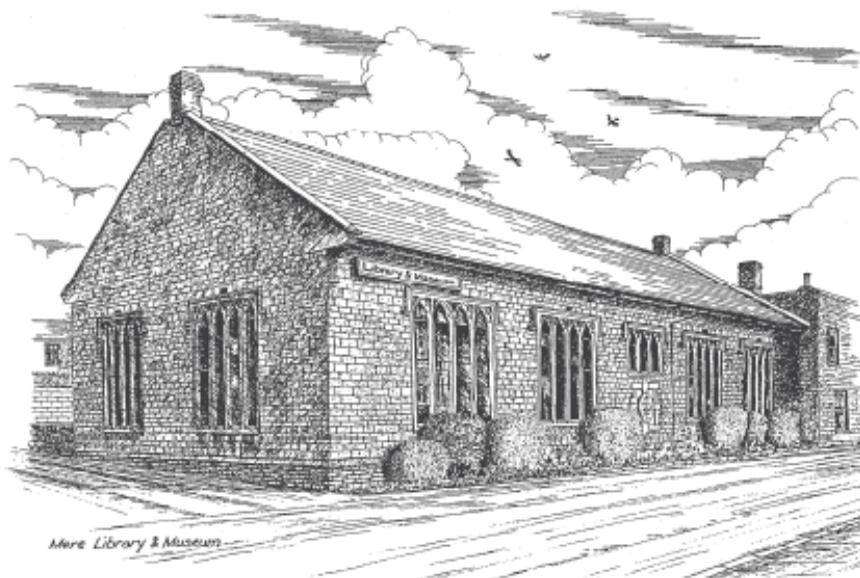


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



MAY 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. 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, 12th May 2014** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

As we spring forward into April I have heard lots of comments praising the beautiful flower tubs around the town, so thank you to all concerned. I have also been asked about the clock in the clock tower which has been stopped for quite some time now. Unfortunately, we have a problem in the tower with rotting posts and water getting in. We have done an initial inspection, which confirmed this, and are planning a closer and more intense appraisal soon. Inevitably, this could involve some disruption to the square with scaffolding etc. The clock tower and memorial is a vital feature in the town and I shall be keeping you in touch with the outcome of the investigations and the way forward.

At the Area Board meeting held in Mere in March, I was very impressed with a group of youngsters who spoke out in praise of their youth club and their leader Jaki Farrell. They put forward a proposal, which would maintain youth services in a practical and feasible way, and the Parish Council were happy to adopt this proposal as its response to the consultation document outlining the changes to the system. It amazes me that the youth services budget can be reduced by £192,000 and at the same time, according to the youth co-ordinator, be improved enormously!

The Mere skatepark has now been completed and is being well used and thoroughly enjoyed. Mere now has the best skatepark for miles around and we are attracting skaters from outlying villages and towns. Once the grass seed has had a chance to grow around the bunds, and the area is a little less muddy, we shall be holding an official opening ceremony. We would like to involve the youth in organising some competitions and skatepark jams in the future, so if you would like to help or become involved in this, please contact the Parish Clerk.

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**



WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman writes:

We last met on Tuesday, 18th March at 7.30pm in the village hall where much was discussed. Volunteers have now attended the Community Speedwatch training events, and the sites chosen have passed the risk assessments. We are therefore hoping that the community speedwatch will be up and running in the near future and that this will help to reduce the speeds of vehicles travelling through the village.

I have now met with the Territory Manager of ROC Esso, and the Manager of the Willoughby Hedge Services, to discuss the problems associated with vehicles parking on the B3089. The meeting was very positive and the new layby outside the new toilet block has now been bollarded off. The managers were understanding of our concerns and we are hopeful that we will now have a line of communication to help with future problems.

The new village website, www.westknoyle.co.uk is now up and running thanks to Cllr Brian Wessely. If anyone has any ideas as to content or wants to add any useful information please contact him at: ✉ bswessely@aol.com. The site will hopefully benefit businesses in the village as well.

Both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES:

I have been pleased to see the new Mere Skatepark being well used in the Spring sunshine. Yes, sunshine not rain for a change. It has taken 5 years, however, to see the excitement of the children today, but it has been worth it. It is the best in the area they say.

After many months, a sign stating "Woodlands Road Industrial Estate" with a direction arrow has been erected at the east end of Salisbury Street, Mere. This hopefully will discourage HGV's and large vehicular traffic away from Water Street and The Lynch in Mere. I am aware of many highway problems in the Mere area, grass cutting probably will soon be another, and I have requested a meeting with a highways officer, to discuss ways forward. The junction to Stourhead still needs redesigned signage. I hope this will not take as long to achieve as the Mere Skate Park!

Mere Parish Council is submitting a scheme for painting yellow lines on some streets, hopefully this will improve safety with regard to parking in Water Street, Salisbury Street and in The Square of Mere.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy now has some of its content up for consultation on the Wiltshire website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

I will again mention The World War One commemorations this year, reminding us of the many people locally and nationally who tragically fell in The Great War of 1914-18 that started 100 years ago.

I hope you will remember in your own way, perhaps watch the march on Sunday, 13th July, 2014, which although for a commemoration of an event that happened in the second world war, some youth will be marching and we hope a display of poppies will be present around Mere. I understand also that a special commemorative walk is being organised. Visit Mere Museum or take a few moments to show respect in your own way.

Visitors to Salisbury can enjoy free Sunday parking at Culver Street shoppers' car park as part of a trial by Wiltshire Council, (see article on page 6).

I sat on a Standards Review Sub-Committee in March, which assesses whether a complaint against a Councillor would represent a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members. It was an interesting experience and gives me confidence that a robust mechanism is in place at Wiltshire Council for complaints against councillors.

While sitting on the Licensing Committee, I learned of some relaxation in (liquor) licensing for the World Cup Football games this summer, however this is only for England Matches! We were also told we can attend music festivals with officers, - could be interesting!

I now sit on the Finance Task Group and one of its tasks has been to review the aligning of the Wiltshire Council budget to Wiltshire Council Business Plan. It is somewhat technical, but I am now gaining an insight into the financial workings of the council.

Many have benefited from South West Wiltshire Area Board Grants in our area. In 2009 the annual grant budget was in the region of £120,000, but has been reducing year on year and further reduction this year is certain.

Those of you wanting grants for your club, or to say refurbish a local highways finger post would be advised to apply sooner rather than later this year.

I am, with my fellow councillors on the task group for Positive Leisure Time Activities for Young People, trying to find ways to maintain a good youth service for Wiltshire. The results will impact on Mere, Zeals, West Knoyle and the other villages around Mere.

The St. George's flag is again flying on Castle Hill and spring appears to be here, or I hope it is when you read this.

FREE SUNDAY PARKING AT SALISBURY'S CULVER STREET SHOPPER'S CAR PARK

Visitors to Salisbury can enjoy free Sunday parking at Culver Street shoppers' car park from 6 April 2014 as part of a trial by Wiltshire Council.

The decision to open the car park on Sundays without charge – it is currently open Monday to Saturday with a charge – is to encourage tourists and shoppers to use it, increasing trade to local businesses in the vicinity as visitors walk to the city centre.

Culver Street shoppers' car park is also receiving additional maintenance to improve the visual aspects of the area, further encouraging shoppers to use it during the rest of the week, when charges apply – as well as Sundays.

The trial of the free Sunday parking will be monitored and the findings used in the council's current review of its car parking facilities across Wiltshire. Other initiatives are also being reviewed to identify new and innovative arrangements for the council's car parks.

John Thomson, Wiltshire Council's cabinet member for highways, said: "This valuable initiative will attract additional visitors to the city on Sundays, and benefit local businesses. It will also provide us with useful information for the review currently being carried out into all our car parks. The review will allow us to identify a range of options and proposals which we will then put out for public consultation later this year."

Culver Street is a long-stay multi-storey car park with 528 spaces, located at the edge of the city centre. It has easy access from the inner ring road, particularly from the A30 (London) or the A36 (Southampton). It is one of seven pay-and-display car parks run by Wiltshire Council in Salisbury – offering a total of 2,596 off-street parking spaces, with a further 2,336 spaces in the city's five park-and-ride sites. For more information contact: *Wiltshire Council's communications team* ☎ 01225 71364



POLICE NEWS

'Break ins' to Sheds and Barns

We have once again had various thefts from out-houses and sheds in our area. These occur mostly at night with the targets being power tools like chain saws, strimmers and quad bikes. We do patrols at night and are targeting the offenders and disrupt their actions. We would ask everyone who lives in rural areas to be alert and phone us if you suspect that there may be a theft about to occur. Make, model, colour of vehicle, how many persons seen and, if safe to do so, a vehicle registration number would be great. Call this in on '101' unless they are actually there and you suspect they are about to commit offences then call 999.

You can help yourself with a few ways to make your shed safer.

- Lock gates and doors with a sturdy lock, keep power tools near to your house.
- Shed alarms are not too expensive and check security lights are working.
- One thing to ask is: How much would it cost to replace what I have in my garage/shed?
- If you have high value items in your shed, park your car in front of the door, thieves will not risk setting a car alarm off to get into your premises.
- Install security lights and cameras up high so thieves cannot reach them.
- Don't leave garage doors open in the daytime, if passers by can see it, so can a potential thief.
- Keep receipts and if the item is stolen you will have the model and make and serial number.
- Remember - **Lock it or lose it.**

Scam to Watch Out For

The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is a valuable resource, but recent instances have occurred where members of the public have registered on the TPS website and have later received a telephone call from a person who stated they are responding to the TPS registration and asking for a fee of £39 to complete the registration. **This is a scam and you should not pass your bank or credit card details.** If you have been contacted by a person stating they are from the Telephone Preference Service and have paid money for this free service it is strongly advised that you report the incident to ACTION FRAUD ☎ 0300 123 2040 as well as contacting your bank as soon as practical.

Skatepark Open

We will be patrolling the newly opened skatepark. The kids love it, and every time I have been there, they have been having great fun. There have been reports of a couple of bits of Anti Social behaviour, but generally it has been tidy and a great place for them to have fun.

Follow us on Facebook

Get up to the minute news of what is going on in Mere. 'Google' Mere Neighbourhood policing Team Facebook, click 'follow us' and news will appear in YOUR newsfeed. Simple!!!

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

STAYING SAFE IN YOUR HOME

Summer is on the way and soon you will be opening the windows to let all that lovely fresh air in and as the evenings are drawing out, the temptation is to be out in the garden.



- Don't forget that there are many opportunist intruders looking for an easy way into your home. If you are out in the garden make sure windows onto the road are closed or locked at an opening size that no one can get through.
- Remember some of these opportunists may be children and can get through much smaller spaces.
- If you are in the back garden lock the front door, and visa versa you are in the front lock up the back. If you cannot see your front or back door from where you are working lock them both and take the key with you.

Did you know that 38% of Burglaries occur in insecure premises?

- Make sure both front and back doors are locked when you are in the house and make sure if you have a conservatory that the doors are locked.
- Do not leave your door or car keys in view through a window or in line of sight through the letter box.

If you are in doubt about the effectiveness of your home security, the Bobby Van will be happy to call free of charge if you are over 60 years of age and carry out a security and fire check in your home. Email them ✉ bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk or contact me, your local Wiltshire Good Neighbour *Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023.*

KEEPING A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

If you are over 55, we may be able to help you:

Would you like to remain in your own home, but worry about the day to day practicalities.

Or,

Are you thinking about downsizing, moving to sheltered accommodation or moving to a care home?

AgeUK Salisbury District now offers a specialist service where we can help you consider your present and future housing needs. We can:

- help you maximise your income,
- get the help and equipment you need to remain independent
- support you to move to a more suitable home.

Our service is free, confidential and independent for tenants or homeowners.

Our trained advisors will work with you to explore your needs and support you to make informed decisions.

Please contact us so that we can discuss your circumstances in more detail and explore the options together.



Volunteer Opportunity

National Volunteer Week
Sunday, 1st – Saturday, 7th June 2014

Are you interested in volunteering? If so please come along to Age UK Salisbury & District in Brown Street, Salisbury during volunteer week to talk to us. We are looking to recruit volunteers in the following roles:

- **Befrienders** – visiting lonely older people in their homes.
- **Community volunteers** – providing low level practical support such as changing light bulbs/light shopping/collecting prescriptions/accompanying to hospital or doctors' appointments.
- **Assisting at Day Centres and Friendship Clubs**-helping with activities and outings/serve meals/chat to members.

- **Information & Advice Volunteers** – dealing directly with the public (training will be given).
- **Information & Advice Outreach** – working in your local area providing an information point (normally once a month at a set venue).
- **Housing Options** - exploring housing options with clients or accompanying a client to visit a potential home. Full training will be given.
- **Fundraising** – helping at fundraising events/manning a stall/selling raffle tickets/serving refreshments.
- **Forum** – attend regular meetings at which a wide range of topics and issues relating to older people are discussed to provide the ‘voice’ of the older person.
- **Talk Team volunteers** – giving talks about Age UK Salisbury District services to other organisations and social groups.
- **Gentle Exercise tutors** – running regular short fun sessions in pre-arranged group settings to older people.

We are open Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.00pm at:

Salisbury District Age UK
Registered charity 1105600

21 Brown Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 2AS

☎ 01722 335425

✉ enquiries@ageuksd.org.uk

I'M SORRY I DID NOT QUITE CATCH THAT?

Do you find you are having difficulty hearing what is being said in situations where there is background noise? Do you sometimes miss bits of conversations? Does everyone mumble on the television these days? Then perhaps you have problems with your hearing.

Why not come along to **Lip Reading** at the Grove Building at 10.15 am on Tuesdays and learn some skills that will help you.

We are a friendly group and have fun whilst learning ways to help us interpret what we have not quite heard!

The first session is free. Terms are 10 weeks for £30.00. That is only £3.00 per session.

For more information contact Sheila Thomson ☎ 07760 731406 or by
✉ SheilaT@bishopstrow.org.uk *Jackie Hopkins*

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

“THANK YOU”

Lady Flavia Ebbisham

The Friends of St Michaels have received a wonderful donation of half the proceeds of the collection taken at Flavia's funeral in January.

The Friends would like to sincerely thank everyone who made a donation in Flavia's memory.

The Friends of St Michaels

Mal Mallett

Mal Mallett would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent their kind messages of support on learning of his illness, and for the welcome home cards on his return home after being discharged from hospital. Sincere thanks you to all.

Gary Mallett, Prospect Place

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**

St. Michael's Annual Fete will be on Saturday, 14th June.

Make a note in your diary now!

Planning is under way for this year's fete. Special events so far organised are a "Children's Scarecrow Competition", a demonstration by the Dogwise "Obedience to Music" Team and a visit from our local firemen! There will also be 'The Quiz'! Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the Grove Building. The Black Bear Band will be playing to add to the atmosphere. There will be all the usual stalls and sideshows plus a few new ones -

Cakes, Sweets & Biscuits, Home-Made Bread, Books, Accessories, Bric a Brac, Preserves, Plants & Garden, Bottle Tombola, Jewellery, Hot Dogs & Soft Drinks, Ice Cream, and:

lots of games for children.

If you are making preserves, re-organising your garden, or having a Spring Clean and de-cluttering, please store your goodies for the Fete.

Ann Dethick ☎ 01747863498

CREDIT UNION NOW AVAILABLE WEEKLY IN MERE

South Wiltshire Credit Union branch in Mere will now be available at Mere Library every weekend from May 2014, thanks to the recent recruitment of new volunteers to run the branch at weekends. From this point on, the local branch of the Credit Union will be available in the library from 10-11 am every Saturday morning to open accounts and make deposits. Mere Post Office also handles deposits for the Credit Union during its normal opening hours.

South Wiltshire Credit Union offers local people, including those who may be struggling financially, access to a local savings vehicle offering competitive returns in the form of dividends. (Dividend of over 2% paid for the last four years). In addition, savers (after a qualifying period) can access loans at rates well below those charged by many alternative sources including to high rate 'pay day' lenders.

If you are not sure if it is for you, come along and have a chat with us any Saturday morning. We look forward to meeting you.

South Wilts Credit Union is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FCN 213973.

Brett Norris South Wilts Credit Union Volunteer ☎ 01747 860817

GOOD NEWS ON MERE RIVERS

Wessex Water has a licence to abstract 9 million litres of water a day from Mere. Approximately 4 million litres of this is for local use i.e. Mere, Gillingham and the Stours. The remainder is exported.

Mere Rivers Group and many residents were concerned that this abstraction was having a detrimental effect on our streams. Following meetings with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency it was agreed tests should be carried out.

During 2013 Wessex Water installed testing equipment on the Ashfield at Burton and the Shreen at Landers Bridge. The black and white measuring scale seen on the rivers are known as gauge boards and these measurements are 'rated' so that the depth equates to a given flow. The metal box recorded depth and flow every fifteen minutes, which was then analysed by Wessex Water.

The results from this indicated that when the volume of extraction was reduced the river levels increased by a small amount.

A meeting on was held on 14th March 2014 attended by representatives of Wessex Water, Mere Rivers Group, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Consumer Council for Water. It was agreed that a flow trigger point will be set, and should our streams fall below this level, then only water for local use will be taken.

This trigger level will be used during 2014 when the trials are resumed. The level will be marked on the gauge boards. This is still an on-going trial, but using the information collected should enable a good flow of water in our streams all year.

Ian Sheppard, Mere Rivers Group, ☎ 01747 863370

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

This last month has seen the club march forward. A number of members visited The London Festival of Railway Modelling held at Alexander Palace on 22nd and 23rd March. The trip was organised by a group of clubs in Somerset and we were invited to join them.

The beginning of April revealed that the Band Hut needed a lot more work than all of us had anticipated. Once Timberwise have removed all the floors and finished their chemical sterilisation treatment, we expect to incorporate the extensive renovation work

required during the summer, and apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused by the visiting vehicles to the Castle Street car park.

Once again we would appreciate your support, especially at our annual exhibition on Saturday, 21st and Sunday 22nd June from 10.00am to 4.00 pm in the Lecture Hall.

For further information please contact me. *Tom Snook, ☎ 01747 861977*

GLIDING CLUB INVITES VISITORS TO OPEN DAY

The Bath, Wilts and North Dorset Gliding club is hoping for a big turn out to its Open Day on Sunday, 4th May 2014. Its airfield at Kingston Deverill, between Mere and Warminster, will be alive with activity at this family event designed to educate and inform visitors about the club itself and the sport of gliding. It will be offering flights in its modern 2-seater training gliders. On show will be a static display of gliders, and there will be printed information to help visitors to learn more about this fascinating, environmentally-friendly and challenging sport. Special membership prices will be on offer to anyone joining on the day.

Visitors are welcome to arrive from 9.00am. Weather permitting there will be the opportunity to fly throughout the day on a first-come first-to-fly basis. Refreshments will be on sale. Families with children are welcome. .

The all-volunteer club has about 100 members from all across the Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Hants, and South Gloucestershire region. Members range in age from 14 to over 80. Glider pilots frequently fly to distant locations and back in flights covering hundreds of miles lasting many hours, then enjoy swapping stories about their exploits in the club bar at the end of the day. As an all volunteer club it provides a great meeting place where everyone contributes to the success of the operation.

Visitors can expect a warm welcome and a new insight into one of the purest forms of aviation.

Full details are available on the club's website at: www.bwnd.co.uk or by calling ☎ 01985 844095



T @ 3

Community Tea Party

Wednesday, 21st May

Brighten up your life by joining us for T@3 in the Angel Tea Rooms 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.



This event is very popular, so please let us know you are coming by contacting local coordinators Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557 922023 or Emma Curtis ☎07557 922026 no later than the morning of Monday, 19th May
Wiltshire Good Neighbours helping you to access the services you need to live a safe, comfortable and independent life

MAY BLUEBELL WALK

The short walk this month will take us to the woods where, hopefully, the bluebells will be in flower. Meet in the Surgery Car Park at 2.00pm on Thursday, 1st May.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE

MONDAY, 19th MAY



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Will be hosting

A Social Networking Evening

at The Grove Building
on Wednesday, 21st May 2014
7.00pm - 9.00pm

With Business Motivational Speaker

Chris Croft



who will be talking about Time Management which is essential for all businesses. Please join us to hear an interesting, informative and inspiring talk. For more information on the speaker, visit his website: <http://www.chriscrofttraining.co.uk/>

A buffet and refreshments will be available!

For further information, please contact me:

Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

MERE FILM SHOWS

This month's film on Thursday, 8th May at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall is '**Mandela: long walk to freedom**' (12A) and has been described as 'a fitting and fascinating tribute to the hero it depicts'.

Idris Elba stars as Mandela with a magnificent performance portraying Nelson Mandela from a young man as a lawyer who joins the ANC in the 1940s, but soon realises that the Apartheid system's brutal tyranny is useless for his people; through his prison years paying the price for armed resistance after the Sharpeville Massacre; to his freedom, becoming the renowned leader of his movement and ultimately the democratically elected President of South Africa. It is an extraordinary performance in an extraordinary film. Full details are on page 26.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 5th June: 'The Railway Man' with Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman

Thursday, 3rd July: 'The Invisible Woman' with Ralph Fiennes and Felicity Jones.

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257



BRAINWAVE

Charity Pamper Night

Saturday, 31st May from 7.00 until 10.00pm in the Lecture Hall. There will be masses of bargains, second hand, some new with tags, clothing, handbags, shoes

and jewellery, and a Raffle with really good prizes.

Tickets will be available from the Mere Brainwave shop from the Thursday, 1st May at a price of £5.00 each, which will include a mini makeover, nail file and paint, or holistic treatment of your choice.

The beauticians and therapists, who give their time freely, will endeavour to treat as many ladies as possible. Anyone who has been before will know what a great evening this is. Newcomers will be warmly welcomed to the shop-till-you-drop experience. Please come and support this great event and help us to raise money for brain injured children. For further information about Brainwave, please telephone the shop during business hours ☎ 01747 863432.

SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony will be performing their first charity concert of the year on **Thursday, 22nd May** in aid of Dementia Awareness.

The concert will be held at St Mary's Church, Gillingham and starts at 7.30pm.

Do come and enjoy an eclectic and uplifting mix of songs from around the world, from traditional British folk songs to a beautiful healing song from Georgia.

You can find out more about your local Community Choir and hear some of its previous performances via its website: www.shreenharmony.co.uk.

Jane Edwards ☎ 01380 830918

SILENT AUCTION

IN AID OF THE ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (MERE DAY CENTRE)

In the Grove Building

Saturday, 10th May 7.00 – 10.00pm

Tickets £3 (including light refreshments)

Lots of interesting items and pledges to bid for.

*Tickets available from Mere Information Point,
(except Monday and Wednesday mornings)*

or Chris Dillon ☎ 01747 823088 or ☎ Pat Gear 01747 860320

We welcome donations of household & garden items in reasonable condition for the Auction. Or, perhaps you could pledge a few hours to do some gardening, DIY, cooking, computer help, or driving.

Please contact Chris Dillon, or Pat Gear for further information.

MERE GARDENING CLUB

The Butterfly Garden

Martin Young

Wednesday, 14th May - 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Martin used to breed butterflies and moths, but now just grows the plants that attract them. He will have plenty of ideas for making your garden butterfly friendly.

£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

HIDDEN GARDENS IN MERE

The Friends of St Michael's together with the Mere Gardening Club are organising an "Open Gardens" weekend on 12/13th July. Tickets will be £5 for adults and teas will be available. Make a note in your diaries NOW! More information next month!

Ann Dethick ☎ 10747 863498



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY with Mere Gardening Club **Edmondsham House and Garden** **Tuesday, 10th June 2014**

Edmondsham house, a Tudor Manor house with Georgian additions, stands in over 6 acres of delightful gardens where we are invited to picnic before being taken around the house by the present owner, Mrs Julia Smith. After an included tea, the head gardener will show us around the garden. Nearby are a Victorian stable block and a dairy from the same period. Other than the included tea, there are no refreshments available, so you will need to bring lunch and drinks with you.

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 11.30am
and return around 6.00pm**

Cost: MHS & Gardening Club Members £18, non-members £21
per person - Includes tours and tea

Wareham and Moreton - Wednesday, 21st May

**We will leave Salisbury Street Car Park at 9.00am
and return by 5.30-6.00pm**

Cost: MHS Members £21, non-members £24 per person
Includes guided tours and tea with cake in Moreton.

Booking forms are available at Mere Library

**NOTE: Chatsworth 7/8th September
DEADLINE for deposit is 31st May**

For more details on both these visits and tour, please ring me

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

AN ACCUMULATION OF DONATIONS!

The Lions Club of **Gillingham, Mere & Shaftesbury** has, as a result of a successful Christmas Float Collection during December 2013, been able to make the following donations to good causes:

- Shaftesbury Guides - £50
- Shaftesbury Revellers Carnival Club - £250
- Jack's Place (part of Naomi House) - £250
- Ronald McDonald House (Bristol Children's Hospital Parents Accommodation) - £250 (This is in recognition of their support of a local family).
- Future support for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance is also proposed as they cover the area of our Club in part, along with continuing help for the Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance..
- The EDP Drug & Alcohol Support Service - £250 as a contribution to the proposed Support Drop-in Centre in Gillingham.
- A contribution to British Wireless for the Blind Fund of £230 towards a specially adapted radio for a local blind person.
- In addition to this, during the year the Club collected £1,900 for the Philippines Disaster, sent £100 for the World Measles Initiative, £200 to the Lions Clubs International Foundation to support world disasters whenever they may occur, and also supported some local social need cases.

None of these donations would have been possible without the continuing generosity of the people of Gillingham, Mere, Shaftesbury and the surrounding villages for which the Club is truly grateful.'

Lion Chris Stupples, Lion Club Publicity Officer, ☎ 01747 85059

MERE MUSEUM WW1 COMMEMORATION

To mark the 100 years since the start of WW1, the Museum is intending to produce a booklet about the young men from Mere who lost their lives during that war.

We would be pleased to have any information about these casualties. Were any of the men mentioned on the Mere War Memorial related to you? If so, do you have any information about them, which might be useful for the publication? Photographs would be particularly welcome.

If you can help, please contact me by phone or by my e-mail address, which is:

✉ a4.mcdonald@btinternet.com

Angela McDonald ☎ 01747 861601



MERE MUSEUM

The current exhibition, "Bats, Balls & Bicycles", has attracted some nice comments from visitors and we hope that this display about sports of all kinds in Mere past and present will encourage more of you, especially those younger residents who enjoy sport, to see it. It continues until the end of June.

David Longbourne ☎ 01747 860243

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Annual **PLANT SALE** in aid of Mere Museum will be held in the Grove Building, on Saturday, 10th May, opening at 10.00am.

We look forward to seeing you there, when we will have lots of wonderful plants for you to buy.

David Longbourne ☎ 01747 860243

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Review of Spring Production

Dylan Thomas's poem *Under Milk Wood* cannot, in my opinion, be staged or filmed easily. It is an unpleasant jab at Thomas's entire neighbourhood. He didn't travel around with a hidden video camera exposing domestic life, but he might as well have done. All his characters are either curdled, soured, or whipped about!

It takes the brilliance of Chris Wood/Jane Smith as Directors to produce a stage play that left me in awe. The small cast pulled off extraordinary verse speaking, mime shows, quick change acts, Welsh accents. Sixty three roles from thirteen actors. The atmosphere of suffocating village life, the worries, memories, and belief systems, which beset their days and nights were conveyed with alacrity and black humour.

I recall in particular a commanding 1st Voice from Eric Kincaid, a belly laugh from the audience in response to Mary White's Mrs. Dai Bread Two. Electrifying 'a cappella' singing from Sharon Glide. Mr. Bryan Sheppard was made for the part of Eli Jenkins. Noticeable development in acting from young Laura Coward. Congratulations to MADS for an astonishingly professional production.

Nanci Swann ☎ 07810 557466

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of MADS will take place on Monday, 12th May at 7.30pm in the Small Hall of Mere Lecture Hall and all are welcome.

Come and hear of the progress and activities of MADS over the past year and plans for the future. It is a good time for new members to join, whether wishing to 'tread the boards', stage manage, make or paint scenery or help with costume etc. Subs will be due and our Treasurer will be there to accept the modest fee from members, new or old

- and for those unsure of whether to join or not, remember - you never know what you can do until you try! ‘
Jenny Wilding 📞 01747 860908



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Last month we were treated to a talk by Julie James, "Lacock, a Village Lad." Julie grew up in Lacock and she transported us back to the true village life of sixty years ago, taking us from house to house around the village and telling us their history. There was a coffee shop, P.O., corn merchants and a mini-slaughter house where the pigs were killed and another house where you could buy faggots and gravy. Pubs, a bakery and a smithy were also there. We are hopeful that Julie will actually give us a guided tour of the village sometime in the future.

For a morning visit, three members joined a conducted tour of the Bore Hill Farm Biogas Plant at Warminster. Commercial food waste is used to produce energy for local use and farm fertiliser. It employs 6 local people to operate the process, and there is hardly any smell to cause annoyance. In fact after two years of operation a local reporter telephoned to ask when the plant would start up, since there had been no evidence of the process plant being operated. It just goes to show that if you choose your site wisely, everyone can benefit.

Our next meeting on Thursday, 1st May in the Grove Building at 7.30pm will be a member's organised meeting. The first part of the meeting will be a discussion of the National Federation of Womens Institutes' Resolution for the AGM, which this year will be "Increasing Organ Donation." The NFWI notes that three people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. The NFWI is calling on every member of the WI to make their wishes regarding organ donation known, and to encourage their families and friends and members of their local communities to do likewise.

Following a break for tea, two of our members, Barbara and Thelma, are leading an organised audience participation with the theme of "Memories" of which I am sure that we all have quite a few. The competition for the evening is "Here is one that I made earlier!"

Please come and join us for what could be a fairly lively and interesting evening, you would be very welcome.
Janet Fisher 📞 01747 861323



MERE MOTHERS UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

April was busy! The kite-flying event on White Horse Hill, on a bleak and windy day, was remarkably happy and successful with about 30 children having a wonderful time, and everyone warming up with hot chocolate, and learning a bit more about MU and our President's Walk-a-Week in support of family projects. As we go to print we're preparing for our Easter Holidays Fun Afternoon in the Grove Building. Huge thanks to all helpers and participants.

Our 'normal' April meeting gave a fascinating insight into the 'Open the Book' project, and at our meeting on **Tuesday, 13th May at 2.30pm in the Grove Building** the Revd Jo Penberthy, previously Canon of St David's Cathedral in Wales, and now Vicar of Charlton Musgrove, will be sharing her experiences of how hymn-singing helps people grow together. All welcome!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

GROVE BUILDING "100 CLUB"

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for April 2014, drawn on Thursday, 3rd April by Mary Merrell was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 177	Neil Wilson-Barker
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 126	Ann Lloyd
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 124	Janet Wigglesworth
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 170	Judy Avory

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

MANDELA:

long walk to freedom (12A)

Idris Elba Naomie Harris

A chronicle of Nelson Mandela's life journey from his childhood in a rural village through to his inauguration as the first democratically elected president of South Africa

In the Lecture Hall
Thursday, 8th May, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00
Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

Visit our website at: www.moviola.org

MERE CRICKET CLUB

A New Season Is Upon Us!

Calling all new cricketers, young and old to join your local, friendly social cricket club in the heart of the town!

We look forward to our 7th season proper, with much enthusiasm and excitement as our club goes from strength to strength. We now boast no fewer than four level two ECB qualified coaches, (the Wiltshire Ladies captain amongst them) who are looking this year for more junior cricketers to join the club. We currently have an U9, U11, U13 and U15 side and train at the club ground (in the school) on Friday nights from 6.00pm. We now have half a dozen of our youngsters playing representative cricket for the district and in some cases the county too! So if you have a child or grandchild and he or she fancies coming along to see what this wonderful sport has to offer, then just turn up on any Friday and they'll be welcomed with open arms.

If you are of a slightly older vintage then the club has something to offer you too, as we have a full fixture list of both league and friendly cricket, played on Sundays and Wednesday evenings throughout the season. With over 40 adult games lined up this year we're happy to welcome anyone from the serious every week player to those who fancy re-kindling their youth and just playing a handful of friendlies through the summer.

For more information on the club or for online registration visit: www.merecc.co.uk or contact Kevin Whitmore ☎ 07528 875060 or me:

Mark Cassidy ☎ 07763 001119

MERE BOWLS CLUB

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the forming of Mere Bowls Club in the garden of Mr Burden, the owner of Town End Nurseries who lived in North Road. The club then moved to the two and a half rink green at the top of Steep Street where some great friendships were made with visiting teams, that still exist to this day, and then in 2006 we moved to the full size green inside the school ground on Springfield Road, which is where we are now.

To help us celebrate our birthday we will be hosting a Bowls Wiltshire team on Sunday, 8th June and a representative team from the Westbrook League on Saturday, 9th August.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775

drugs and emotional wellbeing. Purple Class was joined by two local PCSOs.



PURPLE CLASS

DT Week at Mere School

Children at Mere School have had a fun and creative week; all with the aim of improving our design and technology skills.

The Wiltshire Scrap Store came with all sorts of bits and pieces to help every child make an Easter bonnet. It's amazing what you can do with scrap!

Wiltshire Water also came with challenges designed to help us think about saving water.

Other DT projects were Joseph's coat in Silver Class, Aztec tortillas in Purple Class and sleeping bags in Gold Class.

Life Bus

The Life Bus has been parked at school for a few days. All classes had a chance to visit and find out about important health and social issues.

Topics covered included how the body works, the importance of healthy diet and exercise, safe use of medicines, the risks of tobacco, alcohol and non-prescription

Musical Entertainment Evening

Many friends and family packed in to the school hall to celebrate the amazing musical talents of pupils. Children showed off their skills by playing a range of instruments including guitar, brass, woodwind, keyboard and percussion.

The popular Glee Choir and recorder group also performed.

PE

Teachers have been working on a project with Winchester University to improve PE through dance.

Red Class used a rainforest theme for a freeze-frame routine and Purple Class produced an exciting street dance with a 'flash mob' section.

We all had the chance to do something in our own style and everyone joined in.

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

The 2014 playing season got off to a good start, despite the inclement weather on our open day on the 5th April. This was well attended by existing members and one prospective new member and we managed to have a game of croquet and boules before the rain became too heavy. The croquet lawn is being professionally treated and it was a welcome sight to see it in such good condition. The committee ran a raffle and the monies raised are going towards a 2014 project, which is to purchase a cover for the boules court.

If you would like to sample the facilities we have on offer and meet our friendly and welcoming members, do come along to the Steep Street Green any Saturday afternoon. To learn more please do not hesitate to email me ✉ lesleyeastment@btinternet.com
Lesley Eastment, Secretary, ☎ 01963 364113

The Friends of St. Michael's Church Spring Bazaar



Saturday, 17th May 10.00am to 12.00 noon
in the Grove Building.

- ❖ Bric a brac and books
- ❖ Tea, coffee and cakes
- ❖ Tombola and raffle

Don't miss it!

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

On Wednesday, 28th May - in the School Room at the Methodist Church. Coffee is served from 10.30am and worship will begin at 11.00am. Don't miss out on a welcome break from the chores!

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year it has been given a special boost locally by Bishop Ed Condry's **Walk of Solidarity** with displaced & homeless people, walking from Warminster to Mere via the Deverills, sleeping the night in a shepherd's hut en route.

From Sunday, 11th - Saturday, 17th May we can all share in giving that support by collecting or donating for the work of

Christian Aid which provides vital help to people (of any faith or none) who have been made homeless through war or extreme poverty.

Please help if you can!. More collectors are needed! Please phone if you are willing to help, or would like more information.

Judith Thompson, Christian Aid Rep for Mere & District Churches Together
☎ 01747-860553

St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Songs of Praise

Celebrating Spring!

Sunday, 18th May @ 6.00 pm

Do come along to join us in singing and praise

KEEP THE BELLS RINGING

St Michael's bell tower is getting rather short of ringers. If you would like to join this happy group, learn to ring Mere bells, and keep them ringing, please contact me.

Jenny Lucas ☎ 01963 31397

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MAY 2014

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel

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

✉: carolw953@aol.com

Churchwarden:

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	4th	9.15am	Said Eucharist followed by coffee
		10.30am	Family Praise Service
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Benefice Service at Bush Farm The Bison Centre, West Knoyle NO service at St Michaels Songs of Praise
		6.00pm	
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Thursday	29th	7.30am	ASCENSION DAY Hymns at top of Church Tower
		8.00am	Holy Communion followed by Parish Breakfast. (a sign up sheet will be in church).

The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	4th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
Sunday	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion
Sunday	18th	11.00am	Mr Peter Kershaw
Sunday	25th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham

The Methodist Church

(☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

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

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Mr Dudley Coates
Sunday	11th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion
Sunday	18th	6.00pm	Songs of Praise at The Parish Church (St Michaels)
Sunday	25th	6.00pm	Circuit Service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury. NO service in Mere

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

(☎ Warminster 01985 212329 – Fr. Tom Smith)

Mere Contacts: Teresa Read ☎ 01747 860289 or Margaret Thompson

☎ 01747 860291

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	5.00pm	Mass
On the 4th Sunday of the month - there will be tea and cakes after Mass		

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

(☎ 01747 830534)

Sunday	4th	9.15am	DIY
Sunday	11th	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	18th	10,30pm	Holy Communion benefice Service at Bush Farm, The Bison Centre
Sunday	25th	9.15am	Matins

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES

MAY 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; PWC Prince of Wales Club RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre

1	Thur	10.00am	-	12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	-	11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgery
		1.00pm			Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm			Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		6.30pm			Weight Watchers	MSC

1	Thur	7.00pm	Womens Institute	GB
2	Fri	10.30am	St Michaels "First Friday" Coffee Drop in	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (every Friday)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
3	Sat	10.00am -	11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st)	CC
5	Mon	2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
5	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
6	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading (also 13th & 20th)	GB
		6.00pm -	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi (also 14th & 21st) i	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
8	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 15th & 22nd)	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Filmshows: 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'	L
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
10	Sat	10.00am	Plant sale – Friends of Mere Museum	GB
		7.00pm -	10.00pm Rosemary Goddard "Silent Auction"	GB
12	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 19th)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (also 19th)	L
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 19th)	L
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 19th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 19th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 19th)	GB
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
		7.30pm	MADS AGM (Small Hall)	L
13	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
14	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
17	Sat	9.00am -	3.00pm Table Top Sale	L
		10.00am -	12.00pm Friends of St Michael's "Spring Bazaar"	GB
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
18	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
		2.00pm	Cancer Research	L
20	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
21	Wed	3.00pm	T @ 3	Angel Tea Rooms
		6.30pm	Chamber of Trade	GB
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting	GB
22	Thur	6.00am -	10.00pm ELECTION POLLING STATION	L
28	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
31	Sat	7.00pm -	10.00pm Brainwave Pamper Evening	L

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:	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	Every Saturday	10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR JUNE 2014 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the June 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, 19th May 2014**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **merematters@inbox.com** from Monday, 12th May 2014 onwards.

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

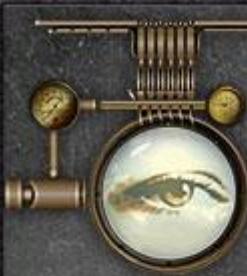
ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

The picture on the front cover is by kind permission of Dr Colin Anderson



Teeandee Productions
Website Design & Computer Services
Tel: 01747 860516
Mob: 07799 325214
Email tim@teeandeeproductions.com
www.teeandeeproductions.com