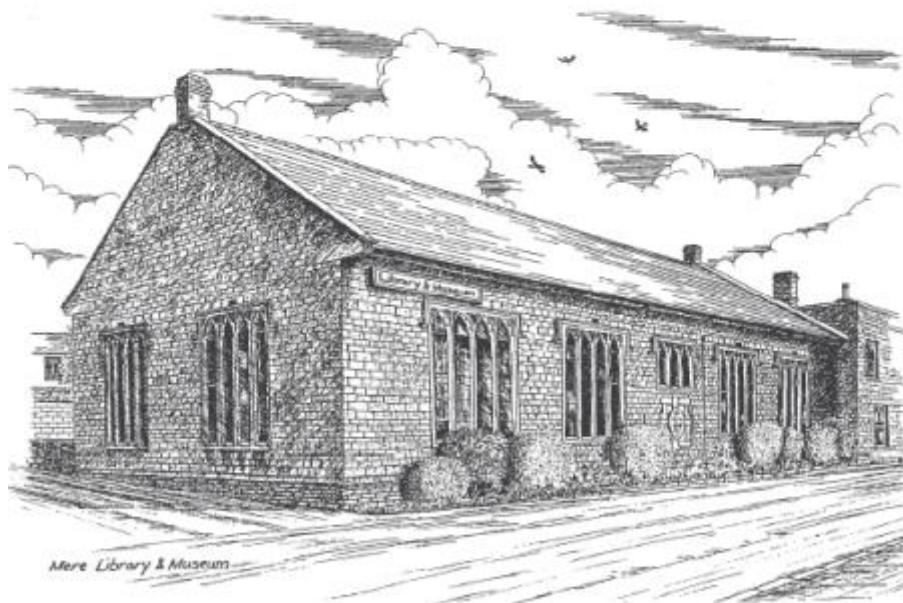


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



OCTOBER 2013

17th. MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 14th – 20th 2013

MONDAY 14th PAUL KERENSA –So a Comedian walks into a Church.

The popular comedian discusses his recently published diary revealing the true and hilarious

Confessions of a Kneel-Down Stand-Up. **Grove Building 7.30p.m. * £5 in advance £6 otd**

TUESDAY 15th Mere Historical Society MORNING TALK How English is English - Our Hybrid

Language with **Gerry Cook**

Grove Building 10.15a.m. Retiring Donations

COMMUNITY LUNCH with after coffee speaker, **Tony Davies**, telling tall tales from history.

(2 course Lunch £8.95. Book ☎ 01747 863388).

The Old Ship Inn 12.00 for 12.30pm

TARQUIN OLIVIER *So Who's Your Mother?* What its like growing up the son of a great actor?

More off-stage stories from his published memoir by the son of Laurence Olivier.

Grove Building 7.30p.m*£5 in adv. £6 otd

WEDNESDAY 16th CHRIS McCULLY – POETRY MASTERCLASS

A must for all with poetry in their heart as acclaimed poet, Chris McCully, analyses poems submitted by local writers.

Grove Buildings 2.30p.m. Retiring Donations

COME FISHING with CHRIS McCULLY Also well known for his books on fishing, Chris McCully discusses these and his lifetime involvement with the popular sport and pastime.

Grove Building 7.30p.m. * £5 adv. £6 otd

THURSDAY 17th A MERE MEANDER Guided literary walk. **Church Gate 10a.m. Free**
FILM NIGHT Mere Film Shows & Wilts. Moviola present *Cloud Atlas* - film of David Mitchell's acclaimed novel featuring a star-studded cast. (NB early start time) **Lecture Hall 7.00pm*£5**

FRIDAY 18th POETRY PLEASE Come and share your favourite poems or read your ownwork.

Led by PennyBank Writers.

Grove Building 2.30p.m. Retiring Donations

AN EVENING WITH DAMIEN LEWIS One of Britain's '20 Favourite Authors', Damien Lewis has topped best-seller lists worldwide and has 29 books listed on 'Good Reads'. He discusses his work including his latest book, *Zero Six Bravo*.

Grove Buildings 7.30pm *£5adv. £6 otd

SATURDAY 19th HOW TO BE AN E-BOOK WRITER with RR GORDON The best selling

e-book author and co-founder of www.e-thriller.com shares his experience and gives advice on e-publishing your book.

Grove Building 10.30a.m. Retiring Donations

CHILDREN'S EVENT with award winning author **GILLIAN CROSS**

Library 2.15p.m *Free ticket

POETRY IN THE GROVE A reading of the poems short-listed in this year's competition and you can choose your favourite in the audience vote.

Grove Building 2.30p.m. Free

SEVERN & SOMME The life of Ivor Gurney A documentary by Redcliffe Films on the life of the West Country poet and composer.

Grove Building 7.30p.m. *£5 adv. £6 otd

SUNDAY 20th AWARD CEREMONY **Lecture Hall 3p.m.** Book stalls from 2.30p.m. **Free**

*Tickets from now Mere Library ☎ 01747 860546 or Festival Organiser ☎ 01747 860475

Full details/Postal Booking Form on: www.merelifest.co.uk & in Festival Programme available September.

In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg. Charity No: 1062328

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th October 2013.

The Chairman writes:

Our September meeting had its usual broad mix of lively debate and discussion. An issue very much on peoples' minds is parking in Mere. Do we arrange for the re-painting of the faded yellow lines or do we get rid of them altogether? I have heard that there is a rumour suggesting that we want to increase the amount of yellow lineage. This is definitely not the case.

Above all, The Parish Council wants to encourage safe and considerate parking and I would ask you all, please, not to park within 10metres (nearly 33 feet) of a junction leading out on to Salisbury Street or Castle Street. A sub-committee of four councillors is to report its findings and observations, and will give its report at the 7th October meeting on this subject.

We have had many compliments on the floral displays in and around the town. Unfortunately, over the past few weeks they have looked somewhat bedraggled. This fine warm summer has caught us out somewhat, on the watering front. We are therefore looking to have an efficient watering system in place for another fine warm summer next year! Thank you to all those who contribute to the flowers.

The Parish Council is happy to hear the views of our parishioners. You can email, telephone or write to our clerk or have your say in the public session at the beginning of our meetings. 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 ☎ 01747 860701

Tony Suter

It is with the greatest sadness that I have to report that our Head Groundsman, Tony Suter (Sooty) passed away on 11th September. Tony came to us five years ago and has been a loyal and conscientious member of the Parish Council team. He has worked diligently and enthusiastically in a job that he loved. Throughout his long illness

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



he continued to work and supervise work as much as he could and it was only over the last two or three months that this became impossible.

Apart from his many professional attributes, Tony was a thoroughly lovely man and to say that we shall miss him is a gross understatement. He leaves behind his wife Angela, his children, James, Stephanie and Joshua, his mother and a devoted family.

Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

I would like to thank The Mere Carnival Committee for staging the event that brings much of the Mere area together into the "big family" that it is. It gives a boost to help keep the local pubs, club and hotels afloat. The Mere Carnival promotes the town's services and community functions. I must thank the local Police who turned out in numbers, some voluntary I understand. None of the local carnivals could run without the marshals, they give of their time and I am very grateful. Barry Hansford had swept the streets by 7.00am the following morning I was informed. It is a delight to live in the Mere area.

I stated that I had received complaints about kitchen and bathroom fits in Wiltshire Council property. After last month's Mere Matters, I have had further complaints, the main concern being continuity of the work. An example being a person would arrive, remove most of the contents of the rooms, then the fitters would not arrive for say a week. In at least one case leaving the person without water in that room. Many tenants are old and vulnerable. The officers have assured me they will improve the continuity of individual refurbishments.

I continue to sit on a community infrastructure levy (CIL) task group. This proposed funding stream, due to start in April 2014 at the earliest, with other levies imposed on development should help provide infrastructure, social housing etc.; this should help with the reducing funds from central government. The total could be often tens of thousands of pounds per dwelling when residential. It is argued the land owner will lower the price and the development will cost no more, but I find this hard to believe. I believe it could act to a degree, to further increase the prices of dwelling houses. Permitted development (the limited amount you can do without planning permission) should not, I believe, be subject to this charge, which it could be at present. Possibly leading to neighbour reporting neighbour, this would not be good in my opinion.

Outside of Wiltshire Council, I have been interested to read that every new home is to be powered by a green energy plant to offset its environmental impact under government plans for zero-carbon living from 2016.

If a development is too small, remote or shielded from wind or sun for an effective renewables scheme, developers will pay a levy to the local council to create bigger plants nearby that would cancel out the carbon footprint of the homes, while providing green power. According to government figures, more than a quarter of all CO2 emissions come from residential properties.

All new homes are rated under the Code for Sustainable Homes. Where planned properties do not reach the highest level 6 standard – where their own green energy production offsets their emissions – developers would be charged a tariff of around £15,000 by the local council to fund infrastructure and local services. Part of this would also include contributing to a "buy-out fund" to pay for the construction of wind farms, solar panels or geothermal technologies in the local area, which would supply the new development with green power.

It may be just solar panels and heat pumps will be allowed (the new building will have better thermal properties hence the need for less central heating) due to Part L of the building regulations.

In the next four years Wiltshire Council's business plan will underpin 12 key aims:

1. Invest additional money between 2014-17 to reduce the historic backlog in highways maintenance.
2. Stimulate economic growth, including tourism, and create additional jobs in partnership with the LEP.
3. Further enhance the role of area boards and Youth Advisory Groups, developing innovative community-led approaches to designing and delivering services.
4. Provide opportunities for every child and young person to improve their attainment and skills so they can achieve their full potential.
5. Continue to improve our safeguarding services to protect the most vulnerable in our communities.
6. Invest to refurbish council housing and encourage the development of new affordable homes, including supported living in rural areas.
7. Build on the work of the Military Civilian Integration Partnership and maximise the benefits of the Army Rebasing Plan.
8. Delegate cost neutral packages of land, services and assets to town and parish councils.
9. Create a campus opportunity in each community area.
10. Integrate public health at the heart of all public services.
11. Work innovatively to deliver at least £120m budget cost reductions over the next four years.
12. Develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours & leadership of its workforce, managers and councillors.

Highway maintenance continues to be the source of many complaints to me. As I have said before, I can get potholes addressed, however resurfacing is becoming more of a large task with ever reducing resources.

I attended The Southern Area Planning Committee on the 5th September. The meeting finished close to 11.00pm and I arrived home after midnight. Some of the time spent was regarding councillors being consulted regarding final section 106 legal agreements, which control part of some planning permissions. Once the planning decisions are delegated to officers, the wishes of the committee at present are left for those officers to interpret without further councillor consultation, and for now it is staying that way.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER????



The days are still warm and relatively long so who wants to think about winter-YOU DO!

In a very short time the daily temperature will drop, the clocks go back and the world becomes a different place. Very few people love the winter months and as we get older our bodies find coping with the cold more difficult and health problems can develop. By being prepared we can stay warm and healthy this coming winter.

Is your property ready for winter?

Check the exterior of your property. Are there any loose or missing tiles on the roof, are your gutters clear of leaves, and are there any damp patches on the walls? Use a known and reputable company to do any repair work now. Don't wait for the rain or the snow falling when a rogue trader comes knocking on your door telling you that they have noticed a problem!

Get your central heating boiler serviced, if you use fires get the chimney swept. It is the landlord's responsibility to get these carried out if you live in rented property. Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. If you haven't got any, get some installed - they could save your life if your air vents become blocked.

Draft proofing doors and windows, loft insulation and lagging your hot water tank all help keep your home warm and lower your heating bills.

Did you know that an electric blanket which is designed to stay on low all night is more beneficial to your body warmth than keeping the temperature high in your bedroom at night and cheaper. Fire stations across the county carry out electric blanket safety tests in October- look out for their advertisements. Our nearest are Amesbury on 16th October, or Westbury on 24th October, but by appointment only ☎ 01225 713557.

Have a supply of salt and sand to put on your path and /or steps, so that you can walk outside safely when it is icy.

Are you going to be warm and healthy this winter?

If you are over 65 you are entitled to a free flu jab. The flu virus changes so you need to have a jab every year with the latest vaccine. Flu can develop into Pneumonia which can be very serious. Most GP surgeries have a flu clinic. Make sure you are booked in.

Ideally your living areas should be 18-21°C in the day. Heat your bedroom before you go to bed and keep it at about 18°C overnight. In the coldest weather have the heat come on a little earlier so the rest of the house is warm when you get up.

Keep moving. Don't stay in your chair all day - get up every so often and wander around as this generates heat. Eat at least one hot meal a day and lots of hot drinks. If you have difficulty walking, try some exercises in your chair to keep you moving. Remember wearing thin layers of clothes is more effective than one thick layer.

Have a torch at hand in case of power cuts and also a supply of tinned or dry provisions in case you can't get to the shops. Make arrangements for your regular prescriptions to be delivered by the pharmacy.

Just because it is cold out, don't give up on your friends or your regular social groups. It is important to socialise – we are happier and healthier when we meet and chat to others. Try to arrange activities so they are in the day, rather than meeting at groups in the evening, or work out car shares. If you can't get out, keep in touch with your friends and family by phone. Hearing about someones day can help lift your spirits.

Listen to local radio, it will keep you up to date with what is happening in your area.

Some people are anxious that they will not have enough money to cover their fuel bills in the coldest months. There are grants to support elderly people who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel and are on state benefits.

Do you have any problems or queries regarding preparing for winter?

Talk to your local good neighbour coordinator about other ways to stay warm and well through out the winter by contacting Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023.



T@3 Community Tea Party Wednesday 9th October, from 3.00 to 4.30pm

After the success of our first Community tea, Wiltshire Good Neighbours would like to invite you another tea party at the Angel Tea Rooms, where a warm welcome awaits you. Come and chat to old friends or make new ones over a cup of tea and one of Paul's delicious cakes.

Paul is offering a special rate on the day of £3.00 for tea and cake.

If you would like to attend the tea party please contact local coordinators Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 or Emma Curtis ☎ 07557 922026 no later than the morning of Monday, 7th October.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours, helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life. We can provide information on a variety of topics including finance and benefits, transport, healthcare, social activities and many more. If you think we can help you give me, your Local Co-ordinator, a ring

Ann-Marie Dean, Local Coordinator, ☎ 07557 922023



‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS

News

Out and about on foot I have noticed that we still have lots of bikes left unattended, these are usually the target of thieves, if you don't want to lose it, lock it.

Milk has started to go missing from doorsteps again, please make it difficult to steal by perhaps blocking it from view to passers by.

A dropped kerb is there for a reason and should not be blocked, I have spoken to numerous drivers of cars who have blocked the one outside the charity shop in the square, people with mobility problems have a problem navigating the kerb, please be aware and keep them clear. Thank you.

Be alert when using cash machines or at the tills - cover your hand when typing in your pin and put your money/card away quickly.

We are still getting reports of break-ins to sheds and outhouses where power tools, lawnmowers and strimmers are stolen. Please make sure that yours is secure and safe from prying eyes.

We put details of consultations with you on our website, **www.wiltshire.police.uk**. Go to 'Policing in your area' and click on 'Mere' for details. We also put posters up in Parish council poster frames and notice boards, shop windows etc. You can always contact us using the '101' number for Non Emergency issues.

Advice

Points to remember during the Autumnal evenings...

- Wear something bright when out and about (High visibility yellow is ideal), be safe, be seen.
- Children, get mum or dad's permission when 'trick or treating'. Ideally take them along!
- If you are a resident that does not want children to knock on your door, pick up a 'No thanks to Halloween sign' at the Library or go to Wiltshire Police website for a link and print your own off.
- Lights on your bike need to be working properly, you can be fined for not having them on at night.
- Fireworks, go to an organised display, NEVER misuse Fireworks, stand well back from them. Enjoy them but be safe!

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES on display in your vehicle when parking up, thieves have recently targeted cars where phones, handbags have been left on display, especially when visiting a beauty spot when thieves know that you are going to be away from the vehicle for a while.

The weather will be getting worse from now on, please make sure that you have enough water in the washer bottle and that lights are all working. Is your battery up to the job of starting the car on cold mornings. Maybe you should check yours now.

On a cold morning don't leave your car running in your driveway whilst it defrosts, we get thefts of vehicles with the keys in as the thieves know that people do this and could make off with your vehicle, courtesy of YOU! Have a safe journey.

Road safety is a priority for Wiltshire Police, and those found to be putting their lives and the lives of other road users at risk will be dealt with appropriately. Speed limits are there for a reason, especially in residential areas or near to shops and schools. To exceed the limit even by a few miles per hour can result in fatal consequences as the faster you are going the less time you have to react to any hazards, and the greater the injury or damage caused. Speed is one of the four factors most commonly found to be the cause of road traffic collisions. Don't take the risk and make sure you drive safely and sensibly at all times.

The Fatal 4: in terms of contributing factors in fatal road traffic collisions are;

- Speed
- Using Mobile phones whilst driving
- Having consumed Alcohol
- Not wearing seat belt

Priorities

Parking/Obstruction Mere Town Centre. It has been highlighted by local residents and business owners that vehicles have been parking inconsiderately and causing an obstruction within the centre of Mere. The main areas affected are Lloyds Bank, Church Street and outside both the George Public House and the Old ship Hotel. These areas will be monitored and suitable enforcement carried out on offending owners/drivers.

Dog Fouling. There has been a recent increase in the number of inconsiderate dog owners failing to clean up after their pets. A number of complaints have been received by Mere Neighbourhood Policing Team in respect of this problem, and it will be monitored by both Police and The Wiltshire Council team. This is happening throughout the town of Mere, specifically in open green areas of public access. If you see someone not cleaning up after their dog. Report it to us.

PC Richard Salter and PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)

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

✉ peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only:

Richard Jefferies ☎ 01747 863425 ✉ rajefferies@btinternet.com

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

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

MERE SURGERY

Flu Clinics

Mere surgery flu vaccination clinics will be held on the mornings of Saturday, 19th October and Saturday, 2nd November.

Anyone can get flu, but it can be more serious for certain people, so the flu vaccination is offered to:

- People aged 65 or over
- pregnant women

or, if you have any of the following (whatever age you are)

- a serious heart complaint
- a stroke, multiple sclerosis
- asthma or bronchitis
- serious kidney disease or serious liver disease
- diabetes
- lowered immunity for instance because of steroids or cancer treatment
- if you have a problem with your spleen or you have had your spleen removed

The Saturday morning clinics are reserved for adults only, we will be offering children flu clinics at other times.

This year, the NHS is starting to vaccinate people aged 70 or 79 (as of Sunday, 1st September 2013) against shingles. Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is a painful skin rash caused by the chickenpox virus. Shingles can be very painful and uncomfortable, some people are left with long-lasting pain for years and very occasionally, shingles can be fatal.

We will be offering the shingles vaccination at the same time as your Flu jab if you are aged 70 or 79. More information on both the shingles and flu vaccinations can be found at: **www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations**

Please contact the surgery to make your appointment and to avoid congestion in the car park, please arrive at your pre-booked time.

Ceri Moore, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001

Mere Dental Practice

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

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

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

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



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

WEATHER REPORT

August was a pretty dry month. We only had 26mms (1.02ins). Last year we had 121.5 m/ms (4.79 ins.). The weather was generally sunny and hot..

September started hot until the 5th when we had a little rain over each night totalling 29.5mms (1.16 ins) by the 13th. It was cloudy but dry for the Carnival. The weather is generally getting cooler, but with warm sun when it shines. *Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363*

MERE CARNIVAL

Another fantastic Carnival again this year. We were extremely lucky with the weather and we hope everyone enjoyed themselves as the tradition of Mere Carnival carries on. This is all due to the Carnival Committee who, thanks to their hard work and dedication, not just during carnival week but throughout the year organising fundraising events. It cost approximately £6,000 to stage the day and as you will see from the results of the street collection, we raised just over £1,000, so the events we hold during the year are vital to our survival. I would particularly like to thank Sam and Mark Cassidy of the Walnut Tree Inn who support us throughout the year and on the day.

Clive Hazzard, Chairman, Mere Carnival Committee

Carnival Draw Results

1st Prize £100	3423	Michael Walker
2nd Prize £75	2002	Johnston
3rd Prize £50	3673	Caroline Castle
4th Prize £25	0610	D. Hazzard

Street Collection Results

Lisa Rose	£23.62	
Trudie Maidment	£69.53	
Steve Cook	£45.35	
Clive Hazzard	£50.29	
Derek Sealy	£136.67	
Mere Youth Club	£41.67	(Bucket 9)
Mary Harbert	£51.46	
Mere Youth Club	£29.79	(Bucket 11)
Mere Youth Club	£22.13	(Bucket 13)
Mere Youth Club	£14.83	(Bucket 14)
Madeline Howden	£12.15	
Josh Howden	£54.61	
Mere Youth Club	£29.72	(Bucket 17)
Ben Howden	£38.24	
N. Guy	£53.43	
Fire Service	£92.16	
Collecting Float	£228.95	

This collection of just over £1,000 included - 9,022 1p coins, 6,921 2p coins and a mixture of foreign coins and some old large 1 penny coins! Best Dressed Collector(s) - Lisa, Trudie and Friend as 'Cash Cows with Farmer'.

Having seen this year's carnival, would you like to become involved? Please contact Carol Payne: ✉ luciechesh@hotmail.com or ☎ 01747 861639 for more details.

Carol Payne ☎ 01747 861639

Thanks for Donations

Many thanks to the following businesses and individuals that so generously donated prizes, money and vouchers to use for Fundraising. These have been used predominately at the Bingo, but the Quiz and Comedy Night raffles have also benefited:

Lou's it. Pete Davie (Butcher), Golden Valley, Waltons of Mere, Nectar (formerly at Zeals, but now at Berwick St Leonard), Jeans Electrical, Mere Co-op, The George Inn, Indigo Blue, Mrs Evelyn Flower, Mrs Pauline Mitchell, Mrs Elizabeth Hames, Mrs Irene Forward, Waitrose in Gillingham, Dorset Cereals in Dorchester

Some prizes were left with no names; also there were those that chose to remain anonymous. Again, many thanks to you all. *Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215*

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

As always the second Monday of October sees the start of Mere Literary Festival which is the main fund raiser for the LinkScheme. The programme flyer appears on the inside front cover of this issue, with thanks to Mere Matters and the editor for fitting it in. This year we welcome a number of best-selling authors and poets, and the Mere Historical Society's Morning Talk. Full details of all events and how to book your tickets are in the big green programme and on the festival website www.merelifest.co.uk. The Link hope you will give the events your support and look forward to seeing you.

The Link thank all those whose support, help and co-operation has made the seventeenth Mere Literary Festival possible.

Adrienne Howell & Lit. Fest.Group

MERE COMMUNITY LUNCH

With after coffee speaker Tony Davies telling tall tales from history. In association with the Linkscheme Literary Festival

Tuesday, 15th October

The Old Ship Inn.

12.00 for 12.30pm

2 course lunch £8.95. To book contact the Old Ship Inn ☎ 01747 863388 For further details, please contact me.

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport Requests - ☎ 01747 860096

The summer months are over and the Mere Literary Festival is rushing towards us. Most of you are aware that the Literary Festival is the main fund raising event for the Linkscheme.

I think this is an appropriate time to remind you all that the Linkscheme and the Literary Festival are valued by everyone in the local communities, and if you wish to keep a vibrant and worthwhile organisation you must have a hard working committee in place.

Both committees work for the benefit of you all, and there is always a need for volunteers to come forward. There is a natural turnover of committee members due to age and outside commitments. If you feel you are able to help in any way please contact the Linkscheme on the above number.

Also can I remind you again there is no charge for using the Linkscheme. You make a donation after your trip. We only ask that you contribute what you can afford.

Barbara Thomas



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber hosted a Breakfast Meeting with Sarah Cardy, Chief Executive Officer of Wiltshire Citizens Advice on 11th

September. Sarah's presentation included 'The why, what and how of the Citizens Advice Bureau Service in Wiltshire' and gave us an insight into the services available and the help and advice provided.



The Chamber will be hosting a Social Networking Evening in November and will take this opportunity to talk further about

Project Sunrise.-Mere. Further information to be provided about this event in next month's edition. In the meantime to see how Project Sunrise - Mere is progressing, please see the report below provided by Chamber President, Hamish Bell.

Next Chamber Committee Meeting

This will be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm on Wednesday, 9th October 2013

For further information on Chamber activities and events please contact me

Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700 576

PROJECT SUNRISE - MERE

The first six-monthly report to the South West Wiltshire Area Board has been submitted. The full report will be released on the website later in the month. This first period has seen several initiatives which have begun to show results and some are reviewed here.

Identification and recording of local small businesses and SPEs (single person enterprises) by the Chamber has commenced, but it would help if more made themselves known to us. If that is you, please respond. To help in this potentially massive task, the Chamber has agreed to link up with a local startup. This organisation, "My Local Postcode", (www.mylocalpostcode.com) is offering free fully searchable listings to businesses of any size along with a website page with its own address. This is funded as a social enterprise; however if a business would then like a separate, more specialised website, then that is subject to negotiation and a separate commercial arrangement.

Liaison with the AONB to promote walking and cycling routes has progressed well. Two locals, one a Parish Councillor, have provided walking and cycling routes around the area. These are currently being assessed by AONB volunteers and will appear on their website in the near future. Discussions with Stourhead NT management resulted in

agreement to put links on their website in the next few weeks publicising Mere and its activities in the town and district.

A project team is being formed to press forward with the renovation and updating of the community signboards in the Square and car parks, and the longer-term task to improve the signage on the A303. This work will commence later this month.

An initial meeting was held with a small group of artists amid an enthusiastic atmosphere. The outcome is that a Working Group has been formed, and with seed funding from the project a website (**www.artistsinmere.com**) has been launched, a search for premises for an exhibition space started, and a publicity flyer planned. These will all provide means of attracting visitors to the area and give an opportunity for artists to sell their work.

The website at **www.projectsunrise-mere.org.uk** will carry further information shortly. If you are interested in helping, contact me or Julie Cousins 📞 07856 700 576.

Hamish Bell, President 📞 01747 861717

MERE WATER NEWS IN THE CLOCK TOWER

Mere Museum has mounted a second chapter to its earlier *Water, Water Everywhere* exhibition in the Clock Tower in The Square. There you can find information about the normal destination of water currently extracted from the Burton Field pumping station; graphs showing the current effects on the summer flows of water in the Shreen and the Ashfield of Wessex Water's trials to monitor difference when Mere Source water is, or is not, exported to Yeovil; the monitoring of the biological health of both streams by both Mere volunteers working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wessex Water and, finally, the history of the pumping station at Burton field and the reservoirs above it on the chalk. There is also Environmental Agency news about the responsibilities of people owning land through which rivers flow.

The information about the river flow trials is updated regularly when Wessex Water passes the data to Mere Rivers Group volunteers. You may have seen the measuring

installations on the Shreen, near Yapp's Bridge, and the Ashfield near the first houses as you walk from Mere. Wessex Water reports that the white marker posts indicate the height of the river in centimetres. The oblong grey boxes on posts measure the same information but send it constantly by internet to their head office near Bath.

A member of Wessex Water's Environmental Team comes to both installations regularly to measure the water flow over the barriers at varying heights. All this information is fed into a model of water flows in rivers and goes to provide the information now in the Clock Tower.

There is an EU directive protecting chalk streams, of which around 80% are in England. Mere residents worried about the long term decline in the flows of water in the Ashfield and Shreen hope that this careful monitoring will support the case for a reduction of Mere Source water extraction from the pumping station which lies between the sources of both rivers.

Dr. Paulette McManus ☎ 01747 861524

SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony has welcomed several new members to the choir this term, and has now begun rehearsing its Autumn programme, turning out in all weathers on Thursday evenings to learn new songs in various different languages!

You can hear some of these at the One World Fair on 26th October when Shreen Harmony will be singing with children from Bourton School at around 12.00 noon.

Keep an eye out for information on other forthcoming performances including the Christmas Concert in the Grove Building on Saturday, 21st December at 7.30pm, which is certain to get you into the Christmas spirit!

You can find more information about the choir at: www.shreenharmony.co.uk or via its facebook page. New members are always welcome.

Jane Edwards, ☎ 01985 840065

THE VIP SINGERS

This daytime choir is now open to all who enjoy singing but especially those with visual impairment.

It is held at the British Legion in Endless Street, Salisbury in the Battle of Britain Room starting at 11.00am for social networking, and from 11.30am to 12.30pm when our Musical Director, Tricia Dragonetti, inspires us with popular music known to all.

We have 5 sessions at £25 and begin after the summer break on Friday, 4th October. Our aim is to sing at Salisbury Christmas Market on Friday, 13th December. Come and join us. It is all about having fun! For more information contact me:

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

TRUSSELL TRUST.

I hope that you are all thinking about your Christmas Shoe Boxes, ready for Sunday, 24th November! There are other ways to help the forgotten people in Bulgaria and you might consider a donation to the Summer camp project. This enables very traumatised little people to have a week by the seaside, and find a degree of happiness in their sad lives again. Alternatively, the football project keeps young children off the dangerous streets during the school holidays, when they have no real homes to go to. All three project details will be in St Michael's Church and your help will go DIRECTLY to those in such need. A huge thank you!

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

MERE FILM SHOWS

For the Literary Festival this month, on **Thursday, 17th October at 7.00pm**, we have the film **'Cloud Atlas' (15)**, from the book by David Mitchell. In this film six very different stories are told which are all connected: an 1849 diary of an ocean voyage across the Pacific, letters from a composer to his lover, a thriller about a murder at a nuclear power plant, a farce about a publisher in a nursing home, a rebellious clone in futuristic Korea and the tale of a tribe living in post-apocalyptic Hawaii, far in the future. The stories are told in short intervals, leading from comedic highs to shocking drama in minutes and the cast, which includes Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugh Grant, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess, Ben Wishaw and Susan Sarandon, play characters in each of these stories, although in some it is almost impossible to identify the actors. See page 29 for more details

I have read the book and seen the film and loved both. It is an extraordinary film with the stories evocatively portraying how the actions of individuals affect others, rippling throughout time. It is well worth seeing, and supporting the Literary Festival at the same time.

Please note – this film starts at 7.00pm as it is a longer than usual film and the Literary Festival is a busy week!

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The nights are drawing in and the out-of-doors seems less attractive. So why not consider some outings to the theatre? Convivial company, a wide range of theatrical events and you don't even need to drive yourself. Give us a ring and join one of the fastest growing clubs in Mere!

Madeline Morris ☎ 01747 861833. Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



Lions Club of Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury
We meet at Gillingham Town Hall twice a month
New members are always welcome
Please contact us on 0845 833 7521

OCTOBER SHORT WALK

This will take place on Thursday, 24th October. Meet as usual in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm for a walk of about 3 miles with views (hopefully) of glorious Autumn colours!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

R. S. P. C. A.

The Tombola held at the Ashley Heath Animal Centre Open Day made £300. Many Thanks to those that helped make this possible.

Pete and Sue Howell ☎ 01747 860623

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

The group meets in October at 7.00pm on Wednesdays, 9th and 23rd in the small hall of the Lecture Hall.

The meeting on Wednesday, 9th October will be a talk by Tony Davies about the Vulcan Foundry followed by a discussion. Generations of Tony's family have worked at the Vulcan Foundry. The Vulcan Foundry was the historic location where the Stephenson Family first started to manufacture steam locomotives for the Lancashire Railways as they were unable to supply them from Darlington. Vulcan continued to manufacture steam locomotives for world wide distribution for the next 150 years. We are opening this talk to anyone in the Mere & District area who would like to attend.

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

SCREENBITES

The Screen Bites film at Mere Lecture Hall on Thursday, 10th October is the ever-popular "A Private Function", (special request of sponsors Mere Fish Farm.)

The festival's principal sponsor, Giles Henschel from Olives Et Al, will be talking about how he came to set up his successful business, and there will be food to taste and buy from Stourhead Farm Shop, Olives Et Al, Mere Fish Farm, E Deli, Hotch Potch Eggs, Sprout and Flower and more.

Set in the rationed post war days in Yorkshire, the late Richard Griffiths is the corrupt accountant, Michael Palin is the chiropodist and Maggie Smith his social climbing wife, held back by a determinedly working class mother (Liz Smith.) Perhaps the real star is the pig that the town council is secretly (and illegally) fattening up for a banquet to celebrate the wedding of Princess Elizabeth.

Doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets £8. Visit: www.screenbites.co.uk, ☎ 01963 32525 or ✉ screenbites@thanksgiving.demon.co.uk for tickets and further information.

Joy Jolliffe ☎ 01305 871490

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF JENNIFER MELLO

My mother lived for the last few years of her life in Mere and sadly passed away on 19th August.

I have arranged a celebratory service with Rev'd Carol to be held in St Michaels Church at 11.30am on Thursday, 24th October. All who knew my mother will be most welcome to join us.

Kim Worboys ☎ 01372 370252

A JOURNEY FOR "DOH"

Our son, 13 year old Joseph Wigley from Combswich, Somerset, is taking on a mammoth challenge to raise money for Salisbury Hospice. He will be cycling 100 miles across Devon from Ilfracombe to Plymouth over a 5 day period in September. He will then match every £1 raised with a minute of sailing on Durleigh reservoir.

Joseph is taking on this challenge in memory of his grandpa, John (Doh) Turnbull, who died in 2011, just seven months after being diagnosed with a brain tumour. John had retired to Mere in 1999 with his wife Monique.

Having spent a lot of time in the hospice with his Grandpa, Joseph says; "The quality of his treatment was extremely high and the staff were very friendly. I feel this is the least I could do to say thank you for the excellent work they do. I picked these events because Grandpa was a keen cyclist and was very interested in my sailing."

If you feel you would like to support Joseph, please look at the Justgiving page he has set up: <https://www.justgiving.com/For-Doh>. Many thanks for your support!

Nicole and Graeme Wigley ☎ 01278 653431

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting on Wednesday, 9th October at 7.30pm Grove Building will be a talk by Edward Wells on Poisonous Plants. Edward is a trustee of the Somerset Wildlife Trust with a love of and respect for plants, and an interest in poisonous plants. He will cover identification and effects, illustrating his talk with slides.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits or generosity of our friends and Residents' families who came along to our Annual Autumn Fair on 7th September. It was our biggest event ever and was magnificently supported, helping us to raise £827, in aid of our 10th Anniversary Appeal for '5K for Fives' transport fund. Thank you all very much.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



EVENTS

IN THE GROVE BUILDING,

Friday, 25th October 3.30-5.30pm

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

All primary age children welcome to share in a JUNK MODELLING WORKSHOP WITH SCRAPSTORE, 'Enough Food for Everyone' Game, Create-a-Garden & other activities.

£1.00 per child (including refreshments)

Book through Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

Saturday 26th October 11.00am-3.00pm

ONE WORLD FAIR

A chance to celebrate the rich diversity of our One World with Fair-Trade Gifts – Christmas Cards – lunches & refreshments – Children's activities – face painting – stalls – dancing – singing and more.

Programme includes:

11.30 Singing Workshop;

12.00 Shreen Harmony;

12.45 Garden Game;

1.30 Food Sharing Challenge;

2.45 Draw & Prizes

2.15 GUEST PERFORMANCE OF THE YETMINSTER IRISH DANCERS;

ALL WELCOME (entrance free)

Judith Thompson and Janet Way for Mere & District Churches Together

☎ 01747 860884 or ☎ 01747 860553



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker last month was Gordon Brockman, an auctioneer from the Chippenham Auction Rooms. We heard, how because of illness, he would watch programmes like "Flog it" and "Bargain Hunt", gaining knowledge which enabled him to make a good profit when he sold a brooch that he bought at a table top sale. He became a porter at a friend's auction room, rising to head porter and then to an auctioneer and valuer. We also heard many stories from the Auction Rooms including accidents that have happened, and the pitfalls of using house clearance companies and when selling gold and silver items. In conclusion we were treated to our own "Good, Better, Best" evaluation of nine items. How easy it is to be fooled, since four of the items were fakes! It was good to see two new faces at our meeting and hope for many more in the future.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 3rd October in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm. We are having an "in house" craft session. Please come and join us to learn a new skill and hopefully take away a completed craft item. We look forward to seeing you.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323

Bottle Tombola

to be held on Saturday, 26th October

outside the Post Office from 9.00am to 12.30pm

in aid of:

The Rosemary Goddard Centre

(Mere and District Day Centre for Older People)

Great prizes to be won.

Our annual quiz will also be on sale.

Please support this valued local charity.

Caroline Cook 01747 861797



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our theme for this year has been 'sowing seeds' – exploring how small beginnings can lead to greater things. On Tuesday, 8th October at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, The Rev'd Anne Heywood will be helping us reflect further on this theme, and gather together the thoughts and ideas other speakers have encouraged us to develop. New members, visitors, and all who are interested are always welcome at our meetings: this one will be of particular interest to anyone considering joining us. For details, please phone me.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

If you have heard Christmas carols emanating from the Lecture Hall on a Tuesday or Thursday night, and have wondered what on earth is going on, fear not. MADS has not lost its collective marbles. We are just rehearsing for our Autumn Production, which this year is Adrienne Howell's play 'Sing Nowell' and that's just what we've been doing. Not only is there a huge cast, many people playing several parts (and wearing several costumes, though not all at once) there is also a Victorian Fair thrown in for good measure during which there will be refreshments!

How can you possibly miss such a cornucopia of pleasures? This production is in memory of MADS member, the late Pip Potter, who took the lead in the original production at Duchy Manor School. Remember the dates: Thursday to Saturday, 21st - 23rd November. Tickets will be on sale at the end of this month.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE MUSEUM

There are just a few weeks left to see our acclaimed exhibition of photographs of Mere. Most of these will be made permanently available to peruse again and again in a photograph album currently being prepared.

At the end of October we shall be installing a new exhibition which will provide glimpses of dress in days gone by, entitled '**What People Wore**'. It will feature many items from the Museum's motley collection, ranging from smocks and spectacles to uniforms and a wig-curler. But these will be amplified by many glamorous dresses and hats (and more) kindly loaned by MADS from their extensive wardrobe of authentic costumes, some items dating to Victorian times. If anyone has mannequins or tailors' dummies, whole or half length, or polystyrene (or similar) heads which they would be willing to lend us for this exhibition, please contact the curators; David (davidlongbourne@btinternet.com) or Jenny (tel. 860908).

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

A major Friends' event will take place later this month. Unusually, we are combining the **AGM** and the **Friends' Preview** of the new exhibition 'What People Wore'. The date is **Tuesday, 29th October at 7.30pm** and both events will take place, one immediately after the other, **in the Museum**. Please note that the Preview will be rather later than usual. Please remember too, that SUBSCRIPTIONS are also due at the AGM. The Treasurer will be more than happy to take cash or cheques, or to provide forms to enable you to pay by Standing Order or BACS if you wish. New members very welcome.

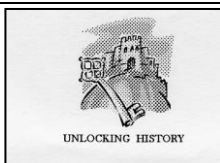
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for September 2013 drawn on Sunday, 8th September by Mr Richard Coward was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 67	Mrs Montgomery
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 48	Alison Oliver
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 186	Mrs Wilson
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 152	Mrs E Jans

Thank you so much to all the 'renewed' and 'new' members for the 2013/14 year. I am always amazed and delighted at your willingness to pay the subscription. The Grove Building is very lucky, and I am very grateful. *Valerie Ransley* ☎ 01747 860964



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Roman Army, Fact and Fiction

John Smith

Tuesday, 1st October at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

This is a change to the programme and we are grateful to John for stepping in at the last minute.

Morning talk: Tuesday, 15th October, “How English is English? Our Hybrid Language” by Gerry Cook. To be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am as part of Mere Literary Festival. *Retiring donations.*

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 are very welcome

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE BOWLS CLUB

A Big Reminder – On Saturday, 5th October 2013 we shall be holding an Autumn Fayre in the yard of the Old Ship Hotel starting at 10.00am. Plants, Books, Bread, Cakes, etc will be featured – come along and find a bargain.

The Club continues to go from strength to strength; we have again won the Westbrook League and won back the Win Green Trophy which is played for by teams from Mere, Cranborne and Tisbury.

We have also reached the magical figure of fifty members, so a big thank you to our new members from Mere and the surrounding area.

It is a little late to give bowls a try for this season, but we open again on Saturday, 19th April 2014 (subject to AGM agreement). Flat shoes and enthusiasm is all you need, we can teach you the rest.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

A Mere Literary Festival Event

'Cloud Atlas' (15)

**Tom Hanks Halle Berry Jim Broadbent
Hugh Grant Jim Sturgess Ben Wishaw**

In 1849 a businessman on a voyage in the South Pacific shelters a runaway slave; in 1936 a penniless young composer joins the household of a temperamental maestro and four decades later a journalist risks her life investigating safety problems at a nuclear power plant. An extraordinary exploration of how the actions of individual lives impact one another in the past, present and future, as one soul is shaped from a killer into a hero, and an act of kindness ripples across centuries to inspire a revolution.....

In the Lecture Hall

Thursday, 17th October, at 7.00pm

(Doors open 6.30pm)

TICKETS £5.00

Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

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

SNOOKER CLUB

The Club has recently completely refurbished one of its tables up to championship standard and members have been enjoying the vast improvement in the playing surface.

The Club's next fundraising event is the Quiz Night, with live music, on Wednesday, 23rd October at 7.00pm in the Grove Building. Tickets, which include a ploughman's supper, are available from the undersigned, or from members. A licensed bar will be available, and it promises to be a most enjoyable evening, so book your place now.

Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

How quickly the days have passed, already we are thinking of end of season activities, but what a good year we have had. Overall membership has grown, the Boule side of the club has really taken off, thanks very largely to the untiring efforts of Michael Gladding, and the Croquet players have had a great time with some lovely weather to make things all the more enjoyable.

This year we are combining our end of season gathering with the annual barbecue. As always it is an "Open Day" event, everyone is welcome. The date to note is Sunday, 29th September, commencing at 1pm. Tickets are £5 per person, this includes all your eats and a glass of wine or a soft drink.

If you are interested in the club activities, do come along. Just give me a ring to let us know you will be attending. There will be an opportunity to try your hand at either Croquet or Boule.

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

MERE SCHOOL

An Important Message from Headteacher, Mrs Williamson

If your child will be 4 between Sunday, 1st September 2013 and Sunday, 31st August 2014 they are due to start school in September 2014.

Please contact Mere School, ☎ 01747 860515, for an application form, which needs to be filled in and returned to Wiltshire Council urgently to secure your child a place.

If you would like to come and have a look around the school please do ring to make an appointment. We love sharing what we do with visitors.

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2103 ISSUE

MONDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2013



RED CLASS AND THE COUNCIL

New Start!

We hope you have all had a restful and exciting summer break and are now enjoying the start of the Autumn Term!

Mere Welcomes New Children

We would like to say a huge welcome to all of the new children who have started this term. We have new starters in most classes and are happy to report that they are settling in well.

Well done to our youngest newbies, Blue Class, who have just completed their first full week in school. Their topic this term is Ourselves. When asked what they thought of their new teacher they said, "Mrs Bevan is a nice teacher because she teaches us nice things." They especially liked Mrs Harrison, who they described as "lovely".

Yellow Class

Yellow Class have been busy looking at toys from the past. Mrs Hillier, Mrs Tatman and Mrs Harvey have been helping them to learn hard number sentences and mix colours. They really enjoy all of the writing that they have been doing this term!

Fire, Fire!

Don't worry there isn't a real fire...it is the topic that Silver Class are studying this term.

The children in Silver Class have been exploring their new classroom and especially like the book corner. When asked what they are looking forward to most this term they said...Christmas lunch!

Terrible Tudors

Gold Class are busy learning all about the Tudors. They have really enjoyed moving from Key Stage One to Key Stage Two and like the tuck at playtime and Friday afternoon games. They are really enjoying storytime too and can't wait to find out what is going to happen in Georges' Marvellous Medicine. Charlie said that he now wants to read more Roald Dahl books.

Green Class

Green Class have been enjoying learning to write with their new fountain pens. Their topic this term is World War Two and they can't wait to do more writing!

Moving Upstairs

The children in Red Class have successfully moved to join Year 6 upstairs. They said that being upstairs makes them feel more grown up. They are enjoying their topic, The Romans, and this week have been finding out about Pompeii.

Purple Class

As the oldest class, Year Six have been enjoying their new role as school role models. Jett said that he felt that things were changing so fast that it would nearly be time to go to Gillingham whilst India-Skye said that she enjoyed having more responsibility.

A great start to the new school year!

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 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come, please telephone me.

Christine Marsh ☎ 01747 861212



METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Cafe Worship

Worship with Coffee in the Methodist School Room on Wednesday, 30th October. Coffee is served at 10.30am and worship follows at 11.00am. Do join us for a brief pause for thought, you will be very welcome. *Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370*

THE CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FAIR 2013

WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON

SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2013

IN THE GROVE BUILDING

BETWEEN 10.00AM AND 12.00NOON

COME AND SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES AND BUY YOUR STOCKING FILLERS EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

SEASONAL PLANTS, REFRESHMENTS AND A TOMBOLA.

ENJOY A CHAT AND A COFFEE

GRAND RAFFLE WITH A 1ST PRIZE OF £100

THE REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MICHAEL'S, WRITES:

Money - and how we use it - is very much in focus at St Michael's at the moment as we carry out a badly-needed review of our financial giving. The Parochial Church Council

has approved a programme called 'Giving in Grace' that will ask all the regular worshippers at St Michael's to review their financial giving and consider increasing it. The immediate need is great: for the last few years St Michael's has been spending more than it's been receiving, and that obviously can't continue.

But 'Giving in Grace' is more than just trying to balance the church's books. Many people think that talking about money doesn't belong in a church setting, but they're mistaken. Someone has counted more than 2,300 verses in the Bible that mention money, wealth and possessions, and Jesus is quoted as speaking more on that topic than he does about prayer and faith. We are looking at St Luke's gospel and aiming to explain how Christians should deal with wealth, poverty, acquiring possessions and generosity in giving.

How does a Christian deal with these issues? Money can be a useful servant but a terrible master, so we heed what Jesus says about that: "You cannot serve God and money". If we allow financial considerations always to rule our lives, then there will be no room left for any kind of spiritual dimension, no room for generosity, for selfless giving, for helping others and receiving back the joy that comes from those acts. In one sense our giving is both **selfless** and **selfish** because of that joy.

But Christian giving isn't all joy - there's a discipline and some sacrifice to it as well, and we're trying to face up to that in 'Giving in Grace'. The discipline comes from putting God first. We don't just tot up all our expenses and then give to the church and other charities what's left over, 'the crumbs from our table'. We turn that on its head, and decide **first** what we're giving away, and then work out how to keep the rest of our spending within our income. That's where the sacrifice comes in: yes, we will have less to spend on ourselves, and our lifestyles will reflect this.

So we're hoping that when the members of our church family receive their 'Giving in Grace' letters this month they will think and pray about their giving and respond generously, remembering the words that we say during every Communion service: "all things come from You, and of your own do we give you."

With love in Christ,

Rev'd Carol

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

OCTOBER 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

Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Thursday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Friday		The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day	
Tuesday	1st	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	6th	9.15am	Said Eucharist followed by coffee
		10.30am	Family Praise Harvest Festival service (please bring contributions for Foodbank)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	13th	10.45am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		3.00pm	One World Week Service (Churches Together)
Thursday	24th	11.30am	Service of Celebration for the Life of Jenny Mello
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	13th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
			Harvest Festival & Holy Communion service
	20th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
		3.00pm	One World Week Service (Churches Together) at St Michael's Church
	27th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Mr R Rickards
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13th	11.00am	Harvest Festival at the United Reformed Church
20th	3.00pm	One World Week Service (Churches Together) at St Michael's Church
27th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine 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	6th	9.15am	DIY
	13th	6.00pm	Harvest Festival
	20th	9.15am	Matins
	27th	9.25am	Holy Communion (BCP)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

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

October 2013

1	Tue	10.15am	Lip Reading (also 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society Meeting	GB
2	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
3	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 10th, 17th & 21st)	L
		10.00am	12.00pm 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)	CC
4	Fri	10.30am	St Michael's "First Friday" Coffee Drop in	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
5	Sat	10.00am	Mere Bowls Club Autumn Fayre	Old Ship Hotel
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (also 12th, 19th & 26th)	CC
6	Sun	12.00pm	St Michael's Harvest Festival Lunch	GB
7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 14th & 21st)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday))	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 14th & 21st)	GB
7	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 22nd)	L
		10.00am	Card Making (also 22nd)	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (also 15th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
9	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		3.00pm	T@3 Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.00pm	Mere & District Railway Modellers (also 23rd)	L
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
10	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
		7.00pm	Screenbites	L
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (also 16th & 23rd)	GB
11	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
12	Sat	7.30pm	Oasis Bingo Club Eyes Down	L
13	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
14	Mon	7.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
15	Tue	10.15am	Mere Historical Society Morning Meeting	GB
		12.30pm	Lit Fest Community Lunch	Old Ship Inn
		7.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
16	Wed	2.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
		7.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
17	Thur	7.00pm	Mere Filmshows "Cloud Atlas"	L
18	Fri	2.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
18	Fri	7.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB

19	Sat	9.00am	FLU CLINIC See page 12	Surgery
		10.30am	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
		2.15pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	Lib
		2.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
		7.30pm	Lit Fest, see inside front cover for details	GB
20	Sun	3.00pm	Literary Festival Awards Ceremony	L
21	Mon	7.30pm	MADS meeting (Green Room)	L
		10.30am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
23	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.00pm	Snooker Club Quiz Night	GB
24	Thur	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
25	Fri	3.30pm	One World Fair – Children’s after school activities	GB
26	Sat	9.00am	Bottle Tombola- RGC	The Square
		11.00am	One World Fair	GB
29	Tue	7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum AGM and Preview	Lib
30	Wed	10.30 am	Café Worship	MH

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

Grove Building:	Richard Jefferies	☎ 01747 863425
Lecture Hall:	Sally Johnson	☎ 01747 861063
Methodist Church Schoolroom	Mary Siderfin	☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

REGISTRAR **By appointment only**

OF BIRTHS Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

& DEATHS: For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

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

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the November 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, 14th October 2013**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 7th October 2013 onwards.

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

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

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✉: **jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

☎: **01985 844740**

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