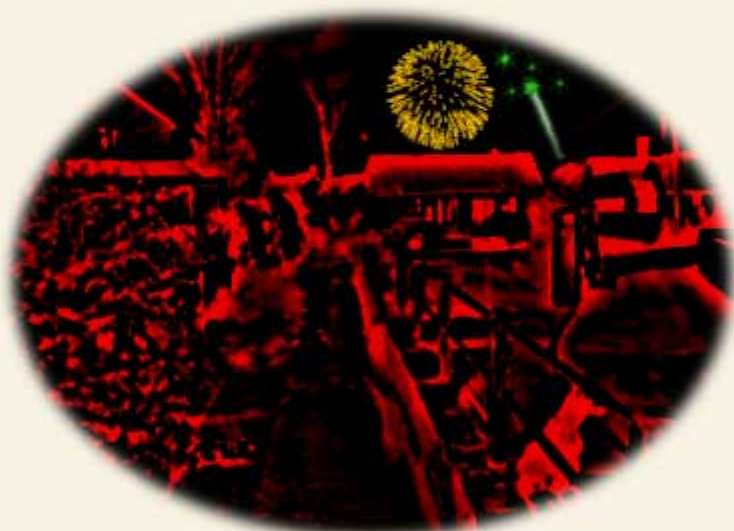


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



November 2008

Turn Page>>

SEARCH FOR ASSISTANT EDITOR

Editing “Mere Matters” is a one-man band, but I am in dire need of some assistance in the coming twelve months.

Our only daughter and her young family are going to live in New Zealand early next year and as Judy and I will be visiting them, I need to find cover for Mere Matters during our future absences. If you know of any one who might be interested in understudying the editorial role to gain experience, please let me know. My contact details are on page 38. Moderate computer skills, essentially an elementary knowledge of Microsoft Word and ability to e-mail, would be an advantage.

Twelve months hence may seem a long way ahead, but I would not like “Mere Matters” to miss editions, initially towards the end of 2009, if I am not around to edit them.

Graham Ivory, Editor

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 at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on **Monday, 3rd November 2008**.

The Chairman writes

On Wednesday, 8th October, Mere Parish Council held a public meeting to discuss ‘Our Place in the Future’ (Salisbury District Council’s Local Development Framework Consultation Document) which was attended by approximately 150 people, most of whom were in the senior age group.

I would like to have seen more younger people there, as they represent the future of Mere.

Salisbury District Council officers attended the meeting and answered a variety of questions put to them during the evening. Some of the audience wanted the whole document rejected but I do not think that that is practical.

My family have lived, worked and died in Mere since 1571 when records first began. During that time there have been many changes to Mere, change will always happen, we cannot stop it. My children and grandchildren will see more changes than my forefathers could have imagined.

We have to manage that change to the best of our ability and aim to retain the character and qualities of Mere that we all love so much. I am sure the Parish Council will do its best now, and in the future, to achieve this objective.

Rodney Coward, Chairman

For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org or e-mail the parish clerk at lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701.

MERE WEATHER

We had less rain in September than in the previous two months, 80mms (3.15ins) and mostly during the first two weeks.

This was followed by two weeks without rain and generally milder than usual for the time of year. In September last year we had just 43mms (1.69ins) of rain.

The first week of October was wet and the second week was sunny, but with cool winds. Up to the 19th we have had 55mms (2.17ins.) of rain.

Peter Durkee

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook

Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions.

Telephone: 01747 840347

MERE CARNIVAL

You may think that the Mere Carnival is over for another year but not quite yet! We have the Carnival Bingo on Friday, 28th November at the Grove Buildings in Church Street, Mere. The doors will open at 7:00pm with eyes down at 7:45pm. There will be prizes, refreshments and a raffle. There will also, by popular demand, be a 'special'. Can you please see if you have any suitable prizes for the raffle and these can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or the Chapel Showroom.

Late News: Santa is coming to Mere! He will be in the Square at 10:30am on Saturday 20th December and more details will follow next month. *Trevor Lucas - Mere Carnival Secretary ☎ 01747 860859*

Mere and District Chamber of Trade

The Mere and District Chamber of Trade AGM
is to be held at The George Inn in Mere
on Wednesday 19th November 2008 at 7.30pm

All Businesses' are invited

Julie Cousins ,Secretary - Mere and District Chamber of Trade ☎ 01747 837909

SHREEN HARMONY

This year our Annual Christmas concert will be on Saturday, 20th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings. This is a change of day from our usual Thursday and we hope you will be able to keep the evening clear; if you have friends visiting, bring them with you - the more the merrier.

The evening will consist of songs from around the world, carols, instrumental music and readings and, as usual, there will be refreshments. There is no charge for entry, but there will be a donations basket to which we hope you will contribute. Any profit we make will go to a local charity.

Barbara Bourne ☎ 01747 861558

WINTER CONCERT 2008

Wincanton Choral Society, with which a number of Mere residents sing, and is conducted by Simon Twiselton, will be joined by soprano Belinda Evans and baritone Charles Hetherington for a Winter Concert on Sunday 7th December at 7.30pm in Wincanton Sports Centre, West Hill.

The programme features Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer*, Ramirez' *Misa Criolla*, Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Rutter's *Christmas Lullaby*, as well as traditional seasonal music. To order tickets, which cost £12.00 (£8.00 for those 18 & under), call the box office ☎01749 813 899 or visit website: www.netaticket.co.uk

Tickets will also be available at the door. Licensed bar.

Jan Eimstad ☎ 01935 812049 or 07834 604585

GILLINGHAM IMPERIAL SILVER BAND

Presents "Around The World In 80 Days"

An evening of music going around the world, following the tracks of Phillias Fogg, the story being narrated. It will take place at Mere Lecture Hall on Sunday 2nd November at 4.00pm.

This is a FREE concert but there will be collection buckets. So come and spend an enjoyable afternoon going round the World.

MERE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION POINT

"Turkeys, Carols and Christmas Crackers" – Researching and Writing the Historical Novel"

Have you ever thought of becoming a writer? Come along to Mere Library on Thursday 4th December between 7.00 – 9.00pm, when well known romantic author Nicola Cornick will be here to give you some hints and tips on writing your own bestseller. Tickets £3.00 (to include seasonal refreshments) available from the library.

Hilary Glyde, Community Librarian ☎ 01747 860546

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Trudy Maidment and Sue and Kate Chaplin organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Cakes were served by Paula Stone and Lisa Maidment and the total raised was £385.27. They would like to say a very big Thank you to everyone who gave their support.

Trudy Maidment

Bramley House - Coffee Morning & Cake Stall

Birthday& Christmas cards for sale

Guess the Baby competition - Prizes

Tuesday 4th November 10.30am

Helen Eysers, Activity Organiser ☎ 01747 860192

MERE FILM SHOWS

Before anything else this month, I must reassure everyone that the film projection last month was entirely a 'one off' due to circumstances explained at the time, and this month we are again back to the joys of digital projection for all our films. I am very aware that the sound quality last month was very poor for which I pass on the apologies of the projectionist, but I can't even begin to pass on the highly technical reasons as to why!

This month our film on Friday 7th November is 'Mamma Mia!' (PG); a wonderful film, a wonderful cast – and tickets in high demand judging by the speed of sale at the time of writing! But, the thought of spending the evening on a rather beautiful sunny Greek island *is* rather appealing!. Full details on page 17.

Dates for Your Diary: Friday 5th December – 'The Duchess' (15) the story of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, starring Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings. We will have a "Gardeners Question Time" with Chris Smith of Pennard Plants.

This month's talk is not as scheduled, but fortunately the speaker who was unable to come in September is available. Chris Smith, together with Mike Milligan, owns Pennard Plants, which is a small nursery providing an ever-increasing mix of plants from around the world but especially South Africa and the southern hemisphere. Their specialities are Agapanthus, Eucomis, Gladioli species and Nerines as well as Irises and Iris relatives. He will be bringing plants for sale.

This is your opportunity to put your questions to a very experienced gardener. Visitors are very welcome.

New: Junior Gardening Club

Wednesday 12th November -6.00-7.00pm in the Grove Buildings

For the last two years there has been a very successful link with Mere School and the Gardening Club and it has been suggested that a Junior Club would encourage our enthusiastic young gardeners. This will be the first Junior Gardening Club meeting. A number of activities have been planned for the year and tonight's is:

Budding young gardeners 'Plant a Tree'

If it is successful, we hope to hold at least one meeting a term. **It is essential that children attending should be accompanied by an adult, as Garden Club members have not been CRB checked.** So bring a small plain notebook with you, 50p and a grown up. A drink and biscuits will be provided.

Contact Janet Way for further details. ☎ 01747 860884

(Note to Gardening Club members: Please let me know if you are able to help us make this a success by helping on the night.)

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, 11th November 2008

“Myths & Misconceptions of the Western Front 1914”

by John Gadd

7.30pm Grove Buildings

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

A big thank you to all those who supported the Linkscheme's Literary Festival or helped in any way. The week's events finish just as Mere Matters goes to press and the Lit. Fest. Group are in need of sleep, so a fuller report will appear in next month's edition. The festival was blessed with good weather and all the speakers and visitors enjoyed their visit to Mere.

Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group



MERE MUSEUM

Another new exhibition is upon us! Its title is **‘Hearth and Home’**, and will give us an opportunity to show a wide range of domestic items that are held in the collection which offer glimpses into home life and management during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The display will form a perfect backdrop (at least, that is the intention) to an exhibition-within-an-exhibition, which will celebrate **Mere Womens’ Institute’s 90th birthday** in November. Photographs and documents and some early record and minute books will be on display, together with the celebrated, prizewinning W.I. Scrapbook made in 1957. The exhibition opens to the public on **Tuesday 4th November**. We look forward to seeing you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

THE BOOK OF MERE

with over 300 photographs,
has been reprinted, and is for sale at

Mere Information Point (The Library)
Mere Pharmacy
Walton's (Mere Post Office)
and from the author, David Longbourne
(tel.01747 860243),

Price: £19.95

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' preview of the Home and Hearth exhibition will be held on **Monday evening 3rd November at 6.30pm.** All Friends are very welcome to join us for this increasingly popular event. We hope that on this occasion members of Mere's W.I. will join us, so it should be quite a party! Preview evenings provide the perfect opportunity to join The Friends (we claim to be the largest group in Mere!) and to meet other Friends. Membership forms are always available and you will be warmly welcomed.

Our next big fund-raising event is a talk to be given by Paul Atterbury of the Antiques Roadshow. The title of his talk is '**Behind the Scenes at The Antiques Roadshow**' and promises to be an exceptionally entertaining evening. The talk will be held in The Grove Buildings on **Tuesday 25th November at 7.30 p.m..** Tickets are available NOW from Mere Information Point (in the Library): £10 each, which includes a glass of wine. *Do please remember that Mr Atterbury will **not** be giving valuations or assessments.*

And finally, a Friend has kindly devised another quiz for us which we hope will provide some entertainment to one and all during these longer winter evenings. DO buy a copy and support the Museum. There is a prize of £15.00 for the winner! *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

**Stourhead Farm shop – Christmas orders now taken.
Collect a form from the shop or ring 01747 861164
Open 7 days a week 10am – 5.30pm**



Free workshop

Hands on DNA

Sat 29 Nov, at Footprints, Mere School

What is DNA?

What was the human genome project?

What does DNA have to do with your health?

What's new for genetic research?

For answers to these questions and more, plus a chance to extract some DNA, join us for one of three workshops:

1000 - 1145

1230 - 1415

1500 - 1645

To sign up: complete a slip at Mere Library, email comms@well.ox.ac.uk, or phone 01865 287649. You can also risk turning up on the day, but places are limited.

Workshop is suitable for all ages. Crèche available (£2) for first session if booked with Footprints: 01747 861108

Booking for workshops and crèche closes Mon 24 Nov

Workshop provided by the
Wellcome Trust Centre for
Human Genetics,
University of Oxford.

THE WELLCOME TRUST CENTRE
FOR HUMAN GENETICS
www.well.ox.ac.uk



WEA



Learning for Life

This event is being run in conjunction with Mere branch Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and Footprints. Information on educational opportunities with these groups will be available on the day.

Next WEA course: Character of Parish Churches.
Starts 9 Jan 09. Contact Maggie Durkee 01747 860163

Friends of Mere Museum

Present

Paul Atterbury

Talking about

'Behind The Scenes At The Antiques Road Show'.

7.30pm Tuesday 25th November in the Grove building

Paul, one of the experts from this much loved TV programme, will be sharing with us his experiences in the making of this show.

Don't miss it !

Tickets £10.00 (to include a glass of wine) are available from Mere Information Point (in the library).

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The stage is set (on paper at least), lines are learned (well... they will be), rehearsals are in full swing (that's definite) and the tickets printed (by the time you read this, anyway). It must mean that MADS's Autumn Production is on schedule to *make an appearance*. There is a subtle double meaning to that last remark, which will only be explained if you come to the performance of 'Ladies of Spirit' by Georgina Reid, which runs from **Thursday 20th November to Saturday November 22nd** (7.30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall).

Tickets can be obtained now from the Mere Information Point. This production is dedicated to the memory of Simon Farnfield, and the proceeds are to benefit Joshua, Simon and Claire's son. Your support will be especially appreciated this year.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE W.I. 1918-2008

Is it all just "Jam and Jerusalem"?

In November 1918, 32 women met in the Lecture Hall, founder members of Mere Women's Institute. They paid an annual subscription of 2/- (IOp). Florence Dean remained a member for more than 60 years. By 1926, there were 101 members. From the beginning, there was a range of activities, including a Drama Group, whose first production was extracts from "Twelfth Night." They played hockey in winter and tennis in summer. Crafts were then, as now, important, although the topics have changed. Early skills included glove making and millinery.

They collected a library of 351 books and in 1929 won 1st Prize in a county competition for a "Village History," receiving 2 oak trays, suitably inscribed, which were until recently still in the Lecture Hall.

We have no records surviving from the 1930s, but know more about the war years, when: "activities included knitting garments for the Red Cross, arranging social evenings for evacuees and collecting waste paper, rose hips, elderflowers and bags of dried nettles." They also earned their reputation as jam makers, producing 340lbs one year. After the war, a branch of the Wiltshire Library Service opened in Mere and for many years members helped with its running. Music and drama flourished with a choir, numerous one-act plays and the series of pantomimes, which earned a reputation well beyond Mere itself.

Probably the most notable achievement of these nine decades occurred in 1955 with the compilation of a Village Scrapbook, which won 3rd prize in a County competition, and was later expanded to a more ambitious project culminating in the publication of "The Story of Mere."

Today we are proud to be members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, the largest women's organisation in the country, which is an influential voice for the countryside and its people, working with many other organisations and Governments departments. Your local W.I. still offers friendship and a variety of activities, both locally and by joining in events throughout the County. Why not come to one of our meetings, which are held in the Grove Buildings at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month (except January) or for further information call Barbara Bourne ☎ 01747 861558.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be a member of the Mere & District Linkscheme, who will tell us all about the work of the "Linkscheme". There will be also be a 'Bring and Buy' stall.

Tribute money will be due, and anyone who has an Overseas Box should please bring it along to the November meeting.

On Saturday 22nd November, we shall be running the "cake stall" at the Christmas Charities Fair in the Grove Buildings. Donations of cakes would be much appreciated
Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

FRIENDS TOGETHER

On Wednesday 26th November from 2.00-4.00pm The Wyndham Music men are coming to entertain us again in the Grove Buildings. Please come. Everybody is welcome. There will be a collection for Cancer Research.
Ann Driffield & S. Thomas ☎ 01747 860586

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Having raised sufficient money for the purchase and installation of a water feature in the Fives Court gardens, the Friends are now, with Home Manager, Sarah Hill and her staff, contemplating a larger garden project which it is hoped will eventually provide a suitable setting for the said feature. It is A Very Big Project, and very exciting. For more details, watch this space!

In the meantime the Friends are providing fireworks for the Residents for their annual Guy Fawkes party on 4th November. We shall also be present at Mere's Combined Charities Fair later in the month; do come and see us!
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE COMBINED
DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009 ISSUE
MONDAY, 17th NOVEMBER**

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

(Mere and District Day Centre)

Wow!! Didn't we do well. You would all have been very proud of the Guests of the Rosemary Goddard Centre when on 1st October we all trundled off to the City Hall in Salisbury to celebrate the International Day for Older People. We had been invited by Age Concern and Wiltshire County Council to do a demonstration of Tai Chi and that as the last demonstration of the day we had to make the finale memorable - and we did. Due to the confidence of Sue Marks (who takes us for Tai Chi once a month at the Centre) 13 of us, with the combined age of well over 1,000 years, performed to the best of our ability.

We were encouraged by an enthusiastic audience which included Dr Halsey who came to support us. Dr Halsey's presence was very special because it is due to the devoted care of Dr Halsey and the team at Mere Surgery that we are able to live our lives to the full and take part in events like this. It was a lovely day enjoyed by everyone who visited the many stands offering advice as to how to keep ourselves fit, well, and independent, and we returned home with our free new slippers from the Slipper Exchange safely tucked under our arms.

Once again it was the volunteers who drove the Guests to Salisbury, and took care of them, that made the day so relaxed and enjoyable. My grateful thanks go to Pat Gear, David and Judith Hope, Michael Long, Helen Leighton and Trevor, Jean Kantharia and Jean Rodriguez. We did have fun, didn't we? Why not join us; volunteers are always needed. **All volunteers are invited to a meeting at 3.15pm on Monday 1st December at the Community Room, Lynch Close.**

For anyone who may be considering becoming a Guest, don't wait too long for we are off to the Ship in Mere for lunch soon and are visiting Sherborne Garden Centre to see their wonderful Christmas display. More next month. Give me a ring for details: **Lynette ☎ 01747 861646.**

Someone recently asked me where the Rosemary Goddard Centre was; fancy not telling you, please forgive me. If you are heading out of Mere past the Lecture Hall, turn right in front of Yapps into Water Street. Take second left into Lynch Close and follow the road round ignoring the turn on the right, then bear right into the cul-de-sac. The Community Room is on the left. Why not come and see what we get up to; if you come around 11.00am you can join us for a coffee and sherry!!

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Mamma Mia! (PG)

**Meryl Streep Colin Firth Pierce Brosnan
Stellan Skarsgard Julie Walters
Christine Baranski**

**The perfect antidote to an English autumn!
A sun-drenched Greek island, lots of dancing and
all that ABBA music!**

**In the Lecture Hall
Friday 7th November 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*

Finally, look out for us at the Christmas Charities Fair in the Grove Building on Saturday 22nd November. For this event we are gathering together items which would make a nice gift for any age and would welcome and be delighted with any donations. I can arrange collection. We are very grateful to Roger Wilding who has once again compiled a challenging quiz (£1.00) which will be available at the Fair and after. Answers to be displayed in January at Mere Information Point.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser), Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861646

Maclachlan Advert - ¼ page

Manor Farm Veterinary advert - ½ page

SLIM, SAVE AND WIN WITH SLIMMING WORLD

Slimming World members in Mere are tightening their belts in more ways than one - they're losing weight and beating the credit crunch in a brand new prize draw from the UK's biggest slimming organisation.

Slimming World has launched its 'be a friend, bring a friend' scheme to give a helping hand to slimmers, and to prove that you can shrink your figure without shrinking your bank balance! When a Slimming World member introduces a friend to the group at the Lecture Hall in Mere, they get a week's membership free, plus a chance to win a whole month's free shopping worth £500.00.

Consultant Caroline Gorry, from the Lecture Hall's group in Mere says: "at Slimming World you really can slim and save. As well as being the best value slimming club in the country, our food optimising plan suits any budget. There's no need to buy special meals or expensive drinks or shakes - it is based on every day foods like pasta, rice and fresh vegetables, so you can keep your food bills really low. Our members share great tips about buying and cooking healthy food and by changing how they shop, cook and eat, and ditching the takeaways in favour of easy-to-cook family favourites like Sunday roast or chilli, they're actually slimming and saving." For more information on the Mere group call:

Caroline ☎ 01747 840013

MERE CROQUET CLUB

This has been quite a year for us, and it is not over yet. We started out in early May with a totally blank canvas and a lot of trepidation. However, the support we have had has been astounding. Particular mention must be made of the Mere Parish Council, especially Clive Hazzard and Mrs. Lindsey Wood: their unfailing backing has made so much that has been achieved possible. The solid core of members who made up the working parties prior to our opening also richly deserve a vote of thanks.

Play has virtually come to an end for this year, from the decidedly frugal beginnings we now find ourselves with around thirty-five members and the knowledge that we will start 2009 as a well-equipped and enthusiastic club. The green itself has been restored to a very presentable condition and we are now in possession of playing

equipment for everyone. All the essential ground maintenance equipment, as well as the much needed pavilion, should be with us in the very near future. The next couple of months will involve treating and further improving the lawn as well as organising our new acquisitions in readiness for next season.

There is now a solid core of enthusiastic members who have clearly thoroughly enjoyed their newfound pastime. Although the standard of play has not quite reached championship standard, it is getting there. The biggest success has undoubtedly been the level of camaraderie and consistent fun which has been established, a very gratifying conclusion to our first season.

Over the winter months it is intended to seriously investigate setting up the Boule Court, a much bigger task than first envisaged. It may not be in place in time for the 2009 opening, but that will not be for lack of trying, both cash and hard labour are demanded for this task.

Opening dates for next year will be announced in due course but will probably be towards the end of April. New members will be welcomed, although we cannot accommodate too many more. If you are interested please don't hesitate to make contact. *Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

INDOOR SHORT MAT BOWLS

Back Again in Mere!

The short mat bowls club has just re-started for the 2008/2009 winter season in our new venue: The Mere Social Club.

We meet every Monday and Thursday from 2.00pm to 5.00pm with a current membership of 18. If you would like to have a go and try this great sport please come along any time. For more information please call: *Jeff Vigars, Secretary Short Mat Bowls Mere ☎ 01747860976*

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

Mere Snooker Club continues to welcome prospective new members. If you are interested in finding out more, come along any Wednesday evening from 7.30pm onwards or telephone me. The club is small but very friendly and complete beginners are welcome too.

Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305



Georgina's Ramblings

As we move into those darker and colder months ahead, we have been planning lots of activities that will make using the centre more appealing for people of all ages throughout the community. Before I tell you about those let me thank all of the children and parents for their ongoing support and the positive continuing positive comments. I would also like to thank everyone that came to the open day in September including our new sponsor **IT ambulance**, which has generously agreed to sponsor our IT suite.

Kidzone

Continues to deliver high standards and lots of variety, the children are cooking with the wonderful autumn fare that we have celebrated this month and are looking forward to the festive season when they will be cooking and making lots of things that celebrate Christmas. Please look out for (or pop in) to see the agenda. *Everyday is planned but flexible as sometimes the weather allows us to burst out to celebrate the environment around us.* We have over 80 children on our register and we would love those of you that have not been here for some time. Look out for the notes coming home as we are doing a census of those who wish to be removed from the register. In addition, children are now able to join us from the age of 3. After half term is our breakfast club bonanza and we have a week of sponsored breakfasts including American, Continental and many more. Sessions this week will cost only £2.00, so go on - give breakfast a go and boost your learning potential!

The Learning Zone

Wiltshire Colleges have still to iron out their internal issues and as such we are unable to offer these courses until January 2009. However, from the beginning of November Jane Smith will be running a festive cookery class twice each week for up to 6 in each group. Please pop in to enrol. We also have spaces available on the following courses:

- Helping you budget to get out of, or avoid, debt – Free & crèche available
- Skills for life (basic Maths and English) – Free & crèche available
- Internet without tears - £5.00
- First aid for child carers
- Practical Parent Helper – Free - & crèche available

Let us know if you would like a First Aid course, we can help individuals and businesses
From January 2009 - Interior Design – Dressmaking – Introduction to Painting – Digital Photography – Lip Reading – The Character of Parish Churches

We are also hoping to run a week of 'making the most of your home' in January with workshops to help renovate furniture and furnishings. Again, we need your support so tell us what you need and we will try to arrange it.

Tiny Toes

Debbie has launched the new 'drop in' sessions for parents and carers on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Thank you to all of those that have been to see us and we look forward to seeing you all regularly. Come and meet new friends and let the children play on the new equipment. The Health Visitor will be making regular visits as will other guests, so do come for a warm welcome. As this is a new group, please do tell Debbie if there are things that you need or would like to have happen during these sessions.

The Waiting Room

Now that the weather has turned, don't forget that we are open from 09.00–11.00am on Tuesdays and 2.30-3.30pm on Fridays – Don't wait in the cold; come in for a cup of tea with your friends.

Volunteering

Thank you to Merely Women for the opportunity of speaking with you and to the new volunteers. We will be in touch this month to help in the run up to Christmas! As always I'm asking for volunteers, if you feel that you have an hour or so to spare please do come forward as we are looking for both helpers and committee members. No experience required as training will be provided.

And a final thought.....

With Firework night upon us, please remember the firework code and have a safe and happy time. If you need any information about this and other issues including debt please pop in and be assured of a listening ear and steady arm.

As always, a hearty thanks to all of the Footprints Team and the parents and children that continue to support us.

Georgina Shaw-Halford, Footprints ☎ 01747 861108

TIDDLERS & TODDLERS

We meet in the Lecture Hall on Monday's and Thursdays from 9.30 - 11.30am. After our successful move in September to the Lecture Hall, with the addition of a new Monday morning session, we have settled in well and are pleased to be welcoming new members most weeks.

For those of you who are not familiar with our group, we are a friendly parent/carer and toddler group run by mums, for mums, and we cater for children from birth to school age. Our sessions usually include:

- A craft activity
- Lots of educational puzzles and books
- A DVD/video rental club for members
- The use of the toy library - through Ask
- Enough space for the very popular 'ride-ons!
- A sing-song and fun with a parachute to round the session off!
- A soft baby friendly area
- A fine dressing up box
- Lovely clean and warm facilities

Entry is £1.00 per adult and each session includes a healthy snack for the children and unlimited tea and coffee for the parents/carers.

We are currently planning a Christmas Fair on the 4th December from 10.00am -11.30am where you can buy homemade cakes, books, Avon goods, and have the children photographed for a lovely Christmas gift, to name but a few. All proceeds from the fair will go towards our annual Christmas Party, this year to be held on the 18th December with the usual visit from Father Christmas and party games and food included.

If you would like any further information about the group please call:

Laura ☎ 01747 861537 or Kate ☎ 01747 861201.

MERE PRE-SCHOOL

Mere Pre-School (reg'd. charity 1027052) held a fun event on carnival day in Mere and are pleased to report they raised £72.00 towards their toy and equipment fund. We were very lucky with the weather and as a sunny (and hot!) day unfolded lots of children came to have their faces painted throughout the morning. We hope the various tigers, elephants and butterflies that went away were pleased with the results (and that they lasted the day!) and we would like to thank our two extra volunteers; Anne Rich and Maggie Durkey who gave up their Saturday morning to come and paint!

As well as the face painting there was mask making, a teddy stall and lucky lollipop dip which ensured winners every time. Our thanks to the super teddy donations and to the Post Office for their lolly contributions. Finally, a big thank you to all those children and parents who came the support the event – it was much appreciated.

Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647

Compton Smith advert - ¼ page

David Ralph advert - ¼ page

DI Woodworx advert - ¼ page

MERE SCHOOL

October 2008

Mere School has been decorating shoeboxes with wrapping paper and putting in little gifts for poor children in Montenegro, Tanzania and Romania. We hope that our gifts will make their Christmas very special.

The photographer has been in school taking pictures of us and our brother and sisters.

Class assemblies have started again. They are great! Lots of mums and dads come to see what we have been learning.

Blue class visited the fish and chip shop in Mere. They thought that it was fun.

Rev'd Barnes comes into school twice a week. He takes our assembly on Wednesdays and we love what he says. We play games, listen to stories and learn about different things. He also helps at our football club.

Our 'Special Person to Lunch' day is great because we can invite a guest to have lunch with us.

Two of our governors, Rev'd Barnes and Mr Cassidy took part in a 'Pampered Chef' competition to raise money for 'The Friends'. They made sushi rolls and in the end it was a draw. Everyone enjoyed themselves and their stomachs were full!

Purple class had the pleasure of visiting Intec - a museum near Winchester. It was good because we could experiment with everything. We visited the planetarium and were told about the different types of stars and the moon. We found it interesting to learn more about space.

Twice a year 'The Friends' give out blue bags for people to put their old clothes in. These are then collected and weighed and the school receives some money.

Amber class have had a visit from a 'plastic cow'. They had a go at milking the cow and trying the milk.

Mere School netball team triumphed over Semley School beating them 11-0. Semley School made us feel very welcome and we were given juice, biscuits and don't forget the oranges.

Mrs Porter, our Chair of Governors, came into school to talk to the school council about a nationwide award scheme run by UNICEF, which is all about the rights of the child.

We are going to be working together to achieve this award.

On Thursday 9th October, Green class went to STEAM in Swindon. We went for the day to learn about World War II, our topic this term. I got some opinions about our day. Lewis said, "My favourite part was going under the train". We got on a real steam train, it was brilliant! We also had some men who lived in the war who told us what it was like. We met a Home Guard warden who showed us an air raid siren and a lady who explained to us the jobs women did in the war, like the Women's land army and women who worked in the factories while the men were fighting – *Emily Kelly, year 4.*

Ben Fricker, Katie Godfrey, Charlie Butler, Kitty Cotton, Victoria Solman, Hannah James, Michael Gatehouse, Matthew Davey, Rebecca Sale, Charlotte Philps, Aiden Maidment, William Sutton, Emily Price, Taylor Stainer, Arun Sheldon, Hannah Merx, Lawrence Brodier, Sarah Murrison and Philippa Murrison

A Message from Mrs Loxton

During our annual art week next February, we would like to have an afternoon where local artists come into school to share and exhibit their work with the children. If you or anyone you know may be interested please contact me, Paula Loxton at the school ☎ 01747 860515 for further information. Thank you!



FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



News Update: November.

You may well recall – from our last report in the June Mere Matters that we told you about our fundraising Windfall Club, and that our first draw was due to be made on the 1st October. Unfortunately, due to the lack of numbers we managed to sell by the 30th September, we had to postpone the first draw and run two draws in November.

At the time of going to press we have only just managed to sell the minimum number required to run a revised windfall draw – so we'll let you know who the lucky winners are in a following edition. HOWEVER, – there are still plenty of numbers available – only £12.00 per number! If you would like to purchase a number and support this fundraising venture please either contact Mrs Bird (Friends committee secretary) or pop into the school Office to pick up a Windfall information pack.

Other dates for your diaries:

Friday 14th November – Cake Stall. The Friends are organising a cake stall under the clock tower from 9.30am.

Friday 28th November – Mere School Bingo Night. This is being held in the school's large hall. Doors open at 7.00pm – eyes down at 7.30pm. Our bingo nights are always popular, with a fantastic range of prizes – plus a great raffle. Refreshments will be available. Everyone is welcome.

All proceeds from the events that the Friends of Mere School organise go to supporting Mere School.

For further information, please contact me

Mrs Bird (Secretary) ☎ 01747 828789.

BARN BUDDIES

Attention, Attention.	Barn Buddies
Christmas Celebration	Drama & Drinks
Entertainment & Enjoyment	Family & Friends
Grandma & Grandpa	Hurry Here
Interesting Ideas	Joy & Jokes
King & Kingdom	Love & Laughter
Merriment not Mayhem	Naughty but Nice
Open-house to One-and-all	Poetry & Party
Questions & Quizzes	Raffle & Razzmatazz
Singing Songs	Tempting Treats
Unmissable, Unforgettable	Very Vibrant
Wine & Wenceslas	Xcellent, Xciting
You & Yours	Zany Zurprises (Zorry)

**On Friday 19th December 2008
at 6:30pm for 7:00pm
Barrow Street Farm, Mere. BA12 6AB**

For more information contact:

Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for October, drawn after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 5th October by Mrs Judith Avory, was:

1st Prize	(£20) - No. 173	Sheila Hopkinson
2nd Prize	(£15) - No. 4	Mr & Mrs G Carter
3rd Prize	(£10) - No. 86	Blanche Johnston
4th Prize	(£5) - No. 57	Generously returned <i>Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964</i>

REV'D ROS HOLLINGSWORTH, THE NEWLY APPOINTED METHODIST MINISTER WRITES:

I should like to begin by saying "Thank You" to everyone who has welcomed me as I arrived in this beautiful part of the country. Having lived for twenty-five years in East Anglia it is delightful to be surrounded by hills, and everyone I have met has been so friendly so that I already feel settled.

I took up my post as Methodist Minister for Mere, Motcombe and Gillingham on 1st September. I live in Gillingham and hope to be here for the next five years. My husband, David, works as the Pastor on the island of Sark in the Channel Islands. His is a half time appointment and he returns home as often as he can.

I have four grown-up children, two of whom live in Cambridge, one in Great Yarmouth and one in Newcastle upon Tyne - so we are quite scattered! I also have five sisters who help to provide strong ecumenical links with the Baptists, URC, Roman Catholics and Anglicans. So, I am looking forward to working with other denominations in this area.

I look forward to getting to know you better and would be delighted if you introduce yourselves to me if you spot me in Mere. I am involved with the work of the Lecture Hall Trust and am regularly at the evening service at the Methodist Church - so you could pop in and meet me there too!

May God Bless You.

EAST WINDOW

at St Michael the Archangel Parish Church

In the September edition of Mere Matters, we let you know that the Diocese had encouraged us to seriously consider a new design of window instead of restoring the current window dating from 1852.

Although the Parochial Church Council has not yet made any final decision on the way forward, we have begun the process of preparing a new design. Since St Michael's is the parish church of Mere, we would like to encourage the whole community of Mere to help us with the design. It is an excellent opportunity to design a window that would not only provide the additional light in the chancel that we have been seeking, but more to the point it would be a tangible and vibrant legacy of Mere at the beginning of 21st Century that we could leave to our children and our grand-children.

Suggestions ranging from general ideas to colourful illustrations would be most welcome and greatly appreciated. To help those wishing to go as far as an illustration we would be happy to provide a scale outline of the window, either on paper or as an attachment to an e-mail.

Once we have the outline of a design we can brief selected designers to begin the process in earnest, if a new window is agreed in principle. We can then also begin researching grant opportunities to match the significant funds already raised locally through your kind generosity over the past year.

Please let us have your design suggestions by 1st December 2008

The Rev'd Paul Barnes, Priest in Charge
Pat Isom, Churchwarden ☎ 01747 861776
Tim Merrell, Churchwarden ☎ 01747 860195

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Committee of the Friends of St Michael's would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of our Autumn Bazaar on 20th September. Your cakes, books, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes helped us to raise the sum of £589.88. Thanks also to all those who came to support the occasion and helped to make it such an enjoyable morning.

Patricia Stephenson, Secretary ☎ 01747 860278

Midforest Building Services advert - ¼ page

Richard Robins advert - ¼ page

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Afternoon Get Together

On 26th November we shall meet again at 2.30 p.m. for an afternoon with Rev'd Gordon Elford. His subject is "Flowers and Candles for Christmas". Those who have heard Mr Elford before will anticipate an instructive and entertaining afternoon - do join us.

Coffee Mornings

Coffee Mornings continue every Wednesday 10.00am - 12 noon with Pause for Thought at 11.00 a.m. This is an informal gathering but makes a mid-week break for chat and a short period of meditation.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Don't miss
This year's

Christmas Charities Fair

Saturday 22nd November 2008

10.00am to Noon

In the Grove Buildings

Nine local charities

Original raffle prizes

Refreshments, Bottle Stall, cakes, plants

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

Christian Aid Teatime

We were too late to include the result of our Teatime event in last month's Mere Matters but we would still like to thank everyone who supported this event and raise a fantastic £90.00 for Christian Aid. It is wonderful that such a simple event like a tea party with friends from Mere and beyond can help such a worthwhile cause. When you think that £30.00 a month can feed a child with HIV in South Africa, the money we raised really will make a genuine difference to the lives of poor people around the world.

Janet Way for Mere Churches Together

FAIR TRADE FIVE A DAY

I am sure we have all heard the "5 a day" campaign to encourage us to build five a day into our daily routine. But, this time I am not thinking of fruit and veg, but Fair Trade products. How about:

- Fair Trade '5 a day' for breakfast: tea, fruit juice, muesli, drinking chocolate, and marmalade.
- Fair Trade '5 a day' for dinner: spaghetti, pasta, rice, olive oil, coffee
- Fair Trade '5 a day' snacks: cookies, geobars, chocolate, yoghurt raisins, fruit snacks
- Fair Trade '5 a day' essentials: toilet paper, kitchen roll, tissue hankies, sugar and honey
- And don't forget: Fair Trade '5 a day' for Christmas cards, decorations, gifts, paper and wine.

Stock up on your Fair Trade '5 a day' items at the Traidcraft Stall in the URC or come along to my 'At Home' in November and take the '5 a day' challenge.

Fair Trade 'At Home'

Friday November 14th: 10.00am-4.00pm & 7.00-9.00pm

Saturday November 15th: 9.00am-12.30pm

at Wits End, North Road, Mere

Everyone is Welcome

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

THANKS FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Many thanks to everyone who so generously donated non-perishable food supplies to our harvest collection for The Trussell Trust. We were able to deliver 129.5Kg to the Trust after the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the 5th October, that is the equivalent of over 312 standard tins of baked beans - or over 20 stones in old money!! The Trussell Trust is a Salisbury based charity that provides food parcels for the needy within the Salisbury District, and the workers there were thrilled with the quantity of food that we were able to donate to them.

Pat Isom and Tim Merrell, Church Wardens

U.R.C. CAKE STALLS

In future, the cake stalls will be held in the U.R.C. church centre at 10.00am instead of in the Square at 9.30am. The date of the next cake stall will be 6th December. We hope to see you then. I'd like to say "Thank You" to our cooks and all our customers.

E.M. Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL MERE

Season of Remembrance

**Sunday 2nd November
6.00pm**

**All Souls Service of Commemoration of Departed Loved
Ones.**

A quiet, meditative, service during which there will be the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of departed loved ones.

If you would like the name of your loved one read out during the service please contact Rev'd Paul Barnes (01747 863313).

oOo

**Sunday 9th November
Remembrance Sunday**

We gather around the memorial by the clock tower at 10.45am
for an

Act of Remembrance
before proceeding to St Michael's church for a short service

ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL
MERE

Sunday 30th November

4.00pm

Christingle Service.

Join us for a very special candlelit celebration as we prepare to
welcome Christ - The Light of the World -

Christingles are given to all children.

This short service is ideal for children of all ages!

A collection is taken to support the work of the Children's Society

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

NOVEMBER 2008

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

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	4.30pm	Evening Prayer

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

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Communion
		<i>NB: No Sunday Club</i>	
		6.00pm	All Souls
			Service for the commemoration of the departed
Wednesday	5th	7.30pm	'Start the month Communion (CW1)
Remembrance Sunday	5th	10.45am	
Sunday	9th	10.45am	At the Clock Tower in the Square, followed by service in St Michael's
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Parish Communion CW1)
	30th	10.30am	Matins.

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, Tel: 01747 860685

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Margaret Bodey
	9th	10.45am	Remembrance in Square followed by service at St Michael's
	16th	11.00am	Dick Potts Holy Communion
	23rd	11.00am	Sydney Shore Church Anniversary
	30th	11.00am	Brian Collis

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
	9th	6.00pm	Mr L Nicholls
	16th	6.00pm	Mrs Coral Ryalls
	23rd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
Wednesday	26th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together
Sunday	30th	6.00pm	Mrs Ann Bradford

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

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd 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	2nd	9.25am	DIY Matins
	9th	9.25am	Remembrance Service

Sunday	16th	9.25am	Matins
	23rd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
	30th	9.30am	No service at West Knoyle, but Holy Communion at Maiden Bradley for anyone in the Benefice

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

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2008

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 Hall; SM-St Mary's RC Church; YC-Youth Centre

1	Sat	10.00am	RSPCA & Cats Protection - Christmas Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
2	Sun	1.00pm	Mere Walking Group	CP
		4.00pm	Gillingham Imperial Silver Band Concert	L
3	Mon	10.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	YC
		6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Preview	Library
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.30pm	Mere Parish Council	AYP
4	Tue	10.30am	Coffee Morning & cake Stall	Bramley House
		7.30pm	Dorset Corset Theatre Co "Northanger Abbey"	L
5	Wed	10.00am	Coffee Mornings (every Wednesday)	MH
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
6	Thur	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
7	Fri	7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (Every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows "Mamma Mia"	L
8	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC

9	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (Also 16th & 30th)	GB
11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers' Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
12	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		6.00pm	Junior Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
13	Thu	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Guides (also 20th & 27th)	GB
14	Fri	9.30am	Friends of Mere School – Cake Stall	The Square
14	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 28th)	GB
15	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Morning & Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Charity (NDCS) Quiz Night	GB
18	Tue	7.30pm	St Michael's PCC meeting	GB
19	Wed	7.00pm	Conservative Selection Meeting, Mere Division	GB
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Mere & District Chamber of Trade AGM	The George
20	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Production "Ladies of Spirit"	L
21	Fri	7.30pm	MADS Production "Ladies of Spirit"	L
22	Sat	10.00am	Grove Building Christmas Charities Fair	GB
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning with RG Bric a Brac stall	CC
		7.30pm	MADS Production "Ladies of Spirit"	L
25	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum – Paul Atterbury Talk	GB
26	Wed	2.00pm	"Friends Together"	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
28	Fri	7.00pm	for 7.45pm Carnival Christmas Bingo	GB
		7.30pm	Friends of Mere School – Bingo Night	Mere School
29	Sat	10.00am	Leaping Frogs Bazaar – Nearly New Sale	L
29	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust South West Supporter Group the next talk will be at the Hinton Hall Tisbury on Thursday November 13th at 7.30pm Elthne Colin (who has worked with Earth Watch on different projects) subject will be Flamingos of the Rift Valley. The talk will cover five different areas at the beautiful and remote soda lake

Bogoria looking at the health of the birds, water, and help given to local school leavers to help them run their own programmes. Entry £2.00. Refreshments, all welcome. Contact Mary James 01747 870 446.

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Halls: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Buildings: ☎ Isabel Howell 01747 860297

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 ☎ 01722 327222

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

COPY DATE FOR COMBINED ISSUE - DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

Editorial for the December 2008/January 2009 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 17th November 2008.** E-mailed contributions preferred, but please telephone the Editor for details. Would contributors please add their name and contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage,
Kilmington Common, Kilmington (☎ 01985 844740)

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr. Colin Anderson