

# MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**APRIL 2010**

## **DR ANDREW MURRISON, OUR LOCAL MP AND MERE RESIDENT, WRITES**

Like many Mere residents, I was greatly inconvenienced by the A303 closure even if the quiet was refreshing for those of us living alongside.

Admittedly, the disruption would have been very much worse had the Highways Agency's original plans gone ahead. However, it completed the work ahead of schedule, an unusual feat for a public body.

My abiding memory is the complete mess made of our B roads and their verges and the mockery made of the diversions by satellite navigation. I have previously tackled ministers about the "rat-running" encouraged by Satnav and will redouble my efforts. The technology offers a great deal, but it must not send unsuitable vehicles down narrow country lanes.

It was good to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the county-wide review of car parking charges. I understand the pressure applied by central government on local authorities to discourage motoring, but its agenda is a largely urban one and not geared towards the welfare of small market towns and villages.

It seems to me that there would be few beneficiaries from having to pay to park in relatively rural settlement like Mere. Charges would undoubtedly drive shoppers towards the larger centres and Mere has already lost too many shops. Furthermore, our relative isolation would mean a costly excursion for someone to come and empty machines and enforce payments.

I suspect that the net revenue that could be raised by imposing parking charges would be minimal at best. I've written to express my views as part of the consultation and hope we see some common sense.

### **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, 12th April 2010**.

#### **The Chairman writes:**

We have arranged to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday, 28th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Buildings (refreshments will be served from 7.00 p.m.). This is a public meeting convened by the Parish Council where parishioners have the opportunity

to come along and discuss concerns and hear reports from various organisations in the town. Amongst other things, we shall be discussing the impact that possible proposals for car parking charges may cause and the Parish Council's future management proposals for Castle Hill & Long Hill.

Having tolerated all the problems associated with the closure of the A303, we are extremely pleased to see it re-open. We would like to thank and congratulate the contractors, Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald, for their hard work in completing the job ahead of schedule and also for their co-operation and collaboration. We would also like to thank our local police for their help and assistance with the traffic problems.

We would also like to publicly thank the Highways Agency and Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for giving up the time, men and machinery to re-grade the Andy Young Pavilion Car Park and the Southbrook allotment track as a good-will gesture. This helpfulness is very much appreciated

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

*Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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

The recent exceptionally cold weather has seriously damaged many of our highways, to compound this locally, the A303 closure has taken much of my time, requesting more and improved road signs, pot hole repairs etc.

Some HGV drivers have been ignoring clear weight restriction signs and using minor roads. Wiltshire Council (WC) has had to close a stretch of a minor road running from Monkton Deverill to Pertwood due to damage caused to the verges. However, the Council is reassuring people that any damage to roads caused by the extra traffic around the Deverills and Mere will be repaired. The Highways Agency has agreed to reimburse the council for the repairs.

WC has issued the following statement: "The Council is very much aware of, and understands public dissatisfaction with, the condition of local roads such as Wet Lane and Cunnage Lane where the verges in places have been almost liquified by "rat running" traffic in wet weather. Accordingly, this has been brought to the Highway Agency's attention asking them for assistance with resources. It has responded with offers of a video condition survey, the occasional provision of a road sweeper and the opportunity to drive these routes with them at the cessation of the closure."

The WC budget process is responsible for a very large amount of money delivering wide-ranging services right across the county. A large portion of the total budget of £885m is outside WC control and will be passed directly to the education sector. The amount WC spends on discretionary services has now been set. An average increase in council tax of 2.3% is the set amount. To harmonise council tax rates finally across the county, some residents will pay a little less and some marginally more, **including Mere**. Wiltshire remains one of the lowest government funded authorities in the country.

The government grant is expected to decrease by 5% a year over the next 4 years. The county has an ageing population with ever increasing expensive demands on our social services. WC are looking after more young people this year than ever before. Consultation with residents across the county, both at Area Boards and through the People's Voice, made it clear that their number one priority for expenditure was road maintenance and that front line services should be held at not less than their current level, particularly those for the elderly and for youth services. To meet these wishes, some increase in council tax would be expected by many, as has happened.

It might be of interest to readers that the new Wiltshire Council, with 3,255 square km (1,257square miles) is the third largest authority after Northumberland and Cornwall. WC maintain 4,400 km (2,734miles) of roads, look after 6,100km (3,790miles) of rights of way and maintain 40,000 streetlights. In the recent severe weather WC salted 106,200km (65,990miles) of roads. 200 council employed staff together with 84 contractor employees hand cleared footways, many to allow care workers to access to their clients' homes. 48 gritters and snow ploughs, together with 20 parish steward Land Rovers, were used and 28 schools requiring access for exams were cleared overnight on two occasions.

During 2009, WC opened eight more children's centres making 30 in the county including one in Mere. By the end of the financial year, customer services will have handled over one million telephone calls and there will have been over 15,000 referrals from people needing social care. By the end of January 2010, there were 2,452 recorded births and 2,429 deaths. In the last 12 months the caseload for Housing and Council tax benefits rose by over 9% to 30,478. 8,107 planning applications have been handled making Wiltshire the third largest nationally for the number of applications processed after Westminster and Cornwall. WC has completed £2.5m of major maintenance work in schools.

£100,000 is available for youth services through WC's 20 Area Boards with a recommendation that it should be prioritised for transport where required for young people in the county to access facilities available to them. This is a top priority as reflected in the youth transport conference in early March attended by over 100 young people from across the county. The under-spends in our Area Board grants budget for community projects will be rolled forward for use this coming year.

I have attended the Core Strategy Hearing at Salisbury reinforcing the wish for local rural parking to be more generous than in the urban environment, combined with the need for Mere to stay a sustainable community.



**THINK SAFETY BEFORE DOING IT YOURSELF**



As spring is upon us and summer is approaching Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service has issued timely advice to all would be Do It Yourself enthusiasts.

Statistics and experience show that at this time of year there is an increase in calls, which are found to have been caused by activities associated with DIY. These range from fires ignited by blow torches involved in paint stripping, to electrical appliances and other equipment which may have been stored in a damp garage or shed over the winter period.

Always check that the task you are undertaking is within your capabilities. Take expert advice. Many of the modern DIY Superstores from which materials and equipment are bought will offer such advice. Safety instructions should be read in full and complied with."

Always: -

- Check you have the correct tool for the job.
- Ensure children and pets are safe, with obstructions removed from your workplace.
- If you have to check or repair an electrical tool, turn it off at the mains. Don't be tempted to cut corners because you are some distance from the power switch.
- Always uncoil electrical extension cables fully, as these can overheat and cause a fire.
- Never use multi-way adapters when working with high amperage tools.
- Gas appliances should only be repaired by an approved contractor.
- Flammable liquids should be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, secured in containers and used in small quantities, well away from the house and other risks – naked flames or cigarettes.
- Ventilate when using adhesives and flammable liquids by opening windows and door and always ensure that no naked flames or power tools are close by.
- If you spill a substance on your clothing or overalls remove them and clean them thoroughly.

Home makeovers are popular, but by following these simple rules, accidents, fires and tragedies can be kept to a minimum.

Remember to check your smoke alarms weekly.

For further information and advice please contact :- Melanie Jezzard – Community Safety, Email: [Melanie.jezzard@wiltsfire.gov.uk](mailto:Melanie.jezzard@wiltsfire.gov.uk) Website: [www.wiltsfire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltsfire.gov.uk)

## **WEATHER REPORT.**

February was a wet month. We had 105mms of rain (4.14ins) Last year we had 46.5mms (1.8ins) We had frost on the 1st and snow on the 9th and 22nd which soon cleared. The middle of the month was sunny but with cold East winds.

So far, up to the middle of March it has been dry with only 2mms (0.08ins) of rain, some cloudy mornings with sun later, but that cold wind has persisted. Not so cold after the 12th.

*Peter Durkee*



## **MERE POLICE NEWS**

### **Beat the Burglar**

Please be aware that Tisbury, Mere and the bordering Dorset areas are currently suffering a series of high value dwelling burglaries. The favourite entry method used by the offender is to target houses whose occupants are out, sometimes during the daytime. The burglar will then gain access to the property via the rear of the house by any means available to him. This includes smashing a window or forcing doors open sometimes using garden equipment to assist him which he has found at the property.

The offender is particularly targeting jewellery, cash and high value portable items and may be parking his car some distance away from the target premises. We would urge you to call us if you see an unusual vehicle in your area, which looks out of place or cannot be justified. It might just be the lead we need to catch him!

## ***DOG WISE TRAINING SCHOOL***

**OUTSIDE TRAINING, IN MERE  
TRAINING IN GOOD MANNERS AND BEHAVIOUR  
ALSO FUN AGILITY GAMES AND SOCIALISATION  
1 TO 1 TRAINING AVAILABLE**

Classes on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10.30am or on Saturdays at 2.00pm

**PHYSIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY TRAINED**

**☎ 01747 860318 or 07807 486377.**

## Home Security

The best way to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime is through good home security. A lot of burglaries are opportunist and a burglar may see an open window or an easy point of entry and take their chances.

Sturdy locks on doors and windows can greatly reduce a thief's opportunity and gives you peace of mind too.

Speak to your local crime reduction officer for advice ☎ 0845 408 7000.

## Neighbourhood Watch

One good way of reducing crime in your neighbourhood is by becoming part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your area. For more information please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team or the Police Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer.

If you see or hear anything suspicious or think a crime is being committed, PLEASE, PLEASE contact us using 999! The following information is useful to the police:

- An exact description of what you have seen
- A description of the people involved
- A description of any vehicle involved

*Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312*

*e-mail: [richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

*Jake Noble, Police Community Support Officer*

*e-mail: [jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

*☎: 0845 408 7000 ext 746815/749817*

*☎ 01747 861737 (Direct Dial **not** 24 hours)*

*☎ 07980 701606 (mobile- not 24 hours), Fax: 01747 860013*

## MERE DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

The practice recently launched its first website: [meredental.co.uk](http://meredental.co.uk). We are still adding to the site but you can see us, and Dr Anderson's logo, in glorious colour.

The Practice has been approached by Wiltshire College about taking on a Business Administration Apprentice. The person must be between 16 – 18 years old and would work towards a Business Administration NVQ level 3. It is designed to help young people to develop a career and is the first step towards gaining a professional qualification. The NVQ can be done on day release to Salisbury College or in-house, with the trainer coming and visiting the Practice.

Here is a local opportunity for a young person from Mere. For more information call me at the Practice.

*Francine Sherrard, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365*

# MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone, but at present Jacquie Barnes is the only dentist seeing new NHS patients

The practice has two Dentists:

**Mr Stephen Sherrard**

**Ms Jacqueline Barnes**

..and one Dental Hygienist:

**Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)**

## **Contact Details: -**

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

Tuesday 8.45am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)  
Normal hours (9.00am – 5.30pm on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday.

The practice is sited in the school grounds, first building on your left when you go through the school gates.

# THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

## **Grants available for 2010**

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

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



Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is 31st May 2010 and grants will normally be paid annually in the autumn.

For further details and an application form, please write with s.a.e. to  
**The Secretary, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere, WARMINSTER, Wiltshire, BA12 6DA.**



## MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

This year's footpath walks begin this weekend with a local walk on Sunday 28th March. All walks leave from the main Salisbury Street car park at 2.00pm unless otherwise stated. Everyone is very welcome including dogs (on leads). Bring a drink and snack if you wish.

Walks are usually 5-6 miles within roughly a 15 mile radius of Mere. We car-share whenever possible. Further information, such as destination and distance, will be displayed outside the Post Office nearer the dates.

2.00pm	Sunday	28th March (local walk)
2.00pm	Sunday	25th April
2.00pm	Sunday	23rd May
2.00pm	Sunday	13th June
7.30pm	Saturday	26th June (moonlight walk)
2.00pm	Sunday	4th July
2.00pm	Sunday	25th July
2.00pm	Sunday	22nd August
2.00pm	Sunday	19th September
2.00pm	Sunday	10th October
1.00pm	Sunday	7th November (local walk)

All walkers walk at their own risk.

*Ann Newberry, for Mere Footpath Group, ☎ 01747 861184*

## MERE SHORT WALKS

This month's Short Walk will start at the Salisbury Street Car Park by the Doctors' Surgery at 2.00pm on Friday 16th April.

A gentle walk of about 3 miles with tea afterwards at The Angel Cafe.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **FAIR TRADE BIG BREW**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the events during Fair Trade Fortnight. A donation of over £50 has been sent to Traidcraft Exchange to further their work with small tea producers in India and Africa.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **WEA MERE**

WEA Mere branch will be wound up at the end of the academic year (31st July 2010) because the current committee, which has been in post for many years, is finding it difficult to generate sufficient interest to make courses financially viable. In addition, no one has come forward willing to take over the running of the branch. As a consequence the day school below will be the last course offered by the branch.

### **Do the Write Thing!**

**Tutor: Wendy Batt**

**Saturday 17th April 2010**

**10.00am to 4.00pm  
At Footprints**

Come and have a sociable day beginning to learn and explore the absorbing craft of calligraphy. This could start you off on a whole new creative path. We will begin to write in the roundhand style and look at how to combine beautiful writing with decoration. **Contact:** Jane Batten at Footprints ☎ 01747 861797 if you would like to come.  
*Maggie Durkee, Chair, ☎ 01747 860163*

## **MERE BRAINWAVE**

Mere Brainwave charity shop would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to the CO-OP store in Mere for donating 500 chocolate eggs. These will be put inside our beautiful knitted chicks, which were all so kindly made for us by Mrs Shirley Thomas who works at the Brainwave shop in Mere. These chicks will be on sale in our shop for Easter with all proceeds going to the charity so do pop in, choose a lovely Easter chick and help raise money for this wonderful children's charity. *Mrs J Donohoe ☎ 01747 861316*

## **MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

**Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096**

We are very sorry to be losing Evelyn Chapman, who is moving from Mere to be nearer her family. Evelyn has been on the Management Committee for a number of years, first as Assistant Treasurer and more recently as Treasurer. We are grateful for all the help she has given the Linkscheme and send our best wishes for her future happiness.

Our new Treasurer is Bill Pike who will be assisted by Eugene Reed from Kilmington. Both Bill and Eugene are already Link drivers and so have a good working knowledge of the Scheme.

*Molly Burden* 📞 01747 860007

## MERE FILM SHOWS

On Thursday 29th April we are showing the award winning film 'An Education' (12A). BAFTA and Oscar nominated for Best Film, it has been adapted by Nick Hornby from the autobiographical novel of Lynne Barber and tells the story of a 1960s teenage girl from an ordinary middle class English background working hard for a place at Oxford who suddenly finds herself in a whirlwind romance with an older man. Meeting his friends and seeing the fashionable life he leads her education begins to change from academic to worldly, and her desire for Oxford less sure. This film has become the hit of the season with excellent performances throughout. Full details on page 32.

**Dates for your diary:** Thursday 20th May, The Boys are Back (12A). Thursday 17th June, Alice in Wonderland (PG)

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The Mere Theatre Club continues to grow, now to around 100! We also have members from surrounding villages. You don't have to live in Mere to join, but, at the moment, coaches are leaving from Mere.

By the time you read this we should be issuing the list for the next quarter, May, June & July. So do come along on one of our interesting outings and if you join the club you go on the mailing list for all forthcoming events. You can also invite friends and families along, as you don't have to be a member to book a trip. Ring either Madelaine or Wendy for more information.

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

## CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

March has been another busy month for the group and the Beginners Group is making excellent progress.

There will be no meeting on the Wednesday, 7th April and meetings commence again on Thursday 15th April.

The group are in the process of setting up a website. There is also a plan to visit the Classic American Quilt Special Exhibition at Claverton Manor, Bath on Thursday 27th May for a special guided daytime visit around the exhibition and period rooms. There may be a possibility of offering this to people outside the group. Details in the May issue of Mere Matters.

For details of attending a meeting or joining the Quilting Group, please contact me.

*Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923*

## **MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 1st April 2010 at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings, when Jenny Wilding is coming to talk to us about Mere Museum. Please note that this meeting takes place in the afternoon and not, as is usual, in the evening.

As ever, new members and guests will be very welcome.

*Jean Rees* 📞 01747 860392

## **MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th April at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be Peter Durkee and his subject: "How I became a writer".

*Thelma Ings* ☎ 01747 860262

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)**

**Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close**

**10.30am to 3.00pm on Mondays & 10.30am to 4.00pm on Fridays**

Let me tell you about the Rosemary Goddard Centre. It was started just over 20 years ago when Rosemary Goddard, a greatly respected District Nurse sought to provide some variety and outside interests for the elderly, often housebound and lonely, local residents. With her initiative, and with the invaluable assistance of Age Concern in Salisbury, the Mere Day Centre, as it was originally known came into being.

The Centre provides companionship, stimulation and fun for people over 60 years of age. Our guests' ages range from 63 to 97 years both men and women. We take care of each other and laughter is the order of the day. We are unable to accept people with dementia, but do have independent people who are slightly disabled. The Centre is open on Mondays and Fridays at the above times and we offer discussions, debates, quizzes, talks, reading and games groups, outings and events. Relationships are formed which continue outside the Centre reducing loneliness and isolation.

In the forthcoming year we have plans for a visit to Yeovilton Airfield, Longleat, and we also plan a Tea Dance and a party in July, "Not the Independence Day Party", which will be held in Lynch Close and all are welcome to join us to meet and make new friends.

Details for all these events will be on our programme which is displayed in the Library and on the notice board outside Waltons of Mere. We are always looking out for volunteers so if interested contact Lynette.

*Lynette Elliot, Organiser* ☎ 01747 861646

*Caroline Cook, Secretary* ☎ 01747 861797

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

Tickets for our **Barn Dance** on Friday 9th April at 7.00pm in the Grove Buildings, are selling like hot cakes, and as the number available is strictly limited, do rush down to the Information Point (in the Library) **now** to be sure you get yours before it's too late. See poster below for further details.

Meanwhile, our garden fundraising efforts to date have topped £1,000, and we are also promised £1,500 from the West Wiltshire Community Area Grants Board so we're

nearly half-way to our target. The Barn Dance might just take us there, so do come and support us!  
*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

**Friends of Fives Court are holding a fund-raising**

## **BARN DANCE**

**Friday 9th April at 7.00pm**

**Grove Buildings**



**Live Music, Ploughman's supper & Licensed Bar**

*Adults £7.50, Children £5*

**Tickets available from:**

**Fives Court or the Information Point**

**Angela ☎ 01747 861602/Carol ☎ 01747 860976**

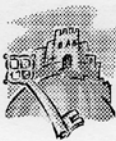
## **MERE GARDENING CLUB**

There will be **NO** evening meeting on **Wednesday 14th April** as there will be an afternoon visit that day to Castle Gardens nursery for members only. One of the Nursery staff will give us a talk and then there will be plenty of time for discounted shopping of 25% on all purchases.

Meet at 1.30pm in Salisbury Street car park to share lifts. For more details contact: Lin and Chris Tuck ☎ 01747 860314.

**On Saturday 17th April** there will be a **Workshop** at Wit's End, North Road, from 10.00am until 2.00pm to prepare plants for our Sale. Bring small pots, plants to propagate and seedlings to prick out. Compost will be provided, and lots of plug plants to pot on. Details from:  
*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*





UNLOCKING HISTORY

## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT One: Monday 17th May 2010

### Tyntesfield

Our visit gives us an opportunity to see the progress made on the 'Conservation in Action' project undertaken on this Victorian Gothic Revival Country House near Bristol, following the dramatic fundraising campaign in 2002, which enabled the National Trust to acquire the property.

It will now be possible to see a selection of bedrooms and bathrooms, in addition to the ground floor. Lifts are not yet installed, however the room interpreters will give an introduction to each room and answer questions, so that you will be able to tour the house at your own pace.

You may also enjoy a view of the major roof repairs being undertaken this year by going up the viewing tower.

Sandwiches can be purchased for lunch **only if they are pre-booked**, so please indicate on the booking form whether you will wish to do so.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.15am and return to Mere by 6.00pm approx.**

**Cost:** MHS Members £11.00, non MHS members £13.00, per person  
*National Trust entrance fee is £9.30, so please remember to bring your card if you are a member of National Trust*

**Booking forms available from Mere Information Point**

***NB: Bookings should go to Ros Castro ☎ 01747 861957 as instructed on the form.***

## MERE MUSEUM

The new exhibition, 'Pitty the Pore' opened to great acclaim on 1st March and a bumper audience of Friends. It's the sort of exhibition that will repay several visits (lots to read and see). The exhibition will be open until the end of June; but don't leave it to the last minute – you know how time flies!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MAY ISSUE  
MONDAY 19th APRIL 2010**

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends of Mere Museum would like to issue a penultimate reminder that their annual Plant Sale will take place in The Grove Buildings on **Saturday 8th May** starting at **10.00am**. Offers of good quality plants will be most gratefully received, as will cakes for the cake stall. We can collect – give me or David Longbourne ☎ 01747 860243 a ring. Thank you!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

**Mere Amateur Dramatic Society**

*proudly presents*

**'BOTTOM'S DREAM'**

by Alan Poole

***A FANTASTIC FROLIC***

*EXTREMELY LOOSELY BASED ON  
SHAKESPEARE'S COMEDY  
'A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM'*

**THURS.— SAT. 15-17th APRIL**

The Lecture Hall, Mere, at 7.30 p.m.

**Tickets £5 & £3 (children) Thursday  
£6 and £3 Friday & Saturday**

**at Mere Information Point (Library)  
Tickets Strictly limited— HURRY!**

The production is given in memory of  
George Chapman

A donation will be made to Mere Cancer Research

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for March, drawn after Family Communion service on 7th March by Mrs Pat isom, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 135	Mrs A Leece
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 138	Mrs June Ireland
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 150	Mrs P Coward
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 176	Mrs K Herbert

*Valerie Ransley* ☎ 01747 860964

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Rehearsals are well under way for this year's Spring Production, which is a comedy entitled '**Bottom's Dream**' by Alan Poole. The author has taken just Bottom and his comic mates out of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and ignored everything else. He has woven a lighthearted, imaginary tale around them, their wives and their play, and great fun is had by all. With a huge cast and splendiferous set, **seats will be limited** for this joyous performance so make sure you **book early** to avoid disappointment! For details, see poster on previous page (No: 21).

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## NEWS ABOUT LINE DANCING

It is with deep regret that Lynn and Paul Mills of Southern Breeze Linedancing Club announce that they have taken the very emotional decision to cease their classes at the end of March this year.

Lynn and Paul brought Southern Breeze Linedancing Club to Gillingham in September 2006 and started their Mere class in June 2007, since when, as many of you will know, they have always offered their support to local events and charitable organisations.

"It was never intended for the club to be solely a profit-making organisation; it was started because we wished to meet and make friends within our new community and encourage others to experience and share in, our love of dancing. However, there comes a point, when what should have been a self-financing community activity has become a very expensive hobby.

"Unfortunately, due to declining numbers at both classes, we now find ourselves with no alternative other than to call it a day. Therefore, the last class in Gillingham will be on Wednesday the 31st March 2010 and at Mere on Thursday 1st April 2010.

"It is also with regret that we will no longer be able to present demonstrations at local charity events or raise funds, to assist these organisations, in their endeavours."

Lynn and Paul would like to thank their most stalwart members, who have also become very good friends, for their continued support and wish them happy dancing at whichever new venue they choose in the future.

*Lynn and Paul Mills ☎ 01747 824642*

Playing in Mere  
on Saturday 10th April at 7.30pm  
in the Lecture Hall

## Kosmos

Internationally acclaimed string trio Kosmos unites the rich texture of the string trio with the depth and integrity of traditional music from the Balkans and beyond. With their inspiring fusion of folk music traditions from around the world, sophisticated jazz glides magically into wild gypsy fiddling, emotive Jewish music into hot-blooded Tango, free improvisation into Arabic melody, inimitable panache and virtuoso technique.

“Kosmos is breaking new ground..... the playing is faultless, virtuoso where necessary and always refined and controlled” - Chris Williams, Roots, Worldwide music magazine

Tickets £6.50 adults, £5.50 senior citizens £3.50 children  
available from Mere Information Point

Hosted by Mere Drama Society, Sponsored by Rural Arts Wiltshire

*Maggie Durkee ☎ 01747 860163*



## ONE WORLD FAIR

**Book a Stall Now for your Organisation on  
23rd October!**

17th – 23rd October is **One World Week** and we have booked the Grove Building on Saturday 23rd October for an event to celebrate being part of the 'Global Village', with the opportunity to enjoy and learn a little about other cultures and life-styles.

The main focus of the event, however, as its name suggests, is to contribute just a little to making the world a fairer place. We hope there will be a variety of stalls selling

The main focus of the event, however, as its name suggests, is to contribute just a little to making the world a fairer place. We hope there will be a variety of stalls selling goods to support fair trade and greater opportunity for people living in poverty throughout the world.

Any organisation or group in sympathy with the aims of One World Week (website: [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)) is very welcome to book a stall. As well as fairly-traded goods, we would welcome display and information stalls, and anything which might contribute to a sense of celebration of cultural diversity and the promotion of peace and justice in the world.

There is no booking fee as such, but to secure your stall, please complete a booking form (obtainable from the organisers – see below) and send it or bring it with a deposit of £5.00 **which will be returned to you on the day**, provided you come along and run your stall.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884    Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## **WEST WILTSHIRE WOOD TURNER GROUP**

Despite the initial interest and enthusiasm, the February meeting was very poorly attended. Those who did attend enjoyed themselves immensely with a variety of demonstrations and hands-on experiences as well as watching an instructional film show.

With such little support we unfortunately need to review the viability of the group and hence the March and April meetings have been cancelled.

Anyone interested in joining the group is urged to make contact through the links on the group's web site at: [www.WWWTG.co.uk](http://www.WWWTG.co.uk) or by telephone to me, Richard Jefferies

*Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425*

## **TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE**

Last month's plea for your old tools and machinery provoked a massive response. Thanks to everyone who responded. Your contributions will have been delivered to the sorting depot by the time you read this article and I know they will make a huge difference to the lives and communities in Africa when they arrive there.

The appeal just goes to show how much we all hoard items we no longer require. I am certain that once the word gets around that this is an on-going appeal we shall all have far more room in our garages, sheds and lofts for all those other items to be stored. Go on, have a Spring-time clearout!

Related tools and equipment accepted include: all woodworking and metalworking tools, drill bits, blacksmiths, bicycle tools, shoe, auto-mechanic, electrical tools/meters, arc welders and heavy duty drills and grinders. Also, sewing machines. For more details on the charity go to: [www.TFSR.org](http://www.TFSR.org) or contact Richard Jefferies.

*Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425*

## **MERE SNOOKER CLUB**

For those who have enjoyed watching all the thrills of the recent competitions on television, don't forget that Mere has its own Club – in Salisbury Street. Here you can develop your existing snooker skills or, if you have never been near a snooker table but would like to, then give the Secretary, Kevin, a call ☎ 01747 860305. We are a small, friendly group with very reasonable rates and we would love to hear from you.

The Club are looking at the possibility of starting a youth section, one night a week from 6.00-8.00pm. If you, or a family member would be interested in coming to this, please ring committee member Mike Gladding ☎ 05601 791309 (yes, this is the correct number!)

*Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747860305*

## **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

Make a date for your diary – Saturday 10th April!! This will be the opening day for the new 2010 Bowls Outdoor Season; all existing, new and potential new members are invited to attend on this day to sign up for the new season, pay their subscriptions and enjoy an afternoon bowling with like-minded people. The timetable will be as follows:

2.30pm – Attend Springfield Road green (inside the Mere School Grounds) and complete administrative tasks.

2.55pm – Welcome address by our Chairman

3.00pm – Start Bowling!

5.00pm – Informal barbeque for those that wish to attend – weather permitting.



At least one Bowls Coach will be available on the afternoon to show beginners the rudiments in as short a time as possible so that you can enjoy the Bowling – the finer points of bowling can be taught at a later date. Please remember to bring a flat pair of shoes for use on the green - studs, spikes or stilettos are definitely not allowed!

It is planned to hold an informal barbeque after bowling, at 5.00pm, on our opening day for all attendees, please bring your own meat (or fish!), salad and accompaniments, the Club will provide the means and tools for cooking.

I will soon be submitting an order to our shirt suppliers for additional Club Shirts, would members please let me know on the number below if they wish to order additional shirts at this time?

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Shaun Woods ☎ 01747 861707, or me, Don Butchers

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860219*

## **MERE CRICKET CLUB**

As Spring approaches, it is time once again to prepare for the forthcoming cricket season.

This season will be an exciting one for the juniors, as Mere has entered the Under 11's and Under 13's in the North Dorset League for the first time. The first match will be played on 4th May, so we are very keen to see as many faces as possible, old and new, at the coaching sessions on Friday evenings.

The first coaching session will be on Friday 30th April and they will start at 6.15pm for all age groups (we take children from age 7 upwards) at the Andy Young Pavilion (the old school field). We will need a registration form completed and signed when the child first attends.

The adult side will be looking to build on their second season in the 3 Counties League (Sundays) after a respectable 6th place finish last year. Indoor nets are taking place every Sunday evening (6.00 – 8.00pm) throughout April at Warminster Cricket Club. Everyone, of all abilities, is welcome to come along and get involved. The first matches are on 2nd May, home to Shaftesbury (2.00pm start), 9th May home to Stour Provost (2.00pm) and 16th May: Mere vs Mere Old Boys (2.00pm). Mere Cricket Club hereby issues an open invitation to everyone to come and watch the matches - we look forward to seeing you.

We are always on the lookout for anyone thinking about getting involved in the club at any level, from playing, to coaching, to umpiring, to making teas, and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested. Please feel free to contact either myself or club captain Matt Pitts, or Mark Cassidy at the Walnut, for further information.

Lastly you can now catch up with all the club activities fixtures and results on our new website: [www.mccwebsite.webs.com](http://www.mccwebsite.webs.com)      *Kevin Whitmore* 📞 01747 860639

## **1ST MERE BROWNIES**

We have been very fortunate to receive a Community Grant from Wiltshire Council, which has enabled us to provide a commemorative neckerchief and badges for the girls that will be a lasting memento of the Centenary.

We are continuing to enjoy the Centenary year and recently celebrated Thinking Day when we had a fun evening, cooking, learning to play the African drums and making masks, before renewing our promise in a special ceremony at the end of the evening. Donations of non-perishable foods from the Brownies were collected and sent to the

Trussell Trust food bank and money donations collected were sent to Foxlease (our Guiding House in the New Forest) towards refurbishment of the Wiltshire room.

We are planning to participate in two County events. The first is in June, at Berwick St James, which will be a day of fun activities, crafts and games with theme of "Gruff the Golden Dragon". The second event in September will be a grand day out at Longleat for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Wiltshire. There will be activities as well as the opportunity to visit the attractions and also a tour of the Safari Park. We are all looking forward to the fun that we will have there.

*Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860125 and Sue Luffman, Brownie Guiders*

## **SONGTIME**

"SongTime" is a new Friday morning music group starting in Mere on Friday 23rd of April at the Methodist Church Hall, North Street. It will be a lively weekly music group for babies and toddlers and will be run by two experienced music teachers. Each class will combine old-fashioned nursery rhymes, modern popular childrens' songs, actions and percussion instruments to create a high quality music session for the very young.

Each week songs are introduced or developed with plenty of repetition of particular favourites! The aim is to provide a fun and interactive class in a relaxed and informal environment, which parents can enjoy as much as the little ones. There are percussion instruments for little hands to play and props to really make the songs come to life, teaching basic music skills such as listening, keeping a steady beat, pitch, sharing and working together. There is no CD, all the music is played live and at a speed to suit the children. To find out more please contact:

*Louise ☎ 01747 860647 or Jenny ☎ 01747 861603*

## **MERE SCHOOL**

**March 2010**

### **Book Week**

Mrs Taylor organised a very special book week for us. Books were on sale all week and we managed to raise almost £400 in new books for the school. On one day, the whole school dressed up as book characters. There were Harry Potters, Star Wars people, James Bonds and Supermen. We came back one evening for a 'Bedtime Story' and all the classes visited the library. Many of our parents and friends came to read stories to us in school and we all had the opportunity to take part in a competition.

### **Hockey Tournament**

On Wednesday 3rd March our year 5s and 6s went to a big hockey tournament at Gillingham School. Lots of schools in Wiltshire and Dorset were there. We won 2

games and then drew the third, but we found out that we had got into the semi finals! After a 2-0 win we got into the FINAL! It was a close game and we won the whole tournament! Everyone was very proud of us!

## **Natural History Museum**

On February 25th Red Class went to the Natural History Museum in London. We met at Gillingham Station and caught the train, and then the tube and then we walked up the subway. We saw loads of stuff, including a HUGE dinosaur exhibit and we did a lot of sketching. They had some wonderful displays. On the way back the train that we were meant to be catching got cancelled! I did an interview with some of the lucky people:

EK: What was your favourite bit of the museum?

PN: I liked the giant moving T-Rex, it would be cool to have one in my garden!

EK: When did you feel most tired?

HN: Towards the end! My legs ached so badly when I got home!

EK: What did you enjoy most in the day?

ZH: My first trip on the underground!

## **Davison Trophy**

Our school won the first round of this football cup but unfortunately, we were knocked out by a school in Blandford. They were very good and beat us 5-1. Mr Marshall was very pleased with our performance and he said we represented Mere School very well.

*George Cassidy, Elias Banks, Emily Kelly, Hope Norman, Mr Newman, William Barry Smith, Curtis Cassell and Evie Sutton Fay*



## **Footprints Update**

Life at Footprints has been hectic over recent weeks. We have survived staff sickness, a change of administration manager, and Danielle's departure on maternity leave. Danielle assures us she will come and help out during her leave, which those of you who know her will appreciate, as she is a real star, with a professional attitude delivered with natural charm and care for all. We'll miss her on those occasions when she is not here, but we know that Jane Smith will step capably into Danielle's shoes and make you all feel welcome.

## **Out and About**

While Mere-based, our 'patch' includes Hindon, Maiden Bradley, Zeals, Kilmington, Semley and the Knoyles. So following our first-ever free Messy Kids session in West Knoyle last month, we are offering a similar session in Zeals on **24th April**. Do join us at **Whitesheet School from 10.00am-12.00pm** for a fun morning of face painting,

singing, cooking and messy craft activities. If you can't make it, call for details of other sessions in the coming months.

## The Children's Centre

We offer a host of regular **Free** sessions in Mere including:

Daily:	Tiny Toes Tea and Toast	10.00am-12.00pm
Tuesdays	Bumps and Babes Including baby weighing on 13 April	10.00am-12.00pm
	Tiny Toes Young Parents Cook and Play	12.00-2.00pm
Wednesdays	Tiny Toes 'Crafty Kids'	10.00am-12.00pm
Fridays	Cook and Play	12.00-2.00pm
Friday 9th	Baby/Toddler Massage	10.00-11.00am
	Indian Head Massage	1.00-2.00pm
Monday 26th	Scrap Store	2.00-4.00pm

Full details are in our leaflet available from Footprints, and other locations across our region.

## Stuff for Grown Ups

**IT courses** are run by Wiltshire College every **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Information leaflets are available from Footprints and the Library/TIC, or call Margaret ☎ 07814 452944.

The South Wiltshire **Credit Union**, at Footprints on alternate Tuesdays from 2.00 – 3.30pm, assists with debt issues, low cost loans and savings plans, particularly helpful if you are on a low budget. This month sessions will be on **6th and 20th April**. **Footprints** can also assist with advice and signposting on benefits, housing, relationship difficulties, domestic violence, and practical support for those seeking work or experiencing short term difficulty in making ends meet. Our clients are assured of complete confidentiality and can meet us in Footprints, or at home if preferred.

## Even local businesses are welcome

Our best kept secret is our function rooms available for hire. We have a well-equipped IT suite complete with 12 internet-linked PCs, two additional meeting rooms accommodating up to 30 people, with assorted presentation equipment and adjacent kitchens for refreshments. Footprints offers convenient, easily accessible meeting venues, so do call us when your own facilities cannot accommodate your needs.

## Contact

We are at Springfield Road, Mere BA12 6EW, adjacent to Mere School, or ☎ 01747 861108 or email: [janeb@merefootprints.org.uk](mailto:janeb@merefootprints.org.uk) We look forward to welcoming you soon ... and if there is something you would like us to run that we don't already, then feel free to let us know.

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

# **An Education** (12A)

**Carey Mulligan-Peter Sarsgaard-Alfred Molina  
Dominic Cooper-Emma Thompson-Rosamund Pike**

Adapted from Lynne Barber's autobiographical novel by Nick Hornby. BAFTA award winner and Oscar nominated Carey Mulligan is the middle class teenage girl in 1960s suburban London whose plans for a place at Oxford are brought into question when she meets a playboy nearly twice her age.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday 29th April, at 7.30pm**  
*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £5.00**

**Available from the Tourist Information Office  
(in the Library)**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

Visit our website at [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)

# FR BEDE ROWE, THE CATHOLIC PRIEST OF MERE, WRITES

## **A Meditation on the Cross**

*"...but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles..."* 1 Corinthians 1.23

It does not take a genius to see that we do not live in a world of joy and happiness. And it does not take a genius to see that we poor human beings can be part of that problem. By our actions, attitudes and thoughts we can hurt and harm ourselves and others. The world is a messy place, and our lives can be none too clean either.

When He took our flesh and God became a man, he entered into our human lives, with the trials and tribulations that brings, and He saw, at first hand, the situations we get ourselves into, the emotional and physical depths to which we can plummet.

God did not wave a magic wand and make everything better. What good would that have done for us? We would not be responsible for our actions, but would simply rely on an all powerful God to get us out of the mess that we create. We would always be helpless children being picked up from the mud by our loving Father, but never taught the consequences of our actions.

Well, if we want to see those consequences, look at the figure of Christ crucified. Look at His hands and feet, the nails of violence piercing His sacred body. Look at the mocking crown. Look at the flesh, torn and bloody. His laboured breathing. His agony. His thirst. His humiliation. His eyes of love clouded with tears of blood. His last gasp. His death.

## **What has my Lord done to deserve this?**

He has loved me with a love that will go to the point of torment and mockery for me. He will enter into the mess I have made of my life and he will take it on Himself, so that I can see it, in His body on the cross. He gives up His life for me, and takes the consequences of my sins on His shoulders. On the altar of the cross, they are presented to God, and I know, by God I know, that He does not deserve this. I do, but it would crush me. He gives me life by giving me a chance to transform my life with His help and His grace.

*This is what we preach, the gift of love.*

## **PRAYING THE GOSPELS**

### **Quiet Gospel-based Prayer open to all**

We meet on Wednesday 28th April at 7.30pm (finishing by 8.30pm) in the Vicarage. We're trying to find a new name for this group, which we hope will sound a bit less

alarming and more user-friendly than 'Contemplative Bible Meditation'! We need a name which emphasises the fact that it is a very simple approach to prayer, based on stories from the Gospels, which is accessible for everyone. There's no need to be especially prayerful or 'holy' – just willing to come and try a different approach, if you haven't done so before.

You pray quietly in your own way, and you only share anything you really want to share with others, so you won't be 'shown up' or made to feel awkward! It is a refreshing and very peaceful approach to prayer, and we hope everyone will feel welcome to come along and try it for themselves.

Our theme this time will focus on Jesus' resurrection appearances to the disciples, and how we might connect with them.

Future meetings are planned for the last Wednesday of each month. (If you'd like to come along but can't manage Wednesday evenings, please let us know.)

*Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313 Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FÊTE**

Time is speeding on, and it is now only two months until St. Michael's Church Fête, on the 5th June. We are hoping to have all the usual favourite stalls, and also aim to introduce a couple of new ones. We need stall holders for these, plus as many helpers as possible. If you are not already involved in the fete, would you please consider helping? It need only be for an hour on the day. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Jean and Colin ☎ 01747 861168, or Jean and Martin ☎ 01747 863450*

The Friends of St Michael's Church invite you to their

## **SPRING BAZAAR**

**ON SATURDAY, 1ST MAY, 2010**

in the GROVE BUILDINGS

from 10.00am to 12.00noon

Coffee, Cakes, Books, Bric-a-brac, Plants and Raffle

Please come and join us! All are welcome!

## **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER**

On 28th April In the School Room at the Methodist Church at 2.30pm. An afternoon with Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth - an informal opportunity to meet the Minister. Everyone welcome.

*Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*





Everyone is welcome to come to a Coffee Morning in Aid of Suchana on Tuesday 27th April from 10.30am – 12.00 noon In Grove Cottage, Barton Lane (opposite the Library).

Suchana is the health and education programme for very disadvantaged children in West Bengal, run by our niece, Kirsty, and her husband Rahul.

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who came and all who helped or supported in any way at our very happy Quiz and Pancake evening on Shrove Tuesday. It raised an amazing £330 – enough to keep the entire project running for two weeks! Our niece and the Suchana children send everyone their very grateful thanks.

*Mark Lillie and Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

May 2010

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel: ☎ 01747 863313**

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Maundy Thursday	1st	8.00pm	Holy Communion followed by: "The Watch" until Midnight
<b>Good Friday</b>	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion from the Reserved sacrament
		9.30am	Stations of the Cross for Children (with Hot Cross Buns)
		11.00am	March of Witness up Castle Hill Starts from the Clock Tower in The Square.
		2.30pm	Last Hour Meditations Words and Music
<b>Easter Day</b>	4th	6.00am	Service of Light with Baptism at <b>Barrow Street Farm</b>
		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Family Communion (with Easter Eggs)
Wednesday	7th	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Tuesday	20th	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

### The United Reformed Church

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

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	1st	7.00pm	Rev'd Hazel Barkham Holy Communion
<b>Good Friday</b>	2nd	10.15am	Rev'd Stella Sivour with Methodists
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	4th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page Holy Communion
Sunday	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	25th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper

### The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

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

<b>Easter Sunday</b>	4th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
Sunday	11th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey
	18th	6.00pm	Mrs Barbara Jefferey
	25th	6.00pm	United Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury
Wednesday	28th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get together (see notice on page 34)

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

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

Every Friday		10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday		11.30am	Mass
<b>Good Friday</b>	2nd April		NO MORNING MASS
		3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion <i>Please check beforehand.</i>

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

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

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

<b>Easter Day</b>	4th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	11th	9.25pm	DIY
	18th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	25th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2010

1	Thurs	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (also 22nd & 29th)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	L

1	Thur	2.00pm	Line-dancing Club (Last one - See page 22)	MSC
		2.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.00pm	1st Mere Guides	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
2	Fri	11.00am	"March of Witness" up Castle Hill <b>NO</b> Barn Buddies this evening	The Square
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
5	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (Every Monday)	L
6	Tues	10.30am	Mere Carers Group	Com. Lounge, Lynch Close
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (Every Wednesday)	GB
		7.30pm	South-West Wilts Conservative Association	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (Also 21st & 28th)	L
8	Thur	7.30pm	Quiz Night for Oxfam	GB
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	BSF
		7.00pm	Friends of Fives Court Barn Dance	GB
10	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
		7.30pm	String Trio "Kosmos" in Concert	L
12	Mon	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
13	Tues	9.00am	Footcare Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
14	Wed	2.00pm	Whist1st	GB
15	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (Also 21st & 29th)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (Also 22nd & 29th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (Also 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.30pm	1st Mere Guides (Also 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Comedy "Bottoms Dream"	L
16	Fri	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	MADS Comedy "Bottoms Dream"	L
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft Stall	CC
		7.30pm	MADS Comedy "Bottoms Dream"	L
19	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (also 26th)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (Also 26th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (Also 26th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (Also 26th))	YC
20	Tues	9.00am	Aerobics (also 27th)	L
23	Fri	10.15am	Lip Reading	Footprints
24	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + RGC Bric a Brac	CC
25	Sun	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
27	Tues	9.00am	Footcare Clinic	L
28	Wed	1.45pm	'Friends Together'	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	GB
29	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows/Moviola "An Education"	L
30	Fri	10.15am	Lip Reading	Footprints

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church School Room; MSC-Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre**

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE**

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Buildings: ☎ Isabel Howell 01747 860297

## **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

THE FOLLOWING CLINICS/ADVICE CENTRES ARE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

CITIZENS' ADVICE:           Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm  
Private Appointments ☎ 01722 327222

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

## **COPY DATE FOR MAY ISSUE**

Material for the May issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (tel. 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, 19th April 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** after Monday 12th April. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

**ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

**e-mail: jane.kennedy@homecall.co.uk**

**☎ : 01985 844740**

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