

# MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine  
and guide to local events



March - 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 March** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

## **The Chairman writes**

The recent snow made Mere and the Downs look really beautiful. The schools were closed and much fun was had by children, parents and many grandparents playing together, making snowmen and sledging. For some children it was the first snow they had ever seen. Well done to those householders and shopkeepers who cleared snow and ice from the pavements before council workmen came along with salt and grit.

The flag on Castle Hill has been removed due to wind damage but will be replaced very soon. Any donations towards replacement flags would be most welcome.

Sadly, our young yew trees planted in the new cemetery have become waterlogged and died. They will be removed over the next week or so. Unfortunately, the ground becomes too wet to allow the trees to establish and the same fate will befall any replacement trees that may be planted before a drainage scheme is carried out. The Clerk will be writing to all those residents who kindly donated money towards the yew trees to inform them that they will be replaced when the drainage scheme has been completed.

We have received correspondence from a resident who is concerned that people may have had wheelie bins imposed upon them when, in fact, they do not have storage for wheelie bins or their houses have limited or no rear access. Residents have also noticed that a large number of wheelie bins are being left out on the pavement or highway long before or long after waste collection day and, in some cases, are being left out on the highway permanently. Apart from this being unsightly, particularly in the conservation areas, it also causes an obstruction and is illegal. It may well be that these wheelie bins are being left out because people do not have anywhere to store them, or simply because they cannot be bothered to bring them in. If the former is causing the problem, we would suggest that you apply to Salisbury District Council's Environmental Services Waste Management team for collection by bag or smaller bins and they will reassess your property.

The Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Access Forum and Wiltshire County Council are starting a new grant scheme for parishes and groups of parishes within Wiltshire who

wish to implement non-statutory improvements to countryside access and rights of way within their parish. It is expected that bids will be for such things as providing permissive routes to avoid busy roads and improving existing rights of way that would not be eligible under existing arrangements. The bids will be judged on a points basis with points being awarded for a range of aspects in the bids including, but not restricted to, benefits to the community, the amount of contribution in funds or labour from the parish, the longevity of the improvements, and innovation. Each year there will be five grants of up to £1,000 each, and one of up to £5,000. The Parish Council wondered if parishioners might like to submit ideas for possible bids.

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

*Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

## **Floral Enhancements**

The Parish Clerk would like to report that once again, the Parish Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays.

Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs. We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £35 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact:

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere. ☎ 01747 860701. E-mail: [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org)

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs last year:

Louis and Sarah Stanton	Isabel Howell	Jack, Chloe, Isabel, Bryony & Ty
The Friday Gentlemen	Audrey Hood	Two Counties Golf Range
Rodney & Shirley Coward	Ann Hutchison	Richard & Glenda Collard
Taxi for 6 (Walnut Tree Quiz Team)		

Also, many thanks to The Hill Brush Company, & F. J. Chalke Ltd for sponsoring the large floral displays in The Square.

## GEORGE JEANS, SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, WRITES

The Full Council asked the Forward Planning Team to carry out an additional stage of consultation on the LDF Core Strategy, Preferred Options. During this time I encouraged Mere residents to attend a meeting at Mere School Hall to make their views known to District Council Officers as many were interested in the possible number of dwellings proposed for this area. The results will have been put to cabinet by the time you read this. For once it appears the option of a new settlement anywhere in the existing District will not be pursued. For those wanting more information please contact me.

I will quote one paragraph from the report, "Although we should be very happy with the number of representations we received, it is important to emphasise that the production of policies to go within the LDF is not a straight popularity contest or referendum. While the views we received are rightly an important material consideration, there are other issues which equally need to be taken into account." Please note that these are not my words.

I reported in last month's issue of Mere Matters that a leaflet would be available explaining Area Boards to you. This has now been published and I have put one in the "community window" next to Jeans Electrical. I was sent only half a dozen and these went instantly. I have asked for more and I will ensure that they will be easily available. I also reported in last month's issue that the new Area Board for Mere, Tisbury and Wilton would be based at Tisbury when it is formed. I am now informed that after the elections on 4th June, 2009 the unitary councillors appointed to the board will be able to decide to move their Area Board Meeting around the area if they so wish. The SDC Western Area meetings at present are usually held in The Lecture Hall when they come to Mere. I would like to see a similar arrangement for the future.

In theory the new Board should have over £140,000.00 to spend, and in theory £50,000.00 plus of this should go to the Mere Community Area (which includes Zeals, West Knoyle, Kilmington and Stourhead), with about 20% being used for administration etc. This indicates to me that there still will be a reasonable fund for Mere when the final figures are decided. South Wiltshire is the only part of the new Wiltshire Council area to have any Council housing stock, approximately 5,500 units. Mere still has a sizeable number of Council Houses. It has now been decided to recommend from the Tisbury Area Pilot Board that the Mere, Tisbury and Wilton Board, when formed, should always have a representative to represent tenants. This is not a way to report a faulty tap, but it is the way through an appointed representative to report if a significant

number of houses have faulty taps that go unrepaired for a long period. A high ranking council officer would have to attend to such a problem.

The last full Salisbury District Council meeting will be on the 30th March at The Guildhall, Salisbury, when the meeting will be run as it was in years past. Should a councillor wish to speak, he or she will have to stand up. From the 1st April, 2009 Salisbury District Council will, in effect, merge with Wiltshire County Council and become Wiltshire Council. I have enjoyed being a councillor for over 25 years at various levels and I hope the electorate will allow me to continue.

One telephone number will be used to contact all services. However, depending on the subject you will still be referred to Mere Parish Council etc. on occasions.

## **CATHERINE SPENCER, SALISBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR, WRITES**

This is my last District Council report, as Salisbury District Council ceases to exist on 31st March. Elections are to be held on 4th June for members of the new Wiltshire Council. Meanwhile, all services will be provided as usual, with special interim arrangements for planning and licensing. I shall be sitting on the temporary Planning Regulatory Committee for South Wiltshire. When the Wiltshire Council takes over, there will be one planning committee for each of the old district council areas, and our hub in Salisbury will remain.

Much has been written and publicised already about the 20 Area Boards in Wiltshire, which will form the basis for public participation in local government. Our new South West Wilts Area Board will cover approximately the same geographical area as our current Western Area Committee. It will have four or five new councillors on it, replacing the current ten district councillors. It will have a role in dealing with every council service, but unlike our Salisbury District Area Committees, it will not have a Planning Regulatory function. The Area Boards will have a budget – approx 20% of which will fund the organisation of Area Partnerships. In the community area of Mere, West Knoyle and surrounding villages, we have the opportunity to set up a Community Area Partnership. Parish councils, the health authority, police, and every community group can take part and organise projects and schemes for their area using the Partnership umbrella to work together. The Partnership can then approach the Area Board for support and funding.

Wiltshire is not generously funded by the government. Next year, we will receive less money per head than any other unitary authority with which to provide schools, hospitals and all the services we expect. In this climate of severe recession, it is

perhaps timely that savings are being made by all the councils in Wiltshire combining to form one authority – in order to be able to keep providing the services we need.

I have been opposed to the loss of a successful council. During the past 14 years as District Councillor, I have worked with the staff of Salisbury District Council and have been impressed by their commitment to do the best they can for us. However, we will have to become much more efficient in order to provide better services when we expect even less money from Government, and would not want to increase council tax.

In our rural area, it costs more to provide services – I have fought for recognition of this and the need for special measures to support rural communities. We have problems with providing accessible bus services, and in supporting our shops and businesses. Whatever happens in larger towns, I have opposed charges for parking in Mere, and pushed for adequate parking spaces within new developments to keep parking available for people visiting shops, businesses and the surgery. We have already lost far too many shops in Mere.

We must keep business rate support for village shops and pubs, and support local advertising for businesses – I have fought against the removal of advertising board signs. We must encourage employment opportunities, and the provision of affordable houses for people who want to stay in the area.

I have been keen to promote Mere and West Knoyle applying for DC grants over the years, with great success - thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of all the volunteers in the village. Last month West Knoyle received a substantial grant for its recreation area.

Mere and West Knoyle deserve to be proud of their achievements all through the year, every year. They are enriched by all the volunteers who work so hard on behalf of everyone: the “Mere Matters” producers and distributors; the parish councillors who work incredibly hard to provide sports and other facilities for everyone; local church groups and committees; the sports, drama, and youth group leaders and helpers; Fives Court and Rosemary Goddard Centre helpers; the Footprints team; the village parties and events organisers; and numerous community groups, and event and club organisers.

I would like to continue working on your behalf as the new Council for Wiltshire takes shape after the elections in June, but come what may, I would like you to know that it has been a privilege representing you on Salisbury District Council. The knowledge and experience that I have gained over these years will remain with me for life.

## **URGENT HELP NEEDED!**

The Governors and Staff at Mere School would like to ask all members of the community for their help with the problem of DOG POO on the playing fields at Duchy Manor. As most of you will be aware, the grounds are looked after by the Parish Council and are used daily by the school, as well as various sporting clubs in the evenings and at weekends.

Dogs are not permitted on the site at any time. However, the amount of dog mess being found daily on the fields indicates that people are either using it as a cut through to the recreation ground or as a place to walk their dogs.

It is not only unpleasant for the staff to have to clean the fields of mess, but hazardous to the children of our community attending the school and participating in sports.

**PLEASE HELP US TO LOOK AFTER THE CHILDREN BY NOT BRINGING DOGS ONTO THE SITE.** Thank You.

*Rachel Porter, Chairman of Governors, Mere school*

*Regrettably, this problem is not confined to the playing fields. The many paths and pavements around Mere are also littered, as became abundantly apparent when we had snow last month.*

Editor



## **THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE**

### **Events & Diary Dates**

On Wednesday 18th March 2009 at 7.30pm, Mr Lenarduzzi, Head Teacher of Gillingham School will be giving a talk based around "Children into Work" at The Grove Buildings in Mere.

We are holding the next Committee Meeting on Wednesday 4th March 2009 at 7.30pm in the Mere Social Club Committee Room. For further details please contact: Julie Cousins ☎ 01747 860352

## **New Business Start Up Competition**

The Mere and District Chamber of Trade, in connection with the Wessex Chambers of Commerce, will be participating in a New Business Start-Up Competition to be launched in May 2009.

Wiltshire County Council is sponsoring the competition in association with Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce. This competition has previously been run successfully in North Wiltshire, and for 2009 the plan is to extend entry into the competition throughout the whole of Wiltshire.

If you are a planning to start a new business or have started a new business since 28th September 2008, watch this space for further details.

There is £1,000 prize money for the local winner and £2,000 prize money for the overall Wiltshire County winner. Further information on the competition and details on how to enter will be released shortly.

*Julie Cousins* ☎ 01747 860352

### **MERE DENTAL PRACTICE**

The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone.

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

**On the evening of Tuesday 3rd March, the practice will be open until 7.00pm. The dentist will be Ms Jacqueline Barnes**

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



## MERE CARNIVAL

The Annual Parish Carnival Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 2nd March 2009 at 6.15pm in the Andy Young Pavilion, Mere.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please come along and support the Carnival.

*Deborah Merx, Mere Carnival Committee* ☎ 07771 774054

## LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL COMPETITION

The festival's 2009 poetry competition opens on 1st March, and entry forms with full details are available at Mere Information Point/Library. We are proud to announce that Louis de Bernières has agreed to be the senior judge. His acclaimed novels are often described as poetic, so it is no surprise that he also writes poetry. His own poems often feature in the performances he gives with the Antonius Players who will feature in this year's festival programme.

The 2009 open competition invites poems of no more than 40 lines on any topic and has major cash prizes. Entrants within a ten mile radius of Mere can also win one of the local prizes and there are two junior sections. We judge all entries anonymously, so every poem stands or falls on its own merit.

Every entry helps the work of the Mere & District Linkscheme. Pick up an entry form for further details or download from the festival website: [www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk)

*Adrienne Howell, Lit. Fest. Group*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

The wit and wisdom of Noel Coward come to entertain us this month, on Thursday 12th March, in the film adaptation of his play 'Easy Virtue' starring Kristin Scott Thomas and Colin Firth, and gives a particular slant to meeting the in-laws! Full details on page 15.

**Date for Your Diary:** Thursday 16th April – film title has not yet been confirmed but it may well be 'Brideshead Revisited' *Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE  
MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Just in case you've missed our advertising campaign, the time for getting your tickets for MADS's *sensational* new pantomime, **Jack and the Beanstalk**, is fast running out – as are the tickets. Performances take place in The Lecture Hall on **Wednesday through to Saturday, 4th to 7th March, at 7.30 p.m.**, with a **matinee on the Saturday at 2.30p.m.** Some tickets are still available at Mere Information Point, but you'll have to be quick! Act now or regret it forever!  
*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

### AGM

**Wednesday 11th March 7.30pm Grove Buildings**

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

The AGM will be followed by

### The Spring Show

If you would like a schedule for the Spring Show, ☎ Janet Way 01747 860884  
Visitors welcome

*Caroline Cook* ☎ 01747 861797

## MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

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

The speaker will be Janet Way from Traidcraft who will tell us about her time working as a volunteer in India. There will also be a "Bring & Buy" stall for overseas funds.

*Thelma Ings* ☎ 01747 860262

**THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY  
MARILYN and SAM of  
THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE, MERE  
TELEPHONE: 01747 860300**

# WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

2009 is the 60th anniversary of the formation of the WRAC, which succeeded the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), and was the first regular army corps for women. There is a Salisbury Branch of the Association, which meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, and we would welcome any ex-army ladies who would like to join us.

Our National Re-union will take place in Blackpool in March.

For further information, please call me. *Mrs Gladys W Pope* ☎ 01747 860887



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

***Tuesday, 10th March 2009***

*7.30pm Grove Buildings*

### **AGM**

***Fees are now due: £6 per person***

*Followed by*

### ***“Siegfried Sasson and The Great War”***

*The Making of a War Poet*

*by Dennis Silk*

*(Trustee Imperial War Museum)*

*Visitors welcome*

***Entrance fee to non-members, £2.00 per person***

## CANCER RESEARCH UK

A Jumble Sale, also Cakes, Tombola, Raffle etc., will be held in the Lecture Hall on Saturday, 21st March from 10.00am.

*S. Thomas* ☎ 01747 860586

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (Mere & District Day Centre in Lynch Close)**

**10.30am - 3.00pm on Mondays and 10.30am - 4.00pm on Fridays**

Recently the Guests of the Rosemary Goddard Day Centre were wonderfully entertained, along with residents from Fives Court, by Southern Breeze Line dancers (who meet every Thursday afternoon at the Grove Buildings). Dot's singing quite brought a tear to the eye, and the event was made very special with the support of Merely Women, the Co-operative, Connect2 bus and the amazing carers and volunteers.

Lynette proposed to the Guests that the months beginning with M, be organised by the men with their interests paramount. "That's rather sexist", some responded. "Good idea", said others. However, when Lynette asked the men whether they would like a boys only outing to the Mercedes Centre at the old Brooklands Race Track in Weybridge, a howl went up from the girls. "It's only because you want to have the men to yourself". "Absolutely". said Lynette. "Well I think that it is a good idea" said MT, "they deserve a treat". The response from the men was decidedly nonplussed. Eventually LL spoke up. "We don't want to go as far as Weybridge. I used to fly prop engine sea planes, so why don't we go to Yeovilton". "What's Yeovilton?" enquired the Brummie sisters. "It's the Fleet Air Arm Museum". "Will there be sailors there?" "Definitely" said Lynette. "In that case" giggled the Brummie sisters eagerly, "Can't we go too?" "Now to get back to the point", said the chaps forcefully, "We would much prefer it, if we all go together as it's such fun with the ladies". "Done" said Lynette.

Our programme is displayed in the Surgery and Library, on the notice board by the Post Office, and at the Community Rooms in Lynch Close, so if you would like to join us for any of the activities, contact the Organiser.

*Lynette Elliott (Organiser)* ☎ 01747 861646

*Caroline Cook (Secretary)* ☎ 01747 861797

## **MERE MUSEUM**

The new exhibition 'Mapping the Parish: Mere's 1848 Tithe Map', will open to the public on Tuesday, 3rd March. The focus of the exhibition will be the map itself, and a new, photographic version of the map, skilfully produced and annotated by Dr Colin Anderson, accompanied by lists of the names of all the landowners and tenants of the 1400 or so plots of land in the parish of Mere. This reads like a Who's Who of Mere in the 19th century, and has been patiently typed into a database by Gillian Anderson, so that the lists of names are easily searchable for the first time. One or two other related maps will be on display, together with further material connected with the ancient

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

# 'Easy Virtue' (PG)

**"Let's misbehave...."**

A stylish new adaptation of Noel Coward's play. Cultures clash and feathers fly when John (Ben Barnes) brings his glamorous new American wife (Jessica Biel) to meet his upper-crust English parents  
(Kristin Scott Thomas and Colin Firth)

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday 12th March 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](http://www.moviola.org)*

method of taxation called tithes. The exhibition will run until the end of June. We hope you will enjoy it.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are reminded that their special preview of the new exhibition (see above) is on Monday evening, **2nd March at 6.30pm**. As always, new members of the Friends will be most welcome to join us on that evening. Just turn up!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*



## MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

### WALKS in 2009

Sunday	29th March	2.00pm	<b>Local Walk</b>
Sunday	26th April	2.00pm	
Sunday	10th May	2.00pm	
Sunday	7th June	2.00pm	
Sunday	7th July	7.30pm	<b>Moonlight Walk</b>
Friday	12th July	2.00pm	
Sunday	2nd August	2.00pm	
Sunday	23rd August	2.00pm	
Sunday	20th September	2.00pm	
Sunday	18th October	2.00pm	

All walks start from the main Salisbury Street car park, with car sharing where possible. Everyone very welcome, including dogs if on leads. Bring small picnic tea if you wish. Further details of destination and mileage (usually 5/6 miles) from board outside the Post Office just before each walk date.

## AFTER A GREAT 2008, WE'RE ON FOR A DIVINE 2009

The members of the Slimming World group in Mere lost a **TOTAL of 132 STONES** in the year of 2008 and have already lost **14 STONES** so far this year. It would be great to beat last year's total in 2009. Last year one member lost a whopping 5½ stone and he is considering becoming a Slimming World Consultant himself to pass on the word about how well optimising food has helped him shed the pounds. Another member lost

5 stone also in the year, and they never feel hungry!! The Meeting is on Mondays at 7.00pm every week in the Lecture Halls!

If you want to know how they did it! Call:

*Caroline* ☎ 01747 840013.

## **TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE**

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

### **‘Kidz for a Quid’ Scheme extended with Casual Football Sessions returning to Wednesday afternoons**

Want to play football with your friends? For just £1 each, you can as part of our ‘Kidz for a Quid’ Scheme. These sessions will take place as follows:

- 5-11 year olds from 4.00-5.00pm.
- 11-16 year olds from 5.00-6.00pm
  
- Other ‘Kidz for a Quid’ Scheme sessions are:
  - Temple of Gloom/Roller Rumpus (alternate weeks) – Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm.
  - Nintendo Wii – Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays – various times depending on age of participant (please contact Reception).
  - Saturday Morning Madness – 10.30am-12.00 Noon.

For further details concerning times and days of sessions, to book a place, or information concerning other activities that take place at the Centre, please contact Reception ☎ 01747 871141, or e-mail us at: [tisbury.sc@salisbury.gov.uk](mailto:tisbury.sc@salisbury.gov.uk).

## **MERE SWIMMING POOL**

At last the weather is looking a little more positive, but who knows....Will we have a summer this year?

On a slightly different note, there will be some changes this year. Due to a very busy time this year, Simon Harlow will be stepping down as Chair. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon for all his hard work last year. Bob Parsons will be taking over and I would also like to thank him for taking on the role. As for myself, I am also stepping down from the role of Secretary.

Keep a look out for what is going on and if you are free to give up some time to assist Bob and the other committee members, please let me know.

Many thanks

*Sally Howell* ☎ 01747 860644

## **MERE BRIDGE CLUB**

Meet weekly on Thursday afternoons to play Rubber Bridge for pleasure, £1.50. No prizes, but a biscuit and "cuppa". Whist players welcomed. Come along and learn. We meet in the Lecture Hall every Thursday from 2.00 until 5.00pm

*S Thomas* 📞 01747 860586



## MERE SNOOKER CLUB

The Club are holding a JUMBLE SALE with table top sale, cake stall, raffle and refreshments on 28th March at the Lecture Hall, 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Some table top spaces are still available – contact Kevin for details. The Club, which is opposite the Lecture Hall, is also having an open morning with members available to show you around. So come and grab yourself a bargain, and pot a few balls on the way!

*Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305*

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

The new Season starts on Saturday, 18th April at 3.00pm, and there will also be special times for complete beginners to come along and try the game. Full details will be in next month's Mere Matters. If you would like any further information, please ring me:

*Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289*



## Mere Town Youth Football Club

January and February definitely proved to be difficult months for the Mere Town Youth Football Club (MTYFC), due solely to the weather! However, when we were able to train and play matches, players enjoyed themselves and reaped the rewards of their hard work and commitment by several matches resulting in a win.

We are currently fundraising via a grand draw that will be drawn during our presentation evening – Saturday 16th May 2009. There will be cash prizes of £100, £50 and £20, as well as many other prizes. Draw tickets are being sold by the parents of the players and also from members of MTYFC committee. If you'd like to support our draw, but you're not sure of who to contact, please contact Neil on the number below.

All funds raised by MTYFC go towards supporting our club – supplying equipment and kit to facilitate the youth football training in Mere. With the help of volunteers and monies raised by fundraising, we are able to keep our membership costs (currently only £5 per annum) and training fees (only £1 for each training session) really low and affordable to as many as possible. Compared to other sport based clubs, we think MTYFC offers really good value for money.

New players are always welcome to join MTYFC (boys and girls aged 5yrs and above). Come and join us at our football practice for the youth football teams at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields, Mere.

## Training – when and where:

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

Wednesday	Boys over 12yrs & Youth Development Team (Over 16yrs)
Thursday	Girls U11 & Boys aged 12 & below
Friday	Boys & Girls From Ages 5 to 10 yrs (organised into 4 different age groups – under 7's, U8's, U9's and U10's.)

If you have any queries please contact:

*Neil Francis* ☎ 01747 860750



## Peter Mason writes:

As all of you (hopefully!) will know, Footprints provides a whole range of services to the local community from its base in the old Duchy Manor School – from Kidzone, our Breakfast, After School and Holiday Club, the Learning Zone, with its regular programmes in the Adult Education field, to Tiny Toes and the Waiting Room Coffee Shop. We are now launching the next and most exciting development in our short history, by becoming a Children's Centre.

## What is a Children's Centre?

The aim of a Children's Centre is to improve outcomes for all children. They are a part of the Government's ten-year childcare strategy to enable all families with children to have access to an affordable, flexible, high-quality childcare place for their child. Centres are based wherever possible on existing provision, to meet the needs of local communities, in consultation with parents, the private, voluntary and independent sectors, PCTs, Jobcentre Plus and other key partners, to deliver a range of services.

Childrens' Centres are "service hubs" where children under five years old and their families can receive seamless integrated services and information. By 2010, every community will be served by a Children's Centre, offering permanent universal provision across the country, ensuring that every child gets the best start in life.

## What does a Children's Centre offer?

The services include:

- Integrated early education and childcare.

- Support for parents - including advice on parenting, local childcare options and access to specialist services for families.
- Child and family health services - ranging from health screening, health visitor services to breast-feeding support.
- Helping parents into work - with links to the local Jobcentre Plus and training.

To achieve this, Footprints Children's Centre will:

- Reach all children 0-5 in the Mere Community Area, which extends from Maiden Bradley in the north to Semley in the south.
- Support local childminders, including funding appropriate training and development.
- Ensure the parents of the 0-5 children's group have access to appropriate services – by referring and signposting.
- Provide information about the range of family support services through computer access at Footprints and an information point.
- Provide appropriate parenting and family support programmes – for example, parenting classes, drop-ins and social events.
- Provide employment support – promotion of basic skills training, links to Job Centre Plus through a special computer terminal at Footprints.
- Link with maternity services.
- Support 0-5 age group language development.
- Work towards family health improvement - programmes to promote understanding of issues around obesity, smoking cessation, mental health.
- Support working fathers, teenage parents and ethnic minority families.
- Work with disabled children and parents; with partners and families of prisoners.
- Work with parents with drug or alcohol problems.
- Help families in temporary accommodation.

We will be carrying out some significant improvements to our building over the forthcoming few months, including the establishment of a reception area, and recruiting additional staff to enable us to do the job. We will also be setting up a Community Forum – up to about a dozen local people representing parents, health services, schools, the parish council and local faith groups – who can have a significant input into what we do, how we can do it better and what other local services may be required.

This is a very exciting step not only for Footprints, but for the community as a whole, and we are looking forward to rolling our sleeves up and getting on with the job.

In the meantime, our Kidzone staff are ready and waiting to provide a healthy breakfast before school, or fun and food after school every day: book a 'taster' session if you haven't tried us before – we'd love to see you. The old adage applies – 'use it or lose it'!

*Peter Mason, Chair ☎ 01747 861108*

# DEAF AWARENESS

## The Facts

- There are an estimated 9 million deaf and hard of hearing people in the U.K.
- 2,474,000 are between the ages of 16 and 60.
- More than 70% of people over 70 will have some kind of hearing loss

## The Problems

- not hearing jokes
- not understanding your grandchildren
- inability to use the telephone
- misunderstanding questions
- difficulty in following TV programmes
- unable to hear when someone is turned away from you or behind you, or understand a conversation in a car.
- opting out of social occasions because you cannot hear in a group
- a sense of isolation and frustration

## **The Solution**

We are fortunate in Mere in having a class that provides help, information, understanding and support. The mysteries of lip-reading are also taught. It meets on Friday mornings at Footprints, Duchy Manor, from 10.00am until 12 noon. If this class is to be viable in the future, it needs more members. The tutor is professionally trained, experienced and excellent.

Please support this local venture. Come along to the class next week and see for yourself, or find an application form in the library. For more information, contact:

*Miss V Cullingford ☎ 10747 860504*

## **ASD Parents/Carers Support Group**

**Wednesday 18th March 2009**

**1.30-3.00pm at**

**Footprints Centre, Mere**

**A group for all parents/carers of children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder.**

**For more information please contact Kirsty Wells  
e-mail: [kirsty@metamorphictouch.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@metamorphictouch.co.uk) or Tel: 01747 823562**

## **MERE FIRST SCHOOL**

**February 2009**

Snow hits Mere School!! On 3rd February Mere School was closed due to heavy snow - some teachers could not get their cars out of their drives. We opened for most of the week though and we all had fun in the snow and made fantastic snowmen.

Family Numeracy is taking place at the moment, and it is just like Family Literacy. Some children from blue and amber class work with their parents and play numeracy games, and also find out how to make numeracy fun.

For art week we have had a whole week of art - our theme was mystery and magic. We've also been writing poems about a magic box. In year 6 we finished our Aztec themed crafts. Mrs Loxton organised an art exhibition in school and it was great to look at 'real' artist's work.

Gold class went to a climbing wall at Shaftesbury School. As well as having climbing and having fun, they learnt that it is pretty hard to climb! They hope to do it again.

Shortly, two year 6 children will be going to Gillingham School to participate in a maths club. One commented: "You can learn lots of exciting things each time you go."

*Charlie Butler, Philippa Murrison, Arun Sheldon, Orla Thresh, Joshua Howden, Sarah Murrison, Charlotte Philps and Sophie Beament*



## FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



**Runners Raising Money for Mere School:** - Karen Harkin and Alison Williams are running in the Bath Half Marathon on Sunday, 15th March, 2009 to raise money for the Friends of Mere School. Instead of sponsoring, we are asking people to support by donating money in the designated collection boxes.

**Bingo** – We are having an Easter Bingo in the school hall on **Friday, 20th March**. Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down 7.30pm. There will be a raffle, and refreshments will be available. All welcome to attend, for what we hope will be a great night out.

**Windfall Club** – February's draw was made, with the winning number belonging to Mrs Anne Butler (£20) – well done!

**Auction of Promises** – **Thursday 14th May** at The Walnut Tree. This is a new event for us, and we are desperately seeking more 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. We have already secured many interesting lots (thank you to everyone who has offered a pledge). The lots pledged are very varied, and details will follow in next months "Mere Matters".

*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!*

**Tea Towels** - We have nearly sold out of our tea towels, which are on sale at £2.50 each. We have sold over 380 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 go 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.

## **LEAPING FROGS KINDERGARTEN**

**Leaping Frogs are pleased to announce**

### **'The Great Mere Duck Race 2009'**

**On Saturday 4th April at 2.00pm.**

Please come and join us for our second duck race, which starts off the bridge at the bottom of Steep Street, Mere. Each plastic duck is numbered and numbers can be purchased at a £1 each, either on the day or in advance from Leaping Frogs Kindergarten ☎ 01747 861186. Prizes for the first three ducks past the winning post.

Celebrations will follow in the Lecture Hall (aka 'the winning enclosure' !!!). Refreshments will be available.

Everyone is welcome to join us – come along and join in the fun – rain or shine. For more details, please contact Leaping Frogs Kindergarten ☎ 01747 861186.

## **METHODIST CHURCH NOTES**

### **Afternoon Get Together**

On Wednesday, 25th March at 2.30pm our guest speaker will be the Rev'd Caroline Wareham, a friend known to many; we look forward to seeing you in the School room at the Methodist Church.

*M Siderfin* ☎ 01747 861370

## **WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This will be held in St Michael the Archangel Church on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm. It will be: "A Service prepared by Christian Women of Papa New Guinea" and all will be welcome to attend.

Afterwards there will be refreshments in the Grove Buildings

*Thelma Ings* 📞 01747 860262



## ARE YOU A FRIEND OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL?

As a new resident in Mere, one of the attractions to the town must have been the beautiful and historic buildings. One of these buildings is the parish church of St Michael the Archangel, which is entrusted to us to maintain and refurbish for future generations. So have you considered becoming a life member of the Friends of St Michael the Archangel?

Individual Life Membership is £30 and if you are a taxpayer you may wish to Gift Aid your membership fee. The green Membership Form can be obtained from the Church, Mere Library or Waltons shop; or you can contact the Membership Secretary, Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Results of the '100' Club Draw for February 2009, drawn after Parish Communion in St Michael's Church on 1st February by Madeline Howden was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 79	Mr R. Dearnaly
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 170	Generously Returned
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 139	Generously Returned
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 119	Generously Returned

*Valerie Ransley* ☎ 01747 860964

## Messy Church

Friday 27th March  
3.15-5.15pm

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](mailto:parishoffice@inbox.com)

Organised by Churches Together in Mere and District.

**All Children must be accompanied by an adult**

## **MESSY CHURCH**

As we arrived at Messy Church for the first time, we did not know what to expect. There was a very warm welcome at the door and the children played a variety of games whilst waiting for others to arrive. It was great to hear the sound of children happily playing with each other and other adults.

The children were then moved upstairs where there were five activities involving glueing, colouring and modelling. The children clearly enjoyed this and were then led in a song and read a story. Food downstairs followed and then children and parents went home. It was without doubt a resounding success, given that on Wednesday they had 6 children booked in and by Friday, 72 turned up!!

Congratulations to everyone involved in getting it off the ground – an excellent start and I am looking forward to the next one.

As for what my children thought: Madeline said, as we left, 'That was so cool' and Joshua remarked 'Totally awesome!' That's two children who will be returning next time for sure.

*Elizabeth Howden*

## **LENT MEETINGS 2009 - 'CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE'**

### **Churches Together in Mere and District**

As described by the Rev'd Tim Heaton in his Ministers Letter in the February issue, we are planning to hold a 5 week course based around the film 'Chocolat' and a study booklet written by Hilary Brand.

The five meetings (starting 3rd/4th March) will be held as follows:

- Tuesdays 10.30am in the United Reformed church, Mere; except for 17th March when it will be held in the Methodist church room.
- Tuesdays 7.30pm in the United Reformed church, Mere; except for 17th March when it will be held in the Methodist church room.
- Wednesdays 10.30am in the Parish Room, Zeals

Each session will last about 1½ hours, and a book (costing £4.50) will be available by signing up in advance. There is no additional charge for the course, though donations towards any expenses are always welcome.

To help us in planning the arrangements, please sign up on the list in church on Sundays, or contact any of the following: -

Rev'd Chris Moorsom ☎ 01747 840221

Rev'd Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313

Rev'd Tim Heaton ☎ 01747 841076



St. Michael the Archangel, Mere  
Church of England

**CHURCHES TOGETHER  
in  
MERE & DISTRICT**



The United Reformed Church  
Mere

**LENT LUNCH**  
in the  
**GROVE BUILDINGS**  
In aid of Christian Aid & CAFOD



The Parish of Upper Stow  
Church of England

**FRIDAYS 12.30 to 1.30pm**  
**February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**April 3, 10 (Good Friday)**

**Bring a friend**  
**Come and enjoy homemade soup,**  
**Roll, butter and cheese**  
**Coffee or tea for £2.50**

**Also on sale**  
**Home-made produce, etc**



The Methodist Church, Mere



St. Mary's Church, Mere  
Roman Catholic



St. Mary the Virgin, West Knayle  
Church of England

# THE GROVE BUILDINGS

During the months of June, July and August 2009 major renovation works will be taking place in the Grove Buildings. The toilet block and kitchen area will be reconstructed and a new floor will be laid in the main hall.

New lighting and heating systems will also be installed.

**The Hall will therefore be closed from 1st June and will re- open for business on 1st September.**

The Parochial Church Council of St Michael the Archangel in Mere apologises for any inconvenience this closure may cause, and hope that the refurbished Hall will provide the people of Mere with an improved facility for many years to come.

Peter Knapp Chairman of the Grove Buildings sub-committee ☎ 01747 860142

# THE REV'D CHRIS MOORSOM, RECTOR OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES

## **Restraint and Readiness for God's sake**

The sudden appearance of daffodils on some lapels, or maybe even a few leeks, on 1st March may remind us of the Welsh national day, St. David's day. For me, it is even more a reminder of a holy life that was both highly restrained and yet also creative in the service of Christ, not least in serving the needs of the poor and the sick.

David, or Dewi, is thought to have been born in the 6th century of a Cardigan chieftain, and was raised in a monastic environment to become an influential and dedicated abbot and bishop, finally being appointed Archbishop of Wales and establishing his Episcopal seat at Mynyw (now St. David's). He founded twelve monasteries across England and Wales, building communities that observed a strict rule of hard work, abstinence from alcohol (he was known as the 'Waterman' for this reason), and from unnecessary speech. He was equally admired for his kindness and compassion, and was much respected in his day, training and inspiring a number of the Irish saints who continued his teachings.

Apart from a historical or nationalistic interest, what value is there in commemorating St. David's day? To me, it seems clear that his self-discipline was not just a phenomenon of a by-gone age, but it enabled him to be a great spiritual leader. For us lesser mortals, the problem with such abstinence is that too easily the thing being denied becomes the focus. Whereas, the aim is to free ourselves up to be the person God made us to be. Like a well-trained soldier, or an Olympic athlete, achieving any worthwhile goals takes self-discipline and restraint.

Lent is an ideal time to make some space for considering what we truly value and believe. If exercising a little restraint and self-discipline helps put our lives in better shape, then giving up some unnecessary indulgence (even talking too much) seems a small price to pay. As Jesus put it, 'Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will find it.' (Mark 8.35)

Church of St Michael, The Archangel

## **Mothering Sunday**

22nd March @ 10.30am

A family service with  
mums and children in mind  
(but dads can come as well !)

Posies will be provided as gifts from all the children  
to their mums.



See Church Notices below for other services.

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE**

### **MARCH 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 Club is held in the Grove Buildings at 10.30am services***

Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		(NB: No Sunday Club)	
		6.00pm	Evening Prayer with hymns
Wednesday	4th	7.30pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (CW1)

Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	22nd	10.30am	<b>Mothering Sunday Service</b>
	29th	10.30am	Choral Matins & Messy Sunday in the Grove Buildings

### **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	8th	11.00am	Kate Rawlins
	15th	11.00am	Margaret Bodey Holy Communion
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	29th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour

### **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	Mrs Kate Rawlins & Mr Mike Rawlins
Sunday	15th	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
	22nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
	29th	6.00pm	Mrs Barbara Jeffery

### **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	DIY
	8th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	15th	9.25am	Matins
	22nd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	29 <sup>th</sup>	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 MARCH 2009

**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**

1	Sun	4.00pm	Confirmation Classes (every Sunday)	GB
2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (Every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	YC
		6.15pm	Annual Parish Carnival AGM	AYP
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
3	Tue	10.30am	Lent Talk (also 10th, 24th & 31st)	CC
		7.30pm	Lent Talk (also 10th, 24th & 31st)	CC
4	Wed	10.30am	Tai Chi – Age Concern (also 11th)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk	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
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	MH
		7.30pm	MADS Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
6	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch (every Friday)	GB
		3.30pm	Women’s World Day of Prayer Tea	GB
6	Fri	7.30pm	MADS Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk	L
7	Sat	10.30am	‘Drop In’ Coffee Morning	CC
		2.30pm	MADS Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk	L
		7.30pm	MADS Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk	L
8	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (also 15th and 22nd)	GB
9	Mon	8.00pm	MADS Meeting in Drama Room	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society AGM	GB
11	Wed	2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB

11	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (also 18th and 25th)	L
		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
12	Thurs	7.30pm	Mere Film shows/Moviola (Easy Virtue)	L
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (and 27th)	GB
14	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
17	Tue	10.30am	Lent Talk	MH
		7.30pm	Lent Talk	MH
18	Wed	7.15pm	Church Meeting AGM	CC
18	Wed	7.30pm	Mere Chamber of Trade	GB
20	Fri	7.30pm	Friends of Mere School – Easter Bingo	School
21	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research UK Jumble Sale	L
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning, + Traidcraft stall	CC
24	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints
28	Sat	10.00am	Snooker Club Jumble Sale	L
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + RGC Bric a Brac	CC
29	Sun	10.30am	Messy Church	GB
31	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels PCC meeting	GB



## WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST,

The South West Group is to meet on Thursday, 12th March at Hinton Hall Tisbury 7.30 pm.

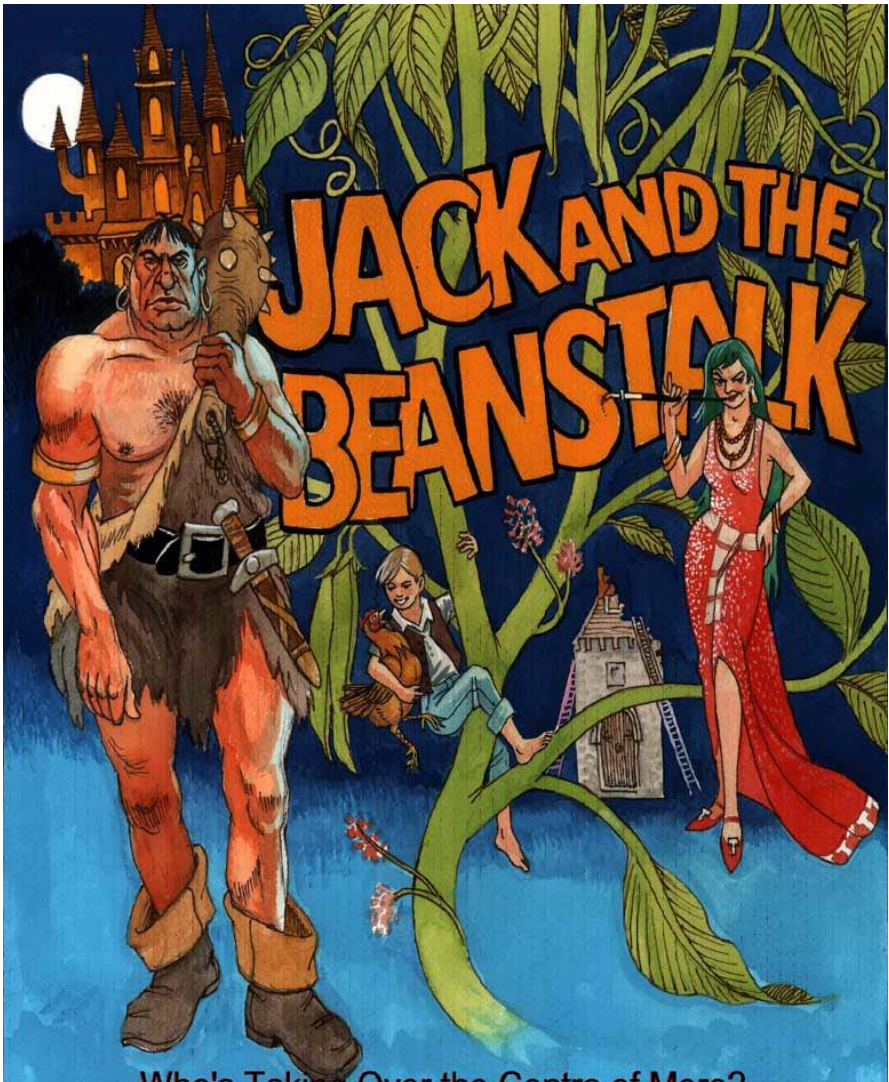
John Needham will give a talk on "The Tisbury Area in the late Jurassic Time". He will discuss how the area looked and how it has changed

over time.

The Purbeck Limestone formation, which runs from the Dorset coast to cover this area, is famous for its fossil forest, the many teeth and bones found reveal an extensive fauna of crocodiles, pterosaurs, and mammals, plus well preserved plant remains never before reported from the area.

This will be an interesting talk given by a local enthusiast who has made many important finds. Entrance £2. Refreshments.

Mary James ☎ 01747 870 446.



# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

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

## **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 APRIL 2009 ISSUE**

Material for the APRIL 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 MARCH 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*