



# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011**

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

Two big reviews have dominated an eventful term at Westminster.

The Comprehensive Spending Review was disappointing for many because it offered only the barebones of the government's spending plans, so it was quite difficult to calculate accurately how individuals might be affected. Experience tells us that people welcome economies in the abstract, but are less keen when this is extrapolated to their particular case or to areas that interest them specifically. However, there can be little doubt that we need to contain spending, otherwise our children and grandchildren will be paying interest on our debt for decades. I am pleased that health has been protected since the budget has to increase just to allow us to stand still.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) inevitably upset a number of my constituents since our area has a heavy military presence. It upset me, but as the biggest threat to the UK right now is economic, not military, I fully accept the need to find savings especially given the unfunded liabilities the coalition inherited. I am comfortable that the SDSR has been informed by a proper attitude to risk and that as a result of it the UK will remain at the top table. The new treaty with France, our old sparring partner with which in truth we hold many interests in common, can only help to drive down costs, promote collective defence and allow us to protect our individual national interests worldwide. But, be assured that the entente will not extend to sharing an aircraft carrier!

### **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. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next two meetings will be on **Monday, 6th December and Monday 10th January at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

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

As I am writing this report, I have just returned from a very wet but well attended Remembrance Sunday service, but what is rain compared to the sacrifices so many people made in those arduous days.

The Parish Council is still awaiting the decision of Wiltshire Council on car parking charges. Sam Squires, George Jeans and myself attended another meeting at Trowbridge, trying to put our case across. We hope that this is not falling on deaf ears!

An officer from Wiltshire Council attended the last Parish Council meeting to talk about the present cut backs and, more specifically, the reduction in service provision for Tourist Information and Customer Services at Mere Library and the basis for making the decision to cut back the service was because, that there was no demand. Wiltshire Council is currently conducting a Library Review and we are advising all parishioners to make use of our wonderful library. Not only do they provide the traditional library services but there are computers available for community use, there are wonderful museum exhibitions, our local neighbourhood police hold regular drop-in meetings and there is a wide range of local information available from the very helpful staff. We encourage you to use your local library.

This year the Parish Council has decided not to purchase a traditional Christmas Tree, but to decorate the living tree in the central island (opposite the Post Office) with low voltage lights. The purpose for this decision is not only to save money, but also to comply with Health & Safety guidelines and we hope that it will be more visible as it can be enjoyed by people travelling both ways through Mere. We will welcome feedback on this in the New Year. The Clock Tower will be lit in the normal manner and we are planning to have all the lights ready for a switching on ceremony on Wednesday, 1st December.

On that note, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish all parishioners of Mere a very Happy Christmas.

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

*Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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

On Sunday, 14th November, I attended The Remembrance Service in Mere where I laid a wreath on behalf of Wiltshire Council. I would like to thank Michael and Maggie Durkee for providing the sound system, which was needed, as those attending extended all around the square. Michael Durkee had to improvise as he found his usual power source missing in the Town Clock and had to find his power elsewhere somewhat quickly. I would also like to thank the Police and Fire Brigade for stopping

the traffic, and all those who made it possible for such an important occasion to take place.

Owing to the financial cuts that are taking place at Wiltshire Council, for some morale is low at present, however be assured that despite all the negative stories in the media, the vulnerable will still take priority.

The full Council have now agreed that councillors, like myself, should normally give a reply to an enquiry within four working days, and normally give a detailed reply in 10 days where possible. However, note the word 'normally'.

I have now visited Bourne Hill, which will be the main Wiltshire Council offices in Salisbury. It has much glass in parts with no air conditioning; temperature control is achieved with exterior shutter doors and special glass. The desk seating is for 320 people when 500 staff may need a desk (Hot desking?). It is hoped that many officers and staff will visit clients, therefore releasing desk space. However, Milford Street is currently the face of Wiltshire Council in Salisbury, and not Bourne Hill. Most other offices in Salisbury will be disposed of eventually.

Early December is when the Wiltshire Cabinet will decide on car park harmonisation. Whatever the outcome, I will do my best to keep Mere free of charges.

Those who have qualified for emergency housing in recent years have not had to use bed and breakfast accommodation. Homelessness is increasing and now it looks like "bed and breakfast" may return as an emergency measure.

County Hall has been the topic of "workplace transformation". I have been asked questions like: "will the new extension have a gymnasium?" Not fully knowing the answers, I have been given the chance to join the "Workplace transformation team" and I have agreed. I will keep you informed.



## MERE POLICE NEWS

### Priorities

It is likely that with the recent closure of the Camera Safety Unit that 'speeding' will be back on our list of priorities. Just to up-date you in respect of speeding, we now have use of the speed enforcement equipment and will be carrying out local checks.

### Consultations and Contacts

To get details of our forthcoming meetings in the Library, please see our section of the police website: [www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk) and clicking on 'policing in your area' then select 'Mere'.

## Good work by Mere Police Team

PC Salter was recently checking the car park at King Alfred's Tower when a vehicle came to his attention. The driver appeared to be acting very suspiciously and he very quickly drove off when he saw the police car. Pc Salter followed the suspicious vehicle to Mere, where it was stopped. The driver was found to have no documents and no insurance, resulting in his vehicle being seized by the police pending possible prosecution. This illustrates that we are always on the look out for any offences, despite being in places for other reasons!

## Updates

PCSO Noble and PC Salter are still scheduled to take to the streets of Mere on Saturday, 18th December 2010. Jake will be Head Shepherd in the procession, tending his little flock. Richard will be one of the kings riding Therese, the camel. As previously stated, this is in aid of the Mere "Living Nativity" procession and we look forward to seeing you there to support your community!

We have just commemorated Remembrance Day and were not perturbed by the wet weather on Sunday, 14th at the Memorial Service in the Square. We have just updated our photo slide website: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html> with some pictures, which were kindly taken by Michael Jeans of Mere.

Lastly, may Jake & I take this opportunity of thanking you all for your kind support throughout 2010. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the forthcoming New Year and this is our last newsletter for 2010!

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

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

*Jake Noble, Police Community Support Officer*

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

*☎ 07980 701606 (mobile- not 24 hours)*

## CHRISTMAS SAFETY ADVICE FROM WILTSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

With winter setting in, thoughts turn to the festive season - Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service has issued the following advice to help you have a safe as well as happy, Christmas.

- Festive decorations made of tissue paper or cardboard burn particularly easily, so keep decorations and greetings cards away from heaters, lights, fireplaces and candles.
- Most fires start in the kitchen - so never leave festive cooking unattended.
- Ensure that your smoke detectors are working - check them on a weekly basis and don't be tempted to remove the batteries to power any Christmas presents.

- Plan your escape route in the event of a fire and share it with everyone in the house, including guests - and make sure everyone knows where the door and window keys are kept.
- Fairy lights and Christmas tree lights don't get used very often, so make sure they are in good working order before hanging them - and only buy British Standard products.
- Use a residual current device on outdoor electrical equipment - this is a safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault.
- Don't let light bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, such as fabric or paper, and don't leave lights on when you leave the house or go to bed.

Candles and night-lights are often used at this time of year. It only takes one candle to put your home at risk, so always take care when using them:

- Make sure you don't put candles in, or by, a Christmas tree, plants, flowers or other foliage.
- Be careful that ribbons, greetings cards and other decorations aren't placed near any candle flames.
- Check that candles are placed out of draughts and away from curtains, other fabrics or furniture, all of which could catch fire.
- Never leave candles unattended.
- Make sure you put out candles before you leave a room and before you go to bed.

Group Manager Perry Payne, from the community safety department, said: "This is the time of year where family and friends get together to celebrate. We don't want to dampen spirits, but we do want to raise awareness of the danger and destruction an overloaded socket or an unattended candle can cause. By following these simple tips, hopefully we can all enjoy a peaceful festive holiday that is safe from fire."

For further home fire safety advice, and to see if you qualify for a free home fire safety check, please call ☎ 0800 389 7849 or visit: [www.wiltshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshirefire.gov.uk)

*Louise Knox, Media and Communications Manager, ☎ 01380 731126/07841 951111*

## **MERE WEATHER**

The rain fall for October was 57mms (2.24ins). Last year it was 83.5mms (3.29ins). We had frost on the 21st. There was no rain from the 5th to the 21st with sunny days and a cold wind.

November started wet as usual for Guy Fawkes night. Up to the 14th we had 78mms (3.07ins) Last year we had 243.5mms (9.59ins) for the whole month. Remembrance Sunday on the 14th was wet with a sea of umbrellas at the service by the Clock Tower, but so far the month has not been as cold as usual. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all readers.

*Peter Durkee*



## MERE SURGERY

### Message in a Bottle

The 'Message In a Bottle' scheme is a simple idea designed to encourage people to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location - the fridge. It was originally the idea of a policeman 12 years ago and it has been adopted by the Lions Association. They distribute a small distinctive plastic container, which is recognised by the three emergency services. The form in the container needs filling in to include your medical details, allergies, details of your next of kin and any pets you have. A sticker is placed both on the outside of the fridge and inside the front door by the lock, indicating to paramedics that "a message in a bottle" can be found in the fridge.

It is clearly useful for paramedics to know your medical details if a situation should arise where you became very unwell at home. It also highlights a pet needing attention if you should then be taken to hospital. It is aimed mostly at patients who live alone.

Free bottles, donated from the Lions association, can be collected from the Mere Doctors Surgery or Mere Pharmacy.

*Angela Pitman Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001*

## MERE RESIDENTS CALLED UPON TO HELP SAVE LIVES

St John Ambulance and the Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) are launching a campaign to set up a new Community First Responder (CFR) group in Mere.

Community First Responders are members of the public living within a designated area who are trained in crucial life-saving first aid by St John Ambulance. Equipped with a defibrillator, oxygen and a first aid kit, the groups respond to high priority calls in their local area. They are dispatched at the same time as the emergency services, but are often able to reach casualties more quickly as they are already in the vicinity.

"The first few minutes can often be crucial," said Steve Smith, CFR Support Officer for St John Ambulance in Wiltshire. "If someone's heart stops, they are 60% more likely to survive if their heart is defibrillated within three minutes of collapse". Julia Doel, GWAS Operational Support Manager for Community First Responders in Wiltshire, said: "CFR schemes are all about saving lives. By ensuring patients suffering immediately life-threatening emergencies receive essential first aid in the first vital minutes while an ambulance is en route".

There are over 100 existing CFRs in Wiltshire who respond to around two hundred 999 emergencies every month. GWAS has long enjoyed an excellent working relationship with St John Ambulance and the proposed new schemes will mean patients in these

areas rapidly get the help they need in a medical emergency. The partnership is based on a similar working model in Gloucestershire, where St John Ambulance runs all CFR schemes on GWAS's behalf.

Anyone interested in joining the Mere scheme should call Steve Smith ☎ 07827 956366. *Helen Pearson, St John Ambulance Wiltshire, ☎ 01380 738917*

## **Mere Dental Practice**



*The practice has two Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Jacquie Barnes  
Two Dental Hygienist /Dental Therapist- Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale  
Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,  
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW*

*Tele: 01747 860365 /e-mail: [meredental@btconnect.com](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com)*

*Opening hours: - Monday – Friday 8.45am – 5.30pm  
with evening appointments on Tuesdays*

***Jacquie Barnes currently has availability on her NHS List, with priority  
to Wiltshire Residents***



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

## **ALABARÉ INCLUDE**

Alabaré Include is here to provide support for those suffering mental health and emotional difficulties, aged 18 upwards. On referral, we will allocate a one-to-one worker who will work with you to assess how we can enable you to improve your quality of life. We will also be running a Befriending Service and various activity groups. Referrals can come from anywhere – yourself, your GP, a family member – we will even take a referral over the phone!

**Order your meat for Christmas from Stourhead Farm Shop. Free range Bronze & White turkeys, Stourhead Beef, Local Pork & Lamb, home-cured Hams and our own Sausages & Sausage meat. Open 7 days a week Tel: 01747 841164 10am – 5pm. 4pm Sundays**

We also need Volunteers for the activity groups and for the Befriending Service (training and expenses given).

Call ☎ 01380 738602 for more information, a referral form or just a chat. Or e-mail us at: [enquiries@alabare.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@alabare.co.uk)

## **THE COMMUNITY LUNCH**

Below are the dates and menu for The Community Lunches to be held in December and January at 12 noon on the second Tuesday of the month. The lunch is held during the winter months when it is easy to become lonely and isolated. It is an opportunity for folks of all ages in Mere and surrounding areas to get together, have a good meal and some fun.

### **12noon on Tuesday, 14th December 2010 at the Walnut Tree Inn, Mere.**

The two course menu for £8.95 includes: a traditional Christmas Turkey and trimmings with Christmas Pudding, tea or coffee

### **12noon on Tuesday, 11th January 2011 at the Walnut Tree Inn, Mere.**

The two-course menu for £8.95 includes Boozy Beef in Ale casserole with mash potatoes and vegetables, fruit crumble and custard, tea or coffee

Please could you book in advance at the Walnut Tree by calling ☎ 01747 861220.

Please note that the Community Lunch for February 2011 is to be held at The Old Ship in Mere (more details in the February issue of "Mere Matters"). *Lindy Elliot*

## **REV'D PAUL BARNES, VICAR OF ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH, WRITES:**

When a non-religious friend of mine told me he had attended the most amazing Christmas service which, in his words, moved him deeply and made sense of the Christian faith in a way nothing else ever had, I was very keen to know more.

The service he had attended began in someone's kitchen where the smell of newly baked bread hung in the air, moved on to her partner's workshop (their garage!) where the scent was a mixture of engine oil and wood shavings. A short walk to the village pub (and a swift pint) came next, and the service concluded in the very cold and pungent surroundings of the neighbouring farm's cattle shed.

You have probably guessed why the service took place in those particular venues.

In the kitchen they heard about the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and her 'yes' to God's plan that she would be the mother of a special child who would change the course of human history. In the workshop, they met Joseph angrily sawing a piece of wood as he

tried to come to terms with the shocking news that his betrothed was 'with child'. In the crowded public bar they saw Joseph and his now heavily pregnant wife being ejected into the cold night because there was no room for them. And finally in the cattle shed they heard of a birth and amidst the noise of the cattle a real baby was laid in a manger.

When we retell the Christmas story in a centrally heated and candle-lit church we lose a great deal of the reality of that event, it almost becomes like a child's bedtime story, designed to make us feel warm and comfortable and safe. But when the Christmas story is told out of doors it enters the real world that we live in and helps us start to make sense of what it meant for God to become one of us, to experience the laughter and tears, the joys and pains of life here on earth.

On Saturday, 18th December, we are taking the Christmas story onto the streets of Mere in the hope that we might hear that story afresh and it might become more 'real' for us. Our 'Living Nativity' will begin at 5.30pm at Fives Court in Angel Lane, from where we will take a short journey around the centre of the village, including a visit to a pub, before returning to Fives Court. To add to the authenticity of the event we are going to be joined by a donkey and a camel both of whom have important roles to play. But we would also like you to enter into the spirit of the event by dressing as a resident of first century Bethlehem, or as a shepherd, a wise man or even if you dare, an angel! (Wouldn't it be superb if we could fill Angel Lane with angels!!) It would also be great if it were not only the children who 'dressed-up' but also the adults.

There will, of course, be many other opportunities for you to hear the Christmas story and sing wonderful carols during this festive season, and all the local churches have listed their services and events here on the centre pages (20 & 21). However you celebrate this special time, I pray that God's beloved Son will bless you and your families with peace and joy this Christmastide and all through the coming New Year.

### **THE BOOK OF MERE**

A portrait of a Wiltshire town by

**Dr. David Longbourne**

Is now on sale at the reduced price of **£9.99**

Copies available from:

Mere Information Point (in the Library),

Mere Pharmacy, or Waltons of Mere.

## **WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

Wincanton Choral Society is starting its 21st year with a Winter Concert featuring excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio and a selection of other music including seasonal favourites. Joining them on this festive occasion will be Emily Davies,

(Soprano), Kathryn Mc Adam (Alto), Paul Badley, (Tenor) and Charles Gibbs (Bass) plus an instrumental ensemble.

The performance will take place on Sunday 12th December at Wincanton Sports Centre commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets, priced £13, are available from Netaticket ☎ 01749 813899, Wincanton Choral Society's own box office ☎ 01749 838843 or on the door.

*Sue Bamping, Secretary*

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Gillingham Imperial Silver Band will be holding a concert of Christmas music and Carols in Mere Lecture Hall on Sunday 5th December at 3.00pm It is a FREE CONCERT with a retiring collection

*Mary Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685*

## **FAIRTRADE**

### **The Perfect Christmas Gift.**

With only a few weeks before Christmas why not come and enjoy a Fair Trade Mince Pie and a seasonal drink at Wits End, North Road on Friday, 10th December between 4.00 and 6.30pm or on Saturday 11th between 9.00am and 12.00noon.

There will be the opportunity to buy those last little gifts from Traidcraft knowing that your gifts will not only bring pleasure to those who receive them, but also make such a difference to the lives of producers from around the world.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

The Mere Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will held in the Square on Wednesday, 1st December at 6.00pm. Come and join the Christmas carol singing so that you can start feeling Festive! The event will feature Mere Brass Band and Shreen Harmony.

*Melinda Emby ☎ 01747 860227*



## MERE CARNIVAL

**Father Christmas is coming to town,**

Come and visit him in the Clock Tower on

Saturday 18th December, 9.45am – 12noon

£2.50 per child includes a present from Father Christmas.

Come along and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere with warm mince pies available for all.

**Don't miss this magical event**

Organised & operated by Mere Carnival Committee to raise funds for Mere Carnival 2011

*Sue Jeans, on behalf of Mere Carnival Committee, ☎ 01747 860215*



## MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

**Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096**

The Linkscheme will be closed from Thursday, 23rd December until Tuesday, 4th January. Requests for transport early in January can be left on the answerphone.

*Molly Burden*

## LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

As the dust settles on the 2010 Mere Literary Festival (MLF), a brief update since last month's report.

- Speakers have said how much they enjoyed visiting the MLF. Jill McGivering wrote that she was 'so pleased to meet such a supportive and engaged audience.'
- £150 was collected for Help for Heroes at the Afghanistan evening.
- Figures for the money made for Link are not yet finalised, but it looks as though we may be slightly down on previous years.
- If you missed the MLF banner, this was due to a Fire Service ruling, which banned our local firemen from erecting it and thus invalidated the insurance. Our apologies to MLF's major sponsors –Nectar Imports and WKD Events.
- If you missed the events, please remember the MLF raises funds for your local charity. As cuts in public services get ever deeper, the volunteer services of the Mere & District Linkscheme are likely to become even more important to the community.
- The Linkscheme appreciates the support of all the clubs and societies who took note of the festival dates and ask all organisers to note that the 2011 festival takes place: **10th-16th October.**

- Next year will see the return of the international Poetry Competition and the involvement of our readers in the judging process.
- Once again, thanks go to all who supported the festival in any way and thus helped the work of the Linkscheme in our community.

*Adrienne Howell & The Lit. Fest. Group*



## **CHRISTMAS AT BRAINWAVE**

As this edition of 'Mere Matters' goes to print, we at the Mere Brainwave shop are busy with the Christmas preparations and we shall be featuring a range of new/good as new gifts and party clothes for the festive season for the next few weeks. The shop tombola is now on with tickets at just 20p each and a large array of prizes displayed on the shelves behind the counter for an 'instant win'.

For the first time ever there will be a late-night shopping event at Brainwave on Thursday 2nd December (5.00 – 7.00pm). On Saturday 18th December, we shall be supporting Fives Court with its event to turn Mere into Bethlehem for the evening. The shop will again be open late from 5.00-7.00pm, staffed by suitably attired volunteers assisted by Mere's own 'Vicar of Dibley'. Finally, an original Jasper Conran ballgown (worn only once by a model) has been donated to Brainwave. It will be raffled during December and will be on display in Mere for part of the month, so watch out for this! For enquiries during business hours, call the shop on ☎ 01747 863432.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal customers for their support in 2010 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Please keep on bringing us donations of your surplus goods, we could not survive without them.

*Liz Fricker, Brainwave Volunteer*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

There's no peace for the wicked, they say. The 'Old Dogs' have retired to Spain (though we're not so sure about the girls), and we're now rushing headlong into next year's **Pantomime!** There are always plenty of opportunities for children to take part in this frenetic production; do let any MADS member know if you are a parent of an aspiring thespian of tender years, or phone the number below. We are also looking for a **volunteer pianist** (sense of humour essential!) to accompany us, in rehearsal as well as for performances (roughly from late January 2011 up to and including the first week in March). If you think you might like to join this never-less-than-lively enterprise, please get in touch with Sharron Glide ☎ 01747 860429. You will be warmly welcomed.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

'Letters to Juliet' (PG) is the film on Thursday, 2nd December and whilst it is a lovely, happy, romantic film, the real star is Italy itself with its glorious scenery and it is described as a 'visually stunning film'. It has been very much enjoyed by Moviola audiences, so come to the film and be transported away from the cold English winter to the warmth of the Italian sun!

On Friday, 14th January 2011, we will be showing the new Mike Leigh film 'Another Year' (12A), which has only just been released, and we are very pleased to be able to show this so soon. The critics have been unanimous in their praise for this film, which has wonderful performances from a cast headed by Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville and Ruth Sheen and with Imelda Staunton. A married couple who have managed to remain blissfully happy into their autumn years are surrounded over the course of the four seasons of one average year by friends, colleagues and family who all seem to suffer some degree of unhappiness. More details for both films are on page 28.

**Dates for your diary:** Friday, 4th February 2011: title to be confirmed. Friday, 18th March: 'The King's Speech'.  
*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

We do hope that all those who joined us on theatre and concert outings in our first year, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. For those who missed out, there's still time to join, contact either Wendy or Madelaine for details.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us to the readers of Mere Matters, and a big thank you to Graham Avory for all his hard work in producing this excellent publication.  
*Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712*

## WINTER SHORT WALK

Please join us for a special winter walk on Monday 13th December with a seasonal twist. Meet at 2.00pm in the surgery car park.

There will be no walk in January.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **MERE GARDENING CLUB**

### **Christmas Greenery**

Dinah Lindon-Critchley

**Wednesday 8th December 7.30pm Grove Building**

As many members will know, Dinah's talks are always fun. She will be bringing along lots of goodies, including bases for making wreaths, so don't forget your purses! As this will be also our Christmas Social, could members please bring something to add to our nibbles to accompany a seasonal drink. **Visitors and friends very welcome**

**NB There will be no meeting in January**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

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

Our next meeting will be the Carol Service on Tuesday 14th December in St Michaels Church. It will be followed by tea and mince pies in the Grove Building. All are welcome.

Thank you to all those who provided cakes for the cake stall at the Charities Fair on 13th November.

*Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262*

## **MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)**

Yes, we did find our three remarkable women last month. They were Mrs Adelaide Hoodless who started WI in Canada in 1897, Mrs Madge Watt who helped to form the first WI in Britain in 1915 at Llanfair PG, Anglesey, and the third was Lady Denman, the first Chairman of the WI. Her name was given to Denman College, our Adult Education College in Berkshire.

Our December meeting, at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2nd December in the Grove Building brings Christmas nearer with our Christmas Celebrations and in January we planning to have a New Year lunch. It will be back to normal meetings in February when we hear about Salisbury – "A Tale of Two cities".

*Sheila Shotter ☎ 01747 861771*

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

We did it! Fives Court Residents now have their new garden, complete with greenhouse; we are now all longing for it all to burst into life. There will be a Grand Opening of the garden in the Spring (so nice to have something positive to look forward to!) when the garden will be in full burgeoning mode and the sun has reappeared in our lives. More in the next issue of Mere Matters. Meanwhile, a heartfelt thank you to all our supporters and well wishers: may you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &

## **Living Nativity**

Saturday 18th December 5.30pm Procession leaves Fives Court  
in Angel Lane

## **Carols in the Square**

Christmas Eve 11.00am Everyone welcome

## **St Michael the Archangel, Mere**

Sunday 12th December 4.00pm Christingle Service

Wednesday 22nd December 7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons  
and Carols

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Crib Service (Children invited  
to dress as nativity story characters)

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Communion with carols

Sunday 26th December 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

## **St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle**

Sunday 19th December 6.00pm Candlelit Carol service

Christmas Day 9.25am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December 10.30am Benefice Service at  
St Michaels, Mere

## **All Saints, Maiden Bradley**

Sunday 19th December 10.30am Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 3.00pm Christingle service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 9.30am Family Service with Carols

Sunday 26th December 10.30am Benefice Service at  
St Michaels, Mere

# DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2010

## **United Reformed and Methodist Churches**

Sunday 19th December      6.00pm United Carol Service and  
Mince Pies at the Methodist Church  
Preacher: The Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth

Christmas Day              10.30am United Christmas Morning  
Service at the Methodist Church

## **St Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

Christmas Eve              6.00pm Mass

Christmas Day              10.00am Mass

Sunday 26th December      11.30am Mass

## **Parish of Upper Stour**

Christmas Eve              4.00pm All-age Crib and Christingle  
Service, St Martins church, Zeals

6.30pm Traditional Service of  
Lessons and Carols, St Peters Church,  
Stourton

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist, St Marys  
Church, Bourton

Christmas Day              10.00am Family Communion with carols,  
St Marys Church, Kilmington

**Visitors are most welcome at all services**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**All the Churches wish everyone a  
happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.**

# ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

(Mere & District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere)

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

The Rosemary Goddard Centre is a very special place. One of the things that makes it so special are the wonderful volunteers, who provide help with the Guests, bringing lunches from Fives Court, washing up and transport some Guests. All this support is done with commitment, reliability and love. Without the volunteers' support, the Rosemary Goddard Centre could not exist.

The Centre provides companionship, stimulation, joy and support to those of us who live on our own. Whatever your background, religion, colour or passion, it is all there at the Centre. However, we have a problem: many of our volunteers are as old or older than our Guests and, guess what - they want to retire and join us at the Centre as Guests because it is such fun to be there.

**But we need YOU.** So if you are in your fifties or early sixties or younger we need your help to make sure that the Centre continues - so that when the children of the sixties era are 70, 80, 90 or 100 years old, the Centre will still be there for them.

If you are prepared to give an hour or two a month to help at the day centre, please ring Lynette ☎ 01747 861646 and **become one of our valued volunteers.**

If you have missed the Rosemary Goddard Centre's Christmas Quiz at the Charities Fair and would like a copy, it is available from Mere Information Point in the Library, or from Caroline Cook (☎ below). *Lynette Elliott, Organiser, ☎ 01747 861646*  
*Caroline Cook, Secretary/Trustee, ☎ 01747 861797*

## GROVE BUILDING RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn after Family Communion Service in St Michaels on Sunday, 7th November by Mrs Patricia Stephenson was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 135	Mrs A Leece
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 201	Mrs C Leach
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 5	Mrs P Cooper
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 88	Mrs J Eyles

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Our first Meeting in December will be on Wednesday, 1st December. At our next, on Thursday 9th, as well as sewing there will also be a Christmas Afternoon Tea to enjoy. The first Linus quilt is almost complete. This one is a joint effort by some of our members and will be sent to the local children's ward to comfort a little one.

The first meeting of the New Year is on Thursday 13th January from 10.30am to 4.30pm to enjoy a day of sewing with warming soup and fresh bread for lunch.

We are pleased to have some members from Silton, Maiden Bradley and Gillingham, so if you are interested in joining us and live a little further afield, do get in touch.

For more information look at our website: [www.castlehillquilters.org.uk](http://www.castlehillquilters.org.uk) or telephone me.

Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923



## **MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **'Silchester – Excavating an Iron Age Roman Town'**

**Prof. Michael Fulford**  
**Reading University**

***Tuesday 7th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

Professor Fulford is leading the current excavation at Silchester. A visit to the site has been added to the Society's visits programme for 2011 so, if you are interested, put 19th July in your diaries now!

**'Adventures of a Civil Engineer'**

**Colin Anderson**

***Tuesday 11th January 2011 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

As many of you will know, Colin is one of our members and has given us some excellent talks in the past. This is sure to be an interesting evening.

**Reminder: Friday 11th February 2011**

**Longleat House: Behind the Scenes**

- **DEADLINE FOR BOOKING 31st DECEMBER** ●
- NB This is earlier than on booking forms**

**Details on booking forms in members' packs,  
also from Mere Information Point**

*Caroline Cook* ☎ 01747 861797

## **MERE MUSEUM**

Our 'Money' exhibition is now in its final days, so if you haven't had a look, especially at the newly discovered coins, now's the time! In the New Year we are launching what we hope will be a very exciting exhibition, called 'Preserving the Past for the Future'. It will be about the conservation of museum artefacts, featuring many items from our collection that have been preserved, alongside objects from other Wiltshire Museums. There will also be a display from the Wiltshire Museums Conservation Service showing,

by means of tools and photographs, some of the processes and techniques their skilled conservators use to help preserve evidence from the past for posterity. The new exhibition will open to the public on **Wednesday, 5th January 2011**. Watch out for posters!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## **MICHAEL TIGHE**

On behalf of everyone who is associated with Mere Museum, I should like warmly to acknowledge the enduring support given to the Museum by the late Michael Tighe. His dedication to meticulous research into the history of the town in which we live, and to making his many discoveries available to everyone through his publications and talks, place him alongside T H Baker as the greatest of Mere's historians. The dedicated support he unflinchingly gave to the Museum and to the Friends of the Museum will always be remembered.

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## **FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM**

Friends should note that there will be a preview of the new exhibition (see Museum notice) on **Tuesday, 4th January at 6.30pm**. We are always glad to welcome prospective new members on these jolly occasions! Meanwhile, a Happy Christmas to everyone; we hope to be able to wish you health and prosperity in 2011 in person, early in the New Year!

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## **MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB**

Our eventful, and most satisfactory, season has finally drawn to a close. The unseasonable warmer weather allowed play to continue right into November.

Membership has grown and so has the enthusiasm, some very competent players have emerged.

Thanks to a great deal of hard work put in by the contractor, A. Cleal; our Chairman, Julian Mackie and his family coupled to the invaluable support of Councillor George Jeans in securing grants, we now have a fully operational Boule Court. The planned disabled access work has been commenced and will be completed during the closed season, as will other ground improving maintenance.

Next year appears set to be a good one for us. We look forward to welcoming new and existing members to take advantage of the additional facilities.

There will be a Get Together held at a local hostelry on Thursday 24th February 2011, when members and anyone interested in becoming involved will be warmly welcomed. Further details will be publicised in due course.

Please contact me for further information.

*Rex Roberts* ☎ 01747 860873

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE**  
**MONDAY 17th JANUARY 2011**

## **1st MERE BROWNIES**

### **Recycling appeals**

We are pleased to announce that £217.80 has been raised this year with our recycling appeals and the sum raised to date is £553.55 for unit funds. Thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this magnificent amount. We are still continuing to recycle!  
*Sue Jeans and Sue Luffman, Brownie Guiders, ☎ 01747 860215*

## **CHRISTMAS RHYME TIME**

### **At Mere Library**

Rhymes and Stories for Babies and Toddlers from 10.30 - 11.00am on Tuesday, 14th December 2010.  
*Sally-Ann Parry, Library Supervisor, ☎ 01747 860546*



### **Closure Consultation Update**

Well, I wish there were something to put under this heading following my article in the last edition of Mere Matters. However, after being told on September 30th by Wiltshire Council that they intended to consult on the closure of the Children's Centre in Mere, we have heard nothing more. As always, by the time you read this, there may have been some progress. I assure you that I have noted everyone who has said that they want to take part in the consultation, and we will be in contact as soon as there is anything to update you on!

### **What else**

Despite the distraction and lack of clarity around our future, the team of Sandra, Jane Smith and Kate have kept well focussed on providing services to you all, both in the centre and across our region, and we are currently putting final touches to our Christmas/January Programme. Danielle is due to return from maternity leave soon too, and has dropped in and already started making her contribution to activities.

We continue with **Bumps and Babes** on Monday mornings not least because of the mini baby boom in our area right now. This is proving a popular session for sharing new baby information with other mums in a friendly environment. Of course, any dads out there holding the baby will receive a warm welcome from us too! On Monday, 6th December and a date to be confirmed in January, Nursery Nurse, Sandie, joins us for baby weighing.

The **Sustainable Living Programme** run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on Tuesdays mornings will offer:

Food and Drink Tuesday, 30th November

Energy Tuesday, 7th December

Travel Tuesday, 14th December

Gary Lamont runs the session and brings lots of FREE, exciting, environmentally-friendly and money-saving products and tips for you to try at home – come and see what's available!

**Crafty Kids** on Wednesday mornings is always well-attended, providing opportunities for the little ones to get involved in crafty activities which can be transferred home, but you can just do it here so no messy house for you!

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

## **Letters to Juliet** (PG)

**"What if you had a second chance to find true love?"**

An enchanting love story set in Verona. On holiday in the city of Shakespeare's Juliet, Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) embarks on a mission to help Claire (Vanessa Redgrave) find her long-lost love.

**Thursday, 2nd December at 7.30pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Another Year** (12A)

A married couple (Jim Broadbent and Ruth Sheen) who have managed to remain blissfully happy into their autumn years, are surrounded over the course of the four seasons of one average year by friends, colleagues and family who all seem to suffer some degree of unhappiness

**Friday, 14th January 2011 at 7.30pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Both films in the Lecture Hall**

*(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)

**Scrapstore** will be here to provide the crafty materials for these activities together with an activity of their own on Monday, 13th December and Monday 31st January from 2.00-4.00pm.

Did you know too, that you are free to drop in any time we are open for 0-5s to play with the toys while you enjoy a cuppa, and even meet others for a get together.

### **And there's more**

Footprints offers help and advice to families including:

- ✓ Getting back to work – there is a whole programme of support available through the journeys to work programme for unemployed parents or partners considering returning to work. This ranges from reviewing your skills to assess them for new roles and help with CVs through to interview technique training and more.
- ✓ Assistance in finding organisations that can help with managing debt, dealing with relationship breakdown, housing and benefits issues, heating your home and even to legal advice.
- ✓ Just a listening ear to share you problems, whilst being assured of absolute confidentiality.

If you require any information on anything here, do not hesitate to call us or contact me by email: [janeb@merefootprints.org.uk](mailto:janeb@merefootprints.org.uk)

*Jane Batten, Acting Centre Manager, ☎ 01747 861108*

## **MERE SCHOOL**

### **November 2010**

Music week took place just before half term. The whole school took part in a performance of 'The Trojan Horse'. The company, 'Musical Storytime', came to help us. The year 5s confidently lead the show as the year 6s were away at Pencelli. Some of the school were Trojans and the rest were Greeks. We all enjoyed music week and had such fun.

On 20th October, Ten year 5 children went to a tag rugby tournament at North Dorset Rugby Club. We played four games all against year 6s, but did really well and came joint 2nd. We all played very well and the school was proud of us.

Mere Museum ran a competition to make a poster of our favourite old things in Mere. Joanna Ford was the winner and won £20. Evie Rich was second and Caroline Pundsack third. Bradley Simmons won a book for being highly commended. All the posters are on display in the library. Mrs Loxton and five children have also visited Mere Museum to choose some new artefacts for our museum display cabinet at school. Dr Longbourne told the children about the things to help us decide the ones we were going to bring back.

We have had a lot of football success lately. We beat Wyke Primary School 2-0 in the cup competition when Tom Harvey scored two brilliant goals. In the next round, we played Stour Provost and won 6-0 with goals scored by George Gould, Harry Bateson, Jani Guy-Knapp and Danny Harkin.

Some of our children have take part in a cluster Forest Schools workshop at Semley School. They had a great time and some of us made a story map from whatever we found in the forest. We also played a game of wooden skittles!

The week before half term year 6 went to Plas Pencelli. We had loads of fun doing different activities - adventure walking, canoeing, exploring, problem solving, climbing, pot-holing. We all had a great, and exhausting week, but were very excited to see our parents (this is a much edited version of our adventures!).

*Drew Adams, Brandon Drake, Baliey Hodge, Harry Bateson, Emily Kelly, Zach Hillier, Danny Harkin, Kierra Smith, Libby Skinner*

## **“HAND MADE” SALE**

“Hand Made” is the theme of the sale at the United Reformed Church, Boar Street, on Saturday 11th December from 10.30am until 12.00noon. As well as the usual coffee and tea, stalls will sell cakes, cards, Christmas gifts and knitware, plus other crafts.

Come and Join us.

*Aileen Maitland ☎ 01963 23551*

## **THE MERE CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FAIR 2010**

A huge vote of thanks to everyone in Mere and the surrounding villages who supported this year's Charities Fair. It is the one event in the year at which we raise funds for the Grove Building. Thanks to your generosity, we have made the splendid sum of £859.68. This is a valuable contribution towards the maintenance and running cost of this priceless amenity, which is enjoyed by the whole community.

My thanks also to my fellow committee members, their families and friends, without whose ceaseless efforts the Fair could not be staged.

*Peter Knapp, Chairman, Grove Building Management Committee*

## **REQUEST**

### **From the Grove Building Management Committee**

Tired of using the same old decorations each Christmas but not wanting to throw them away?

If you have any that are still useable, please give a thought to donating them to the Grove Building. Now we have two halls to decorate we are in desperate need for more decorations to make the facilities more festive for you. Old sets of lights (working or not), tree decorations etc. all welcome.

If you are able to help then please give me and I will collect if you cannot deliver.

*Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425*

## **AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER**

Our first "Get Together" in 2011 will be on Wednesday, 26th January at 2.30pm in the Methodist School Room. It will be a musical afternoon with Rev'd Colin Marsh and friends and will be a convivial start to the New Year - everyone welcome.

*M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

# FUN QUIZ

## In Aid of St Mary's Church West Knoyle

Don't forget to return your quiz to Janet Howard by 5th December if you want to take part in the competition. YOU CAN'T WIN IT IF YOU'RE NOT IN IT!

Prize of £100 for the person with most correct answers in judges' opinion. In the event of a tie, the winning name will be drawn by one of the Church Wardens at the service on Sunday, 12th December. *Janet Howard ☎ 01747 830656*



Mere Friends of Suchana invite everyone to a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana on Tuesday, 25th January 10.30am-12.00noon at Grove Cottage, Barton Lane. *Mark Lillie and Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## THE JULIAN MEETINGS

Ecumenical Quiet Prayer Group. No meeting in December, but we are meeting on Wednesday, 26th January at 7.30pm in the Upper Room in the Grove Building. All Welcome. *Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313; Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553*

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

### December 2010

**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
Wednesday	1st	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	12th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Christingle (Collection for Children's Society)
Tuesday	14th	3.00pm	Mothers Union Carol Service
Friday	17th	9.30am	Mere School Christmas Service
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise

**Christmastide Services (22nd-26th) see pages 20 & 21**

**The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	12th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion
	19th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

**Christmastide Services (PM on 19th-25th) see pages 20 & 21**

	26th	10 30am	We shall join St Michaels
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**The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)**

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

Sunday	5th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey
	12th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
			Holy Communion

**Christmastide Services (19th-25th) see pages 20 & 21**

	26th	10.30am	Morning Service at Gillingham Methodist Church
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**The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (☎ Warminster 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe)**

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

Every Friday		10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday		11.30am	Mass

**Christmastide Services (24th-26th) see pages 20 & 21**

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**

Sundays	5th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	12th	9.25am	Holy Communion CW1 (trad)
Sunday	19th	6.00pm	<b>Candle Lit Carol Service</b>

**Christmas Day service see Pages 20 & 21**

	26th	10.30am	Benefice Service at St Michael's, Mere
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Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

### January 2011

**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	2nd	10.30am	Family Communion for Epiphany
		<b>No 6.00pm Service</b>	
Wednesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		<b>No Songs of Praise this month</b>	
	23rd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	30th	10.30am	Choral Matins (BCP)
		10.30am	Messy Sunday in Grove building

### The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	9th	11.00am	David Webb
	16th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour Holy Communion
	23rd	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	30th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page

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

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

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Covenant Service
	9th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Elcock
	16th	6.00pm	United Churches Together at URC
	23rd	6.00pm	Mr Andrew Hardiman
Wednesday	26th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together
Sunday	30th	6.00pm	Rev'd Gordon Elford

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

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	2nd	9.25am	Choral Matins
	9th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)

16th	9.25am	DIY
23rd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
30th	10.30am	Benefice Choral Matins at St Michaels

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

## DIARY DATES

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

### DECEMBER 2010

1	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		9.30am	Yoga (also 8th)	L
		11.00am	Pilates (also 8th, 15th & 22nd)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 8th & 15th)	L
2	Thur	6.00pm	Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony	The Square
		9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 9th & 16th)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
3	Fri	7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows "Letters to Juliet"	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading	Footprints
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (also 10th & 17th)	BSF
4	Sat	7.30pm	Mere Town Football Club "Bingo"	BG
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
5	Sun	3.00pm	Gillingham Imp. Silver Band Christmas Concert	L
6	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 13th)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (also 13th)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		7.30pm	Funky Feet Dance Club	L
7	Tue	6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
8	Wed	2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB

9	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 16th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 16th)	GB
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (also 16th & 23rd)	L
		7.30pm	Guides (also 16th)	GB
10	Fri	11.00am	Merely Women (note different time)	GB
		4.00pm	- 6.00pm Fair Trade Mince Pies	Wits End, North Rd
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
		7.30pm	Linkscheme	GB
11	Sat	9.00am	- 12.00pm Fair Trade Mince Pies	Wits End, North Rd
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + "Hand Made" Sale	CC
		7.00pm	Mere Town Football Club Bingo	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Concert	GB
13	Mon	2.00pm	Winter Short Walk	CP
		7.00pm	Mere Dazzlers Majorettes Bingo	GB
		8.00pm	MADS Meeting (Drama room)	L
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.30am	Rhymes & Stories for Babes and Toddlers	Library
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn
		3.00pm	Mothers Union Carol Service	St Michaels Church
18	Sat	9.45am	- 12.45pm Father Christmas visits Mere	The Square
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
		5.30pm	"Living Nativity" walk round Mere from	Fives Court

## JANUARY 2011

3	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	CC
4	Tue	6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday)	L
		6.30pm	FMM Preview of new Museum exhibition	Library
5	Wed	7.00pm	Songwriters Workshop (every Wednesday)	L
			<b>www.wiltshiresongwriters.co.uk</b>	
6	Thu	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
6	Fri	2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
7	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
8	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
10	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	YC
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Parish Council	AYP
		8.00pm	MADS Meeting (Drama room)	L

11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic		L
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn	
		2.30pm	Mothers' Union		GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society		GB
12	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 19th & 26th)		GB
		9.30am	Yoga (every Wednesday)		L
13	Thur	10.00am -	4.00pm Castle Hill Quilters		GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 20th & 27th)		GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)		L
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 20th & 27th)		GB
		7.00pm	Guides (also 20th & 27th)		GB
14	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 28th)		GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows "Another Year"		L
15	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning		CC
18	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels PCC meeting (small hall)		GB
19	Wed	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters		GB
22	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft		CC
25	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic		L
		10.30am -	12.00pm Suchana Coffee Morning	Grove Cottage	
26	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together		GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together		MH
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)		GB
28	Fri	3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints	
29	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning +RGC Bric a Brac		CC
30	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday		GB

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; SM-St Mary's RC Church; YC-Youth Centre**

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE**

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486  
To Book the Grove Building: ☎ 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

HEALTH MATTERS  
ADVICE Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

# **COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE**

Material for the February 2011 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (tel. 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 17th January 2011**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday 10th January 2011. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

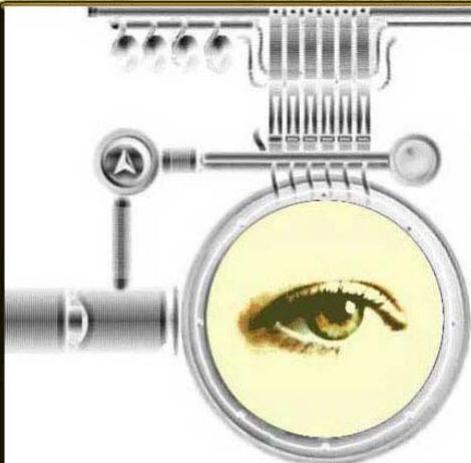
### **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

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**e-mail: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

**☎ : 01985 844740**

*The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Owen Rees*

A detailed illustration of a mechanical device, possibly a typewriter or printer, with a magnifying glass positioned over a human eye. The eye is the central focus, symbolizing attention to detail or inspection. The device has various gears, levers, and a carriage, rendered in a metallic, industrial style.

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