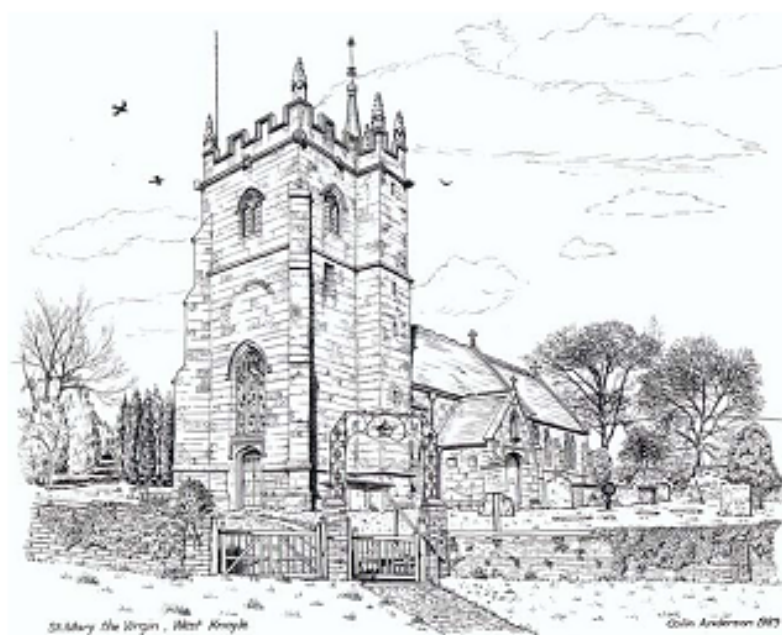


MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 2010

MERE CARNIVAL

Programme of Events 2010

Friday 10th September

BINGO Grove Buildings, Church Street, Mere. Doors open 7.00pm. Eyes Down 7.45pm. Special. Raffle and Refreshments. Fun for all the family.

Tuesday 14th September

QUIZ NIGHT Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere. Teams of 4. £1.50 per person. Doors open 7.00pm. Commencing 7.30pm. Raffle and Refreshments.

Thurs 16th September

FILM NIGHT "It's Complicated" (15) a Romantic Comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. At The Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere. Doors open 7.00pm. Commencing 7.30pm Tickets £5.00 available from Mere TIC. Further details from Mary White ☎01747 861257.

Friday 17th September

GRAND RACE NIGHT The Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere. First race 7.45pm. Tickets £10.00 in advance to include Carvery and pint/glass of wine. Fun night with family, friends or colleagues. Further details ☎ 01747 861220.

Saturday 18th September

CARNIVAL DAY.

Carnival Breakfast at The Old Ship Hotel all day from 10.00am – 6.00pm. For details ☎ 01747 860258.

Face painting at Mere Town Clock. 10.30am – 12.30pm and 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Children's Fancy Dress Procession. Assemble Mere School (old Duchy Manor School Grounds), Springfield Road, Mere by 2.00pm latest. Judging 2.15pm. Participants in Fancy Dress only will be judged for awards. Move off 3.00pm. Led by the Carnival Royals, Shaftesbury Silver Band and Majorettes.

Grand Carnival Draw in The Square at approximately 3.45pm

Grand Evening Procession. Assemble White Road, Mere at 5.00pm. Move off 7.30pm. Led by the Carnival Royals. Also featuring Shaftesbury Silver Band, Dorchester Carnival Band and Majorettes.

Followed by: Hog roast outside in the Shipyard with resident band "FIVER" featuring "Georgie Girl" at The Old Ship Hotel in support of Mere Carnival.

Entry forms for both processions available from Mere Post Office.

Don't forget M Herbert's Family Funfair located at The Field, Gillingham Corner (opposite Quarry Industrial Estate). Wed 15th – Sat 18th. Crazy prices on Wednesday. Open Nightly at 6.30pm and Saturday at 2.30pm.

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 meeting will be on **Monday, 6th September at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.**

The Chairman writes:

What a lovely summer we are having and I hope it is still continuing when you are reading this, although livestock farmers and gardeners would have preferred more rain. At a previous Parish Council meeting, the Council took what I consider to be unfair criticism from some residents about the weed in the river and along the bank at Waterside. I would like to point out that the Parish Council does not own the river bed or the river bank and the weed is not the responsibility of Mere Parish Council (the Parish Council mows the grass adjacent to the footpath on behalf of Wiltshire Council). I can only ask local residents to dispose of the weed in their green bins or compost it on their property please. I think it is unfair to use ratepayer's money maintaining other people's property, even though it is a nice walk. We accept that, years ago, the Parish Council used to clear the river but we are all under increasing pressure to examine and justify our expenses to try and stop council tax increases.

Whatever your thoughts, I would like to urge all residents to complete Wiltshire Council's parking strategy consultation questionnaire. The questionnaires can be collected from the Doctors Surgery, Post Office, Library and Parish Council office or they can be completed online from Wiltshire Council's website. The consultation closes on Friday, 3rd September at 5.00 p.m.

With the warmer and lighter nights, we tend to see an increase in petty vandalism. Should we install some stocks in the centre of Mere to embarrass the culprits? Either vandalism would stop or we would have a new tourist attraction!!!!

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

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Warning to All Dog Walkers

Some local people are now becoming extremely annoyed with the ever increasing number of dog walkers who are not picking up their dog excrement. Most knowing full well that a child touching the ground some time after it has gone, could become BLINDED as a result

of the faeces left on the ground. I have agreed with several residents that I will put this warning out: Should the amount of dog excrement not seriously decrease (i.e. picked up wrapped and put in ANY public waste bin), these annoyed residents will start taking pictures of anyone seen letting their dog foul on the ground and not then picking it up. The Mere Parish Council, Wiltshire Council or person in possession of the evidence could then use these pictures enforcing local by-laws to bring a prosecution against the offending dog walker.

I would add some of these volunteer residents are not going to be easily intimidated should you get caught allowing a dog in your charge to defecate on the ground and that dog walker does not pick it up. The Meads and Burton path are very well used, and on these two paths especially, it is very unfair for irresponsible dog owners to allow fouling of these paths. On Sunday the 8th August, 2010 at about 1.15pm, I was, as Councillor, looking around the cemetery. Two ladies and one man arrived with a dog and allowed the dog to foul between the old and new cemetery within easy sight of three "no dog fouling" signs. In Dark Lane, one owner has allowed their dog to foul in view of some CCTV. I have asked the local police to heighten their awareness of this problem. If you would let Lindsey Wood or myself know of those you know who regularly cause this offence, I will pass on the persons' details to our photographers without involving you. The Parish Council will write to the offender again without involving yourself.

If you are taking your dog for a walk, see that you have a bag to pick up possible excrement. If you are walking near The Mere Recreation Ground or like area, you will need a dog collar and lead. "I did not mean for the dog to run on the rec., and it is only a small dog", will be no excuse. Dogs must be on a lead in the recreation ground and are NOT allowed in the play areas. If you hang your bags of excrement (yes you – the excrement belongs to you) on Burton Path hedge or any other public hedge again you will get photographed and prosecuted.

Dog Control

- Dogs are required to be on a lead in the Recreation Ground to ensure that they are kept under proper control so that they do not interfere with other people's recreation and reduces the risk of a dog causing an accident. This also makes it easier for owners to see where their dog has fouled and can clean up afterwards.
- Every dog in a public place must wear a collar with the owner's identity on it. It is an offence for your dog not to have an identifying collar or tag. Penalty up to £2,000.

Dog Fouling and the law

- A person in charge of a dog must remove the faeces straight away if the dog has defecated in an area where the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 applies. Otherwise they are contravening the Law and could be subject, on conviction, to a penalty of up to £1,000.

- The Law applies to all Parks, open spaces and recreation grounds owned or maintained by Mere Parish Council.

Car Parking

You probably have heard Wiltshire Council has now opened its 'Parking Strategy Consultation' and the proposal is to charge for car parking in Mere, or the alternative is for Mere to take the car parks (and toilets) over. I have put a contingency plan in place if Mere has to take the car parks over. However, I would urge you to either respond to the consultation on line (<http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>) or use the forms now in the Library, Doctors Surgery, Parish Council Office, Waltons of Mere and other places. Do not confuse with the Mere Chamber of Trade Surveys that have been around for months, these have been and still are being submitted to Wiltshire Council.

The consultation document for most has been difficult, therefore use the "Other Comments" section and put your thoughts in plain English. **You only have a few days until 5.00pm on Friday, 3rd September.** If you cannot get a form in time submit a letter to the consultation address, which is Sustainable Transport Group, Department of Neighbourhood and Planning, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 8JN. If local businesses and council tax-payers have to pay for local parking, it will impact on you, however, it would be by less then if Wiltshire Council was charging for them. If you want them as now, "free", tell Wiltshire Council.



MERE POLICE NEWS

Excessive Dog fouling in and around the Mere area has recently been reported and I wish to remind dog owners that it is their responsibility to clean up their pets mess. Notwithstanding the health implications, it is an offence to allow your dog to foul in a public place and this is enforceable by the Wiltshire Council. Please remember that carrying a disposable carrier bag and picking up your dogs mess will keep everyone healthy &

happy! Thank you...

A kind hearted person recently put out some items 'free to a good home' and subsequently discovered them in a stream in Burton! This is just a timely reminder to those generous persons in our society that not everyone appreciates your kindness. If you wish to advertise 'free items' outside of your property then please remove them at night. It is a sad indictment of our society that I should have to print this message, however it may prevent someone else from becoming a 'victim'.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that our local telephone number is currently out of order. Please do not try to contact us on 01747 861737. The phone will ring for you, however we will not get any messages as the line is one way!

Please note that we will both be working at the Mere Carnival on Saturday 18th September and look forward to seeing some of you there.

Now that the premises are under new management, we are currently investigating the possibility of holding a Bluz'n'Zus police disco for local youths at the Old Ship Hotel. This is a very kind gesture by the management of the pub and I will update you regularly regarding our progress.

To get details of our regular consultation meetings in Mere Library in the coming months please see our section of the website: www.wiltshire.police.uk and clicking on 'policing in your area' then select 'Mere'.

Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312

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

Jake Noble, Police Community Support Officer

e-mail: jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

☎ 07980 701606 (mobile- not 24 hours)

MERE WEATHER

June had a bad start with cloudy weather, windy and 27mms (1.06ins) of rain up to the 18th. Then it turned warmer and we only had another 3.5mms (0.013ins) of rain to the end of the month - total 30.5mms (1.2ins). Last year we had 49.5mms (1.95ins).

July continued to be warm - some would say very hot and humid with thunder on the 22nd. We had 23 days without rain. Total for the month was 36 mms (1.42ins). Last year we had 141.5mms (5.57ins). Interestingly last year up to the end of July we had 460.5mms (18.12ins), whereas this year we had 366mms (14.41ins).

August started disappointingly. Up to the 14th we had 27mms (1.06ins), mostly small drops at night, more cloudy days and windy. In fact the 12mms (0.47ins) we had on the 9th was the highest day recording since the 19th of March.

Peter Durkee

DO YOU WEAR AN NHS HEARING AID FROM SALISBURY HOSPITAL?

If so, we can help with maintaining your aid

- Fitting new batteries
- Advice on maintenance and use
- Information on hearing loss
- Fitting new tubing
- Support and training to use your hearing aid

We will be at Mere Library on the first Wednesday of every month between 10.00 am and 11.30am starting from 1st September 2010

This is a new service being provided by the RNID. These events are free but please bring along your brown record book from the hospital

For more information please contact Gill (RNID) 01722 580014, mobile 07570 670 643 or e-mail: Gillian.Drayson@rnid.org.uk

MERE SURGERY

Announcement

We would like to inform all our patients that Dr Price has recently retired from the Mere Surgery Partnership but he will continue to work at the surgery for two sessions a week. Initially these sessions will be on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Dr Tim King will also be continuing at the surgery two days per week and he will be available to share the care of some of Dr Price's patients.

We also welcome Dr Lukas Ferchow as our GP Registrar for the year. Dr Ferchow qualified from the University of Lodz, Poland in 1997. As a medical student he spent some time in hospitals in London and then started working mainly in General Medicine in Salisbury District Hospital before joining the GP Training Scheme. He has a very young family and enjoys his old hobby – photography and hopes to catch lots of photo opportunities around rural Mere.

The surgery is also pleased to announce the release of our new surgery website available at meresurgery.co.uk. The website contains lots of information about the surgery and our staff as well as providing links for patients to update their details, book or cancel appointments online and order repeat medication on line, (passwords are required for this, which are available from reception). The site also contains lots of information about common medical conditions and links to other useful websites.

The surgery will use the website to inform patients of any future surgery announcements including dates of flu clinics etc.

Angela Pitman, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001

MERE CARNIVAL

Congratulations – we have a Carnival Queen for the first time since 2000 - Ella Boorn , who will be joined by her attendant Shannon Whitmarsh. Emily Rose is the Carnival Princess and attended by Ellie Portnell and Phoebe Rose. We hope that they will enjoy their roles and look forward to seeing them during Carnival Week and the processions. .

A Free Programme giving you details of the times for the events and much more will be coming through your front door and further copies are available from the Post Office. Please support the fundraising events and please be generous with your contributions as the Carnival costs many thousands of pounds to put on each year.

Don't forget to purchase your Carnival Draw tickets - £1.00 per book with cash prizes on sale outside the Post Office on 11th, 17th and 18th September.

If anyone has any unwanted/new items that would be suitable contributions towards raffle prizes for any of the carnival fundraising events, they will be very gratefully received and can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel or Waltons Newsagent/The Post Office. For further details see inside the front cover of this edition or contact:

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

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone in Mere, but Jacquie Barnes is the only dentist seeing new NHS patients

The practice 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

LIP READING CLASSES

Mere Lip Reading Class resumes after the summer break on Friday 17th September.

Classes are held in the Footprints Centre, on Fridays from 10.15am - 12.15. We are a small friendly group and would welcome new members. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Elizabeth Messer ☎ 01300 348580 or e-mail: Elizabeth.ian.messr@gmail.com

Barbara Bourne

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

11th – 17th October 2010

The first flyer outlining the 2010 programme of the Mere Literary Festival is now available.

The festival, in its fourteenth year, is the annual fund-raising event for our local Linkscheme, which plays such an important role in the community.

Events kick off as always on the second Monday of October when two best selling authors talk about a third, and conclude the following Sunday with the Award Ceremony and Book Fair. Come along to the awards to hear the results of the new writing

Competition, which everyone can enter, and meet authors who are making a name for themselves with debut novels.

Don't forget to test the grey matter with the Literary Quiz sheet – the winners will also be announced on Festival Sunday. Look out for the Quiz sheet in early September - £1 pound each from the Mere Information Point and other outlets.

There's something for everyone in festival week including 'hot off the press' scoops, local authors, poetry café, rural life of today and yesteryear, a Mere Meander, workshops, theatre, film, community and children's events.

Full details of the competition and events will be found in the 'big green' programme out this month. One will be delivered to as many houses as possible in September and will also be available at Mere Library and other local outlets. Alternatively log on to the festival website: www.merelifest.co.uk Tickets are on sale at Mere Information Point or contact the organiser ☎ 01747 860475.

Adrienne Howell & The Lit. Fest. Group

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF MERE **from Barbara and Alex Saunt of Bramley House**

This short letter is simply to let you know, or give confirmation, that we sold Bramley House on Friday, 23rd July to Mr Richard Wagner.

We are very pleased that he will be taking over from us as we are confident that he will maintain what we believe are the high standards of the home. He has much experience in this field having owned The Old Rectory in Stalbridge, which is similar to Bramley House, for many years.

We do not think you will notice much change in the home. Liz Miller will be remaining as manager and none of the staff has indicated that they will be leaving.

We have been the owners of Bramley House since 1994 and have greatly enjoyed the experience. We feel Bramley House and ourselves have always had the support of the people of Mere and we thank you for this. We have met some of you of course, either at our garden parties or because a relation or a friend of yours resided with us. We have been particularly proud by many people in Mere, especially the Rev'd Paul Barnes, and Jane and Kate who have provided the music at our carol services, by all members of the Mere Surgery, by Sam and Marilyn Squires, by Mr Nurden in the old days, by Mr Young who has for many years enabled us to see out of our windows and by Jeans Electrical.

With our best wishes.

QUESTIONS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

Are you one of those people who find constant changes in Church services irritating? Or perhaps you think Church is dull, boring and irrelevant? Well, come along to St. Michael's, your Parish Church, and discover that you may be wrong!

At St. Michael's we have something for everyone: a vibrant Family Service on the first Sunday in the month; Messy Church in the Grove Buildings and Footprints Centre for younger children and their parents; services from the Book of Common Prayer every Sunday and Wednesday for those who enjoy more traditional worship.

Sunday morning not convenient? How about Holy Communion at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday in the month? Or the perfect end to a busy weekend: Evening Prayer at 6pm on the first Sunday in the month. Songs of Praise takes place every 2 months, you will see our posters up to remind you. So, we are not constantly changing everything nor are we stuck in a rut. We are not exclusive, we are your Church. Why not come along and see for yourself?

All our services are listed in Mere Matters and on the Church notice boards. If you are not sure what they all are, please ring the vicar, Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313 or the Licensed Lay Minister, Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218.

STOURHEAD TO ISTANBUL – BY BIKE

Two newly graduated students set off from National Trust's Stourhead House on Saturday 17th July at the start of a trip by bicycle to Istanbul with the aim of arriving there in September. Flora Spencer, who lives on a National Trust tenanted farm at Stourton and is the daughter of ex-Salisbury District Councillor Catherine Spencer, recently graduated from Bath Spa University. Speaking from Serbia Flora said: "After graduating in June, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to attempt a cycling marathon through Europe to Asia before entering the world of work."

"I found a fit fellow enthusiast, George Howard, to share the trip and we're currently (mid August) in Serbia, over half way through our challenge of pedalling approx 5,000km (3,107miles) through 17 countries to Istanbul. George's Dad is in the army, and my mother was helped by the air ambulance when she broke her back, so **we're asking people to support us by donating to 'Help for Heroes' and the 'Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal'**. Every penny will go directly to the charities. We are entirely self-supporting and self-funding".

Flora and George would be very grateful if you would donate money for 'Help for Heroes' and/or 'Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal' by clicking on 'charities' and then the H4H and/or WAA logos on their website: wix.com/georgehoward/home2istanbul or by leaving money at Mere Post Office, which is holding their charities' sponsor forms by kind permission of George Jeans.

Catherine Spencer ☎ 01747 840153

SEPTEMBER'S SHORT WALK

The walk this month, to be held on Monday, 6th September, will follow a different format! We will meet at 10.30am in the Surgery Car Park to walk the three miles to The Red Lion, Kilmington for a light lunch.

The walk can be either the flatter route or, for anyone more energetic, over White Sheet Hill. It may be possible to arrange for transport to bring anyone back from the pub, but this will need to be arranged beforehand so please telephone me if the 6 miles return walk is too far for you.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

COMMUNITY LUNCH

It is nearly time for our Community Lunches to start again. They will be held at 12.00noon on the second Tuesday of the month between October and Easter, so put that in your diaries. All are welcome but please could you inform the Walnut Tree of your choice of menu two days in advance. The first lunch will be held at **12.00noon on Tuesday 12th October at the Walnut Tree Inn, Mere.**

The Lunch will be held in conjunction with Mere Literary Festival and will include a storyteller and raffle. Details of the menu and cost will be displayed in the October Mere Matters. I Look forward to seeing you there.

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

GET ON BOARD THE FAIR TRADE BUS

August is always the month when the new Traidcraft catalogue drops through the letterbox. I eagerly scour the pages to make a mental note of the new items which catch my eye.

This year is no exception for the exciting range of gifts, jewellery, homeware, recycled paper products and foods. The colourful bus is just one of the hand-crafted fair trade gifts that feature, and there is a new Geobar range to tempt you for your snack boxes. Dare I mention Christmas? Why not visit one of our Traidcraft stalls and buy a gift from the catalogue or order your Christmas cards in the knowledge that your purchase will help improve the lives of others in the developing world? Or put the date of our first ever **One World Fair** (23rd October) in your diary to see what is on offer.

As one of the craft producers in Vietnam has said, 'Thanks to my work here, I have a stable job with a stable income. I am happy with the work. I have money for my son's education.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

BRAINWAVE IN MERE Brain Wavers' Fun Day

The Forge in North Street, Mere is the venue for a Family Fun Day on Saturday 28th August from 10am until 4pm. There will be cakes, teas, stalls, tombola, lucky dip and the chance to see a fantastic model railway demonstration. There will also be card readings with Mere's answer to 'Mystic Meg'. The event is being organised by the 'Brain Wavers', friends of the Mere Brainwave Charity Shop, who will be raising funds for the Brainwave Charity which aids brain-damaged children.

We have had a busy summer at the Brainwave Shop, thanks to our loyal customers and the people who donate items for us to sort and sell. Jen's delicious homemade marmalade has proved particularly popular and we even did business with the EU when a German couple bought some. We now keep a book at the counter for customer comments. So do drop in and let us know what you think. At the same time, you can pick up a bargain, a book, a dish or a CD that could be just what you've been searching for! Please note that the shop is now open for an extra hour each day, from 9.30am to 4.30pm, including Saturdays. We also have a BT landline, so you can call us ☎ 01747 863432 with your enquiries during opening hours.

Liz Fricker, Brainwave volunteer

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860 096

The programme for the Mere Literary Festival in October is now available from the Library and further details of the events can be found elsewhere in Mere Matters. This is the Linkscheme's main money raising event and helps us to provide transport for those in need. In July alone we received 109 requests, 32 of which were for appointments at Salisbury District Hospital.

We look forward to meeting many of you at the Festival events, when an enjoyable time can be combined with helping to support a local charity. All our funds are used in Mere and the surrounding villages.

Molly Burden

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

MADS has been scratching its collective head for a week or four, trying to decide which of several quite amazing plays to present to the Mere populace for its delectation in the autumn. One thing is absolutely clear: the play, whichever it turns out to be, will be performed in the Lecture Hall on **Thursday to Saturday, 18th – 20th November 2010** (good heavens, the new year will be almost over). And while tickets are not printed yet (well they wouldn't be would they; that would be far too far-sighted of us), we are resolved that rehearsals will begin very early in September, which gives us two and a half months to a) decide on a play, b) learn lines, c) put the play on the stage (having first printed the tickets). As ever, watch this space.

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our new 2010/11 season begins as usual with a film for Carnival Week on Thursday, 16th September, and to keep in tune with that Carnival feeling we are showing the romantic comedy 'It's Complicated' (15) starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

Meeting up at their son's graduation, Jane (Meryl Streep) and Jake (Alec Baldwin) find themselves oddly attracted to each other after ten years of divorce and embark on an affair, clandestine because Jake is remarried to a younger wife and Jane's eye has been caught by the romantically-minded architect (Steve Martin) who is remodelling her house. "This film feels both familiar and fresh, with the stars, particularly Baldwin, playing against type. While few actors can match Streep, he isn't afraid to try, gamely sending up his macho image. Meanwhile Martin makes a decent fist of being the straight man and Streep is as good as ever, displaying a fine gift for comedy with some priceless reaction shots." Further details on page 29.

The film is great fun as you may imagine with these stars, and it has been much enjoyed by Moviola audiences over the summer months.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 14th October, 'Invictus'; Friday 5th November, 'The Ghost Writer'; Thursday 2nd December, 'Letters to Juliet'.

Mary White 📞 01747 861257

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Now 1 year old! In addition to our glittering programme for the autumn, we are holding a social get together. This is open to all members and also to those who might be considering membership. It will be held on **28th September at 7.00pm at the Grove Buildings**. There will be drinks and excellent snacks, for which we ask a contribution of £4 per head, payable on the door.

We hope it will be a chance for lots of us to meet each other and exchange any views, ideas and of course, stories of cultural excellence! In addition, you can join the club if you like to sound of it.

Hope to see you there. If you would like to let us know if you are thinking of coming, it would help for numbers, but is not essential, come along anyway.

Madelaine Morris e-mail: madsmorris4@tiscali.co.uk

or 📞 01747 861833

Wendy Horne 📞 01747 861712

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Annual Show Saturday, 4th September Mere Lecture Hall 2.30pm

50p entry to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Children under 10 free. All welcome. All exhibitors admission free

Children's sunflower competition: bring your biggest sunflower head to be measured in The Square at 1.30pm

It's not too late to enter the show, and there are many open classes for all to participate, but don't forget to get your entry forms to Janet Way, Wits End, North Road, Mere, by **1st September**. Exhibits to be taken to the Lecture Hall between 9.00 and 11.00am on Saturday morning.

In the Floral Art Section a new category is included this year for **Businesses to promote themselves:** don't miss this opportunity to advertise in an imaginative floral way!

There are more open categories with new ones for children. So get your entries in and don't miss your chance to join in the fun and make it our best show ever.

Top Fruit, Soft Fruit and Propagation with Eric Bloodworth

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings.

Eric Bloodworth, of Florabunda Nursery, will be talking about and demonstrating every aspect of growing fruit from propagation to cultivation.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be held in the Grove Buildings at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 14th September.

This will be a fun afternoon with readings, stories, etc.,. Please bring anything you have to share with us. There will also be a Raffle for funds. Gifts for this would also be appreciated.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

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

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

A million thanks on behalf of all of us at the Rosemary Goddard Centre to everyone who helped make the Open Gardens fundraising event in June such a success. The weather was on our side and we raised £1,200, which will go towards funding the Day Centre activities.

Our special thanks go to the kind gardeners who opened their gardens to the public; the Mere Co-op and the Walnut Tree Inn for sponsoring the publicity; our partner organisations: the Gardening Club, Arts Group, Methodist Church and Croquet Club; all the ladies who kindly donated the delicious cakes, and the volunteers who helped with teas etc on the day.

The 'Not the Independence Day' street party on the 4th July was great fun with music from the Ship's own Georgie Girl, the children from Mere School and the Wild Goose Band. In July, we had quizzes, painting classes, music therapy, a visit from the Falcon Centre and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. In August we enjoyed a talk on the History of Mere, the painter Turner and artifacts from St Michael's Church. Future events are displayed at the Library, Waltons and St Michael's Church porch, so give Lynette a ring if you would like to join us. You would be very welcome.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646
Lenka Stokes (Chair of Trustees) ☎ 01747 860741

MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

First, we would like to thank all who supported our Coffee Morning on 29th July. It was an excellent morning. Did you see our Craft Exhibition?

Our visit to Sandford Orcas Manor House in July was enjoyed by all – a very interesting afternoon, followed by tea at the Castle Gardens in Sherborne.

The subject of our meeting on Thursday, 2nd September at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings is a talk on "Gertrude Jekyll, Artist, Craftswoman and Gardener" to be presented by Mrs M Emery. This should be an entertaining evening. Why not join us? Prospective new members and visitors are always very welcome.

Sheila Shotter ☎ 01747 861771

MERELY WOMEN

Merely Women has been running for a number of years and offers a warm welcome to any ladies living in Mere and the surrounding areas. This group is particularly helpful for newcomers to the area, as it is a place to chat and meet new friends. In addition, we have activities, speakers and discussions covering both serious and more light-hearted topics. There is always tea and coffee, a lot of chat and laughter, and a sympathetic ear if needed.

We meet in the Grove Buildings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.30am. There is no membership, so just come along between 9.30 and 10.00am for a pre-meeting tea/coffee and chat. Everyone, of all ages, and new or established residents, are most welcome. **Our next meeting is on Friday 10th September.**

Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Castle Hill Quilters will start their Autumn meetings on Wednesday, 15th September and on Thursday 23rd, September in the Grove Buildings from 2.00 to 4.45pm.

At our first meeting, we hope to make a start on quilts for The Linus Project, which provides comfort quilts for traumatised and sick children. Other plans for the Autumn include a machine quilting workshop, a visit from an Andover group who will show us some of their quilts, and a Christmas wallhanging project.

We welcome new members and if you would like to know more about us, please see our website: www.castlehillquilters.org.uk or call Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923 or e-mail to info@castlehillquilters.org.uk
Jennie Hoffman

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Autumn Fair

To take place in the grounds of
Fives Court, Angel Lane on

Saturday 11th September at 2.00pm

*** Cakes * Raffle * Plants * Books * Tombola * Wood-Turning *
and much, much more...**

Come along and have fun - enjoy a delicious afternoon tea.

Look out for the children's Fancy Dress competition.

(All children up to the age of ten welcome to take part)



DON'T MISS IT - SEE YOU THERE!

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Our annual Friends of Fives Court **AUTUMN FAIR** is once again almost upon us – for details please see the notice on the previous page. Of course, the event is what YOU make it, by which I mean that we are very dependent on **donations** of good-as-new items to sell, tombola prizes, plants, bread, cakes, jam, jellies chutneys, garden produce – anything really! There is a **box in the porch at Fives Court** by means of which we would be delighted to receive all contributions! We will also happily collect; just phone me at the telephone number below. And don't forget our children's fancy dress competition: there will be prizes! Do come on the day - you might even be allowed a sneak preview of the new garden.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first evening talk of the season, 'The Mary Rose, Past, Present and Future', will be given by Mr and Mrs Moore of the Mary Rose Trust at 7.30pm, on **Tuesday 5th October**, in the Grove Buildings. Visitors are very welcome.

There are still spaces for our visit to Yandles of Martock on Thursday 16th September 2010

Yandles is the name of a timber merchant and sawmill established in Martock in 1860 that grew into a thriving business particularly concerned with making coffin boards from elm. The supply of its raw material disappeared with the onset of Dutch Elm disease in the middle of the twentieth Century and the company had to diversify. It found its way into the growing crafts and hobby woodworking world. Although it remains a working sawmill and continues to supply timber goods, its old buildings now house a splendid tool shop and timber store for the hobbies and do-it-yourself market, together with a comprehensive craft materials department and a gallery of wonderful items created by local artists and craftspeople.

On arrival at Yandles, we will be given a talk by David Mountstephen, who has followed his father as managing director of the company, and has a wealth of knowledge of the history of the company, the town and the surrounding area. Then we will have a tour of some of the workshops after which there will be time for you to wander through the stores, the gallery and to take tea in the café.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at Noon and return by 5pm. The cost to MHS Members is £10.00 per person and to non-members it is £12.00 per person. Booking forms available from Mere Information Point. **Please send your booking to Ros Castro**

☎ 01747 861957

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn after Family Communion Service in St Michael's on Sunday, 4th July by Mrs J Hoffman was:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|---------------------|
| 1st Prize (£20) | - | No. 131 | Generously Returned |
| 2nd Prize (£15) | - | No. 94 | Mrs Shirley Coward |
| 3rd Prize (£10) | - | No. 186 | Mrs Audrey Wilson |
| 4th Prize (£10) | - | No. 95 | Generously Returned |

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn after Family Communion Service in St Michael's on Sunday, 1st August by Mrs Jean Woodroffe was:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------|---------------------|
| 1st Prize (£20) | - | No. 187 | Mrs M Edwards |
| 2nd Prize (£15) | - | No. 117 | Generously Returned |
| 3rd Prize (£10) | - | No. 80 | Miss P Collinge |
| 4th Prize (£10) | - | No. 160 | Mrs F Blend |

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE MUSEUM

Museums tend to be associated with things of the past. But our current exhibition on coins ('Money Money Money') has been transformed into the topic of the moment, because no sooner had we re-created our home-grown, modest Mere hoard, than an even bigger one was unearthed near Frome! So our exhibition is, in some ways, bang up-to-date. But better is to come! We have recently discovered that there was another Mere hoard, uncovered in 1870. This was not at all glamorous, we understand, consisting of coins made by the British in imitation of Roman coins shortly after the Romans had left (the native British struggled to cope after centuries of having all the organisation done for them.) We hope to incorporate some material about this hoard, and about the Frome hoard, into our exhibition sometime during September or October. Watch out! *Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

A date for your Diary! THE WALNUT TREE INN is hosting a Quiz Night with additional live music is to be held on Tuesday 5th October at 7.00pm. Tickets are £10 per person and include Quiz entry, a meal with a complementary drink and live musical entertainment.

Raffle prizes have kindly been donated by local businesses and the Club is very grateful to The Walnut Tree for organising what will be a great evening. So, get your tickets early from The Walnut Tree, or by ringing ☎ 01747 861220. For more information contact:

Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305.

MERE SWIMMING POOL

By the time you read this edition of Mere Matters, the swimming season will be over. The season has been better than ever, with more adults using the facility than the last 2 years. Numbers have been good as has the weather. The open day at the end of July raised over £100 for our funds and everyone had a brilliant time. About 100 people swam in the pool in a 3 hour period.

There are many thanks to various people and organisations:

- We have installed a new cover to the pool, with money kindly donated by Gillingham Lions and Mere Carnival Club.
- New covered changing rooms have been built, thanks to money donated by The Duchy of Cornwall.
- A big thank you to Steve from Blackmore Agas and Boilers for the time he gave up at the start of the season to fix the heater.
- Again, Mr Stratton's continuing support is much appreciated.
- The Parish council for its continual support needs a mention.
- Finally, Mere Lecture Hall Trust have given us a generous donation which, along with the money raised at the open day, will start our savings account for the future development of the pool.

Fund raising is being stepped up over the next few months with the launch of our 150 Club. This will cover the costs of the day-to-day running of the pool during the swimming season. For a weekly, monthly or annual fee you have the chance of winning Cash every month. This will be launched in October/November at an event we are planning, which will tickle your taste buds and satisfy your thirst.

The biggest thanks go to Life Guards, volunteers and the swimmers. Without them there would be no swimming in Mere. We are totally self-funded and rely on the public and local organisations to keep the pool afloat!

Bob Parsons, Chairman Mere Swimming Pool, ☎ 07817 939570

MERE ARCHERS.

So far we have had a very good season with Gloria winning the English Championships and Gerald taking third place. Mere Archers would like to welcome Sue, Paul, Fran and Angela to the club and wish all the club members good luck at the County Championships at the end of the month. For many of the club this will be their first competition. For more information contact:

Gloria Mead ☎ 01747 863360

BOWLS CLUB

The bowling season will be almost over for the year by the time you get to read this report, our mixed triples league fixtures being completed with a home tie against Wilton on the 28th August and our men's triples end also with a home tie against Amesbury on the 25th August. There will then only remain a small number of club competitions and a number of friendly matches to complete in September. We plan to close the green with a match between teams selected by the Club Chairman and Club President on Thursday 16th September.

Club Captain, Arthur Holberry, won the club singles championship in a hard fought final against Karen Guy. This followed a full days bowling on Sunday 1st August while Mary Butchers and Alan Spencer won the open pairs competition, beating Isobel Naughton and Karen Guy in the final on Sunday 8th August.

Our newly formed Ladies Section completed a successful inaugural year having played 8 matches, winning 3 and only losing on 3 occasions. Let us hope that next year brings additional success and maybe some new players for the ladies.

Following on from our failure to host the match against a Wiltshire County team early in the season that would have benefitted the Mere Linkscheme, we have decided to hold a 60's disco in the Grove Buildings on Saturday 11th September starting at 7.00pm. There will be a licensed bar and a raffle with all proceeds going to the Linkscheme, which is the Club's Charity for 2010. It is hoped that all tickets will be sold by the time this article is published, but there may still be a couple available at £7.50 each (to include a fish & chip supper) from the Mere Information Point in the Library. Raffle prizes have so far been donated by Jeans Electrical, The Co-op, The Walnut Tree, The George, The Butt of Sherry, Lou's It, Plantworld and Burdens Nurseries.

It is not too late for any prospective new members to join the Club, just turn up at the pavilion inside the school grounds any Tuesday evening from 6.00pm onwards when we hold our 'Club Night' and any member will be more than pleased to show you around and offer you a cup of tea, a chat about bowls and a practice session – please remember to bring a pair of flat shoes.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215, Shaun Woods ☎ 01747-861707, or me, Don Butchers.

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747-860219

An independent lady is sought to occupy one of four Chaffyn Grove Cottages in Zeals. For full details please contact David Corbin, Secretary to the Trustees, Oak House, Portnells Lane, Zeals, BA12 6PQ or telephone 01747 840847

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

I was pleased to be elected Chairman of MTYFC and thank the committee for their support.

We look forward to the new season starting in September. Our nine youth teams and one adult team will be well prepared after the three-day Soccer School last month.

Training evening and times for each team, with contact number for each manager, are displayed on the notice board outside the Post Office. Our coaches are FA trained.

We welcome all youngsters from age seven to 18 who would enjoy playing football, so do come along and join in.

Steve Howell, Chairman ☎ 01747 860420



Summer Review

It has been a great summer, and our activities have been enthusiastically received. A Messy-Play morning at West Knoyle was particularly popular, with the Village Hall practically bursting at the seams as everyone tried the exciting activities, including a jolly musical session from Jen and Lou of Song-Time fame.

We ran wide-ranging activities including free weekly adult-only swims with a crèche available for parents/carers, and parent-and-child swimming. The visit from Wiltshire Fire Brigade's big red fire engine was also extremely busy and received rave feedback from all present. There is a photo-gallery in Footprints, so do take a look.

Finally, we have been pleased to support Wiltshire Council's Fun in the Sun Sports Coaching for 5-11 year olds, by opening up the Children's centre for parents and carers to drop in and relax with a cuppa and chat while younger brothers and sisters play with all our toys. It has been lovely to see new faces and old friends.

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

It's Complicated (15)

Meryl Streep Alec Baldwin Steve Martin

**"First comes marriage. Then comes divorce.
And then....."**

After 10 years of divorce Jane (Streep), a successful businesswoman, meets up with her ex, Jake (Baldwin), at their son's graduation. After a few drinks and a lot of reminiscing, they find themselves embarking on a clandestine love affair, although Jake has a younger second wife and Jane is being courted by Adam (Martin).

In the Lecture Hall

Thursday 16th September, 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 ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: www.moviola.org

Activities for the Autumn Term

Thank you to attendees at our parents forum meeting in July which gave ample useful feedback on what users would like from the Children's Centre. This has provided a steer for our autumn term programme, which is being developed as this article goes to press and will commence from the second week in September. Keep your eyes peeled for our forthcoming programme, which will be distributed by all the usual methods.

We will continue our regular Bums and Babes session. But, responding to your feedback, this will move to Monday mornings and include, initially for a trial period, a specially developed Baby Song-Time session. Expectant mums and new parents are welcome to try these sessions, meet and share experiences with others, and see the wide range of services and support at your local children's centre.

The ever-popular Wednesday Crafty Kids sessions will continue. These received very positive feedback, and we look forward to offering creative activities for parents and carers old and new.

We are reviewing other suggestions from the parents forum and other sources, so please, please let us know your views on our activities. Footprints is your children's centre, and we really do value your input, positive or negative. We are here for everyone with 0-5 year olds, and would love to welcome you to the Centre!

Changes to Footprints Personnel

In the last Mere Matters I promised an update on staffing changes with Kate's departure and I can now give a bit more information. Happily for us, Kate is still helping out on reduced hours, and we have been joined by Sandra Jenkins, who many of you will have already met through the summer holiday activities. She is a jolly addition to the team; welcome, Sandra!

And we are always looking for people to volunteer with us, either to enjoy the experience of working with young children and/or perhaps as a springboard into paid employment. Give me a call to discuss the opportunities.

Jane Batten, Acting Centre Manager, ☎ 01747 861108

MERE SCHOOL

July 2010

We have had a very busy last few weeks of school.

All classes have done an assembly to show our parents what we have been learning. Red class started them off with lots of African dancing and singing and green class did a great Egyptian dance. Our mums and dads really enjoyed them. Purple class did their final assembly yesterday before they start at Gillingham School. There were presentations and lots of parents crying! We also had a music assembly when the choir, recorder groups, gold class and brass players performed. Mr Walker made our mums and dads dance! The choir have also been to sing at 'The Rosemary Goddard Centre'.

On 8th July we had a Caribbean day. We did limbo dancing, 'mocktail' making, steel-band drumming and painting. The children said that they had great fun and loved dressing up.

We held the Mere Gardening Club's Children's Show at our school on 1st July. All classes entered something into the show from painted pebbles, still life flower drawings, beading and vegetable animals. Members of the Gardening Club came in and judged our exhibits. They were really impressed with the standard of entry and even the staff entered some of their vegetables.

'The Friends' have been really busy also. They organised a Summer Fayre with cake stalls, crockery smash and lots more and the Majorettes also danced. It was a lovely event in the sunshine and over £800 was raised. We also had a disco. We loved the songs the DJ played and we are looking forward to our next one at Christmas.

Red and purple classes have also raised lots of money this term. They have had lots of sales and games at playtimes and raised money to pay for Lily, our gecko's upkeep for the next year. The remainder of the money has gone to our link school in The Sudan to pay for a new water pipe.

There have been lots of visits also. Amber, yellow and silver classes went to Weymouth for the day. They built sand castles, watched 'Punch and Judy' and had an ice-cream! They had been learning about the seaside in school. Blue class visited Wardour Castle and gold class visited Stourhead and spent the day pond dipping.

Our year 4/5 rounders team were delighted to win the Gillingham School rounders competition. We have a special KS2 games afternoon every Friday, when sports coaches come into school with Mr Marshall's help. We think this is really improving our skills.

We were very sad to say goodbye to our purple class today but we know that they will be very happy at their new schools. The year 6 children had a very exciting last few days. Many of them took part in a 'Bikeability' course and everyone passed this. There was also a special barbecue for the children and their parents, and the mums and dads beat the children at rounders. The highlight of the last week was the performance of 'Scheherezade'. Many felt that this was our best performance ever.

We have all had the chance to show our work to our mums and dads and to visit our new classrooms for September.

Some of our year 4, 5 and 6 children went to London to see 'Wicked'. Our bus driver drove us around so that we could see the sights and the show was fantastic. Thank you to Mrs Loxton for organising this.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer.

Red class

BARN BUDDIES

Barn Buddies meets every Friday evening from 6.30 until 8.00pm at Barrow Street Farm, BA12 6AB. It is a youth club for young people from school year two and upwards. Do come along and see what we do, parents are welcome to stay if they want to.

Watch out for exciting news in next months Mere Matters about our Autumn Open Evening. For more information contact:
Tim ☎ 01747 860195

NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

On Saturday 25th September, St Michael's Church is holding an 'Away Day' at Sedgehill Manor. We will be thinking about the 'Five Marks of Mission', and how they might affect the life of the Church in Mere. If you would like to attend, please contact the Vicar or Parish Office.

On Tuesday 28th September at 7.30pm, 'The Friends of St Michael's will be holding their AGM, which will include a talk by Jenny Wilding on Religious Art and refreshments. All are welcome to attend. An early reminder that 'The Friends' will be holding their Autumn Fair in the Grove Building on the morning of Saturday, 9th October.

Rev'd Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313
Parish Office: E-mail: parishoffice@inbox.com

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival this year will be celebrated on Sunday 26th September together with the URC in the Methodist Church at 11.00am. Lunch will follow at 1.00pm. If you would like to come to lunch please let Mary Siderfin have your name in good time - cost will be £2.50.

Produce will be sold in the Square on Monday, 27th September in the morning from 10.00am. Goods for the service, and flowers and greenery for decoration, will be very acceptable on Friday (24th) and Saturday (26th) mornings.

Afternoon Get Together

Wednesday Afternoon Get Togethers recommence on Wednesday 29th September in the Methodist School Hall at 2.30pm. Do come and share fellowship with us, we are a small group but big on friendship. *M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE
MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, THE URC MINISTER, WRITES:

I remember being eleven years old and having to write to my newly acquired French pen-friend to introduce myself. "Chere Francoise, Je m'appelle Elizabeth..." and on I falteringly continued, trying to write something friendly, using the very limited French vocabulary that I had. I'm not sure it worked- all we had in common was our age and a compulsory pen-friend we had to correspond with!

Fortunately, I am no longer so young and hopefully we have some things in common, as well as our native language. Decades later and I am still called Elizabeth! My late father was a Baptist minister when I was born, but later joined the United Reformed Church, so I grew up in various manses, including some in Hong Kong. When I left school, having spent four enjoyable years in Oxford (at the same time as Dave Symmons, Bell Street's Y&C worker, though we didn't know each other) I worked as a teacher in a comprehensive school; teaching RE, back in the days of CSE's and GCE's. I was trained to teach both RE and Art, and it was only the shortage of RE teachers, that prevented me from being a full-time art teacher.

I felt the call to ministry (in spite of my protests) and eventually trained with the Presbyterian Church USA, in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. There I met gracious people who again influenced me greatly and among other things, I became "champion" for the international students, many of whom found American culture difficult to adapt to.

I returned to the UK and served pastorates in Lincoln, Wolverhampton, Somerset and latterly Uxbridge in Thames N Synod. I have always been committed to ecumenical work and collaborative ministry. My pastorates have been varied and some of the more challenging work has included: negotiating two LEP covenants, major building refurbishment, hospital chaplaincy, ecumenical bereavement care, tutoring URC TLS students, encouraging lay involvement in worship leadership, developing a shawl ministry, and a women's theology and film group, and being on the local Interfaith executive. In every place the challenges have been different and the opportunities often surprising.

I have felt warmly welcomed since the removal company dropped my chattels down in Shaftesbury, and hope that in the days to come I shall get to know you all and that we can explore what it means to be the church in 21st Century Mere, Shaftesbury and Blandford.

Shalom

BELL RINGING REQUEST

Zeals tower have just re-built their bell frame and overhauled their bells which have been silent since the 1960's. Mere branch of ringers at the moment include Stourton and Bourton towers and we share ringers. With Zeals now being included, we need to increase our numbers so we

can ring more than one tower on a Sunday. We have three or four learners who are doing very well but we need more.

Ringling is a good social pursuit and good exercise (it does my bad back a power of good). If you would like to find out more or have a go please call either:

Mike Durkee ☎ 01747 860163 or Sue Birch ☎ 01747 861703

CLOCK TOWER NEWS

For some time I have been trying to get the "automated" wheel to work the carillon (a group of levers and hammers that can chime the bells without pulling the ropes etc). The wheel is about 5ft round and has steel pegs that activate the carillon hammers and judging by the rust it has not been used for many a year.

Does anyone remember it being used or have any record of it being used? I hope to have it going fairly soon if you'd like to see it please contact me.

Mike Durkee ☎ 01747 860163

PRAYING THE GOSPELS **Quiet Gospel-based Prayer open to all**

This will be held on Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm (finishing by 8.30pm) in the Upper Room in the Grove Buildings.

We are exploring the possibility of becoming a 'Julian Meeting'. Julian Meetings are named after the fourteenth century mystic, Mother Julian of Norwich, but you don't have to be a 'mystic' to value this way of praying! Julian's inspired but down-to-earth writings encourage simplicity and a quiet openness in 'waiting on God' in stillness. Reflecting this, Julian Meetings are very simple: a short piece of music or a brief reading leads in to 30 minutes of silent prayer, followed by a time of relaxation together over tea or coffee at the end. The network of Julian Meetings and their quarterly journal provide mutual support and a sharing of ideas. Julian Meetings are always ecumenical, and we're a bit Anglican at present! We very much hope that members of ALL the local churches who would like to explore this way of praying will join us if possible.

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



Everyone is welcome to come to a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana on Tuesday 28th September from 10.30am – 12,00 noon at 8 Prospect Place (Brian and Sheila Shotter's house).

As we go to press, Megan Reynolds (Colin and Jean Kantharia's granddaughter) is in West Bengal; helping out at Suchana, together with her friend, Lucy – so they are

experiencing it all at first hand and will have lots to tell us when they return. For the last 6 weeks they have been helping especially with the activity groups, for example helping the children make puppets and costumes for drama in their local languages. Such activities can help the children in critical thinking and gaining confidence.

Suchana has been very busy recently as the local schools are closed for the rice-planting season. The children who are too young to help their parents in the fields come to Suchana in the afternoons for extra tuition and creative activities. Two of the Suchana children have had their work selected for a Young People's Art Exhibition in Kolkata. This, for children from very disadvantaged backgrounds, will be a great boost to their morale and self-confidence.

Christmas Cards designed by Suchana children will soon be available.

Ross, Judith and Mark ☎ 01747 860553 & Mere Friends of Suchana Group

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

September 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) |
| | | 5.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| Wednesday | 1st | 6.00pm | "Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday | 5th | 10.30am | Family Communion |
| | | 6.00pm | Choral Evensong (BCP) |
| | 12th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| Sunday | 19th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | | 6.00pm | Songs of Praise |
| | 26th | 10.30am | Patronal Festival – Parish Communion (CW1) and Messy Church in Grove Buildings |
| Tuesday | 28th | 7.30pm | Friends of St Michael's AGM |

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|---|
| Sunday | 5th | 11.00am | Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion |
| | 12th | 11.00am | Rev'd John Page |
| | 19th | 11.00am | Rev'd Margaret Laurie |
| | 26th | 11.00am | United Harvest Festival at Methodist Church + Lunch |

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|---|
| Sunday | 5th | 6.00pm | Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion |
| | 12th | 6.00pm | Dr G Tapper Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth |
| | 19th | 6.00pm | Rev'd Gwynneth Owen |
| | 26th | 6.00pm | Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Harvest Festival + Lunch |

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

| | | | |
|---------|------|---------|---|
| Sundays | 5th | 9.25am | Holy Communion CW1 (trad) |
| | 12th | 9.25am | Holy Communion CW1 (trad) |
| | 19th | 9.25am | DIY |
| | 26th | 10.30am | Benefice Service at St Michael's, Mere |

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 Buildings; 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

SEPTEMBER 2010

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------|---------------------------------|----|
| 1 | Wed | 6.00pm | Karate (every Wednesday) | L |
| 2 | Thur | 10.00am | Mere Art Group (every Thursday) | MH |
| | | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (every Thursday) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Womens Institute | GB |
| 4 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop In Coffee Morning | CC |
| | | 2.00pm | Mere Gardening Club Annual Show | L |

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|--|------------------|
| 6 | Mon | 9.30am | Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday) | L |
| | | 10.30am | Mere Short Walk (to Kilmington) | CP |
| | | 6.00pm | Beaver Scouts (also 13th, 20th & 27th) | YC |
| | | 6.45pm | Cubs (also 13th, 20th & 27th) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Scouts (also 13th, 20th & 27th) | YC |
| | | 7.00pm | Slimming World (every Monday) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| 7 | Tue | 9.30am | Aerobics (every Tuesday) | L |
| | | 10.30am | Carers Support Group (Salisbury Area) | Lynch |
| | | 6.00pm | Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday) | L |
| 8 | Wed | 2.00pm | Whist Drive | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Gardening Club | GB |
| 9 | Thur | 9.30am | Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | L |
| | | 5.00pm | Rainbows (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 6.15pm | Brownies (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Guides (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| 10 | Fri | 10.00am | Merely Women (also 24th) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Carnival Bingo ("Eyes Down" 7.45pm) | GB |
| 11 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop In Coffee Morning | CC |
| | | 2.00pm | Friends of Fives Court Autumn Fair | Fives Court |
| | | 7.00pm | Bowls Club 60's Disco | GB |
| 14 | Tue | 9.00am | Foot Care Clinic | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Carnival Quiz Night | L |
| | | 2.30pm | Mothers Union | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | St Michael's PCC meeting | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Tai Chi | GB |
| 15 | Wed | 2.00pm | Castle Hill Quilters (also 29th) | GB |
| | | 7.15pm | URC meeting | CC |
| | | 7.30pm | "Learning for Discipleship" course (also 29th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Mere Film Shows/Moviola: "Its Complicated" | L |
| 16 | Thur | 7.30pm | Mere Film Shows/Moviola: "Its Complicated" | L |
| 17 | Fri | 10.15am | Lip Reading Classes (also 24th) | Footprints |
| | | 7.00pm | Carnival Race Night (1st race 7.45pm) | Walnut Tree |
| 18 | Sat | | CARNIVAL DAY (see inside Front cover) | |
| 22 | Wed | 10.30am | Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall | CC |
| | | 11.00am | Pilates (also 29th) | GB |
| | | 2.00pm | Friends Together | GB |
| 23 | Thur | 2.00pm | Castle Hill Quilters | GB |
| 25 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop In Coffee Morning with RGC Bric-a-Brac | CC |
| 26 | Sun | 10.30am | Messy Sunday | GB |
| 28 | Tue | 9.00am | Foot Care Clinic | L |
| | | 10.30am | Suchana Coffee Morning | 8 Prospect Place |
| | | 7.30pm | Friends of St Michael's AGM | St Michael's |
| 29 | Wed | 2.30pm | Afternoon Get Together | MH |
| | | 7.30pm | Praying the Gospels (Upper Room) | GB |

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Buildings: ☎ Isabel Howell 01747 860297

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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Private Appointments ☎ 01722 327222

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

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE

Material for the October 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, 20th September 2010**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** after Monday 13th September. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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