

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine
and guide to local events



June - 2009

DR ANDREW MURRISON, OUR LOCAL MP AND MERE RESIDENT, WRITES

Westminster's worst week ever

On Sunday 10th May, I stepped off a Tristar at Brize Norton after visiting troops in Afghanistan and right into the eye of a storm that has shaken us to the core.

I hesitate to write about MP's expenses because everything is changing so fast and I am at risk of being out of date by the time this goes to press. However, I'm an optimist and hope that Westminster will regain some sort of even keel in the days ahead.

Past performance suggests that I may be disappointed.

The unusual thing about this scandal is that it touches politicians right across the political spectrum and implicates all of us. There's some grim comfort in that, but what it has meant is that people have no apparently virtuous organisation to turn to and, as a consequence, have turned on the collective, Parliament itself.

There is a temptation to accept the headlines that have been screaming at us without question. But, for all its hubris about public interest, the press is motivated by its voracious appetite for increased market share to benefit proprietors and shareholders and pay the mortgages of its employees. Whatever journalists may suggest to the contrary, it is counter-intuitive to suppose that MPs are any more or less venal than any other sector of society.

What then had led us to this sorry pass?

Well, firstly the most extraordinarily relaxed rulebook, secondly an over-reliance on the Commons authorities as arbiters of what is reasonable, thirdly risible checks and balances based on the conceit that MPs are 'honourable members' when they are no more honourable than anyone else. Finally, an ethos that the sum allotted for allowances was to be regarded as virtual income, apocryphally a mindset fostered over years as a sop to MPs that were required to exercise wage restraint.

And the pity of all this, is that had the Commons not bent over backwards to prevent disclosure we would not now be in the pit of despair that threatens the very fabric of democracy in this country.

At times like this, it is customary to search for a glimmer of hope and I suppose it is that, even with this scandal, our politics are probably among the least corrupt and avaricious in the world. In that thought lies the Mother of Parliament's last vestige of dignity and the foundation of its recovery.

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, 1st June 2009.**

The New Chairman writes:

This is my first report as Chairman of Mere Parish Council. I was elected at the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2009 and I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and I undertake to serve the community of Mere to the best of my ability. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr. Rodney Coward, was elected as Vice-Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr. Rodney Coward for all his sterling hard work and dedicating so much of his time for the benefit of the community over the last two years. At a time when the media is brimming with stories about the lack of honour amongst some of our politicians, it is reassuring to know that at the grass-roots tier of local government, there are honourable people willing to give up so much of their time and resources.

At the May Parish Council meeting, the following councillors were appointed or re-appointed to represent various groups within the community:

Organisation	2009/10 Representative(s)
Youth Club	Cllrs. R. Coward & C. Hazzard
Cricket Club	Cllr. Mrs. Mary White
Health & Community Care	Cllr. R. Hill
Tennis Club	Cllr. G. Jeans
Football Club	Cllr. E. Mitchell
Public Transport	Cllr. Roy Sims
Mere & District Linkscheme	Mrs. Adrienne Howell
Museum Committee	Cllr. Mrs. Lesley Traves
Footpath Group	Mr. Pete Button
Chamber of Trade	Cllr. P. Coward
Friends of Mere Museum	Cllr. Mrs. Lesley Traves
School Governor	Cllr. G. Jeans
Police Consultative Group	Cllr. M. Hall
Community Safety Partnership	Cllr. Roy Sims
Mere Bowling Club	Cllr. S. Squires
Swimming Club	Cllr. R. Hughes
Carnival Committee	Cllr. D. Sealy

Organisation	2009/10 Representative(s)
Area Board	Chairman & Vice-Chairman
Community Area Partnership (potential)	Chairman & Vice-Chairman

For further information on Parish Council activities, details of meetings and copies of minutes, please go to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org or contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Lindsey Wood, ☎ 01747 860701 or e-mail: lindseywood@merewilts.org

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

WORKING TOGETHER TO 'GET THINGS DONE IN MERE'

Are you part of a group in the Mere Community Area?

Would you like to like to work with other groups to get more done?

Have you got ideas about how to improve things in the area?

Are you an individual who would like to get involved, but you don't know how?

If you can answer 'YES' to any of these questions, we would like to hear from you!

Wiltshire Council is working with Community First and local volunteers to develop a network of local people who are passionate about preserving and improving the Mere way of life.

A small group has already met to consider ways of developing a **Community Area Partnership**. Some of the ideas considered include:

- Holding a Community Fair to raise awareness of what is already happening locally, giving organisations an opportunity to talk to each other and share ideas
- Supporting local business, employment and tourism
- Developing local community transport
- Sharing resources to get more done

There is so much already going on in the area! By working together in a Community Area Partnership, even more people can get involved.

There is funding available through the new Wiltshire Council Area Board. The Area Board will support Community Area Partnerships to deliver local projects. There is also help available to apply for other grant and charitable funding.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting opportunity, please contact Lesley Taylor at Community First ☎ 01380 722475 or email: ltaylor@communityfirst.org.uk



MERE POLICE NEWS

Lock up – safe and sound

The spring weather is encouraging us all to spend as much time as possible outside either in the back garden or catching up with friends on the front door step. The sunshine makes us want to open the windows and let the breeze blow away the traces of winter.

Wiltshire Police want to remind people that unlocked doors and open windows can be a gift to opportunist burglars. There has been a recent increase in such crime which is being actively policed by high visibility patrols and detailed investigations. Residents can help prevent becoming victims themselves by following the advice below.

By remembering to lock front and back doors and not leaving accessible windows open in unoccupied rooms, it will reduce the chance of a “walk in” burglary taking place. Thieves will often target UPVC doors because they have a ‘double lock’ system, which means that when the door is closed it is not necessarily locked. Once inside handbags, wallets and car keys are usually easy to find and the burglary can take seconds rather than minutes.

When going out, securely lock all doors and windows – no matter what the temperature and no matter how long you intend to be away. ‘Just popping across the road for a minute’ or ‘just nipping down the shop’ is ample time for a criminal to strike.

Do be a nosy neighbour – tell us if you see anyone acting suspiciously in or around premises in your neighbourhood, and if possible, take the registration numbers of any unusual vehicles in your area.

Don’t approach any suspicious persons – tell us about them with as much detail as possible, and try to include personal descriptions, and what clothes they were wearing.

Detective Sergeant Andy Beaven said: “We live in a very safe part of the country with a very low burglary rate but there are still people who will enter your home to steal given the opportunity. It’s important that the public take a good look around their homes to see if they can identify possible entry points. If they can see any - then an opportunist thief will also spot them.’

DS Beaven continued: ‘Generally, thieves like the easy option so simple efforts like making sure that doors and windows are secure when you go to bed will put them off. Burglaries also happen during the day so if, for example, you are in the back garden, lock the front door. Simple advice but often forgotten.’

For more information on how to improve your home security please contact the local Crime Reduction Officers or your Neighbourhood Policing Team ☎ 0845 408 7000.



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

WILTSHIRE NEW BUSINESS COMPETITION

The Mere and District Chamber of Trade in connection with The Wessex Chambers of Commerce will be participating in a New Business Competition which was launched on the 14th May 2009.

Wiltshire Council is the main sponsor and the competition is organised by The Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce. If you started your business after the 26th September 2008 or are planning to start trading before 30th November 2009 you are eligible to enter this competition.

There are benefits to be had for all entering the competition which include:

- 35% discount on advertising
- A 'one-to-one' with a Business Link Advisor
- A training needs analysis with advice on Government funding
- New account package for small business
- 20% discount on printing
- Microsoft Business Productivity Online Suite at 18% discount in the first year

Plus for each town winner, £1,000 prize money and publicity in the local press.

Plus for the final winner £2,000 prize money as well as:

- £500 of advertising
- £500 Media Awareness training course
- Business Start-up Course (3 days)
- £250 of printing
- £500 prize money for both 2nd and 3rd places

**For your entry pack and further information please contact
Julie Cousins ☎ 01747 837909**

**The closing date for entries is 25th September 2009
The Wiltshire Final will be held in November 2009**

MERE WEATHER

April was a comparatively dry month with only 40.5mms of rain (1.59ins). 14.5mms (0.57ins) fell on the 26th. From the 10th, we had two weeks with only 2mms (0.08ins). Last year we had 92mms (3.62 ins). The weather was generally sunny with cold winds some days.

May started dry with only 3mms (0.12ins) of rain up to the 13th. By the 17th we had 14mms (0.55 ins) It was sunny with very strong wind on the 16th and 17th.

Peter Durkee

MERE CARNIVAL

The month of June is a busy one for the Mere Carnival Committee. On Saturday 6th June, at the Church Fete, we will be crowning the 2009 Carnival Princess and attendants. This is an exciting event and we look forward to big crowds and good weather.

On Thursday 18th June at 7.30pm, The Walnut Tree Inn is kindly hosting our popular Race Night. This is a fun evening with the opportunity to have a meal and enjoy a great atmosphere, besides having a little flutter. The cost is £10 per person, which includes a meal. Tickets are now available direct from The Walnut Tree Inn and selling fast, so don't delay!

We are currently finalising the programme for events during Carnival week. We would like to run a cake stall in the Square on the morning of Carnival Day. We are a little short on bakers and would love to hear from anyone who would be happy to bake a cake, biscuits or children's cakes. If you can help, please give Deborah a call on the number below.

Deborah Merx, Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 07771 774054

QUIZ NIGHT - FRIDAY, 12th JUNE

A Quiz night has been arranged for Friday, 12th June, at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall. Hosted by Gladys Pope, this is a joint event for Mere Town Youth Football Club and the WRAC Association.

Teams of 4 at £6 per team. Refreshments and raffle.

We look forward to welcoming all "Quizzers" to another enjoyable evening. For further information, please ring me.

Gladys Pope ☎ 01747 860887

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone.

The practice at present has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

Contact Details: -

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

Tuesday 9.00am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)

Normal hours (9.00am – 5.30pm on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday.

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

EVERYBODY SING

Absolutely no vocal qualifications are required to join Wincanton Choral Society on 13th June for an exciting day filled with music in a wide range of styles. Their dynamic musical director Simon Twiseldon will lead the singing, accompanied by brilliant accompanist, Anita D'Attellis. The lively day will be a mix of singing and socializing ending in a brief informal concert for family and friends. All you need to bring with you is your lunch.

Fee: £15 for the day, £5 for 16 - 21yrs

For further details contact Sue by 6th June

Sue ☎ 01749 330622

MERE SHORT WALKS

By popular request, these will continue this month on Thursday, 18th June.

Meet in the Salisbury Car Park at 2.00pm. The walk will be between 2 and 3 miles and end with tea at The Angel Cafe for those who would like to indulge! Further details from:

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

MONDAY 15th JUNE 2009

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (Mere & District Day Centre), Lynch Close, Mere

10.30am - 3.00pm on Mondays and 10.30am - 4.00pm on Fridays

We celebrated May Day in a traditional way and invited several Mere people to join us. There was bunting, tea and cakes, folk songs from Pip Potter, country dancing by Zeals School, accordion playing from the Wild Goose Band and the Southern Breeze Line-dancers. As one of our Guests said, it was not just wonderful, it was magical. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Plans for the celebration began in March when Lynette announced that she was looking for pole dancers. 'Pole dancers!' everyone exclaimed. 'Oh sorry I meant May Pole dancers'. This was followed by a discussion about how sad it was that we were losing all our traditions. 'Well', suggested KG, 'I don't see why we could not do some pole dancing, we have the poles outside the community rooms, it would be good exercise for us'. 'Now steady on old girl', said LL, 'and you're very quiet MS, are you ok?' 'Oh yes I'm fine, I am just trying to remember where I put my hot pants!!' Our Guests are always willing to try anything at the Rosemary Goddard Centre - well nearly anything.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646

Annual General Meeting

This will be held on Monday 6th July 2009 at 2.00 pm in the Community Room, Lynch Close, Mere.

Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861797

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives Court would like to issue a gentle reminder that their Autumn Fair will take place this year on Saturday 5th September at 2.00pm. You might think this notice is a bit premature – after all we don't really know if we've hit summer yet – but we know the jam-making season will be upon us before we know it, and it would be very much appreciated if you could possibly make an extra jar or two for our preserves stall! Thank you in anticipation!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will be a visit to Shaftesbury Abbey Gardens on Wednesday, 10th June 2009 leaving the Salisbury Street Car Park at 5.15pm sharing cars.

Peter Holloway will take us around the peaceful walled Abbey Garden. St. Benedict encouraged the idea of self-sufficiency and endorsed the idea of manual labour. This meant that Abbey gardens would have provided herbs for culinary and medical use by the community. The plants you will see in Abbey Garden's Anglo-Saxon collection are just a few that would have been used by the nuns for flavouring foods, help to heal the sick and to dye cloth.

The medieval orchard was planted in the spring of 2004. The varieties have been chosen to span an historical period from the 15th century to the 19th century. Many of these varieties could have been grown in the Abbey orchard although not in the present location.

There will be refreshments after the walk. The cost is £5.00 per person. More details are available from me and I need to know numbers by Monday 1st June 2009. There will be another visit on 15th July to Gold Hill Organics. See next issue of Mere Matters.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

AGE NO BARRIER

Come and join us for:
A £5.95 two course (Drinks not included)
Community Buffet

At the **new** venue of
The Old Ship Hotel, Mere

On Tuesday 23rd June 2009
From 12 noon onwards

To establish the numbers The Old ship requests that you
ring in advance ☎ 01747 860258

Bring the wife, your hubby, your son and daughter,
granny, Aunt Mabel, neighbour, your best friend, your
worst enemy, but most importantly **BRING YOURSELF,**
if you are on your own, you won't be for long



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY With Mere Gardening Club

VISIT THREE: Friday 10th July 2009

Great Chalfield Manor and Garden

This charming medieval manor house with upper moat, gatehouse and small parish church, is set in a beautiful Arts and Crafts garden. Between 1905 and 1911 the owner, Major R Fuller, had the house carefully restored and the garden laid out by Alfred Parsons RA. His grandson, Robert Floyd, still lives in the family home and manages it on behalf of the National Trust.

Our visit will include a house tour and a garden tour lead by Mrs Patsy Floyd who has devoted so much time to its upkeep. There will be an included afternoon tea.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 1.00pm and return to Mere by 6.00 approx.

Cost: MHS and Gardening Club Members £15.00, non members £17.00, each
Please remember to bring your National Trust membership card if you belong, for non-members the NT entrance fee of £5.70 will apply.

Please ☎ Caroline Cook 861797 or Ros Castro 861957 for more details.

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

The Membership Secretary would like to thank all those who have sent her their membership fee for 2009/10, however there are still a few outstanding. If you would like to renew please send your cheque (payable to Mere Historical Society) to:

Joan Slight ☎ 01747 860890)

Honeysuckle Cottage, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere Wilts BA12 6PP

MERE MUSEUM

Your last chance to catch the current exhibition about the 1848 Tithe Map is almost upon you! It will close on Friday 26th June, and as it is unlikely that the map will ever be displayed again (due to its fragility), do make the most of this opportunity. The annotated photographic copy will, however, be available for consultation in the Museum in perpetuity.

Our next exhibition is to be about John Walton & Co. in Mere. We look forward to including new material, which has recently been donated to the Museum. However we would also be very glad of **YOUR help** with it! We should be delighted to receive any written memories of **working for** or **shopping at** John Walton & Co. to incorporate into the exhibition. And, if by any chance you have objects directly connected to any of the shops (things made or purchased there, items with Walton's name on them and so on), and if you would be willing to part with them for four months, we would very much like to see them with a view to borrowing as many as possible for display in the exhibition. Please contact Jenny Wilding (number below) until 7th June only, and thereafter David Longbourne (860243) if you can help. Thank you.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' Plant Sale was a phenomenal success, thanks to everyone who gave plants and, even more importantly, bought them! An excitement-packed morning was enjoyed by everyone, and at the end of it all, we found you had helped us raise £745 no less. Thank you everyone, and may your gardens grow beautifully this summer!

The Friends' preview of the new exhibition on John Walton & Co will take place on Monday evening June 29th at 6.30 p.m. We are always pleased to see existing Friends at these convivial gatherings, but equally pleased to see prospective new Friends. Don't hesitate – come along and join us!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our final film of the season 'Australia' (12A) on Thursday 18th June is a rollicking colonial adventure story, taking us from England to the outback of Australia with romance, war and cattle drives along the way! Come and join the excitement of it all. Full details on page 20.

There will be no films in July, August or September and the next film will take place during Mere Literary Festival Week in October. Details will be in the September issue of Mere Matters.

Don't forget there is still time to apply for a share of the Film Show funds for this year. Any organisation in Mere currently fundraising or in need of funds can apply in writing, giving brief details of their activities and requirements and sending letters to Mrs. Mary White, Mere Parish Council, The Parish Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere BA12 6EW. Letters should arrive by the end of June.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

FRIENDS TOGETHER & WHIST

Please note that we will be meeting at the United Reformed Church Centre in June, July and August *A Duffield* ☎ 01747 861451 & *S Thomas* ☎ 01747 860586

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, 5th June, at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. We hope that most of our volunteer drivers will be present and we shall be pleased to see anyone else who would like to find out more about the Linkscheme, either as a user or as a helper.

Molly Burden

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

One-Act Play Festival Triumph

As you know, MADS never does things by halves, but at the Woolstore Theatre (Codford) One-Act Play Festival in May, we rather excelled ourselves! We brought not one or two, not even three or four, but **five trophies** home with us, and great were the celebrations as you can imagine. The winners were: Adrienne Howell for Best Original Script (*Handles*) (Adrienne actually wrote both the plays performed at the Festival by MADS), (*Handles*) won Best Play Overall (special thanks from us to Pip Brown, Director), Mary White for Best Actor (*Handles*), June Hewett for Best Comedy Actor (*The Annotator*), and we were awarded the Best Costume trophy for the same play. Start saving NOW for your tickets for our all-star Autumn Production....

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDING '100' CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for May, drawn after Family Communion on 3rd May 2009 by Mrs Kathy Herbert, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 60	Mr & Mrs G Jeans
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 123	Mrs Christina Barnes
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 189	Mr & Mrs D Stokes
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 6	Generously Returned

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be in the Grove Buildings at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 4th June when Mrs H Anstill will speak to us on Kinesiology, the Theory of movement.

As ever, new members and guests are very welcome.

Jean Rees ☎ 01747 860392

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June at **3.00pm** at Mere Down Farm.

We shall be running the cake stall at the Church Fete on Saturday 6th June. Donations of cakes between 10.00am and 12.00pm on that day would be much appreciated.

Thelma Ings 📞 01747 860262

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Club are now wearing their new Club Shirts, which have very kindly been sponsored by Jeans Electrical of Mere. They are in the Club colours of Green and Yellow, and embroidered with the Club Badge of the Mere Clock Tower, the Sponsor's name, and each member's name. Wearing their new shirts, the Club have made an excellent start to the Season winning their first five matches and losing one.

In the Westbrook League they beat Downton at Home and Amesbury Away. In the friendlies, they beat Cranborne, Trowbridge and Frome Selwood away, but lost to Sherborne away.

This year Shaun Woods is playing in the County Champion of Champions, Shaun Woods and David Howell in the County Pairs, and Shaun Woods, David Howell and Richard Coombs in the County Triples. The Green is now playing extremely well, thanks to the dedicated and hard work of all the Green Keepers.

If anyone would like to try the Game, just come along on a Tuesday or Thursday evening at 6.00p.m. or Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm to the club at the Mere School Site in Springfield Road. All you need is a flat pair of shoes. For further information, please call me. *Teresa Read* ☎ 01747 860289.



MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Mere Town Youth Under 8's – Winners of Fair Play Award: For the second year running, the team led by manager Paul McCarthy has been awarded the Mid Wilts League 'Fair Play Award'. This is awarded to teams who demonstrate excellent sportsmanship when taking part in football matches. The Club wishes to thank the team and their manager for this fantastic achievement.

Presentation Evening: On Saturday 16th May we held our 6th Annual Presentation Evening. Every player was given a trophy as recognition of their commitment and attainment throughout the previous season. In addition to this, awards were also given to those who showed particular abilities across a range of criteria. Three main awards were also presented by the Club's President, Mrs Jean Young, – The 'Clubman of the Year Award' went to Mr Dave Windsor, who assisted with the training of the U12's and pitch maintenance. The 'Andy Young Special Merit Award' went to Mellissa Gatehouse. The award for dedication, effort and commitment was presented to Monty Shepperd, who, since the Club started 5 years ago, has rarely missed a training session, or match

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Australia (12A)

Nicole Kidman Hugh Jackman

Baz Lurmann's epic adventure story set in northern Australia before World War II. An English aristocrat who inherits a sprawling ranch reluctantly pacts with a stock-man in order to protect her new property from a takeover plot. As the pair drive 2,000 head of cattle over unforgiving landscape, they experience the bombing of Darwin, Australia, by Japanese forces.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 18th June 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

and has proved to be a great asset to his team and club. A great night was had by all who attended.

Soccer Summer School: We are holding our annual Summer Soccer School, for those aged 6 & over, on Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th August. The School will prepare children for the FA 'Soccer Star' Challenge, & children will receive coaching & assessment on the core skills of the game, with an FA Certificate presented on the final afternoon. The cost of £13.00 for members & £18.00 for non-members, includes all 3 days. Each day will start at 10.30am & finish at 3.00pm, with lunch between 12.30 & 1.00pm. Please contact the club's secretary Treena Bird (828789) for further information.

New Members and Commencement of Training Session: New players are always welcome to join MTYFC (boys and girls aged 5yrs and above). We are currently registering players for the new season (2009/10) that starts towards the end of the summer holidays. Depending on the age groups, training will resume during the summer holidays for registered players. For anyone wishing to find out more about training times and dates or about registering with our club, please contact either the chairman or secretary, although further information regarding this will be advertised nearer the time.

If you have any queries please call MTYFC Chairman Neil Francis ☎ 01747 860750 or MTYFC Secretary Treena Bird ☎ 01747 828789.



Georgina's Ramblings

Another busy month starting with the arrival of our new furniture brightening up our foyer, you will now find cosy beanbags and sofas to snuggle down into when dropping in for a coffee and a chat, and lots of fun new toys for the children to play with during our drop in and Tiny Toes sessions. Our new staff, Kate (outreach) Danielle (assistant outreach and kidzone) and Natalie (our Administrator) have all started and are looking forward to meeting everyone over the coming weeks. Supporting all of our activities and the many changes, are our loyal volunteers to whom we thank enormously for their ongoing support.

Up in Kidzone we have new faces, both children and staff, and have started work on our new quiet room where children can go to chill out and listen to quiet music and see

twinkly lights set against the new blue ceiling. Here they can read, play quietly or just generally have a calm moment after their day at school. We have started our Bee Friendly garden with children planting sunflowers to see who can grow the tallest and also putting in other bee friendly plants; any contributions from your seedlings will be warmly welcomed.

We are already taking bookings for the summer holiday, so to ensure that your children get a place, give us a ring ☎ 01747861108 for a great time. We will be open from 27th July to 21st August, from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Tiny Toes is attracting lots more children, Mums, dads and carers who are making new friends and meeting existing ones in our friendly relaxed atmosphere. The new toys are going down a storm along with messy play and art. Every Wednesday morning come and enjoy our themed Stay and Play sessions; art, cooking and singing.

A reminder to Child-carers and minders that Paula Woods, our local childminders co-ordinator, is here on the first Friday of every month to offer advice and support from 1.30pm.

Our Saturday Morning Football Skills Workshop has started this month to encourage Dads to come along with their kids and get a morning of exercise led by Terry Webb (UEFA coach from Bristol City Football Academy). This is not just football, but its playing and having great fun with your children.

On 19th July we are joining THE BIG LUNCH. This is an open-air bring-your-own picnic. The Big Lunch is all about sharing; lunch, friendship, food games, a sing-song anything that brings us together as a community. This is going to be a fun day with lots of home-cooked and, if possible, home-grown food. With your support it will be great, ☎ 01747 861108 if you want to join this great event.

We are recruiting volunteers who would like to gain an NVO in playwork, and Train to Gain have offered to run an open day – let us know if you are interested. In addition the Learning Zone has a number of IT and other events running, come with your knitting and stitching on Wednesday afternoon. We will be holding a Thursday craft afternoon from the middle of June. These are friendly drop in sessions, but do call for more information.

Messy Church is continuing to be a great success with huge support from all who attend so come and join the fun on the last Friday of the month from 3.00pm.

We look forward to welcoming you all from across the whole area, (if transport is a problem do let us know as we can help).

Warm Regards – Georgina, the staff and the committee ☎ 01747 861108

MERE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The young people have been busy as ever over the past couple of months. There have been a number of football & pool competitions. We have run a fruit smoothie bar at a county youth event, have participated in a circus skills workshop, and have spent a lot of time canoeing & kayaking in preparation for the 100 mile canoe test and, of course, there has been the Easter Leisure Credits scheme.

It is great to see that the hard work the young people have put in to widening and levelling the footpath around Long Hill has been appreciated locally – thanks to all who have stopped and spoken to the groups working up there and to those who have written to us or the Parish Council directly. In return for this hard work, young people spent three days over the Easter holidays at Calshot Activities Centre near Southampton taking part in lots of adventurous activities.

In June, we will be changing our opening times slightly to accommodate a request for a 'Girls Only' night, so our opening times from 1st June will be as follows:

Mondays:

7:00pm—10:00pm Football Coaching at Tisbury Leisure Centre & Motorcycle project at Tisbury Shed (transport provided)

Tuesdays:

11:30am—2:30pm Mere & Tisbury community volunteers
7:00pm—9:30pm Open Night—sports, arts, cooking, computers, projects

Wednesdays:

7:00pm—9:30pm 'Girls Only' Night - dance, arts, sports, cooking etc
(transport from Tisbury and other villages available)

Thursdays:

9:30am—12:30pm Young Parents Project

Fridays:

7:30pm—10:00pm Open Night—DVD nights, competitions, events / trips
8:00pm—9:00pm Football coaching on the MUGA

For more information please contact me at Mere Youth Development Centre:

Jaki Farrell ☎ 01747861400 or 07990801077

ASD PARENTS/CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Our next Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th June from 1.30-3.00pm at the Footprints Centre, in Springfield Road, Mere.

- Do you have a child with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder?
- Would you like to meet with other parents/carers who have children with ASD?

For more information contact me by email: kirsty@metamorphictouch.co.uk or by phone. *Kirsty* 📞 01747 823562

REPORT FROM MERE SCHOOL

May 2009

Oh yes, they're here again – the SATs for purple class. So, red class have written this month's article. In a way SATs are a good thing because it's an opportunity to show how well you have done in school and you get a bacon butty – yum, yum! The children think they are a bad idea as you have to do tests all week and no one likes that.

Mrs Chen and Ms Adie are student teachers working at Mere School. They are here until July working in Red and Silver classes.

On Friday 8th May the recorder groups and choir came together to perform at a special assembly. The choir included all ages and the recorder group KS2 children. They played different music and ended with 'Thank you for the Music' by Abba.

Soon, our very own Mrs Warmington will be retiring and we will be very sad when she leaves – we will never forget her. However, Miss Humphries (a familiar face in school) will be the new teacher for year 3. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Mere School.

Last month we had a maths games day which was great fun. All the children were involved and really enjoyed it. We had a chocolate challenge and had to collect stickers so we could win a medal for our team.

A lady has visited the school several times this term to talk to 4 classes about road safety and how to cross the road safely. We learned to 'Stop, Look and Listen' and at the end of the talk we were given a set of glow in the dark stickers.

Some of our year 2 children spent an afternoon at Gillingham School at a 'Multi-Skills Festival'. Mrs Harrison and Mrs Tealey went along as well.

*Matthew Green, Beckham Fitzgerald, George Peirce, Klara Jenkins,
Charlie Hill, Bryony Adams, Evie Sutton-Faye, Eliza Howell*



FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



Auction of Promises

We raised over £3,600 during our first Auction of Promises!! We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated with this event. There were so many people and businesses that assisted us that unfortunately, if we were to name them all here we'd take up 3 pages! However there are a few people whom we

like to say a special thank you to. Firstly all those who donated 'lots' without whom the event would not have happened. Thanks to Bob Parsons, Ben Marshall and Mark Cassidy for their amazing auctioneering skills. Thanks to Mark (again) and Sam Cassidy for hosting the event at The Walnut Tree and offering advice and support along the way.

Finally a huge thank you to everyone on the Friend's Committee who over the last few months have literally worked non-stop on the organisation of the Auction, in particularly Sam Cotton (Chairman) – who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the event was an enormous success.

Windfall Draw

May's windfall was drawn during our last meeting and the winning number was No. 66 – Mrs Harrison – well done!!

School Summer Fete – Thursday 16th July

This will be held at the end of the school day. We would be interested to hear from anyone in the local community who wishes to have a stall at our Fete – please contact the secretary for more details.

Thank you for your continued support. All proceeds from the events that the Friends of Mere School organise goes to supporting Mere School.

Please contact Mrs Bird (Secretary) ☎ 01747 828789 or leave a message at the School office.

MERE PRE-SCHOOL

Mere Pre-School is pleased to announce a forth-coming event this summer to raise funds for its continuing development. On Sunday 5th July 2009 the pre-school staff and parents will don their 'pinnies and marigolds' and be serving a selection of light refreshments including home-made cakes, sandwiches, cream teas and hot and cold drinks at the Stourton Memorial Hall in the Spread Eagle courtyard of Stourhead Gardens.

This is an all day event starting at 10.00am but if time is permitting or weather too inclement for a walk around the delightful Stourhead gardens, the doors will still be open so please support your local pre-school and pop down for a cuppa!

If you would be interested in donating a home-made cake please contact the Pre-School ☎ 01747 863337 or Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647.

We look forward to serving you!

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

I know this is highly unlikely...but if you attend a church in Birmingham on 7th June, Trinity Sunday, there is a good chance that the preacher will be a student who is training for the ministry at Queen's Theological College (or Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education to give it its full title!!).

Every Sunday, students from Queen's are sent out to practice their preaching skills in one of the churches around the city, but the Sunday the college gets most requests for a student to preach is always Trinity Sunday. Why? Because most preachers find it very difficult to say something comprehensible about the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, a doctrine which many people find totally incomprehensible!

Just in case you don't know what I mean by the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, I offer you this quote from the extremely long Creed of St Athanasius, a 3rd Century Bishop of Alexandria who suffered great persecution and exile due to his defence of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity against very powerful and influential opposition.

"And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one: the Glory equal, the majesty co-eternal".

Put more simply...Christians believe in One God who has revealed himself to us as Father- the creator; as Son - Jesus Christ, the redeemer, the human face of God; and as Holy Spirit - the unseen presence and power of God in the world today.

Why did Athanasius, and many Christians through the centuries, believe so strongly in the importance of the Holy Trinity that they have been willing to suffer and even die in its defence?

One answer to that question can be found in a recently published novel that has quickly become a bestseller in the USA and in this country. The novel is called 'The Shack' and it was written by William Paul Young and published by Hodder & Stoughton.

The main character in the novel is called Mack. The story begins with him suffering the great sadness of the death of his youngest daughter. She was abducted while the family were on a camping holiday. And although her body has not been found, her blood stained clothes were eventually discovered in a shack in a remote country park.

Mack receives a mysterious invitation to go to the shack which is signed 'Papa', his wife's name for God. Mack responds to the invitation and while he is at the shack he meets God, who, without giving too much away, is the Holy Trinity. God the Father, who happens to be a black woman (!), God the Son, a very recognisable Jewish carpenter, and God the Holy Spirit – an ethereal being called 'Sarayu' which means 'wind'.

What Mack discovers is that God is a relationship of love, and it is by observing and experiencing the relationship of love between Father, Son and Holy Spirit and finding his place within it, that Mack is eventually healed and is made whole.

What 'The Shack' reminds the reader is that God is love, and that love is the origin and the meaning of life, and when we live in a relationship of love we are reflecting the very nature of God. Without the doctrine of the Holy Trinity there would be no Christianity, and without Christianity we would not know that at the very heart of God there is an eternal relationship of love from which we came, in which we live, and to which we will return.

WORLD FAIR TRADE BREAKFAST

I'd like to thank everyone for joining me last month to celebrate World Food Day or sending a donation. I have been able to send over £70 to Traidcraft Exchange, the charitable arm of Traidcraft, which helps producing groups develop their skills and businesses. Every little helps more families escape the grinding poverty that blights their lives.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

EAST WINDOW at St Michael the Archangel Parish Church

Thanks to the splendid efforts of Karyn Sheppard and Judy Bickerstaff, we had raised the money for restoration, but our application to restore the window and replace the "quarries" with clear glass was rejected by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), which favoured the replacement of the window with one of a new design.

We considered designs and designers and asked the congregation and community if they had suggestions, which resulted in the submission of eight designs. These were exhibited in the church throughout February 2009 for the congregation to consider, and they provided helpful comments to the Church Wardens. The results provided the information to write a detailed design brief to put to selected approved specialist stained glass designers.

At that point we had to consider the comments made on the window by Mr Martin Cherry in his new report on St Michael's under the "Rediscovering our Parish Churches

– English Heritage and Diocese of Salisbury Partnership Project”. Mr Cherry writes: “restored in 1852 and probably pre-1840 and possibly by William Wailes of Newcastle., an unusual mixture of grisaille, scrolls and emblems of the Passion - the fact that it is not entirely successful aesthetically needs to be weighed against its historic interest since 1830s glass is relatively uncommon. Proposals to modify the glass in the east window (or replace it with one to a new design) are still at an early stage but have been considered by the DAC. The window is unusual and it is hoped that a full analysis and evaluation of its significance be carried out before a final decision is made.”

Having heeded the Report’s advice, then although a new window would be preferable, the financial climate is not right to seek grants to augment the money we have raised locally, which does at least cover the cost of restoration of the existing window. We are now eighteen months past the deadline given by our Inspecting Architect for its restoration and re-leading and are keen to do the work before next Winter, to avoid structural failure and collapse.

We believe that our parish wide enthusiasm to create a new stained glass window could be satisfied in the longer term by working up a design to replace one of the several large clear glass windows on the North side of the church, once the country’s financial position improves and we can raise the necessary funds locally. We asked the DAC to issue a Faculty to restore the East Window in its current form, and it has agreed in principle to our request.

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

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday 24th June at 2.30 p.m., Mrs Thelma Bywater will be visiting us from the Gideons. This is the anniversary of 60 years of Bible Distribution in the UK so it is a particularly interesting and inspiring subject.

Do come and share with us insight and encouragement from this important organisation.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Committee would like to thank all those who supported and contributed to our Spring Bazaar. It was lovely to see so many people there, which made it a very happy and enjoyable occasion and raised the remarkable sum of £775.12.

Patricia Stephenson ☎ 01747 860278



Sunday 21st June 2009



5.00pm

Churches Together in Mere &
District

Songs of Praise

At

St Peter's Stourhead

Speaker: Rev Michael MacCormack of the
National Trust



All Welcome



Mere United Reformed Church

SUMMER SALE

10.00am- 12.00pm – 20th June

A warm welcome awaits you to our Summer Sale.
Various stalls, including our well known cake and plant stalls.

We would like to make a donation from the proceeds to the Salisbury District Hospital "Stars Appeal" (a new children's unit). Your support will help to make this possible.

J Bryan ☎ 01747 860275

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

June 2009

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)
		5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	3rd	7.30pm	“Start The Month” Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion with Baptism CW1)
	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Churches Together “Songs of Praise” at Stourhead
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Dick Potts
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	28th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777

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

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Rev'd R Hollingsworth
			Holy Communion
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Tom Taylor
	21st	6.00pm	Rev'd J Ashplant
Wednesday	24th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together in the School Room
Sunday	28th	6.00pm	Rev'd R Hollingsworth

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

Mere Contact: Teresa Read: 01747 860289

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)

Sundays	7th	9.25am	DIY Service
	14th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	21st		No Service – BISON BROWSE at Bush Farm, W. Knoyle 11-3.00pm
	28th	9.25am	Matins

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

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

The Grove Buildings will be closed until 1st September 2009

1	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
4	Thurs	7.00am	10.00pm Polling Station (EU & local elections)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	1st Mere Guides	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	MH
5	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Linkscheme AGM	CC

6	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		2.00pm	St Michael's Church Fete	St Michael's
7	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
9	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		3.00pm	Mothers Union Meeting	Mere Down Farm
10	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	CC
		5.15pm	Gardening Club visit to Shaftesbury	CP
11	Thurs	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
12	Fri	7.30pm	MTYFC & WRAC Assn. Quiz Night	L
13	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
18	Thur	8.45am	MHS Visit to Chawton & Selborne	CP
		2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows "Australia"	L
		7.30pm	Carnival "Race Night"	Walnut Tree Inn
20	Sat	10.00am	Summer Sale	CC
23	Tues	12.00pm	Community Buffet	The Ship Hotel
		1.30pm	ASD Parents/Carers Support Group	Footprints
24	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	CC
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning with R.G. Bric a Brac	CC
29	Mon	6.30pm	FMM Preview of new exhibition	Library
30	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L

FAMILY FUN DAY
WITH BARBECUE

Sunday 5th July 12 noon - 6pm
TABLE TOPS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE AT £5.00

COCONUT SHY

WELLY THROWING

FANCY DRESS
COMPETITION

CAROUSEL

SKITTLES



FUN DOG SHOW
starts at 1.30pm

PONY RIDES

PUPPET SHOW

MUSIC & DANCE

STALLS
CAKES, BOOKS,
BRIC-A-BRIC
& PLANTS ETC

ENTRY £1.00 BEER TENT & TEAS
UNDER 12's FREE AND MUCH MORE !

ZEALS PLAYING FIELD
(GREEN PASTURES WOLVERTON LANE)
In aid of Upper Stour Parish funds

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Halls: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486
To Book the Grove Buildings,
from 1st September 2009: ☎ 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 telephone 01722 327222

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

COPY DATE FOR JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

Material for the July/August issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (tel. 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 15th June 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.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

**Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage,
Kilmington Common, Kilmington (tel. 01985 844740)**

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