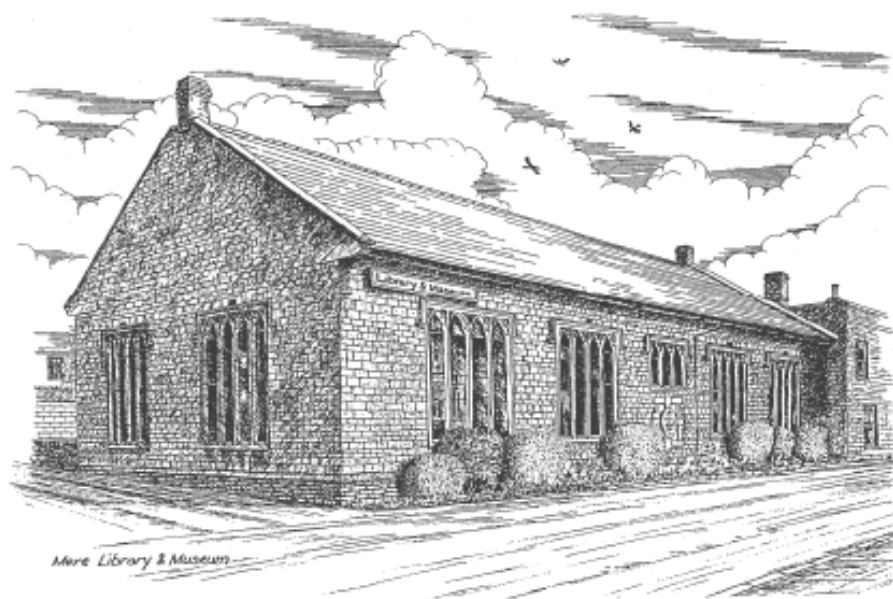


MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



February 2015

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you!

You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on **Monday, 2nd February 2015**.

The Chairman writes:

Before Christmas becomes a faint memory, I would like to thank all those parishioners and councillors who helped with the Christmas lights. Also thanks to our local Cancer Research Committee for organising a delightful Victorian Market during which the lights were switched on.

As you aware the lights on the clock tower have, of late, remained during the year. This year they have been removed. To keep you up to date with the tower, we have received one quotation for the work needed and are awaiting others.

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Dick Morris of Downside Close who won the prize for the best Christmas light display, a truly whimsical, delightful sight.

Many people have commented on the goats grazing on Castle Hill. In fact, living very close, I know of visitors who have come especially to see them!

As you may recall the possibility of losing our Youth Club in Mere has become a concern. I am pleased to report that we have been working with Jaki Farrell, our established youth co-ordinator with a view to keeping our youth club with youth services to be run under the Registered Charity "Seeds4Success", and with Jaki still very much involved.

The Annual Budget meeting, held in December was, as ever, challenging and lengthy: this meeting was the Council's Annual Budget Setting meeting where members have to consider likely expenditure over the next year in order to determine the precept requirement (parish council's share of the council tax) for 2015/16.

The precept will show an increase of 2.8% or £2.58 for the year on a Band D house within the parish. Whilst members were mindful of the need to keep any increases to a minimum they faced extreme difficulties since the Parish Council's grant from Wiltshire

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



Council has been reduced by 27% and they are under pressure to help with financial support to provide services that are under threat or being cut by Wiltshire Council, such as the youth club services.

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

WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council meeting held on 25th November, members and parishioners discussed a pre-application enquiry put forward by Valetcraft Property Developers regarding the possibility of building low cost homes on land between Dhuli Fou and Oderne.

It was generally felt that the building of four homes on this site could not be supported as there was insufficient demand for young people to live in West Knoyle and there would be a lack of off-road parking facilities.

The Clerk was asked to inform Valetcraft of this reaction but also to advise them that if they wanted to submit a formal application to Wiltshire Council then the Parish Council, as statutory consultees, would consider the matter formally at the appropriate time.

The Parish Council had submitted a scheme to the Community Area Transport Group for improved signage and direction arrows on the B3089 at Willoughby Hedge in the hope that this would make drivers more aware that they are entering two-way traffic.

Mr. Paul Yates was thanked for carrying out repairs to the play equipment. I would also like to thank Mr. Andre Filleau for carrying out the weekly checks on the play area and its equipment.

The Parish Council also considered the likely expenditure over the next year in order to determine the precept requirement (parish council's share of the council tax) for 2015/16. The precept requirement will show an increase of just over 18.97% or £8.08 for the year on a Band D house within the parish.

Whilst members were mindful of the need to keep any increases to a minimum they faced extreme difficulties since the Parish Council's grant from Wiltshire Council has been reduced by 27% and they are under pressure to help with financial support to provide services that are under threat or being cut by Wiltshire Council.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

Firstly, an important piece of information for residents of Mere. **Mere Post Office**, (but not the shop, Waltons of Mere), will close early on Wednesday, 25th February and not re-open until the afternoon of Thursday, 5th of March. This is for conversion to a Main Post Office model. Zeals and Bourton Post Offices are the alternative Post offices for that period.

I stated last month that Wiltshire Council's support grant from Central Government is projected by the Treasury to reduce to zero, by 2022-23. According to a survey conducted by the Independent on Sunday, communities will be forced to start fending for themselves as funding cuts to local government start to bite. Government cuts to council funding mean that authorities will be surviving on 14.6% less in 2014-15, according to council finance directors. In Darlington, the council is asking residents to take over the management of green spaces and keep pavements clear of rubbish. Elsewhere, in Oxfordshire, subsidised transport for the elderly and disabled will be cut back. Barnet is handing over responsibility for community events and support groups to local businesses. Buckinghamshire will only provide school transport to poorer households. Each month I try to keep you up to date with what Wiltshire Council can provide with ever diminishing funds: for instance Wiltshire has allowed some funds to help maintain a youth service, whereas some other councils have cut all funding for youth services. Wiltshire Council's forthcoming year's budget will be decided at County Hall at 10.30am on Tuesday, 24th February.

Mere Parish Council has agreed to allow a charity, Seeds4Success, (which will take in Mere and also may be Tisbury and Wilton) to take over The Youth Club Building in The Mere Peace Memorial Recreation Ground. This building was formerly leased to Wiltshire Council. Wilton Town Council has found a source of funding for a youth worker, and has taken over responsibility for the youth club building, which it has taken over from Wiltshire Council. Tisbury Parish Council has contributed towards the youth in its area as well. The South West Wiltshire Area Board is now charged with providing a youth service for young people aged 13 to 19. Local Youth Networks (Chat LYN) are being established in Mere, Tisbury and Wilton. A LYN embracing all three (and being effectively a LYN management committee) will guide how the money allocated for the purpose by the WC South West Wiltshire Area Board will be spent on youth.

Last month The Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council asked if local parish councils will fund the SIDs (Seed Indicator Device) programme. At a recent CATYG meeting interest was shown for their retention in this area, but the SIDS programme will not now be Wiltshire-wide as not enough Town and Parish Councils came forward to provide coverage for all of Wiltshire.

A Pedestrian Salt Spreader has been awarded to Mere for use by Mere Parish Council by the South West Wiltshire Area board. A local charity agreed a Salt bin for Westfields, Zeals recently, and now another local charity has given one for Barnes Place Mere. These bins are for use by very local residents, and near by residents hold the keys. The Mere area from West Knoyle to Kilmington now has salt, powered vehicle spreaders, trained drivers, snow shovels and so on, so we have one of the best prepared areas in Wiltshire for inclement weather.

The Lecture Hall Trust in Mere informed some or all of its tenants in residential and commercial property that it may need to sell some of its property. Some of the local tenants have approached me to speak to the trustees. The Lecture Hall Trust has agreed to this request.

I am pleased to say after my request for a Digital Champion to volunteer last month, to train those with little experience of a computer, some success has been achieved.

The assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs is a statutory requirement under Section 225 of the Housing Act 2004. A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) has now been completed by independent consultants, Opinion Research Services, in line with the latest adopted government guidance. The GTAA can be found on the Wiltshire Council website at the following address:- **<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/gypsyandtravellersdspd.htm>**. Local authorities are also required by national planning policy to produce development plan policies that set requirements for new traveller pitches and travelling showpeople plots, and allocate sites to help deliver this requirement. While the Wiltshire Core Strategy already identifies requirements for the period to 2021 in Core Policy 47, in order to satisfy the Core Strategy Inspector, a commitment was made in the Core Strategy to carry out a full GTAA to review and roll forward the requirements in Core Policy 47 to ensure adequate provision across the plan period to 2026. It concludes that overall there is a requirement for 90 traveller pitches between 2014 and 2029, and seven additional plots for travelling showpeople.

A document that sets out the policies required for planning permission consisting of 546 pages, named the Wiltshire Core Strategy, will almost certainly be adopted at a meeting on Tuesday 20th January.

I am familiar with the role of work of a project board, having worked with the Wiltshire Online Project and others, and I am pleased to have been accepted to work on another project board, Paperless working. I shall have a lead input to reporting back at key milestones in the project to the select committee and/or task group as necessary (with appropriate officer support). The knowledge gained also should help locally.

The Campus for many services is underway at Tisbury. It was proposed at the Tisbury Campus team meeting that members of the Community Operations Board visit local

Parish Councils to provide an update on the campus programme and explain how the wider community area can get involved/benefit, after contractors started work on site on 5th January 2015. Local Parishes can receive such a presentation.

Superfast Broadband has reached Wilton in my South West Wilts Board's area, and the local councillor said they had 80Mb/s download and 20 Mbs/s upload which is a very fast internet speed. Hopefully within the next year ours will be as fast in the Mere Area.

Kilmingtong have had measures approved at CATG, which hopefully will slow the traffic a little along Kilmingtong Common. I have put in a similar request for Stourton Lane after a resident pointed out they were also an extension of the same road.

Can I remind you again. The **Mere Post Office**, (but not the shop, Waltons of Mere), will close early on Wednesday, 25th February and not re-open until the afternoon of Thursday, 5th of March. This is for conversion to a Main Post Office model. Zeals and Bourton Post Offices are the alternative Post offices for that period.

MERE LIBRARY NEWS

National Libraries Week

This will be taking place from Monday, 2nd to Saturday, 7th February. At Mere, there will be quizzes available for both adults and children, and any customers joining the library this week will be entered into a prize draw.

On Saturday, 14th February between 10.30am and 12.00noon, love will be in the air at the library with children's stories and craft activities involving hearts and teddies! Any accompanied children welcome.

Just a reminder of ongoing events – The Memory Loss Reading Group meets here on Wednesdays between 2.30 and 4.00pm. This is a friendly and stimulating group where people with memory loss and their carers can read, listen and chat about stories and poems; David from Alzheimers Support is here between 2.00 and 4.00pm on the 1st Friday of every month, for information, advice and guidance; Leslie, the nurse, is available on Tuesday afternoons between 1.30 and 4.30pm to help with any concerns over your health: and the Credit Union is on Saturday mornings between 10.00 and 11.00am. There is also a monthly visit from the police.

For younger visitors, Rhyme Time continues, Friday mornings from 10.00 to 10.30am.

Mere Library Book Sale

During the week commencing Monday, 16th February, Hardback and Paperback Adult and Junior Fiction, together with Adult Non Fiction, DVD's and Spoken Word Cassettes

will be on sale at Bargain Prices. All proceeds go back into Wiltshire Council Library Book Funds.
Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546

VOLUNTEER CENTRE WILTSHIRE

Kick start 2015 with a new challenge!

Have you started on your New Year's resolution? Let Volunteer Centre Wiltshire help you find an exciting new challenge to take on. Whether you are looking to support your community a few hours a month or a day a week, there is a volunteering opportunity that suits your interest! Here are just a few of the 1500 opportunities we have in Wiltshire:

- Complementary Therapies/Beauty Treatments, Carer Support Wiltshire
- Visiting volunteer with dog/cat, Pets as Therapy
- Memory Awareness Volunteer, Alzheimer's Support
- NHS Complaints Advocate Volunteer, SWAN Advocacy Volunteer

Have you set yourself a new resolution for this year? Volunteering can help you achieve those goals! If you are looking to spend more time outdoors, or meet new people, or improve your IT skills, we can help you find the right opportunity.

Debbie got in touch with Volunteer Centre Wiltshire after being unemployed for some time due to ill health. She shared her experience with us: *"I feel more positive going forward and I am looking forward to getting out and meeting new people."*

If you'd like to start volunteering, get in touch and we can help find the best role for you. Visit our website: **www.volunteercentrewiltshire.org.uk** or call us ☎ 0845 521 6224 to talk to one of our Volunteering Advisers. Volunteer Centre Wiltshire is located in DEVELOP's offices at 3 -4 New Road, Chippenham, SN15 1EJ.

THANKS

The Late Pat Durkee

I would like to thank all those who sent condolences following the death of my wife, Pat Durkee. The cards and kind messages are much appreciated by me and my family.

Peter Durkee

Editors Note. It is with great sadness that just as this edition closed, I was informed that Peter Durkee, the first long term Editor of "Mere Matters", had also passed away. Obituary, next month.

Graham Avory, Editor

The Late Bernard Howell

I and the family send sincere thanks to all who sent kind messages of sympathy and support on the death of Bernard; these were a great comfort to us.

Grateful thanks to the many friends who attended his funeral and for the generous donations in Bernard's memory which amounted to £953 shared between Gillingham RBL and Mere Cancer Research UK.

Our appreciation also to the band and organist, the standard bearers of Gillingham RBL and the Wiltshire Normandy Veterans Association, and to the veterans' guard of honour. Also to the Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, Lay Minister Jane Hurd, and to Hill and Son for the funeral arrangements. Thank you all.

Adrienne Howell

MERE SURGERY 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**

HEAR TO HELP

Hearing Aid Clinic

This Clinic is organised by volunteers from 'Action On Hearing Loss' in collaboration with the Audiology Department at Salisbury Hospital.

We can retube most aids supplied by Salisbury Audiology, this should be done every at least every 6 months, after this time the tubes become hard and do not function properly. It helps a great deal if you would bring either the brown book or white card issued to you by audiology.

The February Clinic will be held on Thursday, 5th February from 10.00 to 11.30am at Mere Surgery.

Clinics are also held at Gillingham Town Hall on the first Tuesday of the month from 10.00am -12.00pm, and at Shaftesbury Westminster Memorial Hospital on the first Friday of the month from 10.00am -12.00pm

For further information please contact me:

Gill Drayson ☎ 01722 580014

MERE SURGERY

Dr Bill Price's Retirement Party, Friday 27th March

Dear Patients,

As you will know, Bill Price retired from the surgery last year after 27 years.

We are holding a retirement party for Bill at the Grove Building on Friday, 27th March from 5.30 – 7.30pm and hope that any of you who have known him and benefitted from his devoted care over the years will be able to attend. We would love to see lots of you!

Yours sincerely,

Mere Surgery

Michele Mason, Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001

S T O P

DON'T MOVE ON!! thinking this is nothing of interest to you!!

Please take a moment to do just that.....think! – are you having difficulty with hearing as you once did? – or do you know someone who is?

People might be having to be asked to repeat what they've said.....or there's a lot more 'volume' to someone's voice.....or feeling frustrated, irritable, frightened, annoyed on a regular basis or times and dates are being missed because of being 'mis-heard'.....or it's easier just not to go out or be with others.....or be involved in things previously involved in and enjoyed.....??

Coming along to the LIP READING AND MANAGING HEARING LOSS Group can help! You'll meet others who have been in the same position and have found that knowing how to lip read and some things to do to manage hearing loss can really, really help.

Pop in to meet us on Tuesday morning at 10.15am – 12.15pm – February dates are 3rd and 10th at the Grove Building, Mere – you'll be made very welcome.

There's also a leaflet that can be sent to you by e-mailing Sheila Thomson: **SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk** or call/text 07760-731406. (If you can't make Tuesday mornings, enquire about a session at Gillingham, from 2.00-4.00pm.

ARE YOU A CARER?

Come to our Carers Cafe

Do you help or support a partner, child, relative, friend, or neighbour who could not manage without your help? Caring is not easy and you may have unanswered questions regarding care. Why not come along and meet other carers and discuss your problems over a cup of coffee. Our new Carers Support



Café will meet every second Monday of the month at the Angel Tea Rooms in the main square, Mere.

Due to redecoration of Angel Tea Rooms there is a change to our normal meeting date, and in February our next meeting will be on **Monday, 2nd February from 10.30am - 12noon.**

If you would like more information on The Carers Support Café and carers support contact your Local Wiltshire Good Neighbour, Ann-Marie Dean ☎07557922023



Mere Dental Practice

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

It also has Dental Therapists Wendy Hester & Jay Lonsdale.

*Contact Details: - Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road,
Wiltshire, BA12 6EW, ☎ 01747 860365,*

*E-mail: **meredental@btconnect.com**, Website: **meredentistry.co.uk**,*

Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,

Tuesday 8.45am - 7pm & Friday 8.45am - 5pm



*The practice is sited in the grounds of Mere Primary School, first building
on your left when you go through the school*

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL FOR 2014

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to sincerely thank the people of Mere and West Knoyle for their Remembrance collections.

I am pleased to report that the total collection for 2014 was £3,163.00. The House to House collection was £1,159.46 and the Static collections were £1,294.04. The St Michael the Archangel church collection was £350.00 and the West Knoyle, St Mary the Virgin collection was £136.00. Wreaths were laid at a total of £223.50.

Colonel PLP Douglas OBE ✉:peterdouglas157@btinternet.com

MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS

For the first part of the winter our members, have met weekly and enjoyed talks on basic electrics, laying of grass in the modern era, model boats, radio control and servo use in railway modelling. Alan and Peter have provided the finishing touches to the front of the building that has been appreciated by some of the local community. Club talks and meets happen every **Wednesday from 7.00pm** and anybody interested is most welcome. Local events that might interest people are :-

Gartell Model Railway Exhibition	8th & 9th February
Warminster Model Railway Exhibition	14th February
Narrow Gauge South West at Shepton Mallet on	21st February

The club has signalled its willingness to meet the Wiltshire Pathway of helping teenagers get what they need in Wiltshire. To this end at a recent Local Youth Network (LYN) meeting in Mere, some half a dozen young men stated that they may be interested in practical engineering and were thinking about a career in this direction. As the club has a number of highly qualified teachers/lecturers, it is only right that they become 'Disclosure and Barring Service' (DBS) cleared so that youngsters may attend the club without an adult accompanying them.

The clubs main modelling effort this year will be to construct an 'O' Gauge model that we intend to call Shaftesbury. This layout will be on show at our **Annual Exhibition at the Lecture Halls on 20th & 21st June 2015.**

For further information please contact me:

Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977

CANCER RESEARCH

I am absolutely delighted to announce on behalf of Mere Cancer Research that we have raised the amazing grand total of £13,782 in 2014. Thank you so very much to everyone who came to any or all of our fundraising events, donated or bequeathed money, goodies and time to help us raise this amazing amount,. Here's to beating that total in 2015 !

Our first (and defiantly not last) Christmas Market raised £1,116.18, and Christmas Bingo, held at The George raised £186. Thank you to Pat and Jan for organising this. A fundraiser by Pete Manning and his wife, of Mere Shotokan Karate club, raised £35.80 with donations for tea, coffee and cakes. Thank you both.

As a committee we are always looking for more helpers, donations of good quality bric-a-brac, tombola and raffle prizes, man shed contents, garden items and baked goodies to sell, and also any new fund raising ideas. If you can help with any of these please contact us in one of the following ways: ✉ merecancerresearch@mail.com or ring either Harvard Dallibar ☎ 07788138003 or Sarah at Sprout & Flower. We also have a

Facebook page: Mere Cancer Research, on which all our up-to-date news and forthcoming events can be viewed.
Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 137112



THE MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



Mere Chamber looks forward to hosting further business meetings and social networking events this year, all with the purpose of providing social and business networking opportunities for our members and local businesses. These will include Guest Speakers on topics which we hope will be useful and of interest to you.

We will be starting in March with a Networking Evening to talk about Project Sunrise Mere and the initiatives undertaken by the Chamber. Following in April there will be a Customer Service Training Seminar. The Chamber is also planning to run more training courses in 2015. These will include Emergency First Aid at Work and Health & Safety training.

All details to follow in Mere Matters so watch this space!

Date of next Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 18th February 2015, for 7.30pm at Mere Social Club

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

Julie Cousins, Secretary, ☎ 07856 700576

TRUSSELL TRUST

The Christmas tree decorations are down but the legacy of your 130 Christmas Shoe boxes, sent to Bulgaria, goes on! Apart from the personal joy of receiving a gift, the delivery of these boxes gives the Trussell Trust people the opportunity to see where more help is needed and can be given. As a result the, Houses of Opportunity are increasing, the football clubs are thriving and the Summer Camps are making a huge difference to the lives of orphaned and abandoned children, and young adults.

So, if you would like to help any of these projects, please go on line to: **www.trusselltrust.org** and read all about them. Your assistance is so very much needed.

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film on Friday, 6th February is **'The 100-Foot Journey'** (PG) starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri, and tells the story of the Kadam family who, drifting through Europe after fleeing political violence in India that killed the family restaurant business and their mother, finally arrive in France.

Once there, a chance car accident together with the kindness of a young woman, Marguerite, inspires Papa Kadam to set up an Indian restaurant in the village. Unfortunately this puts the Kadams in direct competition with the snobbish Madame Mallory's acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurant across the street where Marguerite also works as a sous-chef, and commercial rivalry is heightened by cultural differences.

This film is the chance for you to spend a chilly February evening in the South of France, with glorious scenery and tantalizing food! Full details on page 24

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, 12th March: 'Mr. Turner'

Thursday 16th April: 'The Imitation Game'

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

'FAIR TRADE' IN MERE

2014 was an amazing year for my sales, which topped £3,000 for the first time. Particularly successful have been the sales of Christmas cards as part of Traidcraft's 'Show you Care at Christmas' campaign, which succeeded in putting an additional 250,000 charity cards on mantelpieces around the UK. Thank you everyone who helped contribute to these successes.

Fair Trade Fortnight

This falls between Monday, 23rd February and Sunday, 8th March and is a wonderful opportunity to pop one or two extra Fair Trade items into your basket knowing that buying them really does make a huge difference to the producers around the world. Or:

Big Brew Coffee Morning

Come along to the Methodist Church Schoolroom from 10.30am to 12.00noon on Wednesday, 25th February when there will be the opportunity to sample some of the Fair Trade goodies both new and old, and enjoy a cuppa in good company.

Money raised on the morning is to be matched pound for pound by the UK Government to support Traidcraft's work with smallholders to enable them to access the most basic of life's essentials. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE CARNIVAL 2014

Mere Carnival would like to wish everyone a happy 2015 and a big 'thank you' for all the support given to us during 2014.

Our AGM is this month and we will be putting together a diary of events for fundraising for this year's carnival, which is on Saturday, 12th September.

Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639



T@3

Community Tea Party



The next opportunity to join us for tea will be Wednesday, 18th February. The venue as usual will be the Angel Tea Rooms and the timing of course 3pm.

Our tea parties are going from strength to strength and as they are proving so popular we have booked the event well into 2015.

Programmes of our forthcoming tea parties will be available at the tea.

If you would like to attend the February tea party please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 16th February.

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

COMMUNITY LUNCH

The next community lunch will be held on Tuesday, 17th February 2015 at the Walnut Tree Inn at 12.30pm (note the new week and time). Do not forget to book in advance on 01747 861220. The two course meal is £9.95, drinks not included.

If you are new to Mere, are alone and want to get to know about the events, activities and the people of Mere, do come and join us.

I was away for the January lunch and would like to thank Jean Rodriques who stepped into the breach to meet and greet.

We look forward to seeing you all in February. For further details call me.

Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646

MERE THEATRE CLUB

Happy New Year! The winter programme is under way with visits to a concert, live screenings from the National Theatre and a musical. At the time of writing we still have a few tickets left for a live screening of a new David Hare play called 'Beyond the Beautiful Forevers'. If you are interested, you don't have to be a member, contact Wendy or Madelaine. Or get in touch if you'd like to go on the mailing list.

Madelaine Morris ☎ 01747 861833. Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712

FEBRUARY SHORT WALK

This month's Short Walk of 2-3 miles around Mere's paths and lanes will take place on Thursday, 12th February with tea at the Angel Café afterwards for those who wish to indulge! Meet at 2.00pm in the Salisbury Street Car Park.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

SHREEN HARMONY

Many thanks to everyone who attended Shreen Harmony's Christmas Concert on the 20th December 2014. Your very generous retiring donations were much appreciated by the choir, and have enabled them to donate to two local children's charities – "Seeds4Success" and "Julia House Children's Hospital", which will each receive £300.

Grateful thanks as well to the manager of The Co-op in Mere for the donation of wine for the refreshments.

The choir has now recommenced rehearsals following the Christmas break and meets every Thursday during term time at Mere United Reformed Church from 7.30 – 9.00pm. Spaces are limited, but if you are interested in joining the choir please contact Caroline Radcliffe ☎ 01373 474200.

Further information about the choir and recordings from past performances can be found on Shreen Harmony's website www.shreenharmony.co.uk and their Facebook page.

Jane Edwards ☎ 01380 830918



MERE IS MISSING AN ANGEL

Does anyone recall the beautiful winged Angel blowing a long trumpet that once hung outside what was the Angel Inn, on Angel corner and now the Angel Tearooms?

I spotted a picture on a fascinating website of old post cards of Mere (www.Francisfrith.com Mere, The Square c.1965 and also at www.meremuseum.org/galleries/coll_photo_inns.html).

The Angel was there until 1969, when the Angel Inn ceased to trade. Where is it now?

I'm sure that anyone who sees the Angel will be utterly captivated and convinced it should be restored, to make a beautiful addition to our cherished town. Local businesses will surely see, and reap, the benefit of such an attractive landmark.

If you (or your business) would like to get behind my campaign to restore our 'lost' Angel, or if you are an artist or craftsman able to reproduce the Angel, please get in touch with me by telephone at the number below, or at 12 Oak Lane, BA12 6FJ

David Drewett ☎ 07977 250039

RE-LAUNCH OF MERE SLIMMING WORLD GROUP

Busy team leader Sophie has a new found confidence to make big changes in her life since joining her local Slimming World Group over a year ago. With a new found confidence and mojo, after losing over ½ stone, she has re-launched the Mere Slimming World Group.

Sophie says - "I really want to be able to help people achieve their dreams. It doesn't matter how big or small it is; it is important. If I can help people feel confident and feel great like I've found, then that is my aim".

Mere Slimming World Group is on Mondays at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall. Call me for more information.

Sophie Lester ☎ 07969 371851

SPECTRA MUSICA

New Year, New Musical Director & “Come and Sing Day”

Spectra Musica is looking forward to welcoming its new, extremely talented Musical Director in January. Peter Leech has over 25 years experience as a choral and orchestral conductor, composer and musicologist. He will be maintaining the group's eclectic programmes, which have brought so much pleasure to audiences.

On Saturday, 28th February he will lead a 'Come and Sing Day' in the Cheap Street Methodist Church, Sherborne, which will include Lotti's Requiem and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.

Concert pianist Anita D'Attellis will be performing and accompanying once again. Registration is from 9.00am and the cost is £15 to include music. For more information and application forms for this event please telephone Sarah Bignell ☎ 01963 370447 or ✉ her at: sarah.bignell@btinternet.com

Peter's first concert with the group will be on Saturday, 21st March at the Wincanton Catholic Church. For more details, please call me.

Sally Greenhalgh ☎ 01749 860457



WOMENS INSTITUTE (WI)

December already seems a long way away, but we held a very successful pre-Christmas meeting with entertainment from Mere Melodies, our local hand bell ringers, a quiz, food and of course presents from our secret Santa. Just the kind of meeting to get us into the Christmas spirit!

We did not have a meeting in January, but we had our New Year lunch at the Dolphin in Gillingham on the 15th January. A party of 22 of us gathered to celebrate the New Year.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, 5th February at 7.30pm in the Grove Building, is going to be a presentation by Stephen Slater, entitled "Is it a Crest or a Coat of Arms?" We have all seen crests/coats of arms, but which is which and how are the individual components chosen.

Come along and discover the secrets, making it possible to produce your own coat of arms. If you already have a family coat of arms come and see what it means and possibly how far back in time it dates. We look forward to seeing you for a very informative evening.

Janet Fisher ☎ 01747 861323

MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP

Thirty-two of us started the year with a very lively and enjoyable meal out together at The Walnut Tree. In February we have two events. On **Thursday, 5th February at 2.30pm at Shreen Vale** (Thelma Ings' house) we meet for our annual "Wave of Prayer", which, like a Mexican Wave, continues all the way around the world – we're just a tiny part of it. There is also a special "Wave of Prayer" service at St Thomas Church in Salisbury on Saturday, 7th February at 12.30pm (Refreshments from 10.00am).

At our meeting on **Tuesday, 10th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Building**, which takes place in Marriage Week, Ben Howden will be sharing his thoughts and helping us explore the meaning of '*For Richer, for Poorer*'. Everyone is welcome to all of these events. *Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747 860553*

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE (RGC) for the over 60s

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

Well done to all those that took part in our Annual quiz, Peter Knapp was the winner drawn by our RGC Guest representative Jean Coward, with four others: Karen Guy, Di Potter, Ann Dethick and Joan Bell all getting the correct answers! So a big well done to you all and thank you to everyone who took part, we managed to raise £195! Also thanks to Gerry Cook for producing yet another mind boggling, brain churning, very clever quiz. I do believe his quizzes are famous even on the continent now!

Our Christmas festivities went without a hitch and were enjoyed by our guests, trustees and volunteers, especially the bit where a certain Miss Pebbles, ended up with a bucket of water over her head! Our guests took the time to write a couple of paragraphs in the form of personal testimonials, which were a pleasure to listen to, and a wonderful insight into how our local day centre can benefit our community.

On behalf of myself and the trustees, I would like to thank each of our guests for doing this important and helpful appreciation.

We have started the New Year with the same viruses, snorts and coughs we usually get, but we had a fantastic trip to see 'Mother Goose' at Salisbury Playhouse on the 2nd of January.

As always the RGC did not let the side down when it came to the audience participation! I was lucky enough to be sat central to our row, and as I looked up and down the line of smiling faces, I felt honoured to be a part of this wonderful group who enjoy living life to the best they possibly can. It was a wonderful, talent-filled show, with many guests proclaiming it was even better than last years production!

We are really looking forward to all the activities the New Year is bringing and although we are very nearly full to capacity now, we still have a place for a new guest on a Friday and a new session volunteer on the fourth Monday of each month. Please get in touch and leave a message on the number below. Website: **www.MereDayCentre.org.uk**

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Beware! An Invasion is Imminent!! **'Robin Hood and his Mersey Men'** are coming to a Lecture Hall near you to treat all the good folks of Mere to an evening's entertainment. They will tell many tales, especially about their struggle against that mean and dastardly villain, The Sheriff of Gillingham. To find out who wins, come to the Lecture Hall on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, 26th, 27th or 28th February, at 7.30 p.m., or to a Matinee on Saturday at 2.30 p.m. You will need to buy a ticket though! They're available at the Library NOW, £6 for adults and £3 for schoolchildren. That's Wright, they are; but don't delay or there won't be any Left (Jjoke!). *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*

MERE MUSEUM

A new year and a new exhibition! **'A Century of Posters, 1835-1935'** opened on 6th January and is attracting a great deal of interest. The posters - most of them printed in Mere on local printing presses - give a glimpse of the kind of activities Mere residents of the 19th and early 20th centuries did in their spare time. Two scrapbooks containing many more such posters and notices, on loan to the Museum from the Rutter Family, formerly of Dewes House, Mere, are also on display. The pages will be turned every few weeks to give everyone the chance to see more of their contents. Don't forget to keep checking! *Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908*



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rural Temperance 1880-1908

Canon Andrew Evans

Tuesday, 3rd February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

Many of you will be aware that the Museum has a lot of interesting material relating to temperance in Mere. Canon Evans will be using Mere as a case study.

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

Morning Talk

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 17th February 2015, to be held in the Grove Building at 10.15am for 10.30am, is: "Paradise Lost: Stourhead Gardens lost" by Julia Mottershaw

£1 entry for non-members who will be very welcome

Don't forget to check out our web site:

www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797

MERE GARDENING CLUB

‘Besoms and Gypsy Flowers’ by Carl Sadler

Wednesday, 11th February - 7.30pm Grove Buildings

Carl will sit and make a flower and small broom whilst talking about them, and also relate a few anecdotes about people he has met, and maybe about films he has worked on. ***£2 entry for visitors who are very welcome.***

Jubilee Gardens

If you have walked up through the Jubilee gardens recently, you may have spotted two new beds behind the benches. A few years ago, Mere Garden Club was left a legacy by Richard Smith, part of which was used to help buy tools for the School's garden Club.

In consultation with the family and Mere Parish Council, some enhanced planting in the Jubilee Gardens was approved. Some shrubs and bulbs are already in place and the rest of the scheme will be completed in the Spring. Plants with year-round colour, interest and attractive to wild-life have been chosen, and we hope the new beds will bring increased pleasure to those who use the gardens.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'The 100-Foot Journey' (PG)

Helen Mirren Om Puri

Directed by Lasse Hallstrom (*Chocolat*)

When the Kadam family from India arrive in France and open a restaurant directly across the road from Madame Mallory's Michelin-starred establishment, commercial rivalry is heightened by cultural differences.

In The Lecture Hall
Friday, 6th February, 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**

GROVE BUILDING “100” CLUB

The Result of the ‘100’ Club Draw for December 2014, drawn on Tuesday, 2nd December by Elizabeth Barrett, was:

1st Prize	(£60)	-	No. 103	Angela Eggleton
2nd Prize	(£40)	-	No. 91	Mary White
3rd Prize	(£20)	-	No. 152	Elizabeth Ings
4th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 185	Sheila Bell
5th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 149	Gilly Gristwood

The result of the ‘100’ Club draw for January 2015, drawn on Sunday, 4th January 2015 by John Tomlinson, was:

1st Prize	(£20)	-	No. 48	Alison Oliver
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 64	J Croxton-Smith
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 164	Miss A Hutchinson
4th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 70	John Brewer

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

BOWLS CLUB

On Saturday, 14th February, yes - that is Valentines Night, the Bowls Club will be holding its annual Barn Dance. This year it is in aid of the Mere & District Link Scheme. We will have the usual mix of music being supplied by the wonderful Black Bear Band, a licensed bar, raffle and a Fish & Chip supper. So why not spoil your valentine and bring them along to the Grove Building in time for a 7.00pm start? Entrance is by ticket only and tickets will be available in plenty of time from members of the club or from the Library – but beware they do sell out fast! – keep an eye out for posters strategically placed around the town.

As an additional item for your diaries, the club will be holding an Open Day on Sunday, 3rd May for all those members of the Mere and district community who have never tried bowls but thought that they might like to give it a try.

We will have qualified coaches on hand to get you started as quickly as possible. Bowls gives the following advantages to an enjoyable and healthy lifestyle – it is an outdoor sport with a quiet and sedate sports action, so lots of low impact exercise and fresh air mixed with wonderful social gatherings throughout both the open and closed seasons. It is also an inexpensive sport once the initial equipment is obtained, and that can be bought second-hand.

The Club opens for the 2015 season on Saturday, 18th April at 2.30pm for members to pay their dues and sign up for competitions, which will be followed by a Spider and a

roll-up as usual. New members and interested parties may also turn up at the green just inside the school grounds on Springfield Road, if they wish to give the sport a try.

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



MERE BOWLS CLUB



CHARITY VALENTINES DAY BARN DANCE

with the BLACK BEAR BAND at the

GROVE BUILDING, MERE

On Saturday 14th February 2015 at 7.00pm

Bar available

Raffle

Fish & chip supper included

TICKETS £10 each (From Library or 01747 860803)

All proceeds to Mere & District Linkscheme

MERE CRICKET CLUB

It might be the middle of winter but the cricket does not stop for Mere. The U13 indoor team are currently top of the North Dorset table with 2 wins from 2, beating Kilmington and Stalbridge. The adult team (which includes 4 players under 18) have won 1 game against Blandford but have lost the last 2 games against strong opposition.

Details for the pre season nets will be posted on the website: www.merecc.co.uk in due course.
Duncan Weir ☎ 01747 822005

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

The members of the Mere Croquet and Boule Club had a successful and enjoyable 2014 season and we are looking forward to an equally successful or even better 2015 season. The green received extensive treatment throughout the year and the grass is now much improved. Weather permitting the opening day for 2015 will be on Saturday, 4th April from 2.00pm. Everybody is welcome to come along to the club on the 4th when we will be pleased to enrol new members.

For further information, please contact me by ✉ joan.sutton2@tiscali.co.uk or telephone:
Joan Sutton, Chairman ☎ 01747860308

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Wiltshire Council, where everybody matters

Children's Programme 2015

As part of our Children's Programme, we run the following:

Football Coaching:

- For 8-11 yrs – Mondays 4.00-5.00pm – want your child to participate? Contact the Centre to add your child's name to the list. This is a new session and it is our intention to run this from after the February Half Term.
- For 4-7 yrs – Tuesdays 4.30-5.30pm – each week a different skill is coached, for instance:
 - Week 1 – Dribbling
 - Week 2 – Ball control
 - Week 3 – Passing
 - Week 4 – Shooting
 - Week 5 – Small Games
- Both of our Football Coaches are qualified FA Coaches, Level 2.

Gymnastics Coaching:

- For those children working towards their British Gymnastics Badges 8-2:
 - Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm
 - Fridays 3.30-4.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm
- For those children working on their British Gymnastics Badge 1, starting after the February Half Term:
 - Thursdays 4.30-5.30pm
- All of our Gymnastics Coaches hold British Gymnastics qualifications.

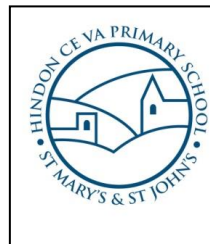
Nerf Gun sessions:

- Now taking place Wednesdays during term-time:
 - 6-8yrs 3.45-4.30pm
 - 9-15yrs 4.30-5.30pm
- You need your own Nerf Gun to participate, and it costs just £1 per person.

For further details, to book a place, or information concerning any of our other activities, please contact us:

- Reception, ☎ 01747 871141,
- ✉ tisbury@wiltshire.gov.uk,
- Website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk
- Follow us on **Twitter@TisburyLC**
- or **Facebook**

A GOOD OFSTED INSPECTION FOR HINDON CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Pupils, Staff and Governors are celebrating yet another **Good** Ofsted report that reflects the continuing high standards of teaching and learning at Hindon Primary School, for which its catchment area includes West Knoyle.

Hindon Primary School is a small rural village school and over the last few years it has maintained its position as one of the highest attaining primary schools in Wiltshire!

An on-site private Nursery, run by South Hills Schools, has also been graded as **Good** by Ofsted and provides; before and after school care in 'The Den' for children of all ages from 8.00 am - 6.00pm as well as Nursery provision. Links between the nursery and school are strong, which makes transition into full time schooling a seamless move for the youngest pupils.

The Early Years, Little Owls class is judged to be **Good** because: 'The children are rapidly learning classroom routines and cooperate well with each other under the caring approach of the teacher in a well-planned classroom with exciting activities. Effective Early Years provision enables pupils to make good progress.'

The Ofsted inspection reported that 'achievement throughout the school is **Good** because there is an increasing proportion of pupils reaching the highest available levels in national tests' and 'the school sustains high attainment in reading and maths and above average in writing!'

The children bring in old clothes and wellingtons so that they can build dens and play football in all weathers. A commitment to Forest School and outside learning is a strength of the school!

Hindon Primary School is a small school, and a recent Government review found that in the end-of-key-stage National Curriculum tests, small schools achieve on average higher scores and children from small schools continued to achieve above average Secondary School exam results. For further information please visit the school website: www.hindonce.wilts.sch.uk.

CHILDREN'S CENTRE 4CHILDREN

At the time of writing it is mid January, so we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. We start the Year with new staff member, Vicky Fielding to whom we extend a very warm welcome.

We are seeing some new programmes and courses in 2015. We have already started a Pram to Primary Course, a parenting programme full of useful information and tips on how to get the behaviour you want from your children.

On Monday, 2nd February we are hosting our first National Careers Service afternoon, and it will become an afternoon session run at the centre on the first Monday afternoon of the month. This is an opportunity for one to one careers advice and ongoing support. Please ring to book an appointment if you would like assistance in getting back to work.

On Tuesdays our Singing Group in the Parish Room in Zeals has returned to the time of 10.00 to 11.00am. This is a fun relaxed group where children learn through singing and experience, rhythm, moving to music and playing simple instruments. Singing with your child is a great way to promote their communication and language skills.

We also have the Money Advice Service returning on Tuesday 10th February to give 1:1 advice on budgeting, saving, personal circumstances and finances and much more. Please call to book an appointment.

Our Stay and Play group on Wednesdays at 9.15am is now called 'Play and Learn' and we are currently doing Sensory Exploration through sessions planned to encourage the children to explore their environment through their senses.

In the afternoon we now have a drop in session, inviting parents to drop in and use our activity room with their children between 1.30 and 3.30pm. Please ring in advance to check for availability.

We hold our Bumps and Babes group at the slightly revised time of 2.00 to 3.00pm on Friday afternoons, where parents can meet and help their babies to engage in activities planned to promote physical and language development. If you are expecting a baby please join us to meet the group.

On Friday, 6th February we have a one off event: 'ABC Weaning', a very popular weaning workshop will be held from 9.00 – 11.00am, recipe ideas and information will be given out. There are limited spaces at this event, so call soon to book.

Forthcoming events: Oral Health: Sue Dunn our NHS Oral Health adviser will be visiting us again on the 25th March 2015 to give support and advice from 9.30 to 11.30am and from 1.00 to 3.15pm – call us to book a place!

Coming soon:

Look out for our new page on Facebook and "like" us – this is a great way for us to keep you updated on what is happening at the Children's Centre. Keep an eye out for 'Mere Children's Centre 4Children', and look for our Logo.

Jane Smith, Family Practitioner 1 ☎ 01747 861108

<p>REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY 2015</p>

Mere School Reports by Year 3



Christmas Events

It was a busy time at the end of the term with our two Christmas plays. FS2 and KS1 put on the fantastic 'Bethlehem's Buzzin'. The children's singing, acting and costumes were amazing and a great time was had by all!

KS2's play 'Mr Humbug sees the Light' was a great take on the famous 'Christmas Carol'. The children all worked hard to put on a brilliant show.

Some of us will never forget the mean Mr Humbug and the ghosts that visited him!

Pantomime:

The children all enjoyed watching 'Mother Goose' at the Salisbury playhouse. An ice cream during the interval was also a great hit!

Christmas Lunch:

The hall was a hive of activity during our Christmas lunch. The picnic was enjoyed by all the children and was topped off by a surprise visit from Father Christmas!

Christingle:

All the children made a Christingle and took part in a lovely assembly where they learnt the meaning of the Christingle.

The Term Ahead!

Now that the children are back in school the term ahead looks like it will be packed full of great learning based on the following themes

FS2 – People who help us (Visits to the dentist and doctors)

Year 1 – Transport and Journeys (Visit to Sparkford Museum)

Year 2 – Superheroes

Year 3 – How does your Garden Grow

Year 4 – Ancient Egypt

Year 5 – The Rainforest (Visit to Alfred's Tower Forest)

Year 6 – Adventures in Time and Space (Visit to @ Bristol)

STOP PRESS!

Don't forget to look at our website for more details and pictures of what we have been up to: www.mereschool.co.uk



IN MERE AND DISTRICT

For the second year, Churches Together in Mere and District hosted a Christmas Day lunch for anyone on their own or unable to celebrate at home. Thanks to the generosity in time, hard work, donations and gifts from many people, we were able to provide an excellent lunch for 50 guests: turkey with all the trimmings, suitable drinks, Christmas pudding and other sweets, finishing with carols and then tea and Christmas cake, and a present for everyone – all in a happy and festive atmosphere. A very big thank-you to everyone who helped in any way.

And now Lent is nearly upon us! There will be two Churches Together Lent Study Groups, open to everyone, using the Course 'Finding a Voice' by Hilary Brand, based on the film *The King's Speech*. The film will be shown in the Grove Building, Mere at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10th February, admission free! leading in to the study groups, one of which will be held in the Grove Building on Tuesday evenings at 7.15pm on 24th February, and 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March, and the other on Monday mornings at 10.00am beginning on 23rd February. (For details of venue, please call telephone numbers below).

Lent Lunches will also be held as usual, in the Grove Building, not on the first two Fridays of Lent, but on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March and on Good Friday, 3rd April. They are open to everyone – please come! Where else can you find a nutritious and tasty soup-roll-and-cheese lunch, followed by tea or coffee, in a very friendly atmosphere, for only £3, and know that you are supporting good causes (Christian Aid and CAFOD) at the same time?

Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553 or Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Progressive Lunch

The Friends are holding a Progressive Lunch on Sunday, 15th February from 12.00noon to 4.00pm. Tickets are £12 each and will be available from Sunday, 1st February after the 10.30am service or from either Gilly Gristwood ☎ 01747 861768 or Pat Isom ☎ 01747 861776. You are advised to book early as this is VERY popular and great fun!

Recipe Book

As mentioned in the last edition of Mere Matters, the forms for writing out your recipes are now available in the Library, the Church and Sprout & Flower.

Forms can also be downloaded from the “Groups” section of the Church website: www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk.

To avoid Copyright infringement, recipes must not be copied from a book.

Please return your form to the special boxes at the above locations by the end of February.

We would like you to take a digital photograph of each dish to accompany the recipe, but if you are not able to do that, contact: Kate Symonds ☎ 01747 861278, who will be able to help.

If you need any more information, please contact me. *Pat Isom* ☎ 01747 861776

Conservation Project

During the past two years, The Friends have been fundraising for a very special project: the conservation of the painted **Coat of Arms of King James II**, which hangs in the North aisle over the north porch door. Most people haven't noticed it! But it has been there - or somewhere in the church - since **1684**.

During the course of 330 years it has become fragile and very dirty and is in dire need of some specialist care and attention. At some point during February 2015, the Coat of Arms will be removed and taken to Bristol where Elizabeth Holford, an experienced paintings conservator, will clean, reline and preserve our coat of arms before it is returned to us and once more hung in its accustomed place.

Space and the Editor permitting, we hope each month in Mere Matters to provide a little bit of the history of the painting, until it comes home. Watch this space!

Jenny Wilding, Conservation Project Manager ☎ 01747 860908

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

Renewing Hope: Pray; Serve; Grow

Christmas was a wonderful time for the church in Mere. There was a day of workshops in Mere School making Christingles, and a service in the school hall for parents to come to, candlelight carol services, crib service with children filling every place in the nativity and the Christmas day community lunch. We love to see the happy faces of people enjoying themselves and to share the church we love with other people.

Our bishop Nicholas is currently going round the whole of his large Diocese talking and listening to people. He is keen to encourage us and his tour is called “Renewing Hope: pray, serve, grow.” Prayer is always the starting point of Christian communities talking and listening to God to seek his guidance. We must also be practical servants – Jesus said “Love your neighbour as yourself”. It would be good to grow in numbers too: we

think that worshipping God and feeling loved by Him is the best thing in the world, so why shouldn't we want to share that with our neighbours?

To know how best to serve, we need to listen to people's thoughts, concerns and dreams as they will be the basis of the direction St Michael's church takes in the years to come. On Sunday, 8th February we are having a "Parish Day" led by Archdeacon Ruth Worsley who will take worship at 8.00am and 10.30am working with us to shape the future. There will be a bring-and-share lunch and opportunity for discussion in small groups going on until 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

With love in Christ

Taize Service at St Michael the Archangel Church

All are welcome on Sunday, 15th February at 5.00pm to the service of reading, singing, prayer and music. A great way to have a spiritual detox and pray!

Rehearsals are on Thursday, 12th February at 6.00pm and from 4.30pm on the Sunday. For more details please contact Ross Thompson ☎ 01747860553

CAFÉ WORSHIP

Coffee at 10.30am with worship at 11.00a.m. Open to everyone in the Methodist School Room on Wednesday, 25th February. We hope to see you there.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370



Everyone is very welcome to join our

SHROVE TUESDAY QUIZ AND PANCAKE EVENING

in aid of Suchana

in the Grove Building on Tuesday, 17th February at 7.30pm

Licensed Bar * Tickets £5 (children £3) * Teams of 4

(Come on your own or come as a team)

To book, sign list at back of St Michael's Church,

or phone Judith Thompson ☎ 01747 860553

or Jean Kantharia ☎ 01747 861168

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

FEBRUARY 2015

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel:

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

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Churchwardens: Mrs Elizabeth Howden ☎ 01747 863424

Mr Michael Marsh ☎ 01747 861212

Church Administrator: Mr Ian Treece ☎ 07754 524802

✉: administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

Each Sunday		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
		The Rev'd Carol Wilson Barker has a rest day	
Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Communion
		5.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	3rd	6.00pm	"Start the Month"
			Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			<i>With "Parish Day" discussions and lunch in the Grove Building</i>
	*15th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Taizé service
Wednesday	18th		Ash Wednesday
		7.30pm	Communion with ashing
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		5.00pm	Lenten Worship)

*Traidcraft Stall after 10.30am service

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, ☎ 01747 860685

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

The Methodist Church (☎ 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	1st	3.00pm	Rev'd Linda Barriball
			Holy Communion

Sunday	8th	3.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold
	15th	3.00pm	Mrs Ann Collinson
	22nd	6.00pm	Circuit service at Bell Street, Shaftesbury. NO service in Mere

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's.

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

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass

West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

**Priest in Charge: Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker ☎ 01747 861859,
✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk**

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

Sunday	1st	9.30am	DIY service
	8th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	15th	9.30am	Matins
	22nd	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer

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

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BH-Band Hut: CC-United Reformed Church
Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove
Building; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre;
MH-Methodist Church Hall; MSC-Mere Social Club.**

2	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers and Toddlers (also 9th & 23rd)	L
		10.00am	Chair Based Zumba (every Monday)	L
		10.30am	12.00noon Carers Support Café	Angel Tea Rooms
		10.30am	Dressmaking in small hall (also 9th & 23rd)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 9th & 23rd)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 9th & 23rd)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 9th & 23rd)	GB
		7.30pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
3	Tue	10.00am	Card Making Class	L
		10.15am -	12.15pm Lip Reading (also 10th)	GB
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB

3	Tue	6.20pm	Zumba (also 10th & 17th)	L
		7.30pm	Historical Society	GB
4	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 11th & 25th)	GB
		10.30am	Tai-Chi (small hall- also 11th & 25th)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	M&D Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	BH
		7.00pm	Dressmaking in small hall (also 11th & 25th)	GB
5	Thur	10.00am	- 12.00pm Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.30am Hearing Aid Clinic	Surgey
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		2.30pm	Mothers Union "Wave of Prayer"	Shreen Vale
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
6	Fri	7.30pm	Mere Filmshows/Moviola: "The 100 Foot Journey"	L
7	Sat	10.00am	- 11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning (every Saturday)	CC
9	Mon	7.30pm	Mere Amateur Dramatic Society (Green Room)	L
10	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Mothers Union Meeting	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba	L
		7.30pm	Churches Together Lent Study Group	GB
11	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
12	Thur	2.00pm	February Short Walk	CP
		5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 19th & 25th)	GB
13	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 27th)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba Gold (also 20th)	L
14	Sat	10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		7.00pm	Bowls Club Valentine Dance	GB
16	Mon	9.00am	- 12.00noon Children's Church Pancakes	GB
17	Tue	7.30pm	Suchana Quiz Night	GB
18	Wed	3.00pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Chamber of Trade Committee Meeting	MSC
21	Sat	7.00pm	Oasis Carnival Club BINGO	L
24	Tues	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		7.15pm	Churches Together Lent Study Group	GB
25	Wed	10.30am	Café Worship (Big Brew Coffee Morning)	MH
		1.45pm	Friends together	GB
26	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Robin Hood & his Merey Men"	L
27	Fri	7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Robin Hood & his Merey Men"	L
28	Sat	2.30pm	Matinee MADS Pantomime "Robin Hood etc"	L
		7.30pm	MADS Pantomime "Robin Hood & his Merey Men"	L

CRANBORNE CHASE

The Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership is seeking to establish a Countryside Centre. The Centre will provide vocational training courses, special interest courses, environmental education, volunteering opportunities and a range of visitor opportunities to explore the surrounding countryside. It will ensure that young people have opportunities to gain countryside and heritage skills locally. We are currently seeking to adapt, convert, or rebuild a redundant rural building/s within the AONB to create the Centre. A new charity is being established to run the Centre.

Trustees needed for an exciting new environmental charity

This is an interesting opportunity to help set up and run a new charity focused on the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The charity will help:

- Conserve and enhance the landscape of the AONB
- Ensure that traditional rural trades and crafts such as woodland coppicing, charcoal making and hedge laying are kept alive
- Offer young people opportunities to gain practical countryside skills and enhance their job opportunities
- Encourage and enable people of all abilities to get out and explore the countryside, towns and villages of the area
- Provide opportunities for all ages to learn about the wonderful landscape, wildlife, history, archaeology and culture of the area
- Foster the creative interpretation of the area using the amazing creative talent that exists
- Promote the area as a green tourism destination for those who might want to come to walk, ride or cycle or learn about the area
- Offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities

Skills that we are looking for: We would be really interested in hearing from you if you have skills or experience in any of the following areas: fundraising/bid writing, project management, marketing/promotion, HR, finance/book keeping or business acumen.

Time commitment: It is envisaged that once the charity has been set up it will meet approximately 6 times a year though some of these may be 'virtual' meetings by Skype or telephone.

Expenses: Reasonable expenses for travel to meetings may be able to be claimed. For an Information Pack, please contact Shirley Merrick ☎ 01725 517417 or ✉ shirleymerrick@cranbornechase.org.uk.

Cranborne Chase AONB, Shears Building, Stone Lane Industrial Estate, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1HD

For an informal chat contact Linda Nunn, AONB Director on ☎ 01725 517417 or ✉ lindanunn@cranbornechase.org.uk.

Closing Date: 2nd March 2015

Interviews: end March/April 2015 (TBC)

BOOKING MEETING HALLS

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

MERE INFORMATION

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

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

CITIZENS' ADVICE:

Tuesdays: 10.00am to 3.30pm

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

Tuesdays: 1.30 to 4.30pm

MEMORY LOSS

READING GROUP

Wednesdays: 2.30 to 4.00pm

ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT

1st Friday: 2.00 to 4.00pm

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS

By appointment only (☎ 0300 0034569)

& DEATHS:

Thursdays: 9.30 to 11.30am

CREDIT UNION

Every Saturday 10.00 – 11.00am

COPY DATE FOR MARCH 2015 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the March 2015 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4.00 pm on MONDAY, 16th February 2015**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 9th February 2015 onwards to: editor@merematters.co.uk

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

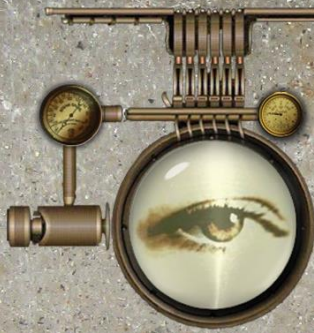
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