

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



September 2014

MERE CARNIVAL 2014

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Wednesday 3rd September - CARNIVAL QUIZ

GROVE BUILDING - 7.30pm start Raffle and Refreshments. Teams of 4. £2 per person

Friday 5th September - CARNIVAL BINGO

GROVE BUILDING - Eyes Down 7.30pm Good Prizes - Raffle - Refreshments

Thursday 11th September - CARNIVAL FILM NIGHT

LECTURE HALL - 7.30pm – “The Love Punch”

Friday 12th September - CARNIVAL COMEDY NITE

WALNUT TREE INN - 7.00pm £20 per person including a main course.

Booking Essential 01747 861220

Saturday 13th September - CARNIVAL DAY

Children's Fancy Dress Procession

Assemble Mere School (old Duchy Manor School grounds) 2.00pm for judging at 2.15pm ..Participants in fancy dress will only be judged for awards. Procession with the Carnival Royals and Shaftesbury Town Band will depart for The Square at 3.00pm

Live Music and Hog Roast

Kindly supplied by Andrew Barclay supporting Mere Carnival'

'Rip it up' will be playing from 4.00 until 7.00pm (outside the George Inn weather permitting) and 'Loose connections' will be playing after the procession until 11.00pm.

Grand Evening Procession

Assembles in White Road and moves off at 7.30pm

led by Mere Carnival Royals and featuring Shaftesbury Silver Band

Grand Carnival Draw

Draw to take place on Monday 15th September at The Walnut Tree Inn at 8.00pm

Get your entry forms for the Carnival from Mere Post Office

Carnival website - www.merecarnival2014.co.uk

**DON'T FORGET
TO BUY YOUR GRAND DRAW
RAFFLE TICKETS**

Buy your Balloons from Mere Carnival Sellers

Burger Van by Mere Cricket Club

Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639

EDITOR'S NOTES

Retirement of Treasurer

It is with regret, but with grateful thanks for his long association with Mere Matters, that we bid farewell to John Wilson on his well-earned retirement from the important post of Mere Matters Treasurer.

Long time residents of Mere will remember that John was editor of the magazine for eight years from 1998 until 2006 when he passed the editorial pen to me. However, for sometime before that he had also acted as Treasurer, and he kindly agreed to continue in that important role until now. John has managed our affairs with professional aplomb and managed to keep us afloat financially, which has often been a 'hand to mouth existence', always producing impeccable accounts at our year-end that are much appreciated by our independent financial overseer.

John, from all the team at Mere Matters and on behalf of the community of Mere, we thank you for all your guidance, help and excellent financial management over the past sixteen years.

The role of Treasurer has passed to local resident, Alan Gristwood, who has had a lifetime's involvement in accounting and finance. We welcome Alan to the team and look forward to working with him.

Change of e-mail address

For several years now Mere Matters has had its own e-mail for contributions and correspondence. Having suffered some problems in recent months, we have changed provider. From now on please address any e-mail for Mere Matters to: **editor@merematters.co.uk**

If you already correspond with Mere Matters by e-mail, please amend your contact list/address book as the old address will be discontinued.

Graham Ivory, Editor

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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



The Chairman writes:

The work of the Parish Council goes on, as ever, through the summer. With grass growing at an amazing rate, the groundsmen have certainly had their work cut out! Also, with the warm weather, watering of the lovely tubs has been extremely time-consuming.

I promised, a couple of months ago, to keep you informed about the clock tower. We are currently negotiating with a builder who has provisionally agreed to assess the damage and will be reporting back to us on how to proceed. Unfortunately, the clock has stopped again. Until we can stop the rain coming in, I doubt we can do anything permanent about that at the moment.

I must thank all of you who turned out for the last 43rd (Wessex) Division Memorial Service and Parade. A simple, poignant service was held at the base of Castle Hill and we are grateful to Jane Hurd who conducted it.

As many of you are aware, the Parish Council doesn't tend to sit in August. It was necessary, however, to do so this year as a planning application for the development of the Brush Factory site had been submitted for our consideration and, as consultees, the Parish Council felt it was important to do so. We have supported the application subject to certain conditions. We have also considered a planning application for the new brush factory on the outskirts of Mere (actually within the parish boundary of Zeals). Zeals Parish Council had voted in favour of this application the week before.

Sadly, our groundsman Mr. Tim Cussen, is leaving us to live and work in Devon. I know he has been very happy working here in Mere and we wish him well. We have appointed a new groundsman who will start work this week.

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

Mere Skate Park Competition & Family Fun Day

To celebrate the success of our skate park and to provide an opportunity to thank our funders, the Parish Council, with the help of volunteers, is organising a Skate Park Competition and Family Fun Day in the Recreation Ground on Sunday, 7th September from 10.00am until 3.00pm. As well as a skate park competition for those with BMX's, Scooters & Skate Boards in three different age groups, we are planning to have a Bouncy Castle, displays by Mere Gymbuds, a beat the goalie competition, face painting and other family fun activities.

There will be food and refreshments available, but please feel free to bring along a picnic and blanket. First Aid cover will be arranged but we would like to advise that all entrants in the competition will be required to wear safety equipment (helmets, kneepads & elbow pads). Many more details on the event can be found on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mere-charity-skate-and-bmx-comp/292178107630854?fref=nf>

It will be necessary to cancel this event if it rains, so please keep an eye on the facebook page for updates etc.

Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman writes:

This is a belated report of our Annual Parish Council meeting which was held on 19th May. I was re-elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year and Andre Filleau was re-elected as the Vice-Chairman.

The Parish Council discussed the amended planning application for Copsford and invited the architect to attend the public session in order to explain the proposals. Whilst the Parish Council was not wholly comfortable with the contemporary design aspect of this building, members were aware that it was likely to be approved by the planning authority and therefore the Parish Council requested that mature trees should be planted around the boundary to lessen the visual impact and light pollution.

Community Speedwatch is still in progress, and the team is presently waiting for the regulation speed signs.

The village website www.westknoyle.co.uk is up and running and hopefully getting lots of hits. If anyone has any ideas as to content or wants to add any useful information please contact Brian Wessely at bswessely@aol.com

Following an internal audit of the Parish Council's accounts, kindly carried out by Mr. Derek Ward, the Parish Council approved the accounts and supporting statements for the year ending 31st March 2014 and the Annual Return was completed and signed so that it could be submitted to the external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. Copies of the Annual Return and the supporting papers can be obtained or viewed by contacting the Parish Clerk ☎ 01747 860701. It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Tuesday, 9th September.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

The adoption of roads over the years has always been problematic for me across the Mere Area. Adoption of a road or roads has often taken ten years. If the developer starts out to develop dwellings with a private road, then all the residents of the developed site would probably be responsible for the maintenance of its road. If the developer enters into a section 38 highway agreement with Wiltshire Council, the developer has to provide a bond, which is similar to an insurance policy. This is to

protect the residents by ensuring that money is available to complete the road should the developer fail to do so for any reason. The developer brings the road up to an adoptable standard, when the road should not require significant maintenance for twenty years, at which point the council will usually adopt it when, subject to traffic regulation orders, all road users can use the road.

Additional monies have been allocated to The South West Area Board for youth development (Youth club). This is a one-off non-recurring sum to fund the transition to the new ways of working within the Youth Services of a maximum of about £53, 000. These additional monies are available because over the last decade the Youth Service has received donations and funds from third parties in addition to council funding. The service has held these funds in separate bank accounts that have sat outside the Council's banking arrangements, in effect not the council's money. The Part Year Allocation for 2014/15 for youth will be £14,141 (a full year is not that much over £20, 000) to service Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. Disregarding the large transition payment above, the youth service in our area has been hit hard, about 265 children still need support in our area. It should be remembered some Counties have no youth service at all. The youth service in Wiltshire, as it is, will close on the 1st October 2014. Planned youth activities in the summer holiday have gone ahead, thanks to our conscientious youth worker Jaki Farrell.

The principal change will be moving away from the Council being a direct provider of positive activities for young people aged 13 to 19 and to becoming an enabler for local groups/organisations to deliver. Area Boards will be the local accountable body for delivery of the new youth model. A Community Youth Officer (CYO) will be appointed. Young people will be encouraged to be driving the priorities, to help design, plan and deliver projects. A Local Youth Network (LYN) will hopefully be formed.

A consultation has been launched about possible changes to the bus pass scheme, which applies all across Wiltshire. There is a fact sheet and separate online survey forms for individuals and organisations on the Wiltshire Council's Consultation Portal <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm>. The closing date is Friday, 26th September 2014.

The financial plan for 2014-2015 identifies savings of £180,000 from review of free bus travel before 0930 by elderly and disabled bus pass holders. The options considered are to change the Wiltshire Bus Pass scheme so that passes could only be used after either 0930 Monday - Friday or after 0900 Monday - Friday. It is a legal requirement that they can be used all day at weekends. Because of legal requirements and lead times, the earliest date that any change could be made is 1st April 2015 and the decision must be made by Cabinet on the 11th November 2014.

The next Area Board meeting on 8th October at Nadder Hall is to be run very differently as it will be a health themed event, including a health fair. The full details are still to be

worked out, but here is a summary of the key points so far: An exhibition styled event, with various displays from local organisations (e.g. Mere Memory Group, Good Neighbours, Lunch Clubs, Community Transport, Stroke Club etc.) and Council services related to health (Public Health, leisure etc). The main focus is on issues that arose during the JSA (Joint Strategic Assessment) event (dementia friendly, combating social isolation, promoting activities) as well as interactive activities (e.g. local healthy food tasting, check your blood pressure etc.). A request for a display for the Fire Service consultation has been made. Please try and take part in the Fire Service Consultation, it could affect Mere Fire Station. Approximate time 3.30pm to 7-7.30pm. THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.

Area Board business is to take place in the seated area at 6.00pm; this will be my Chairman's Announcements; any grants, CATG funding, any other essentials and will again take place as the Health Fair continues. After this has finished (30mins to 1 hour total depending on how many grant applications we have), people will be encouraged to go round the Health Fair, if they have not done so already.

From time to time, Councillors receive reports from the public regarding Travellers who set up unauthorised encampments in their local areas outside normal office hours, as happened in The Mere Recreation Ground not so long ago and in Zeals several times in years past. Where an unauthorised encampment is causing specific problems out of office hours the Police should be notified using the 101 number. If the necessary criteria is met a Police Officer may choose to take immediate action. During normal office hours the Enforcement Team within Environment Services deals with all reports along with the Police where required. Unauthorised encampments in Wiltshire have totalled more than 90 in the past year.

I am a strong supporter that some Council work should be carried out by local tradesmen, which happens little, if at all, at present. I believe they would have more thought to their area as a general rule. A national committee has made a string of recommendations that are essentially for local government, rather than for Whitehall to take forward. This was deliberate, reflecting the Committee's support for localism. The committee stated Individual councils should consider the potential for sub-dividing at least part of a contract to enable smaller organisations to bid for smaller parcels of work, and I believe some carpenters, plumbers and so on, living and working in or near our area, should be considered for Wiltshire Council work.

I informed readers over the last months that Mere Swimming Pool, which was a memorial for The Second World War, is at risk of being lost. It may not be possible to keep the swimming pool, if no one person nor group of people come forward to save it. Mere should receive some of a £600K planning gain monies that could result from residential development in the Mere area. The Mere Parish Council has sent a request for suggested use of some of this proposed £600K. When the dwellings are marketed, I have asked the developer to please note Wiltshire Council has named 21 Towns in the

Wiltshire Council Area and one city. The City is Salisbury and Mere is one of the 21 towns. We have a Town Clock in the centre of Mere etc. We have a significant factory moving across Mere and staying in effect, we have two industrial estates, we have more than one shop and a pub, and therefore we are more than a large village.

People are being asked to have their say on changes to kerbside garden waste collections which could save Wiltshire Council thousands of pounds. Garden waste is currently collected at the kerbside every fortnight; however the council has put together three proposals to reduce the cost of the service.

People are being asked to choose which of these three options best meet their needs:

- A three month suspension of the kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in December, January and February.
- A five month suspension of the kerbside garden waste service with no collections taking place in November, December, January, February and March.
- To introduce a chargeable kerbside garden waste collection service instead of the current service.

People are reminded that the household recycling centres in Wiltshire still accept garden waste, and the council will continue to provide subsidised compost bins which can compost your garden waste and food waste at home. Let the council have your thoughts on the options for change by:

- Visiting the council's consultation page, [http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ changes-kerbside-garden-waste-collection-survey.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/changes-kerbside-garden-waste-collection-survey.htm)
- Picking up a leaflet at your nearest library, leisure centre or Wiltshire Council office.
- Looking out for the summer 'Your Wiltshire Magazine'
- Emailing us on: **Gardenwasteconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk**

The consultation runs from 1 July until 1st September 2014 and I suggest you send your views, even if out of time.

With The South West Area Board being less able to give grants than we were, it is worth noting The Community Foundation for Wiltshire and Swindon give both Community and Individuals grants. Telephone 01380 729284.

We live close to three county borders therefore I think it appropriate to mention, Somerset County Council Learning and Disability Service has job opportunities, ☎ 01373 456516. Not many job opportunities come from councils at the present, and Frome is not too distant from us.

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

The children are about to begin a new school year, but if they are quick there is still time for them to complete the **Summer Reading Challenge** which ends on Saturday, 6th September. Sixty children have currently registered at Mere – let's see if a record

number can manage to complete the challenge of reading six books over the summer holidays.

An exciting new event at the library is **Rhyme Time** beginning on Friday, 5th September and then weekly thereafter, from 10.00 to 10.30am. All babies and preschoolers are welcome (with an adult!) to come along and enjoy a fun and informal half hour of songs and simple rhymes.

With the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness almost upon us, you might be thinking of preserving, pickling and jam making. If so, do come and browse our selection of books. After visiting Mere Museum's WW1 displays, you might also like to borrow some of our books on this theme.

Further updates to follow next month.

Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546

OVER 55's HOUSING OPTIONS EVENT



- **Are you beginning to think about your future housing needs?**
- **Are you beginning to struggle in your current home, but don't really want to move?**
- **Are you overwhelmed by the thought of moving?**
- **Are you worried about paying for your future care?**

We can explore all the options so that you can make an informed choice at a "Free of Charge" event on Tuesday, 9th September 2014 from 9.30am – 12.00 noon in the Salisbury Guildhall, Market Place, Salisbury, SP1 1JH.

Come along and talk to us as well as representatives from a number of other organisations such as domiciliary care agencies; Community4; Salisbury City Almshouses; Abbeyfields; Wiltshire Council Homes4Wiltshire; Aster Living Care & Repair; Independent Financial Advisors for care fees.

If you have any questions regarding the event please either call into our office: 21 Brown Street, Salisbury (Monday-Friday 9.30am – 4pm) or give our advisors a ring on ☎ 01722 335425.

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER????



In a very short time summer disappears and no sooner than we are talking about autumn than its winter with dark nights, short days and its cold. Few people love the winter months and as we get older coping with the cold becomes more difficult and health problems can develop. It is time for your Winter Check List:

Outside

1. Are there any loose or missing tiles on the roof?
2. Are your gutters clear of leaves?
3. Are there any damp patches on the walls?
4. Have a supply of salt and sand to put on your path and/or steps so that you can walk outside safely when it is icy.

Use a known and reputable company to do any repair work now. Don't wait for the rain or the snow falling when a rogue trader comes knocking on your door telling you that they have noticed a problem!

Inside

1. Have you had your central heating boiler serviced?
2. If you use fires have you had your chimney swept? It is the landlord's responsibility to get these carried out if you live in rented property.
3. Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. If you haven't got any, get some installed. They could save your life if your air vents become blocked.
4. Have you considered draught-proofing doors and windows, loft insulation and lagging your hot water tank? These actions help keep your home warm and lower your heating bills.

Personal

1. If you are over 65 you are entitled to a free flu jab. Most GP surgeries have a flu clinic. Make sure you are booked in.
2. Ideally, your living areas should be 18-21°C in the day. Heat your bedroom before you go to bed and keep it at about 18°C overnight.
3. Keep moving. Don't stay in your chair all day, get up every so often and wander around as this generates heat. Eat at least one hot meal a day and lots of hot drinks. If you have difficulty walking, try some exercises in your chair to keep you moving. Remember wearing thin layers of clothes is more effective than one thick layer.
4. Have a torch at hand in case of power cuts, and also a supply of tinned or dry provisions in case you can't get to the shops. Make arrangements for your regular prescriptions to be delivered by the pharmacy.

5. Just because it is cold out don't give up on your friends or your regular social groups. It is important to socialise – we are happier and healthier when we meet and chat to others. If you can't get out, keep in touch with your friends and family by phone. Hearing about someone's day can help lift your spirits.
6. Some people are anxious that they will not have enough money to cover their fuel bills. There are grants to support elderly people who spend more than 10% of their income on fuel.

Talk to your local Wiltshire good neighbour about other ways to stay warm and well through out the winter by contacting me.

Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023

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



Mere Dental Practice

The practice has 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

GIANT'S CAUSEWAY LINKS WITH SOME MERE RESIDENTS!

Finn McCool, of Ireland's Giant's Causeway fame, was dressed up as a baby by his clever wife to fool a rival giant – if this was the size of the McCool baby, how big was the father?? The rival fled as the ploy worked! An example of things not always being what they appear to be at first sight! And in Mere, 1 in every 6 residents might not appear to be what you expect at first sight!

The Finn McCool legend is similar to when someone with hearing loss appears to act differently to what you expect. You expect an immediate or automatic response to your question or comment and when you don't get that, you wonder what's going on! What's going on is that the person is concentrating on looking at your face, your mouth shapes as you speak, your gestures, considering the subject, whilst their brain is working out what you've said so they can respond – it can take a few seconds to do this, which is usually what makes you think "what's happening?" This 'working out' by both people can be made easier by clear speaking, not shouting, facing each other.....because it's 'lip reading' that makes communicating with someone with hearing loss so much easier. It takes a moment of thinking.....just as you would if you met someone who, because of their stick or dog, you saw to be blind – you'd consider how best to communicate with them: look at which hand is holding the stick or dog lead, ask how you can help them. Remember, someone who can't hear you properly doesn't have a stick or a label saying so which is what causes the initial confusion (although they might have a Hearing Dog!).

Mere residents with (or without!) hearing loss can meet to discover how lip reading works - and other things that can be done to make it easier when communicating with friends, family, work colleagues, neighbours - in fact anyone and everyone you come in to contact with daily! The Finn McCool story was used at our last meeting and is an example of as a practice topic, and Lip Reading Awareness Week is 8th – 12th September.

If you'd like to know more, you can contact me by calling or texting ☎07760-731406 or e-mail: SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk. Weekly sessions on Tuesday mornings from 10.15am to 12.15pm in the Small Hall of the Grove Building begin on 23rd September. We look forward to welcoming you!

CARERS GET-TOGETHER RE-LAUNCHED IN MERE.

It will start on Monday, 8th September and be on a monthly basis at the Angel Corner Tea Rooms on the 2nd Monday of the month from 10:30am – 12.00pm. It is a chance for carers to meet-up and chat over a cuppa or two.

For more information, visit our website: carersinwiltshire.co.uk or ☎0800 181 4118.

Fiona Cromwell ☎0800 181 4118

MERE & DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Requests for Transport - ☎ 01747 860096

Before the “Mere Matters” took its summer break I wrote asking for volunteers to come forward to be co-ordinators for the scheme. There was no response. Unfortunately this leaves the current co-ordinators working very hard and we may soon be forced into the position of not having a volunteer to cover a week, resulting in us being unable to take bookings during that time.

I have spoken to several people and there appears to be a myth that if you are a co-ordinator you must stay at home and be available to answer the phone at all times. This is not true. Yes, you have to be prepared to check messages once every 24hrs and then spend time sorting them out, but stay in to answer the phone, NO!

Can you please search your hearts and consciences, and maybe consider at least trying and giving it a go. It really is not such an awful job.

Please ring and chat to one of the co-ordinators who will happily give you the low-down from the inside.

Barbara Thomas, M&DLS Secretary

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

13th – 19th October

The 2014 Mere Literary Festival programme was unveiled at a successful Quiz Night when the winning teams were:-

- 1st. The Quizzicals (Shaftesbury)
- 2nd. High Tower (Mere)
- 3rd. Laid Back

The first flyers outlining festival events are now in circulation. The big green programme will be available in September and will be delivered to as many residences as possible – but, if you don't get one through your letterbox, they will be found at many outlets. The organising group hope you will find something of interest and will come to as many events as possible, which will support your Linkscheme.

After holding our ticket prices for many years it has now been necessary to bring in a small rise – but the additional charge for ‘on the door’ admission has been discontinued. However, it's best to make sure of your seat by buying a ticket at Mere Library or booking with the festival organiser ☎ 01747 860475.

And get set for this year's timed flash fiction competition.

‘Write in the Week’ Competition

In one week write a story of no more than 350 words, which must include the given phrase to be revealed on the festival website and other outlets on Thursday, 25th September.

- Senior Prizes £50, £25, £10 Entry Fee £2 first story, then £1
(Please send cheques to:
Mere Literary Festival.)
- Junior Prizes (16 & under) 4 x£5 Free Junior Entry
- Write your story, add a cover sheet with your name, (+age if Junior), contact details, story title and word count and post or deliver to MLF, Lawrences, Old Hollow, Mere, Wilts. BA12 6EG, to arrive by Friday, 3rd October.
- The results will be announced at the award ceremony on Sunday, 19th October, with Anna Birch, aka vet Gilla Primrose, author of the best-seller ‘Call The Vet’.

Our website is: **www.merelitfest.co.uk**

Adrienne Howell & Lit.Fest. Group ☎ [01747 860475](tel:01747860475)

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch is now a recognised part of Mere's social life. Held on the second Tuesday of the month from October to Easter, it is an event for people who are on their own, or new to the area, an excuse to see old friends and make new ones. All are welcome. It is held in alternate months, at the George Inn in central Mere and at the Walnut Tree Inn on Shaftesbury Road Mere. The great value two course meal costs £9.95. Drinks are not included. It is advisable to book in advance as space is limited.

The first Community Lunch is always part of the Mere Literary Festival and will be held on Tuesday, 14th October 2014 at The George Inn (01747 860427) starting 12.00 noon for 12.30pm. Following coffee there will be readings from Mere's Pennybank Writers, so put the date in your diaries and book your place. See you there. For further details, please ring me.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

These last three months have seen some 250 hours work carried out to clean up and partially restore the Band Hut in Castle Street Car Park. Local tradesmen and members alike have been most generous with their time and effort. Subsequently our AGM will be held in this building at 7.00pm on **Thursday, 18th September 2014**. All those interested parties are most welcome to attend.

Towards the end of June, our annual exhibition took place in the Mere Lecture Halls, and this year we ran it for two days. As the show was successful, with the attendance up by 32% we are repeating its format next year, so the dates for your diary are **20th & 21st June 2015**. A big thank you to all of you who attended, and to George Jeans who provided photographs that led to excellent post event press coverage.

Given that most of June was spent finalising the exhibition equipment and details, all this work and no play was addressed in July with three outings. The first was to the Watercress Line and Alton Model Shop (the largest in Hampshire), where a few of us acquired suitable items. Next came a delightful afternoon as guests of Keith and Mary Milburn with their garden railway in Shaftesbury. As they are moving within the town, this was the last time that this railway could be viewed. Finally, if this were not enough, Graham Avory afforded us an outstanding day's entertainment on the Seaton Tramway. The day was hot and sunny and with the open top tram, which he had selected, the gentle breeze created descending to Seaton, whilst watching the estuary wildlife unfold, made the summer for me. Thank you Graham. All the members who put their names down for this trip were supported by club funds.

Two of our more active members departed for Lincolnshire, they being David and Elizabeth Dunn. We wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours.

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

T@3



**Join us for T@3 in the
Angel Corner Tea Rooms
on Wednesday, 17th September
from 3.00 to 4.30pm.**



Yes, we are back with our popular T@3 after the summer break. We hope you can join us so we can hear all about your summers and plans for winter.

T@3 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 and seating is limited so please let me know you are coming by contacting Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 15th September.



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Monday, 8th September 2014
Emergency First Aid at Work
Training Course (HSE approved)



Mere Chamber will be running this one-day course on Emergency First Aid at Work from 9.00 am – 4.30pm at the Mere Social Club. This course is designed to meet the requirements of Health & Safety [First Aid] regulations 1981, which states by law, that all businesses must have one or more qualified first aider. Upon completion of the course delegates will be awarded with a certificate valid for 3 years. Places for Chamber members are £66 per delegate and places for non-members are £86 per delegate. For further information or to book a place, please contact me, Julie Cousins.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting

This will be held in the small room of the Mere Social Club at 7.30pm on **Wednesday, 10th September 2013**. *Julie Cousins, Chamber Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576*

SEPTEMBER SHORT WALK

This will take place on Monday, 15th September. We will meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park as usual, for a walk of 2-3 miles around the footpaths of Mere. Tea in the Angel Cafe afterwards, for those who wish to indulge!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE'S HIDDEN GARDEN WEEKEND

What a wonderful occasion this was! Blessed with beautiful weather, nearly 300 tickets were sold and the crowds flocked to see the 12 varied gardens open. Friends of St Michael's and Mere Garden Club would like to thank everyone for their support which helped to raise money for these 2 local groups. If you were away and missed the opportunity to see them, a beautiful photographic record of the gardens is now in the Library for everyone to enjoy.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

IN MEMORY OF PHILIP FLOWER

Donations in lieu of flowers in memory of Phil amounted to £427. This has been divided between Mere Linkscheme and Mere Surgery. Mere Surgery will put the funds towards the purchase of an Oposcope.

The Family wish to thank everyone for their generous donations.

Evelyn Flower ☎ 01747 860600

GROVE BUILDING MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Retiring

Most of you will be aware by now that the majority of the Management Committee of the Grove Building resigned on 31st August 2014. This decision followed a disagreement with the Parochial Church Council of St. Michael's over the manner in which the funds held by the Grove Building were being administered.

The decision to resign was taken with great regret and after careful consideration. The committee are extremely proud of the administration which we have built up over the past six years. We have operated efficiently and have built up a rapport second to none with the individuals and groups who use the Hall.

The Churchwardens of St. Michael's are putting in place a new committee to take over, and we are doing all we can to ensure a smooth hand over. Two members of the old committee, Isabel Howell and Peter Platt-Higgins, have opted to stay in post to assist with the transition.

I have been overwhelmed by the response of our customers to the news. Your expressions of thanks and sadness and recognition of the work put in by the committee have been truly amazing and humbling.

Resigning with me are, Richard Jefferies (bookings), Judy Bickerstaff (treasurer), Judy Avory (quartermaster) and Chris Bixby (events). Since I took over from Russell Carpenter in 2008 this team have been a joy to work with. Between us we have managed the refurbishments of 2009 and 2010 and then built up the successful operation we are now passing on. I owe a great debt of gratitude to all of them.

Above all, we are proud to have served the community of Mere and provided it with such a splendid facility.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Grove Building during our stewardship.

Peter Knapp, Retiring Chairman ☎ 01747 860142

Incoming

There have been some changes in the members of the Grove Building sub-committee of the PCC, but the Hall will function as before. To hire the Hall From the 1st of September, please telephone: ☎07754 524802.

Michael Marsh, St Michael's Churchwarden, 01747 861212

FOOD BANK NEWS

from St Michael, The Archangel Church

The trolley collection in July outside the Co-op, for the food bank, was very successful: 100kgs (220lbs) of food and £34 in donations.

Thank you to all who gave so generously, it is very much appreciated and needed. Thank you also to the southern co-op and the ladies who manned the trolley, Wendy and Jane.

Ann Ridler ☎ 01747 860128

THE SHAFTESBURY AREA TALKING NEWSPAPER

A search for Editors

The Shaftesbury Area Talking Newspaper, which is circulated in Mere, comprises a weekly recording of ninety minutes or so of news and features read mainly from the *Blackmore Vale Magazine*, the *Salisbury Journal*, and the *Western Gazette*. Items from local community and parish magazines, such as *Mere Matters*, are also included as a supplement.

The recordings are made onto small memory sticks and listeners are supplied with compact, easy to use receivers; if required an explanatory home visit can be arranged. The service is completely free to those who are blind or partially sighted and includes all postal charges and the loan of the receiver.

A team of some thirty volunteers - editors, readers, recorders, copiers, and dispatchers – publishes the Talking Newspaper and we are now seeking, with some urgency, to recruit more Editors.

An Editor's main task is to select text from the weekly newspapers and then present it in a way that is easy for the readers to read aloud. The editors add connecting passages to open and close the readings and to provide cohesion. Interestingly, listeners greatly value descriptions of photographs from the newspapers; this enables the editors, occasionally, to employ some vivid and imaginative language.

The local newspapers are made available early on a Thursday so Editors have until mid-afternoon on the Friday to prepare their edition for the readers. A negotiated rota determines when an Editor is called upon, usually every six weeks or so.

If the idea of joining the team interests you or you would like to find out more then do please contact the Chief Editor, Colin Francis, ☎ 01747 851803 or the team's secretary, Mrs Kirstie Rowlandson, ☎ 07775 521434. They would love to hear from you

MERE THEATRE CLUB

The autumn programme is about to start including visits to Bath, Exeter, Bradford on Avon and Wells, for music, opera and theatre. We still have a few tickets left for the Candlelit Christmas music and readings at Wells Cathedral on Saturday, 20th December, so if you're interested do get in touch, you don't have to be a member. Of course, if you would like to join before the winter programme, our contact details are shown below.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833 Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



NATIONAL TRUST SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

With a lovely National Trust property on our doorstep, many people in Mere enjoy volunteering at Stourhead. Why not join them to do one of the many roles available?

If you love Stourhead and have a little time to spare, please contact Jean Nimmo. Volunteer Co-ordinator ☎ 01747 841152 or ✉ jean.nimmo@nationaltrust.org.uk

RSPB BLACKMOOR VALE

Come and join the contingent from Mere, which will be listening to Chris Sperring, Conversationalist and Radio 4 Presenter, talking on "British Owls; their Natural History and Practical Conservation" on Friday, 19th September at 7.30pm in Gillingham Primary School. All will be welcome.

For further information, please see: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/blackmoorvale or contact me. *Myrene Coward ☎ 01747 860445*

<p>REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE MONDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER</p>

SHREEN HARMONY

Shreen Harmony's last performance at Motcombe in July helped to raise £450 towards church restoration and repairs. Thank you very much to all those who came along.

The choir will be resuming rehearsals on Thursday, 4th September, following its Summer break and will begin work on its new Christmas programme. Shreen Harmony meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at Mere United Reformed Church.

Members must pay an annual subscription fee via monthly payments, but new members are always made welcome and are permitted to try before they buy! Rehearsals are relaxed, informal and fun. No audition is required, but due to the choir's popularity there may be a waiting list for places. The choir sings a variety of musical genres in four part harmony, from traditional English Folk songs to African and Soul Music, with other songs from around the world thrown in to create an interesting and eclectic mix.

More information about Shreen Harmony and recordings of past performances can be found on its website: www.shreenharmony.co.uk

Jane Edwards ☎ 01380 830918

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

It's **Autumn Fair time again!** Our annual fund-raiser will happen on **Saturday, 6th September** at **2.00pm** in the **Garden of Fives Court**. It's by no means too late to **donate items for sale** on the Bric-a-Brac and Tombola stalls, or (full!) bottles of wine for our popular 'Wine or Water' stall! Books are also welcome. Boxes for the receipt of anything in good condition that we can sell are in the porch at Fives Court and in The Friends of St. Michael's Corner of the Parish Church. Best of all, pray for sunshine, and please support us on the day!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

Friends of Fives Court are holding an
Autumn Fair
Saturday, 6th September 2.00pm

Games * books * plants * raffle *
and much, much more....



Gillingham Junior Brass Band
*** Delicious Teas ***

In the grounds of Fives Court, Angel Lane

MERE FILM SHOWS

A film for Carnival Week on Thursday, 11th September at 7.30pm begins our tenth season of films, and it is a comedy to fit the Carnival spirit! The film is '**The Love Punch**' (12A), starring Emma Thompson, Pierce Brosnan, Celia Imrie and Timothy Spall and is a gloriously jolly romp!

It is a lighthearted tale based on a fairly serious premise of a company being taken over and stripped of its assets without a single thought of what is going to happen to its employees. With everyone having lost their financial security Richard (Brosnan) with his ex-wife Kate (Thompson) enlists the help of their neighbours (Imrie and Spall), and the computer expertise of their son, to embark on an adventure to get back what is rightfully theirs. Set mainly in Paris and the South of France this film keeps you amused throughout and the four main characters work splendidly together to the gentle conclusion. Come and enjoy the film and support Mere Carnival at the same time! Full details are on page 29.

Dates for your diary: Thursday, 16th October for Mere Literary Festival: '**The Book Thief**'; Friday, 7th November: '**Belle**'. *Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Seeds, More Plants For Free

Neil Lovesay

Wednesday, 10th September, 7.30pm Grove Building

Neil is a popular speaker with members, and is returning to talk about why there is such a small selection of plants available from seeds. This will include the problems of cross-pollination, genetics and variability of plants grown from seeds, and the problems a nurseryman has when it comes to being able to name plants offered for sale that have been grown from seeds. He will look at the great benefit of seed collection, how to store them and how to get the best chance of those seeds actually germinating. Neil will be bringing plants for sale. **£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.**

The Garden Club Annual Show.

It is still not too late to enter this year's Annual Show. Schedules are available from Sprout and Flower or myself and ALL categories are Open to everyone so whether you are an artist, photographer, cook, flower arranger or veggie grower, please take part and make this year's Show the best ever.

Entry forms should be brought to 'Wits End', North Road by 8.00pm on Wednesday, 3rd September and all entries in place in the Lecture Hall between 9.00 and 10.30am on Saturday, 6th September.

The Show itself will be open at 2.00pm, entry 50p to include a cup of tea and biscuit and home-made cakes for a little extra. Prize Giving takes place at 4.00pm with some of the produce sold afterwards. Do come along and support the Garden Club and see what we have grown!

Stop Press

And families - don't forget your planted wellies ! Bring them to the Lecture Hall on the Saturday morning and amaze us all with your creativity!

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE MUSEUM

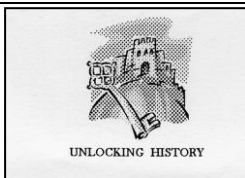
Our new exhibition, **'The Proudest Uniform'**, about the men and women of Mere who served in WW1 was previewed by The Friends of Mere Museum on 4th August 2014, 100 years to the day since the declaration of that dreadful war. The research on the lives of the soldiers whose names are on our War Memorial, which forms the backbone of the exhibition, has been carried out by Angela McDonald and a team of helpers, and we are immensely grateful for the months of work that she has invested in the project. Her findings will be published as a book later in the year. Survivors of the war, and the

nurses at the Red Cross Hospital (which occupied the Grove Building) are also commemorated in the exhibition, which will continue until the end of the year.

More News! The Museum is now on Facebook! Find us at:
www.facebook.com/meremuseum *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends have invited Col. Ian Swinnerton, an experienced WWI expert, to give a talk about the war (title to be announced) on **Friday, 14th November** in the Grove Building. The talk will, of course, coincide with the exhibition, but also with the publication of the book (see the Museum notice above). More details will be available in the next issue.
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce our new website:

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Do have a look: our programme for the year is on the home page and you can click on 'What's On' to see photos of our outings. Your feedback, which you can give by clicking on 'Contact Us' for the email addresses to use, would be very welcome.

Chatsworth 7/8th September is the last outing for the season. The coach will leave Salisbury Street car park at 9.30am on Sunday, 7th September, and return late Monday evening.

Evening talks begin on Tuesday, 7th October: 'Archive Fever, Modern Research' by The Hon Victoria Glendinning CBE, who is a biographer, critic, broadcaster and novelist; she is an Honorary Vice-President of English PEN, was awarded a CBE in 1998, and is Vice-President of the Royal Society of Literature. Her most recent book is *Raffles and the Golden Opportunity*, 2012.

For more details please ring

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

It was a close run thing, but The Decision Has Been Made! MADS' Autumn Production will be the ever-popular, murderous comedy '**Arsenic and Old Lace**'. Rehearsals start in early September, ready for production (or execution) on Thursday – Saturday, 20th – 22nd November in the Lecture Hall.

Make a note of the dates: we'll give you ticket details in the October issue of Mere Matters! In the meantime, if there is anyone out there who would like to lend a hand with set-building, painting of same or working backstage, please ring Mary White ☎ 01747 861257. Thank you.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908



MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

It was good to see so many visitors at our July meeting. Our speaker, Frances Benton, really did entertain us with facts and myths about pearls as well as providing plenty of pearls to see, try and purchase. We were surprised to learn, that the pearl was produced by a grain of sand or grit was in fact a myth. A pearl actually starts off as a burrowing parasitic worm which as a self defence mechanism the bi-valve shell fish covers with many layers of body fluid mixed with a fine chalk dust like powder, layer upon layer. Please don't let this put you off pearls as the mummified worm is removed when the pearl is drilled ready for stringing. Perhaps one of the most important things that we learnt was to avoid hairspray and perfume near our pearls as this damages the fine surface.

Two members visited Boreham W.I. and enjoyed an evening learning about natural skin products and how to make some. The talk was entitled "Health and Beauty without the Poisons". We also had a very enjoyable lunch at the Dolphin in Gillingham, attended by twelve of our members.

Once again we were blessed with beautiful weather for our Garden meeting in August. We also held an auction, which not only raised many laughs but also money for our WI. The afternoon went too quickly and a good time was had by everyone.

On the 9th August we held a "Cake and Produce Stall" by the Clock Tower in Mere. This was a great success - we had sold out by 11.30 am.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, 4th September at 7.30 pm in the Grove Building was going to be a talk by Amanda Walsh about a "Career for the Autumn Years," but unfortunately she has had to cancel at very short notice. At the time of writing this, I am not sure what we will be doing but I am sure that in the next two weeks we will have put together an entertaining package. Please come along and see just what the WI can do under these circumstances.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

A dozen of us from Mere, together with 20 or more from Heytesbury Deanery, joined hundreds of other members from around Salisbury Diocese, in Wilton on 28th July for a very memorable day in lovely sunshine, for the visit of Lynn Tembey, MU World Wide President. Now, as we go to print, we're getting ready for our Cake Stall in The Square in aid of MU Wheels Appeal – the fund which helps to provide 'wheels' (usually bicycles) to enable MU health workers in poor countries reach families most in need of support.

At our Meeting in the **Grove Building at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 9th September** we will continue with a wider-world focus: specifically on **India and Suchana - with a Taste of Thailand** as Ross and I share photos, video-clips, anecdotes and memories from our visit to these places earlier this year. As usual, anyone who would like to join us for the afternoon would be very welcome!

Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553

GROVE BUILDINGS "100 CLUB"

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for July 2014, drawn on Tuesday, 3rd July by Mrs Van Sloten was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 6	Mr T Stedman
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 204	Dr P McManus
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 174	Ms B Kimm
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 166	Ms M Mouncer

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for August 2014, drawn on Friday, 1st August by Mr Graham Avory was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 85	Dr W Price
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 193	Mrs C Luccock
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 75	Mrs S Shotter
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 32	Mrs M Trussler

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Club has celebrated its 50th anniversary this year with another wonderful year of bowls and special one-off matches against both Bowls Wiltshire and Westbrook League select teams. We are now looking forward to the finals of our Club Competitions, our final matches of the season prior to the Club closing and us then putting the green to bed for the winter.

We will open our 2015 season at a date yet to be decided in April of next year. Anyone interested in trying the game should come along on that date to make the most of the following season, keep a watch on Mere Matters for dates/times of the opening day as well as a possible Club Open Day for next year. The Club plans to hold its usual 'Barn Dance' in the Grove Building. Profits will be in aid of a local charity and the date of the dance is also to be confirmed but it is planned to be held during the spring of 2015 – just the thing to shake off those winter blues. As before watch this space for details.

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

Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747 860775

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Love Punch (12A)

Emma Thompson Pierce Brosnan
Celia Imrie Timothy Spall

Discovering that a crooked financier has made off with their pension fund, divorced couple Kate (**Thompson**) and Richard (**Brosnan**) enlist the help of their friends Jerry and Penelope (**Spall** and **Imrie**) and head to the South of France with a scheme to recover their money by stealing a diamond.

In The Lecture Hall
Thursday, 11th September, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £6.00
Available from The Library

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257
Visit our website at **www.moviola.org**



Mere Tiddlers and Toddlers Group

Mere Lecture Hall

Mondays-Term-time only, 9.30-11.30 a.m.

£1.50 per child over aged one, Babies free. All welcome!

Tea/ coffee , snacks, homemade biscuits, ride ons, slide, dressing up, ball pool, water and sand play, music and singing, parachute games included.

Anne Rich ☎ 01747861493

MERE CHILDRENS CENTRE

I hope that you have all had a good summer, taking advantage of the sunny days and not getting caught out by the rain during unexpected showers!

It's back to school and nursery for many of our children with their energy renewed after the long rest. Here at the centre it has been business as normal during the summer with some messy play days during **Stay and Play** on Wednesday mornings. Also, we have had role play, small world play and, at the time of going to press, are even planning a picnic with sandwiches made by the children for their snack.

Our **singing group** in Zeals Parish room has been resting during August but is planning to re-open again on Tuesday mornings in September. Children can learn so much through singing these simple songs – body parts, how to count, their alphabet and animal names. Singing with your child is also a big help in speech and language development.

Our **Breastfeeding Club**, which is led by volunteer Mel Collins meets on Wednesday afternoons. It is a friendly relaxed support group for mums who are breastfeeding to get together and discuss various topics and get support from Mel and other breastfeeding mums.

Bumps and Babies still meets from 1.30 to 3.00pm on a Friday afternoon. This a friendly group for parents-to-be and children up to the age of 18 months. We have activities planned to promote babies' physical, emotional, speech and social development.

Our **Sensory Room** continues to be a big hit with children, who love to press the buttons and change the colour of the lights. They are fascinated by our big bubble tube and the light waterfall. This is available for private bookings by ringing the number below and speaking to one of the team.

If you have children under five, but are not registered with the Centre yet would like to visit us to attend our groups and use our facilities, please drop in at the centre, which is on the school site or ring us on the number below and speak to a member of our friendly team.

Jane Smith, Family Practitioner (1) ☎ 01747 861108

“BYE BYE” BARN BUDDIES

After much consideration it has been decided to close Barn Buddies.

When Barn Buddies was started, nearly 14 years ago, it was because there were not many activities in Mere for young people, and particularly for children aged under 13. Since then however, more and more activities have become available for young people in and around Mere.

We have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the hundreds of young people who have come to the barn on Friday evenings over the years. It is good to see some of them now at work and with families of their own; and all of them willing to say ‘hello’!

There have been many highlights over the years. The first bbq when the barn filled with smoke and the rain poured in over the bar; Carol singing through West Knoyle and Mere; Barn Buddies Christmas plays, including one in front of the Bishop of Ramsbury; Hosting a service of confirmation in the barn for Barn Buddies members; A Diamond Jubilee party; A fantastic evening of fund-raising for Help for Heroes, where the barn was packed and so much money was raised in just a couple of hours. I am sure that you all have your own memories as well.

Over the past fourteen years Barn Buddies has been very well supported by the whole community of Mere. We are most grateful to all of the local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported us in so many ways. We are grateful that so many young people have wanted to come, and that parents were willing to bring them. Our neighbours have been patient with the extra traffic on Friday evenings and Mr & Mrs Davies have been most generous in letting us use the barn.

Now, Mary, Ann and I can find something else to do on Friday evenings. Our thanks to you all, for your support and encouragement over the years.

Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

FLOWER FESTIVAL

“THE JOY OF SONG”

All floral displays illustrate hymns and songs sung during

World War 1

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MAIDEN BRADLEY

20th and 21st September 10.00am to 5.00pm

Harvest festival service will be at 5.30pm on Sunday, 21st

Tea and Cake will be available



GOLD CLASS REPORTS

We are all looking forward to the Summer Break. This half term has seen many exciting events including our multi-cultural Spanish day, Gardening Show, London Theatre Trip and of course Sports day!

Yellow Class visit Langford Lakes

Yellow Class had a day trip to Langford Lakes near Salisbury. The day included making clay beasts, pond dipping, a sensory hunt and a collage of natural materials. A fantastic day out!

Church Visits

All of Key Stage 1 and Gold Class have recently visited the Church of St. Michaels in Mere. All the children had a chance to explore the church and get hands on with some of the artefacts in the church. An experience the child learnt a great deal from. A big thank you to all those that gave up their time to show us around.

Theatre Trip

Some lucky students from Year 4, 5 and 6 went on our annual theatre trip to London and this year watched Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

‘Buenos dias’

Our multicultural day this year was all about Spain. The workshops included making peg dolls, self portraits in the style of Salvador Dali, Spanish dancing, talking Spanish and Tapas.

Gardening Show

All the classes entered the Gardening Show held at the school. Categories included vegetable animals, flower arranging, clay modelling and vegetable aliens.

Good Luck!

We would like to wish all of the children in both Purple Classes good luck as they move on to Gillingham School next year.

Celebration

The end of term saw many celebrations of the year. The year 6s in Purple Class put on a fantastic musical production of ‘Move it’. Many of the children’s achievements were recognised in our celebration assembly and the final day of term saw the year 6s say good by with their leaver’s assembly.

STOP PRESS!

Look on our website for latest news and pictures:

www.mereschool.co.uk

CONCERT

Saturday, 20th September at 6.30pm

St Michael's Church

A varied musical concert by Zara Lee (& friends) in order to raise funds
for Kings World Trust for Children

Tickets available in advance @ £8 each or 2 tickets for £15 to include a
drink in the interval

For tickets, please contact:

Emily Tulloch ☎ 01747 830280

✉: lettings@hillgrove.net

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

For the first time this year we are going as a family to hire a boat and "cruise" on the Norfolk Broads; we're hoping our sons will pilot the boat and leave us reading and relaxing. The gospels have a number of stories about the disciples' struggles with boats on water. The Jews were very wary of water and thought it was where sea monsters and all manner of evil lived.

In the story of Jesus walking on water, we are given one of the many demonstrations of Jesus' Godlike qualities. Jesus' power over the water was absolutely amazing to his followers, all they can do when he gets in the boat is worship him. The children's worship song says "Our God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing that he cannot do". Jesus was quite clear in his final instructions to his followers: you too can do surprising things by faith. Peter manages it when he trusts in God, but not when he doubts. God's power is great and it is a power which can transform us as individuals and as communities, if we allow it in both big and quiet ways.

In ministry I have met some truly lovely people. One of them was a lady who had spent her life serving people with great kindness. Sadly she contracted cancer and was given months to live. It was extraordinary because as her body diminished in vigour her spirit came even more fully alive. As you left her after a visit you felt invigorated, not down-hearted. Her Christian faith and that of her devout sister shone out. She was full of hope- what a paradox by ordinary thinking isn't it?

With love in Christ,

PS Are you a user of our lovely Grove Building? A number of key people from the current committee are sadly stepping down after doing a fantastic job over a number of years. New people are coming forward to help run it, but if there are any teething

problems in the meantime, please accept our apologies in advance for this. Bookings enquiries details in the usual section.



IN MERE & DISTRICT

are holding a **ONE WORLD FAIR** in **STOURTON VILLAGE HALL** at Stourhead from **1.30-4.00pm** on **Tuesday, 28th October** (Half Term Week).

Any local charity or any organisation in sympathy with the aims of One World Week is welcome to have a stall for a booking fee of £5.00. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553 & Janet Way ☎ 01747 8608840
Joint Secretaries, Churches Together in Mere & District

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Friends of St Michael's Church will be holding their **Autumn Bazaar** in the Grove Building on Saturday, 27th September from 10.00am. Everyone is welcome, and if you have items for any of the stalls, we will be very pleased to receive them. Please contact the stallholders as shown below. Thank you.

Cakes & Biscuits	Mrs Thelma Ings	860262
Bric-a-Brac	Mrs Jean Knapp	860142
	Mrs Melanie Mouncer	860141
Books	Mrs Jenny Wilding	860908
Tombola	Mrs Kate Symonds	861278
	Mr Martin Eyles	863450
Raffle	Mrs Pat Isom	861776
Teas	Mrs Jean Eyles	863450

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, MERE

Songs of Praise

Sunday, 21st September @ 6.00 pm

Do come along to join us in singing and praise

METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

Café Worship

Coffee mornings are held every Wednesday but we have had a short break for the summer holidays and we begin again with Cafe Worship at 10.30am in the School Room on Wednesday 24th September with Mr Brian Collis. Do come and have a pause in the busy week.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Everyone is welcome to come to a
COFFEE MORNING and BRING & BUY
 in Aid of Suchana
 on Tuesday, 23rd September 10.30am-12.00noon
 at 48 Bramley Hill (Jenny Larder's house) ☎ 01747 861397

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

SEPTEMBER 2014

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉: carolw953@aol.com

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

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			
Tuesday	2nd	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Communion (BCP)
Sunday	7th	9.15am	Said Eucharist followed by coffee
		10.30am	Family Praise Service
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		4.30pm	Pet Service
	*21st	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	28th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			St Michael the Archangel
			Patronal Benefice Service

*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	7th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	14th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
Sunday			Holy Communion
	21st	11.00am	Harvest Festival at the Methodist Church, followed by lunch
	28th	11.00am	To be announced

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin, ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	7th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
			Holy Communion
	14th	6.00pm	Mrs Margaret Whitford
	21st	6.00pm	Harvest Festival united with URC
			Rev'd Dr Christine Le Moignan
	28th	6.00pm	Mrs Christine Marsh

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's.

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

Every Saturday	5.30pm	Mass
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West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin ☎ 01747 830534

Sunday	7th	9.30am	DIY
	14th	9.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	21st	9.30am	Matins (BCP)
	28th	10.30am	Benefice Service at St Michaels
			NO service at West Knoyle

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

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER 2014

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; 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; RGC-Rosemary Goddard Centre; MSC Mere Social Club. Rec-Recreation Ground

1	Mon	10.00am	Chair based Zumba (every Monday)	L
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		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
2	Tue	6.00pm	- Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	L
3	Wed	11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Carnival Quiz	GB
4	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
4	Thur	2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
5	Fri	10.00am	- 10.30am Rhyme Time (every Friday)	Lib
		10.30am	St Michaels "Coffee Drop-in" Morning	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (every Friday)	L
		7.30pm	Carnival Bingo	GB
6	Sat	9.00am	Garden Show	L
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 13th, 20th & 27th)	CC
		2.00pm	Autumn Fair	Fives Court
		7.00pm	Oasis Club Bingo	L
7	Sun	10.00am	- 3.00pm Skate Park Competition/Family Fun Day	Rec
8	Mon	9.30 am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	- 12.00pm Carers Get Together	Angel Tea Rooms
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
9	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic (and 23rd)	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
10	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.30am	Tai Chi – small hall (every Wednesday)	GB
		1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	MSC
11	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 18th & 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Carnival Moviola/Filmshow "The Love Punch"	L
12	Fri	7.00pm	Carnival Comedy Night	The Walnut Tree Inn
		10.00am	Merely Women (also 26th)	GB
13	Sat	MERE CARNIVAL (for details see inside front cover)		
15	Mon	8.00pm	Grand Carnival Draw	The Walnut Tree Inn
		2.00pm	Mere Short Walk	CP

17	Wed	3.00pm	- 4.30pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
18	Thur	7.00pm		Mere & District Railway Modellers AGM	Band Hut
20	Sat	10.30am		Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		6.30pm		Concert	St Michael's Church
21	Sun	2.00pm		Mere Footpath Group Walk	CP
23	Tue	10.15am	- 12.15pm	Lip Reading (also 30th)	GB
		10.30am	- 12.00noon	Suchana Coffee Morning	48 Bramley Hill
24	Wed	10.30pm		Café Worship	MH
24	Wed	1.45pm		Friends Together	GB
27	Sat	10.00am		Friends of St Michael's Autumn Bazaar	GB
30	Tue	7.00pm		Friends of St Michael's AGM	St Michaels
		7.30pm		St Michaels PCC meeting	GB

Grove Building:

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 01225 713007)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

CREDIT UNION

Every Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the October 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, 15th September 2014**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send to: **editor@merematters.co.uk** from Monday, 8th September 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**

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