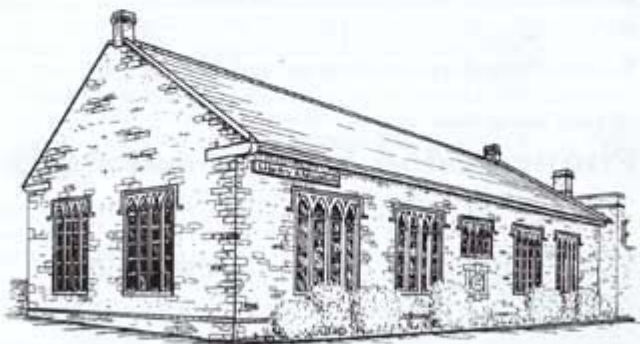


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



Mere Library and Museum

Gavin Anderson 1997

FEBRUARY 2010

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on **Monday, 1st February 2010.**

The Chairman writes:

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our parishioners. I hope you had a very good Christmas and I hope the 'big freeze' has not caused too much disruption and distress. As I write this, we have just had another 4" of snow, the school is closed, the children are excited and the adults are asking about road gritting and rubbish collections.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend the Parish Council's thanks to various people who helped to erect the Christmas Tree and Christmas lighting this year. Firstly, to Richard Hughes for finding the tree, to the Hill Brush Company for the loan of their cherrypicker, to George & Michael Jeans for the electrics and Melinda Emby for arranging the switching-on ceremony. Well done, everyone, and thank you. We would also like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Peter Smith of Barnesfield House, Pettridge Lane for winning the Christmas Lighting competition this year and we would like to thank Jeans Electricals for providing the prize and Mrs. Traves for judging the competition. Mrs. Traves has indicated that she would like to pass on this responsibility to someone new in 2010 so if there are any willing volunteers.....? As always, we congratulate the residents of Denes Avenue for their impressive Christmas lighting displays which have now become a local tourist attraction.

I would like apologise for the inconvenience caused to users of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) over recent weeks. We have been experiencing problems with the floodlights and we are trying to attend to this but the job has taken longer than expected for a number of reasons. This has resulted in the MUGA being closed and unavailable for use.

Whilst writing this little article, it has occurred to me again how fortunate we are in having so many willing and able volunteers amongst our community and so many clubs and organisations that would not exist without the time and effort put in by these willing volunteers. This is all part of what makes Mere such a vibrant community and I just wanted to mention this because I think it is all too often taken for granted.

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

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Highways have been top priority before and over the Christmas break for me. Cars were sliding into each other in the night near my house at the bottom of Hazzards Hill. One night during the very icy weather, my son Michael and I and decided to salt some of the road at about 1.30 am. With the help of Councillor Tony Dean I managed to get the standard raised from 40 car parks treated in Wiltshire to 42, thereby including the 2 car parks in Mere. Before treating was agreed one morning the school bus had to pick the children up from the square, which caused some confusion. I put pressure on for the grit bins around the town and villages to be refilled, and to be fair Wiltshire Council did refill them. Luckily on at least one occasion Wiltshire Council was using local people who knew how to prioritise. I must thank our two Mere Parish Council workers Mr Suter and Mr Hansford for keeping going in the extremes of weather and gritting and clearing what they could, doctors' surgery area etc. In some areas of Mere my own firm helped clear public areas. I lived through the winters of 1963 and 1977 both of which were much worse than this time, however I had not experienced such weather as we had for decades. Note - monitor your local grit bins and if they need filling, contact Clarence on 0800 232323.

The Harmonization of Car Parking Charges could impose charges for Mere car parks. This was discussed in Trowbridge on 12th January, 2010, at the Environment Select Committee. Mere Chamber of Trade undertook a survey, distributing 650 copies of a questionnaire. The survey had a return of over 25%, which shows there is much interest in this subject. This was not a petition: respondents had to voluntarily fill out a form in their own time and return it. Mere sent a delegation of 6 including myself, Michael Hall, (Parish Council vice chairman) Barbara Hewitt (Chamber of Trade chairperson), Sam Squires and Roy Sims. Mere must have been mentioned over 20 times, therefore we have raised our profile. On Tuesday 26th January, the survey will be presented to cabinet. I must thank the nearly 200 people who have filled out the survey. Wiltshire Council are proposing to put all the council controlled car parks of Wiltshire into 4 categories. Mere almost certainly would be in band 4. I wanted the committee to agree that band 4 charges could start at a zero platform, but the officer has said in public that we need to put a case forward for this. Money raised above a prescriptive minimum is used for a sustainable transport system. I personally cannot see the money if charged being used to improve our local public transport to any significant degree. We

were promised devolvement of power with the new Wiltshire Council, and it was proposed to let the local area board decide the charges. Now we are elected the committee feels this would be too parochial, which I cannot say I agree with 100%. If charges as part of harmonisation are implemented, the time scale will be over 12 months, to allow for the process to take its course. We all should have a chance for further input; however should you feel your consultation is not being addressed or you wish to go "straight to the top" for your information, the elected Portfolio holder is Cllr Dick Tonge, who can be mailed at County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge or e-mail richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk. I know many of you have filled in a survey; however if the pressure is not kept on, I am sure we will be forgotten. Cllr Tony Dean is our South West Area Board representative for highways who has been very helpful, therefore any representations you decide to make, please copy him in: tony.dean@wiltshire.gov.uk or mail to County Hall as above.

A and B class roads in Wiltshire are subject to a speed limit review at present. The B3092 and B3095 in our area may have 50 mph limits put on much of their lengths. This may be considered good or bad; however the consultation period ends at the end of January, and I have made this information available to the local Parish Councils in time. C and unclassified roads will not be surveyed until 2013.

I have attended a pre-hearing meeting at Salisbury on the 14th January regarding the Local Development Framework (housing, employment land etc.)The full hearing is starting on 2nd March, which will examine the soundness of the document put forward by Wiltshire Council. I understand from the pre-hearing anyone can attend and listen.

Lastly do not forget Community Area Grants. I have publicised them at all my local Parish Councils for them to get the message to local and community groups, that funds are available.

FARM WATCH

A bulletin from the Rural Crime Team of Wiltshire Police

Operation Ecstatic targeted Hare Coursers. We utilised the intelligence from the previous 12 months to give us the best time frames to undertake the operation. Information was fed directly to the officers on the ground from the farming communities. Since the start of this operation, 26 persons have been arrested or reported for poaching-related offences and three vehicles seized. We are also working with our neighbouring police forces who are conducting similar operations.



Landrover Defender 90s would appear to be the vehicle of choice at this moment. There have been seven reported thefts in the past month of these vehicles. The incidents are spread throughout the South and West of the county and there does not appear to be a

pattern to this, although the increase in Landrover thefts is a National trend and not just an issue for Wiltshire. Only one of these Landrovers has been recovered. PCSO John Bordiss has been working very hard to set up a Countywide Horsewatch scheme. This works like Farmwatch with text alerts and bulletins. If anyone would like to join the Horsewatch scheme please send your details to: ruralcrimeteam@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM



May we start by wishing you a belated Happy New Year and best wishes for 2010!

The New Year has brought about a change to the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Sgt Chris Hams has recently moved on to pastures new and we welcome our new supervisor Debra Ashley who is already based at Warminster Police Station. Sgt Ashley will be attending some of our various meetings and I hope to be able to introduce her to those of you that regularly attend our community events.

As I write, the great thaw appears to be starting but it is still a timely reminder to be extra careful whilst travelling on foot or by car. This past week has been particularly treacherous on the roads and I would urge anyone travelling to drive according to the conditions. A large number of recent collisions may have been avoided with a little more care and a little less speed by those involved! If you are venturing out on foot then please be aware that footpaths and pavements are not routinely salted or gritted. If possible, try to avoid any unnecessary trips. If you are an elderly individual I would urge you to call upon a friend, family or willing neighbour to assist you with your essential shopping.

I would like to update you all in relation to our community 'drop in' point at Mere Library. For some time now we have been staffing the Library on Wednesday mornings between 11.00am & 1.00pm. We have now published a timetable of future dates which will be the first and third Wednesday of each month, same time, same place. The next date will be 20th January. Please call in to see either Jake or myself for a chat. It is an opportunity to discuss local issues with your local NPT.

Just a reminder that you can leave messages for us locally via the Police post boxes situated inside the main entrance at both Mere & East Knoyle Post Offices. You can also contact us direct via email, or please try the community mobile phone. We do also

have a direct line; however we try to limit our time spent inside the station. Please leave us a message and we will always get back to you.

Please remember if the matter you are reporting is an emergency, then use 999. If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list then please email us. Lastly, don't forget to check out our NPT picture slideshow which I will hopefully be updating shortly at: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html>

Richard Salter PC 1312, Jake Noble PCSO 6198

MERE WEATHER

We had more rain in November than any month I have recorded in Mere, a total of 243.5 mm (9.59 ins.) We had gale force wind on the 14th. December started cold with a frost on the 1st and several more frosts from the middle of the month, particularly from the 20th to the 23rd. During the Christmas week the frozen rain made the roads and pavements very hazardous although it was milder on the 25th. Total rain for the month was 114 mm (4.49 ins). Last year it was 64 mm (2.57 ins.) The total rain for the year was 1008 mm (42.71 ins.). Last year was 1280 mm (51.5 ins.). Every month was less than last year except for November and December.

Up to the 16th January we only had 23 mm of rain (0.91 ins.) which all fell on the 15th. On the 5th we had a heavy fall of snow, about 3 inches. Up to the 13th it was very cold, the snow froze and pavements were icy and treacherous. On the 13th we had another fall of snow - about 1 inch. Then it turned milder and after the rain on the 15th the snow was washed away.

A Happy New Year to everybody and let us hope for that Barbecue Summer promised for last year!

Peter Durkee

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Our club continues to grow, with now around 70 members. We are taking bookings at the moment for February, March & April for a range of plays and concerts. If you are interested either in joining the club or just coming along on one of our trips, do get in touch and we will send you details. All trips are arranged with coach travel so no driving or parking is involved

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

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

..and one Dental Hygienist:

Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)

Contact Details: -

Mere Dental Practice
Duchy Manor, Springfield Road
Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6EW

☎: 01747 860365

Tuesday 8.45am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)

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

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

MERE GARDENING CLUB

After the Winter

Richard Cumming

Orchard Park

Wednesday 10th February 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Many of you will remember Richard's very interesting talk about moving his nursery from Milton-on-Stour to its new location at Orchard Park. On this occasion he will be explaining to us what to do as the garden emerges from winter.

Members, have you picked up your Spring Show schedule? If not please contact Janet Way on ☎ 01747 860884 or look out for the poster in the Post Office.

Visitors welcome



Mere WEA Branch

A ONE DAY COURSE THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF RELIGION AND BURIAL

Cultures display more about themselves through their burial rituals than through many other aspects of their lives. This course will look at largely British examples and try to understand the motivation for and the beliefs demonstrated by the diverse burial treatments encountered.

Saturday 13th February 2010

10.00am – 4.00pm

At Footprints

Tutor Ian Meadows

Fee £17.50

Pre booking required please contact: *Jane Batten* ☎ 01747 861108

MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL and here's to a successful and fulfilling 2010. I left you on the parapet of - well, did he or didn't he? Of course I am referring to the Business Competition and did our Candidate Will Baxter win the final! Well I am sorry to say that Will did not win the final but he certainly was a winner for Mere.

The Winner was Monkee Puzzle from Warminster who make children's wooden play furniture. In fact it all seemed to hinge around the small ones this year. The two runners up were both involved in children's goods, one being clothes and the other car seats. But a good evening was had by all at Bowood House and Gardens.

So to report on the AGM which was held at Indigo Blue in December. The committee is as follows:

Chairperson	Barbara Hewitt	PR & Marketing & Sponsorship	Mark Cassidy
Vice Chair	Pauline Bashford	Support	Michael Jeans
Treasurer	Mary Harbert	Secretary	Stephanie Bowers
Events	John Gammie		☎ 01747 861420

Thank you so much everyone who returned the Survey on Car parking charges. A 25% response was received and these are being used in an effort to sway the Council's decision. We are also about to issue a Survey that will be aimed at the visitors to our town, to ask them their views on Car Parking Charges.

Hopefully any events that we hold will be well attended and if you have any suggestions for events, anything you would like to hear about, then please contact the Secretary ☎ 01747 861420 or myself on the number below. Hopefully 2010 will be a great year for the Chamber and more businesses in Mere & District – including Zeals, Kilmington, East Knoyle, West Knoyle as far as Tisbury - will join us and keep the Chamber alive and well for at least another year.

We would also like to mention Tisbury Chamber of Trade and congratulate them on their successful Christmas Event.

Barbara S Hewitt (Ms) MSSP Chair Mere & District Chamber of Trade

☎ 01747 863203 or ☎ 07901 934 695.

JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB

Please make a note in your diaries of the first meeting this year on March 10th at 6pm.

Hoping to see you all there.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

SHREEN HARMONY

At their Christmas Concert on the 19th December, the choir was pleased to have as their guest of honour, Jenny Wilding, representing the Friends of Fives Court. Each year the choir asks their audience to show their appreciation of the performance and the seasonal refreshments by donating to a local good cause. This year we wanted to support the appeal for the refurbishment of the garden at Fives Court and we are delighted to report that a sum of £300 was collected towards the project. A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

Ann Dethick - Chair

MERE CROQUET CLUB

To repeat what proved to be a very popular evening last year there will be another chance to meet up with members and friends during the closed season.

A Social Get-Together will be held, as last time, at **The Old Ship Hotel** on **Thursday, 25th February**, commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets are, as before, £5 per person and will provide the first glass of wine and generous nibbles.

Everyone is welcome, not only our members, but also anyone who is interested in the Croquet Club activities will be made most welcome. Tickets may be purchased beforehand, or, if preferred, bought at the door. But it will be very helpful if you could let Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873 know that you are attending.

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Christmas 2009 was indeed the season of goodwill for the Friends of Fives Court. Astonishing generosity from several individual supporters, together with a mind-boggling donation to the Friends Garden Fund by Shreen Harmony, who not only gave all the proceeds of their hugely enjoyable Christmas Concert to the Fund, but generously added £100 to it, (making a total of £400), we are delighted to announce that we have embarked on 2010 having achieved our first £1000. We hope soon to have more encouraging news (irons are being quietly inserted into various fires!), but meanwhile the biggest thank-you imaginable to all those citizens of Mere who have so hearteningly helped us on our way to our target.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH **will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn**

at 12 noon on Tuesday 9th February 2010

The 2 course meal will cost £7.95

The menu is Roast Pork and Homemade Crumble

In order to make the meal more affordable, the choice has been reduced. All drinks can be purchased separately. You are advised to contact the Walnut Tree by 7th February, particularly if you have specific dietary requirements. Local businesses and social groups are encouraged to join us to promote their organisations.

The aims of the Community Lunch are

- To bring together people of all ages, social organisations and businesses from Mere and surrounding villages to network and inform, for companionship and fun.
- To provide a nourishing and cost-effective lunch in pleasant surroundings.

- To be held on the second Tuesday of the month between October and March.
- To advise that transport is available through the Connect2Wiltshire bus (☎08456 525255) and the Linkscheme (☎01747 860096)
- Any queries contact Mark at the Walnut Tree Inn (☎01747 861220)

ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW TISBURY STYLE

When and where? Saturday 27th February at 7.00 pm in the Hinton Hall, Tisbury. We will have four experts on hand who will be happy to examine and give an opinion on articles. They are experts in Fashion, Jewellery, Art, Military Memorabilia, Curios, Bric-a-brac – just about everything!

Articles should be brought to the Hall on Saturday afternoon between **3.00pm and 4.00 pm for registration**. Please, no large pieces of furniture. The evening starts at 7.00pm. During the course of the evening the experts will be happy to discuss your items individually, and they will also talk about any especially interesting items during a break. Tickets £10 to include Finger Buffet and an Opinion on one item. For each additional item there will be a charge of £1.

Tickets from Kate at Good Pottery, High Street, Tisbury (closed Monday) or Mary James ☎ 01747 870446. Licensed Bar. Profits from this event will go to St John's Church fabric fund in aid of the roof appeal

Rosemary Goddard Centre and Mere Gardening Club

are pleased to announce a joint event:

Open Gardens

Don't miss an opportunity to visit a range of delightful Mere gardens: put the date in your diaries now!

Refreshments will be available.

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th June 2010

WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

South West Group, Thursday February 11th at Hinton Hall Tisbury, 7.30pm. **Far Eastern Winter**, a talk by Gill Cardy. Gill and a group of wildlife photographers went to Japan in

February 2007 to see and photograph snow monkeys, and the beautiful Japanese red-crowned cranes, which perform their mating dance at that time of year. They also saw Joseph Peacock quarter page advert

the world's biggest eagle, the rare Stellers eagle. Gill will be showing photographs of these and other wildlife plus some of the winter landscapes. Entrance £2, refreshments for sale.

Also Thursday March 11th at Hinton Hall, Tisbury, 7.30pm. **Why Protected Verges?**, a talk by Fiona Elphick. Fiona, who is County Ecologist, will explain the history of protected verges (green lanes, drovers roads), who cares for them, and why they are so important. Entrance £2, refreshments for sale,

Mary James ☎ 01747 870446

MERE FILM SHOWS

As promised in the last edition of Mere Matters, we are starting this New Year with some excellent films, and this month continues the trend with 'Glorious 39' (12A), on Friday 19th February. It is a thriller set among the English aristocracy on the eve of World War II and has a blissful cast of some of our best actors. You will find full details on page 24.

Date for your diary: Thursday 25th March: 'Bright Star' – the story of the poet Keats' tragic romance.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

A NOTE FROM JOHN LONGLEY.

I have lived in West Knoyle for 60 years and think it may interest people in the future to read of my experiences. I am thinking of keeping it very low key as nothing of any great consequence happens in small villages, but the disappearance of active farming in the parish needs recording and the characters who worked on the farms. Who remembers the arrival of the tractors and trailers with the milk churns into the square in Mere at the height of the big freeze in the 1960's? This and other happenings should be recorded. In 2010 I intend to get myself a bit more organised but if you would like to get in touch my number is ☎ 01747 830693 and my email john.longley@btconnect.com. I can always visit people in their houses and I think that we could include any interesting stories from Barrow Street and Charnage.

MERE INFORMATION POINT

We would like to remind existing residents of Mere, and also bring to the attention of new residents, what we do here at Mere Information Point. We are located in the Library and we are here to help the public with any Wiltshire Council enquiry to try to eliminate the need to travel to Salisbury. Enquiries we can help with:

- Rent
- Benefits
- Waste and recycling

Other enquiries we can help with include:

- Ticket sales for local events including Dorset Steam Fair, Bath and West Show, Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show and Yeovilton Airshow
- Berry's and South West Coaches tickets
- Tourist Information - attraction leaflets, Ordnance Survey Maps, Timetables, Brochures and Souvenirs.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patronage and would like to wish you a prosperous 2010.

BRAINWAVE CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Following our appeal in the Christmas edition of Mere Matters, there was a brilliant response. Thank you all so much for the lovely items that were donated and immediately snapped up by our customers – your generosity really made a difference! Incidentally, Brainwave Headquarters requested that the Mere Brainwave shop was opened for business between Christmas and the New Year which, I believe, was a 'first' for us. It proved to be very popular with members of the public and, despite the bad weather and festivities which seemed to run and run, the shop's supervisor and volunteers were kept very busy.

For the time being, we're trying to offer a good selection of warm clothes, hats and scarves to buy but we're looking forward to Spring and hoping that customers will be starting to update their wardrobe for warmer weather soon. Having been snowed in for a little while, I've been busy making a male mannequin for the window. Having made toddler and child-size mannequins for a window display leading up to Christmas, I thought it was time to occasionally include everyone in the family in our window displays in 2010. Many thanks, once again, for all the local support that helps bring assistance to brain-damaged children.

Liz Fricker

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cockleshell Heroes Sandra and Roger Downton

In December 1942, twelve men set out to execute a daring and imaginative attack on enemy shipping lying in the docks of Bordeaux. There unfolded a war story of great human sacrifice, courage, danger, tenacity and achievement. The mission was called Operation Frankton and the men involved became known as the legendary Cockleshell Heroes. Sandra and Roger Downton, who will be giving the talk, have written a book about this adventure

**Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building
£2 entry for non members who are very welcome to both talks.**

SLIMMING THROUGH THE SNOW!

The Mere Slimming World group has kept going through the snowy conditions and the members have had great weight losses after the Christmas festivities. Any people with New Year's resolutions to lose weight are welcome to join now and the group will help them to a thinner and fitter 2010. If you have a special occasion in 2010, lose weight in preparation for it now rather than later!

*For any more information phone Caroline ☎ 01747 840013 or ☎
07941334284*

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

Mere and District Day Centre
Lynch Close
Mere

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

We hope that you all had as much fun as we had celebrating Christmas and our New Year's wish is that you will come and join us for some or all of the events planned for 2010.

The following conversation was recently overheard: "I keep losing things, I lost my favourite top and searched everywhere for it. You know where I eventually found it – in

my duvet cover". "I have the same problem", said JM, " I have lost my teeth; I have searched everywhere for them but haven't found them." "They're not in your duvet cover, by any chance, are they?" How we laughed - our wonderful Guests have no idea how funny they are, but their humour keeps us smiling through these dull and dark days that seem so long. Why not come and join us - we are a friendly bunch. The Centre belongs to the Guests to do whatever they wish, within reason that is!

February is starting with a trip on 1st February to the White Lion Pub in Bourton for lunch. If you would like to join us do ring Lynette. We can provide transport, but let us know in advance. We are delighted to welcome visitors for our Tai Chi and Singing for the Brain sessions. Our monthly programme is on display in the Library, on the notice board to the right of the Post Office and at the Community Rooms, Lynch Close.

For any information contact Lynette ☎ 01747 861646

Many thanks to all who supported our brain-teasing quiz devised by Roger Wilding which raised £143. Congratulations to the winner, Laura Ford.

Caroline Cook (Secretary) ☎ 01747 861797

GROVE BUILDING '100' CLUB

The result of the '100' Club Draw for January, drawn on 3rd January 2010 by Blanche Johnston, was

1st Prize (£20)	-	No 103	Mrs A Eggleton
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No 34	Mr M Elliott
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No 100	Mr C Kantharia
4th Prize (£ 5)	-	No 75	Mrs S Shotter

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE GARDENING CLUB AND MERE ART CLUB

present

The Making of a New Guide to Flora of Britain

A talk by a leading botanical artist:

Christina Hart-Davies

With cards and books for sale

10.30 am Methodist Church Hall

Thursday 4th March

£2 donation – please tell Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884 if you intend to come.

MERE MUSEUM

Another new exhibition is now installed in the Museum for your enjoyment! It is entitled 'Collecting in the New Millennium' and shows a selection of items that have been added to the collection since 2004, the date of our last 'new accessions' exhibition. Some interesting facts about accessions are included in the exhibition which we hope will be of interest. The next exhibition, to open at the beginning of March, will be about the ways in which Mere cared for its poor and less fortunate citizens for the past several centuries by means of social duty (the workhouse) and through charitable foundations. More in the next issue.

Just before Christmas, Mere Museum took another step forward. We now have a small presence on a website called Wiltshire Treasures (www.wiltshiretreasures.org). 52 selected items from the collection appear, and more will be added. We'll keep you posted. Do have a look!

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends were absolutely delighted by the huge turnout for Robin Yapp's memorable and entertaining talk about how wine came to Mere, and due to the generosity of very many people, a goodly sum was added to the Friends fighting fund! Thank you for your support. A number of Friends also bravely turned out early in the new year for the opening of the present exhibition – we were lucky to miss the snow - just. The date of the next **Friends' Preview** is **Monday March 1st at 6.30 p.m.**

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 86090

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

You know us well enough not to be surprised that another show is upon us – or upon you, we might more accurately say. It's the **Old Time Variety Show** tonight, **Friday Jan. 29th**, and tomorrow **Saturday Jan 30th**, at **7.30p.m. in the Lecture Hall**. Escape the January blues by treating yourself and your friends, family and neighbours to ***A Masquerade of Mere Munificence Presented by your Very Own MADS!*** How could you possibly miss it? Tickets from Mere TIC or on the door, £5 for adults, £3 for children.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. This meeting will be held during 'Marriage Week' and will be taken by our vicar, Rev'd Paul Barnes

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

Summary of 2009 – a busy and successful year. There was a total of 1087 requests – 328 for Salisbury District Hospital, 112 for other Hospitals, 264 for Mere and Silton surgeries and 383 other requests.

We have 33 drivers, including 4 new ones this year; 25 are from Mere and the remainder from surrounding villages. Whilst most requests involve driving, we can also deliver prescriptions to people in Mere who are unable to get to the chemist themselves. We can help with shopping in Mere or Gillingham, either taking you to the shops or doing the shopping for you.

We also offer to escort a patient going for a hospital appointment in a Link car. If you do not drive but would like to help in some way, please contact the Linkscheme.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Are you looking to lose a few pounds gracefully, spend a couple of happy hours in good company or maybe just sit in a chair with a cup of tea and watch others play? Why not give Bowls a try this season? All you need to do is turn up at the green on Springfield Road on any Tuesday or Thursday evening at 6.00pm or on a Saturday afternoon at 3.00pm after the 10th April when the club will open for the 2010 season; members of the Club will be more than willing to show you the ropes. Please do remember to bring a pair of flat shoes.

Following a very busy 2009 season Mere Bowls Club finished runners-up in the Westbrook Mixed Triples League, did as well as expected in the Salisbury & District Men's League and won more than half of our matches in our friendly competitions against local teams from Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset; we now look forward to a successful 2010.

At the recent successful Annual Dinner held at the Walnut Tree Inn the following competition prizes were presented by our President Colin Read, with commentary by the Chairman Alan Inwood;

The Burden Challenge Cup for the Club Singles Champion – Winner was Mike Oram with Alan Inwood as Runner Up.

Pat McCormack Memorial Cup for 2 Wood Singles was won by Maureen McCormack with David Howell as Runner Up.

The Alf Eustace Cup for Mixed Triples was won by Maureen McCormack, Peter Gear and Janet Howell with Chris Coombs, Tom Cardoza and Don Butchers as Runners Up.

The Julius Cup for Open Pairs was collected by Janet Howell and Alan Inwood with Teresa Read and Peter Gear as Runners Up.

The Ted Drake Rose Bowl for Mixed Pairs was won by Janet Howell and Peter Dethick with Chris Isgrove and Mike Oram as Runners Up.

And finally the Ernie Barrett Cup for 2-Wood Pairs was won by Karen Guy and David Howell while Janet Howell and Peter Gear were Runners Up.

For additional information on the Club please contact Don Butchers ☎ 01747 860219, Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215 or Shaun Woods ☎ 01747 861707

Don Butchers, Hon Sec.

EVERYTHING EQUINE TABLE TOP SALE.

Saturday 20th February in the Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere
from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Bring all your spare bits, bridles, boots and bandages to sell. Buyers come and find the items you need. Bring your friends!

Refreshments available.

Tables £5.00 booked in advance only. Please phone Judy Phillips ☎ 01747 860835 for more information and to book a table

SHORT WALK

The first walk this year will meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park on Monday February 15th. A gentle walk of about 3 miles with tea afterwards at The Angel Cafe!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

OH TO BE A BROWNIE!

How good it was to see all those young uniformed people in The Square and at St. Michael's, so beautifully behaved and attending to their duties with such sincerity and pride on Sunday 8th November for the Remembrance Service. The skills they learn will always stand them in good stead throughout their life.

I am reminded of an elderly late friend of mine who, for 45 years, was Brown Owl at a Brownie Pack in Hampshire and at the end of her selfless career, was invited to attend farewell ceremonies at surrounding Packs. She made a point of talking to each Brownie and was particularly delighted by one young girl who was hugely enthusiastic about her new-found group but was not wearing a uniform. "And are you going to have a uniform soon?" asked my friend. "Oh YES" was the reply "but I haven't been rolled in yet"!

Sue Birch ☎ 01747 861703

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Glorious 39 (12A)

**Bill Nighy Julie Christie Christopher Plummer
Romola Garai Jeremy Northam Jenny Agutter**

Stephen Poliakoff's thriller is set among the English aristocracy on the eve of World War II.

A young actress (Garai) discovers that her adopted family is implicated in a conspiracy which threatens Britain's response to the Nazi menace.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 19th February, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

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

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257

Visit our website at www.moviola.org

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

After taking a funeral last year I was approached by the widow asking if I knew of anywhere her husband's wood-working tools would find a good home. I said yes, of course. It was over 30 years ago that my then sacristan lost his job in the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard and suggested that a lot of the "maties" had redundant tools lying around at home. So finding a small room at the back of All Saints Church Hall we set to, cleaned up Wally's tools, sharpened them, and then through the good offices of Glyn Roberts, of Portsmouth Polytechnic, prepared them for shipping out to Africa, when we had enough of them. Rachel said "what about old hand sewing machines?" So they went as well. The rest, as they say, is history.

I took the tools off the other day down to Netley Marsh, on the Totton side of Southampton to the proper depôt that had been established there and made contact once again. So – if you have any old hand carpentry tools that could be re-furbished please contact TFSR and know that they are going to a good cause (The last consignment – in 4 large crates- went off to Arusha in Tanzania.)

Tools for Self Reliance, Netley Marsh, Southampton S040 7GY ☎ 023 8086 9697
www.tfsr.org. Charity reg. 280437, company no. 1487630.

COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP

Your support is vital!

What is the Community Area Partnership?

The Community Area Partnership represents **you** – everyone who lives in East Knoyle, Kilmington, Mere, Sedgemoor and Semley, Stourton with Gasper, West Knoyle and Zeals.

Who is the Community Area Partnership?

You are! Anyone who is interested in issues that concern us all; e.g. the lack of transport in the area, youth activities and help for the less active. There is a steering committee which meets regularly, to work with you and for you.

Why the Community Area Partnership?

Because we seek representatives from all interested parties so that we can be an effective voice for our community about issues that concern us all. We can even access funds that are not available to other organisations.

What next?

Do please come along to the Inaugural Annual General Meeting which will be held on **25th February at 7pm** at Whitesheet School, Zeals, and have your say. This meeting is to elect a committee. If you are interested in standing, please let Richard Munro know by 16th February.

 **01985 844825** or email richard.munro@wiltshire.gov.uk.

MERE SCHOOL

JANUARY 2010

We had a very exciting Christmas at Mere School. It started in November with our Christmas Bingo with lots of fantastic prizes. Then we went to see the pantomime at Salisbury Playhouse. It was Cinderella and was really funny. On Friday 11th December we had our Christmas disco with a new DJ. He played some great music and Mrs Harrison, Mrs Tealey and Mrs Young came along for a dance! The choir visited Fives Court and Bramley Hill to sing Christmas songs to the residents. They really enjoyed this. Our Christmas performances were great fun - KS1 did 'Ffinlo' and KS2 did 'Santa's on Strike'. The Friends organised a Christmas Grotto when we all had chance to visit Santa. He gave us all a present. Christmas lunch was delicious and our special lunchboxes had little presents in. All the teachers and governors had lunch with us also. We were all really surprised when Father Christmas came to visit Mere School in a helicopter. He gave us a chocolate. Our Christmas events finished with our Carol Service in St Michael's Church. We sang carols, did some readings and the recorder groups and choir performed. This helped us to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Our class assemblies changed a little last term. Every class did an assembly at the end of term so that our parents could hear about everything we had learned during the term. Every class had a different topic - Purple - space, Red - Romans, Green - World War II, Gold - Tudors, Silver - fire and dragons, Yellow - farming, Amber - bears and Blue - celebrations. Our dance club also performed in front of the whole school. It was a spy routine.

Several of us attended an English day at Gillingham School. We worked in the drama studio and wrote a poem. It was a wonderful day.

Unfortunately our school had to shut on 2 Wednesdays due to the snow. We had great fun at home on these days. Our teachers struggled to get to school on the other days though. We are hoping to get some more snow!

Eliza Howell, Evie Sutton Fay, Matthew Green, Matthew Forsey, Kieran Crockin, Anna Fletcher, Bryony Adams, Klara Jenkins

Marmalade Makers

It's that time of the year again! The oranges will soon be in the shops, so could I ask all marmalade makers to remember to make a few extra jars for the Fête Stall. Just let me know and I will be happy to collect – jams and pickles also very welcome. Thanks very much in anticipation!

Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Beetle Drive
At 7.00 pm on
Saturday 6th February
in the Grove Building

Tickets (£5 each or £2.50 for under 16s) will include supper and are available at the Information Centre in the library or by contacting Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



REVD. CHRIS MOORSOM, RECTOR OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES

GOOD IN A CRISIS?

So that was a real winter – snow, ice, lakes frozen over, roads closed For some this created real difficulties and dangers, while for others it was an opportunity for a bit of fun, or some extra time off. All this was put in perspective by the terrifying damage and disaster in Haiti, caused by the powerful earthquake which killed thousands, flattened homes and destroyed the infrastructure of a whole country.

Any disaster, whatever the scale, causes human suffering, and shakes (and maybe breaks) the foundations of people's lives. Seeing others in such need naturally calls out of us sympathy and compassion – as I write, an urgent appeal is calling us to give generously to bring help (see details of Christian Aid's appeal below). But this also makes me think, 'How would I cope if something like that happened here? Would I despair or fight for survival at whatever cost? Or would I keep alive the hope and compassion needed to re-build a broken world?'

Such qualities are found in the characters of C S Lewis' Narnia stories, on which this year's Lent course is based (*see p. 30*). In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* he tells how some children, mysteriously entering a parallel but magical world, are given the task of saving it from the clutches of an evil witch. But they are not on their own, and Aslan, the great lion from across the sea comes to their aid. In spite of arguments and mistakes, they discover inward resources of courage and hope which bring them through the crisis to win a great battle. The witch is banished and a new Narnia is begun.

Christians are surely called to be those kind of people, to be good in a crisis. None of us can be sure how we would react to disaster, yet there are things that can help. During Lent, Christians are encouraged to test and train ourselves in the way of Christ, deepening our understanding of Christ's message of compassion and forgiveness, and our courage to stand up for truth and justice.

So by taking on disciplines of prayer, study and action we can strengthen one another to meet life's challenges with the light of hope in Christ burning in us brightly.

Haiti earthquake appeal

Freepost RSCR-TCEX-ABAA Christian Aid
Valldata House
2a Halifax Road
Melksham
SN12 6YY

Donation line: ☎ 08080 004 004

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH FETE

We are sure most of you have nice new shiny diaries, and have already begun to fill them up. Before they get too full, please enter the date for the 2010 St. Michael's Church Fete, which is Saturday June 5th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Colin and Jean Kantharia, Martin and Jean Eyles.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH EAST WINDOW

Following the Appeal, ably led by Karyn Sheppard and Judy Bickerstaff, and thanks to the generosity of so many people, the renovation of the East Window has been successfully completed. There will be a blessing of the Window on February 14th at the 10.30am service which everybody is invited to attend.

Pat Isom, Churchwarden ☎ 01747 861776

Everyone is welcome to a

SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING

In aid of Suchana

In the Grove Building

on

Tuesday 16th February at 7.30pm

£1.00 per person – refreshments (and pancakes!) available
Quiz Teams of 4. Come as a Team or come on your own!

For more details contact Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553
or Jean and Colin Kantharia ☎ 01747 861168

CHRISTMAS BOX APPEAL

We would like to thank everyone who kindly donated a Christmas Box for The Trussell Trust appeal. We were pleased to deliver 48 boxes to Salisbury, where the Mere boxes were joined by over 3,800 more for the trip to Bulgaria. The sight of a church being full with the multi coloured boxes was fantastic, and we will make sure that the kind and generous people of Mere have the opportunity to contribute again in 2010.

Many thanks, Pat Isom and Tim Merrell

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday 24th February we are joining in with Fair Trade Fortnight and holding "A Big Brew" at 2.30p.m. as usual, a Tea Party hosted by Janet Way. It will be a fun afternoon with a chance to taste different teas provided by Traidcraft with cake and biscuits to whet your appetites.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

BARN BUDDIES

I am pleased to include a comment from Lucinda Berry on being a parent and helper at Barn Buddies. "I have been coming to Barn Buddies since the start of September last year. I think it is an excellent place for all the children to get together at the end of the week and to let off some steam. I am thoroughly enjoying being a 'parent helper', I know most of the children from Mere and surrounding schools. It certainly is a lively atmosphere here! Bye for now – Lulu."

Barn Buddies meet each Friday evening from 6.30pm until 8.00pm at Barrow Street Farm, Mere, BA12 6AB. We offer supervised activities, and the members enjoy the freedom of being able to choose what activities they participate in. Any child from school year 2 and upwards is welcome. For more information please call Tim, ☎ 01747 860195.

'NOT A TAME LION'

This is the title of this year's Lent Course organised by Mere and District Churches Together.

Based around two films - The Chronicles of Narnia's *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, and Sir Richard Attenborough's version of *'Shadowlands'* - the course aims to bring ideas from C.S.Lewis's writings to a wider contemporary audience.

Meetings will be held in Mere United Reform Church every Tuesday during Lent, at 10.00am and 7.30pm, beginning on February 23rd. There will also be meetings at Zeals Church Room on Wednesdays at 10.30am beginning on February 24th. All are welcome to attend, and if you would like more information or to order a copy of the

course book please contact Rev'd Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313 or Rev'd. Tim Heaton ☎ 01747 841076.

NOTE TO EVENT ORGANISERS

There is a new large format Mere Diary in the Library on the Information Desk. Would any event organizers make good use of it to advertise their event and to check it before booking to try to avoid clashes this year?

CONTEMPLATIVE BIBLE MEDITATION

Wednesday 10th February

Meditation 7.30pm-8.10pm with a definite finish by 8.30pm

In the Upper Room in the Grove Building

EVERYONE WELCOME!

The two 'Upper Room' contemplative meditations we've had so far have been well appreciated by those who came. The next one will be a quiet preparation for Lent, helping us to join Jesus in the wilderness and, with him, gently begin to face some of our own inner fears. Do come if you can and would like to.

Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313 Ross and Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

February 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	3rd	6.00pm	"Start The Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion including rededication of East Window (CW1)
Ash Wednesday	17 th	7.30pm	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
	21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	David Webb
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd John Page
	28th	11.00am	Holy Communion Dr Geoffrey Tapper

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Rev'd R Hollingsworth
			Holy Communion
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
	21st	6.00pm	To be arranged
	28th	6.00pm	Mr Andrew Hardiman

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

Mere Contacts: Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289 or

Winn Richardson ☎ 01747 861004

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

Sundays	7th	9.25am	Matins
	14th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	21st	9.25am	DIY
	28th	9.25am	Holy Communion CW1 (trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2010

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United
Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor

School; FP – Footprints; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MSC– Mere Social Club; MH-Methodist Church Hall; YC-Youth Centre

1	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (Also 8th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (Also 8th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (Also 8th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tues	10.30am	Carers Support Carers Group	Lynch
3	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		9.30am	Tai Chi (also 10 th , 17 th and 24 th)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 17 th)	GB
4	Thur	9.00am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Southern Breeze Line Dancing (every Thursday)	MSC
		7.30pm	1 st Mere Guides	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	MH
5	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Local Conservative Branch AGM	GB
6	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		7.00pm	Friends of St Michaels Beetle Drive	GB
9	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society (also 23 rd)	GB
10	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18 th and 25 th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18 th and 25 th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 18 th and 25 th)	GB
		10.00am	Merely Women (also 26 th)	GB
13	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		10.00am	WEA One Day Course	FP
15	Mon	2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
16	Tue	7.30pm	Suchana Quiz and Pancake Evening	GB
19	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Moviola Film Show – “Glorious 39”	L
20	Sat	10.00am	Equine Table Top Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
23	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.30am	Lent Course	CC
		7.30pm	Lent Course	CC

24	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		6.30pm	Woodturning	GB
26	Fri	3.30pm	Messy Church	FP
27	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + RGC Bric a Brac	CC
28	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB

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 01224 713007

COPY DATE FOR MARCH ISSUE

Material for the March 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, 15th February 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be 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, Kilmington (☎ 01985 844740)**

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