

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



April 2015

PASSED ON

Peter Durkee

I cannot let the passing of Peter Durkee in January go unnoticed. Long term readers of Mere Matter will recall that Peter was the Editor of the magazine for many years. The Rev'd Ben Elliot, Vicar of St Michaels, had started "Mere Matters and so does West Knoyle" in 1984 as a community magazine by growing it out of the former church magazine. Ben had been the founder editor, but realised that to make it a real community magazine he would have to stand back and others came forward for short periods, but it was not until Peter Durkee took over as editor in June 1988 that it began to gain acceptance with local people as a community and not a church magazine.

It was just eight pages in total when Peter took over, but by the time he handed over the editorship to John Wilson in December 1999, some ten years later, it had doubled in size to 16 pages and had introduced commercial advertising. Many of the organisations and societies contributing to the magazine today were courted by Peter and have helped it to become the well-read magazine that it is today.

Retiring from the editorship as an Octogenarian, one would have expected Peter to take things more easily, but no, he went on to write two autobiographies and several novels, one based on an ancestor who emigrated to America at the time of the Pilgrim Fathers in the 16th Century.

All his books were dedicated to his wife Pat, around whom his second autobiography was written, and to whom he was devoted. She predeceased him by a couple of weeks, but it was fitting that they were laid to rest together following a joint funeral in late January.

MOVED ON

Dr Colin Anderson

Since the year 2000, Dr Colin Anderson's meticulous engineering drawings of prominent buildings in Mere have graced the front covers of Mere Matters. Colin, a prominent Civil Engineer, retired to Mere and for most of his time in the town, he became a stalwart of both the Mere Historical Society and Mere Museum (including founding the Friends of Mere Museum) as well as practising his skills as an artist. However, following the recent loss of his wife, Gillian, he has now left Mere for Nottingham to be closer to his family. We wish him well in the future and know that through his legacy of artworks and paintings, both on the covers of Mere Matters and hanging on walls in many homes in Mere, he will always be remembered.

Graham Avory, Editor

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you!

You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 13th April 2015**.

The Chairman writes:

I am sure you are all aware that for some weeks now, Mere has been affected by an abundance of heavy plant machinery, diversions and temporary traffic lights. This brings to the fore the problems a small town incurs when essential works are being carried out. Traffic management is an important everyday issue for Mere and the Parish Council. Several weeks ago, Cllr Clive Hazzard and Cllr Brett Norris accompanied Julie Wharton, Wiltshire Council's Senior Traffic Engineer, on a reconnaissance walk around Mere. The CATG [Community Area Transport Group] are to consider the results and suggestions arising from this collaboration and a scheme has been put forward for consideration. This issue, along with the proposed changing of status from Mere Parish Council to Mere Town Council, will be on the agenda at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at The Andy Young Pavilion on Thursday, 23rd April starting at 7.30pm, with refreshments available from 7.00pm. We hope to see lots of you there.

Also, on the subject of safe traffic and pedestrian "flow" around Mere, I would like to ask that the owners of properties with hedges adjacent to footpaths, pavements and the highway keep them trimmed back. Overgrown hedges can seriously affect visibility splays, sight lines and safety for vehicles and those on foot.

I am pleased to say that quotations for the work needed to repair the Clock Tower are now in, and a decision will be made very soon. Inevitably, scaffolding will be an important element of this refurbishment process.

Following a consultation from BT on their current programme of proposed public payphone removals, the Parish Council has adopted the telephone kiosk outside The George in The Square. The telephone has been removed (or will be removed very shortly) and the Parish Council hopes to use the kiosk for display purposes for groups and organisations in Mere.

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



At the time of writing this report and with fingers crossed, I am delighted that we have reached British Summer Time without serious winter weather. I hope I have not spoken too soon!

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 ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701.

Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting held on 10th March, Cllr. Brian Wessely reported that he had attended the Community Area Transport Group meeting on 12th January when the proposals for improved signage and directions arrows on the B3089 at Willoughby Hedge were discussed. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Senior Traffic Engineer would draw up a formal scheme for further consultation/funding.

The Parish Council discussed possible requirements for facilities/equipment in the play area and it was felt that a goal post and benches may be useful additions, but if anyone has any other ideas or suggestions we would love to hear from you.

The Parish Council also said that they would welcome the use of the Community Area Speed Indicator Device within the village on occasions (it is shared with all the other villages in the Mere Community Area) and members agreed to erect a pole just outside the play area for this purpose.

Both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th May 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:

This month I have been very busy bringing a new Main model of The Post Office to Mere which has involved long hours and stress. The new facility for Mere seems to be well received.

A junction that affects us when travelling on the B3092 (Mere to Frome Road) where it meets the fast and well used junction of Stourhead, requires the road signs to be redesigned. After more than a year this problem has with Stourton Parish Council's help hopefully been addressed. I am now pursuing Wiltshire Council to provide the new designed signs.

Near the Welcome to Mere sign on the B3095 at the top of Mere Down, a white coloured bank of cameras and equipment has appeared. I have been asked why this structure is

required; I understand it is to monitor the road to see what road treatment is required. I am told it will make our roads safer which must be a bonus.

Universal Credit began in Wiltshire on 16th March 2015, following an announcement by the Wessex branch of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

Many people on benefits believe that the financial risks of moving into work are too great. For some, the gains from work, particularly if they work part-time, are small, and any gain can easily be cancelled out by costs such as transport.

The Government believes that:

- the current benefit system is too complex
- there are insufficient incentives to encourage people on benefits to start paid work or increase their hours

Through Universal Credit the Government is aiming to:

- make the benefit system fairer and more affordable
- reduce poverty, worklessness and welfare dependency
- reduce levels of fraud and error

The intention of reforming the welfare system is to help more people to move into and progress in work, while supporting the most vulnerable.

Universal Credit (UC) is the latest national welfare benefit which will eventually replace six other benefits provided by the DWP and HMRC. It will eventually replace Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance, Income based Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit.

Claimants will always be encouraged to apply on line and report any change in circumstance, also on line. The completed claim will not be processed locally, but in a Service Centre in either Glasgow or Bolton.

It is important to note that in this initial phase, which runs from 16 March 2015 to May 2016, only single, unemployed people will qualify for UC. Every UC award will be paid monthly, in arrears, and claimants will receive their payment direct, approximately five weeks after the claim is registered.

Some support will be available to those who either struggle with the delay in payment, through an advanced payment made by the DWP, which will then be recovered from on-going payments. When rent is not paid on time a landlord can apply to the DWP for an alternative payment arrangement (known as an APA).

Whilst support in terms of budgeting will be made available through the council, management of complex debt may require referral to agencies better equipped, in this case the Citizens Advice Bureau. The council's role will be to ensure that residents are supported in the initial stages of their claim and:

- To provide access to computers,
- Assistance to get on line and apply on line
- Budgeting support and money advice
- Supporting vulnerable claimants and providing access to discretionary funds and local welfare provision.

Wiltshire is therefore well placed to be one of the first local authorities in the west to support the roll out of universal credit.

Universal Credit Eligibility. Claimants must conform to the following and more:

- Be single.
- Must have a National Insurance Number.
- Be aged between 18 and 60 and six months.
- Not own or partially own the home they live in.
- Not be homeless or live in support or exempt accommodation.
- Not have a child or qualifying young person (QYP) living with them some or all of the time.
- Not be liable to pay child support maintenance.
- Not be responsible for providing care to a person with physical or mental impairment, unless on a paid or voluntary work basis.
- Must not have a fitness for work note or have applied for a fitness for work note. Claimants must declare themselves fit for work.
- Must not be considered as having limited capability for work.
- Not be pregnant, or have been pregnant in the last 15 weeks.
- Not be in education or training of any kind.
- Not be self-employed.
- Not be a company director or part of a limited liability partnership.
- Be unemployed or declared earned income for the first month of the UC claim is not expected to exceed £330.
- Capital must not exceed £6000.
- Must have a bank, building society, post office or current account with a credit union.

Our South West Wiltshire Area Board budget allocation for 2015/2016 has now been announced. It has been set at £56976 plus £1500 towards Digital Literacy.

I was pleased to discover that a volunteer is patrolling Mere removing dog excrement left in public areas, hopefully he may see who the offenders are. Dog excrement can cause a child to lose its sight.

Superfast Broadband is almost with us in Mere, I hope when available it will be used, but it will cost a premium.

WILTSHIRE GOOD NEIGHBOURS



The clocks have changed and as the evenings are drawing out, the temptation is to be out in the garden if you have one but we all open up our windows to let that wonderful warm fresh air indoors. However it is important to ensure that you do not make it easy for unwelcome visits into your home.

- Don't forget that there are many 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.

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
- Also note that they are not just after items in your home. Your shed has expensive equipment in it. Keep it locked and if you are working outside and stop for a welcome cup of tea don't leave tools lying around because they may well be gone when you come back out.
- If you note suspicious vans in your area dial 101 and talk to the police desk about your concerns

If you are in doubt about the effectiveness of your home security I can help arrange a free security and fire check in your home. Contact me:

Ann-Marie Dean, Wiltshire Good Neighbour ☎ 07557 922023.

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 LIBRARY NEWS

On Tuesday afternoons between 1.30 and 4.30pm you will be able to meet our new "Health Trainer", Charlotte High. She is here to encourage us to make positive lifestyle changes, so do drop in to meet her and hear what she has to suggest.

A reminder, if you read this in time, that there is a children's Easter activity here on Tuesday, 31st March from 2.30 to 4.00pm.

All Mere school children – don't forget to come in to the library to get your loyalty card stamped and be in with a chance to win a celebration party for your class!

Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546



POLICE REPORT

More Non-Dwelling Burglaries

Unfortunately as we go to press we have had more reports of break in to sheds and building sites on our patch, with thieves targeting tradesmen who use power tools in their work. A property in Castle Hill Crescent was broken in to last week and chain saws etc were stolen. Along with a break-in at a house being renovated

in Semley; drills etc were taken in this one.

Operation Midas is run by police from Dorset, Hampshire and **Wiltshire** to target thieves who use the cover of darkness to commit crime in rural locations. We go out in force in marked and unmarked vehicles, even sometimes with local farmers who assist us in identifying areas where there may be thefts. We stop any vehicle which seems out of place, or is seen in suspicious circumstances and deal with offenders robustly. It is a good example of inter-force working as we share intelligence to assist us in identifying would be burglars.

Whilst out on patrol I have spoken to many residents and a few have shown me alarms that they have installed on sheds and garages, which I am told can cost as little as £103! There are cheaper ones, I am sure, just 'Google' shed alarms online and you will see the large number of them available. If anyone needs security advice or wants to speak to us, call '101' or e-mail us on the address above and we will be glad to come along and visit you.

The Bobby van is a service run by Wilts Police who can also come out and advise or even fit security items for elderly people or those who may be at risk through location or disability. Call '101' and ask them for a visit. Remember, be safe, and if an alarm goes off, call 999, we have had reports recently of people getting hurt whilst tackling thieves.

Vehicle Tax & Insurance

Any vehicle can now be checked by anyone! If you suspect a vehicle is dumped in your area, go online to the DVLA website, enter the registration number and make of the vehicle and it will tell you when the road tax and insurance is due, also if the vehicle is SORN (off road) Its free to do and if it is untaxed etc, call Wiltshire Council and it will deal with a vehicle, if it has been dumped.

Dog Walker Alert

Sadly we have just had a report of a dog getting into a field in Rook Lane, Mere, and 'worrying' the sheep causing one to die of a heart attack. Please be reminded that dogs need to be controlled in a public place, especially when there is livestock nearby.

It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, eg: in a public place, in a private place (eg a neighbour's house or garden), in the owner's home. The law applies to all dogs.

Our Priorities

Anti Social behaviour around Mere Recreational field, particularly in the evenings with reports of possible drug taking.

Dog Fouling in Angel Lane, Manor Road and Barnes Place.

PC Richard Salter and PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)

✉ richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk or

✉ peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

S T O P

DON'T MOVE ON!! thinking this is nothing of interest to you!!

Please take a moment to do just that.....think! – are you having difficulty with hearing as you once did? – or do you know someone who is?

People might be having to be asked to repeat what they've said.....or there's a lot more 'volume' to someone's voice.....or feeling frustrated, irritable, frightened, annoyed on a regular basis or times and dates are being missed because of being 'mis-heard'.....or it's easier just not to go out or be with others.....or be involved in things previously involved in and enjoyed.....??

Coming along to the LIP READING AND MANAGING HEARING LOSS Group can help! You'll meet others who have been in the same position and have found that knowing how to lip read and some things to do to manage hearing loss can really, really help.

Pop in to meet us on Tuesday mornings at 10.15am – 12.15pm – session dates are: 14th, 21st and 28th April; 5th, 12th and 19th May; 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th June and 7th **July** in the Grove Building – you'll be made very welcome.

There's also a leaflet that can be sent to you by e-mailing Sheila Thomson: SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk or call/text ☎ 07760-731406. If you can't make Tuesday mornings, enquire about a session at Gillingham, from 2.00-4.00pm.

ARE YOU A CARER?

Come to our Carers' Cafe



Do you help or support a partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who could not manage without your help? Caring is not easy and you may have unanswered questions regarding care. Why not come along and meet other carers and discuss your problems over a cup of tea or coffee. Our new Carers' Support Café meets every second Monday of the month at the Angel Tea Rooms in Mere's main square.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 13th April from 10.30am - 12noon.

If you would like more information on The Carers' Support Café and carers support contact your Local Wiltshire Good Neighbour, Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557922023



Mere Dental Practice

*The practice has three Dentists: Stephen Sherrard,
Christopher Davies and Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.*

It also has 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*

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Throughout the winter our members have met fortnightly, and now form a cohesive group. Most members have contributed by running seminars about their respective interests within the hobby. Dave and Elizabeth Dunn have finished their layout, which will be displayed at our Model Railway Exhibition on Saturday and Sunday, 21st & 22nd June in the Lecture Hall. This year we celebrate West Country Branch-lines, which will strongly influence the many displays on show.

Adult entrance will be £4. Free entrance is afforded to Primary School aged children when accompanied by an adult.

For further information please contact me: *Tom Snook* ☎ 01747 861977

MERE CARNIVAL Fundraising Events

BINGO

Friday, 10th April in the Grove Building
Doors open 6.45pm Eyes down 7.30pm
Raffle/Refreshments/Special

QUIZ

Tuesday, 19th May in the Grove Building
7.45pm start £2.00 per person
Teams of 4 - or come along and we can put you in a team
Raffle and Refreshments

BEETLE DRIVE

Friday, 5th June in the Grove Building
Look out for full details in the May edition of Mere Matters
Carol Payne, Mere Carnival Committee, ☎ 01747 861639

CAR BOOT & TABLE TOP SALE - ST GEORGES SCHOOL
BOURTON SATURDAY 18th April 10.00am-1.00pm
9.00am for sellers £8. Tel: 07515 899930/01963 32416

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FETE

Saturday, 13th June

Plans are taking shape for an historical St Michael's Church Fete this June. King John is hoping to make an appearance fresh from signing the Magna Carta at Runnymede.

Please contact the following people if you have any contributions to make for the various stalls.

Most people will be happy to store goods.

CAKES	Myrene Coward	01747 860445
BOOKS	Jenny Wilding	01747 860908
ACCESSORIES & JEWELS	Isabel Howell	01747 860297
BRIC a BRAC	Julia Stapleton	01747 860805
PRESERVES/JAMS/CHUTNEYS	Julia & Tony Rankin	01747 861405
PLANTS	Judith & Ross Thompson	01747 860553
BOTTLE TOMBOLA	Gilly Gristwood	01747 861768
HOME MADE BREAD	Jill Waggott	01747 861806
CDs /DVDs/COMPUTER GAMES	Vicar's family	01747 861859
SOFT TOY TOMBOLA	Jean & Colin Kantharia	01747 861168

If you would like to help out at the fete please give me a ring

Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163

MERE LECTURE HALL MANAGER NEEDED!

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust is looking for a Manager to take over the running of the Mere Lecture Hall. This would include taking and organising the bookings, working with the caretaker to ensure that the hall is a safe environment, open, clean and ready for each session.

If you would like to support the use of the Hall then please send an e-mail to ✉ HallManager@MereLectureHall.org.uk, with your name and address. Alternatively, you can ring me at the number below. You will then be sent more details of the role and invited to discuss the opportunity further.

The Lecture Hall is part of the Mere Lecture Hall Trust, which is an independent Christian Trust that 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. It is a registered charity (number 202620) and the Hall Manager would report to the Trustees who are also available to provide support, guidance and assistance as appropriate.

Jane Morgan, Mere Lecture Hall Trustee ☎ 01747 854709

CANCER RESEARCH

We are delighted to announce that the Spring Bazaar made an amazing £345.16. Thanks you to all who came and bought and bought!

Our next big thing is our now World Famous 'May Fayre' on Saturday, 16th May - please see the notice in next month's edition for full details. The committee are hard at work making this even better than last year...!

As a committee we are always looking for more helpers, donations of good quality Bric-a-Brac, tombola and raffle prizes, man shed contents, garden items & baked goodies to sell and also any new fund raising ideas. If you can help with any of these please contact us in one of the following ways: ✉ merecancerresearch@mail.com or ring me on the number shown below. We also have a Facebook page – Mere Cancer Research - where all our up to date news and forthcoming events can be seen.

Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712

COMMUNITY LUNCH

And so we come to the end of another successful session of the Community Lunch, where we welcomed a number of new people, who we hope will return after the summer break. The lunches run from October to Easter each year during the winter months when it is so easy to get isolated and it is harder to meet people.

The next and last Community Lunch for this season will be held on Tuesday, 28th April, at 12.30pm in the Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere. The set two-course lunch costs £9.95, drinks not included. Please call the pub in advance to book a place ☎ 01747 861220.

The following Community Lunch will be part of the Literary Festival in October, keep an eye on Mere Matters for details.

For more information, please contact me: *Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

FAIR TRADE BIG BREW

The Coffee Morning during Fair Trade Fortnight raised an amazing £82 which, being doubled by UKAid, will enable Traidcraft to support many more smallholder families 'Grow More, Eat More, Sell More.' If you were tempted by some of the goodies you tasted, don't forget I hold 2 stalls on the third weekend of each month at the URC on the Saturday coffee morning and after the Parish Communion Service at 10.30am in St Michael's on the Sunday when you can always stock up!

Thank you everyone who supported the campaign so generously.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

will be hosting a meeting with

Sarah Dyke-Bracher of the Heart of Wessex Local Action Group

at the Grove Building
on Wednesday, 1st April
7.00 - 9.00pm

Sarah will be speaking on 'Funding opportunities for local businesses and communities'.

The Chamber will also be providing a short presentation on **Project Sunrise Mere** and the initiatives achieved over the last two years.

Date of next Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 15th April 2015, 7.30pm at Mere Social Club

For further information about the Chamber and its activities, as well as details and benefits of membership, please contact me.

Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

PROJECT SUNRISE – MERE

We are still looking to encourage Single Person Enterprises. If you are one, or know of one, please get in touch. In that connection, we are hosting an important meeting on 1st April (advertised separately) in cooperation with the **Heart of Wessex Local Action Group**.

They are working with local people and businesses to develop opportunities for improving the rural economy and quality of life for people living and working in the area. They will do this through a targeted grants programme. Funding will be available for the following sectors:

- rural tourism
- small and micro-businesses
- farming and farm diversification
- forestry
- basic services
- culture and heritage

If any of these is relevant to your business, then please get in touch. We can assist in preparing applications. Guidance on apprenticeships and how businesses can arrange them is also available locally.

This meeting is open to ANY organization, which feels that such a grant would help both themselves and the local economy.

Premises

We know that suitable premises are difficult to identify and inhibit growth in the town and surrounding area. However, resulting from last month's article, an 800sq ft premises in a courtyard setting has been notified to us . If you have any interest, please get in touch.

Sunday Market

Last month I mentioned that Mere used to have an ancient charter market, but this was discontinued many years ago. The Chamber is still at an early stage of discussing the revival of this as a Sunday Street Market, once a month during the summer. A list of possible traders has been assembled and there has been an encouraging response from them. Our objective is to encourage visitors and trade, and to raise the perception of Mere as a destination. We will work within these aims and the legal and social obligations of the Chamber, but are aware there has been some local unspecified concern about the project. We would like to hear directly from anyone who wishes their views to be considered. Our email address is at the end of this article if you wish to comment.

The website at www.projectsunrise-mere.org.uk will be updated shortly.

If you are interested in helping, contact me or Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576. Our e-mail address is: ✉ merechamber@outlook.com

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

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

Poetry Competition

Entries are now being accepted for the Literary Festival's Biennial Poetry Competition. There are good cash prizes for a poem of no more than 40 lines and a chance to shine at the festival in October.

Local residents have two chances for the one entry fee – the Open and Local sections. There are also junior sections for those aged 16 years and under.

Entry forms with full details, rules and entry fees are available at the Library or can be downloaded from the festival website: www.merelifest.co.uk

Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group ☎ 01747 860475

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Now that spring is here, hopefully, we are planning to get out and about with 2 joint trips: one with the Historical Society in May and one with the Gardening Club in June, whilst fitting in Shakespeare as well!

Don't miss out, do join us - contact details below - there may still be some tickets available.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833. Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



T@3

Community Tea Party



The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 15th April. The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms and the timing of course 3.00pm.

Our tea parties are going from strength to strength and as they are proving so popular we have booked the event well into 2015.

Seating is limited at the Tea rooms so if you would like to attend the April tea party please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean on ☎ 07557922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 13th April.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life

SHORT WALK

April's Short Walk will take place on Friday, 17th April. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of 2-3 miles around the paths and lanes of Mere.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE FILM SHOWS

This month's film, on Thursday, 16th April, is '**The Imitation Game**' (12A), for which two of its stars, Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley were Oscar nominated for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress. Based on the real life story of legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing, the film portrays the nail-biting race against time by Turing and his brilliant team of code-breakers at Britain's top-secret Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, during the darkest days of World War II.

Historians estimate that breaking the German Enigma code shortened the war by more than two years, saving over 14 million lives. It remained a government-held secret for more than 50 years. Turing's work inspired generations of research into what scientists called "Turing machines", now known as computers. Full details on page 27.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 14th May and Thursday, 11th June – titles to be confirmed but one will be
'The Theory of Everything' Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting. A very relaxed evening with all the various reports being presented. The Secretary's report reminded us of what a busy, interesting and varied programme we enjoyed during the past year. Something for everyone, no matter what age or ability. Christine Marsh was re-elected as our President with the rest of the committee also re-elected.

It was good to welcome two new members and we are hoping to welcome many more from Mere and the surrounding area during the coming year.

We were reminded that 2015 is the Centenary of the Women's Institute and we will be planning at least one celebration during the coming year.

We have a local speaker, Peter Platt-Higgins, at our meeting next month on Thursday, 2nd April in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm. Peter is going to talk to us about the London Eye. How the somewhat crazy idea of building the biggest Ferris wheel in the

Deverill mini-fest 2015

A weekend of music and comedy

Saturday 2 May: Kepow! Theatre's new comedy

On the Edge! The Barn at Kingston Deverill, 7.30pm.

£10 Adults / £5 Under-17s

**Sunday 3 May: Bath Philharmonia Wind Ensemble
with Jacquelyn Bevan, piano**

Kingston Deverill Church, 7.30pm

Programme includes Mozart and Beethoven quintets.

£15 Adults / £7.50 Under-17s

PLUS: Walk and Talk with David Stratton | White Horse Morris |
The Langport Mummers

Tickets: ☎ 01985 844385 ✉ info@deverillsfestival.com

world was developed into what is now an iconic image on the London skyline. Who did what, who objected, how approvals were eventually achieved, how it was built and what is its future.

As this talk has such a wide appeal we would like to open the evening to non WI members, their partners and in fact anybody who would like to hear this very interesting talk. There would be a visitor's fee of £2.00 each as a donation towards WI funds. We look forward to seeing you for what will be a very entertaining evening.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323

NB Stourton and Kilmington WI are hosting a talk by Dr John Harrison, a specialist in Medicine and Neuropsychology, entitled "What is Alzheimer's Disease?" at 7.30pm in Stourton Memorial Hall on Tuesday 28th April. All are welcome, tickets £5 from:

Jane Parker, ☎ 01985 844248



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

On Wednesday, 1st April from 2.30-4.30pm in the Grove Building we are holding our second Easter Holidays Fun Afternoon. All mums with children are invited to share in an afternoon of crafts and activities ending with an Easter Egg hunt.

Our regular meeting is at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 14th April in the Grove Building, when Joanne Triffit, MU's development officer, and one of the Trustees will be helping us 'Look to the Future'. This meeting will also include our AGM and a Bring and Buy in aid of MU overseas fund. All welcome!

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Our next two Dressmaking Courses take place in the small hall at The Grove Building on Monday mornings from 10.30am to 1.00pm or Wednesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.30pm commencing Monday, 1st and Wednesday, 3rd of June for six weeks until 6th and 8th of July.

Six weeks should be long enough to make a summer dress or skirt or maybe a copy of a dress you love in another piece of fabric.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MAY ISSUE

MONDAY, 20th APRIL 2015

We are very happy to teach beginners or maybe you have not used your sewing machine for a while and need a refresher course. We will also show you how to use an overlocker to finish seams professionally or make something in jersey fabric.

Our classes are quite small, so you will have plenty of help, make friends, eat chocolate biscuits and be proud of your results. We look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923 or Susanne (The Sewing Lady) ☎ 07788 59534

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

We are happy to pass on the news that the Residents and Staff at Fives Court are holding a drop-in tea/coffee morning - 'Time for a Cuppa' - on Thursday, 9th April from 10.30am until 12.00noon. This is in aid of Dementia UK, and everyone at Fives Court would be delighted to have your company and support. All proceeds will go to Dementia UK.

The Friends' next fund-raiser is a Bingo Night on Friday, 24th April at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Tickets at the door. Do come along and join us for a light-hearted and entertaining evening - you may win one of our many exciting prizes!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

CALL MY BLUFF IN AID OF THE ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (MERE DAY CENTRE)

In the Grove Building

Saturday, 9th May 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (including buffet supper and glass of wine)

A fun evening for all.

*Tickets available from Mere Information Point, from 7th April
(except Monday and Wednesday mornings)*

or Chris Dillon ☎ 01747 823088/Pat Gear ☎ 01747 860320

Wanted!

Driver(s) required for Private Hire Company - local and / or long distance. Must be reliable, of smart appearance and non-smoker(s).

Enquiries: ☎ 01747 830723 or ☎ 07810 294725

MERE GARDENING CLUB

British Wild Flowers

John Negus

Wednesday, 8th April, 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Trained at Wisley Gardens and Merrist Wood Horticultural College, photo-journalist John Negus (Dip. Hort. Wisley) enjoys sharing his passion for gardening and other outdoor pursuits. British wild flowers and where to see them will be a fun presentation involving the audience in naming a host of the most striking native species we have.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

GROVE BUILDINGS "100" CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for March, drawn on Tuesday, 3rd March by Mr Jan van Sloten, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 203	Mr S Hoffman
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 21	Mr A Cooper
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 180	Mr & Mrs Elliott
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 143	Mrs Thelma Ings

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE MUSEUM

We are very pleased to announce that Mere Museum will be one of the first hosts of the first of the 'Wiltshire at War' travelling exhibitions which has been organised by a specially commissioned Wiltshire at War group. Each of these exhibitions (there are five altogether) concentrates on one aspect of WWI, and the first is called 'The Call to Arms'. It includes one or two photographs from our collection and an anecdote from one of Mere's soldiers who returned home to tell the tale.

For more information about the whole project, have a look at www.wiltshireatwar.org.uk. The exhibition will be at Mere Museum from Monday, 27th April until Friday, 15th May. Don't miss it! *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Hot news from The Friends! Paul Atterbury, well known for many activities but especially his delightful and knowledgeable contributions to 'The Antiques Road Show', is to revisit Mere on April 17th 2015. See the Notice below, but hurry - Paul's last appearance in Mere was a complete sell-out!

Also don't forget that The Friends' famous Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, 9th May, at 10.00am in the Grove Building. We will welcome any donation of plants to sell, and also cakes please! Further details in the next issue.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY with Mere Theatre Club Theatre Royal, Bath and American Museum

Wednesday, 15th May 2015

Begins with a guided backstage tour of the Theatre Royal, Bath, one of the oldest theatres in Britain, and brimming with history. There will be time for lunch in Bath before being taken to the American Museum, the only museum of American decorative and folk art outside the United States. The collection is varied, ranging from quilts to Renaissance maps, Shaker furniture to ancient Native American tools. The hilltop site of the Museum's home, Claverton Manor, has spectacular views over the Limpley Stoke Valley. A highlight of the gardens is the Mount Vernon Garden. There is a café serving tea and a variety of delicious American cakes and bakes.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am
and return by 6.00pm**

**Cost: MHS & MTC Members £22, non-members £25 per person -
*Includes coach and tip, guided tour and museum entrance fee.***

Booking forms are available at Mere Library

If you were unable to come to the AGM, and would like to renew your membership and receive the full programme, please contact the Membership Secretary, Gerry Cook
☎ 01747 861797

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

For more details on this visit, please ring me

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Rehearsals are now well underway for MADS' entry into the Woolstore Theatre's One Act Play Festival, which comes hot on the heels of the recent pantomime. The play is by local playwright Adrienne Howell, and is entitled 'Gold Braid and Cap Badge'.

The play proved a success for Somerset's Echoes Drama Group some years ago and now MADS have taken up the challenge. In the Autumn of 1914, as Fred and Daisy return home from a band concert at which their son was the star performer, old memories surface and Daisy relives a long held secret.

The Festival takes place at the Woolstore in Codford on 9th - 11th April. MADS are scheduled to perform on Thursday, 9th. Tickets are obtainable from the Woolstore ☎ 01985 850345 or visit: www.woolstoretheatre.co.uk.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



The Friends of Mere Museum

Paul Atterbury

will give a talk on

Life in Victorian Britain

Paul Atterbury is an antiques expert probably best known for his appearances on

The Antiques Roadshow

Friday 17th April 2015

7.30 pm in the Grove Building

£10.00 to include a glass of wine

Tickets available from Mere Library

MERE CRICKET CLUB

Players young and less young required for your local cricket club for our forthcoming season!

Mere CC, your friendly local cricket club is looking forward to the new season which begins at the end of April. We run an adult section (16 yrs upwards) and junior sides at Under 9, 11 and 13 age groups. The adults play 40 over games on Sundays and twenty-twenty games locally during the week. We are an eclectic mix of ages and abilities, but above all we play for the enjoyment and love of the game. We're always looking for new players to join the ranks whether you want to play lots of games or just a handful through the season. If you're interested in joining please contact Chairman Mark Cassidy on ☎ 07763 001119 or pop in The Walnut Tree where he can sometimes be

found.....if not playing cricket! Alternatively contact us via our website **www.merecc.co.uk** or find us on our **facebook** page. (continued on page 29)

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The Imitation Game' (12A)

Benedict Cumberbatch Keira Knightley
Charles Dance Matthew Goode
Mark Strong

During the darkest days of World War II, legendary cryptanalyst Alan Turing led a motley group of scholars, linguists and chess champions in a nail-biting race against time to decode Germany's Enigma machine.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday 16th April, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00
Available from The Library

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

Mere School Reports by Year 5



World Book Day

Blue Class

The Gruffalo: The children enjoyed reading the story and created their own play dough Gruffalos.

Yellow Class

Where the Wild Thing Are: The children used the story as inspiration for their own wild things creatures.

Silver Class

The B.F.G: Silver class created their own B.F.G. head out of clay and made their very own 'Froboscottle'!

Gold Class

The Rainbow Fish: The children wrote a book review based on the story and then created their own rainbow fish in oil pastels and ink.

Green Class

Windhover: The children enjoyed reading the book and created lovely pictures using chalk pastels.

Red Class

Harry Potter: The children enjoyed discussing the books and designed shields for the houses of Hogwarts.

Purple Class

Stories of Harris Burdick: The children spent the day investigating the stories. They also designed a book token for World Book Day.

Story Teller

Each class thoroughly enjoyed their visits from the story teller. It was great to see them engaging enthusiastically in the different sessions.

Shared Reading

The younger children enjoyed sharing books with the older children and the teachers had a great time reading to different classes.

STOP PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to:

www.mereschool.co.uk

Mere Juniors

We are extremely fortunate that the club has no less than four level 2 ECB approved coaches who look after the training and development of our junior teams. We train on Friday nights at Mere School and our first session of the season will take place on Friday, 17th April at 6.30pm for all age groups. If you would like your son or daughter to come along and join us, just turn up or if you would like more details then please speak to either Kevin Whitmore ☎07528 875060 or Ben Skipworth on ☎07766 241196 both of whom will be only too happy to help.

Winter News

It has been a very successful winter for Mere CC's juniors. In total, the Club had 9 players involved in District level cricket and one with the County Girls team as part of the County Winter training structures in Dorset and Wiltshire.

The Club's under 13 team have taken part in the North Dorset Indoor competition and did extremely well throughout the league season. They have played 5 matches, winning 4 with the other match ending in a tie. This meant that the side was crowned Champions at the first attempt. Congratulations to Robyn, Harry, Freddie, Ethan, Chris, Ben and Louis.

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday, 31st March – Adult Pre Season Nets 7.30 - 9.00 pm, at Halzlegrove School, Sparkford.

Thursday, 9th April - Bingo Night 7.00pm, in the Grove Building. Eyes down from 7.30pm. Food and refreshments available. Anyone welcome and all profits go towards Mere Junior Cricket section.

Sunday, 12th April - Club Open Day and Warm up Match. A chance for anyone interested in joining just to turn up and have a bat or bowl in our inter-club warm up game. At the school from 1.30pm.

Friday, 17th April - Junior Training from 6.30pm. Come to our ground at Mere School, fill in your registration forms and meet the coaches who will then take the season's first session.

Sunday, 19th April - 1st game of the season at home v The Incidentals from 2.00pm
Duncan Weir ☎07868 372831

MERE CROQUET & BOULE CLUB

A successful and enjoyable skittle evening was recently held for members and friends at The Home Guard Club in Kilmington, which put on a delicious supper.

The 2015 season will commence on Saturday, 4th April at 2.30pm unless the weather is inclement and the opening will be moved back to Sunday, 5th April. Anybody wishing to

join the club will be most welcome. There will be light refreshments available to get the season off to a good start.

The lawn has received extensive treatment and is now in a very good condition.

Joan Sutton, Chairman, ☎ 01747 860308

✉: joan.sutton2 @tiscali.co.uk

Mere Cricket Club

Bingo Night!

Thursday 9th April

Grove Buildings Mere – Eyes down 7.30pm

Bar and food available from 7pm

All proceeds to Mere Junior Cricket section.

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

In last month's Mere Matters, Jenny Wilding started the story of the James II Coat of Arms that has been hanging in St Michael's Church over the North Door.

The Coat of Arms is so rare that it is very important nationally and the Friends of St Michael's have raised the £11,000 needed to restore and conserve this precious artefact.

All repairs, restoration and conservation work in a church need the permission of the Diocesan Advisory Committee to ensure the work is of a good standard and done by reputable professionals. To get permission a Faculty has to be applied for.

Jenny Wilding, with Graham Avory, put together all the necessary papers to obtain this permission.

So well did they do this, that St Michael's won a Care of Churches 2014 Annual Award from the Diocese. The Committee were impressed that the Friends' had consulted widely, obtained the services of a top-notch conservator and had raised the necessary funds.

Graham received the certificate from the Bishop on behalf of the church, where it is on display in the Friend's Corner.

Our thanks go to Jenny and Graham for all their hard work on this project.

Ann Dethick, Secretary, ☎ 01747 8863498

King James II Coat of Arms, *Part 2*

Although it became 'compulsory' for the Royal Coat of Arms to be displayed in churches after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 (after Cromwell's Protectorate), it must have been well nigh impossible to enforce. So far, no evidence has emerged that there were any other Royal Arms on display in St. Michael's at any time before or since the Arms of James II which have, amazingly, survived.

Amazingly, because James II was not a popular King: he was a Catholic even though England had largely become Protestant, and he was mistrusted from the outset. He survived for only three years on the throne before being forced to flee. And yet Mere's two current churchwardens, Thomas Rabbetts and John fford, whose names are prominently inscribed on our King James Arms, seem almost to have fallen over themselves to get the arms painted and hung in record time. James became King on 6th February 1685.

The Churchwarden's Accounts record that the Arms were hung by 20th April 1685 and that a payment was made to a Mr. White for a 'new drawing and setting up the King's Arms' at the same time. There must have been a reason for such enthusiasm but we have yet to uncover it.

1685 is the date we all learned at school for the accession of James II. But the date inscribed on our coat of arms is 1684. Why? *See the next instalment for the answer!*
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid's work of helping to rebuild lives and communities devastated by poverty, war and natural disasters has become even more vital in recent months. People are horrified at so much suffering and often ask – what can we do? Christian Aid is a relatively small organisation, but because of its approach

working through trusted local partners on the ground, the help given is pin-pointed to specific local need, making a real difference in people's lives.

We can all share in that work through Christian Aid Week, which this year is 10th – 16th May. Every member of every church (and non-church members, too) is encouraged to share in this vital work by giving, acting, praying – or/and, of course, by collecting! We need lots more collectors.

If you're willing to help, or for more information, please get in touch with one of us by the end of April. ✉ judithvthompson@aol.com

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553; or Sandra Fisher ☎ 01747 861980

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MICHAELS, WRITES:

A friend of mine runs a Christian youth club and I visited it recently. She said to the parent of a new set of youngsters, that: "after games and food I tell them stories from the Bible and we talk about Christianity. I do it because it gives them a set of values and a sense of what is right and wrong to help them live in today's society".

With religion through fundamentalism getting such a bad press at present, it was good to hear her stating simply and clearly the good influence Christianity can have on lives.

In sharing Bible stories with school children we can encourage them to think in a creative way about tackling real life situations and find strength from a loving God. Recently in Mere school I talked about the first time Jesus was presented in the Temple and the effect that had on devout worshippers there, they really got inside the thoughts of the people all those years ago who met Jesus for the first time and began to think about Jesus' task in the world.

Children are not shy to think freely and openly about the need to make our world a better place – they are an inspiration to adults who have become weary with the world and what we can do in it.

We are delighted to say that a group of us have been invited to hold an Easter workshop of craft and stories at Mere School culminating in an assembly for parents too. We will tell the story of Easter and the resurrection – of hopes dashed by death and joyful hope reborn.

Love in Christ



Huge thanks to everyone who came and supported our Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake evening. It was a very happy and enjoyable evening – even for the organisers! – and we made an amazing £627.

Date for your diary: Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy at Holly Cottage, North Road (Alison Beall's house) on Tuesday, 5th May from 10.30am-12.00noon. Everyone Welcome! An update on Suchana's progress and how the money raised will be used will be available at the coffee morning – or please get in touch.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

Coffee and worship on Wednesday, 29th April in the Methodist School Room will be led by Rev'd Paul Arnold at 11.00am. Coffee will be served from 10.30am as usual.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

APRIL 2015

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day

March

Sunday	29th	10.30am	PALM SUNDAY Parish Communion with live donkey
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Monday	30th	7.30pm	Compline
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Tuesday	31st	7.30pm	Compline
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April

Wednesday	1st	7.30pm	Compline
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Thursday	2nd	8.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY Stripping of Altar with hand washing and Vigil
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Friday	3rd	8.00am	GOOD FRIDAY Holy Communion (reserved sacrament)
		9.15am	Stations of the Cross For Children

		11.00am	Walk of Witness up Castle Hill starting from the Square
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Saturday	4th	2.00pm	Devotions
		7.30pm	HOLY SATURDAY – Readings

Sunday	5th	6.00am	EASTER DAY Sunrise Communion After which a cooked breakfast will be served in the Vicarage
		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Parish Communion with childrens activities
Tuesday	7th	6.00pm	'Start the Month' Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	*19th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	26th	10.30am	Matins
Wednesday	29th	7.30pm	Annual Parish Church Meeting

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

Friday	3rd	10.30am	GOOD FRIDAY Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
Sunday	5th	11.00am	EASTER DAY With the Methodist Church Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	12th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp + AGM
	19th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	26th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

The Methodist Church (☎ Shaftesbury 01747 854631)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	5th	11.00am	EASTER DAY United Service at URC
	12th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Elcock
	19th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
	26th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page

Note that we are back to the usual time of 6.00pm on Sundays

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's.

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

Every Saturday		5.30pm	Mass
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West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin
Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
 ✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534
Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sundays	5th	9.30am	EASTER DAY
			Holy Communion (BCP)
			(look on church board or ☎ 01747 830534)
	12th	9.30am	DIY
	19th	9.30am	Matins
	26th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW1(Trad))

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

APRIL 2015

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse

1	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 8th & 29th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi - small hall (also 8th & 29th)	GB
		2.30pm	Easter Hols Childrens Fun Afternoon	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Chamber of Trade event	GB
2	Thur	10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am - 12.00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Womens Institute meeting	GB
3	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
4	Sat	9.00am - 3.00pm	Antique & Mod Market (also 18th & 25th)	L
		10.00am - 11.00am	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (also 11th, 18th, & 25th)	CC
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
7	Tue	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Health Trainer, Charlotte High	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L

8	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
9	Thur	10.30am -	12.00noon "Time for a Cuppa"	Fives Court
		7.30pm	Mere Cricket Club BINGO Eyes Down	GB
10	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 24th)	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo Eyes Down	GB
13	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am -	12.00noon Carers' Support Café	Angel Tea Rooms
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Am. Dram. Socy (MADS) Meeting (Green R.)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	MH
		10.15am	Lip Reading (also 21st & 28th))	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union meeting	GB
15	Wed	3.00pm -	4.00pm T@3	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
16	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "The Imitation Game"	L
17	Fri	2.00pm	April Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum, Paul Atterbury visit	GB
18	Sat	9.00am -	1.00pm Hot Rock Carnival Club Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
19	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
21	Tue	10.00am	Mothers Union Deanery meeting	GB
22	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
23	Thur	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	AYP
24	Fri	7.30pm	Friends of Fives Court BINGO	GB
28	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	MH
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn
29	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

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

HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE

Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

CREDIT UNION

Every Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR MAY 2015 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the May 2015 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 April 2015.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 13th April 2015 onwards to: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

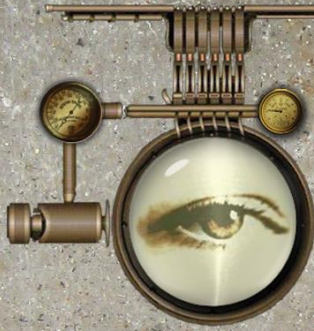
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Mrs Jane Kennedy

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