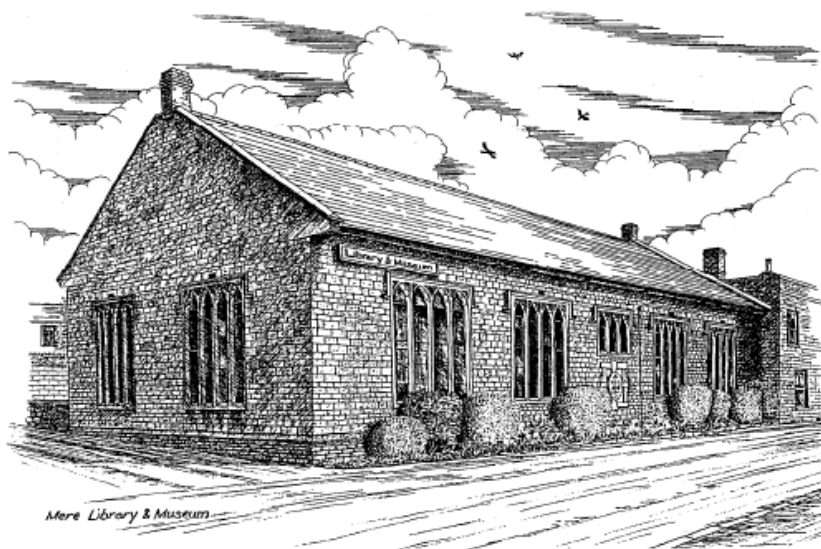


MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



MAY 2011

A VERY BIG “THANK YOU”

When the March and April editions of Mere Matters were being put together, we were on the other side of the world visiting our daughter, son-in-law and three grandsons in New Zealand. Once again I would like to place on record my grateful thanks to Peter Mason who kindly took up the Editor’s reins for the production of both those issues. Hopefully, you didn’t notice the difference, which is a great reflection on Peter’s enthusiasm and professionalism.

Thank you Peter, for kindly stepping in again this year while we were away, safe in the knowledge that “Mere Matters” was in good hands.

Graham Avory, Editor

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 Lecture Hall (small room) at 7.30pm on Monday, 9th May 2011.**

The Chairman writes:

This is the last report I will have to write for Mere Matters as my 2-year term as Chairman ends on 9th May. Being Chairman has both its good and bad side but, on the whole, it has been a pleasurable experience and I would like to thank Councillors and staff for their help and support throughout my term of office. I take my hat off to all the volunteers in different organisations who keep Mere ticking over, but I also fear that more will be needed in the future, given the current public spending cuts. The Parish Council does let Wiltshire Council know that Mere still exists.

If you want to get involved in Mere Parish Council or you do not agree with what the Council does, then why not ‘step forward’ when a vacancy arises or at the next elections in May 2013 and do your bit to try and help Mere through these difficult times. I wish you all a long and happy summer.

Finally, don’t forget that our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th May at 7.30pm in The Grove Building. The main item of discussion will be the management of Castle Hill and Long Hill. Also, don’t forget that Mr. Simon Ford has generously offered to lead a short wildlife walk on the evening of Tuesday, 10th May (meeting at Castle Hill Play Area at 6.00pm).

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

LETTER FROM MR ANDREW HOLDER

Further to the report from Mere Parish Council in the April edition of Mere Matters, it was “regrettable” that I was singled out for attention over the Long Hill issue.

The website: **www.savelonghill.org** was set up purely as a conduit for the feelings of anger and frustration of many people encountered during daily walks on Long Hill.

It has never been a personal campaign, but a joining of people who feel helpless in the face of decisions made about their environment.

There is now an organisation, Friends of Long Hill, who are attempting to gain clarity and transparency of the Parish Council's plan for this area. There has, so far, been a big response from people who wish to know more about the proposals.

To date, we have not seen a definitive plan of which trees will be felled, but it certainly appears to be the majority. We have also not had any indication that the Parish Council is prepared to listen to the concerns of residents and change their actions accordingly.

Friends of Long Hill may be contacted through the website. Thank you for allowing me to reply.

Andrew Holder ☎ 07855 429922

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

The Royal Wedding will soon be here. I have ensured that there is a nice new Union Jack on Castle Hill for the occasion. Mr. Collard of Mere has kindly paid for a spare Union Jack. I know some Churches locally are putting on some functions on the day of The Royal Wedding.

After the Licensing committee on which I sit met on the 5th April, it is now unlikely that Street Trading Licenses for Church Fetes, Carnivals, Functions on Parish Council Land etc., will now be needed. I will be monitoring this issue.

The Countess of Wessex officially opened Wiltshire County's Bourne Hill offices, in Salisbury, on the 30th March, and signed the visitors book “Sophie”.

It is hoped the Wiltshire Council will transfer some assets to Mere Parish Council: the Mere Croquet Club and the Old Band Hut in Castle Street car park at Mere.

Some services are now being moved outside Wiltshire Council. However its expertise is being kept in house, i.e. architects, solicitors etc., thereby ensuring these services will still be efficiently monitored and controlled.

“Localism” will not be parochial as I understand it. Should a local community want to develop a community building that may not otherwise be allowed, that community should find it easier to develop such a building under “localism”. Conversely, should a community wish to prevent a development, no additional weight will be added by localism, to that which already exists.

In the new financial year, there is about £3.7 million extra forthcoming from government for pot holes etc, but it will not be until September that we will know how the money can be spent. However, the Government is now imposing a carbon tax on Wiltshire Council of £600,000, which is ten times more than expected.

Footpath queries can take forever. One local footpath, known in Mere as “16”, has been the subject of argument for 10 years or so. In recent months it has now been decided that the path is to stay exactly as it is at present. Footpath “16” starts close to Old Hollow, Mere.

BIG SOCIETY, “LOCALISM” AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR SOUTH WEST WILTSHIRE

The South West Wiltshire Area Board will be hosting a seminar about important issues now facing South West Wiltshire. The event will take place in Dinton Village Hall on Thursday, 12th May starting at 5.00pm.

The seminar will cover the implications of the Government’s ‘Big Society’ proposals (as set out in the Localism Bill now before Parliament) and what this is likely to mean in South West Wiltshire. We will look at how Wiltshire Council plans to develop its own local arrangements through the Area Boards, with new ways of involving people in decisions about services. We will also look at how the Government is proposing to change the current planning system to give local people more of a say over the future development of the places where they live. We have lined up some excellent speakers and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and put forward your own points of view. This promises to be a very lively and stimulating evening, so do please join us – it is a genuine chance for you influence things in South West Wiltshire.

*Contact Richard Munro, Community Area Manager, for details:
e-mail: richard.munro@wiltshire.gov.uk ☎ 01985 844825*

Merrell’s Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin • Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot • In growing toenails • Qualified to treat diabetics and those taking Warfarin and steroids • Massage given to make your feet feel fitter in the comfort of your own home. **Contact Mary on 07809 738237**



MERE POLICE TEAM NEWS

Reminder One

Our Neighbourhood Policing Team mobile telephone has now been withdrawn from service. We continue to be contactable via our main line number 0845 408 7000 or via our NPT email address: merenpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Reminder Two

With Spring knocking on our doors and the clocks having just changed, we look forward to improved weather and lighter evenings. Please remember that now your lawn mowers will be put into use, you may attract unwelcome visitors as we have already this year suffered a number of shed break-ins. We can only impress upon you the need to lock up your machinery and possibly consider installing an alarm.

Our alarms can be purchased at cost for as little as £6 for the basic unit and are available from us or via our Community Safety Dept at Salisbury Police Station.

Personnel Change

It is with regret that I announce the departure of Inspector Minty from Warminster Police Station. His successor, Inspector Lindsey Winter took over responsibility as Sector Head for Warminster, Westbury, Tisbury & Mere Police Stations from Monday 21st March 2011.

Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312

☎ 07528 972928 (not 24 hour)

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

Jake Noble, Police Community Support Office

☎ 07528 972926 (not 24 hour)

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

WEATHER REPORT

March started off with three frosty mornings. We had only 26.5mms (1.04ins) of rain, the lowest rain fall since April last year when we had 25mm (0.98ins). Last March we had 72mms (2.83ins). The weather was milder during the month and the golden daffodils put on a great show.

Up to the 11th of April the weather was much warmer with 21°C (70°F) on the 9th and 10th. Only 15mms (0.59ins) of rain which fell on the 4th. Now the tulips are giving us the colour in the garden.

Peter Durkee

THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE

Fruit, flowers, floral tributes, floral sundries and much more.

Tel: 860300 Email: merefruitflowers@aol.com

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, 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 DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

New NHS Charges

We are sorry that this advice is late, but the NHS did not announce the following new fees until after the April edition copydate. The new NHS fees from 1st April are:

Band 1- £17 (increase of 50p)

Band 2 - £47 (increase of £1.40)

Band 3 - £204 (increase of £6)

Band 4 - £17 (increase of 50p)

Francine Sherrard, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365

FAIR TRADE BUNTING

I have just sent off 44 beautifully decorated bunting reflecting Fair Trade to the Fairtrade Foundation. They are hoping to beat the Guinness Book of Records and need to reach their target of 12,500 flags - one for each of the Fairtrade Cotton Farmers in Burkina Faso and Mali. They are to be displayed on Sunday, 8th May, World Fair Trade Day.

You may have seen some of our flags, decorated by pupils at Mere School, in the Co-op during Fair Trade Fortnight. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this challenge.

Janet Way ☎ 01747860884

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants available for 2011

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. It operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community, and welcomes a wide range of creative activities.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere. The closing date is Tuesday, 31st May and grants will normally be paid annually in the Autumn.

For further details and an application form please write enclosing an A5 stamped and addressed envelope to: The Secretary, The Mere Lecture Hall Trust, Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere Wiltshire BA12 6DA.



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Exciting news! Mere and District Chamber of Trade have a Secretary. This is a paid role and is presently occupied by Julie Cousins. As we are now supported by Julie we hope to be making more happen within the area. If you have any suggestions for site visits, speakers, or you wish to join the Chamber, please contact Julie on telephone number 07856 700576.

As mentioned in last month's edition, we had a luncheon at The Old Ship Hotel and the speaker was Rosemary Macdonald from the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation. This foundation has funds to support initiatives in Mere and surrounding areas. For more information contact Julie Cousins on the above number.

The New Business Competition is ongoing. Watch this space to see who the winner is after the 20th May 2011 when the finals commence at Bowood Hall.

10 May 2011	Meet the Buyer at The Corn Exchange Devises
20 May 2011	Finals for the New Business Competition at Bowood Hall
8 June 2011	Lunch with speaker Sue Wilkin from Trading Standards (venue to be confirmed)

Meetings are always held in the Small Room at The Prince of Wales Club at 7.30pm

You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. *Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*

Due to a shortage of Committee members, we will not be holding our annual May Fayre this year. Instead we will be having a Grand Sale in the Lecture Hall on Saturday, 14th May from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

We will have a Plant Stall, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle. Please make a note in your diaries and come along and support us. *Beryl Webb ☎ 01747 860583*

The walk this month, on Monday 9th May will take a different format as I have been asked, as a volunteer National Trust Guide, to arrange one around the Stourhead Estate. It will be 3 miles long and hopefully the bluebells will be out. As with the Sunday walks we will share transport from the Surgery Car Park at the usual time 2.00pm. Anyone willing to drive, please let me know. Tea can be taken at Stourhead afterwards or back in Mere at the Angel Cafe if preferred.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

Would you like to identify bird song and calls in Mere? Come on Wednesday, 11th May from 9.00am-1.00pm and learn with Ed Drewitt, naturalist, broadcaster on BBC Radio, writer, articles for BBC publication "Wildlife" and for "Bird Watch".

There will be some field work around Mere and the cost is £10 (Refreshments provided).

To book call Alison Rymell ☎ 01985 844819 or Jean Young ☎ 01747 860950

Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096

The Big Society has been in the news in recent months and we are proud to report that the Wiltshire Linkschemes have been praised in Government circles as a shining example of what the Big Society should be. Of course it is no surprise to find that self-help has never disappeared from small communities, however much society has become fragmented elsewhere. We are pleased that the hard work done by all of our volunteers has been recognised, but we need to remember also those who use the Linkscheme. It is not always easy to ask for help and we are glad that so many people have come to us - 235 last year – and benefitted from what we are able to offer.

We have received a generous donation from a recent user of the Linkscheme and we would like to express our thanks for this.

Molly Burden

MEERE FILM SHOWS

A classic Western is our film this month, 'True Grit' on Thursday, 19th May at 7.30pm. This was an Oscar contender in most categories and won a host of other awards. It features cracking performances from Jeff Bridges (who won last year's Best Actor Oscar and was nominated this year also) Matt Damon, Josh Brolin and newcomer Hailee Steinfeld. This is the Cohen Brothers remake of the 1969 John Wayne classic but it is a better film than the original and the performance they get out of their cast is second to none. Their extraordinary film making skills, their grasp of landscape and a truly excellent music score make this a film really worth seeing. 'One for the boys' it certainly is, but it is also one for everyone to enjoy. More details on page 21.

Distribution of Funds: At the end of the last season it was decided, due to the small amount in the pot, to hold distribution of funds to this year. Therefore we are now inviting applications from organisations in Mere that are currently fundraising. Please write with brief details and address your letter to me at The Parish Office, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW to be received by 30th June please. The amounts will not be huge but cheques will be sent out in July.

Date for your diary:

Friday, 17th June: 'Mao's Last Dancer'(12A) A beautiful and thrilling film - A political and cultural thriller.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



We were hoping to tell you all about the amazing success of our Pamper Evening at the Lecture Hall on Saturday 16th April. However, with an early deadline this month due to a proliferation of Bank Holidays, we are still busy preparing for this event and won't be able to report back until the June edition. Tickets sales are steady and

there are hopes of many customers coming along and paying on the door. With it being our first ever Pamper Night, everyone is wondering what it will be like – including the organisers! Even so, we have lots of lovely items to sell on the night and a host of people volunteering their services in both the body and soul departments.

With all that still to come, our shop supervisor, Jane Donohoe wanted to take the opportunity to remind everyone that we not only have lots of amazing new-to-you items for sale at the Brainwave Shop, but are also willing to look out for something that you might be seeking. It might be an evening suit, size 40” long or a piece of white pottery with blue stripes. You may have searched far and wide for that special item but, let us be your eyes and ears to help you in your quest. You may be amazed by what we come up with. I was startled the other day to suddenly hear a Muslim call to prayer echoing around the shop. It turned out to be a mosque-shaped alarm clock that had just gone off and it made a very appropriate gift for a member of my family. So why not register your unusual item to be found by calling the Brainwave Shop during business hours on ☎️ 01747 863432. Thank you.

PLANT SALE

This year the Guy's Plant Stall, which has always been a part of May Fayre Day, will be held on Saturday, 21st May in the Ship Hotel Car Park at 10.00am with money raised going to Salisbury Hospice.

We will be selling our normal wide selection of bedding, trailing and perennial plants and vegetables, to both fill your gardens with colour and your tables with tasty dishes.

We hope to see you and our many regulars on the day

Karen Guy ☎ 01747 860656



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Next meeting: Thursday, 5th May 2011

7.30pm in the Grove Building

By tradition this is the time when branches discuss the resolutions before the AGM at the National Federation; a fully democratic process. This year the Resolutions concern library closures and factory farming. After this there will be a session on making cards. Current events include regular craft group meetings and novel board games afternoons, while out and about we hope to arrange a lunch and also visit Stourhead at Tulip time.

From its foundation before women's suffrage and educational opportunities, the WI was formed to provide meeting places for women. Over time it has adjusted to changes in society without abandoning its core values and the provision of companionship among women.

Each institute is unique in providing activities that its own members favour. Jam, Jerusalem and posing for nude calendars are not obligatory! As ever, visitors and potential members will be most welcome.

As advanced notice, the following meeting will be on Thursday, 2nd June and entitled "Thorns, Thistles and Roses".

Gillian Brignell ☎ 01747 861114

MERELY WOMEN

Merely Women offers a warm welcome to any ladies living in the Mere area. This group is particularly helpful for newcomers, as it is a place to chat and meet new friends. In addition, we have activities, speakers and discussions. There is always tea/coffee, a lot of chat and laughter, and a sympathetic ear if needed.

We meet in the Grove Buildings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.30am. There is no membership, so just come along between 9.30 and 10.00am for a pre-meeting tea/coffee and chat. Everyone, of all ages, and new or established residents, are most welcome. Our next meeting is on Friday, 13th May.

Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. This will be "Health & Safety" with Colin Fricker. All welcome.

Members to try and bring a friend along with them to join in, please.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere

Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm

Toenail Clipping Service in Lynch Close

Age UK Salisbury District (previously Age Concern) offer a number of services, one of which is a toenail cutting service for older people who do not meet the criteria for NHS Chiropody. The plan is to hold sessions on a Monday every six weeks at the Community Rooms, Lynch Close, Mere. The fees are a one-off charge of £13.50 for the toenail clipping pack, then a charge of £9 for each follow-up session. Age UK however are unable to offer the service to people who have Diabetes, Rheumatoid Arthritis, lack of sensation in the feet, poor circulation, or if you are taking Warfarin or steroids. For more details ring Age UK on 01722 335425.

Now, you may be wondering why the Rosemary Goddard Centre is mentioning this service. The reason is that we will be at the Community Rooms when you come for your toenail clipping appointment - so why don't you pop in and meet us all! Coffee and tea will be available whilst you wait and I guarantee that you will leave us with a smile on your face. You may even wish to come and join us on a regular basis, and if you do, we would be delighted to see you. For further information, please contact:

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

NEEDED: DAY CENTRE ORGANISER

Required from July 2011

**Rosemary Goddard Centre
(Mere and District Day Centre for Older People)
Lynch Close, Mere
Charity 1033900**

We are seeking a paid organiser to run our day centre every Monday and Friday. This post will suit an energetic, creative and co-operative person with good interpersonal skills and an appreciation of the needs of older people.

For further information and to request an application pack please contact:

Lenka Stokes, Chair of the Trustees

☎: 01747 860741; e-mail: lenka@maycrest.co.uk

Closing date for applications: Thursday, 26th May

Interviews: Tuesday, 31st May and Friday, 3rd June

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Residents, Staff and Friends of Fives Court are excitedly looking forward to the **GRAND OPENING** of the **new garden** on **Saturday afternoon, 14th May at 2.00pm**. The opening ceremony will be performed by Lady Patricia Talbot, President of the Friends, and we would like to welcome as many people as possible to come and have tea with us to mark the occasion. Just one thing: please pray for a lovely sunny day!

N.B. Don't forget our **Coffee Morning and Cake Sale** on **Saturday, 30th April at 10.00am** at **St. Michael's Church**. It will make a nice change from being glued to the TV all day on 29th April, and we can all have a good gossip about THE dress!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

"Cottage Gardens" with Neil Lovesay

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Building.

Mere has many examples of cottage gardens so Neil's subject, the history of the cottage garden and its future, should be fascinating for us all. He will talk about their

origins, the phases they've gone through, and what the future trends might be, illustrating his talk with slides.

Neil will also be bringing a selection of old cottage garden plant varieties for sale. Some of you may remember what fabulous plants he brought last time he came. Visitors welcome.

Plant Sale in the Square

Saturday, 21st May – 9.00am to noon

Don't miss your chance to buy plants at bargain prices.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE MUSEUM

We're pleased to report that there has been a good response to our offer to clubs and societies in Mere and district to take part in our 'Make an Exhibition of Yourselves' community project, and eight Mere groups will be putting themselves on display at the end of this year. Young and old, physically active and quietly creative – the exhibition will represent a satisfying cross-section of Mere at its best. We look forward to working with the participants in the coming months.

The next exhibition, '**Wish You Were Here**', about postcards, will open to the public on Wednesday, 1st June. Meanwhile, the current exhibition, '**Preserving the Past for the Future**', about the conservation of museum artefacts, will continue through May, but will end on Saturday, 28th May. Don't leave it too late!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE

MONDAY, 16th MAY 2011

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

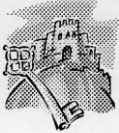
It's almost upon us – the **Friends of Mere Museum Annual Plant Sale!** To make sure you don't miss the best bargains, be sure to be there when doors open at **10.00am** sharp (but not a second earlier!) at **The Grove Building on Saturday, 14th May.**

We should be more than happy to accept plants to sell; please contact David Longbourne (01747 860243) or Jenny Wilding (01747 860908) or any member of the committee, and we will collect.

We sell cakes too! Contributions to the cake stall will be very gratefully received on the day, or we can collect. Just ring as above. *Be there!*

Friends please also note that the Preview of the new Postcards exhibition (see previous page) will be held on Tuesday, 31st May at 6.30pm.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



UNLOCKING HISTORY

MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY With MERE GARDENING CLUB

VISIT TWO: Monday, 13th June 2011

Cothay Manor and Gardens

For centuries Cothay Manor has been hidden away in the meadows and woods of the Vale of Taunton and remains virtually untouched since it was built in 1480. Our visit includes a tour of the Manor house, and access to the magical gardens.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and return to Mere by 5.00pm approx.

Cost: MHS Members £23.00, non MHS members £25.00, per person, includes tour and garden. Add £6.50 for a pre-booked lunch

For more details please ring Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

Note to members: both this visit and remaining visits are filling fast, so please book soon to avoid disappointment!

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for April, drawn after the Mothering Sunday service on 3rd May by Mrs Jean Knapp, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 84	Mr D Ransley
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 198	Mrs Lindy Elliott
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 47	Mrs A Bellars
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 147	Mr R Wrigglesworth

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

The main news this month is that our celebrated AGM will take place on **Monday evening, 16th May at 7.30pm** in the **Lecture Hall (Drama Room)**. If you get there at around 7.00pm, you will get a free cup of coffee and possibly a biscuit, so it's worth coming just for that bonanza alone. It is also a very good moment to join MADS because you get the maximum benefit of membership, subscriptions for 2011-12 being due on that very day (existing members please note: bring your cheque book - it's only £5 a head, £1 for juniors. Cash also accepted). We look forward to seeing you there; everyone welcome!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE DRAMA SOCIETY

**in conjunction with Rural Arts Wiltshire
presents: singer/songwriter**

Barb Jung

in concert

accompanied by Jenny Carr on piano

Britain's most acclaimed song stylist presents a collection of some of the most beautiful songs to have been written on the theme of love. Interpreting songs by Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Neil Diamond and more, Barb brings a unique vocal vision to this moving material. Join us for this cabaret style entertainment in

Mere Lecture Hall on Friday 6th May at 7.30pm

Tickets available from the Tourist Information Office at Mere Library or by ringing ☎
01747 860163.

£6.50 adults, £5.50 Concessions, £3.50 children.

Support live entertainment in Mere

MERE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB (SENIORS)

Dorset League Division 2, Season 2010/11

We are pleased to announce that for the first time ever, we have won the above league and have been promoted to Division 1.

Hopefully, this could be a league and cup double if we are fortunate to win the Banks Charity Cup.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our main sponsor, Haxnicks, for providing us with our football kit. *Pete Down, Chairman ☎ 01747 863305*

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Firstly an apology to my regular readers who were waiting on tenter-hooks to read my contribution in last month's Mere Matters and it wasn't there! How upset you must all have been. The reason for the lack of copy was a complete oversight on my part, for which I am truly sorry.

By the time this article is published we will have opened our green for the 2011 season and just as importantly collected members subscriptions – a bowls club needs funds for, among other things; chemicals for the green, maintenance of sophisticated mowing equipment and to be able to show hospitality to our opponents after our home games; a cup of tea and a light supper goes a long way on a sunny afternoon, especially if you don't have to do the washing up!

As a Club we shall be trying our hardest to attract new members this year so if you have ever seen Bowls on the television and thought "I could do that" why not come and try? The Club now has a fully qualified coach who will be able to show you the ropes and get you started bowling in a very short time, you will be able to pick up the rules and etiquette from members as you play in practice games or while representing the town in formal club matches.

I hereby also offer to all members of Mere Youth Club an open invitation to come to the green on any Saturday afternoon or Tuesday or Thursday evening, and I promise that the club will make you welcome and give you a game of bowls there and then.

A note for all prospective new bowlers, until such time as the bowling bug bites and you purchase proper bowling shoes, please bring a pair of the flattest shoes you own to all practice sessions – our Green Keepers will be your friends for life if you do and vice versa if you don't.

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

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'True Grit' (15)

Jeff Bridges Matt Damon Josh Brolin
Hailee Steinfeld

Following the murder of her father, 14-year-old Mattie Ross sets out to capture his killer. To help her, she hires the tough U.S. marshal, a man with "true grit," Reuben J. "Rooster" Cogburn and insists on accompanying him, but his drinking and generally reprobate character do not augment her faith in him. They are joined on their trek by Texas Ranger LaBoeuf, who wants the killer, Chaney, for his own purposes. The unlikely trio find danger and surprises on the journey, and each has his or her "grit" tested.

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday 19th May, 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**

MERE CROQUET & BOULE CLUB

Our opening day was on Saturday, 9th April; the weather could hardly have been better and the croquet lawn, after a winter of careful nurturing was looking terrific. The new Boule Court was brought into service and proved to be very popular.

It was a pleasure to welcome a number of new members as well re-uniting with old friends. Our ladies, as always, came up trumps with the excellent refreshments, young Elizabeth Mackie once again officiated as our most efficient "Maitre D". Overall it was a really enjoyable afternoon and augers well for a long and successful season ahead.

We are always ready to welcome new faces, if you are interested do give Rex Roberts a call on 01747 860873 for information.

The funding for the addition of the Outdoor Table Tennis facility is going extremely well and it is anticipated that this can now be installed in the very near future.

Our AGM is scheduled for Friday, 6th May at 7.15pm in the Andy Young Pavilion in the Duchy Manor School grounds. *Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council,
Where everybody matters

May Half-Term - Camp Activate Holiday Programme

Monday, 30th May – Sunday, 5th June 2011

The May Half-Term is full of fun things to do, from Dodge Ball to Jail Ball, Racquet Sports to Team Games, Wii Sports, Board Games and Art 'n' Craft. We will also be staging our new activity, which proved to be very successful during the Easter Holidays – "Street Striker Competition" for the 8yrs+ – a range of football related skills to challenge you, and show just how accurate you can be with a football.

Our old favourite "Roller Rumpus" will also be included, so watch out for the programme, it will be coming your way very soon. Oh and by the way don't forget to bring your swimwear if you wish to stay with us all day from 0900-1600, from 5yrs+, because we'll have an afternoon swim as well.

New Activities for the Summer Term

Basic Tennis Skills

We will be running some basic tennis skills sessions commencing Wednesday, 8th June for a 7 week block. Charges and times will be as follows:

- 5-7 years from 1600-1645,
- 8 years plus from 4.45 – 5.45pm

- Non Member (those who do not have one of our new Leisure Cards costing just £5.50 for children, and lasting one year): £42.00
- Member (those who do have a Leisure Card): £31.50

Beginners Gymnastics Sessions

These will take place on Fridays from 1530-1630 for 4yrs+.

Sessions run in conjunction with the School terms, and children work towards the British Gymnastics Awards Scheme. Sessions are priced at £6 for non-members and £4.50 for members.

Concessions cards are eligible for both of these new sessions.

For further details, and to book any of the above please contact us:

- Reception ☎ 01747 871141,
- e-mail: tisburyse@wiltshire.gov.uk
- website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

MERE SCHOOL

April 2011

In March the whole school took it in turns to visit the Life Bus. The Life Bus is a bit like a caravan which travels around schools teaching children how to keep healthy. We hope it comes again next year.

Earlier this term the dance club performed to the whole school and their parents. We enjoyed it a lot. Some of the children are doing a dance exam and if they pass they will receive a medal and certificate. Best of luck to them all!

This term, in exchange for an Easter bingo prize we all came into school in our normal, colourful clothes. At the end of the day we had a wide range of things to be used for bingo prizes. The bingo was great fun and the hall was nearly full up.

Green class have been running an Easter Egg Raffle. They raised £84 in 2 weeks and the money will be sent to the Fair Trade Foundation. Neo Cotton and Cody Brice won the raffle.

We have taken part in lots of sporting events recently, with great success. On Monday, 5th April our year 5 and 6 football team went to Sherborne Abbey Primary School where they played the semi final and final of the Davison Cup. We won and it is the first time ever that the trophy has been brought back to Mere (or to any Wiltshire school). After this our year 3 and 4 football team and our year 5 and 6 netball team went to play in a tournament at Bryanston. Our netball team came seventh out of 45 schools, and our

football team eighth. We all came back to school with sunburn! Our year 3 and 4 football team also won the Gillingham pyramid football tournament and came back to school with another trophy.

Our year 5 and 6 hockey team came third in the Gillingham pyramid tournament as well. Mr Marshall has been very busy helping us all.

The Friends organised a fantastic disco for us at the end of term. We had such fun.

Mere School is now awarding an Attendance Cup every week to the class with the highest attendance. Purple class won it for the first 2 weeks, then it was red class. We are all hoping to win it - good luck everyone!

A few weeks ago amber and blue classes had the opportunity to take part in a cookery class after school called 'Pepper Pirates'. They cooked things with their parents.

On the last day of term we all had an Easter egg hunt. Every class hid the eggs for another class.

We hope you all enjoy your Easter holidays.

Thomas Chapman, Thomas Sutton, Zoe Acreman, Jessica Corbett, Alex Pepperday, Adam Filleau, Becky Hull, Liam Skinner, Jacob Read, Danny Harkin, Harry Bateson, Emily Kelly, Zach Hillier, George Gould, Carter Light, Brandon Drake, Drew Adams and Harry Betts

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL PFTA



Firework Night and Halloween Party

Monday 31st October 2011 at Mere School



The Friends of Mere School are delighted to announce plans to host for the first time in 10 years (we are told!), Mere's own Firework Night. We want this to be a real family and community event.

As well as a spectacular firework display we are planning to have a carved pumpkin competition, spooky fancy dress, stalls, toffee apples, hot chocolate and baked potatoes – in other words everything to keep the littles (and more grown up) happy at Halloween. However, to make this happen, we need your help.....

In order to help cover the cost of the fireworks we are seeking sponsors for this fabulous event, so do please get in contact if you would like to find out how you can get involved.

For further information please call me, Penny Deeker, ☎ 07811 281 029 or by e-mail: **penny@deeker.net**

Penny Deeker

ACCESSORIES STALL

At St Michael's Church Fete

Saturday, 4th June

Julia and I will be running the successful accessories stall again this year and hope that you might clear out your cupboards to find some more unwanted goods.

Bags, hats, suitcases, belts and scarves.

Please contact myself or Julia if you would like us to collect them or they can be delivered to my house - 4 The Square

Maggie ☎ 01747 860 163 Julia ☎ 01747 860 805

BARN BUDDIES

Are Ten Years Old

Please join us for a BBQ with Bar

On May 20th, 2011

From 6:30pm

At Barrow Street Farm, BA12 6AB

Further details from Tim, ☎ 01747 860195



*Everyone is welcome to come to a
Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in Aid of Suchana*

On Tuesday, 24th May 10.30am – 12.00pm

at 8 Prospect Place (Brian and Sheila Shotter's House ☎ 01747 861771)

Over £700 raised so far this year – many thanks to all supporters



Christian Aid Week 15th – 22nd May 2011

Please support Mere's Christian Aid week Collection! If you can help as a collector, a few more are still needed – please phone me. Training and support provided. Dates for Training Meetings in the Small Hall in the Grove Building are **Tuesday, 3rd May at 7.30pm** or **Friday, 6th May 1.00-2.00** (come at 12.30 for a soup lunch beforehand, if you like). If you can't manage either date, please phone to arrange a personal training session.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553

Richard Robins - ¼ page advert

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere
Songs of Praise
Celebrates Marriage

Sunday, 15th May @ 6.00 pm

Come and join us as we sing our favourite hymns. All are very welcome, especially couples, who will be invited to renew their marriage vows during the Service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

**FR BEDE, CATHOLIC PRIEST OF ST MARY'S IN
MERE, WRITES**

I recently had a disturbing experience with a rabbit. It was the soulless eyes and the strange rubberised feet that eventually did it. Had I been a child then, when I would have grown up I would have sued the Easter Bunny for traumatising me. Those eyes... those feet...

Really I have no problems about celebrating Easter in the most bizarre ways. I am a paid up devotee of the High School Musical Luxury Easter Egg Experience (available at your local super market for several thousand pounds) or the chocolate novelties which look suspiciously like Santa Clause Christmas Tree decorations with bunny ears printed on the paper. I even cooed over a child's Easter Card that was a beautifully drawn egg with a rabbit inside. Think about that for a moment... what freakish generically modified nonsense ends up with rabbits being born from eggs... Yikes!

I love it all.

But we just have to be careful about one thing. We can use anything to celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the miracle of Easter (eggs and bunnies and anything else at all), but we cannot allow the feast to be usurped by something else. This is not a celebration of spring, or the turning of the year, or anything else. This is not the feast of the Easter Bunny, with or without soulless eyes and rubberised feet.

This is the feast of Christ. Our God died for us, and to give us hope of eternal life, He died and went to the realm of the dead, and then rose from the dead. Really and

substantially. This is no trick, this is no retold story with meaning for those who choose to believe it. This is no reworking of ancient themes.

This is our hope of salvation.

You want daffodils? I'll give you daffodils!

You want chocolate? I'll give you chocolate!

You want soulless eyes and rubberised feet? Let me serve it to you *à la Herod's Head!*

But Easter gives us more... much more.

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SPRING BAZAAR

Saturday 7th May 10am to 12 noon

In the Grove Building, Church Street

**Cakes, Books, Bric-a-brac, Plants, Raffle,
Coffee and Tea**

Everyone will be most welcome

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Cafe Worship

Wednesday morning, 25th May at 11.00am in the School Room at the Methodist Church. Enjoy a coffee and may be a doughnut, then share in a different kind of Church service. The speaker will be the Rev'd Gordon Elford.

Afternoon Get Together

As we are starting a new kind of worship this month we shall not meet on Wednesday afternoon. We do hope you can come in the morning instead.

Advance Notice

Sunday, 5th June at 4.00pm. MISSION at the Methodist Church. Mr Steve Lancaster of AIM International brings news of the Gospel in Africa. Tea will follow.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MAY 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)
		5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evensong
Wednesday	4th	6.00pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Children's Sunday Club in Grove Building
	15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	29th	10.30am	Service for Rogation Sunday at Bison Farm, West Knoyle
			NO service at St Michael's

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	1st	11.00am	David Webb
	8th	10.45am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	15th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour
			Holy Communion
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd John Page
	29th	11.00am	Peter Kershaw

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	1st	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
	8th	6.00pm	United Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury
Sunday	15th	6.00pm	Rev'd Colin Marsh
	22nd	6.00pm	United Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury
	29th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey

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

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

Every Friday 10.00am Mass

Every Sunday 11.30am Mass

Childrens LiturgyService 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	1st	9.25am	Matins
	8th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	15th	10.30am	DIY
	22nd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	29th	10.30am	Rogation Service at the Bison Farm, West Knoyle

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR MAY 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; YC-Youth Centre

2	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
3	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (also 10th, 17th & 24th)	Footprints
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Christian Aid Training	GB
4	Wed	9.30am	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L
		9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Quilters (also 12th & 18th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	GB
5	Thur	7.00am to 10.00pm	Polling Station – Referendum	L
		10.00am	Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		6.30pm	Weight Watchers (every Thursday)	I
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
6	Fri	12.30pm	Christian Aid Training	GB

6	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.15pm	Mere Croquet & Boule Club AGM	AYP
		7.30pm	Barb Jungr in Concert	L
7	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michael Spring Bazaar	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
9	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 16th & 23rd)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (also 16th)	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 16th & 23rd)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 16th & 23rd)	YC
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		6.00pm	Wildlife Walk	Castle Hill Play area
		7.30pm	Credit Union meeting	GB
		7.30pm	Churches Together Meeting	CC
11	Wed	9.00am	RSPB Birdcall "teach in"	See page 11
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18th and 25th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18th and 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 18th and 25th)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
		6.00pm	Funky Feet Dance Club (every Friday)	L
14	Sat	10.00am	Plant Sale - Friends of Mere Museum	GB
		10.00am	Cancer Research Grand Sale	L
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
16	Mon	7.30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society AGM (Drama Rm)	L
17	Tue	7.30pm	St Michael's PCC meeting	GB
19	Thur	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows/Moviola "True Grit"	L
20	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies 10th Anniversary BBQ	BSF
		7.00pm	Linkscheme	GB
21	Sat	9.00am	Plant Sale – Gardening Club	The Square
		10.00am	Plant Sale – Guy's Plant Stall	Ship Hotel Car Park
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
22	Sun	10.00am	Mere Footpaths Group walk (Note time)	CP
24	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting	GB
27	Fri	3.00pm	Messy Church	Footprints
28	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		4.30pm	Children's Theatre Show	L
29	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 JUNE ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the June 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 May 2011**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome; please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday 9th May. To help secure publication, would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

e-mail: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎ : 01985 844740

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**TEEANDEE
PRODUCTIONS**

**Website Design
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Tel: 01747 860516
Mob. 07799 325214

Email tim@teeandee productions.com
<http://www.teeandee productions.com/>