

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grove Buildings - Mere
Colin Anderson 1992*

NOVEMBER 2010

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 November 2010**.

The Chairman writes:

Two of our biggest annual events have taken place in the last two months – the Mere Carnival and the Mere Literary Festival, both of which provide much-needed funds for local charities. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organisers, committee members and helpers of both events for providing such successful and well-attended occasions.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that the Remembrance Day Service will take place on Sunday, 14th November when we will gather at the War Memorial in The Square at 10.45am for a short Act of Remembrance followed with a procession to St. Michaels Church for the Remembrance Service.

At the October meeting, the Parish Council agreed to register an interest with the Community Heartbeat Charity to provide a number of Public Access Defibrillators within the area. The Parish Council will investigate funding opportunities, but Community Heartbeat's advice is that the best projects are those that include an element of community fundraising. So, if anyone has any ideas or wishes to hold a fundraising coffee morning.

The Parish Clerk has confirmed that the audit of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010 has been concluded successfully and with no issues of concern. A copy of the Annual Return is available for inspection on the Parish Council noticeboard (outside the Lecture Hall) and copies can be inspected at the Parish Council office.

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

Although a Mere Parish Council matter, I also sit on the Mere Parish Council. This year the Christmas lights for the tree in the Square will be low energy, on a living tree. The

lights will be low voltage (at low level) which will aid safety. However, the white lights on the Clock Tower will continue.

The results of the “parking consultation” are now known. Mere produced somewhere around 50% of the approximately 600 replies. 74% are in favour of no charges in band 4 car parks, which include Mere. For those interested, car parking will be discussed at the November and December Wiltshire Council meetings, with December being the final and decisive meeting.

By the time you read this, we will know the results of the public spending cuts, but at present about 1500 Wiltshire Council staff will be asked to consider voluntary redundancy with an enhanced package to make it more attractive.

I hope to get three life saving public defibrillators installed around Mere, plus one each in Kilmington and West Knoyle. I also believe Zeals Parish Council is looking to install one.

The number of proposed new dwellings for the Mere area is being considered to be lowered to 200 over the next 20 years (10 a year average for Mere and Zeals combined). About 290 were proposed previously. The housing restrained policy boundaries may be removed in West Knoyle and Kilmington, and as stated before, no dwellings except social exception sites would be allowed. Stourton is a “special” village and apart from essential development, I doubt if any would be allowed. Employment land staying as it is, three hectares.

In Mere, the Area Board has been asked to look at the possibility of: improving the junction of The Lynch (the extension of Water Street) where it meets Pettridge Lane; putting in a short stretch of yellow lines outside the Lecture Hall to help traffic flow in Salisbury Street, and putting in a disabled parking space in the Square (situated where a traffic engineer would consider it to be prudent).

A cautious note to those requesting 20mph speed limits. These are not enforceable in Wiltshire, but do not think you can always escape enforcement, the police can have you for say ‘dangerous driving’ in the 20mph limit!

One tonne grit bags are going to be made available to parishes that request them, this will be a help regarding possible lack of grit bins in your area. Nine extra grit bins are being allowed for the Mere Area.

One of the more interesting things I have done for Wiltshire Council in the last month was to attend a seminar at Goonhilly on wind generators that have been installed as replacements. These generators are 107 metres in height to the tip and can power 2,000 one bar electric fires each. I produced a factual report for the Council, which I can supply to anyone interested.

To finish, I attended a funeral service in the Chapel in Mere Cemetery for Neil Turner, I have mentioned this as it was a lovely setting for a funeral, and I do not know whether it is widely appreciated that the Chapel can be used for funeral services.

WEATHER REPORT

In September we had 76mms (2.99ins) of rain compared with 31.5 mms last year. Generally speaking the weather was good for the time of year. In fact, from the 7th to the 27th we had no rain apart from 20 mms (0.79ins) on the 22nd with sunny days and slight wind.

Up to the middle of October we had 36.5mms (1.44ins), all before the 6th. The days are getting shorter, the wind is colder, and one or two nights have been very cold, but we still have many sunny days..

Peter Durkee

MERE CARERS GROUP

The Carers Group will meet on Tuesday, 2nd November at 10.30am in the community centre in Lynch Close. On Wednesday 24th November there will be Carers Complimentary therapy. For more information contact Carers Support ☎ 01722 322746. *Lucy Ludlow, Office Manager, Carers Support , South Wilts*

Mere Dental Practice



The practice has two Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Jacquie Barnes

Two Dental Hygienist /Dental Therapist- Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Wiltshire, BA12 6EW

Tele: 01747 860365 /e-mail: meredental@btconnect.com

Opening hours: - Monday – Friday 8.45am – 5.30pm

with evening appointments on Tuesdays

Jacquie Barnes currently has availability on her NHS List, with priority to Wiltshire Residents



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

DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

We welcome local girl Melissa Chilott who has joined us on Reception. Melissa is doing an apprenticeship in Business Admin Level 2 with us.

We also welcome Jay Lonsdale who has joined us as a Dental Therapist/Hygienist. Therapists can do simple dental work i.e. fillings. Jay will work mainly with children.

The practice now has three working surgeries and we are going through the lengthy process of recruiting a third dentist to work part time with us.

Francine Sherrard, Dental Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365

THE LATE MICHAEL TIGHE

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness and support following Michael's death. We always said that the two best things we did were getting married and, later, moving to Mere. It is nearly 19 years since we came here, and in that time we have made so many friends. Thank you all.

I hope that Michael will be remembered for the work he did on the history of Mere, and also the large archive he has left for future historians to continue the research. It gave him great pleasure to be involved in the past and present life of Mere.

Daphne Tighe



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

The Mere & District Chamber of Trade **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday 1st December 2010** at the George Hotel in The Square Mere at 7.30pm for 8.00 pm. Please advise Mrs Stephanie Roberts, Secretary, ☎ 01747 861420 to help us with numbers for catering.

New Business Competition

If you started your business after the 25th September 2009 or are planning to start trading before 31st August 2011, you are eligible to enter this competition.

Benefits of entering include: ● 35% discount on advertising (to be claimed within six months) ● One to One with a Business Link advisor ● A three day Business Link Start Up Course for £50 ● New Account package for small business, ● 20% discount on printing ● Email website and online backup offers.

Plus for each Town winner: ● £1,000 prize money ● Publicity in the local press.

Plus for the Final Winner: ● £2,000 prize money ● £500 towards advertising campaign ● Media Awareness session ● Business start up course (3 days) ● £250 of printing.

You will need to produce a business plan for the new business. In this plan you will need to:

- Describe the business
- Describe the key personnel running the business
- Demonstrate a profitable business concept and create a cash flow taking into account of sales, overheads and expenses
- Show that you have done market analysis and how you will market your product
- Describe how you would invest the prize money to enhance your business.

A Business Link Advisor will give you help and guidance with the preparation of entry form, including business plan and cash flow projections.

Please contact Mrs Stephanie Roberts, Secretary ☎ 01747 861420 for a New Business Competition Pack. GOOD LUCK.

Barbara Hewitt, Chair

MERE CARNIVAL

Grand Christmas Bingo.

Come along to the Grove Buildings on Friday 19th November. Doors open at 7.00pm and "Eyes Down" is at 7.45pm. Fun for all the family with: "Special", Raffle and, of course: Refreshments. Proceeds to Carnival funds.

Sue Jeans (for the Carnival Committee) ☎ 01747 860215

SHREEN HARMONY

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert this year is on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings. There is no entrance fee but there will be a collection in aid of the charity which aims to help sufferers of the eye condition Macular Degeneration.

There will be a sumptuous feast in the interval and mulled wine to warm the spirits and keep you going. We will be singing a variety of festive music from here and around the world and of course traditional carols which we would love you all to join in with gusto!!

It promises to be a very happy festive celebration to start the Christmas Season, and we would love to see as many people as possible joining with us to raise the roof again.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 01747 860424

MERE SHORT WALKS

The November Short Walk will take place on Monday 8th November. Meet at 2.00pm by the Surgery in the Shaftesbury Street car park with tea as usual afterwards in The Angel Cafe.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR COMBINED
DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011 ISSUE
MONDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2010**

QUIZ NIGHT

Fives Court staff and WRAC members invite you to our Quiz Night to be held in the Lecture Hall at 7.30pm **on Friday, 12th November 2010. Teams of four at a cost of £1.50 per person.** If you cannot make up a team do come along anyway. Meet new friends and we will make up the teams for you. There will be refreshments and a raffle.

Gladys W Pope ☎ 01747 860887

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Bulbs throughout the year

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 10th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings when John Horsey, a member of the Alpine Garden Society, will discuss bulbs throughout the year. With such a wealth of bulbs available, this is sure to be an interesting talk.

Visitors and new members welcome. For more details contact:

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

SHAFTESBURY & GILLINGHAM U3A

The October monthly meeting of SGU3A heard a dramatic and enthralling tale from Yvonne Varley about the life of Evgenia Petrovna Shelepina, once a personal assistant to Trotsky, who in 1923 married Arthur Ransome, the writer of Swallows and Amazons, and who had lived for some years at Manor Farm, Hatch near Tisbury.

The next monthly meeting will be held (for this month only) at the Olive Bowl in Gillingham at 10.30am on Thursday 4th November when Paul Atterbury will give a talk about the Edwardian garden designers Jekyll and Lutyens. The following meeting will be held in the usual venue, the Christian Centre in Shaftesbury on Thursday, 2nd December, when members will be entertained with a production from Chester House Productions entitled "Yuletide Tales".

All who are retired are welcome to join our group and come to the monthly meeting and see what U3A, The University of the Third Age, is all about. The Shaftesbury and Gillingham group has over 70 different activity groups. Further information is available on its website: www.sgu3a.org.uk, or for membership information contact Eileen Westbrook ☎ 01747 826207 after 7.00pm.



WILTSHIRE WILD LIFE TRUST

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust South West Supporter Group's next talk will be on Thursday 11th November at the Hinton Hall, Tisbury when Robert Barnes will share with us the highlights of his trip to the Amazon and Galapagos. Robert is well known to our group as he has given interesting talks in the past; join him on his visit to this amazing part of the world. Entrance £2, tea & coffee on sale. Further information from Mary James ☎ 01747 870 446.

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

Mere & District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere

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

Did you see us on the Connect2 bus in the Carnival Parade in our funny hats? We had such fun and it was great being involved in a community event. We would like to thank Connect2 bus for taking us, and the Carnival Committee for all their support. And big thanks to all the people of Mere who cheered us on and gave generously to the Carnival collection from which we hope to benefit.

A number of new guests and volunteers have joined us recently, and we are delighted to have them in our midst.

The kitchens in Lynch Close have been refurbished and the Community Lounge is to be re-decorated imminently. **During this time we will be using the Grove Buildings** - so if you wish to visit us or find out more about the Centre, check with Lynette the Organiser ☎ 01747 861646 as to where we are and the activities and events that we are planning. Do pop in - we would love to see you...

Lynette Elliott, Organiser ☎ 01747 861646

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends and Residents are waiting patiently for the arrival of The Greenhouse, the last and possibly the best bit of the new garden. When you hear sustained cheers reverberating around the Square, you'll know that the moment – and the greenhouse - has come!
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



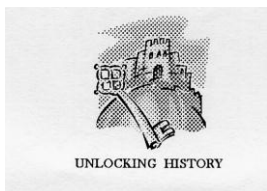
BRAINWAVE

Shop Autumn/Winter Collection

Following the big summer sale clear out, the rails at the Mere shop are now stocked with warmer clothing for the autumn and winter. We hope, if you are turning out your

winter wardrobe and find items surplus to requirements, you will bag them up and bring them to our shop. Donations of clothing, books, bric-a-brac, toys and small electrical items are always gratefully received and without plenty of stock we would not be able to continue to raise funds to help brain-damaged children.

We are already planning for the festive season and hope this year to have a late opening evening with extra attractions. This may coincide with the turning on of Mere's Christmas lights, but the date is still to be decided and will be announced in the December edition of Mere Matters. We hope that you will once again be able to donate some items that will be suitable as small Christmas gifts. In this respect you did us proud last year and we plan once again to arrange a gift display for the festive season. Also, during December there will be a painting competition for the children, so watch out for this! For enquiries during business hours, call the shop ☎ 01747 863432.



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“The Prison at Norman Cross”

a Time Team investigation

Paul Chamberlain
Consultant to the team

Tuesday 9th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings

How many motorists realise that when driving up the A1M towards Peterborough there was a large POW camp just off junction 16 towards Stilton? This was one of the largest of such camps in use during the Napoleonic War from 1793- 1814 built specifically to house mainly French seamen, who were captured by the Royal Navy in the North Sea. The talk will be illustrated. Visitors will be very welcome

Reminder: Friday 11th February 2011

Longleat House: Behind the Scenes

• **DEADLINE FOR BOOKING 31st DECEMBER** •

**Details on booking forms in members' packs,
also from Mere Information Point**

*If you are interested in visiting **Cothay Manor House on Monday, 13th June 2011**, please let me know asap, as we have to confirm our booking before the end of the month.*

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

The 'Barbarous Radiate' coins on loan from Salisbury and West Wiltshire Museum are now installed in the 'new' showcase. Don't let the obscure description put you off! They are interesting little things: do make sure that you go to see them. We have extended the term of this exhibition so that you have plenty of time to visit.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

We have two events to announce this month. First, the Friends' **AGM** will take place on **Tuesday, 2nd November** in **The Grove Buildings** at **7.30pm**. The business part of the meeting will as usual take up as little time as possible, after which there will be wine and nibbles, and one of David Longbourne's tantalising quizzes to challenge you. Jenny Wilding will then give a short illustrated talk about Vermeer – the greatest Dutch painter of the 17th century (arguably!). We shall hope to see lots of you there. Don't forget that the AGM presents a very good opportunity to bring along potential **new Friends** to meet us.

Secondly, on **Tuesday, 30th November**, we are staging a special event to help get everyone in the mood for Christmas. Chester House Productions, a company that says of itself that it aims to provide 'social history through theatre', will present '**Dickens at Christmas**' – a selection of seasonal writings by Charles Dickens presented as dramatised readings given in Victorian costume. There will be extracts from many well-known Dickens' novels including 'A Christmas Carol' (of course!). All this comes with a glass of wine and light refreshments and will take place **at 7.30pm in The Grove Buildings**. Tickets, available from Mere Information Point, are £5, to include a glass of wine and light refreshments. This is a fund-raising event for the Museum, so do please come and support us and enjoy an entertaining evening at the same time.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

This month's film is one to keep you on the edge of your seats and not just because it is an excellent thriller but because you just might have a little feeling of 'déjà vu' where one or two characters are concerned! The film is 'The Ghost' (15) to be shown on Friday, 5th November, and stars Ewan McGregor, Pierce Brosnan, Kim Catrall and Olivia Williams. An exciting film, a great cast – what better way to spend an autumn evening! Full details are on page 22.

Dates for your diary: Thursday, 2nd December, 'Letters to Juliet'.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE ON FILM

A new DVD, "A Century of Salisbury and District on Film", which includes footage shot in Mere and Zeals in the 1950s, is being launched at Salisbury Playhouse at 7.30pm on Friday 19th November.

Ralph Coward, Adrienne and Bernard Howells and Charles Spencer (farmer at Search Farm near Zeals) are all featured on the DVD, which has been produced by Windrose Rural Media Trust (formerly Trilith), a locally-based registered charity using the media to benefit rural communities. Over the years Windrose has saved a great deal of cine film of life in Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset.

Tickets for the launch showing are available from the Playhouse, price £6 (☎ 01722 320333 or e-mail: **Boxoff@salisburyplayhouse.com**).

To place orders for copies of the DVD (price £9.99 including p & p) please contact: Windrose Rural Media Trust at: Corner Cottage, Brickyard Lane, Bourton, GILLINGHAM, Dorset, SP8 5PJ or e-mail: **tbailey352@btinternet.com** Proceeds from the sale of the DVD will go back into Windrose's work in saving old films of local life.

Trevor Bailey ☎ 01747 840750

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

The 14th Mere Literary Festival once again enjoyed a week of good weather and appreciative audiences. A big thank you to all who supported the festival in any way and thus helped our own local charity – The Mere & District Linkscheme.

The festival ends as the Mere Matters deadline looms so a longer report will follow next month.

Details of Write in the Week and Quiz winners will be posted on the Link notice board and the festival website.

Adrienne Howell & The Lit. Fest. Group

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

We would like to thank the Mere Bowls Club for their very generous donation, which will go towards providing transport for people in Mere and the surrounding villages.

We are also grateful to the organisers of the Mere Literary Festival, who for the 14th year in succession, have raised funds for the Linkscheme. We are sure that those of you who attended the various events will agree that it has been another successful week.

Molly Burden

NATIONAL SHORT STORY WEEK

22nd – 28th November

Mere Library Event

Short stories are to be celebrated at events all over the country in National Short Story week. Mere Library joins in this national celebration at **7.30pm on Thursday 25th November** when Adrienne Howell discusses and reads a selection of her award-winning short stories chosen for a Mere audience. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. *Hilary Glyde, Community Librarian, Mere Library*

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Remember the three male residents of the run-down care home who find themselves on their own for three weeks (and how *that* happened is not exactly an accident) and left to their own devices? Well, here as promised, is synopsis part 2:

The sudden and unexpected entrance of a well endowed and scantily dressed young lady, and an unfortunate death, set them off on a whole new career!

Well, you can't not come to see what this is all about can you? Tickets for MADS' Autumn Production, '**Old Dogs**' by Steve Raw, described as a black comedy (and you can see why) are on sale now at the Information Point in the Library: £5 on Thursday (£3 for children), £6 and £3 on Friday and Saturday. Production dates are **Thursday to Saturday, 18th – 20th November 2010**, at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall. MADS members are sworn to secrecy about the outcome, so don't leave it too late to get your tickets or you may never know what happens. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is underway and we shall soon be sending out the winter mailing. If you have not renewed your membership or would like to become a member do contact either Madelaine or Wendy for details. Only those on the list get the mailing!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833; Wendy Horne ☎ 01747861712

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Ten members enjoyed the Machine Quilting Workshop with a visiting tutor, Meg Leach, who encouraged them to enjoy and have confidence in using their sewing machines to quilt and even write their names using the free machine quilting technique.

A workshop continues on Wednesday, 3rd November using Christmas fabrics and an unusual technique to make an attractive Christmas Wall Hanging to display during the festive season.

On Thursday, 11th November members of the "Spratt and Winkle Quilting Group" based in Andover will be visiting and bringing some of their work to inspire our members. An afternoon to look forward to.

More information about the Castle Hill Quilters can be found on the website www.castlehillquilters.org.uk or telephone me. *Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923*

MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

October started with a very interesting talk by Rosemary Cox, illustrated with some lovely photographs.

During the month, members went on several outings. There was a visit to Wells Cathedral, a lunch at the "Salt Cellar" in Shaftesbury and five of us went to the "Wessex Group Meeting" at Sutton Veny on 14th October.

Our speaker on Thursday 4th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, Mrs Hazel Gillingham, will be telling us about "Three remarkable Women". Why not come along and find out who they were. *Sheila Shotter ☎ 01747 861771*

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be Janet Way and her subject: "Local Facts from the Past".

Tribute money will be due at this meeting. There will also be a Bring & Buy sale.

Donations of cakes for the stall at "The Charities Christmas Fair" on Saturday, 13th November would be appreciated to help the Grove Buildings Fund.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

THE KINDNESS OF MERE FOLK

While on a walking holiday, I was chatting to a fellow walker and discovered that my new companion knew Mere. Apparently, in either 1967 or 1968, when the A303 came through Mere before the by-pass was built, the holiday traffic was at a complete standstill for a good while. "The people of Mere", her words not mine, "came out with trays of tea for us stranded motorists". She had never forgotten their kindness. So, I told her: "they haven't changed. The people of Mere are still very kind." *Jean Young*

GROVE BUILDING '100' CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for October, drawn after Family Communion on 3rd October 2010 by Mrs Pat Isom, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 49	Mrs J Bickerstaff
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 125	Mrs P Walker
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 181	Mrs I Lucas
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 94	Mrs S Coward

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

WEIGHTWATCHERS COMES TO MERE

Linda Davie is opening the new meeting on Thursday 25th November at 6.30pm in the Lecture Hall. Linda, who lost 2½ stone by going to a Weightwatchers meeting, is hoping the new meeting will be a great success for Mere,' and is looking forward to inspiring and encouraging members on their weight loss journeys and celebrating in their success. All Welcome.

For Further details and payment options contact Linda.

Linda Davie ☎ 07915 382566.

STOURHEAD TO ISTANBUL BY BIKE!

We did it! On 25th August, after cycling 4,612km (2,586 miles) through 17 countries in 40 days, George and I arrived in Istanbul.

The trip went really well. Friends Rob and Nick were with us for the first couple of days, but after that, it was just the two of us catching the ferry to Calais and pedalling on across Europe to Istanbul. The 'fantastic European summer' failed to materialise as it rained heavily almost non-stop throughout Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. After Hungary, the weather dramatically improved and temperatures soared to 40°C, so there was a chance to develop some impressive tan-lines.

We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of strangers (many of whom didn't speak a word of English) who allowed us to camp in their gardens/fields/log cabins, bombarded us with gifts of food (mainly fruit) and helped to fix our bikes for free.

There were just a few mechanical hitches. After flying along for the first four days, George had an encounter with a bollard resulting in a crumpled frame. It took three days to sort out as we searched for a suitable replacement – we found a sturdy German bike, which performed excellently for the rest of the trip. My bike needed a new chain set in Vienna and a spot of wheel straightening in Aachen after George cycled a bit too close... Surprisingly, we didn't get a single puncture!

We averaged 132km per day and our longest day was 204km. We spent a couple of days in Vienna after that to give the knees a rest and sort out my gears and then powered on for the next two and a half weeks to Istanbul where the British Consulate General welcomed us.

The total amount of money we raised, which should be much increased when Gift Aid is included, is £1,683.91 for Help for Heroes and £2,444.50 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal. Thank you to all our sponsors for your support. *Flora Spencer*

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Following on from Don Butcher's report last month, I was the lucky winner of a free MOT from FJ Chalke, thank you. Now Carol and myself are discussing which of us benefits!

An excellent result from the 60's charity evening and the proceeds were very much welcomed by our 2010 charity – The Link Scheme.

The green is now shut down for the winter months, however there is still much activity behind the scenes to ensure that the 2011 season surpasses previous years.

Fixtures for next season are already being accrued for our traditional friendly games and the Westbrook Mixed Triples League. Our continued membership of the Salisbury & District Men's League is under review. This situation has arisen due to a loss of a few players to other local clubs, which leads to difficulties raising sufficient numbers for matches, this being unfair to our rivals in that league.

If you have ever considered bowls as a pastime or would just like to have a one-off try, please register your interest (contact numbers below) to allow us to let you know next year's start up date. We have club roll ups and two qualified coaches, so it is not all high level competitions. Just come along, relax and enjoy.

Should you wish to meet with the club before next season, our AGM is being held on Thursday, 9th December at 2.00pm in the Andy Young Pavilion. Please come along and meet with our members.

For more information regarding the club, please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215 or Don Butchers ☎ 01747 860219.

Jeff Vigars, Fixtures Secretary ☎ 01747 860976

SNOOKER CLUB

The Club would like to thank Mark, Sam and all the staff of The Walnut Tree for hosting a very enjoyable and successful Quiz Night on 5th October, which was held in support of the Club.

Also, many thanks to Mike and Vicky for the brilliant live music which contributed to the wonderful atmosphere and provided a tricky quiz round! Raffle prizes were generously donated by: Mere Garage, Chalkes, Jeans Electrical, Mere Co-Op, Charles Farris Ltd, Yapps Wine Merchants, Mere Fruit and Flowers, Elite Financial Planning, Hayleys Hair Design, Mere Pharmacy, Plantworld and WH Davie and Son, plus donations from Club members and individuals. We would like to thank them all for their support.

If you are interested in becoming a member and improving your game or are a complete beginner, then contact me for further information. *Kevin Smith* 📞 01747 860305

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Ghost (15)

Ewan McGregor Pierce Brosnan
Olivia Williams Kim Catrall

An atmospheric thriller from Roman Polanski, based on Robert Harris's best-selling novel. A gifted author (McGregor) hired to ghost write the memoirs of a controversial former British Prime Minister (Brosnan) becomes a hunted man when he uncovers explosive secrets about the past.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 5th November, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: www.moviola.org

1ST MERE BROWNIES

Recycling Project

We are extending our recycling project and we can now accept any old and new Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age.

We are still collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches. All those odd earrings, snapped chains and broken watches are a great start, also items that were once fashionable but you haven't worn for years. We can recycle them for you.

Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!

We are still saving unwanted mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card).

Many thanks to Mere Library, as they have kindly agreed to place another recycling box for us. Beside it, are envelopes that you can take away, to then deposit in the box when filled. If you can, why not take an extra envelope and ask your family and friends to participate in this recycling scheme also.

We thank everyone very much who have supported our appeals to date and subsequently enable us to receive a donation to our unit funds.

Collection points for all your contributions are still at Waltons Newsagent, The Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom as well as The Library.

Sue Jeans, Assistant Brownie Guider ☎ 01747 860215



Footprints Update

The Past Six Months

Well, where to begin? It has been my pleasure and privilege over the last few months, since being invited to be Acting Centre Manager at Footprints, to update you on the wide range of events and activities that the team here have been committed to bringing to families in Mere and District.

These have been not only at our centre in Mere, but we have made a concerted effort to reach those who cannot easily get to our premises. This has meant that we have run events in Kilmington, Zeals, Maiden Bradley, East and West Knoyle and Semley, with an event also currently planned for Hindon.

Your Children's Centre into the Future – It's up to you

Now, through our management committee, we have received the devastating news that Wiltshire Council has decided to consult on the closure of the Children's Centre in Mere. As this article goes to press, we do not yet know when consultation will commence, but it is highly likely that, by the time you read this article, consultation will be underway. All we know at this stage is that it is planned to last for one month in total, so there may not be much time left.

The Wider Implications

I am proud to live in a community that values what it has. Research shows that the majority of those of us who live here like doing so. But there is no doubt that sometimes we go without. We live in one of the most economically deprived areas in Wiltshire, and yet, for example, we have not had a health visitor at Mere Surgery since April.

The presence one day a week of the Health Visitor from Westbury has been invaluable, but from a family perspective, our nursery nurse has been extremely stretched, particularly as we are currently experiencing a baby boom in our area. The Children's Centre has attempted to give support to both Julia and Sandie in any way that we can. There is no doubt too that the support we have had from them through a difficult time has been fantastic and gratefully received.

Throughout my time at Footprints, I have also struggled with the issue of our location right at the boundary of three counties, trying to access support for families that I know is available a few miles away in Gillingham, Shaftesbury or Wincanton, but being almost forced to refer people to further afield to, Warminster, Salisbury or Trowbridge for help just because we are in Wiltshire. That is all well and good, if you have access to a car and the money coming in to pay for petrol, or even if there were a good, reliable and affordable public transport network. But, we do not really have the latter, and many who are looking after young children in our district cannot afford the luxury of the former.

I have recently learnt that one of our neighbouring counties may be cutting children's centre budgets and/or staffing levels by around 50-75%. If, like Wiltshire, they make these cuts right at the edge of the county boundary, then here on the three counties' boundary, front line service provision could be severely hit.

At a time when we are threatened with Wiltshire taking money out of the area by imposing car parking charges, to then seek to remove important support services such as ours seems to me wholly incredible.

What can you do to save your Children's Centre

If this facility is to be saved for the community it is important that your views are made known in response to the consultation. We hope you will support our retention, but even if not, it is right that the Council take all views into account. After the consultation it will be too late. The window of opportunity really is for one month only.

My colleagues and I at the children's centre will be happy to assist you with the consultation details – we believe that this will be online, but that paper versions will also be accepted. Inevitably, if this is the case, we will ensure that we have paper copies available, and will make them available wherever else we are able to across our district. We will also be happy to assist you with completion if anything is unclear, or if you would prefer to use the Footprints computer suite to complete the consultation online.

I would also suggest that you make your views known to our politicians and the local media too. Again, my team and I would be happy to point you in the right direction if you are not sure who to contact or how.

Almost certainly we cannot survive without your support. We hope you are as passionate about the service we provide as we are, and that you will make your voice heard and enable it to continue.

Why Footprints and the Children's Centre is so important

Footprints was set up originally in response to a mum who felt so isolated, having been moved into our area from Salisbury, that she committed suicide. We know that we have supported families through some very difficult times, and a small number of mums have come back and told us that they don't know how they would have managed without us. We, and we are sure you also, do not want to see history repeat itself. We hope therefore that we might be able to achieve the reprieve that will allow us to continue to service this economically deprived, but very special area.

Jane Batten, Acting Centre Manager ☎ 01747 861108

MERE SCHOOL REPORT

October 2010

On 4th October, we had our 'Special Person to Lunch' event, which is when our family and last friends can come to lunch with us. It is loads of fun and the grown ups get coffee after. Overall it is a great day - I wonder when you might get invited?

Last week a storyteller called Bridget McEwan came into school and told such wonderful tales from around the world. A big 'thank you' to her for coming in - it was amazing! Thank you also to Mere Literary Festival for organising it all.

Silver and purple classes have had a visit from a fire fighter who told them all, step by step, what to do if there was a fire in their house. He showed the classes how to warn others by crawling around and shouting "Fire, fire!" They talked about safety in the home. After that, they were told about fire alarms and how they should check them every week. Silver class did a quiz also.

We have had 2 exciting Eco School days. Gail came in to work with every class on such subjects as paper-making and scrap paper animals. We enjoyed all the activities and thank you to Gail. We are working towards the 'Eco Schools' award.

A group of children from red class went to Fives Court to sing songs to the residents. They really enjoyed it because they clapped. We held some of their guinea pigs and cats. Next week some more children from this class will visit.

Red class had an exciting Roman Day with Stan and Heather. In the morning, they looked at the armour. There were different types - chain metal, Greek armour and gladiator style. After play they followed the commands in Latin - it was very difficult. The afternoon activity was pottery making and dressing up. They made Roman pots.

Red Class, Chloe Tealey, Adam Filleau, Alex Porter, Saffy Eades, Millie Stainer, Emily Kelly, Becky Hull, Alex Porter and Isabel Ames

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

A Winter Bingo Night is being held on Friday, 26th November at the 'Big Hall' in Mere School. Come along for a fun night out, all ages welcome with lots of good quality prizes (including a cash prize). Refreshments are included with a chance to socialise mid-way through the evening. Books start at £3.00, doors open at 7.00pm and 'eyes down' at 7.30pm.

Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647

MERE PRE-SCHOOL

In their continuous bid to raise funds for the under fives age group, Mere Pre-School (Reg charity 1027052) would like to announce a forth coming fund-raising event on **Saturday, 20th November**. The Pre-School staff and volunteers are donning their pinnies and will be holding a 'catering-day' at Stourhead in Stourton Village Hall, located in the Spread Eagle Courtyard. Light lunches including heart-warming soup, homemade cakes (including the sale of whole cakes), and refreshments all at very reasonable prices will be available from 10.00am – until 4.00pm. So, if you fancy a walk around the beautiful gardens to take in the last of the autumnal colours or just fancy lunch 'out' we will be very pleased to serve you!

So what is the fundraising for? The Pre-School are keen to improve the access of their very popular garden area by installing a set of double doors and ramp. Due to the current position of the door, children have to go around the outside of the building to enter the garden at least twice a day but even more in the summer season. However, with the installation of double doors direct access between the garden and the pre-school will not only improve access but increase a free-flow of play and choice of activity for the children.

Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647



BARN BUDDIES

Barn Buddies would like to welcome you on Friday 19th November to an open evening in aid of Help for Heroes, a charity that supports our wounded servicemen and women.

Come and watch the Mere Dazzlers Majorettes and enjoy the BBQ and bar!

There will also be a raffle in support of the charity.

Please join us in this opportunity for residents and local businesses to show our gratitude and appreciation for those who have given so much for us.

Come along from 6.30pm to Barn Buddies, Barrow Street Farm, BA12 6AB

Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

To our meeting in the Methodist Church School room at 2.30pm on Wednesday, 24th November, we welcome the Rev'd Paul Barnes. All are welcome to join us.

Mary Siderfin 01747 861370

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

NOW IT'S NOVEMBER

**THE CHRISTMAS CHARITIES
FAIR**

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2010

10.00AM TO 12.00NOON

IN THE GROVE BUILDINGS

COME AND SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES

GRAND RAFFLE - £100 1ST PRIZE

REFRESHMENTS, BOTTLE STALL, PLANTS

FR BEDE ROWE, MERE'S CATHOLIC PRIEST, WRITES

In Catholicism, different months are ascribed to different Saints or themes of faith. January is the Holy Name, March is dedicated to St Joseph, June is the month of Sacred Heart, October is the month of the Rosary. It helps us to focus our prayers during that month and joins us with the Church throughout the world.

November has its own devotion, and that is to the Holy Souls.

The month begins with the feast of All Saints when we ask for the prayers of those who have died and who now reign in heaven. This is quickly followed on the second of November by the memorial of All Souls. And, this is the mood of the month. It is a month of remembrance and prayer; a month when we offer prayer after prayer, and Mass after Mass for the repose of the souls of those who have died. We bless their graves and remember them in a sweet and lovely way. I know it is very Catholic theology, so please don't get caught up on that, but it is a good thing to do. We are joined to the dead, not just at the times that are particular to the soul who has died (such as their birthday or the day of their death) but also, for us, in this month of November. We pray not just for the souls of our own loved ones, but also all those who have no one to pray for them – the forgotten, and perhaps the unloved. For the unknown.

This is what we do when we pray for the unknown soldier. Symbolically we pray for all those who have no one to pray for them.

And that leads us to the great moment of Remembrance Day, which takes place in the month of November. This is the day when we remember (and/or pray for the repose of the souls of) those who have died in battle for us and for our country.

It attaches us to those who gave their lives not just by memory, which, after all will fade over time, but by the action of love. They gave their lives for us, so we give our prayers for them. They died so we might live, we live to help them through death.

A sweet month, a month of love, a month of remembrance, a month of prayer, a month of the Holy Souls.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

The Trussell Trust is sending Christmas Shoe Boxes to Bulgaria again this year, and we are appealing to everybody to support this project. Last year we managed to donate 48 shoe boxes and we hope to beat that figure this year. All you need to do is cover the shoe box with bright festive paper and fill it with items suitable for the age group and sex you have chosen. Please let us have these boxes by Sunday, November 21st at St.

Michael's Church, when we will transport them to Salisbury for onward transmission. Please help us to brighten somebody's Christmas this year – so many children in Bulgaria are just dumped in orphanages because their families cannot afford to feed them. For further information and a leaflet giving details and suggestions, please contact me. *Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776*



Mere JULIAN MEETING (Ecumenical Quiet Prayer Group) meets in the Grove Buildings (small room) on Wednesday, 24th November at 7.30pm. All Welcome
Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313; Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553



***Mere Friends of Suchana invite everyone to a
Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana
on Tuesday, 23rd November 10.30am-12.00noon at Rivermead,
Pettridge Lane (Jean and Colin Kantharia's house ☎ 01747 861168)***

QUIET DAY

Under the auspices of the Franciscan Group,
BUT OPEN TO ALL

At Ivy House, Warminster

10.00am -4.00pm on Thursday 11th November 2010

Led by the Rev'd Judith Thompson

Cost £20 to include coffee, lunch and tea
(transport can be arranged)

REGISTRATION TO: Blanche Johnston 01747 860544

FUN WORD QUIZ!

In aid of St Mary's Church, West Knoyle

Cost of Quiz - £2.00

To be returned by 5th December 2010 –

Winner announced 12th December 2010

£100 prize - Details from Janet Howard ☎ 01747 830656

Copies available from: St Michael's Church, Mere: All Saints, Maiden
Bradley, and St Mary's, West Knoyle. Also from Walton's

Good Luck Everyone!

Thank you for supporting our Church.

Mere Friends of Suchana are holding a fund-raising

CEILIDH

Friday 26 November @ 7.30pm

in the Grove Buildings



**Live Music (Black Bear Band) with Supper included
plus licensed Bar**

Adults £7.50 Children £5

Tickets available from

Mere Information Point (Library) Judith (01747 860553)

Wendy (01747 861940) or Sheila (01747 861771)

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

November 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)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	3rd	6.00pm	“Start the Month” Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
	14th	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service beginning in the Square
	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Messy Sunday in Grove Buildings

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	David Webb
	14th	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service at the Parish Church, St Michaels, Beginning in the Square
	21st	11.00am	Anniversary Sunday, Martin Heal plus lunch
	28th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page 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 M Rawlins
	21st	6.00pm	Mr Ken Elcock
Wednesday	24th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together in the School Room
Sunday	28th	6.00pm	To be arranged

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

Sunday	7th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	14th	9.25am	Remembrance Service

Sunday	21st	9.25am	DIY Service
	28th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

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.

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 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
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
2	Tue	10.30am	Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum AGM	GB
3	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 17th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
4	Thurs	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Thursday)	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
5	Fri	7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
		10.15am	Lip Reading (every Friday)	Footprints
		11.00am	RGC "Who was Guy Fawkes?"	Lynch

5	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows: "The Ghost"	L
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
7	Sun	1.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
8	Mon	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		8.00pm	MADS (Drama Room)	L
9	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		12.00pm	Community Buffet	The Walnut Tree Inn
9	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
10	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 25th)	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
		11.00am	RGC Bric a Brac	Lynch
		7.30pm	Quiz Night, Fives Court Staff/WRAC	L
13	Sat	10.00am	Grove Buildings Christmas Charities Fair	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
14	Sun	10.45am	Act of Remembrance	The Square
			Followed by Remembrance Service	St Michaels
16	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels PCC Meeting	GB
18	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Play "Old Dogs"	L
19	Fri	1.30pm	RGC Painting Classes	Lynch
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies Open Evening see page 27	BSF
		7.00pm	Carnival's Grand Christmas Bingo	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Play "Old Dogs"	L
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
		7.30pm	MADS Play "Old Dogs"	L
23	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.30am	Suchana Coffee Morning see page 29	Rivermead
24	Wed	All day	Carers Complimentary therapy in Mere. To arrange: Contact Carers Support ☎ 01722 322746	
		2.00pm	Whist	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Small room)	GB
25	Thur	6.30pm	Weightwatchers	L
		7.30pm	National Short Story Week, Adrienne Howell	Library
26	Fri	7.00pm	Bingo Night – Friends of Mere School	School
		7.30pm	Suchana Ceilidh	GB
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning with RGC Bric a Brac	CC
28	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB
30	Tue	7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum - Dickens Night	GB

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 COMBINED DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011 ISSUE

Material for the December 2010/January 2011 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 November 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** after Monday 8th November. 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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