

# MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 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. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 3rd September** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### **The Chairman writes:**

This summer – if it can be called that with the poor weather we have been having – seems to have been full of notable activity, starting with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and continuing with the Olympic Torch relay, which did indeed come very close to us, and then the Olympic Games, which have been so exciting, no matter which sport takes your interest. It seems there has been something for everyone in these London Games and every single member of Team GB must be so proud to say 'I am an Olympian'.

Once again, on the 8th July, I attended the annual 43<sup>rd</sup> (Wessex) Division Memorial Service and Parade with the Drumhead Service at Castle Hill, and again it was well attended, the rain held off for the duration and the service was taken by Mrs. Jane Hurd, our Licensed Lay Minister who gave an excellent address.

At this time last year there was much concern over the lack of water in our rivers. What a difference a year makes! There is certainly plenty of water flowing in our rivers now, thanks to the seemingly endless rain over the last few months, but despite that, much is being done by the Action for Mere Rivers group to try and ensure that our rivers maintain their flow, even when the rain stops, and meetings have been held with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to that end.

At the Parish Council Meeting in July the Parish Council agreed to adopt a new Code of Conduct for Councillors, which is a requirement of the new Standards Framework under the Localism Act 2011.

Also at that meeting the situation regarding Mere Swimming Pool was brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Mr. Bob Parsons informed the meeting that the pool would not be open for use this summer as there are some necessary repairs and refurbishments that have to be made and the pool committee members would use this time to raise funds to carry out these works in March next year. At the same time it would seem a good opportunity to make improvements on all areas of the pool, from the

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



heating system, possibly using solar power, to the changing facilities and everything in between, including looking at costs of a retractable cover/enclosure for the pool. There are grants available from various bodies for such works, and it was agreed that the Parish Council would give Mr. Parsons and the swimming pool committee its full support for its efforts with fundraising and grant application.

Finally, I must give a word of thanks and praise to our assistant groundsman, John Thorpe, who has been valiantly battling the elements this summer to keep our open spaces in good order. It has been no easy task with so much rain and the constant wet, to keep up with all the cutting and general maintenance that needs to be done, and I am grateful to him for all his efforts.

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

*Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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

The bunting in Mere looks a little faded now, however 'The Year of Celebration' has been something always to remember both locally and nationally. Mere put much effort into the Jubilee and showed its support of the Olympics with our flags and bunting. West Knoyle and Zeals had functions reflecting the Olympics. The South West Area Board provided some funding for the Zeals and West Knoyle events.

The Olympic Torch was in Salisbury on the 11th of July with a large free event in Hudsons Field. I attended this event with my wife Sue. It was one of the best free events I had ever attended. The atmosphere was fabulous with many from our area amongst the over 30,000 of us there. There were two professional stages, one provided by the local organisers and one by the Olympic Torch organisers. The sun shone except for one short storm (it would not have been The UK if we had not had one short sharp shower).

The torch arrived in Salisbury that evening in Hudson's field, and then set off from Salisbury Cathedral on the following morning, the 12th. Many councillors were seen dancing into the night including the Leader! Salisbury did well; I believe I am correct that Bournemouth had just the stage provided by the Olympic Torch organisers and only had 12,000 people by ticket only.

Over the years we have had at least two Olympians residing in our area. Brigadier Dick Webster, who lived in Church Street, was the finest British pole-vaulter of the first half of the 20th century. He achieved his best height of 13ft 1½in (400cms) at the Berlin

Olympics of 1936, where he was equal sixth and established a British record that stood for the next 14 years. He also took part in the 1948 Olympics.

Mr Towndrow, who was my neighbour and Junior school teacher, was a reserve for the 10,000 metre team for the 1948 Olympics. He was always running around his garden next door and later on when he was a teacher at Gillingham, determined to keep fit. He used to walk to Gillingham to work. I offered him a lift once and he refused. I expect there may be more, please tell me if you have known of any others living in this area?

I suggested in the last issue that we could do with footpath groups in some areas who could work with the parish councils. Although I am not aware of any volunteers for a footpath group, I have been heartened that in three areas I have witnessed people removing brambles, cutting back foliage etc.. I doubt an officer can give permission, however I know those who use the pathways are pleased. One local resident was good enough to cut the thorns in lower Dark Lane, Mere. It encouraged me to then cut the thorns back further up the lane that was not on my property. These overhanging thorns are dangerous to ones sight, especially after dark.

Regulations relating to the designation of neighbourhood planning areas, and neighbourhood development plans (very local planning etc.) commenced on 6th April. These regulations did not include the procedural requirements in relation to a local referendum, which would be required. The 'Draft Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations', which Wiltshire Council published on 14th June, can be viewed on its website.

This leads me onto another referendum. On Thursday, 15th November 2012, for the first time ever, the public across England and Wales will elect a local police and crime commissioner who will be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force area. Polling (election) stations will be around our area.

Street lighting repairs have improved as I said last month, and this is a reminder to let Lindsey Wood (01747 860701) clerk to West Knoyle, Kilminster and Mere or myself know of street lights that are faulty. We will do our best to see that street lights are kept working. Wiltshire Council is inviting Wiltshire Residents to participate in a consultation on reducing street lighting. This is available on line at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/street-lighting-changes-consultation.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/street-lighting-changes-consultation.htm). Considerations are for switching street lights off between midnight and 5.30am or much reducing lighting in that period of the night. Those of you without computers or who do not wish to use one, please let me know your views. I will be guided by the electorate.

My view at present and I believe the majority of Mere Parish Council agree, is that Mere in general does not want reduced street lighting, for reasons of security. An example of why not relates to alarms. Generally, the police will not attend unless it can be seen that entry has been gained. I shall not be going out on a dark night when noises

are heard or a neighbour's alarm triggers if the town lights are switched off. Other examples are that the partially-sighted need see the footway clearly.

I know the village parish councils around Mere in general do not like many street lights, especially after 12 midnight. Is this the view of their electorate? Some areas of Wiltshire I am told have been switched back on when local opinion has been read incorrectly, therefore let us get it right in this area. We need a good cross section view. I think it would be a good idea to save money and energy and use LED lights when, and if, possible. I also do not like to see light pollution of the sky from street lights, the light needs directing downwards not upwards.

We need tourists passing through Mere and I am working with the Mere Chamber of Trade to improve the tourism signs on the A303 and B3092.

Having said that, we recently had some 'travellers' who parked where they should not and the Police, although now thinner on the ground, had the problem sorted in less than 24 hours, well done to the Police.

I recently attended Mere Children's Centre (4 Children). It was a special day, some disadvantaged families from elsewhere were camping in the grounds and the Centre was full of children who were being entertained by a magician. For the summer it has a full time programme, so please remember it is there and functioning well.

In a brief round up of other issues, there is further pressure on road maintenance, it is more of a squeeze rather than a panic. However, pot holes will need repair in more of a planned manner than now. It is argued in some areas that pot holes actually slow the traffic up! Also a skate park for Mere is still being progressed and I can only apologise for the slow progress, and finally, Superfast Broadband still has a target date of 2015.

## **RECYCLING CHARITY APPEALS**

### **for your unwanted domestic white goods**

Since the white goods recycling charity **Refurbiz** was established in 2003, more than 8,000 low income families in Wiltshire have benefited from around 12,000 quality, reconditioned, white goods at prices they can afford. However, in the current economic environment we are struggling to source enough feedstock to service our demand.

With people hanging on to their old models and machines for longer, we are increasingly in need of unwanted free standing electric cookers, washing machines, dryers and refrigerators. We simply can't meet the demand we now have for them and if the economy continues to be slow and more people find themselves in difficulties, the demand is only going to get higher. So please, if you are replacing any white goods,

particularly electric cookers and working fridges, then phone us and we will come out and remove them free of charge (although, as a charity, donations to cover our fuel costs, etc., are always welcome!)

We screen the goods, restore those that can be repaired and then pass them onto those in need. Typically, the cost of a washing machine or cooker comes to about £85 with a three month warranty – vastly lower than buying new goods from the stores.

Any appliances that are beyond repair are stripped down to reusable components and any bits left over are sent to the Hills Waste Materials Recovery Facility, near Calne, for onward, licensed recycling, avoiding any waste electrical items going into landfill.

Refurbiz operates out of the Hopton Park Industrial Estate in Devizes, and supplies refurbished white goods across Wiltshire and Swindon. The charity was set up by the **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust** nine years ago to encourage electrical waste to be re-used for the benefit of those in need. It is an independent not-for-profit charity supported by self-generated income and charitable grants.

If you know any person or family in need of a low cost washing machine, dryer, cooker or fridge, please tell them about Refurbiz. Many of our items are displayed on our Facebook page.

So, if you have any white goods you no longer want and wish to donate, you can help a family in need by contacting Refurbiz ☎ 01380 720200.

## WEATHER REPORT

June was certainly not flaming. We had 148mms (5.83ins) of rain. Last year we had 115mms (4.53ins). The rain was pretty well spread throughout the whole month with the heaviest up to the 8th and 21mms (0.82ins) on the 20th. It was colder than May. July continued this pattern up to the 19th, during which we had 148.5mms (5.85ins). Then it turned hot until the 29th when we had a little more rain. Total rain for the month was 157mms (6.18ins). Last year we had 53mms (2.09ins).

August started like July with 37mms of rain (1.46ins), mostly over night. From the 8th we had another hot period until the 12th when we had a thunder storm with 6mms (0.24ins) of rain in the early morning. Perhaps now we shall have some summer?

*Peter Durkee. ☎ 01747 860363*

**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 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 SURGERY**

# **FLU CLINICS**

We will be holding our usual Saturday flu vaccination clinic at the surgery on

**Saturday, 13th October**  
**9.00am – 12.00pm**

Please check our website: **www.meresurgery.co.uk** for full details of the “at risk” categories and to see if you are eligible to have a free vaccination.

Appointments can be booked online.



## **NEWS FROM THE DENTAL SURGERY**

The Mere Dental Practice warmly welcomes Christopher Davies (GDC no: 153638) to its team of dentists.

Christopher will be joining the dental team in August and will be accepting New Patients  
*Francine Sherrard, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365*

## **MERE CARERS GROUP**

Our meeting in September will take place on Tuesday, 4th September from 10:30am-12noon at Lynch Close, Mere.

It will provide a chance for those caring for a family member or friend to socialise over a cup of tea.  
*Fiona Hunter, Carer Support Wiltshire ☎ 0800 181 4118*

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LIPREADING AND COMMUNICATIONS CLASS**

### **Who are we?**

We are a friendly group of local people. most of whom have some level of hearing loss. However, we have some people who can hear perfectly well, but who come along because they enjoy the classes and learning how to communicate better.

### **What is Lipreading?**

Lipreading is a helpful tool when your hearing becomes a little less acute (often but not always in later life). Most of us lipread to some extent anyway. Do you find it easier to hear when you are facing the person talking? You are probably unconsciously lipreading! It must be stressed that this is NOT signing used most frequently by the Deaf community. This is just a way of helping you to communicate more effectively in your families and jobs with the hearing people around you.

We learn why we can't always hear speech clearly, what to do about it and most importantly to share tips with others and try to 'look on the bright side of life' which was the song which closed the London Olympics! It may surprise you to know that we all have a very good time and make friends.

We are a very friendly, sociable group and the coffee time cakes are legendary!

### **Who leads the class?**

Elizabeth Messer is a fully trained teacher of Lipreading to Adults and has a hearing loss herself so she understands what hearing loss is all about from a personal point of

view. Her contact details are ✉: [Elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com) or ☎ 01300 348580.

## **How much is the class?**

We are very fortunate to have been awarded a sum of money from the Lecture Hall Trust that enables us to keep going on the minimum payment possible from the class members. There are 10 classes lasting 2 hours each term and three terms a year and the cost is £30 per term (ie £3 per lesson).

Where Adult Education classes cost a minimum of £8 per lesson this is good value!

## **Do give us a try and come along and see for yourself.**

Even if you think your hearing loss is no problem, it's better to be prepared with skills that will help if it ever deteriorates.....and it's a useful skill to be able to know what people are saying above background noise and in busy shops. See Diary section for the next meeting date in the Grove Building. *Elizabeth Messer* ☎ 01300 348580

## **NEW VICAR FOR ST MICHAELS**

### **Licensing Service on Thursday, 13th September**

The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker will be licensed as priest-in-charge of the Benefice of Mere with Maiden Bradley and West Knoyle at a special service on Thursday, 13th September. The service begins at 7.00pm at St Michael's, Mere, and will be conducted by the Bishop of Sherborne, Dr Graham Kings.

Mrs Wilson-Barker is currently team vicar in Hale with Badshot Lea, Farnham, in the Diocese of Guildford, Surrey. She succeeds the Rev'd Paul Barnes, who resigned in January because of ill health. She is married to Neil, a house husband, and they have two sons, Toby (13) and Guy (10), who will be attending local schools.

She was ordained deacon in Truro Cathedral in 2003 and served as a curate in the Godrevy Team in Hayle, Cornwall for four years. The Team had five churches, all different in character and churchmanship, which, she says, "was an enjoyable and stimulating way to learn about ministry".

After Cornwall she took up her current position five years ago. 'In ministry she has particularly enjoyed working with children and families, and is keen to have a collaborative ministry and to encourage others to develop their gifts.

She says that "following the Christian faith can be a serious business at times but it's important not to take ourselves too seriously and have some fun too." For relaxation she likes to stitch, to do some walking and to sing or to play the saxophone and violin, but not at the same time!

She says that the whole family is looking forward to getting to know the area, meeting people and making friends whether they are church-goers or not.

## MERE CARNIVAL 2012

### Programme of Events

Thursday, 6th September - Film Night- Lecture Hall 7.30pm

Friday, 7th September - Carnival Bingo - Grove Building - Eyes Down 7.45pm

Tuesday, 11th September - Carnival Quiz - Lecture Hall - 7.00pm For 7.30pm Start

Wednesday 12th September - Carnival Family Fun Fair Nightly From 6.30pm

### **Carnival Day – Saturday, 15th September from 2.30pm**

Children's Fancy Dress Procession leaves School Grounds at 3.00pm.

Grand Carnival Draw in The Square - Approx 3.30pm - Tickets drawn by Carnival Princess.

Grand Evening Procession moves off at 7.30pm.

### **£100 “Window Oddity” Competition**

As part of this year's celebrations there will be a Shop Window Oddities competition, in which entrants are invited to identify an unusual or “out of place” object in each of nineteen shop window displays of co-operating businesses in the town centre. Entry forms are available from Mere Pharmacy and Jeans Electrical, where they may also be returned when completed, at a cost of £1 each. 4th September is the closing date.

Mere Annual Carnival raises funds to help local charities, social and sports organisations.

*Gillian H. Brignell ☎ 01747 861114*

### **Prizes for Fund Raising Events**

Do you have any unwanted new small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them for use. They can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop or Chapel Showroom or at Waltons Newsagents.

*Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215*

### **Come and Support all the Mere Carnival Events and have a great ‘Fun Time’**

Entry forms for the Carnival can be obtained from Mere Post Office from Friday, 24th August.

Please contact Carol ☎ 01747 861639 if you would like to be part of Carnival and with your help make this another successful mere event.



## THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber will be hosting a Breakfast Meeting at The Walnut Tree Inn, M on Wednesday, 26th September at 7.45am. The Guest Speaker will be Simon Tombs of Monahans Chartered Accountants who will be talking about:

### **‘General Issues affecting Small Businesses and Start-ups’**

Places are £10.00 per delegate for Chamber members and £12.00 per delegate for Non-members. For further information or to book a place, please contact Julie Cousins on 07856 700576.

The Chamber is able to provide training courses on Emergency First Aid, Food Safety and Health and Safety for businesses locally. The courses, which are organised by the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce, and are run by recognised and experienced trainers are competitively priced. If you would be interested in attending or sending your employees on a training course, please contact Julie Cousins.

### **Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, 12th September 2012 at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm

*Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, 07856 700576*

## MERE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

After the phenomenal success of the first Mere Fireworks Festival last year, plans for Sunday, 28th October 2012 on the Duchy Manor Grounds are well under way (entrance is via Springfield Road and the gate above the swimming pool from Burton footpath). Unfortunately there will be no parking on site.

Last year more than 2,000 people enjoyed the afternoon's activities and the spectacular fireworks display. A real family event, this quote from a happy reveller sums it up: "My 5 year old loved it, my 14 year old did, my hubby did and even Mum-in-law did! 9 decades covered!"

Inspired by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 50th anniversary of the James Bond film franchise, Mere's 2nd Fireworks Festival will have a "Diamonds are Forever" theme. Pyrotechnician Bill Deeker has already planned the display, which this year will be set to music.

There will be something for everyone: Fire performers performing on stage; a Mongolian yurt with atmospheric fireside storytelling; a performance of remote control helicopter flying by Richie Clark, one of the UK's top Pilots; The Big Glow – giving families the chance to parade lanterns or illuminated costumes; a climbing wall and football skills

workshop; craft hall with face-painting, lantern and musical instrument making and drumming workshop.

Last year we had a good amount of support from local clubs and societies and any who may like to have a stall this year should please contact Penny Deeker on: **penny@deeker.net**.

See: **www.mererefireworksfestival.co.uk** for updates and to buy tickets.

*Laura Rich ☎ 01747 861537*



## BRAINWAVE

After the Mere Matters summer break, we have the shock of going into autumn mode whilst we are still waiting for our proper summer to establish itself. With the BBC announcing autumn viewing schedules and the fashion chains filling their rails with autumn clothes, you may have already packed away your summer dresses for another year. However, we may yet enjoy a heatwave and our shop will be on hand as usual offering just what you need, whatever the weather!

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE  
MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER**

In store at the moment we have tickets available for the Brainwave National Raffle, which is being promoted to celebrate thirty years of Brainwave. Prizes include a first prize of £1,000 and a second prize of accommodation for a week for six people in North Devon. The draw will take place on Friday, 5th October, so there is still time to buy tickets, available at the counter.

Finally, please do not forget to keep your donations of unwanted goods coming (clothes, bric-a-brac, toys etc) to raise funds to help brain-damaged children. For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch is due to start again after the summer break at The Old Ship Hotel, The Square, Mere on Tuesday, 9th October 2012 from 12 noon.

The first lunch is now an established part of Mere's Literary Festival with the title of Hotpot and Heritage. (more details next month).

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 Connect2Wiltshire taxi-bus (☎ 01985 212213) and the Linkscheme (☎ 01747 860096).

For more details contact please contact me.

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## **SEPTEMBER'S SHORT WALK**

This will take place on Monday, 10th September. Meet in the Surgery Car Park as usual at 2.00pm for a gentle walk of 2-3 miles around the paths of Mere. Tea for those who wish to indulge at the Angel Cafe afterwards.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **MERE THEATRE CLUB**

An exciting autumn programme is about to start, including visits to Winchester, Stratford and Wells. If you would like to be in time for the winter outings, do contact either Madelaine or Wendy.

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

## **MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

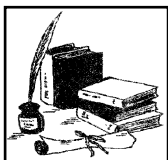
**Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860 096**

We received 618 requests for transport in the first six months of this year, 148 of which were for appointments at Salisbury District Hospital.

Donations from users contribute towards running costs but we could not continue without the money raised during the Mere Literary Festival, which this year takes place in the week beginning Monday, 8th October.

Tickets for this year's Festival are now available from the Information Centre. Why not start the week on the Monday evening by finding out more about something that affects all local residents, the A303, in a talk entitled "A303 - Highway to the Sun." That should whet your appetite for the rest of the week!

*Molly Burden*



# MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

8th-14th October

Proceeds to the Mere & District Linkscheme

*On your marks!*

*Get set!*

*GO!*

*For This Year's Timed Flash Fiction:*

## **WRITE IN THE WEEK COMPETITION**

In **one week** write a story of no more than **350 words**, which must include the **given phrase** to be revealed on the festival **website** and other outlets on **Thursday, 27th September**.

Senior Prizes £50, £20, £10 & books.

Entry Fee £2 first story then £1 Cheques to Mere Literary Festival please

Junior Prizes (16 & under) £5 x 4

Free junior entry

**Write** your story, add a **cover sheet** with your **name**, (+ **age** if Junior ), **contact** details, story **title** and **word count** and **post** or deliver to MLF, Lawrences, Old Hollow, Mere, Wilts, BA12 6EG to arrive by **Friday, 5th October**.

The results will be made known at the AWARD CEREMONY with JAMES LONG, author of the best seller, *Ferney*, and its just published sequel, *The Lives She Left Behind*, both novels set in Penselwood and its surrounds.

*Adrienne Howell ☎ 01747 860475 or [www.merelitfest.co.uk](http://www.merelitfest.co.uk)*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

Rehearsals for '**George** (hurray!) **and the Dragon**' are on the very brink of starting, but if there's anyone out there who would like to take part, on or off stage, but hasn't yet put up their hand, please do come to the next MADS meeting on **Monday, 10th September**

at 8.00pm (Drama Room, Lecture Hall) or ring Chris Wood on 01747 860479. Just to remind you, performance dates are Wednesday to Saturday, **28th November to 1st December**.  
*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## POTENTIAL PLAYS AND POETRY READING GROUP

Is anyone interested in forming a group to read plays and poetry? I do not want to start a drama group, just a group of people who love literature and drama, and who enjoy reading aloud... as sharing drama and poetry in this way brings it to life.

No arrangements have been made for meetings but I hope to start them in the autumn, and hold them at members' houses or in a local pub or committee room. Suggestions for a venue would be welcome too, as I am new to the area. For more information contact me.  
*Penny ☎ 01747 861420 or 📠 07881 814321*

## BOTANICAL PAINTING WORKSHOP

Another chance to join Botanical Artist Christina Hart-Davis for a day's workshop painting Autumn Fruits, Berries, Colours and Fungi. It will be suitable for people new to this form of painting. The workshop will be on Saturday, 8th September from 10.30am-4.00pm in the Grove Building, cost: £35. Application forms and further details from me, please.  
*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



### One World Fair

**Saturday, 20th October 2012  
In the Grove Building, Mere  
11.00am – 3.00pm**

We could just squeeze in another stall if you haven't yet booked, but this event promises to be a full and lively mix of activities, music and entertainment, together with stalls and world-flavoured lunches and refreshments. An early opportunity to buy special Christmas gifts! **LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS needed!** Please phone if you can help.

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

## ‘DAB’ COMES TO MERE !!!

Did you buy or have been given one of those shiny new DAB digital radios, only to find that it could not find any digital stations in our area?

Well, that seems to have changed recently. In May the BBC installed a new transmitter at Shaftesbury and now many of us in Mere now find that our DAB radios can pick up



11 BBC stations completely interference-free. These include not only the usual Radios 1-5 but also the World Service and BBC7 which broadcasts repeats of classic Radio 4 dramas and serialisations.

The signal is so good that I find that I can even retract and fold the aerial on my tranny!  
Give it a try. *David Stokes ☎ 01747 860741*

## **MERE FILM SHOWS**

### **Please Note: A change of date!**

The first film of our new season, **'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' (12A)**, which is as usual for Carnival Week, will now be shown on **Thursday, 6th September**, and not, as previously advertised, on Thursday, 13th September. I do apologise for the necessary change brought about by another event being unexpectedly planned for 13th September, and we felt we must change the date so that both may be well attended and to better benefit the Carnival.

The film stars Ewan McGregor, Kristin Scott Thomas and Emily Blunt and is taken from Paul Torday's very good book. It is a comedy drama with an excellent cast, very well reviewed by the critics and well worth seeing, so make sure you come along and support Mere Carnival at the same time! Full details on page 28.

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

Thursday, 11th October: 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' Screenings at 4.00 & 7.30pm.

Friday, 9th November: 'The Descendants' with George Clooney

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## **MERE GARDENING CLUB**

### **Annual Show with Mere School**

**Saturday, 1st September 2.30pm in the Lecture Hall**

**Admission 50p (includes tea/coffee and biscuit) children under 10 yrs free.**

Do come and see the wide ranging display and join in the fun. Awards will be presented at 4.00pm, with the main winners being printed in the next issue of Mere Matters.

### **'Weeds in my Medicine Cabinet'**

This is the title of the talk, which will be given by Julie Wood at our meeting on Wednesday, 12th September at 7.30pm in the grove Building.

Julie is a qualified herbalist and an advisor to Neal's Yard. She also takes walks and talks for Shaftesbury Abbey's medieval herb garden. On this occasion she will talk about the medicinal use and history of nettles, dandelions, plantain and cleavers as well as a range of other remedies, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. She will bring some samples of tinctures and there will be plenty of time for questions.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*



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

Our meetings are always open to all – men as well as women! Everyone interested in fostering our link with South Sudan, or learning about life in that country is especially welcome to our meeting on **Tuesday, 11th September at 2.30pm in the Grove Building.**

Our speaker is Mrs Eva Burton who recently spent some time working alongside Mothers Union members in South Sudan. She has a reputation as a lively and engaging speaker. For more details please phone me.

*Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*



## **MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE**

Thank you to all those who came along to our Coffee Morning on 25th August. We hope you enjoyed meeting our members and we shall be very pleased to see any of you at our monthly meetings.

The next one is on Thursday, 6th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Grove Building. There will be a speaker from the Mission to Seamen who will give a talk with the intriguing title "Where do all the Knitted Hats Go?" which will be of particular interest to those of our members who have been busily knitting hats to the approved pattern in recent months.

*Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007*

## **CASTLE HILL QUILTERS**

At the time of writing I am looking forward to a visit to Tedworth House, the first Personnel Recovery and Assessment Centre in Tidworth, Wiltshire on Tuesday, 14th August with three committee members to learn more about the work of the Centre, to have a tour of the house and to see the area where the quilt we are making will be

used. We hope our quilt will help those in the Armed Forces who are wounded, sick or injured.

We enjoyed a Garden Party this month sitting in the sunshine in a members' garden.

We restart our meetings on Thursday, 13th September with a shorter meeting from 2.00 to 4.15pm for this meeting only. Our following week's meeting is from 2.00 to 5.00 pm and will be the AGM where a new committee will be elected. We are delighted that our members enjoy our group meeting each Thursday afternoon at the Grove Building with sewing machines and needles busy.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact us either by email at: [info@castlehillquilters.org.uk](mailto:info@castlehillquilters.org.uk) or by telephone 01747 861923.

*Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923*

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE**

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

We have enjoyed a great variety of activities for the last couple of months. One of our Diamond Jubilee activities was a session '1952 Revisited' involving reminiscences, songs and dancing. We were very pleased that Mary White, the Parish Council Chair, was able to join us and add reminiscences of her own. We also had another successful jewellery making session.

Our AGM on the 23rd July was well attended, and we were very pleased to welcome two new Trustees: Liz Miller and Noelle Dennis. We look forward to working with them.

Mrs Janet Avery, the Mere Co-op Manager, came in to present us with a cheque for the money raised through the Southern Co-operative Community Support Card scheme. Many thanks to the local community for supporting our cause – we really appreciate it!

Recently our need for new session volunteers and lunch delivery drivers has become even greater, so with this in mind we will be running a volunteer recruitment drive during October. Watch this space for details! If in the meantime you can spare a few hours a month please do get in touch with me, we would be very grateful.

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*

## **BRAMLEY HOUSE ANNUAL FETE**

**Saturday 8th September 2.30pm**

**Live Music - Georgie Girl, Majorettes Display,  
Music & Movement (Residents of Bramley House)**

**Refreshments & Ice Creams**

**Various Stalls: Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Jewellery, Jams, Marmalade &  
Pickles, Home Made Cards,**

**Bric a Brac, Splat The Rat, Wellie Throwing, Fire Engine, Pony Rides,  
Face Painting and much more.**

**Proceeds for chosen charity: ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY**

## **FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT**

The Friends' major event of the year, our famous **Autumn Fair**, is once again almost upon us. Just in case you've missed all the posters, it will take place on **Saturday, 1st September in Fives Court Gardens at 2.00pm.**

It's by no means too late to donate **things for us to sell**, items for the **tombola** stall, bottles of **wine** (preferably full!), **books**. Donations gratefully received in a box in the Fives Court porch. There will be a **colouring-in picture competition** for children – pick up your picture from the porch at Fives Court - and place your entry in a special box also in the Fives Court porch, by Friday, 31st August.

There will be **prizes!** **Cakes** and **garden produce** on the day please. If you would like us to collect, just phone me. See you there! *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

### **Friends of Fives Court**

## **Autumn Fair**

**Saturday 1st September**

**In the grounds of Fives Court, Angel Lane 2.00pm**

**Games \* Stalls \* plants \* teas**

**Gillingham Junior Silver Band**

## MERE CARERS GROUP

Our meeting in September will take place on Tuesday, 4th September from 10:30am-12noon at Lynch Close, Mere and will provide a chance for those caring for a family member or friend to socialise over a cup of tea.

*Fiona Hunter, Carer Support Wiltshire ☎ 0800 181 4118*

## MERE MUSEUM

Our new exhibition, **Water Water Everywhere**, was successfully launched in early August. Many aspects of water in Mere are covered by the exhibition: hydro-electricity, reservoirs a-plenty, rivers – dry and in full flood, dipping wells, rainfall, water wheels and the Water Map of Mere researched with your help and produced by Paulette Mcmanus. Do come and immerse yourselves in the show, and it's by no means too late to record more wells and springs for the Water Map, if you haven't already done so.

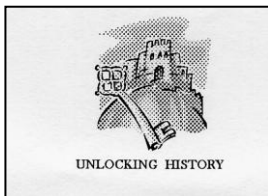
'**Tea at the Museum**' was a huge success; thank you for your support. We are now following this up with plans for more such events. First will be a **Box-Making Workshop**, led by Jenny and David, to take place on Wednesday afternoon, 19th September at 2.00pm at the Museum.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

A date for your diaries: The **AGM** will take place on **Tuesday, 30th October at 7.30pm** in the Museum. There will be an very entertaining talk after the very short business meeting – more about that later! Looking well into the future, the Friends have once again invited Chester House Productions to Mere for a Christmas event: 'Canterbury Tales' on **Friday, 7th December 2012** in the Grove Building. You heard it here first!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*



## MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### William Barnes in Mere

by Alan Chedzoy

***Tuesday, 2nd October  
at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

The first talk of the season will be given by Alan Chedzoy who is the author of "The People's Poet: William Barnes in Dorset". His book has been praised as a thoroughly compelling portrait of one of the most interesting poets of the nineteenth century whose poetry evokes so vividly rural life of the period. Anyone interested in the way we lived in the past should find this a fascinating talk.. **£2.00 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

### Morning Talks

Our morning talks begin on Tuesday, 16th October, in the **Grove Building** at 10.15am for 10.30am. "First People of Alaska" by Ruth Van Sloten. **£1.00 entry for non-members who are very welcome.**

### Visit

There are still a few places left for our visit to Oxford on Tuesday, 4th September. Please ring Caroline for details. **Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797**

## GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn in St Michael's on 8th July by Mr Richard Coward:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 5	Mrs P Cooper
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 67	Mrs E Montgomery
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 120	Mrs J Mason
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 131	Mrs H Willoughby

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn in St Michael's on 12th August by Caroline Bishop:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 160	Mrs F Blend
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 35	Mrs E Brown
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 183	Mrs Wand Tetley
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 65	Mrs D Stokes

## **Subscription Reminder**

Please go on supporting me if you can. I know it's a lot to ask in these difficult times but the money we raise is so much appreciated, and essential to the upkeep of the Grove Building. I'm on my rounds and look forward to seeing you, to collect your £12, or to thank you for your past support. Any new members will be very welcome. Please join us. The annual subscription is £12 cash or a cheque made payable to 'GROVE BUILDING'.

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## **MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB**

It has been, without question, our best season to date, this in spite of some appalling weather. Our membership has continued to grow, as has the enthusiasm.

Club finances have never been healthier. There is now a comfortable cash reserve and the original concept of providing all the equipment needed so that members have no obligatory expenses, other than paying their annual subscription, has been achieved.

There have been some very enjoyable, and well attended, social occasions, the Jubilee Party and an Olympic BBQ being amongst them, and with more to come.

Michael Gladding has done really sterling work in successfully promoting the Boule activity. This is now flourishing with a series of exchange matches organised. Several have already taken place and Mere has acquitted itself very creditably.

We are a very friendly bunch, newcomers can be assured of a warm welcome - a trial day is always free, come and have a go. Do not hesitate to ring me for further information.

*Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

## **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

On the 15th July we entertained the 'Timber Trundlers', a loose association of like minded bowlers from different clubs around the Fordingbridge area who all bowl with original wooden bowls (called 'Woods' – now they are referred to as 'Bowls' and made from a hard shiny composite material).

After an excellent afternoons bowling, where the visitors taught us a lesson in the finer arts of the sport, we all sat down (all sixty-six of us) in the Andy Young Pavilion to a hearty two course meal planned to perfection by our Catering Managers, Alan and Chris

Isgrove. This was prepared and served by 'Alan's Angels' namely June Holdom, Margaret Inwood, Sylvia Pearce, Lorna Powell and Carol Vigars who are all long suffering wives of Club members. This day proved that with forethought and planning we can mount larger events than we previously thought we could.

Our current outdoor season formally closes on Saturday, 22nd September. However, if we have an Indian Summer, bowling will continue until the cold breezes start to set in again. Our AGM will be held on Monday, 24th September in the Andy Young Pavilion at 1.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Mere Bowls Club supports a local charity each year and would appreciate requests or suggestions from local people as to which charity we should support in 2013 – could you please send your contribution to any of the named members below?

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Jeff Vigars ☎ 01747 860976 & ✉ [jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk), or me.

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775  
or ✉ [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)*



**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents  
a film for Carnival Week

# **'Salmon Fishing In The Yemen'** (12A)

**Ewan McGregor, Kristin Scott Thomas, Emily Blunt**

Sheikh Muhammed (**Amir Waked**) believes the peaceful pastime of salmon fishing can enrich the lives of his people, and dreams of bringing the sport to the desert. Willing to spare no expense to realise his dream, he enlists Britain's leading fisheries expert (**Ewan McGregor**) who believes the project to be both absurd and unachievable. Nevertheless, the unlikely team put it all on the line and embark on an upstream journey of faith and fish to prove the impossible possible.

**In the Lecture Hall**

**Thursday, 6th September, at 7.30pm**

*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £5.00**

**Available from the Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

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

# TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, where everybody matters

## Olympics success legacy

With the successful completion of the Olympics, can we as a Nation keep the success going with the legacy it has left behind us? Has it spurred you on into taking up some new sport or activity that you haven't previously considered?

A new study published in medical journal The Lancet, has claimed that sedentary lifestyles and a lack of physical exercise are responsible for 5.3 million deaths – as many as smoking – throughout the world. Physical inactivity is now said to be the “fourth leading cause of death worldwide”.

To help you to lead a healthy lifestyle, exercise will train your heart, lungs and strengthen your bones and muscles. It is never too late to start some form of sport or activity. Choose something that you will enjoy – it doesn't have to be expensive – and you don't have to purchase lots of new sportswear to take part in exercise, just a good supportive pair of trainers is advisable.

We at Tisbury can offer you the following:

- A variety of sports and activities for both juniors, adults and seniors
- Racquet sports with courts to hire for tennis, badminton and table tennis
- A fully equipped fitness gym
- A variety of fitness classes
- Children's after school clubs coaching football, gymnastics and trampolining
- Children's sports parties
- Hall hire for clubs or groups of friends
- Kids for a quid activities throughout all holiday programmes

Intersperse these activities with a nice bike ride with your family and friends, or dog walks with your very own “personal trainer” – a loyal exercise companion.

For advice on exercise and activities available to you, contact us at the Sports Centre.

- Reception, tel: 01747 871141,
- e-mail us at: [tisbury@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tisbury@wiltshire.gov.uk),
- visit the website at: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Follow us on [Twitter@TisburyLC](#) or [Facebook](#).

<p><b>Mere Pet Services</b> -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. <b>Sarah 01747 861336 / 07747753816</b></p>
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# ***RED CLASS***



**12th July 2012**

Welcome to Red Class Reports from Mere School. We hope you enjoy hearing about all our news...

## **Pencelli**

On the 28th May our class went to Pencelli, South Wales. We had a wet and wild week! Our daily activities were The Adventure Walk, canoeing, climbing and caving. In the evenings we did orienteering, scavenger hunting, problem solving and the dingle descent. On the last day we went gorge walking and got very wet!

*Freddie Sutton, Lucy Chapman, Jacob Read and Maddie Wathen*

## **Africa Topic**

This term Red Class has been learning about Africa. We have been making African masks, African ink paintings and a huge African map. We have also learnt all about Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa.

In literacy we read many African myths and fables and then wrote our own. We also learnt all about Islam, making our own prayer mat designs and mosques models.

*Lauren Mead and Bradley Hornby*

## **China Day**

Last week we had our multi-cultural day. This year we celebrated the culture of China. We came to school dressed in traditional Chinese clothing. We had many Chinese activities including food tasting, dragon and Chinese lantern making, Chinese ribbon dancing and music. We also designed Willow Pattern plates. It was

a great day!

*Jessica Sharpe and Jack Avery*

## **Gardening Show**

Every year Mere school puts on a Gardening Show. Every class has a chance to enter something. Our class entered Clay bugs on leaves and African masks made of natural materials. There were prizes for the top three. Other classes entered flower pictures, bug medals, flower arranging, sunflower seed packets, grass heads, lighthouse gardens. Staff entered Olympic theme cakes and flower arranging.

## **Coming up at Mere School**

At the end of this term we will be hosting Mere School's Got Talent! Each class may enter two acts which then perform in front of the whole school and a panel of judges. Acts will include...roller skaters, singing, dancing, skipping and speed stacking.

*Freddie Bateson and Joanna Ford*

Coming up in the last few days of term will be Special Person to Lunch – lots of children's parents or family members will be coming in to school to have lunch with us. After that, in the evening, will be the school disco which most children come to. On the 18th July many of the children will be going to The Lion King Show in London. It will be a great day.

*Robyn Whitmore and Tegan Scource*

Mrs Shannon will be leaving at the end of this term to spend a year teaching in Oman. We all hope she has a good time and the whole school will miss her!

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

At the time of going to press Olympic fever has just finished with an enthusiastic burst of celebration, but we still have some more of our holidays to go. I hope that you are all enjoying your holidays and taking advantage of the sunny days to relax and enjoy yourselves.

At the Centre we have been keeping our activities going throughout the summer with some additional sessions for you to bring your children to and have fun and engage in craft activities and messy play.

**Stay and Play** activities on Wednesday mornings have been exploring Messy Play and its benefit to children and their development. In addition to this we have also had extra craft and messy play activities on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 11.00am for you to bring your children to enjoy.

Our **Fun Day** on Wednesday, 1st August was a great success with many families attending and having great fun with the many activities on offer. Children loved the Magic show and the man making animals and things from balloons. Star of the show was Mere Falconry with the birds performing feats of daring. These included flying through hoops held by the children, sitting on heads or arms of the adult spectators, flying over many parents and children who were brave enough to lie in a row on the ground for this purpose and kindly sitting on their handler's wrist for all the children to say 'hello' to and stroke their plumage. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see the birds up close, hear how silently owls fly and observe their characteristics. Many thanks to Alan Gates for bringing the birds to see us.

**Musical Beginnings** in Zeals between 10.00 and 11.00am on Tuesday mornings continues to be a great success. Our session of **Mini Melodies** on 7th August was well attended and much enjoyed. We are looking into the possibility of running this as a more regular group in Mere.

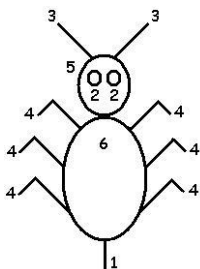
**Forthcoming events** for September include our **Treasure Trail** afternoon on Sunday, 2nd September at 2.00pm with Tea and Cakes at the Centre afterwards. All correct answers from the trail will be entered into the draw for our grand prize. Also in September we have our next **Dads' Day**, a morning packed with fun and activities for children and their Dads/Grand-dads/Uncles. This includes bacon rolls for refreshment. At least one child in the family must be 5 or under.

Our Table Top Sale was postponed as many people were away and couldn't make it, but we are planning to hold something similar as part of our pre- Christmas activities, we will keep you informed as soon as plans become concrete.

Carnival is on Saturday, 15th September and the Centre is entering the children who wish to join in as All Creatures Great and Small – this is for the afternoon session only. Fancy dressing up? Come along and join us and walk with us on the day.

**All our activities are free for under 5's** so don't hesitate to come and visit us and enjoy our fun filled activities, which are planned to support the development of young children. If you are interested in any of the activities here and wish to know more about them or book onto them, please ring the number below and speak to one of our friendly team who would be delighted to help you.

*Jane Smith, Families Support Worker ☎ 01747 861108*



## **ALL WELCOME TO A BEETLE DRIVE**

**On Friday, 21st September at 7.30pm  
in the Grove Building**

**in aid of Suchana**

**Tickets £5.00 (Children £3.00)**

**Supper included – licensed Bar available**

**A fun evening for all ages**

**Phone 861168 Jean Kantaria or 860553 Judith  
Thompson or sign list at St Michael's.to book.**

## **MESSY CHURCH BBQ**

Messy church is having a Barbecue on **Sunday 9th September from 3.00 pm onwards at Barrow Street Farm!** We would love as many people as possible to come along, even if you have not been before.

We will provide the BBQ but ask that you bring along donations for the Trussel Truss Food Bank please. Also if you would like a drink please bring your own. There is plenty for children to do with football, badmington and lots of space to run around.

We are looking forward to starting our new year after the summer break with a social event. Our next regular Messy session will be on Sunday, 23rd September at 4.00pm in the Grove Building.

If you would like to have your name added to our email contact list please get in touch with us via the details below. If anyone wishes to find out more about Messy Church please look at St Michaels, Mere Church Website where Messy have a page with lots of photos and details about recent events.

If you would like any more information please ✉: [meremessychurch@hotmail.com](mailto:meremessychurch@hotmail.com) or telephone Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

## **THE REV'D JUDITH THOMPSON, A ST MICHAELS CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES**

On behalf of Churches Together in Mere and District - and, I am sure, all the people of Mere - a very warm welcome to our new Vicar, Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, who begins her ministry among us in the middle of September, and to her husband, Neil, and their children Toby and Guy.

I write amidst the prevailing mood of post-Olympic euphoria, and para-Olympic anticipation. I'm not much of a sports-person myself - having spent my school days avoiding games whenever possible! - but, like many others, I have enjoyed being caught up in the energy and excitement of it all, and the extraordinary skill and commitment of the vast array of athletes from around the world.

Above all, for me, the Olympics have been a kind of vision of how things could be if only human beings everywhere would learn to live together in peace and mutual care and respect.

It has been an inspiration to see that even when competition is fierce and contestants are weary there can still be genuine appreciation and delight in the achievements of others - the love of excellence somehow transcending national and personal boundaries and allegiances.

In the book of Acts we read that God 'made of one blood all nations to dwell on the face of the earth'; and in the Christian understanding we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. If part of the legacy of the truly remarkable London 2012 experience could be a renewed determination to appreciate and care equally for all peoples throughout the earth, and, as David Cameron and Mo Farah have suggested, at the very least to eradicate child poverty thus giving to everyone an equal chance to develop and live life to the full, that would be infinitely better than multiple gold medals for every athlete.

Meanwhile, it just happens that in a very small way there is an opportunity this month for anyone in Mere to understand a little more about one beleaguered corner of the earth, namely the one-year-old nation of South Sudan with which Salisbury Diocese has a special link.

On Sunday, 2nd September at 6.00pm Russ and Lyn Noble who run an adult literacy programme there will be paying a return visit to Mere Methodist Church. Also, on Tuesday, 11th September at 2.30pm on the Grove Building, Eva Burton will be talking about her experience working alongside Sudanese Mothers Union Members. Not quite the Olympics, but just as testing!

## **SUDAN STAMPS AND POSTCARDS**

Many thanks for those who contribute stamps and post cards for the Church in Sudan. Now everybody is on holiday this is the time for those post cards 'Wish you were here'. But please, do not remove stamps from the post cards. The cards are worth more than

the stamps. I am told they raised over £12,000 from postcards last year. Please keep the ball rolling! *Peter Durkee.* ☎ 01747 860363

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

# **AUTUMN BAZAAR**

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00am**

**In the Grove Building, Church Street**

**Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Tombola, Cakes, Books, Friends Stall  
Do come along and have a cup of coffee and meet friends.  
Everyone is welcome.**

## **METHODIST CHURCH NOTE**

### **CAFÉ WORSHIP**

Our Coffee Mornings followed by a time of worship midweek are becoming known. Our next one is on Wednesday, 19th September.

Coffee will be available from 10.30am and worship begins at 11.00am. An informal time of shared blessing and friendship - do try it. *Mary Siderfin* ☎ 01747 861370

## **CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE SEPTEMBER 2012**

**The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel: Contact Churchwardens  
Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142 or Mr Peter Mason ☎ 01747 861296**

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		5.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Communion with Baptism
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wednesday	5th	6.00pm	"Start the month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		10.30am	Sunday Club in Grove Building

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Licensing Service for Rev'd Carol Wilson-Baker</b>
Sunday	16th	10.30am 6.00pm	Benefice Holy Communion (CW1) Songs of Praise at <u>Maiden Bradley</u>
	23rd	10.30am 4.00pm	Parish Communion (CW1) Messy Church in Grove Building
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Patronal Festival Parish Communion Celebrant, Archdeacon of Sarum

### **The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	9th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	16th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	23rd	11.00am	HARVEST FESTIVAL at the Methodist Church
	30th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour Back to Church Sunday

### **The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777**

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

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	MISSION SUNDAY Rev'd Helen Caine and Russ & Lyn Noble
Sunday	9th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page Holy Communion
Sunday	16th	6.00pm	Mr Brian Collis
	23rd	11.00am	Rev'd Helen Caine HARVEST FESTIVAL United with URC. Followed by lunch at 1.00pm*
	30th	6.00pm	Rev'd Joyce Norman

\*If anyone would like lunch on 23rd please call Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

### **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	2nd	9.25am	Matins
	9th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)



16th	10.30am	Benefice service at St Michaels, Mere. NO service at West Knoyle
23rd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
30th	10.30am	Patronal Festival at St Michaels, Mere. NO service in West Knoyle

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## DIARY DATES

### SEPTEMBER 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; RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre**

1	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		2.00pm	Friends of Fives Court Autumn Fair	Fives Court
		2.30pm	Mere Gardening Club Show	L
3	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	CC
4	Tue	10.30am	Mere Carers Group meeting	Lynch
5	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
6	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am - 12.00 noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola Film show 'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen'	L
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
7	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Bingo Night	GB
8	Sat	10.00am	Mere Youth Football Club Table-Top Sale	L
		10.30am	Botanical Painting Workshop	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		2.30pm	Annual Fête	Bramley House
9	Sun	3.00pm	Messy Church BBQ	BSF
10	Mon	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		2.00pm	September Short Walk	CP

10	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		8.00pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Carnival Quiz Night	L
12	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
13	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Licensing of new Priest in Charge</b>	<b>St Michaels</b>
14	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 28th)	GB
15	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	CC
<b>MERE CARNIVAL see pages 12/13 for times and venues</b>				
19	Wed	10.30 am	Methodist Church Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.00pm	Boxa Making Workshop – Mere museum	Lib
20	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 27th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 27th)	GB
21	Fri	7.30pm	Suchana Beetle Drive	GB
22	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
23	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
		4.00pm	Messy Church	GB
24	Mon	2.00pm	Zumba Gold	L
25	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip-Reading Classes	GB
26	Wed	7.45am	MDCT Breakfast Meeting see page 13	Walnut
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB
29	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michaels Autumn Bazaar	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC



## ‘SCREEN BITES’ RETURNS TO MERE

On Saturday, 27th October, ‘Screen Bites’ returns to the Lecture Hall in Mere, after its successful visit last year. Once again Mere Fish Farm is generously sponsoring the evening, which will include the Nigel Slater film ‘Toast’, and a talk, probably by Giles Henschel of Screen Bites main sponsor Olives Et Al. There will also be tastings of food from many local producers. More details in the October edition of Mere Matters

The full Screen Bites programme will be available in print and on the website from Friday, 7th September, when tickets, priced at £8, will also be available. Telephone 01963 32525 or email: [screenbites@thanksgiving.demon.co.uk](mailto:screenbites@thanksgiving.demon.co.uk) from that date.

Joy Jolliffe ☎ 01305 871490

## **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 OCTOBER 2012 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the October 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 Monday, 10th September, 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, 17th September**. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

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

**☎: 01985 844740**

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