

Mere matters

... along with all our Neighbours

March 2026

Your community magazine
including a diary of local events

The Editor Writes:

It is great to find that so many people are now getting their copies via email direct to their inbox. This is free to everyone, so if you wish to help the planet you can sign up for e-copy as well via <http://eepurl.com/i44fBo>

If you still like the paper copy then perhaps you can collect and distribute or share a copy with friends and neighbours? For clarity, you can currently get printed copy from the following distribution points:

Mere Post Office, Mere Co-op, Angel Tea Room, Walnut Tree Pub, Sprout & Flower, George Inn, Library & St Michaels Church. As we have made a move to include more of our neighbours along with West Knoyle (which gets its copies via Janet Howard) and Kilmington (via Jane Kennedy) – many thanks to both, we are experimenting with additional distribution points at Gillingham Train Station, Brush & Broom at Hillbrush along with the village shops in Motcombe and Maiden Bradley. This change reflects the fact that many people from our outlying areas come to enjoy and contribute to Mere's eclectic mix of attractions and amenities; it may also encourage others to advertise within our pages.

If you have a view on all of this you can always let us know. We are open to any suggestions for change/improvement.

May I mention the issue of posters within our pages. You will be charged for full page and other advertising of events etc when you are raising money.

Richard Jefferies Editor4MM@Outlook.com

L C Hill & Son Funeral Directors

24hr service, Bereavement Advice, Floral Tributes,
Private Chapels of Rest, Memorial Masonry,
Prepaid Plans Available, Home Visits available on request

Call us for immediate support we are here to help 24hrs a day.

E: Ichillandson@funeralpartners.co.uk

Water Street, Mere. 01747 860361

Mere Town Council

March has come round very quickly and with that we as a Town Council are dealing with some intense issues in our community, I would ask everyone in our community to support, attend and volunteer in what is going to be a battle to keep our town safe.

Save Mere Fire Station:

Mere Town Council is attending meetings and actively developing a strategy to prepare its formal response to the public consultation regarding Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service's proposal to close Mere Fire Station.



We urge residents not to rush into responding to the consultation. Please take time to carefully review all the available information and scrutinise the data before forming your views. The relevant reports can be accessed on the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service website here:

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/fire-rescue-authority/meetings/fire-rescue-authority/>

We are committed to involving the community throughout this process. The Town Council will be holding public meetings and preparing guidance to help inform and advise residents on how best to respond. There will also be public engagement sessions hosted by the Fire Service (see details below), along with information on how you can support and get involved.

This is an important matter for our community, and we are determined to ensure that local voices are clearly heard. Further updates will be provided in due course.

Public meetings

These will be held at **Mere Lecture Hall**, Salisbury Street, Mere, BA12 6HA on the following dates:

Wednesday 4th March: 6pm – 8pm

Thursday 5th March: 10.30am – 12.30pm

Safe Day: I am often consulted on crimes in Mere, and I have discovered that many in our community are unaware of the different ways to report a crime and also, I often hear why bother as there is no police presence. I get asked what the police are doing? Why don't we have more police presence? So here comes a date for your diary **March 13th 4pm @ Mere Lecture Hall**. We have invited the police, Crimestoppers, Fearless and the Bobby van team to come and give a presentation to the community on the how the whole system works. How we as a community can report crime without fear of consequences from the criminal. How we can keep ourselves safe in our homes, to recognise if our young people are being encouraged into a path of criminal behaviour. There will be time for the community to ask questions and if we run out of time you can direct questions on a provided form and I will personally take responsibility to put them forward to the appropriate service and respond. Please come and support this crucial event.

Clock Tower: The Town Council owns the Clock Tower/War Memorial Island and has now set a policy that all organised events or gatherings at the Clock Tower / War Memorial Area must receive prior permission from the Town Council. If you want to have a table-top sale, cake stall or use this space to publicise a local event, please contact the Town Clerk. Political rallies, gatherings, vigils or demonstrations are not permitted.

VACANCY FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR

Mere Town Council has a vacancy which will be filled by co-option at a meeting to be held on **Monday, 13th April 2026**

Those interested in becoming a Town Councillor should submit an expression of interest to the Town Clerk either by letter, email or telephone (contact details below) by 27th February 2026. Candidates will be given information on eligibility and will be invited to submit an application form & personal statement.

Further information is available on the Town Council's website: www.merewilts.org

Sandra Catley, Chair, Mere Town Council
for information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas etc.

Lindsey Wood 860701 lindseywood@merewilts.org  merewilts.org

Wiltshire Councillor ~ George Jeans Writes

In recognition of their many years of illuminating their area with outstanding displays of Christmas lights, Denes Avenue have received a framed certificate, which will be publicly displayed in Mere Town Clock. Others in Mere and West Knoyle also make their areas "full of Christmas".

A reminder that Wiltshire Council will be setting its budget on 24 February at Full Council. Exceptionally, the meeting may run into a second day, the 25th. The budget will consider funds in excess of one billion pounds and will affect the services you receive.

I attended a protest at Salisbury City Hall on 19 February regarding proposals to close Mere Fire Station. I would urge you all, as it affects everyone, to complete the online consultation once you have studied the information that is available locally. Financial challenges continue to be faced by the fire and rescue authority, and over the last few years Government cuts and caps on increased precept have added pressure. I am pleased our local MP has supported Mere Fire and Rescue Station.

There is an online petition, Wiltshire-wide, with now over 10,000 signatures: <https://fbv.write.mp/campaigns/cuts-kill-dorset-wiltshire> I have also placed a handwritten petition in the Post Office and in Brainwave. The consultation will run for 13 weeks, from 13 February to 15 May 2026. I will personally make it clear that I am strongly against any closure of Mere Fire Station. It is close to the A303, and in my opinion the response time would be nearly 10 minutes longer than it is now. I had personal experience when the back of Mere Post Office suffered a fire – minutes make a lot of difference.

I have on more than one occasion requested the repair of the many potholes in the roads of Mere. Wiltshire Council has said it has directed all 18 Parish Stewards to concentrate exclusively on repairing potholes. To help tackle the growing number of issues, contractors are working around the clock to repair potholes across the road network. An extra £5m has been invested in preventative road maintenance for the next three years. Persistent and heavy rain on nearly every day so far this year has impacted the highways network. So far this year, Wiltshire Council has repaired more than 2,700 potholes.

The major development planning document, **The Local Plan**, is progressing. Following a letter from the independent Planning Inspectors requesting further work, Wiltshire Council has provided an update on their proposed next steps and confirmed that they have put in place the resources and governance needed to complete the work as quickly as possible. Adoption of the Local Plan is now expected in 2027.

I have been awarded funding from the South West Wiltshire Area Board to set up a **Dementia Awareness Group** in Mere. I will keep you informed of developments.

Dog fouling is again becoming an issue. I am receiving increasing numbers of complaints. By highlighting it here once more, I hope it will send out a message to curb the problem, although any improvements always seem to be short-lived.

Rainfall reports:

- Penny Fennon recorded January rainfall for Salisbury Street as a total of 36.5 cm, with the 27th being the wettest day at 5.0 cm.
- Pam Baldock recorded rainfall for Lordsmead in January as 152.75 mm. The wettest day was Monday 26 January with 28 mm. Wiltshire Council is calling on local people to consider becoming emergency foster carers, offering a warm, safe home to young people who need care and support at short notice. Sometimes unexpected situations arise that leave children and young people in urgent need of a safe place to stay. To recognise the vital role emergency carers play, Wiltshire Council offers £900 per week per child when a child is placed with foster carers, and £500 per week when carers are available but not currently caring for a child.

Every month I publicise that Wiltshire Council is recruiting foster carers – children are waiting – with a range of flexible roles on offer, including full-time, short-break, or emergency care. To find out more about fostering in Wiltshire, people can visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 169 6321.

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



Heating Limited

Plumbing & Heating

- Boiler service and repair
- Boiler replacement
- All aspects of plumbing
- Landlord certificates
- Complete bathrooms
- Drainage
- 24/7

Scott Ward 01747 631 346

07714 259 401



Fully insured ~ Free estimates ~ Gas Safe

info@wardheating.co.uk

MERE FOREST CHARITIES - Assistance Available

The charities exist to support those persons resident in the Parishes of Mere and Zeals who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

Currently supporting a number of individuals with an annual grant before Christmas, applied for in October. Applications for assistance are welcome at any time during the year. For further details and application form please write and enclose an AS stamped addressed envelope to:

9 Clements Lane, Mere. BA12 6DF

Mereforest@gmail.com

Mere Jelly

Spring is around the corner, and it's the perfect time to shake up your routine. Mere Jelly is a chance to get out, meet people, and enjoy a morning that's as much about connection as it is about co-working. Laptops are welcome, but so are open conversations and fresh ideas. We'll be at The Brush and Broom, Hillbrush on **Wednesday 25th March** from 9am to noon. Come for the morning or just drop in for a coffee.

Jenni Bell 07956-869699

Ukes at The Butt of Sherry

Our next session is on Thursday, 12th March at 7.30pm at The Butt of Sherry.

We are a group of ukulele enthusiasts who 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 join us you would be most welcome. Let me know if you would like to come along and we can have a ukulele for you to try. An evening of fun, laughter and song is guaranteed. You can check out our Facebook page 'Ukes at The Butt' for our song list.

Maggie Holmes maggieholmes101@gmail.com

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-tax-online>



Mere Carnival



The Carnival was cancelled last year due to a lack of volunteers. This year we need your help to make it happen and volunteers are urgently needed. Every role is supported with advice, digital guides and a friendly team.

WE URGENTLY NEED !

Chair: lead the Committee and represent the Carnival.

Treasurer: Manage the finances.

Procession Manager: Organise the parade and co-ordinate marshals

Event manager: Run fundraising events like Bingo, Quiz and collections at pubs, and other money raising events.

Public Relations: Promote events, handle advertising, social and other media, and work together with our secretary.

Road Manager: arrange the permits for road closure and road signs supported by the rest of the committee and volunteers.

Volunteer Helpers are always welcome in supporting our events through the year and especially on Carnival Day.

Why It Matters

If we don't have a Carnival this year, Mere will lose its membership in the Wessex Grand Prix Circuit of Carnivals—a vital link to other communities and mutual support across towns.

Get Involved!

We meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Walnut Tree Pub. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out more about what it takes to run the Carnival in Mere.

Willing to help?

Come to our monthly meeting: Second Tuesday, 7:30pm at the Walnut Tree Pub

Email our secretary: ros.kellow@sky.com

Email our Vice Chairman: d.hytech@btinternet.com

Visit: <http://www.merecarnival.co.uk> Follow us on Facebook: Mere Carnival

Together, we can make the Carnival happen!

 Find us on Facebook



HILL'S CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Call Tom on: 07725 354207

www.hillschimneysweeping.net

tom@hillschimneysweeping.net



All stoves, open fires, Rayburns & AGAs swept. Bird nest removal
CCTV Inspections/Surveys. Smoke tests
Chimney repairs & general masonry work. Cowl installation
Fully insured

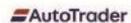


Exclusive offers, excellent service and great choice.

If you're looking for a New Kia, Used Car, Motability or Electric/Hybrid Kia we are looking forward to helping you with your search.

If it's a Service, MOT Test or Parts that you need, our team of helpful advisors can book you an appointment and answer any questions you may have.

Remember, you can also visit our website,
www.fjchalke.co.uk or call our team on 01747 860244.



Highly Rated

FOR OUR
CUSTOMER
SERVICE 2024



FJ Chalke

Talbot Garage, Salisbury Street,
Mere BA12 6HE



Mere School

Science Days

We have had 2 very exciting days at Mere School focussing on science.

Every class had a workshop organised by 'Hands On Science, a company which is passionate about bringing science to life in school, relating to their science work for the term – ranging from The Water Cycle in Green Class to Fireworks Science in Blue Class and Mars Lander in Purple Class. The Friends of Mere School very kindly funded this for us.

We also had visits from many of our parents who work in a STEM related job. The children were captivated learning about life as a Navy Pilot; a team of dental health professionals taught the children about teeth and the need to look after them; a paramedic explained and showed the children what his job entailed; a radiographer explained about her role at Dorchester Hospital; a tree surgeon shared his equipment and how he works and several classes enjoyed learning about how chocolate is made.

The school buzzed for 2 days with questions and curiosity.

The children have asked us to organise something similar next year and our plan is to expand to a Science and Technology week. Many parents have already asked if they can come in to talk to the children. Any community members would be welcomed – please contact us if you can help – **Monday 18th January – Friday 22nd January 2027**. We look forward to seeing you



Catriona Williamson

Castle Lodge Care Home

Opening January

Welcome to Castle Lodge Care Home, a brand-new home in the heart of Mere, designed with comfort, care, and community in mind.

Our services include:

- ✓ **Residential Care**
- ✓ **Dementia Care**
- ✓ **Respite Care**

With modern facilities, welcoming lounges, landscaped gardens, and a dedicated care team, Castle Lodge offers a place where residents feel truly at home.



For more information call

01733 911 570

Norwood Park, Castle Street, Mere,
Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 6LA

www.countrycourtcare.com



Mere Theatre Club

The 2026 programme is underway with an interesting trip to Marlborough where we had an informative and fascinating guided tour of the 16/17th century Merchant's House, followed by lots of shopping and lunching!

Back to theatre visiting next month for a trip to Salisbury to see *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*.

As we now have to book so far in advance, we are finalising the autumn programme, so if you fancy going on some interesting and varied visits, do join our mailing list. Contact details below for more information.

Madeline Morris 07481 555101 madsmorris@gmail.com

Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be the AGM on **11th March** at the Grove Building 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

Subscriptions for the year will be due and for those wishing to pay by BACS please pay after the 1st March and not before. The annual fee is £12 and remember to give your name as the reference. Your programmes and membership cards will be issued at the meeting for those who have already paid.

Our March speakers are a change from the programme as we will be welcoming Sue Billington and Steve Hawkins, our judges from the Annual Show. They will be giving us advice and tips on achieving the best results for our entries. Please bring your daffodils along too for judging.

Here's hoping Spring is not far round the corner along with some drier weather.

Rose Heesom 07791 559 674 roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk

Woolley & Wallis

matching people & property since 1884

- Residential Sales & Lettings
- Surveys & Valuations • Auctions
- Farm & Rural • Commercial
- Planning & Development

Mere 01747 860372 | Shaftesbury 01747 852242



w-w.co.uk

Care South

Wish mum lived closer?

It's the care that counts...

“ Mum is thriving since she moved to a home closer to me. I've got peace of mind that she's well cared for and, without the distance, we can spend more quality time together.

Heather - Daughter of Sue (resident)

”

Whether it's your mother or father, at Care South, we know care is about more than medical needs. It's about reassurance. It's about comfort. It's about quality of life. It's about Food, Fun and Friendship. Our friendly teams are here 24/7, with delicious meals, engaging activities and a warm welcoming atmosphere.

Find a care home near you at Care-South.co.uk or call us on **01202 712410**

Head Office | 39 Commercial Rd | Poole | BH14 0HU

Care South, a not-for-profit charity and leading provider of residential, dementia, nursing, assisted living and care at home across the south of England. Registered Charity No. 1014697. *Correct at time of print.



Mere PPG

The Patients' Participation Group (PPG) for Mere surgery met on February 12th after a winter break. One of the items on the agenda was the issue of this year's fundraising project. The surgery would like to install automated doors at the main entrance which will come as good news for all patients and particularly for wheelchair users and people with prams. It was agreed that the committee would work on ideas for fundraising starting in the spring. By that time, we shall have some idea of costings for the doors and, a list of events to help fund this project. We really appreciate the amazing support we always get from the local community.

Another item on the agenda was the need to enlist some more people on to the PPG committee. The brief of this committee is simple: to support the surgery, provide a conduit between patients and surgery and fund raise. It is really not an arduous commitment; meetings are usually held every two or three months and rarely (actually never!) last longer than an hour.

We are so lucky to have such a good GP practice in Mere (number 1 in Wiltshire) so please think about joining us

Lucy Woolley lucywoolley1@gmail.com

Lent Lunches

We will be serving Lent Lunches again this year in the Grove on **Mondays 9th, 16th, 23rd and on Good Friday April 3rd at 12.30 p.m.**

We will be offering Jacket potatoes with a variety of toppings, salad, fruit and tea and coffee for £7.50. All



money raised will be sent to Christian Aid and CAFOD who desperately need help with their work in Africa and the Middle East.

Your support would be much appreciated.



Sandra Fisher & Judy Bickerstaff

Mere Mortals Petanque Club



The petanquers of Mere are wishing away the days until the clocks spring forward so that they can renew their evening play. **Tuesday 31st March** will be the first evening session, presuming it has stopped raining by then! We play from 6pm onwards until it is too dark to see the jack, we then repair to the social club (not compulsory) for a drink and to discuss the fun time we have just had playing this great imported French family game. The little friendly league we play in doesn't start until May which gives plenty of practice time during our fun club sessions which take place on Tuesdays from 6pm, Wednesdays from 2.30pm and Saturday morning from 10.30am. Please come and join us, you will be more than welcome at the old swimming pool site beside the primary school. Boule and instruction (if needed) provided free

Colin Senneck 706008 colin2423@sky.com

Creative Mere 2026?

Please come along to the meeting on **Monday 16th** at 7.00pm in the URC, Boar Street to discuss the future of this popular Mere event. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and hopefully there will be some people willing to organise it this year. It would be such a pity the opportunity to showcase the many talents of those living in the area should be lost.

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Fair Trade in Mere

I will be holding the following stalls this month:

Saturday 14th at the URC Coffee Morning

Sunday 15th after the Morning Service in St Michael's

Why not come and buy a special card or gift for Mothering Sunday?

Janet Way 860884 jwaywitsend@gmail.com

Letter from the Churches

Josephine had such a happy childhood playing with her large loving family. Until she was stolen by the slave raiders, and, at the age of 9, made to walk 600 miles to the town when she was auctioned off as a slave. She was sold to a Turkish general whose wife and mother-in-law took it in turns to inflict terrible wounds on her body. She later passed into the hands of a diplomat who took her back to his home in Italy. She was there sold to another couple, who, when going away for some time, parked her with the local convent. There she discovered God's love for the mistreated, and became a joy-filled Christian.

When her owners returned, they told her to come back to their house. She refused, saying she wanted to stay with the sisters. The owners reminded her that she was their slave and could no more refuse an order than a tablecloth could refuse to be spread on a table.

Her owners took her to court, demanding the return of their possession and showing the sales invoice proving she was their property. However, the court found that when Josephine had originally been sold in the Sudan, the British had already made slavery illegal, so that she had never been a slave and was a free person.

The British ended the thousand-year-old slave trade in East Africa because Christians in our country asserted that Jesus died for all people; that we are all God's beloved, precious children and no one can be the property of another person.

St Josephine is now the patron saint of the millions of people who are trafficked as slaves today, and of those caring people who come to the aid of those in modern slavery.

To the shame of England there are trafficked slaves in our own country today, and it is very likely that there are slaves in the towns around Mere, what can we do to help these poor people, abused, denied their liberty, unpaid, in constant fear? There are apps and help lines to assist caring people who want to identify slave businesses and let the captives go free. Or we can shrug our shoulders and pass by on the other side.

Deacon Michael Hughes, Catholic Church.

Diary Dates (Recurring events are first shown in **Bold** then in *Blue*).

Venue Key:

AYP - Andy Young Pav	BS - Butt of Sherry	Drs - Surgery
GB - Grove Building	L - Lecture Hall	Lib - Library
MSC - Social Club	RMC - Castle St Car Park	SCP - Salisbury Street Car Park
StM - St Michaels Church	URC - United Ref Church	VH - Visit Hillbrush
WT - Walnut Tree Inn		

1	Sun		
2	Mon	09:15	Pilates (every Mon) GB
		09:30	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Mon) L
		16:30	Brick Creators Club (every Mon) Lib
		17:45	Yoga (every Mon) L
		18:00	Tone, Balance & Flex (every Mon) GB
3	Tues	09:15	Jade Deverill exercise (every Tues) L
		09:30	Little Angels (every Tues) GB
		10:30	Craft & Chat (every Tues) Lib
		18:20	Zumba (every Tues) L
		19:00	MADS (every Tues) L
		19:30	Full-Body Function for Women: Bands, Balls & Boards GB
4	Weds	09:00	Chair Yoga (every Weds) L
		09:30	Tai-Chi (every Weds) GB
		10:00	Get Wiltshire Walking (GWW - every Weds) SCP
		14:00	Pilates (every Weds) L
		18:00	Fire Station Meeting L
		18:30	Karate (every Weds) L
		19:30	MoverHer Ignite GB
			<i>Railway Modellers (every Weds)</i> RMC
5	Thurs	09:00	Walking Zumba (every Thurs) L
		10:00	Art Group (every Thurs) GB
		10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic URC
		10:30	Fire Station Meeting L
		10:30	Harmony 4 Health (every Thurs) L
		11:00	Rhyme Time (every Thurs) Lib
		14:00	Rubber Bridge (every Thurs) L
		17:15	Girlguiding (every Thurs) GB
19:00	MADS (every Thurs) L		
		19:30	Shreen Harmony (every Thurs) URC
6	Fri	14:00	Duplicate Bridge (every Fri) GB
7	Sat		Coffee Morning (every Sat) URC
8	Sun		
9	Mon	12:30	Lent Lunches GB
			<i>Pilates, Tone, Balance & Flex</i> <i>Tidd & Todd, Yoga</i> <i>Brick Club</i>
10	Tues	10:00	Keep a Beat L
		14:30	Mother's Union GB

		19:30	Historical Society Little Angels Exercise, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat	GB
11	Weds	14:30 19:00	Lent Study Group Gardening Club AGM Tai-Chi Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	GB GB
12	Thurs	19:30	Ukulele Art, Guiding Zumba, MADS, H4H, Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	BS
13	Fri	10:00 16:00	Merely Women Crimestoppers, Fearless and the Bobby van Consultation Bridge	GB L
14	Sat	10:30	Fair Trade Stall Coffee Morning	URC
15	Sun		Fair Trade Stall after morning service	StM
16	Mon	12:30 19:00	Lent Lunches Creative Mere Meeting Pilates, Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	GB URC
17	Tues	19:30	Full-Body Function for Women: Bands, Balls & Boards Little Angels Exercise, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat	GB
18	Weds	14:30 19:00	Lent Study Group Merekits (WI) Tai-Chi Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	GB GB
19	Thurs		Art, Guiding Zumba, MADS, H4H, Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	
20	Fri	19:30	Cine Club Bridge	GB
21	Sat		Coffee Morning	
22	Sun			
23	Mon	10:00 12:30	Historical Society Lent Lunches Pilates, Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	GB GB
24	Tues	19:30	Full-Body Function for Women: Bands, Balls & Boards Little Angels Exercise, Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat	GB
25	Weds	Am 14:30 14:30 19:30	Jelly Group Pennybank Writers Lent Study Group Move Her Ignite: HIIT Tai-Chi Yoga, Pilates, Karate GWW RM	VH L GB GB
26	Thurs		Art, Guiding Zumba, MADS, H4H, Bridge Shreen Harmony, Rhyme Time	
27	Fri	10:00	Merely Women Bridge	GB
28	Sat		Coffee Morning	
29	Sun			
30	Mon		Pilates, Tone, Balance & Flex Tidd & Todd, Yoga Brick Club	
31	Tues	18:00 19:30	Pétanque Full-Body Function for Women: Bands, Balls & Boards Little Angels Zumba, MADS Craft & Chat	Mere School Ground GB

Any events shown in **RED** are unconfirmed

Repeat events implied order: | [Grove Building](#) | [Lecture Hall](#) | [Other](#) |

Church Contact and Service Details

The Parish Church St Michael's the Archangel:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

Churchwardens: Mr Kit Stallard 07803-086161 Mr Richard Wilson 07966-244373

Admin Secretary: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

1 st	Sun	08:00 10.30 18:00	BCP Communion Family Service Candlelit prayer for Lent- St Matthew's Chapel
8 th	Sun	08:00 10:30 18:00	BCP Communion Parish Communion- 3 rd Sunday of Lent Candlelit prayer for Lent- St Matthew's Chapel
15 th	Sun	08:00 10:30 18:00	BCP Communion Mothering Sunday- Parish Communion Candlelit prayer for Lent- St Matthew's Chapel
22 nd	Sun	08:00 10:30 18:00	BCP Communion Parish Communion- Passion Sunday Stations of the Cross
29 th	Sun	08:00 10:30	BCP Communion Palm Sunday procession from Clock Tower followed by Parish Communion with dramatised Passion Gospel
HOLY WEEK- EASTER			
30 th	Mon	19:00	Candlelit prayer- St Matthew's Chapel
31 st	Tues	10.30 19:00	Roman Catholic Mass Stations of the Cross
Roman Catholic Mass is usually at 10:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month but may change. Contact John FitzGerald to join his email list for updates.			

West Knoyle Parish Church St Mary the Virgin:

Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Molano 07396 979448

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall 830534 Sir Charles Burnett 01747 812089

1 st	Sun	09.30	DIY Service
8 th	Sun	09:30	Communion- 3 rd Sunday of Lent
15 th	Sun	09:30	Mothering Sunday- Communion
22 nd	Sun	09:30	Communion
29 th	Sun	09:30	Palm Sunday- Service of the Palms- non Communion

The United Reformed Church

Minister: Vacancy

Mere Contact: Derek Fisher – 07935 266375 delfisher@btopenworld.com

1 st	Sun	11:00	Mr James Hepburn
8 th	Sun	11:00	Mrs Christine Marsh
15 th	Sun	11:00	Rev Penelope Dent
22 nd	Sun	11:00	Rev Peter Clark (Holy Communion)
29 th	Sun	11:00	Rev Sue Litchfield (Palm Sunday)

The Roman Catholic Church: St Mary Queen of Peace.

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

St Mary's has closed and weekend Masses are on Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday at 11:00am and take place at SS Luke and Teresa, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DH.

Mass at St Michael the Archangel is usually on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am.

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

John FitzGerald 860867

Mere Library

Monday: 10:00 – 14:00* and 14:00 – 19:00

Tuesday: 09:30 – 17:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 13:00*

Thursday: 09:30 – 17:00

Friday: 09:30 – 17:00

Saturday: 09:30 – 13:00

* Volunteer operated opening hours.

Merely Books Reading Group

Merely Books – reading group at the library, 3rd Tuesday of the month 2–3:30pm. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a member of staff.

Julia Upton 01985 216022 julia.upton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Booking Meeting Venues

Grove Building:	administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	07942 291266
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	861063
URC Church Hall:	Derek Fisher	07935 266375



FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONER
 Good quality care. Nails, Corns, Callus etc
 Tuesday at Mere Osteopathic Clinic or Home Visits
Karen Lester ☎ 07939305369

Feldenkrais Method™

Heather Stone -Deep Tissue Massage

A useful treatment for problems relating to: muscles – joints – movement – posture or simply for relaxation and wellbeing.

Practicing at Mere Osteopathy Clinic.

Heather: 07874 079 913

*Experience what Deep Tissue Massage and the
 Feldenkrais Method™ can do for you*



We are a local dental practice, and our aim is to provide a comprehensive range of high quality dental prevention and treatment in relaxed and friendly surroundings.

We offer a wide range of treatments

- ✓ General Dentistry ✓ Dental Implants ✓ Crowns & Bridges
- ✓ Dentures ✓ Teeth Whitening ✓ Oral Surgery ✓ Invisalign
- ✓ Complex Restorative Dentistry ✓ Root Canal Treatments

Included in our new private patient exam:

- Full Examination • Dental Advice • Oral Cancer Check
- Intraoral Scan • Full Dental Charting • X-Rays

CONTACT US: Phone: 01747 860365 Email: contact@meredentistry.co.uk

Website: www.meredentistry.co.uk Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW



☎ 07739 189 180

✉ sunlightwindow8@gmail.com

🌐 sunlightcleaning.co.uk

- ✓ Gutter wash
- ✓ Patios and driveways
- ✓ External walls
- ✓ Solar panel cleaning
- ✓ Claddings and signs
- ✓ Conservatories

SPECIAL OFFER

Receive a **free window clean** when you order a gutter clear and fascia soffit gutter wash



**Valley Forge
East Knoyle**



We can help with your metalwork needs

Get in touch

Tel: 07870 155775

email: valleyforge.ek@gmail.com

@[@valleyforge.ek](https://www.instagram.com/valleyforge.ek)

Workshop & Showroom

The Street, East Knoyle, SP3 6AJ



**AMULET
RESIDENTIAL**

Tailored Lettings &
Property Management
Residential Sales

01747 356176

Find us on Facebook

Anne Freeman

Local, Reputable,

Honest &

Approachable.

Free No Obligation

Valuations and Impartial
Advice

amuletresidential@gmail.com



Ear Wax Removal in the comfort of
your own home or at one of our
conveniently located clinics.

07544 857 560

enquiries@nowaxear.co.uk

www.thenowaxearcompany.co.uk



North Dorset Disability Information Service

3 Newbury, Gillingham
SP8 4QX (Opposite Lidl)

Tel. 01747 821010

www.norddisdorset.org.uk

Reg. Charity No. 1110328

We can provide the following:

New, used & hire equipment

Disposable items

NHS hearing aid batteries

Information & advice

Volunteer opportunities

Call us for information

Open

1pm to 4pm Mon

10am to 4pm Tue, Thur, Fri

10am to 1pm Sat

Make a Donation by BACS to support Mere Matters?

A/C Name: [Mere Matters](#) Sort Code: [30-93-45](#) A/C No: [00600262](#).

Please enter your surname in the Reference Field.

Treasurer - Alison Beall Treasurer4MM@Outlook.com

Mere Art Group

Attendance has been remarkable considering the on-going rain and darkness and we have averaged between 15 and 17 members in attendance!

The Grove Building is being decorated, and is looking very smart.

This month's Art contribution is by Rose Shruballs, done by Pencil alone.

Don't forget - we meet every Thursday, 10.00 till 12.00, £4.00 a session with Coffee, Tea and a selection of food!



Helge Brock helgewallenbrock@gmail.com

Historical Society

We have just one talk coming up in March, but it's a zinger. On **Tuesday 10th March at 7.30 p.m.**, **Nicola Turner Inman**, Curator of Decorative Arts, Royal Collection Trust, will speak on '**Kind Hearts and Consorts: The collections of Queen Alexandra, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother**'.

In this talk Nicola will look at the collections of the three Queen Consorts, the time periods they collected in, what influenced them and why they collected, and how their collections have made an important contribution to the Royal Collection.

Those of us who attended her previous talk on aspects of the Royal Collection will recall the splendid insight Nicola gave us on some rarely seen treasures; and we may confidently expect another rich and well-informed survey.

We welcome both current members, and non-members (for whom a charge of £3 is payable on the door). All our talks are held in the Grove Building.

Peter Landymore, Chair: 228819

Help us save printing costs by having Mere Matters delivered direct to your Inbox.

Register here: <http://eepurl.com/i44fBo>, it costs nothing.



DORSET DELIGHTS

CATERING

Funeral Teas, Weddings, Drinks Parties & Events

Family Run Since 2010

North Cadbury, Somerset

www.dorsetdelightscatering.co.uk

Contact Alice: 07783 928532

Louise: 07743 780609

Mere Museum

Have you visited the exhibition yet? More information will be added to the display as I complete research on photos. There are so many people who have contributed to Mere particularly with all the clubs which we are so lucky to have. we have had some positive feedback from the public and also some help with unknown faces. More photos with unidentified people will be up soon on the green boards, please take a look when you are passing.

Behind the scenes I am continuing with updating the catalogue and completing the new website, such a huge task with nearly 9000 items.

Rose Heesom Hon. Curator 07791 559 674 roseheesom@yahoo.co.uk



Join our Brick Creators' Club

Mere Library

Monday
4.30-6pm

Drop-in, no need to book
Check the Library Events page for dates



Drop-in Play

A creative brick building session - just drop-in, no booking needed. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Dear parents and carers – you are responsible for your children's welfare at all times whilst in the library and children aged 8 and under in particular must never be left unsupervised. Thank you for your understanding.

Wiltshire Council

"What Next for Palestine?" – a talk by Brigadier John Deverell CBE

An audience of around 80 people – many of them residents of Mere – braved the miserable weather on Friday 16th January to listen to an excellent talk at the Lecture Hall in Mere. John Deverell, a retired Brigadier General, talked from his previous and ongoing experience of living and working in Palestine. His discussion covered not only about the appalling events of October 7th 2023, but gave context to this by laying out the long history of the injustices suffered by the Palestinian population, the violence perpetrated by illegal settlers in the West Bank and previous attempts at reaching a peaceful settlement between Israel and Palestine. He further discussed the likelihood of any success of President Trump's so-called "Peace Plan" and the motives and actions of key players in the wider Middle East region. He then took a range of interesting and well-informed questions from several audience members.

John was delighted not only by the excellent turnout but by the engagement of the audience. Feedback after the talk has been very positive and we are grateful to everyone who attended and to those responsible for maintaining the Lecture Hall which is really a super amenity to have in Mere. We were very grateful also for the generous donations collected on the evening. Over £400 was raised which has been divided equally between Medical Aid for Palestinians and Breaking the Silence (a charity which supports Israeli soldiers wishing to expose the reality of everyday life in the occupied territories).

Our group "Justice for Palestine" is keen to hold further informative events which will be publicised locally. If you would like to be included in our email group, please email Rosie at rose177@btinternet.com.

Maggie, Mary, Jill and Rosie

Loxton Landscapes - Garden design and features—just for you



Ponds - paths - patios - lawns - raised beds
 Bespoke metalwork - trellis - arches - bridges
 Hedging - fencing - groundwork

www.loxtonlandscapes.co.uk

Nick 07702 363672 nickloxton@yahoo.co.uk

Walking in Mere

MERE MARCH MEANDER, Friday March 20th

Are you new to Mere? Or would you like to know a little more about our interesting town? Then why not come along to this month's short walk and find out. The route takes us only around the Square and surrounding paths so no mud will be encountered! We will end at the Angel Tea Room for a refreshing cuppa. Meet in the Churchyard at 2:00p.m.

Janet Way 860884

'Get Wiltshire Walking', Starter Walk

Every Wednesday there is a volunteer led, 40-minute stroll for those who wish to become more active, or are recovering from illness, injury or surgery. All walks are on flat, stable terrain and finish at the Angel Tea Room. This is a friendly and welcoming group, there's always lots of chat and laughter so why not come and join us? It's a great way to meet new people whilst getting fit. Meet by the surgery at 10.00am. Unfortunately, for safety reasons only assistance dogs are allowed on these walks.

Mere Walking Group

Our first walk of the year will take place on **Sunday 29th March**, meeting at Salisbury Street car park for a 2.00pm departure. This walk be a local walk, to enjoy some of the many and varied footpaths around Mere. All are welcome to join us, including well behaved dogs.

Healthy Mere Walking

An exciting walking event is being planned for the late **May Bank Holiday weekend (23rd to 25th)**. It will be suitable for all the family so save the date and look out for more details in the next edition.

Wendy and Dave Drewett 07508 340105

Mere Bowls Club

36 members attended the Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation held at the Old Brewery in Gillingham on Tuesday 27th January with cups being awarded for all the club competitions.

Following on from his previous season's success, Shaun Tealey was again the most prolific winner, with 3 cups: The Club Singles, the 100-up Singles and the 3-wood pairs with Tim Courtney. Jon Wright won the 2-wood Singles and Mike Courtney, the Novice Singles. Jon Wright also won the Open Pairs with Chris Coombs and Mike Courtney also won the 2-wood pairs also with Chris Coombs.



Other trophies were the Triples, won by Ron Heesom, Les Manwaring and John FitzGerald, and the Aussie Pairs, also won by Ron and Les.

After last year's success in the Westbrook League, this season Mere won not only the Harold Ford Cup for the second year running but also won the Westbrook League title and the Westbrook Gala Day; the first time all three trophies have been won by one club in the

same season.

The trophies and prizes were presented by our Acting President, John Fitzgerald.

We will shortly be starting preparation work on the green in readiness for the new outdoor season which begins at the end of April.

Jon Wright Jon Wright jon252@btinternet.com



Mere Day Centre



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM



Mere Day Centre runs every Monday & Friday 10:30am - 3pm in the Community Room at Lynch Close. We are a registered charity that provides a space for older, socially isolated people to gather with friends, enjoy a nutritious two course lunch and a varied programme of activities.

We are looking to recruit a session volunteer for

Each Friday

All necessary training will be provided. This position requires an enhanced DBS check which we can arrange.

please contact:

Sandie Hawkins 07835 272406
manager@meredaycentre.org.uk

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Mere & District Link Scheme

The Link Scheme is a local charity and our volunteer drivers primarily take clients to medical appointments. **New drivers are always welcome.** If you would like to find out more about volunteering as a driver by calling our co-ordinator on 01747 860096.

We had a slightly quieter month in January with 93 trips with the majority (39) to Salisbury District Hospital.

Once you have an appointment, please call 01747 860096 to book a Link driver. As a charity we do not charge for trips but ask for a donation. **Please remember that our co-ordinators work in their own homes – we do not have an office – so please keep calls to 9–5 Monday to Friday and only use the 01747 860096 number.** Also, please try to give us a minimum of 48 hours' notice (not including Saturdays and Sundays) as we cannot guarantee our co-ordinator will be at home to arrange last minute requests. If you have to leave a message please do so slowly and clearly.

We held a dinner for our volunteers and their partners at the Walnut Tree on 11 February. Those who came said they had an enjoyable evening and we were very well looked after by the team at the Walnut Tree. As we all work remotely, this event enables drivers to meet the co-ordinators and each other and allows us to say thank you for their efforts. The Link pays half the cost of the food and the volunteers pay the other half plus any drinks bill.

We heard that Wiltshire Council were proposing to withdraw the funding that enables Community First to provide invaluable support for the 43 Link Schemes across Wiltshire. This cut would have put the viability of some Link Schemes at risk and made the rest of us less efficient but thankfully the proposal has been withdrawn following comments we and others submitted to the Council.

John FitzGerald Chair 860096  merelink.org.uk

Thinking of Advertising in Mere Matters?

To find out the costs or to book an advert, please contact Ann-Marie Long directly by email or phone. Media4MM@Outlook.com 07833-686742

PennyBank Writers

PennyBank Writers have become a spirited gathering for anyone who loves words. We're a friendly mix of storytellers, poets, self-published authors and curious minds who come together to share ideas, spark creativity and cheer one another on. New members are always welcome. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Lecture Hall in Mere, where you'll find encouragement, inspiration and good company. If you would like more details please give me a ring. Whether you're working on a novel, writing short stories, trying out a poem or simply exploring the joy of writing, come and discover where your words can take you.

Mary White – 01747 861257

Merekits - Women's Institute Upcoming Events and Activities

February's members meeting gave everyone a chance to get involved, learn, and ask questions about first aid in our community. St John Ambulance provided a free emergency first aid awareness session as part of the WI's **'Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers'** annual campaign. We covered how to assess a casualty and assist someone experiencing a heart attack, choking, or bleeding.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18th, from 7–9 pm at the Grove building. Chris Lock will join us to give a presentation of his photography. As always, these meetings are a great way to connect with like-minded women, have fun, and make friends. Merekits WI also offers various groups for members, including recent walks around the local area, trips to Bradley House, and an outing to the Witchmark Distillery – there's truly something for everyone.

On the 18th of April we will be holding a Spring sale at the Mere Lecture Hall between 12 – 3 pm. There is £1 entry fee which will include a free entry onto a raffle to win a food hamper. There will be a selection of Newly New Clothes, Books, Crafts, Tiy's, Cake Stak and Plants. There are limited table to hire for crafters at £10 each, please call text 077666846626 if you have any donations or would like a table.

If you're interested in learning more about us, feel free to attend one of our regular meetings. We gather every third Wednesday of the month at the Grove building from 19:00 to 21:00. We hope to see you soon!

Verena Cooper 07971-790256 verenacooper2@gmail.com

Merekits WI presents

the WI
INSPIRING WOMEN

SPRING SALE

Saturday 18th April 12-3pm
The Lecture Hall

Nearly new clothing
Books
Crafts
Toys
Cake stall
Plants

**£1 admission includes free entry
into raffle to win a food hamper**

Limited tables to hire for crafters £10 each
Call/text to book your place 07766684626

Mere Rivers Group

January 2026 was the 2nd wettest month ever in the Wessex area and it shows in our streams.

Feast or famine it seems; only last month that we had dry streams only kept running by stream support now we are on the edge of flood. Burton pond is full and then some.

I have been asked why the Ashfield is still running clear but the Shreen is muddy after heavy rain.

The Ashfield is a true chalk stream with the source from Ashwell Bottom flowing straight from the chalk downs into the stream, whereas the Shreen, when we have heavy rain, flows from near the end of Manor Road over farm land which picks up soil and makes it cloudy. This only lasts for a day or two and soon returns to being clear. This tributary joins the Shreen about 100 yards from the main stream source, Manor Pond which runs clear.

The majority of groundwater sites monitoring the Chalk aquifer are recording exceptionally high levels, largely in response to rainfall received during Storm Chandra. Reservoir levels in Wessex have largely increased throughout January. At the end of the month, reservoir levels for Wessex Water were approximately 93% capacity and combined levels for Bristol Water were 99% capacity.

It was only two months ago when we saw reservoirs almost dry. Gardeners do not worry, there is no immediate threat of a hosepipe ban.

Finally, I would like to say how sorry we are to have lost one of our members, Adrienne Howell. Who was a 100% supporter of Mere streams and traditional values.

Ian Sheppard ianjsheppard@outlook.com

Copy date for the **April 2026** issue

Closing date deadline is: **16:00hrs on Thursday 19th March 2026**

Email contributions are preferred, to the Editor, Richard Jefferies 863425
Editor4MM@Outlook.com or deliver to 16 Underhill, Mere, BA12 6LU.

A few extra diary dates

1st - St. David's Day - patron saint of Wales

2nd to 8th - British Pie Week- Celebrate from the savoury classics like steak and ale to the sweet sensations of apple or cherry

2nd - Dr. Seuss Day - Dr. Seuss's Birthday is a nationwide reading celebration

3rd - World Wildlife Day

3rd - Lantern Festival - Chinese traditional festival

5th - World Book Day

6th - Global Day of Unplugging - Have a 24-hour respite from technology, to inspire you to have a healthier life/tech balance.

6th to 15th - British Science Week - celebrate science, technology, engineering and maths

8th - International Women's Day - celebration of women's rights; social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women

14th - Pi Day - celebrate maths day; chosen as the value of Pi is often taken as 3.14

15th - Mother's Day

17th - St. Patrick's Day - patron saint of Ireland

18th - Global Recycling Day

20th - Red Nose Day, Spring Equinox first day of spring, World Frog Day

21st - World Poetry Day

21st - Early Music Day. A celebration of more than a millennium of music, through concerts, events, and events all across Europe.

21st - International Day of Forests

21st - Single Parents Day, International Day of Action for the Seals

22nd - World Water Day

23rd to 29th - Shakespeare Week

25th - Tolkien Day

27th - World Theatre Day, Wear A Hat Day in aid of Brain Tumour Research.

28th - Earth Hour. World Wildlife Fund; individuals, organisations and businesses are asked to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour as a symbol of commitment to the planet.

29th - Piano Day. A day for piano players and lovers to share the joy of the piano. It takes place on the 88th day of the year, for the number of keys on a piano.

29th - British Summer Time Begins; clocks go forward 1 hour at 1am in the morning



THE
BRUSH & BROOM

RESTAURANT

We're open over the...

EASTER

Bank Holiday Weekend!

GOOD FRIDAY, SATURDAY
& EASTER MONDAY
(CLOSED FOR EASTER SUNDAY)

— ◆ —
Sam - 6pm

 01747 440077

 Norwood Park, Mere, Warminster BA12 6FE

 info@thebrushandbroom.com

 www.brushandbroomrestaurant.com



**Teeandee
Productions**

Web Design
Web Hosting
Domains

Tim Cook
mobile: 07790 113621
www.teeandee productions.com