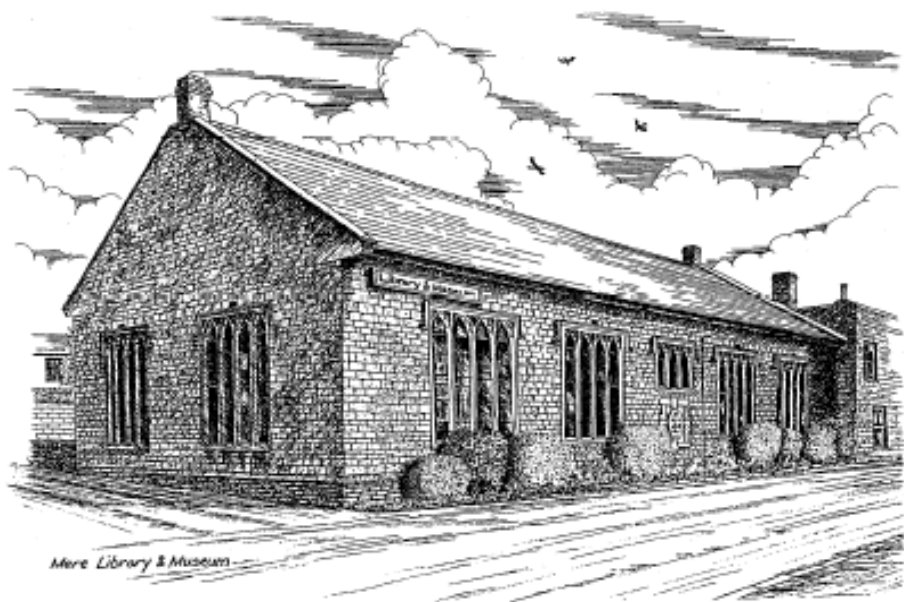


MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2011

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, 7th February 2011.**

The Chairman writes:

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our parishioners. I hope you had a very good Christmas and I hope the 'big freeze' has not caused too much disruption and distress.

The feedback on the Parish Council's Christmas illuminations has been overwhelmingly positive. The risk assessment for decorating the tree in the island has been far lower than the risks of installing a separate Christmas tree. The number of man hours involved in erecting the decorations has been far less, the tree is more visible and, my personal opinion is that it looked prettier! We have even received letters from parishioners saying how pretty the tree looked. We had problems with the bulbs on the clock tower because they kept blowing due to the cold weather – we are going to rethink this scheme during the year so if you have any ideas, please send them in.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend the Parish Council's thanks to various people for their help with the Xmas decorations. Firstly to the Hill Brush Company for the loan of its "cherry picker" and operator, Mr. Hull, for all his help. Also to George and Michael Jeans for the electrics, and Melinda Emby for arranging the "switching on" ceremony. Well done everyone and thank you. As always, we congratulate the residents of Denes Avenue for their impressive Christmas lighting displays, which have now become a local tourist attraction.

Wiltshire Council has officially decided to implement charges for the two car parks in Mere unless the Parish Council agrees to lease and take on the management and associated costs of the two car parks. At the January meeting, subject to various conditions relating to financial contributions from businesses and other clauses within the leases, the Parish Council agreed to negotiate with Wiltshire Council to take on a two-year lease for the two car parks and a lease for the public toilets.

The financial impact of this decision was also considered at the January Parish Council meeting when members officially approved the budget allocations for 2011/12. The parish portion of the council tax on a Band D council tax property will increase by just under 3.4% from £69.95 to £72.32. Given that a budget of £3,000 (£2.52 per Band D property, per year) has been allocated for the possible maintenance and management of the car parks and public toilets, members felt that the increase was justifiable.

We would also like to stress the importance of letting us know your views on planning applications. The Parish Council is a "statutory consultee" on all planning applications

but we are finding that residents who have an objection to a nearby planning application are only sending in their objections to Wiltshire Council (the planning authority) and not sending us copies. How can we consider your views if we do not know what they are? Please send us a copy of your objection or support letter, before the Parish Council meeting, and we will consider your views. Better still – come along to the meeting and let us know your views verbally, in the public session.

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

Eric Mitchell, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

There were many Christmas trees around the Mere area. Zeals had a living tree, which was very effective, also local residents put up a traditional tree on Zeals Green complete with lights and a star, an excellent display for a small village. Mere had a super set of Christmas tree lights, but the Town Clock clear lights that failed bulb by bulb faster than I have ever known. Philip Coward from The Hill Brush Company gave permission to use its “cherry picker”, for which I would like to thank him, to erect the lights, and then the “cherry picker” returned in the extremely cold spell to help replace the bulbs that had failed due to the cold weather. Would you believe it the “cherry picker” froze up and refused to function.

We may not have had the same quantity of snow, but it was as cold as I remember 1963 and 1977. Although the parishes may have a little salt/grit left, Wiltshire Council has decided not to refill the grit bins any more at the present time, although there is time for more inclement weather as yet, and the treatment of primary routes takes priority.

Wiltshire Council's main office in Salisbury is now Bourne Hill, but Milford Street is now the face of Wiltshire Council in Salisbury, and no longer Bourne Hill. Salisbury, I understand, will have a campus, a campus being shared services in one building, which will be extra to Bourne Hill. It is expected that every community area including Mere will have a campus, to deliver the big society agenda in an innovative and sustainable way that has not been done elsewhere. I will be a little sarcastic; we had a One-Stop Shop at the Library for a short time, until one by one many of the services were removed. Should we get a campus in the Mere Area, I hope it will last.

December saw the Wiltshire Council Cabinet deciding on car park harmonisation. The outcome is better than charges in our local car parks. Locally we have an offer to take over control of the car parks, which many local traders and commerce will help finance to keep Mere free of charges.

Regarding workplace transformation of Wiltshire Council, the first batch of workers have temporarily moved to Shurnhold School, Melksham, while County Hall undergoes modernisation. We are told the telephone numbers for the officers will not change, however finding them face to face will be more difficult for me on your behalf.

MERE POLICE TEAM NEWS



Anti-Social & late night behaviour

We have received reports over a period of time that there are on-going problems in the Town Square & Castle Street area of Mere, particularly weekend evenings. We are addressing this issue by patrolling this area on foot and by vehicles. We have already canvassed some local residents in order to assess their views, and we will continue to monitor and patrol this area as a priority. Please feel free to contact us if you have any relevant information. Thank you for your assistance.

Consultations and Contacts

To get details of meetings to be held in forthcoming months in Mere Library, please see our section of the website: www.wiltshire.police.uk, click on 'policing in your area' then select 'Mere'. Please note that our long and trusted NPT mobile telephone has now been withdrawn from service. If you wish to contact an individual Officer then use the following e-mail or mobile numbers:

Richard Salter – Mobile Tel 07528 972928

Email: richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Jake Noble – Mobile Tel 07543 770282

Email: jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

The mobile contact telephone numbers are not 24 hour and will only be usable if the individual officer is on duty. We also continue to be contactable via our main land line number 01747 861737 (not 24 hours), **but and you should dial 0845 408 7000 if you wish to report a crime or incident. Thank you**

You can still access photos of your local policing team working with the community by visiting: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html>

Mere Police Team Activities

December was a very chilly month and we attended numerous incidents which arose from the poor weather conditions. We were kept busy on the roads and we will be adding some snowy photo's to our website in due course.

Most of you will by now know that Richard's planned camel ride through the streets of Mere was cancelled on 18th December. The decision was not taken lightly and was made on the day due to the freezing and hazardous weather conditions that we

encountered. Jake will have to wait nearly another year in order to dress up as Head Shepherd but we will both be back on Saturday, 17th December 2011!

Volunteer

We are still seeking a part-time enquiry office volunteer at Mere. If you can assist us then please contact Jake or Richard in the first instance. Full training will be given and it is a rewarding opportunity. The position would involve just 2 hours per day, three times a week.

*Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312
(Contact details above)*

MERE WEATHER

In November we had a total of 93mms (3.66ins) of rain. Last year we had 243.5 mms (9.59ins). Most fell in the first half of the month. From the 14th to the end of the month we only had rain on one day. From the 15th we had many hard frosts with sunny days. On the 26th we had our first fall of snow. It soon melted but then on the 30th we had another fall of snow.

December started with snow in earnest with 50.8mms (2 inches) on the 2nd. We then had more frosty mornings, one day with a hard hoar frost which made the trees beautiful. On the 17th and 18th we had more snow which stayed with us right through Christmas and made the pavements very treacherous with frozen snow. Finally, we had rain on the 27th which cleared most of it away. However, the total rainfall for December was only 30mms (1.18ins). Last year we had 114mms (4.49ins).

Up to the 15th of January we had 89mms (3.5ins) of rain.

The total rainfall for 2010 was 730.5mm (28.8ins). In 2009 was 1,008mms (39.68ins). It is interesting to see that in 2008 the total rainfall was 1,280mms (50.39ins) and in 2007 it was 1,304.5mms (51.36ins).

Peter Durkee

HEARING AID 'DROP IN CENTRE', MERE LIBRARY

Thank you to everyone for attending our drop in centre from 10.00 to 11.30am.

To make sure you get the best from your hearing aid, we would like to remind everyone that ear moulds need re-tubing every 3 to 6 months. We look forward to seeing you.

Gill Drayson, Community Support Officer Salisbury, RNID, ☎ 01722 580014

**Note! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH 2011 ISSUE:
MONDAY, 14th FEBRUARY**

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



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.

MERE SURGERY

Following my decision to retire from full time practice last year, Renata and I have decided to take a period of unpaid sabbatical leave for the first four months of 2011. This will enable us to fulfil some longstanding travel ambitions.

I am pleased to announce that my replacement has now been selected and is Dr Tim King. Many of you will know him already as he has for the last year worked at Mere Surgery as our Registrar.

Tim qualified from Oxford University in 2004 and then went on to complete his basic surgical training and qualified as a MRCS in 2007. He then embarked on his general practice training, qualifying in 2010.

Tim will become a Partner from April 2011 and this new partnership will, I am sure, be able to expand the services available at Mere Surgery over the coming decades.

On my return from sabbatical leave, I intend to continue with some part time work, dividing my time between the Surgery for one morning per week, the hospital and some appraisal work for the PCT.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my patients for their friendship, warmth and loyalty over the last 23 years.

Bill Price

PHILIP WATSON

A huge THANK YOU to all who came to the Thanksgiving Service for Philip on 14th January. Also to those who sent me cards and letters, often with invitations and offers of help.

I wish I could have spoken to everyone who came to the service. Only gradually shall I learn who was there, but for your support, kindness and friendship to Philip and myself, I and the family are immensely grateful.

June Watson

LIP-READING CLASS

The class reconvened for the Spring Term on 11th January at Footprints, Mere School, Springfield Road, Mere. We have welcomed several new members of the class since September. Class members mostly have a hearing loss although one member of the class is hearing and is coming along to learn more about communication skills and living with hearing loss. Our class members have a range of hearing loss from very mild to profound. They all benefit enormously from sharing ideas about good communication, learning more about how useful lip-reading is for anyone and about all the equipment that is available these days to help.

We are very grateful to the Mere Lecture Hall Trust for helping us to fund this class and keep the individual members' fees to a minimum. We strongly recommend that you give this a try. Even if your hearing loss is not yet a problem, we do recommend that you give this a try before it does start causing you problems. Believe it or not, we not only learn lip-reading and communication, but we have fun along the way and meet other people in the same boat which is a great comfort. We look forward to seeing you at one of our classes. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10.15am.

Liz Messer, Lip-reading Tutor ☎ 01300 348580

CARERS SUPPORT SOUTH WILTS

Help available to people who look after a relative, friend or neighbour

Carers Support South Wilts is able to provide unpaid carers in South Wiltshire access to information, and advice about anything to do with caring, as well as provide support and someone to listen when needed. In addition, it also provides opportunities for short breaks from caring and a variety of social activities. It can be contacted by telephone Monday to Friday on 01722 322746 or by email: admin@salisburycarers.co.uk

Each month they hold a support group meeting in Mere in the Lynch Close Lounge, on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.30am – 12.00noon when there is the opportunity to meet other carers and talk to a support worker from Carers Support South Wilts.

In addition, the Carers Centre, 15 New Street, Salisbury, is open from 10.00am until 3.00pm every Tuesday for any carer to visit without prior appointment.

Gillian Andrews, Carers Support South Wilts, ☎ 01722 322746

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING UP - THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those people who turned up in the freezing cold to attend the tree lighting ceremony on 1st December 2010, particularly the members of Gillingham band. They were fantastic. George Jeans helped with the lights; Louise Harlow with the carol sheets; Brainwave opened and it very kindly served mulled fruit punch (a very welcome treat) and the Old Ship was very generous in offering mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to all.

Melinda Emby ☎ 01747 860227

GROVE BUILDING NEWS

Many people have donated Christmas decorations following our appeal in December, and we are extremely grateful for their generosity. During the next few months we will carefully sort and renovate them ready for a spectacular display starting at this year's Charities Fair which will be held on Saturday 19 November.

After some 12 years of service as Booking Secretary, Isabel Howell has decided she would like a rest and get her life back. The Committee and I will be sorry to lose her valuable contribution and appreciate all that she has done over such a long period. She will be a hard act to follow. I am pleased to say that she will continue to serve on the Committee. Her place will now be taken by Richard Jefferies who has kindly volunteered to take on the onerous booking duties. Richard can be contacted ☎ 01747 863425 or 07950 797273 or by e-mail at: rajjefferies@btinternet.com. Please direct all future enquiries about bookings to Richard.

The Committee has decided to move into the computer age and we now have our very own web site. You will find us at: www.grovebuilding.co.uk where you can read and download advice on making bookings, find details of committee members, get advice on licensing issues, view an on-line bookings calendar, download the requisite booking forms and find out whether the dates you might want to book are free. You will also find our scale of charges, be able to read a short history of the building and follow links to other local web sites. This is a new and exciting development for us which we hope will provide you with a better service. If and when you wish to make a booking, please have a look at the 'Making a Booking' page and download the relevant documents before contacting Richard.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone (both individuals and groups) who has continued to support us during the last two years while the programme of refurbishment was going on. It has been an exciting time for us and we hope you agree that we now have a splendid amenity which will serve the community of Mere and the surrounding area for

many years to come. On a personal note, I would also like to record my gratitude to the members of my Committee who have worked so hard and loyally and helped me enormously since I took over the role of Chairman.

Peter Knapp, Chairman Grove Building Management Committee
☎ 01747 860142, e-mail: forty.winks40@btinternet.com



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere and District will be hosting several events this year, which we hope will be of interest to you.

On Wednesday, 9th February at 12.30pm we will be hosting a business luncheon at The Old Ship Hotel in Mere. Our guest speaker will be Tim King from Fredericks Foundation, a charity that helps disadvantaged people to set up or expand their own business as a means to achieve financial independence. This is a ticketed event and numbers are limited, so please contact me a.s.a.p. if you would like to attend.

Another forthcoming event::

Wednesday, 6th April 2011 – Rosemary MacDonald from Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation, Wiltshire's best kept secret, is looking to give away almost £1m to worthy causes in the county. We will keep you updated of all our events in Mere Matters.

The New Business Competition

Once again, Mere and District is participating in the New Business Competition, sponsored mainly by Wiltshire Council. If you have started up a business on or after 25th November 2009 or are planning to start trading before 31st August 2011. then you are eligible to enter. This could mean not only great networking opportunities for your business, but the opportunity for a range of benefits and the chance to win some prize money! So come on everyone in the area: Kilmington, Zeals, East and West Knoyles, Semley, Semington and Mere – think of the opportunities of all that Advertising!!! For more information please contact us now!

Barbara S Hewitt, Chair ☎ 01747 863203



LIONS CLUB IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Gillingham, Mere and Shaftesbury Lions Club is looking for new members and offer this invitation - have you reached the stage in your life where you would like to put something back into your community?

Would you like to get involved in the organisation of major community fund-raising events such as the community's annual fireworks display, the local Carnival or annual Summer Show?

Can you work with other ordinary people to achieve amazing things and make a real difference for those less fortunate than yourself - such as the elderly, youth, disabled or a special community project? Or, maybe fund-raising for providing financial support for worldwide projects related to improving sight, street children, medical research, disaster relief etc - our 900 clubs in the British Isles and Ireland have already donated US\$ 603,000 to Haiti rebuilding.

Do you and your partner like to participate in regular local social events? Our objective is to have fun as well as providing community support.

If your answer is YES, maybe now is the time to consider joining your local Lions Club, part of Lions Club International, the largest voluntary organisation in the world with over 1.3m members worldwide and over 18,000 members in the UK. There will be a Lions Club located in your town or nearby.

If you would like to learn more (without commitment), your local Lions Club members would be more than happy to meet you and perhaps your partner or other friends/work colleagues.

Please contact Janet Davies ☎ 0845 833 7521, or visit our website: www.lionsmd105.org

ST MARY'S WEST KNOYLE FUN WORD QUIZ

Thank you to everybody who supported our quiz - we raised over £316 for Church funds. The competition was won by C Chantler of Bath. The winner scored 72 out of 75 on the main questions and also the maximum 41 on the subsidiary ident's.

Congratulations to the winner and well done to the other entrants – a good answer rate and great fun seeing several very funny answers to those questions which vexed some of you! Hope those of you who didn't enter the competition enjoyed having a go at the quiz.

Thank you to All Saints at Maiden Bradley; St Michael's at Mere; Bush Farm Bison Centre of West Knoyle; Walton's of Mere; and Hill Brush Company of Mere, for allowing the quiz to be sold, and a special thanks to all the individuals who persuaded friends and families to have a go.

Janet Howard ☎ 01747 830656

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

GET READY - IT'S COMING - 28th February to 13th March

We are organising two special events this year during these two weeks. Why not come and enjoy one of them and help bring about positive change in the lives of thousands of producers in the developing world.

BIG BEAN FEAST: Tuesday 1st MARCH 12.30-2.00pm in the Grove Building. Come and sample the first ever Fairly Traded Beans for a simple lunch. Tickets £2 available from me or the Tourist Information Centre.

BIG BREW FAIR TRADE BREAKFAST: Tuesday 8th MARCH 8.30-11.00am. Join me at Wits End, North Road for this very popular event. £2 donation.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



“TIME FOR A CUPPA”

In aid of Dementia UK 2011

Tuesday 8th February 2011 at 2.30 - 4.30 pm in Lecture Hall

Raising funds towards the development of "Admiral" Nurses for Wiltshire, which currently has none (Kent has 18). Admiral Nurses are to people with dementia what Macmillan nurses are to cancer patients and their families (a la John Suchet and his wife).

Along with "cuppas" and "cup cakes", crossword puzzles, cake decoration (and cup cake decoration) competitions, face painting, raffle, book stall etc. This will draw attention to the needs of people with dementia and their family carers in our area.

Come for a "cuppa" after the Mere Community lunch in the Ship Hotel, bring the family (kids have free juice and a biscuit) .

If you can help with cup cakes, scones or raffle prizes etc., do please telephone me soonest ☎ 01747 860962 or e-mail: rosencox@tiscali.co.uk

All donations welcome, let's show Wiltshire what we can do!

Rose Cox ☎ 01747 860962

MERE CARNIVAL

The hot news is that Carnival Day will be **Saturday, 17th September 2011**

Carnival Bingo in November raised £264.75 for carnival funds. Thanks also to The Old Ship Hotel and Mere Co-op who donated extra prizes for this event. .Even with his busy festive schedule - we say "many thanks" to Father Christmas for coming to Mere to see the Children (and adults!) on a very snowy and icy 18th December, and for cheering up

what could have been a dismal day! Thanks are also extended to The George for heating the mince pies and supplying very welcome coffee, and also to the Co-op for donating the mince pies. This event raised £177.18.

With many thanks to everyone who has supported the Carnival and Events that have taken place during 2010. We hope that 2011 will be as successful.

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

FEBRUARY SHORT WALK

A walk of 3-4 miles around Mere's paths and by-ways. This will take place on Thursday, 10th February. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park.

Tea at The Angel Cafe afterwards.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME **Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096**

Requests in 2005 - 869 and Requests in 2010 – 1,137
An increase of more than 20%

Last year there were 291 requests for appointments at Salisbury District Hospital, which involved volunteers driving 15,000 miles. 809 requests were for medical appointments and 328 for non-medical. The non-medical requests included shopping, visiting relatives in hospital and taking members to social clubs.

We are grateful to our volunteers for the help they continue to give, especially in view of the rising cost of fuel, and we look forward to helping people in Mere and the surrounding villages in 2011.

Molly Burden

MERE FILM SHOWS

First of all I must say how sorry I am that we had to cancel the December film 'Letters to Juliet' at such short notice owing to the heavy snowfall the night before the performance that resulted in Mark, our presenter, being snowed in and unable to get to us. There are a few outstanding tickets sold for the film that have not yet been refunded, so if any of you still have the tickets please let me know, either by phone or at the next film night, and I will happily refund the money – but I do need the ticket please, in order to balance my books!

Our film for February 'Made in Dagenham' is only a few days away on Friday, 4th February, so if you have not yet got your tickets hurry along to the library, or if you can't do that give me a ring, as this is one of the hits of the season which tells the story of the female workers at the Ford car plant at Dagenham who, in 1968, fought against sexual

discrimination and won equal pay for women. The film stars Sally Hawkins, Miranda Richardson and Bob Hoskins, with Geraldine James, Rosamund Pike and Daniel Mays. A wonderful British Film with a great British cast – don't miss it!

Dates for your diary:

Friday, 18th March: **The King's Speech.**

Thursday, 14th April: **From Time to Time**

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

“Pests and Pest Control” with a speaker from Castle Gardens

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Speakers from Castle Gardens are always very knowledgeable, so this will be a good opportunity to seek expert advice. **Visitors and friends will be very welcome.**

Junior Gardening Club

The Junior Gardening Club meets at 6.00pm prior to the main meeting. The Castle Gardens speaker will be working with you. Anyone can come, just bring an adult + 50p. A drink and a biscuit will be provided. For more details, please contact me.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE MUSEUM

'Preserving the Past for the Future' opened on January 4th with a grand New Year's party. The exhibition offers an opportunity to learn something about what Conservation is in relation to artefacts from the past, and how it is done. On display are items from Mere Museum's collection that have been conserved by the Wiltshire Museums Conservation Service, and also eleven items from other Wiltshire Museums.

A New Year, a new initiative! We are about to launch a Community Museum Project called **'Making an Exhibition of Yourself!'** All voluntary groups in Mere (i.e. not businesses) are invited to take part in a competition for cash prizes to be used for the furtherance of the aims of the group. To win, your club, group or society has to put on an exhibition in one (or even in just a half of one) Museum showcase which describes and promotes what the group does. One or more half-day 'training session(s)' (accompanied by tea and cake) will be offered at the Museum about display techniques and the materials that are available for mounting displays, and some helpful hints passed on. The exhibitions will be judged by someone from the Wiltshire Museums Service and will then be on view to the general public. If you are interested in finding out more, just send an e-mail to: meremuseum@btinternet.com, or leave a note at the museum, and we will be in touch.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends were simply delighted with the response to their final fund-raiser of last year, the Dickensian Evening put on by Chester House Productions, which was sheer delight and financially very rewarding! Thank you all for your support. Things are going quiet for a bit now, but fear not! Our famous **Plant Sale** is already being planned. The date is Saturday, 14th May at 10 00am in The Grove Building. Make a note of it before you forget!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

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, coffee and biscuits, a lot of chat and laughter, and a sympathetic ear if needed.

We meet in the Grove Building 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 11th February.

Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

It's official! Mads' next show is the **PANTO!** This year it is 'Ali Baba and the Naughty Thieves'. Rehearsals are in full swing – a very good thing as the performance dates are fast approaching! Ali Baba will be open for business on **Wednesday to Saturday, 2nd to 5th March** inclusive, with a matinee and an evening performance on the Saturday. Tickets are £5 (£3 for children) on Wednesday, and £6 (£3 for children) for all other performances, and are available from the Information Point in the Library. Sales will be conducted under strict security – you know what those naughty thieves are like!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is now underway, but we are always happy to welcome new members. If you'd like to join please contact either Madelaine or Wendy, phone numbers below. Three or four times a year we issue a list from which you can book, so it won't be long until the next programme is out.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833, Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

A good number of the group met for a special day entitled "Ladies who Lunch and Sew" on Thursday, 13th January. An opportunity to sew all day, chat to new friends and enjoy delicious homemade soup for lunch and homemade Dorset Apple Cake with clotted cream or Coffee and Walnut sponge with afternoon tea, prepared by the committee. What a wonderful start to the year.

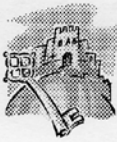
On Thursday, 10th February there will be another day of sewing but this time Jan Panesano of "Cottage Patchwork" will be bringing her beautiful fabrics, kits, threads and quilting haberdashery. We are opening our meeting to anyone who would like to enjoy some retail therapy or simply meet the quilters and see what we do between 2.30 – 3.30pm and maybe enjoy a cup of tea as well.

Our other meetings will take place at the normal time. We are planning a visit to the South West Quilt Show to be held in Exeter, on Friday, 25th March, travelling by coach. There are still a few seats available and for more information please contact June Holdom, our Treasurer, ☎ 01747 860185.

More details are available on our website: Castlehillquilters.org.uk or by telephone to me. *Carol Lord* ☎ 01747 861923

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. The Speaker will be the Rev'd Paul Barnes. *Thelma Ings* ☎ 01747 860262



UNLOCKING HISTORY

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

'The Neptune Coastline Campaign'

Margaret Copperfield
National Trust

7.30pm, Tuesday, 8th February in the Grove Building

The Neptune Coastline Campaign has been working to secure and protect the precious coastlines of England, Wales and Northern Ireland for 45 years, and now have 710 miles of coastline in their care. They are currently fundraising to acquire Runkerry Head, just west of the Giant's Causeway.

£2 entry for non-members who are very welcome

Thursday, 17th February Morning Talk:

'The Aden Protectorate, its place in the British Empire'

Tony Grinyer

Morning talks are in URC at 10.15 for 10.30am

**£1.50 entry for non-members who are very welcome
(includes coffee)**

Members; please note there *will not be a party this year* as it was poorly supported last year. Instead we would like you to join us for drinks and nibbles before the AGM on Tuesday 8th March, when we invite you to come along to the Grove Building at 7.00pm. If you are able to supply a few nibbles we would be delighted, and ask you to add your name to the list at the February meeting. **Caroline Cook** ☎ 01747 861797

WOMENS INSTITUTE

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions we had to cancel the Women's Institute Christmas Celebrations in early December. We hope to have our planned meeting on Thursday, 3rd February when we should hear "Salisbury - A Tale of Two Cities" As usual, visitors will be very welcome. **Sheila Shotter** ☎ 01747 861771

SHREEN HARMONY

We are back in the United Reformed Church Hall busy rehearsing for this years' programme and it seems as if Christmas sadly is a distant memory. I would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout last year and especially at our Christmas concert.

A big thank you to our Co-op store who donated the Mulled Wine which I am sure raised all our spirits on that cold night! We were delighted to have been able to send a cheque for £250 to the Macular Degeneration Society. Thank you all very much.

We have a variety of concerts this year. We will be singing in Milton-on-Stour Church on the Thursday, 17th February and all would be welcome at the evening performance. We will be singing again this year on Saturday, 11th June in Stourhead at the Festival of the Voice. This is a great favourite of us all and a privilege to be asked to join in with all the other choirs in such a beautiful setting. If you have never been I thoroughly recommend this event - you can take a picnic and sit by the lake listening to the music around the gardens, it really is magical.

On Saturday evening, 25th June we are delighted to be performing in St Michaels Church in Mere. We will also be singing in Gillingham on Thursday, 7th July during Alzheimer's awareness week. More details of these concerts will be given soon.

As you can see we do have a busy programme but rehearsals are always enjoyable. We look forward to your continued support this year.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 01747 860424

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

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

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

A very Happy New Year to everyone, though I suspect by now that you have recovered from, and forgotten all about the Christmas and New Year celebrations! We had great fun at the Rosemary Goddard Centre though the snow did eventually defeat us on 20th December and we had to close the Centre, missing the wonderful Christmas lunch planned by Fives Court. We are truly grateful to Fives Court who never fail to give the Guests a delicious meal throughout the year. Hip Hip Hurray for the catering staff at Fives Court Residential Home and a very Happy New Year to them!

In December the Rosemary Goddard Centre put on a pantomime – Aladdin - which was excellently produced and acted by the Guests. So what do we have planned for 2011? Tai Chi, Music Therapy, interesting talks, quizzes, craft and painting days, visit to Orchard Park Garden Centre, a royal wedding to celebrate etc etc. There is always good company with lots of fun and laughter, what more could you want? Come and join us, whether as a Guest or a volunteer! **More volunteers are always needed particularly to run Guests to and from the Centre and to collect the lunches.**

Congratulations to David and Judith Hope the winners (by one point) of our Christmas Quiz, which raised a magnificent £163 for Guests' activities. Many thanks to all of you who supported the quiz, especially Roger Wilding (the compiler), and all those who helped to sell it. The answers are available from the library.

And finally – a thousand thanks to everyone who supported the Day Centre during 2010, whether by donation or voluntary effort!

Lynette Elliot, Organiser ☎ 01747 861646

Friends of Fives Court



'Nearly Valentine's Day'

BARN DANCE

Saturday 12th February

The Grove Building

Doors open 7.00 for 7.30pm start

£7.50 (schoolchildren £5)

To include a Ploughman's supper

Licensed Bar

Tickets NOW available from the Information Point

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends are planning to cheer themselves up – and everyone else too! – with a 'Nearly Valentine's Day Barn Dance' on Saturday, 12th February (details above). And here's yet another date for your new diaries: we shall hold a Coffee Morning and Cake Stall on Saturday, 30th April (the day after The Event of the year!). More details nearer the time. Fives Court will also be supporting the 'Time for a Cuppa' tea party at the Lecture Hall on Tuesday, 8th February at 2.30pm in aid of Dementia UK. Do please come – it's a cause that touches us all. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

THE NEW YEAR AT BRAINWAVE



Happy New Year from all at Brainwave! Thank you to all our customers for their support over the festive period. Donations of new/good as new items to sell as small gifts were much appreciated. Some of us joined in with the turning on of the Christmas lights with a late night opening which was well supported. Many of our customers have remarked on the lovely Christmas lights, so well done to all concerned in their design and construction.

We also joined in with the Living Nativity which sadly had to be cancelled due to the unusually cold and snowy weather. With our costumes already to go, we were able to carry on with our part of the event and many of those who had turned up, unaware of the cancellation, were able to come into the shop and defrost with our complimentary hot fruit punch and cookies.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we were running a raffle for a Jasper Conran original dress, worth £3,000. Sue Chaplin, a representative of the Mere Co-Op, made the draw at the end of December. The winner was Jim Deering who is one of the shop's volunteer team. Second prize, a bottle of Champagne, went to Mere resident Sue Breeze. Mr Deering plans to sell the dress in aid of charity.

With February now upon us, thoughts will be turning to Valentine's Day and the very important subject of love. We shall be selling red hearts in the shop and these can be used to write a message to your loved one for display in the shop window. So instead of paying a lot to publish your Valentine's message in the press, please consider spending just £1 with us to tell the world of your eternal love whilst supporting the future of a brain-damaged child.

Finally, may we urge you all to carry on bring us your unwanted goods – clothes, accessories, bric-a-brac, toys, books and small electrical goods. There's nothing like a good clear out to lift your spirits and prepare you for Spring, which is just around the corner! Many thanks. Contact the Brainwave Shop ☎ 01747 863432.

PS One our volunteers, Shirley Thomas, has pointed out that Mere Library keeps a diary of local events. If you are planning an event in 2011, please ask for it to be put in the Town Diary.

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for December 2010 drawn after Family Communion on 5th December by the Rev'd Paul Barnes was:

1st Prize (£60)	-	No. 63	Dr C Anderson
2nd Prize (£40)	-	No. 35	Mrs E Brown
3rd Prize (£20)	-	No. 187	Mrs E Edwards
4th Prize (£10)	-	No. 58	Mrs G Toms

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for January 2011 drawn after Family Communion on 2nd January by Mrs M Coward was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 21	Mr A Cooper
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 51	Mrs C Elliot
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 85	Dr W Price
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 43	Mrs S G Thomas

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

STAMPS AND POST CARDS FOR SUDAN.

Many thanks to all readers who helped to collect stamps and post cards for the Sudan Church Association. I am told the post cards fetch an average of 5p each. Please do not cut the stamps from post cards - the latter are worth more than the former! Also, please do not put Christmas, Greetings and Birthday cards in the Sudan box. I cannot find any use for them. Is there a reader who knows what to do with them? If so please let me know.

Peter Durkee. ☎ 01747 860363

BOWLS CLUB

Even in this cold and wet period Mere Bowls Club is actively preparing for the new season: work is being planned to get the green ready for bowling in April, the Club Committee are putting together details of the Club Competitions for 2011, and club fixtures for the coming year are being finalised. Both Bowls England and Bowls Wiltshire have also held most of their meetings during the closed season, so while all bowling takes place in the summer of each year, most of the administration is completed over the winter.

By the time this article is published we will have held our annual dinner and prize giving at the Walnut Tree Inn at which the club will make a presentation to the Mere LinkScheme of a cheque for £500.00 - this being the proceeds of the 60's night held last September topped up to a nice round figure from club funds.

As we look forward to the coming season and bowling on those fine summer afternoons and evenings with some sunshine on our backs, we send an open invitation to all our readers – why not come down to the green and try bowls, it is no longer the preserve of older or retired people as most current World, National and County champions are less than thirty years old. So why not aspire to representing your country in the future at what is an exhilarating sport with simple rules and where physical fitness and a perfect physique is not a prior requirement.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215, Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747-860976, or me, Don Butchers.

Don Butchers – Club Secretary ☎ 01747-860219

MERE CROQUET & BOULE CLUB

Everyone is hoping that there is not going to be a return of the dreadful weather experienced last month. It resulted in the Club having no choice but to cancel the planned cleaning up working parties, and also delayed progress on intended improvements to the facilities,

The between seasons party will this year be held on **Thursday, 24th February** at **The Bell and Crown in Zeals**, commencing at 7.00pm. This occasion is open to everyone, both members as well as those interested in finding out what it is all about. There is a ticket price of £5 per person, which includes a light buffet. It is appreciated that the changed venue might present problems for some people. Should this be the case, please call me and I will endeavour to organise transport. Tickets can be purchased in advance or, if preferred, bought at the door on the day.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to commence a fund raising programme in order to purchase an outdoor table tennis table, so providing another activity for members. It was thought that this addition would particularly appeal to the younger element.

We re-open in April this year, the exact date of which will be finalised and publicised shortly. The disabled wheelchair access is now complete, and work is progressing on several other outstanding minor improvements for completion by the start of the season. The Boule Court and the Croquet Green will, of course, both be fully operational.

New members can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. If you are unable to attend the 24th February gathering, please see the next issue of Mere Matters for the commencement date information.
Rex Roberts 📞 01747860873

MERE SNOOKER CLUB

Mere Snooker Club provided a welcome diversion from the icy weather over the last weeks for its members, and the club was well attended. We wish a very Happy New Year to all our members and offer a warm welcome to new members, whether experienced players or complete beginners. So if your New Year resolution was to learn a new skill or to start playing again, please give me a ring.

Kevin Smith 📞 01747 860305

MERE CRICKET CLUB

It is that time of year again when we dust off our pads and bats and pretend we can smash the Aussies to all parts of the ground like our successful England team counterparts did. It is of course time for winter practice nets.

Nets this year will again be held at the Warminster Indoor Cricket Centre, on alternate Tuesday evenings (7.00 to 8.00pm) starting on Tuesday, 1st February (then the 15th February, 1st, 15th and 29th March for those team members who can't work it out). Any new or aspiring players are particularly welcome.

Juniors: For the forthcoming season, Mere have entered teams in the Under 9, 11, 13 and Under 15 league competitions. The coaching sessions will start directly after

Easter, look out for more details. Please feel free to contact me for any more information.
Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639

MERE GIRLGUIDING

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Centenary Celebrations

All the units attended The Launch party which was held in September 2009 to mark the start of the Centenary. The event was held at Whitesheet School with invited guests who included ex Guiders, Scouters, Local supporters, Wiltshire Councillor George Jeans and our Member of Parliament, Dr. Andrew Murrison MP. Outdoor activities and a Barbecue were followed by the showing of the Centenary DVD and cutting of a cake.

In February, Mere Brownies held their own event "One World one Beat". This included South African drumming and dance, making masks and cooking. Each Brownie brought contributions of tins of food which were donated to The Trussell Trust food bank, and coin donations were made in to the shape of 100 and the money was given to the Girlguiding UK Foxlease residential/activity centre in the New Forest for their Wiltshire room appeal.

With other units, Mere Brownies attended "Gruff the Golden Dragon Day", where they helped to compile a mosaic of the Dragon which is now situated on the outside wall at the Wiltshire South Centre at Berwick St James. They attended the "2010 and Then" activity day. They also completed the "Walk the Boundary" challenge around Mere. All Mere units attended the County Grand Day out at Longleat, where they were able to use the attractions on site as well as special activities that were planned, including a Drumming challenge for the Brownies, an Animal Safari for the Rainbows and "It's a Knockout" for the Guides. Great fun was had by all.

The Unit Leaders attended the Centenary service at Tidworth. A display of past and present photographs was put on for the Church Fete. The Finale event was for the girls only – held on the 20th October, again at Whitesheet School, Zeals and was one of hundreds that took place on the same day throughout the UK.

Alan Gates from Mere Down Falconry brought a selection of Owls: Little Owl, Eagle Owl, Barn Owl and Tawny Owl. The girls were fortunate enough to be able to touch the owls and see a demonstration of the Eagle Owl in flight.

The girls enjoyed owl related crafts and party refreshments before the final part of the evening when at 20.10hrs on 20/10/2010 we all renewed our promise by candlelight and reflected on the Centenary year. This coincided with other similar events held throughout the UK.
Sue Jeans and Sue Luffman ☎ 01747 860215

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Made in Dagenham' (15)

"1968. It's a man's world. But not for long"
From the director of *'Calendar Girls'*.

Sally Hawkins, Miranda Richardson, and Bob Hoskins star in this entertaining account of the strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant when female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday, 4th February, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: www.moviola.org

FOOTPRINTS

Children's Centre Update

My last Mere Matters article, brought you the (to me) devastating news that Wiltshire Council planned to consult on the Children's Centre's closure, the major activity of Footprints. I also mentioned our forthcoming event in Hindon. Well, that event did run, and it really bought home to me, if ever I can forget, what a valuable service we offer. Our event there was well attended, with many not having used Children's Centre facilities before and/or wanting us back, as accessibility to transport and facilities for children were a problem – a common issue across our area.

With the closure threat we could not promise another event. But now our future looks safer, with Wiltshire Council confirming that, having reviewed their decision, they would not close the centre. However, it was decided to temporarily cease Children's Centre activities from January-March, and that is where we are now. This period is allowing us to focus on topping up our training, skills and qualifications and on preparation for a change of management; the Children's Centre contract between Footprints and Wiltshire Council ceases at the end of March. We are looking forward to working with and developing the Children's Centre under the guidance and management of successful tenderers, a national children's charity, "4Children".

If you require information on children's centre activities locally, or other support and advice, we are manning the centre during this period, and can signpost you to other agencies and neighbouring children's centres until we re-open.

We are also using the closure period to contact our users/partners to research what activities and programmes they think the re-opened children's centre should offer. If you have anything on your particular wish-list, please do let us know.

Other Activities

While children's centre activities have ceased, we continue to host organisations not related to the Children's Centre, so Messy Church, Speech and Language Therapy and Lipreading, for example, will continue to run from Footprints as usual.

In addition, Footprints' management committee is looking to continue its other activities in some form. This is being discussed by them at the present time and will be announced once decided.

Team Update

At last I am delighted to report that Kate has joined her husband in Ireland, sadly leaving us on January 18. Also having just got Danielle back from maternity leave following the birth of 'Smiley' Riley, she has now confirmed that she too is leaving to set up home in Southampton. So our thanks and very best wishes go to both of them and their families and thanks to Jane S for covering during Danielle's absence.

And finally, grateful thanks to outgoing Chairman of Footprints, Robin Field-Smith, for all his support for the team through a difficult, uncertain year and for his significant contribution in ensuring the survival of Children's Centre service in Mere. Footprints and the Children's Centre futures will certainly be very different but at least the facilities appear to have survived. So thanks to Robin and welcome to Mandy Connelly, who has taken the chair to lead Footprints into the future. We are very grateful to her too, for rising to that challenge.

Two Final Things

1. I was recently speaking to Scrapstore who have visited the Children's Centre once a month bringing mobile craft activities and materials. It seems that their service is under threat of cuts, and they are seeking words of support from anyone who has used and benefitted from their service. If you would like to let them know how they have helped you, please email Jane Wheeler on: wiltsplay7@btconnect.com.
2. Wiltshire Council has sent us a copy of their Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011 Consultation Draft, asking for it to be available for parents to respond. So I want to let you know that a copy of the documentation is at Footprints if you wish to see it. Closing date for response is Sunday, 20th March 2011.

Jane Batten, Centre Team Leader, 01747 861108

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

Forthcoming Events:

Blue Bags Collection. A big thank you to all those who donated textile items for our last 'Bags for School' collection last September. We raised a fantastic £307! Our next collection falls on Monday, 7th February and we will have a further one in early summer. A quick reminder of the scheme: the school has an arrangement with a partnership company who weigh and buy donated bags of unwanted clothes etc. They then present the school with a cheque as a fundraiser. This year we are appealing to the local community to help us with this scheme.

If you have any unwanted adults/children's clothing, bedding, curtains, shoes, belts, bags or soft toys (sorry no bric-a-brac) or if you know an organisation who has excess jumble please fill a bin bag (or more) and either drop it off at the school anytime from Friday, 4th February up until 9.30am on the day of the collection or telephone Sam Cotton ☎ 01747 860550 or Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647 who will arrange to collect any items from your home.

Family Quiz. We are also running a family Quiz in February, date to be confirmed - look out for posters around the town.

Bingo Night. Another of our popular 'Eyes Down' nights is booked for Friday, 25th March, reminder to follow in the next Mere Matters.

Louise Harlow ☎ 01747 860647

MERE SCHOOL

January 2011

So another term has gone by - how quick was that!? Wishing a "Happy New Year" to all our readers and all the best for 2011.

During the final few weeks of last term we had lots of Christmas-themed events - visit to the pantomime, Christmas lunch, Santa's grotto, Christmas plays and making Christmas things. This year the pantomime at Salisbury was Aladdin and we all went to see it. The pantomime was much better than the film! The Christmas plays were amazing - KS1 performed 'The Smallest Angel' and KS2 performed 'Sleeping Beauty's Dream'.

All of our classes did a special assembly for our parents. Purple class told us all about the 'Awful Aztecs', read all about the 'Rotton Romans' and green class performed a special dance showing us how awful it was for the children during the 2nd World War.

Mrs Maynard and our lovely kitchen staff made Pudsey Bear biscuits for Children in Need 2010. We made £63 to send to make a difference. Thank you to everyone who bought a biscuit.

Eco Club have been trying to make our school an eco friendly place. We ran a competition for our new eco logo and the winner was Lily Helps and her logo was:

More re-cycling, Extra exercise, Rubbish in bins, Everyone works together.

Red class went to visit Bramley House and Fives Court just before Christmas. We sang and everybody got emotional. After we had finished singing we all got a big round of applause and had cakes and a drink. At Fives Court we had a tour and stroked the cats and guinea pigs. Singing in front people was scary but fun. The helpers and residents were gentle and kind and joined in with our singing.

*Alexandra Porter, Zoe Acreman, Jessica Corbett, Emily Kelly,
Lindsey Thompson, Izzy Ames, Chloe Tealey, Adam Filleau*

BARN BUDDIES

Help For Heroes

My thanks to everyone who made the Barn Buddies open evening in aid of Help for Heroes such a success. To see so many people fill the barn to raise money for such an important cause was thrilling. My thanks to everyone who came out to Barrow Street on a miserable November evening. My thanks to the Mere Dazzler Majorettes for their

displays, and to Peter Douglas for telling us about some of the important work that Help for Heroes is doing.

The support of local businesses and individuals in sponsoring the event was so important. In no particular order thanks go to The Old Ship Hotel, Jill Christie, Chalkes Garage, Haxnicks, Simali Stone Ltd, Wincombe Kitchens and Natural Landscapes by Ken Brockway. Other individuals who wish to remain anonymous also helped with sponsorship. Thanks to this support, every penny taken on the night has been given to Help for Heroes, and I am delighted that we raised the tremendous sum of £950.

Thank you to everyone for your generous support. *Tim Merrell* 📞 01747 860195

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

Wednesday, 23rd February at 2.30pm in Methodist School Room. "Memories are Made of This!" This was deferred from a previous occasion. Please bring your memorable item and be prepared to say why it is has special memories for you.

Hope to see you there.

Mary Siderfin 📞 01747 861370

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

A big 'THANK YOU' to all those of you who contributed to the wonderful total of 100 boxes we were able to give the Trussell Trust this Christmas. They were delighted with our contribution, 48 last year, which helped to make up the total of over 5,000 they were able to take to Bulgaria.

These were given to people who have so little and your gifts make such a difference to their lives, for example, the Roma Community in Botevgrad whose settlement had been bulldozed by the government. They had been given old shipping containers as bungalows with crude wood burning stoves as a replacement.

We will try and do even better this year!

Pat Isom, Churchwarden, St Michael The Archangel church

THE REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

A lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119vs 105)

Which would most people in your street opt for:

Instructions for flat-pack assembly; or wordless diagrams in sequence?

Deciphering a chemical formulae; or a following a cooking recipe?

Instructions for programming your self-time recorder; or getting someone under 18 to sort it out?

We grasp things more easily if we comprehend the language in which they are presented. Today we believe Plain English is the best written way to reach people. We take for granted that if we want to find out about something we can look it up on-line, search an encyclopaedia or even phone a friend, but it has not always been so.

The story of God, and the story of God's people began as an oral tradition - stories passed from one generation to another. In time certain stories were written down, then teachings of wisdom and prophecy were also recorded and all of these were in Hebrew. The stories of Jesus and letters to the churches were recorded in Koine (everyday) Greek. As the legal language of the Roman Empire was Latin, religious books were translated into Latin and there they remained.

In the 16th Century access to knowledge was guarded. Few people could read, and when it came to matters of faith, the scriptures were available in the original Hebrew and Greek, or Latin. This effectively prevented any ordinary person from reading the Bible for themselves. William Tyndale in the sixteenth century translated the Bible into English directly from the Hebrew and Greek and utilizing the new printing press, opened up the possibility of Christian learning to this nation. This added to the Reformation challenging Europe, but in 1535 Tyndale was arrested, tried for heresy and gruesomely executed for daring to translate the Bible. Not for another 76 years was there any substantial change. In 1611 under the patronage of King James, the Bible was translated into an English version (authorised for use in parish churches). The intention was that even the humblest plough-boy should have access to the word of God. 54 scholars were tasked with the work of translation. In fact the scholars used over 75% of Tyndale in the Old Testament and over 83% of Tyndale's version makes up the New Testament.

This year we commemorate 400 years of having the Authorised (King James) Bible and give thanks that our forebears were able to read the Bible in their own language. Having the Bible so widely accessible, undoubtedly played a crucial role in so much of our national history and politics, and has shaped this "secular" nation. Today there are many English translations and paraphrases of the Bible available and each of us will have our preferred version to read, study and be challenged by. Commemorating 400 years of the King James Bible doesn't mean we have to read 16th Century English, but it will remind us of our story and all that we can be thankful for.

Everyone is welcome to a
QUIZ AND SUPPER EVENING

In aid of Suchana
 In the Grove Building

on Tuesday, 1st March at 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00 adults (£2.50 children) to include supper and first drink

Quiz Teams of 4. Come as a Team or come on your own!

Licensed bar – first drink FREE!

Tickets from Mere Information Point in the Library or on the door, but please book ahead if possible so we know how many to cater for!

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

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE
February 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
Wednesday	2nd	6.00pm	“Start the Month” Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion for Candlemas
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
	13th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion
	20th	11.00am	Rev'd Morris Munns
	27th	11.00am	Rev'd John Page

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion
	13th	6.00pm	Service at Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury
	20th	6.00pm	Local arrangement
	27th	6.00pm	Mr & Mrs Mike Rawlins

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

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

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

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	13th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	20th	9.25am	DIY
	27th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

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

FEBRUARY 2011

1	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (also 8th and 15th)	Footprints
		10.30am	Carers Group Meeting	Lynch Close
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday)	L
		7.00pm	Dance Class (also 4th, 15th & 22nd)	GB
2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 9th)	GB
		9.30am	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L

2	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 10th, 16th & 23rd)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
3	Thur	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 10th & 17th)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 10th and 17th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 10th and 17th)	GB
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (every Thursday)	L
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Guides (also 10th and 17th)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows "Made in Dagenham"	L
5	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		7.00pm	Mere Youth Football Club "Bingo"	L
7	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 14th))	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 14th & 28th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 14th & 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 14th & 28th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.00pm	"Time for a Cuppa"	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB
9	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		6.00pm	Junior Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	10.00am	Castle Hill Quilters Extra	GB
11	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
12	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
14	Mon	8.00pm	MADS meeting (Drama Room)	L
19	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.30pm	Friends of Fives Court Barn Dance	GB
22	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
23	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting	GB
25	Fri	3.15pm	Messy Church	Footprints
26	Sat	10.30am	'Drop in' coffee morning	CC
27	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB

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 POINT, THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING CLINICS/ADVICE CENTRES ARE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

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

HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

COPY DATE FOR MARCH 2011 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the March 2011 issue should be handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 14th February 2011**. E-mailed contributions would be preferred, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday 7th February 2011. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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e-mail: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

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