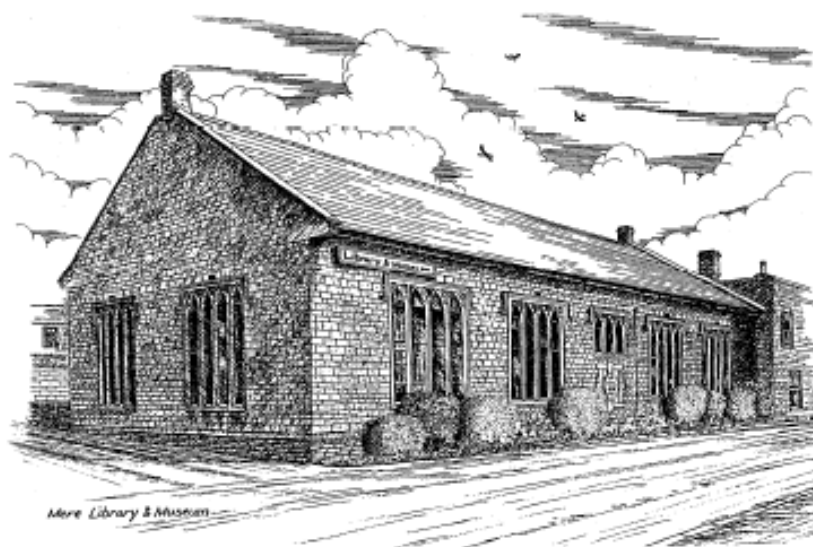


# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**MAY 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, 14th May 2012.

### The Chairman writes:

In this last month the Parish Council seems to have taken up the analogy of the swan swimming serenely along on the surface while underneath the feet are paddling furiously! Therefore the brevity of this month's report should not be taken the wrong way. Work continues on the HLS scheme for Castle Hill and Long Hill and also on the proposals for Mere water. The Parish Council has been granted the sum of £18,500 through the Area Board for our skate park project which will now get under way, as well as a grant of £2,000 towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations which will go towards the beacon and firework display on the 4th June.

It does seem that for those planning Jubilee celebrations the list of rules and regulations, licences and consents required are enough to dismay the hardiest of planners. Whilst we are aware of various celebrations being planned, the Parish Council is happy for the sports field to be used as an open picnic area on the 4th June for those wishing to bring their own picnic and have a get together with friends and neighbours. If you have a particular talent of any sort – juggling, acrobatics, hula-hooping or playing guitar – bring it along and entertain your friends. Dress up or down, be regal ancient or modern and have fun! At the time of writing we are waiting to confirm the when and where of the Fireworks and Beacon as consents have to be obtained(!)

A small Diamond Jubilee orchard of 10 fruit trees has been planted at Kingsmere to mark this celebration. If you would like to sponsor a tree (£25 each) then please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to Mr. Eric Mitchell who has gallantly stepped in to help with the grass cutting of the Recreation Ground and Duchy Manor Sports Field whilst our groundsman has been off sick. This has taken a lot of volunteer time and we are all extremely grateful.

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



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

*Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

## **Floral Enhancements**

The Parish Clerk would like to report that once again, the Parish Council will be keeping up appearances by planting the tubs around the town to give impressive floral displays. Last year we were very grateful to the various sponsors (business and members of the public – see below) who helped to make these floral displays possible. The scheme was a great success. There are 14 tubs within the town and they are planted twice a year for summer/autumn displays and winter/spring displays. Mr. Clive Hazzard has graciously agreed to replant the tubs again this year and I should point out that this is done at cost price and at no profit to him, and we thank him for this generous offer. We also thank the willing volunteers who water the tubs.

We estimate the cost of planting each tub is £40 per year and once again, we are looking for sponsors and we would be grateful to any businesses or members of the public who would like to sponsor a tub. We will publish a list of all sponsors in a future edition of Mere Matters. If you would like to help with Mere's floral enhancements, please contact: Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere ☎ 01747 860701

We would like to thank the following, who sponsored the tubs last year:

Jack, Chloe, Isabel, Eleanor, Connor, Bryony, Tye & Olly

Two Counties Golf Range

Bruce & Ann Leece

Mrs. Mary White

Peter & Sue Breeze

Roy Sims in memory of Ann (Millie) Sims

Tony & Lesley Traves

Mrs. Jane Hurd

Dr. David Longbourne

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

Titanic memories have well been expressed of late, with the 100th anniversary of the sinking. My father used to tell me on more than one occasion that there was a young person in what was the Work House in Castle Street who had been orphaned by the tragedy.

I have been asked to reinforce again what can and cannot be done where a footpath exist across land. The following is my understanding of the law. It should be at least two metres wide for walking, three metres near a hedge. It must not be blocked by the landowner or anyone else. When walking a dog, this should be under close control on the line of the footpath. In reality this means that the dog should be on a short lead. Stopping to talk to others is reasonable, but it would not be reasonable to stop and talk if you have a barking dog and there are other animals in the field. Walk the line of a footpath. If a bull is kept in a field that has a footpath crossing it (be prepared to run!), the farmer has restrictions placed on him or her regarding the type of bull etc. Please **do not** leave dog excrement on the path, just remember that a child could be blinded.

Our Jubilee and Olympic celebrations should be good. Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board awarded West Knoyle £500, Mere £2,000, Stourton and Kilmington £1,000, and Zeals £1,000. Also Mere Parish Council was awarded £18,389 towards a Skate Park for Mere subject to conditions, and Mere Town Football Club was awarded £4,000 towards its Stadium Improvement Project.

I have been told that HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be in Salisbury on Tuesday 1st May. Jousting tents themed to our area will be all around the Cathedral Close. The city's Park and Ride arrangements will be free of charge from all five sites and the frequency will be increased to one bus every 12 minutes. Salisbury will be well worth a visit on that day in my opinion.

A review of speed limits on C class roads is now underway and each Area Board has to produce two areas of concern to be considered for the introduction of a lower speed limit. There are none in the Mere area. Parish Councils can send any concerns they have regarding speeding on local C class roads to The South West Area Board as an issue.

Money has to be saved from the cost of The Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service. Public consultation commenced on 5th March and will end on Monday, 4th June 2012. At a presentation given to The Area Board, I asked if our 'First Responder' facility for Mere will remain, I was assured there would be no decrease of service for Mere, which was minuted. On a similar theme we now have defibrillators for Mere, Stourton and Kilmington; Mere hopefully will be operational from opposite The Butt of Sherry within a month subject to the unit being returned from America, where it had to be returned for modification.

It is possible that Councillors will be prevented from asking too many questions at Full Council meetings. We have had 12-hour meetings in the past, however I personally think democracy has to be seen to be done. If Councillors get tired, perhaps it is time for them to give up.

## TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Notice is hereby given that Wiltshire Council has made an Order under Section 14(1) and Section 14(7) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to close temporarily to all traffic the following roads in and around Mere:

**C59** Pettridge Lane/Edge Bridge/Clements Lane/Shafesbury Road (Part); from its junction with Footpath 64 Dark Lane in a south easterly direction to its junction with UC 823101 (Limpers Hill Road). **Alternative route via:** B3095 (Mere), B3095/B3092 (Mere – Gillingham), C74 Bay Road, Gillingham to Lawn X-Roads), Dorset, C16 (Lawn X-Roads to Wiltshire Boundary), C59 (Wiltshire – UC 823101 Limpers Hill) and vice versa.

**C303** Southbrook; from its junction with C59 Shafesbury Road in an easterly direction to its junction with UC 823101 Limpers Hill. **Alternative route via:** C59 (Shafesbury Road to B3095 The Square), B3095 (Salisbury Street – A303), A303 Trunk Road, C303 (Burton junction to Limpers Hill) and vice versa.

### **The Closures are to enable:**

Wiltshire Council to carry out carriageway patching and storm water drainage surveying.

This Order will come into force on Tuesday, 1st May 2012. However, it is anticipated that works will commence for Pettridge Lane on Tuesday, 8th May 2012, and each closure will take between one and three days to complete, current programme being: closure of Pettridge Lane 8th – 10th May, Southbrook 11th – 14th May. As works are weather dependant, information boards displaying notification of dates will be erected on site.

This Order will be re-enacted at a later date to be notified in order to carry out final carriageway resurfacing, replacement of road markings and road stud replacement. The Order will have a maximum duration of 18 months.

For further information regarding these works please contact:

*Terry McKenna, Mouchel ☎ 01225 779887*

## **‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS**



### **Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team keep busy**

We have been working alongside our partners from Wiltshire Council to resolve various neighbour disputes and to discuss on-going issues across the area.

Pc Salter and PCSO Noble have also assisted at the Military parade that took place in Warminster on 16th March. The parade took place as the Yorkshire Regiment that is based in Warminster will be going on a tour of Afghanistan and it was a chance for the town to say ‘goodbye’ and wish them luck.

Mere NPT has been holding various consultations across the area based in Mere, Kilmington, Zeals, East Knoyle and Semley.

### **Shed Security:**

With thoughts turning to our gardens and all that needs to be done outside, garden sheds are particularly vulnerable to thefts, as their structure can be flimsy. Protecting your garden equipment can also increase the security of your home as garden tools can be used to gain access to your property.

A good quality closed shackle padlock is a good starting point, but it must be secured to a good quality hasp fitted with a back plate and with the screw heads disabled. Back plates should also be fitted to the door hinges and any brackets, and their screw heads also disabled. If your shed has a window, fit some wire mesh on the inside or securely board it over if it is not necessary for light.

Marking your tools to make them identifiable as yours with bright paint or scratching your postcode on them makes them less desirable to steal. Any equipment with a serial number could also be registered with Immobilise.com, the UK National Property Register.

Chaining large items together makes them difficult to remove. If possible, more expensive items should be stored within a locked garage or inside the home.

### **Scams**

We wish to inform and not frighten you; please be aware that there appear to be a growing number of scams – you can see more on the web site at: **[www.MereNeighbours.co.uk](http://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)*

**B [richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) or  
[jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)**

For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only:

*Richard Jefferies* ☎ 01747 863425 ✉ [\*\*rajefferies@btinternet.com\*\*](mailto:rajefferies@btinternet.com)

## **WEATHER REPORT**

March was a very dry month. We only had 28mms (1.10ins) of rain and 20mms (0.79ins) of that fell on the 4th. Last year we only had 26.5mms (1.04ins). From the 6th to the end of the month we only had 2.5mms (0.09ins) on the 16th. The weather was generally sunny with a cold wind.

April, up to the 15th, we had 20.5mms (0.81 ins.) of rain, mostly at night. We still had many sunny days but with a colder wind. The tulips are doing well and my cherry blossom has been magnificent! *Peter Durkee*

## **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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website- [meredentistry.co.uk](http://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.*

## **MERE SURGERY NOTICES**

### **Allergic Emergency! Are you at risk?**

Mere is a long way from any hospital with an emergency department, as I am sure anybody who has made the journey to Salisbury Hospital will know all too well. This can be a problem for people who suffer severe allergic reactions.

Severe allergic reactions are sometimes called “anaphylactic reactions.” These can occur quickly (within a couple of minutes) and may be life threatening. Symptoms of anaphylaxis vary but can include hives, itching, flushing, and swelling of the lips, and tongue. The airway is often affected, resulting in tightness of the throat, chest tightness and difficulty breathing. These reactions can also be accompanied by chest pain, low blood pressure, dizziness and headaches. Such reactions can be caused by a number of triggers, most commonly wasp or bee stings and certain foods like nuts. People can develop allergies to a wide range of things and sometimes it is difficult to identify the precise cause.



If you have ever suffered an anaphylactic reaction you should see your GP, who will assess you carefully and may prescribe an adrenaline pen device to use in emergencies. You may have heard of “Epipens” before, but the one we tend to use now is called “JEXT.” It works in the same way but lasts longer, so does not need to be replaced so often.

I did a survey of patients in Mere recently and found that nearly a quarter of people who should have an adrenalin pen did not have one that is in date. If you have had an

Epipen in the past, or have suffered anaphylactic reactions before, it is vital that you make sure you get an up-to-date JEXT pen as soon as your current pen is out of date.

You should carry the JEXT with you wherever you go; because if you ever have a severe reaction and need to use the pen, you need it immediately. (It is no good if it is at home in your bathroom cabinet!)

Having your JEXT to hand is all the more important given that the nearest hospital is twenty miles away. If you use your pen, you **MUST** seek emergency medical attention immediately.

If you have any concerns relating to this article, do not hesitate to call the surgery to ask for advice. Remember: if you need a JEXT pen, make sure you keep it with you always, and check it is in date!

*Dr Martin Allen*

## **You don't need to go to Casualty if you have an injury**

If you need a doctor urgently, whether because you have been injured or are unwell, remember that Mere Surgery is on your doorstep and a doctor is able to see you at very short notice.

It is often much more helpful to our patients to be seen at the surgery by a doctor who knows you and has your records rather than at an A&E department some 40 minutes drive away, where you will probably be facing a long wait to be seen.

Please phone the surgery whenever you need medical assistance. ☎ 01747 860001

## **Are you drinking alcohol in safe quantities?**

Recommended drinking levels for us are no more than 3-4 units daily for men with at least 2 alcohol free days a week and 2-3 units daily for women, again with at least 2 days a week without alcohol.

Does your drinking habit fit into this pattern?

Do you know how much wine or beer makes up a unit? Most people don't.

Unsafe alcohol consumption is responsible for so much harm. As far as your health goes, it can cause heart disease, high blood pressure, gout, diseases of the liver, pancreas, nerves and muscles as well as depression and anxiety.

Older people may feel that since they have kept to the same heavy drinking habit over many years that they are unlikely to suffer ill effects, but the elderly are particularly susceptible to memory problems and falls through alcohol consumption.

If you think you may be drinking too much or would just like to check with us whether you drink within recommended limits, do please make an appointment with one of our doctors or practice nurses at the surgery. They would be more than happy to help.

*Angela Pitman Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001*

## **SOUTH WILTS CREDIT UNION**

Now we are even more accessible thanks to The Library which has kindly allocated us a space nearer to the entrance where there is a new seating area, and even a coffee machine, so you can talk to us in comfort or just read one of our informative leaflets at your leisure.

As you may have read in last month's Mere Matters, deposits and withdrawals can now be made every weekday at The Post Office, though we will still "man the desk" every Saturday between 10.00am and 12 noon in order to sign up new members and handle any necessary paperwork when, in the interests of confidentiality, we have the use of a private office within the Library. *Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596*

## **MAKING A WATER MAP OF MERE**

Thank you very much indeed to those who gave time and offered information about wells, springs and seepage points in response to the survey made as part of the Maps of Mere exhibition in Mere Museum. I have enough information to go ahead with getting a detailed map and plotting your data onto it.

It will take some time for me to cross check reports and do some site visits but as soon as it is all done the finished map will go on display in the Museum. Then there will be an opportunity for anyone whose memory has been jogged to offer their information.

*Paulette McManus, **p.m.mcmanus@btinternet.com** ☎ 01747 861524*

## LENT LUNCH THANK YOUS

The Lent Lunches organised by Churches Together in Mere and District have been a great success again. Each Friday during Lent an average of 40 people enjoyed delicious soup, bread and cheese, and the sound of conversation filled the Grove Building as people chatted to old friends and new acquaintances from around our parishes.

A total of £650 was raised which will be divided between Cafod and Christian Aid. We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way whether it was as a soup provider and server, at the door, washing up or waiting at table: or even just coming along to enjoy the company and chat!

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## PENNYBANK WRITERS Mere & District Writing Group

Penny Bank Lane, which connects Salisbury Street and the car park to North Street, gives its name to the local writing group. PennyBank Writers meet once a month in the Methodist Church Hall on a Wednesday evening.

It is a small, friendly group with a shared interest in writing, and meetings vary from discussions on craft and genre to writing exercises, or appraisal of work if requested. Members have attended talks and writing courses together and with friends from The White Horse Writers, another Wiltshire based group.

The two groups worked together to publish the anthology, *A Confection of Poetry & Prose*, which George Jeans so kindly referred to in last month's Mere Matters.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the anthology look out for the PennyBank Writers' stall at the Church Fete next month. Members will be there to answer questions and to give further details about the activities of PennyBank Writers.

*Adrienne Howell ☎ 01747 860475*

## **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.

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

### **Transport Requests - ☎ 01747 860 096**

We have heard one or two reports that show some confusion about how the Linkscheme operates. As a charity the service is free at the point of delivery but we do, of course, rely on donations. The Mere Literary Festival is our main fund raising arm and we also receive grants from the Parish Councils in our area. At present we also receive a small contribution towards travel expenses from Wiltshire County Council. In addition we welcome donations from users of the Linkscheme. Drivers and co-ordinators are all volunteers but the drivers do receive a mileage allowance. We are sure you will appreciate that without contributions from users we could not continue to offer the service, but there is no set charge for a journey.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, 15th June in the Grove Building, and if you wish to find out more about this or any other matter concerning the Linkscheme, do please come along to the meeting.

*Molly Burden*

# **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.

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

Please contact Ben or Sarah Merrell ☎ 01747 861742 or

📠 07885 573875 or at: [sarahmerrell@hotmail.com](mailto:sarahmerrell@hotmail.com)

## **GARDENERS – CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?**

### **Planting to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee Year at St Michael the Archangel Church – Mere's Parish Church**

The Parish Church has a refurbished and newly edged path to the main door. To celebrate Jubilee year, the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council have approved the planting of naturalising flowers along the path edge, inside the tree line.

If you have a clump of snowdrops in the green, English bluebells, wild daffodils or yellow primroses that you would be willing to donate from your garden so as to share the pleasure of them with future generations then please, either:

- lift them and place them in the Church porch in a plastic bag for collection after Sunday service, and I will arrange for their planting,
- or contact me to arrange lifting, collection from your garden and planting.

Thank you for your generosity and please enjoy the flowers in their new location.

*Hilary Gladding, 📠 05601 791309*

# CARNIVAL JUBILEE

**FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**at the WALNUT TREE INN**

**Monday, 4th June**

**at the WALNUT TREE**

Mere Carnival invite you to a  
full day and evening of family  
entertainment, fun and laughter.



**GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, FACE  
PAINTING, PIG RACING, BOUNCY CASTLE,  
GIANT SCREEN, HOG ROAST**



**and more....**

**NOT TO BE MISSED**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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

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



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

*will be holding*

*A Business Networking Evening*



*at The Grove Building on Wednesday, 16th May  
2012*

*6.00pm - 8.00pm*

Paul Scaife, the local winner for Mere of the Wiltshire New Business Competition in 2011 will be our Guest Speaker.

There will also be a representative from the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce to talk about The Wiltshire Business Support Service.

We would like to invite businesses in Mere and District, whether you are an established or a new business, or maybe just starting up, to come along and meet other local business people.

For further information or to book a place, please contact me.

*Julie Cousins* ☎ 07856 700 576

## **MERE SHORT WALK**

This will take place on Friday, 18th May. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery car park for a walk of up to three miles along the byways of Mere. An opportunity to try out the Angel Cafe under its new ownership afterwards for those who wish to indulge!

Make a note in your diaries for the Special Jubilee Walk, which will be at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 13th June, with a right royal theme! *Janet Way* ☎ 01747 860884

## **RSPCA**

We are running a Tombola on Sunday, 9th September 2012 at Ashley Heath Animal Home (near Ringwood). If anybody has any suitable prizes, please will they get in touch.  
*Pete & Sue Howell* ☎ 01747 860623

## **CANCER RESEARCH UK**

We will be holding our Annual May Fayre on Saturday, 19th May from 10.00am at the field in Angel Lane. There will be plants, Tombola, bric-a-brac, books, toys, puzzles and

a barbecue. Also, cakes will be sold in the town. If wet it will be in the Lecture Hall and the barbecue will be in the town.

Our raffle this year has a first prize of a balloon flight and there are many other prizes. Please support us by buying raffle tickets, which will be on sale on the mornings of Friday, 27th April and Friday 4th May outside the Post Office or can also be purchased from Committee members. *Shirley Thomas ☎ 01747 860586*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

### Change of Plan!

Our film this month, on Thursday, 17th May, is **'War Horse'**, which was to have been shown in June, as has been previously advertised. However, owing to the distributors once again changing the date of release – at very short notice – of the intended May film **'The Artist'**, we have swapped them about and I am promised that **'The Artist'** *will* now be shown in June!

Based on the children's book by Michael Morpurgo, **'War Horse'** is Steven Spielberg's much anticipated film of the acclaimed National Theatre hit about a young man named Albert and his horse Joey, and how their bond is broken when Joey is sold to the cavalry and sent to the trenches of World War One. Despite being too young to enlist, Albert heads to France to save his beloved Joey who changes hands twice over the next four years before he is found. After all they have been through will Albert and Joey be able to return home together? More on page 30.

### Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 14th June: **'The Artist'**. Please note **'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'** will be shown in October for the Literary Festival. *Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th May at 7.30pm in the Grove Building, when Michael Pollock will talk to us on "Hedges and Edges".

Michael is a retired professional horticulturist who worked for MAFF for many years, and then for the RHS as head of education when he wrote many of the advisory publications. He has a special interest in hedges for shelter and screening, and this will be a golden opportunity to ask the advice of a trusted and very knowledgeable gardener. *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



## MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes is held annually in June when delegates come together from all parts of the country. Each delegate represents



three WIs and this year Mere will be sending a delegate on behalf of Semley and Broadchalke WIs as well as ourselves. The meeting will be in the Albert Hall - always a memorable occasion.

Each year there is a discussion on a topic which will be a focus of attention during the coming year. This year the discussion will be about Maternity Services, in particular the need to train more midwives, especially as the birth rate in England has risen by 22% in the last 10 years, and the number of complex and higher risk pregnancies has also increased. We shall be discussing this issue at our next meeting on Thursday, 3rd May at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. Visitors will be very welcome.

*Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007*



## **MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP**

Our meeting on Tuesday, 8th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, will be enlivened by **Deborah Gomer** who is a lay pastoral assistant at Marnhull Methodist Church. She plays the cello, violin, & double-bass, and teaches piano. Continuing our theme of discovering and celebrating the gifts we have been given, Deborah will talk about the way her gifts in music and in ministry combine together, so that they compliment and enrich each other.

New members, visitors, and all who are interested are very welcome to join us. If you would like a copy of our revised programme for the year, or to discover more about what the Mothers' Union is and does, please phone me.

*Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## **CASTLE HILL QUILTERS**

The group is enjoying an interesting programme of events, including a visit to the Radstock Museum Quilt Show last month. There is plenty of time for sewing and our group is now full but very happy to take names for our waiting list.

On Thursday, 21st June at 2.00pm in the Grove Building, we welcome Clare Hanham, from Vine Embroidery in Bradford on Avon, to give us an interesting talk entitled '**Learning The Royal Way**'. Clare was an Apprentice at the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court, a training little changed since Victorian times. Clare will

bring us some of the work she completed, and there will be an opportunity to purchase from her interesting sales table and enjoy refreshments with the Quilters.

If you are interested tickets are £3.50 on the door. We will have a small display of the work the quilters have been doing this year. We look forward to meeting you. Enquiries to me or June Holdom ☎ 01747 860185, please.

*Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE 2012 ISSUE**

**MONDAY, 21st MAY 2012**

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE**

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

I am very pleased to report that we are full to capacity at the moment which means that the service we provide here at the Day Centre is needed and is being well used, which is great news!

We have a new volunteer, Beryl McGill, who has kindly offered to help us during a session once a month. Thank you Beryl and welcome to the team.

This month we are expecting some very special visitors of the fluffy kind during a session where our Guests will get to meet some rabbits and other small pets. As usual we will be having Tai Chi and another highly popular Desert Island Disc session. Also we are introducing regular singing sessions with Liz Miller, which the Guests are very much looking forward to. *Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser H 07563 678541*

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

The Friends of Fives Court are emerging from the winter doldrums with a **Jubilee Coffee Morning** at 10.30am on Saturday, 12th May at St. Michael's Church. We hope to have a cake stall, for which contributions would be very welcome. Please bring them on the morning to the church, or phone me, Angela ☎ 01747 861602 or Carol ☎ 01747 860976 if you would like us to collect. Residents of Fives Court have a long shopping list, so do come and help us raise some money for them!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

MADS supprters are reminded that their annual subscriptions are due at the AGM, which will take place on Monday, 21st May at 7.30 p.m. in the Small Hall, Lecture Hall. Come in good time and enjoy a FREE cup of coffee! Subscriptions are £6 (£1 for junior members). Do come; the Pantomime is next on the productions list!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **MERE MUSEUM**

The present exhibition of maps of Mere will close at midday on Saturday, 28th April, so you've just got time to have a final look! The new exhibition, about Royal Jubilees and how Mere has celebrated them from the late 19th to the early 21st centuries, will open on **Tuesday, 1st May**.

Entitled just **Jubilee!**, the exhibition coincides with national celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee this summer, and will feature Jubilee memorabilia loaned by Mere

Residents as well as artefacts from the Museum's collection. The exhibition will remain on display for only 2 months, so plan to visit at the very first opportunity!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM**

It's that time of year again – time for the **Friends' Annual Plant Sale!** It will take place on **Saturday, 5th May** in the Grove Building. Doors will open at **10.00am** (and not a second sooner!) – we look forward to seeing all our gardening supporters then. Contributions of plants to sell, and of cakes, will be very welcome on the day. If you would like us to collect, please phone me or David Longbourne ☎ 01747 860243.

Friends are reminded that the Preview of Jubilee! will take place on Monday evening 30th, April at 6.30pm. A glass of sparkling wine will greet every Friend attending!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

### **Friends of Mere Museum**

### **Plant Sale**

**Saturday, 5th May**

**Grove Building 10.00am**

**Doors open 10.00am – not a minute earlier!**

## **WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY**

Wincanton Choral Society and Orchestra will commence their Spring Concert 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 take place on Sunday, 20th May at 7.30pm in The Sports Hall, West Hill, Wincanton. Tickets priced at £12.50 (£6 for 18s and under) will be available from: **www.bradsons.co.uk** ☎ 01749 813899, Wincanton Town Hall, Sherborne Tourist Information Centre, Society members or on the door.

For more information about the concert ☎ 01749 860457.

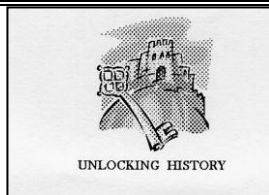
*Alice Griffith, Wincanton Choral Society*

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for April 2012 drawn after Palm Sunday Parish Communion on Sunday, 1st April by Mr Graham Avory was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 7	Mr J Marriott
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 193	Mrs C Lucock
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 150	Mrs W. Bevington
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 69	Dr M Plaxton

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

with Mere Gardening Club

VISIT TWO: Thursday, 21st June 2012

### *Athelhampton House & Gardens*

Athelhampton house, just to the east of Dorchester, is celebrated as a medieval gem by such discerning visitors as Simon Jenkins. The house is surrounded by a grade 1 listed garden and is one of the great architectural gardens of England.

There is a popular restaurant with a range of food on offer, and there are a few picnic tables in the car park.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 10.00am and return to Mere by 5.00pm approx.**

**Cost:** Club Members £23.00, non-members £25.00, per person.

Includes coffee with shortbread and guided tour

For more details please ring Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

**Booking forms available from Mere Information Point**

\*\*\*\*\*

***Visit to Lacock on 14th May has a few remaining spaces***

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note to MHS members:** Membership fees for 2012/13 are now due. If you have not yet paid, please send your fee (£6 per member) to the **Membership Secretary: Joan Slight, 7 Nursery Gardens, Mere.** ☎ 01747 860890.

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

## CRICKET CLUB

You will need to search elsewhere in this month's magazine for the official report of recent weather in Mere, but I can tell you here, according to the consensus of 22 cricketers playing the opening game of the season on 15th April, it was punishingly cold!

Mere, under new captain Duncan Weir, were playing an experimental Westbury side in a friendly T20 match.

Mere batted first and despite losing an early wicket were soon able to accumulate runs, Mark Cassidy in particular benefiting from some cold hands as a couple of chances were spilled. That said, once into his stride (such as it is) he produced the shot of the match; a back foot cover drive that raced to the boundary, showing that all those hours in the nets when he should have been at work over the winter hadn't been wasted.

He ended up making 36 at almost a run a ball, and was only outscored and outshone by Glen Ings who made 41 from 33 balls with some very inventive stroke play. Between them they put on 87 for the second wicket and laid the foundation for some late inning slogging to give Mere a total of 133-4.

The Westbury innings went in fits and starts, beginning quickly, getting pegged back in the middle overs before a late rally gave the new Mere captain a few flutters of concern. The late rally was extinguished in emphatic style though by Mike Ryan who hit the stumps four times in his two overs. His wickets were punctuated by a run out from that man Glen Ings, a direct hit from the boundary.

A victory for Mere CC then, by 15 runs in the opening match of the season. It was billed as a warm up match, and whilst it did serve useful purpose as practice before the league matches begin, everyone present can testify that it was anything but warm; hurry up summer!

### **Junior Coaching**

A reminder for you that junior coaching takes place in Mere at the Andy Young Pavilion grounds by the school every Friday evening from 6.15pm. Please feel free to come along and have a go, we'd love to see you.

Anyone who would like to know more about getting involved with Mere cricket in any capacity, please contact Mark Cassidy at the Walnut Tree Inn or me.

*Kevin Whitmore ☎ 01747 860639*

## **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

The endless soft rain on Easter Monday was most welcome and did our green the world of good – we could do with some more but not on match days!

Well the season has now started and the Club is looking forward to repeating, and if possible surpassing, the successes of last year. Watch this space for ongoing news as to our progress.

Don't forget – if you are interested in bowls or just want to give it a try, turn up at the green with a flat pair of shoes and someone will show you the ropes.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215, Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747-860976 B [jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk), or Don Butchers ☎ 01747-860775 B [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com).

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary*

## **SNOOKER CLUB**

The club night's move to Tuesdays at 7.30pm has proved very popular with members and is being well attended. The Club Doubles Tournament begins on Tuesday, 1st May, which is open to members only and partners will be drawn on the night. Please arrive by 7.15pm and be ready to start at 7.30pm. Contact Michael Durkee 01747 860163 for further details of the tournament. If you would like to become a member and enjoy the playing facilities on offer, please contact me.

*Kevin Smith, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860305*

## **MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB**

Our season commenced on 7th April, with a very impressive turn out, in spite of it being a rather dull and chilly day. The Croquet, Boule and Table Tennis facilities were all in constant use. It was good to see folk so obviously enjoying themselves and each others company again, after such a long and depressing winter. It was particularly nice to welcome a number of new faces and we look forward to seeing a lot more of them.

Anyone wishing to know more will always be welcome. Saturday afternoon from 2.00pm is a good time to come along to 'have a go'. Alternatively call me for further information.

*Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

## **MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**

### **Presentation Evening**

This will be held on Saturday, 19th May at Mere School from 7.00pm and afterwards at the Social Club, Mere for refreshments.

The end of season draw will take place at 9.00pm. 1st prize £100.00, 2nd prize £50.00, 3rd prize £20.00 plus £25.00 from Jeans of Mere, an M.O.T voucher from F.J Chalke of Mere, 2 Tickets for 2012/2013 Yeovil Town FC, Family Pass to Tank Museum Bovington, 2 Adult and 2 Children tickets for the Hawk Conservancy, Andover and lots more!

Tickets on sale now from committee members or call Tracey Thorpe ☎ 07519 299925.

### **Annual General Meeting**

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



## **Mere Town Youth FC Soccer School**

The Soccer School will be held for three consecutive days from Tuesday, 7th, to Thursday, 9th August 2012

## **New Football Kit**

We are also looking for Sponsors and Donations to help purchase new Kit for our younger players. If you are interested, please contact our Club Secretary, Julie Hodge on H 07808 715725.

*Mary Crorkin ☎ 01747 861652*

## **MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

I hope that you all had a good Easter Break. Here at the Children's Centre we are looking forward to a new term with lots of activities planned to help with early years development and to provide fun for children and adults in a friendly and welcoming setting.

**Stay and Play** at 9.30am on Wednesday mornings has continued through the holidays with cooking Easter Spice Biscuits and free choice activities with children making the most of the many educational and developmental toys that we have at the Centre. If you have not visited our Centre before, come along and join in with this fun and friendly session. This term we hope to make bread, do modern art pictures with Bath puffs, and join in British Sandwich Week by inventing our own special sandwiches and having a Teddy Bears' picnic outside

Our **Bumps and Babies** group on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00am is looking for new mums or dads to come along and join in this welcoming group. Come and sit and have a chat with other parents with babies of a similar age (under 1). While the babies play with our developmental toys, engage in exploratory activities or take advantage of our wonderful Sensory Room. This room can be booked for individual sessions by ringing the Centre on the number below.

Just up the road at Zeals Parish Room **Musical Beginnings** is enjoying great popularity on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 11.00am. Children have been making their own musical instruments, exploring stories through song and having fun developing their language and physical skills through dancing and singing to a wide range of music from nursery rhymes through to classical music.

Our **Outreach** worker, Rachel Porter, works with local healthcare services and other agencies to provide help on a one to one basis in people's own homes. We have run parenting groups and a back to work session to help people looking to return to work, offering advice on writing CV's, interview techniques and how to obtain extra skills if this is required. This term we have the concluding half of Budgets and Bargains, a course designed to help you make the pennies stretch further and which provides useful

tips on how to balance your spending with your income. This course has also used a fruitful ground at which to swap good housekeeping tips and learn from each other.

If you have children under five and feel that we can assist you or offer support, please ring on the number below and talk to any of the team who will do their best to help you or they will ask our Outreach worker to get back to you as soon as possible.

All our sessions are free if your child is under five and we look forward to welcoming you to the Centre.  
*Jane Smith, Support Worker ☎ 01747 861108*

## HEADBOARDS MADE

Any size, any shape and own choice of fabric.

Price on request. Tel 01747 840847 or e-mail [rosiecorbin@aol.com](mailto:rosiecorbin@aol.com)

# ***GOLD CLASS NEWS***



**April 2012**

**Mere School  
Exclusive!  
Mere School  
Library Now**

Hello and welcome to Gold 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 Adventurers and Explorers. One day we went to Shaftesbury School and used their climbing wall. First we tried bouldering then we tried to climb to the top! Some of us made it and we all got better as the day went on. In art we have painted landscapes and we have had some help from Filbert the Artist. We were really pleased with the results. We have done a great deal on map work and spent

sometime orienteering around the school. We have planned routes around Mere to Castle Hill and we used Google Earth Street View to go on a 'virtual walk' to the summit.

In literacy we have studied British Myths and Legends, such as Tom Hickathrift and the Ogre of the Smeeth. We then wrote our own Myths based in Mere and Castle Hill. We particularly enjoyed making up our own Mere Mythical creatures such as; The Minfor, The Black Dog, The Changermatic Power Taker, The Hog and The Wong.

The school library has been refurbished and Steve Voake, a local author came to open it. We also got to work with him! He taught us how to write a poem about someone we know. The finished poems are fantastic and can be seen in the new library.

about the 3 little pigs. Lacey narrated the story she wrote, while the rest of the class performed it.

In Yellow Class they performed the Peter and the Wolf story, with musical accompaniment from Mrs Babalola and Jessica Sharpe.

In Silver Class they had Charis Dunford come into talk about being a nurse in Swindon. They performed a superhero dance.

Gold class showed photographs from their trip to Shaftesbury Climbing Wall and shared their Myths and Legends.

Red Class performed plays about the Roman Empire and held a Roman Sandal Fashion Show!

Purple Class performed their Aztec Dance about King Quetzalcoatl.

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

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

The library, as previously mentioned, had the big opening on the 26th March. It was opened by local author Steve Voake. The School Football team won the Gillingham Family Tournament, that was held at Mere School and the Year 5/6 Hockey Team came third in the Gillingham Family Tournament.

The last couple of weeks have seen class assemblies presented to parents.

In Blue Class they have been learning

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents

# **'War Horse' (12A)**

**Separated by war. Tested by battle.  
Bound by friendship.**

Young Albert leaves his Dartmoor farm and enlists to serve in World War I after his beloved horse is sold to the cavalry. Albert's hopeful journey takes him out of England and across Europe as the war rages on. Adapted from the book by Michael Morpurgo and starring Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson, Eddie Marsan, David Thewlis and Benedict Cumberbatch.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday 17th May, at 7.30pm**  
*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £5.00**

**Available from the Tourist Information Office  
(in the Library)**

*For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257*

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

## PARISH CHURCHES SEEK NEW PRIEST

The United Benefice of Mere, Maiden Bradley and West Knoyle has launched its search for a new parish priest to replace the Rev'd Paul Barnes, who resigned in January because of ill health. The process of finding a new priest takes several months.

The benefice published its profile on 23rd March to describe the parishes and the kind of person being sought - available for viewing on the St Michael's website: [www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk). The vacancy was advertised in the 'Church Times' of 27th April and will appear again in the issue of 4th May, as well as on the Salisbury Diocese website.

The closing date for applications is set for 3rd June. If the advertising yields suitable candidates, parish tours and interviews will be held for shortlisted candidates in early July.

The interview panel will include six lay representatives, two from each of the parishes as well as two clergy, who are expected to be the Archdeacon of Sarum and the Rural Dean of Heytesbury.

The earliest that the benefice could expect to see a new incumbent in place would be October, provided all goes smoothly in the recruitment process.

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

### ***St. Michael the Archangel Church***

## ***Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II***

***There will be a Service of praise and thanksgiving  
on Sunday, 3rd June @ 11.00am***

## METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

### **Afternoon Get Together**

In the Methodist School Room at 2.30pm on Wednesday, 30th May. A time of fellowship and fun together. Speaker to be announced.

### **Café Worship**

On Wednesday, 23rd May at 11.00am there will be an extended Pause for Thought with a Café-style worship service in the Methodist School Room. If you can't manage

Sundays this may be an alternative for you. Do come just as you are - in the middle of Spring Cleaning or tidying the garden, we shall love to see you.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



# ONE WORLD FAIR

## 20th OCTOBER 2012

**21st-27th Oct In the Grove Building, 11.00am – 3.00pm**

### **Book a Stall NOW for your Organisation!**

Following the success of Mere's One World Fair in the last two years, Churches Together in Mere and District are holding a similar event this year. The aim is to celebrate being part of the 'Global Village', with the opportunity to enjoy and learn a little about other cultures and life-styles, as well as to contribute in a small but significant way to making the world a fairer place.

Last year's stall holders are keen to book again, but there will be room for a few extra ones. As last year, there will be a variety of stalls selling goods to support fair trade and greater opportunity for people living in poverty throughout the world. Display and information stalls are also welcome, and anything which might contribute to a sense of celebration of cultural diversity and the promotion of peace and justice in the world.

Any organisation or group in sympathy with the aims of One World Week (see their website: [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)) is very welcome to book a stall.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884 Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

### **FR. TOM SMITH, PRIEST AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST MARY'S, WRITES:**

It is a great pleasure to be writing for this edition of Mere Matters. I have been in the area for only six months as the Parish Priest of St George's Catholic Church in Warminster. St George's serves St Mary's in Pettridge Lane, which originally started out as a satellite of St George's, but eventually became attached to St Luke's in Wincanton. However, a few years ago after St Luke's lost its curate, Fr Bede at St George's willingly agreed to provide mass at St Mary's.

I came to visit the Parish in the first week of August when I was on holiday in Salisbury, which is where I grew up and where my parents still live. I drove down to Mere with Fr Bede not really knowing anything about Mere except that I had driven through it once a few years before. I have to be honest that when I first saw St Mary's I had to stifle my shock. I had half expected to see a quaint little country church, but I was certainly not prepared for an old Nissen hut! God works in funny ways though, when he became

man he did not chose luxury but the poverty of the manger so I don't know why I was so shocked at a Nissen hut.

My feelings changed somewhat when we went inside, although there had been a leak and there was quite a strong smell of damp, I was greeted by the beautiful simplicity and quaintness of the Church and immediately felt at home there. There is a beautiful atmosphere in St Mary's and I am sure that those of you who have been inside will have noticed it. What caught me most were the words Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) beautifully engraved over the altar. From that first visit I have always looked forward to my drive down to Mere on a Sunday morning.

I have to pinch myself every time I drive to Mere, 'is this really happening?' I ask, 'am I really this lucky to have this beautiful drive as part of my ministry?' I have recently come from the Cotswolds, which is a very beautiful part of the country. I lived in Cheltenham for the last five and a half years and thoroughly enjoyed it. I was the curate at the Church of St Gregory the Great in the centre of Cheltenham itself. I used to love driving and cycling into the hills along the country lanes and finding bits of stunning and remote countryside to gaze at. I have to say that the vale on your right as you ascend the hill from Kingston Deverill towards Mere takes my breath away every time I see it, it is both secluded and stunning and then as I look for birds of prey on the hill, I have the excitement of seeing Dorset and the Blackmore Vale open up before me as I descend down into Mere. I am very grateful to the Lord for sending me here.

St George's Parish covers a huge area, from Tilshead and Codford to the north and east to Mere and Stourhead in the south and west. Much of the parish is uninhabited but this type of rural ministry is taking me a while to get used to. In Cheltenham the parish covered a relatively small geographical area, but a very densely populated one, so there was a collective identity of those who lived in Cheltenham. I am beginning to see that St George's lacks that sense of identity being made up of disparate areas. For many parishioners, while they identify with St George's or St Mary's they also identify very strongly with a village and look to their village for their social life, not particularly to Warminster. I am beginning to realise also that I cannot be in twenty places at once, I would love to be, but I know it will take me a lot longer than I thought to get to know the different villages, towns and communities that make up St George's Parish. This is a challenge which I am looking forward to meeting.

In an attempt to meet this particular challenge, the time of Sunday Mass at St Mary's will be changing from the Sunday, 6th May. Currently Sunday Mass is at 11.30am but this means I am unable to spend any real time in Mere itself, so I hope that by moving the time of the mass to 5.00pm, I can spend some time in the area beforehand and in the summertime after mass too. I am very aware that I have been unable to commit any time to Mere Churches Together and I hope that having a little more time in Mere will enable me to build up some links with the different Churches in and around the town.

If you do see me walking around Mere, I usually wear a black shirt with a collar, and am in my early (just!) thirties, please say 'hello' as I would love to get to know this wonderful little town and its people a lot better.

**St. Michael the Archangel, Mere**

**Songs of Praise**

**Sunday, 20th May @ 6.00pm**

**Do come and join us to sing hymns old and new.**



**Christian Aid Week**

**13th – 19th May 2012**

**Please support Mere's Christian Aid week Collection!**

If you can help as a collector, more are still needed – please phone the number below or sign the list at your church. Training and support are provided in the Small Hall in the Grove Building on **Tuesday, 1st May at 7.30pm** OR **Friday, 4th May at 1.00pm** (come at 12.30pm for a soup lunch beforehand, if you like). If you can't manage either date, please phone to arrange a personal training session.

This year, Christian Aid has been promised matched funding up to £5 million by the UK Department for International Development – so the money you collect will be worth twice as much in terms of the help it provides in enabling people to work their way out of poverty. Your help will make a real difference!

**Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553**

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE MAY 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
Wednesday	2nd	6.00pm
		Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)



Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Service with Baptism
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	13th	10.30am	ROGATION Sunday Service At the Bison Farm, West Knoyle NO service at St Michaels Churches Together Service at the Methodist Church for Christian Aid
Thursday	17th		<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>
		7.30am	Hymn singing from church Tower
		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1) Followed by Breakfast at The Butt of Sherry.
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion for PENTECOST
Sunday	3rd June	4.00pm	'Messy Church' in Grove Building
		11.00am	Civic Service for HM Queen's DIAMOND JUBILEE

### **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	20th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	27th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

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

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

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Circuit Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury
Sunday	13th	6.00pm	Christian Aid Service Churches Together Rev'd Helen Caine
	20th	6.00pm	Local fellowship service
	27th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine Holy Communion

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	4.15pm	May devotions
	5.00pm	Mass

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

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

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Matins
	13th	10.30am	ROGATION Service (Benefice Service) at the Bison Farm
	20th	9.25am	DIY
	27th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## DIARY DATES

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

## MAY 2012

1	Tue	10.30am - 12.00pm	Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		10.15am	Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
3	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am - 1.00pm	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
3	Thur	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
4	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
5	Sat	10.00am - 12.00pm	Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.00am	Friends of Mere Museum Plant Sale	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
9	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together - Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Churches Together Meeting	CC

9	Wed	7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (also 17th, 24th & 31st)	GB
11	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
12	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
		10.30am	Friends of Fives Court Jubilee Coffee Morning	St Michaels
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
16	Wed	6.00pm	M&D Chamber of Trade Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	MTYFC AGM	AYP
17	Thur	7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows 'War Horse'	L
18	Fri	2.00pm	Short Walk	CP
19	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research May Fayre the field, Angel Lane	
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	MTYFC Presentation Evening	School
20	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group walk	CP
21	Mon	2.00pm	Zumba Gold (also 28th)	L
		7.30pm	MADS AGM (Small Hall)	L
22	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	St Michaels PCC meeting	GB
23	Wed	11.00am	Café Worship	MH
		12.00pm	Carers Support Group	L
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
26	Sat	10.30am	'Drop in' coffee morning	CC
27	Sun	4.00pm	Messy Church	GB
30	Wed	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB

## STOP PRESS for 28th April



We at Brainwave are engrossed in the final few days of preparations for the Pamper Evening at Mere School on **28th April, 7.00 – 10.00pm**. After two very successful evenings at the Lecture Hall, we are moving to a bigger venue in order to offer an even wider range of goods and attractions, including a

Fashion Show. Tickets are still available to purchase at our shop or on the evening at the door. The very best that Brainwave has to offer will be on sale at the event, including brand new samples from the Laura Ashley range. For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

## **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](http://www.merewilts.org)*

## **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE:	Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm
REGISTRAR	<b><u>By appointment only</u></b>
OF BIRTHS	Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am
& DEATHS:	For appointments ☎ 01225 713007
RNID	1st Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.30am
CREDIT UNION	Saturdays 10.00am – 12noon

# **COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2012 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the June 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](mailto:merematters@inbox.com) from Wednesday, 16th May, 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, 21st May**. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

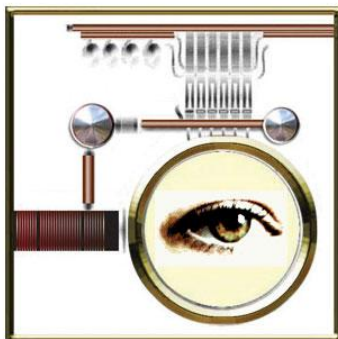
## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

**e-mail: [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)**

**☎ : 01985 844740**

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



Teeandee Productions

**Website Design  
& Computer Services**

Tel: 01747 860516

Mob: 07799 325214

Email: [tim@teeandeeproductions.com](mailto:tim@teeandeeproductions.com)