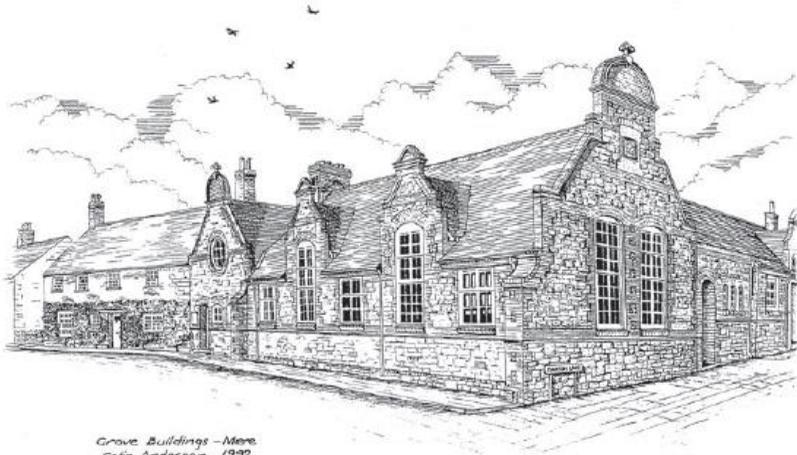


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Grove Buildings - Mere
Colin Anderson 1992*

MARCH 2014

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. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be on **Monday, 3rd March 2014** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

As we spring forward into March, let us hope that the appalling weather will simultaneously recede.

Maverick Industries, the company building our new skate park are not deterred and work commenced last week on what should be a nine week project.

I am always gratified to see our PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky so much around the town and often in the library. Unfortunately, there has been some level of crime recently but I am sure with diligence and awareness, we could all do our "bit" to help the police.

I attended the area board meeting on 5th February which, as usual, had its mix of lively debate and information. In attendance were Jane Scott, the Leader of Wiltshire Council and Angus Macpherson, the Wiltshire Police & Crime Commissioner.

Where it is always useful to listen to what they have to say, the underlying message is, unfortunately, the pressure on them to achieve what they would like to, with the restraints of financial cut backs. Their enthusiasm and commitment however, seem undeterred.

I was pleased to see a good turn out for the open meeting to discuss the future of the Mere Carnival, and I feel positive that the carnival will be able to continue. Many thanks to all who have offered their time for this long standing annual event.

For information on Parish Council activities; details of meetings and copies of minutes, please view the Mere website: www.merewilts.org; or contact the parish clerk, Mrs Lindsey Wood: ✉: lindseywood@merewilts.org or: ☎ 01747 860701.

Mrs Lesley Traves, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, WRITES

The Post Office has now decided to allow Royal Mail to close the mailroom in Mere. Mail has been sorted in Mere since the 18th century at Waltons. It will be the passing of an era, and it is not a positive for the Mere area.

I was pleased to hear there has been much support for Mere Carnival at a meeting recently at The Walnut Inn, Mere. Up to that meeting it had been uncertain if the Mere

Carnival would continue. Partly because of the above, I have been looking at some Mere Carnival programmes from the 1980s. Some of you might like to try and remember where some of the following business were. The adverts showed R & M Cockram, Timothy J Thick, Muriels, Paulines, LV & CH Smith Ltd., Arrow Foodmarket, S. Cullingford Carpets, Magpie Granary, W A Norris Electrics, Vogue, Burann House Stores, North Street Nurseries, The Mere Practice, The Old Ship Hotel, Castle Hill Service Station and Treasure Trove. Also in business were F. J. Deverill & Son and L.C. Hill & Son, builders - all of which have closed and become housing or have reduced services in the same premises.

With rainfall the worst since the 1700s, I am told that parts of Wiltshire have taken up much time of the road works crews. It may seem hard to believe pothole gangs have been at work, however it appears to be a losing battle. I am being told with extra funding we shall see the start of resurfacing in some areas, not just pot holes being filled. Furthermore, after five years, all the worst affected roads will have been resurfaced - we shall see! Some areas that are very rural need urgent attention, such as Fordswater at Zeals, Limpers Hill in Mere and the more used roads like the B3095 junction at The Quarry Field Industrial Estate at Mere. These are just examples of the many complaints regarding roads I receive.

A residence Saltbox has been provided at Lynch close as an extra supply of salt. This will be locked and two local able-bodied persons will voluntarily spread the salt when required. This saltbox has been provided for by a local donation.

Cabinet have awarded themselves allowances over 20%, and when the subject was raised at Full Council again, the Full Council meeting decided not to modify or stop the original decision. The leader has not taken the increase in her allowance, and I gave my increase back to the community in the form of snow shovels. I was indirectly criticised for this at Full Council, so I decided to have my 1% increase stopped for the remainder of this year, and I have voted against the above increases on both occasions.

The Inspector for The Wiltshire Core Strategy has told Wiltshire Council that we are short in our assessment of housing requirements by some 5,000 dwellings. We know that many need housing locally and the price continues to climb. Amongst the many charges put on new houses, another may apply. At a Southern Area Planning Meeting it appears the Wiltshire core strategy may allow for Fire and Rescue contributions, which I am sure are required, however I consider these charges on housing continue to fuel the rising cost of housing to the detriment of local people. I have been to Cabinet with the support of a fellow Councillor, Tony Deane, to try and get The Cabinet to accept that the

**Richard Robbins - Trained Gardener - 25 years
experience. All aspects of Garden Care Undertaken
Tel: 01373 473008 Email: richard.robbs@live.co.uk**



rural environment should be “taxed on new housing” less than urban areas, especially for housing for local people. The consultation is on the Wiltshire Council’s web site and covers many topics. Look out for the above.

The proposal to remove the traffic signs when accessing or exiting the junction at Stourton with the B3092 by replacing the two sets of traffic signs with just one has moved a step closer. Further design drawings have been provided by Wiltshire Council, which I will discuss with Stourton Parish Council.

I am helping Mere Parish Council to achieve a skate park. Now that we have planning permission, the project is now going ahead. I must thank Lindsey Wood, the Mere Parish Council Clerk, who has spent many tens of hours on this project. It has been five years since I was requested by many to provide the facility, and I started to make much effort to achieve a skate park for Mere.

Connect 2 Wiltshire’s Mere & District Taxibuzz covers Mere and all villages around from Zeals, Kilmington to Hindon and beyond. It is a door-to-door service. You can book a journey between 9.00am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday, but note that concessionary bus pass holders will be charged 50p for a single journey within Mere or £1 for a single journey outside Mere.

I am proposing that Poppy Seeds are put in the flower tubs around the town of Mere as part of The World War 1 commemorations. The Mere Chamber of Trade has offered to finance the seeds and/or plants. Clive Hazzard of North Street Nurseries will plant them. The site of Jubilee Gardens was suggested by the Mere Gardening Club and I am hoping The Mere Parish Council will agree to this. Jenny Wilding on behalf of The Mere Historical Society and Museum is working towards further commemorations.

With a government grant reduction of £22m over the next four years, service pressures and inflationary costs around £100m, realignment is planned of £100 million to deliver service priorities. This coming financial year will see further impacts on services. For Mere one of the affects will be the impact on our Youth Development Centre (Youth Club). Consultation for 10 weeks from the beginning of February is underway, please enter into the consultation. I have been accepted on to a task group re Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People, which is all that Wiltshire Council has to address by statute.

The Old Police Station, Wilton Road, Salisbury, was given permission to become a University Technical College (UTC) by the Southern Planning Committee on which I sit. It caters for 14 to 18 year olds and will be an asset to the whole area.



WORK ON SKATE PARK HAS BEGUN

Work on the skatepark in the Mere Recreation Ground has begun. This is a major project for Mere and one that has been requested

time and time again by the youth of the town – since 2001 in fact. Finally, we have been able to secure all the permissions and the funding in order to proceed with the project. The construction is likely to take about 9 weeks and the delivery vehicles will be accessing the site via Duchy Manor.

Our chosen provider is Maverick Industries (see www.maverickindustries.co.uk) who are based nearby in Poole, Dorset. They have extensive experience and have installed skateparks in Stroud, Dorchester, Glastonbury, Nottingham, Bradford, Midsomer

Norton, Paignton & Haverfordwest. The design and construction of the skatepark facility will be fully compliant with the latest British and European safety guidelines.

Whilst the skatepark is primarily designed for skateboarding, it will also be suitable for other wheeled sports such as inline skating, scooters and BMX riding. There is no age restriction on users, and the skatepark design provides features for a range of abilities: sections have been included to appeal to younger skaters while other features will cater for the more experienced skater.

£20,000 of the funding has been provided by The Hills Group Limited which was made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Hills by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. A grant of £18,389 has been awarded by Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board and the remaining funding has been met by Developers Contributions and the Parish Council as Trustees of the Mere Peace Memorial Sports & Recreation Ground Charity.

Social Well Being

As medical science has developed, levels of disability among older members of the population has reduced, life expectancy has extended, and coupled with the decline in birth rates has resulted in an aging population.



Often elderly people withdraw from social activities and relationships because their health concerns prevent them from driving or being as active as they used to be. Many elderly people do not want to be a "burden" by asking for help, so it is important to others to offer help and support. Sometimes all it takes to help a person stay connected is someone to drive them to their activity.

Care and support in a community is essential for everyone but, for various reasons, some elderly people become socially isolated. Studies have shown that prolonged social isolation results in both physical and mental deterioration. This may include exaggerated reactions to physical illnesses or pain, or a decrease in the ability to adapt to changes in life.

Consider the effects of ageing both physically with the resulting loss of ability, and in some cases mental deterioration, add to this friends and family who do not understand the emotional turmoil caused by the changes you are experiencing. The result can be increasing levels of social isolation.

Social isolation refers to the lack of meaningful social relationships and connections.

Amongst the elderly it is a significant issue. Isolation and loneliness among older people can lead to health problems and are a drain on our medical services both GP's and Hospitals.

Reasons for this isolation can often be of the person's own choosing. It may be avoiding feelings of guilt for holding others back, or feelings that you have failed to meet someone's expectations of you. Isolation can be far easier than asking for help and also by staying away from people, you don't have to feel different.

Reasons for Social Isolation can be broken down into 4 main areas: **Health, Personal, Family and Environment.**

Do you feel alone and are not sure how to go about reintroducing yourself to society. It is hard. Once you break off friendships or stop going out those first steps are difficult.

Some Easy first steps

1. Try contacting relatives or friends with whom you have lost touch.

If you are house bound then maintain contact by phone or skype. If there is worry about disturbing others, simply ask for the most convenient time for calling. Make phone calls to adult children, ie those not living at home, while they are free (e.g. night time or weekends), avoiding times when they are busy (e.g. lunchtime or office hours).

2 Join Activities/ Social Groups

Joining activities arranged by nearby social groups is a means of expanding social circles. These activities can help develop interests and hobbies, and a way to meet new friends. N.B. It takes time to become accepted so persevere.

3. Elderly people with Chronic Illnesses and Carers

Elderly people with chronic illnesses can join patient self-help groups. It is easier to face illness in the company of other sufferers by sharing experiences and feelings. Alternatively, by simplifying or rearrangement of housework, or making use of respite services carers, can spare time to participate in social activities, which can help to reduce stress.

Isolation makes life difficult. Keep in touch with others. Be happy and be healthy.

As your local Good Neighbour Co-ordinator I can help you reconnect. I will visit you in your home and listen to what you have to say about your needs. I can identify which organizations are best suited to deal with your individual needs and then refer or support you to access that service. Contact me to make an appointment.



NEW AND EXCITING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY WITH WILTSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE



As part of a new service offered by Citizens Advice, the Wiltshire Bureaux are seeking volunteers to be part of a team to provide basic financial education to community groups, and one to one money mentoring.

The project, funded by Big Lottery, aims to empower people to make better budgeting, borrowing, saving and banking decisions. We will be working with local charities and agencies in the community to reach out to those needing support and up to date knowledge of money matters.

If you are looking for the opportunity to learn new skills and develop existing ones, this project offers roles as a **Money Matters Trainer or a Money Mentor**.

Volunteers will receive free training with all expenses paid, as well as the opportunity to be part of a friendly team and work closely with your local community.

All sorts of people volunteer for Wiltshire Citizens Advice, and find it challenging, rewarding, varied and you never stop learning. We are looking for a minimum commitment of a half day per fortnight.

Wherever you are in Wiltshire and if you would like to be a part of this team then please contact: me: Anne Blackwell, Financial Capability Volunteer Coordinator, Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Kestrel House, Mill Street, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8BE, ✉: anneblackwell@cabwiltshire.org.uk *Anne Blackwell ☎ 01225 781946*

TISBURY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Guest Speaker:

**Police & Crime Commissioner
Angus Macpherson**

This is an ideal opportunity to raise any questions.

An update to be given on the new changes implemented to the
Community Speed Watch Scheme.

**Tuesday, 11th March 2014
Elizabeth Hall, Tisbury.**

commencing 4.00pm

**All Members of the Public and Community Groups,
particularly people from Mere, are very welcome
Please join us and express your views.**

✉ tcspartnership@gmail.com

Co-ordinator: Mrs B Ford ☎ 01747 871638

CAR BOOT & TABLE TOP SALE

ST GEORGES SCHOOL BOURTON

Saturday, 15th March 10am-1pm (9am for sellers, Tel 07515 899930)

Children's activities, refreshments and cake sale



POLICE REPORT

The weather seems to be a major problem and we refer you to the advice given in the last edition of Mere Matters about being safe!

Sheep on the Road

We have had 3 reports of sheep on the road, near a dangerous bend on the B3095, Mere to Gillingham road, this is causing issues to motorists on that road. We have spoken to the farmer. Remember this when you are driving, **YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IS AROUND THAT NEXT CORNER!** PLEASE DRIVE ACCORDINGLY.

A Theft of Metal occurred at Sedgehill, and luckily the owner of the metal saw the offending vehicle and called the police. The two males, both known to us, were arrested in possession of the metal, and are currently being dealt with. Thank you to the eagle eyed owner, who gave us the nod.

A Burnt out Caravan was located on fire in the Motcombe Road off of the A350 near Semley. We suspect that someone dumped it and set light to it. Highways have removed the offending vehicle.

Tyres Dumped in a Lay-By on A303

About 60 tyres were fly-tipped in the lay-by persons unknown, **DID YOU SEE A VEHICLE OFF-LOADING TYRES?** This happened overnight. Please call '101' and report it if you have any information.

Two Cars Stolen this month, one from East Knoyle and one from the lay by near the Red Lion pub in Kilmington. If you have any information, please give us a call.

Burglary at Beaumont's Business Centre, Woodlands Road, overnight on the 25th January. An untidy search of offices was made. **DID YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS OVERNIGHT?** Again, if you have any information, please give us a call.

What's Happening In Your Area

Witnesses Sought

There was a burglary to a bungalow in Mere, which occurred between 2.00 and 7.00pm on Thursday, 24th January. An unknown intruder forced entry via a rear window into a bungalow in the Southbrook area of Mere and following an untidy search of the premises cash and sentimental items were stolen.

Did you see anyone acting suspiciously in the Whitemarsh/Southbrook area near to the times stated? If you have any information that may assist us with our enquiries, call '101' and report it to us, please help us to apprehend these people.

Call '101' for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency.

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

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

CARNIVAL

The meeting on Tuesday, 11th February in the Walnut Tree Inn went very well with over 50 people attending. The committee were overwhelmed with the support from the people of Mere. We had volunteers to join the Committee and many willing to help with fundraising and events as well as on Carnival Day itself.

This means, hopefully, that Mere Carnival can continue for many years to come and go from strength to strength.

Thank you to everyone for your response to our cry for help. Watch this space for information on our forthcoming events.

Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639

WILTSHIRE CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



We are a local organisation committed to supporting disabled and older people to achieve independent living through choice and control

Wiltshire CIL provide the following FREE services:

Direct Payment Support Service	Advice from experienced Advisors
Payroll & banking service	Assistance from Peer Mentors
Peer Support Group Network	Online PA Register
Campaigning for individuals rights	Quarterly Newsletter
Support to self funders	Workshops/Training/Conferences

www.wiltshirecil.org.uk

☎ 01380 725400 / 01380 729497 / 0300 1233 442

Registered charity no. 1120611 Company Limited by Guarantee no. 5480761



Mere Dental Practice

The practice has Dentists: Stephen Sherrard & Christopher Davies and a further Dentist has started.

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

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS

Guy Bailey has left and his replacement is Mishari Al-Dhafeeri.. Mishari is a lovely gentleman who is proving popular with patients. Guy Bailey has left to join a private practice as he no longer wants to do NHS work.

The practice has upgraded its computer software and patients can now book their recalls online via a link sent out with recalls.

The Christmas hamper raffle raised £251 and the winner was Jade White, and Ray Hill won the Oral B electric toothbrush.

Francine Sherrard, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365

WEATHER REPORT

January was certainly a wet month. We had 252mms (9.82ins). Last year it was 111mms (4.37ins). This is over a quarter of the total rainfall we had last year - 908mms (35.75ins). We had a small thunder storm on the 2nd and plenty of frost.

February started as wet as January with 116mms (4.57ins) of rain up to the 17th. Thankfully we have not had the flooding problems faced by so many of our neighbours.

Peter Durkee. ☎ 01747 860363

WHAT CRICKETS?

'Aren't the crickets loud this evening' said my wife, on holiday in France. 'What crickets' I asked? That was my first realisation of hearing impairment. Years later, I now use a hearing aid and am learning to lip-read here in Mere.

Ten million people in the UK have impaired hearing. It's a hidden disability. A few people are born deaf; others develop hearing loss because of ageing, accidents, or noisy environments including listening to very loud music. Hearing loss can be isolating socially if you cannot follow a film soundtrack, a play, a public meeting, or simply a group of friends at the pub.

If you are amongst the ten million, do please come along to the lip-reading group in Mere and learn how to help yourself. You can learn not only lip reading skills, but also about technical aids to hearing and how fully hearing people can help – such as by facing you and speaking clearly without shouting.

We are a friendly group meeting at the Grove Building on Tuesdays from 10.15am to 12.15pm with a break for tea/coffee. The first session is free, thereafter £3 a session, £30 per term. Our sessions are entertaining with topics of general interest that our tutors introduce for lip-reading practice. Do come along and give us a try on Tuesday, 4th March or any Tuesday up to our Easter break (last session on Tuesday, 8th April). For more information, please contact Sheila Thomson ☎ 07760 731406 or by ✉ SheilaT@bishopstrow.org.uk

David Hope

GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER



Hold a Fish and Chip Supper on Friday, 16th May 2014 to help spinal cord injured people rebuild their lives after injury.

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday, 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting the Spinal Injuries Association's (SIA) vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper, but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the SIA offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

The SIA says: "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group".

For more information or to request a fundraising pack call me on the number below or

✉ fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit: www.siafishandchips.co.uk

Elizabeth Wright ☎ 0845 071 4350

40 years of rebuilding lives after spinal cord injury

R. S. P. C. A.

The Ashley Heath Animal Home, near Ringwood, Open Day made a profit of £4,875.65. Many thanks again to all who supported our Tombola. We will again be holding one this September. If anybody has anything suitable for prizes they will be gratefully received.

Pete and Sue Howell ☎ 01747 860623



MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT STOURHEAD.

Stourhead is looking to recruit a team of volunteer Day Makers to help turn what could be a good day out into a great day out for their 400,000 visitors each year.

Day Makers help make Stourhead an even more friendly and interesting place for all visitors, being on hand to answer questions, give directions and offer information to help visitors decide how best to enjoy their day out.

If you have a little time to give and want to meet new people, make new friends, learn new things, and become a member of a fun and friendly team then this is perfect for you. You need to be outgoing, lively and proactive, love meeting and helping others, energetic and confident, enjoy variety, like to be busy, and brimming with cheerfulness.

The National Trust Stourhead is launching a new 'story' in the Palladian mansion house and world famous landscape garden this year, so it's the perfect time to get involved.

To find out more and get involved please contact me by phone below or
✉: jean.nimmo@nationaltrust.org.uk *Jean Nimmo* ☎ 01747 841152

CLEANING WITH MEANING:

Did you know that Palm Oil is one of the world's most traded products and is found in so many every day items from foods, packaging, and cleaning products to toothpaste. Most of the oil is produced on huge plantations damaging the environment as large areas of forest are cleared. Traidcraft is always pioneering new products to meet Fair Trade standards and help support the most vulnerable communities and small producers, and this Spring they are launching a cleaning range using Fairly Traded palm oil from small producers in Ghana.

So why not consider buying one of their new products and begin to do your 'cleaning with meaning'. (You can buy these from the Fair Trade stalls: on the third weekend of each month at the URC Saturday "Drop in Coffee morning", after the morning service on the third Sunday in the month at St Michael's church, or from me at any time.)

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

Merrell's Mobile Foot Health Clinic.

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

FAIR TRADE OPPORTUNITY

Mothering Sunday

Make this year's gift a Fairly traded one and help mothers around the world as well as surprising your own with an unusual hand-made gift.

I will have a stall in the Square on Saturday, 29th March, from 10.30am-12.00noon with small gifts from 50p-£5. If wet I will be in the URC in Boar Street.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

BIG BREW

TEA: Paul of the Angel Café has kindly agreed to host this year's Big Brew during Fair Trade Fortnight on Wednesday, 5th March between 3.00 and 4.30pm. Come and enjoy a Fair Trade cuppa and piece of cake and help support families around the world to a sustainable life.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MARCH SHORT WALK

Short Walk: meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park for a Short Walk of 2-3 miles on Monday, 24th March..

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Visits to Bath, Christchurch and Southampton are planned and underway. Productions include the serious, the comic, the musical and the operatic. Whatever your taste in live theatre, we have something for all. So why not join us? Contacts below.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833 or Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



'Get ahead with Social Media'

Thursday, 20th March, 6.30-9.00pm, The George Inn, Mere

Mere Chamber is offering this Social Media Training Seminar. The social media world has exploded in recent years and small business leaders dismiss the hype at their peril. Having said that, good forward planning is crucial and will ensure that you are targeting your communication wisely and effectively so as not to waste your precious time or resources.

This short introduction to the practicalities of social media for small business aims to introduce you to the main forms and, more importantly, identify the right ones for you.

Refreshments will be provided. For further information please contact Chamber Secretary, Julie Cousins ☎ 07856 700576

‘Meet the Neighbours Event’

Monday, 17th March, 6.45-9.30pm, Royal Chase Hotel, Shaftesbury



Shaftesbury Chamber of Commerce will host the next ‘Meet the Neighbours ‘ Event. Twice a year the five local chambers of Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Wilton, Mere & Tisbury come together to give a chance to members to network with other local businesses.

There will be presentations from:

1. Katharine Shearing (Freelance journalist & Shaftesbury Matters) on **“How to promote your business in local newspapers and magazines”**
2. James Hughes (FirmSites) on **“Adapting your online presence for Mobile/Tablets”**
3. Andy Davidson (North Dorset Technical College) on **“Apprenticeships & Training Opportunities”**

The event is free to all members of the Chambers involved, or £5 per person to non-members if space is available. Full details and booking form at www.shaftesburychamber.co.uk/events

Next Mere Chamber Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 19th March at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm

Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

WHERE ARE YOU?

PROJECT SUNRISE–MERE NEEDS YOU!

You are a one or two person business, possibly part-time, with or without dedicated premises. You may be serving the local Mere and District community, or possibly the whole world by internet. You may provide a service, or make things. Running a business of that sort can be lonely. Discussing problems or ideas, recovering from failures, or funding unexpected expansion can be difficult within a family or with those who are closely associated with the business.

That is where Mere and District Chamber of Trade can help. We provide opportunities to meet businesses which have similar problems to your own; we provide training courses either directly or through other providers; we have access to business, marketing, and financial advice.

All of that comes with Associate Membership of the Chamber for just £35 per year. Can you afford to ignore this opportunity? For larger companies the annual subscription is £55.

We are able to offer this support through the funding we are receiving from SWWAB, the South West Wiltshire Area Board, whose aim through Project Sunrise-Mere is to stimulate trade and tourism in the area.

Through local and personal contacts and recommendations, we have managed to track down some of you, but we need to hear directly from those we haven't identified. **PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH even if you don't wish to join.** We would still like to hear of your existence. In return we are offering free mention on the new M&DCOT website which is currently being designed. We would like to have as complete a picture as possible of business activities in the area.

The website at: **www.projectsunrise-mere.org.uk** carries further information on the projects.

If you are interested in joining, helping, or just to find out more, contact me or Julie Cousins (the Secretary) ☎07856 700 576.

Hamish Bell, President, Mere & District Chamber of Trade ☎ 01747 861717

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next Community Lunch will be held at The George Inn, The Square, Mere on Tuesday, 11th March at 12.00 noon for 12.30pm. The two course lunch costs £8.99, drinks not included. To reserve your place, please book in advance by calling ☎ 01747 860427.

Community Lunches are an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Everyone is welcome of any age. For further details call me.

Lynette Elliott ☎ 01747 861646



T@3

**Community Tea Party
Wednesday, 19th March**



Lighter nights are here, hopefully the storms have passed and T@3 is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and look forward to spring and summer plans over a pot of tea and some of Paul's delicious cakes. Brighten up your life by joining us in the Angel Tea Rooms on Wednesday, 19th March from 3 to 4.30pm.

This is a time for meeting old friends and making new ones. Everyone is welcome to join us, young or old. However, this event is very popular, so please let us know you are coming contacting local co-ordinators Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557 922023 or Emma Curtis ☎07557 922026 **no later than the morning of Monday, 17th March.**

MERE SPRING FAIR

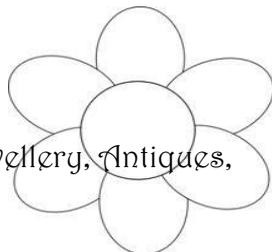


Saturday, 8th March
in The Grove Building
1:00 – 4:00pm

Table Top Sale, Bric-a-Brac, Arts & Crafts, Jewellery, Antiques,
Cards, Wood Turning, Tarot Card

£1 entry for adults – Children free

In aid of: Salisbury Hospital Charity Stars Appeal - Little Lives
Fund



Louise Padfield ☎ 01747 860426

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE
MONDAY, 10th MARCH 2014**

THE VIP SINGERS

This daytime choir is open to all who enjoy singing, particularly those with vision impairment. It is a social group offering peer group support, as we have an understanding of the challenges faced by sight loss.

The singers will next be meeting on Friday, 14 March 2014 from 11.00am to 12.30pm in the Battle of Britain Room, The Royal British Legion Club, Endless Street, Salisbury SP1 1DL

So come and join us. We would welcome new members, especially male voices, and would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to sponsor us. For further details please contact me: *Lynette Elliott* ☎ 01747 861646



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 4th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Subscriptions for 2014 due (£7.50)

If you are unable to attend please send your subscription to
our new membership secretary:

Gerry Cook, 20 Lovage Way, Mere, BA12 6RU phone 861797

Drinks and subs before AGM, followed by **'From Feast to Famine'**: Tudor food from sowing to banquets, table manners and courtly behaviour. By Jenny Peet

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

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 18th March, to be held in the small room of the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "Hanging Chads and all that – The US presidential Elections" by John Burrough. **£1 entry for non-members who will be very welcome**

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

SILTON SINGERS
Spring Concert

Saturday, 5th April 2014 at 7.30pm

St Michael's Church, Mere

Durufle - Requiem

Durufle - Ubi caritas (from Quatre Motets)

Faure - Cantique de Jean Racine

Bainton - I saw a new heaven

Tavener - Song for Athene

Musical Director: Charles Hetherington

Tickets: £10, available from;

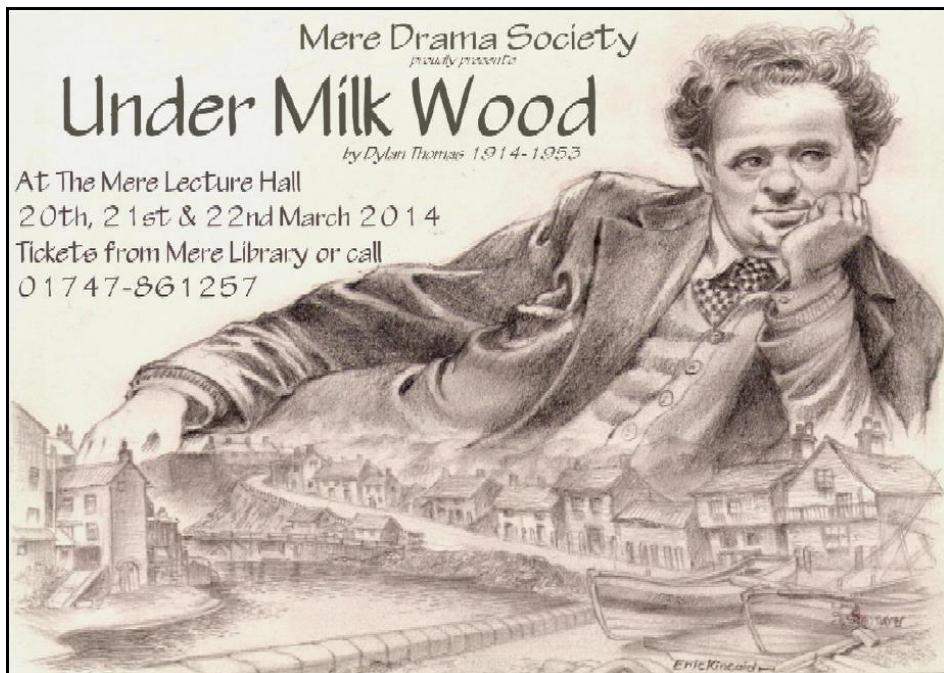
The Parish Office/Carole Brooks ☎ 01747 825826/at the door

*Proceeds from the Concert to St. Michael's Church Funds and
Silton Singers Funds*

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

If you should happen to hear members of MADS muttering to themselves in unaccustomed Welsh accents, fear not. They are simply practising their lines for their Spring Production of Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* (originally for 69 voices!). Please see the poster below. Dylan Thomas was born in 1914 and so our production is a centenary commemoration. Performances will take place on **Thursday – Saturday, 20th - 22nd March**, beginning at 7.30 p.m. and tickets, on sale NOW, are £6 each.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film on Friday, 14th March needs little introduction due to all the publicity since it opened three months ago. It is the much acclaimed *'Philomena'* (15), starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan, and for which Judi Dench has both BAFTA and Oscar nominations.

When former journalist Martin Sixsmith is dismissed from the Labour Party in disgrace, he is at a loss as to what do. That changes when a young Irish woman approaches him about a story of her mother, Philomena, who had her son taken away when she was a teenage inmate of a Catholic convent. Martin arranges a magazine assignment about

her search for him that eventually leads to America. Along the way, Martin and Philomena discover as much about each other as about her son's fate. Furthermore, both find their basic beliefs challenged. Full details on page 28.

Our ticket price has remained at £5.00 for the last nearly six years, one of the lowest in Moviola venues. Unfortunately, owing to some restructuring of charges within the Moviola organisation we will have to raise our ticket price to £6.00 to take effect with our April film. However, with many excellent films to come, I hope you will feel this is still good value and continue to support the Film Shows.

Dates for your diary: Thursday, 10th April: 'Saving Mr. Banks' with Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks. *Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB SPRING SHOW

At 7.30pm on Wednesday, 12th March in the Grove Building after our AGM. Why not come along and cheer yourself up with a breath of Spring and see what the Gardening Club members have managed to produce! If you would like to take part, non-members would be very welcome, and the categories will be displayed in the Post Office Window. You can also join the Club at the meeting, and for a mere £8 you can enjoy interesting speakers each month, garden visits, discounted shopping at local Garden Centres and of course very good company!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

CAN YOU HELP MY CHARITY QUEST?

I am about to embark on making a couple of charity items for the following causes:

- 1) **Linus quilts:** this is to make a home-made quilt to provide comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers.
- 2) **'Bead for Courage' bags:** This is for children, who are undergoing cancer treatment: they each receive a bead for every treatment they have, either to make into jewellery or just to keep to remind them of how far they have come, and the bags are made for them to keep them in.

Whilst I have the majority of the fabric, I need some fabric suitable for children, and wondered whether any of our readers have any remnants of child suitable fabric that they wish to donate for this brilliant cause?

I need several pieces that measure 6½" square of child patterned material for the completion of the linus quilts and 9" x 12" (each side) pieces for the bags.

Many thanks. I am at: Easter Cottage, North Road, Mere, BA12 6HP

Gill Grout ☎ 01747 860914

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw for February, drawn on Sunday, 9th February 2014 by Mr Richard Coward:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 116	Mr R Dennis
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 144	Mrs D Clark
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 172	Mrs C Brewer
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 76	Mrs M Bridges

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964



WOMENS INSTITUTE

Last month we were treated to an extremely interesting talk about the Galapagos Islands by Hilary and Mike Gladding. We saw many photographs of the incredibly diverse and exotic animals on these volcanic islands, among them the Sally Lightfoot Crabs, Blue Footed Boobies, Frigate Birds, Marine and Land Iguanas and of course the Giant Tortoise. We heard how thousands of these tortoises were captured and kept on board whale ships as a means of providing fresh protein. This practise nearly brought about their extinction.

Each island in the Galapagos has it's own uniquely marked species, and we saw how they are now being hatched and reared and returned to their own specific island. Mike also briefly touched on how Charles Darwin's study of finches on the islands led ultimately to his theory of evolution. Mike's enthusiasm for his subject was clearly evident throughout his talk.

Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday, 6th March in the Grove Building. It will be our Annual General Meeting, the business meeting of the year when we elect the new committee and receive reports from the Treasurer, Secretary and President. Please come and join us at the start of our year, you would be very welcome.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323



MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Our meeting on **Tuesday, 11th March at 2.30pm in the Grove Building** promises to be a lively one on the subject of 'Growing through Music' by Peter Jane, accompanied by his guitar. All our meetings are open to anyone who would like to come so please join us for an enjoyable afternoon, sharing in Peter's journey and how he came to play and make music with his guitar.

Advance notice of a special event for children & families :

Wednesday, 2nd April from 3.30-5.00pm: Kite Flying & Refreshments on White Horse Hill, Westbury – To celebrate the work of the MU and our President's 'Walk-a-Week' walk in our area. Everyone is welcome. Meet in White Horse car park – bring a kite if you can, or use one provided.

Judith Thompson (MU Branch Leader) ☎ 01747 860553

THE NORTH DORSET BRANCH OF THE EMBROIDERERS GUILD

is holding an OPEN DAY

at BUCKHORN WESTON VILLAGE HALL SP8 5HF

on SATURDAY, 22nd MARCH from 10.00am to 4.00pm

There will be an exhibition of our work and demonstrations of a variety of techniques.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Come and share a cup of tea or coffee with us and see our work

Gillian Howard ☎ 01747 860312

MERE MUSEUM

A new exhibition opens at the beginning of March called ***Bats, Balls and Bicycles!*** It won't surprise you to discover that this exhibition takes a lighthearted look at sport (and allied activities) in Mere since the late 19th century.

There are lots of photographs of course, but quite an array of rather interesting objects too. We hope you will enjoy it. Doors will be open to the general public on Tuesday March 4th.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

It certainly doesn't feel like Spring yet, but the Friends of the Museum ask you to make a note that their **Annual Plant Sale** will take place on **Saturday, 10th May** at 10.00am in the Grove Building. More details nearer the time.

Friends themselves are reminded that their **Preview** of the 'Bats, Balls and Bicycles' exhibition (see above) will take place in the Museum on Monday, 3rd March at 6.30pm.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives Court would like to thank everyone who supported their Burns Night Supper in February. A wonderful evening was had by all, AND you helped us raise no less than £538, which takes our '5K for Fives' 10th anniversary appeal (transport fund) to well over £3,000 - more than half way there! Thank you very much
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

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

Reminder - Silent Auction on Saturday, 10th May

We would welcome donations of household and garden items in reasonable condition, or perhaps you could pledge a few hours to do some gardening, DIY, cooking or driving to help this local charity. Please contact Chris Dillon, ☎ 01747 823088 or Pat Gear ☎ 01747 860320 for further information. Read the full details of this event in the next edition of Mere Matters.

Could you be an RGC Volunteer?

We are on the hunt for some new volunteers! Have a look at the details below and if you think any of our opportunities would suit you, please get in touch.

Session helper - To help with setting up the room in the morning, serving teas/coffees/lunch, a bit of washing up, chatting to our guests and making sure they are comfortable, general assistance to the organiser and other volunteers, and helping to tidy away at the end of the day. **This position is for the THIRD Monday of each month 10.00am-3.00pm**

Lunch delivery driver - To pick up our insulated hotbox containing guest meals from Fives Court, deliver to Lynch close, then to return and collect the box an hour later for return to FC. **This position is for the FIRST Friday of each month-11:55am pick up.**

Washer uppers - To wash up and dry the lunch dishes and plates. **This position is for the THIRD Monday of each month 12:00-12.45pm**

If you would like any further information on these volunteering opportunities please don't hesitate to call me on the number below. Your local Day Centre needs you, and thank you in advance! Website:www.MereDayCentre.org.uk

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

MERE CRICKET CLUB

Pre-season nets for the adult section of the Mere Cricket Club are being run on alternate Friday evenings at Wincanton Sports Centre from 7.00 – 8.00pm. The next one is 7th March, and then 21st March, 4th & 18th April, same time and place.

Everyone of any ability welcome. We are a fairly eclectic team on that front, and new faces are particularly welcome.

The junior section will re-start shortly after Easter, further details next month. Over the winter we have had two of our juniors selected to join county training squads with the prospect of representing the county in matches during the summer. A big “well done” to Will and Robyn.

For more information, please contact Mark Cassidy at the Walnut Tree Inn, or me:

Kevin Whitmore 📞 01747 860639

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

On 15th February we held our annual ‘Between Seasons Get Together’ at The Home Guard Club in Kilmington. This was very well attended and proved to be a really enjoyable evening, very much enhanced by the Skittles Match played.

Work has commenced on the lawn, which has suffered rather badly, both through the recent dreadful weather and the inclement variety that preceded it. Experts have been engaged, their work involves the treatment of moss, invasive weeds and then reseeding in readiness for the coming season which commences on Saturday, 5th April. This will be the customary, everyone welcome, Open Day with a glass of wine and nibbles on offer.

Our AGM this year will be held on Wednesday, 26th March commencing at 7.30pm. The venue, as previously, is The Andy Young Pavilion in Duchy Manor School Grounds.

Rex Roberts 📞 01747 860873

TISBURY LEISURE CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, where everybody matters

New Class - Yoga for Pregnancy

Tuesdays from 4th March 1.45-2.45pm

Yoga for Pregnancy helps to prepare the mother physically and mentally for birth, giving restorative and relaxing exercises, in turn nurturing mother and baby. This class provides pelvic floor strengthening exercises, and helps relieve pregnancy related symptoms. Breathing and relaxation techniques are also included. Please bring a blanket and cushion to the class. Join Anita, an *Accredited Sivananda Yoga Teacher*, in this new class.

For a copy of our full programme, more information about any of our classes, to book a place or details concerning any of our other activities, please contact us:

- Reception, 📞 01747 871141,
- ✉️ tisburysc@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- visit the website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk
- Follow us on [Twitter@TisburyLC](#) or [Facebook](#).

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'Philomena' (15)

Judi Dench Steve Coogan

Directed by Stephen Frears

Journalist Martin Sixsmith despises human interest stories, but having just lost his job he is persuaded to help Philomena Lee find the child she was forced to give up for adoption half a century ago.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday, 14th March, 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**

YELLOW CLASS REPORTS



Yellow Class

We have been thinking about animals this term. We looked at “Handa’s Surprise”, which is set in Africa. We tasted the different fruits that Handa took to her friend. “The pineapple was juicy” said Hailie and “the avocado was mushy!” said Charlie. We have been doing a lot of work on adjectives – describing the different animals that Handa saw. We also wrote some riddles about these animals. In PE we did a Penguin and Polar Bear dance. “We had to waddle as a penguin and move slowly as a Polar Bear” said Lily. We were videoed on the ipad and then watched ourselves so we could see how we could improve our performance!

Out and About

Blue Class have been learning about “People who help us” this term and have been on a visit to the Doctors and the Dentist. “I liked listening to the heart” said Philip and “I liked wearing the oxygen mask” said Hugo. The vet has also been in to visit the children and they asked lots of questions about how to look after pets.

Silver Class

Silver Class have been learning about Super Heroes. “Florence Nightingale was a hero” said Ona. They have been researching about her life and then made a presentation on the computer.

Purple Class

Purple Class are learning about the Aztecs. They have been working on Aztec houses, called Chinampa, for a project. “We all tried Chilli Chocolate and it was yummy!” The children are also making Aztec masks and doing Aztec art.

Book Day

World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March is going to be really exciting for us! Our teacher, Mrs Smith, has her first book published today! So we will all be celebrating the day by dressing up as our favourite book character, reading lots of books and enjoying a huge variety of book related activities.

MERE BOWLS CLUB

A new bowls season dawns. Over the winter months the Club has bought and installed new changing rooms for both men and lady bowlers, this was made possible with the aid of a grant of £1,500 from the South West Wiltshire Area Board Scheme. It is hoped that these added facilities will help the Club in attracting new members in this and future seasons.

The Club continues to grow in both numbers and skill levels. We will need both in the coming season as we are now entered in two separate leagues; the Westbrook League, which is based on clubs to the east of Mere, and the Wessex League, which is against clubs that are mainly located south and west of the town. It may be a challenge for our Club Captain, Karen Guy, to find players to fulfil all our commitments.

The Club will be hosting an Open Day on Sunday, 4th May, the ideal time for any reader wishing to learn the finer arts of bowling, maybe just want to try it or just sit and have a cup of tea and a chat.

The green is located just inside the school grounds opposite the dental surgery. All you require to bring is a pair of flat shoes and the Club will do the rest. Should the 4th May not be convenient, the Club opens on Saturday, 19th April at 3.00pm, just turn up.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary ☎ 01747 860775

CAFÉ WORSHIP

Mid-week worship will be on Wednesday, 26th March in the Methodist School Hall as usual, a preparation for Easter, at 11.00am, - coffee at 10.30am.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



You are invited to:

A Quiet Day at Ivy House, Warminster



**Monday, 17th March 2014
from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm**

Come and enjoy the quiet hospitality and beautiful gardens of Ivy House whilst reflecting on the unity that holds us together in Christ

Leader: Bishop Declan Lang

(Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton)

Coffee, Lunch and Tea provided

**Just £10.00 per head – subsidised by Wiltshire Churches
Together**

To Book contact Liz: ✉ **liz.overthrow@btinternet.com**

☎ **01380 722404**

LENT LUNCHES

The popular Churches Together in Mere and District Lent Lunches will again take place on each Friday in Lent from 12.30-1.30pm beginning on 7th March and culminating with the lunch after the Good Friday Procession on 18th April 18th.

Come along and enjoy home-made soup, bread and cheese with tea or coffee afterwards and, of course, very good company for only £3! There will be the usual Bring and Buy Stall of home-made produce and funds raised will be divided between CAFOD and Christian Aid.

Janet Way ☎ **01747 860884**

REV'D CAROL WILSON-BARKER, PRIEST-IN-CHARGE, ST MICHAELS CHURCH, WRITES:

The recent very severe weather has hit this country hard, with scenes reminiscent of Bangladesh in comfortable London suburbs creating shock and dismay. No more a comfortable commute into London for the 9-5 job but instead anxiety about dropping the children somewhere to be literally ferried to school. The experience of flooding is such that it may take 6 months or so, and the anxiety and extended disruption will hit people hard. One of the positive things to come out of this has been to see communities pulling together to support one another which is great. People sometimes say to me "we are helpful to others, why do we need God?"

When Jesus was teaching about faith he simply came down to love God and to love your neighbour. Love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength comes first. Jesus asked us to put that thought and action before anything else; he was well aware of the human mind's ability to confuse and bend things to suit our own ends. The sort of argument that says "it would be kinder to put mother in a home" – when mother really wants to stay at home and it is more a matter of our convenience.

When we truly commit ourselves to God's guidance and his will, we are ready to "Love our neighbour as ourselves" with an open mind. This seeking out God's will can help to mitigate against the "baggage" we bring into situations: ulterior motives, lifestyle, culture and income standards. They become less of an issue as we seek to find out and do what is *truly* best for our neighbour.

So as we come to Lent don't *give up* something but rather *start* Lent with an intention to love God and seek His will for our communities as we also promise to serve each other.

With Love in Christ

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CHARITY TRUSTEE?



Friends of Suchana Is Seeking 2-3 More Trustees.

We're a fundraising Trust, (Charity Commission registration 1138960), supporting **Suchana**, a 10 year old, flourishing and exciting, small education and health NGO, in a deprived part of rural India, which has strong local connections in Mere.

If you'd like to express an initial interest in this possibility we'd be very pleased to hear from you, and will send you full information about both Suchana and about what is involved in being a Trustee for Friends of Suchana.... Or just call for a chat about it.

Angela Stoddart ✉ angela@claresforstal.plus.com, or ☎ 01795 890210

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MARCH 2014

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉ carolw953@aol.com

Churchwardens:

Mrs Jean Knapp ☎ 01747 860142

Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day
Sunday	2nd	9.15am	Said Eucharist followed by coffee
		10.30am	Family Praise
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	4th	6.00pm	"Start the month" Holy
			Communion (BCP)
Wednesday	5th	7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY
			Ashing and Holy Communion
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Lenten Worship
	16th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Lenten Worship
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Lenten Worship
	30th	10.30am	MOTHERING SUNDAY
			Family Service without
			communion
		6.00pm	Lenten Worship

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685)

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Mr Martin Heal
Friday	7th	11.00am	Women's World Day of Prayer
Sunday	9th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	16th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
			Holy Communion
	23rd	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	30th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370)

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
	9th	6.00pm	Rev'd Gordon Elford
			Holy Communion
	16th	6.00pm	To be announced
	23rd	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
	30th	6.00pm	Rev'd Margaret Oxenham

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 Coffee after Mass.

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin (☎ 01747 830534)

Sunday	2nd	9.15am	DIY
	9th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	16th	9.15am	Matins
	23rd	9.00am	Holy Communion (CW1 Trad)
	30th	9.00am	DIY

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

MARCH 2014

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; RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; YC-Youth Centre

1	Sat	10.00am - 11.00noon	Mere Credit Union (also 16th)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
3	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 10th & 24th)	L

3	Mon	10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.30pm	FMM preview of new exhibition	Lib
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
4	Tue	10.15am - 12.15pm	Lip-Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
5	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		3.00pm - 4.30pm	Big Brew Tea Party	Angel Café
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
6	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		6.30pm	Weight-Watchers (every Thursday)	MSC
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
7	Fri	10.15am - 12.00pm	St Michaels "First Friday" Coffee Drop in	GB
		12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lent Lunch (every Friday)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
8	Sat	1.00pm	Spring Charity Fair	GB
10	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	George Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
12	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together - Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
13	Thurs	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 20th & 27th)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (also 20th & 27th)	GB
14	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 28th)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 21st)	L

14	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Film Shows/Moviola "Philomena"	L
15	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
18	Tue	10.15am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
19	Wed	3.00pm	T@3 Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.00pm	Julian Meeting (small room)	GB
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
20	Thur	7.30pm	MADS production "Under Milk Wood"	L
21	Fri	7.30pm	MADS production "Under Milk Wood"	L
22	Sat	7.30pm	MADS production "Under Milk Wood"	L
23	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group, local walk	CP
24	Mon	2.00pm	March Short Walk	CP
25	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
26	Wed	10.30am - 12.00noon	Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
		7.30pm -	Mere Croquet & Boule Club AGM	AYP
29	Sat	10.30am - 12.00noon	Fair Trade Stall	The Square

LONG HILL, CASTLE HILL & GOATS

The Parish Council is now working on Year 3 of the "Higher Level Stewardship Scheme", which means that we are carrying out scrub clearance work on Area 2 that needs to be done before the end of February.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of nice juicy grazing material, the goats had started stripping the bark from the trees on Long Hill. Initially this wasn't too worrying as they were only stripping the young saplings but they then started eating the bark off some of the trees that we want to retain so we were forced to ask Mr. Horn to find them a new home for the time being.

The goats have been doing a marvellous job of keeping back the scrub, ivy and nettles and we are hoping that they will come back to Long Hill in late spring/early summer. Indeed, we hope to try and experiment this summer: we hope to have the goats back on the hill but to enclose them in Area 2 using electric fencing (apparently this has been used elsewhere with great success).

If this is successful, we would like to try grazing the goats on sections of Castle Hill (subject to the necessary permissions from English Heritage/Natural England etc) as we feel it would be of beneficial to the management of Castle Hill, particularly the north side.

Further information on this topic is available on the parish council website:
http://www.merewilts.org/mpc_news.html

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

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

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE:	Tuesdays:	10.00am to 3.30pm
HEALTH MATTERS ADVICE	Tuesdays:	1.30 to 4.30pm
MEMORY LOSS	Wednesdays:	2.30 to 4.00pm
READING GROUP	1st Friday:	10.30am to 12.30pm
CARER SUPPORT	1st Friday:	2.00 to 4.00pm
ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT	<u>By appointment only</u> (☎ 01225 713007)	
REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS & DEATHS:	Thursdays:	9.30 to 11.30am
CREDIT UNION	1st & 3rd Saturdays	10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR APRIL 2014 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the April 2014 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, 10th March 2014**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: merematters@inbox.com from Monday, 3rd March 2014 onwards.

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

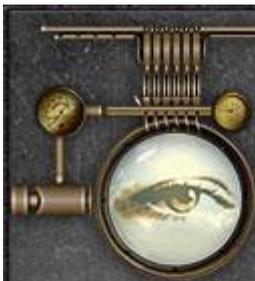
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