

# MERE MATTERS

## AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 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 held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 2nd September 2013**.

## The Chairman writes:

As you may know, as a general rule, the Parish Council does not meet in August. However, there is always work to be done and issues to attend to.

Last month I was pleased to attend the Remembrance Service for the 43rd Wessex Regiment and to lay a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council, at the memorial. The service was well attended despite the extremely hot weather.

Our grounds staff are very busy during the summer months, cutting grass and maintaining the open spaces, play areas, cemetery etc. You may have noticed also that the play equipment in the Castle Hill Play Area has been refurbished although, sadly, it has been necessary to remove the old slide unit which, at 22 years old, had outlived its usefulness and could not withstand any more repairs. We shall aim to replace this as soon as finances allow.

Whilst we have been deliberating the issue of our faded yellow lines in The Square, it transpires that we have strong feelings amongst our councillors for both sides of the argument: repainting the yellow lines or asking for them to be removed. This issue will be debated in full at our September meeting (Monday, 2nd September).

At the time of writing this report, we have had a wonderful summer enabling sport to flourish in Mere. I was pleased to be asked to award certificates at the youth football summer school event.

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

*Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council*

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



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

At a recent full council meeting Maggie Rae was appointed Head of paid services. We have to have an officer for this function by statute. We have no Chief Executive who would normally fulfil the role; therefore it is going to be rotated between our three corporate directors.

Of the £11m Wiltshire Council invested in Icelandic Banks, Wiltshire Council will get, and has received back most of £10m plus some dividend.

The Audit commission will be completely abolished by 2015. During some Audit training it was said Councils placed too much emphasis on policies and not outcomes. I quite agree with this view. Planning policies driven by policy with little regard to neighbours or parish council views being an example in my opinion.

Dog fouling complaints continue. The villages around Mere also are now beginning to voice concern. I understand our new PCSO can issue fines to those who do not pick up after their dog fouls in a public area.

On one of our nice summer evenings, I painted part of the flag pole on Castle Hill in Mere and removed some metal, which fouled the ropes. This was ready for the annual remembrance service in July of each year for those men of the 43rd (Wessex) Division who gave their lives in Europe in 1944/45, especially at Hill 112, Caen in July 1944, which was the Division's first major battle.

We are a very neighbourly area, and people openly offered their help. Andrew Holder stayed for more than an hour helping; he had only gone out to shop at the local Co-op! Those of you with Facebook may already have seen reference to the painting of the flag pole on Castle Hill. Some of my fellow electrical dealers told me about it, when I met with them in London. Media is certainly affecting all our lives.

The Co-op has just awarded a large grant to the Mere Rainbows, Brownies and Guides plus Mere Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

Council Housing is seeing much change and a Housing Board is being set up that will probably meet every 6 months. We already have Tenants Panels and Focus groups with tenant's scrutiny of which Sandra Catley is chairman who lives in Mere, which I think is helpful for Mere residents.

I have had complaints about kitchen and bathroom fits in Wiltshire Council property, especially in Zeals. Should you know someone who is or was not happy with their install, please tell me.

Broadband latest. The Government has made an additional £250m available to bring 95% coverage by 2017. This additional funding is to increase our coverage further, above that which Wiltshire hopes to achieve by 2015.

It is difficult to achieve one SID (Speed Indicator Device) in a town the size of Mere. We actually have two at present. For one, we have to thank Mr Benfield in White Road by his agreement to the installation of a pole in his garden (except that the council put the device on the wrong pole last time!)

An APP for you to use on your smart phone to report road defects should be available by the beginning of September.

Help to live at home was passed recently by The Wiltshire Council cabinet. Should you require information on this latest move to enable people to live at home, please contact me.

Leslie and Tony Traves walking with me across Southbrook Allotments found a bracelet. If you have lost such an item when walking through the allotments, please give me a description and I will let you know if it is yours.

## **WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Funded by Wiltshire Council and managed by Community First, the Wiltshire Community Transport Development Fund (WCTDF) has been set up to:

- Enable existing community and voluntary transport groups to provide a wider range of services
- Enable communities to trial new services which assist local people to better access local facilities
- Support the establishment of wholly new community and voluntary transport groups

The fund will give priority to voluntary and community transport projects that provide services for the general public; particularly where public transport is no longer financially sustainable.

### **There are three scales of grant:**

#### **Small Grants (up to £1,000)**

For projects over £250, applicants will need to provide a minimum of 25% matched funding of the total cost of the project.

#### **Medium Grants (from £1,000 to £7,500)**

All projects will need to provide a minimum of 15% 'matched' funding towards the total cost of their project.

#### **Grant and Loan Scheme (from £5,000 to £20,000)**

This scheme is on offer to CT groups who are in a good position to take on new services and are already operating in an enterprising way but need some support financially to develop capacity.

Groups can apply for up to £20,000 in total. There is no set percentage between the amount of Grant and Loan available. Community First will be available to provide guidance on this aspect of the application. Applications will need to demonstrate that projects meet community needs and that the group is in a good position to manage repayment of a Loan.

To find out the types of things the different scales of grant will fund, please go to: <http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/index.php/grants/community-transport-small-grants-fund>.

For further information, please contact:

*Liam Tatton-Bennett, WCTDF ☎ 01380 732816*

## **WILTSHIRE GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

### **Keeping Safe At Home**

10 Golden rules to help you beat scammers (*courtesy of the West Midlands Police*):



1. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Do not agree to offers or deals straight away. If you think you have spotted a great opportunity, insist on time to obtain independent/legal advice before making a decision.
3. Do not hand over money or sign anything until you have checked the credentials of the company that you are dealing with.
4. Never send money or give bank or personal details to anyone you do not know or trust. This includes sending money abroad and using methods of payment that you are not comfortable with.
5. Log directly on to a website that you are interested in, rather than clicking on links provided in an e-mail.
6. Do not rely on glowing testimonials: find solid independent evidence of a company's success.
7. Always get independent/legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
8. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help. Contact ActionFraud ☎ 0300 123 2040, online at: **www actionfraud.police.uk** or the local Police ☎ 101.
9. Always remember: scammers are cunning and clever. They know how to manipulate you to produce the response they want.

10. Be suspicious. If you are unsure about anything, seek independent/legal advice.

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 (number on page 8).



## **T@3 Community Tea Party** **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Mere Community Lunch**

With after coffee speaker Tony Davies telling tall tales from history.

**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  
*Ann-Marie Dean, Local Coordinator, ☎ 07557 922023*

## **VISIT MERE LIBRARY**

If you haven't been into Mere Library for a while or you are new to the area why not come in and see what we have to offer.

The Library has a range of fiction and non-fiction books for all ages including large print and talking book formats; information about your local area; free computer access to the internet and other online resources; free Wi-Fi; local interest books and reference stock, and a range of DVDs for both adults and children.

Through Mere Library you can also access stock and services from across the county.

Joining the library is free of charge and straightforward. We can guarantee a warm welcome from our staff and volunteers who will be happy to help you get started if you are visiting for the first time. We are family friendly and keen to encourage children and young people to enjoy books and reading from an early age. Items for under-16s from other libraries in Wiltshire can be reserved for free.

The community services available at Mere Library are listed on page 38:

Mere Library is a community resource for everyone in the local area. We aim to ensure that you can access the services and information you need, as well as encouraging

people of all ages to enjoy the pleasure of reading a good book and discovering new writers and titles.

### **Mere Library's opening hours are:**

Monday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm*	and 2.00 – 7.00 pm
Tuesday	9.30 am – 5.00 pm	
Wednesday	9.30 am – 1.00 pm*	
Thursday	9.30 am – 5.00pm	
Friday	9.30 am – 5.00 pm	
Saturday	9.30 am – 1.00 pm	

*\*Volunteer operated sessions*

### **Good reads available from Wiltshire Library Service. Find your favourite authors or try something new!**

#### **Available now**

#### **“Never go back” by Lee Child**

Another thrilling Jack Reacher novel, which sees Child's loner ex-military hero embroiled in adventure and danger as he travels back to north eastern Virginia to meet the new Commanding Officer of his old unit. On arrival he finds himself accused of a 16 year homicide and receives another equally shocking piece of news.

#### **“The White Princess by Phillipa Gregory**

This latest novel from Phillipa Gregory tells the haunting story of Elizabeth of York, wife of Henry VII and daughter of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville – the White Queen. As she grows to love the husband, she was forced to marry, she increasingly finds herself torn between her loyalty to her husband and her attachment to her rebellious mother. Her conflict is compounded when she meets *the Pretender* who claims to be her lost brother and denies completely the claims of the House of York.

#### **“Strange Shores” by Arnaldur Indridason**

In the latest in the Reykjavik Murder Mysteries series Detective Erlendur investigates the disappearance of a young woman who, decades earlier, walked into the frozen Norwegian fjords. He is also on a personal quest to find his lost brother who disappeared in a snowstorm when they were both children. It is a perilous journey into the past, where long buried secrets are uncovered with terrible consequences.

#### **Coming soon in September**

#### **“Solo” by William Boyd**

James Bond, 007 returns with this new novel by William Boyd, one of our best contemporary writers. A must read for Bond fans and those who enjoy fast-paced adventure and espionage!

### **“The Treasure Hunt” by Andrea Camilleri**

The further adventures Inspector Montalbano, one of Italy’s best love crime fiction detectives. Whilst investigating a violent crime, Montalbano finds himself drawn into a mysterious and perplexing treasure hunt set by an anonymous challenger. During this pursuit a horrific crime occurs, which changes the nature of the investigation and before long Montalbano, himself, faces terrible danger.

### **“Lion Heart” by Justin Cartwright**

Richie Cathar, the hero of this novel, follows in his father’s footsteps to the Holy Land, where he is searching for Christianity’s most sacred relic and the truth about his recently deceased father, Alaric, a sixties intellectual and explorer. Richie remembers him as a fantasist and delusional drug-taker who made wild claims about his research and discoveries. Whilst on this quest, he falls passionately in love with Noor, a Canadian-Arab journalist with secrets of her own.

*Jane Hunt, WC Library Services, ☎ 01225 713792*



## **‘MERENEIGHBOURS’ NEWS**

### **Priorities**

Our two priorities are rolled over from last month, Dog Fouling and Parking/Obstruction in the town centre continue to be targeted by the Neighbourhood Police Team. We have been engaging with dog walkers and drivers to deter people not picking up their dogs mess and drivers are being instructed where they can and cannot park safely with due consideration to other road users. Your local police team is also now sending out warning letters to drivers who are caught exceeding the speed limit of 40mph at Kilmington Common. A big thank you to the team at Community Speed Watch for assisting us with this.

### **Out and about with PCSO Pete**

“I have been out on foot in the surrounding villages this month, talking to people in Zeals, East Knoyle and Semley. People are glad to see me about and I leave contact details so that they can contact me if they have any issues. In rural areas we are sometimes targeted by home and garage thieves. I would ask everyone to be vigilant, make note of suspicious vehicles, and call the Police if they suspect that people are up to no good. You are our eyes and ears; people looking for scrap metal; looking in gardens and driveways are of interest to us. If you can get a vehicle index and description, all the better, let us know and you could help to deter or catch criminals”.

### **Scam Warning!**

This scam was actually sent to the Mere NPT e mail inbox. If you get an e mail from HMRC telling you that you have got a refund on your taxes and they ask you to fill out a

form and return it with your bank card details and security number, so that they can send you the money, DO NOT GIVE THEM THESE DETAILS, THIS IS A SCAM! Report it to Wiltshire Police on the 101 number. NO BANK OR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WOULD EVER ASK FOR YOUR BANK DETAILS. **Remember. If it looks to good to be true, it usually is!**

## **Vehicle Thieves**

Have been targeting cars at King Alfreds Tower car park again, we have had 2 reports of thefts where sat navs and mobile phones have been taken. We have put notices up along the route and in the car park, please heed these and take valuables with you. If you see anyone acting suspiciously, especially around parked cars, call the Police.

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

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

*✉ [peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)*

*For matters relating to 'MereNeighbours' only:*

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

## 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 between 70 and 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 between 70 and 79. More information on both the shingles and flu vaccinations can be found at: **[www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations](http://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.

*Angela Pitman, 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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://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*

## **HEAR IN MERE**

Do you, or anyone you know, have a hearing loss? Here in Mere people with a hearing loss are well catered for compared with other areas of the country.

We have a very friendly Lipreading Group where we meet others, who have a varying degree of hearing loss. We talk about how hearing loss affects our lives, learn about equipment and agencies who can help us come to terms with the loss of our hearing. We are fortunate to have an excellent lipreading tutor who helps us to learn and practise our lipreading skills. There is much laughter, and we do a good cup of coffee and biscuits!

We meet each Tuesday morning during term time in the small hall in the Grove Buildings. This is one of the few Lipreading Groups in Wiltshire, why not pop in and meet us? Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th September from 10.15am until 12.15pm.

Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID- Royal National Institute of the Deaf) run 'Hear to Help' (a hearing aid clinic) at Mere Surgery on the first Thursday each month. It is run by volunteers. They can retube aids and give advice; however there are a few things which only audiology at Salisbury can deal with.

Dates and times of the Lipreading Group and 'Hear To Help' can be found in the Diary Dates in Mere Matters.  
*Lyn Snook ☎ 01747 861977*

## WEATHER REPORT

In June we had a total of 25.5mms (1.0ins) of rain. Last year, we had 148mms (5.83ins). The weather was sunny and warm but not particularly hot.

July was different. The rain was 47mms (1.85ins) compared with last year's 157mms (6.18ins). From the 4th to the 24th it got hotter and hotter- well over 26.7°C (80°deg F). On the 25th it rained and on the 27th we had 21mms (0.83ins). On the 29th we had 10mms (0.39ins) and a thunderstorm. The heat wave to beat many heat waves was over!

August started wet with 11.5mms (0.45ins) up to the 10th, and warmer than June.

*Peter Durkee ☎ 01747 860363*

## MERE CARNIVAL

### Mere Carnival Day - Saturday 14th September 2013

Congratulations to this year's Carnival Royals:

**Charlotte Berry - Carnival Princess**  
**India-Skye Beale - Carnival Attendant**  
**Evie Rich - Carnival Attendant**  
**Jasmine Berry – Carnival Attendant**

The crowning ceremony was at the Walnut Tree Inn with Sam Cassidy presenting the crowns, sashes and posies (kindly supplied by Sprout and Flower). Check the Mere Carnival Facebook page for photograph.

### Carnival Events

#### Friday, 6th September - Bingo - Grove Building

Eyes Down 7.45pm. Raffle/Refreshments/Grand Prizes

#### Tuesday, 10th September - Quiz - Grove Building

7.30pm Start - Teams of 4 - £2 each. Raffle/Refreshments

#### Thursday, 12th September - Lecture Hall - Film Night

7.30pm "Robot And Frank"

### **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**

## **Friday, 13th September - Walnut Tree Inn - Comedy Nite**

7.00pm - £20 each to include main course

Booking Essential - 01747 861220

## **Saturday, 14th September - CARNIVAL DAY**

3.00pm Children's Parade

3.30pm Drawing of Carnival Raffle at Clock Tower

7.30pm Grand Carnival Parade

**Have fun with our Window Oddities Competition**

**Collect your £1 entry form now from Jeans Electrical**

**Raffle tickets on sale in Mere shops and pubs**

**Don't forget to pick up a programme for more details of what is going on during  
Carnival time**

**Entry forms for Carnival Parades available from Waltons/Post Office now**

Do you have any unwanted new small or larger items that would be suitable for prizes during the Carnival fundraising events? If so, we would be very grateful to receive them for use. They can be left at Jeans Electrical Shop, Chapel Showroom or Waltons Newsagents. *Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee* ☎ 01747 861639

## **TRUSSELL TRUST CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES**

As I write this, summer has finally come to Britain! We have no idea how long our fine weather will last but one thing that you can be sure of - in Bulgaria the winter will be bitterly cold!

So, wonderful knitters of Mere, please get cracking with your knitting needles and make lovely warm hats and gloves and scarves and jumpers for the forgotten people in Bulgaria.

It is also time to call upon your generous spirits to be thinking about the Christmas Shoe Boxes and to be collecting nice things to go into them. These boxes give SUCH pleasure to people who have nothing, so I hope that you will fill one once again. Leaflets and posters will soon be distributed. **THANKYOU!**

*Wendy Horne* ☎ 01747 861712

## **MERE ART GROUP**

New to the village or just looking for something different to do now that summer is almost over? Why not try your hand at painting? We are an amateur, untutored group of people who enjoy painting in the company of others.

We meet every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in The Grove Building at a cost of £2 per session (the first one is complimentary). You don't have to be a Rembrandt or a

Picasso – several members hadn't lifted a paint brush since their school days when they joined, but you should see them now! If you don't have the equipment, don't worry as we have a cupboard full of different types of paper, paints, brushes and just about every other media you can think of, so you can try your hand at them before committing yourself to buying your own.

*Judy Hingley ☎ 01747 861596*



## THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber will be hosting a Breakfast Meeting at The Walnut Tree Inn, Mere on Wednesday, 11th September at 7.45am. The Guest Speaker will be Sarah Cardy, Chief Executive Officer of Wiltshire Citizens Advice.

Places are £10.00 per delegate for Chamber members and £12.00 per delegate for Non-members.

### Networking Evening

Following the success of the 'Meet the Neighbours' Networking Evening in March of this year, we will holding another joint Networking Evening on Monday, 16th September from 7.00pm– 8.45pm. Wilton and District Business Chamber will be hosting this event at The Michael Herbert Hall, South Street, Wilton. The Guest Speaker will be Ros Liddington of Wilton House.

For further information or to book a place, please contact Julie Cousins on ☎ 07856 700576

### Next Chamber Committee Meeting

This will be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm on Wednesday, 11th September 2013

*Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*



**ONE WORLD FAIR**  
**Saturday, 26th October 2013**  
**In the Grove Building**  
**11.00am – 3.00pm**

**Bookings now being taken for stalls** at this lively and fun event. Any organisation or group in sympathy with the aims of One World Week, celebrating the rich diversity of the world and its peoples, and seeking to make it fairer for all – for

details see: [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org) - is very welcome to book. There's no charge, but space is limited so book early to avoid disappointment! As in previous years, there will be a good mix of activities, music and entertainment, together with stalls and world-flavoured hot lunches and refreshments. An early opportunity to buy special Christmas gifts!

**LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS needed!** Please phone if you can help or wish to book a stall.

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

## MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is now up and running with visits to Bath, Christchurch, Wells and Salisbury. If you'd like to join us you're still in time for the winter outings, ring either Madelaine or Wendy for more details.

We're a friendly lot with many single members, so fear not!

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

## SEPTEMBER SHORT WALK

A gentle walk of 3-4 miles around the paths and lanes of Mere will take place on Monday, 23rd September.

Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm. We will refresh ourselves in The Angel Cafe afterwards!

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

## LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

A big thank you to all who supported the Launch & Lunch events which officially unveiled this year's Literary Festival programme. The Quiz Night was well attended with fifteen teams competing and the winners, by a whisker, were Mr. Tony Davies and family. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the questions – even those they got wrong!

Those who attended the first Community BBQ at the Old Ship Inn feasted on hot pork rolls or beef-burgers and were well entertained by the excellent John Cockles Goodtime Jazz Band – some even danced in spite of the sudden rain! Our thanks go to the band and the management and staff of the Old Ship for a great afternoon.

The raffle was well supported and our thanks go to those who bought tickets or generously donated prizes. If a prize was re-donated then it will go forward to the Literary Festival in October.

First flyers outlining the 17th festival programme are in circulation and the full programme will be available this month. The Lit. Fest. Group will endeavour to arrange delivery to as many houses as possible, but they will also be found at Mere Library and other outlets. Details are also on the MLF website: [www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk)

Tickets are now on sale either from Mere Library (but NOT on Mon. morning or Wednesdays), or by phoning the organiser ☎ 01747 860475 or by post with the booking form available from the programme and website.

We look forward to seeing you at festival events 14th – 20th October. Help us to raise money for our Linkscheme.

*Adrienne Howell & Lit.Fest. Group* ☎ 01747 860475

## MERE FILM SHOWS

We begin our new season of films with a comedy for Carnival Week, entitled **'Robot & Frank'** (12A) on Thursday, 12th September at 7.30pm. The story takes place in the fairly near future when robots are commonplace and found in many homes to undertake a variety of household tasks. Frank's son is increasingly concerned at his father's growing inability to look after himself properly and buys him a robot to provide care and companionship. Frank, a retired burglar, soon sees the potential in a machine with no moral compass and plans one last memorable heist with his robot as sidekick, but whilst the robot's memory is permanent, Frank's is rapidly failing! Come and enjoy a glimpse into our future and support the Carnival at the same time! Full details on page 27.

**Dates for your diary:** Thursday, 17th October for the Literary Festival: **'Cloud Atlas'** starring Tom Hanks, Jim Broadbent, Hugh Grant, Halle Berry and many others. **This film will begin at 7.00pm, please note.** *Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

## SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony would like to thank everyone who has supported its performances so far this year, and for all the great comments it has received.

Rehearsals recommence this month after the summer break and work will begin on the Autumn and Christmas programmes, which, as usual, will be a fun and eclectic mix of songs old and new from around the world.

Shreen Harmony's next performance will be at the One World Fair on Saturday, 26th October with children from Bourton School. Look out for further details of this and other forthcoming performances.

You can find more information about your local community choir on the Internet at: [www.shreenharmony.co.uk](http://www.shreenharmony.co.uk) or on Facebook. *Jane Edwards*, ☎ 01985 840065

## WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)



At our July meeting Graham Harding was our guest speaker who gave us a very informal and amusing talk about Holiday Camps, from the start of Billy Butlin's amusement arcade and cafe to their present day family inclusive holidays.

August saw our annual garden party, which, not only thanks to the weather, the cakes, the games but mostly the friendly company, turned out to be a great success.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 on Thursday, 5th September in the Grove Building. The speaker is Gordon Brockman who is talking about "Life as an Auctioneer," including an insight into Auction Houses and researching and recognising fakes, but mainly identifying genuine and interesting antique items and selling to the market. If you are interested in this topic and would like to have some more knowledge about purchasing wisely, maybe this is the W.I. meeting that you would like to join us and enjoy an informal meeting and a chat.

*Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323*



## 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, 10th September at 2.30pm in the Grove Building, The Revd John Page will be helping us reflect on this theme through his poetry – which comes very highly recommended! New members, visitors, and all who are interested are very welcome to join us. Please phone me.

*Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553*

## FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

First of all we would like to congratulate Sam Dean, Activities Co-ordinator at Fives Court for dancing continuously for 12 hours one Saturday in late July, by means of which she has raised well over £700 towards the '5K for Fives' project (our new transport fund). This means that we already have our first thousand! Just four to go!

Our big fund-raiser, the Autumn Fair, will take place in the beautiful gardens of Fives Court on Saturday, 7th September at 2.00pm (happily co-existing with the Garden Club's annual show). There will be all the usual attractions (see the poster below and around the town) and a few new ones – including a table top sale (see below for phone numbers to book). But as always we need YOUR HELP in collecting lots of things to sell! There are boxes in the porch of Fives Court in which we would be very grateful to receive good quality items of all sorts to sell, including preserves, and books. We would also be delighted to receive plants or garden produce, and cakes on the day.

We can collect if you wish: ☎ Carol 01747 860976 or Jenny ☎ 01747 860908. Do come and enjoy this popular annual event. Could we break all records and raise the next thousand?  
*Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

**Friends of Fives Court**

**AUTUMN FAIR**

**SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER**

**Gardens of Fives Court, Angel Lane, 2pm**

**\* TEAS \* RAFFLE \* GAMES \* PLANTS \***

**\* GILLINGHAM JUNIOR SILVER BAND \***

**\* TABLE-TOP SALE \***

**BRING ALONG A TABLE & SELL YOUR OWN WARES**

**AT A COST OF £5. To book a slot ☎ 01747 860908/860976**

**ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC)  
for the over 60s**

The Day Centre for Mere and district, Lynch Close  
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am – 3.00pm

We have had a hot and busy couple of months with a range of activities here at the centre. We had a fabulous story telling session with Georgina Tanner who used to work here at the RGC. The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker very kindly agreed to put herself in the hot seat for our popular desert island disc session run by David and Lenka Stokes. It was a real treat for our guests to get to know our local vicar a bit better. Ann Marie Dean from Wilts Good Neighbours, who is a regular at the centre, brought along some lovely Arabic jewellery to show the guests, and Eddie Duckworth has been helping us with our pottery skills.

Thank you to all who help to make our activities fun and vibrant! If you have a skill you would like to share or perhaps a collection of your favourite jokes, poems or stories you could read to us, we would love to hear from you. ([www.MereDayCentre.org.uk](http://www.MereDayCentre.org.uk))

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*

# MERE GARDENING CLUB

## Annual Show

**Saturday, 7th September, at 2.30pm in the Lecture Hall**

**Admission 50p (includes tea/coffee and biscuit), Children under 10 years free**

Have you planned your entries?!!! Nearly all categories are open to all and it is not too late to enter. We would welcome entries from any children, especially those budding photographers who took part in the Fete Competition! Schedules and entry forms are available from Janet Way or Sprout and Flower and should be delivered to Wits End, North Rd. **by 8.00pm on Wednesday, 4th September.**

STOP PRESS! Come and watch the BIG POTATO WEIGH-IN in the Square on Saturday, 31st August between 10.00 and 12.00pm. Mere Gardening Club members have been growing a potato in a bag in a competition as part of their Annual Show. Whose potato tuber will have produced the most? Be Amazed!

### **Eat Your Garden Enemies**

Our next meeting on Wednesday, 11th September at 7.30pm in the Grove Building is a talk by Sally Heselton. Sally is an experienced gardener with her own garden design and consultancy business. This will be a light-hearted look at the living parts of our garden that we do not always appreciate, or have learnt to hate, and how perhaps they can be much more useful than we know. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

*Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884*

### **CASTLE HILL QUILTERS**

Castle Hill Quilters took a break from sewing meetings over the summer, but enjoyed an outing to the Fashion Museum in Bath which this year is celebrating 50 years since its founding. We also enjoyed a get together at our secretary's house for tea and talk!

Our meetings will begin again on Thursday, 5th September with the AGM. We shall then continue to meet every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm in the Grove Building until just before Christmas. The programme will include continuing with our block-of-the-month project, and a visit from "Quilters Dream" of Andover on Thursday, 31st October when we can stock up on fabrics for our various Christmas projects.

On Thursday, 3rd October we have an illustrated talk by Judi Grant, a volunteer from the American Museum. We always welcome visitors who are interested in hearing our speakers. The cost for visitors is £3.50 which includes refreshments.

*Jennie Hoffman, President ☎ 01747 860514*

## MERE MUSEUM

There's good news for those of you have enjoyed the **Mere Vistas** exhibition of photographs of Mere taken by residents. We are hoping to make these pictures permanently available in an album, which will be kept in the Museum with the other photograph albums. This won't happen, of course, until the exhibition is over.

The next exhibition, of historic costume, which will include loans from the MADS costume racks, will open at the end of October. *Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends are delighted to announce their next fund-raising event. David Leakey, AKA Black Rod, will give a talk about The Role of Black Rod today after 650 years of history (and a behind-the-scenes look at Parliament). The date is Friday, 20th September 20th, the time 7.30pm, the place the Grove Building.

Tickets are on sale now in the Library and from Committee members at £7.50, which includes a glass of wine and more can be purchased from the licensed bar.

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## GROVE BUILDINGS "100" CLUB

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for July, drawn on Saturday, 13th July by Christine Marsh, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 178	Mr Hill
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 85	Dr W Price
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 62	Mrs Judy Avory
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 91	Mrs Mary White

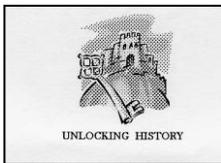
The Result of the '100' Club Draw for August, drawn on Sunday, 4th August by Mr Richard Coward, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 19	Mr T Rankin
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 73	Mr E Whitty
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 64	Mrs J Croxton-Smith
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 33	Mrs R Cox

Dear generous members, believe it or not our fund remains the main contributor to the Grove Building coffers. Unfortunately, subscriptions are due again and I shall be on my rounds! Please try to continue to support me. You can't know how grateful I am. The annual subscription remains at £12 and of course any new members will be very welcome.

*Valerie Ransley* ☎ 01747 860964

# MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Somerset Hunky Punks

Tuesday, 3rd September

Somerset churches are famous for their beauty and many interesting features which include Hunky Punks, (the grotesque carvings on the outside of the church which were carved as decoration to balance the gargoyles), and delightful bench ends often depicting rural occupations. Our guide will be Jill Cooper (Blue Badge) whose tour of the Somerset Levels last year so many of you enjoyed. We'll stop in Taunton where there is a good choice of places to eat or picnic, and finish at Cothelstone for our (included) tea.

**We leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.30am and return by 6.0pm**

Cost: MHS Members £20, non-members £22 per person  
*includes tour, and tea with cake*

**Booking forms and details are available at Mere library.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Mysterious Life of Walter Henry

Howard Nichols

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

The story of the life of a man of the sea from 1874 to 1961, which included early liners, the sinking of the Titanic and World War 2.

**£2 entry for non members who are very welcome**

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Rehearsals are now well under way for our Autumn Production: Adrienne Howell's 'Sing Nowell'. The play has a very large cast (lots of costumes!) and provides lots of opportunities for audience participation! It will be altogether an unusual – and very Christmassy - theatre experience. Performance dates are Thursday to Saturday, 21st – 23rd November. More in the next issue. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

## SNOOKER CLUB

Diary date for all Quizzers - The club's renowned Quiz night with live music and a live music quiz round will be held at the Grove Building on Wednesday, 23rd October at 7.00pm. Tickets are £5 for one quiz entry with one cheese ploughmans (maximum 5 team members) and are available from club members or the club secretary. Licensed bar available. Quiz prize £25. See you there for a very enjoyable evening!

*Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305*

## MERE BOWLS CLUB

A Date for your Diary – On Saturday, 5th October 2013, we shall be holding an Autumn Fayre in the yard of the Old Ship Hotel starting at 10.00am. As well as a plant stall there will be a stall selling home-made bread, cakes and preserves and also a book stall. All proceeds are in aid of the Bowls Club, which is planning to install changing rooms at the bowling green.

We continue to have a good season, currently top of the Westbrook League and winning more friendlies than we lose. Next season we intend to add to the competition by joining the Wessex League where we would compete against teams who are based mainly in Somerset, apart from Gillingham and Sherborne, which are in Dorset.

Why not come and give us a try? All you need to start is a pair of flat soled shoes and some enthusiasm, we can supply every thing else.

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

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775*

**Zeals Church Charity Day. Play Bridge, Scrabble or Backgammon.**

**Tuesday, 1st October 10.30 for 11am start** at Zeals Green House.

Ticket includes Coffee, lunch & tea.

All enquires Carol Affleck: 01747 841359 or Lyndi d'Ambrumenil: 01747 840594

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA  
in association with  
MERE PARISH COUNCIL  
proudly presents

# • Robot & FRANK •

(12A)

**Frank Langella Peter Sarsgaard**

Ex-burglar Frank (**Frank Langella**) is finding it harder and harder to cope alone. Unwilling to place Frank into care, his son (James Marsden) buys him a robot (voiced by **Peter Sarsgaard**) which is programmed to provide therapeutic care. Initially resistant, Frank soon warms to his new companion when he realises it's not programmed to distinguish between legal and criminal activities. With the aid of the machine, he commits one last heist. However, as the Police start to sniff around, Frank has to decide whether to wipe the memory of his robot as his own memory rapidly deteriorates.

**In the Lecture Hall**

**Thursday, 12th September at 7.30pm**

*(Doors open 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £5.00**

**Available from The Library**

*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

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

## 1st MERE BROWNIES

An enjoyable meeting was held at The Mere Recreation Ground where 1st Mere Brownies learnt circus skills from Firestar of Frome and also invited 1st Mere Guides to join them. The skills the Brownies and Guides participated in were tight rope, spinning plates, juggling balls, Poi, Devilstick/Flowerstich, clubs, gymnastic ribbons, diabolo and beanbags.

It culminated at the end with a short demonstration to parents of the skills learnt.

The South West Area Board of Wiltshire Council awarded £300 towards this project for which we were very grateful.

*Sue Luffman and Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215*

## 1st Mere Rainbows

Build friendships, learn new skills, develop self-confidence and generally have fun.

The Rainbow unit currently has vacancies for girls aged from 5 – 7years. Why not give me a call (number below) to find out more.

Meetings are normally held on a Thursday during term time. I look forward to your enquiry.

*Kathryn Ainscough, Rainbow Leader ☎ 01747 860886*

## Recycling Project

We are still accepting any old and new Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age.

We are also collecting Jewellery – Gold, Silver, Costume and watches. All those odd earrings, snapped chains and broken watches are a great start, also items which were once fashionable, but you haven't worn for years. We can recycle them for you.

**Please note: This is about you giving unwanted items. Please be careful not to give anything of sentimental value that you may later regret donating!**

We are still saving unwanted mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove the SIM card). Chargers and accessories are not necessary.

Collection points for all your contributions are still at Waltons Newsagent, the Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom as well as The Library.

At some of our collection points we have envelopes that you can take away, to then deposit in the box when filled. If you can, why not take an extra envelope and ask your family and friends to participate in this recycling scheme also. Recyclable items can also be dropped in the collection boxes without the "official" envelope.

*Sue Jeans, Assistant Brownie Guider ☎ 01747 860215*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE**

**MONDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2013**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Mere Scout Group

Hike in aid of



and

15th September 2013

At Stourhead Camp Site

(Hike on Stourhead Estate) at 2.00pm

We would like you to support us

All sections from Beavers to Leaders and friends and family

Please contact Garry or Caroline

For details and sponsor forms on

☎: (01985) 844761

✉: [c.edwards761@btinternet.com](mailto:c.edwards761@btinternet.com)

## MERE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

A warm welcome back to everyone after the summer break. It has been great to see everyone who has dropped in over the summer and kept up with our groups, especially Stay and Play and Mere Babes. We have had a busy summer visiting out and about and taking activities to the outlying villages around Mere for fun sessions of Messy Play and exploring favourite books.

We had a most enjoyable Fun Day on Wednesday 31st July, with a visit from Mere Down Falconry and their wonderful birds. The families watching loved their antics and particularly appreciated the chance to see them up close and even get to stroke one or two of the most obliging. One little boy went home absolutely thrilled with the experience and having added the word 'owl' to his vocabulary so he could talk all about it. Very many thanks to the Mere Down Falconry team for bringing the birds down for us to enjoy. Thanks also to the Scrap Store who came and did fantastic model-making, and to the Library team who came and re-enacted the entertaining story of We're going on a Bear Hunt.

### Upcoming Events:

In addition to all our normal groups we have lots of new groups and workshops coming up this term. For those interested in getting back to work we have 'New Beginnings', a series of workshops available here. On Wednesday, 18th September we have a Self Employment Workshop offered by Wiltshire Business support Group Service, a free

seminar covering all you need to know to start your own business. Then on Thursday, 19th September we have a Family Action Programme offered by North Wessex Training, a free 1:1 training and support session for those who are eligible. Later in September, on Friday, 27th we have Explore your Options, a free session from Learning Curve to explore employment and career options. This will include a free careers advice session with a qualified advisor. Finally in this area, on Friday, 4th October we have First Steps to Employment, a free session from learning Curve to help you prepare for employment. Again a free careers advice session is offered as part of this session. We will also have a visit from the Money Advice Services on Wednesday, 6th November to offer debt counselling and advice on how to manage your finances.

For more information on any of these events or to register for attendance please call the number below and speak to a member of the team

**Breast Feeding Club:** This is a new group starting on 11th September on Wednesday afternoons – time to be confirmed for those who would like peer support for breastfeeding. The Group will be run by our trained Breastfeeding Support Volunteer Mel Collins. We welcome any mums-to-be and new mums who would like support with breastfeeding in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

We have a new Parenting course starting on Thursday, 19th September, an excellent evening course with tips to help you get the behaviour you want from your children. Also we have Helping Hands at 9.30am on Tuesday mornings from 10th September which is aimed towards supporting Healthy Emotional Development in our children. We are also running Expect Respect from Tuesday, 15th October, a session designed to promote building healthy relationships between couples. For more information or to put your name down for any of the above events call us on ☎ 01747 861108.

*Jane Smith, Support Worker, ☎ 01747 861108*

# ***RED CLASS REPORTS***



## **Year Five**

July has been a really busy month at school.

### **Exploring The Shreen**

Red class has been discovering the river in Mere. One hot afternoon we followed the river and Mr Coward kindly let us walk through his field so we could trace the source – it wasn't quite what we were expecting, it looked like a swamp! On another afternoon we visited the fish farm to do some water colour paintings and Lee, the manager, let us see and feed the fish.

### **Science Week**

The first week of July we held a very exciting science week. It started with an awesome bubble show. Allan from Mere Down Falconry displayed the power of hunting birds aided by a toy rabbit and a remote controlled car. We also had visits from a bat called Poppy, BAE systems and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The grand finale on Friday morning was when Logan and Troy's Grandad flew to school in his helicopter and landed on the school field. Mrs Loxton was even lucky enough to get a ride.

### **Mexican Day**

We had our annual multicultural day on 11th July. This year we learnt all about Mexico and had a great time samba drumming, zumba dancing food tasting and learning Spanish.

### **Sports Day**

We had another fantastic sports day and the winning house this year was Manor.

### **Awards**

Some of the older children have done a first aid course and were awarded their certificates in our First Annual Awards Assembly. Children who had made excellent progress and achieved highly were presented with certificates and badges.

### **Good bye**

As always we had to say good bye to our Year 6 and wish them well for Gillingham. We also said goodbye to Miss Farr, Mrs Liddington and Mr Crossely but are pleased that Mrs Hillier will be staying with us to teach Year 1.

We are now all looking forward to our holiday and hope the weather stays sunny.

*Red Class*

# NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS

## Vicarage Garden Party on 1st September

Everyone is invited to a garden party at the Vicarage in Angel Lane, to be held on Sunday, 1st September. Teas, scones and cakes will be served from 3.00 to 500pm.

## Changes to Services

Beginning Sunday, 1st September a number of changes to the pattern of worship services at the parish church of St Michael will take effect.

On the first Sunday of the month Family Communion at 10.30am will be replaced by 'Family Praise', a half-hour non-communion service at 10.30am that will feature interactive talks, singing, fun, praising God together and learning, suitable for the whole family. Parishioners who would prefer a more formal style of worship with Communion will be able to attend a short Said Eucharist according to Common Worship (modern English) in the St Matthew Chapel starting at 9.15am. A "crossover" coffee time at 10.00am will provide fellowship to both groups of worshipers between the two services.

The 8.00am Holy Communion service according to the Book of Common Prayer will be held every Sunday as usual.

Also beginning in September the weekly Holy Communion services held each Friday at 8.00am will move to Thursdays, and the 'Start the Month' Holy Communion service on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.00pm will move to the first Tuesday in the month, also at 6.00pm.

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

## REV'D CHRIS MOORSOM, RECTOR OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES

### Dressed for action

As parents get their children ready for the new school term, they will have fitted them out with school uniforms, PE kit and school bags, ready to join their new school, or year group. This ritual enables children to feel they belong and to give everyone in the school a sense of identity. Along with this will go the learning of how a school works and how they are expected to learn and behave.

In the two Voluntary Aided church schools of Upper Stour Parish (St. George's school, Bourton and Whitesheet school), the whole school gets together near the beginning of the school year in church to welcome everybody back, especially any new faces amongst the staff and pupils. Whitesheet school in particular will be giving a very special welcome to their new Headteacher, Karen Brooker. At these services the school community is reminded that Christian beliefs form the foundation for the way the school functions. This is then worked out in practice, as children are introduced to the

Golden Rules, which guide their behaviour in a positive way. Of course, it takes children a while to settle into this ethos, but over the year the values are re-enforced and quickly picked up.

Similarly, when parents bring children for Baptism, we refer to the idea of 'putting on Christ', and leaving behind the old self, sometimes represented by a special christening robe. As a new member joins Christ's community, the Church, they are putting off the worldly ways and putting on the Christ-like ways, handed down through the bible and the Church's teachings. So a new child of God is both welcomed into the 'school of Christ' and encouraged to learn by regular teaching and example how Christians are expected to live and behave in God's world.

In both school and Church communities, we are being formed by worship and shared activities into those who are ready to live life well, becoming life-long learners in the school of Christ. So it's important that we come together to encourage one another in faith and love, and in developing our talents and character: then we'll be 'dressed for action' and more ready to be the 'salt of the earth', just as Jesus intended.

**FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**AUTUMN BAZAAR**

**& Coffee Morning**

**Saturday, 28th September opening at 10.00am**

**In the Grove Building**

**Raffle, Bric-a-brac, Cakes, Books, Friends Stall, Tombola and Raffle**

**Do come along and have a cup of coffee and meet up with friends  
after a busy summer**

**Everyone is welcome**

**FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

The Friends of St. Michael's committee plan and organise several events each year to raise funds for various projects to maintain and refurbish the fabric and furnishings of our beautiful Parish Church. We are currently looking for some new committee members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. If you think you can contribute and would like to join us, then please contact Patricia Stephenson ☎ 01747 860278 or Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142.

**PET SERVICE AT ST MARY'S, WEST KNOYLE**

Balou, the Mere vicarage's pet dog in residence, is inviting fellow canines and other family pets to a special pet service to be held at St Mary's church in West Knoyle on

Sunday, 8th September starting at 3.30pm. The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker says, "This is a wonderful service to which people are invited to bring their pets - cats, dogs, rabbits, whatever - perhaps even a fish in a tank on the altar!" The purpose is to celebrate God's creation of "all creatures great and small", she explains, "and the companionship and caring attitudes that they give to their owners".

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

Mere Suchana supporters invite you to a

## ***CEILIDH***

***Saturday, 28th September  
@ 7.30pm Grove Building***



***Live Music (Black Bear Band) & licensed Bar  
with Supper included***

*Adults £7.50*

*Children £3*

***Tickets from Mere Library (MIP) or phone 01747 860553***

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

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Thursday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
<b>Each Friday</b>		The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1st</b>	9.15am	Said Eucharist followed by coffee
		10.30am	Family Praise
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)

Tuesday	3rd	6.00pm	Start the Month Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	29th	10.30am	<b>Patronal Festival</b> Parish Communion led by Rt Rev'd Dr Edward Condry, Bishop of Ramsbury

### The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	1st	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	8th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	15th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie Holy Communion
	22nd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	29th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivour

### The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

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

Sunday	1st	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion
	8th	6.00pm	Mrs Coral Ryalls
	15th	6.00pm	Songs of Praise at St Michaels
	22nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
	29th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page Holy Communion

We welcome Rev'd Paul Arnold as our new Minister in Gillingham, Motcombe and Mere.

### 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	1st	9.15am	DIY service
	8th	3.30pm	Family Pet Service
	15th	9.15am	Matins
	22nd	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	29th	10.30am	Patronal Service at St Michael's Church, Mere. NO service at St Mary's

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

## DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 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; YC-Youth Centre**

1	Sun	3.00pm	Vicarage Garden Party	Vicarage
2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (also 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	6.00pm	Pilates (also 17th & 24th)	GB
		11.00am	Friends of Fives Court AGM	Fives Court
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
5	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.00am "Hear to Help" Clinic	Surgery
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
6	Fri	10.30am	St Michaels "First Friday" Coffee Drop in	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo. Eyes Down 7.45pm	GB
7	Sat	10.00am	- 12.00noon Mere Credit Union (also 21st)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (also 14th, 21st & 28th)	CC
		2.00pm	Friends of Fives Court "Autumn fair"	Fives Court
		2.30pm	Mere Gardening Club Annual Show	L
8	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP

9	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts(also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Green Room)	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.00am	Card Making Class (also 24th)	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30am	Carnival Quiz	GB
11	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 19th & 25th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (Small Hall) (also 19th & 25th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.00pm	Mere & District Model Railway Club (also 25th)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola "Robot and Frank"	L
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Carnival Comedy Nite	Walnut Tree Inn
14	Sat		<b>CARNIVAL</b> (see page XX)	
16	Mon	10.00am	Chair based Zumba (also 23rd & 30th)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 23rd & 30th)	L
17	Thur	6.20pm	Zumba Fitness (also 24th)	L
18	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (also 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Church Meeting	CC
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB
20	Fri	7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum Talk	GB
21	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
23	Mon	2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP
		9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
24	Tue	10.15am	- 12.15pm Lip Reading Classes	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
27	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba	L
28	Sat	10.00am	Friends of St Michaels 'Autumn Bazaar'	GB
		7.30pm	Suchana Ceilidh	GB
29	Sun	10.00am	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP

## **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](http://www.merewilts.org)*

## **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

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

*CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm*

*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 OCTOBER ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the October 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, 16th September.2013.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **[merematters@inbox.com](mailto:merematters@inbox.com)** from Monday, 9th September 2013 onwards.

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

### **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

**Mrs Jane Kennedy**

✉: **[jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)**

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