

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, 11th May 2009** at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall (small hall).

The Chairman writes:

This is my last report as Parish Council Chairman. My term of office expires in May when the new Chairman will be elected. The last year has been quite busy for the Council, the sports facilities have been expanded with the laying of new cricket wickets and a new archery club being formed. New equipment for the play area in the Recreation Ground has been ordered and will be installed very soon. The Youth Club have almost completed the footpath around Long Hill which now makes a lovely walk.

Rodney Snook (Sid), our groundsman for several years, has had to take early retirement on medical grounds and the Parish Council wish him well for the future. We also extend the same wishes to Henry Pike, who will be retiring at the end of June.

We held meetings with the public to discuss 'Our Place in the Future' and responded to the consultation documents. The new Unitary Council for Wiltshire with its Area Boards and Community Partnerships is giving us sleepless nights and endless meetings.

From time to time there is minor vandalism in the town which is regrettable but Mere is still a very safe and lovely place to live. How nice to see some life in the Old Ship Hotel again. I wish it every success in the future, along with all the other businesses in Mere. The loss of several shops is a worry and I hope everyone will support those that remain.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and my special thanks to our Parish Clerk, Lindsey Wood, for all her hard work and guidance. It has been an honour to serve as Chairman for the last two years.

Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

NEW WILTSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES A MERE COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

On the 31st March 2009, I attended a meeting in The Lecture Hall, which was the last day I was officially a Salisbury District Councillor. A presentation was given by representatives of the new Wiltshire Council, which culminated in a workshop and then a request for volunteers to form a Community Area Partnership (CAP) for the Mere

Community Area. The purpose of a CAP is to provide a strong local voice through local members who know the area. A shared agenda based on local priorities should help in providing improved co-ordination of local services leading to quicker, simpler and better decisions.

A Debate took place as to whether we needed a CAP or not. However, several residents present put their names down, and through the pages of "Mere Matters", I can tell you that Wiltshire Council will be looking for members to join the Mere CAP, should it be formed. They will be looking particularly for representatives from: local interest and community groups; the voluntary sector and charities; the business community; faith groups; local partner agencies, such as the Neighbourhood Police Team and Highways representatives; user Groups, such as tenants, carers and disability groups; young people and the Parish Council and councillors.

Funds are available for a venue and clerk, for which I understand finance will be provided through our new to be formed South West Area Board. There is already an appointed Community Area Manager (CAM) who is a senior Wiltshire Council Officer, Katharine Dew.

Katharine should be able to "point you in the right direction", if you would like more information about the proposed Mere CAP and joining it. She can be contacted through the general Wiltshire Council telephone number: 0300 456 0100.

George Jeans ☎ *01747 860215*



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Events & Diary Dates

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th May 2009, Sue Wilkins will be speaking on Trading Standards at The Grove Buildings in Mere.

Our next Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th May 2009 at 7.30pm in the Mere Social Club Committee Room.

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

New Business Start Up Competition

The Wiltshire New Business Competition is to be launched on Thursday 14th May 2009. Following the official launch, The Mere and District Chamber of Trade will be releasing further information including entry details and requirements. So please watch this space! For further details please contact:

Julie Cousins ☎ 01747 860352

WEATHER REPORT

March seemed a very dry month, but we had 62.5mms of rain (2.46ins) against February's 46.5mms (1.83ins). In both months most of the rain fell in the first week, 44 mms (1.73ins) in February and March, all 62.5mms (1.7ins).

Up to the 19th April, we only had 14.5mms (0.57ins) of rain. This fell usually mostly at night, only recording 0.5mms (0.02ins). Generally, the weather has been fine with many sunny days but cold winds. The daffodils and tulips are doing well!

Peter Durkee

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants available for 2009

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

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

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within eight miles of Mere, closing date 31st May. Grants will normally be paid annually in the autumn.

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

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096

Users needing wheelchairs or walking frames

Wheelchairs.

We regret that we do not transport wheelchairs but these may be obtained at any hospital. It is helpful if anyone needing a chair can bring a friend or relative to push it. If this is not possible, we may be able to arrange an escort to give the necessary help. We do not usually ask our drivers to help, as parking is often difficult and may be some distance from the hospital entrance. In these circumstances, the patient and helper can be taken to the entrance and the driver is then free to find a parking space.

Walking frames.

Providing it is requested when booking a car, we will transport folding walking frames.

Escorts.

Please let us know when booking a car if you would like to take a friend or relative to an appointment.

If you require any further information, please contact the above telephone number.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

Church of St Michael, The Archangel

Roger Wilding has devised another fiendish quiz, which will be available shortly. Don't forget to get one!

Winners will be announced at the Fête on 6th June.

Available from the Information Point in the library and at other outlets in Mere.

SUMMER FETE REFRESHMENTS

Once again refreshments will be available at the Summer Fete on 6th June 2009. However, to do this we need cakes and helpers for serving and washing up. Would anyone willing to make cakes for the refreshments or help during the afternoon please contact me. Thank you.

Judy Bickerstaff ☎ 01747 860335

St Michael the Archangel, Mere
Summer Fête

Saturday 6th June

Full details, in free programmes, will be available from mid - May at the Information Point in the Library.

We would be grateful for donations towards the following stalls:

Bric-a-brac	Janet McIntyre	860981
Cakes	Thelma Ings	860262
Preserves	Pat Isom	861776
Plants	Jean & Colin Kantharia	861168
Flowers	Gillian Howard	861808
Sweets/Biscuits	Laura Ford	863396
CDs	Maggie Durkee	860163
Bottle Tombola	Elizabeth Howden	863424
Jewellery	Jenny Bevis	863310
Teas	Judy Bickerstaff	860335
Books	Jenny & Roger Wilding	860908

(No books on the day please; we will collect if this helps)

If you would like to help in any way please contact one of the following organisers:

Judy Avory	860439
Angela McDonald	861602
Jean Knapp	860142

**Help is also needed with selling raffle tickets:
please contact Richard Dearnaly 861402.**

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

The practice is piloting a change of hours from now until the end of May when the situation will be assessed. The practice will open:

Tuesday 9.00am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)

Normal hours (9.00am – 5.30pm on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday.

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

Wincanton Choral Society Spring Concert 2009

Wincanton Choral Society, conducted by Simon Twiselton, presents a Spring Concert on Sunday 17th May 2009 at 7.30pm in Wincanton Sports Centre, West Hill.

The programme features Bach's *Magnificat*, Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai* and *Symphony No 45 (Farewell)* as well as Elgar's *Three Motets*. The soloists are Melanie Armitstead (Soprano), Leila Mather (Soprano), Katherine Squire (Alto), Paul Badley (Tenor) and Charles Gibbs (Bass). The orchestra is led by Edward Burns.

To order tickets, which cost £13.00 (£8.00 for those 18 & under), call the box office ☎ 01749 813 899, or: www.netaticket.co.uk . Tickets will also be available at the door. Licensed bar.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE
MONDAY 18th MAY



Did you know that by the time you have eaten breakfast you
have been
dependent on half the world?

So why not join me to celebrate

World Fair Trade Day
On Friday 8th May

with a Fairly Traded Breakfast?

Janet Way
4Wits End, North Road

8.30-11.30am
£1.50

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Mere Branch

We will be holding this year's May Fayre on Saturday 23rd May from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

This will be a slightly smaller event than usual due to the small Committee we have at present.

The Plant stall will be at the Old Ship Hotel as usual. There will be a bric-a-brac stall, bookstalls, toys and cakes in the George Hotel car park. The raffle and tombola will be adjacent to the Post Office in Jean Young's garage. If wet the stalls will be in the Lecture Hall.

We would be grateful for any donations by contacting a Committee Member or Gwyneth Robinson on 01747 841330 or me.

Beryl Webb ☎ 01747 860588

MERE CARNIVAL

Although Carnival Day (19th September 2009) seems a long way ahead the committee are busy fundraising for it.

This month we are commencing our search for this year's Carnival Princess & Attendants. This is an opportunity to play key roles in the Carnival and enjoy the fun of the day. This year's entry requirements have changed slightly: children between the ages of five and 13 years and who live in the BA12 6 postcode or attend school in Mere can apply. The positions attract prize money and a clothing allowance. The Carnival carriage is supplied, decorated and towed by the carnival committee. Applicants must be available to attend both the afternoon and evening procession and be happy to have photographs taken of them.

Applicants are asked to write a short letter or email explaining why they would like to be part of the Carnival. This should be sent to Deborah Merx at Glenbrien, Shaftesbury Rd, Mere, BA12 6BW or emailed to: deborah.merx@btinternet.com by 14th May 2009. Further details are available by calling Deborah on the number provided below.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who attended the Carnival Bingo on Friday 17th April. It was a great success and it was lovely to see so many people there. We raised over £200.

Deborah Merx, Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 07771 774054

MERE GARDENING CLUB

“Stourhead – The Creation of the Landscape” with Tom Burr

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings

Tom Burr MBE has devoted a lifetime to the National Trust having decided on his career as a 14 year old schoolboy on a picnic at Stourhead. In his mid twenties he began working for the National Trust, arriving at the Stourhead office 13 years later when he was appointed Information Officer for Wessex Region.

Tom will be talking about the contribution each generation has made to the Stourhead Landscape, and the 100 year plan. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the gardens and ask those questions you've always wanted to ask about its history and conservation issues involved in the maintenance of the landscape. We welcome visitors.

Annual Plant Sale

Our Annual Plant Sale will be held in the Square on Saturday 16th May from 9.00am until 12.00pm

Members spent their April Workshop busily pricking out seedlings and potting on plants and cuttings for the stall. Who knows what treasures will be on sale! Come and have a look. This is your chance to stock up your garden at bargain prices, and we value your support.

Advance notice : Annual Show Saturday 5th September

We're hoping this year's show will be bigger and better than ever. There are many Open Categories available to non-members, or come and join the club for access to the full range. [Schedules available from The Fruit Shop.](#)

Caroline Cook 📞 01747 861797

MERE FILM SHOWS

Next Film

Our film on Friday 22nd May is the French film 'I've Loved You So Long' (12A). It has English subtitles and stars Kristin Scott Thomas in what some of the critics have described as 'one of her finest roles', and it has even been suggested that she should have won the Oscar for this role rather than Kate Winslett! It is a fine film, well reviewed, and it is for this reason we have chosen to show it, not because we feel we ought to show a foreign language film during the season! Full details are on page 17.

Date for Your Diary:

Thursday 18th June: 'Australia' starring Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman, which will be this season's last film!

Distribution of Funds

Mere Film Shows has enjoyed a rather more successful season this year, after last year's problems with venues and licensing difficulties! At the end of last year there was very little profit in hand and it was decided to hold this small amount over and combine it with any profit from this year, which should now leave us with a reasonable amount for distribution.

Once again, the Parish Council has agreed to the distribution of these funds to organisations in Mere that are currently fundraising or are in need of funds for a particular purpose. To this end, organisations are invited to apply in writing for a share of these funds, giving brief details of their activities and requirements. Letters should be addressed to Mrs. Mary White, Mere Parish Council, The Parish Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere BA12 6EW and should arrive by the end of June.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



MERE MUSEUM

The Tithe Map exhibition is generating a great deal of interest among residents and visitors alike. Mere residents especially have found the map in both the original and the photographed versions, together with the accompanying apportionment lists, to be illuminating in tracing the history of their present and past houses. The exhibition still has a couple of months to run, but don't leave it to the last minute!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Plant sale!

The Friends' Annual Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 9th May at 10.00am in The Grove Buildings. There will be not only a plenitude of plants of course, but a cornucopia of cakes to tempt you and a ripping raffle too! How can you miss it? We would be delighted to receive good quality plants for sale, and also most grateful if you can donate a cake for the cake stall. (Donations on the day, please, though we can pick up in advance: ☎ Jenny Wilding (number below), or David Longbourne: 860243.) But, most of all we hope that you will come on 9th and support this event, which is a major fund-raiser for your Museum.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT TWO: Thursday 18th June 2009

Jane Austen's House at Chawton and Gilbert White's House at Selborne

For this visit we travel to a beautiful part of Hampshire to see the houses of two much loved and respected writers.

We will call first at Chawton, where Jane Austen lived from 1809 to 1817, with her mother and her sister Cassandra and either revised or wrote five of her novels. The house is a modest size and very easy to imagine as a family home.

We will then travel the short distance to the very attractive village of Selborne and to the rather larger home of the Rev. Gilbert White, where he wrote his world famous book 'Natural History of Selborne'.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 8.45am and return to Mere by 6.00-6.30pm approx.

Cost: MHS Members £22.00, non MHS members £24.00, per person
To include admission to both houses.

Please ☎ Caroline Cook 861797 or Ros Castro 861957 for more details.

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

It's back to the boards with a vengeance for a few members of MADS, who are preparing not one but two plays as entries in the Woolstore One-act Play Festival which takes place at The Woolstore Theatre, Codford, on 7th-9th May. Six plays will be performed over three evenings. MADS's entries are *The Annotator* and *Handles*, both by MADS' playwright, Adrienne Howell. There will be a dress rehearsal at the Lecture Hall on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm to which everyone (well, as many of you as will legally fit into the Hall) are cordially invited to come. Entry will be free, yes, **FREE**, but donations would be gratefully received towards expenses, if you think we're worth it. Refreshments, of course, will be on sale. For *The Real Thing*, come to the last night at Codford, when MADS is performing both plays, and when the adjudication takes place. More information about the Festival can be found at: www.woolstoretheatre.co.uk. Click [next event](#) for details about the festival including how to get tickets (amazingly easy and cheap - basically, just turn up!).

So as not to be thought to be resting on its laurels (if any), on Monday 18th May, MADS holds its Annual General Meeting at 8.00pm. in the Lecture Hall (Small Hall). Coffee is served at 7.30pm, and if you're lucky you might get a biscuit too. This is an [excellent](#) time to join MADS as you can be sure to get the full year's-worth of membership for your money (£5 for adults, £1 for Juniors). If you are renewing your membership, be sure you have your cash with you: the Treasurer will reward you with a dazzling smile and possibly a song! The meeting is short, the company is excellent (in every respect), and we hope to see you all there.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for April, drawn after Palm Sunday Family Communion on 5th April 2009 by Mr Peter knapp, was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 99	Generously Returned
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 34	Mr & Mrs J Nutall
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 78	Mr R Coward
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 17	Generously Returned

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be Christina Barnes, who will be telling us about working with Deaf Children.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Staff and Friends of Fives Court would like to thank everyone, both bringers and buyers, who generously supported them at their joint coffee morning at the beginning of April. The Friends took very close to £180, a very healthy and welcome contribution to the grand total.

Jenny Wilding ☎ **01747 860908**

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

I've Loved You So Long (12A)

Kristin Scott Thomas stars as Juliette, who moves in with her younger sister Lea after 15 years in prison. As her life moves forward, we gradually grow to understand who she has become. But her past remains shrouded in mystery until Lea begins an investigation.

"Filled with intricate emotions, sensitive and beautifully restrained."

In French with subtitles

In the Lecture Hall

Friday 22nd May at 7.30pm

TICKETS £5.00

(Doors open 7.00pm)

**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

MERELY WOMEN

Now five years old, "Merely Women" offers a warm welcome to any lady in Mere and surrounding area on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month to join us in the Grove Buildings. The group was started by the Rev'd Jill Perrett, when Curate in Mere in May 2004 as a meeting place for newcomers to Mere. Well we were all newcomers once! There is no membership as such, just come along anytime from 9.30 to 11.30am. It is a place to chat - meet new friends - with various Speakers, discussions and activities, a mixture of serious and more light-hearted topics or crafts. There is always a lot of chat and laughter, Tea or Coffee and a Sympathetic Ear if needed.

Sheila Tel ☎ 01747 861771

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (Mere & District Day Centre), Lynch Close, Mere

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

Sometimes it pays to just keep silent and let someone else tell the tale: "My late husband, John, and I were invited by an old friend, Richard Smith, to come to the Rosemary Goddard Centre as his guests. At first we were reluctant to go, either because we couldn't or didn't want to. He came again on his motorised scooter saying 'You must come,' and so we did.

"At the time John was far from well and suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, but thanks to everyone who made us welcome, both of us enjoyed ourselves and on the way home John said 'What a lovely lot of people.

"Since he has died I too have looked forward to Mondays and feel so at home with real friends who have supported me in the way I love being treated. I can recommend what I have received in the way of fun and friendship, which the Centre gives. Fun, I can assure you, is what we make amongst ourselves, together with caring and friendship. I repeatedly ask myself what more could anyone wish for, and anyone who doesn't come does not know what they are missing." *Margaret Trussler.*

After that moving account from Margaret, I can assure you that the Rosemary Goddard Centre is still a great place to be. Our programme is on show at the Library and on the notice board by the Post Office. If you would like to join us for any of the activities but need an escort initially, just give Lynette a ring ☎ 01747 861646.

Urgently needed - One or more persons who, once a month, would be prepared to do the Monday run, collecting guests at 10.30am, taking them to the Centre and returning them home at 3.00pm. Contact Lynette if interested. Thank you.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646

Caroline Cook, Secretary ☎ 01747 861797

AGE NO BARRIER

Everyone is invited to Come and join us for
A £5.95 two course (Drinks not included) **Community Buffet**
At **The George Inn, Mere**
On **Tuesday 23rd June 2009**
From **12 noon onwards**

To establish the numbers The George Inn requests that you
ring in advance ☎ 01747 860427

Age No Barrier is organising events across the county to celebrate the contribution that older people make to their communities and to recognise that age is no barrier for people to come together to make a positive contribution to their communities.. It will also provide an opportunity for different age groups to use their skills and knowledge in such a way that they learn, enjoy and benefit from one another. To meet these objectives, the organisers are hoping for support from Town Councils, Parish Councils, Churches, Housing Associations, Schools, Libraries, Social and Leisure groups within the local community. So come to The George Inn on 23rd June to meet and enjoy each others company. Bring any information about your organisations that can be displayed on the Community Board.

If this event proves successful, it is hoped that from October 2009 to Easter 2010, the Community Buffet will be held on 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Old Ship Hotel and on 4th Tuesday at the George Inn in Mere Town Centre. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

GLIDING CLUB INVITES VISITORS TO OPEN DAY

As a resident of Mere and its surroundings, you may not realise that an eco-friendly aviation sport has been taking place on your doorstep at Kingston Deverill since 1991. Now's your chance to find out more about Gliding.

The Bath, Wilts and North Dorset Gliding club is hoping for a big turn out to its Open Day on Sunday 24th May. The previous two such events have been washed out by

rain. This year the club is hoping for fine weather. Its airfield at Kingston Deverill, just outside Mere, will be alive with activity at this family event designed to educate and inform visitors about the club itself and the sport of gliding. It will be offering trial flights in its modern 2-seater training gliders, and for those who prefer terra firma, in a ground-based glider simulator.

There will be a static display of gliders, and free information and videos to watch about this fascinating and challenging sport. Special membership prices will be on offer to anyone joining the club on the day. One day courses will also be on offer, as will presentation vouchers for giving to others as "experience" presents.

Visitors are welcome to arrive from 9.00am. Weather permitting there will be the opportunity to fly throughout the day on a first-come first-to-fly basis. Full details are available on the club's website at: www.bwnd.co.uk or ☎01985 844095.

The club has about 100 members from all across the region, ranging in age from 14 to over 80. As an all-volunteer club it provides a great meeting place where everyone contributes to the success of the operation.

Glider pilots from the club frequently fly to distant locations and back in flights covering hundreds of kilometres and lasting many hours, then enjoy swapping stories about their exploits in the club bar at the end of the day. Competitions take place each year on a local, regional, national and international basis where pilots can compete to race in long distance cross-country flights in the shortest possible time.

Mike Thorne ☎ 01794 884987

MERE SWIMMING POOL

Another year and another Chairman. I would like to thank Simon Harlow for his work involved in running the pool last year. He has stepped down as Chairman due to work commitments. A big thanks is also required to Sally Howell for her hard work as our secretary, but alas she has also stepped down. A big thank you to all volunteers from last year and I hope you are ready for this years onslaught, weather permitting.

The running costs of the pool last year were roughly £5,000. This is the total needed this year to keep the pool afloat (this will be done through donations, membership and entry fees).

As a result of now having to have professional life guards present at each session, there will be a slight increase in membership and entry fees. The pool will aim to open on the weekend of the last bank holiday in May.

If anyone is interested in helping out as volunteers or assisting in the running of the pool please contact me for more information.

Bob Parsons, Chairman, Mere Swimming Pool ☎ 01747 861298

CRICKET CLUB

Home Fixtures for May are as follows:

3rd May v Stour Provost, 24th May v Mere 'Old Boys' XI, 31st May v Horningsham (in the 3 Counties League), all starting at 2.00pm on the Duchy Manor field. Please come along and have a look.

I would like to draw your attention in particular to the game on the 24th May when the new square is to be 'christened' with a barbecue and gala match against a Mere 'Old Boys' team. The emphasis for the day will definitely be fun, though the game is likely to be hard fought!. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The new Season got off to a good start with over 30 members attending. Equally, the Open afternoon for interested people to come along and try the game was a success.

If there are still people interested in "Having a Go", please come along on either a Tuesday or Thursday evening at 6.00pm or on Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm, or ☎ Teresa Read on 01747 860289 or Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215 when they can arrange another time for you to go up to the Club, and give you further information.

MERE CROQUET CLUB

We opened for this year on Easter Saturday. The new facilities were formally launched by prospective Wiltshire Councillor, Mrs. Catherine Spencer, in the presence of a large number of members and guests. The weather was kind and it was good to see so many people, from very young families, right up to the far more senior members of the community.

Just a year ago we started off with a blank canvas, but during the intervening twelve months a great deal has been achieved. We are delighted by the number of loyal and enthusiastic supporters who have joined the ranks. The Club commences the coming season with a great deal more to offer its members: a new Clubhouse, ample playing equipment and ground maintenance tools. Mere Parish Council has been most

generous in its support, for which our committee and members are extremely grateful.

New members can be sure of a warm welcome. It is all great fun. Do come along any weekend and see what it is all about. The Club is open from 2.00pm every Saturday and Sunday. You can find us at the corner of North Road and Steep Street in Mere. All enquiries to:

Rex Roberts 📞 ***01747 860873***

MERE ARCHERS

Have you ever wanted to try archery? Well now is your chance as a new club has just been formed and is looking for new members. We can be seen on the Duchy playing fields on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, weather permitting. If you would like to know more then give us a call: ☎ 01747 863360 and ask for Gloria or Gerald.



MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

It's that time of year when we reflect back on the season and look forward to the season ahead (09/10) which starts in August. All the players have improved without exception and their commitment and hard work has really paid off. In particular our U9's have scored 96 goals in 16 matches and conceded only 8 goals against them which is a fantastic achievement for both the players and their manager Shane Gould.

We will be holding our Presentation Evening on Saturday 16th May at The Lecture Hall, which rounds off a successful season with a 'formal' thank you to all our players, committee members and parents, as well providing an opportunity for the Club to recognise and reward players for their individual accomplishments.

We would like to take this public opportunity to thank our players, committee members, parents and our sponsor (Hill Brush Factory) for all their support over the last year. We would also like to say a huge thank you to those in the wider Mere Community for all their support too, particularly with supporting our various fundraising events (our stall on Saturday 18th April raised over £120. So thank you to everyone who contributed!)

New players are always welcome to join MTYFC (boys and girls ages 5yrs and above). Come and join us at our football training for the youth football teams at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields, Mere. We hope to continue our training through the summer, as we take part in various summer football tournaments. Times may vary at short notice – so please ring me (Neil) if in any doubt.

Training – when and where:

We meet at The Duchy Manor Playing Fields.

Wednesday 6.00pm	Boys over 12yrs & Youth Development Team (Over 16yrs)
Thursday 6.00pm	Girls U11 & Boys aged 12 & below
Friday 6.00pm	Boys & Girls U9's and U10's
Saturday 10:30am	Boys & Girls from 5yrs old – U7's and U8's.

If you have any queries please ring

Neil Francis, Chairman, MTYFC ☎ 01747 860750



The merry month of May brings some new developments to Footprints Children's Centre. Firstly, an update to our ground floor area, with a new reception desk and lots more play equipment, thanks to the grant from Wiltshire Council. Do come in and see the improvements and tell us what you think!

Secondly, by now you should have received a copy of the Community Education leaflet giving details of our early summer courses. With Lip Reading, Pilates, First Aid, the Internet without Tears and a Knit Club, there's something for most people to come and enjoy. Also we're looking at running additional courses later in the summer term on Crafts, Flower Arranging, Belly Dancing and Gardening, and of course our existing Computer Courses run by Wiltshire College are continuing. For more details on any of these, call Michelle Rendall on 01747 861108 – or look at them on our web site!

We're completely revising our web site – www.merefootprints.org.uk – and we need your feedback. Does it give you the information you want in the way you want it? Is it easy to use? Should there be links to other organisations? If you have any comments, please send them to: admin@merefootprints.org.uk.

Our Easter Holiday club has finished – all our children enjoyed the 'Bee Friendly Fortnight' enormously, and planning has already started for the summer holiday club. All our other groups continue as normal: amongst the favourites, Tiny Toes grows in numbers weekly and the Pilates group regularly has 9 working out. We are starting a group to support anyone involved in caring for children with ASD – for further details please call Georgina Shaw, the Centre Manager, on 01747 861108.

Finally, if you have had your eye on the BVM and other local newspapers, you will no doubt have seen our advertisements for a full-time receptionist/administrator and a half time Outreach Worker. We have had literally dozens of applicants, and short listing has been an exceptionally difficult process. However, by the time you read this, we hope to have interviewed and appointed the successful candidates to these newly-established posts, both of which are vital for the successful growth of Wiltshire's latest (and best!) Children's Centre.

Peter Mason, Chair, Footprints ☎ 01747 861108

1st MERE BROWNIES

Thank you to everyone who supported our quiz evening on 3rd April. Special thanks to Gladys Pope for organising the quiz and to Peter and Michael Gatehouse, Jean Young and Ann Newbery for their assistance. Thanks also to all the businesses and individuals who kindly contributed raffle prizes. A total of £140.00 including donations was raised for the Centenary celebrations.

*Sue Luffman and Sue Jeans, Unit Guiders,
1st Mere Brownies ☎ 01747 860215*

MERE SCHOOL

April 2009

During this term Amber class have been learning about pets. They have been having lots of fun and they have even set up a realistic pet shop in their classroom. Briony, from Friars Moor Vet Clinic came to talk to the children about being a vet. Briony gave the children some goodies to go in their clinic.

Blue class had a special visit to Mrs Shannon's house boat. They travelled to Bradford on Avon on the train and walked by the canal. They went onto Mrs Shannon's boat and Ewan said that Mrs Shannon's bedroom was very messy!

On 19th March an author, called David Johnson, came into Purple class and showed us his books and drawings. We helped him to create some characters for his next book on the Aztecs and it sounds good. When it comes out I am going to get it and it is called 'Crystal Quest'.

Ian, our PE coach, came to do some tennis coaching with our KS1 classes. They said that it was lots of fun and they would like to do it again.

On Red Nose Day we all wore our noses to school, even the teachers!

Green class were very lucky and had a visit to the Indian Restaurant in Mere called 'Indigo Blue'. They loved the food that they were given – chicken korma, chicken tikka with poppadums and mango chutney and the tables were set beautifully.

Our netball and football teams have had fixtures at Gillingham Primary School and our hockey team took part in a tournament at Gillingham School.

Over the past few weeks, a few people from each KS2 class have been taking part in a weaving workshop. The group have woven a huge picture of Mere for the school.

The Friends organised a special Easter Bingo and there were lots of prizes to win. We have also had a disco. We all had fun and we had a little dance with Mrs Williamson!

Claudia Emby, Sarah Murrison, Charlie Butler, Arun Sheldon, Aiden Maidment, Sophie Beament, Jake Suter, Liam Ferrari, Jamie Westbrook, Katie Godfrey, Bailey Hodge, Harry Betts, Phillipa Murrison, Kitty Cotton, Victoria Solman, Hannah James, Michael Gatehouse, Charlie Parker, Charlotte Philps, Emily Price



FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL



Auction of Promises

Thursday 14th May at The Walnut Tree at 7.00pm. It is not too late to pledge a donation towards this event. 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. A massive thank you must go to all of the individuals and organisations that have donated 'lots' so far. These include lots of 'days out' vouchers for places such as Longleat, Dunster Castle, Exmoor Falconry, The Big Sheep, and Abbotsbury Swannery. We have many gardening and household task lots – helping you to take it easy and put your feet up for a change. Plus, we have some fantastic donations such as a shooting lesson, child's portrait, family photography session, car valet, Salsa dancing lessons, plus loads more interesting and varied lots.

Tickets for the Auction are now on sale at £5 each, which includes a meal and a copy of the catalogue. Tickets are available from either the Walnut Tree Inn or the School Office. You can also contact the secretary (number below).

School Summer Fete

Thursday 16th July. This will be held at the end of the school day and we'd be interested to hear from anyone in the local community who wishes to have a stall at our Fete – please contact the secretary for more details.

Thank you for your continued support. 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.

MERE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Summer Sale

Date 20th June 2009

Time 10.00am to 12.00noon

Do come and join us - everyone is welcome

Barn Buddies

Spring Open Evening

FRIDAY 8th MAY from 6.30pm

At Barrow Street Farm, BA12 6AB

The Barn Buddies is a Youth Club held each Friday evening for boys and girls from Mere and the surrounding area who are in school year 2 and above. Our Open evening is an opportunity for friends and family to come along and see what we do, and for parents to come and spend an evening with their children trying us out.

BBQ, Bar and Raffle

Further details from Tim, ☎ 01747 860195

SEE YOU THERE

THE REV'D ROS HOLLINGSWORTH, METHODIST CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

I was recently eating with friends in a restaurant and the following poster caption caught my eye:

“Thought the King was dead? Think again. Watch this space. The King is alive.”

What on earth did this mean?

I have to admit total ignorance of what the poster was alluding to, and I started to discuss the poster with my friends. They were able to put me right quite quickly! The king in question is, of course, Elvis Presley, the ‘Undisputed King of Rock ‘n’ Roll’. This ‘king’ being for many, a great musician, but also a drug addict, who died of an overdose in 1977.

The poster reminded me of Jesus' disciples and followers on Resurrection Sunday. Despite, on a number of occasions, Jesus telling them what was going to happen to him, they could not believe him. They thought that his crucifixion was the end and that death had been victorious. The women indeed had prepared the spices and ointments to anoint Jesus' body but when they arrived at the tomb, they found that the stone had been rolled away and there was no body.

By the end of the day, the risen King had appeared to some of the disciples, both men and women, and they were able to say: "The Lord has risen indeed".

I am reminded of a chorus:

*Jesus is alive today
I know, I know it's true,
Sovereign of the universe,
I give Him homage due.
Seated there at God's right hand,
I am with Him in the Promised Land,
Jesus lives and reigns in me
That's how I know it's true.*

I pray that you discover the power of the risen Lord and King, Jesus Christ, and that He lives and reigns in you.

May God bless you,

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Mission Sunday

On the 3rd May, Mission Sunday is an open service to all interested in Mission to Africa. The Rev'd Peter Maclure will bring news of recent events in Chad. There will be tea at 4.30pm and all are welcome.

Afternoon Get Together

This month we have the opportunity to listen to our Minister Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth. We meet as usual at 2.30pm on 27th May in the Methodist School Room. *M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

THE BELLS OF ST MICHAEL'S

A "Quarter Peel" will be rung on Tuesday, 26th May at 3.00pm. After the successful Quarter Peel in April, it is hugely encouraging that the 900 year old tradition of bell ringing still lives! We have a superb round of eight bells which need to be exercised and we are very pleased that bell ringing Bands from all over the country are beginning to be drawn to our church tower. We hope you enjoy the experience of listening and, if you are interested in learning to ring, please contact:

Mike Durkee ☎ 01747 860163 or Sue Birch ☎ 01747 861703

Fancy a good read?

St Michael's Church has a growing library of Christian books covering a wide range of lively and interesting topics. Do come and have a browse; the church is open all day every day. The library is open to all, and books may be borrowed – simply complete the details in the lending book.

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Invite you to their

SPRING BAZAAR

on SATURDAY, 2ND MAY, 2009

in the GROVE BUILDINGS from 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Coffee, Cakes, Books, Bric-a-brac, Plants, Raffle & Kiddies Corner

Please come and join us!

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 be closed from 1st June and will re-open for business on 1st September but, the church Summer Fete will be held on Saturday 6th June when the Hall will be open for the service of refreshments

The Parochial Church Council of St Michael the Archangel in Mere apologises for any inconvenience this closure may cause, and hopes 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

Church of St Michael, The Archangel
Mere

Forthcoming Events !

Sunday 17th May

Songs of Praise

6.00pm

Thursday 21st May

Feast Day of the Ascension

Join us for hymn singing that doesn't just raise the
roof; it's on the roof !

Meet at the top of the Church Tower at 7.30am for the
hymns, which will be followed by Holy Communion at
8.00am (in the church).

Sunday 31st May

Come and Celebrate

the Feast of Pentecost

Communion Service

10.30am

At Pentecost we remember God, the Holy Spirit,
inspiring all Jesus' disciples.

See Church Services on the next page
for details of other services.

WEST KNOYLE CHURCH

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May 2.00 – 5.00pm

Cream Teas, Cakes and Plants

In aid of our Church

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MAY

The Parish Church, St Michael The Archangel (Tel. 01747 863313)

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer

Sunday Club is held in the Grove Buildings at 10.30am Services

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
			<i>(NB: No Sunday School)</i>
Wednesday	6th	7.30pm	“Start the Month”
			Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
Thursday	21st		Ascension Day
		7.30am	Hymns at top of Church Tower
		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	31st	10.30am	Pentecost – Benefice
			Holy Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Messy Sunday in the Grove Buildings

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, Tel: 01747 860685

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Margaret Whitford
	10th	11.00am	Martin Heal
Sunday	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
			Holy Communion
	24th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	31st	11.00am	Peter Kershaw

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday		3rd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
				Mission Sunday
	10th	6.00pm		No service in Mere. United Service in Bell Street, Shaftesbury
				Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	6.00pm		Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	24th	6.00pm		Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
	31st	6.00pm		Rev'd Helen Caine

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

Mere Contact: Teresa 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 (Tel 01747 830534)

Sunday	3rd	9.25am	DIY Service
Sunday	10th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	17th	9.25am	ROGATION SUNDAY Woodland Service at the Bison Farm (Dogs welcome)
Sunday	24th 31st	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad) NO SERVICE (10.30am Holy Communion at St Michael's, Mere)

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 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; YC-Youth Centre

1	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (Every Friday)	BSF
2	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michael Spring Bazaar	GB
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
4	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (Every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (Every Monday)	L
6	Wed	9.30pm	Tai Chi (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (Every Wednesday)	L
7	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (Every Thursday)	L
7	Thur	10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (Every Thursday)	GB
		7.00pm	1st Mere Guides	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB

7	Thur	7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies Open evening	BSF
9	Sat	10.00am	Friends of Mere Museum Plant Sale	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
10	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (and 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
11	Mon	6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 18th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 18th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 18th)	YC
		7.30pm	Mere Parish Council Meeting	L
12	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.15pm	URC Church Meeting	CC
13	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
14	Thurs	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 21st and 28th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 21st and 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	FoMS Auction of Promises Walnut Tree Inn	
		7.30pm	Guides (also 21st and 28th)	GB
16	Sat	9.00am	Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale	Square
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
18	Mon	7.30pm	MADS AGM (Small hall. Meeting at 8.00pm)	L
19	Tues	2.30pm	Grove Buildings Committee Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	St Michael's Church PCC meeting	GB
20	Wed	7.00pm	Chamber of Trade meeting	GB
22	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows: "I've Loved You So Long"	L
23	Sat	10.00am	Mere May Fayre - (Lecture Hall if wet)	Square
23	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + RGC Bric a Brac	CC
26	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
27	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Shorter Walk	CP
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
30	Sat	10.30 am	Drop in Coffee Morning	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; YC-Youth Centre

Wiltshire
Wildlife Trust



WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are holding a “Run & Walk” though the heart of Wiltshire on Sunday 3rd May. It will comprise the Sarsen Trial Walk, and the Neolithic Marathon with 26, 15, or 11-mile routes. If you are interested, please ring me.

Mary James ☎ 01747 870 446

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council,
Where everybody matters

Half-Term Holiday Programme Monday 25th – Saturday 30th May 2009

Following on from a very successful Easter Holiday, we have a fun-packed six days planned for the Half-Term Programme at the end of May. **We strongly urge you to book your children in for activities in advance**, because we had to turn some disappointed children away during the Easter Holiday.

The Centre will be open on Bank Holiday Monday (the 25th), and all adult activities take place as normal during the holiday week.

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: tisburysc@wiltshire.gov.uk.

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 telephone 01722 327222

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

COPY DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE

Material for the June 2009 issue should be sent to **Graham Avory**, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 6DG (tel. 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **MONDAY, 18th May** E-mailed contributions most welcome, but please telephone the Editor for details. Would contributors please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

**Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage,
Kilmington Common, Killmington (tel. 01985 844740)**

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