MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine and guide to local events



July/August 2008

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MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish 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 **Lecture Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th July 2007**. However, there will be no meeting in August.

The Chairman writes:

River cleaning was raised as a topic for discussion at the last Parish Council meeting when it was agreed that the Parish Council would seek advice from the Environment Agency and the Parish Council would undertake to clean the river at its expense. Since the meeting, we have spoken with the Environment Agency and I am pleased to report that Waterside is on its river clearance programme for this year and they will also be desilting the river.

A number of people attended the last Parish Council meeting to talk about the Parish Council's management of the allotments. Due to the waiting list of people wanting allotments, we will be imposing the conditions of our allotment tenancy agreements to ensure that the allotments are properly cultivated.

Sadly, we have received reports of anti-social behaviour from youths using the Multi-Use Games Area whilst the swimming sessions are taking place. This behaviour is unacceptable because the younger children are using the pool and witnessing bad language and disrespectful behaviour from the older children using the Multi-Use Games Area. There is also a problem with footballs being kicked over the fence and into the swimming pool and youths climbing the fences to retrieve their footballs. Also, footballs are being kicked into the swimming pool when the younger children are using it and this is obviously a health & safety concern. We are in the process of obtaining quotations to raise the fencing of the Multi-Use Games Area but in the meantime, we will continue to monitor the situation with a view to closing the Multi-Use Games Area whilst swimming is in process. Mere Cricket Club is now playing home matches on the new all-weather wicket at Duchy Manor Grounds. We wish them a successful season with lots of support.

Lastly, just a reminder that we have entered the Best Kept Village Competition and judging will be taking place over the next few weeks. We would appreciate any help from residents to keep Mere litter free, neat and tidy.

Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCIL -LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Core Strategy Preferred Options has had little meaning to many until recently, when proposed housing numbers etc., have caught a lot of people's interest. A request by The Salisbury District Council has been verbally agreed with The Government Office for the South West for a revision to be made to our agreed Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The District Council had to agree originally a reasonable timetable with The Government for the South West, therefore I would like you all to know "not everything is down to the District Council".

Ensuring an ongoing housing supply when the supply of land for residential development runs out in The Salisbury District Council area (South Wiltshire) in 2011, has been a concern that needs addressing, for one to stop developers submitting random applications anywhere in South Wiltshire, these applications would carry more weight without a Local Development Framework in place.

I had lots of complaints that many didn't receive a letter sent to all householders regarding The Core Strategy Preferred Options Document. It is possible that some received the letter and the letter did not make clear the implications. Those that did receive the letter did have justifiable complaints - that it referred to meeting dates that had either already passed or were that day or soon afterwards. With another round of consultation over a longer period, hopefully this mistake will not be repeated. I have asked the relevant officer of the Salisbury District Council if we could ensure that any future letters to householders are written in plain English and tested as such, the reply I have had states such documents have to be framed in a certain way. Therefore, please contact me should you need help in understanding the content of any documents regarding the Local Development Framework.

Resolution of the Full Council

The Salisbury District Council voted unanimously to end the current consultation, as planned on the 25th April. However, as a reflection of the high level of public concern, they then voted, again unanimously, to revise the Local Development Scheme so that there is a new consultation stage, focused on a revised version of the Preferred Options, which takes account of the consultation responses we have received. Only after this additional stage of consultation will The Salisbury District Council move to submission stage.

Revisions to the Local Development Scheme

The Salisbury District Council should be in a position to carry out the new stage of consultation in September. I am informed that the Salisbury District Council will also write to every household in the District to inform them of the revisions to the process and inform them of the additional opportunities to engage in the process. There will also be public meetings, focus groups and discussion at The Western Area meeting of SDC, which is always open to the public. For information, those wishing to add land to the Strategic Land Availability Assessment will need to have done so by mid June this year in the first instance. However, this "land bank" will be reviewed annually. The new document produced will take into account the many views expressed by residents, councillors and community groups. I understand proposed numbers of dwellings will be suggested by the existing SDC, but not site specific. It is probable the new Wiltshire Council forming in 2009 will decide on specific sites.

Securing Housing Delivery

The Salisbury District Council is committed to securing continued housing delivery in south Wiltshire, as the provision of affordable housing is a core Council priority. Therefore, the Council did not take the decision to revise the Local Development Scheme lightly, as it is Connect2Wiltshire Advert – Full page

acutely aware of the pressing housing need. However, this must be balanced with the public outcry the process has caused.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Salisbury District Council does not see a Core Strategy for the whole of Wiltshire coming forward any time soon. The resources and capacity are not in place, and discussions on process and systems are in their very early stages. Key technical prerequisites, such as a new Statement of Community Involvement and Local Development Scheme, will need to be produced, drafted and consulted on. The Salisbury District Councils present experience in south Wiltshire indicates that consultation on the growth agenda is a difficult enough challenge at a district level. Getting the logistics in place and then managing the reaction, when carrying out a similar exercise for the whole of Wiltshire is daunting indeed. Therefore, South Wiltshire should achieve its own Local Development Framework, while the other existing Districts of Wiltshire will from the onset of the new Wiltshire Council have one combined Local Development Framework scheme and several years down the road one document (Local Development Framework) will evolve for Wiltshire. Note Wiltshire Council will not be geographic Wiltshire as Swindon already has a separate Unitary Authority. Election of Unitary Councillors will take place about the 4th May, 2009 or simultaneously with The European Elections on the 7th June, 2009. There will be less than half of the existing number of combined Districts and County councillors.

George Jeans. District Councillor for Mere and Western

MERE WEATHER

During May, we had 124.5 mms (4.9 ins) of rain, 106.5 mms (4.19 ins) in the second half. On the 25th we had 40 mms (1.57ins), the highest I have ever recorded in Mere. We had the warmest weather in the first half and the rain I forecasted last month for June came in the second half of May. Last year we had 192 mms (7.56 ins).

June started with a similar pattern to May, with a week of warm days, not as hot as May, and no rain. Up to the 15th, we had only 30 mms (1.18 ins.) of rain, many sunny days with winds from the East or South East. *Peter Durkee*

90: AND THAT'S NOT IN THE SHADE

Peter Durkee's weather reports are mostly about numbers. Here is another one. I was privileged to attend his 90th birthday celebrations in mid June, the day before he handed me his latest weather report, which you have just read.

The weather is one of Peter's interests. Longer term Mere residents will remember that Peter was the Editor of "Mere Matters" from 1989, having taken over the Editorial chair from the then Vicar of St Michael's, the Rev'd Ben Elliot. At that time each issue was just eight pages! Peter was credited with turning it into the community magazine we know today, serving ALL of Mere's residents. When Peter handed the baton over to John Wilson nearly ten years later in February 1999, he continued to provide regular weather reports as he still does.

Peter did not, however, put his pen away and retire gracefully. He went on to write and publish three books. The first, "From the Harp to the Eagle" is a fascinating historical novel inspired by his ancestor William Durgy who was taken prisoner after the Battle of Drogheda in 1648, sent as a slave aged 15 to Barbados, and eventually settled in Protestant New England where, as a Catholic, his problems were far from over.

The second, "Bootsies to Boots", and the third, "Cotton to Chickens", are Autobiographies covering his early life up to and including his service in the armed forces in the second world war, and then his varied and interesting business careers after it. Rumour has it that a fourth book is on the stocks.

Congratulations Peter on reaching 90 years of age and best wishes for a continued active life. *Editor*

THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY MARILYN and SAM of THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE, MERE TELEPHONE: 860300

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone with a Wiltshire postcode or to anyone outside of Wiltshire registered at Mere Doctors Surgery.

The practice at present has two Dentists: Mr Stephen Sherrard Ms Jacqueline Barnes

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

The practice is sited in the school grounds, first building on your left when you go though the school gates.

HOME COMFORTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS OVERSEAS

Veronica Burden, the Town Mayor of Warminister, has written to "Mere Matters" to seek help from the people of Mere.

Veronica was elected as Mayor for the Town last year and Warminster, being a "Garrison Town", she quickly came involved with the military. At one particular function she met some service personnel who had returned from Afghanistan and Iraq. They spoke of their pride in supporting their country, but of the terrible sense of being forgotten whilst out on active service. She also heard the concerns of their parents. It was the stress, the boredom and the feeling that they were forgotten. Letters were treasured, but many did not receive mail. She

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE WILL BE EARLIER THAN USUAL. IT WILL BE: MONDAY, 14th AUGUST

The Walnut Tree Inn Advert – Full page

was so moved by what she heard that in her final address of thanks to all the serving personnel from across the Army, Navy and Air force she made a pledge to try and do something to support our heroes. She set up a small team of four last November, starting the week after the presentation.

Before Christmas, they had to find another venue as the initial host wanted the bedroom back for family coming home for Christmas. The group now pack 100 boxes one evening a week at Beckford, after the Warminster Mencap and Gateway Club leisure evening finishes. In each box they put: a pot noodle, boiled sweets, chewing gums, polo's, Haribo's sweets (requested as favourites), wet wipes, Vaseline, lip salve, toothpaste, tooth brush (much needed midway through their 6 months tour), anti- deodorant talc (as they wear their boots most of the time), a book, small packet of biscuits, moisturising cream, Gillette razor refills and a card of goodwill. 2 "cup a soups" and sachets of proper tea and coffee and sometimes sachets of hot chocolate are also put in.

Empty boxes are collected on a Friday from all the surrounding shoe shops; and they have also managed to place collecting points in two Mere shops: 'Mere Pharmacy' and the 'Nisa Supermarket', as well as at 'Bramley House' for staff and residents. Mere resident Anne Lander and her many friends collect for them as do the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners and Weavers. Drop off points are in "Pound Stretchers" and the Dewey House in Warminster. Any donations should be put in a carrier bag at one of the collecting points and the group of helpers then put them in the boxes and post them free. Nearly two thousand boxes have been shipped to date, but the need is ongoing.

Veronica was re-elected in May for a second year as Town Mayor and she would be pleased to provide more information by e-mail. Her e-mail address is: vburden@btinternet.com

Here are some of the responses the group has received from troops in the front line:

"Please pass on my thanks for the parcels full of morale. The contents were very much appreciated and it's really great to know that people are thinking of us. It means a lot. Thanks once again for all the support." -40 Commando

"Many thanks for the care package!! It was very gratefully received and just in time to stow it all in my bergen (rucksack) as today we are off on another operation. ... Many thanks again for the parcel."

From 2 scots Op Herrick, "My platton are attached from 2 Scots to "A" Coy and 5 Scots, The FoB does not have much in the way of amenities so the main morale booster for the lads on the frontline is mail. Let me tell you the boxes are much appreciated. We have a variety of badges down here and all get their share of your parcels as they arrive. Please keep up your good work, the lads morale is much higher after a box." Kenny

"It is always fantastic to get a mailbox, especially from people who do not even know us., nice to know we are appreciated - you certainly are. Here at FoB Ed; we all thank you for the boxes, it gives us such a boost. Being away from main camp, they love the books and essential goodies. Very hot now and the sand storms are overwhelming" **7 Para RHA**

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME Requests for Transport 🕿 01747 860096

There are now 43 Linkschemes in Wiltshire with more than 1500 volunteers. In 2007 there were 44,737 requests for help and drivers travelled 731,368 miles. Volunteers worked 119,213 hours to complete these jobs. Calculated at the national minimum wage, this represents a value of $\pounds 658,656.00$.

The Schemes vary considerably in the number of requests received, the busiest being those in towns such as Chippenham and Trowbridge. The Mere & District Linkscheme receives an average number of requests, but the mileage our drivers travel is above average as so many of our journeys are to the Salisbury & District Hospital, a return trip of more than 50 miles.

Molly Burden 🖀 01747 860007

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL 2008

The deadline for entering a story in the festival's competition is looming. Entries close on 7th July. Local entrants get two chances for their one entry fee (Open and Local Sections) so don't miss the opportunity to win a cash prize. There are also two sections for children with cash prizes. Entry forms available from the Library or on our website: www.merelitfest.co.uk

The programme for this year's festival will be launched on **Saturday 12th July** at our bookstall in The Square. We have endeavoured to bring you a varied and interesting programme featuring well known authors, theatre and workshops. There is also a 'diary day' when we hope you will help write a historic record of one day in the life of residents in Mere and District in 2008. Pick up one of the green 'first flyers' and mark up your diary for festival week **13th – 19th October**.

Adrienne Howell & the Lit. Fest. Group 🖀 01747 860475

R.S.P.C.A.

Combined Sale with Cats Protection

Apologies to our supporters. The sale to be held on 12th July has had to be cancelled. We are planning another one, which will be our Christmas Sale to be held on 1st November in the Lecture Hall

Pete & Sue Howell 🖀 01747 860623

MERE CARNIVAL

A Race Night was held in May at The Walnut Tree Inn and was another success. We would like to thank everyone who came and supported this and particularly our thanks to all the staff at The Walnut Tree Inn for making sure everyone had a good time.

The Mere Carnival Week will soon be upon us and details of all the events will be included in the free programme that will be delivered to houses in Mere. A new event this year is a quiz night on Tuesday, 9th September to be held in The Lecture Hall with the doors opening at 7.00pm and the questions starting at 7:30pm.

The Carnival is a great time for the younger people in Mere and the surrounding area to get involved and have a bit of fun. So, don't forget that the afternoon precession on 13th September is a chance to dress up and join the precession through the town. Entry forms will be available towards the end of August from the Post Office.

Trevor Lucas - Mere Carnival Secretary 🕿 01747 860859

St Michael, The Archangel MERE

A big thank - you to all who helped and supported our Summer Fête on 7th June. The day was gloriously sunny and it was heartening to see so many people enjoying themselves whilst at the same time spending their money!

-77-

A special thank-you goes to Gilo who flew in to open the Fête, on cue, to the accompaniment of the 'Mere Brass Ensemble'. J Over £4000 has been raised towards the

Over £4000 has been raised towards the upkeep of our beautiful parish church.

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Judy Avory, Jean Knapp, Angela McDonald, Dick Dearnaly Fête Committee

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See you next year!

THOUGHTS ON A VILLAGE FETE

Oh to be in Mere, now that Fete Day's here, And, whoever wakes in Mere sees that morning fine and clear. That the banner flies and the bunting gleams Round the Church and paths and towards the streams, And tables groan 'neath their heavy loads while along the streets and along the roads Come many a crowd to sample the fare And to watch the spectacle from the air As Gilo lands with perfect precision And we, the committee applaud our decision To invite him here to join our fun. A happy day with music to cheer This Fete Day – in Mere.

With apologies to Robert Browning

Jean Knapp

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH FETE REFRESHMENTS Thank Yous

My thanks to:-

- The ladies who made cakes and scones for the church fete refreshments, and the gentleman who helped arrange the tables and chairs.
- The two ladies who helped with the preperation in the morning.
- The ladies and one gentleman who all worked so hard serving, washing up and then cleaning up.
- The Guides and their Guider, Mrs Lucas, for their hard work and to Rebecca who once again acted as cashier.
- The Nisa Supermarket Manageress who kindly donated the clotted cream for the cream teas and the plastic beakers for the soft drinks.

In conclusion I am pleased to say that we had a successful afternoon helped by a generous donation from Mrs B. Kimber.

Judy Bickerstaff 🖀 01747 860335

MERE GARDENING CLUB

ANNUAL SHOW

Saturday 19th July 2008

2.30pm MERE LECTURE HALL

Admission 25p, children under 10 yrs free

Once again, members have been preparing their exhibits for the annual show and there are classes for Mere School. Exhibits include fruit, vegetables and flowers, as well as floral art, household produce, photographs and handicrafts. Everyone is invited to come and see the results; we have many talented members and children, and the event is great fun.

Members are reminded that there is an **Open Gardens visit** on **9th July**. For details, please ring Janet Way **2** 01747 860884.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 13th August**, at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, when **Ruth Binney**, will give a talk: **Wise Words of Gardening.** Ruth has written several books on gardening but is probably best known for 'Wise Words and Country Ways' which is full of gardening know-how. She will bring copies her books for sale. Visitors are welcome to this meeting.

Caroline Cook 🖀 01747 861797

MERE FILM SHOWS

Looking back on this year's season of films I have to admit it seems to have been one of mixed fortunes. We started the year with the threat of prosecution from the Licensing Office looming over us and it seemed at times that despite our best efforts we always seemed to be on the wrong side of them! However, despite all that and the change of venues – planned and unplanned! - we seem to have come through it all unscathed and settled happily back in our lovely new Lecture Hall! Thank you to everyone for your patience with all the ups and downs.

There are no films in July and August, but we start the new season on Friday 12th September with a film for Carnival Week, which I hope will be 'Son of Rambow' (12A) and no, it isn't Sylvester Stallone doing his stuff – far from it - but a story set in a long English summer in the early 80s – a comedy about friendship, faith and the weird business of growing up. This showing has yet to be confirmed but full details will be in the next edition of Mere Matters (September) and posters with details should be around town before then. Tickets should be on sale at the T.I.C. from around mid-August.

Have a lovely summer!

Mary White 🕿 01747 861257



MERE MUSEUM

Finally and at long last, the new exhibition is about to open! It's title is 'An Intriguing Collection of Rooms': Mere Schools 1600 – 2008. It is yet another blockbuster

and provides lots of surprises! We hope that visitors to the exhibition will feel encouraged to add their own reminiscences to those already gathered (reams of paper will be provided!), and that they will also be able to help us with names for some of the people featured in the photographs. The exhibition opens to the general public on **Tuesday July 1st** and will run through the summer. <u>Don't miss it</u>!

Jenny Wilding 🖀 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' preview of the exciting new exhibition (see above) will take place on **Monday June 30th at 6.30 p.m.** This is always a wellattended and <u>extremely</u> convivial occasion and we hope you will come along. It is the perfect time to join the Friends if you haven't yet done so; do please come and introduce yourself. You will be warmly welcomed. Jenny Wilding \cong 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT FOUR: Thursday 4th September 2008

Palmers Brewery

Brewing is deeply embedded in our history and the Old Brewery in Bridport has been in operation since 1794. This makes Palmers one of the few United Kingdom producers able to claim continuous production for over 200 years on the original site; indeed, part of the Brewery Building is still thatched. The archway on the front of the building was built for use by the horse-drawn brewery drays which, right up to the end of the second World War, were a familiar sight delivering Palmers Ales.

Founded by the Gundry family, who were local rope and net makers, the business was subsequently acquired in the late 19th Century by the Palmer brothers, John Cleeves and Robert Henry. Since then, it has been growing steadily whilst being handed down from generation to generation. Today, two more Palmer brothers, John and Cleeves, are running the business. We will be taken on a two hour tour finishing with a generous tasting. Then we will go on to West Bay where there is a range of places offering lunch and sites to sit and eat a picnic.

Adjacent to the brewery, Palmers Wine Store is a first class wine merchant with an excellent selection.

Several staircases, all even and with rails, some slippery surfaces and trip hazards.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and return to Mere by 5.00pm approx.

Cost: MHS Members £19.00, non MHS members £21.00, each - including tour.

Please 🖀 Caroline (01747 861797) for more details.

Non-members welcome

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

VISIT THREE: Tuesday 8th July 2008 Somerset Churches Still some places available. Please 🖀 Caroline to check.

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

The news is out. MADS' Autum Production is to be 'Ladies of Spirit' by Georgina Reid. It's a comedy (which is what MADS does best), set in the '50s, and that's all we're prepared to say at present. If you are already keen to discover whether the 'spirit' bit is gin or ghosts, make a note of the production dates now, even though they are so far distant: Thursday to Saturday, **20th**, **21st and 22nd November**.

The production will be presented in memory of Simon Farnfield, our late, brilliant technician, and the funds raised by the production will be for the benefit of Joshua, Simon and Claire's son. As always we would like to encourage new members to join the production/backstage team, and the perfect opportunity to make yourself known is at our next regular meeting, which is on **Monday 14th July at 8.00pm**. in the Lecture Hall (Drama Room).

Jenny Wilding 🕿 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for June, drawn after "Morning Praise" on 1st June 2008 by Mr R Dearnaly, was:

1st Prize (£30)	-	No. 76	Generously Returned
2nd Prize (£20)	-	No. 185	Mrs S Bell
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 83	Miss M Burden
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 159	Mr D Mathias
		Valei	rie Ransley 🖀 01747 860964

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting is in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm on Thursday, 3rd July. Mrs. D. Ladwa will be speaking on "Saris and Fashion" and we look forward to "Having a Go" at arranging a sari ourselves. The results may not be elegant but will doubtless be entertaining for both participants and onlookers.

On Thursday, 7th August, there will be a Garden Meeting, venue to be confirmed.

Molly Burden 🖀 01747 860007

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th July at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speakers will be Shirley Roberts and her sister, Janet, who will give a talk: "The Poet Edward Thomas and Friends Remembered".

There will be no meeting in August. Thank you to all who contributed to the cake stall at the Church Fete in June.

Thelma Ings 🖀 01747 860262

Bull Pits Golf Club Advert - 1/2 page

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Although summer has hardly begun, it is already time to remind you that THE big event of the Autumn is, of course, **The Friends of Fives Court's Autumn Fair**. The date to remember is **Saturday 30th August** at Fives Court, opening at **2.00pm**.

This year we are raising money to buy a state-of-the-art water feature for the Fives Court Gardens. There are all kinds of ways in which you can help us and we shall be appealing for your support in due course (watch out for posters). But for now, please put the date in your dairies and keep it free whatever you do!

Jenny Wilding 🖀 01747 860908

GET READY FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS WITH SLIMMING WORLD

Do you want to feel more comfortable on the beach this summer? And get into clothes you haven't been able to for a long time?

You can lose up to a stone in your first month if you do our food optimising 100%, and you wont feel hungry!! Come along and join our happy group in the Lecture Hall in Mere on Mondays at 7.00 pm.

For any more information Taroline on 01747 840013

MERE SWIMMING POOL

Well, we have now replaced the oil that was stolen earlier on in the season, and are talking to kids using the all weather court about balls coming over the fence. Slowly but surely we will get there. Our opening times for the moment are:

Monday, Thursday and Friday: 3.30 - 6.00pm Saturday and Sunday: 2.00 - 6.00pm

There is an adult swim everyday from 12.00 - 2.00 pm. (please 201747 860644)

We are slightly governed by the weather, so opening times and days may vary.

Family membership is $\pounds 5.00$, single $\pounds 3.00$ and $\pounds 1.00$ per entry. Membership cards are being issued, and if you don't bring yours along, you will be charged $\pounds 2.00$.

We look forward to seeing you all soon. Any problems 🖀 Sally Howell 01747 860644 or 01747 861613.

CRICKET CLUB

Donald Bradman has been quoted as saying: "I was never coached; I was never told how to hold a bat". However, in Mere, no-one has to suffer Bradman's lack of coaching - not that it did him much harm! The under 11's coaching on a Tuesday evening is now in full swing, and new attendees are always welcome, from 6.00 to 7.30pm on the old school field. Likewise, the over 11's have now been running for some weeks and are visibly improving week by week. Their coaching session is on Fridays from 6.00 to 8.00pm.

The adult team have now played a few matches, won 2, lost 3. After losing the first league game to Thornford, we stepped up to the mark in a memorable match against Buckhorn Weston. Mere, having posted 152-7 (thanks chiefly to Tim Cowley's 73) allowed Buckhorn to get off to a very good start in their innings (I blame the tea personally - always hard fielding second after a good tea!). Buckhorn needed 61 to win from the last 17 overs with 9 wickets in hand, which after some tight bowling became seven to win from the last 12 balls, still with 4 wickets in hand. Two wides at the start of these 12 balls meant it was 5 to win, but then Bryan Yeo took 3 wickets, leaving 5 to win from the last over and one wicket left. A run out accounted for the last man as Buckhorn desperate for runs took one chance too many, and Mere won by 2 runs.

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions. Telephone: 01747 840347

A six wicket defeat to Sixpenny Handley was followed by an eight run win against The Pyts at Fonthill: Matt Pitts made 44, and Tom Young, Matt Wakeling and Kev Tealey all starred with the ball in that game. We were resoundingly beaten by Hazelbury Bryan in the latest game, which was what had put me in mind of the Bradman quote, since none of us (Mark Cassidy excepted) looked like we'd ever been told how to hold a bat. Adult training evening is Thursdays (7.00pm at the school ground). How to hold a bat will be covered!

The next home match is 17th July, next home Sunday game is 20th July (against Motcombe). All visitors welcome.

Kevin Whitmore **2** 01747 860639

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Club continues to do well. In their Away Westbrook League Matches it beat Salisbury Devonshire Park, but lost to Westbury & Tisbury. In its Friendly Away Matches it lost to Westbury & Gillingham, but beat Cranborne & Queen Camel at Home. In the Men's Salisbury League, it beat Pewsey Vale at Home but lost to Amesbury Away.

New Players & Beginners are always welcome. Just come along on one of our Roll-Ups - all that is needed is a flat pair of shoes. Roll-Ups are on Tuesday & Thursday Evenings at 6.00pm & Saturday afternoons at 3.00pm.

If you would like to find out more about the Club, please ring me for more information.

Teresa Read (Hon. Sec.) 🖀 01747 860289

MERE CROQUET & BOULES CLUB

The club has now entered its second month of operation, the enthusiasm of members has been most gratifying, from being total croquet novices to signs of potential champions has been impressive to watch.

We have been most fortunate in having Richard Norris sign up as a member, he is a dedicated and knowledgeable croquet man and has, to

Maclachlan Advert - 1/4 page

Madelaine Morris Advert - 1/4 page

Two Counties Driving Range- 1/4 page

everyone's delight, agreed to become club Captain; his help and support has proved invaluable.

The creation of the Boule court has proved to be a rather more formidable task than originally envisaged. We have had to accept that this facility will have to be worked upon during the winter season to ensure it is ready for use in spring next year. We apologise to members who are keen to pursue this activity.

It is hoped that we will be able to have a much needed pavilion in place within the next few weeks and this will, without question, vastly improve the site. The green itself is, week by week, steadily improving. Regular TLC is paying dividends, entirely due to the dedication and hard labour of a small band of members.

Whilst we now have a very healthy membership list there is still room for a few more, why not look in on Saturday afternoon, give it a try, and see for yourself how enjoyable a pastime has been added to the leisure possibilities that Mere has to offer. We promise you a warm welcome. Rex Roberts \cong 01747 860873

MERE SCHOOL

June 2008

We would like to invite you to our year 6 leaver's performance of 'Snow White'. It will be on Tuesday 15th July at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. We hope you can make it and enjoy yourselves.

On 23rd May year 6 went to Plas Pencelli in Wales. For 5 days they did outdoor activities such as canoeing, rock climbing, caving, gorge walking and adventure walking. Also, Mr Rich, Mrs Taylor and Jess Wakeling accompanied them for the week. The girls slept in the Beacon Suite and the boys slept in The Lodge.

On 6th June some children from year 6 started their first of 7 lessons on cycling safety. Mrs Brocklehurst, Mrs Green and another lady taught the children how to ride on the road safely. Each of the children brought their bikes to school and wore their helmets.

Sports week was run and really well organised by Mr Marshall. A lady came in to teach us dance. We did a cross between dance and gym. This was linked to our Aztec topic - it was great fun and we loved it. We did all the stretches and balances. At the end we were out of breath.

On sports day we did running, jumping, throwing a football and we all did 2 races. During the break, we had an orange flavour lolly - it was a very good sports day. We also had a go at yoga at the beginning of the week.

On Friday 6th June some children from years 5 and 6 went to a Kwik Cricket tournament at Salisbury Cricket Club. The end result was that Mere School came 4th out of 16 schools. Well done Mere School!

Mere School was visited by the Life bus and we all had a chance to go in it. A girl from green class said: "We talked about drugs and cigarettes and how dangerous they are and can give you cancer". Another boy said: "We learned about the human body and how all the organs work." They also watched a video of aliens talking about drugs to make it more fun. They loved it.

Blue class went on a trip to Stourhead. First of all they did a mini beast hunt and found all sorts of insects and bugs like mini black spiders, woodlice, red beetles and even a big fat slug! They then caught a massive ugly toad - uughh!, and a centipede with 100 legs. After that they went pond dipping. After lunch they went through a creepy, spooky, scary park tunnel. They all enjoyed their fantastic trip and went home happy.

Last Thursday morning all the people who help at our school were invited to a coffee morning to say thank you. Mr Clarke from Gillingham School came to talk to purple class about us moving on. He told us about homework, uniform and detention. He brought a box with him, which had our pen pal letters in. He showed us our homework diaries. Induction day will be held on Wednesday 2nd July.

During May some year 2 and 3 children went to Gillingham School to a multi-skills festival. They did lots of different activities. They enjoyed the throwing and running the most. Some of the Gillingham School Young Leaders taught them. Mr Rich took them along and they played on the astroturf. They really enjoyed the afternoon.

Charlotte Emby, Charlie Guy-Knapp, Toni Hooper, Jake Sanger, Ben Cooper, Seth Guy-Knapp, Charlotte Summerfield, Cearan Rose, Chris Martin, Michael Catley, Arabella Murrison, Reece Watts, Lauren Hillier and Nicole Gent

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL WINDFALL CLUB

The Windfall club was set up in 2007, as a fund raiser to support Mere School, and is run by the Friends of Mere School Committee.

Annual subscription of the Windfall club is just £12.00, with each subscription given their own number There will be ten draws per year, eight draws with prizes (provided all numbers are sold) of £20.00, £10.00 and £5.00 and two super-draws with prizes of £50.00, £25.00 and £10.00. You can take out as many subscriptions as you like. You can even choose a lucky number between 1 - 100 (if available), on a first come, first served basis.

The Winners will be contacted as soon as the draw has been made. Winning numbers will also be posted in the Office window at School, and announced in the following months' Mere Matters. The draws will take place during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, May, and June. Two super-draws will take place in July and December.

The numbers will be sold on a first come, first served basis, and a waiting list will be in operation (you will be notified if you are placed on the waiting list, and all monies will be returned whilst on the waiting list). The final date for submission of membership forms is Tuesday 30th September, 2008 - The first draw will take place in October, so don't delay - join up today.

Further information and membership forms, including a list of the rules are available from Friends Committee Members: - Mrs Gill Fricker: 201747 860515 (School hours), and Treena Bird: 201747 828789 (out of school hours). You can also email: admin@mere.wilts.sch.co.uk

MERE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Here comes Summer!!

We are well into planning another busy summer at the youth development centre and any young person aged 13 or over who is willing to give up their spare time, carry out some work and probably get

dirty will earn credits that they can then use to go on various fun reward trips or residential opportunities.

There will also be a number of other opportunities over the summer such as a sports leadership award, a junior football organisers' course and first aid and food hygiene certificates as well of course the opportunity to meet new people, try new activities and have fun.

The centre will be open as usual throughout the summer holidays and there will be daytime sessions for leisure credits on top.

We have a dance leadership course starting on Thursday nights from 26th June from 7:30 - 10.00 pm.

For details of any of these projects or to find out more about the Youth Development Centre please contact Jaki Farrell 🕿 07990 801077 or come along to the centre and see for yourself.



43rd (WESSEX) DIVISION MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial service and Parade will take place on Sunday 13th July 2007. The Parade will step off from the Salisbury Street car park at 2.30pm.

The service is in memory of the men of 43rd (Wessex) Division who gave their lives in Europe 1944/45. Anyone wishing to join the parade will be most welcome.

Tony Coombes, Secretary Devonshire & Dorset Regiment Assn., Gillingham Branch

E	BAMBI	
a	nd the	
TRAI	LBLAZERS	
Cour	ntry Dance	
For the Barn	Buddies Youth Club	
BBQ	RAFFLE	
Bar d	at Club Prices	
At Barrow Stree	t Farm, Mere. BA12 6AB	
On July 12th F	From 8pm until 11.00pm	
Prizes for be	st dressed cowboy/girl	
Tickets from	Bambi 01747 871443 Rich 01747 830582 Tim 01747 860195	
£5 per Ticket Under 16 £2.50		

Peter/Robert Longbourne Advert - 1/4 page

D I Woodworx Advert - 1/4 page



WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Walk & BBQ Langford Lakes Thursday July 3rd. Walk 6.30pm, BBQ 8.00pm. Join us for the walk, spot the latest flora & fauna and then enjoy a relaxing BBQ. (Bring your own food and drink, heat provided).

To book a place 🖀 Mary James 01747 870 446.

Trad Jazz on a Summer Evening! Friday July 11th 7.30pm – 11.30pm The Commandery Ansty. (If dry in the grounds). Bring a picnic and enjoy **listening and dancing to the** Stour City Stompers.

Tickets £15 (in advance) from Mary James 2 01747 870 446.

REV'D MARK WOOD, SOON TO BE THE FORMER CURATE OF ST MICHAEL'S, WRITES:

"Life begins at 40!" – so the saying goes.

And so it seemed strangely appropriate to receive a letter on my 40th birthday, in May, officially inviting me to become the next Priest-incharge of Wilton, near Salisbury.

From then onwards, life has certainly "begun" to move in new directions!

In August, the Wood family will be moving to the Rectory in Wilton and then, by all accounts, I will be kept fairly busy! As well as the parish church (the so-called "Italianate church"), I will look after the congregations of the historic (gas-lit!) church at Fugglestone, the village church at Netherhampton as well as being Chaplain to the residents at St. John's Priory. There are compensations, of course: the parish church has one of the finest pipe organs in the county. And when I discovered that, to help with the rambling Rectory garden, the job also comes with a ride-on lawn mower – I knew it was just meant to be!

I won't actually start work until mid-September (to leave time to get used to the mower?!)

Bishop Stephen will conduct my "licensing" service at Wilton Parish Church on Wednesday 17th September, at 7.30pm, and it would be lovely to see any of you who are able to be there. There may well be some shared transport available, so please check with the churchwardens of St Michaels nearer the time if you are interested.

Of course, after almost eleven years, it will be a tremendous "wrench" moving away from Maiden Bradley, and from our friends in the churches at Mere and West Knoyle. Both Stella and I have been very fortunate in the love and support we've experienced here in the early days of our ministries and for that we'll always be grateful.

We won't, in fact, be cutting our ties completely – in that we are intending to keep our house in Maiden Bradley and to let it for a while. So, at some point in the future - "we'll be back"!

In the meantime, Wilton is not really that far away – so if you find yourself passing by on the way to Salisbury – do call in and say hello!

CARLO CURLEY COMES TO MERE!

On Saturday 12th July, at St Michael's Parish Church in Mere, **Carlo Curley**, probably the world's foremost international concert organist, will give one of his spectacular and inimitable recitals.

Carlo's famous recitals are usually reserved for the largest concert halls and cathedrals, so we are extremely fortunate to have him visiting Mere again. He will be playing the church's large 3-manual Makin Organ, and the programme will feature many of the items which have made Carlo's reputation as the 'Pavarotti of the Organ'.

Tickets are on sale at £12.00 from Mere Information Point (01747 861211). Carlo's last concert was a sell out, so it is unlikely that tickets will be available on the door. So, BUY YOURS NOW!!

Peter Mason 🖀 01747 861296

WEST KNOYLE CHURCH

SHREEN HARMONY IN CONCERT

Thursday 17th July 7.30 pm

Tickets £5.00 - Children free

Refreshments available

For more information 01747 830422

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

July 2008

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel (Tel. Mere 863313)

Each Sunday Each Wednesday Each Friday 8.00amHoly Communion (BCP)10.30amHoly Communion (BCP)8.00amHoly Communion (CW1)5.30pmEvening Prayer

Sunday Club is held in the Grove Buildings at 10.30am Services

Wednesday	2nd	7.30pm	"Start the Month"
-		-	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Baptism Service
		NB No	Sunday Club
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns
	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
			In Celebration of Marriage

The United Reformed Church Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, Tel: 01747 860685)

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
-	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	20th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	27th	11.00am	Holy Communion Margaret Bodey
	2701	11.00um	margaret bodey

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777 Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev'd David Bridge Holy Communion (Farewell Service)
	13th	6.00pm	Mr Mark Priestley
	20th	6.00pm	United service at Gillingham
	27th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Elcock

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Tel: 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe Mere Contacts: Teresa Read: 01747 860289 & Winn Richardson, 861004)

Every Friday		10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday		11.30am	Mass
Friday	11th	7.00pm	Ordination of Deacon Malcolm FERRIER by Bishop Declan at St. George's, Warminster. All are invited.

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month.

On the 1st Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin (Tel 01747 830534)

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	13th	9.25am	Matins (BCP)
Sunday	20th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	27th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662 CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

AUGUST

The Parish Church, St Michael The Archangel (Tel. 01747 863313)

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer

Sunday Club is held in the Grove Buildings at 10.30am Services

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Morning Praise
-	(NE	3: No Sunday	School)
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	6th	7.30pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	31st	10.30am	Benefice Service
			Choral Matins (BCP)

The United Reformed Church Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: Tel 01747 860685)

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	10th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

Sunday	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
-	24th	11.00am	Kate Shotter
	31st	11.00am	Margaret Body

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777 Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday	3rd	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey
	10th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	6.00pm	Mr R Rickards
	24th	6.00pm	Rev'd Joyce Norman
	31st	6.00pm	Mr Alan Beale

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Tel: 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe Mere Contacts: Teresa Read, 860289 & Winn Richardson, 861004)

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month.

On the 1st Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin (Tel 01747 830534)

Sunday	3rd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	10th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
			Farewell Service for
			Rev'd Mark Wood
Sunday	17th	9.25am	DIY Service
Sunday	24th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	31st		NO SERVICE (Matins in Mere)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662 CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY 2008

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church School Room; YC-Youth Centre

1	Tue	9.00am	Museum open new exhibition	The Library
2	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (Every Wednesday)	L
3	Thur	10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (Every Thursday)	GB
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
5	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
7	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (Also 14th & 21st)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (Also 14th & 21st)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (Also 14th & 21st)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (Every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	L
8	Tue	11.00am	MHS Visit to Somerset Churches	CP
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
9	Wed	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.00pm	Whist	GB
10	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (Also 24th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (Also 24th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (Also 24th)	GB
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (Also 25th)	GB
12	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		9.00am	Literary Festival Bookstall	The Square
13	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (Also 20th & 27th)	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
		2.30pm	43rd Wessex Division Memorial Service	CP
		6.30pm	"The Bridge"	GB
14	Mon	8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Drama	Room) L
15	Tue	7.00pm	"Snow White"	The School
18	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Footpath Group – Moonlight Walk	CP
19	Sat	10.00am	Mere Gardening Club Show	L

19 Sat 10.30am Drop In Coffee Morning + Traid	raft stall CC
22 Tue 9.00am Foot Care Clinic	L
7.30pm PCC Meeting	GB
23 Wed 1.45pm Friends Together	GB
26 Sat 10.30am Drop in Coffee Morning + RGC	Bric a Brac CC

AUGUST 2008

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; YC-Youth Centre

1 2	Fri Sat	6.30pm 10.30am	Barn Buddies (Every Friday) Drop in Coffee Morning	BSF CC
4	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (Every Monday)	CC
6	Wed	2.00pm	Alabaré (also 20th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (Every Wednesday)	L
7	Thur	2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (Every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
8	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
9	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
10	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (and 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
12	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
13	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
16	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		2.00pm	Mere Walking Group	CP
23	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + RGC Bric a Bra	ac CC
		6.00pm	Salisbury Guild of Ringers	GB
26	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
30	Sat	10.30 am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
		2.00pm	Autumn Fair	Fives Court

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

KIDZ KAMP SUMMER 08

Come and join us, where fitness and fun are rolled into one! We've got a packed programme for Kidz aged 4-16 years this Summer Holiday, commencing Wednesday 23rd July until Friday 29th August, with a variety of activities, as well as a special "Olympics 2008 Week during Week 4". For further details, please contact Reception on 01747 871141, or e-mail us at: tisburysc@salisbury.gov.uk.

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING CLINICS/ADVICE CENTRES ARE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

CITIZENS' ADVICE:

Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm *Private Appointments telephone* 01722 327222

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS: *By appointment only* Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am For appointments telephone 01985 213435

COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Material for the September 2008 issue should be sent to **Graham Avory**, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 6DG (tel. 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by <u>MONDAY, 14th August.</u> E-mailed contributions most welcome, but please telephone the Editor for details. Would contributors please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to: Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage, Kilmington Common, Kllmington (tel. 01985 844740)

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