

# MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

*MERRY  
CHRISTMAS*



Dec 2008 - Jan 2009

# 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 two meetings will be held at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on **Monday, 1st December 2008** and on **Monday 12th January 2009**.

## **The Chairman writes:**

On Remembrance Sunday I laid a wreath at the war memorial, on behalf of the Parish Council, not only to remember those who fell in the Great Wars but also those who have given their lives in the service of this country in conflicts that continue even now. We will remember them.

I regret to report some mindless vandalism that occurred in the Recreation Ground last week when someone drove a car across the field in very wet conditions making an unnecessary mess and causing damage. On a brighter note, however, I am pleased to report that the Parish Council hopes to install some new play equipment in the Recreation Ground for the younger children in the near future, and we will be consulting with the playgroups and schools.

Following complaints that the Christmas Tree blocked the bus stop and overhung the highway last year, and after consulting with the Highways Authority, we have repositioned the Christmas Tree site. Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. *Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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

## **STEPS TOWARDS THE NEW UNITARY COUNCIL**

The impending closure of the Salisbury District Council is drawing closer, and as one of your local councillors I will try to keep you informed. As Councillors, communicating to the public about what we do is one of the most important roles we have.

The new Unitary Authority, Wiltshire Council, will be formed following elections to be held on Thursday the 4th June 2009, which will be the same day as the European Elections. District Councils will be disbanded as from the 1st April 2009, but Wiltshire County Councillors will stay in place until the elections in June 2009. Those involved in



planning and licensing applications etc., will wish to know that for the interim period, a transitional arrangements bill currently before Parliament is intended to pave the way for Councils to appoint temporary co-opted members to discharge licensing or planning functions from 1st April 2009 up to the fourth day after the June elections.

To give you an idea of how the new Council will be structured locally after the elections of June 2009, it will be a statutory requirement for the new Wiltshire Council to establish area boards. These boards will be made up of elected unitary councillors, usually a low number, in my opinion of say five elected councillors. When a vote is required, a quorum of three will be required, thus on some occasions a vote of elected councillors may not be possible.

Outside bodies such as local Parish and Town Councils, ambulance, PCT (Health Service) and the Police will be invited to appropriate meetings. These outside bodies will be able to take part in discussions during the area board meeting unlike when attending a formal council meeting, but they will not be able to vote as a representative of Wiltshire Council. The new area board here will have an area about the size of the existing Western Area Committee of the Salisbury District Council. For Mere and West Knoyle, our area board will comprise of the existing Wiltshire Community Areas of Mere, Tisbury and possibly Wilton.

The existing community areas have Community Area Plans, (e.g: The Mere Community Area Plan 2004-9), which will still be developed by a separate community body called the Community Area Partnership. These plans will help shape our area, and will be fed into the statutory area board. I was one councillor chosen from The Western Area Committee of The Salisbury District Council to sit on the South West Wiltshire Area Board Steering Group. This is one of 5 "pilot" area boards out of a total of 20 area boards required for Wiltshire. I was told by one officer that elected Unitary Councillors appointed to these area boards will be Councillors needing to liaise with many outside bodies and work within the community. I spend most days now doing just that in addition to my normal work. As well as being a Mere Parish Councillor, I attend the above "pilot board" every other Wednesday and I attend Salisbury District Council meetings regularly.

Currently, there are four area committees in Salisbury District Council area exercising development control (Planning permission) functions. Each Salisbury District Councillor has a place on one of the above committees. Only one committee for development control will replace all four of the above committees in South Wiltshire after the election, with only about half of the elected Unitary Councillors sitting on development control committees. Housing and planning permission take up a sizeable amount of my time at

present. The public are able, in many cases, to attend very local Western Area Committee meetings to express their views.

Under the Unitary Council it is claimed: "the service will continue to be delivered locally by officers based in Salisbury, Chippenham, Trowbridge and Devizes. As a result, communities and parish and town councils will retain their existing ability to speak with and meet officers with an excellent local knowledge, but who also have the ability to draw down added expertise, should the need arise."

Trowbridge will be the hub of "the operation". I will try to keep you informed as we get ever closer to the new Wiltshire Council.

On a related note, Gillingham Town Council was informed well before I and my local Councillor colleagues, that the A303 would be closed shortly for three months, between Mere and the Willoughby Hedge service station\*. I trust that when the area boards are formed after next year's elections that the Highways Agency will be good enough to perform better and inform the new area board of highway matters in that board's area..

*George Jeans, Salisbury District Councillor for Western and Mere*

\*There will be a "drop in" Public Information event in the Lecture Hall from 3.00pm until 9.00pm on Thursday 4th December. A representative of the Highways Agency will be in attendance, as well as members of the construction, design, traffic management and communications teams, to talk through the scheme and answer as many questions as possible. *Editor*



## **MERE POLICE NEWS**

### **Don't Become A Crime Victim This Christmas**

#### **Protect Yourself Against Theft by Property Marking**

- Unfortunately, every year Christmas gifts are stolen from their owners.
- Sometimes gifts are not recovered because they are unidentifiable.
- You can stop this happening to you by Property Marking your gift.
- Help us catch the thieves and get your presents back.

Ultra Violet Marker Kits can be bought from the Community Affairs Department at the price of £3.00 each\*. Invisibly mark your valuables with a postcode and then go to your

computer and register them FREE on line at: [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

Registering your possessions on Immobilise.com not only greatly improves the chances of having your item returned, but also helps identify criminals and reduce crime. All UK police forces endorse this system and immobilise.com is the only database of its kind connected to the National Police Stolen Property Database.

- Warning - Property marked items cannot be returned to shops and stores.

For crime reduction advice, please contact the Community Affairs Department at Wiltshire Police ☎ 0845 408 7000

\*While stocks last. Alternatively, the marking kits can be bought from the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust ☎: 01225 794652 or e-mail: [bobbyvan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bobbyvan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)



## **WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE WINTER SAFETY**

With the darker colder nights approaching fast, the time for turning up the heating has arrived. Many of us in Wiltshire have open fires and/or woodburners as a source of heating.

Prevent Chimney fires. Keep your chimneys swept clean to prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Clean chimneys also help the environment by assisting the complete combustion of the fuel and reducing emissions in the atmosphere. Regular cleaning of your chimneys or flues eliminates the build-up of soot and clears obstructions such as bird and animal nests, leaves and debris.

Using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient to clean the chimney properly. Ensure your chimney flue is inspected at regular intervals to prevent fire breaking out of the chimney. Fireguards can prevent serious injury or death and Spark guards can prevent a serious fire in your property.

Chimneys using smokeless fuels, bituminous coal, oil or gas should be swept at least once a year, but those using wood should be swept every 3 months when in use. Make sure that your smoke alarms are working and also that you are not at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning by having appliances installed and serviced by competent engineers. Fit a carbon monoxide detector and never block air-bricks, vents or flues.

**Collect a form from the shop or ring 01747 861164  
Stourhead Farm shop – Christmas orders now taken  
Open 7 days a week 10.00am – 5.00pm**

If you run/organise a group and would like a member of Wiltshire Fire & Rescue to come along and talk about keeping safe in the home, please contact me.

**Melanie Jezzard, Community Safety Advisor ☎ 01380 731188**



## A HEART-WARMING STORY

Rising fuel prices will make this coming winter a very worrying time for many, but help is at hand thanks to Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The two organisations have joined forces to run a six-month campaign called '*Affordable Warmth.*'

From now and until March 2009, a special '*affordable warmth action booklet*' will be available to people who are having difficulty paying for their fuel or are facing high fuel bills. We have already sent the action booklets to over 6,000 households across the Salisbury district that may face difficulties following the recent fuel price rises. We are also giving the action booklet to organisations which are likely to be in contact with people who could benefit.

The packs will provide people with information on the grants that are available to make homes more energy efficient. Energy efficiency will not only make your home warmer, but it will also cut down your bills. Also included will be details of social tariffs from fuel suppliers to help people pay less, guidance on how to monitor and reduce your energy use, and tips on how to save money through switching fuel suppliers.

It will also have plenty of general advice on the practical things people can do to keep their homes, and themselves, warm – without costing the earth. If you're worried about paying your fuel bills this winter and would like our affordable warmth booklet, call The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Energy Team: ☎ 01380 736074.

## MERE WEATHER

The first week of October was wet, but the following 11 days were drier. We had an inch of rain (24.5mms) on the 20th and the total for the month was 110mms (4.33ins.) Last year we had 64.5mms (2.54ins). The first half of the month was fairly mild but the second half was much colder.

Up to the 16th November it has been wet, a total of 91 mms (3.58 ins.) with cold East winds.

**Peter Durkee**

## BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Peter Durkee will be offering his books for sale in the garage next to the Post Office on Saturday 6th December from 10.00am to 12.30pm, including his latest novel, 'The Black Cranes'. In the review a writing magazine says "Peter's latest novel has a superb cover....his story is equally elegant and intriguing as is the question on the back cover 'The effects of nerve gas from the use of an insecticide never did threaten the World. But could it?' The young doctor sent to investigate an unknown disease in Sudan discovers more than he bargained for. His assignment proves to be complex and, at times, dangerous."

For each book sold a contribution will be given to the East Window fund of St. Michael's Church and to the Church in Sudan for the re-building of schools and churches in Juba (the size of England) destroyed there in the ten years of war.

*Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 86363*

## CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING



Bring your Christmas Tree  
to Salisbury Road Car Park, Mere  
on Saturday 10th January 2009  
From 10.00am until 12.00 Noon

We will shred the tree and remove the mulch for free!

Sponsored by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Salisbury District Council

## HERE CARNIVAL

### Father Christmas is coming to town



Saturday 20th December from 10.30am - 1.00pm'ish.

Come and visit him in the clock tower. £2.50 per child, which includes a present from Father Christmas.

Enjoy the Christmas atmosphere with Christmas music and warm mince pies available for all. Don't miss this magical event.

Organised & operated by Mere Carnival Committee. New members always welcome, please contact Clive Hazzard, via North Street Nursery for further details on how to join.

## MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

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

**Mr Stephen Sherrard & Ms Jacqueline Barnes**

### **Contact Details: -**

Mere Dental Practice\*, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, Wiltshire  
BA12 6EW ☎: 01747 860365

### **Note**

The practice closes at 12 noon on Christmas Eve and reopens on Monday 29th December, but will be closed again on New Years Day.

For 'out of hours' dental emergency treatment in Wiltshire over all of the Christmas/New Year period (including Christmas Day & Boxing Day) ☎ 0300 111 5717.

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

## ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (Mere and District Day Centre)

I am sure you will be hearing about all the fun things people are doing for Christmas and we are doing the same, partying our way to that wonderful celebration, but I want to tell you about a special moment that happened recently. It was a miserable, wet Monday and a 'Chit Chat Day' when we don't have an organised activity, but talk about anything at the Rosemary Goddard Centre.

I asked the Guests about what made them happy. Family and friends was by far the most important, then the love of a good man, a cold beer, a good natter and, of course, coming to the Day Centre. After lunch KG told us about the happy days spent working at the Post Office, I hasten to add not in Mere, and her *assignments*. This led to EM telling us about the *blokes* she met when working in the Rag Trade in the East End of London, LE mentions the *chaps* she flirted with as a Wren, and what about those *fellers* we all knew? Meanwhile the men in the group were decidedly bored until the mention

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of a *gusset*. MH informed us that gusset was a French word, but where had all these words come from? Out came the dictionary and the outcome astonished us. Amongst other explanations did you know that:-

Bloke – is a nautical name for a Commander; did those who worked in the East End docks of London absorb that name into their vocabulary? Chap – “I say chaps” – is not a pucker word but the name of an itinerant worker or peddler! Fellow – is a dismissive word for a man or youth, but also indicates a partner. Gusset – Is the name for the chain mail on a suit of armour - was that bought over by the Normans? MH thinks so.

Now isn't that interesting? Is there anyone out there who is knowledgeable about these things and would like to tell us more? Learning is the thing that keeps you young and so on a rainy Monday as we learnt, we laughed and laughed, what were you doing? Why not come and join us as a Guest or a volunteer and if you do, we will tell you the meaning of the word *assination*!!

If you are over 60 years and want to join us, ring Lynette ☎ 01747 861646 for details about the Rosemary Goddard Centre.

How can I possibly thank those Trustees and Volunteers who work so hard throughout the year – everyone who has been involved is invited to a mulled wine and mince pies party (or even a cup of tea) at the Rosemary Goddard Centre at 2.00pm on Monday 22nd December. I would request that you let me (Lynette ) know that you are coming as I would hate to run out of wine or milk or even mince pies.

*Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646*

The Trustees would like to thank our Organiser, Lynette Elliott, and volunteers for all their work to make the Centre such a success, and to wish them, our Guests and supporters a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. If you haven't managed to pick up our quiz (£1.00) yet, they are on sale at Mere Information Point.

*Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861797*

## THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

It may only be November as we write, but The Friends are already planning their next fund-raiser. It won't happen until the spring of 2009, but watch out for details in the next issue of Mere Matters. Meanwhile, thank you to everyone who has supported us so magnificently throughout 2008 and helped to make it a record-breaking year. Merry Christmas to you all!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 861797*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE  
MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2009**

**Christmas Coffee Morning  
At Bramley House**

**Wednesday 10th December 10.30 am**

Raffle - Cake Stall  
Card Sales

**ALL WELCOME**

Helen Eyers, Activity Organiser 01747 860192

**MERE GARDENING CLUB**

Members are reminded that there is no meeting in December. A Happy Christmas to you all, and we look forward to seeing members at the gardening quiz in January.

Our January meeting is a QUIZ EVENING on Wednesday 14th January at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings. So that she can organise the team, don't forget to let Janet Way know if you are coming: ☎ 01747 860884. The quiz in January is for members only.

*Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797*

**JUNIOR GARDENING CLUB**

It is not too late for anyone unable to attend the first Junior Club meeting last month to plant their tree. Contact Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884 to arrange a suitable time.

The meeting during the Spring Term will be a competition to be judged at our Annual Show. More details later but it would be great to see many more keen young gardeners.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

**MERE ART GROUP**

Would you like to paint but never seem to find the time at home? Then come and join our friendly informal group in a relaxed atmosphere in The School Room (at the back of Mere Methodist Church) held every Thursday from 10.00am to 1.00pm. No term-times or tutors – we learn from each other! Bring your own painting materials. All abilities welcome. Drop in and see what we're up to. £2.00 per session to cover hire of hall & refreshments.

*Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596*



# MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Tuesday, 16th December 2008**

## ***“Filletts of Place”***

*Highlighting New Research on People and Places around East Knoyle*

*by Tony Claydon*

*7.30pm Grove Buildings*

**Tuesday, 13th January 2009**

## ***“The Fovant Badges”***

*The History and Maintenance of the Famous Badges*

*by Dr Tony Phillips*

*7.30pm Grove Buildings*

*Visitors welcome to Both talks.*

*Entrance fee to non-members, £2.00 per person*

## **VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

Mike Hannon is co-ordinating plans for a visit to the National Memorial, near Lichfield in Staffordshire. It is the United Kingdom's living and lasting memorial to commemorate and celebrate those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Too far for a one-day trip, it is proposed to spend the night at the Holiday Inn Express, Lichfield, from which a quotation of £59.00 per room has been received. The plan is to leave Mere by coach on Saturday 14th March at 2.00pm, arriving in Lichfield at around 6.00 pm. We would visit the Memorial on Sunday 15th from 10.00am to 3.00pm, returning to Mere at about 7.00pm.

Allowing for the cost of the coach and a "carvery" lunch at the memorial restaurant the total cost is likely to be £75.00 per head, based on two sharing a room. For further details, please contact me:

*Mike Hannon ☎ 01747-860149*

## MERE MUSEUM

Our new exhibition opened in the presence of a large crowd of Friends and members of Mere's Womens' Institute in the first week of November. The exhibition is called **'Hearth and Home; Home and Country'** and it celebrates both the domestic lives of women in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the 90th birthday of Mere's W.I. The exhibition features, among much else, the original, famous, prize-winning Scrapbook, made by Mere W.I. in 1956-7 which is a treasure trove of information about Mere's history. There is also a photographed copy of it made especially for the exhibition which makes this unique book available to everyone for the first time. You'll find it under the original Mere Map at the end of the Museum. The exhibition will run until the end of February 2009.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 861797*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

**It's not too late!** There's still (just) time to buy the **Friends' Wildlife QUIZ** (£1.00 from Mere Information Point) and see if you can win £15.00 – which could come in handy with Christmas just around the corner. Provided your entry is posted in the box in the Museum by close of play on Monday 1st December, you're in with a chance. And the Museum benefits too of course. The name of the winner, and the answers, will be available from the Information Point as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 861797*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

December's film on Friday 5th December whisks us away from the sunny Greek islands to the high society of London in the 18th century in the critically acclaimed 'The Duchess' (12A), the story of the society beauty Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire who scandalised society with her affair with future Prime Minister, Charles Grey. The film stars Ralph Fiennes and Keira Knightley as the Duke and Duchess, with Dominic Cooper (seen last month in Mamma Mia!) as Charles Grey. More details on page 20.

At the time of writing films for the New Year have not been confirmed but the first film of the New Year will take place on Friday 9th January. More news should be available at

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MARILYN and SAM of  
THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE, MERE  
TELEPHONE: 01747 860300**

our December screening, or look out for posters in town and in the Library. In the meantime, have a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

**Dates for Your Diary:** The first two films of the year will take place on Friday 9th January and then Friday 6th February 2009. *Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

**Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096**

The Mere Literary Festival in October once again provided a week of interesting and varied events, and the Management Committee would like to thank Adrienne Howell and her team for all their hard work.

In October, we received exactly 100 requests, rather more than usual, although throughout the year there has been a steady increase in the monthly totals. Whilst donations from users provide a substantial contribution towards running costs, there is a significant shortfall. Last month we made 37 journeys to Salisbury District Hospital, each journey costing £20. As you know, we do not ask for a set amount for any journey, but it may be helpful to keep this in mind. Our drivers give their time freely and only receive a mileage allowance. *Molly Burden*

## **LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL**

As the 12th Mere Literary Festival programme took shape, a theme of biography and personal stories emerged. And what entertaining stories we heard ranging from those of King Alfred, Sir Christopher Wren and Pepys to those of more recent times – the story of Dylan Thomas, civil war in Bosnia, Westminster politics, a vet's life, the green agenda, a journey around English cathedrals and your reminiscences.

A good week, with one disappointment - when the Saturday speaker failed to arrive! This is the first time this has happened in twelve years and so far no explanation has been received. But the children's Saturday event was a great success, and earlier in the week pupils at Mere and Whitesheet Schools also enjoyed story workshops.

It seems keeping a diary is not so popular as in the time of Samuel Pepys, but if you have just forgotten to hand in your 'diary day' account please do so asap at Mere Library. Quiz Night had, unfortunately, to compete with Film Night and drew fewer teams than usual. The winning team was Mere Amateur Dramatic Society and the Runner-Up was 'The Bookers' from West Knoyle.

The Lecture Hall was crowded on Festival Sunday to hear the results of the short story competition. Entries came from all over the country, Europe, Scandinavia, Canada and America and the results were as follows:-

<u>OPEN SECTION</u>	1st. Knots	Kate Hendry, Ayrshire
	2nd. Lost	Janet Ross, Derbyshire
	3rd. Absence	Evan Guilford-Blake, USA
<u>LOCAL SECTION</u>	1st. Silent Guardian	A .J. Davies, Bourton
	2nd. The Caller	Adrian Carter, Pen Selwood
	3rd. Life of Bob	Linda Jones, Leigh Common

The Junior Competition winners were:-

<u>11yrs &amp; Under</u>	1st. Rachel Gibb, Wiltshire.
	2nd. Bethany Kilbey, Somerset
	3rd. India Bohanni, Berkshire
<u>12 -16 yrs</u>	1st. Chris Runciman, Kent
	2nd. Emma Findlay-Wilson, Dorset
	3rd. Rosanna Younger, Dorset

Grace Wines Memorial Prize:

Winner -	Zak White
Runner-Up -	Taylor Stainer

Details of those awarded certificates appear on our website: [www.merelitfest.co.uk](http://www.merelitfest.co.uk)

The Festival is very much a community effort to support the community work of the LinkScheme, and the organisers appreciate and thank all who supported or helped toward its success. The support of other Mere organisations in keeping festival week 'clear' for this local charity event is also much appreciated. So, for your 2009 diaries – next year's festival dates are **12th – 18th October**.

*Adrienne Howell & the Lit. Fest.Group*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

Well, now you know. It was ghosts and not gin after all (the 'spirit' in *Ladies of Spirit*, the title of our very successful Autumn Production). Rest and recuperation is the watchword for *at least* a couple of weeks, but then we shall be starting serious work on the pantomime. Yes, 2009 is Pantomime Year – details in the next issue. In the meantime, the partaking of a little of the other sort of spirit during the Festive Season won't go amiss. We hope you'll join us!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 861797*

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society and Rural Art Wiltshire present

## THE SNOW QUEEN

**On Friday 12th December at 7.30pm in Mere Lecture Hall**

An evil magic mirror shatters into millions of tiny pieces, shards fly out into the world piercing the heart of a young boy and making him the captive of an ice castle watched over by the mysterious Snow Queen. Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of frozen lands, talking reindeer, the power of friendship and one girl's bravery is re-told in Proteus' unique style fusing film, circus and music together in a magical package! Brought to you by the same artistic team behind the widely acclaimed 'Peter Pan' and last year's 'Beauty and the Beast', this promises to be a wild ride!

Hosted by Mere Drama Society in the newly refurbished Lecture Hall, do come to this fantastic show performed by Proteus Theatre Company from Basingstoke. Tickets are £5.00 for adults and £3.50 for children or why not book a family ticket for just £15.00. (two adults and two children). Available from Mere Tourist Information. Please book early to be sure of a seat.

*Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163*

## SHREEN HARMONY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**At 7.30pm on Saturday 20th December in the Grove Buildings**

A festive programme with songs from around the world, carols, music and readings. This is a free concert, but there will be a donation basket on the door should anyone wish to contribute.

*Barbara Bourne ☎ 01747 861558*

## GROVE BUILDING '100' CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for November, drawn after Parish Communion on 2nd November 2008 by Jonathan Wells, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 36	Generously Returned
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 72	Generously Returned
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 183	Mrs F Wand Tetley
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 59	Generously Returned

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## RSPCA-CATS PROTECTION CHRISTMAS SALE

The RSPCA's share of the profit from the joint Sale held on 1st November was £475.00. Many thanks to all who supported us.

*Pete & Sue Howell ☎ 01747 860623*



## MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Members were joined by the County Chairman, Sandra Mistlin, and Dr. Andrew Murrison MP at their 90th Anniversary meeting, as well as past members and representatives from other local WI's. A small presentation was made to Joan Mills, who joined the WI 50 years ago.

As part of the 90th celebration, records and photographs from past events form part of the display, "Hearth and Home", currently on show in the Museum.

Our next meeting will be in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm on Thursday, 4th December, when Mrs. S. Buttenshaw will speak on Spitsbergen and the High Arctic.

There will be no meeting in January.

*Molly Burden. ☎ 01747 860007*

## 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*

## TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

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

### **New Year! - New Look Sports Centre!**

During December 2008 and January 2009, the Sports Centre will undergo renovations to enhance its facilities. This will provide us with a new look Entrance and Reception, a self-contained Lounge with its own entrance and disability access, as well as an extended Gym (with its own entrance). This is the third time that the Gym has been extended in the life of the Sports Centre to cope with the ever increasing number of people using the facilities, since it was originally opened in October 1990.

This will enable us to re-arrange the equipment, and give the area a feeling of more space. It is not envisaged that we will have to close down at all during this period of change, and that all classes, clubs and private bookings can and will be accommodated to the best of our ability.

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# **The Duchess (12A)**

**Ralph Fiennes   Keira Knightley**  
**Charlotte Rampling   Dominic Cooper**

The life and times of the celebrated 18<sup>th</sup> century beauty Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire, who was trapped in a loveless marriage, and whose affair with future Prime Minister Charles Grey scandalised society.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 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](http://www.moviola.org)

There are a number of classes on our Programme to suit all abilities, ages, and preferences and we also have a number of activities for children too. So come on and make the most of your New Look Sports Centre during 2009 – we really do cater for everyone within the Community. For further details concerning times and days of sessions, to book a place, or information concerning other activities which take place at the Centre, please e-mail us at: [tisburyssc@salisbury.gov.uk](mailto:tisburyssc@salisbury.gov.uk) or call Reception ☎ 01747 871141.

*Debbie Stevens, Duty Manager*



### **Georgina's Ramblings**

At last the news that has been eagerly awaited for so many months – we have received the OK from Wiltshire County Council that our application to become a Children's Centre has been approved and the draft contract is with the management committee. We are heading into the New Year with new hope and the promise of even greater things to come for the community of Mere and the surrounding area.

With so many people that have made this possible I want to say a special thank you to all the committee members who turned out on 23rd October and agreed to continue their sterling work, to the shareholders both old and new that came from as far away as London to support Footprints and the Footprints team.

Other daily miracles happen and to name them all would be difficult but this month I want to thank the Falconry at Mere Down for the fabulous morning that they shared with the children on the 29th October, and we all look forward to seeing them again soon with more interesting information helping us to enjoy the world around us. - Thank you all.

### **Kidzone**

The Team continue to provide a varied and stimulating range of activities for the children – most of which are by popular request of the children. The holiday club was again a huge success, but we would like to see a few more of you in future if we are to continue this at half terms.

In December, we will be engaging in many of the traditional activities and bringing home lots of lovely decorations and food. We will, of course, be having a visit from Santa

and some of his special helpers so please don't miss our Christmas party on Friday 19th December from 3.15 – 6.00pm (***book your child in early as we will have restrictions on numbers, but children from 3 years will be welcome. All under 3's can attend if they bring their Mummies & Daddys.***)

1. This invitation is for everyone in the community and **not** just the families of Mere, we can help with transport.

2. We need to put your Child's name down for Santa to ensure that he or she gets a special personal gift so please contact us asap.

**In January** the theme of around the world will take on a new twist with a look at the different ways that people celebrate the New Year.

### **The Learning Zone**

By popular demand Jane Smith will be running her famous cookery lessons:

"Cookery for Christmas" – 9.30 to 11.30am on 1st December & 7.00pm – 9.00pm on 3rd December & every Wednesday until the end of term, all for the bargain cost of £15.00

***Varied Courses and workshops will also be available – For times, dates and costs, please contact Michelle to book your place. ☎ 01747 861108***

*We also offer the following:*

- Helping you budget to get out of, or avoid, debt – Free & crèche available
- Skills for life (basic Maths and English) – Free & crèche available
- First aid for child carers
- Practical Parent Helper – Free & crèche available

*Let us know if you would like a First Aid course. We can accommodate individuals and businesses*

### **Tiny Toes – for parents and pre-school children**

Is here to help ensure that you always have somewhere to go, and as we go into the New Year we hope to support many more opportunities, but in the interim the following may help you plan your week:

*Monday –* Tiny Toes Drop in all day

*Tuesday –* Tiny Toes 09.00 – 11.30am

*Thursday –* (AM) Tiddlers & Toddlers & Young Mothers

*Friday –* (AM) Health Visitor drop in & Tiny Toes 1.00 – 3.00pm

**Come and see the new soft play area and find some new friends, and do tell Debbie and the team if there are things that you need or would like to happen during these sessions.**

**The Waiting Room** - Now that the weather has turned don't forget that we are open from 9.00-11.00am on Tuesdays, and 2.30-13.30pm on Fridays – Don't wait in the cold come in for a cup of tea with your friends.

**And a final thought.....**

Christmas is almost upon us and for many people it is a lonely and worrying time, please don't be afraid to come and see us or get in touch on behalf of someone who may need some help. We can help with many issues including divorce, debt, child development, going back to work. Please pop in and be assured of a listening ear and steady arm.

*To all of the community that have so kindly supported us over the last 12 months, friends old and new, a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all at Footprints.*

*Georgina Shaw-Halford, Footprints Manager ☎ 01747 861108*

## **REPORT FROM MERE SCHOOL**

### **November 2008**

*A crash of the cymbals, a bang on the drum and a wallop - our music week begun!  
Loud bangs and other noises - sounds of our music week with the new music trolley with hands on music to make!*

*A honk of the horn, a mini-bus drew up, some year 11s (from Gillingham School) came to help us!*

*And when on the bus, Mrs Williamson came, and sat in the hall, on a very exciting day.*

*We got split into groups and we invented and played,*

*'Til we came up with a song which took us all day!*

We had such fun during music week. We were set a task of composing another movement to Saint Saen's 'Carnival of the Animals' and we worked on this all week with help from some students from Gillingham School. We performed our animal music to our parents at the end of the week. Many of us who play musical instruments performed to our families at a special concert one evening when Shreen Harmony came to join us as well. To mark our music week a musical trail was installed in the playground, to keep us busy during playtimes. We were ready for half term at the end of the week!

Green class were very lucky and were able to work with Mr Joe Gladwin, a puppeteer, as part of the Mere Literary Festival. They produced some wonderful puppet theatres. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Last week Mr Sampson, the chimney sweep, came into red class. He talked about boys and girls going up the chimneys and the dangers that Victorian children used to face. He goes to weddings and kisses the brides to give them good luck.

We had an open morning this week when our mums and dads could come and see us working. This was followed by parent interviews when our parents came to look at our work and chat with the teacher about our progress.

Class assemblies are going on at the moment. In these assemblies, we tell everyone about what we have been learning. On these days, we can choose what we have for lunch!

We are now getting ready for Christmas and we are doing 2 plays - Donkey for Sale and Panto Pandemonium. Every year Mrs Maynard prepares a delicious Christmas lunch - it will be a little different this year. We are hoping that Father Christmas will come as visit us as well. We will also be having a Carol Service in church on the last day of term. We find this time of year so exciting!

*Charlie Butler, Philippa Murrison, Zak White, Liam Ferrari, Rebecca Sale, Sarah Murrison, Arun Sheldon, Aiden maidment, Claudia Emby, Victoria Solmon, Hannah Merx, Kitty Cotton, Jessica Tormo, Taylor and Alex Shepherd*



## FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



**CAKE STALL** - Thank you to all of you who supported our cake stall on the 14th November – we made £231.00!

**WINDFALL CLUB** – Unfortunately we did not sell all 100 tickets that we hoped to, although we did just sell enough to run a limited prize draw adjusting the prizes as follows:- £20.00 is the prize for the months of January, February, March, June, October, November and December. £50.00 will be the prize for the two Super draws which take place in July and December. There will be no 2nd or 3rd prizes at present.

Due to the postponement of the October Draw (explained in last months “Mere Matters”), we had two draws in November – the winning numbers were: No's 66 (Mrs Harrison) and 22 (Mrs Shave) both winning £20.00 – well done!

For those of you who'd like to take part in the windfall club there are still numbers available and its still not too late to enter – only £12.00 per number! If you'd 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.

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

Thank you to all those who support the Friends of Mere School, and we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! For further information please contact: ***Mrs Bird (Secretary) ☎ 01747 828789.***

## TIDDLERS AND TODDLERS

Iver House Special Needs students are currently helping-out the Monday sessions at Tiddlers and Toddlers as part of an Asdan\* Wider World Community Project Award. Kieran and Laura are working hard helping to organise and prepare a craft activity, buying and preparing the toddler snacks and planning a music and singing session for the last half an hour. We try to provide healthy fresh fruit - this week we took strawberries! Washing and clearing up at the end for the mums, is a big help as they have to rush off to collect their playschool children. Laura is a day student from Sherborne, who loves working with the toddlers, and Kieran is a residential student whose interests include Strictly Come Dancing, and watching live music.

The Drama group has also been visiting Fives Court and Bramley House to present its Christmas shows, as part of the member's OCR Performance Awards.

(Ivers is an Inclusive Learning Project in Marnhull, Dorset, for young adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities/difficulties. It provides day care opportunities weekdays and weekends, and short term respite care, with a person centred approach to continued development through local and community based learning, vocational schemes, work experience, and recognised training awards. It is based in a lovely rural setting, sited just twenty minutes away from Mere on the edge of Marnhull, with alpacas, goats, cows, poultry and small animals to care for, whilst offering Digital Photography, Animal Care, Horticulture, Healthy Living, Art & Crafts, Performance Arts and ICT National Skills Profile Entry Level Awards.)

\*ASDAN is an approved Awarding Body that creates opportunities for learners to achieve personal and social development through the achievement of ASDAN Awards and Qualifications, enhancing self-esteem, aspirations and individual contribution to local, national and global communities.

*Anne Rich ☎ 01747 861493*

## MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

### **The Club needs Players (boys and girls ages 5yrs and above)**

Come and join us at our Football Practice for the youth football teams at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields, Mere. Established in June 2004, the club has already gained much local support and interest. Our Aim is to Encourage and Promote:

Fun

Friendship

Team Building

Self Confidence

Active Participation in Sport

Character Development

Discipline

Mutual Respect

Fitness

## Training – when and where:

We meet at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields from 6:00pm

Wednesday	Boys over 14yrs & Youth Development Team (16yrs +)
Thursday	Girls under 11 & Boys aged 12 & below
Friday	Boys & Girls From Ages 5 to 10 yrs

Membership cost £5.00 per annum, Match Fees are £2.00 and Training Fees are £1.00 per session.

## Safety & Security:

We aim to provide a safe and healthy environment for all our members. Qualified First Aiders are always in attendance. Security is of prime importance to us. All adults who have direct access to the children are CRB checked. In addition, they will also attend child protection workshops to enhance their understanding of these issues.

## Date for your diary: Bingo Night

Friday 5th December – In the Grove Buildings. Doors open 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm – all proceeds to Mere Town Youth Football Club.

If you have any queries please ring me:

*Neil Francis, Chairman, Mere Town Youth FC ☎ 01747 860750*

## BARN BUDDIES

Attention, Attention.  
Christmas Celebration  
Entertainment & Enjoyment  
Grandma & Grandpa  
Interesting Ideas  
King & Kingdom  
Merriment not Mayhem  
Open-house to One-and-all  
Questions & Quizzes  
Singing Songs  
Unmissable, Unforgettable  
Wine & Wenceslas  
You & Yours

Barn Buddies  
Drama & Drinks  
Family & Friends  
Hurry Here  
Joy & Jokes  
Love & Laughter  
Naughty but Nice  
Poetry & Party  
Raffle & Razzmatazz  
Tempting Treats  
Very Vibrant  
Xcellent, Xciting  
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*

## U.R.C. CAKE STALLS

Just a reminder that 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 first cake stall in the church will be on Saturday 6th December. We hope to see you then. There will not be a Cake Stall in January, because of Christmas and the New Year, so we will hold the next one at 10.00am on Saturday 7th February. *Eileen Burfitt* ☎ 01747 860685

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

Can you help? We urgently need a Secretary to work with the Committee taking minutes of meetings (generally about five evening meetings per year) and sending out minutes and agendas, etc.

For further information, please contact me:

*Margaret Thompson, Chairman, ☎ 01747 860291*

### ***Church of St Michael, The Archangel***

#### **Christmas is coming - Preparations for Jesus' Birthday Begin !**

##### **Sunday 30th November 4.00pm Christingle Service.**

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.

##### **Thursday 18th December 7.30pm Service of The Nine**

Lessons with Carols - followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

##### **Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) 6pm Crib Service**

Children are invited to come dressed as members of the Nativity Story (e.g. angels, shepherds, Wise Men)

##### **11.30pm Midnight Mass**

##### **Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)**

##### **8am communion Service (BCP)**

**10.30 Family Communion** - Bring your favourite Christmas Present !

##### **Sunday 28th December: Feast of the Holy Innocents**

##### **10.30am Parish Communion (Benefice Service)**

##### **Sunday 4th January: Epiphany 8am Communion Service (BCP)**

##### **10.30 Family Communion.**

We welcome the Wise Men.

##### **Sunday 18th January 6.30pm. Songs of Praise**

for other services

See St Michaels Church Notices (pages 32, 33 & 34 in this issue)

## **THE REV'D PAUL BARNES, VICAR OF OUR PARISH CHURCH, ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, WRITES**

A mother and father went Christmas shopping one Saturday afternoon with their seven year old daughter. The little girl was so excited about Christmas, so happy, so enthusiastic. But her parents were just the opposite, grumpy, grouchy, uptight, and their bad temper certainly wasn't improved by the traffic jams and the long queues in every shop.

When the family eventually arrived home late that evening, the little girl was still singing Christmas carols while her parents had reached the end of their tethers. Finally, the father snapped and in an angry outburst told the little girl to stop that wretched singing and go to bed.

The little girl headed upstairs to her room, but when she reached the landing she stopped, opened the window and looked out. "Why have you opened the window and let in the cold air?" her father shouted. "Because I thought I heard the angels singing", she answered. Even more furious her father barked at her, "I can't hear any ruddy angels singing, and neither can you. Now get on upstairs and into bed right now!"

The little girl closed the window and continued up the stairs, but then she paused and said gently, "Daddy, if you want to hear the angels sing, you have to listen with your heart."

I wonder how you are feeling as we rapidly approach another Christmas? Are you dreading those shopping trips? Are you already pulling your hair out trying to think of what to buy people? Are you longing for it all to be over and done with for another year?

Or does Christmas still bring out the child in you? Do you still feel that excitement as Christmas Eve draws closer? Do the flickering candles, Christmas lights, and the sound of carol singers still send shivers of pleasure tingling down your spine?

Does hearing the Christmas story still fill you with wonder and awe? When you see the baby Jesus in the manger do you marvel at the mystery of why God, the creator and sustainer of the universe, should choose to become so small and weak and vulnerable, should choose to become one of us?

If for you Christmas has lost its magic and you fear that once again this year you will simply be going through the motions, perhaps it's time to reawaken that child within you, open the window of your heart and listen for the song of the angels. *"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; goodwill henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."*

May I wish you all a happy, peaceful, and holy Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## METHODIST AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

No meeting on Christmas Day! On Wednesday 28th January Mrs Ann Newbury will speak on her experiences in Africa - her subject 'Light in Africa'.

Those who have hearing difficulties will be pleased to know that we now have a Deaf Aid Loop system in the Methodist School Room.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

*The Old Ship Hotel*  
*Christmas Eve carols in our car park*  
*Led by*  
*The Rev'd Paul Barnes*

*Come and enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve*  
*We've got the song sheets & music - all we need*  
*is:*  
*Your Voices!*

*Starting at 7.30pm*

*Wilbur, Karel & all the staff wish you a very*  
*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

# **St George's Church, Bourton**

invites you to

## **A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

with

**WYNCANTORES**

(conductor: William Slogrove)

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

Carols and seasonal readings

Refreshments

Tickets £5 from ☎ (01747) 840266 / 841217

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE**

### **December 2008**

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel (Tel. Mere 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 during 10.30am Sunday Services***

Wednesday	3rd	7.30pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		(NB: No Sunday Club)	
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Thursday	18th	7.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

Wednesday	24th	6.00pm 11.30pm	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Crib Service Midnight Mass
Thursday	25th	8.00am 10.30am	<b>Christmas Day</b> Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW1)
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

### **The United Reformed Church**

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, Tel: 01747 860685)

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour Holy Communion
Thursday	25th	10.30am	<b>Christmas day</b> United service at the Methodist Church
Sunday	28th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Lane

### **The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777)**

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

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Carol Service with URC
	21st	6.00pm	Rev'd Gordon Elford
Thursday	25th	10.30am	<b>Christmas Day</b> United service with URC
Sunday	28th	6.00pm	Mrs Kate Rawlins

### **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
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.00pm	Mass
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10.00am	Mass ( <i>Subject to change</i> )

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)

Sundays	7th	9.25am	Matins
	14th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	21st	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service
Christmas day	25th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	28th		NO service

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## JANUARY 2009

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

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

### *Sunday Club is held in the Grove Buildings during 10.30am Services*

Sunday	4th		<b>Epiphany</b>
		10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		<i>(NB: No Sunday Club)</i>	
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns
Wednesday	7th	7.30pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	25th		<b>Conversion of Paul</b>
		10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

### The United Reformed Church (Tel. Shaftesbury 853304)

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt Tel: 01747 860685)

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Brian Collis
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd. Hazel Barkham
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
			Holy Communion
	25th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

## **The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 823777**

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Covenant Service
	11th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
Sunday	18th	6.00pm	Mr Alan Beale
	25th	6.00pm	Mr Ken harvey
Wednesday	28th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get together (see notice on p 31)

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

Mere Contacts: Mrs T Read, 01747 860289 or Mrs W Richardson, 861004)

Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass
Every Friday	10.00am	Mass

There will be a Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd 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	9.25am	DIY Service
Sunday	11th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	18th	9.25am	Matins
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**

## **DECEMBER 2008**

1	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 8th & 15th)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 8th & 15th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 8th & 15th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP

3	Wed	10.00am	Coffee Mornings (every Wednesday)	MH
		6.00pm	Karate (also 10th & 17th)	L
4	Thurs	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 11th & 18th)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (also 11th & 18th)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (also 11th & 18th)	L
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (also 11th & 18th)	GB
		<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>9.00 pm Highways Agency &amp; Inter Route A303 Closure Public "Drop In" event</b>	<b>L</b>
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	MH
5	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (also 12th & 19th)	BSF
		7.30pm	Wiltshire Moviola "The Duchess"	L
		7.30pm	Mere Town Youth Football Club "Bingo"	GB
6	Sat	10.00am	Cake Stall in the URC Church NOT the Square	CC
		10.00am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
8	Mon	8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Drama Room)	L
9	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
10	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
11	Thurs	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 18th)	GB
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women	GB
		7.30pm	Proteus Theatre Group "The Snow Queen"	L
13	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
14	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (also 21st)	GB
16	Tues	7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
19	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies Christmas Celebration	BSF
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
		10.30am	Father Christmas comes to Mere	The Square
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Concert	GB
23	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & R.G. Bric a Brac	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**

## JANUARY 2009

3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
5	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
7	Wed	10.00am	Coffee Mornings (every Wednesday)	MH
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
8	Thur	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Wiltshire Moviola (Title to be confirmed)	L
10	Sat	10.00am	Free Christmas Tree Shredding	CP
10	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
11	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (also 18th & 25th)	GB
12	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
12	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (also 19th & 26th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 19th & 26th)	YC
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Drama Room)	L
13	Tues	9.00am	Footcare Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
14	Wed	2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
15	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 22nd & 29th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 22nd & 29th)	GB
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
22	Thur	3.00pm	Foot Care Clinic	L
24	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning & RGC Bric a Brac	CC
28	Wed	1.45pm	'Friends Together'	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon "Get Together"	MH
31	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	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**

## **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 FEBRUARY 2009 EDITION**

Editorial for the February 2009 edition 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, 15th January 2009**. 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.

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