

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



NOVEMBER 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, 5th November 2012**.

The Chairman writes:

At a recent meeting our Parish Clerk confirmed to councillors that the Defibrillator is now installed on the wall near the Castle Street Car Park and registered with the ambulance computer system. The Parish Council is very grateful to the Rev'd Judith Thompson of Barton Lane, for carrying out the necessary weekly checks on the Defibrillator; also to Mr. and Mrs. Gillard for allowing the use of their electricity supply; to Councillor George Jeans for installing the Defibrillator free of charge and to those whose donations have helped so much in the acquisition of the Defibrillator.

Over the past month the routine of the Parish Council has continued with consultation on planning applications and financial matters, updates on the Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme for Long Hill and Castle Hill – all of which is going well – and consideration of various meetings to be attended, including the South West Wiltshire Area Board Meeting, a participatory consultation event with the Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan and a Core Strategy Consultation on Wind Turbine Separation Distances (*distances away from property and between turbines*).

On Sunday, 14th October I attended the Prizegiving and finale of Mere Literary Festival at the end of a week of thoroughly entertaining and informative events. The Literary Festival has become such a highlight of Mere's calendar over the last sixteen years and it gave me great pleasure to congratulate and to thank on behalf of the Parish Council – and I am sure a great many of our parishioners – not only the Festival organizer Adrienne Howell and her Festival Committee, but also all those who helped behind the scenes in so many ways to make the week such a success in raising very necessary funds for the Mere and District Linkscheme. I am now looking forward to next year!

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 ✉ **lindseywood@merewilts.org**

Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

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



GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

As mentioned last month, the Literary Festival showed some memories of this Summer's Royal Jubilee, in Mere, West Knoyle, Zeals and Kilmington, on Friday, 12th October, in the Grove Building. Many have asked for a DVD of this presentation and Andrew Holder who edited video contributions from many people, including me, has agreed to try and arrange for some DVDs to be made and put on sale, with any profit going to the Literary Festival.

Mere Chamber of Trade is to improve the tourist signs on the A303 and B3092. Wiltshire Council's South West Area Board is looking for projects to part fund that will encourage economic development, and Mere Chamber of Trade will be making an application to the Area Board for help towards this signing project, and possibly for other initiatives also.

On the Wiltshire Website, under Councillors, I am listed and it states that I have attended 80 percent of meetings. There are those who it is stated have attended less. The figures are for full Council meetings and main committees only. For example, I belong to The Southern Area planning committee, which affects my percentage of attendance, if I miss a meeting it counts against my percentage of attendance. Should I choose to leave the committee then it would appear I had a higher percentage of attendance because my occasional absenteeism would not show from that committee. I attend many meetings as I sit on task groups and project boards etc., which do not count towards my percentage of attendance. When other meetings clash with committee meetings that would increase my percentage of attendance I attend meetings based on their importance to me, for example that may be a project board or a local Parish Meeting. I think this amplifies why statistics are not always what they appear to be.

I am mentioning this website address again this month for those that did not read my article in last month's edition: **southwestwiltsblog@wiltshire.gov.uk**. The site may interest you. It is an information and blog site for you all in this area.

Remember it is your chance to vote on the 15th November 2012 for a **Police and Crime Commissioner** (PCC) for Wiltshire. These will be elected for each of the 41 police areas in England (excluding London) and Wales. (See Stop Press page 37 –Ed)

I am pleased to report I have been chosen to sit on The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) task group which will affect how this levy will impact. For those who did not read my article in the October issue of Mere Matters, or to refresh your memory, a CIL is a new charge that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to impose on development in their area. The money generated through the Levy will contribute to the funding of infrastructure to support growth. CIL will contribute towards bridging the

'funding gap' between the total cost of infrastructure necessary to deliver new development and the amount of funding available from other sources. It should be noted these CILs might be on commercial development as well as domestic; therefore the sums involved could be large. This may be good for some, however in the rural area such as us, some businesses could be deterred from starting, etc. The cost of all this will impact on housing and business.

I am sure many of you know, it appears that South West Coaches intend removing several services. These services are not subsidised, therefore they are subject to market forces and Wiltshire Council have no control over them, apart from issuing bus passes for use on the service. The effect will be no bus to Poole from Mere, no bus to Salisbury on a Saturday and therefore anyone wishing to visit the hospital and use a bus from Mere on a Saturday will not be able to. The Sturminster Newton and Warminster services will also be affected I understand. I have informed The Wiltshire portfolio holder hoping some intervention may be possible.



OIL BUYING SCHEME



Community First has joined together with other Rural Community Councils to form part of an oil buying syndicate across all of England. Our members are currently seeing significant savings on their heating bills which you can benefit from by joining the scheme. There is an annual membership fee of £20 which you should get back on your first order, and works out at less than £2 a month. Community Buildings can join for £30 a year & businesses for £100.

CF Oil, Wiltshire's Community Oil Buying Scheme has now been running since October 2011, with just over 199,000 litres of oil purchased between its members. Compared to the average price for heating oil in Wiltshire, our members have overall made a saving in excess of £10,000 whilst compared to the highest prices this rises to over £20,000.

Ordering is simple, once a month members will receive an email reminding them of the next oil order date and the deadline for when orders need to be received at the CF Oil offices. For members not on email, they will receive a telephone call asking if they need to order oil. Our negotiators (who are very experienced within the oil industry) then go to the market to negotiate the best possible price for that day. Members will then be paying the oil supplier directly after receiving an invoice from them.

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

CF Oil not only saves you money on your heating oil, but also takes out the hassle of phoning around for quotes each time you need oil.

If you would like further information or would like to join the scheme, please contact CF Oil's Administrator, Jess Emery ✉ oil@communityfirst.org.uk or ☎ 01380 732809.

SAFETY NOTES FOR BONFIRE NIGHT

FIREWORKS

Bonfire Night, 5th November, will soon be upon us and the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service remind us that "Fireworks are dangerous and can be lethal".

They remind us of the law that no person under the age of eighteen years shall possess an adult firework in a public place, which includes any place to which the public have or are permitted access, whether on payment or otherwise. However, the term "Fireworks" excludes: a cap, cracker snap, novelty match, party popper, serpent, sparkler or throwdown.

The utmost care is necessary in their storage, handling and use, whether you are organising a display for the family, friends or the general public. Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service want you to have a safe event by following some simple do's and don'ts that will greatly reduce risks.

Fireworks "do's and don'ts"

- Keep fireworks in a closed metal box and take them out one at a time.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on each firework. Read them by torchlight – NEVER a naked flame.
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a safety firework lighter or fuse wick.
- Stand back after lighting.
- NEVER go back to a firework once lit – it may go off in your face.
- Keep a bucket of water handy.
- Used fireworks should be collected after the display with care. Douse with water, bury or place in a metal container.
- Keep children under control. (See BONFIRES below)
- Keep pets indoors.

BONFIRES

Bonfires present additional hazards when it's dark.

Bonfire "do's and don'ts"

If you must light a bonfire, in connection with a fireworks display, then:

- Site well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs AND ALWAYS AWAY FROM FIREWORKS.
- Before lighting the fire check that no pets or children are hiding inside it.

- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse outwards or to one side.
- NEVER use flammable liquids – paraffin or petrol – to light the fire.
- Don't burn foam-filled furniture, aerosols, and tins of paint or bottles.
- Keep everyone away from the fire – especially children, who must be supervised all the time.
- For an emergency keep buckets of water, garden hose or a fire extinguisher ready.
- Pour water on the embers before leaving.

Disposing of Fireworks

If a firework is completely spent after a display etc, this should be disposed off firstly in a bucket of water then, preferably the following day, can be put into a rubbish/waste bin.

If the firework for some reason has not gone off correctly or is not spent these should be preferably dampened/soaked and then securely stored, and help from the supplier/manufacturer should be sought to dispose of the firework.

Anyone wishing to obtain further fire safety advice should contact the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service Community Fire Safety Helpline ☎ 01380 731119.

WILTSHIRE POLICE



Non Emergency Number Update

The 101 non-emergency number was launched in Wiltshire last September (2011) as part of the national roll-out. Our 0845 408 7000 contact number has been running alongside this number with approximately 40% of calls still coming in via this route, however, 0845 408 7000 ceased operation on

30th September 2012.

When should callers use 101?

The 101 national number gives local communities an easy way to contact police - when it's less urgent than 999. In a non-emergency dial 101 if you want to report a crime/issue that does not require an immediate emergency response and:

- you or someone else are not in immediate danger
- you would like to speak to your local police officer
- you want to provide information about a crime.

It is important to reiterate that 999 is still the number to call when you want to contact the police in an emergency, such as:

- you need an immediate response because a crime is in progress or you think it is
- you or someone else is injured or there is a threat to life
- a serious road traffic collision has taken place

- violence is being used or threatened.

How does 101 work?

101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When someone calls 101, they will hear a recorded message announcing that they are being connected to their local police force. The system will determine the caller's location and connect them to the relevant police force. If a caller is on a boundary between two or more forces, the recorded message will give them a choice of which force to be connected to. After a pause of approximately four seconds, the message will also give the caller the option to select an alternative police force of their choice via an operator.

What will happen to the current 0845 408 7000 number?

The 0845 number ceased on 30th September 2012. A recorded message asks people to re-dial 101.

Can deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired people use 101?

People who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can text-phone 18001 101.

Is it more expensive for the public to contact the police on 101?

Individual telephony companies currently decide on the cost of dialling an 0845 number so it depends on what the contract/supplier opted for. With 101 it has been nationally agreed that a flat rate of 15p will be charged whether a member of the public is calling from a landline or mobile, irrespective of how long their call lasts.

Hannah Barclay, Communications Officer, Wiltshire Police ☎ 101



‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS

Milk Thefts

Mere has recently been suffering again from doorstep thefts of milk in the early hours of the morning. If any local residents have information surrounding these thefts please contact PCSO Noble or PC Salter – Dial 101.

‘Trick or Treat’ and Fireworks

In recent years, Halloween has become a major event amongst young people with dressing up, parties and the imported ‘Trick or Treat’. It is important to understand the difference between having fun and behaving in an anti-social manner, and to be aware of the dangers that could be met whilst trick or treating. If children are under 14, it is advised that parents or other adults accompany them and that they only call on houses where they know the residents. Older children should not call on people who display posters asking for NO TRICK OR TREAT. Throwing eggs and other items at houses can, in certain cases, be classed as criminal damage and result in arrest.

Bang after Halloween comes firework night. Fireworks may be pretty when handled by a trained person, but they can cause truly horrific injuries if not handled or used

properly. It is an offence for any person under 18 to have a firework in a public place, and for some larger fireworks it is an offence for any person to possess them. Police will deal robustly with any person breaking the law. There are many well organised community firework events across Wiltshire that provide a fun filled and safe night out for the whole family. You can get more information on these and other issues from our newsletters available in the Post Office, Library and the Grove Building and keep up to date on other issues from the web site at: **www.MereNeighbours.co.uk**

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

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

✉ **richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk** or

✉ **jacob.noble@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk**

For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only:

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425 ✉ rajefferies@btinternet.com

WEATHER REPORT

September was the best month this Summer, with only 56.5mms (2.22ins) of rain, 31.5mms (1.24ins) of which fell on the 23rd. Last year we had nearly the same rainfall, 56mms (2.20ins). We had a sunny and warm spell up to the 21st.

October has started wet with 89.5 mms (3.52ins) of rain and frost on the morning of the 14th. It has been sunny most days, but colder. *Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363*



HEARING AID MAINTENANCE CLINIC

The Hearing Aid Maintenance Clinic Is Moving

FROM Wednesday, 7th November the Hearing Aid Maintenance Clinic normally held in the Library is moving into Mere Surgery.

We will be there from 10.00 to 11.30 am as normal on the FIRST Wednesday of every month. We look forward to seeing you there.

Action on Hearing Loss is the new name for RNID

Our name has changed, but our vision hasn't - a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, where tinnitus is silenced and where people value their hearing enough to look after it.

We also have a new website at: www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Gill Drayson, Community Support Officer, ☎ 01722 580014

MERE CARERS GROUP

We meet this month on Tuesday, 6th November from 10:30am-12.00noon at Lynch Close Community Centre.

It is a chance for people caring for a family member and friend to meet others doing the same for a friendly chat and a cuppa.

The Group is hosted by the charity Carer Support Wiltshire – offering information, support, advice and free time out opportunities to carers all over Wiltshire.

Fiona Hunter, Carer Support Wiltshire ☎ 01380 871690

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 20012/JANUARY 2013 ISSUE

19th NOVEMBER 2012

Mere Dental Practice 

The practice has Dentists - Stephen Sherrard, Jacquie Barnes & Christopher Davies and Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale

Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,

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

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



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

MERE CARNIVAL 2012

I would like to thank all members of the Carnival Committee (Jenny Walker, Sue Jeans, Mary Harbet, Chris Miles, Gillian Brignell, Carol Payne, Roy Sims, John Gammie, Mark Cassidy and Derek Sealey) for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Without their dedication there would be no carnival. As most people are aware, carnivals have become very expensive to hold with insurance, appearance fees, street collection licence, lottery licence, Health and Safety and road closures etc. a legal requirement, and the cost of running Mere Carnival is approximately £4,500.00.

This year's street collection was £1,055.00 but the short fall is made up from numerous events that we hold throughout the year and throughout Carnival week. Our small committee try each year to come up with new ideas to raise funds and in recent years this has been helped greatly by Mark and Sam Cassidy of the Walnut Tree Inn whose ideas and events have been invaluable.

We as a committee are always looking for volunteers either to join the committee or just to help out as sometimes we struggle to hold events because we are so few in number. Anyone who has either ideas for fundraising or can find some spare time to help us would be most gratefully welcomed - please contact Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639 or ✉ luciechesh@hotmail.com.

Clive Hazzard, Chairman, Mere Carnival Committee

Street Collections

In accordance with the requirements of the Street Collection Permit No. SC01974, Promoter Mrs J Brignell, issued by Wiltshire Council for the street collection on Saturday 15th September, I publish the details of individual amounts collected and the total. There were no expenses.

Bucket

Number	Name	Amount	Number	Name	Amount
1	Will Thorpe MTYFC	26.49	16	Julie Hodge MTYFC	40.29
3	Mere Youth Club	38.70	17	Zoe Smith	12.07
4	Tracey Thorpe	79.14	18	Rose Family	14.16
5	Mere Youth Club	20.48	19	Mere Youth Club	26.60

6	Rose Family	14.80	20	Dan Cooke	29.18
7	Derek	155.16	28	Mere Youth Club	44.55
8	Chris Miles	22.67	29	Mere Youth Club	22.62
9	Nick Guy	83.14	30	Mere Youth Club	12.71
10	Collecting Float	301.77	31	Mere Youth Club	27.27
12	Alice Batsford	14.33	32	Mere Youth Club	47.72
13	Elias Banks	11.77	33	Mere Youth Club	16.43
14	Mere Youth Club	25.02	34	Rose Family	<u>40.62</u>
15	Maly	23.86			

Total collected £1,151.55

The Carnival Committee would like to thank all those who collected or donated.

Gillian H Brignell (Hon Treasurer) ☎ 01747 861114

Mere Carnival 100 Club

I would like to thank all those people who have supported this so far. We need a minimum of 50 people to join to get this up and running, and presently we do not have quite enough support.

The cost to enter the monthly draw is £24.00 per annum and 50% is given in prizes and 50% towards organising next year's Carnival.

For more information please contact Chris Miles at Mill Pond Cottage, Clements Lane or  flowjo123@gmail.com.

Your support is much appreciated. Thank you.... *Chris Miles 📞 07894 215661*

MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

Mere Literary Festival & 'Write-in-the Week' Results.

The Linkscheme is very grateful to those who helped or supported this year's Literary Festival and made the successful week possible. The festival is the Link's main fundraiser and monies raised enable it to continue serving the community of Mere and District.

A big thank you to you all.

There were 131 adult entries to the timed flash fiction competition and 42 Juniors. Stories came in from around the country and overseas – one junior entry coming from New Zealand via her grandmother's computer!

All stories were given a competition number and judged anonymously. The entries were first read by a panel of readers who selected a short list and the final decision in the senior section was made by novelist James Long, the speaker for the award ceremony.

The Write-in-the Week results:-

1st.	No.10	The Boy who raced against Time	Lindsay Fisher, Scotland
2nd.	No.74	Two Short	Lynn McInroy, Worthing
3rd.	No.89	The Solution	Eve Miller, Ashford, Middlesex

Runners-Up:- (listed as per competition number)

No: 47	Joan Marlow, Tamworth, Staffs.
No. 52	Christine Genovese, St.Leger, France
No. 128	Andrew Campbell-Kearsey, Brighton

Merit Certificates awarded to:-

Sarah Lovett, Lowestoft
Mary White, Mere
Sheelagh Wurr, Warminster
Janet L Smith, Frome
Muriel Higgins, Shaftesbury
Eleanor Williams, East Hunsbury, Northants.
Laurian Kerr, Blandford Forum

Junior Results (16 yrs & Under)

Four equal prizes awarded to:

Celestine Tooley, Hayle, Cornwall
Jess Cory, George Gould, Olivia Short - all of Gillingham School.

Next year's festival is planned for 14th – 20th October and the competition will be for poetry. *Adrienne Howell ☎ 01747 860475 or www.merelifest.co.uk*

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860096

Delivery of Prescriptions

Regular Monthly or Weekly Repeat Prescriptions

We run a regular Friday delivery of prescriptions to be collected from either Mere Surgery or Mere Pharmacy.

One/Off Prescription Requests

If you need a prescription delivered occasionally, we would prefer to deliver it on a Friday but can arrange to pick up urgent requests on other days.

Please telephone ☎ 01747 860096 if we can help you in this way.

Mere Literary Festival

Although this was written the day before the start of the Festival, we are sure that it will be its usual success and would like to thank Adrienne Howell and her team of volunteers for their hard work, and also to thank those of you who supported the various events. The money raised is essential to the continuing work of the Linkscheme.

Molly Burden

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held at The George Inn, in the Square, from 12.00noon on Tuesday, 13th November. Please book in advance for the £8.95 two course meal, on ☎ 01747 860427. All drinks will be charged separately.

For those who are new to Mere and District, the aim of the Community Lunch is:

- To bring together people of all ages, backgrounds, residents new and established, representatives of clubs, organisations and businesses from Mere and surrounding towns and villages to network and inform, for companionship and fun.
- To provide a nourishing lunch in pleasant surroundings.
- To be held on the second Tuesday of the month between October and Easter.
- To advise that transport is available through the Connect2 bus (☎ 01985 212213) and the Linkscheme (☎ 01747 860096)

For more details please contact me.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



Mere Chamber held a successful breakfast meeting with Simon Tombs of Monahan Chartered Accountants on 26th September at the Walnut Tree Inn in Mere. Simon gave a very interesting talk on '**General Issues affecting Small Businesses and Start-ups**' and covered some of the issues they have to face and choices to be made in relation to starting a business and for the successful continuation of a business. The importance of having the necessary information and making the right choices cannot be underestimated.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 28th November at 7.30pm in The George Inn, Mere.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

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

For further information on any of our events or meetings, please contact me:

Julie Cousins, Secretary ☎ 07856 700576

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

FOODBANK NEWS

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously at our recent Harvest Festival.

We will be collecting food for the Foodbank, with the kind permission of Mere Co-op, on **Saturday, 1st December**. We are hoping you will buy one extra item of non-perishable food with your shopping to put in our trolley.

Warminster and District Foodbank support those who live in Mere, too. If you are in need of assistance, there is a notice in the porch of St Michaels Church with details and there are leaflets inside the Church. The following people can also be contacted for Food Vouchers:

Mere Children's Centre ☎ 01747 861108

Mrs. Gilly Gristwood ☎ 01747 861768

Mrs. Mary Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

Mrs. Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218

Jane Hurd ☎ 01747 860218

TRUSSELL TRUST

As I write, the weather is coming down in bucketfuls, but that is not as bad as Bulgaria, where it comes down as snow and is freezing cold!

On the 25th November we will have the great gathering of the Christmas Shoe Boxes in St Michaels church, so would you please deliver them there, either at the morning service, or just put them in the church a day or two before.

From there, I will take them to Salisbury, where they are checked and boxed and put on the lorries and off they go on the long trip to Bulgaria.

When they get there, they are loaded into vehicles and the Trussell Trust members take them straight to the communities where they are so, so appreciated. It is the only nice gift that most people receive all the year. Your kindness and thoughtfulness in making up these boxes makes somebody very, very happy.

Thanks to everybody who has already taken a leaflet and is joining with us to make this a Christmas to remember, for a forgotten person in Bulgaria.

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

TRAIDCRAFT FOR CHRISTMAS

More than just a stall! I will be holding the first of my Christmas Traidcraft Stalls at the Methodist Church Schoolroom on Wednesday, 21st November from 10.30am – 4.00pm.

Join the weekly coffee morning and Pause for Thought at 11.00am if you wish, or pop in at any time during the day to see the range of beautiful gifts or stock up on all your dried fruits and sugars for your Christmas baking and make a wish when you stir the Fair Trade pudding mix. I have a number of pocket money gifts so why not bring your children along after school, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and let them browse the selection.

Looking forward to seeing you there but if you cannot make the day, I will be holding another 'At Home' (Wits End) sale on Wednesday, 5th December.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter mailing will be going out around Christmas time, so you are still in time to join, just contact Wendy or Madelaine for details.

You may still be in time for tickets to the Candlelit Carol Service at Wells. Give us a call.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833 Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

NOVEMBER SHORT WALK

This month's short walk will take place on Thursday, 22nd November. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park. (I promise there will be no mountaineering involved after my visit to Nepal!) Further details from me, please.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



BRAINWAVE

The nights are drawing in and there's definitely a nip in the air – it must be Autumn. At Brainwave, we are now filling the rails with a wide range of clothing for your cooler-days wardrobe. Don't forget, new stock is added every day, so it's worth making more than one trip a week to the Brainwave shop. You'll probably find just what you are looking for and something else besides, we hope!

Those of you who sometimes travel over the border into Dorset may have noticed that there is now a new Brainwave Shop in Gillingham. Sandra is the supervisor there and she will be pleased to welcome you to browse and buy. As always, we thank those who keep donating their unwanted goods to Brainwave – men's, women's and children's

clothing, shoes and accessories, toys, bric-a-brac and books. We also accept small items of furniture but cannot accept for re-sale large electrical items.

We could not manage to keep going without a steady flow of donated goods, so please keep up the good work! For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

MERE FILM SHOWS

So far this season our films have taken us on an international journey, with The Yemen in September, India in October and now our November film takes us to Hawaii.

The film on Friday, 9th November is **'The Descendants'** (15) starring George Clooney and Beau Bridges and tells the story of land baron Matt King whose life on Hawaii is suddenly turned upside down when his wife is injured in a boating accident, he must try and reconnect with his two daughters and he finds some unpleasant secrets emerging from the dark.

This is a very good film which has remained popular with audiences since it came out at the end of last year and certainly those I have spoken to who have already seen it have recommended it, so leave the cold English autumn behind for an evening and travel with us to the sunshine of Hawaii.....! Full details on page 27.

Dates for your Diary: There is no film in December. Our next film will be on Thursday, 10th January 2013.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

On Thursday, 8th November we are greatly looking forward to welcoming Jan Hassard to our meeting in the Grove Building. Jan is an internationally known quilter and teacher and is an active member of the Quilters' Guild of the British Isles. She is talking to us about "Heritage Quilts" and will bring with her some of her large collection of old and new quilts.

We will be glad to welcome anyone interested in the quilting heritage to come and hear Jan Hassard's talk which starts at 2.00pm. Charge for visitors is £3.50 and includes a cup of tea and biscuit.

Each week we meet at the Grove Building on Thursdays from 2.00 to 5.00pm as we have done now for three years. We now have a membership of 30 and we are currently making decorations for Christmas.

You can find our details on our website: castlehillquilters.org.uk

Jennie Hoffman ☎ 01747 860514

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our meeting on Tuesday, 13th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, focuses on 'the gift of creativity' with the help of a demonstration of **Christmas Flowers** by **Sarah Rushmore**. There will also be a Bring and Buy stall at this meeting, in aid of the Grove Building fund.

New members, visitors, supporters and anyone who would like to learn more about flowers for Christmas, is very welcome to join us.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be held in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on Thursday, 1st November when Susan Jonas will speak about the work of the Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW).

ACWW assists women in many poorer countries, helping them to improve their education and also to find ways of earning money to support their families.

If you are interested, please come along and join us.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007



ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

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

During October we had loads of fun making, then painting salt dough creations! A few guests even showed their true artistic talent! Unfortunately our portrayal of our bus driver, Paul, seemed to sink into oblivion, but we managed to restore another replica, which everybody thought was true to life. We really hope that he is pleased with the outcome.

During November we will be hosting an ever-popular Desert Island Disc session plus a Disco! **'Get your glad rags on 'cos we is gonna rock!'**

Sandie Hawkins, ☎ 07835 272406

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

If you see and hear fireworks in the vicinity of Angel Lane on the evening of Tuesday, 6th November (and if it's not raining), you'll know that the Residents are enjoying their annual **Bonfire Party**. The fireworks for this event will, as usual, be provided by the

Friends with money you have helped us to raise. Later in the month we shall be 'waving the Fives Court flag' at the Charities Fair. Look out for us and do pay us a visit!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE GARDENING CLUB

The Answer Lies in the Soil

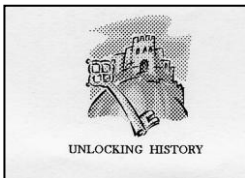
David Usher

Wednesday, 14th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

How true! David has over 35 years of practical gardening experience including 18 years as Head Gardener at Hestercombe. He is a member of the Professional Guild of Gardeners and The Institute of Horticulture. David will illustrate his talk with a practical demonstration explaining how soil is formed and how to keep it fertile. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

Please note, the December Social Evening has been cancelled. Instead we will be holding a fun Quiz Night for members on Wednesday, 9th January 2013 to cheer up the winter blues.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The West Kennet Long Barrow

by Peter Knight

*Tuesday, 6th November
at 7.30pm in the Grove Building*

Peter, who is an author and guide, lives near Avebury and has researched and been connected with the sacred landscape for many years. **£2.00 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

Change of Date

The December evening talk will take place on Tuesday, 11th December (not 4th December as in your programmes)

Morning Talk - Thursday 22nd November

"Early Life and First Explorations of Captain James Cook" by John McAlear. To be held in the small room of the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am. **£1.00 entry for non-members who are very welcome.** *Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797*

MERE MUSEUM

The really exciting news from the Museum this month is that our unique, very fragile, late-19th-century banner once paraded by members of Mere's **Juvenile Total Abstinence Society** has been sent for conservation. The Museum is pleased to acknowledge grants from The Lecture Hall Trust, South West Wiltshire Area Board and the Conservation and Museums Service, which have made this project possible. The banner, restored and newly mounted, will be back with us in good time for the next exhibition where it will take centre stage. More in the next issue.

Following the success of the box-making workshop, we are planning another workshop, this time on **packing museum objects**. It will take place on Wednesday, 7th November at 2.00pm in the Museum and will be led by a Conservator from the Wiltshire Museums service. Numbers will be limited. **Please pick up a leaflet in the Museum for more details.** *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends' Committee would like to remind you that the **Friends' AGM** will take place on **Tuesday, 30th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Museum**. The high point of this (short) meeting is the presentation of the cheque to the Museum – the fruits of Friends'

fundraising during the past year. After complimentary refreshments, David and Jenny will provide a glimpse of the History of the Museum (do YOU know when and by whom it was founded?) and explain what is entailed in running it day-to-day. Subs are due on 30th, if you haven't already paid, and it's a very good day to **join us** as a new member – you get a full year's membership for your money! We hope to see lots of you there.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

Friends of Mere Museum

Chester House Productions

Presents

'The Canterbury Tales'

Geoffrey Chaucer's stories about a group of Pilgrims, from all layers of society, are as true to life now as when he wrote them. The tone of the tales ranges from pious to comic - liberally sprinkled with erudite wit and good honest vulgarity!

The Grove Building

Friday, 7th December 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (to include a glass of wine and refreshments)

on sale from Thursday, 1st November at the Information Point in The Library

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for October, drawn on Sunday, 14th October by Mr Richard Coward, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 171	Mrs Laura Ford
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 114	Mrs Ann Newbury
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 203	Mr Steve Hoffman
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 52	Mrs Rosemary Price

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

It's that time of year again (oh yes it is!). George and his Merry Men (actually perhaps that should be **George and the Dragon**) will be bringing laughter and song – and probably a lot more besides – to the Lecture Hall at the end of this month. The dates (again) are **Thursday, 28th November to Saturday, 1st December**, with two performances on the Saturday (1st December). Tickets are on sale **NOW** at the Library, priced at £6 for adults and £3 for children. Don't miss the (dragon) boat!

MADS next meeting will be on Monday, 12th November at **7.30pm** in the Lecture Hall (Drama Room). **Please note the new time.** *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

MERE SNOOKER CLUB.

Congratulations go to Roy Stone and Michael Durkee, winners of the Club Doubles Tournament in October.

The next Tournament will be held on Tuesday, 6th November at 7.30pm; open to members only. Please contact the Secretary for details and membership information.

Kevin Smith ☎ 01747 860305

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Although we have ceased bowling activities for the winter there is still a lot of activity behind the scenes as we prepare for 2013.

Firstly a big thank you to Sheila and Alan Spencer for organising a coffee morning on behalf of the club in support of the McMillan Nurses. A magnificent sum of £335 was raised, a fine effort and thanks to all who supported the morning.

Before we start our bowls next season we have two events in the planning stage.

The club annual dinner and presentation evening for members and partners is scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd January 2013, venue, timing and menu to be advised to members shortly.

Our fund raising event in support of Fives Court is in the diary for Saturday, 9th February 2013. Details are coming together, Grove Building and Black Bear Band (by popular demand from last year). Again final details will be appearing around the village, we look forward to support from you all.

We will be opening the club on Saturday, 6th April 2013, weather and green permitting. Come and join us.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215 or me, Jeff Vigars ✉ jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk.

Jeff Vigars, Match Secretary, ☎ 01747 860976

CROQUET AND BOULE

Sadly we are almost at the end of the season. However, regardless of the appalling weather, it has been a great year. Membership has grown, the funding is in a healthy state, the Boule activities - warm thanks to Michael Gladding for this - have really taken off, and there have been some very enjoyable, well attended and fun, social events.

The possibility of the ownership of our site being transferred from Wiltshire Council to Mere Parish Council is one we very much hope will materialise. Not only do we consider it will be very much to our long term benefit, but will also be an attractive addition to the Parish assets.

The Boule players have joined a local league and despite small numbers and their inexperience, they managed to win three of the eight matches played, ending up fourth out of five in the league. Pretty good for beginners.

More players will be warmly welcomed. We have a great location and a very friendly, not too seriously minded, membership so why not give us a call or ✉ bramleythesteep@btinternet.com. *Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The Descendants' (15)

George Clooney Beau Bridges

Everyone assumes that because Matt King (**George Clooney**) lives on Hawaii, he lives in paradise, but when his wife, Elizabeth (**Patricia Hastie**) is seriously injured in a boating accident and confined to hospital, he finds himself in sole charge of their two daughters. Through this stressful time, set against an idyllic backdrop, Matt learns not only how to be a father, but some unpalatable family secrets emerge from under the palm trees, too.....

in the Lecture Hall
Friday, 9th November at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

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



RED CLASS REPORTS

YEAR 5

A BUSY MONTH AT MERE SCHOOL

Roman Invasion

Year 5 are learning about the Romans and have had a Roman Experience day that they will never forget! A special person came dressed as a Roman soldier with a real dagger and sword. They learnt to march and make formations to defeat the wild Celts. In the afternoon their teachers had a gladiator fight, to the death! It was a really exciting day.

Senses Walk

The new children in Blue Class went on a senses walk to Burton and smelt, saw and heard lots of interesting and Autumnal things.

Pudding Lane Bakery

As part of their topic on Fire, Silver Class has been learning about the Great Fire of London. It all started in Pudding Lane Bakery and so the children have made their own bakery in the class room. We just hope they are more careful bakers than the ones in Pudding Lane in 1666.

World War II visit to STEAM

Green Class, dressed as evacuees, went on a trip to STEAM in Swindon for a WWII experience day. Ella said "We had a very memorable day because it was like being real people in WWII.

"We also got to meet some people who were in the war so it was very interesting for us."

Authors, Books and Libraries

This term we are getting really into books. All the classes have signs on their doors to show everyone what they are reading. Mrs Williamson has been busy reading books suggested by us and is keeping a reading log so we can see what she thinks of the books we choose for her.

We have also been lucky to meet two authors. First all KS2 children have had a story writing workshop with Pauline Morphy who visited the school as part of Mere Literary Festival. Then next week Year 5 and 6 are going to Salisbury Cathedral to meet Cornelia Funke who has just published a new book, 'Ghost Knight', which is partly set in Kilmington church.

Finally, our Library and Museum club are also planning their first visit to Mere Library and Museum.

Sports

Sports events and competitions are already well underway for this term. So far we have competed in a tag rugby and football match. We won the football with an impressive score of 7-0! Congratulations to all who played.

Music Week

Our next main event is music week. Lots of exciting activities are planned and we will tell you all about it next month.

STOP PRESS!

Look on our website for latest news:
www.mereschool.co.uk

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FAIR

IN THE GROVE BUILDING

ON SATURDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2012

BETWEEN 10.00AM AND 12.00NOON

SUPPORT LOCAL GOOD CAUSES AND BE THE FIRST
TO GET THOSE STOCKING FILLERS FOR CHRISTMAS

WIN £100 IN THE RAFFLE; WIN PRIZES IN THE
TOMBOLA,

AND GET YOUR CHRISTMAS STOCKING PRESENTS

SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES AND ENJOY THE
COMPANY OF

FRIENDS OVER A CUP OF TEA OR COFFEE

Quiet Day

Under the Auspices of the Franciscan Group, but

Open to all

On Friday, 30th November, Venue to be announced

To be led by Christine Marsh LLM

Further details from:

Cannon Michael Welch ☎ 01747 860047 - Blanche Johnston ☎ 01747 860544

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

All Souls Service of Remembrance

Sunday, 4th November @ 6.00pm

During this quiet, reflective service, the names of our departed loved ones are read out and candles are lit in remembrance.

All are most welcome to attend and if you would like your loved ones' names to be included, there is a list to sign at the back of the Church or please contact Mrs. Jane Hurd (☎ 01747 860218).

CAFÉ WORSHIP

Coffee Morning in the School Room at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, 28th November - Worship service at 11.00am. *Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

Mere Pet Services -Dog Walking from £7.50 per1/2 hr or £10 pr hr.
Cats and small animals fed etc from £4 per visit. House /Pet sitting from £35 per night. **Sarah 01747 861336 / 07747753816**

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAELS

Mere has many attractive and historic buildings, one of which is the Parish Church of St Michael the Archangel. It is important for us to maintain and refurbish this beautiful Church and its furnishings for future generations. The Friends of St Michael the Archangel was formed in 1976 to foster interest in this and to help to provide funds to achieve it.

If you appreciate this wonderful building, even if you do not worship there, have you considered becoming a life member of the Friends of St Michael? Friends receive annual newsletters and are invited to events held several times each year. Individual Life Membership still costs only £30 and pink application forms can be obtained in the Church, from Mere Library or by contacting me, the Membership Secretary.

Jean Eyles ☎ 01747 863450

Autumn Bazaar

The Committee of The Friends would like to thank all those who came to support us at our Autumn Bazaar held on 29th September. It was a very happy day and thanks to your generosity, and your contributions to all the stalls, we raised an amazing total of £908. Many thanks. *Patricia Stephenson, Hon. Secretary ☎ 01747 860278*

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAELS, THE PARISH CHURCH

New Morning Prayer Services at St Michaels

New morning prayer services are now being held at St Michael's parish church on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9.15am and they are being conducted by the new parish priest, the Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker. They are short services of readings and prayers using modern English and based on the morning prayer service from the Book of Common Prayer. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Remembrance Sunday Service, 11th November

We gather around the memorial by the Clock Tower at 10.45am along with other members of Churches Together in Mere and District for an Act of Remembrance before proceeding to St Michael's church for a short remembrance service.

Steve Hoffman, St Michael's Publicity Officer ☎ 01747 861514

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

As I sit to put pen to paper, or finger to touchscreen, I realise that it is a year to the day that I officially took up my post as Parish Priest of St George's in Warminster and therefore of St Mary's Church in Mere. Time flies when you are riding by the seat of

your pants! So much has happened in the past year and while I feel much more settled I know I still have a long way to go.

What has really struck over this year, is the separation between the two communities I serve. When I arrived I just accepted that I was serving two communities ten miles apart, but now I realise that they are a long ten miles apart. Someone I know near Motcombe reckons that the difference is between chalk and cheese, or in fact chalk and clay, as Mere sits below the hill at the cusp of the Blackmore vale bedded on clay soil while north and over the hill Warminster, like Salisbury is very much rooted in the chalk, my kettle tells me as much! Whether or not there is any truth in this difference is up for debate, but whatever the reasons there is a big divide. People in Mere tend to look to Gillingham for the train and shops and people in Warminster look, well to Warminster.

In covering Warminster and Mere I rejoice firstly in the difference because selfishly it gives me a wonderful variety in what I do, spending as I do Friday mornings and Sunday afternoons in Mere. I love driving around the country lanes and over the top to see the neat fields of the Blackmore Vale spread before me. On the down side it would be much easier to build community and organise whole parish events if there was a regular coming together of the two communities, but we work with what we've got.

Not long after arriving I was aware that I was not going to spend much time in Mere and get to know people unless I tweaked both mine and the parish's Sunday and Friday schedule. After discussing this with the community of St Mary's at a public meeting they kindly agreed that more could be done if we moved from Sunday at 11.30am to the evening. This has been borne out as I am now spending far more time at St Mary's than was ever possible before, one of the benefits of this is that I can get to know the community better and importantly too, the building! Over time one often develops an emotional attachment to a building and now I can spend time on Sunday evening admiring and working out what to do with the leaky cracks and warping roof tiles! The change of time has understandably not suited everyone with some people opting to keep their routine of morning mass rather than change to the evening. Nonetheless we have a very welcoming, warm, friendly and active community and we have a lot to think about with our large tin church and its maintenance, a love of God is reflected in the love of the building in which we worship him. A love of God is also reflected in our love of the local community.

I am delighted at the appointment of Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker as the Priest in Charge of St Michael's. I know this post has been vacant for a number of months and how much it means for the community of Mere to have a resident Priest. I hope and pray that her ministry will be rich and fruitful for the town over the years. It is a sadness and a sign of the times that the Catholic, Methodist and URC churches are all served by ministers who live elsewhere, but as Christian churches we are all operating in imperfect circumstances and doing our best.

I am aware now that I am probably going on a bit and need to stop, needless to say it is a delight to write for Mere Matters (and so does West Knoyle), and I will end by expressing my hope that over the coming years I will be able to love and enjoy our Town and its surrounding villages and countryside more and more and that as different Christian communities in Mere and its surrounds we can work in friendship and show our common witness to our love of God and our God of love.



Everyone is invited to a
Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale in Aid of Suchana
 on Tuesday, 27th November 10.30am-12.00noon
 Downside, North Street, home of Joan and Hamish Bell 01747 861717

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

NOVEMBER 2012

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉: carolw953@aol.com

Churchwardens:

Mrs Jean Knapp 01747 860142 and Mr Peter Mason 01747 861296

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Monday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
Each Tuesday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
Each Wednesday		9.15am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Thursday	The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker is not available		
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Benefice Service at Maiden Bradley
			NO service at St Michaels
		4.00pm	"Messy Church for Hollowed E'en in the Grove Building
		6.00pm	"All Souls" service of remembrance for loved ones
Wednesday	7th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.45am	Remembrance Service. Begins at the War Memorial in the Square
			Then a procession to St Michaels

Sunday	18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	25th	10.30am	Christ the King
		4.00pm	Preacher: Jane Hurd Messy Church in Grove Building

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: ☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	11th	10.45am	Remembrance Service. Begins at the War Memorial in the Square
	18th	11.00am	216th Anniversary. The Moderator Rev'd Clare Downing + Communion + Lunch
	25th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Mr David Webb
	11th	10.45am	Remembrance Service. Begins at the War Memorial in the Square
	18th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine Holy Communion
	25th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page

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

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	5.00pm	Mass
On the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be tea and cakes after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.		

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

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Benefice Service, Maiden Bradley NO service in West knoyle
	11th	9.15am	Remembrance Service
	18th	9.15am	DIY
	25th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER 2012

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

1	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am -	12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		1.00pm	Rev'd Clare Downing Anniversary Preparations	CC
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
2	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th & 24th)	CC
		10.00am -	12.00noon Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers Group (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		2.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cub Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tues	10.15am -	12.15pm Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	L
		10.30am -	12.00noon Mere Carers Group	Lynch
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
7	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (Every Wednesday)	GB
		2.00pm	'Packing Museum Objects' Museum Workshop	Lib
		6.00pm	Karate (also 14th & 21st)	L
		6.00pm	Mere Dazzler Majorettes (every Wednesday)	BSF
8	Thur	2.00pm	WC Tenant's Focus Group	L
		5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Dancing	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "The Descendants"	L
13	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L

13	Tue	12.00pm	Community Lunch	George Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
14	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 21st & 28th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
15	Thur	7.00am	- 10.00pm Polling Station	L
17	Sat	10.00am	Grove Building Annual Charities Fair	GB
20	Tue	7.30pm	St Michaels PCC Meeting	GB
21	Wed	10.30am	- 4.00pm Traidcraft Christmas stall	MH
22	Thur	10.15am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
25	Sun	4.00pm	- 6.00pm Messy Church	GB
27	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
28	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Annual General meeting	George Inn
		7.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
29	Thur	7.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
30	Fri	7.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
December				
1	Sat	2.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L
	and	7.30pm	MAD'S Pantomime "George and the Dragon"	L

**STOP
PRESS**

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER HUSTINGS/QUESTION TIME

Police and Crime Commissioner Candidates to appear at Public Meetings

Victim Support and Wessex Community Action recently announced that they have organised public meetings in the run-up to the Swindon and Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner elections

The public elections are taking place across England and Wales on Thursday, 15th November to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner for each police force area. Each new Commissioner will be responsible for setting a local police and crime plan, setting a budget, and engaging with the public and victims on issues of local concern.

In our case, we will be electing the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Wiltshire Police Force. The Role of each Commissioner is:

- to play a leading role in how crime is tackled in our area?
- to bring the voice of the people into policing and bring the community together to tackle crime?
- to hold the Chief Constable and police force to account for cutting crime?

Two meetings are arranged in October, but the first, in Swindon will have been held before this issue of Mere Matters is published. However, the second, on Monday, 29th October to be held at 7.00pm at Salisbury Arts Centre, Bedwin Street, Salisbury is after publication date.

Nominations for candidates closed on the 19th October 2012, The four candidates so far declared for Swindon and Wiltshire; have all confirmed their attendance, but as this was written before 19th October, there may be others by then.

What we know about the four confirmed candidates is that:?

- Angus Macpherson is an accountant who has previously served as a borough councillor in Swindon and as a member of the police authority. He is also a trustee of several Wiltshire charities. He is standing for the Conservative party.
- Clare Moody is currently a Unite Union official and previously stood as a Labour candidate for Salisbury in the 2005 general election. She is standing for the Labour Party
- Colin Skelton is a Special Constable and is standing as an independent.
- Liam Silcocks is also standing as an independent and has campaigned against police corruption. If elected, he has said he would set up an independent panel to review any historical complaints against the force.

Wayne Stevens, Divisional Manager at Victim Support said: “We are holding these public meetings so that the public can come along to hear what the Police and Crime Commissioner candidates have to say, and so they can put their own concerns forward. For too long victims of crime have been in the shadows of the criminal justice system, and this is a great opportunity to elect someone who puts them right at the centre.”

Debrah Biggs, Chief Executive of Wessex Community Action said: “We have been tasked to co-ordinate the Safer Future Communities Network to inform the voluntary and community sectors in Wiltshire and Swindon about the forthcoming election and to help local groups to influence the future work of the Commissioner.

“The Hustings are an opportunity for local people to put questions to the candidates, so that they can decide who will ultimately best support the work that they do in their local communities.”

Editor

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

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

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE:	Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm
REGISTRAR	<u>By appointment only</u>
OF BIRTHS	Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am
& DEATHS:	For appointments ☎ 01225 713007
RNID	1st Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.30am
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Editorial contributions for the December 2012/January 2013 combined 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 November 2012**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 5th November 2012. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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

A detailed illustration of a mechanical device, possibly a stylized eye or a sensor. It features a large circular lens in the center, through which a human eye is visible. Above the lens is a complex assembly of vertical rods and horizontal bars, resembling a mechanical or electronic component. To the left of the lens is a small circular dial with a star-like symbol. The entire device is rendered in a metallic, industrial style with various bolts, screws, and pipes.

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