



MERE MATTERS



AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



December 2014/January 2015

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 1st December 2014** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion, and then the following one will be on **Monday, 12th January 2015**, also at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion

The Chairman writes:

The run up to Christmas is always a busy time for myself and the Parish Council. In recent weeks I have visited Exeter House, a truly inspirational school for special needs children in Salisbury, and also attended The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the Rifles Association Branch reunion dinner in Gillingham. There have been meetings to discuss the future of the Youth Club and the purchase of play equipment for the Castle Hill recreation area, as well as the monthly Parish Council meeting. Councillors Brett Norris, George Jeans, Clive Hazzard and myself attended a site meeting with Julie Wharton, Wiltshire Council's Senior Traffic Engineer, to discuss our highway, traffic and transport priorities.

I was happy to attend events during the Literary Festival week and to present prizes on the final day. This is always an enjoyable week, very well organised and, of course, a substantial fund raiser for the Mere Linkscheme. Once again it was good to see so many of you at The Remembrance Service. This year made more poignant by the centennial commemoration.

In December we shall have the annual budget meeting, as always very challenging.

I would like to give special thanks to the Parish Council Staff who work so hard to keep Mere running smoothly and looking so well.

The Christmas lights will be switched on, at an event organised by our local Cancer Research committee, on Friday, 5th December. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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.

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

Remembrance Sunday in Mere this year was as usual around Mere Town Clock in the square. An excellent turn out of people, over 300, I believe. PC Richard Salter must be thanked for attending on his day off and organizing extra Police from Warminster. It was nice to have the traffic stopped for safety and silence. The photographer Graham Russell took some very professional pictures, this was despite him having a hernia operation three days previously. The pictures appeared in all the local press and facebook, allowing those who could not attend to see the remembrance. The Royal British Legion poppy Appeal organised in Mere by Col. Walker raised over £1,500 and this without the local shops' collections that are yet to be counted.

A Campus for many services is well underway at Tisbury. A Community hub may be offered to Mere before too long. If you have ideas as to what might be wanted, i.e. a covered swimming pool (rather hopeful!), let me know.

Following the new housing allocation policy (rental property) that was approved at Cabinet in November 2013, Wiltshire Council is now ready to implement the new policy on 9th December 2014, which will be followed by an 8 week transition period. During this period Wiltshire Council will be required to re-register and re-band all applicants onto the new system.

The new policy will no longer prioritise those applicants with no housing need, which means that as from the 9th December their housing application will be cancelled and they will no longer be able to bid for social housing. Therefore from 9 December 2014 these 'Bronze housing application' will be cancelled and those in that band will no longer be able to actively bid for properties that are being advertised through 'Homes 4 Wiltshire'.

From 9th December applicants can decide to express an interest in other forms of housing under the Open Market Register. These other options will not include general needs housing but will include:

- Private rented accommodation.
- Low Cost Home Ownership.
- Shared Ownership.
- Home Buy.
- Properties in low demand that clients on the housing register have not bid for.
- Specialist accommodation – tailored for those with specific disabilities or needs.

With only 2,000 social housing lets each year, Wiltshire Council needs to ensure they identify and give priority to those most in need. Wiltshire is also aiming to better manage client expectations by not registering those who are unlikely to be re-housed

through this scheme and encourage clients to look at the alternative options available to them.

The South West Wiltshire Area Board is now charged with providing a youth service for young people aged 13 to 19. A Chat LYN (Local Youth Network) will be held at the Andy Young Pavilion, Mere from 6.00 to 8.30pm on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2014. All youth are welcome, chip supper free (see following article).

The Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council has asked if local parish councils will fund the SIDs (Speed Indicator Device) programme at around £75,000, which would be around £4,200 per Area Board. At a recent Community Area Transport Group meeting, interest was shown for their retention.

Should you know where drop curbs are required, let me know, these are usually in pairs opposite each other and on a safe length of carriageway.

A local charity has agreed another Salt bin for Westfields, Zeals.

I have put a lost red commercial BIFFA waste bin in the car park; if you are the owner, please contact me.

Parish Council annual finance meetings usually take place in the period of November to January each year. I understand more and more demands are being put on Parish precepts. Grant contributions that Parishes offer to my Area Board are **discretionary** and the final decision is made by the Area Board. However, the grant from Wiltshire Council to our Area Board is decreasing year on year, and it is my view that we need to be certain in many cases the community supports the grant. One way of doing this is through a financial contribution from the local Parish or Town Council. My fellow Councillors agree with this approach, whilst accepting that certain cases may need flexibility of approach. In the personal guide that I have written and circulated to the 38 Parish Councils in my Board's area, I suggest that smaller Parish Councils should allow approximately an extra two hundred pounds in their precept for contributions towards grants from the South West Wiltshire Area Board.

Larger Town and Parish Councils can be expected to be asked for larger contributions up to 50% of the grant application.

It may be a good time to highlight to you, that Wiltshire Council's support grant from Central Government is projected by the Treasury to reduce to zero by 2022-23. Wiltshire Council will then only receive from central government business rates from those businesses that are new to Wiltshire, and the amount Wiltshire will receive will be capped and unlikely to be more than £2.5m per annum, plus the precept, which will also be capped.

The Community Infrastructure Levy is now proposed to come into force for Wiltshire around next April. Any new dwelling built in Mere, will require a payment of £30 per square meter for infrastructure. Mere Parish Council will receive 15% of this unless

Mere produces a Neighbourhood Plan, when they would receive 25%. A Neighbourhood Plan would require a lot of local input.

A developer has offered West Knoyle four starter homes, a mix of low market cost and 80% of market rental. Four private 80% of market rental homes have been approved at Gasper.

Wilsons, a law firm in Salisbury, hosted a function where Lindsey Wood, Mere Parish Clerk, attended with me to hear Stephen Hawkins, Head of Planning Enforcement at Wiltshire Council, speak. Solicitors also spoke on planning. Mere now has a Parish Clerk well versed on planning enforcement.

I get a steady request for “Digital Champions”, to train those with little experience of a computer. In other parts of Wiltshire we get volunteers coming forward, but Mere bucks the trend. However we need some volunteers in Mere to train those with little computer knowledge.

I would like to thank a resident in Hazards Hill, Mere for making Halloween a joyous occasion for many children. It was eye catching, and spooky with fun.

I have asked Wiltshire Council to be aware that land is needed beyond the next four years regarding the development of a small number of council houses across Wiltshire. Enough land is probably owned by Wiltshire Council, if they do not sell it.

Broadband improvement in Wiltshire is in partnership with South Gloucestershire. Many are interested to know when we are going to get faster broadband. I had a Meeting in Trowbridge at County Hall on the 5th November 2014, regarding roll out of superfast broadband. I have put forward an argument that we should have three presentations from BT with the first one for Wilton, which I have asked to be at South Newton on the 10th of December. For our community areas approximate presentation times would be March 2015 for Tisbury and in Mere in June, (or later with slippage). If we have a combined presentation for all three area boards, it may not be to the end of next year. So far there is no reply from our officers regarding a presentation on 10th December. I will keep pushing for a dedicated presentation for our area.

I am sorry to report that a former Wiltshire County Councillor for this area; Mr Bob Catton, has sadly passed away. Those who remember him and wish to send their sympathies, please post to Mrs Cotton, Cherry Rise Cottage, Newmarket Road, Barton Mills, Suffolk, IP28 6AQ.

CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The way services for young people in Wiltshire are provided has changed, and in common with all the Area Boards, the South West Wiltshire Area Board **needs to hear from young people aged 13-19** to help develop a new Local Youth Network.

The Community Youth Officer is hosting several supper events across the area to meet with young people and hear what they think about local activities and opportunities for 13-19 year olds.

The Meeting in Mere will be on Tuesday, 2nd December in the Andy Young Pavilion, starting with supper at 6.00pm. It will finish at 8.00pm and is free of charge. Please text SUPPER to 07768 033278 to receive the on-line booking link, or visit <http://www.sparksite.co.uk/snap/Book/chatlyn.htm> or ✉ Nicola Page at the e-mail link at the end of this article.

If you cannot make the supper, an on-line survey has been set up for all young people to give their input. Please spare ten minutes and use the following link to make your views known and help the Area Board direct the funding in a way that works for you. <http://www.sparksite.co.uk/snap/survey/sww.htm>

The Area Board also need to hear from adult members of the local community who have an interest in youth provision – maybe already a member of a local group or organisation, and they are also welcome to attend the supper. Please use the booking link <http://www.sparksite.co.uk/snap/Book/chatlyn.htm>.

If you can't make the supper, but wish to meet the Community Youth Officer, please contact me at the e-mail link below. *Nicola Sage, Community Youth Officer*

✉: Nicola.sage@wiltshire.gov.uk

READING MADE EASY

A new reading scheme, which aims to help adults who struggle to read, has been launched for the Gillingham & Shaftesbury area by volunteers.

"Most of us take reading for granted" says Murray Walker, chairman of the group's management committee, "but it is estimated that one in twenty adults in England has a reading age at or below the level expected of a five year old, so we can help change lives with this free literacy service".

Read Easy Gillingham & Shaftesbury will use a simple, proven system based on 'phonics' to help new readers 'crack the code' in one-to-one learning as part of Read Easy UK (www.readeasy.org.uk). This registered charity has grown quickly from the first group in Dorchester four years ago and currently new groups are being set up in North London, Leeds, Winchester and Oxford among other places.

The Gillingham & Shaftesbury group is now looking to appoint a volunteer Co-ordinator who will match readers with coaches, organise and keep records, arrange training and meetings, and provide support throughout, linking with the management committee of the group. If you can spare a couple of days a week, and share the group's commitment to make a difference, please phone me on the number below for more information or ✉: readeasy.gillinghamshaftesbury@gmail.com.

David Honey, Secretary ☎ 07775 175 762

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

As promised last month, we will be holding our first monthly children's 'drop in' activity on Saturday, 6th December between 10.30am and 12.00noon. The theme will be "Christmas Trees" and everyone will have a chance to create some lovely tree decorations to take home. I do hope many of you will come and enjoy yourselves.

We also have lots of Christmas books for you and your children to enjoy, as well as cookery books to help you prepare for whatever family gatherings you may be having.

However, if all the frantic pre-Christmas shopping and jollity is getting too much for you, please feel free just to use the library as a peaceful retreat!

Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546

ARE YOU A CARER AND IS YOUR HOME SAFE FROM FIRE?



Come to our Carers Cafe

Do you help or support a partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who could not manage without your help? Caring is not easy and you may have unanswered questions regarding care. Why not come along and meet other carers and discuss your problems over a cup of coffee. Our new Carers Support Café will meet every second Monday of the month at the Angel Corner Tearooms in the main square, Mere.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 8th December from 10.30am to 12noon in the Angel Corner tearooms, and in January we shall meet on Monday, 12th January from 10.30am to 12noon also in the Angel Corner tearooms.

If you would like more information on The Carers Support Café, and carers support, contact your Local Wiltshire Good Neighbour, Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023

Fire Safety in The Home

The majority of fire deaths in the home are those of older people where their mobility is poor and smoke alarms have not been fitted. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue are happy to visit elderly people in their homes free of charge and give them a home fire risk assessment.

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**

Trained Firemen will carry out the inspection to identify potential fire risks and give advice on how to prevent a fire.

If smoke alarms have already been installed they will be checked to ensure they are in working order and also checked that they have been placed in the appropriate place in your home. These may be replaced free of charge, and if you do not have smoke alarms then free ones may be fitted for you.

They will check other potential fire risks such as your electric blankets, if you have overloaded plug sockets, and any unsafe electric wires.

If you would like a fire risk assessment contact me, your local Wiltshire Good neighbour coordinator.

Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023

Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life

Mere Dental Practice

*The practice has three Dentists: Stephen Sherrard,
Christopher Davies and Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.*

It also has 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*

‘HEAR TO HELP’ HEARING AID CLINIC

This Clinic is for people who received their aids from Audiology at Salisbury.

The tubes of hearing aids should be changed between 3 -6 months (after that time the tubes become hard) and this we can do on most aids. It helps a great deal if you would bring either the brown book or white card issued to you by audiology.

The December Clinic will be held on Thursday, 4th December from 10.00 am to 11.30 at the Surgery, but please note, there is NO clinic in January.

For further information, please contact me

Gill Drayson ☎ 01722 580014

THE GROVE BUILDING WEBSITE HAS CHANGED!

The website for the Grove Building changed in September of this year; the new website is: **www.grovebuildingmere.com** and this contains the up-to-date calendar, booking forms and all the details you need to make bookings. I believe some people have been looking at the old website and, obviously, the calendar is now rather out-of-date there! So – you should find all you need on the new website, and if you have any queries about bookings, contact me on the telephone number below, or by

✉ **administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**.

Ian Treece, Grove Building Bookings Secretary, ☎ 07544 524802

LINKSCHEME FESTIVAL

Thanks

The LinkScheme thank everyone who helped with, or supported, this year's Literary Festival. As always, special thanks to those clubs and societies who moved their meeting day or venue to accommodate festival events. This annual help to your local charity is valued by the Link and its festival committee. Please note that next year's festival runs from 12th to 18th October 2015.

Festival week 2014 was enjoyed by both audiences and speakers. Many thanks to all who played a part in its success.

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

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME Requests for Transport - ☎ 01747 860096

The Linkscheme would like to advise the community that the service will **be suspended over Christmas** from Monday, 22nd December until it reopens with a normal service on Monday 5th January 2015.

Should users have urgent medical appointments between those dates they should leave a message on the telephone number shown above, which will be connected to an answer machine for the closure period. The Linkscheme service will endeavour to assist, but no guarantees can be given that requests during the closure period can be honoured.

Barbara Thomas, M&DLS Secretary

CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival Funds

A huge thank you to everyone who advertised and supported this year's Carnival Programme. Now that the last 'one' has paid up, I am pleased to announce that £430.00 was raised towards Mere Carnival funds. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Chris Miles

Carnival Christmas Quiz

The Carnival Christmas Quiz will take place in the Grove Building on Wednesday, 3rd December at 7.30pm. The cost is £2.00 per person/tables of 4. Come and join us for a fun evening. *Carol Payne, for the Carnival Committee, ☎ 01747 861639*

COMMUNITY LUNCH

It has been decided that due to December being so busy, we will not be holding a December Community Lunch.

The next Community Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 20th January 2015 at The George Inn in the Square, at 12.30pm (note the new week and time). The two course meal will

be £9.95 (drinks not included). To reserve your place, please book in advance by calling ☎ 01747 860427. It is hoped that Stephen Harris from the Community Area Board will be able to join us to update us with the latest area news and plans.

We have had so much wonderful support from the people of Mere that we hope to see more of you, particularly if you are new to the area or are on your own. If you are nervous about entering the pub by yourself, please ring me on the number below. You will never be nervous again!

Lindy Elliot ☎ 01747 861646

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

The club meets at 7.00pm on each Wednesday evening (see dates in the diary sections) and new faces will be most welcome.

Community Architectural Modelling Competition

Last month we told you that the club was bringing the railway to Mere. Well, not quite a full sized one, but the club has decided to build a 4mm to the foot model of a fictitious railway that ran through Salisbury Street to Castle Street. The focus will be the north side of these streets from **Chalke's Garage through to the 'Butt of Sherry' public house**. The challenge is to select a building of your choice and model it in a material of your choice. The square and clock tower will be included, as will 'The George Inn'.

Mere Station will naturally be located where Castle Street Car Park stands! The goods yard and loading facilities will be located where Church Street is in reality.

The period to be modelled is to be the 1930's and information regarding the state of the buildings at that time can be researched from the Library, Historical Society and in the case of Chalke's garage, by asking the staff to point to the correct picture in their show room.

Most of the materials required for this competition can be acquired from the author free of charge, as can further guidance in building and materials to use. All the models will be displayed at our **Annual Exhibition in the Lecture Hall 20th-21st June 2015**. An award of £50 will be made to the winning entry on Mid-Summers Day.

This competition is **not open** to members of Mere and District Railway Modellers.

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977



T@3

**Join us for T@3 in the
Angel Corner Tea Rooms**



The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 17th December, when we will be celebrating the Christmas season with some of Paul's delicious Mince pies topped with cream! The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms at 3.00pm.

As this event is becoming so popular, it is essential that you pre book or we may have to turn you away at the door.

Programmes of our forthcoming tea parties will be available at the December tea, and our first T@3 of the New Year will be on Wednesday, 21st January 2015. Come and chase away the January blues at 3.00pm with a jolly crowd in the Angel tea rooms.

If you would like to attend the December tea party please contact me, your local Wiltshire Good neighbour coordinator, no later than the morning of Monday, 15th December. For the January Tea Party I need to hear from you by the morning of Monday, 19th January.

Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023

DECEMBER SHORT WALK

December's Short Walk on Monday, 22nd December will again have a seasonal twist. Please meet at the Candle factory in the Quarry Industrial Estate at the West of the Town at 2.00pm.

There will be NO short walk in January

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE WALKING GROUP

Our New Year walk will be on Friday, 2nd January 2015 and this year will be based on the Hunter's Lodge at Leigh Common, Wincanton.

We will meet at Salisbury car Park at 10.00am and share transport to the pub, pre-order our lunch food and then go for a four to five mile walk, followed by the lunch. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

The annual planning meeting for the group, to which all are invited, will be held at the "George" on Wednesday, January 14th at 7.30pm. ✉: roger46laidler@talktalk.net

Roger Laidler ☎ 01747 863447



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mere Chamber would like to wish you Season's Greetings and to thank all of those who joined us this year for our business meetings, training courses and networking events.



We are planning more for next year so watch this space for further details. We look forward to seeing you at a future event or meeting.

If you would like to know more about the Chamber and its activities, as well as details and benefits of membership, please contact me.

Date of next two Chamber Committee Meetings

These will be held in Mere Social Club at 7.30pm on:

Wednesday, 10th December 2014

Wednesday, 14th January 2015

Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

MERE ART GROUP

Hello. We are a small group of people who meet once a week to paint in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and you would be very welcome to join us.

Full details can be found at The Post Office, Sprout & Flower and Mere Library or alternatively, you can ring me: *Judy Hingley ☎ 01747861596*

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE

MONDAY, 19th JANUARY 2015



SHREEN HARMONY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**Of Songs and Readings from
Around the World**

**SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER
in**

**The Grove Building, Mere
at 7.30pm**

Seasonal Refreshments

**Retiring Collection in Aid of
Julia's House Children's Hospice
& Seeds 4 Success**



WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY WINTER CONCERT Handel's 'Messiah'

The Wincanton Choral Society will perform Handel's great Oratorio, 'Messiah' at 7.30pm on Sunday, 14th December at the Leisure Centre in Wincanton.

With wonderful soloists, Katharine Hawnt (soprano), Andrew Stewart (countertenor), Kieran White (tenor) and Tom Hunt (bass), the Choir is joined by an orchestra of top musicians conducted by Simon Twiseldon.

The performance, which follows the same pattern of its very first hearing in Dublin in April 1742, contains unusual versions of some of the famous solo numbers as well as the well-known choruses that thrill the ear and excite both the emotion and the intellect. Handel gave all the proceeds of that first performance to different Irish charities, something of which the Messiah would surely have approved.

Come and hear this most enduring of choral works on the 14th December. Tickets for the performance are available ☎ 01749 813899 or from the Box Office: **www.netaticket.co.uk**. Prices are £13.50 in advance if bought by 8th December, £15.00 on the door, with Under 18s at £6.50 at any time.

Philip Schofield, Secretary, Wincanton Choral Society

MERE THEATRE CLUB

It's been another very enjoyable year in the theatre club: a wide variety of productions enjoyed; new friends made; different places visited.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work in organising the visits- Wendy Horne, Carol Payne, Jean Casey, Tony Grinyer and Hamish Bell.

Also many thanks to Graham Avory for keeping us all so well informed through Mere Matters.

Happy Christmas and a culturally stimulating new year!

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833

MERE CANCER RESEARCH UK

The Mere Cancer Research committee are very pleased to announce that the Autumn Fayre raised the amazing total of £514.00. A massive thank to all of you who came, donated and spent!

Our next fund raiser is the Victorian Christmas Market – details below

Victorian Christmas Market – Friday, 5th December 6.00 – 9.00pm – **in the village square at the grand switching on of the Christmas lights**. Over 20 festive stalls, hot chestnuts, mulled wine, mince pies, silver band, singers and of course the man himself will be there – Father Christmas! The one stop event to sort all your Christmas present shopping.

A date for your diaries: I know seems a long way off but the date for the annual May Fayre is Saturday, 16th May 2015 (make that the first thing you put on the calendar that you get for Christmas!)

As a committee we are always looking for more helpers, donations of good quality bric-a-brac, books, CD's, games, DVD's, tombola and raffle prizes, man-shed contents, garden items & baked goodies to sell, and also any fund raising ideas. If you can help with any of these, please contact us in one of the following ways: ✉ **merecancerresearch@mail.com** or visit Sarah at Sprout & Flower or ring Harvard Dallibar ☎ 07788138003. We also have a Facebook page – Mere Cancer Research- where you can read all our up to date news and forthcoming events.

Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 137112

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives Court would like thank everyone who has so generously supported us this past year, and to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are already planning new activities for 2015 so do watch this space!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

We have no film in December, but we return in the New Year on Thursday 15th January for our next screening. Unfortunately at the time of writing, we still await confirmation from Moviola of our film choices for the next few months, so I cannot give you the film title for January. However, with lots of excellent films coming out at the moment, including Mr. Turner, The Imitation Game (Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightly), My Old Lady (Maggie Smith, Kristin Scott Thomas), Pride (Imelda Staunton, Bill Nighy) and The Hundred Foot Journey (Helen Mirren) I am sure there will be much for your enjoyment! Look out for posters in town, and tickets will be available in the Library from mid December. In the meantime have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



MERE MUSEUM

The current exhibition about Mere men and women during WWI will run until just after Christmas. The accompanying, illustrated book by Angela McDonald, also called **'The Proudest Uniform'**, which contains fuller biographies of the men from

Mere of WWI who did not return, will remain on sale at the Museum at £7.50 per copy until sold out.

In the New year, we shall mount a new exhibition in which we shall display a selection from the astonishingly wide range of **posters** held in the Museum's collection. Many of these date to the mid 19th century and shed fascinating light on the activities and pre-occupations of Mere Residents of those times. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are hereby alerted that the next **exhibition preview** (see above) will take place on **Monday January 5th at 6.30 p.m.** in the Museum. Make a note now in your new diaries. It will take the form of a very modest New Year Party! We hope that by then you will have had a Very Happy Christmas. *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Mere Residents will probably be relieved that the recent spate of poisonings at the Brewster House have at last come to an end, in plenty of time before the Festive Season. However other plans are afoot! In February 2015, MADS will be mounting another of its (in)famous **Pantomimes**! We would be very pleased to hear from any merry men or women (that's a hint) who would like to take part in this enterprise, either on stage or behind it, or even under it - you never know! If you're interested and would like to know more, please come to a **reading/meeting on Tuesday, 2nd December in the Green Room** (very end of the corridor) in the Lecture Hall, and/or ring Mary White ☎ 01747 861257.

Happy Christmas!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

DRESSMAKING IN MERE

Dressmaking Classes have started in earnest with Susanne Hayes "The Sewing Lady" and Carol busily showing our Monday and Wednesday classes of ladies how to produce beautifully finished garments that fit!

We will be running two further eight week classes from Monday 19th January 10.30am to 1.00pm and Wednesday, 21st January from 7.00 to 9.30pm in the Grove Building.
(This article continues on page 22)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE &

Carols in the Square

Christmas Eve 11.00am Everyone welcome

St Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday, 21st December	4.30pm	Candlelit Carol Service
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib Service (Children invited to dress as nativity story characters)
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Family Communion with Carols

St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle

Sunday, 21st December	6.30pm	Candlelit Carol service
Christmas Day	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

United Reformed and Methodist Churches

Sunday, 21st December	6.00pm	United Carol Service at the Methodist Church
		Preacher: Mr Dudley Oates
Christmas Day	10.30am	United Christmas Morning Service at the Methodist Church
		Preacher: Rev'd Paul Arnold

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Christmas Eve	9.00pm	Mass
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DISTRICT - CHRISTMAS 2014

Parish of Upper Stour

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle service at:

St Martin's Church, Zeals

6.30pm Traditional Carol Service at:

St Peters Church, Stourton

11.30pm Midnight Mass at:

St George's Church, Bourton

Christmas Day

10.00am Festival Communion with
Carols at:

St Marys Church, Kilmington.

Visitors are most welcome at all services

**All the Churches wish everyone a
happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.**

Christmas Tree Festival



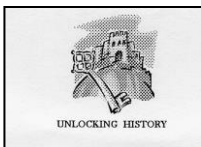
St. Michael's will once again be hosting the Mere Christmas Tree Festival from Friday, 19th December-Friday, 2nd January 2015. The church will be open between 10.00am-4.00pm daily (except when a service is being held). So please come along and have a look at the trees, which are being decorated by businesses, clubs and educational establishments of Mere and see a wonderful festive display.



Elizabeth Howden, Churchwarden, ☎ 01747 863424

Whether you are a beginner or already have some experience and would like to have the satisfaction of making clothes for yourself or family, do give us a call and we can tell you if there are any spaces, or maybe put you on our waiting list.

Susanne ☎ 07788 595 434 or Carol ☎ 01747 861923



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The First World War: Tunnelling and Mine Warfare

Phillip Robinson

Tuesday, 2nd December 2014 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Phillip has been an adviser on several films and documentaries.

A Very Fair Castle The changing Face of Corfe Castle and its role within its landscape

Judith Teasdale

Tuesday, 6th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Judith is a landscape architect and is returning to give another of her talks. **£3 entry for non-members who will be very welcome**

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 20th January 2015, to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "A History of Bruton School for Girls", by John Burrough. **£1 entry for non-members who will be very welcome**

Note: There is NO morning talk in December

Don't forget to check out our web site:

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

how smuggling

Bonny Sartin was our guest speaker in November whom we enjoyed thoroughly. He was a member of the Yetties but his talk was entitled "Smuggling in Dorset and Hampshire", and we learnt started after King John introduced a customs tax

and smuggling gradually escalated into organised gangs, even financed or aided by local gentry, reaching as far as Bath and Bristol. We were also treated to three songs with a smuggling content, unaccompanied, although we were encouraged to join in the chorus of one of the songs, but we turned out to be no competition for Bonny's voice.

Also last month, nine members took a trip to Wilton Garden Centre where we shopped and had lunch, followed by a trip to the Shopping Village. A chance to do some early Christmas shopping, Oh Dear!

Our next meeting, on Thursday, 4th December at 7.30pm in the Grove Building, is going to be our early build-up to the Christmas festivities. Mere Melodies, our local hand bell ringers, are going to entertain us again with Christmas carols and songs to join in with, or just enjoy. There will also be a table quiz and we will have food, mulled wine and schloer and of course our secret Santa present from under the tree. Please come and join us and enjoy an early start to Christmas, you would be very welcome.

We do not have an official meeting in January but we are planning a New Year lunch at the Dolphin in Gillingham on Thursday, 15th January to which you are very welcome. Please give me a call if you would like to join us so that we know how many seats to book. Mere WI wish you all peace and joy this Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

At the 10.30am Service at St Michael's on Wednesday, 3rd December five new members for Mere MU will be enrolled. The following week:



Mere Mothers Union would love you

to join us for our

MU Carol Service

on Tuesday 9th December 2014

at 2.00pm in St Michael's Church Mere

**Followed by mince pies & refreshments in the
Grove Building**

And then in January, instead of our usual meeting we'll be enjoying a New Year lunch together at the Walnut Tree on Tuesday, 6th January. All past and present MU members and partners/spouses are very welcome to come, as well as friends and anyone who might join in future. If you haven't already booked, please phone asap!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

**For the over 60s. Mere and District Day Centre, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 3.00pm**

Christmas is often a time when socially isolated people feel more aware of their isolation. The RGC currently has spaces for new guests on Fridays. We provide teas/coffees, a two-course hot lunch and varied activities all within a jolly social setting. The cost, which includes everything, is £6.00 for the day. If you, or anyone you know, might benefit from joining our group on a Friday, then please get in touch with me on the number below.

We have enjoyed various activities during the last year, along with some great outings. Speakers have entertained us on numerous topics, pottery sessions have taken place each month, singing is now back to being a regular feature on our programme, and we have enjoyed quizzes, brain training, Tai Chi, art, debates and bingo sessions to name a few! We have also enjoyed visits from the children of Mere and Whitesheet schools and an impressive display from Mere Falconry.

Over the next couple of months we have Suzie Conroy coming in to give us a talk all about 'Living as a continual cruiser on a narrow boat', Whitesheet School choir to sing after our Christmas dinner, Christmas prize bingo, our Annual Christmas production that we put on for our volunteers on Friday, 19th December and a trip to see 'Mother Goose' at Salisbury Playhouse. In January we have two speakers lined up, Ann Marie Dean from the Wiltshire Good Neighbours team and Derek Coward to talk about his recent experiences during a cruise in Mexico. We also have a Desert Island Discs session to look forward to.

Our Annual Quiz is on sale at Mere Information Point, usual hours except Monday mornings and Wednesdays. For just £1 you can exercise the grey matter with your friends over a glass of wine. A date for your 2015 diaries: 'Call My Bluff' Saturday evening **9th May**, in the Grove Building. Don't miss the fun!

On behalf of everyone at the RGC we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Website: **www.MereDayCentre.org.uk**

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

GROVE BUILDINGS “100 CLUB”

The result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for November 2014, drawn on Wednesday 5th November by Mrs C Kriticos was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 179	Pauline Prentice
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 188	Mr Barry Edwards
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 112	Mrs Maggie Barker
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 148	Mrs Bella Wallace

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

LOCAL KARATE INSTRUCTOR IN HIGH DEMAND

Mere-born Peter Manning, one of Europe’s senior karate instructors, was recently invited to visit Jersey to teach karate students from across the Channel Islands. He is the former Chair of the NAKMAS Governing Body Technical Committee (Britain’s largest Martial arts governing body) and Chief Instructor of the National Karate Association TSKA which practices traditional Shotokan karate.

Peter, who runs the Mere Karate Club, which meets and trains on Wednesday nights in the Lecture Hall, with Juniors from 6.00pm and seniors from 7.00pm, is the longest established karate instructor in the Blackmore Vale area and holds the prestigious rank of 7th dan black belt. He is in demand to teach throughout the UK, and this was his second visit to Jersey at the invitation of Sensei Paul Goggin, 6th Dan, Su Zen Kai.

The event was covered by ITV Channel Islands News, as well as BBC Radio Jersey, who invited Peter to take part in a telephone and on-line discussion about karate teaching in schools.

Both items can be viewed and heard by using the following Internet links: www.itv.com/news/channel/update/2014-10-19/watch-karate-kids-at-samaress-school/ and www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0284y1h

Anyone interested in learning real Japanese karate should phone me on the number below or visit the website www.tskashotokankarate.com

Peter Manning ☎ 01747 860144

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. Stuck for an unusual present this year? Why not buy your loved one a trial annual membership to the Bowls Club! A full year of meeting new friends, healthy outdoor sport and congenial social events – all for less than a penny a day. Contact any of the members below and they will be more than happy to make the necessary arrangements.

We now look forward to our own Club Annual Dinner and Presentation night which will be held in January at the Stags Head in Yarlington, with transport being provided by the club for all those members who wish to be picked up and dropped off in Mere.

At the recent Westbrook League Presentation Evening, Mere Bowls Club was presented with the League Trophy, for the seventh time in the eight years that we have been members of the league, not bad for a small club like ours.

Can't wait until next year to get started, then contact either Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎ 01747 860803 or Don Butchers, Club Secretary ✉ don.butchers@btinternet.com *Alan Spencer ☎ 01747-860803*

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB CHRISTMAS BINGO

Saturday, 6th December 2014

Doors Open 7.00pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm

Fantastic prizes and Raffle

Everybody Welcome

Enquiries: J Hodge ☎ 07808 715725

1st MERE BROWNIES

Centenary Celebrations

This year has been the centenary of the Brownie Guide section, various events have been held throughout the year to celebrate this. Mere Brownies have taken part in the following events. Firstly a Pantomime: - Dick Whittington. Fourteen girls from Mere joined other Brownies for a special Brownie only performance.

In May, two Brownies from Mere (Emily and Katie) were selected to attend an event at our County HQ at Berwick St James to meet HRH Sophie, Countess of Wessex.

The afternoon events included Archery, Singing, Craft and Outdoor cooking and finished with HRH cutting the Brownie Birthday Cake. At the end of May, nineteen girls attended an outdoor activity event with over 300 other Brownies from South Wiltshire and in October, twelve girls took part in a three mile walk followed by a campfire and toasting marshmallows at our County HQ.

The finale to the Centenary was a celebration of Guiding Service in Salisbury Cathedral on 8th November in which eight of our Brownies took part. It was a celebration of the organisation through the decades, including through times of war. Mere Brownies depicted the early days, including the suffragette movement and showing their early uniform. A puppet used on the day was made by three of the Brownies who took part.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local community for their support during the Southern Co-operative's community card scheme. New members, both girls and adults are very welcome to join us, and contact details are below.

Recycling project

Thank you for your continued support. We are still collecting: Jewellery – Gold, Silver, and Costume, even if it is broken or incomplete. Foreign and UK coins and notes - any currency and of any age. Mobile phones. (They do not have to be working, but it is advisable to remove your SIM card).

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 can recycle them for you – with proceeds to unit funds. Collection points for all your contributions are still at Walton's Newsagents, the Post Office, Jeans Electrical Shop and Jeans Chapel Showroom as well as The Library.

Sue Luffman ☎ 01747 861054 and Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215

MERE SCHOOL REPORTS



***BY
YEAR 4***

STOP PRESS!
Look on our website for
latest news and pictures:
www.mereschool.co.uk

History Week

We spent a very interesting week focussing on history. Wessex Archaeology told us all about the work of an archaeologist and we had the chance to dig up and date some artefacts – very exciting!

Red class had a visit from a Roman soldier who put them through their paces and told them about life as a Roman soldier in Britain.

Finally, every class went to Mere Museum where Mrs Wilding helped us to find out about WWI. We completed a quiz and learnt a lot about how WWI affected Mere. On the walk back to school we had the opportunity to stop at the war memorial.

KS2 Class topics this term all have a history theme:

Year 6: The Vikings & Anglo Saxons

Year 5: The Romans

Year 4: World War 2

Year 3: The Tudors

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day we were very pleased to welcome Major Phillips who had been a serving soldier. She

joined us for a special whole school assembly where we kept silent for 1 minute at 11 0'clock.

We have also contributed to an interesting display by writing poems, letters and painting pictures of the poppy fields to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of WWI

Christmas Celebrations

As usual our Christmas celebrations will be fun and interesting.

- The whole school will visit Salisbury Playhouse to watch Mother Goose.
- Our KS1 & KS2 Christmas performances are well under way and all are welcome to come along. Look on our website for details.
- We will be welcoming visitors from St Michaels' Church who will be running a Christingle workshop. We will also walk to the church for our annual carol service with Rev'd Carol.
- Mrs Corbett and her team will be providing a delicious Christmas lunch complete with a visit from
- Father Christmas!

MERE'S ONE WORLD WEEK EVENTS 2014

Churches Together in Mere and District were delighted with the success of the two events held during One World Week this year. The Methodist Church in Mere was packed to hear Dr Roger Williamson give the address based on his wide international development experiences. The congregation joined their hopes and prayers to those of the pupils of Mere School and St George's School, Bourton, in a colourful paper-chain; all pledging to make a difference to the World in one small way. The collection of over £200 was shared between Christian Aid and CAFOD.

The Fair, held for the first time in Stourton Memorial Hall, was a busy afternoon with 12 stalls representing a number of local, national and international charities. The Christian Aid unfair games and Wiltshire Wildlife's craft activity were popular with families and many others browsed and bought some attractive Fairly Traded Gifts. Contact was made with a wider audience of visitors to Stourhead Gardens and we felt it was a very successful outreach, promoting the inter-dependence of our 'One World'.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 8608840 & Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

THE REV'D PAUL ARNOLD, THE METHODIST CHURCH MINISTER, WRITES:

When did you last have a really good sing? In the shower? At a 'karaoke' night? I often hear it said that, as a nation, we sing less than in the past. I am sure that is true - 'piped muzak', radios and i-pods mean we have a constant supply of music – why would we need to make our own? However, the success of TV shows like 'The Voice' and 'The Choir' prove that people's desire to sing music of all kinds is far from extinct.

This is the time of year when people who do not normally attend church often find themselves in Services and have the chance to loosen their vocal chords and let rip with a few good carols! There can be something incredibly liberating about a good sing, indeed there are health benefits! Researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, asked a group of teenagers to perform three choral exercises – humming, singing a hymn and chanting – and monitored their heart rhythms during each. It was shown that singing has a dramatic effect on heart rate variability, which is linked to a reduced risk of heart disease. The calming effect is as beneficial as yoga. Other studies have shown that people who sing tend to live longer than people who don't!

It is sometimes said that the Methodist Church was, 'born in song' because Charles Wesley, who helped establish the church along with his brother John, wrote (almost) 9,000 hymns and songs! Most of them will be forgotten, but there are many which live on and are still sung with real passion and power today - 'Love Divine, all loves excelling,' 'Jesus, lover of my soul' and perhaps best known around this time of year, ***'Hark the herald angels sing!'***

Song continues to be at the heart of the worship and mission of all Churches today. Singing can express joy, regret, hope, sorrow and so many more emotions. Christians worship God in song, not just because it makes us feel better, but because it expresses the hope that lies at the heart of the Christmas story that, 'God's love in Jesus has made all the difference'. So, in the coming days when you sing 'Hark, the herald' – sing it loud (!) and thank God for Jesus: **'Glory to the new-born king!'** Have a wonderful Christmas and peaceful New Year....

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Do you have a favourite recipe?

To raise funds for our next project, the Friends of St Michael's are hoping to produce a cookery book which will include straightforward recipes from members of the community of Mere.

We would like as many recipes as possible from which we can make a selection, so we are producing a form for you to write out your recipes. The forms will be available at the beginning of January from the Church, the Library and Sprout & Flower.

We are hoping to have a digital photograph of each dish to accompany the recipe. Further details about this can be obtained from Kate Symonds (861278).

Your recipes can be put into the special boxes at the above locations and need to be returned by the end of February.

A selection of 60 recipes will then be chosen to go into the book which will be available in September 2015, just in time for your Christmas shopping!

If you want to know more, please speak to: **Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776**

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Service Times

Please note that services during January, February and March will be at 3.0 p.m. in the School Room

Café Worship

During December 'Pause for Thought' continues with a Coffee Morning on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. but not of course on Christmas Eve! We shall resume on Wednesday, 31st December.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Everyone is welcome to a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in aid of Suchana at the Vicarage, Angel Lane, from 10.30am-12.00noon on Tuesday, 27th January 2015. 2014 was a bumper fund-raising year, and we've made a real difference in the lives of many

disadvantaged children and families in West Bengal: please come and help us get 2015 off to a good start!

Our aim is quite ambitious – to be part of the process of enabling Suchana's mobile library to become motorised (instead of a cycle rickshaw). This will mean it can reach an additional 10 scattered villages enabling 400 more children to have access to simple books in their own language based on their own culture, as well as basic healthcare. We are committed to raising the money to provide the books!

Finally, a date for your diary: back by popular request Suchana Shrove Tuesday Quiz and Pancake Evening in the Grove Building at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 17th February 2015. Details in February 2015 Mere Matters.

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE DECEMBER 2014

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
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Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
(except Christmas Eve)		

Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
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(except Boxing Day)

The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day

Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	9.15am	Said Holy Communion
		10.30am	Family Praise Service
		5.00pm	Advent Worship
	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Advent Worship
	*21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Sunday	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1) St Michael the Archangel
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*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion
	21st	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Sunday	28th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
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The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Miss J LeMoignan
	14th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Sunday	28th	6.00pm	United Service at Gillingham Methodist Church NO service in Mere
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The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's.

**Mere Contacts: Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson
☎ 01747 860291**

Every Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
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Christmas Services - see centre pages

On the 4th Saturday of the month - There will be Tea & Cakes after Mass, together with the sale of Fairtrade Produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534

Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	7th	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	14th	9.30am	Matins (BCP)
	21st	6.30pm	Lessons & Carols

Christmas Services - see centre pages

Sunday	28th	9.30am	Informal Morning Prayer
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Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

JANUARY 2015

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day	

Sunday	4th	10.30am	Parish Communion
		5.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	*18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	25th	10.30am	Choral Matins (BCP)

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	25th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

The Methodist Church

(☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, (☎ 01747 861370)

Sunday	4th	3.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
			Covenant Service
	11th	3.00pm	Mr D N de Gruchy
	18th	3.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
			Churches Together United Service
			Week of Prayer
	25th	6.00pm	United Service at the Roman Catholic Church
			NO service in Mere

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's
Mere Contacts: Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson
☎ 01747 860291

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

On the 4th Saturday of the month - There will be Tea & Cakes after Mass,
together with the sale of Fairtrade Produce.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin
Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534
Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263

Sunday	4th	9.30am	Informal Morning Prayer
	11th	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	18th	9.30am	Matins
	25th	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

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

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2014

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BH-Band Hut: 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; MSC-Mere Social Club.**

1	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 8th & 15th)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (also 8th, 5th & 22nd)	L
		10.30am	Dress Making (also 8th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 8th, 5th & 22nd)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (also 8th & 15th)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 8th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 8th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 8th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		2	Tue	9.00am -
9.30am	Card Making (small hall)			L
10.15am	Lip Reading (also 9th)			GB
6.00pm -	8.30pm Youth Consultation			AYP
6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)			GB
6.20pm	Zumba (also 9th & 16th)			L

2	Tue	7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
3	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 10th)	GB
		10.30am	Café Worship (also 10th, 17th & 31st)	MH
		10.30am	Tai Chi (also 10th small hall)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (also 10th & 17th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (also 3rd, 10th & 17th)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (also 10th & 17th)	BH
		7.00pm	Dress Making (also 10th)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival Quiz Night	GB
4	Thur	10.00am -	12.00noon Mere Art Group (also 11th & 18th)	GB
		10.00am -	11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		1.00pm	Bridge Club (also 11th & 18th)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 11th)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		11.00am	Merely Women	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 12th & 19th)	L
5	Fri	6.00pm	9.00pm Victorian Christmas Market	The Square
6	Sat	10.00am -	11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 13th, 20th & 27th)	CC
		10.30am -	12.00noon Children's 'Drop in' Christmas Trees	Lib
		7.30pm	MTYFC Bingo (eyes down)	L
7	Sun	10.00am -	5.30pm Inflata Zone	L
8	Mon	10.30am -	12.00pm Carers Get Together	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
9	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.00pm	Mothers Union Carol Service	St Michaels & GB
		7.00pm	Church meeting	CC
10	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
11	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding	GB
13	Sat	6.30pm	Oasis Carnival Club Bingo	L
17	Wed	3.00pm -	4.30pm Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
20	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony Christmas Concert	GB
22	Mon	2.00pm	December Short Walk (see page 14)	Candle Factory

JANUARY 2015

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BH-Band Hut: 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; MSC-Mere Social Club.

1	Thur	10.00am -	12.00noon Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
2	Fri	10.00am	Mere Walking Group	CP
3	Sat	10.00am -	11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib

3	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st)	CC
5	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum preview	Lib
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
6	Tue	6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday small hall)	GB
		10.30am	Café Worship (every Wednesday)	MH
		11.00am	Pilates (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	BH
8	Thur	1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 11th)	GB
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (every Thursday)	GB
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
12	Mon	10.30am	- 12.00pm Carers Get Together	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
13	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (also 27th)	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading (also 20th & 27th))	GB
14	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Walking Group Planning	The George Inn
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
19	Mon	10.30am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	CC
		10.30am	Dress making (also 26th)	GB
20	Tue	10.30am	Mere Historical Society morning talk	GB
		12.30pm	Community Lunch	The George Inn
21	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.30pm Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.00pm	Dress Making (also 28th)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

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

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

CREDIT UNION

Every Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the February 2015 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, 19th January 2015.**

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 12th January 2015 onwards to: **editor@merematters.co.uk**

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

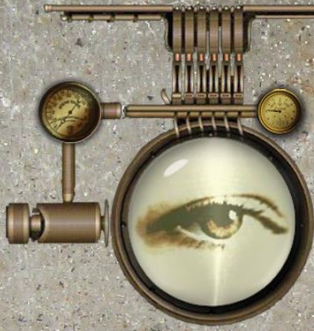
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: **jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com**

☎: **01985 844740**

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