

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



MARCH 2011



MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the **Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th March 2011.**

The Chairman writes:

The Parish Council is feeling rather angry at the way we, and the people of Mere, have been treated over Wiltshire Council's library review.

Firstly, at our November 2010 Parish Council meeting, we had a presentation from Mr. Wayne Smith, Wiltshire Council's Customer Services Manager to talk about service provision in Mere for Tourist Information & Customer Services because the Parish Council learned, by accident, that our Tourist Information service at the library had discontinued and that Wiltshire Council had agreed a phased reduction in customer service staffing from 5½ days a week to 2 days a week. Mr. Smith informed us that Wiltshire Council was conducting a library review but said, and I quote 'I do not think there are any plans to reduce Mere's library service at the moment. There are some libraries in the county that are not used as much as Mere library and they may be more vulnerable.'

On Tuesday, 18th January our Clerk and Wiltshire Councillor, George Jeans, attended a meeting at Salisbury City Hall, hosted by Wiltshire Council to discuss budget cuts. The threat of any library cuts was not mentioned yet on Thursday, 20th January, only 2 days later, we found out, through the local newspapers, that our library opening hours would be cut from 45 to just 14 hours per week. Cllr. Jeans and residents from Mere attended a meeting in Devizes on Tuesday, 25th January where the situation was, we were told, re-evaluated and Mere library would now be open 31 hours a week. This news was warmly welcomed by residents and staff, only a week later to be told, via an email to a third party, that the 31 hours would consist of 17 hours of library staffing and 14 hours of customer service staffing with the warning that this is likely to be reduced in the longer term. The Parish Council has not received any direct communication about any of these decisions.

Back in 2002 Mere lost its dedicated town centre Tourist Information office and although the sale of the property was made by Salisbury District Council, we were assured by SDC and Wiltshire County Council that the move was justified because all the partnership services would be provided in the Mere Library under one roof and it would become a general Information Centre and One Stop Shop with extended opening hours. Now, it would appear, we are to be left with a very basic service, and unless volunteers

can be found, it is likely to get reduced again and again. At the South West Wiltshire Area Board meeting last week, we were told by Wiltshire Council officers that the library review was still in the proposal stage and that no 'final decision' has yet been made and that they are willing to listen to our suggestions – we therefore urge you all to send in your suggestions to Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council is also conducting a Street Trading Scheme consultation – they are proposing a county wide street trading policy that, we think, will result in excessive regulation that will hinder, obstruct and deter the fund-raising activities and community vitality in rural towns and villages such as Mere. I would therefore urge you, especially all the organizations that carry out fundraising activities, to make some kind of response to Wiltshire Council.

Lastly, at the South West Wiltshire Area Board meeting I became aware that retained firefighters are needed to provide cover in Mere or there is a danger that our fire engine will be 'off the run' and unable to respond to local emergencies. This is a great second career opportunity. Retained firefighters are paid volunteers who carry an alerter and are 'on call' to respond to emergencies for an agreed number of hours every week. They are trained to deal with everything from extinguishing burning buildings to providing first aid. Potential recruits need to be aged 18 or over, and able to pass the various recruitment and selection tests. They should either live or work within five minutes of the fire station and be 'on call' during the day, Monday to Friday in particular. In return, there is a good salary and the opportunity to learn a range of new skills, many of which will be of benefit to an employer – such as first aid and manual handling. For more information about retained firefighting opportunities throughout Wiltshire, telephone 01380 731144 or visit the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services website.

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

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Our Mere car parks hopefully will now stay free to the user in Mere. I note those of you who have cause to visit Salisbury centre and park by car, have quite a variance in tariffs to face. For instance Culver Street Multi Storey would cost you £4.20 for over 5 hours, whereas The Old George Mall Multi Storey would cost you £7.00 all day and £30.00 overnight. You can park in a secure car park on Bournemouth sea front for half of that.

The proposed shortening of the hours at the Mere Libraries came as a shock to many of us. I have spent hours with officers trying to get the hours up from the 14 which was

proposed. Now we are being told 17 hours for Library staff and 14 hours for customer services making 31 hours. We have 45 hours at present including Saturday mornings. The customer services hours in my opinion will not be sustainable just for Mere, if they do not serve the whole of Wiltshire, as one of 80 customer services operatives would do from Bradley Road at Trowbridge. The Wiltshire Council are firm they have no money to pay Library staff for longer hours. Should the hours in future drop to 17, I cannot see the Wiltshire Council paying the non-domestic rate, heating etc. long term, as they have now refused to do for our local car parks. I think it is most important to keep the building open, even if we have to have self service issue of the books for hours above the offered 17. Volunteers may do this, however I would feel more comfortable if I can get other officers from the many home works, or a fully functioning Wiltshire wide customer services operative to be present, then any volunteers have professional company and the continuity of volunteers' shift time would not be so important. One officer, Richard Munro, has already volunteered to spend 4 extra hours at Mere Library, and I hope he will be allowed to do so.

The South West Area Board was presented with a complaint regarding a Wiltshire Housing Survey. For every complaint received there are many more who have not the time or cannot be bothered to complain. I am investigating how a form of such length and complexity got approved for circulation. I understand that it cost £20K to £40K for the exercise; to the majority of everyday individuals, the cost with the cuts we are seeing cannot be justified. This survey I believe was sent at random to about one dwelling in ten. If you wish to complain try alistair.cunningham@wiltshire.gov.uk

I have helped Mere, Kilmington and West Knoyle Parish Councils to apply for a community grant to help provide a community public access defibrillator (PAD). Stourton and Gasper already have theirs and Zeals are in the process. The PAD is available to the public 24 hours a day and no specialist training is required, so any member of the public can use the PAD. As soon as a 999 call is made the emergency services are aware of the location of the defibrillator and will issue the key code to release the unit. At this point the Air Ambulance is also despatched. When the unit is switched on full instructions are given as to the use of the unit (it talks you through each step of the procedure). Using the unit can increase survival rate by 60% to 80%, thus benefitting the local community and any visitors.

A new contract will be coming into effect for The Children's Centre in Mere from April 1st, 2011, therefore Mere will still be covered for Children's Centre Services, despite the government cuts.

Finally I am trying to find historical information regarding inhabitants of the Convent near Alfred's Tower, during living memory. This information will update a web site about

Alfred's Tower. If you have any information please tell me via jeanssdc@aol.com or ☎ 0174 7 860215.

MERE POLICE TEAM NEWS



Anti-Social & late night behaviour

We have received reports over a period of time that there are on-going problems in the Town Square & Castle Street area of Mere, particularly weekend evenings. We are addressing this issue by patrolling this area on foot and by vehicles. We have already canvassed some local residents in order to assess their views, and we will continue to monitor and patrol this area as a priority. Please feel free to contact us if you have any relevant information. Thank you for your assistance.

Consultations and Contacts

To get details of meetings to be held in forthcoming months in Mere Library, please see our section of the website: www.wiltshire.police.uk, click on 'policing in your area' then select 'Mere'. Please note that our long and trusted NPT mobile telephone has now been withdrawn from service. If you wish to contact an individual Officer then use the following e-mail or mobile numbers:

Richard Salter – Mobile Tel 07528 972928

Email: richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Jake Noble – Mobile Tel 07543 770282

Email: jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

The mobile contact telephone numbers are **not** 24 hour and will only be usable if the individual officer is on duty. We also continue to be contactable via our main land line number 01747 861737 (not 24 hours), **but you should dial 0845 408 7000 if you wish to report a crime or incident. Thank you.**

You can still access photos of your local policing team working with the community by visiting: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html>

Mere Police Team Activities

We are pleased to announce that following our advertisement in last month's bulletin, we have recruited a local person to undertake our volunteer role. This will mean that we will be able to offer an additional 'drop in' point at Mere Police Station every week. We will publish the hours & times in due course. The volunteer will kindly assist us in a multitude of roles and will provide a further opportunity to report matters locally in Mere. We hope to have this running in the next few weeks.

Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312

MERE WEATHER

January started with a slight fall of snow on 3rd but we had no snow after that. The total rainfall for the month was 118.55mm (4.67in). We had frost on 9th, 19th, 20th and 21st and finally on 31st. It was not as cold as December and we had many sunny days but cold winds.

February began with sunny days and no rain until 19th. Up to 13th we had 25mm (0.98in). The snowdrops are growing.

Peter Durkee

HEARING AID 'DROP IN CENTRE', MERE LIBRARY

Thank you to everyone for attending our drop in centre from 10.00 am to 11.30 am on the first Wednesday of the month. We would like to remind everyone that earmoulds need re-tubing every 3 to 6 months to make sure you get the best from your hearing aid. We look forward to seeing you

Gill Drayson, Community Support Officer, Salisbury RNID, ☎ 01722 580014

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

First of all, thanks to everyone who supported our Nearly Valentine's Day Barn Dance – as usual a very good time was had by all. Pounds of various sorts were shed during the evening, to everyone's benefit!

Please take a moment to check that you have put **Saturday April 30th** in your diaries; the Friends will be holding a coffee morning and cake stall then in St. Michael's Church. More soon.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Ali (and Sali) Baba – not to mention Lady Baba – cordially invite all denizens of Mere to come to **MADS's Pantomime** to see how cleverly they outwit the Mr Silliman and all his Naughty Thieves (and even the local coppers Will and Bill). They will perform this dazzling feat on **Wednesday to Saturday, March 2nd to 5th** inclusive, with a matinee and evening performances on the Saturday. Tickets are £5 (£3 for children) on Wednesday, and £6 and £3 for all other performances, and are available from the Information Point in the Library. Please see the poster on page 17 for further details.

Our next meeting will be on Monday March 14th at 8.00p.m. in the Drama Room (Lecture Hall)

MERE FILM SHOWS

There cannot be many people who have not heard of this month's award winning film to be shown on **Friday 18th March, 'The King's Speech'** (12A) starring Colin Firth,

Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter, which tells of George VI's struggle to overcome his stammer. It has already won Golden Globe awards in America and is nominated for 14 BAFTAs and 12 Oscars which will have been decided by the time you read this. According to critics and the public alike it is an amazing film and is most definitely not to be missed. We are fortunate to be able to show it so soon after its release and because of its popularity we are having two screenings, one at **4.00pm** as well as our usual **7.30pm** screening, but be sure to get your tickets from the Library in good time as I know they are selling fast! There is some local interest also in this film, as I understand that the brother of King George's speech therapist lived in Mere with his family for some time before his death.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday, 14th April: **From Time to Time**

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

..and one Dental Hygienist:

Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)

plus a dental therapist

Jay Lonsdale (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

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.

MARCH SHORT WALK

Meet at 2.00pm as usual in the Surgery Car Park on Monday, 14th March for a Short Walk of 3 miles around Mere's paths and tracks. Tea at The Angel Cafe afterwards for anyone who wishes to indulge!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere and District will be hosting several events this year, which we hope will be of interest to you.

6th April 2011. Rosemary MacDonald from Wiltshire's best kept secret, the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation, is looking to give away almost £1m to worthy causes in the county.

The New Business Competition

Once again, Mere and District is participating in the New Business Competition, sponsored mainly by Wiltshire Council. If you have started up a business on or after November 25th 2009, or are planning to start trading before August 31st 2011, then you are eligible to enter. This could be an ideal networking opportunity with a range of benefits, plus the chance to win some money! So come on, everyone in the area, Kilmington; Zeals; East and West Knoyles; Semley; Semington; and Mere – think of the opportunities of all that advertising!!! For more information please contact us now.

Fredericks Foundation Talk

In a recent Mere Chamber lunch, Tim King of Fredericks Foundation joined us to give an overview of the Foundation and how they are helping local businesses. As a result of the economic downturn, as well as helping the long-term unemployed, Fredericks Foundation has branched out to assist existing companies in need of finance who are unable to obtain it from their bank.

The Foundation provides a comprehensive range of business support and microloan funding for start-ups and small businesses. Providing microfinance in Britain to enable people to achieve the dignity and self respect of supporting themselves through enterprise; to promote small business and reinforce local communities through business. Your business can be at any stage; you may require money to start-up; capital to expand your business; or funds to bridge a gap. Whether you are a sole trader, in a partnership or have a limited company you will be considered for a loan.

Contact either: Mere & District Chamber of Trade on ☎ 01747 863203 (email: pa@hamilton-litestat.com) or Fredericks Foundation direct (quoting Mere & District Chamber of Trade) ☎ 01276 472722 or email: mailto@fredericksfoundation.net

Barbara S Hewitt, Chair ☎ 01747 863203



LIONS CLUB IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury Lions Club is looking for

new members and offer this invitation - have you reached the stage in your life where you would like to put something back into your community?

Would you like to get involved in the organisation of major community fund-raising events such as the community's annual fireworks display, the local Carnival or annual Summer Show?

Can you work with other ordinary people to achieve amazing things and make a real difference for those less fortunate than yourself - such as the elderly, youth, disabled or a special community project? Or, maybe fund-raising for providing financial support for worldwide projects related to improving sight, street children, medical research, disaster relief etc - our 900 clubs in the British Isles and Ireland have already donated US\$ 603,000 to Haiti rebuilding.

Do you and your partner like to participate in regular local social events? Our objective is to have fun as well as providing community support. If your answer is YES, maybe now is the time to consider joining your local Lions Club, part of Lions Club International, the largest voluntary organisation in the world with over 1.3m members worldwide and over 18,000 members in the UK. There will be a Lions Club located in your town or nearby.

If you would like to learn more (without commitment), your local Lions Club members would be more than happy to meet you and perhaps your partner or other friends/work colleagues. Please contact Janet Davies ☎ 0845 833 7521, or visit our website: www.lionsmd105.org

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2011 POETRY COMPETITION

Mere Literary Festival has launched its biennial Open Poetry Competition. The senior judge for 2011 is prize-winning poet Charles Bennett who is Programme Leader for Creative Writing at the University of Northampton. Dr. Bennett has previously judged for Northamptonshire Writers and the Havant Literary Festival and was Director of Ledbury Poetry Festival for a number of years. His poems have appeared in over 125 poetry magazines and his published collections are *Wintergreen* and *How to Make a Woman Out of Water*.

There are major cash prizes and certificates to be awarded for a poem of not more than 40 lines which can be on any topic and the closing date for entries is July 4th. Short-listed poems in the Open Section are also showcased during the festival – Oct. 10th – 16th - with additional prizes awarded by audience vote. Awards are also given in the Junior and Local Sections. Entrants in the Open Section who reside within a ten mile radius of Mere are eligible for the Local Awards. Proceeds from the competition go to help fund the work of the Linkscheme in our community.

Full details with an Entry Form are available from the library and local outlets, by sending sae to MLF, Lawrences, Old Hollow, Mere, Wilts. BA12 6EG, or can be downloaded from the festival website www.merelifest.co.uk



“TIME FOR A CUPPA”

In aid of Dementia UK 2011

Thank you to every single person who came to the party in the Lecture Hall on 8th February to enjoy a "Cuppa" and to help raise money for Admiral Nurses, funded by Dementia UK, the charity which provides training for them. I hope you had a good time whilst raising money in such a needy cause. I have banked a total of £1022, including many generous cash donations, in aid of Dementia UK.

Many people contributed so much of their time and energy leading to the success of the party, which seems to have struck a chord of interest in Mere - dementia in all its many forms has touched so many families. I want to thank each one of them (you know who you are) for without their support in so many areas and many generous donations of money, lovely cakes and hard work on the day, we could not have raised even a fraction of the sum to the cause of training Admiral Nurses.

Rose Cox ☎ 01747 860962

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

GET READY - IT'S COMING - 28th February to 13th March

We are organising two special events this year during these two weeks. Why not come and enjoy one of them and help bring about positive change in the lives of thousands of producers in the developing world.

BIG BEAN FEAST: Tuesday 1st MARCH 12.30-2.00pm in the Grove Building. Come and sample the first ever Fairly Traded Beans for a simple lunch. Tickets £2 available from me or the Tourist Information Centre.

BIG BREW FAIR TRADE BREAKFAST: Tuesday 8th MARCH 8.30-11.00am. Join me at Wits End, North Road for this very popular event. £2 donation.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

Note! COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL 2011 ISSUE:

MONDAY, 21st MARCH

MERE GARDENING CLUB Spring Show and AGM

Wednesday 9th March 7.30pm, Grove Buildings

The Spring Show categories include bulbs (don't forget your MGC crocuses!), photos, cookery and handicraft and will be judged by members. If you haven't got a schedule contact Janet. **Subscriptions are due** at the AGM and are **unchanged** at £7. This is great value as it not only covers all our monthly meetings, talks and workshops, and enables you to take part in the Annual and Spring Show, but also gives access to discounts from local Nurseries. The Committee meets 4 to 5 times a year and there are vacancies for at least 2 more members so if you would like to join them, or to propose someone, your suggestions will be very welcome.

After the AGM local author Madeleine Cardozo will tell us about her book, 'Down to Earth', a guide on how to grow vegetables successfully in your garden or allotment. Copies will be available for sale. Visitors and friends very welcome.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB

It is with great regret that I am having to close the Junior Club from a lack of support. Having arranged for a speaker at the last meeting, it was very embarrassing when only one member attended. And it was a marvellous session! Hopefully there will still be lots of entries to our Annual Show in September in the Children's section especially in the 'Nobbliest Potato' Competition. Thank you everyone who has been a loyal supporter of the Club and maybe we will see you in a few years time at our main Club meetings. In the meantime, keep growing!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th March at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. This will be a meeting of members' readings, prayers or poems about Spring. There will also be some music. We shall have tea and pancakes, as it will be Shrove Tuesday. Rev'd Paul Barnes will be joining us. There will be a Bring and Buy for the Overseas Fund.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

MERE MUSEUM

MAKING AN EXHIBITION OF YOURSELF!

We have pleasure in inviting any voluntary group, society or club in Mere and surrounding villages to take part in a project to 'Make an Exhibition of Yourself'. It is a competition, to take place toward the end of 2011, and there are prizes for the

winners. Eight showcases are on offer, and each participating group will take one showcase (or share one showcase with another group). The aim of the enterprise is to show everyone who you are and what you do in the most original and interesting way possible! A workshop on mounting a small exhibition will be offered at the Museum by the Curators, and general advice given if required. Three prizes (£75, £50, £25 to be used in the furtherance of the aims of the group or society) will be awarded by popular vote, and a special Museum prize of £100 for the best presentation will be awarded by a Member of Wiltshire's Museums Service. To find out more and to obtain an entry form, please e-mail meremuseum@btinternet.com, or leave a note addressed to the Curator at the Museum. The closing date for entries is March 19th so don't delay!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends are delighted to announce that their first fund-raising event of the year will take place on **Tuesday 5th April 2011** when **David Crisp**, the man who found the **Frome Coin Hoard** will come to Mere (The Grove Buildings, 7.30pm) to talk about his astonishing find. Tickets are available from Mere Information Point/Library, price £5 (licensed bar available). This is a hot topic – negotiations about the eventual ownership of the hoard are ongoing, and the talk will be an event not to be missed! See the poster on p.20 for further details, and book early (as they say) to avoid disappointment!

Please also check that you have **Saturday May 14th** in your diaries – the date of our famous Plant Sale! Doors will open at 10.00am. Hope to see you there.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS

Ali Baba and the Naughty Thieves

In Pantomime

At Mere Lecture Hall

March 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th, at 7.30pm
And matinee on Saturday 5th at 2.30pm

Tickets from Mere Library

WOMENS INSTITUTE

For us the year 2011 started with our New Year Lunch on January 18th at the Old Ship Hotel, an occasion enjoyed by all who were able to attend. We also enjoyed very much the talk on February 3rd given by Mrs Goetz entitled "Salisbury, A Tale of Two Cities". The meeting on March 3rd is our Special Annual Meeting when a new Committee is elected and Officers may be changed. *Sheila Shotter ☎ 01747 861771*

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The Theatre Club continues to thrive and this spring we are looking forward to Life of Riley and also History Boys at Bath. We are also set to enjoy a live transmission of Lucia di Lammermoor, from the New York Met., which is showing at Christchurch. We arrive at theatres about two hours before each performance so that we can do a light lunch or a little shopping or sightseeing and this adds to our enjoyment of our day out!

Two of our committee members are now, sadly, not able to help due to ill health. If you would like to come to about 4 meetings a year to make decisions on which plays to go to, and occasionally take responsibility for the group (they are very well behaved!) please contact Madelaine or Wendy. New members are always welcome

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for February 2011 drawn after Family Communion on 6th February by Henry Lancaster was:

1st Prize (£60)	-	No. 77	Mrs J Kantharia
2nd Prize (£40)	-	No. 44	Mr D Remington
3rd Prize (£20)	-	No. 160	Mrs F Blend
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 112	Mrs G Anderson

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

A reminder of **Bingo Night**. Another of our popular 'Eyes Down' nights is booked for Friday, 25th March.
Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647

Mere Historical Society

AGM

Followed by a talk on

Charles Dickens' London

Jeffrey Page (National Gallery)

7.00pm

Tuesday 8th March

Grove Buildings.

The committee would like you to join us for drinks and nibbles at **7.00pm** prior to the AGM which will begin at 7.30pm. **Subscriptions for 2011/12 are now due** and can be paid before the AGM. If you are unable to attend please send your fee (£6 per member) to the **Membership Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere.**

☎ 01747 860890. Standing Order forms are available.

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

NEWS FROM BRAINWAVE



Love has certainly been in the air during the past month in Mere. Our supervisor's idea to sell red hearts, so that people could write messages to their sweethearts and have them displayed in the shop window, proved to be a winner. We

should like to thank all the romantics in our midst who supported us and helped raise some money for Brainwave.

February saw the anniversary of the Brainwave shop in Mere and, in keeping with tradition, members of the volunteer team met for a celebration meal. This year, The George, our nearest neighbour, hosted the event. The hosts pulled out all the stops, setting out one big table for us all and serving up a delicious three-course meal in a warm and welcoming atmosphere with the bonus of extra roast potatoes for those who could manage to fit them in!

We aren't planning anything too exciting for March but, as the Spring flowers start to appear, our customers can expect to start seeing attire to complement their Spring wardrobe in our shop. Indeed if you are in the mood for Spring cleaning and de-cluttering, please don't forget to bring your surplus items to Brainwave. Once again, thank you all so much for your continued support. Contact the Brainwave Shop ☎ 01747 863432.

Friends of Mere Museum

Present a talk by

Dave Crisp

on

THE FROME ROMAN COIN HOARD



Tuesday 5th April

The Grove Building 7.30pm

Metal detector enthusiast, Dave Crisp, last year uncovered a hoard of Roman coins buried in a field near Frome. The discovery of over 52,000 bronze and silver coins, dating from the 3rd century AD, is the largest single hoard of Roman coins ever found in Britain. Since then discovery experts from the British Museum have been working their way through the find. The coins were all contained in a single clay pot. Although it only measured 18in across, the coins were packed inside and would have weighed an estimated 350lb.

Come along to learn even more fascinating facts about the coins and what will happen to them now !

Tickets, £5, available from the Information Point



MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

Walks 2011

All walks leave from the main Salisbury Street car park. Car sharing where possible. Everyone very welcome including dogs if on leads. Bring small picnic if liked. Further details of destination and distance from the noticeboard near the Post Office nearer to the date.

Liability/Disclaimer

As the group has no insurance, walkers should be aware that they take part in walks at their own risk and that neither the walk leader nor the group can accept liability for any injury or loss howsoever caused.

2.00pm	Sunday	27th March Local walk
2.00pm	Sunday	17th April
10.00am	Sunday	22nd May
2.00pm	Sunday	26th June
7.30pm	Friday	15th July Moonlight walk
10.00am	Sunday	24th July
2.00pm	Sunday	21st August
2.00pm	Sunday	18th September
10.00am	Sunday	16th October
1.00pm	Sunday	6th November Local walk

Ann Newberry, for Mere Footpath Group, ☎ 01747 861184

COFFEE AND CAKE IN AID OF ASTHMA UK

ANGEL CORNER TEA ROOMS on TUESDAY, 15th MARCH at 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Hazel and Tony Grinyer are sponsoring daughter KATE who is running the LONDON MARATHON in April in aid of Asthma UK. Help us to FIGHT ASTHMA and give generously in return for Coffee and Cakes *Tony Grinyer ☎ 01747 861545*

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

All Welcome

on

TUESDAY 8th March 2011

12 noon

at

THE WALNUT TREE INN

Shaftesbury Road, Mere

£8.95 for a two course lunch of

Roast Loin of Pork and Apple Crumble, coffee or tea

 01747 861220 to book

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Another successful annual dinner and prize giving was held at the Walnut Tree in Mere on Tuesday 25th January - the moving of the dinner to a period after Christmas did much to cheer the spirits in an otherwise bleak opening to 2011. Our guest of honour, Terry Taylor, President of the Mere & District LinkScheme accepted a cheque for £500.00; this was the club's donation to its selected charity for the 2010 season.

I am sitting in my office at home on a dreary and wet Sunday morning looking forward to bowling on sunny and warm afternoons and evenings during the coming summer. Do you hanker for some good company and excellent sport followed by a cup of tea and a chat? You do? Then come along to the green on Springfield Road (just inside the school grounds) on any Saturday afternoon from 3.00pm or any Tuesday/Thursday evening from 6.00pm onwards (5.00pm in June, July and August). Our new 2011 season starts on Saturday 16th April so don't show up before then.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood  01985-844215, Jeff Vigars  01747-860976, or me, Don Butchers.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary  01747-860219

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

At the recent Snooker Club AGM, a further 8 new members were formally elected to the Club and future proposals were discussed, including suggestions for the redecoration of Club premises. This was followed by an enjoyable evening's snooker. The club is still

able to welcome new members, whether beginners or more experienced players, so for further details contact the Secretary. *Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305*

MERE ARCHERS

Again our hardy archers never cease to amaze me. Boxing Day was a truly idyllic setting, ankle deep in snow, sunshine and calm - what more could an archer ask for? The club would like to offer congratulations to Ben Wong; you have probably been served by him at the Golden Valley Chinese Take away. In November 2010 he became Junior British Indoor Champion, a fantastic achievement having only started archery in June. If you would like to find out more about us, or even "have a go" please get in touch. *Gloria Mead ☎ 01747 863360*

MERE CRICKET CLUB

Nets this year will again be held at the Warminster Indoor Cricket Centre, on alternate Tuesday evenings (7.00 to 8.00pm) starting on Tuesday, 1st February (then the 15th February, 1st, 15th and 29th March for those team members who can't work it out). Any new or aspiring players are particularly welcome.

Juniors: For the forthcoming season, Mere have entered teams in the Under 9, 11, 13 and Under 15 league competitions. The coaching sessions will start directly after Easter, look out for more details. Please feel free to contact me for any more information. *Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639*

MERE DAZZLERS MAJORETTES

We are a small troop that meets up every Wednesday evening from 6.00pm – 8.00pm at Barrow Street Farm (Barn Buddies). The teams range from 4-6 years, 7-9 years and 10+.

We enter competitions during the year in which we have won 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. We also take part in the local carnivals, which the girls enjoy.

We are looking for new girls to join our troop. We're also looking for sponsors so if there is anyone out there that would like to help us we would be grateful.

If you are interested please contact Sarah ☎ 01747 840911 or Shirley ☎ 01747 830873.

Curry & Quiz Night

All welcome

Saturday 5th March

The Home Guard Club, Kilmington

Price includes Curry and Family Quiz

£5 per adult, £3 per child, £15 family ticket (up to 2 adults & 3 children)

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Drinks available from the bar. Selection of homemade curries including special children's mild chicken curry.

From 6.00pm - Quiz starts at 7.00pm

Tickets available at Whitesheet Primary School

☎ 01747 840394 or 01747 863376

STAY AND PLAY

We are pleased to advise that, during the temporary closure of Footprints Children's Centre, and in response to many, many requests received from our parents, we are launching a stay and play session for families of 0-5s. This will run from the Children's Centre play room on Tuesday mornings from 1 March until the Children's Centre re-opens. Sessions run from 9.00am to 10.00am.

You are welcome to come along and share some play time with your little ones as well as meet and exchange news and tips with other parents and carers. There will be lots of different toys and equipment available to play with, and anyone, with any child of pre-school age, will receive a warm welcome. The sessions will be run by the school's Parent Support Adviser, Rebecca Smith, and Rebecca will be present for a chat or to make an appointment if you wish.

The sessions are completely free, and we simply ask for a donation for any tea, coffee or other refreshments. We would like to thank Footprints and Wiltshire Council for their support for these sessions, and we look forward to seeing you from 1 March. Do call or email rebeccasmith@merepsa.googlemail.com if you need further information.

Rebecca Smith ☎ Tel 07860 454847

MERE SCHOOL

February 2011

Marcus, the Road Safety man has been to school to teach us how to cross the road. Green class spent some time in Mere with him actually finding a safe place, looking and listening and then crossing the road.

As part of our Friday afternoon PE, some Gillingham School students and a PE teacher came to show us how to play Quicksticks. This is a kind of hockey but you use bigger balls. We played lots of games. Thank you to our visitors - we all had great fun.

This term there are many different clubs running from hockey to recorders to sewing. We are very lucky that there are so many clubs for us to be part of. Some of us have been selected to take part in the Mere and Tisbury Schools Cluster Parliament. Thomas Chapman and Joseph Ralph represent our school. Our aim at the moment is to try to involve our parents in our education and we have also chosen to have a sponsored event to support Naomi House. It is good to work with children from other schools.

Emily Kelly, Chloe Tealey, Zach Hillier, Danny Harkin, Thomas Chapman and Joseph Ralph

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The King's Speech' (12A)

Colin Firth Geoffrey Rush
Helena Bonham Carter

Not to be missed! The hit film of the year!
Forced into becoming King by his brother's abdication, and
with England on the brink of war, *George VI* struggles to
overcome his disabling stammer with the help of an
unorthodox speech therapist.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 18th March, at 4.00pm
and 7.30pm

(Doors open 3.30pm and 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257

Visit our website at www.moviola.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BARN BUDDIES

It is hard to believe that this year the Barn Buddies will celebrate their tenth birthday. Starting in May 2001, the Barn Buddies provide a youth club for young people from Mere and the surrounding area who are in school year two or above. Hundreds of children have been through our doors over the last ten years, some now married, some are parents. There has always been a great community feel to the Barn Buddies and the support of local organizations, businesses and individuals has enabled the Barn Buddies to be such a success. We are planning a party to celebrate this anniversary on **May 20th** from **6.30pm at Barrow Street Farm**. If you know of anyone who has been involved with the Barn Buddies during this time please let them know, it will be great to see them.

Further details from Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195.

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

Wednesday 30th March in the Methodist School Room at 2.30 p.m. The speaker will be Rev John Page. Do join us and enjoy a friendly and refreshing afternoon. Hope to see you there.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Mere Friends of Suchana have two events in March to which everyone is invited: **Tuesday 1st March Quiz & Supper Evening 7.30pm** in the Grove Building. Tickets from Library £5. Licensed Bar. (First drink free!)

Tuesday 29th March 10.30-12.00 Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy at 7 Downside Close (Wendy Denton's house ☎ 01747 861940)

And a date for your diaries: **Thursday 7th April at 7.30 at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane** (Jean & Colin Kantharia's house) Ross & Judith Thompson & Mark Lillie will show photos and talk about their recent **VISIT TO INDIA** focussing especially on Suchana. Come and discover a bit more about the children we, and you, are supporting through this project. No charge, but donations for Suchana will be very welcome.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553

THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE

Fruit, flowers, floral tributes, floral sundries and much more.

Tel: 860300 Email: merefruitflowers@aol.com

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Service, which has been prepared by the Christian Women of Chile, will be on Friday 4th March, at the Methodist Church, Mere, at 2.30p.m. The Speaker will be Rev'd Hazel Barkham.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT LENT STUDIES 2011

'Rich Inheritance – Jesus' legacy of love'

**A 5 week Lent series written by Bishop Stephen Cottrell:
includes a booklet and CD with leading church speakers.**

The five meetings (starting 15/16/17 March) will be held as follows(*subject to sufficient numbers*):

- Tuesdays 10.30 a.m. at the United Reformed church room, Mere;
- Tuesdays 7.30 p.m. at the United Reformed church room, Mere;
- Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. at the Parish Room, St. Martin's church, Zeals
- Thursdays 10.00 a.m. at a venue in Bourton (tba)

Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions. He didn't seem to have a plan. At the end, as he hung dying on the cross, almost all of his followers had abandoned him. By most worldly estimates his ministry was a failure. Nevertheless, Jesus' message of reconciliation with God lived on. It is the central message of the Bible. With this good news his disciples changed the world. How did they do it? What else did Jesus leave behind – what is his 'legacy of love'? This course addresses these questions.

Session 1 – An empty tomb, Session 2 – A group of people, Session 3 – A story
Session 4 – A power, Session 5 – A meal

Please sign the list in your church, or contact Rev'd. Chris Moorsom ☎ 01747 840221
or Rev'd. Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 861313



Ecumenical Quiet Prayer Group

This group has become an established, regular event, meeting on the last Wednesday of each month in the Upper Room in the Grove Building. This means that we probably

don't need to continue to put it as an 'item' in Mere Matters each month. The Julian Meeting will continue to be listed (as it is already) among the events for the month printed at the back of Mere Matters, and you are always welcome to phone to check for details. More important, we will continue to meet! Everyone is always welcome to join us. This month we'll be meeting from 7.30-8.30 on Wednesday 30th March. If you haven't been before, or not for a while, you might like to consider making it something special to do for Lent.

Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313; Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747860553

THE REV'D CHRIS MOORSOM WRITES:

Hard times – growing times.

Spring is a tough time for birds – as I look out of my study window onto the garden, I see the competition for food and mates getting more frenetic each day. Food is scarcer, and the requirement to show off their best plumage and displays takes up more energy. Spring songs ring out from trees and the males strut and fight to win the best mates. As I watch a crow dive-bombing a large buzzard repeatedly, I reflect that it also makes sacrificial heroes out of some and that the instinct to protect the weakest of one's own species (i.e. the offspring) is very strong.

Lent (= the Spring season) is likewise a tough time for some. Given that many are already struggling with the economic challenges of a recession, you might well say, 'Who needs a season of restraint and self-denial?' Yet all world religions recognize the importance of having times of restraint and reflection, training and testing in spiritual disciplines, so that their followers can grow fitter.

For Christians, learning to follow our Master and teacher, Lent is given to help us grow in Christ-like qualities, rather than competing to be the 'top cat' in spiritual endeavours. Our training in Christ's way should lead us to give more of ourselves for the sake of others, enabling them to flourish in body mind and spirit. To take up a personal spiritual discipline in Lent may well be right and good for us, but we're called even more to support and encourage others in finding food for body and spirit. Hence, Lent meetings, lunches, services etc. and similar shared activities enable Christ's people to grow as a community of faith, and to bring good news to a needy world.

Jesus put this starkly to make his point clear: 'If anyone wants to become a follower of mine, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. (Luke 9.23,24)

Hard times, whether chosen or not, can with God's grace become the saving of us!

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT LENT LUNCHES

Begin on 11th March 2011 each Friday until 22nd April (Good Friday), from 12.30pm to 1.30pm in the Grove Buildings. Come and enjoy a bowl of soup and a good chat - all are welcome.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE MARCH 2011

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	2nd	6.00pm	“Start the Month”
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
	9th	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		7.30pm	Holy Communion (CW1)
			Ash Wednesday
	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			Also ‘Messy Church’ in Grove Building

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	13th	11.00am	Rev’d Elizabeth Kemp
	20th	11.00am	Martin Heal
	27th	11.00am	Rev’d John Page
			Holy Communion

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev’d Ros Hollingsworth
			Holy Communion
	13th	6.00pm	Rev’d John Page
	20th	6.00pm	Rev’d Ros Hollingsworth
	27th	6.00pm	Mr Steve Hawkes

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

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

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

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

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	13th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	20th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	27th	9.25am	DIY

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; SM-St Mary's RC Church; YC-Youth Centre; Z – St Martins Church Hall Zeals

MARCH 2011

1	Tue	10.00am	Fair Trade event	GB
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Dance Class (also 4th, 15th & 22nd)	GB
2	Wed	7.30pm	Suchana Quiz and Supper evening	GB
		9.30am	Tai Chi every Wednesday)	GB
		9.30am	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L
		10.00am	Hearing Aid Drop-in Centre	Lib
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 10th, 16th)	GB
		7.00pm	URC Methodist Meeting	MH
3	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Pantomime (Also 3rd, 4th and 5th)	L
		9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 10th and 17th)	GB

		6.15pm	Brownies (also 10th and 17th)	GB
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.00pm	Dance Class	GB
5	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		1.00pm	VSO Meeting	GB
7	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 14th & 28th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 14th & 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 14th & 28th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading (also 15th, 22nd and 29th)	Footprints
		11.00am	Deanery Meeting	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Historical Society AGM	GB
9	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi	GB
		11.00am	Pilates	GB
		2.00pm	Whist	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Gardening Club AGM	GB
10	Thur	10.00am	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guides (every Thursday)	GB
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
		11.30am	Lent Meeting	GB
		12.30am	Lent Lunch (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (also 25th)	L
12	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Spring Sale	L
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		7.00pm	Fives Court	GB
14	Mon	8.00pm	MADS meeting (Drama Room)	L
		2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
15	Tue	10.30am	Lent Course (also 22nd and 29th)	CC
		7.30pm	Lent Course (also 22nd and 29th)	CC
16	Wed	7.30pm	Lent Course (every Wednesday)	Z
18	Fri	11.30am	Lent Course	GB
		4.00pm	Mere Film Shows 'The King's Speech'	L
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows 'The King's Speech'	L
19	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC

22	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	St Michaels PCC Meeting	GB
23	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
25	Fri	3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints
		11.30am	Lent Meeting	GB
26	Sat	10.30am	'Drop in' coffee morning	CC
		11.00am	Mere Dazzlers Majorettes Jumble Sale	L
27	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB
		2.00pm	Footpath Group	CP
30	Wed	7.30pm	Julian Meeting	GB

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Building: ☎ Richard Jeffries 01747 863425
07950 797273

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

HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

COPY DATE FOR APRIL 2011 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 2011 issue should be handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 21st March 2011**. E-mailed contributions would be preferred, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday 14th March 2011. 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

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