

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grave Buildings - Mere
Colin Anderson 1992*

APRIL 2013

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 on **Monday, 8th April 2013** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

February was a busy month for the Parish Council. At last, we have signed the leases and taken responsibility for the car parks in Salisbury Street and Castle Street, and the public toilets in the Salisbury Street car park. This long drawn out process has involved months of going through the minutiae of clauses, conditions and legal ramifications with numerous sub-committee meetings to reach this end. We have been lead throughout this process by our admirable clerk, Lindsey Wood, to whom we owe many thanks. We are now about to start the process again with regard to the Croquet Club in Steep Street and the old Band Hut in the Castle Street car park.

The Parish Council would like to hear from anybody interested in renting the Band Hut for a community purpose. It must be noted, however, that the Band Hut is in a poor state of repair and it will be necessary to raise funds to carry out the necessary work before we can consider letting the premises so, if you have any ideas or can help with fundraising or can be of practical assistance, then please let us know.

With regard to the recent public consultation on the proposals for the relocation of the Hill Brush Company, the Parish Council is pleased that a prestigious family business with a Royal Warrant is planning to stay within the vicinity of Mere. The Hill Brush Company has been in its current factory for over 70 years and is in need of total modernisation. The new factory on the outskirts of Mere is an ideal site, and the plans show an innovative building with the facilities needed for a successful vital business. The Parish Council will take a close interest in the development of the Woodlands Road site and have already had a meeting with the developer to air our views, ideas and concerns. We aim to continue in this way throughout the planning process.

The Mere website, www.merewilts.org, is soon to be updated and re-vamped. Would any interested parties, who would like to be included on the website or to have their current input changed, or amended, please contact the clerk. We would also be keen to hear your ideas on and for the website.

Richard Robbins - Trained Gardener - 25 years experience. All aspects of Garden Care Undertaken
01373 473008 Mobile 0751 0130 083



May I remind you that the annual parish meeting will take place at the Grove Building on Wednesday, 17th April 2013 at 7.30pm (refreshments from 7.00pm) and that local elections will be held on Thursday, 2nd May 2013.

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.

Lesley Traves, Vice-Chairman, Mere Parish Council

Litter Picking

It has been suggested that we should try and organise a regular parish litter pick where local residents are encouraged to go out and tidy up – even if it's just around the area where they live. If you are interested in taking part in a parish litter pick, please let me know and, depending on the numbers involved, we will try and arrange for equipment to be provided.

Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Mere Parish Council has now taken over the Mere Salisbury Street and Castle Street Car Parks and toilets, which also has given a local person a job. Locally, we are now in control of the standards of cleanliness, and the car parks are free to users with help from the businesses of Mere.

Grit bins were discussed at a full Council meeting, and again the point was made they are much required.

The South West Area Board awarded funds to Project Sunrise, a vision for Mere to bring businesses and other local organisations together to revitalise the area through commerce, trade and tourism. Mere was awarded a grant of £14,000 over two years.

The consultation recently at The Grove Building furthered my believe that the access and egress of any new development on the existing Hill Brush Co site should be as part of a major improvement of the existing roundabout by The Walnut Tree Inn. In my opinion, the roundabout, as it exists now, is potentially dangerous.

After Mr Mead of Mere circulated a flyer regarding not picking up after a dog, I have come to understand that some people think it is legal for a dog to foul on a public green area. They assume it is just on footways that they should pick up and not on green areas. This is not the case. It is an offence NOT to pick up after a dog fouls in a public open space. Fouling of land covered by a Dogs Order, or relevant Bye-Law, state it is an offence when failing to remove dog faeces.

Some highways issues of interest are:

- A request for a weight limit sign in Water Street, Mere was fed to the central Wiltshire Council team. The team will explore new signage, which may require

new signage on the A303, which would require it to write to the Highways Agency if necessary.

- Poor visibility at the junction of The Lynch and Pettridge Lane, Mere. Mere Parish Council has requested full details of verge ownership from Wiltshire Council.
- It was requested at a Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting that Mere PC put together a 'master plan' for Mere as lots of individual issues are coming forward.
- Mere, Zeals, Kilmington, Stourton and West Knoyle parish councils are now claiming a finger post sign grant. Several of these directional signs are now missing from our area, especially towards West Knoyle.

After the very wet winter, black mould is a problem to many dwellings. Selwood Housing gave the following advice:- If you already have condensation and black mould has started to grow you will need to clean the affected areas. Carefully remove mould with a damp cloth and throw away afterwards. Wipe down affected areas with a fungicidal wash or bleach - remember always to use rubber gloves and wear safety goggles. Dry the affected area thoroughly to remove any moisture. Repeat the above steps over a number of days to kill mould spores. After treatment redecorate using a fungicidal paint or wallpaper paste.

Our local Mere dental practice has had an Inspection from The Quality Care Commission, and I am pleased to report they had "top marks" for everything.

The Mere defibrillator has been deployed. The activation of the defibrillator worked exactly as it should have in this case. I do not have any information about the event that led to the defibrillator being used. Condensation was found in the cabinet and this has now been addressed.

At the formation of Wiltshire as a Unitary Authority it was recognised that investment was needed in the county's roads and the waste and recycling collection services. What Wiltshire Council did not know at the time, was that this demand pressure would be combined with a significant reduction in the funding from central government as a result of the Comprehensive Funding Review in 2010. For Wiltshire this means our funds from central government have been reduced in cash terms by 22 per cent but in real terms, when factoring in inflation, the reduction is closer to 37 per cent, which is nine per cent more than Wiltshire Council predicted in 2010. Wiltshire Council receive an average of £224 in government grant per head of population – that is almost £94 less than the English rural average of £318.

Wiltshire Council has attracted an additional £362,000 of government grant above the draft settlement figures. This additional funding reflects the new formula that recognises the uniqueness of rural areas and the additional costs that are incurred in supporting rural communities like ours.

Wiltshire Council will spend an additional £3 million on road maintenance reflecting local feedback that we need to spend more on highways and potholes, including £300,000 more into flood alleviation projects. £16.6 million will be spent on affordable housing and social housing. Wiltshire Council is planning to allocate £38 million to schools to invest in new fit-for-purpose buildings and to carry out maintenance works on existing buildings.

Central government's wide-ranging reforms to welfare will leave some people worse off. In some areas, like council tax benefit, which is being devolved to local authorities, there is a shortfall in government funding. To pay for this shortfall more people will see reductions in benefits.

The new Help to Live at Home service, which helps older people to live independently at home and in their local community, avoiding residential care for as long as possible, is recognised nationally as both innovative and practical.

Again this month I will remind anyone considering becoming a Parish Councillor should note that nomination papers will be accepted from Monday, 18th March 2013 and the deadline for receipt of nominations is noon on Friday, 5th April 2013.



SPREADING THE WORD!

Broadband coverage and performance in Wiltshire is poor compared with more urban councils. There are significant costs to provide higher speed broadband connectivity, and often smaller towns and villages are not commercially viable for improvement. Without direct public and community intervention, about 59% of premises across Wiltshire will not benefit from superfast broadband and will continue to receive an inadequate service.

The council has a target to enable the majority of its residents to access superfast broadband services by 2015. There is now a contract in place with BT to implement this. All premises within Wiltshire will have access to a minimum broadband service of 2Mbps achieving the Government's aim to have standard broadband available to virtually all areas. A minimum of 85% (possibly 95%) of premises will be able to access the higher performing next generation 'superfast' broadband by 2015. Full details of the programme are available and can be accessed on the project's website at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireonline/>

I have recently signed up as a Wiltshire Council Volunteer Coordinator and I will be promoting and coordinating the Wiltshire Online Digital Inclusion project in and around the Mere area, but my first task is to recruit Digital Champions. These are volunteers who are prepared to give up some of their free time to assist adult learners, including the elderly, and those with disabilities, in using computers and internet technology. The primary qualification is patience. The learning environment will be informal, one to one at learners' homes, public libraries, Wi Fi cafes etc. You do not need to be a computer

or IT expert.. The job description and application form can be found at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireonline/rol-desc-application-forms/>.

For more information about this volunteering opportunity please contact the Wiltshire Online team ☎ 01225 793349 or ✉ digitalinclusion@wiltshire.gov.uk. Full (non-technical) training and support is provided to all volunteers from the digital inclusion team. Once we have some champions in the area, my job will be to match potential learners with the champions who are best placed to assist them.

Ron McKinlay ☎ 01747 861271



STAYING SAFE IN YOUR HOME

Did you know that for the elderly more accidents can happen at home than anywhere else? There are many things in our home that can be a hazard as we get older, and careful consideration of our immediate surroundings can ensure that the potential for a fall or an accident are eliminated.

- How many of you use extension leads and have wires and flexes trailing across the floor. Wind up or coil the wires against the wall so you do not trip over them and use appliances near to sockets. No sockets handy? It may be worth a call to your local electrician to have some fitted.
- Overloaded sockets themselves are a fire hazard with most people using a lead adaptor or bar adaptor. In these instances again ensure any extra wire is coiled up safely but never use adaptor plugs for heaters, kettles, irons as they use a lot of power.
- Do you have a lot of furniture hampering your movement around your rooms? Rearrange your furniture so you do not have to walk around it.
- Frayed carpet edges or scatter rugs are a regular cause of accidental falls. Make sure frayed carpets are secured. I know they look lovely but consider moving your rugs out of harms way!
- Mule slippers, and/or worn or badly fitting slippers, can also increase your risk of falling as can trailing dressing gowns, nightdresses and pyjama trousers that are too long.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helps you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life. If you think we can help you give me a call.

Ann-Marie Dean, Local Coordinator, ☎ 07557 922023

MAKE YOUR HOME WARM/SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY BILLS

Wiltshire Council is offering free tailored advice to help you save money on heating and electricity bills, made available to a limited number of households in your area on a first-come, first-served basis.

The council has been able to secure funding from central government to provide free no-obligation Green Deal assessments which will identify practical home improvements such as insulation, new boilers, lighting improvements and renewable energy systems designed to cut the cost of your energy bills.

The assessment takes approximately two hours and will provide impartial advice and recommendations for Green Deal eligible improvements that could save you money. There is no obligation for you to implement any of the recommendations. This free assessment is worth £150 to every household that takes up this offer, with the potential to make significant savings on energy bills if the recommendations are implemented. Some households will then be eligible for energy efficiency improvements funded by the Green Deal or ECO.

'Warm and Well' is managed by the Severn Wye Energy Agency (charity no.1083812) on behalf of Wiltshire Council. A limited number of Free Green Deal assessments are available. Contact 'Warm and Well' today! If you are interested in reducing your bills and want to find out if a Green Deal is right for you, contact 'Warm and Well' for more information: ✉ warm&well@swea.co.uk, Text: WARM to 83010

The Green Economy Team ☎ 0800 500 3076

WEATHER REPORT

February was a dry month with only 45.5mms (1.79ins) of rain until the 15th and then no rain until the end of the month. Last year it was 25mms (0.98ins). There were one or two frosty mornings, but generally cold with some sun shine and cold winds.

March was dry until the 5th and then we had a little overnight rain until the 10th, which totalled 11mms (0.43ins). Generally cold with some sun, a bit milder after the 8th, but that was a false start to Spring. At the time of writing it is bitter with snow flurries, and the forecast is it will continue cold. However, my cherry blossom is out and looks beautiful.

Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363

MERE & DISTRICT ☎ LINKSCHEME

Requests for Transport - ☎ 01747 860096

For the last three months of 2012, the Mere and District Linkscheme made a total of 315 journeys from Mere and the surrounding villages to District Hospitals/local Hospitals/Doctors/Dentists/Opticians etc. If you are a patient of the Mere or Silton Surgery and are finding it difficult to get to your appointment, please telephone the above number and you will be able to speak (or leave a message) with one of our co-ordinators who will do all they can to find transport for you. Please do bear in mind that our co-ordinators are all volunteers and that they are happy to take calls (or messages) between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm between Monday and Friday.

Following recent changes within our charity, we are currently looking for a volunteer to join our team to act as Minute Secretary. This person would be required to attend 4/5 early evening meetings per annum in Mere to take the minutes and deal with a small amount of correspondence. If you think you might be able to help, please telephone the above number. As always, we are looking for volunteer drivers!

Jackie Felton

FOODBANK NEWS

We will be collecting food for the Foodbank, with the kind permission of The Southern Co-operative of Mere, on Saturday, 20th April from 9.00am until 12.00noon. We are hoping you will buy one extra item of non-perishable food with your shopping to put in our trolley. If you are in need of assistance yourself, there are notices in the porch of St. Michael's Church with details and we will publish more detailed information next month.

Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218



Mere Dental Practice

*The practice has two Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Christopher Davies
and two Dental Therapists - Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale*

*Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,*

E-mail: meredental@btconnect.com, Website: meredentistry.co.uk,

*Opening hours: - Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5.30pm, Tuesday
8.45am – 7pm & Friday 8.45am -5pm*



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



STOURHEAD NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for new volunteers to join our friendly, enthusiastic team. As room guides you will provide a warm welcome to visitors, share our stories, learn something new, make new friends and have fun.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a room guide, please contact me by ✉ jean.nimmo@nationaltrust.org.uk or telephone (number below). We look forward to hearing from you.

Jean Nimmo ☎ 01747 841152

PLANNED TRIAL FOR RIVERS IN MERE

Wessex Water is working with the Mere Rivers Group to undertake a trial which will show the effect of water abstraction on the rivers. Plans to start the trial last summer were disrupted because of the very wet months of April, May and June and are now rescheduled for Spring 2013.

Wessex Water will install gauges on the Ashfield Water and on the Shreen, which will measure flows in the rivers. The Mere source provides approximately 8 megalitres of water a day, which is the supply for Mere, Bowden, Stour, Gillingham and beyond – 43% of the supply is transferred out of the area to Yeovil.

Once the gauges are in place, Wessex Water will attempt to replace this transfer with water from other sources for a one month trial. All the water being abstracted will then be used locally and the effect of water saving by local customers can be checked against the stream flows.

At the same time, the Rivers Group will lead a promotion of water efficiency in the local area. Wessex Water will supply water saving devices and advice as needed. The trial should give a good indication of the actual effect of water use and water economy on the flows in the Shreen and the Ashfield waters.

Members of the Mere Rivers Group have trained as River Monitors. Working with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water, they will continue with macro-invertebrate studies and general wildlife monitoring and survey the winterbourne signature, which tracks where the rivers rise throughout the year.

Measurements and observations will be recorded on the Mere page of the Wessex Water website. A display about Mere water is being organised through the good offices of Mere Museum, and will be on display in the Clock Tower shortly.

Mere Rivers Group, supported by the Parish Council, is organising a meeting in April to which riparian owners and other interested parties will be invited. Watch out for posters announcing date and venue. A river expert from Dorset Wildlife Trust will be giving advice on river management. It is hoped a plan for the maintenance of the Mere rivers can be established and volunteer helpers recorded.

Mere's rivers, with their wildlife and bankside walks, can be a great asset to the town. The Mere Rivers Group is working toward this end and hope you will join them. If you are interested, do please contact me.

Ian Sheppard, for Mere Rivers Group, ☎ 01747 863370

LITERARY FESTIVAL BIENNIAL POETRY COMPETITION

Entry forms, in a pleasing shade of green, are now available for this year's festival poetry competition. The poetry competition runs in odd numbered years and local entrants have a chance to win cash prizes in both the Open and Local sections for just the one entry fee. There are also Junior sections for 11 years & under, and for those aged 12 - 16 years inclusive.

The senior judge this year is Rose Flint who lives in Somerset. She is a winner of the Cardiff International Poetry Prize and the author of four poetry collections, as well as a university writing tutor, artist and broadcaster.

Full details are in the entry forms available at Mere Library and other local outlets, or by download from the festival website: www.merelifest.co.uk and you have until Friday, 12th July to perfect your poem.

The festival, as always, starts on the second Monday of October and runs from Monday, 14th. – Sunday, 20th, with the adjudication and award ceremony for the poetry competition as the finale to the week. This is always an exciting event with entrants, the moderator and readers eager to hear the judges' remarks and the results.

The competition and events are in aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme (Reg. Charity No: 1062328). *Adrienne Howell, MLF Organiser, ☎ 01747 860475*

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants available for 2013

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community, and welcomes a wide range of creative activities.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Friday, 31st May and grants will normally be paid annually in the autumn.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to: The Secretary, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, c/o Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere, WARMINSTER, Wiltshire, BA12 6DA.

CARNIVAL

April Fundraising Events

Carnival Comedy Night at the Walnut Tree Inn

On **Friday, 19th April** from 7.00pm onwards. Dinner, free drink and an evening of stand-up comedy at £20 each. Numbers are limited, so don't delay booking your tickets at the Walnut Tree Inn ☎ 01747 861220

Quiz Night

On Tuesday, 23rd April in the Grove Building at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of 4. entry £2.00 each. If you come along as one, two or three, we will make you into a team!
Raffle/refreshments *Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639*



Lions Club of Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury

We meet at Gillingham Town Hall twice a month

New members are always welcome

Please contact us on 0845 833 7521

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL FETE WILL BE ON Saturday, 8th June.

Make a note in your diary now!

Plans are taking shape for this year's fete. Special events so far organised are a Children's Photographic Competition, demonstrations of crafts, an art exhibition, a demonstration by "One Man and his Gundog" and a visit by our local firemen!

There will also be The Quiz!

Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the Grove Building.

The Black Bear Band will be playing to add to the atmosphere.

Stallholders are as shown below: Contributions gratefully received.

Cakes	Thelma Ings	860262
Sweets & Biscuits	Laura Ford	863396
Books	Jenny Wilding	860908
Accessories (Hats, Handbags, Scarves, Gloves, Belts, Shoes)	Maggie Durkee	860163
Bric a Brac	Sue Birch	861703
Preserves	Joan Bell	861717
Plants & Garden	Judith Thompson	860553
Hand Made Crafts	Carol Lord	861923
Bottle Tombola	Steve Hoffman	860514
Flowers/Tussie Mussies	Sprout & Flower	
Jewellery	Isabel Howell	860297
Soft Drinks	Angela McDonald	861602
Ice Creams	Howden Family	863424

If you are making preserves, re-organising your garden, or having a Spring Clean and de-cluttering, please store your goodies for the Fete.

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

Thank you to everyone who supported the events held during Fair Trade Fortnight. After expenses were taken, I have been able to send a donation of £50 to Traidcraft Exchange to further their development work with farmers in Bangladesh creating

Sustainable Livelihoods and helping them, and their communities, work their way out of poverty. My thanks, too, go to Paul of The Angel Café for hosting such a successful 'Big Brew' Tea Party.
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

APRIL SHORT WALK

Meet at 2.00p.m. on Thursday, 18th April in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of 2-3 miles around the lanes and paths of Mere. Tea in the Angel Cafe afterwards for those who wish to indulge!

The May walk will be on Wednesday, 8th May to see the bluebells in the Stourhead Estate. We will share transport. More details next month.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

RAISING THE ROOF

The Ad Hoc Choral

at St.Peter's Church, Stourton

Concert 7.00pm on Saturday, 11th May

Handel's Zadok the Priest
Gibbons, Stanford ...

Tickets £10 includes a glass of wine

From Jane Joyce 01747 840149 / j-joyce@dircon.co.uk

...and after the interval, a little light music.

Including our very own Tom Wheare singing
The Lost Chord in aid of our lost roof.

Thieves in the night stole the lead off the roof of
St. Peter's. Come enjoy the music and help raise
the roof of this beautiful Grade 1 listed Church.

MAKING MUSIC IN MERE

Are there any woodwind players 'out there' who would like to meet once a month or so and 'make music' together? Please get in touch with me. I play flute and alto flute.

Judy Phillips ☎ 01747 860835

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MAY ISSUE

MONDAY, 15th APRIL

MERE GIRL TO RUN IN LONDON MARATHON

Hello, my name is Jess Wakeling and on Sunday, 21st April I am running the London Marathon. I will be running in aid of *Dockland Settlements* and I write today to ask for your support in doing so.

A little under two years ago I moved from Mere to East London to work as a primary school teacher in Canning Town. The area remains among the five per cent most deprived areas in the UK.



The *Dockland Settlements* provide a variety of health and social activities. With your support, the charity will be able to improve each of their centres and provide more services to tackle the deprivation in the local community and to reach out to vulnerable groups that are otherwise ignored. I see daily the children and families whom your money will benefit directly, and I can promise it will be whole-heartedly appreciated.

You will find collection tins in Waltons of Mere, Jeans Electricals and The Walnut Tree Inn or to donate online, visit: www.justgiving.com/JessWakeling.

Jess Wakeling ☎ 07834 233388

PROJECT SUNRISE – MERE

The Project is now underway. The agreement with Wiltshire Council has been signed and finance is due to be available in early April. Many thanks to those who responded either to personal contact or the request in the March *"Mere Matters"* for helpers. The project seems to have struck a chord among people. However, I would like to involve more individuals and especially more of the younger generation. We would be grateful for suggestions as to how this can be achieved.

Planning has commenced and work started on producing the policies and procedures we need to comply with the Council's legal requirements. These are necessary but not onerous, and will ensure the project runs as smoothly as possible over its two-year life.

Project Launch – Wednesday, 1st May – 7.00pm for 7.30pm

An open meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st May in the Grove Building to launch the Project and fill in some of the detail of the tasks involved. You'll be able to hear what attracted the South West Wilts Area Board to underwrite the scheme in your name and to register your interest if you wish to help. Whether you are in business, concerned with tourism, enjoy art, make things, or just have a general community interest, you will be welcome. There will be a short formal presentation, but the main aim will be to allow people to meet and offer information and advice on how they would like to see the implementation take place. More details will be given in the May edition of *"Mere Matters"*.

Who are we trying to reach? The simple answer is anyone who could provide extra income to the area. This could be through visitors attracted by shops and businesses, tourists staying overnight and wishing to walk, shoot, or hang-glide, or just someone wishing to break their journey and leave the A303 for an hour or so. We will be working with staff of the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to revive pamphlets about walks, cycle rides, and general points of interest in this corner of the AONB. The sub-projects within Project Sunrise-Mere are designed to publicise our amenities and attract such visitors.

Preparations are in hand for a **dedicated business portal website**. We are looking for local designers to submit ideas. Initially a brief outline of your thoughts would be great. We also intend to offer assistance to small businesses in producing effective websites. If you are a small local business and would be interested in putting some information on the website, contact us. As this is supported by the project community funding, there will be no charge. You can't afford to miss this opportunity!

With the help of local businesses, we shall be investigating how provision for youth employment can be improved.

If you are interested in helping, contact me, please or Julie Cousins ☎07856 700 576.

Hamish Bell, President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade ☎ 01747 861717

REAL BREAD MAKERS FORTNIGHT

6th – 17th May 2013

Please note in your diary for May

Monday, 6th May

Cann Mills (Stoates Stoneground Flour) and Panary (Bread Making courses) Open Day, just south of Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Tuesday, 7th May

7.30pm in the Grove Buildings. 'Making Bread the Long Crichel Way' with Jamie Campbell, a director of the Long Crichel Bakery, Wimborne – Real Bread Bakers. Tickets £5.00 to include a loaf of bread, available from the Library.

Thursday, 16th May

From 3.00pm in the Lecture Hall a Mere 'Bake In'. Bring your children and come and sample home baked bread and Naan breads from Indigo Blue. Try your hand at mixing or kneading dough. We will be baking machine bread loaves. Discuss bread making courses, bring in your own loaf. Home baked goods for sale. Cookery and Baking Bookstall. Teas and coffees, scones etc!

We are still looking for more books for the bookstall and more unused bread machines. And get in touch with me if you would like one of the donated Bread Machines. Knead I say more.....?

Judy Phillips ☎ 01747 860835

BRAINWAVE



February saw us celebrating the anniversary of the Mere Shop with a meal at our neighbours across the road, The George. They served up a superb three course meal, thoroughly enjoyed by all. The hosts thanked us for providing a busy hub at the heart of the community and all

we can say is 'likewise'!

We are now very busy preparing for our Pamper Evening at the Lecture Hall on Saturday, 20th April, from 7.00-10.00pm. There will be a host of beautiful donated clothes on sale, as well as bags and jewellery. There will also be a selection of brand new Laura Ashley clothes to buy. Tickets, now on sale at the Mere Shop, cost £5 and this includes one free treatment/session with a range of beauty therapists in the main hall or with the holistic practitioners in the side hall. Places will be limited, so it is best to book a slot early in the evening. Refreshments will be available, provided by Friends of Mere School.

For those who miss the Pamper Evening, all is not lost. The clothes left over at the end of the evening will be on sale in our shop from the start of the following week.

For further information about Brainwave, please telephone the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432

Mere Gracenotes

conductor: Jane Hurd

invite you to a concert

on Saturday, 6th April @ 7.30 pm

in St. Michael the Archangel, Mere.

**No ticket required but donations welcomed for
ASTI (Acid Survivors Trust International).**

Do come and enjoy our wide variety of choral music.

Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Fives Court **Quiz Night** that we regretfully had to abandon because of ice and snow way back in January, has been rescheduled for **Friday, 5th April at 7.30pm** in the Grove Building. Tickets will be £1.50 each, available on the door only. Teams of four (or fewer!) only please; if you are not already in a team you can join one on the evening. We can (almost) guarantee that the weather will be much better by April, and Friends and Residents are really looking forward to seeing lots of you there.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

Art and Craft Work by Roger Dennis

Animal Portraits, Wildlife Pictures, Landscapes and Line Drawings.

Framing, Cane Work and Model Making

www.roger-dennis.com Home: 01747 860138 Mobile: 07778016081

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

**The Day Centre for Mere and District, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

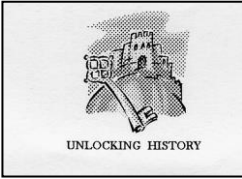
Our Bonhams valuation day was very successful and we raised over £400 for the Centre. Very many thanks to all who supported this event. We are hoping that our next event will be a skittles tournament at sometime in June, so watch this space for details.

Our guests have recently enjoyed a pottery session where they produced some fantastic clay bowls on pedestals. This month they will be decorating and glazing them and I can't wait to see the finished products.

We currently have spaces for new guests on Fridays, so if you know anyone who is over 60 and is in need of some company, please ask them to get in touch with me on the number below. We provide varied activities, games, talks, tea or coffee and conversation plus a two course lunch, all for just £6.00.

Sandie Hawkins ☎ 07835 272406

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Summer visits

Booking forms and details for the following summer visits are in members' packs.

Monday, 20th May	Avebury and the Manor House and Garden
Thursday, 20th June	Kelmscott Manor
Thursday, 11th July	Winchester and the College
Tuesday, 3rd September	Somerset Hunky Punks

If you were unable to attend the AGM please send your fee (£7.50 per member) to the **Membership Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere.** ☎ **01747 860890.** Standing Order forms are available.

Non-members are welcome for an additional charge of £2 per visit. Booking forms and details are available at Mere library., *Caroline Cook* ☎ *01747 861797*

MERE FILM SHOWS

The latest Oscar winning Bond film is our offering for **Thursday, 11th April**, with the screening of **'Skyfall'** (12A), said by some to be the best of the Bond films and one in which Judi Dench as 'M' plays a greater part than previously.

When Bond's latest assignment goes gravely wrong and agents around the world are exposed, MI6 is attacked forcing 'M' to relocate the agency. These events cause her authority and position to be challenged by Gareth Mallory (Ralph Fiennes), the new Chairman of the Intelligence and Security Committee. With MI6 now compromised from both inside and out, 'M' is left with one ally she can trust: Bond. With all the action expected of the Bond films, this one also sees the return of the classic Bond car, the Aston Martin DB5! More details on page 25.

Dates for your Diary: Thursday, 9th May: Film to be confirmed.

Mary White ☎ *01747 861257*

MERE MUSEUM



If you hurry there's still just time to submit your photographs for the next exhibition which will be entitled '**Mere Vistas**'. These don't have to be new photos, just some of your favourites, or ones you're particularly proud of. A leaflet with guidelines for exhibitors can be collected from the Museum. This will give you all the details you need. The deadline for the submission of photographs is **5.00pm on Thursday, 4th April**. The exhibition will open on **Tuesday, 9th April**, with a preview on Monday, 8th April at 6.30pm, to which exhibitors as well as Friends are cordially invited.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are reminded that the next **Exhibition Preview** ('Mere Vistas') will take place on **Monday, 8th April at 6.30pm**. We hope that lots of you will come to admire and enjoy the work of your fellow Mere residents!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Fresh from the overwhelming success of the olde-worlde charm and elegance of their Springtime Variety Show, MADS members have barely paused for breath. They are currently rehearsing a one-act play entitled 'Relics' for the Woolstore One Act Play Festival which takes place in May. They have a very hard act to follow since at the last Festival that MADS entered, they walked away with most of the trophies!

We hope to make it possible for our Mere supporters to see this production – in due course. Keep a lookout for posters.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Now that spring is here (hopefully!) we shall soon be thinking of autumn. So if you want to be in on the next season of cultural delights, join our mailing list by contacting Wendy or Madelaine, details below. And I'm sure all members have now paid their subscriptions for 2013!

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712 Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833

R S P C A

This coming September we will again be running a Tombola at Ashley Heath Animal Home Open Day. If anybody has any suitable prizes, please will they let us know.

Many thanks to all who supported us last time when we made the sum of £200.

Pete & Sue Howell ☎ 01747 860623



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

The Annual Meeting was held on 7th March when a report of the past year's activities was given. In addition to the variety of speakers heard at monthly meetings, members met regularly to play table top games, for craft activities, for lunches at local venues and for the newly formed book club. Members had also visited East Swainsford Farm and Lytes Cary Manor House and had joined other local WIs for meetings.

Christine Marsh was elected as President for the coming year.

Our next meeting will be in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on Thursday, 4th April, when we shall be holding a Craft and Cookery Show. If you would like to find out more about the coming year's programme, do please come along and join us then.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

GROVE BUILDING '100 CLUB'

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for March, drawn on Friday, 8th March 2013, by Mrs Jane Donohoe was:

- 1st Prize (£20) - No. 142 Mrs B Flexney-Briscoe
- 2nd Prize (£15) - No. 162 Mrs J Woodruffe
- 3rd Prize (£10) - No. 150 Mrs W A Bevington
- 4th Prize (£5) - No. 169 Mrs A Henson

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

We have another treat at our meeting at **2.30pm on Tuesday, 9th April** when Jeannie Stephens will share some of the inspiration she has discovered while working with the MU in Lui Diocese in Southern Sudan setting up playgroups to enable mothers to attend literacy classes.

Whether or not you attended her riveting talk at the Friends of St Michael's AGM, come to this one - relating to her visit just before Christmas - to be entertained and encouraged. Everyone welcome!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747-860553

MERE BOWLS CLUB

We open for business on Saturday, 6th April and would welcome any new or prospective bowlers to the club, turn up with a pair of flat shoes at 3.00pm and we will get you introduced to the current membership and give you an introduction to bowls. Hopefully, you will feel like all current members and fall in love with the sport.

The Club will be holding an Open Day and Fete on Saturday, 4th May from 10.30am until 3.00pm at the Green on Springfield Road (opposite the Dental Surgery within Mere school grounds). Light refreshments will be available for purchase in the pavilion and there will be a variety of stalls, including a bric-a-brac stall, cake stall and a plant sale. A qualified Bowls Coach will be on hand to get all those that want to try the sport, on the green as soon as possible. If you would like to try the sport of bowls, please bring your enthusiasm and a pair of flat shoes - some sunshine would help as well!

For any information regarding the club or the sport of Bowls, please contact Alan Inwood: ☎ 01985 844215, Jeff Vigars: ✉ jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk, ☎ 01747 860976 or me, Don Butchers: ✉ don.butchers@btinternet.com.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Skyfall'

 (12A)

Daniel Craig Judi Dench
Javier Bardem Ralph Fiennes

Bond's loyalty to 'M' is tested when her past comes back to haunt her. Whilst MI6 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how much the personal cost.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday, 11th April, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00
Available from the Library

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257
Visit our website at: **www.moviola.org**

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

The Club's recent AGM was very well attended and the subscription rate for the coming year was set at £30. Plans are being made to repeat last year's highly successful musical quiz night and for some refurbishment of the tables.

Belated congratulations go to Gareth James and Roy Stone for their success in the Club's doubles tournament. We still have room for new members, and yes, we do have lady members too. For details, please contact me.

Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305.

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

A Bingo evening is to be held on Saturday, 13th April in the Lecture Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

A Presentation Evening will take place on Saturday, 18th May at Mere School, starting at 7.00pm.

Is there anyone out there who would like to give coaching or managing a youth team a go? We are looking for additional enthusiastic people male/female to join our ever increasing club. Interested? Contact me for more information.

Julie Hodge 📞 07808 715725

1st MERE BROWNIES

Bunting Challenge - Blue Peter/Girlguiding UK

Blue Peter presenter Helen Skelton undertook 7 challenges, and attempted to set world record attempts with two of them by completing magnificent challenges during the seven weeks preceding Red Nose Day - 15th March.

1st Mere Brownies participated in one of the challenges, the 'Bunting Challenge' in which she set out to create the world's largest bunting line, to display along the enormous Humber Bridge, near Hull on 9th March. We made two bunting flags measuring two metres each as our contribution. One flag was designed by 10 year old Tegan and the other was composed of butterflies and flowers taken from the most popular designs submitted by Mere Brownies.

We also held a fund-raising event during our Thursday weekly meetings to raise money for Comic Relief.

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

'Shine'

Some of our over 9 year old Brownies are looking forward to an exclusive Girlguiding South West England Region event, 'Shine', which will be held at the BIC at Bournemouth at the end of April with an expected audience of 3,000. It will star Aiden Grimshaw, Loveable Rogues, and the pop group JLS (one of the group members JB starred and won the Strictly Come Dancing Christmas special!)

Five of our Brownies: Sophie, Lily, Phoebe, India-Skye and Georgia were selected to perform at the County heat of a Girlguiding singing competition held at Market Lavington School, Devizes. They were very nervous but excited as they sang and moved to "Wings" by Little Mix. We congratulate them for their excellent effort to get this far.

Sue Jeans and Sue Luffman, Brownie Guiders 📞 01747 860215

MERE CHILDRENS CENTRE

We have been busy at the centre this month with all sorts of activities. Our Parenting Course on Mondays has come to an end but we hope that parents have learned a lot of tips for encouraging the behaviour that they want from their children for the future. If you are interested in attending our next parenting course please call the number below and one of our team will discuss the course with you.

On Wednesday mornings our Stay and Play Group has been having a great time with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust learning how to make healthy food such as Tabbouleh and falafels. The children have been very adventurous in tasting – and liking - new things and the dieticians from our local NHS came this week to have fun making ladybirds and snakes to tempt us into trying new foods!

The first Thursday of the month sees us working in partnership with Mere Pre-school learning simple recipes which the children can cook and take home. On the third Thursday we join up with Tiddlers and Toddlers for some Crafty Play or Messy Play. On World Book Day we had a special Story Time when we were joined by Mere Pre-school to go on a 'Bear hunt' where the children helped me read this lovely story to them with actions and joining in the adventure. Also on Thursdays Family Learning have been running a Numeracy Course helping us to get refreshed and qualified in using numbers.

On Friday afternoons at 1.30pm we have a cosy group of parents and babies where we have planned activities, and we learn nursery rhymes and entertaining songs to sing along with our babies – you can never start singing and talking to them too soon; it is amazing how quickly they learn and start to anticipate being tickled in 'Round and round the garden'. We joined in a Red Nose Day activity in partnership with Mere Pre-school serving refreshments in our foyer and raised donations for Red Nose Day.

We hope to be able to start a new Baby Massage course soon. If you are interested in this please call the number below to discuss the course with one of the team. The date for this will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

We are also planning a Dad's Day on Saturday, 11th May; so Dads bring your toddler (0-5 years old) along to this fun morning of Arts and Crafts, We usually have bacon rolls to offer for the hungry!

Our Open Day is planned for Saturday, 13th of April from 10.00am to 12noon when we have a morning packed with activities and entertaining things for you children to take part in. This is a great opportunity for you to see what we do at the centre and for your children to join in the fun.

Many thanks to those of you who have showed an interest in our First Aid Course; hopefully we will have a date for that soon and we will be contacting you.

Our Sensory Room is open for individual bookings so if you would like to bring your child along for a session of exciting exploration in this room please call the number below and speak to one of our friendly team.

Jane Smith, Support Worker ☎ 01747 861108

GOLD CLASS REPORTS



YEAR 3

National Book Day Celebrated at Mere School

We are all excited about the start of National Book Day on 7th March! The whole school is celebrating by each class choosing a favourite book and dressing up as characters from their chosen book.

Aliens in Silver Class

Silver Class are dressing up as aliens from the book 'Aliens love underpants'. Their activities will include designing alien masks and super pants!

Books and more books

Other classes are basing their day on The Jolly Postman, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Mary Poppins, Mr. Men, Where's Wally and The Jolly Roger.

Fun, Fun, Fun!

Some of the activities the children will take part in will include making magic wands, making sweets, 'How to be the Perfect Nanny' and walking the plank!

STOP PRESS!
**Look on our website for
latest news and pictures:**
www.mereschool.co.uk

School will perform to parents, family and friends.

Red Nose Day

We will be wearing Red Noses and red clothes to celebrate and support this charity event.

Bedtime Story

On Wednesday, 13th March the children are invited to come back to school for a bed time story. There will be hot chocolate and the children can come dressed in their PJ's (teddy bear optional!) ready to listen to a story.

Spring is in the air!

The last week of the Spring Term sees the school celebrating everything that is associated with the coming of spring. It is hoped that it will culminate in the restoration and use of the schools old May Pole.

Musical Extravaganza Evening

This will take place on Thursday, 7th March. The young musicians of Mere

REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, URC MINISTER, WRITES:

In the 2000 movie Chocolat (from Joanne Harris' 1999 novel), Vianne Rocher a Chocolatier and her daughter arrive in a traditionally conservative town, as Lent is starting. During the 5 weeks before Easter it is traditional for Christians to spend time in preparation, so fasts and "giving-up-something-for-Lent" became a familiar, if uncomfortable, practice. Vianne opens a wonderful chocolate shop, "La Chocolaterie Maya", which tempts most of the towns folk. Some visit the shop and enjoy the indulgent chocolate but others disapprove. On Easter morning, Lent is over, the Church celebrates the Risen Christ and there is a carnival in the town square that seems to involve everyone. There the novel ends. The second novel sees Vianne living in Paris and it is not until the third novel that we learn about life in Lansquenet-sous-Tannes, after that big chocolate festival.

This year Easter falls early, at the end of March. All of our church congregations will have joined together to process with the cross to the top of Castle Hill and later decorated crosses with flowers. On that weekend when British Summer Time begins, Christians will have celebrated the heart of our faith. It may not be the Street Carnival

from the film and it is unlikely that you'll have seen Judi Dench, Juliette Binoche or Johnny Depp on our streets but as we all look forward to new life, lighter days and all of the spring time growth there is a feeling of anticipation that the grey days of winter will be retreating.

But what do you do after the "high" of the biggest celebration each year? When the fasting is over and the eggs all eaten? It's a challenge. Naturally gardeners and allotment keepers have a busy time-table ahead but for others there can be a feeling of anti-climax. Lansquenet-sous-Tannes forgot its festival and new hostilities gathered against outsiders, who were Muslims this time. It takes the whole storyline to regain good community relations. On our planet, experience works in cycles of: birth, life, death and new life. In the Church year we run through the cycle of Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas again, but I like to think of it as more of a spiral, because each year we grow in experience and so will have the chance to enjoy celebrations once more, but from a new perspective. As Spring moves on, I wish for us all the ability to be surprised and healed by life.

BICYCLING BISHOPS COMING TO MERE

The Bishop of Ramsbury (Rt Rev'd Ed Condry) and the Bishop of Swindon (RT Rev'd Lee Rayfield) will be teaming up for a sponsored cycle ride around the towns and villages of Wiltshire to raise money for, and awareness of, the work of Christian Aid. Mere is included on the itinerary and you will have a chance to meet them and cheer them on their way between **9.54 and 10.24am on Friday, 12th April.**

Everyone is welcome to come to the Small Hall in the Grove Building, courtesy of Merely Women, who will be giving us coffee. They need to know numbers, so PLEASE SIGN UP on the list at the back of St Michael's church by Sunday, 7th April.

Judith Thompson (Mere Christian Aid rep) ☎ 01747 860553

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S

Date for Your Diary

SPRING BAZAAR

Saturday 4th May at 10.00am in the Grove Building

See next month's Mere Matters for more details

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



This year it is from **12th to 18th May** and lots of collectors are needed to cover as many as possible of the streets in Mere. You may find the prospect daunting, but knowing that the money you collect will be carefully spent to bring new life and hope to people living in almost unbearable poverty, encourages you to overcome your fears! **PLEASE SIGN UP at St Michael's**, or give me a ring. *Judith Thompson (Mere Christian Aid rep)* ☎ *01747 860553*

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Songs of Praise

Sunday, 21st April @ 6.00pm

We warmly invite you to this informal service where we meet to sing favourite hymns old and new and share our experiences of community life.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

Wednesday, 24th April - Coffee at 10.30am. Worship at 11.00am with Rev'd Helen Caine. All are welcome. *Mary Siderfin* ☎ *01747 861370*

ST MICHAEL'S 'COFFEE DROP-IN'

In the Grove Building, Friday, 5th April at 10.30am.

Come and join us for a chat over coffee/tea/juice and 'posh' biscuits. Our 'Coffee Drop In' will be held on the first Friday of each month at 10.30am. We hope as many people as possible will come and join us. *Christine Marsh, LLM ☎ 01747 861212*

ST MICHAELS VICARAGE GARDENING PARTY

Can you please help for a few hours on **Saturday, 13th April** in the large Vicarage garden which needs some TLC and some close pruning to be tamed (Adam and Eve would not have described it as Eden). Please can volunteers bring garden implements for digging, cutting and planting between 9.30am and 12.00noon. Cake and coffee for all. The plan is to have a **Vicarage Garden Party** at the end of the summer to enjoy the fruits of our work. Thank you in advance. *Rev'd Carol ☎ 01747 861859*

ON BEHALF OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE

Could you help support people in distress?

The Samaritans, a registered charity started by Chad Varah in 1953 as a befriending telephone helpline available to those who were despairing or suicidal, offers a totally confidential and non-judgemental service. This is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but today Samaritans offer befriending face to face, by text and email in addition. There is even a correspondence branch for those who prefer pen and paper!

Samaritans celebrated fifty years of befriending in Salisbury in 2012. There are currently about 80 volunteers but more are needed. If you feel that volunteering for Samaritans is something you would like to do, we would like to hear from you. The only qualifications you need are to be a good listener, be non-judgemental and committed, and to accept our training and principles. If you feel a listening role is not for you, you can support us in many other ways as a Support Volunteer. We positively welcome applications from all sections of the community.

We run regular Information Sessions, at our Salisbury branch at 42 Milford Street SP1 2BP. We show a short DVD and explain what we do, what we ask of our volunteers, and tell you about our training course. The next sessions will be on Monday, 8th April, Thursday, 9th May and Monday, 29th July at 7.00pm. Also, on Saturday, 22nd June at 10.30am, but enquiries and applications are welcome at any time.

Our branch website is www.samaritansofsalisbury.org.uk where you will find further information. Alternatively, you can ✉ recruit@samaritansofsalisbury.org.uk or leave a message ☎ 05603 120206 and we will get back to you.



Everyone is invited to a

Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy

On Tuesday, 23rd April 10.30am – 12.00noon

at Hillcrest, Hazzards Hill (Rob & Elisabeth Barrett's house

☎01747 863324)

A new venue! Supporters new & old are all very welcome

SECURE MINI STORAGE UNITS

Sole use or part from £10 pcm. Short or long term storage

High level of security - Mere area.01747 863318

ST MICHAELS ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The Annual Meeting of all those who hold St Michael's to be a special place (the APCM), will be held on **Tuesday, 16th April** in the Grove Building at 7.30pm.

Rev'd Carol will be talking about her first seven months in the Benefice and starting to share her vision for St Michael's. *Rev'd Carol ☎ 01747 861859*

JULIAN MEETING - CORRECTION

Ecumenical Quiet Prayer Group

Our meeting day has now changed to the **third** Wednesday each month (not the second, as indicated in March Mere Matters, and not the fourth, as it used to be). This month's meeting is on Wednesday, **17th April** at 7.30pm. These are ecumenical meetings, and EVERYONE is always welcome to come. We meet upstairs in the Grove Building. *Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

APRIL 2013

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉ carolw953@aol.com

Churchwardens:

Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142 and Mr Peter Mason ☎ 01747 861296

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Monday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
Each Tuesday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
Each Wednesday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Thursday	The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker is not available		
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
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Sunday Club
	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Messy Church in Grove Building

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion
Sunday	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	28th	11.00am	Mr Peter Kershaw

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Local Fellowship Service
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Joyce Norman
	21st	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			Holy Communion
	28th	6.00pm	United Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury, United Church NO service in Mere

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	5.00pm	Mass

On the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be tea and cakes after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

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

Sunday	7th	9.15am	Matins (BCP)
	14th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	21st	9.15am	DIY
	28th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662
CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

DIARY DATES

April 2013

AYP-Andy Young Pavillion; 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; RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre

1	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
2	Tue	7.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	L
3	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Church Elders meeting	CC
4	Thurs	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
5	Fri	10.00am	St Michaels "Coffee Drop-in" Morning	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Fives Court Quiz Night	GB
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 13th, 20th & 27th)	CC
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
		7.30pm	Mere Gracenotes Concert	St Michaels
8	Mon	10.00am	Chair based Zumba & Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
9	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip Reading Classes (every Tuesday)	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
10	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi – small hall (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
11	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Skyfall"	L
12	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	9.30am - 12.00noon	Vicarage Gardening Party	Vicarage
		10.00am - 12.00noon	"Drop in Session" Councillor Jeans	L
		7.00pm	Mere Town Youth FC 'Bingo' Eyes Down 7.30pm	L
15	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 22nd & 29th)	L

15	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
16	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels Annual Parochial Church Meeting	GB
17	Wed	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	Julian meeting (upstairs room)	GB
18	Thur	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 25th)	L
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
19	Fri	7.00pm	Carnival Comedy Night	Walnut Tree Inn
20	Sat	9.00am	- 12.00noon Foodbank Collection	Outside Co-Op
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Brainwave's Pamper Evening	L
21	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
22	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (also 29th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 29th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 29th)	GB
23	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	Carnival Quiz Night	GB
24	Wed	10.30pm	Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
28	Sun	4.00pm	Messy Church	GB

STOP PRESS 1

EASTER COMMUNION AT ST MICHAELS CHURCH

Please note that the 6.30am Easter Communion on Easter Day, 31st March, shown in the March edition of 'Mere Matters' as being held at Barrow Street Farm, will now be held in St Michaels church followed by a light breakfast in the Grove Building.

STOP PRESS 2

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE'S CONCERN

Oasis Carnival Club Bingo - please be aware that funds raised by these bingo events go to a Frome based club (with connections to the Somerset circuit) and NOT to our local Mere Carnival fundraising activities.

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

Grove Building:	Richard Jefferies	☎ 01747 863425
Lecture Hall:	Ann Read	☎ 01747 861486
Methodist Church Schoolroom	Mary Siderfin	☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of Mere Matters, please visit Mere's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Clinics/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm

*REGISTRAR **By appointment only***

OF BIRTHS Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

& DEATHS: For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

RNID 1st Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.30am

CREDIT UNION 1st & 3rd Saturdays 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR MAY 2013 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the May 2013 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 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 April 2013**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 8th April 2013.

Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: **jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

☎: **01985 844740**

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson



Teeandee Productions
Website Design & Computer Services
Tel: 01747 860516
Mob: 07799 325214
Email tim@teeandeeproductions.com
www.teeandeeproductions.com

[Teeandee Productions](http://www.teeandeeproductions.com)