

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grave Buildings - Mere
Cain Anderson 1992*

March 2015

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, 2nd March 2015**.

The Chairman writes:

I am pleased to report that the new play equipment in The Castle Hill Play Area has been installed. This replaces previous items which were old and uninspiring or had failed the safety inspection. The log cabin had been there for 30 years or more, so it was sad to see it go. I am sure that the children will enjoy playing in this popular area. The equipment was purchased using Developers' Funds.

At the February meeting of The Parish Council, we discussed whether we should change our name to Mere Town Council. The recent television programme "Hidden Villages" was keen to confirm that Mere is, indeed, a town. There is an argument that changing our name may help to promote tourism, the businesses in the town and the facilities Mere has to offer.

Our Clerk is currently looking into the legal process and the Parish Council will be discussing this issue at future meetings. Of course, we would like to have the parishioners' views on this, so please look out for agenda notices and come to the meetings or you can contact the Clerk.

Last month the Parish Council hosted the Annual Carnival meeting. I would like to thank and congratulate the Carnival Committee members, and their helpers, for all the dedicated hard work which goes into organising our carnival. It seems, as ever, more volunteers would be appreciated.

The Parish Council strives to keep Mere looking as good as possible and we have excellent groundsmen and staff who work particularly hard, especially in the winter. It has come to our attention that there are a lot of out-date-notices remaining on notice boards and telegraphs poles around the town, this tends to detract from any new events. Could organisers please remember to remove their notices when they are no longer relevant.

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



For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org, e-mail the parish clerk at [✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) or [☎ 01747 860701](tel:01747860701).

Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

I attended the Grove Building on Sunday, 8th February regarding St. Michaels Church, which is the most prominent building in Mere. I was surprised to learn at least £53,000 a year has to be paid out from church funds to the Salisbury diocese. It is a building that impacts on many. The church organises the annual Fete that many of us enjoy. The church is a member of Churches Together in Mere and District, which has in the past, and will again, organise hustings at the coming general election, enabling the local people to hear the candidates.

With the declining Christian population in Mere, Jane Hurd suggested that a way to start connecting with the Mere Parish Council would be to report to the Annual Parish Meeting, which other organised bodies do now. I thought if Churches Together did so, it would be inclusive and an excellent idea. This is now being explored.

Highways Major Maintenance programme 2015/16 includes work at West Knoyle, Stourton, Kilmington and Mere, some of which has already been completed. No mention is made for instance of Castle Street, Mere or Wolverton Lane, Zeals. I have brought this to Wiltshire Council's attention.

Bishops Close, Mere will be closed on 12th March for highway improvements, therefore access to local properties will be impacted on temporarily.

The Magna Carta will be 800 years old this year. On Monday, 15th June, a festive celebration in the Cathedral and Close involving different community groups and a variety of activities, in partnership with Wiltshire Council, will take place as part of a MAGNA CARTA GALA.

BT Open Reach at present is laying fibre optic cable in Mere, to bring some of us Superfast Broadband. On one Sunday morning they managed to lay cable from Chetcombe Road to The Square, but on another day progress was very slow at Edgebridge as there was silt in the existing duct and someone in years past had put the overflow of a drain into the BT manhole!

Area Board Capital Funding across Wiltshire has very slightly increased, however for our South West Wiltshire Area Board we do not know at this time if we will get equal funding to last year.

A Local Youth Network (LYN) is held regularly at The Andy Young Pavilion where the youth of the area are much needed in attendance to propose youth projects for the area. All youth are welcome.

This forthcoming year's budget of Wiltshire Council will have been decided at County Hall on the 24th February. No increase in Wiltshire Council's share of the Community Charge is likely. However, to maintain the status quo with increasing cost, a charge of £40 per green bin is likely, and other cost saving measures, with a commitment to protect the vulnerable in society. Waste is currently forecasting an overspend of £2.5m based on the 2014 to 2015 budget. This mainly relates to additional costs of waste disposal during the year. Note your total community charge probably will increase, an example being the Police who have requested an increase of £3.06 a year for the average household, and Parish Councils having to bear increasing financial liabilities in recent years, all of which impacts on your community charge.

Any increase in business rates attributed to new business in Wiltshire up to a cap of 2% comes to Wiltshire Council. It came to my attention that the Army pay business rates, therefore with the returning forces and increased facilities for them, it is unlikely in the short term Wiltshire will benefit from business rates produced by new business. It was stated at the meeting I attended, the "Shard" building in London was late opening and one of the reasons was to throw the increase of business in to the next qualifying period.

Wiltshire Council is responsible for Public Health. Weil's disease is a severe form of a bacterial infection. Weil's disease is spread to humans by contact with soil or water contaminated with the urine of certain wild animals, including rats. I have had it alleged to me that Weil's disease has infected a person in South West Wiltshire. If a doctor decides someone has leptospirosis (Weil's disease) that person should tell their employer, who must then report it online at: www.hse.gov.uk/riddor.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme across Wiltshire has been stopped. However, the South West Area Board (SWWAB) with volunteers and insurance I have sourced may be able to fund a local programmes. Our SWWAB will continue to see if the SID's previously used by Wiltshire Highways could be used in the areas where local parishes will help fund them.

Business Wiltshire are asking local SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) who want to understand more about how the council advertises opportunities to quote for its business, to join them at one of their free workshops and learn about Wiltshire Council's procurement process. The details of each workshop are as follows:-Monday 9th March, 10.00am to 12.00noon, City Hall, Salisbury and Monday 16th March, 10.00am to 12.00noon, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

The Car Parking Review Task Group has reported to The Environment Select Committee. The Mere Area had already taken over the local Wiltshire car parks some

time ago. However, the following extract of its recommendations (Numbers taken from the actual Report) is of interest as many of us visit other Wiltshire Towns.

1. That the use of automated pay by phone systems be made more attractive by ensuring the same charges are levied irrespective of the method of payment; for example they should be no surcharge on payments made using the automated phone service.

5. That Council officers should continue their efforts to maximise use of Car Parks when they are less well used. This would be by means of cheaper or free periods when revenue has been proven not to be affected. Consultation responses were keen to encourage this sort of experimentation.

6. The current Park & Ride scheme in Salisbury should encourage out of town city workers to use this service with a more attractive offering.

7. The Council should be prepared to enter into discussions with Shopping Centre owners (in addition to Town and Parish Councils) to take over Council Car Parks.

9. That towns and parishes are actively given the opportunity to take on assets or top-up funding to enable reduced charges; and that they are properly supported in making any such decision through the provision of real and accurate information.

Residents could save on their energy bills. Householders have, and will have again, the opportunity to save money on their energy bills with an auction for the UK's largest collective energy scheme. The Ready to Switch scheme is the largest and most inclusive of its kind in the UK with Wiltshire Council and 11 other local authorities joining together as part of the collective lead by Peterborough City Council.

Finally Mere Brownies have often been over subscribed in the past, although numbers are currently a little down at 22. Mere Rainbows have leaders and few Rainbows. I hope with Spring around the corner, numbers will again increase.

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

On Saturday, 14th March, between 10.30am and 12.00noon there will be stories and craft activities at the library to celebrate Mother's Day. All children are welcome, but any child aged 8 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

There will also be an Easter activity here on Tuesday, 31st March from 2.30 to 4.00pm.

An exciting new promotion is starting shortly in conjunction with Mere School. Children will receive a "loyalty card" on which they can collect stamps every time they visit the library, join the library, borrow books or attend library events. At the end of June, the

end of the promotion period, the class with most stamps will win a celebration party, and the child with most stamps will receive a small collection of books!

Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546



POLICE REPORT

Shed “Break-ins”

We have again, unfortunately, had various thefts and attempted thefts from sheds and out-houses where we think the offenders are looking for power tools and other valuable items stored in these places. If you do store power tools in a shed, then you need to make sure it is secure, and that might include a shed alarm or lights

that come on when someone approaches.

Shed alarms can be cheap to buy and would put the casual offender off or alert you to an offender breaking-in. Help us as well by reporting suspicious activity and being alert. Long term security can be useful, when planting bushes, thorny ones are more difficult to get through and gravel paths that ‘crunch’ deter would be burglars. Always report unusual activity: sometimes thieves will have a look around a few days before and come back at night. If you can safely get a vehicle index number, even better. Call ‘101’ and ask for Wiltshire Police, or 999 if you suspect they are actually breaking-in.

Scams

Reports of scams via post, e-mail and telephone seem to be coming in. The general advice is never to give out your bank details. If someone calls to say they are from ‘windows’ and your computer is infected, this will be a scam, hang up on them and call police on ‘101’ or report it to ‘Action Fraud’ - details online or on our posters in the library.

Remember the old saying: ‘If it seems too good to be true, it usually is’. It is a good dictum to remember! I have lost count of the time that I had e-mails telling me that I have won the Nigerian Lottery and if I sent £2,000 for taxes, they will release the prize!!!

Drones

After reports of a drone being used in Mere, we have located the owner and informed him of the regulations for the use of a drone (they are on our facebook page if you want them).

Residents were worried about intrusive photography, but footage was seen by officers and nothing of that nature was seen. Words of advice on where drones could be used were given to the owner.

Safer Internet Day

Wiltshire police are involved in delivering presentations this month to primary schools regarding internet safety. If your children have I pads etc whereby they can access the

internet, we advise Parental Controls are put on your router. Smart phones can access the internet, so be aware.

If you are not sure what to do, call your provider who will guide you through it. Sometimes children are more aware of technology and can be very good with it. If you are not sure about internet safety, ask someone. Be Safer Online.....

Community Messaging

We are rolling this out this month in our area. Community Messaging is a great new way of keeping up to date of things that are happening in your area. Just go online and Google it, or fill in a card in the library and drop it in at the post office box and you can get informed of incidents when they happen in your area. Wiltshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Angus Macpherson, are committed to involving communities in the prevention and reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Working alongside Neighbourhood Watch, Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging aims to improve the flow of information between communities and the police. You can now join for free.

New Neighbourhood Watches

I have had calls regards starting new Neighbourhood Watches in certain areas, please get in touch if you want to be part of one.

Winter thoughts

February started with a cold snap so the advice regarding starting off early, so you don't have to rush, is still good. Brush snow off a car using a soft brush, don't drive with a roof and bonnet loaded with snow, which will obscure your windscreen when you brake or speed up! And get hold of a Hi Visibility jacket or tabard, so you can be seen when you cross the road, Be Safe.

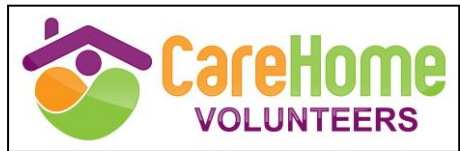
Call '101' for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency.

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

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

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

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAMME TO BE LAUNCHED IN SALISBURY



A new charity has just launched its unique training and support programme in Salisbury. Supported by Wiltshire Council, the National Lottery and AgeUK Salisbury District, Care

Home Volunteers is a registered charity that has been set up to recruit and train volunteers for care homes with the aim of improving the well-being, social interaction, health and enjoyment of life for older people who live there.

Care Home Volunteers believes that there is huge potential for volunteers to enhance the lives of people living in care homes by providing social contact and friendship. Initially, volunteers will get to know residents by inviting them to share their life stories.

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**

Care Home Volunteers are looking for friendly, caring and compassionate people who can spend some time on a regular basis volunteering for at least the period of the pilot project which will run between now and August 2015.

Volunteers will take part in a bespoke training programme over a period of 5 weeks to help them gain insight and expertise in the role of volunteer; between each training session there will be opportunities to spend time in one of three care homes in Salisbury.

Norman Edwards, Secretary of the Trustees, said about the project “We are very excited about starting this new project which we have been planning and researching for some time. We have received lots of support from care homes, AgeUK and many other organisations.”

“We are particularly pleased to be launching in Salisbury”, he continued: “as the city has a reputation for caring for its older folk and we know we will get a good response from potential volunteers.”

For further information please contact Joy Kelly, Volunteer Co-ordinator ☎ 07931 022824 or ✉: info@carehomevolunteers.org.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 – March dates are 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at the Grove Building, Mere – 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.

HEAR TO HELP

Hearing Aid Clinic

Did Audiology at Salisbury Hospital provide you with your Hearing Aids?

Are you finding they appear not to be working as well as before? When did you last have them retubed? If it was more than 3 months ago, your aids probably require retubing. The Hearing Aid Clinic can re-tube most hearing aids provided by Salisbury Audiology.

The clinic is held on the first Thursday of the month (5th March) from 10.00 to 11.30am at Mere Surgery.

Clinics are also held at Gillingham Town Hall on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.00am-12.00pm, and at Shaftesbury Westminster Memorial Hospital on the first Friday of the month from 10.00am-12.00pm.

For further information please contact me: *Gill Drayson* ☎ *01722 580014*

MERE SURGERY

Dr Bill Price's Retirement Party, Friday 27th March

Dear Patients,

As you will know, Bill Price retired from the surgery last year after 27 years.

We are holding a retirement party for Bill at the Grove Building on Friday, 27th March from 5.30 – 7.30pm and hope that any of you who have known him and benefitted from his devoted care over the years will be able to attend. We would love to see lots of you!

Yours sincerely,

Mere Surgery

Michele Mason, Practice Manager 📞 01747 860001

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, 9th March 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*

NEWLY MODERNISED POST OFFICE WITH EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

Mere Post Office is currently converting to a Main Post Office model. Zeals and Bourton Post Offices are the alternative Post offices for the period of conversion.

A newly modernised Post Office will open in Boar Street on **Thursday, 5th March** with: extended opening hours; an extra Post Office till for convenient bill payment, banking, benefits, travel money, Euro's & US dollars, postage, home shopping returns, Local Collect and more.

There will be a Post Office serving point at the retail counter, offering selected services, which will be available during shop opening hours Monday - Saturday: 8.00am – 5.30pm; Sunday: 8.00am – 1.00pm. This means that the branch will open on Sunday mornings and Saturday afternoons and it will open earlier every day.

As a reminder, until Thursday afternoon of 5th March, alternative branches to use are Zeals Post Office, Chapel Lane, Zeals and Bourton Post Office at Forge Garage.

George Jeans, Mere Sub-Postmaster ☎ 01747 860215

MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

It seems a good time to explain about the Trust since there are a number of rumours going round. Many people are new to the town and may know little about it. In 1860, a prominent citizen, a Quaker, built the Lecture Hall in his garden as a facility for the town, to provide a venue for adult education classes and lectures (many adults in that generation were illiterate), to further his non-conformist Christian beliefs, and fight against alcoholism. He and his family, the Rutters, managed the Hall. A generation later, in 1924, the Lecture Hall was made over to a newly formed Trust created for the promotion of the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the people of Mere and environs.

Originally the Trust aimed to have 40 members to give wide representation to the town, to the various non-conformist churches and several members of the Rutter family. In recent years we have found 25 to be an optimum number. Currently there are 17 trustees of whom 11 live in Mere. Of the other 6, one is the URC Minister for Mere, two are Quaker representatives from the nearest Quaker Meeting, and 3 are remnant members of the Rutter family. All Trustees have the objects of the Trust and the good of Mere at heart. Recently representatives of the Anglican and Catholic churches in the town have been included, as well as the non-conformists. Six trustees are elected to form a Management Committee.

So that the new Trust would have spiritual and moral freedom, the benefactors ensured financial independence by giving various other properties to the Trust to provide income for the Trust to run and maintain the Lecture Hall and pursue the objects laid down. Over the last 90 years various properties have been bought and sold as appropriate and need arose.

For a long time now, the committee has been very largely taken up with property management, which has consumed most of the rental income and a great deal of the time and energy of a few people to maintain and upgrade our stock of old properties. We have striven to be good, just and caring landlords but a pre-occupation with property management is not the primary purpose for which we are Trustees, which should be creatively pursuing the objects of the Trust and running and maintaining the Lecture Hall. One of the creative ways has been the awarding of annual grants to local organisations.

The few people prepared to give so much time and energy cannot be expected to go on indefinitely, and it has become increasingly difficult to find suitable trustees to accept the

responsibility. New trustees are needed who accept the Christian ethos of the Trust and who can give a wide, balanced representation for Mere and practical expertise in the day-to-day work of the Trust.

During last year, the Trustees took the decision in principle to sell all our endowment properties to prevent the constant drain on resources. And if the Trust were not swamped by property management it would become a much less time and energy consuming responsibility, and so more attractive to future Trustees. We have been accused of “selling the family silver” but that would be completely contrary to our responsibility as Trustees. The properties are old and high in maintenance and we do not believe they will hold or increase their value without further development.

The alternative of financial investment even at low interest rates we believe to be a responsible choice, or re-investment in modern property. This became all the more acceptable when we were advised that the property would sell better, not worse, with sitting tenants.

After further consideration it was decided not to sell all, and a decision was taken to sell three lots. At our last meeting this was reduced further. We are not going to sell The Gables building complex for the time being, but only the two properties on the north side of Salisbury Street. This only partially achieves our objective, but seems more acceptable to the majority, and the various tenants will hopefully have security of tenure for the time being.

I hope this helps to clarify the issues.

Mrs Jane Morgan, On behalf of the Trustees ☎ 01747 854709

Churches Together in Mere and District.
THE GENERAL ELECTION

There will be a

‘HUSTINGS’

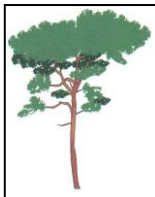
on

Friday, 20th March at 7.30 PM

in

The Lecture Hall

Come and meet the candidates



MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

Walks 2015

Sunday	22nd March	2.00pm
Sunday	19th April	2.00pm
Sunday	10th May	2.00pm
Sunday	14th June	2.00pm
Sunday	28th June	2/00pm
Thursday	2nd July	7.30pm - moonlight walk
Sunday	19th July	2.00pm
Sunday	16th August	9.30am
Sunday	13th September	2.00pm
Sunday	11th October	2.00pm
Sunday	8th November	1.00pm

Saturday 2nd January 2016 New Year's walk (details later)

Walks start from the main car park in Mere. Please share cars where possible. Everyone very welcome, including dogs if on leads. Bring small picnic if you wish. Further details of destination and distances will be posted on a board outside the Post Office nearer to the dates.

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

Ann Newberry, for Mere Footpath Group, ☎ 01747 861184

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 by **Sunday, 15th March** to ✉ HallManager@MereLectureHall.org.uk with your name and address. 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*

Watercolour for Beginners: A course of 6 sessions for adults covering techniques, working with tone and colour, and an introduction to still life and landscape painting: fee £60.00 per person plus materials. **Tuesdays, 1.00-3.00pm at Mere Lecture Hall starting on the 14th April 2015.** Classes run by Laura Jolliffe. Booking, information contact www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk 12 places available

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

☎ 01747 860096

Mere and District Linkscheme is still working hard in the community assisting with transport problems of all kinds. This includes medical appointments and more social journeys such as the hairdresser.

Can I remind you all that the Linkscheme is a registered charity and that our passengers are only expected to make whatever contribution they can afford towards the cost of the journey. There is no set cost for any journey.

Also can you please remember that our co-ordinators dealing with the telephone calls are working as volunteers in their own homes. Please respect this and only call between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday.

The Linkscheme is unable to respond to emergency situations and is not a taxi service. We ask that when possible, 48 hours notice is given to allow the co-ordinator time to make the necessary arrangements.

Barbara Thomas, Secretary

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

Our open day at the end of January attracted some 70 members of the local community, and with public relations generated by our local county councillor, the media follow up was very useful indeed. The club is attracting new faces, who are entertained by the feverish activity that is now ensuing in the club to produce an 'O' gauge layout for our forthcoming exhibition in June.

We have achieved a further grant from the South Wiltshire Area Board, which will help us to complete the furnishings and re-equipment of the building. A small engineering workshop will be created, and metalwork tuition will be offered to those members of the community who wish to join us. It is intended to have a formal opening day towards the beginning of the Summer.

As a member of the Wessex Model Railway Group, the club has been offered a dozen places on the luxury coach going to The London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace on Sunday, 29th March. We leave from the club at 8.30am and return to Mere by 5.30pm. The cost is £22 per head, which includes the entry fee. Last year it was a superb sunny day out. Non-members are welcome to apply for seats.

The clubs main modelling effort this year will be to construct an 'O' Gauge model that we intend to call Shaftesbury. This layout will be on show at our **Annual Exhibition at the Lecture Halls on 20th & 21st June 2015.**

For further information please contact me:

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ANNUAL SUMMER FETE

Saturday 13th June

Please put this date in your diary

Come and help us raise money for the upkeep and restoration of our beautiful parish church.

If anyone would like to help on a stall, serve teas or hang bunting please contact me:

Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163

CANCER RESEARCH

Dates for your diaries

Saturday, 7th March 'Spring Bazaar' Lecture Hall 10.00am – 12.00noon. Come and grab yourself a bargain! If you have any donations for this event, could you please drop them in the night before, we are there from 7.00 – 9.00pm. Thank you.

Saturday, 28th March – We are having a stall at the Stars Appeal Fair in the Grove Building starting at 10.00am. We are selling 'Magic Sunny Flower seeds'. For the bargain price of £2.50 you get 4 sunflower seeds, starter pots, compost and the unique magic spell! If your seeds grow magnificently you can always bring one or more back to us at the May Fayre (16th May) to our plant stall for us to re-sell. The plant stall for that event will be in its usual prime spot at the bus stop.

Saturday, 16th May – May Fayre. As usual we have an amazing collection of stalls and attractions for you to enjoy. Watch this space for more details...

Committee

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 and 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 Penny Fennon at the number below. We also have a Facebook page: Mere Cancer Research, on which all our up-to-date news and forthcoming events can be viewed. *Penny Fennon* ☎ 07833 137112



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'. For further information please contact me, Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary.

Date of next Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 18th March 2015, 7.30pm at Mere Social Club

If you would like to know more about the Chamber and it's activities as well as details and benefits of membership, please contact me.

Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

PROJECT SUNRISE – MERE

It hardly seems possible that the final six-monthly report to the South West Wiltshire Area Board is about to be submitted. All of the subsidiary projects have progressed well during the two years of the project and the effects will continue into the future. The purpose of the grant can be summarized as:-

Supporting local business, encouraging tourism.

The funding was broken down into five major areas. The stage has now been reached where encouraging results are apparent in all of the sub-projects.



Local Signage

The Duchy Manor sign on the road in from Stourhead has been updated and replaced. It should encourage visitors looking for facilities on their way to the A303 to divert into the town. The new Town Map is in the final stages of agreement before printing and installation in the Square. The other two maps in the car parks will

then be printed and installed. The design method enables their reproduction to any size and is easily modified. Consequently we expect to allow local business to use it for a variety of advertising purposes, from websites to napkins. With the basic design established, the signs at Willoughby Hedge will be brought into line before the summer trek to the West Country.

Stimulating Tourism

Tourism in Wiltshire is publicised through the organisation “*Visit Wiltshire*”. The Chamber has joined this. Local information will now be available to tour organisers and coach companies throughout the country in printed form. Their website will carry updated information and links provided by the Chamber. Mere used to have an ancient charter market but this was discontinued many years ago. Plans are at an early stage to revive this as a Sunday Street Market, once a month. We will keep residents updated through Mere Matters as the project develops.

Improved Business Visibility

The Chamber website has been renewed and now has a distinctive look. Content is gradually being introduced, and links included to businesses and local helpful information. A Facebook page also has been generated but needs more content and followers.

Support Local Trade

Several courses have been held for members covering First Aid, Health and Safety, and the use of social media. Membership of the Chamber has increased by 35% over the figure before the project started. We are still looking to encourage Single Person Enterprises. If you are one, or know of one, please get in touch.

Premises for Start-ups

We expect one new business to commence trading in the next month or so. Premises are difficult to identify and inhibit growth in the town and surrounding area. A survey of available premises suitable for start-ups was not encouraging. If you know of anyone with a workshop or similar facilities willing to rent to a new business, please let us know. Guidance on apprenticeships and how businesses can arrange them is available locally.

More Information

The website at: www.projectsunrise-mere.org.uk will carry further information shortly. If you are interested in helping, contact me or Julie Cousins ☎07856 700 576.

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

MERE FILM SHOWS

On Thursday, 12th March we are screening the much acclaimed film 'Mr. Turner' (12A) for which Timothy Spall has received a great deal of praise for his portrayal of this great, if somewhat eccentric, British artist, and the film explores the last 25 years of J.M.W. Turner's life.

Profoundly affected by the death of his father, loved by a housekeeper he takes for granted, he forms a close relationship with a seaside landlady. Throughout these years he travels, paints, stays with the country aristocracy, visits brothels, is a popular if anarchic member of the Royal Academy of Arts, has himself strapped to the mast of a ship so that he can paint a snowstorm, and is both celebrated and reviled by the public and by royalty. Full details on page 31.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 16th April: 'The Imitation Game', Benedict Cumberbatch.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

THE REAL EASTER EGG

Why not join the Campaign to reclaim Easter and order a Real Easter Egg with the Easter Story. All of the eggs are made from Fair Trade Chocolate helping the small scale cocoa producers in Africa to a better life. The milk egg comes with the Easter Story, chocolate buttons, a quiz and a banner at £3.99 There is a luxury dark version with 3 dark chocolate squares, and a guide to the Easter story at £5.50 and a Limited Edition Peace Egg, a bar of orange milk chocolate and with an olive tree dove key ring from Bethlehem at £9.99 You can order now from me, but hurry as stock ran out very quickly last year.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE CARNIVAL 2015

Saturday, 12th September

BINGO

Friday, 10th April - 7.30pm start, Grove Building

QUIZ

Tuesday, 19th May - 7.45pm start, Grove Building

Please note that **ALL** proceeds from all Mere Carnival fundraising events go towards the costs of staging our Carnival. We need to raise approximately £5,000 per year just to cover the day. Please support us whenever you can.

Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639



T@3

Community Tea Party



The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 18th March. 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.

Programmes of our forthcoming tea parties will be available at the tea.

If you would like to attend the March tea party please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 16th March.

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 17 March 2015 at The George Inn, starting at 12.30pm. You are advised to book in advance (☎ 01747 860427) for the set two course meal costing £9.95, special diets to be discussed on booking. This price does not include drinks.

The Community Lunch is a great way of meeting people, so if you are new to the town, on your own, or just want to enjoy yourself, come and join us. We are a great bunch.

For further details, please call me: **Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646**

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The spring/early summer programme will be out soon, so if you haven't paid your 2015 subscription you need to do so in order to receive a copy of this mailing. Membership is still only £5 per year per household - wonderful value! And of course new members are always welcome.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833. Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

MARCH SHORT WALK

On Monday, 16th March, join us for a walk of 2-3 miles around the lanes and footpaths of Mere with tea at the Angel Cafe afterwards. Meet at 2.00pm in the Salisbury Street car park.
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

SPECTRA MUSICA

In Concert, Wincanton, March 2015

Spectra Musica are delighted to be returning to St. Luke and St. Teresa's RC Church, Wincanton on Saturday, 21st March at 7.30pm.

The extremely talented, experienced musician Peter Leech will be conducting his first concert since joining them as their Musical Director. 'From Bach to Berkeley Square' will reflect the group's eclectic programmes which have brought so much pleasure to audiences.

The group's regular accompanist is concert pianist Anita D'Attellis, who will also be performing during the concert.

Tickets are £10.00 which includes refreshments during the interval. Tickets can be bought via the website www.spectramusica.co.uk, ☎ 01749 860457 or on the door.

Sally Greenhalgh ☎ 01749 860457



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

Stephen Slater was our speaker in February explaining the subtleties of Crests and Coats of Arms. We saw slides of the Bayeaux Tapestry showing how fighters let their comrades and followers know who they were, by wearing quite a basic coat of arms on their shields, and how through the years they became more elaborate and telling much more about the person. For instance if a holder married, this would combine another coat of arms with the existing one and even the death of a partner would change the coat of arms. We saw several Crests and Coats of Arms of local families, but alas are very sorry to say that nobody recognised the WI coat of arms!

On the 20th February in Devizes two members were lucky enough to get W.I. tickets to hear Ruth Rogers talk about being a puppeteer in the stage show "War Horse". She operated the horse's head and anybody who has seen the play will know how excellent she and all the other puppeteers were in making the horses look so lifelike.

On the 25th February we had a visit to see the snowdrops at Heale House in the Woodford Valley, preceded by a lunch in The Wheatsheaf.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, 5th March in the Grove Buildings and is our Annual General Meeting when we will receive reports from the Treasurer, Secretary and President and elect the new committee. It would be good to see you at the start of our year and an opportunity for you to learn about our WI in Mere.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our meeting at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 10th March in the Grove Building is a post-Marriage Week exploration of 'For Better, For Worse' with Ben Howden. If that sounds familiar, that's because it was to have been the subject of our February meeting, but that meeting will now take place in March because our speaker was very poorly in February, but is now on the mend.

We are extremely grateful to the Rev'd John Page who stepped in at short notice in February, with a very stimulating and thoughtful consideration of our theme for this year, *Praying Together*. We are also busy this month, preparing for our 'Easter Holiday Fun Afternoon' (see below)

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553



Mere Mothers Union invite
Mums with children for an

Easter Holiday Fun Afternoon

**on Wednesday, 1st April 2015
2.00-4.00pm in the Grove Building
including children's Easter Egg hunt,**

**Toys & games for little ones; craft activities for older
children; Tea and cakes for everyone! Husbands/Partners
welcome.**

Please book if possible, or/and for more info. contact

✉ judithvthompson@aol.com or ☎ 01747 860553

MERELY WOMEN

Merely Women offers a warm welcome to any ladies living in Mere. This group is particularly helpful for newcomers to the area, as it is a place to chat and meet new friends. We have activities, speakers and discussions. There is always tea and coffee, with a lot of chat and laughter.

We meet in the Grove Building on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, from 10.00am. There is no membership fee, so just come along between 10.00 and 10.15am for a pre-meeting tea/coffee and chat. Everyone, of all ages, and new or established residents, are most welcome.
Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends would like to give you advance notice that their next fund-raising event will be a **Bingo Night** - a new departure for us! This will take place on **Friday, 24th April at 7.30pm in The Grove Building.**

There will be **lots of prizes!** We hope you'll support us. Make a note of the date, and see our notice below.
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

'Friends of Fives Court'

Join us for



Friday, 24th April
Grove Building 7.30pm

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

There is still time!!! Time, that is, to see MADS's 2015 panto '**Robin Hood and His Merely Men**'! Pop down to the Lecture Hall before 7.30pm on Friday, 27th or Saturday 28th **FEBRUARY** (2.30pm on Saturday for the matinee) and you may just catch them before they slink back to the forest.

What then for MADS? Do we rest on our laurels and just look forward to lazy summer days? Oh no we most certainly don't! Rehearsals have already started for a production of a one-act play by our resident playwright, Adrienne Howell, called '**Gold Braid and Cap Badge**'.

The play will be MADS' entry for the **Woolstore One-Act Play Festival** which takes place over three days, **9th - 11th April**, in the Woolstore theatre in Codford. We would be delighted if some of our loyal supporters would come and cheer us on! Dates in diaries please, and we promise details in the April edition of Mere Matters.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Could you be on the "Sewing Bee"? Well we are very proud of our ladies. They have put in invisible zips, made very smart trousers, adapted patterns that now fit and made children's dresses. They have also eaten lots of chocolate biscuits and made friends!

A very generous donation of a lovely sewing machine and overlocker has meant we are able to teach the confident use of both.

Our next eight week course starts on 13th and 15th April with a break in May, then through June. We meet on Mondays from 10.30am to 1.00pm or on Wednesdays from 7.00 to 9.30pm in The Grove Building.

There are still one or two places on the morning course that is running now. To find out more please phone:

Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923 or Susanne 📠 07788 595434

MERE MUSEUM

Our new exhibition: 'A Century of Posters', opened way back at the beginning of the year and makes very interesting viewing, though we say it ourselves! It gives a glimpse of some of the ways the people of Mere occupied their time in the 19th and early 20th centuries. They were engaged in many of the rural pursuits that you'd expect, but they were also provided with opportunities to learn about and engage in some of the major political issues of the day. Come and read all about it! The exhibition will continue until the end of April.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends of the Museum are delighted to announce another splendid fund-raising event! On **Friday, 17th April** at 7.30 p.m., **Paul Atterbury**, of Antiques Roadshow fame, will return to The Grove Buildings to talk about 'Life in Victorian Britain'. Tickets at £10 each will be on sale at the Library **from Thursday, 2nd April**. Paul's last appearance in Mere was a sellout event, so do be sure to get your tickets early to avoid the proverbial disappointment!
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

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

I am very pleased to announce (after many months of advertising) that we have no spare spaces for either volunteers or new guests as the RGC is running at full capacity! If however you would like to go on the waiting lists, please do contact me, and we are always on the lookout for reserve volunteers. www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

This month's offering from the RGC is a lovely poem, which I am very grateful for, that one of our guests has written.

Ode to the Rosemary Goddard Centre

We were fit as a fiddle in those olden days
Young then and our pension it seemed far
away

The weeks they were long, and our bodies
were strong

Years flew, now were facing grey hair and
decay

Yes we know that we are getting old
Cos we can't stand the heat or the cold
Our bones they are weak, our knees they do
creak

But it's all in the mind we are told
When first I came to meet all of you
I thought 'o my gawd, a right motley crew'
Now pals in our places, familiar faces
Together we share all our ailments and news
When it's down on the programme we sing
Our keenness is all we can bring

The loss of voice, it wasn't our choice
And I heard it described as a terrible DIN
There's a chap comes along and we all love
his ways
He gets lost up the shop nearly all the
Mondays
There's a glint in his eye, it's the girls he sits
by
"well I love all the ladies" he says
Now Sandie she reads out the programme
quite slow
But if nature calls then we just have to go
We are sometimes a pain, when we come
back again
And she has to repeat blow by blow
At the back of the hall right under the telly
Their voices we noticed they have lots of welly

But Sandie stays cool, she swops chairs as a
rule
Cos they can't move, not on your nelly
Now Sandie deserves a massive thank you

We're grateful to you for all that you do
The trouble you take, for all of our sakes
It's Mondays and Fridays we look forward to.

By Hilary Norman

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

MERE GARDENING CLUB

AGM and Spring Show

Wednesday, 11th March - 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Subs will be collected at the AGM and remain at £8. This is really good value as it includes 8 monthly talks, discounted shopping at local Garden Centres, Summer visits, a New Year Social and a Garden Party.

Schedules for this year's Spring Show are in the Post Office window and anyone is welcome to take part except for the Mere Garden Club items (MGC). This year we are being joined by some of the residents of Fives Court with a special joint category with Club Members. It is a very relaxed occasion as we vote for our favourite exhibits which is always good fun. Come and enjoy a touch of Spring! The AGM will be followed by a talk on Orchids by John Goff.

The beautiful Photo Book of last year's successful Open Garden Weekend is now on display in the Library. Do go and have a look next time you are there.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting



Tuesday, 3rd March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Grove Building

Subscriptions for 2015/6 due (£7.50)

If you are unable to attend please send your subscription to the

Membership Secretary:

Gerry Cook, 20 Lovage Way, Mere, BA12 6RU ☎ 01747 861797

Subs will be taken and wine and nibbles provided before the AGM which will **start promptly at 7.30pm** followed by **'A Blast from the Past'**: Listen to woodwind instruments from the middle ages, by Jonathan Weeks

£3 entry for non-members who will be very welcome

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 17th March, to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "Fossils, Rocks and Dinosaurs" by Gerry Cook., with local content.

£1 entry for non-members who will be very welcome.

If you would like to be added to the list of those who receive monthly emailed reminders of activities, please let Caroline have your email address.

Don't forget to check out our web site:

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

GROVE BUILDING "100" CLUB

The result of the '100' Club draw for February, drawn on Monday, 2nd February 2015 by Mrs Rose Cox, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 93	Mr Brian Shotter
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 118	Miss Anne Lander
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 155	Mrs Lesley Traves
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 138	Mrs June Ireland

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Mr. Turner' (12A)

Timothy Spall

Directed by Mike Leigh

Starring Timothy Spall (Best Actor - Cannes Film Festival) in this visually stunning exploration of the last 25 years of the artist's life.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 12th March, 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 CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

Open Day for the Mere Croquet & Boule Club will be on Saturday, 4th April from 2.00pm and we look forward to seeing all members and also anybody who is interested in becoming a member. We will be happy to show what enjoyable games Croquet and Boule are. The green continues to receive treatment and is looking good. For further information, please contact me by ✉: joan.sutton2@tiscali.co.uk or telephone.

Joan Sutton, Chairman ☎ 01747 860308

MERE & ZEALS BRIDGE CLUB

DUPLICATE BRIDGE IS PLAYED

IN THE GROVE BUILDING

EVERY FRIDAY @ 2.00pm

£1.50 per session
(inc refreshments)

All welcome, please telephone me if you require a partner

Vernon Phillips ☎ 01747 863313


BOWLS CLUB

Now is the time to make an effort to try the sport of Bowls. We open for the new season on Saturday, 18th April, and if you are interested in giving Bowls a try, come along to the green on Springfield Road, opposite the Dental Surgery, at 3.00pm and our qualified coaches will show you the basics and get you bowling in no time. Please note that flat shoes are required for access to the green.

If the 18th April is not suitable for you then we will be holding an Open Day on Sunday 3rd May. Bowls gives the following advantages to an enjoyable and healthy lifestyle – it is an outdoor sport with a quiet and sedate sports action, so lots of low impact exercise and fresh air. This sport is approved and encouraged by most doctors. All of this is mixed with wonderful social gatherings throughout both the open and closed seasons. It is also an inexpensive sport once the initial equipment is obtained, and most of that can be bought second-hand.

The club is pleased to announce that we now have a website up and running at www.merebowlsclub.co.uk, which is where you can check club information; get updates on fixtures and results, and view all details of a general nature to do with the

sport of bowls. The site will be updated on a regular basis and we are currently still entering data into some areas. Please contact Alan Spencer for further information, see his telephone number in the next paragraph.

For any other details please contact either Alan Inwood on 01985 844215, Alan Spencer on 01747 860803 or call me at the number below or by : don.butchers@btinternet.com

Don Butchers, Club Secretary  01747-860775

ZEALS YOUTH TRUST

Regd Charity No. 1064296 Regd Ofsted No. EY484460

Zeals Afterschool Club (ZAC)

We now have a few parents and children from Mere, Maiden Bradley, and Zeals who have enabled us to start the ZAC. We have also found some leaders (who run the sports work at Mere school).

Play workers. A number of grannies and others from the parish are also keen to assist daily. We hope many others might come forward to commit to a day a week (or more if they wish).

Play leaders. We are also planning to train up our own leaders who will each do 3 days per week – please let us know if interested.

All Local schools. The ZAC will be open to any parents and children from the local schools – Mere, Whitesheet, Bourton, and Milton.



If you would like to know more, please look at our website: www.thezac.org.uk or ring me.

Ross Coad  01747 841531

GIRL GUIDING IN MERE

Rainbow and Brownie spaces available

1st Mere Rainbows is part of Girlguiding UK and we have spaces for girls aged 5 and 6. We meet on a Thursday evening in Mere between 5.10 and 6.10pm. We do lots of exciting things: - cooking, craft, games, stories, dancing, singing and generally have fun!

If your daughter would like to come along for a taster session, please ring either Kathryn  01747 860886 or Nikki  01747 860452. Unfortunately, if we do not recruit some more girls, we will have to close our lovely unit!

1st Mere Brownies also have a few places available for girls aged 7-10 years. They meet immediately after the Rainbows from 6.15-7.30pm.

Recycling project - 1st Mere Brownies

Thank you for your continued support. Last year we raised £105.00 from our project. In addition, we are now collecting stamps – loose/single stamps, albums, First Day covers/presentation packs, single postcards and collections.

We are still collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches (including broken), foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age, and mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card). We can recycle them for you – with proceeds to unit funds.

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

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

Sue Luffman ☎ 01747 861054 or Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215



Churches Together in Mere and District

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

comes to us this year from the Bahamas.

Service at 11.00 am.

Friday, 6th March 2014.

St. Mary's Catholic Church,

Pettridge Lane, Mere.

Followed by Lent Lunch at the Grove Building

Christine Gilbert ☎ 01747 860179

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE
MONDAY, 16th MARCH 2015**

Mere School Reports



by Year 4

Blue Class

As part of their topic, Blue Class have had visits from the police and fire service.

They have also been to the local doctor's surgery where they learnt about the job of the doctors and nurses there.

Yellow Class

Yellow class visited a transport museum as part of their topic on Journeys. They all enjoyed a ride in a 1930's car!

Silver Class

Silver class have been busy learning about Superheroes. They then wrote their own amazing superhero stories.

Gold Class

This half term Gold class have been learning all about Plants.

As part of their topic the children have been out and about photographing and sketching winter trees.

Green Class

Green class have just completed all their swimming sessions. A great time was had by all the children!

Red Class

Red class have been on a school trip to the woods at Alfred's Tower. They spent the morning developing a wide range of geographical fieldwork skills.

Purple Class

Purple class have been busy learning all about space. Make sure you check out their webpage for their amazing sock aliens!

Oral Hygiene Visit

Children from Reception to Year 3 have been finding out how to keep their teeth clean!

Sports Update

Children from Year 3 and 4 took part in a football tournament held at Gillingham Astro and MPH. The A team played extremely well, despite the very cold temperatures and came fourth. The B team also played extremely well in a very closely fought tournament.

STOP PRESS!

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

www.mereschool.co.uk

FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

King James II Coat of Arms – Part 1

You may have noticed that the painted Coat of Arms of James II, dated 1684, which has been hanging over the north porch of St Michael's, has gone! It is now in Bristol awaiting the start of what will be a quite long conservation process. But why was it in the church in the firstplace?

At the Reformation, when Henry VIII broke away from the Pope and Rome and declared himself the head of the Church of England (1534), some churches installed the Royal Arms on the rood screen or over the chancel arch, replacing the usual images of the cross and attendant figures. It was a gesture intended to signify in no uncertain terms that the King was now the supreme ruler of the church. This practice was not universal, however, and was the cause of much dispute.

During the reign of Mary (1553 - 58, a Catholic), the cross and figures were put back. The Royal Arms were not banned though, simply placed elsewhere. After the execution of Charles I (1649) and the establishment of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, Royal Arms were removed from churches, or were turned to face the wall. It was only at the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 that the display of the Royal Arms in churches became compulsory. *To be continued!*

Jenny Wilding, Conservation Project Manager ☎ 01747 860908



Lent Study Courses

Churches Together in Mere and District (CTM&D) have a busy month! The Lent Study groups, open to everyone, using the Course 'Finding a Voice' by Hilary Brand, based on the film *The King's Speech* are continuing on Mondays at 10.00am in the Vicarage and on Tuesdays at 7.15pm in the Grove Building. You are welcome to join either group.

Lent Lunches

The popular Lent Lunches in aid of Christian Aid and CAFOD are being held for 5 Fridays during Lent. Bring a friend and enjoy homemade soup, roll, butter, cheese, coffee and tea for only £3. There will be a sales table which will include home-made produce. The lunches are held in the Grove Building, Church Street, Mere from 12.30-1.30p.m. They begin on Friday, 6th March and continue until Good Friday, after the Annual Procession up Castle Hill on 3rd April.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553 and Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884
Joint secretaries for CTM&D

BELL RINGERS NEWS

Mere and Zeals church bell ringing band started a class for beginners in mid February. It meets at Zeals church on Monday evenings at 6.30pm. If you would like to learn to ring bells, come and join us. For more information ring:

David Gatehouse ☎ 07973106470 or Jenny Lucas ☎ 07912149251

CAFÉ WORSHIP

Worship will be held as usual after Coffee in the Methodist School Room on Wednesday, 25th March at 11.00am. This is an extension of our usual Pause for Thought every Wednesday - why not come and share a coffee and chat from 10.30am to 12.00noon.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MARCH 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)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Communion, (Bishop Ed) "Pancakes and Temptation!"
Tuesday	3rd	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	*15th	10.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY Parish Communion (CW1)
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	29th	10.30am	PALM SUNDAY Parish Communion (CW1)
Monday	30th	7.30pm	Compline
Tuesday	31st	7.30pm	Compline

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

Lent course on Tuesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th at 7.15pm in Grove Building

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	8th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	15th	11.00am	MOTHERING SUNDAY Rev'd Stella Sivour
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham Holy Communion
	29th	11/00am	PALM SUNDAY Martin Heal

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	1st	3.00pm	Mr Ken Alcockl
Sunday	8th	3.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion
	15th	3.00pm	MOTHERING SUNDAY Ms Jen Gardner
	22nd	3.00pm	Mr Dudley Coates,
	29th	3.00pm	PALM SUNDAY Rev'd Paul Arnold

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's.

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

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

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**

Sunday	1st	9.30am	Matins
	8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	15th	9.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY DIY service
	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion
	29th	9.30am	PALM SUNDAY DIY service

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2015

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BH-Band Hut: 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.

2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 9th, 16th & 23rd)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking in small hall (also 9th, & 16th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 9th, 16th, & 23rd)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 9th, 16th, & 23rd)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 9th, 16th, & 23rd)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	10.00am	Card Making Class	L
		10.15am	- 12.15pm Lip Reading (also 10th, 17th & 24)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Historical Society	GB
		7.15pm	CTM&D Lent Study Group (every Tuesday)	GB
4	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	BH
		7.00pm	Dressmaking in small hall (also 11th & 18th)	GB
5	Thur	10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		1.00pm	Mere Post Office re-opens as a main Post Office	
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 12th & 19th)	GB
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
6	Fri	10.00am	Open The Book	GB
		11.00am	Womens World Day of Prayer	RC church
		12.30pm	- 1.30pm Lent Lunch (every Friday)	GB
		1.00pm	Mere Duplicate Bridge Club (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
7	Sat	10.00am	- 11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.00am	- 12.00noon Cancer Research Spring Bazaar	L
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
9	Mon	10.30am	12.00noon Carers Support Café	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Green Room)	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L

10	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
11	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 19th & 26th)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola: "Mr Turner"	L
14	Sat	9.30am	Botanical Art	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		10.30am	- 12.00noon Children's Mothers Day stories	Lib
		7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club BINGO	L
16	Mon	2.00pm	March Short Walk	CP
17	Tue	10.15am	Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
18	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
20	Fri	7.30pm	General Election Hustings (see page 15)	L
21	Sat	7.00pm	Mere Town Youth Football Club BINGO	L
22	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
24	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
25	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends together	GB
27	Fri	5.30pm	- 7.30pm Dr Bill Price's Retirement Party	Surgery
28	Sat	10.00am	Stars Appeal Spring Fair	GB
31	Tue	2.30pm	- 4.00pm Easter Activity	Lib

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A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, where everybody matters

Coming Soon - New Class

Kettlebells

Interested? An ancient form of exercise, which dates back as far as the 18th century. Favoured by the Russians who consider it a matter of national pride - a symbol of strength, and used by their Armed Forces to this day.

We are looking to introduce Kettlebell classes to our weekly. If you are interested in taking part, please leave your contact details at Reception, or contact us:.

- Reception, ☎ 01747 871141,
- ✉ tisburyrc@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- Website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk
- Follow us on **Twitter@TisburyLC**
- or **Facebook**

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 APRIL 2015 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 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, 16th March 2015.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 9th March 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.**

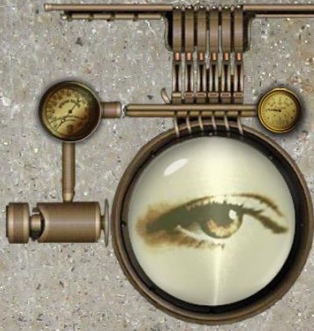
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