

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grove Buildings - Mere,
Colin Anderson 1992*

MARCH 2010

A BIG “THANK YOU”

When the February edition of Mere Matters was being put together, I was travelling around the South Island of New Zealand and “Mere Matters” was about 12,000 miles away from my mind. However, the edition was produced and made available on the due date of Friday 29th January. I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to local resident Peter Mason who kindly took up the Editor’s reins for the production of the February issue. Hopefully, you as readers were oblivious to the fact, which is a great reflection on Peter’s enthusiasm and professionalism. Thank you Peter, for kindly stepping in while we visited our daughter and family for seven wonderful weeks in the knowledge that “Mere Matters” was in good hands.

Graham Avory, Editor

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on **Monday, 1st March 2010**.

The Chairman writes:

Mere Parish Council is doing everything possible to impress upon Wiltshire Council the need to keep our car parks free to use. We feel strongly that Wiltshire Council needs to take into the account the differing needs of rural and urban areas, and that there should be provision for free public car parking in small towns and villages in the rural areas in order to encourage people to shop locally. Also to protect local services and community facilities in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and promote self containment.

As I am writing this, the Highways Agency are about to close the A303. You will probably, by now, all be aware of the extra traffic this has created locally and the congestion in Gillingham (my predictions) – all so that the A303, ‘the Gateway to the West Country’ can be fitted with new drains and resurfacing. I wouldn’t mind putting up with the congestion and inconvenience if it was being dualled. When will this road get the improvements that it deserves, bearing in mind the amount of traffic it carries?

Weather wise, we should soon be saying goodbye to an old-fashioned winter. Let’s hope we can look forward to an old-fashioned summer.

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

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

The A303 will have been closed by the time you are reading this. For those who live near to where the diverted traffic passes or likely to pass, especially in West Knoyle, I hope life will not be too stressful. The road into West Knoyle from the A303 services will have cones shaped so that as cars can go through, but very difficult for lorries etc., someone will be on duty and large loads will be discouraged. No doubt some of you will see increased traffic as will other affected local areas, some may complain, however the majority of us would not be happy if the A303 was not maintained. Some of the older residents will remember when the A303 passed through Mere. When Mere was bypassed I could not sleep for several nights for the "lack" of noise. Geoffrey Colenso from Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald, the service provider for the Highways Agency on the A303, has made contact with me and agreed that I can contact him in case of "real emergency". The contractors have done all they can locally to date, and I am sure they will carry out the repairs and improvements, such as widening Chaddenwick Hill (Charnage Hill) efficiently. I am told that no utility services to West Knoyle or indeed Mere will be affected.

Pot holes are, as most of you know, a problem after the inclement weather. In the first instance report the presence of pot holes to Clarence ☎ 01225 777234, should you not then be satisfied, you are welcome to contact me.

The next financial year's Community Grants should be available for community groups etc. to apply for soon. If all goes well an application would need to be lodged well before the South West Area Board meeting of the 21st April, 2010, when a decision would be made regarding such applications. I did complain regarding the lack of frequency of our South West Area Board meetings, making it difficult to diary them ahead. Now sense seems to have prevailed, up until the autumn they will be every 9 weeks on a Wednesday.

I am attending the Core Strategy hearings at Salisbury in March and April, in my own right, and as a representative of Mere Parish Council, on two issues. My own personal representation is challenging the soundness of the proposed core strategy. At present, the aspiration is to reduce car usage, in reality with very limited public transport. Mere and its hinterland and beyond in the majority rely on the car, therefore I argue as Planning Policy Guidance 4 states, the rural and urban areas have differing needs, which I cannot see that the proposed Core Strategy allows for.

ATTENTION WEST KNOYLE

West Knoyle residents who use the Doctor's Surgery in Hindon may not appreciate that they can travel there from West Knoyle using the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxi-Buzz. Just ☎ 08456 5255 to book the service. *Roy Sims ☎ 01747 863328*



AMBULANCE SERVICE AWARD FOR MERE FIREFIGHTERS

Four Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service firefighters from Mere have received Chief Officer's Awards from Great Western Ambulance Service for their efforts to save a man's life.

Crew Manager Mike Tealey and Firefighters Wendy Bailey, Wayne Brundish and Steve Pester were called to a house in The Fields, Mere on 23 April 2009 to give medical support to a 78-year-old man who had suffered a heart attack.

The call was part of the co-responding scheme operated by Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service on behalf of Great Western Ambulance Service, which sees personnel at 11 fire stations being trained to provide an essential level of first aid until an ambulance arrives.

On this occasion, the Mere crew arrived at the same time as the paramedics and helped them to carry out CPR on the casualty. The air ambulance was called, and the firefighters brought the man out of his home – which in itself was complicated by narrow stairs and differing floor levels – and continued resuscitation while he was transported to the local recreation field, where the fire service's Land Rover was used to light the helicopter's landing zone.

Sadly, despite the efforts of all concerned, the patient died before he could be flown to hospital.

Chief Fire Officer Andy Goves visited Mere fire station to congratulate the crew on their efforts. He said: "Co-responding is a vital service in our rural areas, where fire crews are often able to attend more quickly than an ambulance. I am very proud that the Mere crew has been recognised by the Great Western Ambulance Service for their outstanding efforts, and I am sure the local community appreciates having such dedicated firefighters in their midst."

David Whiting, Chief Executive of Great Western Ambulance Service, added: "Our crews regularly work with other members of the emergency services. What these awards recognise is that the four firefighters went the extra mile to do the very best for the patient. Co-responders provide an essential service to patients in their local communities in those vital first few minutes while an ambulance crew is en route. I was proud to lead the celebrations that recognised their efforts."

*Louise Knox, Media and Communications Manager,
Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service, ☎ 01380 731126*



MERE POLICE NEWS

We are currently experiencing a higher than normal rate of thefts from vehicles, particularly those parked at some of our beauty spot car parks.

Cunning thieves will target vehicles in car parks because they know that you will be away from your vehicle for some time, giving them ample opportunity. To avoid becoming a victim of crime, please, please take handbags, sat nav's, phones and anything else of value away with you when you're taking a stroll. We are currently patrolling the area's affected and if we notice items on display in your vehicles you will be hearing from us.

Further to my last update regarding our community 'drop in' point at Mere Library, we will soon be conducting drop in centres at other alternative venues.

For some time now, we have been staffing the Library on Wednesday mornings between 11.00am & 1.00pm. We have now published a timetable of future dates, which will be the first and third Wednesday of each month, same time same place.

The new venues will include some of our local public houses so why not pop in for a drink and a chat. It is an ideal opportunity to discuss local issues with your local NPT whilst enjoying the hospitality of our licensed premises at the same time!

Just a reminder that you can leave messages for us locally via the Police post box situated inside the main entrance of Mere Post Office. You can also contact us direct via email, or please try the community mobile phone. We do also have a direct line, however we try to limit our time spent inside the station. Please leave us a message and we will always get back to you. **Please remember if the matter you are reporting is an emergency then use 999.**

If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list then please email us.

Lastly, don't forget to check out our NPT picture slideshow which I will hopefully be updating shortly at: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html>

Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312

e-mail: richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Jake Noble, Police Community Support Officer

e-mail: jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

☎ 07980 701606 (mobile- not 24 hours)

MERE SURGERY

Swine Flu Vaccination Programme

Following instructions given by the Department of Health the Surgery are still able to offer the Swine Flu vaccination to those patients who fall in the risk categories listed below and have not yet had their vaccination.

Risk categories:

1. **Individuals aged between six months and 65 years** with a diagnosis of chronic respiratory disease, asthma (that requires continuous or repeated

use of medication), chronic heart disease, chronic renal disease, chronic liver disease, chronic neurological disease (stroke or TIA), diabetes, immunosuppression or individuals who are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person.

2. All pregnant women
3. Any individual who has contact with a person who is immunocompromised.
4. Individuals aged 65 and over in the above risk categories.

If you fall within one of the risk categories and have not yet had your vaccination but wish to, please contact the surgery to make an appointment.

Drs Price, McBride, Halsey and Andrews

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

..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.

‘SCORES ON DOORS’ IN MERE

Wiltshire Environmental Services (part of Wiltshire Council) has recently introduced a food safety rating scheme which can provide you with information on how hygienic a

catering establishment is. It is called "Scores on Doors" because establishments are encouraged to proudly display their star ratings on their doors.

The scheme aims to improve food hygiene standards and give the public a more informed choice about where to eat based on food safety. The following is a summary of the results for Mere published in early February 2010.

It is reassuring to see that our establishments that serve young and elderly people, who are the most vulnerable to food poisoning, do very well. So, Bramley House, Fives Court and Mere Primary School all get the maximum five stars.

Our pubs do well too; the Butt of Sherry, the George, the Spread Eagle and the Walnut Tree all score four stars whilst the Red Lion at Kilmington and the Fox & Hounds at East Knoyle get a superb five. The Seymour Arms at East Knoyle scored three stars.

Two retail food shops scored five stars (the Co-op and Stourhead Farm Shop) whilst Mere Fish Farm did well with four.

Takeaways are often a problem area but not in Mere: the fish and chip shop does well with four stars and the Golden Valley Chinese takeaway manages a still respectable three.

Amongst our restaurants, the Angel Corner Tea Room scored three stars whilst the Indigo Blue restaurant was rated only one star.

The inspections were carried out between November 2007 and August 2009 (the higher the level of risk the more frequent the inspections). So in some cases the management may have changed since the inspection and some of the lower-scoring establishments will have had time to improve.

The latest scores together with the inspection date can be seen at::

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/foodsafety/hygieneawards.htm>

Let's hope we will soon see more scores proudly displayed on Mere doors!

David Stokes ☎ 01747 860741

WEATHER REPORT

The total rainfall for January was 64.5mms (2.54ins). Last year it was 87.5mms (3.4ins). After the first half of the month, we had no more snow, but had a hail storm on the 29th and hard frost on the 31st. Although we had several sunny days, it continued to be very cold with an East wind.

Up to the middle of February, we had 17mms (0.87ins) of rain with the cold East wind continuing and many sunny days. There was another frosty morning on the 1st and some snow on the 8th, which soon cleared.

Peter Durkee

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE
MONDAY 15th MARCH 2010**

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

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

'Here come the boys' as the song goes - well nearly. The recent arrival of five, yes five, new male guests has got us all a quiver! They have fitted into a rather female dominated group brilliantly and brought a different dynamic to the Centre. Like the ladies, they are happy to join in and take part in just about everything. LC even took the role of Prince Charming in our Christmas Panto and as the script said 'I am sooo handsome' and he is!! Don't be afraid chaps, if you have a sense of humour you will enjoy yourself. We are planning trips out to various places and other events so look at the programme displayed at the Library or on the notice board wall next to the Post Office and ring Lynette on 01747 861 646, if you would like to come and join us.

This is an urgent plea, we are in need of volunteers to do the washing up once a month, helpers to cover an afternoon once a month and men to share the collection of the lunch from Fives Court on a Monday and to transport guests. Please contact Lynette.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646

Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861797

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

And now for something completely different! The Friends of Fives Court are pleased to announce they are planning to hold a **BARN DANCE** to raise funds for the garden project! It will take place in the **Grove Buildings** on **Friday 9th April 2010** at **7.30pm**. Please make a note of the date, and watch out for notices and posters for further details. Dancing will not be absolutely compulsory – just come and enjoy the music and the food!

Advance notice: The Friends of Fives' **Autumn Fair** will take place on **Saturday 11th September** at Fives Court. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

This will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn at 12 noon on Tuesday 9th March 2010 and the two course meal will cost £7.95. All drinks can be purchased separately.

The menu is slow braised chicken in red wine sauce, mashed potatoes with vegetables followed by bread and butter pudding

You are advised to contact the Walnut Tree by 7th March, particularly if you have specific dietary requirements.

This will be the last Community Lunch before the summer break.

We would be interested in any ideas that you may have for the future of the Community Lunch. Any suggestions can be left at the library

- Transport is available through the Connect2 bus ☎ 08456 525255 and the Linkscheme ☎ 01747 860096
- Any queries contact Mark at the Walnut Tree Inn ☎ 01747 861220

Lindy Elliot

MERE SHORT WALKS

This month's short walk will start at the Main Salisbury Street car park at 2.00pm on Wednesday 10th March. A gentle walk of about three miles with tea afterwards at the Angel Café.
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Annual General Meeting and Spring Show

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th March, at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings when we will hold the AGM and discuss the Spring Show.

Members, your subscription is now due. If you are not a member why not join us? Your £7 fee will give you access to interesting talks, garden visits, discounts from Castle Gardens Nursery, Plant World and Wincanton Garden Centre, together with the opportunity to join in our Spring and Annual show, swap plants and make new gardening friends. *There will be a special Garden Raffle at the AGM.*

Visitors and new members welcome

JUNIOR GARDENING CLUB

Sunflowers and Badges

On Wednesday 10th March at 6.00pm, do come along to the Grove Buildings and plant your sunflower for the Annual Show competition in September. Bring an adult and 50p; refreshments will be provided.

For more details contact:

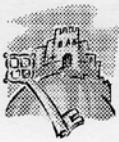
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

LIP READING

There are only two sessions of the class in March – 19th and 26th – to be held in the Footprints Centre from 10.15 - 12.15pm. On Friday 19th March, Celia Whiteside, a Hearing Therapist from Salisbury District Hospital, will be visiting the class when visitors will be welcome at a cost of £1 to cover the cost of refreshments.

Liz Messer (Tutor) ☎ 01300 348580

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



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Subscriptions are Due: £6 per member

If you are unable to attend it would save our Membership Secretary a great deal of work if you would be kind enough to send her your subscription. Please send it to:

Joan Slight, Membership Secretary, Honeysuckle Cottage, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere, BA12 6PP ☎ 01747 860890

Joan would also appreciate members e-mailing her with their e-mail addresses. Her E-mail address is: **slight492@btinternet.com**

The AGM will be followed by:

Fascinating Numbers

Some little known facts

Tony Davis

Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings

£2 entry for non members, who are very welcome.

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

The current exhibition 'Collecting in the New Millennium' will close on Friday, February 26th, to enable us to install a new exhibition entitled 'Pitty the Pore'. The title is taken from an inscription on a bronze cooking pot in the Museum's collection which is dated 1684 (and which you can see for yourselves on the Wiltshire Treasures website: www.wiltshiretreasures.org).

The exhibition will aim to show how Mere tried to help the old, the poor, the orphaned, the demented, the sick, disabled and destitute during past centuries. The exhibition will cover Mere Charities, self-help groups and, of course, the Union Workhouse. We shall be resuming our usual four-month display period, the exhibition opening to the general public on Tuesday March 2nd and continuing until the end of June 2010.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' preview of the new exhibition 'Pitty the Pore' (see previous page for details) will be held on Monday 1st March at 6.30pm in the Museum. As always, this lively event is a good way to meet like-minded people, and to steal a march on everyone else in getting a first glimpse of the new display. We are always ready to welcome new members and what better occasion to join us than at a party?

For your diaries: The Friends' famous **Plant Sale** will take place on **Saturday 8th May** in the Grove Buildings. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our season continues on Thursday 25th March with "Bright Star", the tragic love story of the poet John Keats and the girl next door Fanny Brawne. This unlikely pair begin at odds, he thinking her a stylish minx only concerned with fashionable things, while she was unimpressed not only with his poetry but with literature in general. This beautiful film is written and directed by Jane Campion and is a must for all those with poetry – or love – in the soul! Full details are on page 21.

Date for your diary: Thursday 29th April – film to be confirmed in the next issue of Mere Matters. *Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

A CHANGE TO THE LITERARY FESTIVAL COMPETITION.

Due to a change in circumstances and personal commitments, the organisers of the Linkscheme's Literary Festival have decided to run a biennial poetry competition rather than the present annual competition, which alternated between short story and poetry.

Regretfully, this means no international short story competition in 2010 as previously announced. We are sorry to disappoint short story writers but feel this decision will best ensure the continuity of the festival, which plays an important part in our community and helps fund the Linkscheme. Thanks go to all writers, readers and judges who have supported the story competition in the past.

All may not be lost for local story writers as the possibility of a short story sweat-shop (i.e. a write on the day competition) during festival week is being investigated.

The 2010 Mere Literary Festival will take place from **11th – 17th October** and the next international competition will be for poetry in 2011.

Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest.Group

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

By the time you read this, the A303 will already have been closed for several weeks for essential repairs. This will, of course, mean longer journeys, both in time and distance, and our drivers will doubtless try a variety of alternative routes. It will also mean additional costs as, whilst giving their time freely, drivers receive a mileage allowance.

In addition, there are yet more alterations and work on car parking at Salisbury District Hospital, although there are alternative reserved places for Linkscheme drivers. Adding this to the extremely wintry weather in the last two months, has made for an interesting and challenging beginning to this year!

Molly Burden

NORTHERN HARMONY WORLD MUSIC CHOIR OFFERS CONCERT AND WORKSHOPS IN MERE

Northern Harmony, the popular and unique world-music singing ensemble from Vermont, USA, led by Larry Gordon and Patty Cuyler, comes to Mere for a workshop and concert on 30th and 31st March 2010. The workshop for any interested singers will be on Tuesday 30th March from 4.00-6.00pm and from 7.00-9.00pm at the Mere Primary School, Springfield Road (with a potluck supper in between), and the Concert will be staged on Wednesday, 31st March at 7:30pm in St Michael's Parish Church. Admission to the workshop is £20 (£15 concessions), and to the concert is £10 (£7 concessions), or for both £25 (£20 concessions).

Hailed for their "sheer agility, vitality and power" by the Washington Post, Northern Harmony's brilliant young singers are chosen from among the strongest recent graduates of Village Harmony teen ensembles. Now on their 12th extended European tour, they stretch the normal boundaries of choral music with their command of varied world ethnic singing styles: sacred and secular harmonies from Corsica and Georgia; village music from the Balkans; South African folk and church songs and dances; American shape-note singing and a cappella gospel; and contemporary compositions.

At the workshop the group will teach a selection of songs from these different genres, with close attention to the distinctive vocal production appropriate to each style. Northern Harmony singers will be there to illustrate the vocal styles and help lead each part, which makes the teaching especially efficient and rewarding.

For further information and/or tickets call me or for information visit the Northern Harmony website: www.villageharmony.org

Bob Parsons ☎ 01747 861298.

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

It seems that a good time was had by all - cast and audience alike – at last month's Old Time Variety Show. It was good to see some members bravely treading the (Mere) boards for the very first time – and we're sure not the last! However, unlike some actors we don't know the meaning of the word 'rest', and rehearsals for the eagerly awaited Spring Production are well underway.

This year it is to be 'Bottom's Dream', a comic fantasy centred on the rustic characters in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream (Nick Bottom, Peter Quince, Francis Flute, Tom Snout and Uncle Tom... no, forget him). The play will be given in memory of George Chapman, a long-standing member of MADS who served the company both on and off the stage, and who died in 2008. A donation to Cancer Research from the proceeds of the production will be given in George's memory. Performances will be on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 15th – 17th April**. Tickets will be available soon at the Information Point, Thursday tickets £4 (£3 for children), £5 (and £3) on Friday and Saturday. Posters will shortly be appearing on a notice board near you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Our membership is still rising and is now nearly 90! We have had four successful outings to Salisbury, Christchurch, Poole and Bath and will soon be putting together the booking list for May, June and July. So if you would like details of our activities, do get in touch with Wendy or myself. You don't have to be a member to book an outing, but you do to go on the mailing list, it's up to you.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

There are now twenty-seven members of the newly formed Patchwork and Quilting Group meeting at the Grove Building on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of each month. This has been extended now with meetings on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon also from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. Members come from Mere and the surrounding Villages.

On 3rd February, twelve members commenced an eight week Beginners Course. The committee and their tutor Kate Pickard, from Shaftesbury, welcomed their enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing their first completed quilts.

There is a welcome to anyone who enjoys this creative and popular hobby. Sewing machines are busily producing some beautiful lap quilts and baby quilts to name but a

few. We are delighted that some of our members are very new to Mere and therefore making new likeminded friends.

If you would like to come and join us, please contact me.

Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923

WEST WILTSHIRE WOOD TURNER GROUP

The newly formed group held its inaugural meeting on 20th January in the Grove Buildings. A detailed review of the events of that evening can be read on the groups' web site at: www.WWWTG.co.uk. The web site is already receiving far more 'hits' than had ever been imagined and there is lots of interest from turners all over the UK as we embark on this new venture.

Members do not have to own their own lathe and equipment but ownership is obviously desirable. There is the possibility of hiring equipment, if anyone is interested then please do get in touch.

The refurbished Grove Buildings is a wonderful facility for the community in general, but we urgently need to enhance the audio/visual capabilities for many of the users and the WWTG are not alone in seeing this as a priority so that members can see the finer detail during demonstrations 'on the big screen'. I would appeal to anyone who might be able to loan/sell/donate a digital projector OR a large flat screen TV which can at least work on video input/display to get in touch.

The March meeting will be on Tuesday, 23rd at 6.30pm and we shall alternate Wednesdays and Tuesdays from then on. If you are interested in joining then please let me know.

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Prior to our move to Mere last year, I had previously supported this charity for many years. The article in last month's edition (page 25) has prompted me to re-make contact with the charity and if anyone in our area has tools that are no longer required, please contact me. I will refurbish as required and deliver to TFSR. Having one local point of contact is more expedient for the charity and will minimise journey costs.

Tools accepted include: Woodworking, metalworking, drill bits, blacksmiths, bicycle, shoe, auto-mechanic, electrical, arc welders and heavy duty drills and grinders. For more detail on the charity go to: www.TFSR.org.

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th March at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be the Rev'd Judith Thompson and her subject will be "Reflections on Hospital Chaplaincy". There will also be a Bring and Buy stall.

Friday, 5th March will be Womens World Day of Prayer at the URC Church at 2.30pm.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

GROVE BUILDING '100' CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for February, drawn after Family Communion on 7th February 2010 by Hannah Scaife, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 32	Mrs M Trussler
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 196	Mrs S Stuart
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 56	Generously Returned
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 148	Mrs V Dawson

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, South West Group's meeting on Thursday, 11th March at 7.30pm in Hinton Hall, Tisbury, will be a talk "Why Protected Verges". This will be given by Fiona Elphick, who is the County Ecologist. She will explain the history of protected verges (green lanes, drovers roads!), who cares for them, and why they are so important. Entrance £2, refreshments for sale,

More information from:

Mary James ☎ 01747 870446.

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, Where everybody matters

Exercise and "You"

Did you know?

Children and young people should aim to get at least 60 minutes of moderate physical activity every day. This should include at least two weekly sessions that produce high physical stress on the bones, such as dancing, jumping or aerobics, to help healthy development.

We can help your children to achieve that with our sessions of:

- Football
- Gymnastics
- Trampolining
- Kids for a Quid activities

Did you know?

For **adults** the government recommends that they should do at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five times a week. Moderate intensity activity makes you feel warmer and increases your breathing and heart rate.

We can help with that too by taking part in our:

- Gym
- Fitness classes
- Badminton
- Tennis

For further details concerning any of the above, a copy of our programme, or information about the wide range of activities which take place at the Centre, please contact:

- Reception ☎ 01747 871141
- , or e-mail us at: tisburyssc@wiltshire.gov.uk
- or visit the website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

MERE BOWLS CLUB

It is with great sadness that I start this month with news of the passing of Denis Baker-Dobson; Denis was a long-standing member of the club and filled the post of Club President until ill-health forced his retirement from the post last year. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

At a recent meeting, it was agreed that Mere Bowls Club form a Ladies Section. This has now been completed with the aims of encouraging more ladies to join the club and for the ladies to hold friendly matches against lady members of local clubs; eight matches have already been arranged for the 2010 season. For further information on joining the ladies for some gentile enjoyment on a summers' afternoon, please contact Ladies Captain Mary Butchers ☎ 01747-860219 or Match Secretary Pauline Woods ☎ 01747-861707

At the AGM held in the Small Lecture Theatre in December 2009, the following officers were either returned or voted in. Please contact any member if you wish to know more about the club.

Chairman – Alan Inwood,	☎ 01985-844215
Vice Chairman – Shaun Woods,	☎ 01747-861707
Treasurer – Peter Dethick,	☎ 01747-863470
Secretary – Don Butchers,	☎ 01747-860219
Captain – Arthur Holberry,	☎ 01747-840083
Vice Captain – Mary Butchers,	☎ 01747-860219
Match Secretary – Pauline Woods,	☎ 01747-861707
Head Green Keeper – David Howell,	☎ 01747-860675
Committee Member – Pat Gear,	☎ 01747-860320
Committee Member – Terry Byrnes,	☎ 01747-863470

The club will hold its opening day on Saturday 10th April, when present and new members are asked to attend and pay their membership fees for the 2010 season. Timings for the day will be published in the next issue of Mere Matters. We are currently planning to hold a barbecue following an afternoon's bowling – more news on this later.

Members of the public who are uncertain about what the game of bowls entails, or are wondering if they will take to it, or even if they just want to know why so many people enjoy the sport so much, are invited to attend the Springfield Road Green on any Tuesday evening between 6.00 and 8.00pm, when club members will be more than willing to assist in any way possible.

For any information regarding the club please contact Shaun Woods ☎ 01747-861707, Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215 or Don Butchers ☎ 01747-860219.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Bright Star (PG)

Ben Wishaw Abbie Cornish

Jane Campion's acclaimed, ravishingly beautiful film of the love affair between the English poet John Keats and the girl next door Fanny Brawne, cut short by the poets death at the age of 25. Though the unlikely pair begin at odds they are soon swept into a love affair with a tragic ending.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 25th March, 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 at www.moviola.org

MERE ARCHERS

Our hardy archers have braved the cold, snow and ice to continue practising during the winter months on Sunday mornings at the Duchy Manor playing fields. Now with the promise of Spring around the corner, we are planning our next introduction to archery course. If you are interested in booking a place, please call me.

Gloria Mead ☎ 01747 863360

1ST MERE BROWNIES

Mobile Phone Appeal

We thank everyone who continues to support our appeal for unwanted mobile phones very much. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card).

Our last batch, sent a couple of weeks ago, raised £110 for unit funds.

Collection points are at: Waltons Newsagents, The Post Office, Mere Library, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom.

With many thanks again.

Sue Jeans, Assistant Brownie Guider ☎ 01747 860215

MERE SCHOOL REPORT

February 2010

The new year has started with lots of clubs for us all to do – from beading to badminton to recorders. There are not so many clubs for the younger children as they get tired but they do come to Fun Club on Wednesdays.

Mere School has arranged some workshops for our mums and dads on spelling, numeracy and internet safety. They were very successful and lots of our parents came.

It is art week this week and an artist, Mr Steve Porter, has been working with us. He brought us all a 'bag of art' and we have been concentrating on 'abstract art'. We have created some pretty, colourful pictures.

We are really excited because we have a new trolley of wireless laptops in school for years 4, 5 and 6 to use. 'The Friends' have raised lots of money over the year to buy them.

Mrs Shannon (MS), as part of the International Teacher Programme is going on a special trip during half term. Emily (EK) and Adam (AF) interviewed her about the visit:

EK: So where is Armenia?

MS: Armenia is between Turkey and Azerbaijan with Iran to the south and Georgia to the north.

- AF: *Why are you going to Armenia?*
- MS: *To visit some of the primary schools in the capital, Yerevan, and to share ideas with Armenian teachers.*
- EK: *What is Armenia like?*
- MS: *It has cold winters and hot summers. At the moment it is about -5 Degrees. It is a very mountainous country. It has a lot of earthquakes and the one in 1988 killed over 55,000 people. The capital, Yerevan, is one of the oldest capital cities in the world.*
- AF: *Is it a poor or a rich country?*
- MS: *It is a poor country with its economy still recovering from the 1988 earthquake and previous wars.*
- AF: *Will you bring us back a few photos?*
- MS: *Yes, definitely!!!*
- AF/EK: *Now all that's left to say is have a good time and see you when you get back!*
- Bryony Adams, Klara Jenkins, Kieran Crockin, Anna Fletcher, Charlie Hill, Madeline Howden, Emily Kelly and Adam Filleau*

STAMPS AND POST CARDS FOR SUDAN

Many thanks to all those Mere Matters readers who continue to submit stamps and post cards for the Sudan. They are much appreciated. I would be glad to have more support from all the churches, but please note that the Sudan Church Association does not take Christmas Greeting or Birthday cards. I have been unable to find any one who is able to cope with these and so we can only throw them away.

Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363

THE REV'D TIM HEATON, CURATE OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES

Journey's End

Our journey through Lent is a journey to the cross and the empty tomb beyond. The pilgrimage metaphor for Christian existence is helpful here – a personal journey that can be likened to a literal pilgrimage to a sacred place. In the past, many of the benefits of a pilgrimage were found not at the destination itself, but on the road getting there; when the pilgrims arrived they were just as likely to be giving thanks for what they had already received on the way as for what they received when they got there.

Jesus, too, was a traveller on the road. The gospels tell us about his journeys around Judea and Galilee: Jesus himself is challenged and changed by his encounters on the way. Eventually he turns his face towards Jerusalem and his destination on the cross. Only beyond the cross lies the true goal, the true prize. His disciples learn from him as they travel along: discipleship is tough and costly, troubles will need to be overcome and the journey will not be easy, but if we keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus we shall eventually reach the goal and claim the prize.

But I'd like to take you on a real pilgrimage to that sacred place where Jesus died and rose again. In February next year, I am leading a tour of the Holy Land, and I'd love you to join me if you can. I am giving you plenty of notice so that you can make your holiday plans accordingly and save up the money. For some it may be the only holiday they take in 2011. Of course, we will not be walking there! We will travel by plane and coach, but for ten days we will be following in the footsteps of Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, "the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11.10). Details can be found on page 27.

I know that you will be challenged and changed by your encounters on the way. I know that your faith will be strengthened. I know these things because so it was for me when I went there in 2008. And I hope that you will come to understand more clearly that our journey's end, just as it was for Jesus, is not Jerusalem after all, but "a better country, that is, a heavenly one" (Hebrews 11.16). Please call me ☎ 01747 841076 for a brochure and booking form.

CONTEMPLATIVE BIBLE MEDITATION

A St Patrick's Day meditation with a Lenten theme at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th March in the upper room of the Grove Buildings. We plan to conclude by 8.10pm, but will definitely finish by 8.30pm. If you haven't tried this way of responding to the Bible before, why not give it a try? All welcome!

Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313
Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

LENTEN LUNCHES

"Lenten Lunches" will be served in the Grove Buildings every Friday during Lent, including on Good Friday 2nd April from 12.30-1.30pm.

We would be very grateful for contributions to the Bring and Buy stall, preferably consumables such as cakes, biscuits, jams, etc.

Sheila Shotter 📞 01747 861771



A comprehensive 10-day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem and Galilee

Six nights at the 3-star Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem and three
nights at the 4-star Ron Beach Hotel by the Sea of Galilee

DAILY PROGRAMME

- 15 Feb Depart Heathrow at 1535 arriving Tel Aviv at 2220
- 16 Feb The Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane
- 17 Feb Via Dolorosa and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- 18 Feb The Judean desert, the Dead Sea and Qumran
- 19 Feb Mount Zion and Bethlehem
- 20 Feb Free time in Jerusalem
- 21 Feb Bethany and Jericho
- 22 Feb Nazareth and Cana
- 23 Feb Capernaum and Lake Galilee
- 24 Feb Caesarea and Jaffa, departing Tel Aviv at 1735

The cost is £1,285 per person *full board* (dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch), including flights, coach travel and entrance fees, based on two people sharing a twin room. Single supplement £245.

For a brochure and booking form please ☎ 01747 841076

HOLY LAND TOUR 2011

with the Rev'd Tim Heaton

15th–24th February 2011

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL
MERE

Mothering Sunday

10.30am Sunday 14th March



A special service for all ages to give thanks
for all mothers. Posies will be distributed.

All welcome

See Church Notices (page 30 in this issue)
for other services

**CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL
MERE**

Special Notice

6pm Sunday 21st March

Songs of Praise



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

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH OF WITNESS

Meet in the Square for the annual Churches Together March of Witness at 11.00am up Castle Hill on Good Friday Morning, marking the Stations of the Cross as we wend our way to the top. Don't forget that afterwards there is the final Lenten Lunch in the Grove Buildings.

Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291

EASTER FLORAL CROSSES

We shall be making floral crosses to go up outside each church in Mere On Easter Sunday in the Grove Buildings after the Lenten Lunch on Good Friday, 2nd^d April. Your help would be greatly welcomed.

Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL MERE

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Monday	29th	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Tuesday	30th	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	31st	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		12.00noon	Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday	1st	8.00pm	Holy Communion followed by The Watch until Midnight
Good Friday	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion from the Reserved sacrament
		9.30am	Stations of the Cross for Children (with Hot Cross Buns)
		11.00am	March of Witness up Castle Hill Stars from the Clock Tower In The Square.
		2.30pm	Last Hour Meditations Words and Music
EASTER DAY	4th	6.00am	Service of Light with Baptism at Barrow Street Farm
		10.30am	Family Communion (with Easter Eggs)

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MARCH

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)
	4.30pm	Evening Prayer

Wednesday		3rd	6.00pm	“Start The Month” Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am		Family Communion with Baptism (CW1)
			6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday	14th	10.30am		Family Service for Mothering Sunday (with distribution of Posies)
		21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			6.00pm	Songs of Praise
Palm Sunday	28th	10.15am		Parish Communion (Procession of Palms begins by the clock tower in The Square)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

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

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
	14th	6.00pm	Mr & Mrs Rawlins
	21st	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
Sunday	28th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
Wednesday	31st	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together in the School Room

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
Good Friday	2nd April		NO MORNING MASS
		3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion <i>Please check beforehand.</i>

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

On the 1st Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin ☎ 01747 830534

Sundays	7th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	14th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	21st	9.25am	DIY Service
	28th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2010

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

1	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Preview	Library
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tue	10.30am	Mere Carers Group	Lynch
3	Wed	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
3	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
4	Thurs	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	1st Mere Guides	L
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
5	Fri	12.30pm	Lenten Lunches (Every Friday)	GB
		2.30pm	Womens World Day of Prayer	CC
5	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
6	Sat	10.00am	Mere Dazzlers Majorettes Jumble Sale	L
		10.30am	Café Direct Tea party	CC
9	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		12.00pm	Community Buffet	The Walnut Tree Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB

10	Wed	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Short Walk	CP
		2.00pm	Whist	GB
		6.00pm	Junior Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (Also 18th & 25th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (Also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (Also 18th & 25th)	GB
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (Also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
17	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (Also 24th & 31st)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		7.15pm	Church Meeting AGM	CC
		7.30pm	Contemplative Bible Meditation (Upper Room)	GB
19	Fri	10.15am	Lip Reading	Footprints
20	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Spring Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
		9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	West Wiltshire Woodturners Group	GB
24	Wed	All day	Wellbeing & Information day	Library
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Moviola Film Show "Bright Star"	L
26	Fri	10.15am	Lip Reading	Footprints
		7.00pm	Mere Football Club Bingo "Eyes Down" 7.30pm	L
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning with RGC Bric a Brac	CC
28	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB
30	Tue	4.00pm	Northern Harmony Choir Workshop	Mere School
31	Wed	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Northern Harmony Workshop Concert	St Michaels

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Halls: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Buildings: ☎ Isabel Howell 01747 860297

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING CLINICS/ADVICE CENTRES ARE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm
 Private Appointments telephone 01722 327222

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

COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE

Material for the April 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 March 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** after Monday 8th March. 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.kennedy@homecall.co.uk

☎ : 01985 844740

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