MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE





Greive Buildings – Mere Colin Anderson 1992

NOVEMBER 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 November 2013** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Parish Clerk writes:

At the October meeting, the Parish Council received a presentation from Ann-Marie Dean from Wiltshire Good Neighbours who talked about the services they provide to help people living in rural areas to access services like benefits, transport and healthcare, and to live more independent lives. For more information on this service please visit: **www.wiltsgn.org.uk**.

The working party reported on their suggestions and recommendations for car parking in and around The Square. The Parish Council agreed to support these recommendations, which included asking Wiltshire Council for a reduction in the length of existing double yellow lines in The Square to provide two or three more parking places, but to ask for extra double yellow lines along Salisbury Street to stop vehicles from parking close to the Car Park junction. It was also agreed to request that the maximum parking duration of 30 minutes in and around The Square is extended to apply between 9.00am & 6.00pm, and that this should be more rigorously enforced to free up more parking spaces for shoppers and to prevent long-term day time parking.

Unfortunately, the issue of dog fouling in public places remains a big issue in Mere:

"Dog owners must, by law, pick up any mess made by their pets in public places such as roads, footpaths, school playing fields, sports fields, parks. Wiltshire Council enforcement officers can issue on-the-spot fixed penalty notices [up to £1,000] and refer offenders for prosecution. If people spot someone not clearing up after their dog they can report incidents by ringing 0300 456 0100 or via the Wiltshire Council website at: http://is.gd/dogfouling."

For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc., please refer to the Mere website: **www.merewilts.org**, e-mail the parish clerk at: **lindseywood@merewilts.org** or **1** 01747 860701.

Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk, Mere Parish Council

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



GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:

I read with interest in Readers Digest, 'What your local councillor won't tell you'. Out of a list, an example was: don't moan to me about footpaths unless I'm a town or parish councillor. I am a Mere Parish Councillor and yes you can approach me regarding footpaths, and I will try and help, if it is Mere, Kilmington, Stourton, Zeals or West Knoyle. Many Wiltshire Councillors are not Parish or Town Councillors and in my opinion it does help to be on a parish or town council if you are a Wiltshire Councillor. I am always aware of most of their possible problems. A recent example being that I sit on a CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Task Group, some content of which I cannot discuss, however it was mentioned by an officer, the CIL funds (when any available) as national guidance suggest, will be paid to parish councils twice a year, without request of the parish council. It instantly became apparent to me that parish councils need to know when they precept the local rate around November each year, what extra funds are available. I highlighted this to the task group officers and I will pursue this.

I stated that I had received complaints about kitchens and bathroom fits in Wiltshire Council property in more than one previous article. The main concern voiced being continuity of the work, not the finished quality. An example being a person would arrive, remove most of the rooms contents, then the fitters would not arrive for say a week, in at least one case leaving the person without water in that room. The officers now tell me that the Managing Director of the main contractor, Ian Williams, has been written to on this matter, therefore I trust improvement will now definitely be seen.

We Wiltshire Councillors have been updated on the Council's housing stock. £10m per annum for 5 years will be invested in Wiltshire's housing stock. Setting the annual rent is dictated by a central government formula. The formula requires Wiltshire Council to increase rents for housing by an average 3.4% in 2013/14. There are 285 responsive repairs a week on approximately 5,500 dwellings, and 9 empty homes a week are prepared for re-let. The following has been noted about the spare room supplement, often known as the 'bedroom tax'. 86% of tenants remain in the property and pay the shortfall. 13% register with 'Homes4Wiltshire' to move to a smaller property. 1% take in a lodger. Time credits exist, that is: should a tenant agree to give an hour of his or her time to an agreed project regarding housing, a figure would be credited to the tenant.

Universal Credit (UC) will impact on many. Its introduction will be April 2014 at the earliest. It will be paid monthly in arrears and direct to one member of the household. Advance payments of UC will replace these seven benefits: Income Support, Income-based jobseeker's allowance, Income-related employment and support allowance, child tax credit, working tax credit, housing benefit and budgeting loans.

I noted with interest whilst sitting on a South Wiltshire Planning committee, it emerged that developers are being asked to pay in some instances £30 towards burials per dwelling. With the amount of increasing charges being levied on development of dwellings, the repayments may "kill some"!

As I said last month, a top priority is road maintenance. In 2012/13 Wiltshire Council spent £18.7m on maintaining and improving our highways infrastructure. By further investment in our roads, Wiltshire Council aims to reduce the backlog of maintenance over the next four years. Wiltshire Council will continue with this commitment and increase its capital spend to £21.4m in 2013/14. This is about £82,000 a working day for all of the roads Wiltshire Council are responsible for, excluding the A303 and the A36 for which the Highways Agency is responsible. Wiltshire has 21 towns of which Mere is one, one city and hundreds of villages. I will do what I can to attract the highway repair teams etc. to our area.

With winter upon us, I have been to a meeting called at Highpost Salt Depot. The Wiltshire Council appears to be making efforts to attract local help with salting and sand bags where required. I have, or will, keep the local parish councils up to speed on this issue. It was more or less suggested that local communities will need to work out road priorities during inclement weather, and what was suggested in the way of help, appeared reasonable, especially with the limited funds available. Salt supply to Towns and Villages is available. Look at your salt boxes now, they should all be full shortly. If not, do tell me or Wiltshire Highways. Please note that the salt is for roads, NOT for private drives and footways.

POLICE NEWS



Priorities

Our Priorities are Dog Fouling specifically at the Mere Recreation Ground and the green area around Mere School and we have been actively patrolling the area after complaints from members of the public

who use the park. I would ask anyone who sees a dog walker who is not picking up after their dog to call 101 and report it to mere Neighbourhood Police Team so that we can deal. We will of course be patrolling other areas and watching for any offenders.

Halloween & Bonfire Night.

We have a supply of posters available from Mere Library if you wish to pick one up if you do not want 'trick or treaters' calling on you, or perhaps you know an elderly person who would want one. Alternatively, you can print off a poster from the Wiltshire Police website (just follow the links).

Personnel Update

We are pleased to announce that John Hancock will be joining the Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team from Saturday, 2nd November 2013 as our second local volunteer. John

is very well known in Mere and the surrounding area as he was the Mere Community Beat Officer for 28 years, retiring from the Police Service in 1998. John will be a very welcome new member to our small team and he will be operating the enquiry office at Mere Police Station between 10.00am and 12.00noon every Saturday. Please see: www.wiltshire.police.uk for local opening times and thank you for your support.

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richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Shorter Days, Longer nights.

As the clocks change, some of us anticipate the darkening evenings, warm fires and hot chocolate drinks with a sense of comfort. For others, however, the concerns of increased difficulty in getting around, more time spent alone at home and the worry of rising fuel bills brings on a gloom that is hard to shift.

There is action that can be taken to guard against these fears becoming realities, and with a little extra information older people can face the long winter months with a renewed sense of optimism.

The Wiltshire Good Neighbours Scheme helps older people to live independently at home for longer.

T@3 COMMUNITY TEA PARTY

What a lovely atmosphere there was in the Angel Tea rooms on the 9th October:- laughter, conversation and the tinkling of tea cups. Our tea



parties are going from strength to strength, and as they are proving so popular we have booked the event well into 2014.

The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 11th December. The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms and the timing of course 3.00pm. As this event is becoming so popular it is essential that you pre book or we may have to turn you away at the door.

If you would like to attend the tea party please contact us, your local coordinators, no later than the morning of Monday, 9th December.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life. For more information please contact us Ann-Marie Dean 207557922023 or Emma Curtis 207557922026



MERE LIP READING

Or are YOU having difficulty?

Then LIP READING could be the help you've been looking for!! A free lipreading taster session is being held at the Grove Building, Mere on **Friday, 29th November** from 10.00am to noon when Dr Andrew

Murrison MP will also be joining us. The session is for people with any degree of hearing loss, their family, friends, work colleagues and members of the public. If you know someone who might benefit from attending this free session, please spread the word!

Lipreading has the power to recall you from any seclusion you may feel as its learning guides you in ways of dealing with your hearing loss, and introduces you to others fighting a similar battle in an enjoyable, fun and safe environment. Come and find out how to cope - don't struggle on alone!

Weekly sessions are also held on Tuesdays from 10.15am–12.15pm in the Grove Building. For more information call me at the number below or e-mail: **SheilaT@bishopstrow.org.uk** Sheila Thomson 207760-731406



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

CARNIVAL

Carnival Christmas Quiz

Come and enjoy a Carnival Christmas Quiz in the Grove Building on Wednesday, 4th December at 7.15pm. As usual, tables of 4. £2.00 per person. Raffle and refreshments. Further details from the undersigned.

Father Christmas

Father Christmas is planning to come to Mere again this year on Saturday, 21st December. Come and see him in the clock tower in the morning from 10.00am onwards and tell him what you are hoping to find in your stocking on Christmas morning.

Carol Payne 🖀 01747 861639

WEATHER REPORT

In September we had 67.5mms (2.66ins) of rain. Last year we had 56.5mms (2.22ins).

In October we had just 21mms (0.83 ins) of rain up to the 13th. The rain was mostly at night, although we had light drizzle on some days. It is generally getting colder with cold North and East winds, but with plenty of sunny spells. However, we have not yet had an Indian Summer! Peter Durkee Total 201747 860363

Churches Together in Mere and District

Remembrance Sunday

10th November 2013

10.45 am We meet at the War Memorial for the **Act of Remembrance**.

This is followed by the procession to St. Michael's Church for the **Remembrance Sunday Service**.

If you are waiting in Church for those taking part in the ceremony at the War Memorial, you will be invited to keep The Silence at 11.00am.

Refreshments will be served in the Grove Buildings after the Service, to which everyone is invited

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT TO LAUNCH CO-OP COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME

The Mere branch of The Southern Co-operative stores has selected Mere Girlguiding and Mere Scout Groups to be the beneficiaries of its Community Support Card scheme (CSC) for 2013/14.

The official community launch event, a free family party, will be held on Sunday, 24th November in the Lecture Hall and will be opened at 2.00pm by George Jeans, our Wiltshire Councillor.

The free party, which runs from 2.00-5.00pm in the Lecture Hall, will include childrens' activities and campfire songs with Mere brownies, rainbows, beavers, cubs, scouts and guides, plus bingo with prizes supplied by The Southern Co-operative. Tea, cakes and refreshments will also be available (by donation).

A chargeable Raffle and Tombola will also be held, and proceeds of the afternoon will be equally divided between the groups.

All are welcome - please support your local Guiding and Scouting Groups as the Community Support Card (CSC) scheme relies on the backing of customers, but without costing them a penny. Customers wanting to support it, simply need to request a free CSC card at the launch party or at The Southern Co-operative's Mere store and have this swiped each time they shop there. The more the cards are swiped, the quicker funds are donated by The Southern Co-operative.

If the CSC scheme is successful, 1st Mere Scout group will receive up to £7,500 and Mere Girlguiding up to £2,500. Mere scouts intend to use the funds to buy new tents and camping equipment including stoves, pots and pans, lanterns and furniture. Mere Girlguiding also plan to purchase lightweight camping equipment as well as sports and games equipment. Sue Jeans m 01747 860215

On behalf of Mere Girlguiding and Mere Scouting

MERE WALKING GROUP

The New Year walk will be on Thursday, 2nd January 2014 and this time will be based on the Red Lion at Kilmington. We will meet at the Red Lion Car Park from 10.15am to 10.30am, pre order our food, then go for a four to five mile walk, followed by lunch. Transport to the Red Lion can be arranged if required. Please let me know by Saturday, 30th November if you are interested. My e-mail address is: **roger46laidler@talktalk.net**. Roger Laidler **1** 01747 863447

NOVEMBER'S SHORT WALK

This will take place on Thursday, 21st November. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm for a walk of a few miles around the lanes and paths of Mere and warm up with a cup of tea at the Angel Cafe afterwards. Janet Way To 01747 860884

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 207809 738237

OPPORTUNITY - SECRETARY FOR THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust requires a secretary to support the Trustees to manage all the Trust's resources such as the properties and the Lecture Hall itself.

The role will involve the normal secretarial duties including the taking of minutes at various meetings and could also extend into other areas within the general operation of the Trust such as the letting of the various properties, compliance and general governance.

If you are interested then in the first instance please send an e-mail by **Thursday, 14th November** to *Secretary@MereLectureHall.org.uk* with your name and address. You will then be sent more details of the role and invited to discuss the opportunity further.

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust is an independent Christian Trust that was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. It is a registered charity (number 202620) and generates income from various properties, which is then used for the support of the Hall and the provision of Grants into the community.

Trevor Lucas, Secretary to the Trust, 🖀 01747 860859

THE FUTURE OF MERE LECTURE HALL

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust has been discussing the future use and management of the Mere Lecture Hall.

Whilst at present it is well used by various local groups and organisations in Mere, the Trustees would like to know how the Lecture Hall could better serve the people of Mere.

To that end a questionnaire has been drawn up inviting comments, advice and suggestions. Copies will be available for completion at the post office, Library and various other locations in the town. Completed questionnaires may be deposited at the post office, Library or Lecture Hall by Tuesday, 31st December 2013.

Trevor Lucas, Secretary to the Trust, 🕿 01747 860859

THE TRUSSELL TRUST

Time has flown by and Sunday, 24th November is the collection day, in St Michael's, for the Christmas shoe boxes, which go to Bulgaria. I am very happy to collect them from you if you are unable to be there on that day.

These gift boxes give SUCH joy and are usually the only gift, of any sort, received in the whole year. They go DIRECTLY to the men, women and children who are so

desperately poor. Warm knitted hats, gloves scarves and sweaters are especially welcomed as it is bitterly cold in Bulgaria. Practical gifts, such as socks, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, books and pencils along with a few luxuries, are very, very nice things for people to find in the boxes.

I hope that you have enjoyed filling your gift boxes and giving such pleasure to forgotten people who have so little. *Wendy Horne Total 01747 861712*



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber will be hosting a

Business Networking Evening in the Grove Building on Wednesday, 27th November 2013 7.00 - 9.00pm

The Chamber will be providing an update on Project Sunrise Mere, and would like to invite all businesses in Mere and District, whether you are an established or a new business, or maybe just starting up, to come along and meet other local business people and to hear about Mere and District Chamber of Trade. A light buffet and refreshments will be available! For further information please contact me.

We will also be holding our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 27th November at 6.30pm in the Grove Building. *Julie Cousins 2* 07856 700576

'FAIR TRADE' IN MERE

For the past few months I have been supplying the Grove Building with toilet paper and kitchen rolls from Traidcraft. In the latest bulletin we learnt of the marvellous work in Nepal and Pakistan that the purchase of these products and the Fair Trade premium have supported.

In Nepal, Get Paper Industries (which I visited last year) has used this money to plant a Community Forest, which will benefit 4,500 people by supplying a sustainable source of firewood and wood for furniture creating livelihoods and incomes locally. Also, in the Hunza Valley, a remote area of Pakistan, wells are being dug to supply fresh, clean water all the year round. Mountain Fruits was founded 10 years ago to support isolated farmers in the area, and they now supply Traidcraft with dried fruits and nuts.

So when you are making your Christmas cakes, puddings and mincemeat, why not buy these Fair Trade ingredients. I have put together a 'Christmas' hamper with apricots, dates, mixed dried fruits, walnuts and sugar at a reduced price of £10, and a free pack of kitchen roll bringing a double bonus to these struggling communities. Contact me if you would like one, come to my stall at the URC Coffee morning on Saturday, 16th November or to my 'At Home' on Tuesday, 26th November. (see info below)

Janet Way 🖀 01747 860884



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

With only a few weeks before Christmas, why not come and enjoy a Fair Trade Nibbles and a seasonal drink at Wits End, North Road on

Tuesday, 26th November 8.30am-9.00pm

There will be the opportunity to buy those last little gifts from Traidcraft knowing that your gifts will not only bring pleasure to those who receive them but also make such a difference to the lives of producers from around the world.

Janet Way 🖀 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

As I write, the wind is howling - winter is definitely on the way! But don't cut yourself off, join the friendly group at the theatre club. No driving, no parking, and plenty of time for a good lunch or a bit of shopping before you settle down to watch a good play. The next mailing will be out before Christmas, so don't miss out, call Madelaine or Wendy, telephone numbers below.

Madelaine Morris 🖀 01747 861833 Wendy Horne 🖀 01747 861712

MERE FILM SHOWS

A comedy drama '**Hyde Park on Hudson' (12A)** is our film on Friday, 8th November. Daisy Suckley, the ugly duckling of the family, is sent to help her distant cousin President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his family estate in the Hudson Valley, which puts her in a unique position as Roosevelt receives King George and Queen Elizabeth for a visit to cement friendships in the spring of 1939.

During this visit Daisy learns that there is far more to Roosevelt's life than she realised and with the world about to be set ablaze by war, friendships are struck and perspectives are gained on that special weekend that would make all the difference with a great, but very human, president. The physical frailties of both President and King draw them together and both find strength from the other. In this lovely film Bill Murray, known more for his comedy than dramatic roles, gives an extraordinary performance as Roosevelt, with Olivia Williams as his wife Eleanor. Samuel West is King George with the Oscar winning Olivia Coleman as Queen Elizabeth, and the always excellent Laura Linney plays Daisy. Full details on page 22. *Mary White* 10747 861257

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

No matter what you may hear elsewhere, Christmas IS coming (though we're not quite sure whether the goose is getting fat.... yet). But whatever the facts of the matter, our Autumn Production, 'Sing Nowell', a Christmas Fantasy by Adrienne Howell, will take to the stage on Thursday, 21st - Saturday, 23rd November in the Lecture Hall. The production is to be given in memory of the late Pip Potter who took the lead in the original production in 1974.

By Adrienne Howell

NOME

Mere Amateur

Dramatic Society Presents

SINC

hurs 21st to Sat 23rd November 2013 7.30 pm at the Mere Lecture Hall Tickets available at Mere Library or call Mary White 861257

> Dedicated to MADS member Pip Potter 1935-2012

Performances will be at 7.30pm, and tickets are £6 each (£3 for children) and are on sale at the Library NOW! Hurry, or you'll miss them, and then Christmas won't be quite the same. Jenny Wilding \cong 01747 860908

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FAIR
IN THE GROVE BUILDING
On Saturday 23rd November
From 10am till 12noon
Win £100 in the raffle
Win prizes in the tombola,
Get your Christmas stocking presents.
Support local Charities and enjoy the company of friends over a cup of tea or coffee.

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Heath and Heathlands

By John Horsey

Wednesday, 13th November, 7.30pm in the Grove Building

This talk starts by looking at examples of our beautiful local native lowland heaths, from Cornwall to Dorset with their unique plants and animals. John will then discus the range of heathers and ericaceous plants for the garden, including those which do not require acid soils.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way 🖀 01747 860884

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 12th November in The George Inn at 12.00 for 12.30pm, followed by talk about Mere by Tony Taylor. The price will be \pounds 8.95, but drinks are not included in the price. To reserve your place please book in advance by telephoning The George Inn 201747 860427.

There will NOT be a community Lunch in December. Community Lunches will resume on Tuesday, 14th January at the Walnut Tree Inn. Look out for details in the December/January issue of Mere Matters.

Community Lunches are an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Everyone, no matter their age, will be very welcome. For further details, please ring me. Lynette Elliot 2 01747 861646

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends hereby give lots of notice that they are planning another of their memorable **Burns Night Suppers** in January 2014 (the exact date to be confirmed in the next issue). Make a note now!

Meanwhile the Residents are looking forward to their annual firework display and party on Friday, 1st November - as always the fireworks will be provided by the Friends. Jenny Wilding To 01747 860908

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) The Day Centre for Mere and District, Lynch Close, Mere Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm

We have recently enjoyed a wonderful outing to Compton Abbas Airfield, all of our guests have given me great feedback. We had the most delicious two course dinner from the small portion menu for £6.20 a head. The guests were able to go outside due to the lovely weather and we even got to see a couple of helicopters showing off! If you have not yet been there for a spot of lunch, do take the time to go, it is certainly somewhere that the Day Centre will be visiting again.

As the nights are drawing in and the weather takes a colder turn, we are even more focused on the older, more vulnerable people of Mere and surrounding villages. We have limited availability for new guests, but if you, or somebody you know could benefit from attending the centre, please get in touch on the number below.

We are also looking for a new volunteer who could collect the lunches from Fives Court and deliver them to Lynch close one Monday a month, please contact me if you are interested. Our website address is: www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser 🗐 07835 272406



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The History of Gillingham

By Dr John Porter

Tuesday, 12th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Building The rise of Gillingham from manor and forest to the flourishing industrial town of Victorian times and up to the present day.

£3 entry for non-members who will be very welcome

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 26th November, to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "The First People of Alaska", by Ruth Van Sloten.

£1 entry for non-members who will be very welcome

Caroline Cook 🕿 01747 861797

MERE MUSEUM

Our exciting new exhibition, 'What People Wore' is just about to open! It is something of a blockbuster, with a dazzling array of garments of many kinds for you to see. They range from simple embroidered bonnets from the late 19th century to a turban-style hat of the 1940s, and from workers' smocks worn during the early years of the last century to glamorous evening dresses of the Edwardian era.

We are indebted to MADS for the loan of a large number of items from their wardrobe department which enhance the Museum's more work-a-day collection. This is an exhibition not to be missed and it opens on Wednesday, 30th October 2013!

Jenny Wilding 🖀 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are reminded that the AGM takes place this year in the Museum at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th October, to be followed immediately by the Preview of the new exhibition (see above). SUBSCRIPTIONS are due at the AGM and will be warmly welcomed by the Treasurer at the meeting. There's no better time to join The Friends as you will reap a full year's-worth of benefits - excellent value for money! If you wish just to come to the preview, it will be underway by 7.50pm. - rather later than usual. We hope to see lots of you on the night! Jenny Wilding \cong 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDING "100 CLUB"

The result of the '100' Club Draw for October, drawn on Sunday, 6th October by Mrs Jane Fitzgerald was:

1st Prize (£20)	- No. 152	Mrs E A Ings
2nd Prize (£15)	- No. 48	Alison Oliver
3rd Prize (£10)	- No. 116	Mr R Denis
4th Prize (£5)	- No. 170	Mrs J Avory
()		Malania Danalan 🙃 04747 000004

Valerie Ransley 🖀 01747 860964



WOMENS INSTITUTE

Last month we held a very enjoyable and productive evening producing angels, wreaths and Christmas tree decorations. This was an early start to the festive season, which is now only weeks away. The evening was studded with concentrated silences

interspersed with lots of happy chatter.

We also enjoyed a really good get together over lunch at The Otter Nurseries, Wincanton, as well as a W.I. Group Meeting at Sutton Veny, when the speaker was John Craig, former Chief Fire Officer for Wiltshire, on the subject "Going to Blazes." Also throughout the month we held our usual craft, book club and games meetings that were much enjoyed by all the participating members.

Chris Forester will be our next speaker at 7.30pm on Thursday, 7th November in the Grove Building, speaking about "The Metropolitan Mounted Police, History and Photographs." The November competition will be to make, or bake an edible policeman. Please come and show us your skills with a cake, biscuit or perhaps a vegetable or fruit sculptor. *Janet Fisher* **1** 01747 861323



MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our meeting on **Tuesday, 12th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Building,** focuses on 'sowing seeds of creativity' with the help of a demonstration of **Christmas Wreaths & Floral Decorations** by **Sarah Collins of Sprout & Flower.** There will also be a Bring and Buy stall at this meeting, in aid of the Grove Building fund.

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

Judith Thompson 🖀 01747 860553

MERE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

On Saturday, 23rd November at 7.00pm, the Senior Football club is holding its annual Race Night at the Walnut Tree Inn. A \pounds 10 ticket, which includes a main meal plus first drink, will entitle you to an evening of fun and excitement.

This evening is always a huge success, and I'm sure this year will be no different, come along and enjoy a fun evening. Contact me for more information.

Home Fixtures Mere Town Seniors

Saturdays in November

2nd	Mere 1st V	V	Hamworthy Utd Res
9th	Mere Res V	V	TBC
23rd	Mere 1st V	V	MerleyCobham
30th	Mere 1st V	V	Hamworthy Utd Res (cup game)
			Pete Down 🛽 07711 279549

MERE BOWLS CLUB

We had a very successful Autumn Fare in the Lecture Hall on 5th October. We raised an impressive £433.81. Many thanks to everyone who helped to organise the event and especially to all of you who came along and spent your money.

The season has now come to an end and we had a brilliant closing day. The weather was in our favour and club members joined in the fun with the men dressed as women and the women dressed as men! The outfits were all in incredibly poor taste which added to the fun. The afternoon was rounded off with a fish and chips supper.

So, over the closed season, put some thought to joining us when we open again in April. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

For any information regarding the club, please contact Alan Inwood 2 01985 844215, Don Butchers 2 01747 860775 and an abutchers@btinternet.com or me Jeff Vigars on a jeffcarolvigars@hotmail.co.uk or telephone below.

Jeff Vigars, Fixtures Secretary 🖀 01747 860976

MERE CROQUET & BOULE CLUB

Another season has almost come to an end. It has been a good one for the Club, with increased membership and boundless enthusiasm.

The Boule players have enjoyed themselves, playing a number of matches both at home and away, not always winning but were, nevertheless, a lot of fun. Whilst the Croquet activity is sadly almost over, it is planned to start playing again in early April with the usual Open Day event.

The end of season BBQ was great success and very well attended. The hard work put in by a number of members, both in providing the excellent eats and cooking them, was so very much appreciated.

There will be a Between Seasons 'everybody welcome' Get Together in February, details of time and place will be announced in a later issue of Mere Matters.

Rex Roberts 🖀 01747 860873

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

The 2013/14 season is up and running with many new players of all ages joining what is proving to be a very popular football club. Numbers are increasing every week.

Fundraising

The Christmas Bingo is on Saturday, 7th December in the Lecture Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm, with 'eyes down' at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome for an enjoyable evening of fun. There are lots of prizes to be won.

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA in association with MERE PARISH COUNCIL proudly presents

'Hyde Park on Hudson' (12A)

Bill Murray Samuel West Olivia Coleman Laura Linney Olivia Williams

As the Second World War looms, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (West and Coleman) visit U.S. President Roosevelt (Bill Murray) at his country home on the Hudson River with the aim of cementing the friendship between the two countries. At the same time the President's distant cousin, Daisy (Laura Linney), is also visiting and a great friendship develops.

In the Lecture Hall Friday 8th November, at 7.30pm (Doors open 7.00pm) TICKETS £5.00 Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White 🕿 01747 861257 Visit our website at **www.moviola.org**

New Website

Pay a visit to our new website: **www.meretownyouthfc.com**, which has details of all our Manager/coaches, plus details of all age groups, including our new 'Mere Mini's' for the 5's & 6 year olds. Events, sponsors, and general information will be updated regularly. *J. Hodge* = 07808 715725

FRIENDS OF MERE SCHOOL

Table Top Sale

School 'Christmas Bingo'

This great school event is to be held on Friday, 29th November in the main School hall. Doors open at 7.00pm for 'eyes down' at 7.30pm. All are welcome and there will be lots of great prizes. More information is available from m 01747 860515.

Win a Luxury Hamper!

Your day to day online shopping can help raise funds for Mere School, without costing you an extra penny!

Mere School has signed up to The Giving Machine which is a not-for-profit social enterprise that enables online shoppers to raise money for their chosen schools or charities for FREE.

It takes a minute to register. All you need to enter is your name, email address and postcode then all you do is shop online via: **www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk**. You can access it via a handy app, bookmark the page, or even make the website your homepage. There are over 400 participating retailers which include Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Sainsburys, Next, Ebay, Argos, ELC, Tesco and WHSmith.

As an example, £100 spent on Amazon will generate over £3 in donations to the school. In the last 3 months, I have donated £10 just from purchases I would have made anyway. If the average school family generated £30 a year in commission for the school, that could potentially raise £2500 a year, so, with Christmas approaching, imagine what we could raise if we all asked our friends and families to participate too!

The person who generates the biggest donation each term will be rewarded by winning a luxury hamper!

All money raised will be spent to benefit our children so please spare a minute of your time to register, it costs you nothing! Thank you.

Rachael Hansford 🖀 01747 860168

MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

As usual, I cannot believe how quickly the time to write our article has come round – time and sunny weather seems to disappear in flash! However, at the time of writing we are looking forward to half-term, Halloween and bonfire night, all big excitements for children.

Here at the centre we have been as busy as always, our **Baby Massage** class on Mondays has been going well, as has our **Parenting Group** on Thursday evenings. The first helps parents to bond with their babies and can help with digestion, colic and better sleep patterns, whilst the second helps parents to encourage the behaviour they want from their children, and is packed with lots of useful tips. If you have missed either of these useful groups this time around, don't worry, ring the number below and get booked on to the next course available.

Our regular groups are going strong with lots of mums and tots attending our **Music Group** in **Zeals Parish Room** on **Tuesday mornings at 10.00am** and our **Stay and Play Group** on **Wednesday mornings** is always well attended with toddlers now progressing from our baby group on Fridays to the more challenging activities of the crafty fun available at this group. After half term our theme at this group will be preparation for Christmas with one session being run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust hero Gary Lamont whose sessions are always good fun.

On **Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm**, we now offer our **Breastfeeding Support Group** run by our very competent and friendly Breastfeeding Support Volunteer Mel Collins who has given up her time to train in order to run this group, which is for mums who are breastfeeding and mums to be who are hoping to breastfeed. This is an invaluable group as many mums have hoped to breastfeed but have been discouraged by difficulties and lack of support at crucial times along the way.

On **Fridays at 1.30pm** we have new parents now attending our **Baby Group**, which is a friendly group for parents and babies up to the age of 18 months.

On **Monday, 4th November** we are running a **Bingo Night** at the **Lecture Hall**; doors open at 6.30pm and 'Eyes Down' is at 7.00pm. All are welcome as this is a fundraiser for our **Christmas party** on **Wednesday**, **4th December**. If you have any prizes that you could donate for this night we would be very grateful; please could you drop them off at the centre or call the number below and speak to one of our friendly team. While

our Christmas party is for our regular users, we have booked an entertainer who will be performing in the School hall to which we have invited the reception class, local kindergartens and pre-school groups. If you are interested please ring the number below for more information.

For further information on any of the above groups please call the number below and speak to one of our friendly team. If you are new to the area, have a new baby or have not attended any of our groups before, do drop in and visit us and see our great facilities - especially our wonderful Sensory Room, which can be booked for individual Jane Smith, Support Worker, T 01747 861108 sessions.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014 ISSUE **MONDAY, 18th NOVEMBER**

GREEN CLASS

REPORTS

A great start to the New School Year at Mere School

Everyone is settling into their new classes and all the new children are making friends.

New topics

Blue - Sense and Ourselves.

- Yellow Toys
- Silver Fire
- Gold Tudors
- Green WW2
- Red Romans
- Purple Space, Earth and Beyond.

Green Class had an exciting day at Nothe Fort in Weymouth. They all dressed up in WW2 costume and joined in WW2 style activities. They went to WW2 school where the teacher was very strict and had a cane named Eric! They found out about WW2 kitchens and had a go at washing some clothes using a WW2 washing machine, mangle and soap. They went in an Anderson shelter and got to hear and feel what it might have been like during an air raid.

STOP PRESS! Green Class Go back in Time. Look on our website for latest news and pictures: www.mereschool.co.uk

Roman day

Red class enjoyed their Roman day. They read a story about Boudicca and then teachers had a battle! Mrs Green won. Cathrine was the emperor and the class voted for Miss Bekworth to die! They learnt a lot about Romans.

Blue class is settling in

Jessica said, "Everyone is good at maths." Ellie-May told us," Everyone likes playing outside." Philip said that he likes painting his hands. Ellie enjoys learning about sounds and Felicity Fairy. Purple class are starting to think about and prepare for when they move up to Gillingham School. Some of the children are feeling a bit disappointed about having to leave Mere. Lots of them are feeling excited after their visit to Gillingham School with their parents. Caroline told us that she is very excited about the great facilities and all the clubs.

Purple class preparations

REV'D ELIZABETH KEMP, URC MINISTER, WRITES:

She was petite when I first met her. She stood in the middle of my lawn and yelped when my collie bounded across past her. I decided then that she would need a name "to live into", so I called her Freya after the tenacious Victorian explorer who did not allow others to tell her she was too fragile.

That was 14 years ago and I have sometimes felt that perhaps she took my advice that she shouldn't think of herself as diminutive, too much to heart! My terrier Freya has a feisty – typical terrier outlook on life and always saw it as her task to protect any of her doggie friends. These days she doesn't see or hear too well and can be alarmed if suddenly someone looms over her and expects to become her new best friend. We went to the Gillingham and Shaftesbury show with her wearing a muzzle and then I discovered *warning bandanas*. I'm not a fan of doggie fashion, but this bright yellow bandana simply states: I NEED SPACE. This seemed like a simple solution to her and my apprehension. She wore it to church where all was well until someone didn't read it, didn't ask and didn't think it applied to them and then was alarmed when she barked a sharp warning.

Decades ago in a conversation someone said "When people do not ask me what name or title I want to be called by, they are not respecting me". An American policeman looked at my drivers' licence and said: "Well, Betty..." – he meant to be friendly, but the effect was to put me ill-at ease. I have never been "Betty".

Have you (even innocently) presumed a name or title for someone? ...used a name or title for someone that had the effect of pushing them away?

It is good to expand our circles of acquaintance, but listening to people before we talk shows greater sensitivity.

I was once at a retreat centre where some people were on a silent day and sported a sign with "Silent" round their necks, so that we didn't embarrass them or ourselves, or interpret their silence as rudeness. In our dealings with others, it's good to let people know what's going on - if you need space, tell them and if they ask for space, respect their wishes.

Dog-owners need to publicise what animals wearing yellow warning bandanas mean; we need to educate people about "crowding" strange dogs, but there's more than that.

We all need to exercise sensitivity in our dealings with others.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

Join us at the Methodist Church on Wednesday, 27th November for a Worship time with coffee from 10.30 a.m. - worship begins at 11.0 a.m. - you will be very welcome.

Mary Siderfin 🕿 01747 861370

St Michael the Archangel

Do come and join us for an informal service of

Songs of Praise

on

Sunday, 17th November @ 6.00 pm



Everyone is invited to a Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy in Aid of Suchana on **Tuesday, 26th November, 10.30am-12.00noon** at Downside, North Street (near junction with Pennybank Lane) home of Joan and Hamish Bell 🖀 01747 861717

CHRISTMAS IS COMING......

Churches Together in Mere and District are planning to provide a **Christmas Day lunch** in the Grove Building for anyone not able to celebrate with family or friends. It will be a traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a good festive atmosphere, finishing with tea and Christmas cake.

There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome, and, so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance.



Numbers are limited to a maximum of 60, and the closing date is Saturday, 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come, please telephone me. Christine Marsh \cong 01747 861212

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE November 2013

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel: Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859, ﷺ carolw953@aol.com

Churchwardens: Mrs Jean Knapp 🕿 01747 860142 Mrs Elizabeth Howden 🕿 01747 863424

Each Sunday Each Wednesday Each Thursday Each Friday		8.00am 10.30am 8.00am The Rev'd Ca	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (CW1) arol Wilson-Barker has a rest day
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Benefice Service (Maiden Bradley)
		10.30am	Family Praise service of the word
Wednesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	10th	10.45am	Remembrance Day Service Meet at the War Memorial in the Square for the Silence at 11.00am then process to St Michaels for the church service.
Curder	1746	6.00pm	Healing Service
Sunday	17th	10.30am 6.00pm	Parish Communion (CW1) Songs of Praise
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, 2 01747 860685

Sunday	3rd 10th	11.00am 10.45am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Remembrance Day Service Meet at the War Memorial in the Square for the Silence at 11.00am then process to St Michaels for the church service.
	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour Church Anniversary
	24th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal

The Methodist Church (2 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: 🕿 01747 861370

Sunday	3rd 10th	6.00pm 10.45am	Local Fellowship Service Remembrance Day Service Meet at the War Memorial in the Square for the Silence at 11.00am then process to St Michaels for the church service.	
		6.00pm	Mr Ken Alcock	
	17th	6.00pm	Songs of Praise	
			at the Parish Church	
	24th	6.00pm	Mr David Webb	

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 Friday10.00amMassEvery Sunday5.00pmMassOn the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be tea and cakes after Mass together with
the sale of Fairtrade produce.and cakes after Mass together with

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin 🖀 01747 830534

3rd	10.30am	Benefice Patronal Service at Maiden Bradley
10th	9.15am	Remembrance Service
17th	9.15am	Matins
24th	9.15am	Holy Communion
	10th 17th	10th 9.15am 17th 9.15am

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662 CW1 indicates Common Worship Order 1 (trad. Indicates traditional language)

DIARY DATES

November 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	10.30am	St Michael's 'First Friday' Coffee Drop in	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm -	8.00pm Barn Buddies (also 8th, 15th & 22nd)	BSF
2	Sat	10.00am -	11.00am Mere Credit Union (also 16th)	Lib
		10.00am	Cancer Research Autumn Sale	L
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 9th, 16th & 30th)	CC
4	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (evert Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
4	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		6.30pm	Childrens Centre Bingo 'Eyes Down' 7.00pm	L
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
5	Tue	10.00am	Card Making Class (also 19th)	L
		10.15am -	12.15pm Lip Reading Classes (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
6	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere & District Railway Modellers (also 20th)	L
7	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (everyThursday)	L
		10.00am -	11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic Mere Su	rgery
		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	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony every Thursday)	СС
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 22nd)	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Filmshows 'Hyde Park on Hudsor	
9	Sat	10.00am -	12.00pm Table Top Sale FofMS	DMS
		7.00pm	Mere Children's Centre Bingo 'Eyes Down'	L
			32	_

10	Sun	10.45am		Remembrance Service	The S	Square
11	Mon	7.30pm		MADS Meeting (Green Room)		L
12	Tue	9.00am		Foot Care Clinic		L
		12.00pm		Community Lunch	The Geor	ge Inn
		2.30pm		Mothers Union		GB
		7.30pm		Mere Historical Society		GB
13	Wed	1.45pm		Friends Together Whist		GB
		7.30pm		Mere Gardening Club		GB
14	Thur	5.00pm		Girl Guiding (also 21st & 28th)		GB
16	Sat	7.30pm		Children's Hospice Bingo "Eyes Dow	vn"	L
20	Wed	7.30pm		Church meeting		CC
21	Thur	2.00pm		Mere Short Walk		CP
21	Thur	7.30pm		MADS Christmas Fantasy, "Sring No	owell"	L
22	Fri	7.30pm		MADS Christmas Fantasy, "Sring No	owell"	L
23	Sat	10.00am	-	12.00noon Grove Building's Charitie	s Fair	GB
		10.30am		Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft	Stall	CC
		7.00pm		Mere Town FC Race Night	Walnut Tr	ee inn
		7.30pm		MADS Christmas Fantasy, "Sring No	owell"	L
24	Sun	2.00pm		Co-op Community support Scheme	Launch Pa	rty L
26	Tue	8.30am	-	9.00pm Fairtrade Nibbles (see page	13) Wi	ts End
		9.00am		Foot Care Clinic		L
		10.30am		Mere Historical Society MorningTalk		GB
27	Wed	10.30am		12.00noon Café Worship		MH
		1.45pm		Friends Together		GB
		6.30pm		M&D Chamber of Trade AGM		GB
		7.00pm		M&D Chamber of Trade Business ev	vent	GB
29	Fri	10.00am	-	12.00pm Lip Reading Class (Taster		GB
		7.00pm		FofMS Christmas Bingo' Eyes Down	ı' 7.30pm	DMS
30	Sat	10.00am		Cancer Research Jumble Sale		L

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

Autumn 2013 Fitness Classes

Our new programme of exercise and fitness classes has begun. We now offer a total of 19 classes per week, to cater for all. New to the programme is Bumps and Babies; Boot Camp; Pilates; Legs, Tums & Bums.

- Reception, 2 01747 871141, 2 tisburysc@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

Grove Building: Lecture Hall: Methodist Church Schoolroom Richard Jefferies Sally Johnson Mary Siderfin 01747 863425
01747 861063
04747 861063

🖀 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

Tuesdays:

CITIZENS' ADVICE: HEALTH MATTERS ADVICE REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS: CREDIT UNION

Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm By appointment only

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am For appointments 🕿 01225 713007

10.00am to 3.30pm

1st & 3rd Saturdays 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the December 2013/January 2014 combined issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (201747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY**, 18th November 2013.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 11th November 2013. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please <u>add their</u> <u>name and a contact telephone number</u>.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy ⊠: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com ☎: 01985 844740

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