

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



MAY 2008

Turn Page>>

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. 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 the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at **7.30pm on Monday, 12th May 2008**.

The Chairman writes:

I am pleased to report that work has started on the artificial cricket wicket in Duchy Manor grounds. By the time this goes to print, work should be finished and it will be available for use. We have applied for funding for the grass wicket and are waiting to hear whether or not our applications have been successful.

Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

Floral Enhancements

The Parish Clerk would like to report that once again, the Parish 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 £35.00 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and we 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, Parish Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. ☎ 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs last year:
Jack, Chloe, Isabel, Connor & Bryony
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Leece
The Friday Gentlemen
The late Millie Sims
Melksham Cycle Centre
Mr. D. Martin & Miss A. Oliver
Margaret Fricker & Joseph James
Dr. & Mrs. D. Longbourne
Lady Ebbisham
Richard & Glenda Collard from West Sussex
Mr. F. Stratton
Rodney & Shirley Coward
Richard & Dawn Hughes

Also many thanks to The Hill Brush Company, Finan & Co. & Jeans Electricals for sponsoring the large floral displays in The Square.

MERE WEATHER

They say March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers. Well, we had the March winds all right, with gales and heavy rain too. The total rainfall for the month was 138.5 mms (5.46ins). On the 15th, we had 36 mms, the highest reading for one day I can trace here. We had hail on the 9th, and a slight fall of snow on the 24th. Last year, we had 65.5 mms rain (2.53 ins). So far, in April we have had 27 mms rain (1.02 ins.) with snow on the 5th and 6th and a heavy fall of hail on the 7th.

Generally, we have had plenty of sunshine, but still that cold wind. The daffodils are still looking good and the tulips and cherry blossom are starting.

Peter Durkee

“THANK YOU” FROM THE SLIGHT FAMILY

“On behalf of myself and my family I should like to extend our very grateful thanks to all the people of Mere who offered their condolences and support on the occasion of the recent death of my dear Husband. It helped tremendously and we do thank you all most sincerely.”

Joan, Paul and Anna Slight

MERE SURGERY

General Practice Access

There has been much in the press recently which has been confusing regards being able to get an appointment with your GP when you wish to. At Mere Surgery, we hope to accommodate both people wishing for an appointment at short notice and those wishing to plan ahead. We therefore run two different appointment systems.

Firstly, we encourage people to plan and book routine appointments ahead so maintaining continuity of care between doctor and patient. This can be done up to 6 months in advance either by phoning the reception desk or booking online at: www.patient.co.uk If you have not previously used the online booking service please ask at reception for a password.

We appreciate that at times you will need to be seen on the day, often in the case of emergency or frequently because your busy diaries allow a visit only at certain times. Secondly, if you wish for a same day appointment, unfortunately we cannot often offer your specified doctor but the duty doctor for that day. If you phone reception between 8.30-9.30am for a morning appointment or 2.00-3.00pm for an afternoon appointment the duty doctor will phone you back to arrange a time to be seen. We operate a phoning back system as many questions and problems are satisfied by telephone advice saving you time.

We appreciate your encouragement and comments in last year's 'patient satisfaction survey'. By employing an extra doctor, restarting Thursday afternoon surgeries and starting a Monday evening surgery we found that access to our surgery had improved in 2007. We have plans for 2008 to extend the Monday evening surgery and begin a limited Saturday morning surgery for school-children and workers who find it difficult to see us during the working week.

We hope that patients of the surgery find our flexible appointment system user friendly, but if you have any suggestions or comments about using the service, or possible improvements, please do not hesitate to let us know!

Drs Price, McBride, Halsey and Andrews

A Note for Hayfever Sufferers

Many people, who think they have a summer cold, do in fact have Hayfever. It is characterised by symptoms:-

Nasal block
Nasal discharge
Itchy eyes
Dry throat
Cough and or wheeze
Sometimes a fever

Patients may experience only some of these symptoms.

It surprises many people that each day 2 pints of fluid wash out of their sinuses and pass into the throat from the back of the nose.

The internal diameter of the top of the nose is narrow. A small amount of swelling of the lining in the nose caused by allergic reaction causes the secretions to become blocked. This results in the all too familiar pain around the eyes and at the top of the nose. Secretions that don't drain are prone to become infected.

What Can YOU Do?

Prevention is best started BEFORE the pollen count starts to rise.

1. LORATIDINE and CETIRIZINE are non-sedative antihistamine tablets.
2. BECONASE is a topical nasal spray, which prevents the nasal lining becoming swollen, but does take a week to work.
3. OPTICROM EYE DROPS prevent itchy eyes.

All the above preparations can be bought from the chemist WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION. If you find the preparation helpful and cannot afford to buy them, please let us know and we can add them to your prescription slips without needing to see the Doctor.

If you are becoming wheezy or short of breath you should see the Doctor.
Angela Pitman, Practice Manager, Mere Surgery

Moonwalk

Mere Surgery receptionists Alison Graham and Diana Piercy will be taking part in the Playtex Moonwalk in London on 17th May. Along with thousands of other women, they will start out from Hyde Park at midnight to walk a marathon (26.2 miles) through the streets of London.

The idea is to wear a decorated bra to raise money and awareness for vital breast cancer causes. One woman in eight will experience some form of breast cancer in their lifetime.

This unique event is organised by Walk the Walk, a grant-making charity, which since 1996 has raised over £36 million for breast cancer causes through their power walking challenges.

Please help Alison and Diana raise as much money as possible to help other women. Donations can be taken to Mere Surgery or given online at: www.justgiving.com/dianapiercy

RSPCA - CHANGE OF DATE

Will supporters please note that the date of the Combined Sale with Cats Protection as printed in the March edition of "Mere Matters" has been changed. It will now be held on Saturday 12th July in the Lecture Hall. More details later. *Pete & Sue Howells ☎ 01747 860623*

MERE CARNIVAL

We are looking for a Carnival Princess and Attendant aged 7 – 13 who are resident in BA12 6 postcode area. There will be no application forms, but why not let us know why you would like to represent Mere in the Carnival Processions and other Carnival related events. Please write to our Carnival Secretary, Trevor Lucas, Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere, Wilts, BA12 6DA, or e-mail: tal@vpml.co.uk - The strict deadline will be 30th June 2008.

Trevor Lucas – Secretary
Sue Jeans - Committee Member ☎ 01747 860215

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Requests for transport ☎ 01747 860096

We would like to thank the Mere Carnival Committee and Zeals Parish Council for their recent donations.

We understand that not all patients can be treated at the Mere Foot Clinic and we are willing to take patients to the Tisbury Foot Clinic if necessary. We can also collect and deliver prescriptions from Mere Pharmacy or Mere Surgery.

Whilst we always welcome new drivers, at the moment we are looking for able-bodied volunteers to accompany a Connect2 driver and escort elderly folk from their homes to "Friends Together" (a games afternoon, held on the fourth Wednesday of every month) where they can play Whist, Lotto, Scrabble etc. No driving skills are required and volunteers would work on a rotational basis. For further details please contact either:

Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596 or

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

MERE DAY CENTRE

(Dedicated to Rosemary Goddard)

Plans to celebrate our 20th anniversary are now underway. Retired Trustees are writing a history of the first 20 years, and the Museum has kindly agreed to let us have a display board in the next exhibition for the highlights. We will be celebrating with a party in Lynch Close on Saturday 12th July. This event will take a lot of work and we want it to be a big success. We are delighted that Barbara Hewitt has offered to organise the event for us, and would welcome help from anyone happy to contribute to the event.

A volunteer is required to help on the mornings (10.00am to 12.30pm) of the 3rd Friday of each month.

Drivers will be required to collect the lunch from Fives Court at midday each Monday and deliver to the Day Centre, starting in June. If you can help, please telephone me.

Lynette Elliot ☎ 01747 861646

St Michael the Archangel, Mere

Summer Fete

Saturday 7th June 2.30pm

**Don't miss the exciting start of the Fete when
Gilo Cardozo, of Everest fame, will, weather permitting,
fly in on his Parajet to open the event.**

Look out for this year's Quiz sheets that will shortly be on sale

**Please contact the following stallholders, if you wish to donate cakes,
biscuits, plants, bric-a-brac, bottles etc. We would be grateful for
any contributions. Or, bring them along on the morning of the Fete.**

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bric-a-brac | Julia Stapleton | 860805 |
| Books | Jenny & Roger Wilding | 860908 |
| Cakes | Myrene Coward | 860445 |
| Preserves | Pat Isom | 861776 |
| Plants | Jean & Colin Kantharia | 861168 |
| Flowers | Gillian Howard | 861808 |
| Sweets/Biscuits | Angela McDonald | 861602 |
| Toys | Jan Davies | 01985 844241 |
| CDs | Maggie Durkee | 860163 |
| Bottle Tombola | Elizabeth Howden | 863424 |
| Raffle | Richard Dearnaly | 861402 |

We are also looking for a qualified first-aider to help on the day.

**If you would like to help in any way please contact one of the
organisers:**

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Jean Knapp | 860142 |
| Angela McDonald | 861602 |
| Judy Ivory | 860439 |

SUMMER FETE REFRESHMENTS

Once again, refreshments will be available at the Summer Fete. However, to do this we need cakes.

Would anyone willing to make cakes for the refreshments please contact me. Also help with serving and washing up will be needed in the afternoon.

Please contact me if you can spare time to help.

Thank you.

Judy Bickerstaff ☎ 01747 860335

CANCER RESEARCH UK

We are holding the May Fayre in the Lecture Hall on 17th May from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

Plants behind the Ship Hotel.

Gwyneth Robinson ☎ 01747 841330

MERE GARDENING CLUB

History of Margery Fish and her Planting with Mark Stainer

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings.

In her garden at East Lambrook Manor, Margery Fish created and developed a style of gardening, which, with labour scarce because of the Second World War, was a grand cottage garden on a domestic scale. In the process, she managed to change gardening from a pastime of the wealthy to a passion for the whole population.

Margery's informal style of planting was unique, and her work as an outstanding plantswoman, writer and journalist has made her one of the most important influences on gardening in the 20th century. Today's mixed borders are a direct descendant of the style Margery Fish created at East Lambrook Manor.

Mark Stainer started working at East Lambrook in 1975 and became head gardener in 1999. His talk will take us on a tour of the garden using Margery Fish's original slides from the 1950s and '60s, followed by an update on the restoration. He will be bringing plants and books for sale. **All visitors are welcome.**

Don't forget our plant stall in the Square on Saturday 10th May from 9.30am.

Caroline Cook ☎ 01474 861797

MERE MUSEUM

We have decided to extend the current exhibition about Trades in Mere for a further four weeks! There is lots to see, and now there is more time to see it! The next exhibition about Mere Schools will be installed at the end of May.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' Really Big Fundraiser, the annual **PLANT SALE**, will take place in the Grove Buildings on Saturday May 3rd. Doors open at 10.00am. Please see poster on page 14 for full details. Don't miss this splendid event – the early birds get more than just worms!

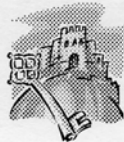
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film this month on Thursday 22nd May is *The Kite Runner* (12A), from the acclaimed novel by Khaled Hosseini. It is an emotional tale of friendship, family, devastating mistakes and redeeming love. After 20 years of living in America, Amir returns to a perilous Afghanistan to face the secrets that still haunt him and take one last daring chance to put things right. More details on page 23.

For your diaries the date of the next film is Friday 20th June, and we end the season with the 'sensitive, smart, sophisticated and very, very funny' romantic comedy '*Definitely Maybe*' (12A).

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT TWO: Tuesday 10th June 2008

Berkeley Castle

Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, is said to be one of the most remarkable buildings in Britain and possibly the most outstanding example of Mediaeval domestic architecture in the country. It is one of the March castles built to withstand the Welsh in the twelfth century and has a turbulent past. The Berkeley family, its lifelong owners beginning with Robert Fitzharding who completed the Keep in 1153, have witnessed countless historical events from the first American Thanksgiving back to the murder of King Edward II by red hot poker. Visitors are met with vivid stories of the past as they skirt round the dungeon, navigate the trip steps and admire Queen Elizabeth 1's bedspread.

After our tour, you will be free to wander around the garden, the village and its Norman church. You could visit the Jenner Museum, in the Chantry, which concerns the world of Edward Jenner founder of immunology. Apart from a picnic in beautiful picnic grounds outside the castle, there are plenty of possibilities for lunch including the castle's own restaurant or the village café for a quick lunch.

You may prefer to treat yourself to a leisurely lunch at the Berkeley Arms Hotel which has a three-course menu, but which also provides light lunches.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.15am and return to Mere by 5.30pm approx.

Cost: MHS Members £19, non MHS members £21 per person
Stairs, all with handrails, some uneven stone

Please ring John Howard (01747 861808) if you would like more details.

Non Members Welcome

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

NB Sandford Orcas Manor on 14th May is nearly full. Please ring Ruth Van Sloten (01747 860783) to check availability

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

PLANT SALE

*

AT THE GROVE BUILDINGS

On

SATURDAY 3rd May

*

Don't miss this opportunity to give
your garden a summer 'make-over'.

COME ALONG AND CHOOSE FROM
A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF PLANTS.

There will also be a stall selling
DELICIOUS HOME-MADE CAKES

Plus Raffle

Doors open 10.00am



GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

October 2007

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for April, drawn after Parish Communion on Sunday 6th April 2008 in St Michael's Church by Mr Ben Merrill, was:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|---------|-------------------|
| 1st Prize | (£20) | - | No. 171 | Mrs Laura Ford |
| 2nd Prize | (£15) | - | No. 189 | Mr & Mrs D Stokes |
| 3rd Prize | (£10) | - | No. 195 | Mr & Mrs A Cook |
| 4th Prize | (£5) | - | No. 170 | Mrs J Avory |

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Please check that you have put **Monday 19th May** in your diaries; this is the day and date of MADS's **Annual General Meeting**. You'll find us in the newly refurbished Lecture Hall (the Small Hall). Come at 7 00pm for coffee and perhaps a biscuit; the meeting will begin at 7.30pm. If you have wondered what goes on at MADS (and we sometimes wonder ourselves), come and join us for the evening. Subs (due at the meeting) are only £5.00, and £1.00 for Junior members under 18. Everyone is welcome!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Salisbury District Council,
serving the western parishes of Salisbury

Extra "Spin" Classes

Commencing on Friday 2nd May at 6.00pm and Saturday 3rd May at 9.00am, extra **Spin Classes** are being added to our list of **Fitness Classes**. If you want to try this workout for the first time or take part in an additional session each week, just contact Reception to book your space, as we only have a limited number of bikes.

Plant Sale – Bourton Village Hall 10.30am
Saturday 10th May. Includes cakes, gardening
bric-a-brac and refreshments.

Gymnastics & Football Sessions

We currently have a few spaces in some of our **Gymnastics** and **Football** sessions, which run during School Term time. These coached activities work towards recognised achievement awards. Sessions currently having limited vacancies are:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| • Football | Tuesdays | 4.30pm for 4-11yrs |
| • Gymnastics | Thursdays | 3.30pm for 5-11yrs |
| • Gymnastics | Thursdays | 4.30pm for 5-11yrs |
| • Teeny Tots Gym | Fridays | 1.45pm for 3-5yrs |

For further details, to book a place, or information concerning other activities which take place at the Centre, please contact Reception:-
☎ 01747 871141, or e-mail us at: tisburytc@salisbury.gov.uk.

MERE CRICKET CLUB

The Cricket Club will hold a registration evening on 2nd May in the Andy Young Pavilion from 6.30pm for all juniors wishing to join the club and take part in the coaching sessions planned for this season. It will be essential for an adult to be present to sign the parental consent forms we are required to obtain. There will be tea/coffee/squash available and the clubs sponsors, The Walnut Tree, will supply nibbles to nibble on. Tim Cowley, Kevin Whitmore and other members of the club will be on hand until 7.30pm to answer any of your questions about our plans for this season and the future. Don't worry if you miss the evening, we can answer questions and complete the forms at another time, but we would prefer that it did not eat into time allocated for the coaching sessions.

For the Under 11's the sessions will be 6.00 to 7.30pm every Tuesday evening (weather permitting) starting on 27th May. For this season we will amalgamate the Under 15's and Under 13's on the same evening and these sessions will be from 6.00 to 8.00pm every Friday evening (weather permitting) starting from 9th May. We shall make a small

*THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY
MARILYN and SAM of
THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE, MERE
TELEPHONE: 01747 860300*

charge for joining the club (£5.00) and for each session (£1.00). Coaching sessions will usually be held on the old school field.

Depending on the level of commitment we get from the juniors, we have made provisional arrangements for a few matches this year - it would be a fantastic achievement if we were able to get some games played, particularly as we now have a new artificial wicket laid for the coaching and to play the matches on.

Almost as an aside, the adult team are also interested to hear from anyone keen to be involved in any shape or form. Rest assured, the adult team already comes in most shapes and forms! The first match is on 4th May, and our first home game will be a league match against Buckhorn Weston on the old school field on Sunday 1st June (first ball at 2.00pm). We would be pleased to see as many people as possible to make this a very special day.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact me by phone, or by email on kevin@whitmorehouse.fsnet.co.uk, or via the Walnut Tree Inn, or speak to any of the current club members.

Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639

MERE BOWLS CLUB

In spite of typical April weather, showery & chilly, the new Season got off to a good start, when 30 members turned up. Our Greenkeepers have been working very hard during the closed Season to get the Green in such an excellent condition.

Roll Ups will continue on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6.00pm and Saturday afternoons at 3.00pm. New Members and Beginners are always welcome - coaching is available.

The first Home Match will be on Wednesday, 30th April against Frome Park, and the first Match in the Salisbury Men's League on Saturday, 3rd May against Wilton.

If you would like any further information regarding the Club, please ring me.

Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289

MERE CROQUET CLUB OPENING FOR BUSINESS

It has been a rather protracted operation but finally we are almost there. The efforts to secure the Croquet Club site started on 30th August 2006 and it will be finally opening, as previously advised, at 2.00pm on May Day Bank Holiday, Monday 5th May 2008.

A great deal of work has been undertaken over recent weeks and a small band of volunteers has put in some terrific effort. Their dedication and hard labour, often in the most appalling weather, is due heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

They have done a really wonderful job. Recognition and gratitude for the so generous donations of necessary equipment received is also recorded. Any further offers of surplus gardening tools, etc. would still be gratefully accepted.

There is still work to be done, and it is felt this will be the case for the rest of the year, but by the opening day we have every confidence that the green will be in a playable condition, if not yet quite as velvety as eventually envisaged.

There is already a hard core of enthusiastic members, a number of whom are complete novices; others are experienced players and they have volunteered to act as instructors. An ample supply of equipment will be available for general use on 5th May. We look forward to seeing all members and potential members on that day, plus, of course, anyone else who has an interest in the sport. Please do come along, a warm welcome will be extended to everyone.

Details of subsequent opening times will be available, as will answers to any queries you may have. You can e-mail me: rexroberts@ba126ed.fsnet.co.uk

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook

Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions.

Telephone: 01747 840347

MERE SWIMMING POOL

We have changed our name to Mere Swimming Pool.

Pool cleaning is on the 20th April, at 11.00am. Please come along and help.

POOL OPENING 3rd MAY FROM 2.00pm - 6.00 pm

£1.00 entry fee. If you have your membership cards, please bring them along and PRAY FOR LOVELY WEATHER!!!

We also have a web site - www.merepool.org.uk - check it out. It is very new and a few teething problems may occur.

We are still looking for a fundraiser, so if you feel you can spare some time, please call me.

Sally Howell ☎ 01747 860644 & 07813 183115

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The next meeting, which will be in the **Lecture Hall** at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st May, will include a Craft and Cookery Show.

We shall also discuss the two Resolutions for the National Federation AGM in June. The first concerns: "Inappropriate Imprisonment of the Severely Mentally Ill" and calls for the Government to provide accommodation and treatment in a secure residential environment. The second expresses concern: "at the loss of marine life caused by over fishing, especially on the seabed". Join us for a lively discussion!

COFFEE DAY

In aid of the Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW)

**Wednesday 21st May 10.00am -12.00pm and 2.00pm -4.00pm
at 8 Prospect Place
BRING AND BUY STALL**

ACWW aims to improve conditions for women in poorer countries through education and training, thereby enabling them to give better support and opportunities to their families.

It is supported by all WI's. Please come and join us!

Molly Burden ☎ 017476 860007

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be Joy Rabbetts, a local author known as Hilary Townsend - The subject being: "How I became a writer".

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262



1st MERE SCOUT GROUP

1st Mere Cub Scouts need your help.

We need you to help our Leader to run our pack on Monday Nights.

We meet in the Grove Buildings from 6.45pm until 8.15pm. If you can help, please ring Garry, our Group Scout Leader ☎ 01985 844761.

Robert Longbourne advert - ¼ page

REPORT FROM MERE SCHOOL

April 2008

We have just returned to school after the Easter break. In the Easter holidays Footprints was open and children could go and play while their mums and dads went out to work. Lots of us went to Footprints.

When Gold class returned to school they saw that they had new windows. The old ones were getting old and were leaking and now they are double-glazed. During the Easter holidays, some builders came and put up new fences making our school more safe and secure. Our trees were also trimmed and they are now ready for summer. Blue class had a new play surface put into their play area. It is bright blue and the children love it. The builders also created a new disabled toilet in part of the boys toilets.

On Wednesday 9th April, the school netball and football teams went to a tournament at Bryanston School. In the morning, we had training from secondary school pupils where we learnt new techniques. In the afternoon, the tournament started and we all tried our best. Thirty-six school teams were playing, but we did not get through to the semi-finals.

Green class (year 4) have just come back from Braeside, in Devizes. They stayed there for 2 nights and 3 days and were involved in a whole range of activities. They had a wonderful time.

PS We are very sorry but we missed Elias Bank's name out of our successful year 3/4 football team in the March edition. He played an important part in the team's success. Sorry Elias!

Nicole Gent, Toni Hooper, Charlie Guy Knapp, Cearan Rose, Emily Maidment, Hetty Horne, Gary Gatehouse, Charlotte Summerfield, Jake Sanger, Edward Ford, Tom Wakeling, Liam Reilly, Reece Watts and Tom Curtis.

Leaping Frogs

Spring Sounds Successful Gardening for Leaping Frogs Kindergarten

Work has begun on creating the new garden area down Angel Lane. A series of raised beds, plus a large sand pit and bench have been built. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sydenhams for kindly giving us a 50% discount on the wood. At the time of going to press,

the children and staff have selected their seeds and await a few finishing touches and some warmer weather. Then the planting can commence in earnest!

Leaping Frogs Spring Time Nearly New Sale – 17th May 10.00am – 12.00noon, The Grove Buildings.

We are hoping to organise a nearly new sale of babies and children's clothes, toys etc., to help raise enough funds to provide a small playhouse for the children. Refreshments will be served and face painting will be available for the little ones to enjoy (although there's no age limit to who might enjoy the face paints!), as well as other stalls selling books, cards, plants etc. Please join us, for what we hope will be a great opportunity to bag some bargains.

For further information (including anyone interested in selling), please contact either Mrs Bird on 01747 828789 or the Kindergarten on 01747 861186.

DI Woodworx advert - ¼ page

Lifestyle Landscapes advert - ¼ page

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Kite Runner

(12A)

“There is a way to be good again.”

From the best selling novel by Khaled Hosseini, a deeply moving film which does great justice to the book.

After spending years in California, Amir returns to his homeland in Afghanistan to help his childhood friend Hassan, whose child is in trouble - and in doing so must face the shadows of the past and conflict of the present.

'A magnificent film.'

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 22nd May at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257

Visit our website at: www.moviola.org



FOOTPRINTS



Coming to Mere- the ultimate *FREE*
Sunday Funday

Roly the Clown

Roly, the award-winning clown, has clowned all over the UK, across the USA, in Canada, Australia, Sweden, France, Belgium and Holland....in churches, chapels and cathedrals, prisons, hospitals and schools, camps, conferences and clubs, halls, big tops and theatres!

When? Sunday 8th June

Where? Mere School Playing Fields (If wet
in Mere School Hall)

What Time? 1.30 to 4.00pm

Bring a picnic!

Refreshments provided

Everybody Welcome!!!!

Sponsored by Churches Together in Mere and District



FOOTPRINTS



A Grand Gala Concert

When? Wednesday 14th May

Where? St Michaels Church Mere

What time? 7.30pm

Come and hear all the local talents in Mere under one roof at one time! Performances by children from Mere School, Ad Hoc Harmony, local singers and instrumentalists, organ and piano duets and a special appearance by Flanders and Swann.

Grand Raffle with superb prizes, including Dinner for Two kindly donated by the Walnut Tree Inn

An absolutely unmissable evening!!

Tickets £5.00 available from Mere Information Point, or on the door. £10.00 for a family (2 adults, 2 children)

BARN BUDDIES OPEN EVENING

At Barrow Street Farm, Mere.

16th MAY

All Welcome

BBQ & BAR

STARTS AT 6.30pm

For more info call
Tim Merrell

☎ 01747 860195



Maclachlan advert - ¼ page

Madelaine Morris advert - ¼ page

Church Of
St Michael The Archangel
Mere

Sunday 27th April
Songs of Praise
6.00pm

Join us in singing popular hymns and hearing familiar,
much-loved, readings.



1st May
Feast Day of the Ascension

Join us for hymn singing that doesn't just raise
the roof; it's on the roof!

Meet at the top of the Church Tower at 7.30am for the
hymns, which will be followed by Holy Communion at
8.00am (in the church).



RETIRING METHODIST MINISTER, THE REV'D DAVID BRIDGE WRITES:

Later this year, I shall be following my URC colleague Rev'd Colin Marsh as I cease full time work, and after retirement with effect from 1st September 2008, I shall become what the Methodist Church call a "Supernumerary Minister". My Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus defines *Supernumerary* as "*exceeding a regular & proper number*" or "*functioning as a substitute or assistant with regard to a regular body of staff*"! Quite why Methodism uses this word, I am not sure, but I expect there will be times when I am called upon to substitute or assist in the Ministerial work and leadership of the Methodist Church in Salisbury where my wife Pat & I shall be moving to in retirement.

I have greatly enjoyed being part of the communities in Mere, Motcombe and Gillingham and shall miss the many friends and acquaintances I have made in the seven years of service here. Although pressure on my time has prevented my active involvement in the exciting Churches Together project "Footprints", may I commend Church & Community for the launch and development of this venture, which potentially will serve all in Mere.

My successor from 1st September 2008 will be the Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth, and I am sure that she will find the same encouragement and support in Mere that has been mine. Ros is just completing her Ministerial training at Wesley House, Cambridge and will come full of enthusiasm as a "Probationer Minister" - another Methodist Term, this time for a Minister straight out of Training.

May I wish you all well in the days ahead and may God Bless you all.

CHURCH STEWARDING

The beautiful Parish Church of St. Michael the Archangel has a good number of visitors in the summer months and it has been the custom for some years past to have volunteers on duty there between 11.00am and 4.00pm from Monday to Saturday between May and the end of September to welcome them.

Would you, reader, volunteer to do an hour once a week or as often as you can easily manage? You do not need to be a regular church goer, nor do you need any special qualifications. There is a free church guide for visitors to use and there is a comfortable chair for the steward to sit on! Will you please put your name down to book a time in the diary, which will be found on a table just inside the main entrance door?

For further information, please contact David Longbourne at The Old Rectory Cottage, Church Street ☎ 01747 860243.

The Friends of St Michael's Church invite you to their

SPRING BAZAAR

at the GROVE BUILDINGS on

SATURDAY, 10th MAY

from 10.00am to 12.00 noon

**COFFEE, CAKES, BRIC-A-BRAC, PLANTS, RAFFLE
BOOKS AND KIDDIES CORNER**

Please come and join us! Everybody is welcome!

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

We shall have a musical afternoon on Wednesday 28th May at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church. Bring your favourite CDs and listen to some local talent as well. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Mere is fortunate to have a number of beautiful and historic buildings, which are entrusted to us to maintain and refurbish for future generations. One of these buildings is the parish church of St Michael the Archangel.

The Friends of St Michael the Archangel was formed to foster interest in our ancient Parish Church and to provide funds for the adornment and improvement of the building and its furnishings. If you value the church building even if you do not worship there, you can become a Friend of St Michaels.

'Friends' will receive an annual newsletter and be invited to any Friends of St Michaels' events. The names of Life Members are inscribed in a specially bound book kept in the Church. HRH Prince Charles became the first Friend on the roll in 1976.

Individual Life Membership is £30.00 and Individual Annual Membership is £5.00. Donations are always welcome and if you are a tax-payer you may wish to Gift Aid your membership fee or donation.

If you are interested, please complete the Membership Form, which can be obtained from Mere Library or St Michael's Church. Alternatively please complete the slip below, and a membership form will be sent to you.

Do join - thank you.

=====

Please send an application form to:-

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel No:.....

Return slip to: *Membership Secretary - Mrs Lindy Elliott, St Peters Cottage, Church Street, Mere, Warminster BA12 6DS*

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MAY 2008

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

| | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Thursday | 1st | Ascension Day | |
| | | 7.30am | Hymns at top of Church Tower |
| | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (CW1) |
| Sunday | 4th | 10.30am | Morning Praise |
| | | <i>(NB: No Sunday Club)</i> | |
| | | 6.00pm | Evening Prayer |
| Wednesday | 7th | 7.30pm | Start the Month Holy |
| | | | Communion (CW1) |
| Sunday | 11th | 10.30am | Pentecost - Parish |
| | | | Communion (CW1) |
| | 18th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | 25th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |

The United Reformed Church (Tel. Shaftesbury 853304)

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt Tel: 01747 860685)

| | | | |
|---------------|------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 11.00am | Rev'd. Hazel Barkham |
| | 11th | 11.00am | Rev'd Margaret Laurie |
| | 18th | 11.00am | Rev'd Alan Bruce |
| | | | Holy Communion |
| | 25th | 11.00am | Rev'd Stella Sivyoure |

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin Tel: 01747 861370)

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 6.00pm | Rev'd David Bridge |
| | | | Holy Communion |
| | 11th | 6.00pm | Christian Aid Week |
| | | | United Churches Together |
| | | | Mr A Hardiman |

| | | | |
|-----------|------|--------|---|
| Sunday | 18th | 6.00pm | Miss Janet Cole |
| | 25th | 6.00pm | Mr M Rawlins |
| Wednesday | 28th | 2.30pm | Afternoon Get together (see notice on p29) |

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Tel: 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe

Mere Contacts: Mrs T Read 01747 860289 or
Mrs W Richardson 01747861004)

| | | |
|--------------|---------|------|
| Every Sunday | 11.30am | Mass |
| Every Friday | 10.00am | Mass |

There will be a 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 | 4th | | NO SERVICE (Sponsored "May Meander", fund raising for Church |
| Sunday | 11th | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |
| Sunday | 18th | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |
| Sunday | 25th | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional Language)

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 2008

| | | | | |
|---|-------|---------|--|-----|
| 1 | Thur | 10.00am | Art Group (also 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) | MH |
| | | 2.00pm | Line Dancing (also 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) | GB |
| | | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (also 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) | L |
| | | 6.15pm | Brownies (also 8th, 15th & 22nd) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Women's Institute Meeting | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Guides (also 8th, 15th & 22nd) | GB |
| 1 | Thurs | 7.30pm | Shreen Harmony (also 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) | MH |
| 2 | Fri | 6.30pm | Barn Buddies (also 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th) | BSF |

| | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|--|------------------|
| 2 | Fri | 6.30pm | Cricket Club Registration | AYP |
| 3 | Sat | 10.00am | Plant Sale – Friends of Mere Museum | GB |
| | | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning | CC |
| 5 | Mon | 7.00pm | Slimming World (also 12th, 19th & 26th) | L |
| 7 | Wed | 6.00pm | Karate (also 14th, 21st and 18th) | L |
| 8 | Thurs | 5.00pm | Rainbows (also 15th & 22nd) | GB |
| 9 | Fri | 10.00am | Merely Women (also 23rd) | GB |
| 10 | Sat | 09.30am | Plant Stall – Gardening Club | The Square |
| | | 10.00am | Spring Bazaar – Friends of St Michael's | GB |
| | | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning | CC |
| 11 | Sun | 10.30am | Sunday Club (also 18th & 25th) | GB |
| | | 6.30pm | The Bridge | GB |
| 12 | Mon | 6.00pm | Beavers (also 19th) | YC |
| | | 6.45pm | Cubs (also 19th) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Scouts (also 19th) | YC |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| 13 | Tues | 9.00am | Footcare Clinic | L |
| | | 2.30pm | Mothers Union | GB |
| 14 | Wed | 1.15pm | Mere Historical Society Visit One | CP |
| | | 2.00pm | Whist Drive | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Gardening Club | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Footprints Grand gala Concert | St Michaels |
| 16 | Fri | 6.30pm | Barn Buddies Open Evening & BBQ | BSF |
| 17 | Sat | 10.00am | Mere May Fayre in aid of Cancer Research | L |
| | | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning with Traidcraft Stall | CC |
| | | 10.00am | 12.00 noon Leaping Frogs Nearly New sale | GB |
| 18 | Sun | 2.00pm | Mere Footpath Group | CP |
| 19 | Mon | 7.00pm | for 7.30pm MADS AGM (Small Hall) | L |
| 20 | Tues | 7.30pm | St Michael's PCC Meeting | GB |
| 22 | Thur | 7.30pm | Wiltshire Moviola "The Kite Runner" | L |
| 24 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning with RGC Bric a Brac | CC |
| 27 | Tues | 10.00am | 4.00pm NADFAS | GB |
| 28 | Wed | 1.45pm | 'Friends Together' | GB |
| | | 2.30pm | Afternoon "Get Together" | Methodist Church |
| 31 | Sat | 10.00am | 12.00pm Summer Sale | CC |

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Salisbury Street 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

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

COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2008 ISSUE

Material for the June 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') before 4.00 pm on MONDAY, 19th MAY 2008. E-mailed contributions will be 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, Kilmington (tel. 01985 844740)***

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