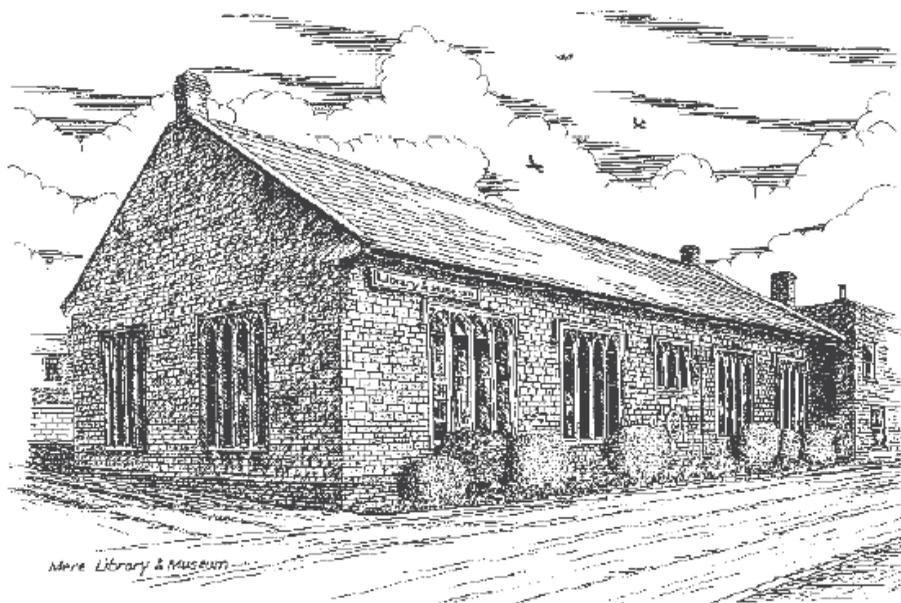


# MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**MAY 2013**

## CHANGE IN “MERE MATTERS” PERSONNEL

Have you ever noticed that when you see the box full of the latest edition of “Mere Matters” in Waltons and you help yourself to a copy, you then start seeing copies in most of the shops, surgeries, churches and the Library and wonder how they got there.

For the last ten years volunteer and local resident Gerry Binstead has undertaken the task, whatever the weather, by hand-delivering, arranging delivery or mailing some 280 copies to over 40 addresses. Gerry has now retired and on your behalf I offer him our grateful thanks to his selfless devotion to the service of our community for the last ten years.

My thanks also to local resident Vivien Sheppard who has kindly volunteered to step into Gerry’s former role from this month. I welcome her for her keenness to be of service to our community. Thank you Vivien for taking on the job. I am sure you will be equally welcomed by all the local organisations and people on the distribution list.

*Graham Avory, Editor*

## MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 13th May** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### **The Chairman writes:**

As the current term of this Parish Council comes to an end with the elections for a new Council on Thursday, 2nd May, the work of the council continues unabated. At the April Parish Council Meeting many matters of what might be called an everyday nature, though still important, were discussed; the interest for community use of the Band Hut and we would still like to hear of any other group who may be interested in its use; the continuing work of the Mere Rivers Group in river monitoring and management; the possible provision of a Public Access Defibrillator in the Duchy Manor Sports Ground; consultations on planning applications and the annual allotments rent audit together with permissions and consultations on various activities.

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



Councillors were also concerned to hear that at a recent Neighbourhood Task Group Meeting one issue of priority was the matter of dog fouling, which does seem to be on the increase again, and the prosecutions which should follow. At the risk of sounding like a broken record can I just reiterate **again** that it is an offence for a dog to be allowed to foul *any* public area whether it is pavement, footpath or green area such as beside the cemetery or even Castle Hill, so please pick up after your dog and place the bags either in the various dog bins provided or in the litter bins, all of which are emptied regularly, and therefore avoid prosecution.

As I mentioned in the beginning, elections for both County and Parish Councils take place on Thursday, 2nd May, after which you will have a new Parish Council for the next four years. These elections are your opportunity to vote for councillors who will be working on your behalf to ensure that Mere remains a good and welcoming place to live. Please vote and support your Parish Council.

This is my last Chairman's Report as my two-year term of office ends this month. It has been an honour to serve on this Parish Council and particularly as Chairman, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both my Vice-Chairman, Lesley Traves, for her help and support over the last two years, and most particularly our Parish Clerk, Lindsey Wood, whose inestimable abilities in this demanding job are extraordinary. She has my gratitude for so often keeping me, and at times all of us, on the right track.

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

*Mrs Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES**

As I said last month, Mere Parish Council has now taken over the Mere Salisbury Street and Castle Street Car Parks and toilets. I have been asked when the marked out parking bays will be improved. I know it is the intention of The Mere Parish Council to improve the two car parks marked bays in the long term.

Some will have noticed the bus service 158 which links Mere to Zeals has had timetable changes. The service is principally subsidised by Dorset; however Wiltshire does put some subsidy into it. The service has been changed to allow children in Gillingham who wish to attend school in Shaftesbury to do so. What happens across "the border" does affect us. In the summer another Dorset service may help Mere - it is hoped this one can be used to travel to Yeovil from Mere.

Wiltshire Council has taken some rental payments from local residents' bank accounts a month before it should have done so. This has happened to some tenants over the

years by mistake, but it has come to light that it now takes a month before a cheque is received returning the overpayment, which could financially embarrass some.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) “roof tax” now proposed for implementation in 2014 will bring money to some or all the local parish councils. I have pushed for accurate information to be given to the parishes well before the time Precepts are set, which is usually in November, regarding the amount available to Parishes, enabling them to make a balanced decision when setting local precepts (rates). I understand the amount available to a parish or Town Council will be between 15 and 25% of the CIL collected. Also, I am against imposing a CIL on permitted residential development. For example, being permitted development who reports the money is owing? It may be the next door neighbour in some instances, which I do not think is a good idea!

Some residents in Salisbury Street, Mere have for many months suffered from noise caused by several broken drain covers. The pavement on the north side is difficult for some users as another cover has sunk throwing some of the users towards the traffic. I am told residents will soon have a letter stating when the work will begin. This could affect motorists as traffic lights will be in place.

Universal Credit will affect some people in the Mere area. Birmingham City Council was one of the 12 successful local authorities announced in August 2012, to carry out one of the Universal Credit local authority-led pilots. The 12 authorities are looking at how they can help get Universal Credit claimants ready for October 2013, by identifying and supporting people who need help with: getting online, managing and maintaining their finances and finding and staying in work. A full evaluation of the effectiveness of these pilot schemes will take place in October 2013 so that the Department of Works & Pensions can use the information for future claimant delivery.

The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in my view encourages a planning officer to “think twice” before refusing a planning application. The informative note now placed on every development planning officers reports read: “In accordance with paragraph 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), this planning application has been processed in a proactive way”.

Thanks to the initiative of Julian Mackie, the Mere Croquet & Boule Club was included in a local supermarket scheme in March. It has now been advised that the club has benefited by some £110. If you require financial support for a community project it is worth remembering these supermarket initiatives.

Superfast Broadband is of interest to many. Wiltshire Council will be providing some updates to its web site ([www.wiltshireonline.org](http://www.wiltshireonline.org)) at the end of April that will show when work will be starting in the Mere area (i.e. late 2013, 2014 and 2015). Wiltshire is working with BT to be able to use the availability checker which provides more specific postcode related information as work starts relating to individual local BT cabinets

(usually green). After a local resident's enquiry, a Council officer has told me that in respect of Mere, this may not include the villages around, "I can say it is within our intervention area for the 91% coverage".

"Purdah" is the period in a council's political life during the run-up to an election and the general position is that the council should continue to run its services as it considers necessary in order to meet its statutory responsibilities and corporate priorities in the

interests of the people of Wiltshire. Proposals or issues which may be controversial and likely to arise during the critical period are identified and a common sense view taken in each case as to how the matter is to be handled. I still attend regularity functions such as Development Planning Committees and Licensing panels for those requesting entertainment licences etc.

Visiting the Mere Library, it has come to my attention that they would be pleased if anyone would be interested in volunteering to help maintain the present opening hours, which through the involvement of volunteers have been increased by two mornings a week, over that which would otherwise be provided. I would like to thank the present volunteers for their most appreciated work.

Stourton, Mere and West Knoyle all have contested elections for their Parish Councils on Thursday, 2nd May, the same day as the Wiltshire Council elections.

## **STAYING SAFE IN YOUR HOME**



Hopefully the weather is going to warm up so you will be opening the windows to let all that lovely fresh air in and as the evenings are drawing out, the temptation is to be out in the garden. Don't forget that there are many opportunist intruders looking for an easy way into your home.

If you are out in the garden make sure windows onto the road are closed or locked at an opening size that no one can get through. Remember some of these opportunists may be children and can get through much smaller spaces. If you are in the back garden lock the front door, and visa versa you are in the front lock up the back. If you cannot see your front or back door from where you are working lock them both and take the key with you.

You might think this is a ridiculous measure but someone walked into my house through my back door when I was working in the garden and I didn't notice for 2 hours! Fortunately their intention was not to rob me but it shows just how easy it is.

Did you know that 38% of Burglaries occur in insecure premises? Make sure both front and back doors are locked when you are in the house and make sure if you have a conservatory that the doors are locked. Do not leave your door or car keys in view through a window or in line of sight through the letter box

If you are in doubt about the effectiveness of your home security the Bobby Van will be happy to call, free of charge if you are over 60 years of age and carry out a security and fire check in your home. Email them on **bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk** or contact your local Wiltshire Good Neighbour.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and more independent life. We can provide information on a variety of topics including Benefits, Healthcare, Social activities, Befriending services, Transport and many more.

If you think we can help you find the services you need then give me, as your local coordinator, a call.

*Ann-Marie Dean* 📞 07557 922023

# FOODBANK NEWS

## from St. Michael the Archangel Church

Warminster and District Foodbank exists to support those who unexpectedly find themselves in difficult circumstances, including those who live in Mere. If you have no money and no food, the Foodbank can provide you with an emergency food box to meet your immediate needs, containing nutritional, well-balanced meals to last for three days. However, those requiring a food box must first obtain a food box voucher, as shown below.

The food boxes are not intended as a long term solution, as a maximum of three boxes is given to those households in need. They are intended to help cover the gap before any payments under the national benefits system are available.

The Foodbank is situated at Dewey House, North Row, Warminster and is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. If you are unable to get there yourself, we can arrange to collect a foodbox for you, please contact Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218 or Barry Edwards ☎ 01747 860609.

Food box vouchers are held by various people in Mere and we will be happy to help you in any way we can. They are: Mere Children's Centre ☎ 01747 861108, Mrs. Gilly Gristwood ☎ 01747 861768, Mrs. Mary Merrell ☎ 01747 860195 and me (number below). Further details can also be found in the Church porch.

*Mrs. Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218*

## MERE WEATHER

March was a dry month with 67mms (2.64ins) of rain, 38mms (1.5ins) of which fell on the middle of the month. Last year we had 28mms (1.1ins) On the 23rd, we had bright sun shine in the early morning. We had not seen the sun for days - whoopee! Is this the heat wave the Met Office is forecasting? No. It was overcast by midday and in the afternoon it tried to snow! Winter was still with us. We had more sun after the middle of the month but still that cold East wind.

April started the same, but not quite so cold with 29.5mms (1.16ins) of rain to the middle of the month.

*Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363*

### **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**

## **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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://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*

## **BLIND OR PARTIALLY SIGHTED?**

Do you know anyone who is registered blind or partially sighted? Or perhaps cares for someone who is?

If so, might they be interested in receiving the Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper? This is a weekly recording containing some ninety minutes of news and features read from the Blackmore Vale Magazine and other local journals including Mere Matters (and so does West Knoyle).

If you would like more information about this completely free service, do please telephone me on the number below or email: [krowlandson@gmail.com](mailto:krowlandson@gmail.com)) or call Colin Francis ☎ 01747 851803. May we look forward to hearing from you?

*Kirstie Rowlandson ☎ 07775 521434*

## **MERE CARNIVAL**

### **Carnival Bingo**

To be held on Saturday, 18th May in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street. Doors open at 7.00pm with 'Eyes Down' at 7.45pm. There will be Excellent prizes, a 'Special', a Raffle and Refreshments. We can promise fun for all the family and 'Thank you' for your support.

The Proceeds will go to the Mere Carnival Funds. Remember, the Oasis Carnival Bingo Club evening in the Lecture Hall on 11th May has no connection with the Mere carnival.

## Prizes Wanted

If you have any unwanted new, small, or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events, we would be very grateful to receive them. They may be used immediately or when we are overwhelmed with your donations, they will be kept for use during Carnival week in September.

They can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom or Waltons Newsagents.  
*Carol Payne, Carnival Secretary, ☎ 01747 861639*

## ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL FETE

### Saturday, 8th June.

Although June seems a long way off, the Fete is only a few weeks away. Contributions to the following stalls will be gratefully received.

Cakes	Thelma Inga	☎ 01747 860262
Sweets & Biscuits	Laura Ford	☎ 01747 863396
Books	Jenny Wilding	☎ 01747 860908
Accessories	Maggie Durkee	☎ 01747 860163
Bric a Brac	Sue Birch	☎ 01747 861703
Preserves	Joan Bell	☎ 01747 861717
Plants & Garden	Judith Thompson	☎ 01747 860553
Hand Made Crafts	Carol Lord	☎ 01747 861923
Bottle Tombola	Steve Hoffman	☎ 01747 860514
Flowers/Tussie Mussies	Sprout & Flower	
Jewellery	Isabel Howell	☎ 01747 860297
Soft Drinks	Angela McDonald	☎ 01747 861602
Ice Creams	Howden Family	☎ 01747 863424
Toys	Carolanne Barry	☎ 01747 861155
CD/DVDs	Neil Wilson-Barker	☎ 01747 861859

## Art Exhibition

Do you paint or draw? We would like to mount an exhibition of drawings and paintings by local amateur artists at the Fete. If you would like to exhibit your artwork, there are entry forms in the Church.

If your work is for sale, and you obtain a buyer at the Fete, we ask that you donate 10% of the sale price to the fete. Details from Jill Turner, 860334

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE**

**MONDAY 20th MAY**

## **Children's Photo Competition - Theme "Animals & Other Creatures"**

See separate entry in the Young Peoples area (page 26).

### **The Quiz**

The Quiz will be on sale from May 1<sup>st</sup> from the Library and the Church. Entry £1.  
Contact me please. *Ann Dethick, ☎ 01747 863498.*

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

### **Requests for Transport - ☎ 01747 860096**

The Mere and District Linkscheme has been quiet over the Easter period, but we are expecting our workload to increase again soon.

We would like to remind our clients that we are not an immediate response service and generally ask for at least 48 hours' notice for a journey. Our co-ordinators will always try to help but please do not be upset if we are unable to help if you have given us less notice. Also please remember that Saturday and Sunday do not count - 48 hours' notice for a Monday trip is at minimum the previous Thursday. We do understand that some appointments will not allow 48 hours' notice but please try.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. Can you help with driving or in any other way? If so please contact us on the above number. *Barbara Thomas (Secretary)*

## **MERE RIVERS GROUP**

### **River Meeting**

The meeting on river maintenance, mentioned in last month's report, had to be postponed due to circumstances beyond the control of the Mere Rivers Group (MRG). It will now take place on **Friday, 10th May** at 2.00pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

A specialist in the management of chalk streams will be giving advice and this will be followed by a tour of our rivers with expert commentary.

All are welcome to what should be an informative and interesting meeting. MRG hope to meet riparian owners and those keen to help make the river scene an attractive amenity for the town and its visitors. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be involved, do please telephone river monitor, Ian Sheppard, ☎ 01747 863370.

*Adrienne Howell, MRG*

## **MERE CREDIT UNION**

All those who have been using this facility would want to lament the sad news last month that Mrs Ann Biswas had died very unexpectedly in the Intensive Care unit at

Salisbury hospital. There was a very moving funeral service at the Parish Church on 8th April with many of the family present.

Ann Biswas was a volunteer helper from the start of the Mere branch of the Credit Union and regularly came to take her turn on Saturdays as a collector. We extend our condolences to the family in this unexpected and very sad bereavement.

Needless to say she has left a gap among the volunteers, so that one or two are now needed to keep the service running smoothly. For more information contact:

*Russell Carpenter ☎ 01747 861365 or Brett Norris ☎ 01747 860 817*



## PROJECT SUNRISE – MERE

### Project Launch

**Wednesday 1st May – 7.00 for 7.30pm**

This is an **open meeting** in the Grove Building to launch the Project and fill in some of the detail of the tasks involved.

The evening will open at 7.00pm with a general networking session to enable interested people to meet informally and question the members of the Chamber who have been involved so far. At 7.30pm there will be a short presentation on the Project Aims and overall plan.

This will be followed by an open session where individuals, businesses, or organisations can offer ideas as to how they can support the individual sub-projects.

The meeting will close by 9.30pm. Some light refreshments will be provided during the course of the evening.

Are you an SPE (Single Person Enterprise)? If so, then we would like you to come along and introduce yourself. We are looking to help such part-time or small businesses. Whether you are a producer or consumer of services, there may be opportunities to publicise and extend recognition of your offering.

There has already been contact from footpaths and walkers groups willing to provide input for local printed or web guides to points of general or historical interest. Links are being established with the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) team to take forward this work.

The project website will be introduced and the plan for a **dedicated business portal** will be outlined. We are looking for local designers to submit ideas to support this. Initially a brief outline of your thoughts would be great. We will offer assistance to small businesses in producing effective websites if there are local designers willing to help. 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!

Opportunities for youth employment are limited and need to be improved. This needs the help of local businesses, as well as Parish Council and County resources. How provision for this can be made will form part of the ongoing tasks. If you are interested in helping, contact me (number below) or Julie Cousins on ☎07856 700 576.

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

## **MERE THEATRE CLUB**

By the time you read this there may be a few tickets left for Terence Rattigan's Less Than Kind, on May 25th at Salisbury Playhouse at 2.15. Cost £28 including coach and ticket. If you are interested (you don't need to be a member), ring Wendy Horne, number below. Otherwise, it won't be long until the autumn programme is available!

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

## **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.

## **BRAMLEY HOUSE**

Come along and enjoy a day at Bramley House Residential Home for morning coffee, lunch and early afternoon tea with activities.

Please contact Simon on ☎ 01747 860192 to book for any Wednesday or Friday. The cost is a charity donation of £7.50 to Cancer Research UK.

*J Avery, SARO ☎ 01747 860192*

## **MERE BRANCH – CANCER RESEARCH UK**

### **May Fayre**

Our May Fayre will take place in the Square on Saturday, 11th May at 10.00am, if wet in the Lecture Hall. There will be Plants, cakes, Books, Tombola, Raffle etc.

At 2.00pm residents and staff at Bramley House will be holding their fete in aid of Cancer Research and at 7.30pm "The Ship " will be holding a Race night with music.

### **40th Anniversary**

It is the 40th anniversary of Mere's local branch and since starting in 1973 we have raised over £260,000.

*Shirley Thomas ☎ 01747 860586 or Gwyneth Robinson ☎ 01747 840927*

## SHORT WALK

This will take place on Wednesday, 8th May. We will meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park as usual to share transport to Stourhead. (Hopefully some people will be prepared to drive).

The Estate Walk, to view the bluebells, takes about 2 hours with one steep climb and a stile. It can be quite wet and muddy in the woods. National Trust cards are not required for this walk. If you wish to meet at the gardens, please wait outside Visitor Reception at about 2.15pm. Further details from me. *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## MERE ART GROUP Art Therapy!

**Would you like to paint but never seem to find the time at home?**

**Why not come and join our friendly informal group at The Grove Building every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00pm**

**No term-times or tutors – we are a mixed ability group and learn from each other.**

**We have a selection of painting materials for you to try out before committing yourself to buying your own.**

**Drop in for a cup of coffee to meet the group and see what we're up to.**

**£2 per session to cover hire of the hall & refreshments**

**(first session complimentary, thereafter you only pay for sessions you attend)**

**Enquiries to Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596**

## PROPOSAL TO FORM MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

It is proposed to form a local community and educational group for people who are interested in visiting heritage railways or modelling railways. The aim of the group will be to further individual's skills and nurture youth development in Mere for those young people interested. The methodology will be to have an interesting development programme from basic to advanced principles, then move on to technological advances and techniques that are embraced in 21st Century Railway Modelling (computer and

smart phone control). This will hopefully bring together youth and experience, thereby bridging the generation gap.

A Model Railway Exhibition will be held in the Lecture Hall on Saturday, 15th June, in aid of 'Brainwave'.

More details in the June edition of 'Mere Matters'. For those interested in the proposal, please contact me: *Tom Snook* 📞 01747 861977

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

We have two big events to announce this month. The first is that a small (but perfectly formed) cast performed a one-act play called 'Relics' in the Woolstore Theatre's one-act play festival on Friday, 26th April.

We plan to make it possible for our supporters to see a performance in Mere – for that, and the results, watch this space!

Secondly, our **AGM** will take place on **Monday, 13th May at 7.30pm in the Small Hall**, in the Lecture Hall. Subs are due, coffee will be served and a merry time shall be had by all. *Jenny Wilding* 📞 01747 860908

## MERE FILM SHOWS

On Thursday, 9th May we are screening the film '*Les Misérables*' (12A) for which Anne Hathaway won Best Supporting Actress in both the BAFTAs and Oscars. It is an extraordinary film not least for the fact that the singing was 'live' on set and not dubbed in afterwards as is usual with most musicals, and has won outstanding reviews from all quarters.

The story is set in 19th century France where Jean Valjean, who for decades has been hunted by the ruthless policeman Javert after he breaks parole, agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's daughter, Cosette. The fateful decision changes their lives forever. Full details on page 30.

### Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 13th June: 'Argo'.

*Mary White* 📞 01747 861257

## MERE FILM SHOWS - DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Regular members of our Film Shows audience may be aware that for the past couple of years there has been no distribution of funds from the small profits of the film shows, and this has been due to the fact that the profits have been extremely small! Therefore we have waited until this year when we feel there is sufficient in the pot to invite applications for these funds.

Once again the Parish Council has agreed to the distribution of these funds to organisations in Mere that are currently fundraising or are in need of funds for a particular purpose. To this end organisations are invited to apply in writing for a share of these funds, giving brief details of their activities and requirements. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Mary White, Mere Parish Council, The Parish Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere BA12 6EW and should arrive by Friday, 14th June please.

*Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

## **REAL BREAD MAKERS FORTNIGHT**

**6th – 17th May**

Please note in your diary for May:

**Monday, 6th May OPEN DAY** at Cann Mills, (Stoates Organic Stoneground Flour), and Panary, (Bread Making courses), 10.00am – 5.00pm, just south of Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0BL.

### **Tuesday, 7th May, 7.30pm in the Grove Building**

‘Making Bread the Long Crichel Way’ with Jamie Campbell, a director of the Long Crichel Bakery, Wimborne – Real Bread Bakers. Tickets, to include a loaf of bread, £5.00, selling fast, 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!

Please get in touch if you would like one of the donated Bread Machines – there is one left. Also, we are still looking for more books for the bookstall. Can you help?

The event is supported by Wiltshire Council’s South West Area Board. For more information, please get in touch - Knead I say more.....?

*Judy Phillips* ☎ 01747 860835

## **WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

### **Spring Concert**

Wincanton Choral Society (WCS) under their conductor Simon Twiselton will be presenting their Spring Concert on Sunday, 12th May.

There will be just one major work - Mendelssohn’s glorious masterpiece, ‘Elijah’ with Tom Hunt singing the title role. Other soloists include Melanie Armistead, soprano,

Arabella Heaton, alto and Paul Badley, tenor. The choir will be supported by a full orchestra, led by Edward Burns.

The concert commences at 7.30pm in Wincanton Sports Centre.. Tickets priced £13.50 (£6.50 18 and under) will be available from: [www.bradsons.co.uk](http://www.bradsons.co.uk) ☎ 01749 813899, Wincanton Town Hall, Sherborne Tourist Information Centre, Society members or on the door.  
*Alice Griffiths, for W. C. S., ☎ 01963 351916*

## SHREEN HARMONY

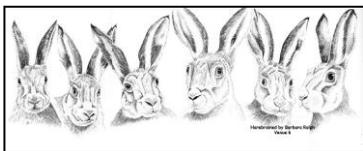
Members of Shreen Harmony have been faithfully turning out in all weathers on Thursday evenings to rehearse their new programme of songs from around the world. This year they bring you an exciting and eclectic mix of songs from mediaeval times to the twentieth century.

Shreen Harmony's first performance of the year will take place on: Thursday 23rd May at St Mary's Church in Gillingham. The performance will start at 7.30 and is in aid of Dementia Awareness.

Further performances will take place in the following months at St Michael's Annual Fete on Saturday, 8th June, St Michael's church on the Saturday, 22nd June and at Stourhead on Saturday, 13th July.

Please keep an eye out for further details of these performances nearer the time and thank you very much for your continuing support.

You can learn more about the choir from their website [www.shreenharmony.co.uk](http://www.shreenharmony.co.uk) or via their facebook page.  
*Jane Edwards ☎ 01985 840065*



## WYLYE VALLEY ART TRAIL

Saturday, 25th May marks the start of this year's Wylve Valley Art Trail that runs until Sunday, 2nd June. It is a 9 day festival of visual art and crafts in and around the Wylve Valley. It covers a 12 mile radius from the centre of the Wylve Valley, including Warminster, Westbury, Maiden Bradley, Mere, Hindon, Tisbury, Wylve, Zeals, and villages in between. It was established in 2001 and takes place every other year and consists of open studios and workplaces, galleries, exhibitions by individual artists, craftspeople and groups, and other events such as demonstrations, workshops and children's activities.

There are many artists and craftspeople taking part all around the Wylve Valley and a guide map is available locally or check the website at: [www.wvat.co.uk](http://www.wvat.co.uk). This year there are over 280 participating artists at 86 different venues, look out for the signs around the area displaying the relevant numbers.

Entrance is free and most are open from 10.30 until 5.30 pm daily, some of the work is for sale and, you never know, you might even take advantage of the opportunity to acquire a unique piece of art – or just go in and have a look and meet your local budding artisans! *Barbara Ralph, Stourton Art Group, ☎ 07771 502158*

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next speaker meeting is 'Roses' by Malcolm Mills at 7.30pm in the Grove Building on Wednesday, 8th May. Malcolm Mills is one of the popular Castle Gardens speakers. He will have a wealth of tips and advice on all aspects of roses, and bring plants for sale. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

If you were unable to get to the AGM you can pay your subscription (£7) at this meeting, or else contact me.

*The speaker for the April meeting apologises to all who came for his talk on Willow Weaving. Apparently he had confused his dates and hopes we will give him a second chance next year.*

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MERE MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

The Mothers' Union locally (Salisbury Diocese) provides 'Away From It All' holidays for a small number of families in difficulties who need a break and would otherwise have no chance of having a holiday. Some have a week at the MU caravan at Durdle Door; some join other families for a week at a seaside hotel in Sidmouth with large grounds and a swimming pool, where all meals and a range of activities are provided. (All holidays are fully booked for this year, but if you know of a family in need of such a holiday, please let us know for another year.)

**Sue Gallagher** who is the **holiday leader** is our speaker at our meeting in the **Grove Building at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 14th May**. All welcome to come and find out more.

*Judith Thompson (MU Branch Leader) ☎ 01747 860553*



## MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Last month we held our bi-annual Craft and Cookery Show which was a great success, featuring classes in cookery and preserves, handicrafts, flower arrangements and photographs, showcasing all our members varied interests and talents.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2nd May in the Grove Building. The first half of the meeting will be a discussion on the National Federation of WI's 2013 Resolution on the "Decline of our High Streets and Town Centres." At the end of the debate we will vote whether to support the Resolution or not at their AGM on the 1st June.

After a break for light refreshments, we are having a Beetle Drive with a difference! So why not join us for an evening of two completely different halves and combine your talents with ours. New members and visitors are always welcome.

*Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323*

## ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

### For the Over 60s

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

Our Skittles knockout fundraiser is to be held at Mere Social Club on Saturday, 1st June. We have limited spaces, which are already filling up fast, so please contact me if

you would like to be added to the list. The cost is £5.00 per person to include a light ploughman's supper.

It is an individual knockout with a minimum of two hands, but if you are good enough or luck is on your side, you could end up playing through five rounds to win the prestigious trophy! We will also be holding a raffle on the night with prizes kindly donated from local people, shops and organisations.

We currently have spaces for new guests at the centre, 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, RGC Organiser ☎ 07563 272406*

## FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

You will be astonished to learn that The Friends of Fives Court have just entered their tenth year! We are very proud of what we have achieved for the Residents during that time, but you can rest assured that we're not stopping yet. With this issue of Mere Matters we are proud to announce the launch of a campaign we are calling **Five K for Fives!** We aim to raised five thousand pounds which will be devoted solely to funding the hire of buses or mini-vans whenever they are needed to take Residents out and about, something they do so enjoy. Just a trip to the garden centre can cost hundreds of pounds and very rapidly eats away Amenity funds.

Our first fund-raising event in aid of this project is a **Coffee Morning on Saturday, 18th May at 10.00am in the Lecture Hall.** Put it in your diary, make us a cake, come and support us and be among the first to help get this campaign off the ground!

The Friends are also badly in need of an outside storage unit – we think a garden shed would perfectly fit the bill. But they are expensive to buy new. Does anyone happen to have a sturdy, waterproof shed, at least 6' x 4', that you would be prepared to donate, or to let us buy for a modest sum? If so, please get in touch. Thank you.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club April drawn after the early Holy Communion Service in St Michael's on Sunday, 7th April by Mr R. Coward was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 90	Mrs M Durkee
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 46	Miss S Brown
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 111	Mr C Stephenson
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 79	Mr R Dearnaly

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## MERE MUSEUM

Less than a week since it opened, our latest exhibition, **Mere Vistas**, had received more comments in the Visitors' Book than some exhibitions do during four whole months! There certainly are some superb photographers in Mere – do go and admire their work, and perhaps be inspired by them. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUEUM

The big news this month is, of course, our **Annual Plant Sale** which takes place on **Saturday, 11th May at 10.00am in the Grove Building**. Our display of plants is second to none, and what is more, you have the chance to win a magnificent hamper! There will be a cake stall too – for which we would be very grateful to have contributions, large or small. If you have plants for us to sell, please let us\* know and we will collect. Likewise for cakes, or just bring these on the morning of 11th. See you there!

*\*David Longbourne, ☎ 01747 860243, Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Avebury and the Manor House and Garden

**Monday, 20th May 2013**

Avebury is one of the most important megalithic monuments in Europe where you can wander among the stones or join a National Trust tour (£3), and look round the museum.

In 2011 the sixteenth century Manor house was transformed in collaboration with the BBC, and many of you will have seen the TV programme about the process. This is a golden opportunity to see the end result.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.00am  
and return by 5.30-6.00pm**

Cost: MHS Members £12, non-members £14 per person  
*Excludes NT entrance fee to Manor House and gardens of £10, so please  
remember to bring your card, if you are a member of the National Trust.*

**Booking forms and details are available at Mere library.**

**Kelmscott Manor, Thursday, 20th June**

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 8.45am and return by 5.00-5.30pm**

**This visit is already FULLY BOOKED**

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.** *Caroline Cook* ☎ 01747 861797

**MERE SNOOKER CLUB**

Calling all you snooker enthusiasts - not played for years? Fascinated by the craft of snooker? Interested in learning? It is never too late to pick up a cue again or start from the beginning. Our members welcome both committed players and those who are just learning. So please contact me for details.

*Kevin Smith, Secretary* ☎ 01747 860305

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

We opened as planned on Saturday, 6th April and what a day we had; good weather (for a change) and a fantastic turn out of existing, new and a number of possible new members. In all, 28 existing members and 5 new members had a great game of bowls, while 8 prospective members were given the basics of the game by two of our trained coaches. A further 9 members couldn't be there for a variety of reasons. Things are looking brighter on the membership front for the new season and hopefully beyond.

On Saturday, 4th May, we will be holding an Open Day and Fete in the School Grounds on Springfield Road, all are welcome. We will have a number of stalls where you will be able to buy plants, bric a brac, books and cakes; there will be a raffle and we will have Bowls Coaches on hand to show anyone interested in the game how it is done. So why not come along and give the game a try and enjoy yourself at the fete. All the proceeds of the day are for the Bowls Club.

For any information regarding the club or the sport of Bowls please contact: Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215; Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747 860976 or ✉ [jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk); or me, Don Butchers, by telephone (number follows) or ✉ [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775*

## MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

The weather gods were smiling for our opening on 6th April, the nicest day we have seen for quite some weeks. There was a large attendance and a lot of reunions following the long and tedious winter. Both the Croquet Lawn and the Boule Court, each of which looked in great shape, had heavy usage right through to late afternoon. It was pleasant to welcome some new faces and we look forward to seeing a lot more of them in the coming months.

If you would like to sample the facilities we have on offer and meet our friendly and welcoming members, do come along to the Steep Street Green any Saturday afternoon.

To learn more please do not hesitate to give me a call.

*Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 86083*



## WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

### Family Events at our Nature Reserves

### The wonders of wildflowers.

Join us as we discover more about the spring flowers growing at our Nature Reserves. We will go for a walk to discover more about plants using our five senses and find out about their mystical pasts.

Do you know which plant was thought to ring it's "bells" to call fairies to their midnight procession?

Bring a picnic and stay on to enjoy exploring our reserve.

**Dates and Venues:**

Lower Moor Farm, Oaksey: Wednesday, 29th May 2013

Langford Lakes, Salisbury: Friday, 31st May 2013

Time: 10.00am to 12.00noon

For more information and to book places please ☎ 01722 790770 or

✉: pamelac@wiltshirewildlife.org

**Admission:** £5.00 per child, under 3's free

Please remember for all our events:

- All children must be accompanied by an adult
- Please wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate to the weather and season

Our activities are specially designed for children under the age of 12.

*Pam Clemett, Administration Assistant, ☎ 01722 790770*

**ATTENTION YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS**

We are all looking forward to the Church Fete on Saturday, 8th June, but we want to call on all junior budding photographers to submit an entry on the subject of "Animals and any other Creatures".

The entry forms and post boxes for entries are prominently placed in St Michael's Church, Sprout and Flower, Mere Library and Mere School.

There are two age groups: 10 years old and under, and 11-15 years, on the closing date, Saturday, 1st June. One photo from every entrant will be on display in St Michael's at the Fete.

Get snapping and printing soon, and post your pictures in one of the boxes so that they can be judged by Rose Cox LRP and Margaret Lawson Smith. If you have any queries, please call me.

*Rose Cox ☎ 01747 861604*

**SECURE MINI STORAGE UNITS**

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

High level of security - Mere area.01747 863318



# **YELLOW**

**STOP PRESS!**  
Look on our website for  
latest news and pictures:  
[www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)

## **Spring Week at Mere School**

We have all enjoyed a very exciting Spring Week in school where we have celebrated Easter and new life.

### **Maypole Madness**

In keeping with Spring traditions, we set up our old school maypole. All of the classes had great fun learning new dances. Jack Palmer-Webb said "It was good doing the different dances!" All the children got into the spirit and clapped along to the music. "It was fun especially when the teachers joined in!" *Linley Bateson*.

### **Lovely Lambs**

We were very lucky to have a visit from Mr and Mrs Barton with some of their new lambs. All of the children went to visit and really enjoyed learning about the young lambs. "They were white and fluffy with special numbers on," said Matthew Wade "... and very cute!" finished *Elijah Peach*.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

"The Easter Bunny hid chocolate eggs in the school garden and we had to find them. It was great fun!" said Phoebe Scoulding. Thank you to The Friends of Mere School!

## **Spring Collage**

We all joined in helping to make a huge 'Spring Collage' to update our school art work. "It was fun making the leaves," said Sophie Kelly. Lucy Webb said "I enjoyed helping and it looks really pretty on the wall!"

### **Eggcellent Decorations**

We all designed and decorated an Easter egg each. We visited different classes and voted for our favourite ones. Congratulations to the winners: *Alice Barton, Linley Bateson, Charlie Perry, Charlie Bateson, Ellie Byrn, Sophie Kelly, Matthew Scaife and Lauren Mead*.

### **Spring Walks**

Each Class went on a Spring Walk around Mere looking for signs of spring. "It was cold, but we had a nice biscuit at Mrs Harvey's house!" explained Ona Vicens-Margenet. "And we saw Daffodils!" said Kiedis Boughen.

### **Easter Service**

On Thursday afternoon we all went to a special Easter service at the church. "It was lovely and I liked singing," said Jessica Robilliard.

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

After such a wet winter and spring we are really looking forward to moving into May and hoping for some sunshine to get us all outside to use our exciting new outdoor equipment and to enjoy some fresh air.

Our joint tea party, in partnership with Mere Pre-School, mentioned in last month's article for Red Nose Day raised well over £100.

Sadly, on our Spring Open Day on 13th April, rain kept many people at home, but those who did brave the elements had a great time: following our Egg Quest, bringing in their old books to take advantage of our 'Book Swap' Stall and engaging in all the available activities. It was great to see mums colouring with their kids and Dads helping their children in the dressing-up corner. Many thanks to those who provided raffle prizes, which were greatly appreciated by the children who won them.

Stay and Play at 9.30am on Wednesdays enjoyed a great Easter Fun day with an Easter Egg colouring competition – both for children and carers. We now look forward to the summer term session planned around the development of both fine and large motor skills with lots of fun activities for your children to take part in.

Thursdays finds us employed in a variety of activities. On the first Thursday of the month we work in partnership with Mere Pre-School so that the children there can take advantage of our lovely kitchen to cook up banana cake, biscuits, fruit salad and scrumptious scones, and on the third Thursday we take these activities to the Lecture Hall to join up with Tiddlers and Toddlers for a morning of fun and to get together with Mums and toddlers in the area.

On Friday afternoons at 1.30pm in the Centre we have our baby group, Mere Babes, when parents of young babies get together to meet each other. Recently we have been looking at activities which promote and support the development of speech and language, and now we are moving into a 6 week module planned to explore ways to help and encourage babies in their physical development. Babies like to socialise as much as their parents do, so if you have a baby under 18 months come along and join in with this friendly, relaxed and supportive group.

Our Sensory Room is a great experience for babies and toddlers and is available for booking for individual sessions by ringing the number below and talking to a member of staff.

Coming up, we have a 'Just for Dads' day on Staturday. 11th May. This is a free session for Dads with children under 5 though older siblings are welcome too. We have fun Craft Activities and Messy Play for you to do with your children as well as enjoying a free breakfast butty! Come along and meet other like minded Dads, we would love to see you.

*Jane Smith, Mere Children's Centre, ☎ 01747 861108*

**THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE  
ARCHANGEL**

**SPRING BAZAAR**

**Saturday, 4th May**

**10.00am – 12.00noon**

**In the Grove Building, Church Street, Mere**

**Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Plants, Cakes, Books, Friends Stall**

**Do come along and have a cup of coffee and meet friends.**

**Everyone is welcome.**

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# 'Les Misérables' (12A)

**Hugh Jackman Anne Hathaway Russell Crowe**

After he breaks parole, ex-convict Jean Valjean (**Jackman**) is hunted by the ruthless policeman Javert (**Crowe**). When Valjean flees to Paris with the orphaned daughter of Fantine (**Hathaway**), their lives change forever.

Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption - a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday 9th May, 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**

## **REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, WRITING AS THE CHAIR OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE AND DISTRICT:**

The walk of witness up Castle Hill was a special event and the weather was fine. The physical act of carrying a heavy cross, pausing to listen to words that provoke and test bring a new dimension to understanding. Thank you to everyone who took part and erected the cross. Sadly the cross on the hill is a source of discomfort to some and so we agreed to take it down on 8th April as a way of showing respect to our neighbours having had the opportunity to practice our faith. It brings to mind the way the Union Flag became the cause of conflict recently in Belfast: symbols can be a precious inspiration or the cause of pain and anger.

May is one of my favourite times of the year. In my mind it is the bridge between the worst of winter and the easiness of summer. It is the month of that nationwide campaign by Christian Aid to raise money and awareness of the plight of people throughout the world struggling against poverty or ignorance. It is a charity I particularly like to support because it helps where disaster strikes, but also has programmes which give money to people to encourage independent living and better education. Please help this campaign by becoming a collector door-to-door (speak to me or Judith Thompson about this).

On the 30th of June there is an exciting prospect for Churches Together, an 11.00am service in Stourhead Gardens at the cross by the lake followed by a picnic in the grounds. There will not be any mid-morning services in all the churches of the area that day as we will gather together to worship. (We'll use St Peter's if it is wet). We are making plans to give lifts.

I am new to the role of the chairship of Churches Together and am grateful to have the support of Janet Way and Judith as the secretaries and the backing of the ministers and committee. I feel that in this era of deep questioning of the Christian faith the role of Christians working together in prayer and support of one another and their community is vitally important. The strength of our love for one another and ability to resolve sometimes ancient differences is what marks us out from other organisations as Christians.

Peter let Jesus down so badly before the crucifixion. Later, when they met, Jesus asked Peter if he loved him and Peter said he did. Jesus replied "feed my sheep". Jesus did not use words to show his forgiveness but instead encouraged Peter to care for and love others. So must we.

With love in Christ.

## LENT LUNCHESES REPORT

Churches Together in Mere and District joined together again for the very popular Lunches every Friday throughout Lent. We enjoyed delicious home-made soup, bread and cheese and enjoyed each others' company while raising money for Christian Aid and CAFOD. Over the 7 weeks, £726.10 was raised and together with the collection taken on Good Friday's Procession of Witness, over £800 will be sent to support the work of these charities.

The Lunches would not be possible without the generous contributions of many; whether the soup-cookers, lunch servers, washer-uppers, stall holders, table movers or for the many who come along. My thanks go to everyone.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## ST MICHAELS COFFEE 'DROP IN'

**In the Grove Building on the First Friday of each month.**

The next 'Drop In' is on Friday, 3rd May at 10.30am. Come and join us for coffee/tea/juice/'posh biscuits'. Chat with friends or simply take time out of a busy day for a welcome coffee.

*Christine Marsh LLM ☎ 01747 861717*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK NEEDS YOU! 12th-18th May

Can you spare a couple of hours between 12th-18th May delivering/collecting Christian Aid envelopes? In doing so you will not only be helping to transform the lives of people living in the kind of poverty we can hardly even imagine, but you will also have the chance to meet people living around you in Mere who (mostly!) are glad to help in this care. Christian Aid works very closely with overseas partners to ensure that all the money raised is well spent, as well as seeking to remedy the causes of hunger and poverty. If you can help **PLEASE SIGN THE LIST at St Michael's church**, or give me a ring. **PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!**

Very many thanks to all who came to meet our Area Bishop, The Rt Revd Ed Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury, and the Bishop of Swindon on their sponsored cycle ride for Christian Aid through Wiltshire – in horrible weather! And grateful thanks to Merely Women for their hospitality for the Bishops' refreshment stop in Mere, at the Grove Building. *Judith Thompson (Mere Christian Aid rep) ☎ 01747 860553*

**ST MARY the VIRGIN WEST KNOYLE CHURCH  
COUNTRY FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, 1st June 2.00-5-00pm & Sunday, 2nd June 2.00-  
4.00pm**

**LANDSCAPED GARDEN ADJACENT TO CHURCH  
OPEN to VISITORS**

**DELICIOUS CREAM TEAS, Cake & Plants stalls  
ALL WELCOME**

**Followed on Sunday, 2nd June with  
Songs of Praise Service in St Mary's at 4.30pm  
For more information: Liz Hide ☎ 01747 830422**

## CAFÉ WORSHIP

On Wednesday, 29th May in the Methodist Church. Coffee at 10.30am with worship at 11.00am. Everyone welcome. *M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

## VICARAGE GARDENING PARTY

A big thank you to all those who came to help. 18 people came including 5 children, some coffee makers and then there was Balou, the "helpful", happy and in the end muddy and wet, labrador. It was a happy time with wonderful cakes care of the Howden family. The garden is looking tidier and ready for some planting. The Vicarage Garden Tea will be at the end of the summer. *Rev'd Carol*

## St. Peter's Church, Stourton

Concert 7.30pm, Saturday, 15th June

### *Raising the Roof*

**Thomas Bowes, violin**  
JS Bach Pilgrimage UK Tour

**Tickets £10**

(includes glass of wine)

Thieves in the night stole the lead off the roof of St. Peter's Church. Come and hear the miracle of Bach's deep faith, humility and wondrous creativity to help raise the roof once more on our beautiful Grade 1 listed Church.

*Jane Joyce ☎ 01747 840149 ✉: j-joyce@dircon.co.uk*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

### MAY 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**

**Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424**

**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)**

<b>Each Thursday</b>			The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker is not available
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	1st	6.00pm	'Start the Month' Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	5th	10.30am	ROGATION Sunday Holy Communion benefice Service at Bush Farm, The Bison Centre. NO service at St Michaels
Thursday		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	9th	7.30am	ASCENSION DAY Hymns at top of Church Tower
		8.00am	Holy Communion followed by Parish Breakfast. See Pew sheet for details
	12th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Children's Sunday Club
	19th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	26th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	'Messy Sunday' in Grove Building with meal provided.

### The United Reformed Church

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)**

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	12th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	19th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	26th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

### The Methodist Church (☎ Shaftesbury 01747 854631)

**Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370**

Sunday	5th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
	12th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine with Churches Together
	19th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine Holy Communion
	26th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page

### 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**

Sundays	5th	10.30am	<b>ROGATION SUNDAY</b> Holy Communion benefice Service at Bush Farm, The Bison Centre
	12th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	19th	9.15am	DIY
	26th	9.15am	Holy Communion

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 Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club; PWC Prince of Wales Club RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; YC-Youth Centre**

## MAY 2013

1	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Project Sunrise Open Launch Meeting	GB
2	Thur	<b>7.00am</b>	- <b>10.00pm POLLING STATION</b>	<b>L</b>
		10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (every Thursday)	MSC
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
3	Fri	10.00am	St Michaels Coffee "Drop in"	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 10th, 17th & 31st)	L
4	Sat	10.00am	- 12 noon Mere Credit Union (also 18th)	Lib
		10.00am	- "Spring Bazaar", Friends of St Michael's	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (also 11th, 18th, & 25th)	CC
6	Mon	9.00am	Chair Based Zumba & Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	CC
7	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	L
		6.00pm	Zumba Toner (everyTuesday)	L

7	Tue	7.00pm	Local Mission and Ministry Review.	CC
		7.30pm	Real Bread Makers Fortnight (Long Crichel way)	GB
8	Wed	1.45pm	Whist Drive	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
9	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows: "Les Misérables"	L
10	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 24th)	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Rivers Group Meeting	AYP
11	Sat	10.00am	- "Annual Plant Sale", Friends of Mere Museum	GB
		10.00am	May Fayre (Lecture Hall if wet)	The Square
		2.00pm	Bramley House Fete	Bramley House
		7.00pm	Oasis Club Bingo	L
		7.30pm	Race Night in aid of Cancer Research	The Old Ship
13	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 20th & 27th)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (also 20th)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 20th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 20th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 20th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society AGM (Small Hall)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
14	Tue	2.00pm	Wilts Council - Tenants follow up meeting	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		6.00pm	Sowing Seeds Local Action Group	L
15	Wed	7.30pm	Church meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB
16	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 23rd & 30th)	L
		3.00pm	Real Bread makers Week "Bake in"	L
18	Sat	10.00am	Friends of Fives Court Coffee Morning	L
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Club Bingo	L
19	Sun	10.00am	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
21	Tue	7.30pm	St Michael's PCC Meeting	GB
22	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
24	Fri	10.30pm	- 5.30pm Art exhibition (Small hall until 1/6/13)	L
26	Sun	4.00pm	Messy Sunday	GB
28	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
29	Wed	11.00am	- 12.00noon Café Worship	MH

### Art and Craft Work by Roger Dennis

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## **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](http://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

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

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

# **COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2013 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the June 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, 20th May 2013**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: [merematters@inbox.com](mailto:merematters@inbox.com) from Monday, 13th May 2013.

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

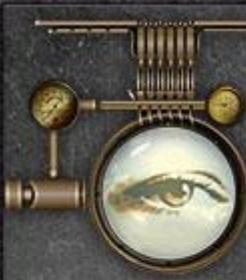
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