



# *Mere Matters*

*& so does  
West Knoyle*

**October 2024**

Your community magazine  
Including a guide to local events

# Week at a glance



## Wednesday 9th October

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
2.30pm	Orlando Murrin – Knife Skills for Beginners	United Reform Church, Boar Street, BH12 6DD	£10.00 per person
4.15pm	Sandy Nairne – Titan Of The Thames, The Life Of Lord Desborough	United Reform Church Boar Street, BH12 6DD	£10.00 per person
7.00pm	Xan Brooks – The Catchers	United Reform Church Boar Street, BH12 6DD	£10.00 per person

## Friday 11th October

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
11.30am	Sally Smith – The Women Who Went Round The World	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
2.30pm	Xinran – The Book Of Secrets	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
4.15pm	Kate Morgan – The Walnut Treet	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
7.00pm	Friends Annual Party		

## Thursday 10th October

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
11.30am	Paul Morland – No One Left	St Michael's Church, Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
2.30pm	Robert Ashton – Where Are The Fellows Who Cut The Hay?	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
4.15pm	Tim Tate – To Catch A Spy	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
7.00pm	Louis de Bernières – Light Over Liskeard	St Michael's Church Church Street, BH12 6DS	£12.50 per person


## Saturday 12th October

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PRICE
10.30am	Keith Stuart – Love Is A Curse	The Grove Building, Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
12.00pm	Hannah Barnes – Time To Think	The Grove Building Church Street, BH12 6DS	£10.00 per person
2.00pm	Poetry and Art Workshop	Mere Library, Barton Lane, BA12 6JA	No Charge


## Editorial

I am delighted to inform you that Ann-Marie Long is now in charge of all things advertising for Mere Matters – welcome Ann-Marie and many thanks for volunteering. Her contact details are in the green box below. Please bear in mind that she is a working Mum with a child so may not be able to deal with enquiries immediately but she will get back to you as soon as she can; email communications is best! Ann-Marie is replacing Jane Kennedy and after some approx. 20 odd years of working on Mere Matters I think she deserves a rest. Thanks again Jane and best wishes to you and Peter.

I would like to also commend voluntary work to those of you who may have skills and time to offer but have not thought about volunteering. Whilst the Mere Matters team is small in number, even during my varied professional career, I never experienced such a wonderful camaraderie and positive spirit – thank you all.

Richard Jefferies:  863425 [Editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:Editor@merematters.co.uk)

### Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

To find out the costs or to place an advert, please contact **Ann-Marie Long** directly by email or phone. [Media4MM@outlook.com](mailto:Media4MM@outlook.com)  07833 686742

## Mere Town Council

I would like to start with a big thank you to the committee, the volunteers, the entrants and the sponsors for the splendid afternoon and evening entertainment of Mere Carnival. I hope that I sound like a broken record but it is pleasing to see how Mere benefits from the hardy groups of volunteers for so many enriching activities. If you go into The Square on a Wednesday morning, you will see a group of walkers setting off with volunteers leading and organising the walks. On Saturdays, you will see volunteers manning the Food Bank. At various times during the week, you can pop into the library and find it managed by volunteers and alongside them a museum wholly organised by volunteers. I could go on with more examples but I shall stop and ask an important question of you. Is there some way in which you, too, can enrich our town by giving a hand or sharing your knowledge? If so, then please do so.

One group of volunteers are the town councillors and last month we heard from residents about their opinions and then looked at planning applications. If there is a planning application that affects you, please come to a council meeting and talk to councillors in the public session but do make your feelings known on the Wiltshire planning website. We discussed the slow progress with our applications to Wiltshire Council Local Highways Improvement Group for traffic control changes to improve safety on Hazzards Hill and Edgebridge. On current form, I cannot see anything happening for at least a year!

We discussed what would be contained in a Town Council response to the public consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. I am indebted to a group of councillors who gave up their time to meet again with our Clerk to formulate a response. Decisions made to increase the supply of houses affects everyone in the country but we felt it important to stress how this should be done in the best way to suit small rural communities like Mere.

The Town Council will soon (November) have its annual budget meeting and I would ask you to let us know where you feel we should be allocating monies to maintain and improve Mere for the benefit of all residents. DO come along to a council meeting (the first Monday of the month at 7pm at the Duchy Manor site) and say your piece!

*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

Those in Zeals and elsewhere may be interested that in times past, Zeals had a Prize Band which played in the Lake pleasure Grounds, Warminster in September 1924 taken from an extract of the Warminster Journal of that year.

The Family and Community Learning service (FaCL) at Wiltshire Council has had a record-breaking academic year with more than 1,000 enrolments taking place. The team offers a range of free single-session and short courses to help get adults back into learning and is open for eligible people to sign up now. FaCL tutors travel to teach learners in community venues around the county, as well as offering online courses for those who find travel challenging or have caring responsibilities that would make attending a face-to-face course difficult.

Listed buildings are not usually demolished. A structurally unsafe listed property in the centre of Warminster has been demolished. It had been a long-standing safety concern for the council's Building Control team due to a decline in its structural integrity and the dangerous state of its scaffolding.

At an event held in Westminster, an unprecedented cross-party coalition of over 100 council landlords, led by Southwark Council, jointly published five solutions for the government to 'secure the future of England's council housing'. They warn that England's council housing system is broken, and that urgent action is needed for the government to deliver its housing promises. The Leader of Wiltshire Council, said: *"It's essential that high quality affordable council homes are available for those who need them most, and the current system and model in place makes this challenging."*

The council's **We're Targeting Fly-tippers (WTF) campaign** continues to gather pace with the launch of dedicated fly-tipping webpages [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fly-tipping](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fly-tipping) will provide people with a range of information about the WTF campaign including:

- What is classed as fly-tipping
- How to report fly-tipping and/or unlicensed waste carriers
- The witness reward scheme already used in Zeals
- Possible penalties for offenders
- Recent prosecutions
- How to access further information to comply with the laws around waste disposal.

The shortage of parking in Mere near housing is worsening in my opinion, with darker nights approaching and the only way out of some areas, is to reverse some distance, sometimes around corners in poor light conditions is challenging and possibly dangerous. I shall continue to request an improvement in parking arrangements where possible.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, voting rights for EU citizens have changed across the country. To be registered to vote, EU citizens living in England must meet new eligibility criteria, based on their nationality and when they started living in the UK. You can find more information at

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/EU](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/EU) or if you have any additional questions please email [electreg@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:electreg@wiltshire.gov.uk).

I have asked for Mere Library to be given information for the public to examine regarding planning consultations. It is given to many other libraries in Wiltshire and the head of planning has refused, saying we can go to Warminster etc or we can get Library staff to help use the PCs, this is not the answer for some of Mere's population. Mere Town Councillor Debie Beale has kindly agreed to print and take one consultation to the Mere Library, for which I thank her.

I have the following items if you have Community use for them, for short term free loan If you have any use at any local community function for a small free standing amp and microphone, or a buzz wire and stand that the user tries to get wand around without making a buzz, I have both for free borrowing, insurance not included.

Penny Fennon gave August rainfall for Salisbury Street as 10cm with the 24th August being the wettest with 4.5cm of rain. Pam Baldock gave August rainfall for Lordsmead as 35mm (1.4 inches). Wettest day Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11mm both days.

Seven foster families came together in Calne on Sunday (14 July) to celebrate the launch of the first Mockingbird family constellation in Wiltshire. Mockingbird is a pioneering programme led by The Fostering Network. The model is based around the support and relationships that an extended family provides, nurturing relationships between children, young people and foster families and supporting them to build a resilient and caring community. Wiltshire Council has worked with The Fostering Network to set up the first network. To form a constellation, foster carers join a network with other foster carers, each of which are described as satellite foster homes. At the centre of each constellation is a 'hub' home, with a paid, experienced foster carer able to provide resources and support for the satellite carers. Wiltshire Council is recruiting foster carers now, with a range of flexible roles on offer including full time, short break or emergency care. To find out more about fostering in Wiltshire and the Mockingbird family model, people can visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering) or contact the team at [fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@wiltshire.gov.uk), I believe you can also call 0800 169 6321 or text the word Foster to 60002.

---

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

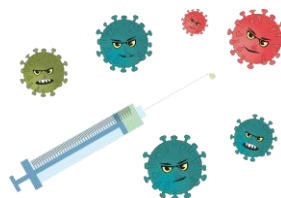
## Mere Surgery - FLU and COVID CLINICS

Please find details of the Surgery's vaccination programme below

The Clinics will be held at **Mere Surgery**

The following ARE entitled to the vaccinations:

- Anyone aged over 65
- Carers
- Pregnant women
- Any adult with following conditions:
  - COPD
  - Chronic heart disease
  - Chronic kidney or liver disease
  - Chronic neurological disease i.e. motor neurone
  - Parkinson's
  - Learning disability
  - Diabetes
  - Weakened immune system due to chemotherapy or auto immune disorders
- BMI greater than 40.



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

If you need to contact the surgery to make an appointment, please wait until you have been contacted with an invitation to book an appointment.

## **CHILDREN'S FLU CLINICS**

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

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

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

## Mere Carnival 2024

On the day the weather was more than kind, which made it perfect for our Royals. Including our 98 year old Supergran Betty! She was overwhelmed with all the young Royals in their dresses, tiaras and suits. Even more so when she was presented with a huge gorgeous bouquet kindly donated by Sprout & Flower. The young Royals also had beautiful posies to carry in the procession, the Prince and his attendants had stunning buttonholes. All of which were complimentary and provided by Sprout & Flower too.

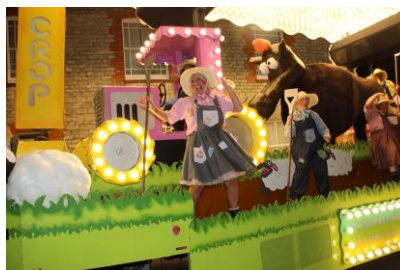
Outside The George from 3:30pm, there was live music from Ukes at The Butt and Jay musician which was enjoyed by all. A cake stall run by Meres WI, Delicious hot food by The Burger Grill, Refreshing drinks by The Walnut Tree, a Mr Whippy from Dan's Ice Cream van and you could even have your face painted by Elizabeth Ingham.



The evening procession was such good fun, so many wonderful entries this year and the word on the street is that it was the best in years!

Collections were made by Mere Fire station, Seeds4Success, 1st Mere Scouts, Frome Street Carnival and the family of our Royals. These local charities and others get donations in return from Mere Carnival.

Dorset Marshalls did a fantastic job of keeping the crowds safe.



The Committee carried on working late into the night, clearing cones and signs away.

Their work didn't stop there as on Sunday at lunch it was time to reveal the winning numbers for the mega draw golden tickets at The Butt of Sherry (who were the sponsor for the tickets)

The winning numbers are:

£1,000 – 1286, £500 – 1074, £250 – 0829, £250 - 2533

If you are one of the lucky ticket holders, please contact Karen at The Butt of Sherry to collect your prize.

On this note, it's worth saying a big thank you to all the volunteers and The Committee who have and continue working tirelessly to provide Mere with another



Carnival. If you think you would like to join and help out next year, then please get in touch via our website or Facebook page.

This just leaves us to say a massive thank you to the whole of Mere for supporting this year's Carnival.

Jaine Purdue *Mere Carnival Secretary* [secretary@merecarnival.co.uk](mailto:secretary@merecarnival.co.uk)



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 - 12.00 at the United Reform Church Hall**

As you will appreciate, we face the challenge of reaching potential readers to tell them about our service. They struggle to read any written publicity that we put out. We therefore rely on third parties, like you, to tell them about us and encourage them to come forward.

Our group is very proud to present our new project where we have produced 7 short film clips (less than two minutes each) showing very relevant scenarios. Our Read Easy Stories. We would love it if you would spare come along and have a look.

This is a preview of what we will be putting out on Social Media sites and possibly other outlets. We hope they will reach as many people as possible.

Lydia Everitt, [events.regs@gmail.com](mailto:events.regs@gmail.com) 07748 981935

### November 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>

Hopefully by now these dates are firmly in your diaries for it is the weekend of our third Creative Mere event! Have you ever wanted to learn how to knit, work with wood, make your own cards? Or have you ever wondered how to create a fishing fly, wax a jacket or plait your hair?

Well this is your opportunity to learn a new hobby from one of the talented craft and art people in Mere. Don't miss it!!



## Problem with BT

In trying to help a rather elderly person with no dial tone or internet, it transpired that reporting a fault is almost impossible (unless you know otherwise?) You can guess that I tried all the recommended numbers using a mobile phone and from a working BT landline to no avail. Using any of these numbers invokes an automated service which assumes that you are phoning using the 'broken' phone line. You would think the system was designed by idiots. You definitely cannot speak to a human being.

A working solution was to use a mobile phone and **TEXT** a message to the number **61998**. The message you **SEND** has to be nothing more than the word **PHONE** and then a space and then the full number of the faulty line including the STD area code with no spaces.

So if my BT telephone number was 01747 123456, I would text the following message to:

**61998 PHONE 01747123456**

It would appear that this starts some automatic checks on the line in question. If it returns an error then it is passed on for repair ..... Hopefully!!!

All of this took nearly a whole day so I hope if you have problems that it works for you! Just maybe, by the time you read this, the procedure will have changed.

*Richard Jefferies Ed*

---

## Mere Jelly

The Mere Jelly is a fantastic opportunity to 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!

Open to local businesses, homeworkers and creatives, 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

---

## Mere Gardening Club.

For the first time in several years Mere Gardening Club held a members show. The turnout was fantastic with plenty of entries. All classes, vegetables, fruit, flowers and home produce were very well supported and it was so good to see so many members had entered into the spirit of the occasion. The overall winner with most points was Kath Harrison who was awarded the RHS Banksian medal; well done to her on this great achievement. The two judges for the evening, Elaine Noble (home produce and baking) and David Shergold (flowers, plants etc.) were most impressed with the quality and presentation of the exhibits, they also kindly stayed for the rest of the evening explaining to the members how and why they made their choices. Personally, I have judged several Horticulture shows this year and I was also amazed at the standard of the exhibits. **WELL DONE TO EVERYONE!**



The club also took part in the Dorset Horticulture Federation show held on the 15 September at Tarrant Keystone. I left Mere at 7a.m. with a car load of exhibits and put 16 entries on the show benches including fruit, vegetable, flowers, herbs and cake. From our 16 entries Mere Gardening Club managed 7 firsts, 7 seconds and 2 third places so all our entries won a prize. This was quite an achievement when competing against a large number of horticulture societies from Dorset and Wiltshire.

Our next meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 7p.m. in the Grove

Building will be a members forum evening discussing all aspects of our gardens. So please come prepared with all your questions and you never know but you might be the person with answers to other members gardening problems.

Our members' list is getting close to being fully subscribed, membership cost just £10 per year which includes special events, speakers and discounts at Plant World and Castle Gardens. If you are thinking of joining our club now is the time.

Myself and the committee look forward to welcoming you all to our next meeting.

Les Manwaring Chair ☎ 861941 [lesmanwaring@yahoo.com](mailto:lesmanwaring@yahoo.com)



## Mere School



Last term Red Class were involved in an amazing project with IF Opera. IF Opera is based in Bradford on Avon and we were invited to take part in their 2024 Schools Project based on Die Fledermaus by Johann Straus II.



Opera is a dramatic art which uses music, singing, words and drama, movement, dance, set design, lighting and costume to tell a story.

Red Class took part in a series of workshops working on all of these aspects to create an in-school performance of their own mini-operetta, inspired by the themes and music of the original.



The children sang, learning from 2 professional singers, created and staged their work and wrote songs and lyrics with the professional pianist.

Parents and children thoroughly enjoyed Red Class's performance and the staff were 'stunned' by the confidence and energy of the children. The performance was particularly poignant as a number of children in the class have or are



awaiting an ASD diagnosis and so to perform in this way was a huge achievement for them. Many struggle to talk in front of the class.

Jess said "I have got more confident during the opera. I enjoyed putting the piece together. It made me confident because I don't like dancing in front of others." Sienna added "This wonderful experience has given me so much more confidence to perform! I really loved being able to do an important part and this is the first time I've performed an opera play so thank you for this brilliant opportunity."

We have our fingers crossed for being involved next year!

*Catriona Williamson*



## Merekits - Women's Institute


During the summer the WI enjoyed a summer gathering where we learnt how to play pétanque, instructed by one of members' husband. We all brought picnic items to share; some of our members had made lovely sausage rolls or savoury bites as well as cakes and biscuits allowing us all to be very spoilt! Janet Way also tempted us the at the event by putting on a FairTrade chocolate tasting session for their proposed new MIA ranges (Made in Africa). Although a little chilly towards the end, it was a lovely evening amongst friends.

We were entertained at our September meeting by the Wiltshire Bat Group who provided us with a very interesting talk and an opportunity to go out into Mere to find bats using bat detectors. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. During September we also supported the Mere Carnival with some of our culinary delights for people to eat during the procession. Finally, we arranged 2 walks around Mere, one shorter around the outskirts of the town and a longer over up the Downs which were both finished with a lovely cream tea in one of the members equally lovely gardens.

Our next meeting will be on October 16<sup>th</sup> in the Grove Building where we have fun learning how to do Greek dancing. It promises to be an evening of hilarity as well as good entertainment. We will also be hearing about how to set up a walking netball group within the WI – we have had a lot of interest in getting this off the ground and are looking forward to hearing more about it.

Merekits WI meet on the third Wednesday of the month in the Grove Building from 7pm to 9pm. We have a varied programme of events throughout the year including talks, demonstrations and various activities both in and outside of meetings. New ladies are always welcome to come along to any meeting to find out more; it allows an opportunity to meet people and make new friends locally and there's always something going for you to participate in as much or as little as you would like.

---

Verena Cooper  07971 790256 [verenacooper2@gmail.com](mailto:verenacooper2@gmail.com)

## Mere Theatre Club

A note to members: as we now have a sizeable mailing list, we are finding that some of our emails are going into people's junk boxes. So, please check your junk boxes in case you've missed an enticing email.

The winter programme will be sent out sometime in October.

We look forward to seeing some of you in December for some Christmas cheer!

Meanwhile, if you'd like to get in touch or join us, contact details below

---

Madeline Morris 07481 555101 [madsmorris@gmail.com](mailto:madsmorris@gmail.com)

## Mere Toddlers Foodbank Quiz

We are thrilled to say that the Quiz on the 21st September raised a grand total of £357. Our generous sponsors again were L.C. Hill and Son, Funeral Directors.

Thanks to all the helpers, plus the administrator Hamish, and the inimitable Penny Fennon of course for all the questions, and despite the terrible jokes a great time was had by all.

We also collected six bags of donated goods, and had an amazing response again for the raffle by local businesses which we hugely appreciate.

The winning team extremely kindly donated their winnings back into the kitty, which was amazing.

The team who won the 'best name' prize of chocolates was The Shreen Dream Team.

Here is the list of teams:

Universally Challenged	Shreen Dream Team	Jesters
George and his Dragons	Gillymots	Not Cross Buns
	Purple Pants	



Penny Fennon loading up the raffle prizes

See you all next April! The date will be announced after Xmas.

Meanwhile come along to our Fresh food sessions and either just take things if you are in need, or swap by taking some fresh fruit, veg or bread, for long life items for the foodbank deliveries. We always need long life basic food items in tins, packets or cartons.

Finally thank you to everyone dropping off items in our bin in the Co-op. Hugely beneficial to local families in need.

We are having a trolley collection outside Co-op of similar longlife items on Saturday **December 1st from 10am-12 noon**, including perhaps some little extras for Xmas.

Thank you Mere and district for all your generosity.

Anne Rich: 07413 512023 [arich4@icloud.com](mailto:arich4@icloud.com)

**Thanks to our prize money sponsors**

**L.C Hill and Son Funeral directors**

Thanks to you all for supporting us tonight, and for all donations of raffle prizes from :

Mark Dunham	Mere Pharmacy	
Charles Farris	Dorset Uglies	
Walton Antiques	Walnut Tree	
Lou's It	Yapp Bros	
Mere Fish and Chips	Neals Yard	
Hayleys	Wendy Miller	Waltons of Mere
Chalke's Garage	Beauty Box	
Orchard Park	Plant World	Butt of Sherry
Jeans Electrical	Mel Wilkinson	The George
Orchard Park	Sprout & Flower	Sturdy Storage
Smartstep Footcare	Hill Brush	Tesco and Asda

**MERE  
FARESHARE  
TODDLERS  
FOODBANK  
THANKS**

Thanks also to Gillingham and Warminster Foodbanks, without whom we would not be able to support the foodbank recipients.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, and to Waitrose for all the fresh food we collect every week, for our two Foodbank stalls

### GMS Lions

GMS (Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury) Lions celebrated their 45th Charter at the Royal Chase Shaftesbury on Saturday 7th September. The tables were named on the theme of dogs, we were seated on "Havapoo" table.



GMS Lions were formed in 1979 and have worked tirelessly to raise money for good causes. In the last year they have given to 15 causes including Macmillan Cancer Support. Over the years four of its members have been honoured with the prestigious Melvin Jones Honour, The toastmaster for the evening was Lion Martin Wingrove.

The charter event was well attended with close to a 100 guests, the night was full of fun and laughter, with the President of GMS Lion Lynne Gray being quizzed similar to the television program Pointless. Lynne seemed happy not to give the lowest answer, however she was still awarded over £225 for Julia House children's hospice.



Pictures and text by George Jeans

### North Road Allotment holders

Saturday 14th Sept the North Road Allotment holders held a get together to celebrate or commiserate the seasons offerings. I visited and inspected very good crops. I did say I thought the pumpkins needed to get a little larger and one lady replied "and may I ask how big are yours", which caused much laughter. I thought best not to reply!



*Pictures and text by George  
Jeans Mere*



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



				<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
12	Sat	10:00	Literary Festival		GB
				<i>Croquet and Boules</i>	
13	Sun			<i>Croquet and Boules</i>	
14	Mon			<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
15	Tues	08:00	Foot Clinic		GB
				<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
16	Weds	19:00	Merekits Women's Institute		GB
				<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
17	Thurs	14:00	Mere Walking Group (J Way)		CP
				<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, Harmony FH</i>	
18	Fri			<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
19	Sat			<i>Coffee Morning and Fair Trade Stall,</i>	
20	Sun	14:00	Mere Walking Group (Laidler & Wilson)		CP
			Fair Trade after morning service		StM
21	Mon			<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
22	Tues			<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
23	Weds	14:00	Fitness & Friendship		GB
		19:30	Round Table		GB
				<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Pilates, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
24	Thurs			<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, Harmony FH</i>	
25	Fri	10:00	Merely Women		GB
				<i>Dup Bridge</i>	
26	Sat			<i>Coffee Morning, Food Bank</i>	
27	Sun				
28	Mon	11:00	Carers Together		GB
				<i>Scouting, Tiddlers and Toddlers, Slimming World, Yoga</i>	
29	Tues			<i>Little Angels, Zumba</i>	
30	Weds	10:45	NHS Diabetes Prevention		GB
		am	Jelly Group		VH
		14:30	Pennybank Writers		L
				<i>Get Wiltshire Walking Group, Karate, Tai-Chi, Railway Modellers</i>	
31	Thurs			<i>Rhyme Time, Art, Quilters, Bridge, Guiding, Shreen Harmony, Yoga, Harmony FH</i>	

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

**Any events shown in Red are unconfirmed**

Copy date for **November** issue

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

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

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

---

## Mere Walking Groups

**Thurs Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**, Come and enjoy the Autumn colours for a **short** walk around Mere's paths and lanes. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2p.m. and finish with a welcome cuppa at The Angel Tea Room and maybe indulge in a piece of Paul's delicious cakes!

*Janet Way. 860884*

**Sun, Oct 20<sup>th</sup>** 2pm, Mere Walking Group, last walk of this group for 2024. A walk of approx. 4 miles, meet at Salisbury Street Car Park at 2pm.

*Roger Laidler 07749 230894*

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

*Dave & Wendy Drewett 07508 340105*

All ages are welcome to join in all of these walks.

---

## AIM weekend

Unfortunately, in our report in Mere Matters last month we forgot to mention Mere Croquet club and Wincanton Wheelers! Apologies to both groups who contributed to the excellent weekend. The Croquet Club have would like to remind everyone that they new members are very welcome at the club.

*Roger Pipe. Project Co-ordinator Mere Town Council*

---



## Stricter penalties to deter fly-posting

We have raised the amount of the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) people will have to pay if they are caught illegally advertising in Wiltshire.

Fly-posting or illegal advertising is defined as the display of advertising material on buildings or street furniture without the consent of the owner or occupier of the land for premises.

The penalty fine has increased to £500 from the previous amount of £75 and has been implemented following feedback from local communities reporting more incidents of fly-posting.

*As I understand it Clubs/Groups etc should all take heed!!*

*Fly posting on Telegraph Poles is definitely a no no as well.*

*Ed.*



## Mere Rivers Group

Those of you who have walked the Ashfield and Shreen will have noticed that we have a good flow for this time of the year. This is due to Stream Support by Wessex Water who are pumping in sufficient water from deep bore holes at Burton to maintain good flows.

This summer we have had lots of visitors walking the upper Shreen which is not looking at its best. Those of you that are of a certain age will remember how the stream used to look and it was one of the most beautiful parts of our town. Thanks to all the Riparian owners who maintain the river banks not only on their side but the side which is not their responsibility.

August was a return to drier conditions following a wet July. An average of 44mm fell across Wessex equating to 67% of the long-term average (LTA). Despite the lower rainfall in August, the past 12-month period (starting in September 2023) has been the second wettest since records began in 1871. Soil moisture deficit (SMD) continued to increase for most of August until the last week of the month when it began to decrease in response to a period of rainfall. The flows in the south of Wessex were largely normal to above normal. Groundwater sites at the end of August were largely between normal and above normal. Throughout August, reservoir levels continued to decrease with Wessex Water ending the month at 63% capacity and Bristol Water ending August at 61% capacity.

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

---

## Mere & District Link Scheme

One of our longstanding co-ordinators has hung up the Link phone for the last time. After some 10 years of volunteering for the Link Viv Sheppard did her last week long stint as our co-ordinator in August. We have estimated, possibly conservatively, that in her 10 years Viv will have received or made some 10,000 phone calls and we are really grateful for all her help. The Link cannot function without good co-ordinators and we are delighted that Jean Booth has stepped into the breach so we still have a full team of five co-ordinators.

We remained busy in August with 101 trips which is just below our average so far this year of 106 trips per month. As ever, Salisbury District Hospital was the busiest destination with 32 trips.

A plea for some help where possible please. We have begun to see an increase in people requesting trips to e.g. the dentist or optician some distance away e.g. in Salisbury. As we are so busy and a number of our drivers only do local trips, it can be difficult to find a driver for such trips where these services are available nearer home. If you have a choice of location please select the one nearest to Mere.

Do you want to volunteer as a Link driver? 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 want to use the Link, please call 01747 860096 to book a driver once you have an appointment. 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.

John FitzGerald Chair  860096  [merelink.org.uk](https://merelink.org.uk)

---

## Wiltshire Bobby Van's sustainable fundraiser set to break £10,000 barrier

The two-day Bag A Bargain event at Deverill Storage, Longbridge Deverill, on September 4 and 5 raised more than £9,800 – with more revenue expected from the sale of unsold clothes via The Frock Shop in Warminster.

The funds will support the work of the charity, which needs to raise more than £300,000 a year to maintain its work keeping the elderly and vulnerable safe. It operates two vans, staffed by former police officers, who visit victims of crime, or those who are deemed to be at risk, to fit home security measures free of charge. It also has a team of Stay Safe Online volunteers who make home visits to give advice about online fraud.

Trust Director Jennie Shaw said she is delighted by the sale revenue, which is around £1,000 up on last year. "I'd like to say a huge thank you to Emily Tulloch who, along with a team of brilliant volunteers, organised the sale,"

---

---

## Mere Museum

I am gradually adding items to the Church exhibition including new photos taken from the renovations and the proms event. New items have been added to the permanent exhibition, please do take time to visit and leave a comment in the book.

A new board of photos will be displayed soon and I am sure many of you will be able to name the people in the photos. It is important to identify the people as it makes the photos more meaningful for future generations.

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

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

---

## Mothers Union

Our last meeting in September gave the opportunity for our members to talk about the books they had been enjoying over the summer months. We now begin our Autumn Programme and our speaker will be Antonia Chetwynd.

Antonia will introduce us to the history of mandala design and there will be an opportunity for members and guests to draw their own artwork. Colouring designs and pencils etc will be available. It will certainly be an opportunity to learn something new.

Our meeting will be on **Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Grove Building in Mere at 2.30 pm** and we have a short service followed by our speaker and then tea and biscuits are served.

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

Vicky Goodfellow ☎ 840443 or Carol Lord ☎ 685429.

---

## Shreen Harmony

We are back singing every **Thursday 7.30 p.m.** in the **United Reformed Church**. We have welcomed several new members which is lovely but more would be great.

If you enjoy singing and would like to give us a try, just come along any Thursday at 7.30 p.m. and a warm welcome awaits you.

A date for your diary:-

Our Christmas Concert will be on **Saturday 21st December at 7, 30 p.m.** in The Grove Building. Mulled wine, hot sausage rolls, mince pies! Come along and start Christmas with us.

Sandras Fisher [delfisher@btopenworld.com](mailto:delfisher@btopenworld.com)

---

---

## Mere Art Group

The Art Exhibition On 7 September went very well, with 240 Paintings on display, and good weather as well!!!!

The Catering was great, being provided and delivered by Members.

The diversity of the paintings was very pleasing.

The French image this month was painted by Tom Beall - Acrylic on Canvas.



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

---

## Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our next session is on Thursday 10th October 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.



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

---

## From Times Gone By!

The return-match of cricket between the Mere and Knoyle parties was played on Monday last, on the down between Knoyle and Hindon, when the majority in favour of the Knoyle party amounted upwards of seventy runs. The day having been proposed by the Knoyle party only on the previous Friday, the party from Mere were unable to get their men together, on account of their having engagements at a neighbouring fair, and appointments which the brevity of the notice would not allow them to waive.

*Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 05 October 1844*

A Mere correspondent requests us to state that his townsmen attribute their defeat in the recent match cricket to the circumstance of their opponents, the Knoyle party, having, unknown to them, availed themselves of the services of crack Hampshire player. He adds that it is intended to refer the matter to some high cricketing authority, with the view of ascertaining whether the Knoyle eleven have not thus forfeited the game.

*Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 12 October 1844*

*Martyn Beardsley*

---

## Festival of Bells

St. Michael's Church is planning to hold a "Festival of Bells" during the weekend of **30th November – 1st December 2024**, to "ring in" the beginning of Advent.

We are asking as many Mere groups as possible to participate in the event.

We will supply a large sheet of stiff card with the outline of a bell drawn upon it for the groups to decorate the bell in any way they like, cut it out and bring it to the church on **29th November**.

On Saturday **30th November**, the church will be open for viewing the bells and during the day there will be a demonstration of handbell ringing, a peal of the bells in the tower and the opportunity to have a go at chiming the bells.

If your organisation hasn't received an invitation to take part and you would like to, do contact me and I will be pleased to send you all the information you need.

We are looking forward to having a great display of a variety of bells.

Ann Dethick. ☎ 863498 [anndethick@aol.com](mailto:anndethick@aol.com)



## Croquet and Boules Club

Despite the weather ( did someone say it was summer?), members and sessional players have enjoyed regular games of croquet throughout the 2024 season. It has been most rewarding to see sessional players returning again and again and we hope they will take up full membership next year. The last weekend for playing croquet this season will be **12 & 13 of October**.

As has been the case throughout the year, playing is determined by the weather. So it is a case of, 'Rain, rain go away and don't come back on weekend days!' Members play from 14.30 hours every Saturday and Sunday. So make the most of the few remaining weekends and come along to join the members and try your hand at croquet. There is no need to book and taster sessions are free with all equipment and tuition provided by the club.

Jill Beadle [jill49jim@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jill49jim@hotmail.co.uk)

**CELEBRATING**  
Age Wiltshire

**Stories in the Dust Theatre Show**  
East Knoyle Village Hall  
Tuesday 8 October, 2pm - 3pm

Join theatre makers Iona Johnson & Anna Harriott for their show **'Stories in the Dust'**.

A funny, heartfelt and hopeful post apocalyptic show with live music and puppetry.

Tea and cake will be served after the show.

This is a **FREE** event organised by Celebrating Age Wiltshire.  
To book please contact Janet Knight on 01747 830132

**PARTNERS**  
WILTSHIRE MUSIC CENTRE  
Pound:  
COMMUNITY FIRST

Wiltshire ageUK  
Wiltshire & Swindon HISTORY CENTRE  
WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

MAJOR FUNDERS  
Wiltshire Council  
Wiltshire Community Foundation  
COMMUNITY FUND  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

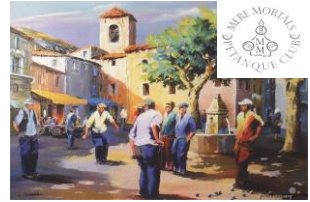
[www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/CAW)

## Mere Mortals Petanque Club

Mere Mortals performed well on the Nadder & Stour Petanque League finals day at Stalbridge last month with Colin and Anne retaining their KO doubles title and, with



Alan Blake, finishing runners up in the KO triples. MMPC finished runners up in the Nadder division of the league. One place higher than 2023. Unlike most clubs, MMPC carries on playing throughout the year. The clocks changing puts paid to Tuesday evening play from 6pm but we continue to play on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm and Saturdays mornings from 10.30am. However, the pitches are open every day for everyone. All ages and abilities (MMPC have two juniors aged 12 and 10 years) are welcome. Tuition and boules provided free.



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

## A Bed of Roses

While out shopping I had an unexpected meeting with a friend who knew my late husband and his family before I did. This resulted in a half hour coffee and chat about all that had happened since I left. This included the young woman who got divorced from a problem marriage after 2 years brought up her daughter and after 20 years married again, only to lose her 2<sup>nd</sup> husband to cancer 6 years later. I remarked 'I was lucky to have had nearly 21 years' to which she retorted 'You would hardly have called yours a bed of roses.....' I thought about it- not my marriage, - a bed of roses. What comes to mind when we hear that phrase? An area of glossy green foliage topped with many different shaped and coloured flowers giving off a lovely perfume on a warm summer evening? How were your roses this year? Good? Indifferent? Disappointing?

We are coming up now to the time to consider preparations for next year's display: send away for catalogues, decide which roses need replacing or shifting. Buy the compost for mulching from the store or prepare your own from the compost heap. Cut out dead shoots and extra-long growth to prevent rocking in bad winter weather. Clear away dead leaves so no disease is carried over to next year.

When the weather improves next year, weed around the plants without damaging the roots that could send up suckers; watch for greenfly and black spot on the leaves treat if necessary, then feed and hope for good weather.

When the flowers appear, pick and enjoy. Oh yes and mind the thorns!

Perhaps my marriage was a bed of roses. Isn't life like that too, with God the caring attentive gardener ever ready to meet our needs?

Aileen Maitland [Aileendm32@outlook.com](mailto:Aileendm32@outlook.com)





## In Mere & District

Our next meeting is at 10.30am in Mere URC on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. As well as one or two representatives from each Church, members or friends of any of our local Churches are welcome to attend, as we seek to find the best ways of working together in challenging times. Among other things, we'll be planning for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2025 and looking ahead to Lent and Easter.

The Churches Together annual Service of Remembrance will be held as usual on Remembrance Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.45 in the Square, to which everyone is welcome. Anyone is also welcome to attend the All Souls' service 'Remembering Loved Ones' on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at St Michael's Church at 4pm. Names of those you would like to be remembered can be added to the list near the door of St Michael's Church from 20<sup>th</sup> October.

*Judith Thompson, Acting Chair*  860553

---

## 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)

6th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Harvest Festival
13th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
15th	Tues	10.30	Roman Catholic Mass
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	08.00 10.30	BCP Communion Parish Communion
27th	Sun	10:30	Parish Communion
NB In Nov, Dec, Jan & Feb the 8am service will be on the first Sunday of the month ONLY			

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

Priest in Charge: Vacancy

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

6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	DIY Service
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	18.00	Harvest Festival
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	09:30	Matins

### **The United Reformed Church**

Minister - Vacancy

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

6 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev Ron Gale
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	Rev. Penelope Dent
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	11:00	TBC
27th	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](mailto: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](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.




**'Craft and Chat' Sessions at Mere Library are moving from Friday to Tuesday Mornings 10.30 -12.00 as from Tuesday the 3rd of September.**

**Bring Along your Knitting, Crochet or other Craft projects to the library and meet other Friendly, Creative People.**

**For more Information, call 01747 860546**

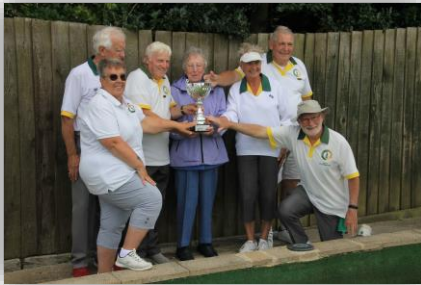
*Sally-Ann, Mere Senior Library Assistant*

**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

## Mere Bowls Club

Big news of the month is that Mere Bowls Club won the Westbrook League Harold Ford Cup. It was played against Downton Bowls Club and Mere were winners 38 shots to 23



Don Butchers 📞 860775  
[don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

## Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

You will all be pleased to know that rehearsals are now in full swing for our **Autumn Production** which is the not-to-be-missed pantomime **Alice In Blunderland** and which takes place at the end of next month on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November** in Mere Lecture Hall at 7.30pm, with a Matinee performance on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm**. Make sure you put the dates in your diary! Tickets at £10 for adults and £3 for children can be obtained from mid October from The Library, Sprout & Flower and Angel Tea Rooms, or by telephoning 01747 861257 or 07539329798, or by e-mailing [pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve tickets. But remember, to avoid disappointment don't leave it too late!

Our ever popular pantomimes sell out quickly – *Oh yes they do.....!*

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



# Teeandee Productions

Web Design  
Web Hosting  
Domains

**Tim Cook**  
mobile: 07790 113621  
[www.teeandee productions.com](http://www.teeandee productions.com)