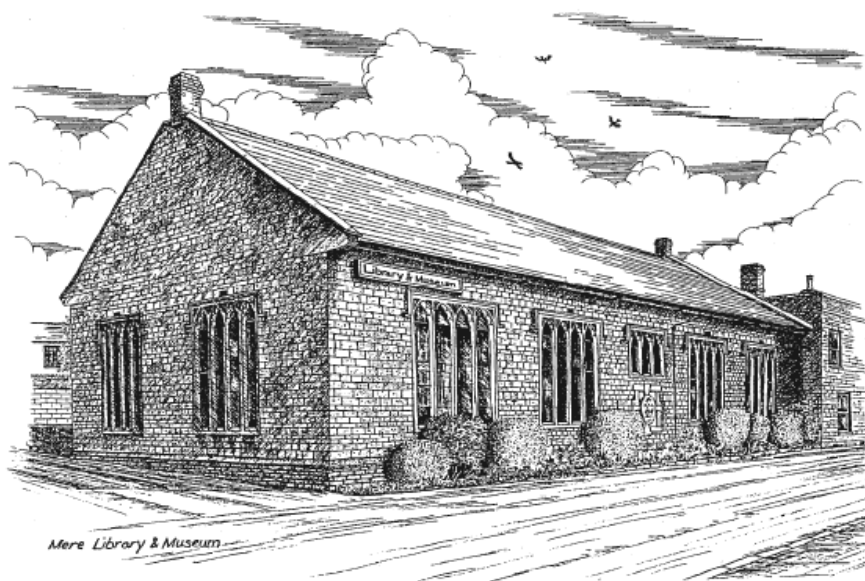


# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND  
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**FEBRUARY 2013**

## 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 **on Monday, 4th February 2013** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

### **The Chairman writes:**

Although Christmas is by now rapidly fading into memory, I must report that the Christmas lighting displays on private houses in Mere were judged again this year and we must thank Mrs. Jill Randall and Mrs. Jinny Brockway from West Knoyle for carrying out this task. They declared the winners to be Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adams of No. 8 Denes Avenue and, as last year, their prize will be presented by George Jeans.

I would like to thank everyone involved who volunteered time and equipment in erecting and taking down the Christmas lights in Mere, with special thanks to our Parish Council staff; Cllr. Eric Mitchell, Cllr. George Jeans, Mr Michael Jeans and, of course, Cllr. Philip Coward & The Hill Brush Company for the loan of the cherry picker and its operator. I have received many messages on how nice the Christmas lights looked, one person saying they even looked better and more stylish than those in London!

We would also like to thank Mr. Bob Parsons for arranging the switching-on ceremony, which was so well attended.

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

*Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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

The Christmas period was busy for me, helping to provide electrics for The Mere Town clock, tree and for Father Christmas, all of which kept me occupied. Richard Coward kindly donated a LED Star, which he would have liked to have been put at the very top

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



of The Mere Town Clock, however this year the star was mounted separately on a pole in The Square.

2013 is now here. Mere Town Football Club are looking to the future with hope and pride for 2013. 2012 was a fantastic year for the Club. Not only did the 1st team win their division for the second season running and gain promotion to the Dorset Senior League (the highest the club has ever been), but the Reserve team also won Division 5. This season has seen continued playing success with the 1st team sitting proudly on top of the Senior League whilst the Reserves lie 2nd in Division 4. Apart from the playing side, the new pitch development is almost complete, which will allow the club to progress further. Chairman Pete Down said "The aim for this season is to get the 1st team into the Dorset Premier League and have a strong reserve team supporting it. We are growing as a club and have firm foundations with a very strong Youth set up which has seen players progress through into the 1st team over the past two seasons, which I can only hope continues."

The groundwater is at unseasonal high levels. I had one household inform me before Christmas 2012 that the water was within 6 feet of their house, luckily I do not think Wiltshire Council has had to provide sand bags anywhere in The Mere area.

I had previously stated 2,730 bottles would have been lit during December 2012 on Bradley Knowle near Kilmington in aid of Breast Cancer. However, this had to be postponed due to poor weather conditions. It is now hoped that you will be able to see the pink and blue lights during June 2013. At five metres wide and three metres high, the installation, called 'Beacon On The Hill', will be by Bruce Munro, of Kilmington.

I have asked for a more effective sign on the Island at the Junction of Water Street and Salisbury Street, to try and deter large vehicles destined for Woodlands Industrial Estate or lost looking for Gillingham. I will attend Community Area Transport Group at Dinton on 15th January to pursue this, plus other Highway safety signs.

Wiltshire Council now is responsible for health matters including public health, health improvement, health protection and healthcare. The average time for an ambulance service to reach Mere is now 8 minutes for a Red 1 or 2 life threatening emergency call, this speed is achieved by the help of our local Fire Brigade, which I am very thankful for. Changes are proposed at present for the ambulance service that covers our area and I shall be mindful of this fact. Parish Councillor Christopher Reeves has reminded me that the defibrillator lock numbers cannot be seen by all, I hope some of you will remember, it is important to have a torch or reading glasses should an emergency arise, not only just in the case of the defibrillator above.

Please look around Mere Square, or ask in the Library for a new bus timetable, dated January 2013, which now displays in effect a reintroduced bus service for Salisbury on a Saturday as well as other services.

A skate park for Mere is being progressed; our new volunteer Roland Heming gave an update to Mere Parish Council at its January 2013 meeting.

Mere Chamber of Trade is applying for funds to work with our local Area of Natural Beauty (ANOB) to promote tourism and help the survival of our shops and services for the next three years. If any more of our shops or services fail, we could end up like some populations of just short of 3,000 adults like ourselves, with one pub and a community shop.

The Hill Brush Company is proposing to move and create 13 more jobs. Businesses usually get bigger or smaller rarely staying the same size. We have a local employer which is growing and bucking the trend of many, which is downward. A Public Consultation event will be at The Grove Building, Church Street, Mere, on Tuesday, 19th February 2013 between 2.30 and 7.30pm.

At our local events I take a camera and over Christmas have had some success publicising Mere in the local media. Lastly, well done all the local residents who helped light up Mere with twinkling lights over the Christmas period.

## **STAYING WARM THIS WINTER**

### **Checklist**



- Wear several thin layers of clothing, rather than one thick one.
- Go for clothes made from wool, cotton or fleecy fabrics.
- Draw your curtains as soon as it gets dark to keep the heat in.
- Keep any windows and internal doors closed to retain heat.
- A lot of heat is lost through the head and neck so if you are chilly indoors try wearing a hat and scarf.
- Your body keeps warm by burning food you have eaten, so make sure you have regular hot meals that contain carbohydrates such as potatoes, pasta, bread and rice. Try porridge with hot milk for breakfast and soups and stews for lunch and dinner.
- If you are sitting down, a shawl or blanket will provide extra warmth.
- Try to keep your feet up, because air is cooler at ground level.
- Wear warm clothes in bed.
- When it is really cold wear thermal underwear, bed socks and even a hat.
- Staying warm is a priority.

The recommended temperature for your main living is 21°C (70° F) and the ideal temperature for your bedroom is 18°C. It is important to keep warm as you are



at risk of a heart attack or a stroke or even hypothermia if you are exposed to a cold environment for a long time or extreme cold for a short time.

Staying warm is your priority especially if you are elderly or infirm.

Talk to your Good Neighbour Coordinator (the undersigned) or  [meregn2@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:meregn2@communityfirst.org.uk) about other ways to stay warm throughout the winter months.  
*Ann-Marie Dean*  07557 922023




## ARE YOU GETTING THE MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO?



Every year, up to £5.5 billion of Pension Credit, Housing Benefits and Council Tax Benefit goes unclaimed by older people in the UK. Last year Age UK Wiltshire helped people claim over £1M of benefits that were missed out on.

If you are aged 60 or over, you could be entitled to benefits that you have not been able to claim before. These can help you keep your independence and improve your standard of living by helping with housing costs, care needs and general expenses.

If you would then like a confidential benefit check from one of our trained advisers, please telephone us  01380 735500. We will be pleased to help you put More Money in Your Pocket.



## ‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS

### Staffing Update

After four years of working with us, PCSO Jake Noble made an agonising decision to make a career move into the British Army. He absolutely loved his job with us and we shall miss his presence, amiable disposition and enthusiasm in supporting our community and keeping us safe. We wish him every success in his new career. Thanks Jake.

A new member of the team will be recruited and details will be published when known. Until then, PC Richard Salter will be assisted by PCSO Gary Chambers who is based in Tisbury; however this will be on a part-time basis. It is still business as usual!

### Success story in brief

Imagine being a young lady on holiday in mid-wales over Christmas and not being able to get in touch by telephone with your family in Mere – you would be concerned I am sure. The lady in question looked on the Wiltshire Police web site, found the link to MereNeighbours web site, was then able to speak to someone living in Mere and within

10 minutes after a quick visit, was able to hear that her family was well. Their telephone had been switched off. Phew! - What a relief. MereNeighbours worked for her! Have you set up emergency contacts for you and your family?

Our newsletters are freely available in the Post Office, Library and from the Grove Building. You can also stay up to date and get all newsletters from the web site at [www.MereNeighbours.co.uk](http://www.MereNeighbours.co.uk). Have you joined the 400+ registrations on the Web Site for inclusion on the Emergency Notification circulation? By so doing you will be informed of any major local issues. We are always available for help and advice and our contacts are:

*PC Richard Salter ☎ 101 (24hrs)*

*✉ [richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

For matters relating to MereNeighbours only:

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

**SOUTH WEST WILTS CONSERVATIVE  
ASSOCIATION  
MERE BRANCH**

**ARE HOLDING AN OPEN MEETING  
AT ZEALS VILLAGE HALL  
ON FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2013 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm  
A WARM GREETING WITH NIBBLES**

**To introduce**

**DR. ANDREW MURRISON MP**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence**  
**Questions and answers on**

**THE COALITION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

**Bob Munden, ☎ 01747 863318**

## RETIREMENT OF LIZ FRICKER

Twelve years of association with Mere Matters came to a close on the 31st December 2012 when Liz Fricker retired from preparing each edition of the magazine for print. For much of the time, Liz had actually printed the magazine on her own printing equipment, but when that passed its sell by date Liz continued preparing the artwork and organised a local print company to undertake the final production stage of printing and finishing.

On behalf of previous Editors and myself, and indeed many Mere residents, who have made use of Liz's locally based professional publishing services for a wide range of printing and media requirements, I would like to publicly thank Liz for all her advice, help and patient guidance over the years, which has seen Mere Matters published on time month by month without waver. Thank you Liz for a job well done, and we all wish you well in retirement.

*Graham Avory, Editor*

## WEATHER REPORT

In November we had 139mms (5.47ins) of rain, last year 63mms (2.48ins). Most fell in the second half of the month. During the first half we had several frosty mornings followed by cold sunshine.

In December we had 175.5mms (6.91ins) and last year, 2011, we had 128.5 mms (5.06in). Again most of the rain fell in the second half of the month. In the first half we had several frosty mornings followed by sunshine.

2013 started drier. Up to the 13th we only had 22.5mms (0.89ins). Readers might be interested to know the monthly rainfall for the months of 2011 and 2012. They are as follows in mms:-

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April	May	June	July
2011	118.5	66.5	26.5	18.5	41.5	115.0	53.0
2012	53.5	25.0	28.0	166.5	39.0	148.0	157.0

	August	Sept.	October	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL	
2011	102.0	56.0	64.5	63.0	128.5	<b>853.5</b>	(33.6in)
2012	121.5	56.5	133.0	139.0	175.5	<b>1242.5</b>	(48.92in)

Whilst the rain for 2012 is about 50% higher than 2011, it is not the highest. We had 1280.5 mms (50.41ins) in 2008 and 1304.5 (51.36ins) in 2007.

I take this opportunity to wish all readers a Happy New Year and successful gardening and crop growing.

*Peter Durkee*

**WANTED: GARAGE TO RENT FOR CLASSIC CAR.**

Secure and dry garage space needed for one or possibly two classic cars. Minimum requirement 5.0 mtrs x 2.5 mtrs. Mere is preferred but surrounding area considered.

Simon Duffin (home) 01747 861820 (mob) 0779 2622326 or (work) 01963 435805 or [sduffin@spcint.com](mailto:sduffin@spcint.com)





## **Mere Dental Practice**

*The practice has two Dentists - Stephen Sherrard & Christopher Davies  
and two 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 entrance*

## **MERE SURGERY**

### **Communication**

Communication between the surgery and our patients is very important to ensuring that we deliver the best possible care. We are constantly looking at ways of making this more effective for individual patients.

### **Prescription messages**

For patients who receive repeat medications, we have for some months now been using the repeat ordering side of your medication slip to communicate important messages. These are printed in bold type and are personalised to your own care. For instance, they are designed to remind or inform you of when your medications are due for review, a blood pressure check is necessary or blood tests may be needed. Please take a moment to check for new messages on your repeats slip when you pick up medication even if you request your medication online.

### **Mobile phone messaging (SMS)**

We are planning to trial a new system using mobile phone reminders for patients who would like to use this service. Like other healthcare providers such as dentists, we plan to remind patients of upcoming appointments or if appointments need to be booked by patients, which will reduce the number of wasted appointments that we have each

month. This will only occur if you “opt-in” – i.e. you must both provide the surgery with your mobile phone number and sign a form agreeing to us using the mobile telephone for the messaging reminder service.

We plan to use the text-messaging service as an additional reminder, but please don't rely on it! There are many areas locally where reception is poor so it won't always work perfectly, but we hope it will be useful for our patients with mobile telephones who lead busy lives. If you would like to take advantage of the service, please ask one of our receptionists for a form to read and sign, and we can then add you to use the system.

*Ceri Moore, Practice Manager, Tel: 01747 860001*

## HEARING AID CLINIC



The hearing aid clinic will be closed on Wednesday, 6th of February but will re-open as normal on Wednesday, 6th March from 10.00 to 11.30am in the surgery.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

*Gill Drayson, Action On Hearing Loss, ☎ 01722 580014*

## SUSPENSION OF “DROP-IN” FOR MERE CARERS

Unfortunately the monthly Mere “drop-in” for Carers at Lynch Close has been suspended until further notice due to low interest and attendance.

We would be happy to restart the group if and when we have enough interest.

If you are in need of support, information or advice then please get in touch with Carer Support Wiltshire:

☎ **FREEPHONE 0800 181 4118**

✉ **[admin@carersinwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:admin@carersinwiltshire.co.uk)**

**[www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.carersinwiltshire.co.uk)**

## MERE LIPREADING CLASS:

Do you sometimes struggle to hear? Do you find it more difficult to join in conversations in a noisy environment? You don't need to be very deaf before this becomes a problem. Why not do something about it before it does!

Have you thought of trying to improve your ability to communicate more easily but don't know how? Well, help is at hand! Why not join our friendly Mere Lipreading Group. You will certainly meet people in the same boat and enjoy learning new skills in a small group of like-minded people. We are all people who used to be able to hear well and are struggling sometimes to go about our daily lives when we miss some of what is said to us.

The class explains how to use better strategies to cope with your hearing loss. It will help you access helpful equipment and give you an insight into why your hearing loss makes it difficult to understand what people are saying. It also explains to you why shouting at you is no use at all, but just makes you look cross! It will explain to you why you miss some bits of words, but hear some other bits perfectly well!

Lipreading to hearing loss is what a walking stick is to bad leg! It doesn't cure the condition, but it makes it much easier to cope with it! Along the way, you will meet some very friendly people and you will definitely start to look forward to Tuesday mornings!

If this appeals, simply come along to a class in the Grove Building (Tuesdays, 5th and 12th February 10.15am-12.15pm) and give it a go, or please contact me. You will be very welcome! ✉ [elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ian.messer@gmail.com)

*Elizabeth Messer ☎ 01300 348580 📠 07786 024179*

## **MERE LIBRARY**

### **Book Sale – Monday, 11th – Saturday, 23rd February 2013.**

Top up your Book Shelves for Spring. We are holding a Sale of Adults and Children's Fiction and Non Fiction, DVD's and Spoken Word Cassettes. For further information, please contact Mere Library ✉ [sally-ann.parry@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sally-ann.parry@wiltshire.gov.uk)

*Sally-Ann Parry, Library Supervisor, ☎ 01747 860546*

## **AVOID THE CLASH – USE THE MERE DIARY**

**DID YOU KNOW?** There is a diary kept in the Library for clubs and organisations to enter their events. It is a really good way of letting new residents and visitors know what is on and also to check that your event does not clash with others. Please, do make use of it. *Editor*

## **SOUTH WILTSHIRE CREDIT UNION**

### ***Did You Miss Out on an easy way to save for Christmas?***

There is a Credit Union in Mere run by local people for local people. It is regulated by the FSA and your money is ring-fenced. Nothing can go bust and no one can run off with your funds.

Money can be deposited at Mere Library on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, or at the Post Office in Waltons during opening hours. Other payment methods are available, eg. by standing order.

- Dividend paid last year was 2.5%.

- Money can be withdrawn when required.
- Save for Christmas, or holidays or that washing machine.
- Children's accounts are also available.

After a period of regular saving low-interest loans are available. Forget Pay Day loans and other crippling high interest loans. Use your Credit Union. **Easy and safe.**

For more details, come and see us in the Library on the 1st or 3rd Saturdays of the month between 10.00 and 11.00am or pick up a leaflet at the Post Office

### ***Do Not Miss Out Next Christmas!***

Would you consider volunteering to help run this excellent scheme?

Come and talk about it one Saturday. *Russell Carpenter* ☎ 01747 861365

## **MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME**

**Requests for Transport ☎ 01747 860096**

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of Pat Dence and Dennis Flexney-Briscoe, both of whom gave valuable help to the Linkscheme for a number of years, Pat as Co-ordinator and Dennis as Treasurer.

Having recently recruited two new Co-ordinators to join the existing team, this seems an ideal time for me to retire. Over the years I have learned how much the Linkscheme is valued and I have enjoyed getting to know so many people – some of them just “telephone” friends.

I would like to say a very special thank you to the drivers – and their families. Whatever the problem, however frantic the Co-ordinator, someone always comes to the rescue.

And finally, a thank you to all the Co-ordinators, past and present, for your support and friendship.

*Molly Burden*

## **TRUSSELL TRUST - CHRISTMAS BOXES**

A Huge ‘Thank You’ to all the people of Mere, Maiden Bradley, outlying villages and the Sparkford Yoga group for your thoughtfulness, generosity and kindness which resulted in nearly 150 Christmas boxes going to Bulgaria. These brought such joy to men, women and children, who have so little, and do not receive gifts at all.

I not only took the car load of gift boxes to the Trussell Trust’s depot in Salisbury, but also a separate load of about 260 beautifully knitted hats and gloves, scarves, sweaters and baby clothes. These were taken to the orphanages and refuges and schools where there are now nice warm heads and hands and bodies despite the freezing weather. Knitters of Mere- you are amazing – ‘Thank You’ and keep on knitting!

In all, the Trussell Trust took a grand total of 6,657 boxes, which was nearly a 1,000 more than last year, driving through quite treacherous conditions to bring such happiness at Christmas time to the forgotten people of Bulgaria. Thank you all, so much!

*Wendy Horne. 01747 861712*

## **MERE CARNIVAL**

Firstly, the Carnival Committee would like to express their thanks to the Co-op and The George for their continued support with the refreshments for the visit of Father Christmas to Mere in December. Mince pies and a hot drink were enjoyed by all.

### **Forthcoming Carnival Events for your Diary**

**Monday, 4th February**

**AGM** at 6.45pm in the Andy Young Pavillion – an open meeting.

**Thursday, 18th April**

**CARNIVAL QUIZ** - 7.30pm start - Lecture Hall

**Saturday, 14th September**

**MERE CARNIVAL DAY**

Carnival bingo, film and quiz during Carnival week - dates to be confirmed.

*Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639*



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

### **Recent Activity**

A successful Social Evening was held just before Christmas. Since then, most activity has been in the

preparation of a bid to South West Wilts Area Board for funding a local project. This will involve the local community as well as members of the Chamber. We hope to give more details next month.

**'Meet your Neighbours' - The meeting of 5 Chambers.** On Wednesday, 23rd January 2013, Mere Chamber participated in a joint event with Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Tisbury and Wilton Chambers of Commerce held at Orchard Park in Gillingham. This meeting provided an opportunity to network with a wider group of businesses and to meet our neighbours!

The date of next Chamber Committee Meeting is to be advised.

For further information on the Chambers activities and meeting plans, this event or any of our meetings, please contact me.

*Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576*

## **"CALL MY BLUFF" - GENTLEMEN V. LADIES**

***Friday, 8th February 2013 @ 7.30pm  
The Grove Building***

Once again, by popular request, two teams will attempt to deceive each other about the meanings of some unusual words.

Keeping order will be Peter Mason as Chairman. Hamish Bell, David Leakey and John Page will represent the 'Gentlemen', and Adrienne Howell, Ann Jeffries and Mary White will represent the 'Ladies'.

This promises to be another entertaining evening.

There will be a bar, and light refreshments will be served in the interval. Tickets will be available from the New Year at £7 each [which includes your first glass of wine] from the Information Desk in the Library or from 16 Homefield, Mere [☎ 01747-861776].

Tickets are limited, so get your bid in early!

*Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776*



## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The winter programme is now underway and a reminder to all our members: if you have not paid your subscription since the December mailing (or in the previous 6 months) please do so or miss out on the next mailing!

To current or future members the cost is £5 per household per year payable to Mere Theatre Club and given to Wendy Horne, The Cottage, Waterside, Mere, BA12 6EE.

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

## SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony would like to thank everyone who attended its Christmas Concert in The Grove Building just before Christmas. The evening helped to raise nearly £250.00, enabling the choir to make a donation of £300.00 to the local branch of Home Start, a charity offering support for families with young children in times of crisis.

A big thank you also to the Co op for their generous donation of Mulled Wine towards the refreshments. A good evening was had by all!

Shreen Harmony are now busy rehearsing this year's programme of songs from around the world under the able and fun musical directorship of Caroline Radcliffe. Be sure to keep an eye out for our future performance dates in the local area.

The choir is currently running at full capacity, but if you would like to join we will be happy to add your name to the waiting list and to welcome you as soon as a vacancy arises. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings at Mere United Reformed Church from 7.30 – 9.00pm.

You can learn more from our website: [www.shreenharmony.co.uk](http://www.shreenharmony.co.uk) and we are also on Facebook, so please feel free to 'like' our page! *Jane Edwards ☎ 01985 850065*

## MERE FILM SHOWS

The film this month is **'Gambit'** (12A), on Thursday, 7th February, a 'delightful crime caper' with a compelling cast of Colin Firth, Alan Rickman, Tom Courtenay, Cameron Diaz and the wonderful Stanley Tucci. The story is of an art curator, Harry Dean, who decides to seek revenge on his abusive, millionaire, art collector boss by conning him into buying a fake Monet, but his plan requires the help of, amongst others, an eccentric and unpredictable Texas rodeo queen. Despite his careful organisation, things do not go entirely as they should, and in the end Harry finds he has other things on his mind! Full details on page 26.

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

**Friday, 8th March:** **'Quartet'** with Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Billy Connolly.

**Thursday, 11th April: 'Skyfall' with Daniel Craig and Judi Dench.**

*Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

## **MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

Plans are afoot to repeat the dazzling success of MADS's Variety Show (2010) in the spring. Rehearsals are already under way, though we don't have performance dates yet. It depends a bit on how we get on. But all vital information will be provided in the next issue of Mere Matters. Watch out!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **LIONS CLUB "THANK YOU"**

**Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury Lions Club** would like to thank their very generous sponsors and volunteers for making this year's Christmas Santa Float such a success. Also, we would like to say a big thank you to the very generous donations that were made by the general public as the float made its way around the neighbourhood. As usual the money raised will be used to support various local charities.

*Paul Holmes ☎ 0845 8337521*

## **SHORT WALK**

**Wednesday, 20th February.** After the festivities, why not come and stretch your legs on one of our Short Walks. These are 3-4 miles around the Mere paths and by-ways with tea at The Angel Cafe afterwards, for those who wish to indulge. Meet in the main Salisbury Street Car Park at 2.00pm.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **MERE GARDENING CLUB**

A fun quiz evening was enjoyed by Garden Club members on 9th January when it was discovered that members were not only very knowledgeable about plants, seeds, flowers and all things gardening-wise, but also were brilliant wordsmiths (anagrams), Actors (charades) and poets (Limericks). Here was the winning contribution from the Shears team:

*There was a young gardener from Mere  
Who was rather acclaimed for her rear.  
So when she bent over,  
To weed or dig clover,  
All the lads from the town gave a cheer!*

The talk at our meeting on Wednesday, 13th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building is "Ponds and Water Gardening" by Tom Harper. Tom is the owner, with Jane, of Fat Fish Aquatics, Castle Gardens. If you do not have a pond in your garden, this talk is sure to inspire you to think again. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**



**Sunday, 17th February**  
**Potato Day Plus!**  
Grove Building  
10.00am – 2.00pm

Following last year's success, we're hosting another of ***Pennard Plant's renowned potato days*** – over 80 varieties of tuber and all ***sold individually***. So whether you wish to grow a few potatoes in a tub, or fill your allotment this is the chance to buy an old familiar favourite or try a new variety. Much, much more including fruit trees, bulbs and seed swap. Plus, stalls from Thorngrove and a competition for children. Potato-themed refreshments served throughout the day. *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

**COMMUNITY LUNCH**

A happy New Year to everyone, and thank you all for your support in 2012. The Community Lunch will be held on the second Tuesday of the month up to Easter at the following places:

**Celebrate St Valentines Day (early) with us on**

Tuesday, 12th February 2013

at The Old Ship Hotel, Salisbury Street, starting at 12.00noon.

The two course meal will cost £8.99p, drinks are not included. Please book in advance  
☎ 01747 863388

The March lunch will be held at the Walnut Tree Inn on Tuesday, 12th March 2013.

*Lynette Elliot ☎ 07864 077578*

**'THAT OLD WOMAN WALKS FAST'**

**Three views of Nepal. A Nepalese Evening**

Come along to The Grove Building at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26th February and hear about my amazing visit to Nepal last October/ November.

I combined a visit to a friend and his family with a trek in the magnificent Annapurna Range of the Himalayas and visits to some of the Fair Trade Groups - all incredible experiences.

Taste some Nepalese goodies, sample its delicious tea, view some of the beautiful crafts made and hear how lives have been transformed. I look forward to seeing you.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

**ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)**  
**The Day Centre for Mere and District, Lynch Close, Mere**  
**Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm**

*'It's behind you!'... 'Oh, no it isn't'... 'Oh, yes it is!'* Yes we are full of Pantomime joy here at the RGC after a fantastic trip to Salisbury playhouse to see Sleeping Beauty. All of our guests really enjoyed the show and actively participated as audiences should, remembering the sound of our dear Alan shouting out 'doomed' when Beauty and Prince were to be wed still makes me giggle now.

***Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas quiz. £115 was raised for activities. Winners were Ann Newbery and Ann Dethick, who shared the prize.***

Our next exciting fundraising event is a Bonhams's Valuation Day (Notice follows).

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 📞 07835 272406*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE**  
**MONDAY, 11th FEBRUARY**



Rosemary  
Goddard  
Centre

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE  
Mere and District Day Centre for Older People

Bonhams

1793

# **Valuation Day - Thursday 7 March 2013**

**10.00am – 3.00pm**

**United Reformed Church**

In aid of the Rosemary Goddard Centre

## **Entrance:**

£2 includes 1 item for valuation and a drink

£5 includes 2 – 3 items and a drink

(Any antique you can carry yourself may be brought along for valuation)




Rosemary  
Goddard  
Centre

**All categories covered (except stamps)**

**Refreshments**

details: [www.meredaycentre.org.uk](http://www.meredaycentre.org.uk)

## **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**  **07809 738237**

## CHOIR FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

It is recognised that losing your sight can cause loss of confidence, feeling alone and isolation, but one of the legacies of the Paralympics and the Para-orchestra is that it does not have to be like that.

So to this end, a choir has been formed for blind and visually impaired people living in Salisbury and surrounding areas.

The first session in 2013 will start on Friday, 22nd February 2013, at the British Legion Club, Endless Street, Salisbury at 11.00am until 12.30pm for five weekly sessions, costing £5 per session.

If you need a lift, local surgeries and public libraries, can put you in contact with voluntary schemes. Do come and join us to meet friends and find support. It does not matter if you cannot sing, that will soon be resolved by our professional choir mistress. For further details, please contact me.

*Lynette Elliot ☎ 07864 077578*



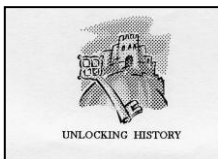
## BRAINWAVE

Christmas is over and all the tinsel and decorations have been packed away. Many of you may have seen the display in our smaller shop window. It featured 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' with all the characters mentioned in the traditional Christmas song being depicted. All, including the Lords a'leaping and swans a'swimming, had been hand-knitted by one of Mere's original volunteers, Shirley Thomas. What dedication and patience, Shirley, and what a sight it was to see. Well done indeed!

Also on the subject of our window, we shall once again be giving those with a romantic frame of mind the chance to declare their undying love in public. Red, heart-shaped cards will be available for purchase at the counter so that messages of love can be written on them and displayed on the window for Valentine's Day (14 February). The cost is £1 per message.

For further information about Brainwave, please call the shop during business hours:

**☎ 01747 863432**



## **MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **The Splendours of Venice**

#### **By Hendrika Foster**

***Tuesday, 5th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building***

Hendrika Foster is an art historian living in Wincanton. The Wincanton Museum and History Society have found her talks spell-binding. **£2.00 entry for non-members, who are very welcome.**

#### **Morning Talk**

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 19th February is: "With FAO/UN from Bangladesh to Barbados" by Tony Grinyer. We meet 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**

With our latest exhibition well and truly launched just before Christmas, we have been turning our thoughts to the next one! This will be a **photography exhibition** with the photographs supplied by you, the readers of Mere Matters! We would welcome photographs of any subject taken in Mere and hope that this will encourage those of you with a photographic eye (and a camera of course) to contribute.

There will be a few guidelines for photographers who wish to take part, and a copy of these can be picked up now at the Museum. They will also be published in the next issue of Mere Matters. What a perfect New Year's project!

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM**

The Friends would like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas fundraiser, the Chester House production of 'Canterbury Tales', though by now it probably seems like a distant memory. But fear not!

Other exciting events are in the pipeline; for example, this is a very early announcement. We will be holding our famous, annual plant sale on Saturday, 11th May. More details nearer the time.

*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## **GROVE BUILDING RESTORATION FUND**

The result of the '100' Club Draw for December, drawn on Friday, 7th December 2012 by The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker was:

- 1st Prize (£60) - No. 180 Mrs Jennifer Mello
- 2nd Prize (£40) - No. 25 Mr, J Pattison
- 3rd Prize (£20) - No. 175 Mr J Moore
- 4th Prize (£10) - No. 132 Rev'd Judith Thompson
- 5th Prize (£10) No. 69 Dr M Plaxton

The result of the '100' Club Draw for December, drawn on Wednesday, 9th January 2013 by Mr J. van Sloten was:

- 1st Prize (£20) - No. 129 Rev'd Caroline Wareham
- 2nd Prize (£15) - No. 172 Mrs Carol Brewer
- 3rd Prize (£10) No. 168 Mrs R. Welch
- 4th Prize (£5) - No. 64 Mrs J Croxton-Smith

*Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964*

## **MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

**Next meeting: Thursday, 7th February at  
7.30pm in the Grove Building.**

Jane Hurd will speak on "Working as a Police Chaplin." If you are interested, please come along and join us.

Visitors are always welcome.

*Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007*





## **MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP**

We started the year with a lively and enjoyable meal out together at The Ship Hotel and our February meeting promises to be equally engaging.

It is International Marriage Week and we will be Celebrating Marriage and Family Life with The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker and her husband Neil in relation to our theme for the year, and the fact that it's **Shrove Tuesday, 12th February 2.30pm, Grove Building.**

Intrigued? Come and join us! Everyone welcome.

*Judith Thompson (MU Branch Leader) ☎ 01747 860553*

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

# **'Gambit'** (12A)

**Colin Firth   Cameron Diaz   Alan Rickman**

To get the better of his nasty millionaire employer (Rickman), downtrodden art curator Harry (Firth) enlists the help of an expert forger (Tom Courtenay) and a Texas cowgirl (Diaz). Lions, Ming vases and missing trousers all play a part in this delightful crime caper scripted by the Cohen brothers.

**In the Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday, 7th February, 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)**



## CASTLE HILL QUILTERS

Our first meeting of the New Year was on 10th January when twenty-eight members had a very enjoyable lunch together at the Walnut Tree before our regular meeting at the Grove Building.

On Thursday, 7th February, we are looking forward to a visit by Constance Zimmer of Textile Conservation Limited. Constance will be talking to us about textile conservation, and particularly about quilt conservation. We would be happy to welcome anyone who is interested in this subject at a charge of £3.50 for visitors. Our meetings are held at the Grove Building every Thursday and begin at 2.00pm.

*Jennie Hoffman, President, ☎ 01747 860514*

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club opens for registration and hopefully a game on Saturday, 6th April. All existing and prospective new bowlers are requested to turn up at the green on Springfield Road (opposite the dental surgery) at 2.30pm to pay their dues for the coming year. This will be followed by a 'spider' and a roll-up (weather permitting).

An Open Day and Fete will be held by the Club in early or mid May (dates have yet to be finalised). There will be bowls coaches on hand to guide beginners through the basics and to give everyone who wishes to have a go a chance to bowl on our hallowed turf – please bring flat shoes or be prepared to bowl in your socks. If you don't give it a try you will never know how good the game is!

For any information regarding the club or the sport of Bowls please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Jeff Vigers ☎ 01747 860976 & ✉ [jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk), or me, Don Butchers ✉ [don.butchers@btinternet.com](mailto:don.butchers@btinternet.com)

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775*

## MERE SNOOKER CLUB

Interested in acquiring a new skill? Mere Snooker Club welcomes new members, whether experienced players or complete beginners, and yes, we have lady members too. Contact the Secretary for details.

Advance notice for members, the Club's AGM is on Friday, 22nd February at 7.30pm; See you there.

*Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305.*

**Art and Craft Work by Roger Dennis**

Animal Portraits, Wildlife Pictures, Landscapes and Line Drawings.

Framing, Cane Work and Model Making

**[www.roger-dennis.com](http://www.roger-dennis.com)** Home: 01747 860138 Mobile: 07778016081

## MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL SOCCER SCHOOL

Training has resumed after the Christmas break, with the children eager to get fit for the remainder of the season. New members, from 5years to 16years are always welcome, at any time of the year. Please contact the secretary Julie Hodge (number below), who will give you the appropriate manager's name and contact.

First training session is free to all new members and then £2 per week training fee is payable.

Are there any retired footballers or any parents or supporters of the club who would be willing to run the line on a Saturday or Sunday for any of the teams, please? The managers are struggling to find people willing to help. Also referees are in short supply, so if there is anyone out there willing to referee for a small nominal fee, again, please contact the secretary, Julie Hodge, and she will pair you up with a team that is playing.

The Race Night held at the Walnut Tree, Mere, in November was again a huge success; many, many thanks go to Mark and Sam who made the whole evening possible.

*Julie Hodge, Secretary, ☎ 07808 715725*

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

At the time of writing it is early January and the Team at Mere Children's Centre would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for all you support over the last year.

After a good festive season we are back in action and fired with new enthusiasm. We welcome Lizzie Moran back from maternity leave and so we say farewell to Rachel and Valda who have been covering for her. Valda is now working in Wilton and Rachel in Warminster. Many thanks to both of them for all their hard work at Mere Children's Centre.

Rachel is still at Mere on Monday mornings running our **Parenting Course**. This is an invaluable course with great tips on parenting and which helps you to get the behaviour that you want from your children. If you are interested in future courses please ring the number below to put your name on our waiting list.

New for 2013, **Mere Babes** has now changed to 1.30pm on Friday afternoons so families can attend this session as well as going to Baby Clinic at the Health Centre. **Stay and Play** continues on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am as does **Musical Beginnings** in Zeals at 10.00am on Tuesday mornings.

We are out and about much more, working in partnership with other organisations to reach as many of you as possible. For Mere, we will be joining up with Tiddlers and Toddlers on the **3rd Thursday** of the month and cooking with Mere Pre-school on the

**1st Thursday** of the month so that those who attend Mere Pre-School can benefit from our great kitchen facilities.

On **Wednesdays**, Gary Lamont from Wiltshire Wildlife will be joining **Stay and Play** for six weeks to give us some tips on **Healthy Eating**. His enthusiasm for healthy and easy cooking is infectious. He always brings some delicious new recipes for us to try.

On Friday mornings we have an informal **Drop In** for those who want to pop in and have a cup of coffee and socialise and use our facilities.

Every day we have **Story Time Café** at 2.45pm for parents to come and have a cup of coffee and for their children to listen to a story read by our staff and then chose a book from our Bookstart range to take home with them. Books read to even very young children encourage a love of reading which is invaluable to your children when they are learning to read at school and promotes the development of speech and language.

If you are interested in any of the groups mentioned above, we would love to see you and get to know you. We are a happy, friendly and welcoming team dedicated to providing activities for your children which will promote and encourage their development. Come along and meet us or give us a call on the number below for more information and a leaflet about our activities.

**First Aid for Parents:** We have had some enquiries about running a First Aid Course. Normally First Aid Courses which give you a qualification at the end cost in the region of £100 to £150. However, 4 Children are offering a great deal in partnership with Learning Curve. They can run one for just £20. It can be run on a Saturday to assist with childcare. We do need a minimum number of 10 attendees and the course is open to those who have a child who will still be five at the end of reception or younger. We are looking to run this course in March so please ring as soon as possible to get your name down for this great offer.

*Jane Smith, Support Worker, ☎ 01747 861108*

# ***SILVER CLASS REPORTS***



## ***YEAR 2***

**STOP PRESS!**  
Look on our website for  
latest news and pictures:  
**[www.mereschool.co.uk](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)**

### **A great start to the New Year at Mere School**

We are all excited about the start of the New Year which means new class topics! In Silver Class we will be focusing on Heroes – real and fictional. We are looking forward to our ‘Superhero Day’ later in the term when we all dress up and practise our team building skills.

#### **Busy Blue Class**

With an exciting trip to the Post Office, Blue Class are already busy with their topic ‘People who help us’. They each wrote and posted their own letters home.

#### **New topics**

Other new topics are Yellow Class – Animals, Gold Class – Adventures and Explorers, Green Class – India, Red Classes – Africa, and Purple Class – Angry Aztecs!

#### **Strictly Come Dancing**

Purple Class were busy at the end of last term perfecting their dancing skills in preparation their ‘Dance Off’. The whole school was invited to watch the incredible talent and assist the judges in the final vote.

#### **Festive Fun**

The whole school took part in our own Christmas performances. Key Stage 2 had great fun singing and acting in ‘What Christmas means to me’. A highlight was Rich Clifford and the Bella Fonté Sisters.

‘Robin’s Christmas Sing-along’ was beautifully performed by Key Stage 1 with lots of imaginative and colourful costumes.

#### **Super Sleeping Beauty**

At the end of the Christmas term we also enjoyed a fantastic pantomime trip to watch ‘Sleeping Beauty’ in Salisbury. Yellow Class thought it was brilliant but a little bit scary in parts too!

#### **Cool Carols**

Both Red Classes visited Fives Court and Bramley House to sing Christmas Carols to the residents. It was a great success and enjoyed by young and old, alike, with some of the elderly even joining in the singing.

We had a fantastic Autumn Term and are now looking forward to a great 2013!

## **REV'D HELEN CAINE, METHODIST MINISTER WRITES:**

February sees the Church mark the beginning of Lent, in which we prepare for Easter. You may be thinking, "What? We have only just celebrated Christmas and already we look forward to Easter!" The Church's calendar can be relentless as well as confusing. A couple of years ago in a church I overheard a young boy, who on being told that the baby in the manger was called Jesus, suddenly exclaimed, "He died, didn't he?"

A text that links Christmas and Easter comes from Paul's letter to the Philippians (Ch 2: 5 - 8): *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."*

How can we humble ourselves in preparation for Easter? Possibly, by joining everyone else for Pancake Day. This day is the last remnant of a feast, before the fast of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, 13th February. Fasting takes many forms in 2013, reflecting the individual way that we interpret centuries' old tradition. There is giving up certain practices especially certain foods. And there is giving up giving up, or adopting special spiritual disciplines.

For a Methodist emphasis on Lent, I would commend joining with other people during this period. For the life of the Christian disciple is not meant to be a solitary one. John Wesley spoke about social holiness. And his brother Charles penned the lines:

*"All praise to our redeeming Lord,  
Who joins us by his grace,  
And bids us, each to each restored,  
Together seek his face." (Hymns & Psalms 753 v1)*

Let's take this season seriously and seek new disciplines, and then share the insights God gives us along the way. Therefore I commend to you the Lent courses and the Lent lunches.

February can still be a dark and lonely month, so looking outward to our neighbours - of whatever faith, or none – could bring particular blessing.

## **LENT LUNCHES**

These begin on Friday, 15th February at 12.30pm in The Grove Building and continue throughout Lent. Organised by Churches Together in Mere and District, you will always find a warm, friendly welcome and have the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Home-made soup is served with bread and cheese and a drink afterwards - just what is needed to cheer up these dreary days.

There will also be a stall of bric-a-brac and home-made produce and as all proceeds go to the work of Christian Aid and CAFOD you will be supporting a worthwhile cause at the same time. Further details from me. *Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## **LENT SPRING CLEAN AT ST MICHAELS**

Everyone is invited to come along to St Michael's for a Lent Spring Clean of the church on Saturday, 16th March. Please, bring your own dusters, polish etc. Gentlemen (or very brave ladies) to do the high places at 9.30am and Ladies of a more delicate disposition at 10.00am after the dust has settled! Possibility of special refreshments provided. Further details from:

*Jean Knapp, Churchwarden ☎ 01747 860142*

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT LENT STUDIES 2013**

There are two options for Lent Studies this year

1) On Tuesdays, 10.30am at the URC, Mere; and  
on Wednesdays, 7.30pm at the Grove Building, Mere; starting 19th/20th February.

A six week Lent series of study and discussion,

*'This is our story: journeys of faith'*

Written by Rev'd Nicholas Sagovski

And led by local ministers.

(See: [www.ctbi.org.uk/622](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/622))

2) On Monday evenings, 7.00pm at  
Manor Farm, Kilmington, BA12 6RW  
And Thursdays 10.00-11.30am, at  
Randalls Barn, Old Pound Court, Bourton, SP8.5ST  
Starting on 18th and 21st February.

By Nick Fawcett, led by lay people and ministers

A five week series entitled '*Spot the Difference*'.

Each session will last about 1½ hours.

To help us in planning the arrangements, please sign up on the lists in church, or contact one of the following, by Sunday, 10th February:

Rev'd Chris Moorsom (☎ 01747 840221)

Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker (☎ 01747 861859)

Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp (☎ 01747 228262)

Rev'd Helen Caine (☎ 01747 854631)

## **FAIR TRADE AT ST MICHAEL'S**

There has been a Fair Trade Stall after the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month at St Michaels for the past two years. As from 17th March, it will be held on the third Sunday of each month and hopefully my loyal supporters will still be able to come for their fairly traded goodies.

There is always a selection of foods and beautiful hand-made cards for that special occasion, so if you have not visited the stall, why not give it a try and know you are giving someone else a chance in life to move out of poverty.

Don't forget there is also a Traidcraft stall at St Mary's RC church on the fourth Sunday and at the URC Coffee Morning on the third Saturday of each month.

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

### Café Worship

Wednesday, 27th February at 11.00am in the Methodist School Room. Coffee begins at 10.30am. A time of refreshment and blessing - try it!

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

**You are warmly invited to a merry**



### **SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING**

**in the Grove Building, in aid  
of Suchana on Tuesday,  
12th February at 7.30pm**

**Tickets £4.00 per person (including pancakes)**

**Quiz Teams of 4. Come as a Team or come on your own!**

**Licensed Bar**

For information/booking contact Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

or Jean Kantharia ☎ 01747 861168

### **JULIAN MEETING – ECUMENICAL QUIET PRAYER GROUP**



As the Churches Together in Mere & District Lent Course will be meeting on Wednesday, 27th February there will be NO Julian meeting in February.

We will meet, however on Wednesday, 27th March, in Holy Week, and will continue with our regular Quiet Prayer meetings in the Upper Room of the Grove Building on the last Wednesday of each month for the rest of the year.

These are ecumenical meetings, and EVERYONE is always welcome to come.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553



# CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

## February 2013

**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**

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Monday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Tuesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		9.15am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Thursday</b>	The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker is not available		
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	CANDLEMAS
			Christingle Family service
			(Non - Eucharistic)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wednesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy
			Communion (BCP)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Wednesday	13th	7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY
			Ashing and Holy Communion
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship
		4.00pm	"Messy Church" in Grove Building

**The United Reformed Church**

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

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
	10th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Holy Communion
	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour
	24th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

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

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

Sunday	3rd	3.30pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
	10th	6.00pm	Mr and Mrs M Rawlins
	17th	6.00pm	<b>United Service at Gillingham</b>
	24th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth, Holy Communion

**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	3rd	9.15am	DIY
	10th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	17th	9.15am	Matins (BCP)
	24th	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

### February 2013

**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	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.00pm	Zumba dancing (every Friday)	L
2	Sat	10.00am -	11.00am Mere Credit Union (also 16th)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo	L
4	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L

4	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 11th & 25th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 11th & 25th)	GB
		6.45pm	Carnival AGM Open Meeting	AYP
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 11th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
5	Tue	10.15am -	12.15pm Lip Reading Classes (also 12th)	GB
		7.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
6	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (also 6th, 20th & 27th)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
7	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am -	12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows "Gambit"	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony every Thursday)	CC
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
		7.30pm	"Call My Bluff"	GB
11	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
		12.00noon	Community Lunch	The Old Ship Hotel
12	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	'Suchana' Pancake and Quiz evening	GB
13	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
14	Thur	10.30am	Womens Institute Coffee Morning	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 21st & 28th)	GB
15	Fri	12.30pm	Lent Lunch (also 22nd)	GB
16	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft Stall	CC
17	Sun	10.00am	2.00pm Gardening Club "Potata Day"	GB
19	Tue	10.30am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		10.30am	Lent Study Group (also 26th)	CC
		2.30pm	7.30pm CG Fry/HBC Public Consultation	GB
20	Wed	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		7.30pm	Lent Strudy Group (also 27th)	GB
24	Sun	4.00pm	Messy church	GB
26	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.30pm	Nepalese Evening (see page 20)	GB
27	Wed	10.30am	12.00noon Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB

## **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** **By appointment only**

**OF BIRTHS** Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

**& DEATHS:** For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

**RNID** 1st Wednesdays 10.00 – 11.30am

**CREDIT UNION** 1st & 3rd Saturdays 10.00 – 11.00am

# **COPY DATE FOR MARCH 2013 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the March 2013 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, 11th February 2013**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 4th February 2013.

Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

✉: **jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

☎: **01985 844740**

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