

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



Grove Buildings - Mere.
Colin Anderson 1992

MARCH 2012

DR ANDREW MURRISON MP WRITES

Over the past few months, the Government's proposed reforms to the planning system have engendered a fair amount of controversy. Much of the criticism has centred on the implications for rural areas with some campaigning groups claiming that the reforms will destroy our beautiful countryside. In this short piece, I thought it might be useful for me to explain why I think the planning reforms are necessary, and what implications they will have for the rural environment.

The reforms start from the basic idea that local communities should be involved in the planning process. This may sound like an obvious point to make, but when I speak to my constituents, I do not get the impression that many people believe the current system does this.

The result has been that people feel planning is something that is done to them, rather than something which involves them. This has had the unfortunate consequence of making many people see development as a purely negative experience, when in fact development should be about serving the needs of local people.

The Government's planning reforms aim to tackle this fundamental problem. It wants local communities to control the environment they live in and this is why the local plan is at the centre of these reforms. This will return power to elected officials and stop central government forcing development on local authorities.

Unfortunately, under the previous Government, centrally imposed targets fostered local resentment, encouraging local authorities to encroach upon the Green Belt. This Government is handing new powers to local people while protecting our stunning countryside.

The innovation of Neighbourhood Planning will give communities real power to decide both what sort of development they want to see, and where they think it should go. There is also a new designation for local communities to protect valued green spaces, whilst the proposed national guidance will strengthen protection of the Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.

This should ensure we have a planning system with more popular legitimacy, a planning system that works for our generation and for future generations, and a planning system that promotes the right sort of development. I would urge you to take this opportunity to make the most of this unprecedented transfer of power.

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



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, 12th March 2012**.

The Chairman writes:

In last month's Mere Matters, our Wiltshire Councillor, George Jeans, included in his report a small paragraph on the matter of dog fouling, which seems to be on the increase again. This matter has been mentioned to me on several occasions in the last little while, and therefore I am asking dog owners once again to please act responsibly and pick up after your dog. Dog excrement is proliferating, it seems, particularly in Salisbury Street and Pennybank Lane at the moment, and in the latter area in the dark it is not at all easy to see the hazard until it is too late!

At our busy February Parish Council Meeting we heard the results of a meeting arranged by the residents of Waterside with our MEP, Julia Girling, who had had a meeting with Wessex Water, and then came to walk the Shreen and Ashfield Waters to see and hear of the situation regarding the lack of water in Mere. Although there is water in these rivers now after the recent winter rain, she was most concerned to hear of the problems being faced and the responses from Wessex Water and the Environment Agency with whom she will be in contact again, and she will be looking also at the European Water Framework Directive regarding the protection of our waterways. She will be keeping in touch with the Parish Council.

Celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were discussed also, and some suggestions have been received from parishioners, including red white and blue bunting to be erected in the Town, which the Parish Council already has in mind, the same colour scheme in the planting of the flower tubs, which will then also show support during the Olympic Games, fireworks and, of course, something which has taken place many times in the past, a beacon on Castle Hill! Unfortunately we are no longer allowed by English Heritage to have the beacon sitting directly on the hill, but we are looking at other possible means of a beacon. We are also looking at the possibility of fireworks as to what might be feasible, so more news on that at a later date. If there are any other good ideas out there, let us know! I am sure that, as plans develop, we will be in need of volunteers, and these we will be asking for more specifically in due course but names are always welcome if you don't mind what you do!

The Parish Council would like to plant an area of fruit trees at Kingsmere Open Space which we will call the Jubilee Plantation (sponsorship would be welcome), and we have

been offered a Royal Oak Tree which we intend to plant in the Recreation Ground. The trees planted will be registered with the Woodland Trusts' Jubilee Woods scheme.

I recently attended the Annual Carnival Meeting to hear the news and reports of their sterling efforts over the year. The work of the Carnival Committee goes on all year round and there is much to be done to produce such a wonderful event each year, but the Committee is always in need of more help. If you are able to help in any way at all, no matter how small, please contact the Carnival Secretary, Carol Payne, on **01747 861639**.

Please note that the **March Parish Council Meeting** has been postponed for a week because it clashes with an important Wiltshire Council meeting and will now be held on **Monday, 12th March** and not on the first Monday of the month as is usual.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 25th April** in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm.

Finally, I must offer my apologies to our Groundsman's Assistant, Barry Hansford, for not including his name with those I thanked last month for their help with the Christmas lights in town. It was most remiss of me and I do apologise for my omission.

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

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

I now attend the Digital Inclusion Programme Board at Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and others have come together to roll out superfast broadband across Wiltshire in line with the government target of 2015. Wiltshire is putting £16 million pounds into the project. Wiltshire will do well from the government initiative because we Wiltshire has poor coverage of broadband. Community involvement will be encouraged down to the level of trenching.

After spending a day in Bristol, I have acquired much more knowledge of the 400 page Localism Act. It has at least five definitions of what a community is! I thought I understood what a community is. It may enable something local for you, however there is a lot to learn. Some examples of its impact could or will be: five-year tenancies for social housing, unlike now; the power to challenge council tax rises; a register of local assets; delaying any sale of property by up to 6 months, which could be either a private or public building. Also, Business Rate gains above existing levels can be kept local to Wiltshire after 2013, therefore an encouragement for Wiltshire to attract business and a universal benefit form may be possible, excluding council tax benefits.

A household recycling centre may come to Mere as supported by the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Development Plan Document. This should reduce the need for people in the Mere Community to travel to Warminster or over the County border. It is also proposed to have a building for material recovery, which should bring some jobs.

Again, may I remind you, for Community groups who cannot easily raise funds, the South West Area Board give community grants usually up to £5,000, at the discretion of the Board.

The roundabout outside The Walnut Tree Inn is concerning all the residents in the area, and I have asked for overgrowth causing reduced visibility to be cut back. Over the coming months, I will also see if a way can be found to improve the junction. I fear that if it is not improved a serious accident will occur sooner or later.

As usual, please inform Lindsey ☎ 01747 860701 or myself of any streetlights that are not working in Mere, or have faults. In the villages where you have any streetlights that do not work, please inform me.

Wiltshire has adopted the South Wiltshire Core Strategy. One statement made on page 111, policy 16, is that we do not require any one-bedroom dwellings in Mere, but from enquiries and comments that come to me, I can tell you that I do not agree. It also states that any building in Salisbury City should not exceed 40ft to maintain as always, good views of the 404 feet high spire of Salisbury Cathedral!

On a separate issue, the Wiltshire Core Strategy (not the above adopted South Wiltshire Core Strategy), which is progressing will be open for consultation from the time you read this. I have already made written statements to the Council's officers concerned regarding the section on Mere.

I am informed that Monday, 26th March will be the start of household waste being collected every other week. Recycling will be collected in the weeks when household waste is not collected. I understand that households of five or more people or those with medical conditions, will be able to apply for increased capacity waste bins.

I am hoping The Southwest Area Board will give our area a grant towards our Jubilee celebrations in order to include a firework display, community picnic etc. in Mere, and hopefully a beacon will be lit on Castle Hill on Monday, 4th June.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people in south west Wiltshire are being urged to bid for a slice of a £12,000 pot of money available for youth projects.

The funds could be used for anything from holding a dance workshop to launching a sports team, and from holding a street art project to buying new equipment for a youth group.

The initiative is open to groups of at least three young people who are under 21 and live in south west Wiltshire.

Bridget Wayman, chairman of the Area Board, said: "We are particularly keen to try to help young people in rural villages where there are no or few facilities, as well as those in the larger settlements.

"We have already awarded funding to our youth workers to help with transport links for young people, and if young people are looking for transport help they should contact us.

"This additional pot of funding is for activities and projects young people want to develop. We have extended the age range to include younger children who may have ideas originating through their primary schools, or other groups such as cubs, brownies and cadets."

The deadline for applications is **Friday, 9th MARCH 2012**. Those groups whose applications are shortlisted will be invited to attend a special South West Area Board meeting at **7.00pm on Thursday, 22nd March 2011 at Nadder Hall, Tisbury**. The meeting would hear a 3 minute presentation from each group – we would welcome pictures/PowerPoint presentations etc.

For all applications please use the criteria below:

Groups of young people up to the age of 21 are eligible to apply

A group must be a minimum of 3 young people

Groups can apply for up to £1,000 to take part in activities, buy equipment or other project costs; grants for more than £1,000 will be considered on a case by case basis

The project ideas should come from young people themselves and they should be actively involved in the planning

The project should have a 'supporter' to help and hold funds for the project (e.g youth worker, school, parish councillor)

The project should show benefits for young people in at least one of these areas:

- Leading healthier lifestyles / keeping physically healthy
- Learning new skills

- Enjoying recreation and leisure
- Making a positive contribution
- Access to transport or other services
- Challenging bullying or discrimination

Young people should have help to present their ideas to the Area Board

Young people should develop ideas for how they will know their project has been successful

Young people should be actively involved working out the project costs and benefits

For more information and to get an application form contact the South West Wiltshire Area Board community manager Stephen Harris,  01722 434211 or email: stephen.harris@wiltshire.gov.uk

APPLICATIONS FOR FUEL GRANTS

Age UK (Salisbury) will be taking applications for Fuel Grants in the Lecture Hall from 9.30am until 1.00pm on Tuesday, 6th March. For any further information please telephone Ginny Cooper on the following telephone number.

Ginny Cooper, Age UK,  01722 335425

WEATHER REPORT

January, and winter had finally arrived. We had gale force winds the first week and several frosty mornings mid-month. The total rainfall was 53.5mms (2.11ins). Last year it was: 118.5mms (4.67ins). We had a little snow on the 30th, which soon melted.

February started cold with about a half inch of snow on the 4th, followed by 11mms (0.43ins) of rain that night, which washed it all away. This was followed by several frosty mornings and later sunshine. Another fall of snow on the 9th stayed with us for some days. February so far has been the coldest and total rainfall to mid month was 11mms (0.43 in). More snow to come?

Peter Durkee  01747 860363

'MERENEIGHBOURS' NEWS



Nottingham Knockers

Mere neighbourhood Policing team has been informed by local residents of young people going from house to house in Mere selling various household items. These young people who are also known as 'Nottingham Knockers' (named after a scam originating in Nottingham) travel across the UK targeting a town at a time.

They knock at doors and claim to be ex-convicts attempting to mend their ways, before trying to sell the householder everyday household products at very high prices. Police always advise residents to refrain from buying at the doorstep, and not to buckle to pressure from salespeople offering supposedly one-off 'buy it now' low prices. However, often kind-hearted residents feel they are helping the Nottingham Knockers to turn their lives around so agree to buy their wares. Nottingham Knockers work in groups and many do not possess Pedlar's Certificates, which are issued by police and are necessary for salespeople to be legally allowed to sell door-to-door. There have been incidents where local residents have received abuse from the Nottingham Knockers and often feel pressured in to buying items. The advice we pass on is that if the person selling the items becomes aggressive or you feel threatened in anyway you should contact Wiltshire Police via the 101 telephone number.

If you would like to have a window sticker which can act as a visible deterrent to criminals please let your local coordinator know. You could equally act in a neighbourly way and collect several for your locality direct from Richard Jefferies (details below). They are also available for collection from Mere Library and Mere Post Office. These stickers have been supplied to us at no cost as they are sponsored by an insurance company so they do bear some advertising on the inside surface. *Great for your front door or window.*

Car Security

When it's cold and dark it's tempting to jump out of your car and rush inside to the warm without stopping to remove all the items that you may have in the car, such as satellite navigation systems, phones and laptops, especially if you will be needing them the next day. However it is important that you take these items inside with you, even if you have parked your car in your own drive and it is alarmed.

Criminals like these items as they are easily sold on, and they can remove them within a few moments, frequently causing extensive damage, which may cost more to repair than the cost of the items stolen. Your glove compartment should also be left open overnight to allow potential thieves to see that there is nothing hidden inside, as they may break into the car to check.

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

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

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

jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only contact:

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425

Email: rajefferies@btinternet.com

MERE CARERS GROUP

The details for our Mere Carers Group in March are that we meet on Tuesday, 6th March from 10.30am-12.00pm at Lynch Close. Please come along and meet other Carers for a chat and a cup of tea.

To find out more about this group, which is hosted by Carer Support Wiltshire, please contact us on **freephone** ☎ 0800 181 4118 or email: info@csww.co.uk

THE CREDIT UNION (MERE BRANCH)

By the time this article goes to print, the South Wiltshire Credit Union AGM will have taken place at which a dividend of 2½% for the year will have been proposed. Now where else can the small saver get such a good deal?

The Credit Union is a community venture designed to help people to save as well as borrow (without penalty and at a comparatively low interest rate), so please do give it some thought. For further information do come and visit our desk in The Mere Library on Saturday mornings between 10.00am and 12.00noon.

Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596

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

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

Mere Carnival Committee would like to thank Father Christmas again and also the Co-operative and The George for their kind help in making our Christmas grotto under the Clock tower such a magical event for the children of Mere at Christmas 2011.

If you would like to find out more about how our Carnival is organised, and maybe join the Committee or offer help on the day, please ring me for further information.

Carol Payne, Carnival Secretary, ☎ 01747 861639

POTENTIAL ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT

A letter signed by many of the residents of Walnut Road and Oak Lane has been sent to Wiltshire Councillor, George Jeans. The content relates to the mini-roundabout in the Shaftesbury Road adjacent to the Walnut Tree Inn.

What is causing the residents considerable concern is the distinct possibility of a serious accident due to an apparent lack of knowledge many drivers display when negotiating the mini-roundabout.

Drivers approaching Mere from Shaftesbury frequently fail to slow down in preparation for giving way to traffic emerging from Walnut Road. Similarly drivers from Shaftesbury intending to turn right into Walnut Road should be allowed to complete their manoeuvre before traffic from Mere to Shaftesbury proceeds. Greater awareness to the advice given in the Highway Code relating to giving way to traffic from the right, together with new road paint and clearer signage, would undoubtedly help.

What a pity the developers and planners appear to have given little attention to this very serious road hazard especially as the pub has become extremely popular, and therefore creating a huge volume of traffic, which parks on the pavements and too close to the junction due to far too little off-road parking.

The development has now received an award from the Salisbury Civic Society. The judges in making their award describe it as "an object lesson to other large developers to what can be achieved". No award in the world can be worthy if there is potential danger in the sighting of the approach road to that development. If you have any comments, please refer them to me and not to Mere Matters.

Bella Wallace ☎ 01747 860682

LENT LUNCHES

Churches Together in Mere and District invite everyone to come along to the Grove Building every Friday during Lent to enjoy a light lunch. Bring a friend and come and enjoy homemade soup, roll, butter cheese, coffee or tea for only £2.50.

Lunches will be served from 12.30-1.30pm from Friday, 24th February until Good Friday, 6th April (after the Procession of Witness up Castle Hill). There will be a Sales table including Home-made produce and proceeds will be shared between Christian Aid and Cafod (the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales.)

Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291 *Janet Way* ☎ 01747 860884

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, 13th March 2012 at the Walnut Tree Inn**, Shaftesbury Road, Mere **at 12noon**. The two course meal costs £8.95, including after-lunch coffee or tea. Please book with the Walnut Tree ☎ 01747 861220 in advance. This will be the last meeting until October 2012, which will be in association with the Literary Festival,

It has been an exciting season with regular attendees, new incomers to Mere, the company of sight impaired people from Mere, Gillingham and Zeals and the support of local businesses, clubs and organisations. Don't be lonely, all are welcome to make new friends to expand their social life and just have fun. This lunch is about the Community and it would be great to see you. For further details please call me.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

BIG BREW BREAKFAST

Don't forget to step along to the Methodist Schoolroom in North Street on Tuesday, 6th March from 8.30-11.30am and join me for this year's **BIG BREW BREAKFAST** in Fair Trade Fortnight. For a mere £2 you can try a large variety of Fair Trade goodies, share in good company all in the knowledge that it is helping families around the world to a better life.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

Walks 2012

Sunday	25th	March	2.00pm - local walk
Sunday	15th	April	2.00pm
Sunday	20th	May	2.00pm
Sunday	10th	June	9.30am
Sunday	1st	July	10.00am
Tuesday	3rd	July	7.30pm - moonlight walk
Sunday	22nd	July	2.00pm
Sunday	19th	August	2.00pm
Sunday	23rd	September	2.00pm
Sunday	28th	October	10.00am

Walks start from main car park in Mere. Car sharing where possible. Everyone very welcome, including dogs if on leads. Bring small picnic if liked. Further details of destination and distance will be posted on the hoard outside of the Post Office nearer to the dates.

Liability Disclaimer - as the group has no insurance, walkers should be aware that they take part in walks at their own risk and that neither the walk leader nor the group can accept liability for any injury or loss howsoever caused.

THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



Update on Dates for your Diary:

Mere and District will be hosting a Business Lunch on Wednesday, **21st March 2012** regarding the Pension Act 2008 and Employer Duties.

This legislation comes into effect in October of this year. Between then and 2017, ALL employers will have to have registered a Qualifying Workplace Pension Scheme AND enrolled all eligible employees into it. Paul Heaphy of Independent Financial Services (UK) Ltd, which are experts on this law, will be coming along to speak to The Chamber

about this very important legislation. For further information, please contact Julie H 07856 700576.

Further events and meetings are being planned for 2012 so watch this space for more details!

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

This will be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th March 2012.

You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. More ideas are always essential to keep a Chamber active. *Julie Cousins, Secretary Julie H 07856 700576*

PLOTTING A WATER MAP OF MERE

We are well on the way to plotting a water map of Mere. The response to the paper survey in the Museum's very interesting map exhibition has been great and people have been in touch both by e-mail and word of mouth. I even have photographs of splendid inside and outside house wells.

- If you are one of those who have told me about a well, a spring, seepage patch or spring-fed pond please e-mail me your address or fill in a form at the museum exhibition so that your information can be coded and plotted on the parish residential map.
- If you haven't got round to filling in a form at the museum or e-mailing me please do not forget to do so as it would be a shame not to record your information.
- If you don't think you can contribute information why not go along to the Museum and look at the 'table top' display which explains the project?

The final map will indicate the location of old wells, springs and spring-fed ponds in residents' houses and gardens and persistent patches of seepage in the locality of Mere. The Water Map of Mere will:

- Record how abundant and reliable the natural sources of water were in the past. Part of the history of Mere.
- Describe the natural water situation now and in recent years. It may be of use in talking to those responsible for water supplies today.
- Maybe helpful in planning a walk along the famous Mere Fault the location of which influences the source of all the water in our streams, wells and springs.

For more information please contact me, preferably by e-mail:
p.m.mcmanus@btinternet.com Paulette McManus ☎ 01747 861524

AN INTRODUCTION TO BOTANICAL PAINTING

On Saturday, 19th May from 10.30am-4.00pm in the Grove Building. Fee £35.

We are very fortunate to be hosting this workshop by Christina Hart-Davis, a professional botanical artist. She was the main artist in Collins new flora: Flowers of Britain. If you have some painting experience and would like to try this popular branch of art, please contact Janet Way for further details and booking forms.

There are a limited number of places which are filling fast.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE'S MARATHON MAN SEEKS SUPPORT.....

In a move of questionable ambition, I decided to take on a charity challenge in 2012, running three marathons across consecutive weekends in April to raise funds for the Samaritans. Juggling increasingly difficult training with a full time job and a young family, I have become fully aware of the scale of the undertaking! Finding out my wife is pregnant with our fourth child – due two weeks after the third marathon, has also added to the logistics of the situation.

We live in Mere, where my wife grew up and I thoroughly enjoy training in the area. Whether running across the downs or around local villages on a Sunday, or pounding the pavements of town at 5am during the week, there's always something picturesque to see and a greeting from passers by. I feel lucky to be able to experience this and it is a real motivator – keeping me going to see this challenge through and make a difference to the lives of others.

I have set myself an ambitious fundraising target for a cause that itself offers somewhere to turn to for anyone at their darkest hour and with that in mind, I would like to ask the local community for support. Please visit my web page to sponsor me and help me to make a difference, supporting the excellent work the Samaritans' volunteers undertake both locally and nationally: www.virginmoneygiving.com/andyswann. Collection tins are also being kindly held by a number of Mere retailers and a more traditional sponsorship form is available!

We will also be organising a number of fundraising events in the local area, including a fantastic Art Exhibition and Silent Auction during March, featuring well renowned artists from the region. Full details can be found at: www.cheesehousestudios.co.uk.

If you would like to know any more about the challenge, please feel free to contact me by phone or email: a_swann66@yahoo.co.uk Thank you in advance for your support..

Andy Swann ☎ 01747 860482

...AND SO DOES MERE'S MARATHON GIRL

Come on Mere – It Matters! Please help me, Sarah Gent, raise very much needed funds for MacMillan Cancer Support and Salisbury Hospice.

I am running the London Marathon 2012 in memory of Jim Nicholls, a very dear friend of mine who sadly lost his fight with cancer last year. Macmillan and Salisbury Hospice helped Jim and his family throughout his fight and have continued to help since his passing. Both charities gave a lot of support to Jim, and now it is my turn to give something back to them, which is why I have chosen to run the London Marathon. The training is hard, but has to be done; no wimping out because my favourite programme is on the television, or because it is cold or raining - it is up and out! My training runs range from three to 22 miles, leading up to the race day itself which is 26.2 miles! So if you see me out and about, give me a wave and a smile, believe me it makes a difference! You can also make a difference in another way by sponsoring me. Please visit my Virgin Money Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/sarah gent>, or send any donations to Magnolia House, Lovage Way, Mere, making your cheque payable to 'Sarah Gent (Marathon)' and I will forward your donations to both charities. Please enclose your address so that I can send a thank you.

Sarah Gent H 07801 953080



GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives."

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 18th May 2012 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting The Spinal Injuries Association's (SIA) information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper, but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed, and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family.

"We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

"Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or to request fundraising packs call Elizabeth Wright ☎ 0845 071 4350 or email: fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit: www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

MERE THEATRE CLUB

There may be a spring mailing quite soon, so if you have not paid this year's subscription, you may miss out! £5 per household to Mere Theatre Club, c/o Wendy Horne, The Cottage, Waterside, Mere, BA12 6EE. Thanks to all those punctual people.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833 *Wendy Horne* ☎ 01747 861712

MERE SHORT WALKS

This month's walk of 3-4 miles around the Mere by-ways will take place on Wednesday, 21st March. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm and stop for a welcome cuppa at the Angel Cafe afterwards.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

BRAINWAVE



"The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow....." If that nursery rhyme turns out to be true this March, you will still be able to buy something warm at Brainwave as we try to put on sale what our customers need rather than what the calendar tells us it's time for. Please continue to keep your donations of goods, you no longer want flowing into the shop as this allows us to be flexible and respond quickly to our customers' requirements.

February was the anniversary of the Mere Brainwave Shop and over twenty of the army of volunteers celebrated with a three-course meal at the George Inn, just across the road from our premises. The new patrons of The George served up delicious food for us, piping hot and plentiful, which was no mean feat considering we were all enjoying the chance to be together for a serious natter and not paying too much attention to what we had ordered. It is also the thirtieth anniversary of the Brainwave Charity itself this year, so there will be further celebrations to come this Summer, which will probably involve all our faithful customers and supporters. Meanwhile the Brainwave Famous Face quiz is continuing at the Mere shop, so there's still time to pick up a quiz sheet at the counter and test your skills.

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

MERE FILM SHOWS

A big 'thank you' first of all to everyone who came to the screening of 'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy' last month, and whilst I know this was because it was such a good film – it won the BAFTA for Best British Film - and had nothing to do with my piece in last month's Mere Matters, it was lovely to have a Full House once again!

We have another excellent BAFTA award winning film on Friday, 9th March with '**The Help**' (12A) – nominated for the BAFTA for Best Film - from the marvellous book by Kathryn Stockett, which has been on the best sellers list for some time.

It tells the story of Skeeter Phelan (Emma Stone), an aspiring writer returning from college to her Mississippi town in the early 1960s, who decides to write a book detailing the African-American maid's point of view on the white families for whom they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis. Her best friend's maid, Aibileen (Viola Davis), decides to help and soon more women join her and the stories they tell have some alarming results! Viola Davis was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Actress for her role and Octavia Spencer, who plays Minnie, won the BAFTA for Best Supporting Actress in this film.

Don't miss it! There is more information on page 28.

Date for your Diary: 'The Iron Lady', Thursday, 19th April.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Whilst twelve of our members are busy taking part in an interesting course by our visiting tutor Catherine Millar, the rest of our members are enjoying getting to grips with hand quilting with the help of Jennie Hoffman, with twenty six in attendance in February.

We will be meeting every Thursday in March from 2.00 to 4.45pm. Catherine's course starts at 1.30pm. Just two spaces left at present, so if you are keen to join please phone me or email: info@castlehillquilters.org.uk Our website is: castlehillquilters.org.uk

Carol Lord, President, ☎ 01747 861923



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

For our meeting on **Tuesday, 13th March** at 2.30 pm in the Grove Building, **Christobel Kriticas** will be celebrating the 'Gift of Caring for Children' by sharing some of her experiences over the years as a Norland Nanny.

There will be also a Bring and Buy stall at this meeting to raise money towards the MU's many imaginative overseas projects supporting families in particular need through local MU branch members.

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

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

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. There is always tea and coffee, a lot of chat and laughter, and a sympathetic ear if needed.

We meet in the Grove Buildings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, from 9.30 to 11.30am. There is no membership, so just come along between 9.30 and 10.00am for a pre-meeting tea/coffee and chat. Everyone, of all ages, and new or established residents, are most welcome. **Our next meeting is on Friday, 9th March.**

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

We will be quite busy this month at the centre. One of our local business women, Sarah Collins, owner of the Sprout and Flower shop, has agreed to come and talk to us about her business and career. We have a Tea Dance on Monday, 5th March when we shall be dancing to old favourites. Towards the end of the month we plan to run another Desert Island Disc session and play our very own version of Family Fortunes. Both of these events we ran during earlier sessions and they were a fantastic hit with all.

We cannot run our day centre without the help of volunteers. We are currently in desperate need of session volunteers to help make teas, coffees, serve lunches and engage with our elderly Guests. Our volunteers work as part of a team and are supported by me and the Trustees. If you can spare a few hours once a month to help, either ring me, text me, or leave me a message on the number below (please note change in number).

Sandie Hawkins, RGC H 07835 272406

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends were absolutely delighted with the enthusiastic support their new initiative, a Burns Night Supper, attracted last month. The evening was a terrific success and you may like to know that the evening raised £671 for our fighting fund! Thank you everyone for your marvellous support.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Spring Show & AGM

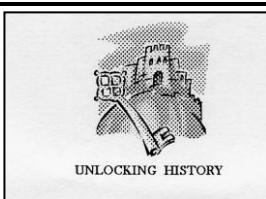
This event will take place on Wednesday, 14th March at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church. **Please note change of venue!**

The Spring Show categories include bulbs (don't forget your MGC irises!), photos, cookery and handicraft and will be judged by members. Schedule on display at the Post Office, or contact me at the telephone number below if you would like a copy.
Visitors and friends very welcome.

Subscriptions are due at the AGM and are unchanged at £7. This is great value as it not only covers all our monthly meetings, talks and workshops, and enables you to take part in the Annual and Spring Show, but also gives access to discounts from local Nurseries.

The Committee meets 4 to 5 times a year and there are vacancies, so if you would like to join them or to propose someone, your suggestions will be very welcome.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM

Followed by a talk:
A Pictorial History of Mere
David Longbourne

**Tuesday, 6th March
at 7.00pm in the Grove Building**

You are invited to join the committee for drinks and nibbles at **7.00pm** prior to the AGM which will begin at 7.30pm. **Subscriptions for 2012/13 are now due** and can be paid before the AGM. If you are unable to attend please send your fee (**£6** per member) to the Membership Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere. ☎ 01747 860890. Standing Order forms are available.

A date for your 2013 diaries! A visit to Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris, has been organised for 20 June, 2013.

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

Our new exhibition **Mere Maps** has been receiving very enthusiastic reviews, so if you haven't seen it yet, do go along to the Museum soon. You will probably find that you will need to visit more than once! Paulette McManus has also been delighted with the response to her request for information about **wells and springs in Mere**, but there may well be (pardon the pun) more information out there. If you haven't seen Dr. McManus's display in the map exhibition and her questionnaire, do go and have a look soon.

Finally, we have been busy preparing a new **Forward Plan** for the Museum which is designed to take it through the next five years. The first draft of the plan will be available in the Museum by the end of February **for just two weeks**, for everyone to look at. We invite anyone who would like to have a say in the future development of the Museum to read it and make comments and/or suggestions on the forms provided. We can't, of course, guarantee that we will be able to adopt every suggestion, but all observations will be kept for future reference. Thank you in anticipation for your help.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for February, drawn after Family Communion service on 5th February by Mr Graham Avory, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 142	Mrs B Flexney-Briscoe
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 5	Mrs P Cooper
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 135	Mrs S Leece
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 80	Miss P Collingel

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

We should like to thank all those aspiring actors who offered their services to take the part of the young man in MADS' Spring Production (see last month's MADS appeal). We can now confidently announce that a murder will indeed be committed in Mere at the end of March, and more than once. In fact the play currently in rehearsal is Agatha Christie's thriller, **A Murder is Announced**. Everyone is invited to become a witness – provided they buy their tickets in good time of course, at performances in the Lecture Hall from **Thursday, 29th to Saturday, 31st March 2012** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 and £3 (school children). Tickets are on sale **NOW** at the library.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, where everybody matters

Open Weekend

Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th March 2012
10.00am-3.00pm

Ever thought of taking part in a new activity, class or sport, but not sure what it involves?

Come to the Sports Centre on Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th March, when you will have the opportunity to take part and try out during our Open Weekend.

Staff will be on hand to help, advise and supervise you through a number of different sports and activities such as:

- Trampolining, Teeny Tots Football, Morning Madness activities, Fun Circuits, Bouncy Castle
- Table Tennis, Badminton, Tennis, Short Mat Bowls
- Fitness Classes taster sessions to include Circuits, Spin, Aerobics, Boxercise and Yoga
- View our well equipped Gym and try out on some of the equipment (under supervision).

Are you interested in Tag Rugby for children, an Easter Tennis Camp for adults and children, Archery for 11yrs+ (a beginners course of six weeks will take place during the Summer Holidays on Saturday mornings)? Then just let us know during the Open Weekend or for further details and to book, contact us as follows:

- Reception, ☎ 01747 871141,
- e-mail us at: tisburysc@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- visit the website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk
- or follow us on Twitter@TisburyLC

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Well, the start of the 2012 outdoor season will soon be upon us. The green will be opened on Saturday, 14th April at 2.30pm for existing members and 3.00pm for new, or potentially new, members. Weather permitting our bowls coach will be available to take newcomers through the basics of bowling – please remember to bring a pair of flat shoes!!

Our annual function in aid of the Bowls Club's chosen local charity will already be over by the time this article is published. I would like to thank both the organising committee and all those who attended for their invaluable support for this worthy cause. This year we are supporting the Rosemary Goddard Centre.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747-860775

MERE CRICKET CLUB

Pre-season nets are under way for the adult team, the time of year when we show the England team what they were missing in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

New and existing players are all welcome at the Warminster Indoor Cricket Centre from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Sundays, 4th & 18th March, and 1st April.

Junior coaching will recommence after Easter, look out for further details.

Please feel free to contact me or visit the Walnut Tree Inn or their website for more information.

Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Easter Bingo, on Saturday 24th March at the Lecture hall. Doors open at 7.00pm, Eyes Down at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Coming up, there is a very popular event in the club's calendar: "The Summer Soccer School". The dates for this year are Tuesday 7th – Thursday, 9th August, again being held in the Andy Young Pavilion (AYP). Details to follow, or contact the Secretary, Julie Hodge H 07808 715725 for more information.

The 2011/12 season has seen two of our young U12 players, Bailey Hodge and Jesse Holmes being invited to train at the Elite Advanced Development Centre at Stanley Park, Chippenham. Congratulations to both boys.

Correction to one of the Fees shown in the February edition. Match Fee is £2.00 per match (not per month).

Tracey Thorpe H 07519 299925

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

19th MARCH 2012

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

•The Help•

(12A)

Skeeter (**Emma Stone**), a southern society girl, returns from college determined to be a writer, but turns her friends' lives - and the rest of her Mississippi town - upside down when she decides to interview the black women who have spent their lives taking care of wealthy southern families. A neighbour's housekeeper Aibileen (**Viola Davis**, nominated for Best Actress at the BAFTAs) is the first to open up - but soon more women come forward to tell their stories - and they have a lot to say....

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 9th March, 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 CHILDREN'S CENTRE

After a bitterly cold spell in February, Mere Children's Centre looks forward to some slightly warmer weather with a Spring Theme for our Wednesday Stay and Play sessions. We will be planting seeds, making fluffy lambs and Easter pictures. We also have a patriotic day painting St George and his dragon!

On Wednesday, 7th March we have a special session at Stay and Play on Healthy Eating, brought to us by Kathryn Thomas, Community Dietician, and Thomas Coles who is training to be a dietician. This session will include balancing your diet, healthy eating for your family, working with the children to make delicious food and a tasting session for the food prepared during the session. If you haven't been to our Stay and Play sessions before, this would be an excellent opportunity to come along and join in.

Please note that on Wednesday, 21st March we will be closed due to a county-wide training day for staff.

Musical Beginnings, our Group on Tuesday mornings at the parish church meeting room in Zeals, is proving to be popular and fun for mums and kids, come along and join in and have a good time.

At the same time in the Children's centre we have Bumps and Babes, a relaxing session for young babies, their parents and parents-to-be, do come along and join us

On Thursdays at present Gary Lamont from Wiltshire Wildlife is running an excellent course on Food Champions with thrifty tips on growing, cooking and recycling. So far we have made bread and paper with seeds in, all ready to water and plant.

These sessions are held either at the Children's centre if cooking is planned for that day or at Tiddlers and Toddlers in the Lecture Hall if there is no cooking involved. Ring us  01747 861108 to check where we will be on Thursdays.

On Thursday, 1st March we have a one-off session at the Centre on getting back to work. Come and join us for a really useful session with lots of information, tips and good advice. Find out how to gain any extra qualifications that you might need.

Starting on Wednesday, 29th February, from 1.00-3.00pm Wiltshire Family Learning are bringing us a ten week course on Budgets and Bargains, to make budgets and money fun for you and your family. There will be also a crèche available if required.

Our exciting Sensory Room is now available for bookings, for you to bring your babies and toddlers along to explore the apparatus and toys. To book, please ring us.

Jane Smith, Mere Children's Centre,  01747 861108

SILVER CLASS NEWS



February 8th 2012

Hello and welcome to Silver Class' School news. Everyone has been working very hard this term and we would like to tell you all the news from our class and the rest of the school. We hope you enjoy it.

In Silver Class we have a very cool topic – ‘Superheroes’. We have been busy designing our own superheroes and villains. In Literacy we used drama to make our characters really come to life!

We also wrote our own superhero stories. “It was really fun using our own characters in our story!” said Lily Down. We invited Red Class to come and share our stories with us.

In ICT we have been looking at animation, using ‘The Incredibles’ film as inspiration. We made our own superhero animations and comic strips. Evie Rich and Jasmine Berry made fantastic comics and took them to Mrs Williamson so she could enjoy them too.

We have been testing our own super powers in PE and Science by using lots of exciting equipment and apparatus. We found lots of ways to use pushes and pulls around the hall. Mitchell Harkin and Charlie Bateson especially enjoyed the climbing ropes.

After half-term we are looking forward to learning about real-life heroes and making our own superhero dance. We can’t wait for our ‘Superhero Day’ when we are all

coming in dressed as superheroes!

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

Blue Class really enjoyed their visit to the dentists. They were given toothpaste, a pencil and stickers. “I liked having a ride in the chair,” said Ruby McCormack.

Yellow Class have been out in Mere looking at road signs and thinking about road safety. The really enjoyed discussing all the things they saw!

Gold Class had an exciting afternoon at Shaftesbury School learning to climb as part of the ‘Adventurers and Explorers’ topic. Holly Brown said “It was really scary because you get to go up really high!”

Red and Green Classes had a great time last week learning how to make mosaic tiles! They used special tools and had to wear safety goggles. “It was fun clipping and shaping the tiles!” said Chris Forsey.

In Purple Class they are busy making an Aztec Museum to show all the amazing things they have learnt about the Awful Aztecs!

We have had a fantastic Art Week learning all about Monet and Matisse. Each class has also designed birds to help decorate the library. We are all looking forward to Book Week, especially dressing up!

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

**Look out for more news about the exciting changes
happening in our library...**

MERE PRE-SCHOOL/NURSERY

Mere Pre-School would like to thank all of the businesses who donated to our Christmas Raffle. We raised the fantastic amount of £162.85, which has been added to the fund to buy more outdoor play equipment for the children to enjoy. Thanks, also, to everybody who came along to the Christmas Fair held at Mere School.

We also had a lot of fun at the well attended 'Community Fund Launch Party' event organised by the Co op, in January, along with the Rosemary Goddard Centre. The Co-op will be splitting the funds, raised by customers showing their green community cards at the tills, between Mere Pre-School and the Rosemary Goddard Centre so please keep using your cards! They are free from behind the counter if you don't already have one.

For more information about our friendly pre-school please visit:
www.merepreschool.co.uk

Laura Rich, Chair of the committee, ☎ 01747 861537

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Songs of Praise celebrates Christian Aid

We welcome Anna Potts to tell us about her experiences in Brazil
and share hymns chosen by our Collectors

Sunday, 18th March @ 6.00pm

Do come and join us

Mere Gracenotes

Conductor: Jane Hurd

Our small vocal ensemble invites you
to a concert - with a nod to St. Patrick's Day

**St Michael's Church Mere,
7.30pm Saturday, 17th March 2012**

No ticket required –

Donations in aid of the Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI)

METHODIST CHURCH

Please note that the times of our Sunday Services have reverted to 6.00pm following our winter arrangements

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

ST MICHAELS BELL RINGERS

On 6th February the mobile band of bell ringers rang at St Michaels and four other churches to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. On Saturday, 24th March there will be a visiting band from Somerset and Dorset ringing a Quarter Peal in St Michaels at 10.30am.

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

THE REV'D JUDITH THOMPSON, A PRIEST AT ST MICHAELS WRITES:

The fascinating collection of maps showing in the excellent current display in Mere Library has set me thinking about maps and their place in our lives.

As someone with no sense of direction whatever, I easily get lost. Making my way out of an unfamiliar house – even though I may have entered it only minutes before – is always hazardous. I am as likely to end up in the broom cupboard or the bathroom as anywhere near the front door.

And finding my way when driving alone is a considerable challenge (we don't have a Satnav). Helpful signs lead me in the right direction and then seem to come to an end just when I need them most. A T-junction demands a decision, but with no idea whether left or right might be more helpful, I invariably take a wrong turning, and then another, and another.....

But if I have a map with roads clearly marked on it, and if I can keep a calm head, in time, I can orientate myself, and with the help of a few kindly strangers on the way, I will usually reach my destination in the end. So I have a special fondness for maps as a source of basic security. But browsing through the excellent exhibition (don't miss it!) made me aware of other ways in which maps are, and have been used: to record historical developments (from strip lynchets to the location of former dwellings and shops - 58 of them! – in Mere); to indicate ownership – like the Enclosure maps and those showing the plots of land owned by members of the Mere Smallholders' Association; and to prepare our defences when under threat of invasion (the motivation for the development of the early Ordnance Survey maps).

For me, the rich and varied tapestry of the seasons of the Churches year provides a similar framework. There are the high points for celebration at Easter especially, and at Christmas, as well as Pentecost (or Whitsun) and Harvest; there are the more demanding times of Advent and Lent; and then there are the times of growth and reflection in between, interspersed with Saints days to remind us of others whose lives have been like 'signposts' showing something of the light of God's love in the world.

March this year is wall-to-wall Lent – as Lent begins on the 22nd February (Ash Wednesday), and ends in Holy Week in April: so the 'live' time for this magazine is nothing but Lent! It's not most people's favourite season, but provides a time when we are encouraged to take stock of how we live our lives and cut out the clutter and the distractions from the things that really matter. It is also a time for sowing seeds (literally and metaphorically) from which new life will grow. If we've got a bit lost on the journey, it's like the time of re-orientation. With the use of the 'map' and guidance from others it can help towards the destination of a fuller and deeper way of life or – as many would see it - 'a closer walk with God'.

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MARCH 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)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Communion
Wednesday	7th	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Children's Sunday Fun Club in the Grove Building
	18th	10.30am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise (with speaker From Christian Aid)
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.00pm	Messy Church in Grove Building

Advance notice of Easter Services in early April

PALM SUNDAY	1st	10.30am	Family Communion with Procession from the Square
Monday	2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion for Holy Week
Tuesday	3rd	8.00am	Holy Communion for Holy Week
Wednesday	4th	10.30am	Holy Communion for Holy Week
		12.00noon	Stations of the Cross
		6.00pm	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	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9.30am	Stations of the Cross for children with hot cross buns
		11.00am	Walk of Witness up Castle Hill
			Meet in Square for 11.00am
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	2.30pm	Service for The Last Hour
		6.30am	Vigil and Service of Light at Barrow Street Farm
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Parish Communion(CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	25th	11.00am	Holy Communion
			Rev'd Margaret Laurie

Advance notice of Easter Services in early April

PALM SUNDAY	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
MAUNDY THURSDAY	5th	6.30pm	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
EASTER SUNDAY	8th	11.00am	Holy Communion
			Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Mr Andrew Hardiman
	11th	6.00pm	Rev'd Gwynneth Owen
	18th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	25th	6.00pm	Mothering Sunday. United Service at St Michaels
			Rev'd Colin Marsh

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

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

☎ 01747 860291

Every Friday		10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday		11.30am	Mass

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

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

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

Sunday	4th	9.25am	Matins
	11th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	18th	9.25am	Mothering Sunday
	25th	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove 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

MARCH 2012

1	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	- 1.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
2	Fri	12.30pm	LENT Lunch (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 16th & 23rd)	L
		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
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Monday)	L
		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
6	Tues	8.30am	- 11.30am Big Brew Breakfast	MH
		9.30am	- 1.00pm Age UK Salisbury - Fuel Grant Applications	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		10.30am	- 12.00noon Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		2.00pm	Italian Art Course (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Historical Society AGM	GB
7	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	MDCT Lent Course (every Wednesday)	GB
8	Thur	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
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "The Help"	L
10	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
11	Sun	10.30am	Children's Sunday Fun Club	GB

12	Mon	7.30pm 8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting Mere Amateur Dramatics Society (Drama Room)	AYP L
13	Tues	9.00am 12.00noon 2.30pm	Footcare Clinic Community Lunch Mothers Union	L Walnut Tree Inn GB
14	Wed	09.30am 2.00pm	Xtra Tai Chi (also 28th) GB Friends Together (Whist)	GB
14	Wed	7.30pm 7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club Spring Show & AGM MDCT Committee Meeting	CC MSC
17	Sat	10.30am 7.30pm	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft Stall Mere Gracenotes Concert	CC St Michaels
20	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels PCC meeting	GB
21	Wed	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
24	Sat	10.30am 7.00pm	Drop in Coffee Morning Mere Town Youth Football Club EASTER BINGO	CC L
25	Sun	2.00pm 4.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group – Local walk Messy Church	CP GB
27	Tues	9.00am 7.15pm	Footcare Clinic UR Church Meeting AGM	L CC
28	Wed	1.45pm 7.30pm	Friends Together Julian Meeting	GB GB
29	Thur	7.30pm	MADS production “A Murder is Announced”	L
30	Fri	7.30pm	MADS production “A Murder is Announced”	L
31	Sat	10.30am 7.30pm	Drop in Coffee Morning MADS production “A Murder is Announced”	CC L

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

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

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

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

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

REGISTRAR **By appointment only**

OF BIRTHS Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am

& DEATHS: For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

COPY DATE FOR APRIL 2012 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 2012 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 19th March 2012**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: merematters@inbox.com from Monday, 12th March 2012. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

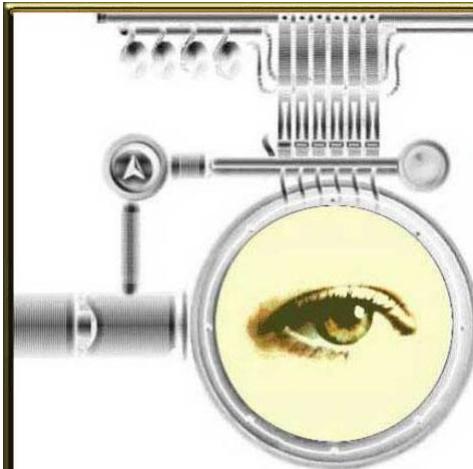
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