

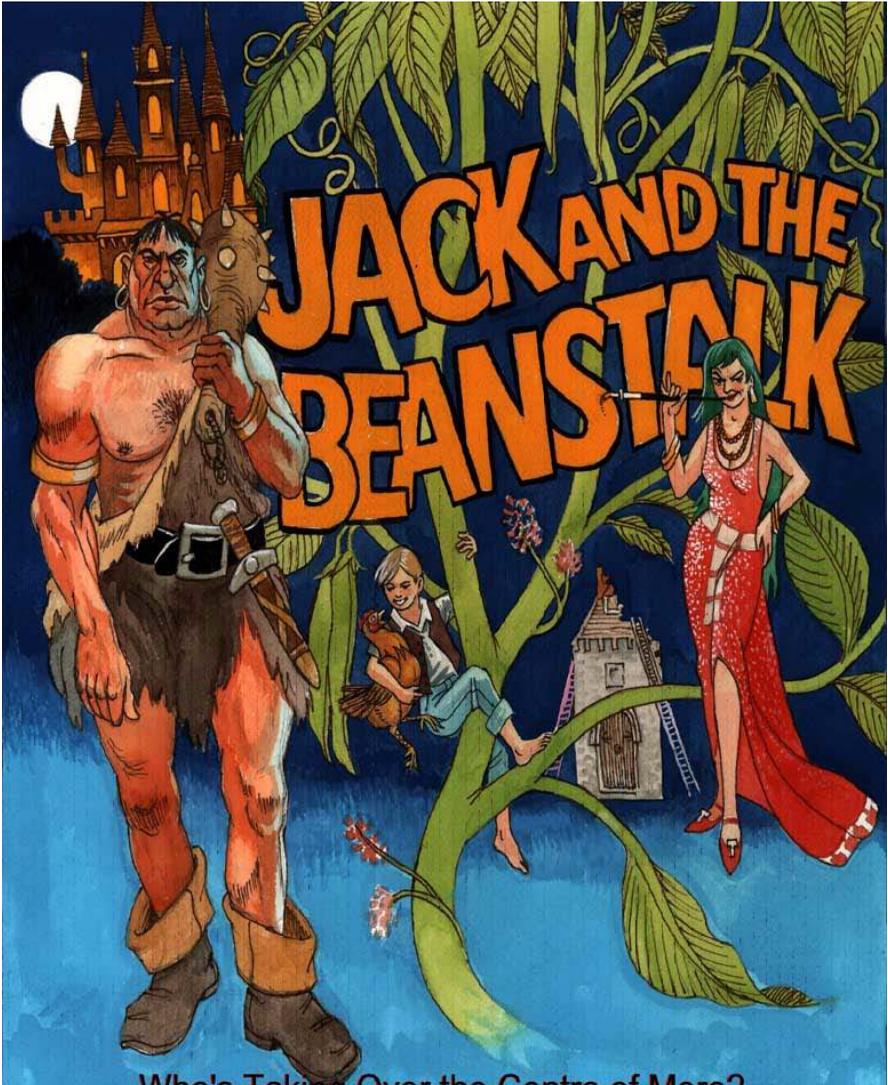
MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine
and guide to local events



February - 2009



Who's Taking Over the Centre of Mere?

What are they doing to the Clock Tower?

Where are the Chickens Escaping from?

Why is Lady Theresa Smirking?

Who is Tragic Mary? & Can Jack & Jill Save the Day?

Come and Find Out if you Dare at

The MADS Pantomime in the Lecture Hall Mere

Wed 4th - Sat 7th March 7.30 pm & Sat Matinee 2.30 pm

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

The great minds of transport ministers are focussed on the ill-advised Heathrow expansion. But in common with other Mere residents my interest in our transport infrastructure has revolved around the A303 and the activities of the Highways Agency that is responsible for it. I'm sure I'm not alone in being heartily relieved by the decision to suspend plans for the trunk road's complete closure for three months at Mere. Whilst I'm pleased common sense has prevailed, it's a pity that the 'U' turn was effected at the eleventh hour after, presumably, much wasted time and expense. I have written to the Ministry for a note on the cost of the exercise.

The episode underscored the importance of local consultation. Unfortunately, a chunk of the relevant parish councils, representatives and undertakings were asked for their views very late in the day, or not at all. Remarkably, Stourhead was overlooked initially, despite the number of visitors it gets and the confusion any major works on the A303 would cause the area's number one tourist attraction.

The Highways Agency's proposed diversions seemed to me to be hopelessly optimistic. SATNAV means that traffic, especially heavy traffic, finds its way down every scrap of a country lane. It was abundantly clear that there would have been severe disruption on minor roads had the road closure gone ahead. We must now hope that the Agency will have a re-think on the future of the A303 that is fully informed by local opinion. In doing so I trust that it will take account of the tragedies we have had recently.

Still on the subject of roads, people have been in touch with me over potholes. Cyclists notice these especially and I have written to the council to see what can be done. To be fair, with Wiltshire's revenue support grant from the government at the bottom of the league table, the council has a really tough job to do in reconciling competing demands and restraining our council tax in a difficult economic climate. However, let's hope we can stretch to a bit of first aid.

Can I take this opportunity belatedly to wish everyone all the best for 2009.

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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

questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 2nd February** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes

I thought the Christmas tree looked wonderful this year and I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it such a success. Thank you to Richard Adams of Sovereign Site Works for digging the hole, Richard Hughes for finding the tree, Hill Brush Company for loaning their Cherrypicker, George & Michael Jeans for the electrics and, finally, Melinda Emby for arranging the switching on ceremony. Well done everyone!

Congratulations to Mrs. Esme Doggrell for her display of Christmas Lights and winning the competition this year. Denes Avenue and Castle Hill Crescent, and many others, also had marvellous displays this year.

I would also like to thank Mere Youth Club and the BTCV for their tremendous effort in clearing the footpath around Long Hill. The new 'boardwalk' is superb. I hope they are able to complete this project in the summer so everyone will be walking around Castle Hill and Long Hill in comfort and with dry shoes.

For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc., please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org; e-mail the parish clerk at: lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701

Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, WRITES

I distributed some advertising posters informing readers of Christmas tree shredding in the main car park, which was held on the 10th January, 2009. I am pleased to report generally a 50% increase on the weight of material recovered last year. Hopefully, this popular initiative will be continued next year under the new Wiltshire council.

Thursday 22nd January, 2009 saw the last Western Area Committee meeting of The Salisbury District Council in Mere. Under The new Wiltshire Council, from June 2009, the area of the 'Western Area' will be about the same as the new Area Board. The Western Area met around the area from Wilton to Mere, which brought "democracy to the people". As I understand it at present, the new Area Board is unlikely to move around "our" area for its meeting.

Mere Parish Council is concerned, under the new Wiltshire Council, that the R2 contributions we receive for sporting facilities may not be spent in Mere, as has been

the case under The Salisbury District Council. These R2 funds may be widened out to a Community Chest. Should this be the case, Mere Parish Council would support this move, provided that the money is still for the benefit of Mere.

In about a months time a leaflet "Area Boards: Your community: Your say" should be available, for those interested this leaflet should give you more information in an understandable form.

The Partnership Steering Group (pilot area board) at Tisbury has taken up "local" issues to help move them forward, including the installation of 'Speed Indicator Devices' for which the Tisbury Community Safety Partnership has been campaigning. In Mere, I can tell you that after a recent monitoring exercise, the average speed along White Road is 30½ MPH, however I have had several complaints of vehicles travelling too fast along White Road.

The issue of parking availability for local residents and businesses, due to commuters parking in the village of Tisbury instead of at the station, is also being addressed by the steering group. I doubt if many from Mere use Tisbury railway station!

Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire

This is an agreement which is between the Council, its partners and central government, with targets to be achieved in Wiltshire across a range of strategic aims. Some, but not all, of the aims are:-

- Supporting peoples' lives to be able to live independently, supporting families and people to make informed choices and reducing the causes of mortality for all ages.
- Improve affordable housing.
- Building a positive and sustainable environment for economic growth.
- Communities that feel safe and are safe.
- Tackling climate change and ensuring a high quality natural environment.
- Working together to achieve these ambitions through the 'family of partnerships' and area boards.

Services of the SDC, such as your waste and recycling collections continue, albeit with their problems: we shall see if the new Wiltshire Council, with its elections on Thursday 4th June 2009, will be able to give us improved services! Remember Council changes have started: The Electoral Services Department for the new council area is already operating from the offices of the current North Wiltshire District Council. Should you wish to check to see if you are eligible to vote: ☎ 01249 706111.

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE
MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY**

MERE WEATHER

November was a wetter month than average with 131mms (5.1ins) of rain. It made the area nice and wet for the fireworks, although there were less of them than usual. We had a frost on the 24th and generally cold East winds. Last year, rainfall for the month was 111mms (4.37ins).

December was drier than usual with only 64mms (2.57ins). The total rainfall for 2008 was 1280.5mms (51.58ins.) Almost the same as 2007, which totalled 1304.5mms (51.79 ins).

January started very cold with frost every morning, but bright sun later. There was a small fall of snow on the 5th, which soon cleared. Up to the 16th we had 21mms (0.83ins) of rain.

Peter Durkee



MERE POLICE NEWS

Staff Changes. In February 2009, PCSO Michael Tryhorn will be leaving the Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) after 18 months in post. Mike is moving onto the Tidworth NPT to carry out the same role but with greater responsibility. We all wish him well in his new post and will be welcoming Jake Noble to Mere as Mike's successor sometime at the beginning of February. Please do not think that we have an extra PCSO during this time! There will be a cross over period and you will probably see Mike working alongside PCSO Noble for the first few weeks in order to get Jake used to the vast geographic area that we police.

Burglary News. We are currently suffering a spate of burglaries in both Tisbury & Mere. The method commonly used by the offender is that he will target houses whose occupants are out at the time. The house will usually back onto open fields, farmland or woodland. He will gain access to the property via the rear of the house by any means available to him at the time. This has included smashing a window, forcing doors open using garden equipment found at the property or finding any insecurities in the building with which he can exploit.

The offender is targeting jewellery and silverware, and early indications suggest that he is only taking as much as he can carry, suggesting that the offender is parking a car some distance away from the attacked premises. The offender may be gaining access to the house from the fields to the rear or by walking along the approach road if the house is rural enough.

Attacking the house from the rear enables the offender to work in peace, as he is unlikely to be disturbed by any onlookers or potential witnesses. Please do not think that the offender will always be scruffily dressed or driving an old car. Burglars come in all shapes and sizes and he could just as easily be dressed in a suit, carry a clipboard and drive a smart new car so as not to look out of place in the villages. Please be aware and be extra vigilant and follow our advice:

- Be aware of anyone who knocks at your door and purports to be making what may seem to be a genuine enquiry. Please note a description and clothing of the person as he may be carrying out an occupancy test.
- Always check ID and never let a stranger into your home.
- Please take down the registration number of any cars seen in strange locations, parked up on the roadside, either driving around slowly through the villages or owned by a cold caller.
- Ensure that all garden equipment is locked away securely, sheds and garages locked.
- Watch out for your neighbours' houses especially if they back onto fields.
- Lastly, please let your neighbours know when you will be out, if possible.

If you should want security advice or any other crime prevention advice then you can contact the Community Affairs Department at Salisbury Police Station on 0845 4087000. **In an emergency or if you are witnessing a suspicious incident happening in front of you, please dial 999 immediately.**

Crime Report for Mere area –

Theft: Shoplifting reported 17/12/2008 in Mere. [Razors taken]

Burglary reported 19/12/2008 in Zeals. [Safe, Money taken]

Burglary reported 20/12/2008 in Mere. [Nothing taken]

Criminal damage reported 23/12/08 in Mere. [Damage to car door]

Burglary Dwelling reported 23/12/08 in Zeals. [Attempt only]

Criminal damage reported 24/12/08 in Mere. [Window smashed]

Theft reported 26/12/2008 in Zeals. [Heating oil taken]

Illness reported 27/12/2008 in Mere. [Arrest made 136 Mental Health Act]

Theft from Motor vehicle reported 27/12/2008 in Stourton [Damage only]

Malicious Communications reported 30/12/2008 in Burton. [Arrest made]

Violence reported 31/12/2008 in Zeals. [2 Arrests made]

Criminal damage reported 04/01/2009 in Mere. [Fence posts removed]

Violence reported 11/01/2009 in Kilmington [Words of advice passed]

Burglary reported 12/01/2009 in Kilmington.

Burglary Dwelling reported 12/01/2009 in Zeals. [High value]

Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312

e-mail: richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

☎: 0845 408 7000 ext 749817 ☎ 01747 861737 (not 24 hours)

☎ 07989 701606 (mobile- not 24 hours) Fax: 01747 860013

CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING - "A SUCCESS"

Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust would like to thank residents for their help to make this year's Christmas tree shedding events the best ever.

On Saturday 10th January, Christmas Tree shredding events took place in Mere, Tisbury and Downton and all three sites reported an increase in the number of people taking part. There was a 50% increase in the weight of shredded material produced at Downton and Mere and this material will be re-used as mulching material in planting schemes.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's event where we hope to do even better! Please check "Mere Matters" next December for further details.

Kevin Humphreys, SDC

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING UP CEREMONY

The first day of December (2008) was an extremely cold one with a frosty north wind biting at our heels but the Mere Christmas Tree Lighting up ceremony put warmth into the community's hearts that evening. There was a wonderful turnout; the organiser, Melinda Emby, expected 'a few' and although no one did a 'head count' there must have been over a hundred people gathered to watch this special event; one that hasn't happened for some years in Mere.

Young William Edkins, aged 5, sat very excitedly under the clock tower, finger poised over the Christmas tree light's switch, as he waited for the crowd to count the seconds down and for the run up to Christmas to truly begin.

The crowd then gathered around the beautifully lit Christmas tree, enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies and sang carols to get into the festive spirit. The singing was accompanied by some local musicians of all ages who kindly offered to form a small brass band for the event. A great many thanks to all the players, with special mention to Mary and Peter Gatehouse for arranging the band at short notice and for the youngsters Michael Gatehouse and Edward Ford for playing Euphonium and Trumpet.

Among those to thank are The Co-Op (who were very generous) and Nisa who both kindly donated mince pies. A special thank you to Una from The George Pub who very kindly donated all the mulled wine and from which the donations raised are going to charity. Thank you also to Sam Cotton, Jenny Wathen and Carol Barry for collecting and serving the refreshments, and to Louise Harlow for organising the carol sheets.

Many thanks to the various good folk of Mere who each year put the Christmas tree up, making sure it stands steadfast throughout the festive season. Thank you to George

Jeans for the lights and electrics, to Sarah Collins and young Claudia Emby for swiftly designing the posters just a week ahead of the event, and to Bob Parsons and Melinda Emby for bracing all weathers to get the posters up all over the village. Thank you also to Ali Howell, Jenny Wathen and Louise Harlow who delivered leaflets, and to Mere School for further advertising the event and ensuring that the lighting up ceremony was attended by as many local children as possible.

And just a special thank you on it's own to Melinda Emby, a newcomer to the village, who whilst passing by on the day the Christmas tree went up and who in her interest and enthusiasm commented to Clive Hazzard and George Jeans that the tree looked wonderful. On enquiring further she found out that it had been some six years since the last lighting up ceremony had been organised and she heard three words being uttered out of her mouth; 'I'll do it!' Lucky for us she was passing that day! Thank you for your gusto Melinda!

But, most of all, a HUGE thank you to all those folk who turned out to support this unique event. We hope you will all come again in 2009!

Louise Harlow 📞 01747 860647

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone with a Wiltshire postcode or to anyone outside of Wiltshire registered at Mere Doctors Surgery.

The practice at present has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

Contact Details: -

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

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

MERE CARNIVAL

A great day was had by all when Father Christmas came to visit Mere on Saturday 20th December. Using the Clock Tower as his grotto, he was so pleased to see lots of happy excited children. He sends a big thank you to "The George" which kindly provided refreshments and warm mince pies to mums and dads, and looks forward to next year's visit.

Mere Carnival committee meet once a month. New people and ideas are always welcome - our next meeting is on the 3rd February, at 7.30 pm in The Walnut Tree Inn. Please come and join us.

Deborah Merx, Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 07771 774054

MERE SURGERY

DIABETIC EYE SCREENING

CLINICS TO BE HELD HERE AT THE SURGERY

5th – 13th MARCH 2009

PLEASE NOTE:

**APPOINTMENT ALLOCATION HAS CHANGED THIS YEAR
AND WILL BE DONE AUTOMATICALLY BY THE DIABETIC
RETINOPATHY TEAM AT SALISBURY VIA LETTER DIRECT
TO EACH PATIENT**

Angela Pitman – Practice Manager

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME **Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096**

2009 looks like being every bit as busy as 2008 in which we received a record number of requests.

As a charity, we do not make any set charges for the journeys our volunteer drivers make and we appreciate the donations we receive from users of the Scheme. These meet approximately 70% of the travel costs and, in addition to the deficit on travel, there are other expenses to be met, especially the considerable cost of telephones which are vital to providing a good service.

The donations from Mere Literary Festival and local Parish Councils are always helpful but we do not receive any official grants. Like all organisations, we expect the coming year to be difficult but hope to continue being able to help with all the requests we receive.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film on Friday 6th February, 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' (12a), is adapted from John Boyne's internationally acclaimed novel and it has been said that this film does what a good drama should do – it makes you think and feel. It was originally written as a story for children, but this is no childish film that tells the story of the friendship made between the son of a Nazi prison officer and a Jewish boy through the wires of a concentration camp.

Full details are on page 19 - and don't forget to bring your handkerchief!!

Date for Your Diary: Thursday 12th March – 'Easy Virtue' (12) a Noel Coward adaptation.
Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Like the Windmill theatre, 'we never close'! No sooner was the very successful autumn production over when plans were launched for our next PANTOMIME!

This year it is 'Jack and Beanstalk' featuring, of course, Jack and a beanstalk, but also Jill and Simple Simon, and chickens, and no fewer than two cows (oh yes there are), to name but a few of the motley characters involved. Performances are on Wednesday to Saturday, **4th – 7th March** at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall, with a matinée on the Saturday.

Tickets will go on sale at Mere Information Point on **Monday 2nd February** at £5 (adults) and £3 (children) on Wednesday, Thursday and the matinée, and £6 and £3 on Friday and Saturday.

To help raise money for panto costumes, do come and join us for MAD Jack's Coffee Beanie Morning on **Saturday, 21st February** in the Lecture Hall at 10.30am. Raffle, cakes, bric-a-brac and books will all be available, and you will be able to see the set being built as you sip your coffee. Who could possibly ask for more?

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting

This will be on Wednesday, 11th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings when **Richard Robins** of Thorngrove Garden Centre will give a talk on **House Plants**.

Most of you will be familiar with Thorngrove Garden Centre run by Scope. Richard is currently Team Manager at the Centre as well as running his own gardening business. He began his training at the tender age of 16 as a trainee with Brighton Parks and has very successfully worked his way up the career ladder. He will base his talk on a quiz, a format which apparently went down well with Tisbury last year.

Richard will be bringing plants from Thorngrove Garden Centre. **Visitors are most welcome.**
Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

Membership of the Gardening Club is only £7 this year.

Did you know that the benefits are:

- 7 free and informative talks as well as visits to local gardens.
 - A monthly sales table to exchange plants.
 - 10% off most purchases from Plant World.
- 25% off selected purchases from Castle Gardens (a range of composts and fertilisers this month) which we will be visiting on Wednesday 18th February.

One month's free membership for new members if you join in February!

Ring Janet Way for details ☎ 01747 860884

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 10th February at 2.30pm and will be held in the Grove Buildings.

As this meeting falls in "Marriage Week", we shall be having a service of celebration, with hymns and prayers led by the Rev'd Paul Barnes.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook

Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions.

Telephone: 01747 840347



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“A Tale of Two Maps”

The Tithe Map of 1848 and the Museum Map 1994

by Colin Anderson

Tuesday, 10th February 2009

7.30pm Grove Buildings

Visitors welcome

Entrance fee to non-members, £2.00 per person

“Annual Dinner Party”

Tuesday, 24th February 2009

7.30pm Grove Buildings

Tickets (£15 each) from Rosemary Cox ☎ 01747 860962

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 5th in the Grove Buildings, when we look forward to hearing more about Mere Museum from Jenny Wilding. *Molly Burden* ☎ 01747 860007

BRAINWAVE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Brainwave Charity Shop in Mere will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 3rd February.

Brainwave is a small, Bridgwater-based organisation that provides help and support for brain-damaged children. The charity relies on its network of shops in the South West to fund therapy for children with developmental delay, cerebral palsy, genetic disorder or brain injury through accident or birth trauma. Since 1982, Brainwave has been helping

hundreds of children from throughout the UK who experience developmental delay, starting with assessment at their Bridgwater centre. Brainwave opened their second centre in Witham, Essex in February 2007 thus helping many families from the South-East to receive therapy support a lot closer to home. Coupled with this is the development of the National Brainwave Home Support Network, which seeks to provide support on a national level.

Twelve years ago, Peggy Jukes, a long-time resident of Mere, became interested in the work of Brainwave and volunteered at the Bruton Brainwave shop with her friend, Shirley Thomas, also of Mere. Two years later, retail premises became available in Mere and Mrs Jukes and Mrs Thomas formed a team of volunteers to launch a Brainwave charity shop in the town. Originally sited on the ground floor of the building next to the Chinese takeaway in The Square, the branch relocated to the premises that was once Mere's post office, opposite the Town Clock, on 1st June 2006. Mere's Brainwave shop has raised £335,000 since first opening and is the only branch in the group run solely by around 30 volunteers without any paid staff.

Mrs Jukes said: "Local support has been excellent – through both customers and donations of goods for sale. Long may it continue!"

Brainwave accepts donations of new and used clothes, accessories, books, DVDs and CDs, bric-a-brac and small items of furniture. For further details ☎ 01308 867984.

Liz Fricker (Brainwave Volunteer)

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (Mere & District Day Centre)

**Open: 10.30am – 3.00pm on Mondays
and 10.30am - 4.00pm on Fridays**

A Happy New Year to all the fabulous people of Mere. We hope that you had as good a Christmas as we have had, starting with a visit to Sherborne Garden Centre, a magical trip through the Christmas Decorations - but a walk too far for a cup of tea (complained LL). Well we all know what men feel about shopping. The trip was rather like a military manoeuvre with all the wheelchairs, but it went like clockwork thanks to Zeals Motors. We enjoyed the build up to Christmas with the cheerful bell ringers of Mere Melodies; the making of a Gingerbread House cake; a festive Tai Chi session; Christmas quiz; Christmas lunch at the Ship, which brilliantly sponsored and made the mulled wine for the volunteers party. A very special mention must go to Fives Court Residential Home which provides us with first class meals. Thank you to everyone for your support throughout the year.

So what are we planning for the New Year? Well one event is a Tea Dance. Our four lively gents were discussing how they were going to partner all the lovely ladies: we will have to call in reinforcements, it won't matter how old they are, they could have two left feet, as they only have to manage a slow waltz. There must be some retired chaps out there who could help us. Hang on a minute, retorted the ladies, we don't want old men with two left feet, we want men like the Fireman from Mere Fire Station....preferably in uniform suggests KG, sighing, but I don't suppose they could come!

It would take a miracle to get me on the dance floor sighed NA. Well, remarked someone, if you're looking for a gorgeous chap and a miracle, let's ask the Vicar. "Oh good" said NA as we pushed her wheelchair up to the table, "I think a Tea Dance is a great idea"!!

PS. The Vicar has accepted our invitation to the Tea Dance on Friday 20th February from 2.00-4.00pm, providing he does not have to dance. Lucky NA may well get a gorgeous man to keep her company. I am not sure about the firemen, so chaps we still need some young-at-heart men to dance with our lovely ladies. Bring the wife, if you like - you never know, the pair of you may wish to become Guests and we would be delighted to have you.

Also, if there is a couple, of any age, who are keen dancers and would be willing to do a demonstration dance or two just to get everyone in the mood, I would be so grateful if you could contact me.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Quiz, compiled by Roger Wilding, which raised £172. The winner was Daphne Tighe.

Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861797

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives Court are involved in a project which has strong echoes of the 'Challenge Anneka' TV programmes of long ago. We have the water feature; the challenge now is to redesign the rear gardens to make a suitable level setting so that the Residents can fully enjoy it. We are only at the plotting stage (pun fully intended) but hope to have more to report soon. Meanwhile our next social/fundraising event will be an Easter Coffee Morning at Fives on **Saturday, 4th April** – again, more details in the next issue but rest assured, eggs will be a feature!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE MUSEUM

The present exhibition, *Hearth and Home; Home and Country*, which features material on Mere's W.I., now in its 91st year, will continue to the end of February. Do make sure you pop into the Museum and see it before it makes way for the first new exhibition of 2009. This will focus on Mere's Tithe Map of 1848 and related maps. Many of these items are larger than the showcases, and will challenge the Curators as to how best to present them. Come and be amazed – both by the fascinating exhibits themselves and by how we manage to display them!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The first news from the Friends of the Museum in 2009 is that the winner of the last year's wildlife quiz was Di Potter. Well done Di, and thank you, everyone, who supported this initiative.

The next date for your diaries is Monday, 2nd March at 6.30 p.m when Friends' are invited to a Preview of the new exhibition on the Tithe Map. And, since a few bulbs are already bravely pushing their way through the frozen ground, it's not too early to let everyone know that the Friends' Famous **Plant Sale** will be held on **Saturday, 9th May** in the Grove Buildings.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

THE BOOK OF MERE

with over 300 photographs,
has been reprinted, and is for sale at
Mere Information Point (The Library)
Mere Pharmacy
Walton's (Mere Post Office)
and from the author, David Longbourne
(tel.01747 860243),

Price: £19.95

“THANK YOU”, FROM SHREEN HARMONY

A big 'thank-you' to the people of Mere and surrounds who gave so generously at Shreen Harmony's Christmas concert on 20th December. We raised just under £190, which we are donating to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, together with other money raised. It was a very happy evening for the choir and audience alike. Once again, thank you.

Barbara Bourne ☎ 01747 861558

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

(12A)

David Thewliss Sheila Hancock

Based on John Boyne's best-selling novel, this is the unforgettable story of a forbidden friendship between Bruno, the son of a Nazi commandant, and Shmuel, a Jewish boy held captive in a concentration camp.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 6th February 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 on 01747 861257
Visit our website at www.moviola.org

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

Whilst things have appeared to be quiet over the last two or three months, quite a lot has been going in the background. The new Pavilion is in place and only needs some final finishing touches to become fully operational. Practically all the new ground maintenance equipment, as well as the comfort station, are now in our possession; we will therefore be starting the 2009 season in a vastly different state than at our

inauguration just last year. The opening date has not yet been decided, but is expected to be in mid to late April, as soon as the lawns have been treated in readiness.

As a prelude, and because we have not met up with our members and friends for some time, it is intended to hold a Social Evening next month. This will take place at The Ship, Castle Street at 7pm on Thursday, 19th February. Precise details will be circulated to members and also publicised locally. We hope that all our members will be able to attend. Anyone else who is interested, will be warmly welcomed.

We will also be holding our Annual General Meeting, once more at The Ship, on the evening of Thursday, 19th March commencing at 7.00pm. Please make a note of these dates.
Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

Looking for a new activity this year? Mere Snooker Club welcomes complete beginners and existing players at a very reasonable cost. So come and meet us, and see what is available at what is reputed to be one of Mere's oldest clubs.

Advance Notice of Jumble Sale and Table Top Sale (Book your place now) on Saturday 28th March at the Lecture Hall. For further information, please contact me.

Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305

MERE BOWLS CLUB

At the recent AGM the following Officers were elected:

President, Colin Read; Chairman, Alan Inwood; Vice Chairman, Don Butchers; Secretary, Teresa Read; Treasurer, Peter Dethick; Captain, Arthur Holberry; Vice-Captain, Shaun Woods; Fixtures Secretary, Pauline Woods; Greenkeepers' Representative, David Howell. Committee: Karen Guy, Mary Butchers & Chris Isgrove.

The New Season will commence on Saturday, 18th April. For further details please ring me:
Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289

MERE CRICKET CLUB

With Christmas behind us, it's time to remind everyone that pre-season nets will soon be restarting. Anyone can come along; the club is always keen to welcome interested cricketers, new and old.

For information, please contact me, Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639, or Mark Cassidy at The Walnut Tree Inn.

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

We'd firstly like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bingo, in particular to Henry Pike, who called the numbers for us. We raised £220 for the youth football club. Just before Christmas, some of the older players took part in a fundraising 'bag pack' in Yeovil's ASDA, which raised £377 for the youth football club. Thanks to all the players and parents who helped to support this, and thanks to ASDA for allowing us to hold the bag pack there.

Secondly, players are very welcome to come and play for Mere Town Youth Football Club (boys and girls ages 5yrs and above). Come and join us at our football practice for the youth football teams at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields, Mere.

Our Aim is to Encourage and Promote

Fun	Character Development
Friendship	Discipline
Team Building	Mutual Respect
Self Confidence	Fitness
Active Participation in Sport	

Training – when and where:

We meet at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields from 6:00pm

Wednesday	Boys over 14yrs & Youth Development Team (16yrs +)
Thursday	Boys & Girls aged 11 & 12 yrs
Friday	Boys & Girls From Ages 5 to 10 yrs (organized into 4 different age groups – U7's, U8's, U9's and U10's.)

Membership cost £5.00 per annum, Match Fees are £2.00 and Training Fees are £1.00 per session.

Safety & Security:

We aim to provide a safe and healthy environment for all our members. Qualified First Aiders are always in attendance.

Security is of prime importance to us. All adults who have direct access to the children are CRB checked. In addition, they will also attend child protection workshops to enhance their understanding of these issues.

We have also just renewed our Charter Status, which we are very proud to inform the MM readership, as this process is not an easy one, and it means that our organisation exceeded the benchmark standards set by the Football Association.

Dates for your diary:

Mere Town Youth Football Club Presentation Evening

Saturday 16th May 2009. To be held in the Lecture Hall, followed by a Disco at Mere Social Club, for players and parents.

If you have any queries please contact:

Neil Francis ☎ 01747 860750

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Salisbury District Council,
serving the western parishes of Salisbury

New Class added to our weekly Programme - Hatha Yoga The Centre is pleased to announce that we have a new Class added to our weekly programme. Hatha Yoga, a gentle form of the discipline, is taking place on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am-12.00 Noon. To book a place or for further details, please contact: Reception.

Half Term Holiday Programme - Monday 16th – Saturday 21st February We have a fun-packed Half Term Holiday Programme for the children, with activities such as art 'n' craft, team games, racquet sports, soft play, the bouncy castle, a roller disco and Nintendo Wii sessions. With morning sessions for just £1 or £2, and afternoons FREE, we'll keep your children entertained for you.

Please ensure you book to avoid disappointment, and children under the age of 8yrs must be accompanied to the FREE sessions.

Please note: Due to the exciting renovations taking place at the Centre, some of these sessions may have to be modified or changed to suit the space available to us. When booking more up-to-date information will be available to you.

For further details concerning times and days of sessions, to book a place, or information concerning other activities which take place at the Centre, please contact Reception ☎ 01747 871141, or e-mail us at: tisburydc@salisbury.gov.uk.



Georgina's Ramblings

We have commenced the New Year as a Childrens Centre and welcome a whole range of new services that will be rolled out to the families of Mere and district over the coming months. Look out for our posters and newsletter.

This month I need to start by thanking everyone for the wonderful donations and especially Waitrose in Gillingham who chose us to be one of their first three charities of 2009.

Tiny Toes

We have been running for three months now providing a space for all children below school age with their parents and carers, two sessions per week. We have a whole range of themes and activities lined up for the new year including a craft session every week, and a new range of equipment to engage children of pre-school age in the fun of exercise.

10.00am – 12.00noon on Tuesdays: **'Crafty Kids'**. An art session for our younger members and their carers, so come ready to get messy. The sessions are led by our team and have been designed to enable everyone to get involved.

1.00 – 3.00pm on Fridays: Our mums and Toddlers drop in where new equipment is available to allow your little ones to let off some steam while you get to know each other.

Special Event – the Wiltshire Childminding Co-ordinator will be in Tiny Toes on Friday, 6th of February to talk to anyone who is interested in becoming a childminder as part of the drive to increase the options for parents in Wiltshire. If you are a childminder and have any questions, or a parent looking for a childminder, do call in between 2.30 and 3.30pm.

Thank you to all of the new members that have recently joined this group. However, we look forward to seeing more of you over the coming months – bring your friends.

Don't let transport problems stop you coming call Debbie for free help – ☎ 01747 861108

The Children's Centre

Offers free and confidential advice on any aspect of health, child development, debt, homelessness and other issues that cause families to worry. Please pop in and ask any member of the team for any information that you may require. We can arrange, or help you to arrange, meetings in our private rooms between 8.00am and 16.00pm daily.

Adult Education,

COURSE	TIME	DATE
Lip Reading	10.00am till 12.00noon	On going, Fridays
The Character of Parish Churches	2.00 till 4.00pm	Mons from 26th January
Helping in schools Information session	9.30am till 2.30pm 9.30 till 11.30am	Tues from 27th February Friday 13th February
Computer Courses – varied	10.00am till 4.00pm 10am till 1.00pm	Tues. On going, Thurs. Working to own pace and level.

Please contact Michelle on ☎ 01747 861108 or michelle@merfootprints.org.uk

Cookery

Due to the popularity of 'Cooking for Christmas' I will be running a second course and with the current financial status will be looking at Credit Crunch Cookery, which will offer economical recipes such as home made beef burgers and curried chicken thighs, and also some seasonal specialties such as Simnel Cake and spiced Easter Biscuits. This course will start on Wednesday 25th February from 7.00 to 9.00pm and Thursday 26th from 9.30 to 11.30 am. This will run for 6 sessions and will cost of £30 per course. Please ring Jane at Footprints ☎ 01747 861108 to book a place.

Kidzone

The children continue to enjoy Kidzone, in our games and our Art Club, with enthusiasm. Recently we have acquired a table top football which is a great favourite with the boys, though the girls have become expert scorekeepers. When asked what they liked about Kidzone, one child replied she "liked Kidzone because she met lots of new people and have lots of fun because there is loads of stuff to do". Another said that she "enjoys Kidzone because it is lots and lots of fun and the staff are really nice and good to you and your friends. Kidzone is the best place you can go to, and the staff are the best". The children are our critics this month and, as you will have seen, fully endorse the activities and staff.

We still have vacancies, but these are becoming more limited. Please do consider booking a taster session if you haven't tried us before or it's been a while since we have seen you. **Also a polite reminder to book early for the half term play week, places will be on a first come basis.**

Thank you to all of the staff and visitors that use footprints, and please feel free to pop in for a hot drink at The Waiting Room (donations only) rather than wait in the playground each day when collecting children. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

With Best Wishes from the Footprints Team.

Georgina Shaw 📞 01747 861108

MERE FIRST SCHOOL

January 2009

Mere School had a very busy Christmas. It started when we went to the Pantomime in Salisbury - it was Dick Whittington and was really good. We put on Christmas performances, had a service in the church and had Christmas lunch boxes. A highlight was Father Christmas arriving in a helicopter on the school field! He gave out mint chocolates to every pupil and a few of us had our pictures taken with him. Just before Christmas, the choir went to Fives Court retirement home to sing Christmas songs.

In October 2008 Mere School was asked by Bath Spa University to have 2 of their students who are doing a PGCE course. They have to spend some time helping and teaching in a class to pass their test to be a teacher. The student's names are Miss Humphries and Miss Boothby and we are really enjoying having them here.

Green class had a visitor who came to talk about tigers. It was very interesting and we learnt lots of facts:

- There were 8 species of tigers, but 3 are now extinct.
- Tigers are carnivores and they can track claw prints.
- Tigers can see at night.
- Bengal tigers are white.

We have a busy term ahead. We will be re-organising lunch times and having a lot of new equipment to play with.

Will Sutton, Aiden Maidment, Michael Gatehouse, Arun Sheldon, Jake Suter, Lawrence Brodier, Sarah Murrison, Philippa Murrison, Claudia Emby, Victoria Solmon, Alex Shepherd, Jessica Tormo, Charlotte Philps, Hannah James, Charlie Butler, Sophie Beament & Rebecca Sale

You are invited to
An Exhibition of Local Artists and Children's Work
At Mere School

Wednesday 11th February 3.00 – 4.00pm

A chance to meet new and established local artists and view their work.

Artists include

Colin Anderson, Tamsin Guy, Richard Howell,
Sandrine Maubeche Janet Reeves, Laura Rich

If you are an artist and would like to exhibit please contact
Paula Loxton at Mere School ☎ 01747 860515



FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



We are already into what promises to be a very busy year of organising and fundraising.

Bingo – We'd like to say a massive thank you to all those who supported our Bingo night – we raised a huge £527!! A great night was had by all, so many thanks to the parents who provided the prizes and to everyone who supported us on the night. We are going to hold another bingo in March (details in the next Mere Matters) and all are welcome to attend.

Windfall Club – December was our super draw month so the winning number for that was No. 69 (Mr Newman) and the winner of the ordinary draw was No. 55 (Mrs Bligdon). We have also drawn the January number which was No. 66 (Mrs Harrison) – well done!

Auction of Promises – We are busy planning an 'Auction of Promises', which we are holding on Thursday 14th May at The Walnut Tree. This is a new event for us, and we are desperately seeking donations of promises – this could be a donation of time, a skill, or an item. These promises are then auctioned as 'lots' on the night. Bidders then bid to win the items they are interested in – the highest bidder winning.

Why not write the date on your calendar now and come along for a lively evening bidding against your friends and neighbours and win yourself a bargain too!

On a final note, we also have a few tea towels left for sale at £2.50 each. We have sold over 370 so far, and only have a few left. The tea towels display the portraits of every child in the school and look fantastic (they also dry your dishes well too!).

All proceeds from the events that the Friends of Mere School organise goes to supporting Mere School.

Please contact Mrs Bird (Secretary) ☎ 01747 828789 or leave a message at the School office if you would like to donate a promise to our auction or if you'd like to purchase a tea towel.

TIDDLERS & TODDLERS

Our regular sessions have started again after the Christmas break in the Lecture Hall on Monday's and Thursday's from 9.30am - 11.30am and we are all very glad to have

somewhere to warm up after the school-run! Do come and join us, even if you can't make a whole session, for a cuppa and a friendly chat while the children play.

We held a fantastic Christmas Fayre in December and were delighted to raise enough to be entertained by Bubble and Squeak at our end of term Christmas party, which was very well attended and we all had a lot of fun!

We were also able to purchase a new child gate for the door into the main hall so that the children are always in 'eye-shot' - very popular with the parents/carers of 2 or more children!

We also enjoyed a taster session from 'Joe Jingles' just before Christmas, which was very well received, so watch this space for similar events and, numbers permitting, a regular slot.

We've got lots planned for the New Year..... we'll keep you all posted! For more information please call:

Laura Rich ☎ 01747 861537

1st MERE BROWNIES

Mobile Phone Appeal

We thank everyone very much who has supported our appeal for un-used mobile phones. With the money that the 1st Mere Brownie Pack has raised, we used some to hire a coach at the end of October 2008 for a fun packed weekend, "The Big Brownie Adventure". We joined with 500 Brownies from South Wiltshire at Oslington Bay, Weymouth at the PGL Centre, for the opportunity to take part in eight challenging activities, which included abseiling, archery, beach combing, climbing, cycling, dancing, quad biking, swinging, trampolining, trapezing, tunnelling and zip-wiring.

We will be continuing to recycle un-used mobile phones and to try and reduce our environmental impact.

Living in a throwaway society means that we discard unwanted mobile phones too readily. If not discarded correctly, these end up in landfill sites, where their dangerous chemicals may seriously damage the environment. These seemingly worthless products, all shapes and sizes, working or not (but it is advisable to remove the SIM card) can be made use of. Something that is of no value to you can be transformed in to cash that can generate money for our unit funds. Collection points for your contributions are at the Post Office, Mere Library, Jeans Electrical Shop and Chapel Showroom.

With many thanks.

Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

DIARY DATES AND EVENTS FOR 2009

Please find below details of forthcoming events to be hosted by The Mere and District Chamber of Trade. We will be updating you on our events each month in Mere Matters. They are also in addition to our monthly Committee Meetings which will be held on the first Wednesday of each month throughout 2009. Our next Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February 2009 at 7.30pm at Mere Social Club. This year following

the Committee Meetings, we will be inviting you to join us from 8.00pm onwards if there are any issues you would like to discuss with The Chamber. We will advise you of the date and venue each month.

Our first speaking event is based around the forthcoming Unitary Authority:-

Wednesday 18th February 2009 at 7.00pm

Alistair Cunningham

**Service Director, Economy and Enterprise at Wiltshire County Council
"One Council"**

at The Grove Buildings in Mere

Wednesday 20th May 2009

Sue Wilkins will be speaking on Trading Standards. Venue and time to be advised

Other forthcoming events

Head Teacher of Gillingham School. Will be talking about getting Children into Work.

Date and venue to be confirmed

For further details please contact Julie Cousins on 01747 860352

New Business Start Up Competition

ATTENTION ALL NEW BUSINESSES' IN MERE AND DISTRICT

How would you like to have the chance to win £1,000 possibly £2,000 to help towards the start up of your new business?

Watch this space for further details next month!

WE ARE YOUR CHAMBER OF TRADE.

We are affiliated to
the Wessex Chambers of Trade

We hold meetings at regular intervals.

If you have an issue with anything in the local community or the wider Wessex area affecting your business, let us know.

Then we can discuss it and see what we can do to try to help.

So come on, keep us occupied!

We also hold Events – so it isn't all serious, we have fun from time to time!

We look forward to meeting you at any of these Events
Please see a note of our Diary Events in Mere Matters every month.

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Results of the '100' Club Draw for December 2008, drawn after Parish Communion in St Michael's Church on 7th December by the Rev'd Paul Barnes was:

1st Prize	(£60)	-	No. 181	Very Generously Returned
2nd Prize	(£40)	-	No. 151	Mrs M Butchers
3rd Prize	(£20)	-	No. 54	Mr R Bellars
4th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 174	Mrs B Kimm
5th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 58	Mrs G Toms

The Results of the '100' Club Draw for January 2009, drawn after Family Communion in St Michael's Church on 4th January by Mr R Dearnaly was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 127	Generously Returned
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 130	Jill Trainor
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 102	Mr J Eggleton
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 66	Generously Returned

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

ATTENTION – ALL MARMALADE MAKERS!

Once again Seville Oranges are in the shops and I would appeal to everybody who is making marmalade to make a few extra jars for the St Michael's Church Fete Marmalade Stall on 6th June 2009. The proceeds from this stall have been terrific and I would be very grateful to anybody who can help. Just get in touch with me, and I will gladly collect.

Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Afternoon Get Together

On Wednesday, 25th February, we meet at 2.30pm to share a favourite read/quotation or poem. We shall be glad to see you there - a cup of tea to follow of course!

Fair Trade

Saturday, 21st February is the First day of Fair Trade Fortnight. A stall will be in the URC from 10.30 - 12 noon displaying TraidCraft wares. If you haven't already purchased your Fair Trade wares by then, come and sample some here. We have Coffee and Tea, pasta, rice and of course the best chocolate available!

Remember Fair Trade is dedicated to helping those who work to produce what for us are very often everyday goods, but for them is a matter of 'life or death'.

M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Messy Church

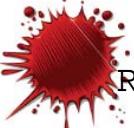


Friday 30th January
3.15pm-5.15pm

And again on Fridays 27th February and March.

In The Footprints Building
For families with children up to 11+

Games, 'Messy Time', Worship, Food



Come and found out more...

RSVP to: parishoffice@inbox.com



Organised by Churches Together in Mere and District.

All Children must be accompanied by an adult

THE REV'D TIM HEATON, CURATE OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES

The Three Rs. Epiphany draws to a close with Candlemas (the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) on 2nd February, when Jesus is revealed to Simeon and Anna as the world's saviour and redeemer. So ends a period of *revelation* that began with the visit of the magi to the child Jesus in Bethlehem. At his baptism Jesus is revealed as the Messiah (or Christ, 'the anointed one'), the 'Son of God'. He is revealed as "the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote" (John 1.45), and Jesus himself reveals his glory when he converts water into wine at Cana. Epiphany has been a journey of discovery, and we perceive that something extraordinary has come about.

But how have we responded to it? Have we truly received 'the Word made flesh' (John 1.14) into our hearts and lives? Have our attitudes and behaviour towards others and to the world around us really changed at all? In the poem *Ash Wednesday*, T. S. Eliot wrote about "the Word unheard":

*Against the Word the unstilled world still whirled
About the centre of the silent Word.*

Ash Wednesday is on 25th February. It marks the beginning of Lent, a period of **repentance** during which we are encouraged to examine ourselves and face up to our failings and shortcomings as we try to prepare ourselves for the glorious moment of our **restoration** at Easter. For some, Lent is a time to 'give something up' in a spirit of restraint or austerity. Equally good, I believe, is to 'take something on', for example a course of Christian study that will help us recognize who Jesus really is... and change our lives.

Our Lent Course this year is called *Christ and the Chocolaterie*, an original and lively course based around the film *Chocolat*, which explores issues about God, the world, and what it means to be human. You can join a daytime group or an evening group, meeting once a week in March for five sessions. Do please give your name to your parish priest or minister if you would like to join. It actually sounds like fun!

**Church of
St Michael The Archangel, Mere
YOUR PARISH CHURCH**

46 days to prepare for Easter !

Ash Wednesday

25th February



Communion Services with imposition of ashes

10.30am Traditional Language (BCP)

7.30pm Common Worship 1 (CW1)

Everyone very welcome

Less than 2 months to the highlight of the Christian calendar

TRAIDCRAFT COMES TO ST MICHAEL'S

From 1st February and on the first Sunday of each month, there will be a Traidcraft table in St. Michael's after the 10.30am service, when Janet Way, one of Mere's Traidcraft representatives, will be selling fairly-traded goods such as tea, coffee, sugar etc. along with other items from Traidcraft's catalogue.

Make sure you have your money with you to purchase your groceries and help Mere on the way to become a Fair Trade town.

There is also to be a Carnival of Fair Trade in Devizes on Saturday 21st February in the Town Hall from 10.00am till 3.30pm with topical speakers, Fair Trade stalls, a café & wine bar serving Fair Trade products and a service of celebration of Fair Trade to be held at St John's at 11.00am.

A jazz band will provide a carnival atmosphere.

Ann Dethick, St Michael's PCC Secretary

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

FEBRUARY 2009

The Parish Church, St Michael, The Archangel (☎ 01747 863313)

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	1st		CANDLEMAS
		10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		(NB: No Sunday Club)	
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	4th	7.30pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	25th		ASH WEDNESDAY
		10.30am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
		7.30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, (☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	8th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	15th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour Holy Communion
	22nd	11.00am	Peter Kershaw

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: (☎ 01747 861370)

Sunday	1st	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
	8th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
Sunday	15th	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
	22nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth

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

Mere Contacts: Mrs T Read, ☎ 01747 860289

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

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)

Sunday	1st	9.25am	Songs of Praise/Matins
	8th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
	15th	9.25am	Songs of Praise/Matins
	22nd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2009

1	Sun	4.00pm	Confirmation Classes (every Sunday)	GB
2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (Every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (and 9th and 23rd)	YC

2	Mon	7.00pm	Scouts (and 9th and 23rd)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (and 9th and 23rd)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
3	Tue	7.30pm	Carnival Committee	Walnut
4	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
5	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (Every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	MH
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
6	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Moviola (The Boy in Striped Pyjamas)	L
		7.30pm	Conservative Branch AGM	GB
7	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
8	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (and 15th and 22nd)	GB
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
11	Wed	2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB
		3.00pm	Local Artists and Children's Art Exhibition	School
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thurs	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 19th and 26th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 19th and 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 19th and 26th)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (and 27th)	GB
14	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
18	Wed	7.30pm	Mere Chamber of Trade	GB
21	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning, with Traidcraft stall & Launch of Fair Trade Fortnight	CC
24	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society Annual Dinner Party	GB
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
27	Fri	12.00pm	Lent Lunches	GB
		3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints
28	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & RGC Bric a Brac	CC

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

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Halls: ☎ 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 MARCH 2009 ISSUE

Material for the March 2009 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') before 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 2009**. Would contributors please add their name and a contact telephone number.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, but if you are new to this easy method of contribution, please telephone the Editor for details.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

**Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage,
Kilmington Common, Kllmington (☎ 01985 844740)**

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