

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS

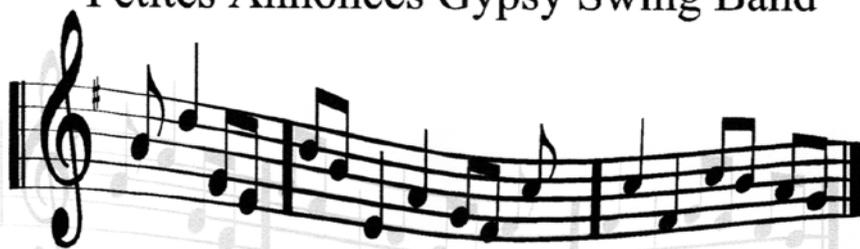


JUNE 2010

St Michael the Archangel
Saturday 5th June 2 pm

Summer Fete

Live music by
Petites Annonces Gypsy Swing Band



To be opened by Col. John Blashford Snell,
Explorer and leader of Raleigh and Drake Expeditions

Many stalls, bouncy castle, displays, games
and lots more.....

2.30 pm Country Dancing, Whitesheet School

3.00 pm Modern Jive Exhibition

3.30pm Crowning of Mere Carnival Princess
and her attendants

4 .00 pm Quiz results and Raffle

*Teas in Grove Buildings with music by
ESP Clarinet Quartet*

*& in the Church during afternoon
Whitesheet School Choir.*

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the **Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th June 2010.**

The Chairman writes:

We received some interesting reports from representatives at our Annual Parish Meeting held two weeks ago, although I was slightly disappointed at the low attendance but maybe we can take this as a sign that most people are satisfied with everyday life in Mere. I was re-elected as Chairman of Mere Parish Council at the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10th May and our Vice-Chairman, Michael Hall, was also re-elected. The following councillors were appointed or re-appointed to represent various groups within the community:

Organisation	2010/11 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
Swimming Club	Cllr. R. Hughes
Mere Bowling Club	Cllr. S. Squires
Carnival Committee	Cllr. D. Sealy
Area Board	Chairman & Vice-Chairman
Community Area Partnership (potential)	Chairman & Vice-Chairman
Mere Film Shows	Cllr. Mrs. Mary White

The Vice-Chairman and I will be meeting the leader of Wiltshire Council, Mrs. Jane Scott, next week in Mere. We intend showing her around our admirable sports facilities, open spaces and cemetery but we also want to emphasise the importance of continued

free car parking and support for our local retail and town centre businesses. On the subject of Wiltshire Council's car parking review, we have an update of information:

Car Parking Review

The Car Parking Review, commissioned by Wiltshire Council, will be discussed at the next Area Board meeting, to be held on Wednesday, 23rd June at 6.00 p.m. This meeting is scheduled to be held at South Newton and Wishford Village Hall, but we have suggested that Wiltshire Councillors might like to change the venue in view of the level of interest in Mere and Tisbury. We know that there is strong feeling amongst parishioners about the possible imposition of car parking charges in our two car parks and the impact this would have on our local businesses and town centre parking, and we would therefore urge you all to attend this meeting and 'have your say'. Please view the following for possible updates and agenda:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/southwestwiltshireareaboard.htm>

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

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Parking Charges are to be discussed at the next South West Area Board Meeting, on Wednesday 23rd June at 7.00pm. Tisbury and Mere are the two main areas to have shown concern, and what are we doing as Wiltshire Council? - We are having the meeting near Wilton, in South Newton and Wishford Village Hall, with limited parking in a rural area! This does not make sense to me. Now we need put the venues where the interest is, and I would say that would be Tisbury School or Dinton for Parking and size of venue. By notifying this meeting in Mere and Tisbury we could have (as with recent voting in parts of the country) people turned away.

I shall do my best to see charges are not imposed, and The Cabinet member, Councillor Tongue, needs to know the strength of feeling out here. In Gillingham, the 'pay for' car park is nearly always empty, people use the free supermarket Car Park. What are we supposed to use in Mere, the Co-op? Although there was no space for a car park outside, the Co-op came to Mere because we had plenty of free parking at that time.

The new Council is supposed to bring together services such as the Primary Care Trust (PCT) etc. We have a problem arisen in Mere regarding lack of National Health Funding: where are these people with an interest in the NHS dentist going to park if they attend the meeting to show their concern?

The Mere Dental Practice, which serves this area, has reduced its number of NHS patients. The NHS appears not to support Dentists, as they should. As a rule of thumb, Mere for many years had two dentists in one surgery, one private and one NHS. We have now basically returned to the above. With many more people now living in the area, I feel we deserve better from the NHS. Our new Wiltshire Council has area boards to bring together high-level representatives from the PCT, Police, and Fire Service etc.

Here is a case where I would hope a number of you would attend the next South West Area Board on Wednesday 23rd June (details above). I will do my best to have Dental Treatment for Mere, plus possibly Tisbury and Wilton put on the agenda, and I will try and ensure that the PCT attends to take our concerns and give us answers. Please check before attending. I hope that Parish Councils, voluntary groups and any members of the public will continue to attend our meetings so that the Wiltshire Councilors, including myself on the Board, can make decisions according to the various views expressed.

Jaki Farrell, our Youth Worker for Mere and Tisbury youth club, works very hard for the youth and holds Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group (CAYPIG) meetings, which are well attended by the youth, myself and Area Board councilors. Jaki drives a mini bus to pick up the youth of the area. On the 15th July, 21st October and 2nd December she hopes to get more youth involved, those from say the football club, the villages and so on. The Mere Youth Club has been fortunate with the re-allocation of youth workers to be more equitable across the County. This is a win for our area combined with the additional funds for transport for young people, Wiltshire Council should be able to provide a better service in our rural area for it's youth. It was interesting to hear at a CAYPIG meeting one young person suggest he did not want a residential stay in London as it was not safe.

"Your Community – Your Plan." The area's community plan now need updating. Life has moved on since the last ones were written in 2005. Would you like to be involved? Your local partnership SW7CAP will be guiding the new plan. See Wiltshire Councils website for details of the current plans, together with profiles on population, health, etc, then contact me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

A 'Senior Moment' is the name I suggested for an event the Area Board will be holding, and I am pleased to say the name was adopted. The event consists of a Fair of Services for Older People on the afternoon of Thursday 15 July in the Nadder Hall, Tisbury. Exhibitors will include the statutory suppliers, voluntary services, health providers, clubs and societies and many more. Come along and see what's on offer. Details will be available, as always, from the Community Area Manager, Richard Munro

 01985 844825.

Last year the Area Board granted over £73,000 to groups for a huge variety of projects including equipment for youth groups, sports facilities, restoration and refurbishment of buildings, leisure credits and even an orchard! Have a look on Wiltshire Council's website for details of the criteria and an application form, or contact the Community Area Manager for information, telephone number as above. I also have some application forms. The Area Board welcomes applications from all community groups. Come on Mere, Kilmington, Stourton, West Knoyle and Zeals, put some Community Area grant applications in, you will not always get a grant awarded, however it is one of the easiest forms of grant you will be able to apply for.

MERECAP BECOMES SW7CAP

SW7CAP working in partnership for your local community

At the Annual General Meeting of your local Community Area Partnership, held on 25th February, it was agreed that the change of name more appropriately reflects the seven parishes in South West Wiltshire that your committee represents. These are: Mere, Zeals, East Knoyle, Kilmington, Sedgemoor & Semley, Stourton with Gasper and West Knoyle.

A new committee was also elected and is already working on your behalf. Topics under consideration include the Housing Core Strategy, the introduction of car-parking charges and improved broadband access in our area.

The members of the committee are: Georgina Shaw-Halford (chair), Barbara Hewitt (vice-chair), Polly Gilbert (secretary), Digger Booth, Jane Hurd, Pauline Bashford and Michael Hall and they will be happy to hear from you at any time.

Polly Gilbert, Secretary ☎ 01747 830717

MERE WEATHER

April was the driest month we have had for over a year; only 25.0mms (0.96ins). Last year we had 40.5mms (1.59ins). From the 4th to the 23rd we had no rain at all. During this period it was sunny and quite warm in the sun but we still had that cold wind. The daffodils did well, but were soon battered by the wind.

Up to the 10th of May we had 9.5mms of rain (0.22ins). Most during the first two days. Generally, it has been more cloudy than in April and the sun has not been as warm.

Peter Durkee

Note! COPY DATE FOR THE JULY/AUGUST 2010 ISSUE:

MONDAY, 14th JUNE

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

..and one Dental Hygienist:

Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)

Contact Details: -

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

Tuesday 8.45am – 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.

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

I wish to acknowledge the phenomenal response to the letter I sent to nearly 1800 patients and explain the reasons behind it. Earlier this year I sought to get more funding for Mere Dental Practice, but was declined for several reasons. It is a sad reality that we cannot continue to improve and progress purely on NHS funding. In order for the Practice to move forward I have to reduce my personal NHS work, but we still remain committed to the NHS.

I would like to address some common misconceptions that we have become aware of since the posting. Firstly, when we moved the Practice from North Road in 2006 we did this ourselves and received no financial assistance or incentive from the NHS to do so. The letter recently sent out was viewed by Wiltshire NHS and amended by them and since the letter had several authors, it was impossible to make it relevant to each individual patient. In no way did it reflect six years of a treatment relationship and I appreciate the upset that this caused. Patients can still see me for treatment on a pay as you go basis and not exclusively through a plan. It is our hope that with these changes it may be possible for my associate Jacque to increase her patient list in the future.

To the patients who have taken this opportunity to seek dental care elsewhere I would like to wish them well and to remind them that should they experience any difficulties, they will always be welcome to give us a call at anytime in the future.

Stephen Sherrard

SUMMER FÊTE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

URGENT - URGENT - URGENT

Bottles and Jars are urgently needed for the tombola.

A box will be in church on Sunday, also please ring Jean Kantharia ☎ 01747 861168, or Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450, for collection.

**If every one could donate one item, we should have enough!
Many thanks**

MERE CARNIVAL

Mere Carnival Day this year is: **Saturday 18th September.**

Selection of Carnival Royals

Would you like to represent Mere in the afternoon and evening Carnival processions. If so, we would love to hear from you.

The Princess and Attendant will be aged 5 – 14 and for the first time for many years, we will be looking for a Carnival Queen aged 15+. You must live within the **BA12 6..** postcode area. There is no entry fee.

We will need to know why would you like to be chosen to represent Mere Carnival. Also, please let us know a little about yourself, including your name, age and contact details. Please ask for your parent/guardian's permission before entering.

Applications in writing only please, to Sue Jeans, Jeans Electrical, Salisbury Street, Mere, Wilts. BA12 6HB (☎ 01747 860215) or by e-mail to: smjeans@aol.com, marking the subject line "Carnival Royalty entry". **The strict deadline for entries is Saturday 19th June.**

Carnival Secretary

We are currently looking for a Secretary for a task that is not too onerous, but very necessary to keep us on target. There will be some administration to do between meetings.

We normally meet in Mere, as a committee, on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Chairman - Clive Hazzard ☎ 07779 763955.

Sue Jeans, on behalf of Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 860215

SHORT WALK

This month's short walk will take place on Monday, 7th June. It will follow paths around Mere of about a mile, and will be suitable for wheelchairs and buggies. Please meet in the Surgery car park at 10.00am. Note the time – it is an earlier start than previously.

Janet Way 📞 *01747 860884*

RSPB WALK

On Saturday 19th June, starting from the Cemetery in Angel Lane, is an RSPB Bird Watching walk. The walk will be about 4 miles around Mere and please remember to bring along your binoculars. The cost will be £3.50 for adults (children FREE).

Jean Young ☎ 01747 860950

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Grove Buildings on Friday, 11th June.

We hope that as many as possible of our volunteers, including all those who help with the Literary Festival, will join us for drinks at 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Meeting at 7.30pm.

We shall also be pleased to see anyone else who is interested in the work of the Linkscheme or has used the Scheme. *Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007*

MERE FILM SHOWS

As mentioned in May Mere Matters, we are showing two films in June, as we wanted to show the extraordinary and moving film 'Mugabe and the White African' (12A), new to the Moviola list, and this will be shown on Thursday 10th June. It is a documentary and follows the determined attempts of white Zimbabwean farmers Mike Campbell and his son-in-law, Ben Freeth, to legally regain their farm from Mugabe's violent henchmen. As they persevere with their legal test case to seek an official ruling that farm seizures are both illegal and racist, the bravery and unwavering courage of the family consistently shines through.

Ben Freeth has said "We can run away of course. Most people have. For us, though, there is a greater good. It is a matter of principle. If individual men and women allow evil to advance unchecked, it will prevail and more people will suffer and starve. It is hard to live and try to make a difference in a time of terror – especially with a family."

The film was made by local couple Lucy Bailey and Andrew Thompson who risked everything to make it. "The world has a limited attention span, but terrible things are still happening in Zimbabwe and people need to be told of them".

The second film, on Thursday 17th June, and the last of the season, is the fantasy classic 'Alice in Wonderland' (PG). This adaptation is by Tim Burton and is quite fantastical! Johnny Depp stars as the Mad Hatter with Helena Bonham Carter, Stephen Fry, Martin Sheen, Matt Lucas, Barbara Windsor, Alan Rickman and Christopher Lee among the cast.

Distribution of Funds

As the season ends, the funds available for distribution are not huge and in view of this it has been decided, with the agreement of the Parish Council, to hold this sum over to next year as we did once before.

Mary White 📞 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

“Bird Boxes and Other Wildlife Habitats” with Simon Larkin from National Trust

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th June May at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings.

Simon Larkin is head gardener at Lytes Cary. He will be talking to us about how to encourage wild life in our gardens and to provide safe places for them. Visitors will be very welcome.

Junior Gardening Club

The Junior Gardening Club meets at 6.00pm in the Grove buildings, prior to the main meeting on 9th June. Simon will show us how to make Animal Homes. Anyone can come, just **bring an adult + 50p**. A drink and biscuit will be provided. Details from Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

Other Events

Don't forget our joint outing with Mere Historical Society to Mapperton Gardens, Wednesday, 16th June. Booking forms at Mere Information Point and with Janet Way.

We are helping the Rosemary Goddard Centre with its Open Gardens weekend 26th/27th June.

Advance notice: Annual Show Saturday 4th September

There are many Open Categories available to non-members, or come and join the club for access to the full range. *Schedules available from The Fruit Shop.*

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE MUSEUM

It's always the same: when a new exhibition is opened, it seems as if there is all the time in the world in which to plan a visit to see it. Now, however, the end of June and the closing of the 'Pitty the Pore' exhibition are fast approaching! Be sure to see it before **Friday 25th June** when it will be taken down and another exhibition installed. This will be about coins, ancient and not so ancient, under the title 'Money, money, money!' Further details next month! *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

On Saturday 8th May, a whirlwind descended on The Grove Buildings in the form of enthusiastic Mere residents desirous of purchasing plants (and cakes and raffle tickets) at the Friends of Mere Museum's famous annual Plant Sale. Within 40 minutes the whirlwind subsided, and when we looked about us we saw that pretty nearly everything had been bought. And when the number-crunching had been done it transpired that we

had made a **profit** of no less than £895! It was literally phenomenal – a quite magnificent and unprecedented result, and we would like to THANK EVERYONE who helped us in any way at all, as bringers and/or buyers and/or helpers, to achieve it.

Friends will get another reminder of this next month, but the next Exhibition Preview ('Money money money') will be on **Monday 28th June at 6.30 p.m.** in the Museum.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE THEATRE CLUB

We have now closed bookings for the summer quarter, but if you want to be in good time for the autumn, do contact either Madelaine or Wendy, phone numbers below, for details.

We now have over 100 members from Mere and surrounding villages, but are always happy to welcome new people. We will be holding a Theatre Club get-together some time soon to give all members the opportunity to air any views or ideas, and just as importantly, for a social gathering so we can all meet each other. Join soon if you want to be included!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, *Wendy Horne* ☎ 01747 861712

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th June at 2.30pm at Mere Down Farm. A reminder, we shall be running the cake stall at St Michael's church Fête on 5th June. Donations of cakes would be appreciated, delivered on the morning of the fête, please.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

The e-mail address shown in the May edition of Mere Matters is incorrect. The actual e-mail address is: info@castlehillquilters.org.uk and you will see that the dates of our meetings in June are shown in the Diary on page 33. *Carol Lord* ☎ 1747 861923

WOMENS INSTITUTE

As you will know, WI has always had close connections with the countryside and farming communities. At the National Federation AGM, to be held in Cardiff in June, the resolution to be discussed is: "This meeting urges HM Government to introduce clear and mandatory 'Country of Origin' labelling on all meat, poultry and fish products sold in this country."

We want to support food producers from the British Isles, but at present food may be sourced from abroad, packaged/processed in this country, and then labelled as British. Mere WI unanimously supported this resolution at its meeting on 6th May.

Then followed an enjoyable talk about the Quilting Group formed in Mere last October. We saw a number of beautiful quilts, some made by Carol Lord and others by Jennie Hoffman before they moved to Mere. We look forward to seeing quilts made by "Castle Hill Quilters" in due course.

On Thursday 3rd June, at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, we will be hearing about "Travelling in Thailand for Tearcraft". Why not join us for this meeting. We always welcome visitors and prospective members. *Sheila Shotter* ☎ 01747 861771



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT THREE: Friday 23rd July 2010

Mells – a Somerset village trail

Mells was once on the easternmost limit of the lands belonging to Glastonbury Abbey, and in the 15th century Abbot Selwood drew up plans to rebuild the village in the shape of a St Anthony's cross. New Street, the only completed part of this plan, is an architectural gem and around the village are other interesting buildings and structures. Inside the Somerset Perpendicular parish church of St Andrews there is a remarkable collection of memorials, some designed by Lutyens, Gill, Munnings and Burne-Jones. A number of famous people have been buried in the churchyard, including Monsignor Ronald Knox and Siegfried Sassoon, as well as members of the Horner family. No doubt our guide will tell us about the Horners' connection with the nursery rhyme. Our included tea will be in the beautifully restored tithe barn.

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

Cost: MHS Members £12.50, non MHS members £14.50, per person, includes tour and tea

For more details ring Caroline Clark ☎ 01747 861797

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

NB: Visit Two to Mapperton, Wednesday 16th June. To check if places are still available please ring Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Thanks to the Iceland volcano, we were 'stranded' in the USA for an extra 8 days (what a shame!). Our absence for 3 weeks may have meant we missed your calls to collect your old tools etc., and so if you have boxes of them ready for collection or an imminent clear out produces any of the following items which are surplus to your requirements, then do please telephone for collection.

Related tools and equipment accepted include: all woodworking and metalworking tools, drill bits, blacksmiths, bicycle tools, shoe, auto-mechanic, electrical tools/meters, arc welders and heavy duty drills and grinders. Also sewing machines. For more detail on the charity please go to: www.TFSR.org or contact me.

Richard Jefferies 📞 01747 863425

MERE OPEN GARDENS CHARITY EVENT

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th June 2.00-5.00pm

Spend a pleasant afternoon visiting a selection of interesting gardens and allotments in Mere.

Teas and home made cakes - Plants for sale

Bric a brac – Floral Art Exhibition

Try your hand at golf croquet

Advance tickets include description of each garden to allow you to plan a route and choose the gardens you want to see in the comfort of your home – available from the Mere Information Centre. And on the days from 1.00 pm at the Clock Tower or Reeves Acre, Pettridge Lane

Weekend tickets £5.00 per person - accompanied children free

Sponsored by the Mere Co-op. All proceeds to the Rosemary Goddard Centre (Mere & district day centre for older people)

For further information please contact Pat Gear ☎ 01747 860320

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

(Mere & District Day Centre), Lynch Close, Mere

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

St George's Day

If you'd gone down to The George today you'd be in for a big surprise

For celebrating St George's Day, the RGC Guests were in disguise

They all dressed up in red and white and carried their flags with great delight

For today was the day the Guests hoped to let their hair down.

If you'd gone down to The George today you'd be in for a big surprise

For there was the Uxbridge Rugby Club also dressed up in disguise

as knights and monks, dragons and others, we joined together like a band of brothers

For today was the day we were going to let our hair down.

If you'd gone down to The George today you'd be in for a big surprise

For caution was thrown to the wind as we were all in disguise

and we hugged and kissed, we laughed and sang and felt again that we were young

For today was the day that we certainly let our hair down.

So next time Uxbridge Rugby Club you are looking for a surprise

Come and see us again at The George, you don't need to be in disguise

For your rendering of Delilah and the fun we had here, means there'll always be a welcome in the Wiltshire town of Mere.

'Cos every day is the day to let your hair down!"

Don't forget our 'Not the Independence Day Party' will be held at Lynch Close from 2.00 – 4.00 pm on Friday 2nd July. All welcome.

For more details contact:

Lynette 📞 01747 861646

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for May drawn after Family Communion on 2nd May 2010 by Mr Martin Eyles, was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 133	Mrs M Coward
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 85	Dr W Price
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 5	Generously returned
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 14	Mrs A Carpenter

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

All is deceptively quiet in The Friends' corner at the time of writing. The sound of bated breath is deafening. We are waiting for the outcome of a very large grant application which, **if successful**, will transform the Friends' Garden Project campaign. We shall know the result by the time the June edition of this august journal is published, but the disappointment or delight on our faces around the middle of the month will tell all!

Meanwhile please just check that you have put the date of our Autumn Fair in your diaries: **Saturday 11th September at 2.00pm**. Please remember us when you are making summer jams and chutneys to reserve a pot for us to sell! Thank you.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FIVES COURT

Oh I do like to be beside the.....

Well by the time you read this we shall have spent another busy month together at Fives Court and will be preparing for our trip to the sea.....but more of that later!

This month has been dedicated to All Creatures Great and Small, who have been patted, stroked, hugged, or just admired from a distance. How can anyone not get a *tingle* inside when cuddling tiny baby rabbits, or on stroking the magnificent plumage of a variety of owls. Fortunately, they visited on different days, thus preventing carnage, and me from being sacked for causing unnecessary distress to elderly folk as well as hysterical staff.

We are busy in the garden growing various Flowers and Vegetables to enter the annual St John competitions in the Summer. Any volunteers who like gardening will be most welcome!

Fives Court has just been awarded a Highly Recommended in the Wiltshire St John competition for the Best Presented Home, so we are very proud of ourselves. During the year various competitions are organised by The Orders of St John Care Trust, who run

Fives Court, to encourage us all to maintain high standards and provide great stimulation and interest in the lives of our Residents.

We have some spare tickets, so come with us for a day-trip to Weymouth on Tuesday, 8th June to include a 'Fish and Chip' lunch. If you want a lovely day out with great company, just call in or phone for a ticket. You will have a day to remember with a great group of people of all ages. We are holding a Quiz night on Saturday, 12th June at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall to raise funds for our Weymouth trip.

Well I must go now but I hope to meet you soon, perhaps on the beach!

If you want more fun and enjoyment out of life come and join our activities.

We look forward to seeing you.

Esther and all at Fives Court ☎ 01747 860707

BOWLS CLUB

Oops! Apologies to my regular readers, having written the copy for the May issue I then neglected to send it in – stupid boy!!

Following a successful opening day on Saturday the 10th April the new 2010 season of Mere Bowls Club is finally under way and memories of a long a cold winter are fast receding in the minds of our members (could be an age issue as well as the new season!).

Seven new members signed up to join the club on the day (a fantastic result); as five were new to the sport they enjoyed an afternoon of coaching and friendly play while the more experienced bowlers took part in our usual roll-up, thirty nine members in all had a wonderful start to the season. The chilly wind brought bowling proceedings to a close around 17.00hrs; a number of members, both old and new then stayed behind for a very enjoyable BBQ with a number of members families also turning up to join in the fun.

By the time you read this we will have completed our game against Bowls Wiltshire at our green in Springfield Road on the 27th May, this will have been our most important match to date and also indicates our acceptance as a fully fledged club with acceptable facilities into the world of bowls.

Our first match of the season resulted in a win over old adversaries, Cranbourne; this is always the season opener and much anticipated by our members.

It is not too late for any prospective new members to join the Club, just turn up at the pavilion inside the school grounds any Tuesday evening from 18.00hrs and a

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Mugabe and the White African'
(12A)

A widely acclaimed and inspirational documentary following white Zimbabwean farmers Mike Campbell and Ben Freeth as they refuse to hand over their farm and seek by legal means to keep it out of the hands of Mugabe's henchmen.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 10th June, at 7.30pm

'Alice in Wonderland' (PG)

This Disney adaptation by Tim Burton has an irresistible cast including Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Stephen Fry, Barbara Windsor and Alan Rickman with a different take on this fantasy classic.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 17th 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 ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website: www.moviola.org

member will be more than pleased to show you around and offer you a cup of tea and a chat – about bowls!

For any information regarding the club please contact: Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215, Shaun Woods ☎ 01747-861707, or me, Don Butchers.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 01747-860219

MERE CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is well under way now and Mere CC have played their opening games of the 2010 campaign.

The junior section have played their first ever (complete) match against Kilmington in the North Dorset League. Mere batted first making 84-6 in their 20 overs, but this was not enough to stop Kilmington winning by 7 wickets. Special mentions are needed for the top score in our innings from Charlie Down, and for Jack Harvey, taking the first wicket by a Mere Junior. Junior coaching continues on Friday evenings from 6.15pm, and the juniors league games are played on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

The seniors opened their season with an 8 wicket win against Stour Provost in the Three Counties League. A good bowling performance restricted Stour to 77 all out (the author took six wickets) which was knocked off by Mere for the loss of 2 wickets. Forthcoming home matches are 30th May vs Bruton CC and 20th June vs Plush CC.

The club are looking for anyone interested in joining the club in any capacity, but particularly anyone with some extra time on their hands who would like to help with the maintenance of the pitch.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who supported and came along to the club's annual Race Night event at the Walnut Tree Inn at the end of April. It was a hugely successful night, which everyone enjoyed, cheering on their horses, tucking into a Walnut Tree carvery meal and of course, helping to raise funds for the club. We shall be able to: purchase more equipment; maintain the ground better; replace used balls and bats etc, and invest in more coaching equipment. So a very BIG thank you to all involved.
Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639

MERE ARCHERS

We are still continuing our archery courses and pleased with the interest shown by the community of Mere. We would like to welcome our latest club members Hannah, Tom, and Robert.

It is lovely to be able to practice in the evenings, although it can still be a little cool. We would like to thank the Parish council for giving us a new storage facility it is greatly appreciated.
Gloria Mead, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 863360

1st MERE SCOUT GROUP

Our group is 100 Years Old this year to celebrate we are holding A Cream Tea in the Grove Buildings on Saturday, 10th July 2010 from 2.00pm. You are invited to join us. Come and meet current and former members and leaders.

Please RSVP to Garry Edwards Group Scout Leader (telephone number below) by 14th June 2010 to help with catering numbers.

We look forward to seeing you.

Garry Edwards, Group Scout Leader ☎ 019858 844761

1st MERE RAINBOWS SEEK A HELPER

1st Mere Rainbows are looking for a female volunteer unit helper to help at Rainbows on Thursday evenings from 5.10pm-6.10pm (term time only), in the Grove Buildings in Mere. We have 15 girls on our books aged between 5 and 7 years.

We need someone who would be happy to help with arts, crafts, cooking, games etc. No experience is necessary and any age over 18. A full CRB check will be undertaken.

Please contact Kathryn ☎ 01747 860886 or Nikki ☎ 01747 860452 for further information.

Kathryn Ainscough, 1st Mere Rainbows Guider ☎ 01747 860886

REVIEW FOR SONG-TIME

A Review By Laura Rich, mother of George aged 2¾

My toddler, George, struggled to carry his sister's keyboard, and announced that he wanted me to play the "Sunshine Song" so that he could bang his drum to it. "I'll have a go" I thought, "I'm sure I can sound out "the Sun has got his hat on" to the satisfaction of a two year old." So I sat and plinked and plonked –badly! George looked confused and said "no Mummy, like the hat lady!" I'm stumped. The "hat lady" he refers to so fondly is Jenny who, together with Louise, are the duo who make up "Song-Time." Louise and Jenny are teachers, musicians and mums (with good hats!) who after just two sessions have got my George hooked!

After last week's session of singing, dancing, marching, games, action songs and much more, George asked me before the school-run if we were going to Song-Time. "No," I replied "to school." "Oh" he said solemnly, "but I just love Song-Time."

So, Friday mornings are firmly booked for us two from now on! And can I explain why THIS group is so different from others we've been to? Not specifically, no. Perhaps it's because the music is all played live? Or that there's Louise with her Mary Poppins bag of musical instruments to try? Or the puppets? Or Ted dressed for each song? Or the lullaby at the end with Jenny on the piano, and Louise on her flute? Or perhaps it's just that thing you can't quite put your finger on... perhaps Louise and Jenny just have the toddler X-factor! I know George thinks so.

Song-Time classes are held in Mere Methodist Church Hall, North Street, on Fridays during term time. 1st class runs from 9.45 to 10.30am pre-booking essential, drop in class from 11.00 to 11.45am, cost £5 per session. Details from Louise, e-mail: www.song-time.co.uk or:

Louise ☎ 01747 860647

MERE SCHOOL - SUMMER FAYRE

A plea for china and teddies!

Do you have any chipped crockery that you would be happy to donate? Mere School 'Friends' (PFTA) are holding their annual Summer Fayre on Saturday 10th July 1.00pm – 4.00pm. This year they are appealing to any folk who would like to donate old china (in any condition but in whole pieces please) to use on their 'Zorba the Greek' style stall of smashing china! Fayre goers can pay for the delights of aiming 3 balls at old china plates, bowls and cups; great fun to play, watch and a real crowd puller!

We are also looking for soft toys in reasonable to good condition for the more 'gentle' teddy bear raffle, where youngsters get to pick a number which corresponds to a specially named teddy – a sure winner every time.

So roll up, roll up with your teddies and old china! Please ring Louise Harlow on 01747 860647 or Sam Cotton on 01747 860550 as items can be collected. Alternatively drop any items – in a bag/box labelled 'Mere summer Fayre' into the school on Springfield Road.

Many thanks for your anticipated support!

Louise Harlow, Vice-chair, Mere Friends (PFTA) ☎ 01747 860647

MERE SCHOOL

May 2010

At the beginning of this term green class went to Braeside. This is what they thought - "I like Braeside and my favourite part was the night line" said Craig. Green class also got to go up a big hill which had a little ditch round it called 'The Bloody Ditch'. It is named that because there was a big war on the top of the hill. They also enjoyed the night line when you have to hold onto a rope that leads its way through part of the woods at night. Green class would like to say a big thank you to Braeside and to their teachers for taking them.

At the end of last term, a tennis coach called John came in to do a session with each class. He taught us the basic skills and rules of tennis. It was good fun and he had a racket that Andy Murray had used.

Last term all of the classes did an assembly for our parents about our topic. The assemblies were about the Aztecs, a trip to the National History Museum, India, Adventure and Mystery, Super Heros, animals & pets and pirates. All of our parents came to watch the amazing assemblies. Well done Mere School for all your hard work.

We were very busy before Easter. We all had a class Easter egg hunt. We had loads of fun trying to find the eggs. We also had an Easter disco, Easter bingo and a decorated egg competition.

Ahoy! On the last day of term blue class spent the whole day dressed up as pirates. They shared their work in an assembly and showed us a cool dance. We interviewed some of blue class:

What was your favourite bit about pirate day?

"Finding the treasure and getting Easter eggs. Also, Dressing up!"

What other kind of things did you do?

"Easter egg hunt and pirate pass the parcel".

On 24th March, some KS2 children went to Blandford Forum to play in a football tournament. Overall, we played 5 games. We won 1, drew 2 and lost 2. Our final game was very exciting when it went down to golden goals, then penalties. Yeovil Town FC were also there.

Northern Harmony, an American choir from Vermont came and performed a mixture of African and American music to us. They were very entertaining as they sang and danced. Thank you to Mr Parsons for organising this fantastic event for us.

Last term Longleat came to school to see amber and yellow classes. They brought lots of animals with them as well and told us all about them. Following this, the 2 classes visited Longleat. They saw lots of wild animals as well as the animals that visited our school.

Some of our children went to a great after school club last term called 'Street Dance'. At the end of term, they performed to the whole school and their mums and dads. They danced to some groovy music. We interviewed some of the dancers and they really enjoyed this club.

*Hope Norman, Thomas Chapman, Drew Adams, Lindsey Thompson,
Saff Eades, Alexandra Porter, Danny Harkin, Bailey Hodge,
Emily Kelly, Harry Betts, Zach Hillier, Jacob Price,
Alex Pepperday, Lewis Cotton, Carter Light and Oliver Howell*

GROVE BUILDINGS REFURBISHMENT

By the beginning of June, the second and final, phase of the redevelopment of the Hall should just have started. A new function room is being added by covering and enclosing the courtyard on the north side of the building. This will provide a smaller room which can either be used in conjunction with the main hall or for a completely separate event. Access will be both from the kitchen area or the Barton Lane lobby. The construction of the new room is not expected to interfere with existing bookings during the summer months.

We hope the enhanced building will enable us to provide an improved and more versatile facility for the community of Mere. If all goes according to plan the additional room should be available from early September.

Peter Knapp, Chairman Grove Building Management Committee ☎ 01747 860142

THE REV'D HAZEL BARKHAM, RETIRED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

The 5th June is World Environment Day - easy to observe in Mere by not taking from creation's beauty more than we can give, never destroying wantonly for greed, never taking from earth what we cannot use so that as we care for her, she will care for us.

Refugee Week starts on 14th June. Refugees have little, if any choice, over which country they seek asylum in. Most aren't aware of the UK's benefits system and don't know what to expect before they arrive in the country. The primary objective for travelling to another country is reaching a place of safety. Many refugees have experienced or witnessed torture and violence in their home countries. Zimbabweans top the list of asylum seekers in the UK.

I used to be a missionary teacher in Zimbabwe from 1967 till 1970 and all my Ndebele students passed O' Level English Literature.

I returned to Zimbabwe when Margaret Laurie and I attended the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare in 1998. Mugabe arrived surrounded by a military escort. Nelson Mandela arrived surrounded by singing and dancing women. He thanked those of us who had taught in the apartheid years, so all my guilt of cultural imperialism fell away. We visited Silveira House, a Commitment for Life project the URC shares with Christian Aid. Mugabe and government ministers had attended civics courses there. We saw sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature.

In 2008 Margaret, Stella Sivyour and I went to "Breakfast with Mugabe". From our top level seats at the Ustinov Theatre in Bath, the evil of Mugabe was palpable as his white psychiatrist, having diagnosed that Mugabe's paranoia was caused by the spirit of a long-dead comrade, was repaid by having his farm land taken and his black wife killed.

At the meeting of the Britain Zimbabwe Society last October Father Brian MacGarry, a Jesuit, described his current group counselling work in Zimbabwe with victims and perpetrators of torture. Forgiveness and reconciliation are not easy.

I'm glad that the documentary film "Mugabe and the White African" is to be shown in Mere on 10th June. See you there.

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Spring Bazaar held on 1st May raised £706 - an excellent result. Very many thanks to all the helpers, cake makers and contributors of plants, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes - and, of course, to all those who came to support us. It was a very happy morning and enjoyed by all.
Patricia Stephenson ☎ 01747 860278

ANNUAL BISON BROWSE

This year our Annual Bison Browse at Bush Farm, West Knoyle, will be on Sunday 13th June from 11.30am - 4.00pm in aid of West Knoyle Church.

There will be Trailer rides, duck racing, "have a go at archery", Face painting, a Drumming Demonstration, a Lassoing Competition, Art and Photographic Competition (see separate panel), "see inside a Tepee", Stalls, a BBQ, and fun and games for all the family.

For Further information call:

Pepe Seaford ☎ 01747 830263 or Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

Quiet Gospel-based Prayer open to all

We meet on Wednesday 30th June at 7.30pm (finishing by 8.30pm) in the Upper Room in the Grove Buildings.

The focus will be on some of the events and stories in the Gospels concerning the Apostle Peter - in some ways the most 'human' of all the apostles. His feast day is the day before our meeting, so it seems appropriate to see what we can learn from him and his encounters with Jesus.

Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313, Ross and Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Afternoon Get Together

We shall meet on 30th June at 2.30pm. The programme is to be arranged. Do come along and share fun and fellowship with like-minded friends.

Shreen Harmony

Shreen Harmony will give a Summer Concert at 7.30pm on Friday, 11th June in the Methodist Church. Donations in aid of the Church.

Art Exhibition

In connection with the "Mere Open Gardens Charity Event" on 26th and 27th June there will be an Art Exhibition in the Methodist School Room from 2.00 - 5.00pm provided by Mere Art Group.
Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ART & PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

At the annual Bison Browse - In aid of West Knoyle Church.

Sunday 13th June 2010 - 11.30 am to 4.00 pm

No charge for the competition – bring your entry with
you when you come to the Bison Browse.

(Entry fee payable to the whole event)

Display space will be provided.

Please put your name address and telephone number on back of your piece.

Time of judging 2.30 pm

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in adult and junior classes

For Information: 01747 830534 & 01747 830 263

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE June 2010

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel ☎ 01747 863313

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9th	6.00pm	“Start the Month”
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns
	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh
	13th	11.00am	Peter Kershaw
	20th	11.00am	Brenda McCarron
	27th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
			Holy Communion

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
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		Holy Communion
13th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
20th	6.00pm	Mr B Collis
27th	6.00pm	Dr G Tapper

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

Mere Contacts: Teresa Read: ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson: ☎ 01747 860291

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: ☎ 01747 830534

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Holy Communion (by extension)
	13th	11.30am	NO SERVICE Church Fête/Bison Browse, Bush Farm, West Knoyle
	20th	9.25am	DIY
	27th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

June 2010

2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Learning for Discipleship	GB
3	Thur	10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
5	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		2.00pm	St Michael's Church Fête	St Michael's
7	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		9.30am	Aerobics (every Tuesday)	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
9	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		6.00pm	Junior Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows ('Mugabe and the White African')	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 17th and 24th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 17th and 24th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 17th and 24th)	GB
11	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
12	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
12	Sat	7.00pm	Quiz Night: Fives Court Amenities Fund	L
13	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
14	Mon	8.00pm	MADS meeting (Drama Room)	L
15	Tue	2.00pm	- 8.00pm Rivers Meet Road Show	L
17	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows ('Alice in Wonderland')	L
19	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
23	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Fri	3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints
26	Sat	10.30 am	'Drop in' coffee morning + RGC Bric-a-Bbrac	CC
		7.30pm	Mere Footpath Group (Moonlight walk)	CP
27	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB
29	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ 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 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, 14th June 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday 7th June. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

e-mail: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎ : 01985 844740

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