



MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



DECEMBER 2011/
JANUARY 2012

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 in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 5th December, followed by one on Monday 9th January 2012.**

The Chairman writes:

First of all I must congratulate the Firework Festival committee for staging such a successful event in Mere, which was attended by so many people, and provided such splendid activities and entertainment, despite the weather not quite playing its part. The finale of the firework display itself was truly spectacular and I am sure there are many people looking forward to this becoming an annual event. But, all this does not happen without a great deal of hard work behind the scenes, so to all those involved, very well done indeed!

I am sorry to say that the response received from the Environment Agency to the Parish Council's letter following the public meeting on our lack of river water was not helpful, which was very disappointing, but probably not unexpected. However, it was resolved at the November Parish Council meeting to continue to urge the Environment Agency to look at solutions that properly address the concerns of our residents. The Minutes of the Public Meeting, together with the Parish Council's letter to the Environment Agency and the Environment Agency's response can be seen on the Parish website.

Also at the November meeting councillors voted to co-opt a new councillor, and Mr. David Hope was duly co-opted to fill the vacancy.

Councillors discussed the provision of a skate park in the recreation ground, which is something the younger residents of Mere have wanted for quite a number of years. With the provision of so many sporting facilities on the Duchy Manor grounds in the last few years, it was agreed that the time has come to look in detail at the practicalities of the skate park project including its funding and location.

Once again this Christmas, Councillors agreed to put Christmas lights on the tree on the island in front of the newsagents, following very positive comments last year, and to put new similar lights on the Clock Tower to enhance the Clock Tower Island.

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**

Finally, may I wish everyone a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

I was asked and accepted an invitation to sit on North Dorset District Council's "Care in Hospital" Scrutiny panel as hospital catchment areas extend across County Boundaries. Hospital Policies, when printed, are such large documents that potted versions of approximately the ten most important points are placed on the first page of the policy document. It appears to be now accepted that health workers would not have the time to read all the policies. I thought two of these potted points made sense on one of the policies. The first: "Involve the patient, their family and carers in planning and delivery of care". The second: "The family and carers know the patient best; listen to them".

Jaki Farrell from Mere Youth Club had agreed to clear some footpaths in the Burton area of Mere, which I mentioned last month. One of the historic footpaths has now been ploughed up, which I have received complaints about. My research has found footpaths that are not cultivated regularly and become historic, should only be cultivated after consultation with Wiltshire Council. It appears this well-used footpath has now been trodden down to a walkable surface and Wiltshire Council will now monitor the situation.

I had reported to you in the past that County Hall had been put forward for listing, but this has not been accepted.

With less transport now using Salisbury City Centre it is reported the air quality has improved, but this has not impressed the retail element, who see decline as inevitable with parking charges in Salisbury as they are. Parking charges have now been reduced by tenpence after pressure on Wiltshire Council, and Blue Badge Holders can now stay all day for free.

The Mere Parish Council has not received a favourable reply from The Environmental Agency regarding getting some water back in our rivers in Mere. It has decided to write again to say that it does not accept the reply, and to attend a South West Area Board to ask for the Board's support. All of you can attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 7th December at Wilton Community Centre. We may have no Area Board Manager that night, and I do not know if The Parish will use this meeting to take up the matter or may choose to use the one in the Grove Building here in Mere on Wednesday, 15th February 2012. There is no reason why any of you cannot go to any Area Board meeting and I would encourage you to do so. Again remember that Community groups who cannot easily raise funds can apply to the South West Area Board, which can give community grants, usually up to £5,000, at its discretion.

**Richard Robbins - Trained Gardener - 25 years
experience. All aspects of Garden Care Undertaken
01373 473008 Mobile 0751 0130 083**



The defibrillator for Kilmington has now arrived and will be fitted in about three weeks when the metal housing arrives. It will be sited in the centre of Kilmington for the use of all; hopefully you will never require it, but please be aware it is there as you may be able to help others.

The Mere Parish Council has agreed to my request to monitor Mere street lights monthly, therefore please inform Lindsey ☎ 01747 860701 of any that have faults. I have requested other Parish Councils with streetlights to do likewise. There are not enough Wiltshire lighting scouts to monitor the streetlights.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

WEATHER REPORT

The rainfall for October was 64.5mms (2.54ins) and last year it was 57mms (2.24ins). The first two days were hot and then it was mild until the 24th with only 8.5mms (0.03ins) of rain. Then until the end of the month we had another 45mms (1.77ins). It was so mild some plants flowered again.

November began wet with 26.5mms (1.04ins) making it safe for the fireworks? Up to the 14th we had a further 15.5mms (0.61ins) making the total for the half month 42mms (1.65ins). It began to get colder, and by the 14th we knew winter was on the way!

Peter Durkee

‘MERE NEIGHBOURS’ – YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Recent events have prompted me to bring forward notifying you about proposed changes to the way in which the Police and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) together bring to you the monthly Newsletters and other information. To date, PC Richard Salter and PCSO Jake Noble have compiled the newsletter and have been assisted with the circulation by NHW volunteers. Newsletters have also been available for collection in public places. As your Mere NHW Area Coordinator, I have been asked to take more of a leading role in their production, and it has also been agreed that I look at other means of communicating through a web site and via e-mails. More on all of this later as plans unfold.

On the 10th November 2011, I was made aware that there had been a spate of local early morning burglaries – I was told this was serious - and I was able to pass this warning to many local residents by email. **Would you have liked to receive this sort of immediate notification?**

I am meeting with Local Scheme Coordinators soon, but ahead of that consultation, I am inviting anyone who lives in and around Mere to have their details added to the

e-mail circulation list. You can register for this by sending an email to me at: **rajefferies@btinternet.com** and it would be useful if you could include your name and address. This information will only be used for NHW purposes.

If you do not have your own access to a computer, I would advise you to seek out neighbours who do and ask them to register and to keep you informed.

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425 ☐ 07950 797273



MERE NEIGHBOURS NEWSLETTER

Your Neighbourhood Watch

All Change!

Historically these newsletters have been produced by our local Police colleagues and the opportunity has arisen for the community (us) to have more of an input. Don't let them die, your contributions will be necessary to keep this circulation alive – what would you like to see included? For the moment PCSO Jake Noble and Richard Jefferies are acting as editors but other contributors are welcome!

Web Site

It is likely that by the time the December newsletter is distributed we may have a web site for those of you with computer access to get local up-to-date information and advice, and to be able to download other documents as well as the newsletters. If you have any ideas for this venture then do get in touch. The web site address is: **www.MereNeighbours.co.uk**

New Priorities agreed for 2011/2012

Neighbourhood watch Area Co-ordinators from Mere and the surrounding area meet frequently with members of the Police and Parish Council to consider local issues. At their most recent meeting the Police were asked to give priority to the following:

1. Reduction of thefts from cars at local beauty spot areas.

Broaden patrols of King Alfred's Tower area to include areas such as Kilmington and Stourhead car parks. The Police will be carrying out patrols in these areas on foot and by vehicle, both daytime & evenings. Response Officers from Salisbury are continuing to assist. Please do not invite theft by leaving any valuables in your vehicle whilst unattended thus helping to reduce crime

2. Speeding of vehicles especially in Castle Street area of Mere.

Carry out high visibility patrols in this area in an attempt to deter this offence. Monitor the situation including carrying out routine speed checks. You have been warned!!

3. Inconsiderate/illegal parking.

It is an offence to park at, or within 10 metres, of a junction and we will be monitoring this situation. Offenders may face being issued with a warning

notice or a fixed penalty notice which carries a fine. We are all determined to address this issue. Please park sensibly and not on yellow lines (I can remember seeing a sign which said '**Please park prettily**' - I liked that one!)

Prompt action by local residents brings results

Anti-social behaviour was reported in the Long Hill area of Mere where flour was thrown over cars, and a front door and fence panels were defaced with paint. Mere neighbourhood policing team managed to identify the offender and we will be dealing with the offender by way of local resolution.

Outbuildings

There have been some outbuilding burglaries in the Mere area recently where garden machinery has been stolen. This is a timely reminder for everyone to make sure that all garden machinery that has been used over the summer months is kept in an outbuilding that has been secured. For any crime prevention advice or if you would like to purchase a shed alarm for £6 please contact PCSO Jake Noble on the telephone number 101 or email using address below.



Police Contact details

For Beat Manager, PC Richard Salter OR Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jake Noble please ☎ 101 or email: merenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

In EMERGENCY ☎ 999, all NON –EMERGENCY calls ☎ 101

MERE SURGERY

Health Checks

The NHS Health Check is for adults in England between the ages of 40 and 74. It will give you and us as your doctors a clearer picture of your health, and help you take action to reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

Some of the risk factors for these diseases include:

1. High blood pressure. This often causes no symptoms, so it's possible to have high blood pressure without knowing it. Around 30% of people in England have high blood pressure.
2. High cholesterol. It is not a disease in itself, but it is important due to its link to blocked arteries.
3. Body Mass index (BMI) is a measure of whether you're a healthy weight for your height.

We will be writing letters to our patients in the month of their 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th and 70th birthdays. If you have already been diagnosed with a condition involving

blocked blood vessels, we will continue to monitor your health as usual, but will not invite you for the health check as it is designed to find new cases of these diseases. The check involves a few straightforward health tests and some simple questions about your medical history. The first part will be a blood test. It is important that this is a fasting test (nothing other than water after midnight before the test!). This helps us exclude diabetes and get an accurate cholesterol reading. A few days later, an appointment with a practice nurse will give patients an opportunity to talk through the results and measure other important variables like blood pressure and body mass index. At the end of the appointment we can calculate your chance of developing conditions like diabetes, heart attacks and strokes occurring over the next 10 years along with advice to help reduce this risk.

Dr T King, Mere Surgery, ☎ 01747 860001

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)

..plus a dental therapist

Jay Lonsdale (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Contact Details: -

Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, 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 CREDIT UNION

Please note: There will be **NO** Credit Union Desk at Mere Library on Saturdays 24th or 31st December. Therefore, Shareholders who wish to apply for withdrawal of funds for

Christmas should do so on or before 10th December in order that payments can be made in time.

The desk will re-open for business on Saturday, 7th January when we hope to be welcoming new savers. Do drop in and see what it's all about.

Why not encourage children to start the savings habit by investing some of their Christmas present money? And, whilst you are about it, what better time is there to start saving for Christmas 2012!

Simon Hingley ☎ 01747 861596

THANK YOU **to Mere, a caring community**

Sadly a van Driver collapsed in his vehicle outside my home on Tuesday, 8th November. I would like to express my admiration for the local response. The Mere Fire Service and local ambulance crews provided their usual professional and exemplary services, and local residents just passing by jumped in to provide traffic control and initial first aid. Such a great shame that so much valiant and selfless help was to no avail, as we learnt later that he had died.

Jean Young

Mere Christmas Tree Lighting-Up Ceremony

Tuesday 6th December 2011
at 6.00pm

(Date to be confirmed by poster in post office nearer the time.)



Carol Singing
Brass Band
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies provided



(Donations to go to Help for Heroes Charity)

MDLS LITERARY FESTIVAL

Impossible as it may seem, this year was festival number fifteen, and as befits a community event included events for all ages. There was a mix of nationally known and local authors, poets and performers, and all have said how much they enjoyed visiting Mere and meeting the MLF audiences. The organisers hope they provided something

of interest for all sections of our community, but are always pleased to receive suggestions or comments.

The biennial open poetry competition drew entries from all over the country and overseas and a number of visitors to Mere for Poetry in the Grove and the Award Ceremony. Congratulations to all who gained prizes or certificates. A list of prize winners appears on the Link notice board and on our website: www.merelitfest.co.uk The one disappointment was the lack of junior entries. So where are all our junior poets?

The Link and its festival appreciated the community's involvement in celebrating The People's Bible; the window displays from *Sprout & Flower*; *Brainwave* and Mr & Mrs J Hyde and those who helped with the visit of the fabulous London Forest Choir.

Our appreciation and thanks also go to:

- our sponsors:- Nectar Imports, Freebird Campers, The Old Ship Hotel, Hill Brush Company, Click2Scan, The Lecture Hall Trust, Mere Film Shows, Mere Surgery, Mere Co-op, Mr & Mrs L Stanton and Mr A Bickerstaff.
- our regular and new advertisers,
- our venues and audiences,
- readers, judges, donators of raffle prizes, and those who helped with refreshments or programmes,
- and those organisations which re-arranged their October meeting to aid the festival in raising money for the Mere & District Linkscheme.

As always next year's festival will start on the second Monday of October. So please make a note in your new 2012 diary – Mere Lit. Fest. number sixteen is **8th - 14th October 2012**.
Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group

MERE CARNIVAL

After another fantastic carnival with an increased number of floats and walking entries, (and only slightly spoiled by the heavy rain!) may we thank all Carnival Revellers for their support, and also for the turnout on Carnival Day.

We now invite Groups and Organisations in the BA12 6 area to apply for funding for a **specific** project/equipment, from the carnival funds. Please send your application to our Secretary, Carol Payne, 2 Walnut Road, Mere, by 14th January 2012.

The Carnival AGM (called by the Parish Council) will be held at the Andy Young Pavillion on Monday, 6th February 2012 at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Our Treasurer, Trevor Lucas, will be standing down at the AGM and we are needing to fill this post. If you are interested, please contact Carnival Secretary - Carol Payne ☎

01747 861639. We are also actively seeking new committee members and helpers. Please call Carol for further details or to express your interest.

May we take this opportunity to thank Trevor for his hard work and excellent accounts that he has produced for us during his term of office.

Wishing everyone the compliments of the season

Carol Payne, Secretary Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639

MERE CARNIVAL



Father Christmas is coming to town

Saturday, 17th December 2011

10.00am – 12 noon

Come and visit him under the Clock Tower in the Square
£2.50 per child includes a present from Father Christmas.

Come along and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere

Don't miss this magical event

Warm mince pies and coffee

Organised by Mere Carnival Committee to raise funds for Mere Carnival

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096

The Linkscheme will be closed for Christmas and the New Year from Thursday, 22nd December until Tuesday, 3rd January 2012. Requests for early in the New Year may be left on the answerphone.

Molly Burden

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch runs from October to Easter alternating between the Old Ship Hotel and the Walnut Tree Inn. It is for the people and community of Mere and District to meet and enjoy the friendship of others in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, The **COMMUNITY LUNCH** is an £8.95 two course lunch including coffee or tea.

The December lunch will be held at 12.00noon in **THE OLD SHIP HOTEL** Castle Street Mere (☎ 01747 860258) on **TUESDAY, 13th DECEMBER 2011**. **Care Connect**, an alarm system available from Wiltshire Council will be represented at the lunch.

The first **COMMUNITY LUNCH** in the New Year is at 12.00noon in **THE WALNUT TREE INN**, Shaftesbury Road, Mere on **TUESDAY, 10th JANUARY 2012** (☎ 01747 861220). Please book in advance for either/both event(s) direct with the venue. For further details contact me.
Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber is looking for a new President/Chair Person

Mere and District Chamber of Trade is rapidly growing and has over the past year been involved in a project to increase activities and initiatives in which to support it's members and the local business community. In order to continue with the progress already made, The Chamber is looking for a President/Chair Person to take us forward. This would be someone who is ideally local and in business and who would like to contribute to the Chamber's role in working with Mere and District business community. If you think this role could be for you and would like to find out more, please contact Julie on **07856 700576**. The closing date for applicants is 31st January 2012.

The Chamber had a successful Breakfast Meeting with Sarah Dyke-Bracher of Sowing SEEDS on 9th November. Sowing SEEDS is the Local Funding Programme Action Group that covers South West Wiltshire and North Dorset. It has £1.944 million to invest in exciting new projects in the area until 2013. More information can be found on the website www.sowing-seeds.org.uk or call Sarah on 07826 907361. The next Local Action Group meeting is to be held in Mere Lecture Hall on Tuesday, 17th January 2012 at 6.00pm.

Lawley's Grand Discount Sale

Teddies, Soft Toys, Collectables

Many brands including Steiff Merrythought Hansa

3rd & 4th December 10am – 4pm at Prospect House, Mere BA12 6JS

Tel: 01747 860998 for details

Update on Dates for your Diary:

30th November 2011 Annual General Meeting

This year, the Chamber's AGM will be held at The George Inn in Mere to begin at 7.30pm.

6th December 2011 Social Evening

The Chamber would like to invite businesses, whether established, new or maybe just starting out, to come along and join us for a social meeting at The Walnut Tree Inn, Mere at 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Chamber and its work and activities, and to see if we can be of help to you. It will also provide a chance to meet other local business people.

12th January 2012 Food Safety in Catering Training Course.

The Food Safety Act 1990 requires that people handling food must be trained in food hygiene. At the end of the course there will be an exam, and a nationally recognised certificate will be issued to successful candidates.

9.00 am – 4.30 pm in the small room at Mere Social Club

Members: £67.00 exc. VAT

Non Members: 84.00 exc. VAT

To book, or for further information on any of the Chamber events or meetings, please contact Julie Cousins on the above number. If there is anything the Chamber can do for you, please let us know. We are here to help all businesses, large or small.

You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. More ideas are always essential to keep a Chamber active.

Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☐ 07856 700576

SHREEN HARMONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Will be held in the Grove Building

with Music, Carols, and Readings

7.30 pm on Saturday, 17th December.

FREE Admission – (supper and mulled wine)

Please come and help us start the Christmas Season

MERE THEATRE CLUB

We are looking forward to singing and hearing Carols at Salisbury Cathedral in December, and shall soon be putting together the winter programme. So if you'd like to enjoy any theatrical events during the dark days, join our club. Contact numbers below. Very happy Christmas to all readers of Mere Matters.

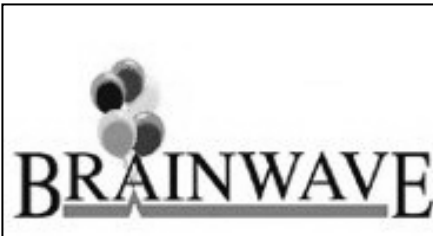
Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

MERE SHORT WALKS

DECEMBER SHORT WALK: Come for a mystery walk around the pathways of Mere with a seasonal twist. Meet at 2.00p.m. in the Surgery Car Park on Monday, 12th December.

There will be NO short walk in January.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



BRAINWAVE

Christmas preparations are in full swing at the Mere shop as some customers are already thinking about the festive season and we have lots on offer for the early birds! We shall again be holding a late-night opening to coincide with the switching on of

Mere's Christmas lights. We shall be serving free non-alcoholic hot punch and mincepies, so we invite customers old and new to join us. Along with our usual good-quality, new to you merchandise, we shall also have a big selection of Christmas decorations and party/evening wear.

May we once again send out an appeal for donations of your unwanted items that we shall be able to sell as Christmas gifts. Last year there was a magnificent response, which not only helped customers who had been searching hard for just the right present, but also aided our efforts in helping to finance the work at Brainwave and its programme of therapies for brain-damaged children. Finally, we would like to thank everyone in Mere and district who has shopped at Brainwave or donated goods to us during 2011. We wish you all a magical Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

For further information about Brainwave, please telephone the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE
MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2012**

FILM SHOWS

We have an iconic film for December, which we could not resist showing. **'West Side Story'** (PG), which will be shown on Thursday, 8th December, winner of ten Academy Awards after its release in 1961, has been digitally re-mastered and re-released, and can now be seen again in all its choreographic and musical glory. It is described as 'the most acclaimed motion picture of our time' and the songs are certainly unforgettable, as

are most of the dance sequences, in particular 'America' performed on the rooftop with incredible energy and flare. But, it is the 'Romeo and Juliet' story of the film that seizes the emotions and carries us through to the inevitable and heartbreaking end via all the ups and downs of young love and feuding families that is so well told in the – then – modern setting it portrays.

Come and renew your acquaintance with this brilliant film, or see it for the first time – but don't miss it! Full details on page 27.

Dates for your Diary: Friday, 13th January: Film title to be confirmed. Have a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

You might – I emphasise *might* – still be able to get a ticket for the final performances of Roger Wilding's play **'Time Heals, They Say'** on 25th or 26th November. They're available at the Information Point in the Library, or, if you're exceptionally lucky, at the door, price £6. Otherwise it will be down to begging, borrowing or stealing – and we don't approve of that! Watch this space for what we're going to do next. Happy Christmas meanwhile.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MADS - Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Invite you to a Table Top Sale

On Saturday, 3rd December, 2011

from 10.30am to 2.00pm in the Lecture Hall.

Coffees and teas will be available.



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

December starts with our Christmas Celebration on Thursday, 1st December, a fun evening with a Quiz, Games, Readings, Seasonal Eats, etc.

January 2012 opens with 'A New Year Lunch' for Members to attend but booking is essential. We hope you have seen our Exhibition in the Museum, that explains 'what we are', and that you will view our Christmas Tree in St. Michaels Christmas Tree Festival which will be held from Wednesday, 14th to Sunday 18th December.

We send you all Christmas Greetings and would welcome visitors to our February meeting on Thursday, 2nd February 2012. *Sheila Shotter ☎ 01747 861771*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &

Carols in the Square

Christmas Eve 11.00am Everyone welcome

St Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday 18th December 4.00pm Christingle Service

Wednesday 21st December 7.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

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

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Communion with Carols

St Mary the Virgin, West Knole

Sunday 18th December 6.00pm Candlelit Carol service

Christmas Day 9.25am Holy Communion

United Reformed and Methodist Churches

Sunday 18th December 6.00pm United Carol Service at the United Reformed Church

Preacher: The Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp

Christmas Day

10.30am United Christmas Morning
Service at the Methodist Church
Preacher: Rev'd Margaret Laurie

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Mass

Christmas Day

10.30am Mass

DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2011

Parish of Upper Stour

Christmas Eve

4.00pm 'Carols at the Crib' service at
St Marys Church, Kilmington.

Everyone welcome

6.30pm Traditional Carol Service at
St Peters Church, Stourton

11.30pm Midnight Mass at
St Martin's Church, Zeals

Christmas Day

10.00am Festival Communion with
Carols

St George's Church, Bourton

Visitors are most welcome at all services

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

Christmas Tree Festival

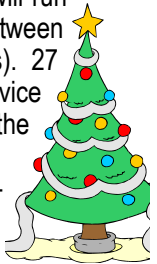
At St Michael the Archangel Church



This year, St Michael's is doing something a bit different to celebrate Christmas. We are holding a Christmas Tree Festival. It will run from Wednesday, 14th to Sunday, 18th December, between 10.00am and 4.00pm (except when a Service is in progress). 27 of our local organisations, shops, churches and service industries have promised to place a Christmas tree in the church, decorated to represent their interests.

Everyone is invited to come along to St. Michael's to look at the trees - there's no admittance charge. We look forward to seeing you."

Ann Dethick, PCC Secretary, ☎ 01747 863498



MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be the Carol Service on Tuesday, 13th December at 3.00pm in St Michael the Archangel Church, followed by tea and mince-pies in the Grove Building.

The January meeting has not yet been decided, as the programme for 2012 will be arranged at the next committee meeting.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

Alexanders

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

The Day Centre for Mere and district, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm

Here at the Rosemary Goddard Centre we are really looking forward to a full festive season. We have Tai Chi, Music Therapy, a Panto, and not one but two Christmas dinners planned! During January we will continue to have a full programme with Musical Bingo, art sessions, jewellery making and our very own Desert Island Disc session. New Guests are always welcome, so if you are over 60 and would like to join in our activities and cheerful company, please contact Sandie Hawkins, our Organiser, on the number below.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all our Guests, volunteers and Trustees to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☐ 07563 678541

Friends of Fives Court

Burns Night Celebration Supper



Saturday, 21st January at 7.30pm

The Grove Building

Traditional Scottish food including

‘Piping in of The Haggis’

Licensed Bar

Tickets £15 on sale at the Information Point in the Library

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our quiz night in October. We were overwhelmed in every sense by the numbers of people who turned up, and we're very pleased to say that you helped us to raise £371 for our fighting funds! But we're not stopping there. In the new year we are holding a **Burns Night Supper** on **Saturday, 21st January**. Something to look forward to once all the festive celebrations are over! See poster on page 23 for details.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Social on Wednesday, 14th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building when David Boag will also give an illustrated talk, The Natural Quarry, about his wildlife, garden photography, and his book. Visitors very welcome.

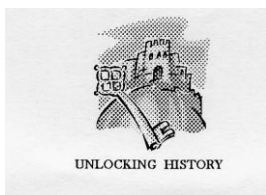
There will be no meeting in January 2012.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday, 8th February: Writhlington School Orchid Project

Sunday, 19th February: Potato Days (*tubers sold individually, and much more... - Details in February*).

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

‘Operation Storm’

(The SAS in Dhofar in the 70’s)

Major General Tony Jeapes

Tuesday, 6th December 2011

at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

‘The London Eye’

from concept to completion

(without the complicated engineering)

Peter Platt-Higgins

Tuesday, 3rd January 2012

at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

£2 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.

There are **No morning talks in December**, but these resume on **Tuesday**, 17th January, “The Life and Times of the ‘Alternate’ Dorset Hardy – Vice Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy”, Michael Plaxton, and **Thursday**, 26th January, “Richard Duke of Cornwall, Builder of Mere Castle”, David Longbourne. Both in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am. **£1.00 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

Don't forget to vote for your favourite showcases in the **'Making an Exhibition of Ourselves'** project! You have until 1.00pm on Saturday, 26th November. The winners will be announced on November 28th at a prize-giving party (see below for details).

In the new year we shall be mounting an exhibition about Maps of Mere including, we hope, the recently acquired (very large) Enclosure maps. More after Christmas!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

We hope all Friends, friends and participants will be able to come to the 'Making an Exhibition of Ourselves' **prizegiving** party on **Monday, 28th November at 6.30 p.m. in the Museum**. Shortly afterwards, on **Friday, 2nd December**, The Friends are delighted to announce that Chester House Productions are coming back to Mere and will present **'Yuletide Tales'**, a collection of festive stories, poems and anecdotes. Please see the poster below for full details. Last year this event was a sellout – make sure you get your tickets today!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

Friends of Mere Museum

Yuletide Tales

Friday, 2nd December 7.30pm Grove Building

Tickets, £6 from Library, to include first glass of wine

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for November, drawn after Family Communion service on 6th November by the Rev'd Judith Thompson, was:

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------|---|---------|----------------|
| 1st Prize | (£20) | - | No. 169 | Mrs A Henson |
| 2nd Prize | (£15) | - | No. 103 | Mrs A Eggleton |
| 3rd Prize | (£10) | - | No. 191 | Mr A McDonald |
| 4th Prize | (£5) | - | No.101 | Mrs E Paterson |

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

ST. MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 3rd Dec. 10.00am –3.00pm, Whitesheet School Hall, Zeals

Decorations, Cards, Jewellery, Local Crafts, and much more including

Father Christmas with his own personal letter box

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

A successful Quiz Night was held at The Walnut Tree and the Club would like to thank Mark and Sam for their much valued support in hosting the event. Thanks also go to Michael Durkee and friends for providing the live music, Mike Gladding for the questions, members who donated raffle prizes and of course everyone who came on the night.

Club Membership is open to all, whether experienced players or beginners, including ladies in Mere who would like to learn snooker! Please contact me.

Kevin Smith, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860305



MERE BOWLS CLUB CHARITY EVENT 2012

**Our next event is a Barn Dance on Saturday, 25th February 2012
in the Grove Building.**

Live music (Black Bear Band) ploughman's, licensed bar

Our chosen charity this year is:

THE ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

Tickets will be available shortly @ £7.50

From:-

Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747 860976

Karen Guy ☎ 01747 860656

or The Tourist Information Point/Library

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'WEST SIDE STORY' (PG)

Digitally re-mastered for its 50th anniversary, West Side Story's groundbreaking dance sequences and musical score (on which a young Stephen Sondheim cut his teeth) never fail to tingle a spine or jerk a tear.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 8th December, 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

Christmas orders now being taken at
Stourhead Farm Shop
Tel: 01747 841164 to place your order

1st MERE BROWNIES

We are still collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches. All those odd earrings, snapped chains and broken watches are great. We can recycle them for you. **Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!**

We are still saving unwanted mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card).

We also accept any old and new Foreign and UK coins and banknotes - any currency and of any age.

Collection points for these contributions are still at Waltons Newsagent, The Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom as well as The Library.

During 2011, our recycling fundraising has raised over £261.00 for our unit funds. Thank you to all contributors.

Sue Jeans, Assistant Brownie Guider ☎ 01747 860215

MERE PRE-SCHOOL/NURSERY

Thank you to everybody who came to visit us during the fantastic Firework Festival, we were very pleased to be a part of the festivities and very much enjoyed meeting new local families, catching up with some old faces and sharing our wonderful facilities with those of our neighbour Mere School.

Our own news. We are pleased to report that now we are able to offer morning and all day sessions to 2 year olds. Under the current Government directive, under 3's are not entitled to any funded sessions, but we can offer some places at a subsidised rate, so why not give us a call and find out what we can offer.

Our Christmas Fair will be held this year in the school hall (while the children of Mere School are on their pantomime trip!) on the morning of Thursday, 8th December, with local craft stalls and a performance from the children. All are very welcome, why not come and join us for a cuppa and a mince pie!

For more information, call play leader Jean ☎ 01747 863337 or visit our website: **www.merepreschool.co.uk**

Laura Rich, Chair of Committee ☎ 01747 861537

THE FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

Fantastic Fun at Mere Fireworks Festival

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped at, and attended, the first Mere Fireworks Festival on 30th October. The event was a huge success, with more

than 2,000 people attending, travelling from far and wide. The support of local businesses and individuals in sponsoring the event was so important, and in no particular order thanks go to Mail and Print, Hambledon Estate Agents, The Saltman, the Walnut tree, Motorola, Tab Services, FJ Chalke, Holdens Caterers, Lou's it Hair, CMS Direct, the Catley family, Mere Dentistry, Ed Knights logs, Elite Financial Planning, Southill Vets, Alexanders Taxis, Blackmore Vale Refrigeration, the Butt of Sherry, Velcourt, Fives Court, Independent Vision, the White Lion at Bourton, Dogwise, Hobden Wessex Brewery, Whitebridge Hire, IT Ambulance, Sydenhams and Hill's Funeral Directors.

It was great to see how much positive publicity was generated for Mere and the school both on the day and in the local press, and the feedback has been universally positive. We have already started acting on comments and suggestions so that we can put on an even better event next year, and we would welcome more involvement from the wider community. There are all sorts of tasks you could get involved with, from admin, marketing, marshalling, catering, set up and clear up, to name but a few. Even if you can only spare an hour we'd love to hear from you!

If you would like to join our enthusiastic team of volunteers please get in touch via email to: info@merefireworksfestival.co.uk or contact Penny Deeker ☎ 07811 281029.

Rachael Hansford ☎ 07989 470278

BARN BUDDIES, MESSY CHURCH & SUNDAY FUN CLUB

Barn Buddies will be open *almost* every Friday evening throughout December & January, from 6.30 until 8.00pm. We will only be closed on Friday, 23rd and Friday, 30th of December. For further details call Tim ☎ 01747 860195 or email: barnbuddies@hotmail.co.uk

At Church we have lots going on over Christmas and the New Year! On Sunday, 11th December it is Sunday Fun Club, in the Grove Building at 10.30am. On Tuesday, 13th we are decorating the Christmas tree in church after school. We would be really chuffed if you could bring along a decoration that you have made at home that fits in with the nativity story. There will be a prize for the best decoration judged by a special guest! A snack and drink will also be provided. On Saturday, 17th we will be holding our Messy Church Christmas party from 11am until 1.00pm. There will be party games and party food in the Grove Building. We are holding our Christingle Service in church at 4.00pm on Sunday, 18th. Come along to take part in this special service. On Christmas Eve come along to our Crib service at 6.00pm in church. Make sure you're dressed up as a shepherd, angel or wise-man and take part in our interactive walkthrough of the Christmas story.

In January we will have our Sunday Fun Club meeting on Sunday, 8th in the Grove Building at 10.30am. Our January Messy Church meeting will be on Sunday, 22nd at 4.00pm, also in the Grove Building. As ever, be ready for lots of fun, mess, games and food!

If you require further details please telephone me, or email Ben at: meremessychurch@hotmail.co.uk.

Have a lovely Christmas and New Year from all of us!

Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195



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RED CLASS



Friday 11th November

**Mere School
Exclusive!**

Hello and welcome to Red Class School Report. We are going to tell you some of our news from our class as well as from the rest of our School. We have written this ourselves, so we hope you enjoy it.

This term, Red Class has been learning about Dinosaurs. We would like to tell you about some of the things we have been doing in class. We have been busy making Dinosaur magazines, dinosaur models and fact files as well as designing our very own Dinosaur theme park.

As part of this topic, we visited the Jurassic Coast and Charmouth beach where we did lots of activities. We pretended to be a wave, made cliffs (which were made out of sand), measured the profile of the beach and did some map work.

Earlier this term we shared our Dick King-Smith style stories with the Year 2 class and then they read us their firework poems. "It is fun to have the younger children read to us," said Chris Forsey.

On Halloween we wrote Gruesome Recipes. This is a step from one of them - 'Cover the pig's ears with fly guts' - Urghhh!! Joanna Ford won the weekly certificate for writing a very disgusting recipe, well done Joanna!

In the Christmas play this year, Red Class will be acting the parts of chimney sweep children and children playing outside in the snow.

Other news from Mere School...

Earlier in the term, the year 4s visited the Steam Museum in Swindon (their topic is WW2.) They went on a steam train and also went inside a pretend Anderson Shelter.

Gold class' topic this term has been *The Tudors*. They visited Montacute House.

On Sunday, 30th October, Mere School put on an amazing fireworks display. As well as the incredible fireworks, there was also a lantern and pumpkin parade, fire-eaters, hair braiding, apple bobbing and food stalls. It was a great event - more than 2,000 people came!

In school we are busy rehearsing for our Christmas play which is called 'Mrs Claus to the Rescue.' "I'm enjoying the rehearsals because there are fun songs to sing." Said Jacob Read.

In Music week this year, our theme was 'Water.' On the last day of music week we did a performance in front of the mums and dads. We also wrote poetry which was then displayed at the One World fair along with some of our great art work.

Soon we will be going to our annual Christmas pantomime in Salisbury—this year it is *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Thank you for reading our news from Mere School, we hope you enjoyed it!

**BEST EVER Christmas play
showing soon at Mere...**

GILLINGHAM IMPERIAL SILVER BAND

Presents a Concert of Christmas Music

at 3.00pm on Sunday, 4th December

in the United Reformed Church

It is FREE of charge, but there will be a retiring collection

REV'D CHRIS MOORSOM, RECTOR OF UPPER STOUR WRITES

How can I keep from singing?

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

The season of carol singing is upon us and there will be many opportunities for joining in over the coming weeks: some examples:

Carol singing in Zeals (Friday, 16th @ 7.00pm outside the Bell & Crown – refreshments inside!); The Christmas 'Festival of the Voice' at Stourhead NT (Sunday, 18th from 11.00am); Carols at the Clock Tower, Mere (Christmas Eve @ 11.00am) and the various church carol services (see centre pages).

So why all this singing? Carols have a long history taking various forms down the centuries. Also called 'wassailing', the custom grew up that feudal peasants would be encouraged to sing to their lords and ladies at Christmas time, as in the carol: '*Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too; and God bless you and send you a Happy New Year.*' Their reward would be plenty of food and drink – resulting in the well-known refrain '*Now bring us some figgy pudding ... and we won't go till we've got some.*' etc.

Singing is a universal form of human expression and has the power to engage our whole nature, heart, body and soul, bringing together people of different backgrounds and status in celebrating the important things in our lives. So folk songs draw on our experience of birth and death, finding love and losing it, food and drink, Nature's beauty and cruelty, beliefs and historic events and so on.

What better way to celebrate Christmas than by singing together to celebrate God's love coming amongst us in the joy and fragility of the birth of a very special king in a stable in Bethlehem. To quote one of my favourites,

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

And praises sing to God the King, and peace upon the earth.

Or to complete the moving song by Robert Lowry quoted earlier,

*No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging,
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Winter Church Service Times

During December, January and February, services at the Methodist Church will be at a new time of 3.30pm in an effort to combat the dark and bad weather. We hope this will be of benefit to all our friends.

Afternoon Get Together

There is no gathering in December but we shall meet again on Wednesday, 25th January at 2.30pm in the Methodist School Room for a light fun start to the New year. We hope to see all friends then.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



A date for your diary! We'll be holding a **Quiz and Pancake Evening on Shrove Tuesday, 21st February 2012** to which all are very welcome.

Details will be in February's Mere Matters. *Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 8605530*

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

DECEMBER 2011

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel: ☎ 01747 863313

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Each Sunday | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Each Wednesday | | 10.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Each Friday | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (CW1) |
| | | 4.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| Sunday | 4th | 10.30am | Family Communion |
| | | 6.00pm | Evensong |
| Wednesday | 7th | 6.00pm | Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday | 11th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | | 10.30am | Children's Sunday Club |
| | | | In Grove Building |
| | 18th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |

Christmas Services - see centre pages

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|----------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 11.00am | Rev'd Stella Sivyour |
| | 11th | 11.00am | Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp |
| | | | Holy Communion |
| | 18th | 11.00am | Rev'd Hazel Barkham |

Christmas Services - see centre pages

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 3.30pm | Mrs Coral Ryalls |
| | 11th | 3.30pm | Rev'd John Page |
| Sunday | 18th | 6.00pm | United Carol service with URC |

Christmas Services - see centre pages

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Fr. Tom Smith - ☎ Warminster 01985 212329)

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

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|
| Fridays (2, 9 & 16) | 10.00am | Mass |
| Sundays (4, 11 & 18) | 11.30am | Mass |

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Children's Liturgy Service each Sunday when help is available.

On the 1st Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin: ☎ 01747 830534

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|---------------------------|
| Sunday | 4th | 9.25am | Choral Matins |
| | 11th | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |

See Centre Pages for services on 18th and 25th December

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad: Indicates traditional Language)

JANUARY 2012

The Parish Church, St Michael, The Archangel ☎ 01747 863313

| | | | |
|----------------|------|---------|--|
| Each Sunday | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Each Wednesday | | 10.30am | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Each Friday | | 8.00am | Holy Communion (CW1) |
| | | 4.30pm | Evening Prayer |
| Sunday | 1st | 10.30am | Family Communion (CW1) |
| Wednesday | 4th | 6.00pm | "Start the month" Holy Communion (BCP) |
| Sunday | 8th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | 15th | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | 22nd | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CW1) |
| | 29th | 10.30am | Benefice Service - Matins |

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | 1st | 11.00am | Rev'd Hazel Barkham |
| | 8th | 11.00am | Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp |
| | 15th | 11.00am | Rev'd Stella Sivyouur |
| | | | Holy Communion |
| | 22nd | 11.00am | Rev'd Margaret Laurie |
| | 29th | 11.00am | Peter Kershaw |

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

| | | | |
|--------|------|--------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 1st | 3.30pm | Local Fellowship Service |
| | 8th | 3.30pm | Mr Ken Harvey |
| Sunday | 15th | 3.30pm | Rev'd Helen Caine |
| | 22nd | 6.00pm | United Churches Together |
| | 29th | 6.00pm | Rev'd Helen Caine |

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Fr. Tom Smith - ☎ Warminster 01985 212329)

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 each Sunday when help is available.

On the 1st Sunday of the month there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin ☎ 01747 830534

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|---|
| Sunday | 1st | 10.30am | NO service – Benefice Holy Communion at St Michaels in Mere |
| | 8th | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |
| | 15th | 9.25am | DIY |
| | 22nd | 9.25am | Holy Communion (CW1 trad) |
| | 29th | 10.30am | NO service – Benefice Matins at St Michaels in Mere |

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2011

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; PWC Prince of Wales Club RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------|---|------------|
| 1 | Thur | 9.30am | Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (also 8th & 15th) | L |
| | | 10.00am | Mere Art Group (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (every Thursday) | L |
| | | 2.00pm | Mere Quilters (also 8th & 15th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Womens Institute | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Shreen Harmony (every Thursday) | CC |
| 2 | Fri | 6.00pm | Zumba Dancing (also 16th & 23rd) | L |
| | | 6.30pm | Barn Buddies (also 9th & 16th) | BSF |
| | | 7.30pm | Friends of Mere Museum "Yuletide Tales" | GB |
| 3 | Sat | 10.00am | 12.00pm Credit Union (also 10th & 17th) | Lib |
| | | 10.00am | MADS Table Top Sale | L |
| | | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning | CC |
| | | 7.00pm | Mere Youth Football Club Bingo | L |
| 5 | Mon | 9.30am | Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (also 12th) | L |
| | | 4.00pm | Pilates (also 12th & 19th) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Beaver Scouts | GB |
| | | 6.45pm | Cub Scouts | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Slimming World (every Monday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Scouts | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Yoga (every Monday) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| 6 | Tue | 10.15am | Lip Reading | GB |
| 6 | | 6.00pm | Christmas Tree Lighting-Up ceremony | The Square |

| | | | | |
|----|------|---------|---|--------------------|
| 6 | Tue | 7.30pm | Mere Historical Society | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | MDCT Social Evening | The George Inn |
| 7 | Wed | 10.00am | Yoga (every Wednesday) | L |
| | | 11.00am | Pilates (also 14th & 21st) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Karate (also 14th) | L |
| 8 | Thur | 5.00pm | Rainbows | GB |
| | | 6.15pm | Brownies | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Guides | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Moviola/Mere Filmshows "West Side Story" | L |
| 9 | Fri | 7.30pm | LINKScheme | GB |
| 10 | Sat | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning | CC |
| 11 | Sun | 10.30am | Sunday Fun Club | GB |
| 12 | Mon | 2.00pm | Mere Short Walk | CP |
| 13 | Tues | 9.00am | Footcare Clinic | L |
| | | 12.00pm | Community Lunch | The Old Ship Hotel |
| | | 3.00pm | Mothers Union Carol Service | St Michaels |
| | | 6.00pm | Zumba Dancing (also 20th) | L |
| 14 | Wed | 2.00pm | Friends Together (Whist) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Mere Gardening Club | GB |
| 15 | Thur | 7.00pm | Mere Footpath Group Social | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Senior Football Club Bingo | L |
| 16 | Fri | 6.30pm | Mere Dazzlers | GB |
| 17 | Sat | 10.00am | 12.00pm Carnival Father Christmas | The Square |
| | | 10.30am | Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft Stall | CC |
| | | 11.00am | 1.00pm Messy Church Christmas Party | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Shreen Harmony Concert | GB |
| 28 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Julian Meeting | GB |

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY 2012

| | | | | |
|---|------|---------|--|-----|
| 2 | Mon | 7.00pm | Slimming World (every Monday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Yoga (every Monday) | L |
| 3 | Tue | 7.30pm | Mere Historical Society | GB |
| 4 | Wed | 9.30am | Tai-Chi (every Wednesday) | GB |
| | | 11.00am | Pilates (every Wednesday) | GB |
| 5 | Thur | 9.30am | Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Thursday) | L |
| | | 10.00am | Art Group (every Thursday) | GB |
| | | 2.00pm | Bridge Club (every Thursday) | L |
| | | 7.30pm | Women's Institute | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Shreen Harmony (every Thursday) | CC |
| 6 | Fri | 6.00pm | Zumba Dancing (also 20th & 27th) | L |
| | | 6.30pm | Barn Buddies (every Friday) | BSF |
| 7 | Sat | 10.00am | 12.00pm Credit Union (every Saturday) | Lib |
| | | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning | CC |

| | | | | |
|----|------|---------|--|---------------------|
| 8 | Sun | 10.30am | Sunday Fun Club | GB |
| 9 | Mon | 9.30am | Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday) | L |
| | | 2.00pm | Pilates (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Beavers (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 6.45pm | Cubs (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 7.00pm | Scouts (also 16th, 23rd & 30th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | AYP |
| | | 8.00pm | MADS meeting (Drama Room) | L |
| 10 | Tue | 9.00am | Foot Care Clinic | L |
| | | 10.15am | Lip Reading (every Tuesday) | GB |
| | | 12.00pm | Community Lunch | The Walnut Tree Inn |
| 11 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together Whist Drive | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | Karate (every Wednesday) | L |
| | | 7.00pm | Yoga (every Wednesday) | L |
| 12 | Thur | 12.30pm | Mere Quilters Lunch | Walnut Tree Inn |
| | | 5.00pm | Rainbows (also 19th & 26th) | GB |
| | | 6.15pm | Brownies (also 19th & 26th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Guides (also 19th & 26th) | GB |
| 13 | Fri | 9.30am | Merely Women (also 27th) | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Moviola/Mere filmshows (Title to be announced) | L |
| 14 | Sat | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning | CC |
| 17 | Tue | 10.15am | Mere Historical Society morning talk. | GB |
| | | 6.00pm | 'Sowing Seeds' Action Group, MDCT | L |
| | | 7.30pm | St Michael's PCC meeting | GB |
| 19 | Thur | 2.00pm | Mere Quilters (also 26th) | GB |
| 21 | Sat | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall | CC |
| | | 7.30pm | Friends of Fives Court "Burns Night" | GB |
| 22 | Sun | 4.00pm | Messy Church | GB |
| 24 | Tue | 9.00am | Foot Care Clinic | L |
| 25 | Wed | 1.45pm | Friends Together Whist Drive | GB |
| | | 7.30pm | Julian Meeting | GB |
| 26 | Thur | 10.15am | Mere Historical Society morning talk. | GB |
| 28 | Sat | 10.30am | 'Drop In' Coffee Morning | CC |

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: Ann Read ☎ 01747 861486
To Book the Grove Building: Richard Jeffries ☎ 01747 863425
☐ 07950 797273

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, visit the town's own website; **www.merewilts.org**

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

The following Clinics/Advice Centres are held on a regular basis

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm
Private Appointments ☎ 01722 327222

**HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

**REGISTRAR
OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:**

By appointment only

Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am

For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the February 2012 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 16th January 2012**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 9th January 2012. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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