

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



APRIL 2012

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 2nd April 2012**.

The Chairman writes:

Our March Parish Council meeting was attended by Fiona Bowles from Wessex Water who outlined their initiatives for Mere water resources. The Parish Council will facilitate an effective partnership with residents of Mere and Wessex Water to monitor water consumption and promote water efficiency in order to run a trial reduction in water abstraction. This was welcomed by all those in attendance.

The Parish Council was also informed at this meeting that our local Police will be instigating a drive to encourage safer parking in Mere as there has been an increasing incidence of inappropriate parking, particularly too close to road junctions as well as to the zebra crossings, which can be hazardous and may be illegal. You have been warned!

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th April in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm with refreshments available from 7.00pm. This is a public meeting convened by the Parish Council when parishioners have the opportunity to come along and discuss concerns and hear reports from the various organisations in the Town.

A great many events and activities take place in Mere and many of these are advertised through posters pinned up around the Town. The Parish Council would like to encourage those who place these posters to please remove them once the events have taken place. The faded and slightly mangled remains of posters well past their dates do nothing to enhance the beauty of our Town!

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**

Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

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



GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

The centre of Mere has been improved with the arrival of Walton Antiques and I wish them every success. The business would welcome you to come and browse, you do not need purchase, just pass the word that they are here. I understand The Old Ship Hotel is reopening shortly, already a community Lunch has taken place which I attended. Mere Parish Council Chairman, Mary White, was in attendance and she read some passages from "A Confection of Poetry & Prose". Mary, with Adrienne Howell and others from Pennybank Writers made, I believe, a major contribution to literature with this publication (ISBN number 9780957002715), should you wish to read it.

You can now download books electronically from Wiltshire Library. To do so, you will need go into the Library and get a pin number to go with your Library card. However there are many, like me, who still like a printed book.

Boar Street, Pettridge Lane and Shaftesbury Road (The Causeway) will be resurfaced as far as the 30 mph speed limit signs, in May, weather etc. permitting. These roads will be closed for repairs, except for access, from 9.30am to 3.30pm from Tuesday the 8th of May for three days. Again on Tuesday the 22nd, they will be closed for micro asphaltting, which will form the finished surface. This Shaftesbury Road closure will affect some people from Zeals, Kilmington and Stourton as they use it as a route to Shaftesbury avoiding Gillingham. Often, I note that more traffic is now using Pettridge Lane than Salisbury Street!

Further along Shaftesbury Road, I hope funds will be available in a year or so to resurface with tar and chip. In the meantime the potholes, etc. will have to continue to be patched. A potentially dangerous round man-hole along Shaftesbury Road, Mere (that has been so for a year or more), was the cause of a defect notice being served on Wessex Water, and after I involved the appropriate Wiltshire Council Cabinet member, it has now been replaced.

Southbrook will be closed for two days from Friday the 11th of May, weather permitting, etc. This will be to improve the hill, albeit only temporarily, the area being the second wettest ground in Europe I am told, (it is on soft clay). The road can move up to 150mm (6 inches) in a year, thus, as I understand it, without major funding it cannot be repaired permanently. Obviously, it probably never will be repaired up to a high standard, however I inspect it every 6 or 12 months and ask the officers to repair the worst of it. This year should see a much better than average repair. The contractors will put letters through residents' front doors before work starts and emergency telephone numbers will be displayed. A gate will be operated to stop a rat run through Limpers Hill.

A grant of £20,000 is being sought from the Area Board towards a skate park in Mere for use of the Mere Area, which includes West Knoyle, Kilmington, Zeals, Stourton and

further villages around Mere. Grants have also been requested from the Area Board for celebrations for The Royal Jubilee from Mere and most of the surrounding villages, all being well Monday, 4th June, 2012 will be well remembered in our area, one reason being a large firework display and official beacon. Many thanks to Bill Deeker for agreeing to put this together.

A joint strategic assessment for community planning is being formed for Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. Should you have any concerns, please let me know. One I have raised already is that Mere will not be generally allowed to construct one-bedroom social or market price dwellings, according to the proposed Wiltshire Structure Plan.

In February 2011, Wiltshire Council stated that it expect a £13.3 million decrease in government funding. The actual decrease is only £3.2 million, so Wiltshire Council is £10.1 million better off than originally forecast. This resulted from new government grants, a one-off £5.5 million council tax freeze grant, and as more homes have been built by Wiltshire Council, a £2.9 million 'new homes bonus' was received, plus the additional council tax and the council tax collection rate is high, despite the current economic climate.

Superfast Broadband should be arriving in Wiltshire and hopefully be here by 2015, please contact me for further information.

I have informed Forward Planning that West Knoyle does exist as a Parish, in the core strategy it is greyed out. However all other parishes around are easily identified.

Leaping Frogs Nursery have asked Zeals Parish Council if they can take over the old picnic site at Zeals, which has been well received by Zeals Parish Council.

Lastly, the definition of The Town of Mere in planning terms! It is now known as a 'Local Service Centre.'

NEW WASTE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Fortnightly household and garden waste collections start

Residents in south Wiltshire now have a fortnightly, non-charged, garden waste service and their household waste collected fortnightly. This brings collections of household waste in the south in line with those in the rest of the county where fortnightly collections are already in place. A new free garden waste collection service has been introduced for those households that have requested it.

These changes should enable Wiltshire Council to increase recycling to 50 percent and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to less than 25 per cent by 2014. Wiltshire currently sends 37 per cent of the waste it collects to landfill and recycles 41 per cent of household waste. Linda Conley, portfolio holder for waste said "Residents in East and West Wiltshire have had a fortnightly collection of household waste for many years now

and from data collected across Wiltshire we know that by moving to a fortnightly collection of waste, residents will recycle more”.

“We need to recycle more and landfill less because the amount we pay in Landfill Tax will be rapidly increasing from £56 per tonne to £80 per tonne by 2014. Last year Wiltshire Council spent £3.9 million on Landfill Tax. The introduction of fortnightly collection and the new free garden waste collection, means that residents across Wiltshire will receive the same level of service”.

New garden waste bins have been delivered to those people who signed up before Christmas for this new service. Residents in the South, who already had a garden waste bin and previously paid for collections, will now receive this service free of charge but they need to check their new collection calendar as their collection day or week may change.

People can still register for the new garden waste service and receive a garden waste bin this summer. Anyone wishing to sign up for a new garden waste bin to be delivered in the summer can do so online at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by contacting the council ☎ 0300 456 0102.

An information pack containing a leaflet explaining the new waste and recycling service and a collection calendar setting out on which date each bin will be emptied has been sent to every household. This information and a new collection calendar are also available on the Wiltshire Council website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Allan Clarke, Media Rel. Officer, Wiltshire Council, ☎ 01225 713116

‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS



Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team keep busy

Recently your Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have been involved in cross border meetings with our colleagues from Shaftesbury and Gillingham to discuss local issues and to determine whether there are any links between the crimes that are occurring in the Wiltshire and Dorset areas.

This also gives us the opportunity to discuss any people or vehicles that are coming to police attention and may be operating in our neighbouring counties.

Local priorities continue to address speeding and inconsiderate parking of vehicles – so please be warned. Drive within the speed limit and please think before you park!

Watch out for strangers knocking on your door. It is truly amazing what lengths criminals may go to in order to gain your trust or to gain access to your house. Be aware that the person at your door may not be alone!

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**

There appear to be a growing number of scams – you can see some examples of these on the latest newsletter available through your Local Scheme Coordinators, for collection at Mere Library or from Mere Post Office and they are always available from the web site at: **www.Mereneighbours.co.uk**

We are always available for help and advice and our contacts are:

PC Richard Salter and PCSO Jake Noble ☎ 101 (24hrs)

*E-mail: **richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk** or
jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk*

For matters relating to MereNeighbours only:

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425

*E-mail: **rajefferies@btinternet.com** H 07950797273*

Do have a read of the “Scams” revealed on the MereNeighbours’ website. It is quite worrying just how sophisticated “Scams” are now becoming. Editor.



Mere Dental Practice

The practice has two Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Jacquie Barnes

Two Dental Therapist/ Hygienist - Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,

Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, Tele: 01747 860365,

E-mail: meredental@btconnect.com, Website- meredentistry.co.uk,

*Opening hours: - Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 5.30pm, Tuesday
8.45am – 7pm & Friday 8.45am -5pm*

***Jacquie Barnes currently has availability on her NHS List, with priority
to Wiltshire Residents***



*The practice is sited in the grounds of Mere Primary School, first building
on your left when you go through the school gates.*

WEATHER REPORT

February was a very dry month with only 25mms (0.98ins) of rain. This is getting quite usual, as last year March and April, and April in 2010, were the same. We had a little snow on the 4th and 9th and a few frosty mornings followed by sunshine, with a cold wind at the end of the month.

March, up to the 17th, has continued to be dry with a total of 27.5mms (1.08ins) of rain, 20mms (0.79ins) of which fell on the 4th. Most mornings have been misty followed by sun with only a few days cloudy all day. I think we can say that Mere has enjoyed a comparatively mild winter unlike much of the rest of the country. The daffodils are blooming well.

Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363

MERE SURGERY

Telephone requests for repeat prescriptions

As from Sunday, 1st April 2012, we will no longer be taking telephone requests for repeat prescriptions.

This is to avoid errors occurring when medication is requested over the telephone and to keep the telephone lines clear for patients using the duty doctor system.

If you normally phone your repeat prescription request through to the surgery we would be grateful if you would use one of the methods listed below:

Internet access

log into: www.meresurgery.co.uk

You will need to have log in details and a password issued from the surgery but this system will allow you to order repeat medication and make appointments at times convenient for you.

Repeat prescription slip

Tick the items that you require on your repeat prescription re-order slip and place it in the box in the front foyer of the surgery. Repeat slips can be put through the letter box if the surgery is closed.

We will continue to take telephone requests for housebound patients only between 1.00 and 3.00pm.

Drs Halsey, King, McBride, Price and Andrew ☎ 01747 860001

SHAFTESBURY HOSPITAL'S NEW X-RAY FACILITIES

The Friends of the Westminster Memorial Hospital, Shaftesbury wish to thank all the individuals and organisations who have donated so generously to the X-Ray appeal. They are pleased and delighted to announce that the new X-Ray equipment is being installed from Wednesday, 7th March until Saturday, 7th April 2012.

Unfortunately, during the installation period patients requiring X-Ray facilities will have to travel to Salisbury District Hospital. We are very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, however, once completed we will have up to date digital X-Ray facilities, which will be much more effective, efficient and reliable. This will ensure and strengthen the X-Ray service at Westminster Memorial Hospital in the future.

Both the Friends and Staff of the hospital have been overwhelmed by the response to the appeal and have exceeded the original target that was set. We will however, be using any excess donations to further improve the service for the benefit of the local community.

Jenny Wood, Chair of Friends ☎ 01747 861582

MERE CARNIVAL NEWS

Mere Carnival Royals 2012 - Princess, Attendant and Queen

Do you live within the BA12 6 postcode and would like to be a Carnival Royal in the parade on Saturday, 15th September 2012?

The Princess and Attendant will be aged between 5 and 14 years and the Queen will be aged 15+ years. There is no entry fee, and there is a small clothing allowance available to each of the successful Carnival Royals.

Please let us know why you would like to be chosen to represent Mere and also tell us a little about yourself including your name, age and contact details, but please make sure you have the permission of your parent/guardian before entering.

Applications in writing only please to: Carol Payne, 2 Walnut Road, Mere, WARMINSTER, BA12 6FG or email: luciechesh@hotmail.com All entries to be received by **Monday, 30th April 2012**.

Mere Carnival Quiz Night

The Quiz night will be held on Tuesday, 17th April 2012 in the Lecture Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

The cost is £1.50 per person to enter and refreshments and a raffle will be available during the evening. Tables of 4 people, but if you would like to come on your own or with a friend, we will happily put a table together for you. Come and enjoy a fun evening

and help us with our first fundraising event of the year to ensure that the Mere Carnival continues for many years to come. For more information contact:

Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639

THE TRUSSELL TRUST

Calling all Knitters! Last Christmas, due to the incredible kindness of you thoughtful people, 157 Christmas Shoe Boxes, from Mere, along with another 5,000 boxes from other parts of the country, were sent to Bulgaria. There they gave huge pleasure to people who have just about nothing and who live in a harsh winter environment. It is difficult to remember how COLD January was here but just imagine 20 degrees colder and no warm clothes, yet alone heating, which is what some Bulgarians endure.

So, please, would you consider knitting lovely warm hats and scarves and gloves to go in the boxes this coming December? I know that it is only just Easter but it is only 38 weeks to Christmas! These items are SO appreciated by men, women and children so, please, get knitting folks!

I will be happy to collect these from you, any time. A huge 'Thanks'

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

Warminster Foodbank Collection **at the Co-op on Saturday, 25th February**

Thank you

to everyone who donated so generously to the Foodbank.

We collected 155kgs of food (342 pounds) and the goods you gave were exactly what was needed.

Thank you also to Mere Co-op for its support and generous donation.

SOUTH WILTS CREDIT UNION (SWCU)

2012 is proving to be an important year for Credit Unions in general, and the Mere Branch in particular. As a Members' owned Co-operative Society, it is locally based and run, but controlled by Government regulation like all financial institutions.

At our AGM this February, members finally agreed an increased Dividend of 2.75% gross which has now been paid to all members. This is a good result, being amongst the top quarter of Credit Unions in the country.

An important change comes with the kind help of Councillor George Jeans and Sally Coward at the Post Office. All members can now pay in and draw out money at the Post Office five days a week, with Saturdays 10.00am-12.00noon at Mere Library remaining the proper "Collection Point" where all paperwork, opening accounts, loans, standing orders and Debit Card (Alto) facilities are organised.

Finally, SWCU are co-operating with the two other Credit Unions - North & East Wilts Credit Union and West Wilts Credit Union to give full coverage of our service throughout the whole of Wiltshire. This will be under the Trading name of "Wiltshire Community Bank" and facilitates the issue of quick cheap loans through "Wiltshire Money Line" on ☎ 01249 248323 or ☎ 01722 421881. *Judy Hingley 01747 ☎ 861596*

ANNUAL MERE CHURCH FETE

at St Michaels Parish church

on Saturday, 9th June from 2.00-4.00pm

A family orientated event with Games, Stalls and Entertainment

To be opened by a competition winner from Mere Primary School, to be announced at a later date.

Donations for stalls gladly received. Please contact Ben or Sarah Merrell ☎ 01747 861742 or H 07885 573875 or at: **sarahmerrell@hotmail.com**

If you would be interested in a stand to sell your own products or advertise your business please get in touch.



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

At its Committee Meeting on 14th March, Mere Chamber of Trade appointed Hamish Bell as interim Chair until the AGM in November. Hamish is a Chartered Engineer and operates a management and engineering consultancy based in Mere, dealing mainly with small and medium sized companies in the south of England.

Speaking later, Hamish paid tribute to the local Secretary, Julie Cousins, and said "Great advances have been made during the last year in re-building the local organisation, largely due to Julie's efforts. Consolidation of this to ensure that local business needs are recognised and represented is the priority for the remainder of this year. To this end, Mere Chamber of Trade expects to play a greater part in the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce and will also ensure that local business needs are represented to the new Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, with the support of Mere Parish Council."

The Chamber is particularly interested in enhancing the opportunities for new businesses to locate to the area. It will support the provision of higher broadband speeds and arrange business training and advice, through local schemes, to existing businesses. Finding work places for young people, developing apprenticeship opportunities, and introducing a back-to-work scheme, also are under consideration.

Update on Dates for your Diary:

The Chamber will be hosting a Business Networking Evening on Wednesday, 16th May 2012, with Paul Scaife of Chalkstream Wines. More details to follow in next month's edition of 'Mere Matters'.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

This is to be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm on Wednesday, 4th April 2012.

For further information, or to become a member, please contact me. Details below

Julie Cousins, Secretary, H 07856 700576

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants available for 2012

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 Thursday, 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, c/o Summerleigh, Mill Lane, Mere Wiltshire BA12 6DA.

JOIN A SPECIAL VISIT TO THE SEATON TRAMWAY

A trip to the Seaton Tramway is being planned for **Thursday, 7th June**. The Local interest is that Mere resident Graham Avory is a volunteer licensed tram driver at Seaton.

A coach will leave Mere at 9.00am for Colyton Station in Devon where we will board a special tram, driven by Graham, for a trip following the River Axe estuary with its wildlife to the seaside town of Seaton. There will be a visit to the tramway Depot (not normally open to visitors) and then plenty of time to look around Seaton before returning

to Colyton by tram and then coach back to Mere by about 5.00pm. All are welcome. If you would like to register an interest in joining the visit, please contact me.

John Howard ☎ 01747 860312



WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

South West Area Committee Plea

In Mere there are some 50 members of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The Committee for the South West area would like a member from Mere to very kindly agree to join them on their Committee. There are only occasional meetings locally to discuss the South West Wilts area and what its members would like to see happen.

If anyone would be kind enough to agree to join as the Mere Representative could they very kindly phone me please at the telephone number below. Thank you. Local members would be most appreciative.

Derek Remington ☎ 01747 860401

Hunt for the Stourhead Dormouse

This is the title of a talk to be given by Tamsin Holmes, Stourhead Ranger, on Thursday, 12th April at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. The talk will explore the life and times of this elusive, protected animal. The cost will be £2.00 with a charge of 50 pence for tea and Biscuits. For more information contact:

Debbie Carter ☎ 01747 871311

Family Events for Easter at our Nature Reserves

A Morning of full 'Hands on Activities'

On Thursday, 12th April 2012 from 10.00am until 12 noon, Biss Meadow Country Park, Trowbridge, in conjunction with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is offering a morning full of hands-on activities for all the family.

We will be discovering what animals live tucked away in the country park.

Pond dipping, butterfly walks, food growing and cooking demonstrations as well as a sensory nature walk are just some of the activities to take part in.

This event is free of charge. It is being offered as a joint initiative between: Friends of Biss Meadow, the Big Community Grow, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Plantlife as part of the Wild About Plants Project.

No booking is required, but for more information on this event, please call us at Lower Moor farm: ☎ 01380 725670

Easter Egg Trail

Come along to our Nature Reserves at Lower Moor Farm, Oaksey on Wednesday 11th April or Langford Lakes, Salisbury on Friday 13th April between 10.00am and 12.00noon and see if you can follow a trail and find goodies amongst the undergrowth.

Along the way you can enjoy the sights, sounds and smells that our reserves have to offer at this time of year.

As young animals take the challenge to make their way into the colourful wild it will be a great opportunity to take part in the colourful activities we will have prepared.

Admission is £3.50 per child, under 3's free, For more information and to book a place please call: Lower Moor Farm ☎ 01380 725670 Langford Lakes ☎ 01722 790770

Please remember for all events at our Nature Reserves:

- *All children must be accompanied by an adult*
- *Please wear suitable clothing and footwear*
- *Our activities are specially designed for children under the age of 12 years*

BIG BREW BREAKFAST

I'd like to thank everyone who supported this event in Fair Trade Fortnight. I have been able to send almost £90 to Traidcraft Exchange, the charitable arm of Traidcraft, for its development work with cotton producing groups in India.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

SHORT WALK

This will take place on Wednesday. 18th April. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park for a wander of no more than three miles along the by-ways around Mere. Tea in the Angel Cafe afterwards as usual. Details from: *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME (THE 'LINK')

Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096

We have a regular delivery of prescriptions from Mere Surgery and from Mere Pharmacy on Friday of each week. If you would like a prescription delivered, it would be helpful if it could be included on the Friday list.

- For prescriptions from the Surgery - please let the Surgery know that they will be collected by the Linkscheme and also telephone the 'Link'.
- For prescriptions from the Pharmacy – please telephone the 'Link'.

Molly Burden

STAMPS AND POST CARDS FOR SUDAN

Very many thanks for all contributors of stamps and post cards. But, please do not cut stamps off the post cards. The cards themselves are of more value. Don't worry about the messages on the backs, collectors have no time, nor interest, to read what Mary did on holiday! Keep the post cards coming in, please. Remember, NO Christmas or greeting cards. Is any one interested in them?

Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363

MERE FILM SHOWS

This month's film, **'The Iron Lady' (12A)** on Thursday, 19th April, has caused controversy in many circles as to whether or not it should have been made during Margaret Thatcher's lifetime, showing her as it does descending into confusion and frailty. But, whatever the views on this, Meryl Streep's performance as the former Prime Minister is certainly a tour de force and deservedly won not only the BAFTA but also the Oscar for Best Actress this year.

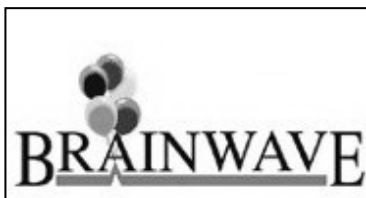
Jim Broadbent also stars as Denis Thatcher, whose task as faithful supporter must at times have been a tricky one. Many remember Mrs Thatcher as a strong and determined party leader and Prime Minister, and might perhaps wish that there were a few more present day politicians showing more evidence of those qualities! Full details on page 26.

Dates for your Dairy: Thursday, 17th May: 'The Artist' and Thursday, 14th June: 'War Horse.'
Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Wincanton Choral Society and Orchestra will commence their Spring Concert on Sunday, 20th May with Handel's Coronation Anthem 'Zadok the Priest'. They will then perform Poulenc's 'Gloria' – his last major composition. The Orchestra will feature in Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance March No.1'. This evening of wonderful music will conclude with Rossini's beautiful 'Stabat Mater'.

The concert will commence at 7.30pm in the Sports Hall, West Hill, Wincanton. Tickets are priced £12.50 (£6 for those 18 and under) and will be available from: **www.bradsons.co.uk**, or ☎ 01749 813899. Also from: Wincanton Town Hall, Sherborne Tourist Information Centre, Society members, or at the last minute, on the door. For more information telephone: *Alice Griffiths ☎ 01749 860457*



BRAINWAVE

This month is all about our spring Pamper evening, which will be held in its new venue, Mere School, on Saturday, 28th April from 7.00-10.00pm.

Tickets will be on sale at Brainwave, priced at £5.00, which includes a glass of wine and one free

treatment, beauty or holistic.

We will start with our shopping experience, beautiful donated clothing bags and jewellery followed by a fashion show, hosted by Mere school, which will show what

great outfits can be bought in our shop. We will have other stalls including: Neals Yard, vintage clothing, raffle etc.

Mere school will be serving us with great nibbles, teas and coffees.

Anyone who has been to one of our evenings before will tell you how much fun it can be, and every penny going towards raising money for brain injured children.

Please come along and support our great cause. For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 5th April at 7.30pm in the Grove Building, when Hilary Gladding will be showing pictures of last year's Tulip Festival at Stourhead and other spring flowers.

The WI is more than just one meeting a month. We have a Craft Group and a Book Club and members meet once a month to enjoy table top games. We meet with other local WIs and the next meeting being at Sutton Veny in May, when the speaker will be a former member of the Yeomen of the Guard - a suitable speaker just before the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Also in May, one of our members will be going to the National Meeting at the Albert Hall, always a memorable occasion.

If you would like to find out more, come to one of our meetings or call me. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our meeting on Tuesday, 10th April at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, The **Rev'd Vickie Goodman**, who has recently come to live in Mere, will be telling us about 'A Time of Gift' on an Island in the Sun. Intrigued? All welcome to come and find out more!

As usual, new members and visitors are very welcome to join us. If you would like a copy of the revised programme for the year, please telephone me:

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)

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

We have had a fun-packed time this month at the centre. Our Tea Dance was a great success and the Guests all got up and had a jolly good dance. A big thank you to Adrienne Howell who kindly joined us for the afternoon to lead the sing-alongs, and to everyone who participated.

Janet Way came in to speak to the Guests about her adventures in India, which we all really enjoyed, and we all had fun watching Alan and Vera dressing up in traditional costumes! Maggie Barker, accompanied by Alfie, came to talk to us about the important

work she does with the charity 'Clic Sargent' for children with terminal illness. It was truly a moving session and very enlightening. Thank you Janet and Maggie.

We have three new volunteers, Lisa, Noelle and Sue, and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them warmly to the team, and thank them very much for volunteering. We still have a gap in the session volunteer rota for the 2nd Friday of each month, so if you feel you could help out please let me know; your contribution will be truly valued.

During April we are getting ready for Easter with egg decorating, and towards the end of the month we will be holding a very special session with 'The Sunshine Project' team from Salisbury when we will be decorating large batik banners, which will be eventually displayed at Salisbury Cathedral later in the year.

Lastly, on behalf of the Guests and Trustees, I would like to say a huge thank you to the members of Mere Bowls Club who have raised £500 for the Rosemary Goddard Centre at their Barn Dance that was held on 25th February. We are extremely grateful to them and hope to use a part of this money to fund our summer outing to the seaside.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser H 07835 272406

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives Court will hold their **AGM** on **Tuesday, 3rd April**, and we would be pleased to see anyone at that meeting who is interested in becoming a Friend. We meet at **11.00am at Fives Court**. Do come along and see what we're up to – no obligation!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

“Hanging Baskets” by a Castle Gardens speaker

Our next meeting on Wednesday, 11th April at 7.30pm in the Grove Building will tell you everything you need to know about planting hanging baskets and tubs with a demonstration from one of the popular speakers from Sherborne Castle Gardens Centre. A selection of six basket/tub/window box plants from the Centre, in Jubilee colours, will be available for the bargain price of £5.

So come and buy your plants ready for one of our Show categories which will be judged in situ in your gardens, and support the Parish Council's plan for planting to celebrate the Queen's diamond Jubilee. Look out for schedules which will be available soon.

RHS Rosemore Visit.

To confirm your booking for this trip on Friday, 13th July, a deposit of £5 will be taken at the April meeting, or please send to Janet Way, Wits End, North Road by the end of April.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

ARE YOU WILD ABOUT PLANTS?

I am, and so I have become involved with Salisbury based Wild Plant charity Plantlife that conserves wild plants on the ground. Plantlife is interested in your wild plant memories, foraging tales and recipes to find out just how connected our lives still are to wild plants and whether they continue to be important to communities and individuals today. You can write in to the Wild About Plants team with your memories, poems and photographs which will be added to a plant anthology on the website: www.wildaboutplants.org.uk

If you have more time available, it would be great if you could complete a parish record form, which as well as asking about how local people use wild plants, also asks you to record whether certain wild plants grow in your parish. A parish record form can be downloaded from the same website: <http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk/wp-content/themes/plantlife/content/PP%20parish%20record.pdf>

Plant enthusiasts can also subscribe to a lovely free quarterly newsletter called Pioneer, which aims to inspire the amateur botanist and nature lover with useful tips, facts and plant ID help – readers are encouraged to provide content and feedback regularly

making for a real hands-on, friendly and fun newsletter! Email: **wildaboutplants@plantlife.org.uk** to sign up!

If you have any queries or would like to know more about Plantlife then please get in touch.
Irene Lucas ☎ 01747 860859

MERE MUSEUM

Our very well-received exhibition about Mere Maps will continue during April but it **must end on Friday, 27th April!** This is because we are planning two special exhibitions this summer to coincide with, and to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (May – June) and the London Olympics (July – August). We want to offer Mere residents the opportunity to lend suitable items for these exhibitions so that the community is genuinely a part of the events.

We would like to borrow **exclusively** items relating to the coronations and anniversaries of the coronations of our present Queen and of earlier monarchs. We are especially keen to borrow photographs of any such celebrations in Mere. We shall be pleased to receive these items at the Museum either **on Tuesday, 24th April, from 11.00am until 12 noon or on Wednesday, 25th April from 2.00 until 3.00pm** Arrangements for the Olympics exhibition will follow in the next edition of *Mere Matters*.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

It may seem to be a long way ahead, but the Friends' famous **Plant Sale on Saturday, 5th May** is really not much more than a month away! For now, do check that the date is in your diary. There'll be a really big reminder with all the details in next month's *Mere Matters*.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS "100" CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for March, drawn after Family Communion on 4th March by Mrs Thelma Ings was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 55	Mrs M Herbert
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 185	Mrs S Bell
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 153	Mrs E Paul
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 45	Mrs I Howell

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MAY ISSUE

MONDAY, 16th APRIL 2012



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VISIT ONE: Monday, 14th May 2012

Lacock

Lacock Abbey is a quirky country house of various architectural styles, built upon the foundations of a former nunnery. The adjoining museum celebrates the achievements of former resident William Henry Fox Talbot, known for his contributions to the invention of photography. Lacock village is famous for its picturesque streets and more recently as a TV and film location. The church of St Cyriac is well worth viewing too.

We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.30am and return to Mere by 4.30pm approx.

Cost: MHS Members £12.00, non MHS members £14.00, per person.
Excludes National trust entrance fee of £10

For more details please ring Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

Booking forms available from Mere Information Point

Note to members: If you were unable to attend the AGM please send your annual subscription (£6 per member) to the **Membership**

Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere. ☎ 01747 860890.

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

MADS's production of Agatha Christie's ***A Murder is Announced*** will be into its second performance when this issue is published and we are pleased to report that the right actor is being murdered in virtually every run-through, proving that all those rehearsals were really worth it. The detective, too, is getting it right just about every time.

If you haven't yet got your tickets for the final performance, hot-foot it down to the Library today. Tickets are £6. A reward of a free ticket to MADS's next show will be awarded to anyone providing information which leads to an arrest.....

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

SNOOKER CLUB

At the Club's AGM in February, grateful thanks were expressed to the South West Wiltshire Area Board of Wiltshire Council for its Community Area Grant for the

installation of emergency fire signs, and to Councillor George Jeans for his valuable assistance in the application process.

The Club Night for members has changed to Tuesdays at 7.30pm and a monthly Doubles Tournament for members only is starting on Tuesday, 1st May.

Subscriptions are now due and remain at the 2011 rate. We still have room for more members, whether beginners or more experienced players. Please Contact me.

Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305

MERE BOWLS CLUB

A date for your diary – **Saturday, 14th April 2012** is when Mere Bowls Club opens for the 2012 season. Would all existing members please attend at 2.30pm and prospective new members come at 3.00pm so that we can complete formalities in an orderly and hopefully swift manner.

We can then get down to the finer arts of bowling (weather permitting!) – Prospective new members please remember to bring a pair of flat soled shoes.

The Barn Dance held in the Grove Building on 25th February was another resounding success, mainly due to the people of Mere and the surrounding area who attended. Those of you who didn't attend missed a great night as we completed a magnificent 16 dances during the evening. The end result was the raising of £500 for the Rosemary Goddard Centre, our chosen charity for 2012.

This was a great effort by Jeff Vigers, who championed the cause and did most of the organising.

Should anyone wish to nominate a local charity for consideration as our beneficiary for 2013, please contact Don Butchers on the number below with details – please note that it must be a local charity and not a national one as the primary aim of the Bowls Club is to assist worthy causes in the local area.

Mere Bowls Club would like to thank George Jeans for his continued support of the Club, both through direct sponsorship, for which we are very grateful, but also for his wealth of local knowledge and experience, which is invaluable.

For any information regarding the club, please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Jeff Vigers, e-mail: jeffcarolvigers@onetel.com or ☎ 01747 860976, or me, Don Butchers, by phone (below) or e-mail: don.butchers@btinternet.com

Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860219

HEADBOARDS MADE

Any size, any shape and own choice of fabric.

Prices on request. Tel 01747 840848 or e-mail: rosiecorbin@aol.com

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The Iron Lady'

(12A)

From the triumph of the 1979 general election through the Falklands crisis to her eventual downfall and descent into confusion and frailty, **Meryl Streep** gives the performance of her life as Margaret Thatcher in this biopic directed by Phyllida Loyd. With **Jim Broadbent** as her faithful husband Denis, this is a film that will strike a chord with anyone who remembers an administration that resonated with strikes, war and protest, but that nobody will ever forget.

Meryl Streep - Best Actress - BAFTA & Oscars 2012

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday, 19th April, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: **www.moviola.org**

MERE CRICKET CLUB

The new season starts soon!

Another season begins in earnest soon and the Club is looking for new “talent” in all age groups from the young aspiring Petersons and Cookes to those of us who should know better! Junior registration will take place on our first junior club night, Friday, 20th April, from 6.00pm and again on the following Friday, 27th. We will be running under 8's, 11's, 13's and 15's teams this season so please encourage your boys and girls to join our friendly club and receive coaching from qualified coaches.

Senior training is already underway and we would only be too happy to welcome more players this year, no matter how long ago you last picked up a bat or ball in anger! Details from Mark at The Walnut Tree ☎ 01747 861220, or Kevin Whitmore, see below

Kevin Whitmore H 07528 875060

MERE CROQUET & BOULE CLUB

The new season is almost upon us as we open for play on Saturday, 7th April at 2.00pm. This will, as usual, be an Open Day and everyone is invited, both members and anyone else who is interested in learning what the Club has to offer. A glass of wine, etc., and the opportunity to play on any of the Club facilities (all the required equipment is available), will be possible. The Croquet Green, Boule Court and Table Tennis will all be on offer.

Somewhat, and most regrettably, delayed, our AGM will be held in The Andy Young Pavilion, in the Duchy Manor School grounds, on Wednesday, 4th April, commencing at 7.15pm.

Any enquiries to me, please. I will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

MERE TOWN YOUTH FC

A.G.M

To be held in the Andy Young Pavilion on Wednesday, 16th May at 7.30pm.

Presentation evening

On Saturday, 19th May our Presentation Evening will be held at Mere School from 7.00pm and after at the Social Club Mere for refreshments.

The end of season draw will take place there at 9.00pm. 1st prize £100, 2nd prize £50, 3rd prize £20 plus other prizes.

Tickets on sale now from committee members, or contact Tracey Thorpe H 07519 299925.

Football Kit

We are also looking for sponsors and donations to help purchase new Football Kit for our younger players. If you are interested, please contact Julie Hodge this telephone number.

Julie Hodge, Club Secretary, H 07808 715725

MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

It has been great to have some warmer days this month and to enjoy the coming of the daffodils. Here at the Children's Centre at our 'Stay and Play' sessions on Wednesday mornings we have made paper plate frogs to remember that it is a Leap Year this year. We've enjoyed a great session on Healthy Eating from National Health dietician, Thomas Coles, where we tried out some delicious recipes and we've made pretty pictures for our mothers for Mothers' Day. On Thursday mornings Gary Lamont from Wiltshire Wildlife has been leading a useful and enjoyable course of Thrifty Tips in the home and garden and so far we have learned how to make bread, scrumptious upside down apple pies and raised vegetable or flower beds out of old pallets for our gardens. If cooking has been involved, we have used the Children's Centre for this or otherwise gone down to Tiddlers and Toddlers at the Lecture Hall to enjoy his sessions there.

Family Learning has been running a very helpful course on Budgets and Bargains on Wednesday afternoons – I hadn't realised that learning how to budget and looking for bargains could be such fun as well as useful!

At 'Bumps and Babes' on Tuesday mornings it is wonderful to track the babies' development to see how fast they are growing and learning new skills: sitting on their own and crawling around after soft balls. It seems like only yesterday that they were tiny babies in their mother's arms. If you have a young baby or are expecting, come along for a relaxed session of chat and support.

Our Sensory Room is proving a great success with mums and babies alike. It can be booked for sessions, either individually or with a friend. Just ☎ 01747 861108 to book a session to bring your child along to explore and develop their senses in this stimulating environment.

We take this opportunity to say goodbye and a big thank you to our Acting Centre Co-ordinator, Eileen Brocklehurst who will be sadly missed. Luckily we are not losing her altogether as she has moved up to be the Hub Manager for South West Wiltshire, so we will still be seeing her and benefiting from her involvement with the Centre. At the same time we extend a very warm welcome to our new Centre Co-ordinator, Claire Harrington, who is replacing Eileen, and we very much look forward to working with her. If you have a child of five or under, all our sessions are free and we are open from Monday to Friday from 9.00am until 3.00pm and would welcome a call from you on 01747 861108. We are always looking to recruit new volunteers to help in our Centre

so if you would like to help we would love to hear from you. We are particularly looking for someone to chair our Advisory Board. Please ring for more details and a role description.

Have a great Easter Holiday and remember that our sessions continue throughout the holiday.
Jane Smith, Support Worker, ☎ 01747 861108

MERE PRE-SCHOOL TIME CAPSULE 2012

The year 2012 should be a very special year, with the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the UK hosting the Olympics.

At Mere Pre-school, we have decided to commemorate this special year by burying a "Time Capsule" in our pre-school garden. We would love to include the wider community of Mere, with the aim of bringing us all together at this very special time.

Ideally, we are seeking information regarding your own organisation, or a treasured memory of Mere, along with a picture, which we can put into our Time Capsule in order to record a moment in time. This will be such an education for our children at Pre-school, as it will be teaching them about the past, the present and the future; in fifty years' time, they will be able to look back and see how life has changed, for not only the Pre-school, but the community as a whole.

On the day of the Time Capsule being buried, we would like to invite you to attend the Pre-school and join us in celebrating this special occasion.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, then we would be most happy to include you in our Time Capsule website, which will be linked to the Mere Pre-school website.

For more information, you can either contact Mere Pre-School on ☎ 01747 863337, email directly to: enquiries@meretimecapsule.co.uk or via the time capsule website: www.meretimecapsule.co.uk.
Angela Norman ☎ 01747 863337

St Martins Church, Zeals

AUTHENTIC VINTAGE FASHION SHOW 1900 - 1930's

Presented by Theresa Weller in Whitesheet School Hall, Zeals

on Saturday, 28th April at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start

Tickets £8-50 to include light refreshments from Zeals Post Office or Mere Library

In aid of St Martins Church, Zeals.

GREEN CLASS NEWS



March 2012

Hello and welcome to Green Class' School report. We are going to tell you some of our news from our class as well as from the rest of our School.

This term we have been really busy learning about India. One day we made paper bags like some of the poor children in India have to do to earn money. We found that we would have to work a long time to earn enough money! We had fun making clay elephants and decorating them like real elephants are decorated for the elephant festival. We found out about a little village called Chembakolli and made our own maps and forest pictures. Mr Cassidy came to tell us about some orphan children in India and we are raising money for them through our Easter raffle. We visited the Co-op in Mere to find out about Fairtrade and are also going to visit Indigo Blue the Indian restaurant. We have already had a little taste of Indian food when we did our homework project. Some of us made curry for everyone to try and some of us made a cake in the shape of the Taj Mahal and a map of India. To finish the topic we will be making kites in a traditional Indian Kite Festival.

In Literacy we have been looking at Traditional tales and how to turn them into Indian stories. We based our stories on Little Red Riding Hood. Some of us changed the name to Little Blue Sari and had a tiger instead of a wolf! We then took our stories and wrote them as play scripts and acted out the parts, by making our own puppet theatres.

Now we are going to tell you all about the other news from Mere School...

We have had book week with Joffre White the author of Frog coming into speak to us. Mr. Scaife our fantastic poet has also been in with lots of mums and dads to read us lots of stories!

The library is still being prepared for the big opening on Monday, 26th of March

In Blue Class they have been learning about the 3 little pigs. Lacey wrote a really good story and came round all the classes to show us. Well done Lacey!

In Yellow Class they have been making collages with different sorts of materials.

In Silver Class they had a superhero dress up day with a real superhero! Lt Gareth Plunkett who is a pilot for the Navy came into talk and play with the children.

Gold class have been working with maps. They created their own maps of the school grounds and used them for orienteering activities.

In Red Class they have been designing Roman sandals and fact files about Roman countries.

Purple Class have been getting ready for their SATs and making an Aztec museum for the school.

Finally, some sporting news. We hosted the Gillingham Family Football Tournament and we WON!

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

**Mere School Exclusive! Best ever
Christmas Play showing soon...**

NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS

Archdeacon Visiting Mere In Holy Week

The Ven Paul Taylor, archdeacon of Sherborne, will be joining in or leading most of the Holy Week services at St Michael's, Mere, helping to fill the gap left by the sudden resignation of its vicar, Paul Barnes, last month because of ill health.

St Michael's Churchwardens Tim Merrell and Jean Knapp have welcomed the news of Mr Taylor's visit, saying how much the parish appreciates having a senior clergyman to help during the difficult time of the unexpected vacancy of the parish priest.

Mr Taylor says, "It's a great privilege to be sharing Holy Week with Mere, and I greatly look forward to meeting everyone in April".

He will be preaching on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday, and will be present at the children's Stations of the Cross and Walk of Witness to the top of Castle Hill, and will lead the service of the Last Hour in the afternoon. He will also be getting up very early on Easter morning to drive from Dorchester to preside at the 6.30am Vigil and Dawn Service of Light at Barrow Street Barn. Unfortunately he cannot be at St Michael's for the main morning Easter Day service, because of a previous commitment near Sherborne.

New St Michael's Website

St Michael's parish church has launched a new website and has already gained praise for its looks and contents. Salisbury Diocese has picked it as one of its "featured websites" because it is "well-written, informative, and shows a good use of photos".

The website (www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk) features a panoramic view of the church and the town taken from Castle Hill and a slide show of members of all ages taking part in worship and social events.

Steve Hoffman, the church's website manager, says that the site's emphasis is on the church as people, enjoying all aspects of church life. "Although we've got a beautiful church building," he says, "the church is really people, and that's the message of the website". It lists all services and other church activities, as well as other groups that are closely associated with St Michael's. Website visitors can also download the church's weekly pew sheet with the latest church news.

Steve Hoffman, St Michael's Publicity Officer, ☎ 01747 860514

THE REV'D HELEN CAINE, METHODIST MINISTER, WRITES

"A picture paints a thousand words", they say. So I wasn't surprised that the Lent Course, featuring paintings, some overtly religious, some not, and leading into thoughtful discussion, is proving helpful.

I have a large collection of images clipped from various publications over the years. I recently took some pictures of Jesus on the Cross, to a family service that I was leading. Knowing there might be young children, I had deliberately removed the most distressing pictures. Everyone looked at the pictures and chose one. Some people then had the opportunity to talk about their choice, which I found quite moving.

One young boy chose a sketch of Jesus with some marks of blood on his head and shoulders, and just the suggestion of the rest of his figure. "It's a wonder he survived!" said the child. By the expression on his face he was sensing something of Jesus's suffering.

Of course, Jesus didn't survive the ordeal of a deliberate, slow and painful death, with the anguish that must bring. All the gospel writers are clear about the fact, even if they do not dwell on the gruesome details of crucifixion. This is probably because such death was more commonplace amongst them than it is amongst us. (Except as it comes to us from places where there is war and civil conflict, as in Syria at present.)

We might understand the child's comment about the crucifixion, though, because all of us only know about Jesus's death, because we know of his resurrection. Jesus is alive. The experience of Jesus's friends first, and then so many more witnesses, is that God raised Jesus from death to a new life. And that by some mystery, which the many word pictures in the New Testament struggle to capture, everyone else has the possibility of new life, with Christ.

That local child was right. The suffering of Jesus is "a wonder". The resurrection of Jesus, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday, underlines that. We have a gift of God's generous love, for this life and the next.

After various activities in our own locality to mark Jesus's suffering and death, I wish you a Happy Easter.

THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

SPRING BAZAAR

Saturday, 28th April opening at 10.00am

In the Grove Building

Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Plants, Cakes, Books

Do come along and have a cup of coffee and meet friends

Everyone is welcome

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday, 25th April we meet as usual at 2.30pm in the Methodist School Room for an informal afternoon's fellowship. We shall be glad to meet anyone who would like to come. We usually have an interesting topic with visiting speaker or a varied entertaining programme.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Ecumenical Quiet Prayer Group. After two months 'off' because of a clash with the Lent Course, we are meeting again every 4th Wednesday from 25th April, at 7.30pm in the Upper Room in the Grove Building.. All Welcome!

Ross & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553



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

On Tuesday, 24th April from 10.30am – 12.00noon
at Rivermead, Pettridge Lane (Jean & Colin Kantaria's house

☎01747 861168)

Many thanks to all our supporters, new and long-standing!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Help Needed to Change the World!

Every year since the war in Christian Aid Week, an army of volunteers has delivered envelopes and collected donations from local houses to enable Christian Aid to continue its vital work towards ending poverty. Here are 7 good reasons for you to join them in Mere this year (**15th – 19th May**):

1. Christian Aid works to support the poorest people in 47 countries around the world, regardless of race, religion or background.
2. By joining in this work with 300,000 volunteers around the country you are becoming part of the solution.
3. Christian Aid is committed to helping people help themselves out of poverty by funding life-changing projects and tackling the root causes of poverty.
4. In these tough financial times, the world's poor need our help more than ever.
5. In Mere you'll be joining a lively band of collectors, and will have the chance to meet more of your neighbours in the local community – most of whom are glad to have the opportunity to be part of the solution through their giving.
6. Christian Aid's use of money is carefully monitored by the Charity Commissioners. 80% goes directly to help those in need; 17% primes more fund-raising, and only 3% goes on administration.
7. You'll have training and support and can be sure your commitment of two or three hours, will make a real difference in people's lives.

Please help if you can! To sign up for your delivery and collection 'patch' please come to the Lent Lunch on Good Friday, 6th April 12.30-1.30pm in the Grove Building, or give me a ring.
Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

APRIL 2012

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel: Contact Churchwardens:
Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142 or Mr Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195**

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
Palm Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Communion with Procession from the Square
		10.45am	Children's Sunday Fun Club in Grove Building after procession
Monday	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion for Holy Week
Tuesday	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion for Holy Week

Wednesday	4th	10.30am 12.00noon 6.00pm	Holy Communion for Holy Week Stations of the Cross Start the month Holy Communion (BCP)
Maundy Thursday	5th	8.00pm	Service of The Last Supper followed by The Watch until midnight
Good Friday	6th	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Stations of the Cross for children with hot cross buns Walk of Witness up Castle Hill Meet in Square for 11.00am
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	2.30pm 6.30am	Service for The Last Hour Vigil and Service of Light at Barrow Street Farm
		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Messy Church in Grove Building
	29th	10.30am	Choral Matins

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Palm Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
Maundy Thursday	5th	6.30pm	Rev'd Stella Sivyour Holy Communion
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion
Sunday	15th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	29th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	1st	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
Easter Sunday	8th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine Holy Communion
Sunday	15th	6.00pm	Local Fellowship Service
	22nd	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page
	29th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey

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

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

Good Friday

No service in Mere
Services in Gillingham, Wincanton
or Warminster

EASTER SUNDAY	11.30am	Mass
Other Fridays in April	10.00am	Mass
Other Sundays in April	11.30am	Mass

Please note: From 6th May, Sunday Mass will start at 5.00pm, and also in May, Sunday Mass will be preceded by the May Devotions at 4.15pm

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

Palm Sunday	1st	9.25am	*Benefice Service
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
Sunday	15th	10.30am	*Benefice Service
	22nd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	29th	10.30am	*Benefice Service

* **Note:** All the Benefice Services are at St Michaels, Mere

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2012

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

1	Sun	10.45am	Children's Sunday Fun Club	GB
2	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	10.30am	- 12.00noon Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		11.00am	Friends of Fives Court AGM	Fives Court
4	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.15pm	Mere Croquet & Boule Club AGM	AYP
		7.30pm	Mere Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
5	Thur	10.00am	- 1.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L

5	Thur	7.00pm	Senior Football Club Bingo	L
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
6	Fri	12.30pm	Last Lent Lunch	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
7	Sat	10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
11	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 19th & 25th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thur	7.30pm	Wilshire Wildlife Trust	GB
14	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
15	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
16	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 23rd & 30th)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (also 23rd & 30th)	L
		8.00pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Drama Room)	L
17	Tue	10.15am	- 12.15pm Lip Reading Classes (also 24th)	GB
		7.00pm	Carnival Quiz	L
18	Wed	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
19	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 26th)	L
		2.00pm	Quilters (also 26th)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (also 26th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Film Shows/Moviola "The Iron Lady"	L
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
22	Sun	4.00pm	Messy Church	GB
24	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.30am	'Suchana' Coffee Morning	See page 33
		7.30pm	Churches Together in Mere & District	CC
		7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	GB
25	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Annual Parish Council Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB
27	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women	GB
28	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michaels 'Spring Bazaar'	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		7.00pm	Brainwave Spring Pamper Evening	School

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

Grove Building:	Richard Jefferies	☎ 01747 863425
Lecture Hall:	Ann Read	☎ 01747 861486
Methodist Church Schoolroom	Mary Siderfin	☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, organisations, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, together with current and back numbers of Mere Matters, please visit Mere's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

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

**HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

**REGISTRAR
OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:**

By appointment only
Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am
For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

COPY DATE FOR MAY 2012 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the May issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) by e-mail to: merematters@inbox.com from Tuesday, 10th April, or alternatively by post or handed in at the Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS'). Whichever method you use the deadline is **4.00 pm on MONDAY, 16th April**. 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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