hurd
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr. Gwilym Hitchcock
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Mr. James Hepburn
31 <sup>st</sup>	Sun	11:00	Easter Sunday Rev. Michael Hopkins (Holy Communion)

## ***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](mailto:hope.stlukeswincanton@outlook.com)

Mass at St Michael's the Archangel at 10am on Friday 1 December.

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

Contacts: Carole Marshall ☎ 861905 or John Fitzgerald ☎ 860867

## **Mere Information**

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

## Historical Society

There are 4 more talks to come in our current programme in March and April.

On **Tuesday 5 March**, Adrian Green, Director of Salisbury Museum, will give a talk entitled **Past Forward at Salisbury Museum at 10.30am**.

On **Tuesday 2 April** our speaker is Julia Mottershaw who will talk about **Francis Faugoin, the Forgotten Gardener of Stourhead**, based on her recently published book of the same title. This talk will be at about **7.50pm** following our **AGM**. (See details below.)

On **Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm** Malcolm Wells MBE will give a talk entitled **So Far So Good – an Amusing Take on Military Life**.

Finally on **Tuesday 16 April at 10.30am**, Dr Francis Burroughes BEM will give a talk on **The History of Glass**.

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.

## The AGM

Our **AGM** will be held on **Tuesday 2 April at 7.30pm** in the Grove Building. Membership subscriptions of £10 for 2024-25 will be due then. Cash or cheques will be collected before the AGM from **7.00pm** when a glass of wine will be offered. Cheques should be made payable to Mere Historical Society and may also be sent to the Chair, Peter Landymore, at Whispers, Pettridge Lane, Mere BA12 6DG.

Alternatively subscription payments can be made by bank transfer to Mere Historical Society Sort code 30-93-45, Account No 01735722.

**Notices and/or Committee Nominations** for the AGM must be submitted in writing to the Secretary or a member of the Committee by **Friday 15 March 2024**.

For current Committee members please see [www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk) where you can also view minutes of our last AGM held in April 2023.

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

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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



## Mere Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be our AGM on Wednesday 13th March followed by a talk given by Derek Dexter on fuchsias. You will be able to renew your memberships on this evening which we are keeping at £10 this year. This membership fee entitles you to all our talks, social events etc. with the added bonus of 10% off purchases at Plantworld. As we are members of the Gold Club at Castle Gardens you will also be entitled to special offers which can include 25% discount at certain times of the year.

We are always looking for new members who will be made most welcome. As our next meeting is the AGM all the present Committee members are willing to stand again but if you feel you would like to join the committee or stand for one of the committee posts then please contact the secretary Penny Allen on 07539 329 798.

Irene Lucas has drawn up a very good programme for the next year which will have something for everyone. Please don't forget our Hidden Gardens of Mere (Open Gardens) event on 15th and 16th June. If you would like to open your garden or to help with the refreshments in the Grove Building then please get in touch as soon as possible. The rota for refreshments is divided into two-hour slots.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support of the Club. A huge thank you must go to the committee for all their hard work and finally we say a great job done to Roger Laidler who has stood down as our programme secretary after many many years of sterling work. Happy Gardening

Les Manwaring Chai 📞 861 941 [lesmanwaring@yahoo.com](mailto:lesmanwaring@yahoo.com)

Rose Heesom 📞 07791559674 [roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk) 🌐 [meregardenclub.org.uk](http://meregardenclub.org.uk)

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## Mere Walking Group

A variety of walks is now organised for this year, all listed below. The walks are normally around 4 miles long and cater for all as they are generally fairly easy going and not too strenuous. We normally meet at the Salisbury Street Car Park (by the Doctors) and when walks are outside of Mere, we share transport. All ages are welcome, just come and join us.

Sun Mar 17<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Sun April 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Sun May 19<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Wed May 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am, Sun June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm, Sun July 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Wed July 17<sup>th</sup> 9:18am (meet at the square, bus to Gillingham & walk back to Mere), Sun Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Sun Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Sun Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 2pm.

Mary Wilson 📞 229609 [wilsonsmer@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonsmer@gmail.com)

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## Mere Museum

This month the Mere Youth Band exhibition is on show, please do come and view it and leave a message if you are in any of the photos.

The museum received very few donations last year and I would ask if you are having a sort out to please consider donating items to the museum particularly if you have photos of Mere or information regarding the families and history of Mere. We are fortunate to have some wonderful photos of Mere from the 18th century onwards. I am currently researching the buildings in Mere of which there are 91 listed on the Heritage site.

Rose Heesom  [meremuseum@btinternet.com](mailto:meremuseum@btinternet.com)

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## Merekits - Womens Institute

Since February's edition of this magazine, on the surface, Merekits WI appears to have been hibernating! Our January meeting was cancelled at very short notice but activities outside of monthly meetings have still taken place including a walk around Shaftesbury following the Snowdrop Trail which was enjoyed by all who attended. Additionally, small groups have attended a film night over in Bourton as well as their AmDram pantomime "A little Panto on the Prairie" – Oh yes they did! – and a great time was had by all.

The committee has also been working very hard behind the scenes to prepare for our February meeting where Prof Helen Pankhurst will be speaking on "Women's lives and Women's rights – how far have we got?" We feel extremely honoured to be hosting such a prestigious speaker and tickets have sold out very quickly. A synopsis of the meeting will appear in next month's edition of this magazine as it falls after the copy date.

**Our next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup> when we will be having an Easter themed flower arranging and craft night – all are welcome to come along and join in the fun! We meet at 7pm in The Grove Building – opposite St Michael's Church.**

Also coming up in March will be our regular craft morning (Monday 4<sup>th</sup>) and monthly walk (Monday 18<sup>th</sup>) as well as a visit to the MADS production on the 21<sup>st</sup>. All enquiries about these should be directed to the number below.

*I would like to apologise for the printing of incorrect contact details in last month's edition of Mere Matters which may have resulted in some readers being unable to secure tickets for the Merekits WI evening with Prof Helen Pankhurst - Editor.*

Yvonne  860035

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### RNID Hearing Aid Clinic

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** This service is for Salisbury Hospital Audiology hearing aid wearers for retubing, cleaning hearing aids or batteries. It is run by volunteers. Please bring your battery issue card with you as this gives the volunteers information regarding the types and size of tubes and 'domes' you require.

This is a 'Drop in' Clinic (no appointments, seen in order of arrival) held the first Thursday of the month running from 10.00am until 12.00pm at the United Reformed Church on Boar Street BA12 6DD.

Please stagger (not literally!) when you visit, if everyone arrives at 10.00am there may be a long wait!

Gill Drayson ☎ 01722 580014 [Gillian.Drayson@RNID.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.Drayson@RNID.org.uk)

### Spring Textile Fair – Silton Village

Do come to a Spring Textile Fair on Saturday 23rd March, 9.30am – 2.00pm in Silton Village Hall SP8 5PN. £3 entry to include tea/coffee.

Stalls include high end designer fabrics, British handmade clothing, hand made quilted items, silk scarves, hand block printed day and night wear and home accessories. A soft furnishings maker and interior design service is available – do bring your measurements.

Cakes available, raffle and proceeds to Silton Church and Air Ambulance.

Ample free parking and good access.

Judy Phillips ☎ 860835





## Mere & District Link Scheme

Like last year January was a busy month for the Link with 105 trips 31 of which were to Salisbury District Hospital.

We are a local charity and our volunteer drivers take clients to medical appointments, including Covid vaccinations, and even shopping when resources allow. New drivers are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver by calling 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 coordinators' 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). Once you give us a request 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.

I am delighted to announce that at our Committee Meeting in February Simon Wager, from Maiden Bradley, who has been a driver and Committee member for a number of years agreed to become a Trustee of the Link Scheme. Also at the meeting, our Treasurer confirmed we are in a good position financially although the monthly donations in January were slightly less than our expenses. We also agreed that our 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](http://merelink.org.uk)

## Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

'Allo 'Allo! No, not an unusual greeting at the start of this month's MADS report, but the title of our Spring Production! Many Mere Matters readers will recognise the title as that of a BBC1 comedy series from the '80s and '90s on which the play is based. Set in a café in occupied France between 1940 and 1944, the proprietor, René Artois, is a (hesitant) member of the local French Resistance movement. However the local German army and the Gestapo are also patrons. It's a situation ripe for comedy! The action involves (amongst many hilarious situations and happenings) a valuable painting of a dubious female, stolen by the Nazis but currently hidden from them in a sausage in the cellar of the café; the presence of two stranded English airmen (don't ask), whom René is also hiding and trying to repatriate; and a wireless for contacting London disguised (of course it is!) as a cockatoo, contributes to the bedlam. Then the news arrives that Hitler himself is about to visit the town...! You will have to come to see the play to find out what happens next! Is any resolution possible? Performances are on 21st, 22nd and 23rd March and tickets at £10 each are available from the Library, Sprout and Flower, or through the website: [mereamdram.co.uk](http://mereamdram.co.uk) or by telephoning 01747 861257 or 07539329798. Get your tickets soon – this could well be a sell out! We look forward to seeing you there!

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



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