

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

**YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS**



June 2017



Flower And Music Festival

9th - 11th June 2017

St Michael's Church, Mere

Come and see a Celebration of the Community of Mere in spectacular floral designs.

Flower Festival open

Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday 10.30am Church Service
12.00noon – 4.00pm
4.30pm Songs of Praise

Varied musical entertainment during the day.
Morning Coffee, Light Lunches & Cream Teas

Musical concerts to suit all tastes

Friday, 9th at 7.00pm

Concert by Local School Choirs and Shreen Harmony

Tickets £5, on the door (children free)

Saturday, 10th at 7.30pm

All the Queen's Men: A Pageant fit for a Queen An evening with the FARRANT SINGERS

Tickets £10 from:

🌐: www.farrantsingers.org or

☎: 01747 861212

See facebook or website for more information and further event details:

🌐: www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Elisabeth ☎: 01747 863324

MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts.

The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion **at 7.30pm on Monday, 5th June 2017.**

The Chairman writes:

It is a pleasure to start with a few "thank you's". First of all to Brett Norris for taking on the role of Chairman of the Town Council these past two years, with such energy, care and thoroughness – he will be a hard act to follow. Thank you to retiring councillors Bob Parsons, Nick Beale, Richard Hughes and Mark Cassidy for their many contributions during their time in office. Thank you to the people of Mere for turning out in such good numbers for the recent elections. For those of you unable to get to the Annual Town Meeting, it was an opportunity to hear from representatives of the groups who provide services and care for the people of Mere. Most of these are run voluntarily, make a great contribution to life in the town and they all deserve a hearty thank you.

Welcome to new councillors Glen Ings, Alan Mead and Aubrey Colman; to Kate Symonds as our new Vice Chair; and welcome back to Rod Coward - I am sure they will take part in council work with enthusiasm. Finally, welcome back to George Jeans as county councillor for Mere Ward.

While annual procedural matters took up time at the May meeting of the town council, I would like to focus on two items in particular. We are going to look again at the benefits and costs of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. What is a neighbourhood plan? Let me quote one paragraph from the Gov.Uk guidance:

Neighbourhood planning provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision for how they want their community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for local people.

They can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

Creating a neighbourhood plan is a long process involving a good deal of consultation to devise a plan which then has to pass independent examination and a community referendum. We will be discussing the matter formally at our next meeting.

Another item of importance comes from the allocation, at our budget meeting last year, of funds to provide more cleaning and improving the appearance of Mere. We are agreed that this important task will need regular weekly attention, and we will be

advertising a post. This is in addition to the work we can request from the Parish Steward system. You can help us in this matter, by reporting cleaning and improving items in public areas to any councillor or the Town Council Office or by using the My Wiltshire app.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org, e-mail the town clerk at lindseywood@merewilts.org or [01747 860701](tel:01747860701).

John Jordan, Chairman, Mere Town Council

Election Results

Election results for Wiltshire Councillor (Mere Ward):

Candidate	Description	Votes
Jeans, George Edwin (Elected)	Independent	1,339
Liddicoat, Mike	Conservative Party	399
Jordan, John Anthony	Labour Party	264

Elections to Mere Town Council (results)

Candidate	Description	Votes
Jeans, George Edwin (Elected)	Independent	1,065
Coward, Rodney (Elected)	Retired Farmer	699
Hurd, Jane (Elected)		694
Hazzard, Clive Eric John (Elected)	Independent	661
Hill, Raymond John (Elected)		629
Coward, Philip Wenman (Elected)		593
Ings, Glen (Elected)		580
Mitchell, Eric John (Elected)	Independent	576
Norris, Brett (Elected)		575
Traves, Lesley Ruth (Elected)		560
Jordan, John Anthony (Elected)		557
Symonds, Kate (Elected)		542
Colman, Aubrey (Elected)	Independent	458
Sims, Roy David (Elected)		439
Mead, Alan Philip (Elected)		413
Beale, Nicholas Paul		400

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

Floral Sponsors

The Town Clerk would like to report that once again, the Town Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year, and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him, and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact:

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere.
Tel: 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs last year:

Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Avery, Mere Bowling Club, The Hill Brush Company, Southern Co-Op, G. E. & S. M. Jeans, and F. J. Chalke Ltd.

Mere Town Council is looking for a street cleaner for Mere. You would be employed by the Council for approximately 5 hours per week, all year round. We are looking for someone reliable who can work unsupervised, and take pride in making our environment look clean and tidy by carrying out tasks such as keeping the roadsides clear of leaves and other rubbish, and clearing the weeds from the pavements. Tools and equipment will be provided by the Council. Please contact Lindsey Wood, Town Clerk, ☎: 01747 860701 (office hours) or ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

I feel very honoured to have been returned to Wiltshire Council. The outcome of the Wiltshire Council unitary results are as follows: -Conservatives 68 seats, Labour 3 seats, Liberal Democrats 20 seats and Independents 7 seats. Of an electorate of 361,681 the overall turnout was 39.59%. I am pleased to report that the Mere Division had the highest turnout in this election for Wiltshire Council at 57.86% with 2,010 persons voting. Democracy is working well in the Mere Division. Following the conclusion of the unitary, town and parish count, Wiltshire Council now will focus on managing the running of the forthcoming general election on Thursday, 8th June.

At my induction presentation, it was stated that Wiltshire had 6,500 apprentices last year whose educational performance was, in general, above average. Housing cost is eleven times average income. Wiltshire is the third largest planning authority in the UK. 45 million pounds in cash will need to be saved in the next four years against maintaining safeguarding for children, and an ageing population. By 2020 a third of The British Army will be based in Wiltshire. Wiltshire has taken 68 refugees and some of the children learnt English very quickly, just in a few weeks.

A few days after the election I attended Mere Town Council, then the same week I had to attend three parish council meetings on the same evening: Zeals, Stourton then Kilmington. Stourton was most interesting where ten percent of the population put up to sit on The Stourton Parish Council. The Annual Parish Meeting was attended by the most I have known in Stourton. Concerns were aired including safety concerns for Stourton Lane. The environmentally friendly heating system that has been installed at Stourhead House, for The National Trust to use its own supply of woodchip and store it undercover, known as a biomass store, was also discussed. The Stourton Parish Council is still against the application, which will be decided by committee, in public and is now scheduled for Tuesday, 30th May, at 3.00pm in Salisbury. Future Southern Area Planning Committees appear to be brought forward to 3.00pm rather than 6.00pm as they are now, which may be more difficult for working people to attend, however I am told we have capacity issues which now prevent evening meetings. I am told the next four years will be the most difficult period for newly elected councillors in recent history.

The Old Ship Hotel now has permission for 7 flats and two houses plus the eight units already in its curtilage, and within a few years vehicles from new housing on the Old Hill Brush site will pass through and/or park in Mere, further increasing the pressure on any public parking, which in my opinion will need addressing.

Unitary Councillors have been invited to attend training, as I sit on The Licensing Committee this is a statutory requirement. While attending training regarding planning we were informed of a third category of planning that has been proposed by a government white paper. As part of the Housing and Planning Bill, the Government is proposing to grant planning permission in principle on brownfield sites. Town and Parish Councils would be consulted as now for outline or full permission. These sites, if found suitable, would be entered on a register.

I have decided to start a facebook page "Cllr George Jeans", for use to display some events I attend and maybe other material. It is not a platform for conversation at present as I do not view it regularly, whereas  george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk or  07710 441599, I can usually answer quickly.

I still attend the broadband project board, which I recently attended at Yate near Bristol again; fibre broadband to the house is now installed free for 30 or more dwellings when available. Fibre broadband will be installed, as a fourth utility therefore it will terminate outside of the building.

The South West Area Board still has funds to help fund community projects and the youth. Do you have a project?

After attending a Mini Bus training course, provisionally I have taken some sheltered housing residence and young people (Brownies and Guides) on days out. The latest was to the pretty village of Berwick St James, which is the Girlguiding Wiltshire South HQ & Berwick Activity Centre where the young people had a great time. The South West Area Board have helped finance two minibuses, which are mainly for youth use, however can be used for other community functions. I am very pleased to report a local family member has given £50 towards fuel for days out for the Lynch Close residents, the kind donor wishes to remain anonymous.

I have over recent years help established poles suitable to fix Speed Indicator Devices by the roadside, known as SIDs. Although the one in White Road only receives fresh batteries every three months, this is deliberate as it is known that with constant use drivers take little long term notice.

The Mere Town Council and I have helped to obtain a South West Wiltshire Area Board (SWWAB) grant enabling refurbishment of two more finger signposts, one for West Swainsford, the other for Pimperlease Road, which will be erected shortly, complementing those replaced last year near The Walnut Inn and Shaftesbury Road.

A short stretch of the worst surface of Castle Street and Warminster Hollow will be resurfaced shortly I am informed. Castle Street is already marked out for treatment.

I would like to thank C G Fry who are developing the residential development of the old Hill Brush site, starting with the demolition and site clearance phase. I contacted them recently because wind had blown a lot of rubbish on to Woodlands Road, within ten minutes they were out clearing it away.

The SWWAB has provided £500 to each parished area that applied to refresh some white road markings in their area. Many of our white road markings need refreshing in Mere, the Duchy Grounds, which includes the school entrance, will have its junction white lines of Springfield Road to the site refreshed. Stourhead and Zeals have also taken up the offer; all the local councils have had to find third party or precept funds to top up with. Further costings may be considered for additional lines, but The Square in Mere I shall suggest to the Mere Town Council.

Our local rivers are often lacking water. Amid concerns of a drought following an unusually dry winter and spring, farmers have warned that water may need to be transferred across Britain as more than four-fifths of rivers have been left with too little

to support local producers. Many farmers have begun to irrigate crops six weeks earlier than usual in anticipation of continued pressure during the summer months, and industry experts have called for the process of “water shunting”, where it is transported from the high rainfall north to the low-rainfall south. British Independent Fruit Growers Association Chair, John Breach, wants the Government to build a water grid alongside HS2 rail lines and major new roads. Elsewhere, water supplier Affinity Water has told up to 3.6m customers in south-east England to save water because of a lack of rainfall.

I would remind you once again that the Mere Snooker club is in danger of closing unless more members can be found. Very recently, after publicity, some have come forward. If any of you in Mere, West Knoyle, Zeals, Stourton or Kilmington would like to play Snooker, please consider the above if you would like to play.



WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE

Registered charity number: 1144097

Can You Help Us To Build A Better Future For Your Air Ambulance?

Wiltshire Air Ambulance has been saving lives for over 27 years and work has begun on our new airbase at

Semington, near Melksham.

The new airbase will bring together our helicopter, aircrew and charity team onto one site for the first time.

The central location of our new airbase will mean our helicopter will be able to reach all parts of Wiltshire within 11 minutes, as it currently does now from its base in Devizes.

Our fundraising appeal for the new airbase has got off to a flying start, but we still need to raise just under £1 million to complete the building and equipping of it.

Can you help us raise the vital funds for our Airbase Appeal? There are lots of different ways you can get involved, such as holding a cake sale, organising a challenge event or uploading a photo for our helicopter mosaic.

We also have fun ways for schools and businesses to get onboard and support our appeal.

Find out more by visiting our special website 🌐: www.wiltshireairbaseappeal.co.uk ,
e-mail ✉️: hello@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk or call the Charity Team office
☎️: 01380 739453.

MERE SURGERY

Patient Participation Group

The most recent meeting of the Patient Participation Group was held on 27th April 2017. Suggestions were put forward by the members for speakers, health awareness campaigns and topics which were of local interest.

Further information will be available shortly.

If you are interested in becoming a member or wish to contact the group, the e-mail address is ✉: mereppg@yahoo.com.

Michele Mason, Practice Manager, ☎: 01747 860001

'HEAR TO HELP'

It takes time to adapt to using hearing aids – getting used to new sounds as well as managing the hearing aids themselves.

Mere's 'Hear to Help' services enable people to make the most of their hearing aids and manage their hearing loss effectively. They are provided only to people with NHS-provided hearing aids issued by the Salisbury Audiology Department.

Volunteers offer these services at Mere Surgery on the first Thursday of the month from 10.00 to 11.30am:

- Tubing, minor repairs, ear mould cleaning and battery replacement.
- Training on maintenance of hearing aids.
- Advice and support on making the most of the hearing aids
- Information and signposting to other services.
- introduction to other useful equipment.

All these services are provided free of charge and are organised by the national organisation Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID). When you come to the clinic, please be sure to bring your brown battery booklet or white battery card with you.

If you just want more batteries, you can collect them from Mere Surgery reception without waiting to see a volunteer. *Steve Hoffman ☎: 01747 860514*



MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

Dentists: Waheed Syed, Jyothsna Mekala, Chris Davies

Dental Hygienist : Laura Moss

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Wiltshire,
BA12 6EW, 01747 860365,

email: meredental16@btconnect.com,

www.merementistry.co.uk,

Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.45am - 5pm

The Practice is now offering Dental Implants and Six months smile (minor teeth correction for adults)



Heather Stone: DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

A useful treatment for problems relating to: muscles ~joints~ movement
~ posture~ injuries (old and new) ~ circulation~ hormone balance~
digestion~ nervous system~ Or simply for **relaxation and wellbeing.**

Practising at Mere Osteopathy Clinic. **Heather: 07874 079 913**

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Model Railway Exhibition 2017

Please come and support your fifth Mere Model Railway Exhibition that promises to be the highest quality small model railway event in the South West this year. It will be held in the **Lecture Halls** in Salisbury Street (BA12 6HA). **Opens at 10.00am on Saturday 17th & Sunday, 18th June, closing at 4.00pm on both days.**

We have kept the admission down to £4 for adults, and children under the age of 12 enter free if accompanied by an adult.

The attractions are as follows:-

Ray Heard Models :- You'll find plenty of high quality, previously owned or scratch built and proprietary items here. Range of gauges covered are N, OO, & O.

DCC Automation :- James explains most aspects of DCC in simple language. He holds the latest range of European HO models, tools and equipment for your perusal on his stand.

Cheddar S&DJR :- This is Scalefour Society award winning layout by Simon Challis.

Club 'O' Gauge Layout 'Mere Abbas' :- This modest model is still in the process of creation. It was planned and built by Peter Lord & Richard Decamin. Come and discuss this production with these knowledgeable gentlemen.

Crackington Quay:- A compact 7mm NG prize winning layout by Howard Martin.

Beckenvick:- This year we are treated to the maximum size of this superb HO Swiss layout modelled by Simon Ellis.

Model Boat Building:-A practical demonstration by Angus Watkins.

The Pavilion:- is a small 4 mm scale tram layout by Peter Dale who is willing to explain its style of operation.

Bottle Kin Lane:- An OO9 NG layout of exceptional quality by John Thorne. This layout again has won many a prize at model railway exhibitions.

Welton:-A 'N' gauge scene from the Bristol & North Somerset Railway presented by John Perrett.

Stamford East:- Robin Fox has built this GNR branch line layout that accurately depicts actual buildings in Stamford. Modelled in 'N' Gauge.

Devils Bridge:- One of the newer OO9 layouts on the circuit representing the final station on the Vale of Rheidol Narrow Gauge Railway. Displayed by Eddie, Rachael and Kyra.

Hintendorf:- This 7mm NG layout was built as a light relief project by its owner Keith Hastie. It is a changeable layout from American to Eastern German and we have the German version.

Red Hook Bay:- Represents a fictitious American New England fishing port. In the HO gauge, it is in my opinion one of the best layouts of its type available. Operated using a DCC Digitrax system Mike Carter's creation is a must see item.

John Sutton Books:- As well as his excellent selection of reading matter, John displays some valuable garden railway locomotives and rolling stock. He also brings some OO9 stock.

Three Bridges by the Sea This layout was found in one of our many books and with the help of six club members, learning techniques as they went, Peter Hudson steered them to the model's completion.

Nancy's Exhibition Food. Delightful bacon rolls and home-made cakes served by our fine club ladies.

Amenities of Mere

The centre of Mere particularly opens its doors to visitors on Saturday, 17th June as in close vicinity to its main car park is Yapp Brothers, an award winning wine merchant, who just happens to have its Summer Tasting and Sale on that day. Other than its three pubs, the new Hillbrush restaurant and museum are well worth a visit. So come and have an enjoyable family day out in Mere, or shop ready for **Father's day on Sunday, 18th June.** *Tom Snook, Exhibition Manager, ☎: 01747 8601977*

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Registered Charity No:1062328

☎: 01747 860096

The Linkscheme is coming to the end of yet another year of service to the local community.

Many of you have used the service in the past and know that it helps anyone with transport difficulties to keep medical appointments, and some other 'good neighbour' tasks such as shopping. If you would like to show your support and find out more please come to the AGM on Friday, 2nd June in the Grove Building at 7.00pm.

A quick reminder that the Literary Festival is our main fund raising event, it has a poetry competition this year, and the closing date is approaching if you are interested in entering.

Barbara Thomas, Secretary

Mere Lecture Hall:

Exploring Watercolour - Fridays 10.30-12.30

starts 9th June 8 weeks for £95.00

Watercolour Club – Mondays 7.00-9.00

starts 12th June 8 sessions for £95.00

also at Vicarage School Room, Gillingham from 4th May 2.00-4.00 and

Creative Greens 17th June 10.30-4.30 £40.00 one day workshop

Details and enrolments: www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants Available for 2017

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community and welcomes a wide range of creative initiatives.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Friday, 30th June and successful applicants will normally be paid within three months of this date.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to : The Grants Committee, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, c/o Monkswell Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6DA.

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL Poetry Competition

Further to our promotion of the Poetry Competition as printed in the April Edition of Mere Matters, Pennybank Writers would like to remind all poets that the closing date for the Poetry Competition is Monday, 26th June 2017.

Poems can be on any subject and of no more than 40 lines. Full details are available at the library or by post (SAE) Poetry competition, Monkswell Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6DA or visit : www.merelifest.co.uk.

Linda Jones, for Pennybank Writers, ☎: 01747 860171

MERE CARNIVAL



Carnival Day

Saturday, 16th September 2017 with children's parade at 3.00pm and evening parade at 7.30pm

Carnival Royals

Once again we are looking for our 2017 Royals. If you live in the BA12 6 postcode and would like to represent Mere in the two parades, please write to Penny Allen giving brief details of yourself, your interests and why you would like to be part of this special day. There is a small dress allowance for the chosen royals.

We are looking for:

Carnival Prince and Princess – aged 5 to 13

Teen Queen – aged 13-19

Super Gran – any age!

By the closing date of Friday 30th June 2017 please send your letter to: 3 Ashgrove, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6BX or : pennyallen@hotmail.co.uk

Penny Allen, Carnival Secretary, ☎: 01747860721. 📞: 07539329798

Mere Carnival 2017 Fundraising Quiz

Wednesday, 21st June at 7.30pm in the Grove Building
£2.00 each - tables of 4

The quiz is fun and a good test for your brain!

Refreshments and raffle

Come and join us as a single, couple etc.,

And we will make up a team for you
We look forward to seeing you
Carol Payne, Mere Carnival, ☎: 01747 861639

DID YOU KNOW JANE BROWN? (D.O.B. 20.5.67)

Jane and her twin sister Julie (sadly deceased) lived in/near Mere with their family, including several brothers.

The girls were adopted. My mum Pat was their birth mother and they got in touch through Social Services when they came of age.

We all met in 1985 and several times after; the last time we saw her was probably at my Dad's funeral in 1996. The last address I have for Jane is from 1993, in Westham, Weymouth.

I have some important news for Jane but we have failed to trace her. We have been hampered by the lack of details, the age of our information and the fact that there are an awful lot of Jane Browns in the world, plus she got married.

2 photos, one of Jane (on the left) with her late sister Julie, plus one of Jane and her Husband (and another lady) on her wedding day are posted online at www.technologyadviser.co.uk/photos/

If you can help, please do get in touch. I am Mike Blake and my e-mail address is [☛: M.S.Blake@btinternet.com](mailto:M.S.Blake@btinternet.com) and my mobile telephone number is shown below.

If we knew Jane's middle name (or initial) it would help; or even to know that she did not have a middle name, would narrow down the search. If you know her husband's name or where/when she got married, again, that would really help.

My Mum had a postcard from Ibiza signed 'Jane and Andy, the stamp suggests it was 1985+ but I don't know if this was her husband. I believe her marriage was in the late 80's but I can't be exact, it may have been in the early '90s.

Mike Blake, ☎: 07789 990995.



TEA@3, COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

Tea@3 will be held in the Angel Corner Tearooms on Wednesday, 21st June at 3.00pm. All those wishing to attend should contact Paul or Marilyn on ☎: 01747 860524 and leave a message, or pop in and leave your name by Monday, 19th June, please.

Come in and have a chat with tea and cake. All are welcome.

Paul Farrow ☎: 01747 860524

JUNE SHORT WALK:

June's Short Walk is to the Wild Flower meadows on Monday, 19th June. Meet in the Surgery Car Park for a 3 mile walk and tea at the Angel Cafe afterwards.

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE GARDENING CLUB

**Low maintenance gardens
Castle Gardens' speaker**

Wednesday, 14th June at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

One of the excellent speakers from Castle Gardens, Sherborne, will be talking about how to achieve a garden that is easy to maintain.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Mere Hidden Gardens Weekend

17/18 June 2.00-5.00pm

Don't miss this opportunity to look around some of the lovely private gardens in Mere, and talk to the owners about their style of gardening. 12 gardens will be open with two afternoon tea spots. Programmes will be available from the Library beforehand and in the Square each morning of the weekend under the Clock Tower. £5 per adult, accompanied children free.

If you would like your Hanging basket or tub judged in our competition during the Mere in Bloom week between the Flower Festival and Hidden Garden weekend, please register with me by Wednesday, 7th June. They need to be visible from the road/path so we do not need to disturb you!

Janet Way ☎: 01747 860884

MERE CANCER RESEARCH

We hope that you all had a great time at the May Fayre (Mere Matters went to press before the day!) and we will give you the total raised in the next issue, but as usual thank you all for your support, donations, help, volunteering, muscle and van power at all our events.

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our first Cars and Coffee event - what a stunning display of cars with loads of people around. We raised over £160, so thank you to The George Inn and The Angel Corner Tea Rooms for their kind donations from the proceeds on the day. Our cake stall raised £70. This looks like it could become an annual event !

The 2 lovely ladies in North Street, Debbie & Sally, had a coffee morning and raised a very 'tasty' £115 for our funds - so well done both and hope all your guests had a great time.

Tickets are selling fast for the Warminster Military Wives Choir so please get in touch with either Ann Lloyd ☎: 01747 863477 or Christine Marsh ☎: 01747 861212 to get yours booked. Tickets are £10 each or £12 on the door. The date for your diary is Friday, 7th July at 7.30pm in St. Michaels Church, with which this event is a joint fundraiser.

We are delighted to be back at the beautiful gardens at Dewes House on Saturday, 15th July for a coffee morning by very kind permission of Mr & Mrs Sainthill. From 10.00am to 12.00 noon with entrance via the Salisbury Street car park.

As always thank you all for your continued support and together we will beat cancer sooner..

You can read more about us on Facebook: **Mere Cancer Research**, or reach us by ✉: merecancerresearch@mail.com

Penny Fennon, Mere Cancer Research Press Officer

☎: 07833 131712 (after 6.00pm)



FOLIAGE NEEDED ~ CAN YOU HELP?

We are after an abundance of foliage suitable for floral designs to be available for our flower arrangers to use on **Wednesday, 7th and Thursday, 8th June 2017** in preparation for the

Flower and Music Festival in St Michael's church, Mere

Donations of suitable material would be very gratefully received (preferably early) on either day. If you are unable to get it to the church we would be able to collect – and can even come to pick from/prune your garden if you would be willing!

Please contact either Elisabeth ☎: 01747 863324 or

Yvonne ☎: 079747 470268

SHREEN HARMONY

We would love your support at our concert in June, we are singing on Friday, 9th June in St Michaels Church during the Flower Festival.

The concert is with the school choirs of Mere and Gillingham. It is at 7.00 p.m. and there are no tickets but a charge of £5 on the door.

You would be able to enjoy the Flower displays and also there is a bar for the interval. Hope to see you there.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

THE FARRANT SINGERS IN CONCERT

“All The Queen’s Men”

A Pageant fit for a Queen

SATURDAY, 10TH JUNE 7.30

St MICHAEL’S CHURCH, MERE

As part of Mere’s Flower and Music Festival, this Salisbury based chamber choir presents an evening of words and music with lute, theorbo and bass viol accompaniment.

Pre concert and interval bar.

Tickets £10 (£5 under 16s/students) and are available online

🌐: www.farrantsingers.org or by ☎: 01747 861212 or 01722 324731

SPECTRA MUSICA

in North Cadbury

‘Summer Nights’ is another eclectic selection of music being presented by Spectra Musica and Musical Director Peter Leech in St.Michael’s Church, North Cadbury on Saturday, 1st July at 7.30pm.

The repertoire of the group, which includes several singers from Mere, continues to expand under Peter’s skilful baton – the programme will include a short mass by Johann Georg Albrechtsberger (1736 – 1809), a name not known by many, but a prodigious talent; a colleague and familiar of Mozart, whose work will also feature in the concert. On the lighter side, Ellington also makes an appearance, as do Chilcott, Gershwin and many others.

Concert pianist Anita D’Attellis and a string quintet will be accompanying the group and Anita will also feature throughout the evening.

Tickets are £12 and are available by phone ☎: 01963 350160, on the door, or by ✉: tickets@spectramusica.co.uk

For more information go to 🌐: www.spectramusica.co.uk

Sally Greenhalgh, Chairman, ☎: 01749 860457

MERE THEATRE CLUB

We are looking forward to contributing to the Flower Festival and hope you will come and view all the exhibits.

Meanwhile, although it is early summer we will soon be planning the autumn programme, so if you would like to join us for some theatrical outings and are not yet a member, do ring either Wendy or Madelaine.

Wendy Horne ☎: 01747 861712 Madelaine Morris ☎: 01747 861833

MERE FILMSHOWS

The last film of the season – on Thursday, 15th June – is the new Hollywood musical ‘**La La Land**’ (12A) which has won BAFTAs and Oscars galore – and almost, but not quite, the Oscar for Best Film! The critics have given it rave reviews for the quality of the dancing and the story itself, for the cinematography and the dreamlike quality of the filming. The story is of Mia, an aspiring actress, who serves lattes (that’s coffee of a sort, to those of us to whom coffee is coffee) to movie stars in between auditions, and Sebastian a jazz musician, who scrapes by playing cocktail party gigs in dingy bars.

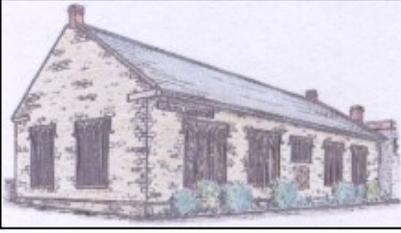
As success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart. But, it’s a musical, a Hollywood musical, and don’t they always have a happy ending? See page 26 for more details.

Our new season will begin in September with a film for Carnival Week and there are one or two good ones coming up!

In the meantime have a wonderful summer and thank you to everyone for supporting the Film Shows.

Mary White ☎: 01747 861257

MERE MUSEUM



The newly-opened exhibition at Mere Museum comprises a collection of exquisite wool- and linen-weaving by local spinner and weaver Anne Lander.

On show are pieces spanning more than 40 years of work, beautifully set off by specially-made frames which allow each piece to be seen at its best. It is certainly an event not to be missed - do make sure you don't! The exhibition will remain on display throughout the summer.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends would like to thank everyone who supported their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, 13th May.

They are delighted to let you know that you helped them to raise just over £900, funds that are given to the Museum at the end of the financial year. These funds are vital to the running of the Museum and your support on 13th, whether as a bringer or buyer, were doubly welcome!

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

If there's one thing MADS members like more than rehearsing and performing a play for their Mere audience, it's the business of choosing the next one to be presented!

At the moment the shortlist has just three plays on it, and by the time you are reading this, these will have been narrowed down to just one! We'll let you know the winner as soon as we do! Meanwhile we are afraid that you must contain your souls in patience.

Jenny Wilding ☎: 01747 860908

Squeaky clean

Bookings now being taken from June onwards.

Windows, Gutters, Fascias & more

Call – Terry ☎: 07899 937482



Mere Historical Society

Visit Two Wednesday, 14th June 2017
DEADLINE for booking Wednesday, 31st May

Tyntesfield

For Those who have booked:.

**Leaves Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns
around 6.30pm**

Visit Three

Thursday, 13th July 2017

Swindon: Museum of the Great Western Railway

The museum is situated in the heart of what was once one of the largest railway engineering complexes in the world. At its peak in the 1930s, the works covered over 300 acres and was capable of producing three locomotives a week.

The works finally closed in 1986 and the site was bought by Tarmac Properties offering the opportunity to redevelop a large part of Swindon that was largely unknown to its population, having been surrounded by high walls for most of its history. The area now is home to the museum and provides an unusual historic setting for a large designer outlet with plenty of places to eat.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and returns
around 6.30pm**

Cost: MHS Members £22, non-members £25 per person
Includes coach and tip, museum entry and highlights tour.

DEADLINE for booking Wednesday, 31st May

PLEASE USE THE BOOKING FORM

**Details and booking forms available from Mere Information Point
or download from the "What's On" tab on our website**



: www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎: 01747 861797

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our June meeting, by tradition, is a relaxed and sunny (of course!) Garden Meeting, which will be on Tuesday, 13th June at 2.30pm. This year we have a different venue, as Christabelle Kritcos has kindly invited us to her family home, Mead's House, which is a short distance down the lane from Edgebridge. This will be a special treat and all are welcome. If you would like a lift or directions to get there please ring the number below.

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747-860553

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

As I write we are approaching the end of our summer course. We are holding a "One Day - Sewing All Day" on Tuesday, 20th June from 9.30am to 3.30pm, which we planned whilst enjoying our Christmas Meal, so thought we should get on and do it. We appear to be full, but if you are interested please get in touch.

We are also taking names for our waiting list for the next group of six week courses at The Grove Building from 11th September, a Monday morning (10.30 am -1pm), alternatively from 13th, a Wednesday evening (7.00 - 9.30pm).

We will be supporting the St. Michael's Church Choral and Music Festival and also, of course, taking part in "Creative Mere" in September, so lots of sewing and planning taking place.

If you would like to enjoy the fun of creating something that fits and is a joy to wear phone us - we have had dresses made for weddings and holidays over the summer. It can be very rewarding.

*Carol Lord ☎: 01747 861923 or Susanne 📱: 07788 595434,
or our Facebook Page "Dressmaking in Mere".*

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

**Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am to 3.00pm**

It's that time of year again, when we take our guests on an outing to the seaside. Last Year we went to Swanage and so this year the guests have decided they would like to return to Weymouth. We have booked the large coach and so have plenty of seats available for extra people to enjoy a lovely day at the seaside! Tickets are priced the same as the last few years at £10 per person, and as usual we will be holding a raffle on the coach too.

The coach will be leaving Lynch Close at 10.00am on Monday, 19th June, and will leave Weymouth to return at 4.00pm. If you would like to book a seat on the coach please contact me on the number below and leave a message.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞: 07835 272406
🌐: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

GROVE BUILDING “100 CLUB”

The result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for May, kindly drawn by Julie Doe of Brainwave, was:

1st Prize (£20) -	No. 28	Mrs T Howell
2nd Prize (£15) -	No. 130	Mrs S Pike
3rd Prize (£10) -	No. 52	Mrs R Price

Diary Reminder

A Cheese & Wine Evening is being held on Wednesday, 5th July 2017 from 6.30pm until 10.00 pm in the Grove Building. All members of the 100 Club are invited to come and meet each other in a social setting.

Please contact me so I have an idea of numbers.

Barbara Hewitt 📞: 07946 913191
✉: smileyb54@outlook.com

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The bowls season is now in full swing with the club playing two or three times a week in various leagues within the Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset areas.

“Join the bowls club and see the world”, well at least the south west of England, as we play teams from Chard in the west to Sheffield English in the east, while Cranborne is as far south as we travel for our sport, and Trowbridge is as far north.

Most of the clubs that we play have excellent facilities and make us most welcome, as do we when they visit us – all in all, a truly friendly and social way to spend a sunny afternoon or early evening.

If you are not sure if bowls is for you, come on down to the green and give it a try, for free. We have three trained and qualified coaches to take you through the basics to get you bowling, which is when the fun starts. Then if you join us, it is all down to experience, and with some additional guidance from our coaches, you could be a county standard player in no time. All you need is a flat pair of shoes and some enthusiasm; the club will provide everything else that you need to get you started.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎: 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎: 01747 860803 or Don Butchers on the number below, or by ✉: Don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎: 01747 860775

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'La La Land'

(12A)

Ryan Gosling Emma Stone

**A jazz pianist falls for an aspiring actress in
Hollywood**

**In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 15th June, 2017**

At 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00
Available from the Library

For more information call Mary White ☎: 01747 861257
Visit our website at : **www.moviola.org**



Mere School Reports

It's the final term of the school year for the children of Mere and they are all busy learning about their new topics.

Blue Class

Blue Class are anxiously waiting for their dinosaur egg to hatch and are busy learning about the wonderful world of mini-beasts.

Yellow Class

The children in Yellow class are enjoying learning about where their food comes from. They have also found out about fair trade food.

Silver Class

Year 2 have been learning all about houses and homes both locally and around the world. They will then look at animals and their habitats.

Gold Class

The children in Gold Class have become adventurers and explorers. They are currently learning all about Antarctica.

Green Class

Green class are enjoying a term full of outdoor learning! They will be learning all about the Geography of Mere with visits to both Stourhead and Manor Farm.

Red Class

Red class are getting ready for their residential trip to Pencilli. There they will be learning about rivers and the water cycle as well as taking part in lots of fantastic outdoor activities.

Purple Class

Year 6 have finally completed their SAT's! So now it's time for them to get rehearsing for their end of year production based on William Shakespeare.

STOP THE PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to:



www.mereschool.co.uk

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

We meet every Saturday and Sunday at the Club which is a hidden gem in Mere. If you go along North Road and then bear right to go down the Steep you will see a gate in the hedge at the top of the Steep. Please come on in!!!

The Croquet is a non-league group. We just meet to enjoy the game, which is part skill, part (gentle) aggression but mainly fun. We have plenty of mallets, so all we need is you to come along and give it a try.

The Boule Club is in a local league, but again it is mainly played for fun and would welcome more members.

We play from 2.30pm both days and can also play in the week. There is an annual subscription, but the first two weeks are free for you to see how much you enjoy the games. We look forward to welcoming some new members.

Sandra Fisher ☎: 01747 861980

COMING UP AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MERE



In June

Flower and Music Festival

Friday, 9th June 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm	Flower Festival
	7:00 pm	Concert with Local School Choirs and Shreen Harmony
Saturday, 10th June 2017	10.00am – 4.00pm	Flower Festival
	7.30 pm	An Evening with the Farrant Singers
Sunday, 11th June 2017	12.00pm – 4.00pm	Flower Festival
	10.30 am	Festival Benefice Eucharist with the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury
	4.30 pm	Songs of Praise

During the Event the Festival Pop-up Café will be open in the Grove Building:

Friday & Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday

12 00pm – 4 00pm

In July

Salisbury Cathedral Girls' Choir

'Sacred Masterpieces'

Monday, 10th July 2017 at 7.30 pm

Tickets will be available from Mere Library from Thursday, 1st June 2017.

In September

Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

"Ride & Stride"

Saturday, 9th September 2017, 10.00am - 6.00 pm

Would anyone like to do this in aid of St Michael's Church in Mere?

This is an annual national sponsored event with 50% of the money raised going to the participant's chosen church and the other half to the County Historic Churches Trust. Visit as many churches as you like, planning your own route. Seek sponsorship from friends, relations and colleagues. Participants may be cyclists, walkers, horse-riders or drivers of mobility scooters. Interested? Please contact Sherry Dixon by  office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk or on the telephone number below

Sherry Dixon, PCC Secretary, : 01747 861319



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER**

IN MERE AND DISTRICT

Songs of Praise at Stourhead

Sunday 25th June at 3.00pm

We meet near the Bristol Cross

Bring a chair or rug, and, if you like, a picnic tea to share

after the service

EVERYONE WELCOME!

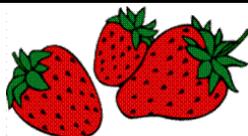
REV'D JOHN HAYTON, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

In June, the Church celebrates Pentecost (which follows 10 days after Ascension Day, when the church recalls the ascension of Jesus to heaven). Pentecost is known as the birth day of church, when the Spirit of God was poured out to the first followers. The two festivals are intimately linked.

One of the greatest heroes of the Old Testament is the Prophet Elijah. He was a good prophet, gifted by God and is credited with doing many marvellous things. The Old Testament recalls that he didn't die in the conventional sense, but was taken to heaven in a chariot of fire. This vision was witnessed by his student, Elisha, who received twice the portion of his spirit. Elijah handed over his mantle (a cloak) to Elisha - a garment that symbolises the transfer of power. This is the origin of the phrase to "take up the mantle of".

The early Christians saw the ascension of Jesus to heaven through the prism of the handover of power and responsibility from Elijah to Elisha. At Pentecost, the church was gifted with the Spirit to take up the mantle of Christ. Pentecost is a day of celebration that continues to inspire the church into action today, that challenges us to leave our "holy huddles" and go out into the world. In the British climate this isn't always literally possible or popular, so the United Reformed Church in Mere are planning some changes to the internal layout of the building to make it more user-friendly and welcoming, and are aiming to tidy up the outside to enable our Saturday coffee morning to move outside when the weather permits it. Why not pop along and see what we are planning?

But it's not only Pentecost on the way - the General Election is fast approaching. It is important that residents make known their views to the candidates and take up the opportunity to quiz them at local hustings, so that they can have an idea of local priorities. As a church, we pray that the MP elected will take on the mantle of responsibility with great integrity and wisdom, seriously considering the impact of future policies on all residents, not only those with influence or the loudest voices.



You are invited to a STRAWBERRY TEA
in Aid of



on Friday, 30th June from 2.30pm
at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane
(Jean & Colin's house ☎: 01747 861168)

Everyone Welcome!

Judith Thompson ☎: 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE JUNE 2017

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

(Days available to Parish: Saturday – Wednesday)

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mrs Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

PCC Secretary: Mrs Sherry Dixon ☎ 01747 861319

✉ office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Third Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Benefice Communion with Bishop Nicholas
		4.30pm	Songs of Praise
	18th	*10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		3.00pm	Ecumenical Service at Stourhead

* Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: (☎01747 860685)

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd M. Laurie
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd J. Heyton
	18th	11.00am	Mr D.Coates
	25th	11.00am	Rev'd C. Marsh

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

Deacon Michael Hughes ☎: 01747 830766 ✉: michael@faithandjoy.co.uk

Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎: 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald ☎: 01747 860867

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin:

Priest in Charge: Revd. Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859

✉ vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs. Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

Mr. Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	4th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	11th	10.30am	NO service at St Mary's Benefice Communion with Bishop Nicholas, St Michaels, Mere
	18th	9.30pm	DIY
	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad - Indicates traditional language)

DIARY DATES

JUNE 2017

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.30pm	Strength and Core	L
2	Fri	7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		1.45pm	Duplicate Bridge (2.00pm start - Also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB

		7.00pm	- Mere Linkscheme AGM	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, & 24th)	CC
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		1.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Water Colour course (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tues	2.00pm - 4.00pm	'Get On Line' Drop-in Session	Lib
		2.30pm	Strength and Core	L
		6.00pm - 8.00pm	Life Drawing (every Tuesday)	L
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
7	Wed	11.15am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 14th & 21st)	L
		7.00pm	Water Colour Techniques (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	RMC
8	Thur	7.00am	10.00pm General Election Polling Station	L
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	10.00am - 12.00noon	Water Colour Class (every Friday)	L
		10.00am - 4.00pm	Flower Festival	St Michaels
		7.00pm	Concert, Local Schools & Shreen Harmony	St Michaels
10	Sat	10.00am - 4.00pm	Flower Festival	St Michaels
		7.30pm	Concert, Farrant Singers	St Michaels
10	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
11	Sun	12.00pm- 4.00pm	Flower Festival	St Michaels
12	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
13	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	Meads House
14	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chai (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (Small Hall - every Wednesday)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
14	Wed	7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
15	Thur	7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "La La Land"	L
17	Sat	10.00am - 4.00pm	Mere Model Railway Exhibition	L
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
18	Sun	10.00am - 4.00pm	Mere Model Railway Exhibition	L
19	Mon	2.00pm	June Short Walk	CP
21	Wed	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		3.00pm - 4.30pm	Get On Line Drop-in Session	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Carnival Fundraising Quiz	GB
23	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women	GB
27	Tue	9.00am	Jenny Frank's Foot Care Clinic	CC

28	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm	Penny Bank Writers	L
30	Fri	2.30pm	Suchana Strawberry Tea	Rivermead

FOCUS ON A LOCAL CHARITY THAT CAN PROVIDE ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY FIRST

Community First is Wiltshire's Rural Community Council, a charity that works at the forefront of community development to help improve the quality of life and economic well being of people and local communities throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.



We have been a dependable source of support to communities in Wiltshire and Swindon since 1965. Our extensive networks involve parish and town councils, village and community hall committees, youth clubs, community transport and community leaders across the county.

We work in close partnership with local communities, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and funders to help develop and deliver wide ranging community programmes that bring social, economic and environmental benefits to local people in Wiltshire and Swindon

Rural Community Councils (RCCs) were first introduced in England just after the First World War when 24 RCCs were established with a remit to support and encourage rural communities through development work in areas such as village halls, young people, health services, further education in villages, countryside preservation and Parish Councils.

In 1947 18 more RCCs were established and the working remit expanded to include rural industries, the Association of Local Councils, old peoples welfare, local history societies and handicapped care. Nine further RCCs were established in 1965 and this included the launch of the Community Council for Wiltshire.

The Community Council for Wiltshire (CCW) began life with a staff of four who oversaw the work of the county village halls grant, the rural industries portfolio and acted as agents for the work of The Wiltshire Association of the Care of the Elderly, The Wiltshire Playing Fields Association and the Wiltshire Association of Parish Councils.

By 1975 CCW had grown to 10 staff and its work portfolio had grown and developed including help in establishing the Wiltshire Pre-School Learning Alliance, the Wiltshire Family History Association, the Wiltshire Natural History Forum and the Wiltshire Folk Life Society.

As a result of its expanding work areas and to reflect its closer working relationship with local communities and organisations across the county, in 1996 CCW decided to redefine and refocus its community services and to re-launch the organisation as Community First, which today has a professional team of over 60 staff.

Community First both offers and supports services for communities.

We offer services such as competitive group insurance for Village Halls and Parish Councils, provide a bulk oil buying service as well as support community and social enterprise, rural housing and the provision of broadband.

We also provide a consultancy service, undertaking commissioned projects with a wide range of clients. For example:

Youth Action Wiltshire

Youth Action Wiltshire is an award winning service which has been supporting young people and volunteers in Wiltshire and Swindon for more than 60 years.

Some of the programmes are:

- Employability Programmes “Project Inspire” – supporting young people back on track who are at risk of NEET or who are NEET (A young person who is "Not in Education, Employment, or Training").
- Youth Club Support – developing new youth clubs, and working with youth and young leaders to ensure voluntary youth clubs are safe interesting places to be.
- Volunteering – utilising volunteering as a tool for personal development and leadership.
- Young Carers – keeping young carers safe in their caring role and equipping them for the future.

Community Transport

Community Transport is the name given to any type of transport run on a not-for-profit basis to assist people who cannot access private or public transport for any reason. There might be a variety of reasons why people use Community Transport such as: Lack of available transport, Cost, Mobility reasons, Health reasons or Personal reasons

In Wiltshire and Swindon Community Transport is provided by charities and voluntary organisations (which are often very small and local), and often harnesses the experience and energy of volunteers who give freely of their time to help others.

Local Community Transport schemes take children to school, sick people to healthcare and older and disabled people to the shops. Local Community Transport schemes also run local bus routes and provide transport for a wide range of clubs, community organisations and care homes.

There are a variety of Community Transport schemes in Wiltshire and Swindon including community minibus schemes and Link (volunteer car) schemes. Community First also provides assistance to communities wanting to start up their own Community Transport initiatives For information about the support that Community First provides to local community minibus schemes please ☎: 01380 722475 or visit the Community First website: 🌐: www.communityfirst.org.uk

ZEALS OPEN GARDENS & DECORATED CHURCH

24th/25th June

12 Village Gardens will be open and St. Martin's Church decoration theme will be 'The Glory of the Garden'

Combined £5 Entrance tickets on day at Zeals Village Hall,
BA12 6NBA

Or in advance from Zeals Motors shop

Cream Teas & good facilities for the disabled

Church open 10am-6pm each day

Gardens open 1pm – 5pm (sorry - no dogs)

In aid of St. Martin's Church, Zeals

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎: 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎: 01747 861063

URC Church Hall

Eileen Burfitt

☎: 01747 860685

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 Mere's own website, 🌐: www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Support/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2:00 - 4:00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:

By appointment only (☎: 0300 003 4569)

Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30am

'GET ONLINE'

DROP-IN SESSION

1st Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00pm

HEALTH TRAINER

Every Friday 2:00 – 4:00pm

COPYDATE FOR JULY/AUGUST 2017 ISSUE

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