

# MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE  
INCLUDING A GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



*Cibé Tower - Mere*

*Colin Anderson 1992*

**OCTOBER 2015**

# 19<sup>th</sup>. MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL

12th -18th OCTOBER 2015

**MONDAY 12th RAFFLES AND THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** Prize-winning author, **VICTORIA GLENDINNING**, on her acclaimed biography of Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. A fascinating story of imperial adventure in the East. **Grove Building 7.30pm.\* £6**

**TUESDAY 13th** Mere Historical Society **MORNING TALK - Sheep to Ships to North Sea Oil Rigs** with **Rose Cox** **Grove Building 10.15 for 10.30 a.m.** Retiring Donations

**COMMUNITY LUNCH** with **Shirley Reynolds** on her family link to poet Edward Thomas. (2 course Lunch £9.95 Book with venue ☎ 01747 860427). **The George Inn 12.00 for 12.30pm.**

**MARION MOLTENO** – the Commonwealth Prize winning author talks about her new novel, *Uncertain Light*, set in the world of international aid workers. **Grove Building 7.30pm \*£6**

**WEDNESDAY 14th WALKING WITH ANGELS -A Photographic Journey** with **MELANIE GOW**. The inspirational story of a walk across Spain which made national headlines.

**Grove Building 2.30pm** Retiring Donations

**THE YELLOW BOOK** with **DAVID MOON**. The guide to the thousands of gardens open for charity each year. Hosted by **Mere Gardening Club**. **Grove Building 7.30 pm.** Retiring Donations

**THURSDAY 15th A MERE MEANDER** – guided walk of Mere landmarks connected with the poet William Barnes. **St. Michael's Church Gate 10.00am.** Free

**WILLIAM BARNES – ALAN CHEDZOY**, the poet's biographer, talks about Barnes' years in Mere and reads a selection of his dialect poems. **Grove Building 2.30pm** Retiring Donations

**FILM SHOW** Mere Film Shows & Moviola present two showings of *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. **Lecture Hall 4.30 & 7.30pm. \*£6**

**FRIDAY 16th STEWART BINNS** On behalf of the **Wiltshire at War Project**, in partnership with **Wiltshire Libraries**, the best-selling author talks about his new series of novels exploring the impact of WW1 on communities in Britain. **Grove Building 2.30pm.** Free

**FIRST LADY - The Life and Wars of Clementine Churchill** with **SONIA PURNELL**. Following her acclaimed biography of Boris Johnson, Sonia Purnell's new book tells the story of Winston Churchill's wife and argues for her importance in modern history. **Grove Building 7.30pm. \*£6**

**SATURDAY 17th POETRY ON THE MOVE** This morning listen out for poems on the streets of Mere and in its coffee spots . Join in with your own work or favourite poems.

**HOW NOT TO BE THE POET LAUREATE** A light-hearted and entertaining talk with cruise ship speaker, **Tony Davies**. **Grove Building 2.30pm.** Retiring Donations

**CHILDREN'S EVENT** with author & puppeteer, **HEATHER CHAMBERLAIN**. **Library 2.15pm.** \*Free Ticket

**POETRY IN THE GROVE** Reading of short-listed poems. **Grove Building 7.30pm.** Retiring Donations

**SUNDAY 18th AWARD CEREMONY** **Lecture Hall 3.00pm.** Book stalls from 2.30pm. **Free**

\*Tickets from Mere Library ☎ 01747 860546 or Book with Festival Organiser ☎ 01747 860475

Full details/Postal Booking Form can be found on [www.merelifest.co.uk](http://www.merelifest.co.uk) and in the Festival Programme, which is **now** available.

*In aid of the Mere & District Linkscheme - Reg. Charity No: 1062328*

## MERE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town 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, 5th October 2015.**

### **The Chairman writes:**

I would like to start by giving our latest Councillor, Mr Robert Parsons, a warm welcome. This brings the number of councillors serving the people of Mere back up to fifteen.

Representatives from Mere Football club attended the September town council meeting. The representatives expressed an aspiration to erect two small seating areas in the Recreation Ground. Mere football club has been awarded sixty seats from the London Olympic stadium for spectators to watch football matches played in Mere. The build cost of the seating areas would be achieved through fund raising and local trade sponsorship. Representatives of the football club stated that the seating area would also provide Mere residents with an outside seating area to use for other events.

Councillor Roy Sims informed the September Town Council meeting that local policing in Mere has been re-organised. PC Richard Salter will no longer be the beat officer for Mere. His duties will be covered by PC Greg Fergusson who will also be responsible for Tisbury. PCSO Peter Tscheriawsky will remain in his current post. The Town Council has written to PC Richard Salter to thank him for his services to the community and to wish him well in his new post.

The Town Council has agreed to fund 75% of the cost of the Traffic management plan. The Traffic orders can now be formally drawn up and advertised by Wiltshire Council, and hopefully the work can be started in the not too distant future.

Mere Carnival Committee's hard work throughout the year produced a week packed with activities for the community to enjoy, and a successful carnival day on Saturday, 12th September. The weather was spot on. I would like to thank the carnival committee and all participants for a day enjoyed by so many.

For information on Town Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: [www.merewilts.org](http://www.merewilts.org), e-mail the town clerk at: [lindseywood@merewilts.org](mailto:lindseywood@merewilts.org) or ☎ 01747 860701.

*Brett Norris, Chairman, Mere Town Council*

## WEST KNOYLE PARISH COUNCIL

We had a well attended Parish Council meeting last week – a number of residents came along to air their views about the planning application for 4 flats, new access and

associated works on land adjacent to 6 Oderne. The Parish Council will be lodging an objection as its formal consultation response to Wiltshire Council, the planning authority. At the request of residents, the village is hoping to get the Community Speedwatch Scheme up and running very shortly. However, there are only three volunteers on the scheme who are trained to use the speed gun and this is the minimum requirement. Therefore, in order not to place such a burden on those three members, we would very much appreciate it if more volunteers from the village could come forward to help. You will be given full training (some of it locally and one session in Devizes). Please contact me if you are able to spare the time for this.

The Parish Council discussed the recent road resurfacing of The Street in West Knoyle and the fact that it was not requested and members felt that there were more deserving roads within the Parish. It was agreed to request that New Road is prioritised for any road resurfacing work that may take place in the village, although it is understood that the contract between Wiltshire Council and Balfour Beatty for road maintenance will be ending early.

In view of the large number of fatalities on the A303 this year and the knock-on effect that this has on the village, the Parish Council agreed to support Mere Town Council in its efforts to urge the Department of Transport to upgrade the A303 in this area in order to improve driver safety.

Rodney Wayman attended our meeting with a suggestion that villagers might be interested in joining up with Wessex Internet for superfast broadband. If there is enough interest from the village, they are willing to put a small transmitter at the top of the hill which will connect through a receiver to each house that signs up for it. There would be an initial fee for connection and then a very competitive rate thereafter. If villagers are interested they should contact Rodney Wayman direct – his email address is  [e2rodney@hotmail.com](mailto:e2rodney@hotmail.com)

*Jinny Brockway, Chairman, West Knoyle Parish Council*

## **GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES**

Mere Carnival is now over for one more year; all went well including the weather. Always there are things sent to try us. Wiltshire Council only provided 4 road closure signs which caused a problem, alternatives were found locally. I had to collect some 'fair' signs from Wilton Highway Depot; these signs had been seized because some were put up in a manner likely to cause distraction to motorist, according to Wiltshire Council's Highways Engineer. Several local people allowed the signs subsequently to be put on their property, for which I thank them.

Bonfire night. the 5th of November, will soon be upon us. Please be aware it is the Police you contact regarding letting off fireworks other than described below and not

Wiltshire Council. It is a common misconception that you can only let fireworks off on or around Guy Fawkes. You can in fact let fireworks off at any time of year and on any day of the week including Sundays, but you must let them off before 11.00pm. Exceptions to the 11.00pm rule are: 5th November (Bonfire Night/Guy Fawkes). You can let fireworks off until midnight on 31st December (New Year's Eve); until 1.00am on Diwali (11th November 2015), and until 1.00am on Chinese New Year (8th February 2016).

You can only buy fireworks (including sparklers) from registered sellers for private use on these dates: 15th October to 10th November, 26th to 31st December and 3 days before Diwali and Chinese New Year. At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops.

Downside Close residences have been waiting a long time for their development road to be finally surfaced. I have now asked for the bond of money to be called in that the developer would have deposited with the NHBC. This is being done subject to the usual legalities. I have asked that the roads and pavement be made a priority, even if the pavements should need some disturbance afterwards to complete the lights. The lighting contractors sometimes take much longer than the road crews to surface the road and pavement.

I have also asked for use of another contractor other than The Wiltshire Council's contractor BBLP, to achieve a road and pavement surface within the next 6 months and I am told this is possible. I hope so as the residents have waited long enough. When the bond is called in, I would hope the Wiltshire Council would adopt the road and pavement (the highway). However, that is legality which I am told could wait until the road is finally surfaced.

Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council, is set to join the House of Lords as a life peer. In a list of nominations issued by the Government, Councillor Scott, is one of 26 nominated to join the Lords by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) was, and is, contracted by Wiltshire until the 31st March next year. For some functions, such as grass cutting, Wiltshire Council has already used another contractor. Wiltshire Council will get greater control of the work schedules; however, this may take a little time, until then, and although unfortunate, I cannot see needed highways work happening quickly.

The county council have, or will, terminate by mutual consent the maintenance contract with Balfour Beatty, and a number of changes have been made to how residents and parish councils request action in relation to things such as highways, footpaths, litter and planning issues. Council Village and Town day visits by Wiltshire Council will now cease. Future requests for Wiltshire Council services, will need to be done by individuals or Parish and Town Councils via the WC website ([www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)), or the My Wiltshire App.

While funding generally is being reduced, there are still opportunities to fund future youth projects for the 13 to 19 year old age group, plus the South West Wiltshire Area Board still has funds for community grants.

After attending a Mini Bus training course, I shall provisionally be taking some sheltered housing residents on a much needed day out.

The Old Ship Hotel is up for sale as most would know. I have been contacted by some local people who requested a group be formed to purchase the building for the community. It is a nice idea, however it would probably require many participants. I said I would mention the fact in Mere Matters. If you are interested, I can put you in touch with those who suggested it.

Retrieval of unwanted chargeable garden waste bins. As at 1st September, 1,900 residents had requested for the bin to be retrieved. Bin retrievals commenced on Monday, 14th September, with four retrieval crews, each working in one area of the county. With more residents requesting a retrieval in the north and west of the county, retrieval rounds are expected to take three weeks in those areas, and two weeks in the south and east areas of the county. Each area will retrieve bins concurrently.

Residents will be notified at least one week in advance of which week retrievals will take place in their area. E-mail communications will be sent to those residents who provided their email address when registering for the retrieval. For those residents who did not provide an e-mail address, a letter will be sent by post.

Residents are advised to place their bin out for retrieval by 7.00am and they will be notified which week retrievals will take place rather than a specific day. This method provides us with greater flexibility to design the retrieval rounds, and should minimise further queries from residents to Customer Services.

Retrieval rounds have been designed so that retrievals will take place in the opposite week to garden waste collections in each area.

At the time of registering for their bin to be retrieved, residents were advised that their bin must be empty in order for us to retrieve the bin. This message has been reinforced in the letter or email advising them of their week of retrieval. Wiltshire Council will not retrieve any full bins. Wiltshire Council will leave a note with the resident explaining why Wiltshire Council have not retrieved their bin and ask them to contact the council to rearrange the retrieval once the bin is empty.

It is anticipated that other residents will ask for their bin to be retrieved when they either see their neighbour presenting their bin for retrieval or when they see retrieval crews in their street. In such cases, Wiltshire Council will retrieve additional bins if requested to do so, providing the bin is empty, and after reading the terms and conditions, the resident signs to say that they authorise us to retrieve their bin. Retrieval crews will have paper copies of the terms and conditions to give to residents.

Residents who decide they do not wish to have their unwanted bin retrieved, can cancel

their bin retrieval at any time.

If a resident changes their mind and signs up for the chargeable garden waste service within a year of having a garden waste bin retrieved, there will be a £25 charge for delivery of a bin in addition to the appropriate annual fee.

On the 21st September, Frome Road near Maiden Bradley B3092 on the Wiltshire Somerset border was closed due to bridge maintenance work at Forest Road (Bradley Water Bridge). The road will be totally closed so I am informed, except the first and last two weeks, until 2nd November. The diversion route is via the Frome bypass, A362 Warminster Road, A36 Warminster bypass, the A350 and A303.

Also between the 9th and 20th of November, there will be a temporary closure of the C305 (Part) Park Corner Farm East, Mere and East Knoyle. The alternative route is via the C306 Wise Lane North/Upton – B3089 Willoughby Hedge – C297 New Close/The Street/Park Corner Farm North and vice versa. Access will be maintained for residents.

As I stated last month another impact of austerity will be consulted on later in the coming months. This is regarding cutting public bus services. Consultation with Wiltshire Council regarding proposed cuts, will soon be possible.

Parking restrictions in the narrowest point of Salisbury Street and Water Street, Mere have now been approved by Mere Town Council and Wiltshire Council's South West Wiltshire Area Board and these restrictions should now be in place within months..

Remember please that Wiltshire Fire and Rescue is to deliver a series of Senior Enabling Days, where anyone over the age of 50 can source information and practical advice on how to keep safe at home. The event in Mere will be from 10.00am on Tuesday, 6th October in The Lecture Hall.

## **PENSION SCAMS**

Over 55s are being repeatedly contacted with cold-calls and emails offering fraudulent pension opportunities, warns Citizens Advice.

Over four months after the pension reforms came into effect, figures from the national consumer body find that two in five Citizens Advice pensions staff across England and Wales have seen people targeted repeatedly with pension scams.

Albert Ball, Project Manager at Wiltshire Citizens Advice Pension Wise said: "Pension scams threaten people's financial security. Scammers are finding new ways to go after people's pension pots including offering free pension reviews and promising to invest funds that don't necessarily exist. If you've had an offer or signed up to a pension scheme you're unsure about, I urge you to contact your local Citizens Advice where our staff can offer free help and support."

Citizens Advice offers Pension Wise guidance where people aged over 50 can access free face to face guidance sessions. To book an appointment call ☎ 01722 580052.

#### Common signs of a pension scam

- Pension help for free: an offer of help with your pension, such as free review or help tracing a lost pension
- High rates of return: any promotion offering you a much higher rate of return than other investors
- TIME pressure: if you are told you must give your details within a short time frame or sign paperwork from a courier
- Early access: an offer to help you access your pension before the age of 55

#### How to avoid being scammed

- Never be rushed into making a decision
- Check if the company contacting you is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)
- If you are unsure, contact The Pensions Advisory Service on ☎ 0300 123 1047 or contact Citizens Advice ☎ 03454 04 05 06
- Look at the FCA's Scamsmart warning list, which gives the names of investment schemes that are known scams **[www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)**
- If you have already accepted an offer you think is a scam, report it to Action Fraud
- For further information on pension scams, visit: **[pensionwise.gov.uk](http://pensionwise.gov.uk)**

*Ann Blackwell Citizens Advice ☎ 03454 040506*

# SENIOR WELL BEING EVENT



Wiltshire  
Fire & Rescue  
Service

**Tuesday, 6th October**

**10.00am to 2.00pm, Lecture Hall, Mere**

## Exhibitors from.....

- Trading standards - electric blanket testing with slipper exchange (over 65's by appointment only as stock is limited)
- call ☎ **0300 4560107** for appointment
- Swindon & Wilts users network
- Barclays Bank digital eagles
- Illegal money lending help
- Warm & safe Wiltshire
- Wiltshire farm foods
- Bobby van & Police
- Medequip
- And many more



**Wiltshire Council**  
Where everybody matters

## MERE LIBRARY NEWS

Autumn is now upon us, so you might be thinking of cooking warming casseroles or taking up knitting! Remember there is always a selection of cookery and craft books here in the library, as well as loads of novels and DVDs to relax with in front of the fire.

With the Rugby World Cup now underway, you can pick up a "Reading Passport" containing fifteen suggested titles all about rugby. As part of the promotion, any of the recommended books are available to reserve free of charge.

*Laura Ford, Library Assistant ☎ 01747 860546*

## STAYING WARM THIS WINTER

### Checklist

- Wear several thin layers of clothing, rather than one thick one.
- Go for clothes made from wool, cotton or fleecy fabrics.
- Draw your curtains as soon as it gets dark to keep the heat in.
- Keep any windows and internal doors closed to retain heat.



- A lot of heat is lost through the head and neck so if you are chilly indoors try wearing a hat and scarf.
- Your body keeps warm by burning food you have eaten so make sure you have regular hot meals that contain carbohydrates such as potatoes, pasta, bread and rice. Try porridge with hot milk for breakfast and soups and stews for lunch and dinner.
- If you are sitting down, a shawl or blanket will provide extra warmth.
- Try to keep your feet up, because air is cooler at ground level.
- Wear warm clothes in bed.
- When it is really cold wear thermal underwear, bed socks and even a hat.
- Staying warm is a priority.

The recommended temperature for your main living is 21°C (70°F) and the ideal temperature for your bedroom is 18°C (64½°F). It is important to keep warm as you are at risk of heart attack or a stroke or even hypothermia if you are exposed to a cold environment for a long time or extreme cold for a short time.

Staying warm is your priority especially if you are elderly or infirm.

Talk to your Good Neighbour Coordinator Ann-Marie Dean ☎ 07557 922023 or ✉ [meregnc2@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:meregnc2@communityfirst.org.uk) about other ways to stay warm throughout the winter months.



## POLICE REPORT

### System Thinking Operational Policing

Is a project that started on the 14th of September. It is to trial a new way of working which will provide the best cover for our area with the resources available.

The main difference for us in the Mere area is that Response Officers from Warminster/Trowbridge hub will be dealing with jobs on our patch. In reality, response officers already deal with the majority of jobs on our patch.

PC Greg Fergusson will be the beat manager for both Tisbury and Mere. PC Rich Salter will be leaving us, and will be taking up a new role with Wiltshire Police.

I am sure everyone who knows Richard will wish him well in his new role. I know from speaking to residents of Mere that he is well liked. PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky will still be based at Mere Police Station.

### Telephone Scams

More have been reported to us in the last month. There seems to be a new one every

day!! Highlighted were calls from '0203' numbers, which look like London numbers, but in fact anyone can rent these numbers and start cold calling.

They sometimes say they are from 'The Ministry of Justice' in London and that you are owed money, but have to get UKASH vouchers from a local shop to pay for the tax on the money. SCAM! Remember, these people are only after your money.

You can now get a 'Call Blocker' telephone that will block unwanted calls. NEVER give out bank details, be Savvy and hang up on these callers. Report calls to 'Action Fraud, which collates all scams and deal with those they can.

### **Neighbourhood Police Team Priorities**

1. Anti-Social Behaviour and criminal damage to the Toilets in the Salisbury Street car park.
  2. The flats in Southbrook have been the scene of some anti-social behaviour recently. We have had several reports of problems relating to an address. We are in dealing with this in association with housing. Joint visits are being carried out.
- We would ask any residents affected by this, to report it to either housing, or to us via the 101 number.

Any resident allowing persons on their premises is responsible for their behaviour and will be evicted if they continue to allow it.

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

PCSO Peter Tscherniawsky ☎ 101 (24hrs)  
✉ [peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.tscherniawsky@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

## **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 next meeting is on Monday, 12th October 10.30am -12.00noon**

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

### **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**

# MERE SURGERY - SEASONAL VACCINATIONS

## Adult Flu Vaccination

**Clinic to be held on Saturday, 3rd October 2015**

**9.00am to 1.00pm**

Flu vaccination is recommended for patients with any of the following conditions:-  
People aged 65 and over; Carers; Pregnant women (at any stage of pregnancy);  
Diabetes; Asthma (if you are using a steroid inhaler as well as Ventolin or Salbutamol);  
Chronic Respiratory Disease; Chronic Heart Disease; Chronic Liver Disease;  
Chronic Kidney Disease; Chronic Neurological Disease  
Patients with a low immunity  
Morbid Obesity (adults with a BMI more than or equal to 40kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

If you are unsure if you fall into one of these risk categories or not please check at the surgery.

**Please contact the surgery to make your appointment ☎ 01747 860001 or appointments can be booked online.** Please ask for a password at reception if you do not currently have access to this facility.

## Child Flu Vaccination

**Children aged 2,3 and 4** (on 31st August 2015) and all children of School Years 1 & 2 age (date of birth 01/09/2008 to 31/08/2010) are being offered routine vaccination for flu this year. The vaccination is given in the form of a nasal spray and separate clinic times for children have been set up.

**Please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your child if you would like them to be vaccinated.**

## Shingles Vaccination

Patients aged **70-72** (date of birth 2/9/1942 to 1/09/1945 or aged **78-79** (date of birth 02/09/1935 to 01/09/1937) should also be vaccinated against Shingles.

**Appointments can be booked through the surgery, please make an appointment at Reception.** Patients outside of these age groups will be called for vaccination at a later date.

## MenACWY Vaccination

Patients in School Year 13 (date of birth 01/09/1996 to 01/08/1997) and older students attending university for the first time, up to the age of 25 years. Vaccinations are recommended for any patient within one of these groups, **please contact Reception for an appointment.**

*Michele Mason, Mere Surgery Practice Manger ☎ 01747 860001*

## **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](mailto:meredental@btconnect.com), Website: [meredentistry.co.uk](http://meredentistry.co.uk),*

*Opening hours: - Monday - Thursday 8.45am - 5.30pm,  
Tuesday 8.45am - 7pm & Friday 8.45am - 5pm*



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

## **MERE DENTAL PRACTICE NEWS**

Jonathan Janson is leaving the practice on Monday, 5th October to work in a private practice in Bath.

The practice is currently looking for a replacement but Stephen and Chris will be looking after all Jonathan patients. However, the practice will be accepting limited new patients i.e only people who live in Mere, until a replacement is found.

Starting in September our Oral Health Educator, Kim, is running Oral Health Clinics for children, each child is given a goodie bag including a free toothbrush, if they bring their old one with them. There is no charge and the clinics benefit parent and child.

*Francine Sherrard, Mere Dental Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860365*



## **HEARING LOSS ?????**

**Help is on the way!.....read on**

According to the latest information from 'Action on Hearing Loss', the "first drugs to treat hearing conditions are expected within 5 years". However, of course, this progress is all dependent upon funding. Currently, for every person affected by hearing loss, £1.34 is spent on research whilst the corresponding figure for

vision research is £14.21. From the same report comes the information that hearing loss is a growing problem, and by 2031 **one in four** of us will be affected. **So the problem is not going to go away!**

If you are affected now, one way to help yourself is to take up or improve the practice of Lip Reading – and there is a group in Mere who meet in the Grove Building on Tuesday mornings from 10.15am to 12.15pm, with coffee and biscuits halfway. We are a small friendly group and we have become friends, sharing our family news etc., and who are there to understand how Lip Reading works; to learn the techniques to put into practice at the session and when at home and out and about. Don't be put off by the word 'learn' – aren't we are all 'learning' something new in everyday life?

We're keen for you to join us and experience the benefits we have come to enjoy by being able to Lip Read effectively. So, do contact our tutor, Sheila, (or get someone to do it for you!) to arrange to come along one morning and see if you like it.

Sheila can be contacted ☎ 07760-731406 or ✉ [SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk](mailto:SheilaT@Bishopstrow.org.uk)

## CARNIVAL RESULTS

### Children's Afternoon Results

Class A - Individual 8 Years and Under

1st Robin Hood - Lotty Wheeler

2nd Princess Elsa - Hazel Barry

Class B - Individual 9-15 Years

1st Great Fire Of London - Alice Loftus

2nd And Woosh! They Were Gone - Izzy Wheeler

Class C - Pairs 8 Years And Under

1st Brothers On Guard - Alfred And Oscar Penny

2nd Hazzard Hill Ice Maidens - Edith And Josephine Pitts

Class E - Groups Up To 15 Years

1st Alice In Wonderland - Charlie and Alfie Franks, Daisy and Arthur Osborne, Henry and Ruby Porter, Callam, Brandon and Tate Bliss

2nd Wizard Of Oz - Olivia Gatehouse, Amelia Guy, Thomas Ings, Daisy Guy

3rd - 1st Mere Scouts

### Evening Results

#### Class 1 - Decorated Trade

1 Jeans Electrical

2 Pete Manning

#### Class 4 - Humorous/Comic

1 Rock Pots - Just Georges

#### Class 3 - Feature

1 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC

#### Class 5 - Junior Float

1 London to Paris - The Race - Kipling CC

2 Medusa - All Sorts CC

**Class 6 - Hand truck/trailer/van(with props incl. music assisting walkers any age)**

- 1 Dead Man's Quest - Muppets CC
- 2 Can We Fix It? - Highwayman CC
- 3 Choo Choo Thomas - Leo CC

**Class 8 - Walking Group (16+)**

- 1 Scarecrow Reunion - Deegees CC
- 2 Cocktail Party (Peacocks) - Funtastic CC
- 3 Nanuk Polaris - The Shepherd Family

**Class 10 - Walking Group (under 16)**

- 1 Infinity Dance
- 2 Gymbuds
- 3 Anything book - Mere Girl Guiding

**Class 2-6 - Best music**

- 1 London to Paris/The Race/KiplingJuvenileCC
- 2 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC
- 3 Dead Man's Quest - Muppets CC

**Class 2-6 - Best Dressed Driver**

- 1 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC
- 2 Rock Pots - Just Georges
- 3 Medusa - Allsorts JCC

**Class 7-10 - Best Walking**

- 1 Melita - Carina Haines
- 2 Vauta Vogue - Roger Muspratt-Hamiltom
- 3 And woosh!/They were gone - Izzy Wheeler

**Class 7-10 - Best Costume Walking**

- 1 Nanuk Polaris - The Shepherd Family
- 2 Robin Hood - Lotty Wheeler
- 3 Scarecrow Reunion - Deegees CC

**Class 2-6 Reserve Champion**

Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC

**Best Dressed Collector**

Mere Dribblers - Trudi, Chris, Lisa and Phoebe

**Majorettes:**

**Drum Major**

1 Stardust Majorettes/2 Enigma/3 Cygnets Majorettes

**Costume**

1 Stardust Majorettes/2 Mere Dazzlers/3 Enigma

**Class 7 -Walking Singles (16 years+)**

- 1 Bauta Vogue - Roger Muspratt-Hamilton
- 2 Beewitch - Sandra Major
- 3 Gitana - Abbie Haines

**Class 9 - Walking single (under 16)**

- 1 Melita - Carina Haines
- 2 Under the sea - Abigail Holt
- 3 And woosh! They were gone - Izzy Wheeler

**Class 2-6 - Best costume**

- 1 London to Paris/The Race/KiplingJuvenileCC
- 2 Medusa - Allsorts JCC
- 3 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC

**Class 3-6 - Best Routine**

- 1 London to Paris/The Race/KiplingJuvenileCC
- 2 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC
- 3 Dead Man's Quest - Muppets CC

**Class 2-5 - Ground Crew Award**

- 1 London to Paris/The Race/KiplingJuvenileCC
- 2 Rock Pots - Just Georges
- 3 Temple of Light - Hot Rock CC

**Class 9-10 - Best Youth**

- 1 Melita - Carina Haines
- 2 Robin Hood - Lotty Wheeler
- 3 And woosh! They were gone - Izzy Wheeler

**Spirit of Carnival Award**

Alvinnn! - Chipmunks CC

**Class 2-6 Champion**

London to Paris/The Race/KiplingJuvenileCC

**Overall Champion** 1 Stardust Majorettes/2 Enigma/3 Mere Dazzlers

### **Carnival Road Collection**

Derek Sealey	£200.82	brought forward	£673.33
Karate Club	£129.62	Nick Beale +	£80.90
Mere Dribblers	£126.62	Sam Cotton	£21.04
Nick Guy	£115.70	Caroline Edwards	£4.63
Clive Hazzard	<u>£100.57</u>	Collecting Float	<u>£245.51</u>
carried forward	£673.33	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£1,024.41</u></b>

Collection by the Mere Fire Brigade to be added when received.

### **Mere Carnival Draw results**

1st prize	£100.00	P Davis
2nd prize	£75.00	Carey
3rd prize	£50.00	Watts
4th prize	£25.00	Alice
Glider flight		Syme
Haynes Motor Museum entry		Rich

Please be advised that all ticket stubs are incinerated to protect personal data.

Thank you to you all for supporting our raffle.

### **General**

Many thanks to the businesses and individuals who so generously donated prizes, money and vouchers to use for Fundraising. These have been used predominately at the Bingo and Tombola, but the Quiz at The Grove Building also benefitted on 23rd September.

Some prizes were left with no names; also there were those that chose to remain anonymous.

The Bingo night raised approximately £400.00. The Tombola and Pick a Lolly in The Square on Carnival Day raised approximately £125.00.

Thanks also to everyone on the Carnival committee who helped with the Bingo evening and in addition Jean Young, Amy Nugent-Chamberlain and Evelyn Flower. Also for Carnival Day Tombola, Penny Fennon, Katy McAtamney, Louise and Owen Bennett and Carolanne Barry.

Thanks also to Pat Manning (☎01747 860144 ✉[tska93@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tska93@tiscali.co.uk)) for the design and print of the Pick a Lolly and Tombola Posters.

If you enjoyed the carnival atmosphere on Saturday, why not think about joining the Carnival Committee and be part of the fun organising this long running mere tradition? We are always grateful for help and new ideas and look forward to hearing from you.

*Carol Payne, for Mere Carnival Committee ☎ 01747 861639*

## **MERE & DISTRICT RAILWAY MODELLERS**

Now that the Autumn beckons, members have resumed their intent to create layouts. Those presently under construction in the club house vary from the large 28 foot(8.55metres) 'O' Gauge layout that is now to be called 'Blackmore Vale' and to be displayed at our Summer Exhibition (18th-19th June 2016), to two small 'N' gauge layouts . The '00' Gauge Mere Town layout has been started and is progressing under the supervision of the author. It is a little shorter than planned so that it can be transported in the average hatchback. Completed, the layout with fiddle yard will measure some fourteen feet in length (4.27metres)

ATTENTION TO 'A' LEVEL STUDENTS studying Engineering or Design. The club has an engineering facility that can accommodate the needs of a person who wishes to improve their manual skills using metal, plastics or nylon based materials, whether it be hand fitting or on our Boxford lathes. We have two retired Design & Technology teachers together with a handful of capable engineers. Collectively we should be able to solve most mechanical engineering design briefs. For further information please contact me.

*Tom Snook ☎ 01747 861977*

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS?**

The PCC of St Michael's is considering possible changes to the church building to make it more user-friendly and more welcoming.

The provision of toilets possibly in the base of the tower would obviate having to use the Grove Building where there may be a conflict with other activities, quite apart from bad weather or darkness. This would entail relocating materials stored in the bell tower and this could be achieved by making better use of the South Porch which is rarely used. The West door entrance would then be much more attractive.

A servery, replacing the present ad hoc arrangements, would be easier to operate and more suitable for serving refreshments at other events held in the church.

If the floor level of the aisles in the nave and the chancel were raised to that of the plinths on which the pews sit, many of the trip hazards would be eliminated.

More space is needed in front of the Rood Screen especially for family services and baptisms and if the back row of the pews were removed, circulation would be improved.

The North porch, which is the most used entrance, has narrow steep steps and heavy doors. This could be redesigned to make it look more welcoming and to make access easier.

The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker, the churchwardens or any member of the PCC would very much like to hear your views. Please speak to any of them or leave your written comments in the Suggestion Box in church.

*Michael Marsh, Churchwarden, ☎ 01747 861212*

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

The first Community Lunch of the season is always part of the Mere Literary Festival and will be held at 12 noon for 12.30pm on Tuesday, 13th October 2015 in The George Inn, The Square, Mere.

During coffee, Shirley Reynolds will talk of her family link with the poet Edward Thomas. Space is limited so book well in advance (01747 860427). The delicious two course set meal costs £9.95, not including drinks.

I look forward to seeing you there.

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 651646*

### Classes at Mere Lecture Hall

**Watercolour Practice:** 2/11/15 Mondays 7.00-9.00 £65.00

**Watercolour Club:** 3/11/15 Tuesdays 2.00-4.00 £65.00

**Creative Gifts:** 6/11/15 Fridays 10.00-12.00 £75.00

For details and booking go to: [www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk](http://www.laura-jolliffe.co.uk)

## SHOW YOU CARE CAMPAIGN

I have been involved with Traidcraft almost since its inception and watched the company expand and develop. It has been committed to supporting the most vulnerable producing groups, and helping them trade their way out of poverty. Having encouraged the supermarkets to stock Fair Trade goods, Traidcraft now hope people will recognise their pioneering work, their campaigns for Trade Justice and their loyalty to the groups who supply them. My sales in Mere are always well supported, but it would be wonderful if more people would commit even to buying only one item a month it would make such a huge difference to so many people: be it only a bar of chocolate or a bag of sugar, a unique gift for a friend or a card for a special occasion.

The new Autumn catalogue is now here bursting with wonderful things including a new range of goodies. Why not come along to the first of my Autumn sales and celebrate.

***Shaftesbury Garden Machinery – ¼ page advert***

## Great Grannies

Many grandmothers, particularly in Swaziland, have lost their own children to HIV and are left to look after their grandchildren. If you are a Grandma or have one of your own, why not come along and taste some of the sauces, chutneys and products these inspirational grandmas make; enjoy a Fair Trade Cuppa and learn more about how Traidcraft is helping so many people thrive.

Wednesday, 28th October in the Methodist Schoolroom 10.30am-12.00noon.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 869884

## TRUSSELL TRUST

Some of you may have noticed that the logo of the Trussell Trust is a sprouting seed, which signifies the ethos of the organisation. Because of the wonderful work that they have done in Bulgaria, they have now been asked, by social organisations in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, to support and advise on how to expand the work to change the lives of the very poor and marginalised people of their countries. Hence-The Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion.

None of this would have happened if generous and caring people, such as those in Mere and surrounds, had not filled a Christmas shoe box, and sent it to somebody in Bulgaria, who had just about nothing. So the seed was sown and now it is sprouting and more and more lives are being transformed. This year, collection day for your gift boxes will be at morning service in St Michaels on Sunday, 22nd November, but I am MORE than happy to collect your box before that date if you are not able to be there. If you would include your £2.00 towards the transportation, this would be most appreciated as transport costs keep on rising (as we know!)

Wendy Horne ☎ 01747 861712



### T@3 Community Tea Party



**Our next community tea party is on Wednesday, 21st October  
Between 3 and 4.30pm in the Angel Tea Rooms**

There is an exciting new addition at the same time as T@3; some of the digital champions are going to be setting up in the café. If you have queries regarding your computers come along and see the experts.

Seating is limited at the tea rooms, so if you would like to attend the tea it would be a great help if you could let me know you are coming and also Paul makes sure he has enough cake!

Please contact Wiltshire Good Neighbour Ann-Marie Dean ☎: 07557922023 no later than the morning of Monday, 19th October.

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

## **BUSY LAUNCH FOR MERE 'ONLINE DROP-IN' DAYS**

Four of Wiltshire's digital champions had a busy session at the launch of Mere Online Drop-in Days on 1st September at Mere Library. A second of the monthly sessions was held at the Angel Tea Rooms on 16th, September.

The volunteer digital champions answered a variety of questions about how to use their laptops and tablets: basic ones on how to use an I-Pad and how to sort out e-mail contacts, to more detailed ones about cataloguing, and playing DVDs and transferring files from an older computer.

Sarah Hiscocks, head of the County's Digital Champions project, says, "We enjoyed giving so many people in Mere some practical advice and help with their laptops and tablets".

This month the drop-in sessions will be on Tuesday, 6th October from 2.00 to 4.00pm at Mere Library and on Wednesday, 21st October from 3.00 to 4.00pm at The Angel Tea Rooms along with TEA@ 3. Anyone who can't attend either of these sessions can make a separate appointment by phoning ☎ 0300 456 0100 quoting 'Wiltshire Online computer support'.  
*Steve Hoffman ☎ 01747 860514*

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE**  
**MONDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2015**

# MERE GARDENING CLUB

The National Gardens Scheme  
(The Yellow Book)

Dave Moon

**Wednesday 14th October 7.30pm Grove Buildings**

The Yellow Book is the guide to the thousands of gardens open for charity in the National Scheme each year. *Retiring donations for Mere Literary Festival (Link Scheme)*  
Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

## WALKING IN MERE

There are now new 'Walking in Mere' cards available from the Library and other shops in the town. There are 6 cards with a range of walks, some short, some longer, some more challenging than others - hopefully something for everyone. They cost £3 per wallet of 6 and all the money will go to printing more cards for more walks in the future.

Get yourself a set and enjoy some interesting walks this autumn.

*Madelaine Morris for Mere Footpath Group* ☎ 01747 861833

## MERE CANCER RESEARCH UK

Firstly we have The Autumn Bazaar with the usual range of fantastic stalls. Why not start your Christmas shopping early! Also we have a sale of artwork by the local artist Dr Colin Anderson. This is the last opportunity to buy one of his incredible works of art as his family have very kindly given us some of his original, framed, pictures to help raise funds for our cause. This sale is on Saturday, 10th October from 10.00am – 12.00noon in the Lecture Hall. Please note we cannot accept card payments.

We also have another art sale – this time by prolific Marnhull Artist Val Toms. This is a fantastic opportunity to buy a unique piece of art - who knows what 'finds' you will find! We had been given over 400 paintings by her family to sell for Cancer Research. Sadly Val passed away from cancer and this amazing legacy will help us fight to beat cancer sooner. This sale is being held by very kind permission of Tamsin Guy at Cheese House Studios, Mere on Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th October from 10.00 am until 4.00pm. Tea, coffee and cake - free with every purchase! Please park in the Quarry Estate and we are about 200 yards down the road on the left. Please note we cannot accept card payments.

We are delighted to announce that the Christmas Market will be making a welcome appearance again – Friday, 4th December. More details in next month's edition.

As a committee we are always grateful for any donations, ideas, funds and volunteers. We are also in need of some helpful 'muscle power' to help us set up and dismantle events. If you can help us in any way please contact us in one of the following ways:

✉ [merecancerresearch@mail.com](mailto:merecancerresearch@mail.com), Facebook – Mere Cancer Research – Penny Fennon ☎ 07833 131712 (after 6.00pm). Thank you.

Together we will beat Cancer sooner.

*Penny Fennon* ☎ 07833 131712

## FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends, Residents and Staff of Fives Court would like to thank everyone who turned out so bravely on a very cold Saturday afternoon to support our annual Autumn Fair. You generously helped us to raise £720 for the benefit of the transport fund. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon in spite of the cold. Your generosity is very much appreciated by us all.

*Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## MERE FILM SHOWS

We are delighted to have as our film for Mere Literary Festival the wonderful **'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'** (PG) on **Thursday, 15th October** and for which we have two screenings, **at 4.30pm and 7.30pm.**

As the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel has only a single remaining vacancy – posing a rooming predicament for two fresh arrivals – Sonny pursues his expansionist dream of opening a second hotel, for which he has his eye on a promising property, but it is making more claims on his time than he has available, considering his imminent marriage to the love of his life, Sunaina. But of course his Elderly and Beautiful guests are always willing to help...!

Full details are on page 33, but do make sure you Book Early to Avoid Disappointment, and support Mere Literary Festival at the same time!

*Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257



## MERE MUSEUM

The second 'Wiltshire at War' travelling exhibition is now launched and open for visitors at the start of its three-year tour to Wiltshire Museums. It is called 'Doing our Bit', and will remain in Mere until November so you have plenty of time to go to see it. There is a good deal of Mere content! Mary

White reads on video from Lady Alda Hoare's diaries, and Amy Bennett from the diary of a young nurse at the Red Cross Hospital (in the Grove Buildings). There are photos from the Museum's collection too, and the stories that surround them. It's well worth a visit!

Thank you to all who supported our Hamper raffle and coffee morning on 12th September. We raised £285 towards the fund to provide a headstone for the grave of



Frederick Holmes, the early twentieth century Mere photographer, about whom we very much hope more Mere people have lately become aware. We are aiming to raise £1,000, so even with £410 now in the kitty, we still have a long way to go. Donations to the fund would be most welcome.

*Jenny Wilding*

## FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The Friends would like to draw your attention to two advance dates for your diaries. The AGM will take place on Monday, 16th November at 7.00pm in the

Library. We are hoping to arrange the next Preview meeting to take place on the same day. Also, Peter Ginn, the young archaeologist known from such television series as *The Edwardian Farm*, and *The Victorian Farm*, will come to Mere to talk about his current project, which is called "Waterloo Uncovered". (Google 'Peter Ginn' to find out more). This will take place on Friday, 27th November in the Grove Buildings. Details in the next issue of 'Mere Matters', but make a note of the dates! *Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (MADS)

Rehearsals for Agatha Christie's whodunnit, called 'The Unexpected Guest', are by now well underway. The play is providing work for quite a large cast and crew, among whom are some newcomers whom we are always delighted to welcome. We haven't got to the last page yet so none of us is sure who dunnit, but rest assured that it will all be sorted by the first night. We hope. Production dates are Thursday to Saturday, 19th-21st November at 7.30pm in the Lecture Hall. Tickets at £6 will be available from Mere Library. *Jenny Wilding* ☎ 01747 860908

## BLAST FROM THE PAST: THE CANTERBURY TALES

Mere Lecture Hall

Sunday, 25th October at 7.30pm

Acclaimed historical theatre company **Blast from the Past** present a new version of Geoffrey Chaucer's timeless classic **The Canterbury Tales**.

Fast, furious, occasionally filthy and invariably funny – this new adaptation brings Chaucer's England to life in a riot of sound and colour! Blast from the Past present six of the best-loved tales, in a variety of styles.

Unsuitable for under 12s and students of serious Medieval literature!!

Tickets can be pre-booked by ringing ☎ **01747 860163** and leaving a message. Tickets can then be collected on the door. £7 each.

Rural Arts Wiltshire and Mere Drama Society aim to bring professional entertainment to Mere please come and support this excellent company.

*Maggie Durkee* ☎ **01747 860163**



**Mere Historical Society**  
**History and Development of**  
**Variations; a musical adventure**  
**Jill Jenkins**

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

We are very grateful to Jill for stepping into the breach, and her talk is sure to be interesting. She will be using a piano to demonstrate developments.

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

**Morning Talk**

Our morning talk for Tuesday, 13th October "Sheep to Ships to North Sea Oil Rigs: Oil in the 20<sup>th</sup> century" by Rose Cox. To be held in the Grove Buildings at 10.15am for 10.30am. **This talk is part of the Mere Literary Festival programme.**

Don't forget to check out our web site:

**[www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.merehistoricalsociety.org.uk)**

*Caroline Cook* ☎ **01747 861797**



## MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our Wessex Group Centenary Celebrations at the end of August was a great success and well supported, helped by a really beautiful sunny afternoon. Nearly fifty members enjoyed the afternoon tea party, starting with a glass of Pimms and ending with a slice of centenary cake and a toast to the WI. The afternoon included a treasure hunt, with a chance to get to know other group members, while exploring the garden, followed by a complimentary raffle.

Despite a small attendance at our meeting in September, Denise Edwards entertained us with her "Experiences of a Stunt Woman". We heard how, through her love of diving and synchronised swimming and her work in a water circus, led to her first stunt. Trevor Baylis, an escapologist, encouraged her to escape from a submerged Beetle car with him. She was hooked. It took another two years to get her six qualifications and a further six years to do her apprenticeship before becoming a qualified stunt artist.

All of us must have seen her at some time as she has worked on many and varied films such as Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves and Howard's Way. She has been in Brookside, Little and Large, Sherlock Holmes, Larkrise to Candleford, Miss Piggy and even inside Mr Blobby to name but a few. Her talk was extremely interesting and amusing, including describing the several injuries to her ribs, toes and back.

On the 16th September, to mark the centenary of the actual day that the very first meeting of the Llanfairpwllgwyngyligogerychwyrndrobwilliantysiliogogogoch WI was held, we met for tea and even more celebration cake. At the time of writing this report, we are planning that the more energetic of us will walk to the top of Castle Hill and raise our glasses to the WI, before re-joining our fellow members in the Mere Methodist Church Hall for ongoing celebrations.

At our next meeting on Thursday, 1st October at 7.30pm in the Grove Building we are holding our bi-annual mini show entitled "About the WI." We are having five classes, two baking categories, one craft, one flower arrangement and one holiday photographs. Please come and see what the WI traditionally does, and enjoy a friendly relaxed evening of chat and friendship.

The next Wessex Group meeting is on Thursday, 15th October at Sutton Veny when Frances Benton will again be entertaining us, this time with a talk entitled "Pearls of Wisdom". Francis will again have her large range of pearl jewellery to see, try, and purchase. The profits of which go to her chosen charity the "Jubulani Project" located in South Africa.

*Janet Fisher 📞 01747 861323*

## **MOTHERS' UNION AND OPEN MEMBERS' GROUP**

As well as our Half Term children's event (see page 32) our regular meeting this month at 2.30pm on Tuesday, 13th October in the Grove Building is a joint event with Mere Literary Festival, and features members of Pennybank Writers sharing their prose and poetry on the theme of families and family life, providing a varied and entertaining afternoon. Everyone welcome!

*Judith Thompson, MU Branch Leader, ☎ 01747-860553*

## **DRESSMAKING IN MERE**

Our Autumn classes commenced on the 14th and 16th September with a further course starting at the beginning of November. We have been delighted at how many of our Sewing Ladies decided to stay with us as we are now approaching our first anniversary.

We were asked by Mere Gardening Club to have a stand at the Annual Show at the beginning of September. There was a great deal of interest and we were proud to display three beautiful pieces of work, but had difficulty choosing which to show from the many completed items. Thank you to Pamela Laidler, Rebecca Ross and Jenny Pluess for their beautiful sewing.

We are always happy to introduce people who have not much experience in dressmaking or have not done any for a while. Everyone is very friendly and we meet at The Grove Building, Small Hall on Monday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Our courses run for six weeks. Do phone if you would like to know more.

*Carol Lord ☎ 01747 861923 Susanne "The Sewing Lady" 📠 07788 595434*

## **ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE**

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

We have recently had a couple of speakers at the day centre, John Goff and his amazing orchids and Jenny Wilding with her fascinating tale of Frederick Holmes. I wanted to say a big 'thank you' to you both as the guests thoroughly enjoyed the talks.

Coming up in October we will be having our usual Tai Chi and pottery sessions and Noel will be along with his keyboard to play all our favourite songs that we can sing along and dance to. We also have bingo, parachute games and a reminiscence session to look forward to.

By the time you read this, I may still have a few tickets left for our Skittles knockout fund-raising event. This will be held at **Mere Social Club on Saturday, 3rd October at**

**6.00pm.** The price of a ticket is £7.00, to include a light ploughman's supper. Please contact me if you are interested.

During September, we were delighted to find out that we had been chosen for the green token scheme at Asda in Gillingham. If you happen to be shopping there, please show your support by putting your green token in our box, thank you.

*Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07835 272406*

## **GROVE BUILDING "100 CLUB" 2015/2016**

The first draw for the Grove Building 100 Club for 2015/16 took place on the 1st September 2015. If you have not yet renewed your subscription for the 2015/16 year (£12 for 12 draws) please do so as soon as possible. As they say "*you need to be in it to win it!*"

The organisation for the coming year (September 2015 – August 2016) is in the hands of Sue Phelps, ☎ 01747 861361 @ 6 Walnut Road, Mere, BA12 6FG and Lindy Elliott, ☎ 01747 861646 @ St Peter's Cottage, Church Street, Mere.

Please let Lindy have a cheque (made payable to "Grove Building") or cash (but please include your name).

Sue will be doing the monthly draw and the results will be published on the Grove Building Notice board & in Mere Matters. Sue will also distribute prizes to the lucky winners and keep the 100 Club records.

Anyone who is not a current member but who would like to join this worthy venture will find application forms at the back of the church or can get one from Sue or Lindy.

The result of the '100' Club Draw for September 2015, drawn on Tuesday, 1st September by Isabel Howell and John Page was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 18	D. Fricker
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 178	Louise Hill
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 98	Ken Toms
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 91	Mary White

*Lindy Elliott ☎ 01747 861646*

## **MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB**

It is not easy to accept that Autumn is here when many of us are still waiting for Summer to begin. However, we will be holding our End of Season Open day on Saturday, 3rd October from 2.00pm onwards. Everyone is welcome to join us on that day; it is a free function and a glass of plonk, with nibbles, will be on offer. Do come along and try your hand at either activity, or both.

In spite of the changeable weather, it has been a good season both for the Croquet and also the Boule players. The August Barbecue was very well attended and proved a thoroughly enjoyable day, thanks are due to those members who worked so hard to ensure a well laden table was provided. *Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873*

## **MERE BOWLS CLUB**

By the time this goes to print the 2015 season will be over all bar the shouting, only the green to put to bed for the winter, hold the AGM and get the minutes out, job done!

We have had an up and down season this year, coming runner-up in the Westbrook League, not doing quite so well in the Wessex League, but we did however win the Win Green trophy, which is played for annually between Cranborne, Mere and Tisbury. However the crowning glory this year has to be the winning of the North Dorset Ladies League by our ladies at their first attempt, having only joined the league this year. So a big well done to our Ladies Captain, Mary Butchers, and all of the ladies who represented the club this season.

Our membership has grown this year, but we can still accommodate a few more if you would like to give it a go.

We have lost a few of our older members including Derek 'Bomber' Wilson who did a lot of unsung behind the scenes work for the club; Colin Read our past President to Parkinson's disease, and soon afterwards his wife Teresa, our immediate past Secretary, who succumbed after a short battle with cancer. All will be sadly missed by the club.

For any other details about the Club please contact either Alan Inwood ☎ 01985 844215, Alan Spencer ☎ 01747 860803 or Don Butchers by ☎, number below, or by ✉: **Don.butchers@btinternet.com**.

*Don Butchers, Club Secretary, ☎ 01747-860775*



Mere Mothers Union invite  
Mums with children for a

# Half-Term Fun & Games Afternoon

on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**2.00-4.00pm in the Grove Building,**

Toys & games for little ones; games & craft activities for  
older children; Tea and cakes for everyone!

Husbands/Partners welcome.

*Just come along, or for more info please contact*

✉ [judithvthompson@aol.com](mailto:judithvthompson@aol.com) or ☎ 01747860553

**WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA**  
in association with  
**MERE PARISH COUNCIL**  
proudly presents  
**A MERE LITERARY FESTIVAL EVENT**

# **'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' (PG)**

**Maggie Smith Richard Gere Judi Dench Dev  
Patel Celia Imrie Bill Nighy**

The Elderly and Beautiful are back, and they're as irrepressible as ever as they prepare for Sonny's wedding and welcome an interesting new recruit!

**In The Lecture Hall**  
**Thursday, 15th October**  
**at 4.30pm and 7.30pm**  
*(Doors open 4.00pm and 7.00pm)*

**TICKETS £6.00**

**Available from The Library**  
*For more information call Mary White ☎ 01747 861257*  
Visit our website at [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)



# Mere School Reports

## New Year

The children have come back rested from the summer break and are already settling really well into their new classes at Mere School!

### Blue Class

The children have started their new topic 'All About Me' and are busy using their senses to discover the world around them.

### Yellow Class

The children in Yellow Class have been busy learning all their new routines for Year 1 and have started looking at their new topic of Family and Friends.

### Silver Class

In Silver class the children are getting excited about finding out all about 'The Great Fire of London' this term. They are also looking forward to a visit from the fire safety officer.

### Gold Class

The children now feel very grown up being part of Key Stage Two! They

have already learnt about the Battle of Bosworth and Henry VII.

### Green Class

World War Two fever has hit the children in Year 4 as they begin to explore the ideas of rationing, evacuation and the Blitz.

### Red Class

The Romans have invaded Year 5 as the children begin to explore life in Roman Britain.

### Purple Class

An exciting time in Purple Class as the Year 5's from last year become top of the school! The children are already working hard and looking forward to learning all about the Anglo Saxons.

## STOP THE 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](http://www.mereschool.co.uk)



Our celebration of One World Week this year ends with the Fair (see over) and begins with a service at St Michael's Church at 6.00pm on Sunday, 18th October led by Capt Teresa Everett of the Salvation Army (hopefully with a band as well!). The 'Sally Army' in this country is well known and respected, but covers a huge amount of vital work in many countries around the world as well. In the service we'll learn about this and also have a chance to take part in interactive 'prayer stations'. Come along and find out more! (The Prayer Stations will remain in Church all the week, so please be sure to visit them at a time to suit you). Looking further ahead:

### **Christmas is coming....**

For the **third** year, Churches Together in Mere and District are providing a **Christmas Day lunch** in the Grove Building for anyone on their own, or families who will find it hard to celebrate this Christmas. It will be a traditional lunch with all the trimmings, in a good festive atmosphere, finishing with tea and Christmas cake.

There will be no charge, but donations will be welcome, and, so that we know how many to cater for, it is essential to apply for a ticket in advance. Numbers are limited to a maximum of 60, and the closing date is 30th November. If you would like a ticket, or know of anyone who would like to come, or if you would like to help, please ☎ 01747 861212 (Christine Marsh). or ☎ 01747 860553 (Judith Thompson)

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



## **FR. LOUIS BEASLEY-SUFFOLK, PRIEST AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST MARY'S, WRITES:**

This morning, I was reading this excerpt from Luke's Gospel (6:27 and onwards) 'I say this to you who are listening: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.'

The inclination when one reads snippets like this from the Gospels is to look at it from ones personal perspective, as an individual, looking back on one's life, and remembering hurts, insults and slights that have been a hammer blow to ones pride and sensitivities.

To think of such personal insults and indignities is quite natural, but on many occasions, one has the opportunity and the time to reflect and see if there is any justification for these hurts, and sometimes one realises that there is truth in what has been said. Nowadays however, because the peoples of the world are our next door neighbours, it is essential that we look with compassion on those who are suffering insults and have no means of escaping or coping with such personal hurts.

There are some 60 million refugees in the world because man's inhumanity to man has driven them from their homeland. It is true that even as a nation, even as a European group of nations, there is little that can be done to resolve the root causes of such gross indignities inflicted by people in their own homeland, but when the opportunity arises, then we should be generous enough to try and heal the wounds inflicted on our fellow human beings who ask for help.

I am not taking political sides on this issue because personal decisions have to come from personal conscience. All I want to highlight that is if we, in this nation, which is our home and our security, were faced with the same problems that refugees are facing throughout the world, would we expect help from the people we turn to?

Help can be offered in many guises and we are privileged to be able to choose from any number. What really matters is that we choose to do good and put all our energies into trying to resolve circumstances and situations, which at this point in time may appear to be unsolvable. We are one world under God, so it's essential that as best we are able to contain any prejudice, which might affect our instinct to be generous.



# ONE WORLD FAIR

## GROVE BUILDING, MERE

Saturday, 24th October,  
11.00am-2.00pm

**A chance to celebrate the rich diversity of our One World with Fair-Trade Gifts – Christmas Cards & Presents– tasty lunches & refreshments – Children's activities - stalls – dancing – singing – Tea and Tales – Face Painting - Djembe Drummers, - Shreen Harmony and more. ALL WELCOME (entrance free)**

*Mere & District Churches Together*

*Judith Thompson or Janet Way ☎ 01747 860553 or ☎ 01747 860884*

# ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL Harvest Festival



This year – a Family Service  
10:30am Sunday, 4th October

*Your donations  
will be greatly  
appreciated*

*Please give:*



Non-perishable food for the  
Warminster and District Foodbank



Money for  
Farm Africa



END HUNGER >>> GROW FARMING  
**FARM AFRICA**

## FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

### King James II Coat of Arms, (Part 6)

From ground level, the Coat of Arms, usually hanging above the north porch of St. Michael's Church, seems to be in perfect condition. A closer view however reveals a number of curiosities. First, it is clear that at least two patches have been sewn to the surface of the canvas which were then painted to reproduce (presumably) damaged parts of the painting. There are certainly many areas of the original painting which have been lost because of atmospheric damage, abrasions and general paint loss.

We don't yet know what sort of damage the patches were applied to cover up, but this will become clear during conservation. In some places the canvas has split, and in one area in particular, another painted surface is clearly visible behind the main image, as if an extra backing of some sort has been applied to the reverse. We are keenly interested to discover exactly what this is!

It is highly likely that these repairs were carried out by Arthur Coward, a house painter and decorator in Mere a hundred years ago and more, who added the inscription 'Renovated by A. L. Coward March 1896' to the bottom of the coat of arms. The question why such repairs were carried out specifically in 1896 still requires an answer. Any reader who has a suggestion should not hesitate to contact us!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

# METHODIST CHURCH NOTES

## Cafe Worship

Cafe Worship on Wednesday, 28th October in the Methodist School Room with Rev'd Judith Thompson - you will be welcome, coffee with worship at 11.0 a.m.

## Foot Care Clinic

With Jenny Franks in the Methodist School Room on Tuesday, 13th October. There will be NO clinic on Tuesday, 27th October. For appointments contact Jenny Franks SRN ☎ 01747 8531. *Mary Siderfin* ☎ 01747 861370



A Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy will be held at Downside, North Street (Joan & Hamish Bell's house) on Tuesday, 20th October 10.30am-12.00noon. Everyone Welcome! An update on Suchana's progress and how the money we raise makes a real difference will be available on the day – or please get in touch. Judith Thompson ☎ 01747-860553

## CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE OCTOBER 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

<b>Each Sunday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Wednesday</b>		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<b>Each Friday</b>		8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
			The Rev'd Carol Wilson-Barker has a rest day
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Family Setvice
		6.00pm	Evensong
Tuesday	6th	6.00pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	*18th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	25th	10.30am	Matins (BCP)

\*Traidcraft stall after 10.30am service

## The United Reformed Church

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

Sunday	4th	11.00am	URC 43rd Birthday
	11th	11.00am	Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp Holy Communion and Church meeting
	18th	11.00am	Rev'd John Passmore
	25th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

## The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

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

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Rev'd Paul Arnold Holy Communion
	11th	6.00pm	Mr & Mrs M Rawlins
	18th	6.00pm	One World Week United Service at the Parish
Church	25th	6.00pm	Mr D Coates

## The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's

**Mere Contacts: Margaret Thompson ☎ 01747 860291 or John FitzGerald ☎ 01747 860867**

Every Saturday 5.30pm Mass  
Tea and Cakes will be served after the last Mass of the month.

## West Knoyle Parish Church, St Mary the Virgin

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

✉: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

**Churchwardens: Mrs Jill Randall ☎ 01747 830534**

**Mr Colin Seaford ☎ 01747 830263**

Sunday	4th	6.00pm	Harvest Festival
	11th	9.30am	Holy Communion
	18th	9.30am	DIY
	25th	9.30am	Holy Communion

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

## DIARY DATES

### OCTOBER 2015

**AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; 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. RMC-Railway Modellers Clubhouse**

1	Thur	10.00am - 12.00noon	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		10.00am - 11.30am	Hearing Aid Clinic	Mere Surgery

1	Thur	1.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (also 8th, 22nd & 29th)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	7.30pm
2	Fri	10.00am	Open the Book	GB
		2.00pm	Duplicate Bridge (every Friday)	GB
		6.00pm	Zumba (also 9th & 16th)	L
3	Sat	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>- 1.00pm Adult Flu Vaccination</b>	<b>Surgery</b>
		10.00am	- 11.00am Mere Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning (also 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st)	CC
5	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 12th & 19th)	L
		10.00am	Chair based Zumba (also 12th & 19th)	L
		10.30am	Dressmaking (also 12th & 19th)	GB
		11.00am	Zumba Gold (also 12th & 19th)	L
		2.15pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (also 19th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 19th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 19th)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
6	Tue	9.30am	Card Making (small hall)	L
		10.00am	- 2.00pm Fire & Rescue Senior Well Being Event	L
		10.15am	- 12.15pm Lip Reading (every Tuesday)	GB
		2.00pm	- 4.00pm On Line Drop in Session	Lib
		6.00pm	Pilates (every Tuesday)	GB
		6.20pm	Zumba (every Tuesday)	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
7	Wed	9.30am	Tai-Chi (also 14th & 28th)	GB
		10.00am	- 11.00am Mere Forest Charity Grant Application	L
		10.30am	Tai Chi ((also 14th & 28th small hall)	GB
		11.00am	Pilates (Every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.00pm	Dressmaking (also 14th & 21st)	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Railway Modellers (every Wednesday)	BH
8	Thur	5.00pm	Girl Guiding (also 15th & 22nd)	GB
9	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 23rd)	GB
10	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Autumn Bazaar	L
11	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Walking Group	CP
12	Mon	10.30am	- 12.00pm Carers Get Together	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
13	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	MH
		10.30am	Lit Fest/Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
		12.30pm	Lit. Fest Community Lunch	The George Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
14	Wed	2.00pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
15	Thur	2.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB

15	Thur	4.30pm & 7.30pm	Lit Fest Filmshow 2nd Best Exotic M Hotel	GB
16	Fri	2.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
		7.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
17	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
		2.30pm	Literary Festival Talk	GB
		7.00pm	Oasis Club Bingo	L
		7.30pm	Literary Festival Poetry Reading	GB
18	Sun	2.30pm	Mere Literary Festival Ceremony	L
19	Mon	7.30pm	MADS Meeting (Green Room)	L
21	Wed	3.00pm - 4.30pm	Community Tea Party	Angel Tea Rooms
		7.00pm	Dress Making (also 28th)	GB
24	Sat	11.00am - 2.00pm	One World Fair	GB
25	Sun	7.30pm	Blast from the Past 'The Canterbury Tales'	L
27	Tue	2.00pm - 4.00pm	MU 'Half term Fun & Games'	GB
28	Wed	10.30am	Cafe Worship	MH
		1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
31	Sat	11.00am - 3.00pm	Stars appeal Charity Autumn Fair	GB

## **BOOKING MEETING HALLS**

Grove Building:

Ian Treece

☎ 07754 524802

Lecture Hall:

Sally Johnson

☎ 01747 861063

Methodist Church Schoolroom

Mary Siderfin

☎ 01747 861370

## **MERE INFORMATION**

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

## **MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY**

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

HEALTH MATTERS

ADVICE

Fridays: 2.00 to 4.00pm

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

## **COPYDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE**

Editorial contributions for the November 2015 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at the Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by **4.00 pm on MONDAY, 19th October 2015**.

E-mailed contributions will be most welcome. Please send from Monday, 12th October to: [editor@merematters.co.uk](mailto:editor@merematters.co.uk)

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

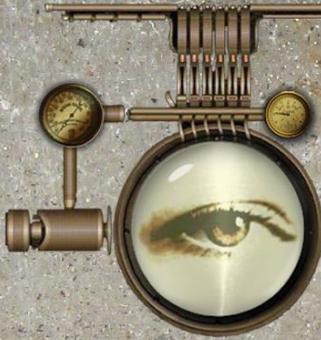
## **ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:**

Mrs Jane Kennedy

✉: [jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com)

☎: 01985 844740

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



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