

# MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 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, 5th September 2011**.

## **The Chairman writes:**

The summer months of July and August often herald a slightly quieter time, when things wind down a little and holidays are on the horizon. On the 10th July I attended the annual 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial Service and Parade with the Drumhead Service at Castle Hill. It is an event I always enjoy and it was very well attended, not just with our old soldiers but also with many of our young cadets which was good to see. Later in the month, I joined the launch of the South West Wiltshire Credit Union in Mere, which will be open in the Library every Saturday morning and should be an asset in these difficult economic times.

At our Parish Council Meeting in July it was agreed to support proposals for a 12m length of double-yellow lines to be laid outside the Lecture Hall which will not only allow traffic in Salisbury Street to pass more easily, but also enable loading and unloading of goods - and people - outside the Lecture Hall. At this meeting councillors also voted to co-opt a new councillor and from four candidates Mrs Jane Hurd was co-opted by a majority vote. Jane Hurd is known to many people in Mere as she has lived here for over thirty years and is also a Lay Minister in St. Michaels Church.

Concern has been expressed by residents in Mere over the low level of water in our streams and rivers. We are very aware of these low levels and are in contact with both Wessex Water, who extract water under licence, and the Environment Agency, to enlist their help to resolve this situation.

During the summer the Parish Council, Wiltshire Council and our Wiltshire Councillor became inundated with questions and complaints about overgrown footpaths but the problems usually arise because landowners are not carrying out their responsibilities relating to public footpaths. We would therefore like to kindly remind landowners of their responsibilities. The landowner must:

- Keep back side growth and overhanging vegetation which may be encroaching onto the path.
- Refrain from obstructing rights of way.
- Refrain from ploughing a footpath or bridleway which constitutes the headland of a field, or runs alongside a hedgerow.

- Ensure that paths across fields are reinstated two weeks after ploughing and making sure that the line of a right of way is clear through crops.
- Obtain the consent of Wiltshire Council before erecting new stiles or gates on rights of way and ensuring that all are kept in a safe and usable condition and replaced when necessary.
- Not allow any dairy bull over ten months of age free range of any field through which a footpath or bridleway passes.

The landowner may:

- Provide for improved access for dogs.
- Protect land against the acquisition of further public rights on their land.
- With our prior consent, improve the surface of the right of way beyond the standard required for its status (for example surfacing a footpath that also serves as a driveway).
- The landowner has the right to expect that visitors on their land will treat it with respect and care and follow the Countryside Code. Wiltshire Council will do what it can to ensure that rights of way are not used inappropriately.

Finally, as you are all aware, next year is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and thoughts are turning to celebrations of this event. The Parish Council would be interested to hear if parishioners would like any particular celebrations to be planned, and also if any events are being planned by the various organisations in Mere.

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

*Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES**

I hope you all had a good July and August.

Car parking for those of you who drive to Salisbury and park in the main car parks of Wiltshire Council, which I reported to you as being controversial, is still of great concern to many. I noted while in Plymouth that parking was £12 a day in the centre in some car parks. The charges for Salisbury are going to be reviewed, and the traders are hoping for one hour of parking to cost £1-20. Thankfully with support from our local traders, Mere Heath Centre and the local rate payer, Mere will keep its 'free to user' car parks.

Planning advice from Wiltshire Council now being chargeable has caused me many more enquiries regarding planning, ie 'Can I put a shed in my garden?' I was told once that as a Councillor, when I requested advice regarding planning from Wiltshire Council,

that I would be charged £30. I told them that they could send an invoice, but it would not be paid. At that point some rationality returned to the conversation.

I have had many complaints regarding poorly maintained footpaths. Wiltshire Council has a statutory obligation to keep footpaths open. However, please appreciate while out in the countryside, that walking through long grass is considered a reasonable expectation, but it would not be reasonable to find yourself walking through high crops. I know that Lindsey Wood, clerk to several Parish Councils, plans to write to some local publications with further information. I hope to see some of the tarmac footpaths (I am not referring to pavements) in Mere, resurfaced next year.

There are four categories of rights of way:

- Footpath: public right of way on foot.
- Bridleway: public right of way on foot, on pedal, cycle, or horseback and leading a horse.
- Restricted Byway: public right of way on foot, on horseback and leading a horse, and in or on any vehicle other than a mechanically propelled vehicle at either 2nd May 2006 (where the restricted byway is a former road used as a public path) or the relevant date of the modification order that caused the way to be shown as a restricted byway.
- Byway open to all traffic: foot, on horseback and in or on vehicles, including motor vehicles and pedal cycles.

The public may have rights additional to those shown on definitive maps, but as yet unrecorded.

Some residents of new houses in our area have had problems with fixtures and fittings. I was interested to learn that the Trade Descriptions Act does not appear to apply to new houses, i.e. new double glazing fitted in a refurbished house, would be fitted with recourse to the supplier by the end user (excluding perhaps a genuine trade deal to a builder before he sells the whole house). However, windows in a new house (I assume because they were supplied to the trade in effect) are not covered by the Trade Descriptions Act to the end user when a purchaser buys a new house. You only appear to have the builder's guarantee on fixtures and fittings.

A Credit Union for the Mere Area now opens in Mere Library from 10.00am to noon every Saturday. Remember that Credit Unions can be used to invest your money, not

### **Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic**

For the professional treatment of: Corns • Callus/Hard Skin  
Nail Trimming • Fungal & Thickened Nails • Athletes Foot  
**Contact Mary on 07809 738237**

just to save for Christmas etc. and they help shield people from paying huge amounts of interest to private loan companies.

The Post Box at the bottom of Denes Avenue has been refurbished. Please use it; otherwise it is my opinion that if you do not, you will lose it.

The footway between Mere and Zeals should be as ready as it can be for Autumn, as it has now been "sided out" and cleaned by the parish steward.

The collection of surface water "run-off" at the junction between New Road from Zeals/A303 slip road and the B3092 following heavy or prolonged rainfall is a problem of which Wiltshire Council (WC) are aware. The suspended soil in the run off water from nearby fields gives a dirty appearance and quickly blocks the road gullies, which rely on soakaways to clear. To counter this nuisance, WC empty these gullies in addition to its normal programme, as and when required. For the longer term this matter has been registered with the drainage engineer and his gang who carried out recent successful works at Kilmington on a 'C' class road off the B3092.

## **WEATHER REPORT**

The total rainfall for June was 115.5mms (4.53ins). Last year we had 30.5mms (1.22 ins). The second half of the month was warmer and drier than the first half, the last three days being quite hot.

July started hot and the total rain for the month was 53.0mms (2.09ins). Last year we had 36.0mms (1.42ins). From the 20th there was only 1mm of rain and until the 3rd of August we had some real summer weather. Then, until the 14th August, we had a few sunny days but mostly overcast with 58.5mms (2.30ins) of rain, mostly over night.

*Peter Durkee*

## **MERE LIBRARY**

Following a major review of the library service, Wiltshire's libraries new opening hours will start from Monday, 5th September. All of Wiltshire's libraries will remain open thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have come forward to help the Council safeguard the Library Service.

In Mere library we will be operating the opening hours with both library staff and the support of volunteers. Library staff will operate the core hours of service and volunteers will enable us to extend these hours further. We will continue to offer a friendly and welcoming service for all members of the community. The new opening hours for Mere library will be:

Monday	10.00am - 2.00pm ( <i>volunteer led</i> )
	2.00pm - 7.00pm ( <i>staffed</i> )
Tuesday	9.30am - 5.00pm ( <i>staffed</i> )

Wednesday 9.30am – 1.00pm (*volunteer led*)  
Thursday 9.30am - 5.00pm (*staffed*)  
Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm (*staffed*)  
Saturday 9.30am -1.00pm (*staffed*)

Library customers can find details of all the new opening hours for Wiltshire libraries on the Wiltshire Council website at: **[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries)**. Bookmarks giving details of the new opening times will also be available from all libraries.

*Sabina Edwards, Community Librarian, ☎01985 216022*

## MERE POLICE NEWS



### News

It has been brought to our attention that graffiti has begun to appear on the gates & fences around Castle Hill, Long Hill and Manor Road. We are determined to prevent this from escalating and will be conducting high visibility patrols of the affected areas. We would ask anyone to report any suspicious persons seen loitering in the area in order that

we can try to catch those responsible.

We have recently seen an increase in lead and scrap metal thefts across the county, including theft of lead from a church roof in Mere. Wiltshire Police have an on-going operation in place to monitor and deal with such crimes. If you are aware of any vulnerable premises please be vigilant, and I urge you to report any suspicious activity to the police on 999.

### Good work

The Stourhead Picnic and Fireworks evening at the end of July was a great success and around ,2000 people attended this open air event. Credit must be given to everyone involved, including those who attended and the National Trust organisers. We hope that the Mere Carnival on Saturday, 17th September is a similar success and we look forward to seeing some of you there.

### Bobby Van Assistance

We would like to remind you of the valuable service that the Wiltshire Bobby Van scheme offers the over 60's in our community. If you would like crime prevention advice and reassurance on your home security, please contact Jake Noble for further details. If you fit the criteria we can arrange for the Bobby Van to visit your home by special appointment for free

### Consultations and Contacts

To get details on meetings to be held in the upcoming months please see our section of the website: **[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)** and clicking on 'policing in your area' then select 'Mere'. If you wish to contact Jake or Richard please e-mail us and we will always try to

get back to you as soon as we pick up your message. Our duty dates are available on-line. You can still access photos of your local policing team working with the community by visiting: <http://merewilts.org/police/ss/police.html>

*Richard Salter, Community Beat Manager, Police Constable 1312*

*☎ 07528 972928 (not 24 hours)*

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

*Jake Noble, Police Community Support Office*

*☎ 07528 927926 (not 24 hours)*

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

## SHAFTESBURY HOSPITAL

The Friends of the hospital (registered charity 2814119) are launching an appeal to raise money for the refurbishment of the x-ray room at Shaftesbury Hospital, necessary to house the new up-to-date digital x-ray equipment being provided by Salisbury Hospital. The estimated cost of this is £15,000 including VAT.

Without an X-ray department we would have to travel to Salisbury for this service, costing us time and money. On average, 100 patients attend this x-ray unit every week.

Since this will be for the benefit of the whole local community, fundraising, donations and publicity for this good cause would be much appreciated. Donations can be sent or handed in to reception at the hospital. Please make cheques payable to the **Friends of the Westminster Memorial Hospital**.

*Jenny Wood, Chair, Friends of the Westminster Memorial Hospital, ☎ 01747 861582*

## LIP READING

Lip reading begins again for the Autumn term on Tuesday, 20th September. Our new venue is in the small room at the Grove Building, in Mere. This is a ground floor room with all amenities close at hand. Classes are on Tuesday mornings, from 10.15am - 12.15pm.

I look forward to seeing 'old' members and any new people who may be interested. Please phone me on the number below if you would like to hear more about this class.

*Liz Messer, Tutor, ☎ 01300 348580*

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

A date for your diary. On 11th October at 12noon for 12.30pm at the Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street Mere there will be a "CASSEROLE AND CHARACTERS" two course lunch including tea or coffee for £8.95 in celebration of the Literary Festival with entertainment by historian Rex Saywer.

The Community Lunch runs from October to Easter from 12-noon on the second Tuesday of the month alternating between the Old Ship Hotel and the Walnut Tree Inn. It is for the people of Mere, all are welcome, from those of you who are new to the area, disabled, lonely, young, elderly, friend, relative, neighbour, to even your mother-in-law!

All Mere organisations, clubs and businesses are encouraged to come along to promote themselves, find volunteers, new club members or simply to make new friends. Details will be published monthly in Mere Matters or by contacting:

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*



## MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



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

The practice has two Dentists:

**Mr Stephen Sherrard**

**Ms Jacqueline Barnes**

..and one Dental Hygienist:

**Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)**

..plus a dental therapist

**Jay Lonsdale (Tuesdays and Thursdays)**

### **Contact Details: -**

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

**☎: 01747 860365**

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

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

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

## MERE CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Shannon Jade Whitmarsh, who is Mere Carnival Princess. We hope that she will enjoy her role and look forward to seeing her during Carnival Week and at the processions.

Please support the fundraising events, and be generous with your contributions as the Carnival costs many thousands of pounds to put on each year.

*Friday, 9th September*

**Bingo.** Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere. Doors open 7.00pm. Eyes down 7.45pm. Good prizes. Raffle and Refreshments. Fun for all the family.

*Tuesday, 13th September*

**Quiz Night.** Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere. Teams of 4. £1.50 per person. Doors open 7.00pm. Commencing 7.30pm. Raffle and Refreshments. Why not make up a team and enjoy a fun evening.

*Thursday, 15th September*

**Film Night.** At The Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street, Mere. Doors open 7.00pm. Commencing 7.30pm. Further details from Mary White 01747 861257 (see page 29).

*Friday, 16th September*

**Grand Race Night.** The Walnut Tree Inn, Shaftesbury Road, Mere. Starts 7.00pm. First race 7.45pm. Tickets £10.00 in advance to include Dinner and pint/glass of wine. Fun night with family, friends or colleagues. Why not advertise your business and sponsor a race for £25.00? Further details from Mark on 01747 861220

*Saturday, 17th September*

## **Carnival Day**

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

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

Grand Carnival Draw in The Square at approximately 3.30pm.

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

Entry forms for both processions available from Mere Post Office.

Don't forget M Herbert's Family Funfair located at The Field, Gillingham Corner (opposite Quarry Industrial Estate), Wednesday, 14th – Saturday, 17th. Crazy prices on Wednesday. Open Nightly at 6.30pm and Saturday at 2.30pm.

*Sue Jeans, on behalf of Mere Carnival committee ☎ 01747 860215*



## **THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE**



The Committee hope that you all had a good holiday over the period of July/August and now on to bigger and better things in the future. If you are still to go on holiday (as I am) we hope that you have a great time and come back thoroughly refreshed.

We have further diary dates for you and we hope that you will come along and join us for the Vineyard Visit.

As you can see we are starting up training courses and if you have any training needs please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be more than happy into facilitating the provision of the training specialists and venue. Here's to a very productive Autumn.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Wednesday, 14th September 2011**

An evening visit to Wylve Valley Vineyard

beginning at 6.30pm. Tickets are £10, to include transport.

### **Monday, 26th September 2011    Emergency First Aid Training**

This HSE approved course is designed to meet the requirements of the Health & Safety [First Aid] regulations 1981, which states that by law, all businesses must have one or more qualified First Aiders.

9.00 am – 4.30 pm in the small room at Prince of Wales Club, Mere

Members: £67.00 exc. VAT. Non Members £84.00 exc. VAT

### **Wednesday, 19th October 2011    Food Hygiene Training**

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

9.00 am – 4.30 pm in the small room at Prince of Wales Club, Mere

Members: £67.00 exc. VAT. Non Members: 84.00 exc. VAT

To book, or for further information on any of the Chamber events or meetings, please contact Julie Cousins ☎ **0785 670 0576**. If there is anything the Chamber can do for you, please let us know. We are here to help all businesses, large or small.

**Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting** to be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm Tuesday, 20th September 2011 You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. More ideas are always essential to keep a Chamber active.

*Barbara S Hewitt MSSP Assoc CIPD, Chair Mere & District Chamber of Trade*

## **A BIG “THANK YOU”**

I wish to thank the person who found my dog Minty (Dinky on tag) in the area of the Walnut Tree Inn. He escaped from the fields nearby around 11.00am on Tuesday, 12th July. After an hours search I returned to my house by the Mere car-park to find him in the garden.

I was hoping to hear from the good person, who brought him home, to thank them personally. My niece referred to the matter as feeling you have lost a child, how right she was.

Minty is a rescue dog from Cinnamon Trust and has become my 'buddy'. Thank you again.

*Jenny Mello ☎ 01747 860493*

## **TALKING ABOUT DOGS.....**

Guess what I am referring to!

You will find it all around and over the recreation ground behind the school (including the marked football pitch areas). You will find it on the paths beside the grounds and other pathways. You will find it on the pavements of Salisbury and Water Streets.

## **Yes, dog excrement.**

'It's on the grass verge so does not matter', some man said to me, 'don't have bags on me anyway'.

Or - 'oh I can't pick it up, it's warm!' said another. Don't you love it!

It is bad enough seeing litter on the above grounds (right near the bins sometimes) but we really should be ashamed of our behaviour.

Come on people, on the street pavements you have your dog on a lead anyway (or should have) so do not say you did not see it happening.

By the way parents, make sure your children have bags, and teach them to collect the 'poo' when out walking their dogs. They then would not have to fib - 'no, it was not my dog'.

The ladies I meet are conscientious but only a few of us bother to pick up the excrement of other dogs besides our own. And to young mother's pushing chairs and with dogs on leads it is hardly a good example for your children seeing you ignore the dog's actions and also they may be running in the rec. one day, do you really want faeces on their shoes?

Pick it up!

*Name and address supplied*

*I totally endorse this contribution from a dog owner in our community. Ed.*

## **MERE ART GROUP**

Would you like to paint but never seem to find the time at home? Why not come and join our friendly, informal group in The Small Hall in the Grove Building, held every Thursday (except Christmas and The New Year if they fall on a Thursday!) from 10.00am to 1.00pm. It is not a class - there are no tutors (we learn from each other) and you can arrive and leave whenever you like.

All abilities welcome. We have a selection of painting materials for you to try out before committing yourself to buying your own. Drop in and see what we're up to. The cost is £2 a session or part of (if you don't attend, you don't pay) to cover the hire of the hall and refreshments. The first session is complimentary. Enquiries to me, please.

*Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596*

## **CALLING ALL SINGERS**

SILTON SINGERS. New term starts Monday, 5th September at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Gillingham.

No audition; no need to read music; just come along, join friends from Mere and West Knoyle as well as Gillingham and enjoy singing together. Everyone is welcome. For more details, contact:: Carole Brooks (Secretary) ☎ 01747 825826 or me.

**WANTED** - good quality clothes, worn once or nearly new, for a Charity Sale on 20th September at Barrow Street House, Barrow Street **in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care**. 40% to Charity, 60% to seller. For collection of clothes or further information contact: Sarah Fineman, tel: 01747 860621.

## POPPY SELLERS NEEDED!

The Royal British Legion House-to-House Collections start on Monday, 31st October, this year. In the Mere area house-to-house sellers are needed in:

North Street/Upper Water Street/Nursery Gardens

North Rd/The Yews/Steep Street,

Denes Avenue/Bishops Close/The Hollow

White Rd/The Copse/Chetcombe Rd

The Square/Boar Street/Barnes Place

Lovage Way/Fennel Rd/The Fields/Spinners Way

If you feel you can spare an hour or two to help this important and worthwhile cause, please contact me.

"Help for Heroes" is doing a terrific job for servicemen injured and seriously disabled in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Royal British Legion has helped and continues to help those servicemen and women injured or in need, who served in WWII, Korea, Malaya 50's, Suez'56, Aden, Cyprus, Northern Ireland and The Falklands as well as the current campaigns.

Please lend a hand if you can.

David Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

By the time you read this we will have completed most of the booking for the autumn programme, but you never know, there may be some places left for say, the Carol Service at Salisbury Cathedral. So if you're interested, ring either Madelaine or Wendy. The winter programme is still to come so do join us if you fancy some culture, high or low!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

## MERE SHORT WALKS

September's Short Walk will take place on Monday, 19th September. We will meet as usual in the Salisbury Street (Surgery) Car Park at 2.00pm for a walk of 3 miles around Mere's local footpaths. Tea at The Angel Cafe afterwards, for those who wish to indulge.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

## THANK YOU FROM THE FOODBANK AT WARMINSTER

In spite of the monsoon rain, we collected the wonderful amount of 281 lbs (127.6kgs) of groceries on Saturday, 16th July.

**Thank you** so much to everyone who contributed food. Without your great generosity this would not have been possible. Our thanks go also to the Co-op for supporting us, donating food and supplying us with shelter.

If you would like to know more about the Warminster Foodbank, which also supports families in Mere, there are some leaflets by our collecting box in Church, please do help yourself to one.

Once again, very many thanks to you, the people of Mere.

*Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218*

## BRAINWAVE



It has been a busy summer for the Brainwave charity shop in Mere. As our on/off summer continues, the main retail chains will probably be re-stocking with outfits for the autumn/winter. How depressing! However, an Indian Summer could be on the cards and you will still be able to find what you need in our shop for the heatwave.

By popular public demand, we are repeating our Pamper Evening event. For those who missed it, the first one took place in the Spring and offered beauty treatments, holistic therapies and readings, a chill-out zone, refreshments and beautiful, new-to-you clothes to buy. Our next Pamper Evening will be held on Saturday, 1st October, from 7.00-10.00pm at the Lecture Hall and will include a sale of beautiful Autumn clothing and accessories. Tickets, at £3 each, are limited and will be on sale in our shop. Ticket price includes free refreshments and one free taster session, beauty or holistic. There will be a small charge for additional taster sessions. For further information about Brainwave or for more details of our Pamper Evening, please call the shop during business hours: ☎ 01747 863432. Thank you.

## MDLS LITERARY FESTIVAL 10th - 16th OCTOBER 2011

The Linkscheme launched its 2011 Literary Festival with a very successful quiz night. Thanks go to all who attended and to Bill Pike and his team for organising the event.

First flyers for the festival were distributed at the bookstall in The Square the following morning. All festival events help fund the work of MDLS in the local community.

The week opens with Kitty Dimbleby, author of *Daffodil Girls*, in conversation with Fanny Charles, editor of the BVM. Kitty Dimbleby is a member of the famous journalistic and broadcasting family, being the daughter of Bel Mooney and Jonathan Dimbleby. Other authors include Patrick Bishop, Roger Moorhouse, John Wilcox and Rex Sawyer. There are talks, a Mere Meander, poetry readings, film, workshops, and a NEW Open Mic event at The Old Ship for the 18 -30 year olds to showcase their own original work. Mere's PennyBank Writers also feature members' work in a joint anthology produced in co-operation with White Horse Writers of Froxfield, Wiltshire.

MLF is also celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible with a community evening and a concert by the noted London Forest Choir.

First flyers are now available and full programmes will be distributed during September. Details are also on **[www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk)** Tickets are available at Mere Library, by using the programme's booking form or by contacting the organiser ☎ 01747 860475.

*Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest. Group*

## **MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

**Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096**

We are looking forward to October's Mere Literary Festival, the Linkscheme's main money raising effort for the year. This year's Festival was launched at an extremely popular Quiz Night in July and we are sure that all the events planned will be equally enjoyable and successful. Programmes are available from the Library, so make your choice and come along and join us in as many events as possible. *Molly Burden*

## **MERE FILM SHOWS**

We begin our new season of films with 'The Way' (12A) starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez on Thursday, 15th September, as part of Carnival Week.

For hundreds of years people have made the pilgrimage from France to Spain along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela – 'The Way of St. James' – some in penitence, some to seek enlightenment and others to seek help. When Tom (Sheen), an American doctor, goes to France following the death of his son (Estevez) while walking the Camino, his initial purpose is to retrieve his son's body. However, in a combination of grief and homage to his son, Tom decides to journey on this path of pilgrims. While walking The Camino, Tom meets others from around the world (one in particular played

by James Nesbitt) all walking for their own particular reasons. Along the way Tom discovers the meaning of one of the last things his son said to his father: there is a difference between “the life we live and the life we choose.”

This is a film full of humour and humanity and glorious landscapes of the Pyrenees and perhaps some discoveries to be made for ourselves. Come and enjoy the film and support the Carnival at the same time! Full details on page 29.

**Dates for your Diary:** Thursday, 13th October: ‘Oranges and Sunshine’; Friday, 11th November: ‘Larry Crowne’, and Thursday, 8th December: ‘West Side Story’.

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Several of our members enjoyed a day in Romsey, visiting the beautiful Abbey and an excellent display of “Quilts in Bloom” followed by lunch and a visit to the interesting museum. In August we planned a garden party once again and I am delighted that, at the time of writing, we look forward to meeting a special visiting Quilter from Australia, born and brought up in Mere who found us on the Castle Hill Quilters website.

Before living in Mere I lived in Bedfordshire and ran a successful quilting group there. I was delighted to ask Joy Gillott to do a workshop for us. She then ran monthly workshops, teaching those ladies to make Sampler Quilts. I am delighted that Joy and her husband Humphrey, a semi-retired Chaplain on the Euston Line, are able to come and stay in Mere for a few days and Joy will be doing an illustrated talk, followed by a workshop on Wednesday, 21st and Thursday, 22nd September.

Our third year of meetings commences on the Thursday, 15th September and, following a swift AGM, we will be meeting the local co-ordinators of Linus Quilts to hear about their work and collect some of our finished Linus Quilts for children. We have a busy and interesting programme ahead. We now meet **EVERY THURSDAY** at The Grove Building from 2.00 – 5.00pm and have been able to lower our meeting subscription due to our good numbers attending.

If you would like to come along we welcome you, young and old. We don’t have facilities for childcare, too many needles and pins around! We hope to meet some of those who showed interest at our Exhibition. For more details please phone me or email: [info@castlehillquilters.org.uk](mailto:info@castlehillquilters.org.uk) Our website is: [castlehillquilters.org.uk](http://castlehillquilters.org.uk)

*Carol Lord, President, ☎ 01747 861923*





## **MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE**

### **Next meeting: Thursday, 1st September at 7.30pm in the Grove Building.**

As advised in the last edition of Mere Matters our September meeting will feature Susan Waldron's illustrated talk on "Crafts of the Waterways". Members are invited to bring photographs, readings or other mementos in connection with water. We are also looking forward to a visit by our WI Advisor, Mrs Jenny Coates.

Our October meeting will be on Thursday, 6th and will include a Craft session arranged by one of our members, plus a "mini-show".

### **Future Federation Events**

The Wiltshire Annual Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 17th October in Salisbury City Hall, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. The guest speaker will be the well-known writer and broadcaster, Matthew Collins. Also on the agenda is a presentation on the reintroduction of the world's largest flying bird, the Great Bustard, on to Salisbury Plain.

*Gillian H Brignell ☎ 01747 861114*

## **MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 13th September at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. The speaker will be Alison Rymell and her subject: "Birds of the Earth".

*Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262*

## **MERELY WOMEN**

Merely Women 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. We have activities, speakers and discussions covering both serious and more light-hearted topics. There is always tea and coffee, a lot of chat and laughter, and a sympathetic ear if needed.

We meet in the Grove Building on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.30am. There is no membership fee, 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, 9th September.**

*Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450*

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)**

### **The Day Centre for Mere and district, Lynch Close, Mere**

### **Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm**

At our AGM on 25th July we all warmly welcomed our new Organiser, Mrs Sandie Hawkins.

*A note from Sandie: "I have great pleasure to be the new Organiser for the Rosemary Goddard Centre. I have lived in Mere for ten years with my husband Steve, and my two children Reece and Kayleigh who attend Mere School.*

*I am looking forward to getting to know everyone at the centre and to carrying on the good work that the centre provides. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Lynette, the previous Organiser, a very happy retirement.*

*If you feel that you could either volunteer or help the centre in any way please don't hesitate to contact me. And, we are also always looking for interesting presentations, talks etc."*

### **Community Support Card scheme**

We are delighted that the Rosemary Goddard Centre has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the newly-launched Community Support Card scheme, running at the Mere Co-op from Tuesday, 16th August 2011 for one year.

Every time someone shops in the Co-op and presents the Community Support Card at the till, the Southern Co-operative will donate a cash sum to us. **The Cards are available from the Co-op; they are free to the shoppers, so please, when you are next in the Co-op do ask for the card and use it each time you shop** – it will cost you nothing and the day centre will be able to benefit from the much needed funds.

For further information, please contact:

*Sandie Hawkins (Organiser) ☎ 07563 678541*  
*or Lenka Stokes (Chair of Trustees) ☎ 01747 860741*

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

Preparations for our Annual Autumn Fair are in full swing even as I write. This year the event will take place on Saturday, 3rd September at 2.00p.m. in the Gardens at Fives Court. All the usual stalls will be there, plus a special raffle, and Gillingham Junior Brass Band will play. We hope very much that you will be able to support us as well as the Garden Club who have their Annual Show on the same day. **It's BY NO MEANS TOO LATE to DONATE** things for us to sell (garden produce, good-as-new items, jams and preserves, cakes, bottles of wine for our 'wine or water' stall, books, and items for a grown-ups' and a children's tombola – anything, really, which will help us to make money to benefit Fives Court Residents. There is a box in the porch at Fives Court to

receive donations (and in the Friends' Corner at St. Michaels). Don't forget the **CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS COMPETITIONS** (for the under 5s and 5-10s). And if you are free to help us set up on Friday, 2nd September 2nd from 4.00pm and/or from 9.00am on Saturday, 3rd, please let us know (see below). Last but not least, if you have items for us and you would like us to collect, please contact Carol Vigars ☎ 01747 860976) or Angela McDonald ☎ 01747 861602 or me. **THANK YOU!**

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **HERE GARDENING CLUB**

### **Annual Show Saturday, 3rd September**

#### **2.30pm in Mere Lecture Hall**

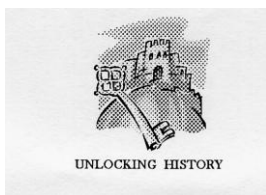
**Come and see what we've grown!** All are very welcome; admission 50p (to include tea/coffee and a biscuit), children under 10 yrs free. There are many classes this year open to non-members. **Deadline for entries 8.00pm Wednesday, 31st August.** Please return to Janet Way. Schedules available from The Fruit Shop in The Square, or from me. **Silver Class – don't forget your knobbly potatoes!!**

### **Next Meeting**

The speaker on Wednesday, 14th September at 7.30pm in the Grove Building is Dinah Lindon-Critchley who will talk on "Unusual Ways with Vegetables"

Dinah is one of our favourite speakers. She will talk about ways of growing vegetables in small spaces and making them look decorative, illustrating her talk with slides. Don't forget your purses because she will be bringing plants from her nursery. Visitors very welcome.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **“The Spy from Tisbury”**

Yvonne Varley

***Tuesday, 4th October***

***at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

This will be the first of the new season of evening talks. **£2 entry for non-members who will be very welcome.**

Later in October there will be a morning talk – details in your programmes, and October issue of ‘Mere Matters’.

Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership, the Committee values your support very much. Although you will have received a pack and a July 2011 newsletter if you were a member last year, **if you haven’t got a blue membership card, you haven’t renewed your membership.** If you intend to renew it would be a great help to the Society if you would send your fee (£6 per member) to the Membership Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere. ☎ 01747 860890. Standing Order forms are available.

You will have received a questionnaire with your July newsletter. Please do complete and return it if you haven’t already done so. The Committee welcome your comments, suggestions, and especially offers of help. *Caroline Cook* ☎ 01747 861797

## MERE MUSEUM

Our postcard exhibition (‘Wish You Were Here’) has proved to be so popular that we have run out of space in our Visitors’ Comments book and have had to get a new one! We do appreciate comments made on how we do things – the Museum is, after all, run for the residents of, and visitors to Mere.

During September a large black box will appear in the Museum, on top of which there will be a pile of forms which we would like to you fill in. They ask you to record your experience of the Museum and prompt you to make suggestions about what else you would like us to do (within reason!). This is a county initiative and not ours, but we would like to assemble a good collection of completed forms to submit to them by the end of the month. Thank you in advance for your participation.

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Autumn is always a busy time for The Friends of Mere Museum, with a number of events in the planning. The AGM is first (Tuesday, 25th October 25th at 7.30pm in the Grove Building) – that exciting meeting when the Friends present the curator with a cheque from funds they have raised through the year. It's always worth coming to see...how much! Also at that meeting, Delia Horsfall from The Ordnance Survey will give a talk – her title to be announced. There will be one of David Longbourne's famous quizzes too – an evening not to be missed!

Please note that there **won't be a preview** evening for the 'Make an Exhibition of Yourselves' community project, but there will be a **prize-giving party** instead on Monday, 28th November 28th at 6.30pm in the Museum. All the details will be in the next issue of Mere Matters, and in the next Friends' Newsletter. Watch out for it!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for July, drawn after Family Communion service on 3rd July by Mrs Judy Avory, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 33	Mrs R Cox
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 24	Mrs J Coward
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 143	Mrs T Ings
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 45	Mrs I Howell

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for August, drawn after Family Communion service on 7th August by Mrs Thelma Ings, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 180	Mrs J. Mellor
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 124	Mrs J Wigglesworth
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 112	Mrs G Anderson
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 28	Mrs T Howell

## Grove Building 100 Club - Subscription Time

I can hardly believe that a year has passed since I last asked for your generous support. Thanks to our efforts the upkeep of the newly refurbished Grove Building is guaranteed.

If you feel able to part with £12 when I come and see you it will be wonderful - if you decide not to continue your membership, I shall simply thank you for all your past support and sadly go away!!

Of course we are always looking for new members. The annual subscription is £12 and you will have forty eight opportunities of winning in the monthly draws throughout the year.

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Well, here we are at the long-awaited moment when we let the cat out of the bag, and for those of you whose summer (ha!) has been ruined by attempts to figure out who on earth could possibly be the author of MADS's next, World Premiere, production, the wait is over. It is Roger Wilding, better known to many as the setter of those mind-bending quizzes. His play, ***Time Heals, They Say***, is a comedy drama, set in the 1960s and 80s but with echoes from the first world war. It tells the story of two eccentric sisters who live together but whose relationship is not always an easy one. Other characters from their present and the past contribute to the story of their funny/sad lives. But there's more! Not only is this a World Premiere production, but the Director is an award-winning Director and the two leading actresses are each holders of the Best Actress award, all at recent One-Act Play Festivals. This is going to be a stellar event, not to be missed; so find your diary and put down the dates: **Thursday – Saturday, 24th – 26th November**. Be there or regret it for a lifetime!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## MERE SNOOKER CLUB

A date for your diary! A Quiz Night with cash prizes and live music will be held with the kind support of Mark and Sam at The Walnut Tree on Tuesday, 1st November at 7.00pm. Tickets are £10, which includes Quiz entry, meal and complementary drink. Those of you who came last year will remember that it was a most enjoyable evening, so book your tickets now by contacting me. See you there!

*Kevin Smith, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860305*

<p><b>REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE</b> <b>MONDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2011</b></p>
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# MERE BOWLS CLUB

## A Date for Your Diary!

Mere Bowls Club has chosen as its local charity for 2011/12, the Rosemary Goddard Centre. To support that charity, the Club will be hosting a Barn Dance with a bar, supper and raffle in the Grove Building on Saturday, 25th February 2012 with music (and dance instructions) by the Black Bear Band. Costs have yet to be finalised, but tickets, which will be limited due to the size of the hall, will be on sale early in the New Year.

The Club has had a successful year so far, winning many more matches than we have lost. Due to the irregular timing of matches in the Westbrook League we will not know our final position until later in the season when all league matches have been completed.

The Club continues to struggle for members, so if you ever thought 'I could do that' when you have maybe been passing the green and seen a bunch of happy people bowling – why not give it a try? Turn up any Tuesday or Thursday evening or even a Saturday afternoon and there will be someone there to show you the ropes and get you started.

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 CRICKET 2011 SEASON

The Mere senior side has enjoyed its most successful season in the Three Counties League to date. After a resounding start to the season against Compton House, where Mere won by over 100 runs, further victories came against Horningsham, Thornford and Warminster, and perhaps most memorably against Buckhorn Weston who have taken the league title every year since it started in 2008.

Mere have also had a busy schedule of evening T20 and weekend friendly games against local sides. The local derby against Kilmington and Stourton saw Mere win by 5 wickets.

The junior section is thriving. Mere has fielded four junior sides this year (U9, U11, U13 and U15s) and coaching sessions on Friday evenings have once again been very well attended which bodes well for the future of the club.

Remaining home games this season include a friendly against Deverills (28th August). If you fancy spending a few hours in the sunshine (hopefully) why not come up and watch.

Anyone who would like to get involved with the club in any capacity, please get in touch with me or Mark Cassidy at the Walnut Tree. *Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639*

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE UPDATE

As many of you will be aware, Mere Children's Centre is now open under new management. Since 1st April the centre is now being run by the children's charity, **4Children**, who were successful in being awarded Wiltshire Council's Children Centre contract for 16 Children's Centres in the County. Mere is now part of a hub of five local centres including White Horse (Westbury), Happy Feet (Warminster), Tisbury and Wilton.

The Centre is now offering activities for children including stay and play, parenting classes and has been running special activity days through the school holidays, which have included stream dipping in Mere, and free sessions in Mere pool, as well as joint activities with our colleagues in Tisbury Children's Centre. We will be offering these sessions and more over the coming months, including activities to support Mere Carnival in September, a photo session in October - to get the family pics well in time for Christmas, and the Mere Firework display, also in October.

We also have a running list of names for future parenting courses and baby massage, so if you are interested in either of these please give us a call.

In addition we are hoping to run activities in some of the villages within the Mere Children Centre area, which covers Zeals, Hindon, Semley, Maiden Bradley, Kilmington and Stourhead. More details of all our fun activities for 0-5s and their families are available from the Centre.

### **It's your Children's Centre**

The Children's Centre in Mere provides free activities for 0-5s and their families and aims to provide sessions that respond to needs in the local area. We of course have access to lots of statistics to help us, but it is the input of local people that is important to making sure we provide the right activities too. So we have lots of ways you can tell us what you want.

There are posters that you can stick messages onto for us, and feedback activities and cards in our sessions. But, there are other ways you can make your voice heard too. Perhaps you could come along to a Parent's Forum – there will be a meeting arranged soon, for parents and little ones to contribute in a relaxed, informal group setting. And the Advisory Board is a group made up of parents, professionals and members of the local community with an interest in children. Its job is to advise and direct the services offered by the Children's Centre and ensure that they are in line with local needs. If you would like to participate in the Advisory Board, which next meets in September, or the Parent's Forum, please speak to any member of staff.

We do look forward to seeing you soon.

*Eileen Brocklehurst, Mere Children's Centre, ☎ 01747 861108*



# MERE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL



The Friends of Mere School Present the Mere Fireworks Festival on Sunday, 30th October. The Festival Opens at 3.30pm with the Firework Spectacular at 6.30pm.

Festival events:

- Illuminated lantern parade.
- Fire lit yurt with story telling
- Costumery zone with fancy dress, facepainting, hair wraps and tattoos.
- Food Hall with local food and BBQ by the Walnut Tree Inn.
- Fireworks by Pains Fireworks.

Tickets are available from all branches of Hambledons, Mere School, Mere Library and the Walnut Tree inn or email: [info@merefireworksfestival.co.uk](mailto:info@merefireworksfestival.co.uk), ☎ 01747 861534 or buy online at [www.merfireworksfestival.co.uk](http://www.merfireworksfestival.co.uk)

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents  
**THE WAY** (12A)

**Martin Sheen Emilio Estevez**

The Way is the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, and Tom (Martin Sheen) has flown from America to walk the pilgrim trail in an effort to discover just how his estranged son Daniel (Emilio Estevez) came to meet his end along its path.

**In the Lecture Hall**

**Thursday 15th September, at 7.30pm**

*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £5.00**

**Available from the Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

Visit our website at: **[www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)**

**MERE SCHOOL**

**July 2011**

We have had a very busy last few weeks of term and have lots to tell you about.

We have great news about our SATs results. Our year 6 class got the highest ever results - higher than a lot of other primary schools. Congratulations and well done to them all! These children have also been to Gillingham School for their induction day. They had all kinds of lessons including science, French and PE. They even got to use the canteen. The children enjoyed their leaver's barbecue, when they played rounders with their parents and their production of 'Gold' (with a little help from the year 5s) was fantastic. On the last day of term purple class did their leavers assembly. Parents were invited to share the memories with their children. In the afternoon we had 'Mere School's Got Talent'. We watched a wide range of acts including singers, recorders, skipping, castanets and dancing. It was great fun.

The new children who are starting our school in September have come in for their play visits with Miss Bevan and Mrs Harrison. We have all had the opportunity to visit our new classes and teachers ready for September.

Gold class had a really good visit to Langford Lakes on 30th June. They went pond dipping and caught lots of minibeasts. They explored dark places and found creatures under logs. They found slugs and a frog but they let them go. They also found lots of flying creatures - butterflies, moths and even bees and flies.

India day was a special occasion in school. We were involved in Bollywood dancing, traditional stick dancing, fashion henna painting and cooking (puris). A professional Bollywood dancer worked with us and Mrs Demi Ladwar organised the day with Mrs Shannon. Everyone dressed up for the day and we had a great time.

'Special Person to Lunch' was a great experience. We were able to invite someone to come and have lunch with us. Lunch was delicious and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Blue class visited Wardour Castle. They dressed up and made things and climbed some very steep steps.

Mr Walker, our brass players and year 3 children put on a great assembly for the school and their parents. Mr Walker made it lots of fun and we enjoyed doing 'The Funky Chicken' dance.

We were visited by 8 work experience students from Gillingham School - Max, Lara, Alice, Hannah, Bradley, Helena, Jody and Macaulay. They helped the children and the teachers and really became part of our school life.

A group of people from Msada, a local charity and students from a secondary school came to work in year 5. They taught the children all about Rwanda and we compared our lives with the children in Rwanda. We composed songs about how difficult it is for children in Rwanda.

We were very lucky to have a trip to London to watch the West End Show of 'Shrek'. It took about 2 hours on the coach to get there, but we loved the play and many people liked Amanda Holden as Fiona. We had an ice cream in the interval. We hope to go and see Lion King next year.

All of purple class and some year 5 children took a course called 'Bikeability' to make them safer when riding their bikes. They went on the road and did 'u'-turns, junctions and riding round parked cars. On the second day they went on a 7 mile cycle ride up and down hills.

All classes have performed an assembly for our parents. These ranged from Africa, to gardening, to castles.

Our Summer Fayre raised lots of money for the school. Thank you to everyone who came along. The school choirs sang and there were events like a jumble sale, stocks and a bouncy castle.

The School Council organised a penny trail to raise money for the Naomi House Hospice. It took a long time to count the money, but the hospice were very grateful.

Our KS1 classes had a very soggy visit to Studland. All the children had a really good time but it took their parents ages to get rid of the sand.

It is almost the end of term and we would like to say we hope you have a brilliant holiday and we will be in touch again in September.

*Red class and Emily Kelly, Chloe Tealey, Zoe Acreman,  
Ellie Portnell, Danny Harkin and Zach Hillier*

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S**

### **Autumn Bazaar**

**Saturday, 24th September**

**at 10.00am**

**in the Grove Building, Church Street.**

Donations would be gratefully received in advance, if possible, please.

The stallholders are:

Cakes & Biscuits	Caroline Bishop	01747 861268
	Valerie Ransley	01747 860964
Bric-a-brac	Martin Eyles	01747 863450
	Isabel Howell	01747 860297
Tombola	Patricia Stephenson	01747 860278
Books	Jean Eyles	01747 863450
Raffle	Pat Isom	01747 861776

Please do come along and enjoy and cup of coffee or tea and meet old and new friends. Everyone will be most welcome

## **REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, MERE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES**

### **What Price Education?**

Up and down the country, ordinary people have been so concerned that they've been protesting. What's got them fired up is the demise of our public libraries and their threatened closure... "Free" public libraries, access to books (and more), without the need for a "Kindle" (books on a portable screen), is part of our heritage, of which we should be justly proud. Ray Bradbury's story Fahrenheit 451 envisions a society where

books are banned and if discovered they are incinerated at 451°F and the owner sent to a mental asylum. Ray Bradbury said "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture, just get people to stop reading them."

Access to knowledge should be an inalienable right.

Over the past few decades the increasing privatisation of Dental Surgeries have moved us to a situation where many people find themselves having to pay the real cost of dental care - which not so long before would have seemed inconceivable. The dentist's bill showing us the real costs of what we had taken for granted, makes us realise how truly wealthy and privileged we are.

If it were not libraries which were at risk of closure, but the provision of secondary education, I suspect not many of us would have any idea of the real costs of a year's education. For the people of Malawi, one of Africa and the world's poorest countries, where 85% of the workforce is engaged in agriculture, a farmer has to sell 90 Kg of rice in order to put one of his children through secondary school for a year.

Whilst some pupils might like the suggestion of not being able to go to school and receive an education, if no one has more education than the average eleven year old, a country is going to be greatly disadvantaged in the future.

This year, Churches Together in Mere are going to be selling 90Kg of rice, grown in Malawi, to support one child's secondary education for the year. The rice will be featured and on sale at the One World Week Fair on Saturday, 22nd October in the Grove Building and from Church representatives. Please look out for posters and advertising of the 90 Kg rice Challenge, as promoted by Just Trading Scotland. We, as a community, can directly invest in Malawi's future by giving one young person the chance to gain a year's secondary education, merely by buying 1kg of rice.

## **ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Fr. Bede Rowe who has been at Mere for the last 5 years, left us on 21st August to go to The Chavagnes International College, a Catholic Boarding School. He will be there for a year as Chaplain and teaching RE in the School. He will be greatly missed at Mere, and we said our fond farewells to him after the Mass on 21st August.

Fr. Tom Smith, at present an Assistant Priest at St. Gregory's, Cheltenham, will be coming as Parish Priest at Warminster (which covers Mere) in mid-October.

*Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289*

## **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

This year the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Michaels Church will be on Sunday, 2nd October at 10.30 am followed by a Harvest Lunch in the Grove Building.

*Rev'd Paul Barnes ☎ 01747 863313*



# **SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CHOIR**

**SING**

## **SACRED MASTERPIECES FROM ACROSS THE CENTURIES**

Featuring the Music of: Byrd, Dering, Howells, Palestrina  
& Sandford

At St Michael the Archangel Church, Mere

On Monday, October 3rd 2011 at 7.30pm



No Tickets Required

A Retiring Collection will be taken  
and Your Donations will be Appreciated

## **METHODIST CHURCH NOTES**

### **Afternoon Get Together**

We resume meeting again at 2.30 p.m. in the Methodist School Room on Wednesday 28th September with Mrs Shirley Preston. Do come to this informal and friendly gathering.

### **Café Worship**

On Wednesday, 21st September there will be another morning Café Worship - coffee with an added dimension. If you cannot manage Sunday Evening Church try Wednesday morning for a change at the Methodist Church from 10.30am, worship at 11.00am.

*Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*



Mere Friends of Suchana invite everyone to a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in aid of Suchana on Tuesday, 27th September from 10.30am to 12.00noon at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane, (Jean and Colin Kantharia's house ☎ 01747 861168)

## CEILIDH

Mere Suchana supporters invite you to a CEILIDH on Saturday, 1st October at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings.

There will be live music (Black Bear Band) & licensed Bar, with Supper included. Costs: Adults £7.50 and children £5. Tickets from Mere Library or ☎ 01747 860553

## ST MICHAELS BELL RINGERS

On Saturday, 24th September at 12.30pm we welcome the band of ringers from St Johns Church, Bournemouth and on Saturday, 1st October a quarter peal will be rung by a band of bell ringers from Middlesex.

We had a fantastic turn out of 15 ringers for Alice Durkee's wedding.

*Jenny Lucas, Secretary, St Michaels Bell Ringers ☎ 01747 840293*



## ONE WORLD FAIR

**22nd October 2011**

**11.00am – 3.00pm**

**In the Grove Building**

### Help to Make the World a Fairer Place

#### Mere's Second One World Fair Needs You!!

This lively event will include even more stalls providing a good mix of fair-trade gifts, cards and Christmas goods and other stalls representing various charities, together with fun activities for children, world-flavour food and refreshments. We are almost fully booked, but there is room for one or two more stalls as we go to print. There will be

music and singing and dancing as well information celebrating the rich diversity of the 'One World' we live in. An event to cheer as the evenings get darker, plus help with Christmas preparations!

To make the event as successful as last year we need LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS to help with:

- Setting up and clearing away
- Looking after stalls
- Preparing food in advance
- Serving refreshments: either 11am-1pm or 1-3pm

If you can help in any way, or would like to book a stall or find out more, please get in touch **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884 & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*  
*On behalf of Churches Together in Mere and District*

# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## September 2011

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

<b>Each Sunday</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Communion
		6.00pm	Evensong
Wednesday	7th	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Children's Sunday Club In Grove Building
	18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Patronal Festival – Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Messy Sunday in Grove Building
Tuesday	27th	7.30pm	Friends of St Michaels AGM

**The United Reformed Church**

**Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)**

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Harvest Festival + Lunch
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
			Holy Communion
	25th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour

**The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)**

**Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370**

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	No service in Mere. Circuit Service in Shaftesbury
	11th	11.00am	Harvest Festival at URC
Sunday	18th	6.00pm	Local Fellowship service
	25th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth Holy Communion

**The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's**

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
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Every Sunday 11.30am Mass  
 Children's Liturgy Service each Sunday when help is available.

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

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

Sunday	4th	9.25am	Choral Matins
	11th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	18th	9.25am	DIY
	25th	10.30am	NO service at West Knoyle Benefice Service at St Michaels, Mere

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662  
 CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional Language)

## DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club; PWC Prince of Wales Club RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre**

1	Thur	10.00am	Mere Art Group (also 8th, 15th & 29th)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
		10.00am	12.00pm Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		2.00pm	Annual Autumn Fair	Fives Court
		2.30pm	Gardening Club Annual Show	L
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tues	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 20th & 27th)	L
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
8	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Thursday)	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		7.15pm	Carnival Club Bingo ('Eyes Down' 7.45pm)	L
10	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC

12	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatics Society (Drama Room)	L
13	Tues	9.00am	Footcare Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Carnival Club Quiz Night	L
14	Wed	10.00am	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Friends Together (Whist)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
15	Thur	2.00pm	Mere Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.00pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows "The Way"	L
16	Fri	7.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
		7.00pm	Carnival Club "Grand Race Night"      The Walnut Tree	
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft Stall	CC
			<b>CARNIVAL DAY</b> (see page 11)	
18	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
19	Mon	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
20	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		2.00pm	Italian Art Course (every Tuesday)	GB
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
21	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH
		9.00am	Mere Quilters Workshop (also 22nd)	GB
24	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michaels Autumn Bazaar	GB
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
25	Sun	10.30am	Messy Sunday	GB
27	Tues	9.00am	Footcare Clinic	L
28	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting	GB
30	Fri	3.00pm	Messy Church	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 OCTOBER ISSUE**

Material for the October 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, 19th September 2011**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Tuesday 13th September. 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**

*The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson*



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