

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



March 2008

Turn Page>>

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 at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on **Monday, 3rd March at 7.30pm.**

The Chairman writes

The Parish Council has been consulted on a request for a scoping opinion for a wind park at Silton. We have written to North Dorset District Council asking if they could include various issues in their report.

The Parish Council is extremely disappointed to see the vandalism in the swimming pool and we sincerely hope that this will not happen again. We would like to echo the call for more volunteers and supporters to join the Mere Swimming Club and help the 2008 summer season become a successful and enjoyable one. Please contact Sally Howell on 01747 860644 or 07813 183115.

On an optimistic note, the Clerk and I visited the Old Ship Hotel and met the new managers who kindly gave us a tour of the hotel and informed us of their intended refurbishments. We would like to wish them the best of luck with the re-opening and we hope that the community of Mere will give them support.

Rodney Coward, Chairman



MERE POLICE NEWS

The Mere Police Team has finally received its Neighbourhood Policing mobile telephone. This is just another method of directly getting hold of your local officers (Richard & Michael). In an emergency do ring '999' but if it is not an emergency and you would like to

Speak with one of us directly, our new mobile telephone number is:

07980 701606

We are also now publishing a monthly newsletter, "Neighbourhood Policing News", which is available from the Post Office, or if you contact us, we will deliver the number of copies required. You can also receive it by e-mail if you provide us with your e-mail address.

*Michael Tryhorn, PCSO, Mere Police Station
Tel: 0845 408 7000 ext 749817
e-mail: michael.tryhorn@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk*

Our report from Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Manager, PC Richard Slater tells us that there have been some minor staff changes to the area since he last corresponded with the readers of 'Mere Matters':-

"Pc Mark Littlewood of Tisbury NPT has been temporarily seconded to Warminster for approximately 3 months. (This took effect at the beginning of February). Pc Derek Buswell, a new Officer, has temporarily replaced him.

"I am currently covering day to day running of both NPT areas (Mere & Tisbury) until the foreseeable future, with Derek's kind assistance. Pc Mark Steele is currently unavailable for local Tisbury NPT policing matters until further notice. Emergencies will still be dealt with by the designated Response Officers working from Warminster Police Station.

"Any local problems/reports can be made via e-mail to:

richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
kim.thick@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
michael.tryhorn@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk
derek.buswell@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

"I trust that all readers had a pleasant New Year, and please remember that we are here to help you and to serve the community. Together we can make it a safer & better place to live, work and enjoy!"

*Richard J G Salter, Community Beat Manager 1312
& Western Wildlife Crime Officer, Mere NPT
Tel: 0845 408 7000 ext 749817
richard.salter@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk*

This month we also have an update on the Wiltshire Police Force's operational plans from Sergeant Jim Stannard, one of the Sergeants based at Warminster, and our own PC Salter's line manager:

“Basically, with the introduction of our new Chief Constable, Mr B Moore, there have been a number of changes. He wants to see officers becoming more proactive and focused on targeting offenders, ensuring that the community we serve are satisfied with our efforts, and ultimately making Wiltshire one of, if not the "Safest County".

“For my part, I think one will naturally lead to the other. If we impact on offenders and make Wiltshire a safer place, the residents of the county should be satisfied with the results and as a consequence of our actions. However, nothing happens overnight and there will be a period during which we will strive to achieve these objectives.

“While PC Salter and the Mere NPT do an excellent job, it is unfair and unrealistic to expect them to be able to do it all. Therefore, as the strategy for the coming year, I have set the "response" officers the objective of supporting and augmenting the NPT Officers. In simple terms, I have asked NPT officers, like Richard, to identify target problems and individuals and then put them forward to the response teams to enforce.

“There is also the commitment for the response officers to come to different areas and undertake various operations to increase visibility and public confidence. We have already undertaken road checks in Ludwell and Warminster resulting in over 20 people being dealt with for not wearing a seat belt.

“Time will obviously tell, but locally, officers are fully committed to ensuring that we achieve these objectives.”

Jim Stannard, Sergeant 1172, Warminster, Westbury, Tisbury & Mere

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook

Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions.

Telephone: 01747 840347

MERE WEATHER

In January we had 146.5mms (5.77ins) of rain, about the same as last year, 140.5mms (5.53ins). Most of the rain was in the middle of the month. We had frost in the first week and on the 10th we had a gale with 25mms (0.98ins) of rain and sleet the next day. Compared with the rest of the country, we had neither snow nor floods.

Up to the 17th February we have had 28.5mms (1.12ins) of rain, most of it in the first week. Since then we have had several frosty mornings with bright sunshine and cold wind.

I see some daffodils coming out already and the crocuses and snowdrops are doing well.

Peter Durkee

ALL CHANGE AT THE POST OFFICE

Jean Young who runs John Walton & Co. Ltd, which trades as "Waltons of Mere", has important news to tell us all:

"It is with some sadness that I have to tell you all I am retiring on the 31st March, after over 35 years in the Post Office here in Mere.

"The business of Waltons will be taken over by George Jeans and his family, a long established local firm which will continue to run it in its present form.

"I would like to thank you, 'the Customers', 'the Girls' and 'the Posties', for their support since Andy died, and I have really enjoyed working with you, and that I will continue to live in Mere.

"I am sure that George will prove to be a "safe pair of hands" and will continue to serve you all.

"Thank you ALL for the fun and laughter."

Jean Young

A Message from George Jeans and Family

"I would like to inform everyone, that as from the 31st March 2008, George Jeans will be The Sub-Postmaster of Mere Post Office and proprietor of Waltons, which houses the Post Office.

"I would like to thank Jean Young, the present Post Master, for all her assistance in helping me achieve this position. (Jean has been very patient).

"Our family has run a business from a site in Salisbury Street since we came to Mere in 1916 (I was not personally there at the time). We have had a Cinema, a taxi business and an electrical retail business. We hope to take forward both businesses much as they are now.

"The Post Office and ourselves are faced with a very competitive environment. Hopefully, this move will ensure the continued existence of both businesses. You may like to note that in approximately 3 years, some 12 businesses and public buildings have closed in Mere.

"My son Michael is the fourth generation of the family in Mere, he is very interested in staying with the business. My wife Sue is as dedicated to Mere as I am. We work as a team in our business and in the community. The Post Office will continue as before.

"I am sure you will all continue to support the Post Office and keep it viable for future generations, as I hope you will support Waltons and Jeans Electrical.

"With very best wishes to Jean and her family for the future."

George, Sue and Michael Jeans.

WILTSHIRE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVICE CENTRE

Free insulation for over 70s!

A new scheme, funded by energy companies, has recently made loft and/or cavity wall insulation free to anyone aged over 70 who owns or privately rents their home. Provided the depth of your loft insulation is 100mm/4" or less, installers will top this up to the recommended amount of 270mm/11" for free. Insulating your walls and roof-space are two of the best ways of cutting your fuel bills, and making sure you can afford

Walnut Tree Inn Advert – Full page

to keep warm. You could save up to £200 a year by installing these measures.

Fuel suppliers are required to meet targets set by the government to reduce carbon emissions to help mitigate against climate change. One of the ways they do this is by funding schemes to encourage householders to improve their home energy efficiency. Providing free insulation to people aged over 70 is their latest method of doing so.

The Sunshine Healthy Living Project, supported by the Big Lottery Fund and Salisbury District Council, offers free and impartial advice on energy efficiency in South-West Wilshire and is based at the Wiltshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC). If you are over 70 and would like to discuss having free loft and/or cavity wall insulation installed, or if you have questions about any the subjects below, call the Wiltshire EEAC on freephone **0800 512012** to speak to an energy advisor.

Insulation	Grants and discounts	Appliances
Heating	Fuel bill advice	Glazing
Lighting	Renewable technologies	Energy saving tips

contact: Sarah Marshall, Sunshine Healthy Living Project Officer,
Tel: (01380) 725670 ext 278, or email: sarahm2@wiltshirewildlife.org

Supported by



TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

Easter Holidays 2008

Our Easter Programme for this year commences on Easter Monday 24th March and runs until Friday 4th April, with organised activities during the mornings, 11.30am-1.00pm, and free play sessions during the afternoons.

The organised morning activities will take the form of "Gladiators", "Roller Rumpus" and "Temple of Gloom". Age ranges for these activities are 5-8 years and 9-16 years of age, and all for just £1.00.

Free play sessions during the afternoons are for children to play what they want to play! It could be football, basketball, tennis, badminton, hockey, roller skating – the choices are endless. Come along with friends if over 8 years of age. If you are under 8 years of age, please come along in the company of an adult.

For further details, to book a place, or information concerning other activities which take place at the Centre, please contact Reception on 01747 871141, or e-mail us at: tisburyssc@salisbury.gov.uk.

THE MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

Grants available for 2008.

This independent Christian Trust was established in 1924 to promote the spiritual, moral, educational and social welfare of the inhabitants of the town of Mere and the surrounding area. The Trust supports a number of small schemes, charities and voluntary groups with grants for practical action. They welcome a wide range of creative initiatives.

The Trust is benevolent in a broad sense and seeks to help people of all ages to enjoy facilities they would not otherwise be able to access. The Trust operates within a Christian ethos for the benefit of the whole community.

Applications for grant support are now invited for activities or projects based within 8 miles of Mere, closing date 31st May 2008. Grants will normally be paid annually in the autumn.

For further details and application form, please write with s.a.e. to:
The Secretary, Mere Lecture Hall Trust, 39 Coppice Street,
Shaftesbury, SP7 8PD

LECTURE HALL OPEN DAY

Mere's Lecture Hall, the hub of so much activity in the town, has been closed for the start of 2008 for much needed renovation work. If you have glimpsed the builders at work as you've walked in Salisbury Street, you will know that they are making good progress and the hall is due to re-open in April.

To celebrate the 'new and improved' Lecture Hall there will be an official re-opening day on 19th April. On that Saturday afternoon and early evening there will be an exhibition, demonstrations and entertainment from user groups, refreshments and country dancing.

A full programme of events will be published next month but make a note now to visit the Lecture Hall on Saturday 19th April.

If you have any photographs, programmes or other memorabilia relating to the Lecture Hall that you are prepared to loan for the exhibition, items can be left at Mere Library. Please place in an envelope marked Lecture Hall and with your name and address enclosed so that items can be returned safely.

Ann Read & Adrienne Howell

MERE CARNIVAL

Many thanks to Father Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule and giving such enjoyment to the children at the Clock Tower on 15th December 2007.

The AGM will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 4th March in the Andy Young Pavilion, Springfield Road, Mere. Everyone welcome. Please do come and support us.

Carnival Day for this year will be on Saturday 13th September

*Sue Jeans, on behalf of Mere Carnival Committee, 01747 860215
(Apologies to Sue Jeans for not including paragraph one of this report in the February edition - Editor.)*

RSPCA

The sale held in December 2007 made a profit of £531.00. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

On Saturday 31st May in the Lecture Hall, we are holding a "Combined Sale" with the Cat's Protection League. More details later.

Will all charities please note that our Christmas Sale this year has been booked for Saturday 8th November.

Pete & Sue Howells 01747 860623

(Apologies to the Howells for not including paragraphs one and three of this report in the February edition - Editor.)

SHAFTESBURY & GILLINGHAM UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Awareness Day

Shaftesbury & Gillingham University of the Third Age (SGU3A) will be holding an Awareness Day exhibition on Wednesday, 12th March in Shaftesbury Town Hall from 10.00am until 3.00pm

SGU3A was set up in 1999 and is looking forward to celebrating its tenth anniversary next year. Now numbering over 400 members, it provides a wide range of enjoyable educational, creative and leisure activities on a self-help basis for those in, or nearing, retirement and living in Shaftesbury, Gillingham and nearby villages. The individual groups and activities are organised and run by members themselves, usually in their own homes, depending on the size of the group.

U3A was established nationally in 1982 by the Third Age Trust. The organisation has grown until there are now more than 650 local associations with a total membership of over 200,000 members throughout the UK. The word 'university' is used in its original sense of people coming together to share and pursue learning in all its forms.

On 12th March, there will be the opportunity to see for yourself what the many groups have to offer, how varied they are, and to talk to group leaders and other members and find out more about us. So do come along and visit our exhibition and, at the same time, enjoy light refreshments provided by Shaftesbury Evening Women's Institute.

For further information about SGU3A, please go to: www.sgu3a.org.uk or telephone Eileen Westbrook on 01747 826207

MERE FILM SHOWS

Our film this month, on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, is 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age' (12A) taking us back to Tudor times and the continuing story of the first Queen Elizabeth. Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh swashes his buckle in true Errol Flynn style and cast, costumes and scenery are all magnificent.

But is history being tampered with? Is Elizabeth's most famous speech unedited? (how many of you had to learn the whole thing by heart at school? – or was I the only one!) Whatever the answers, the film is a spectacle and well worth seeing. Details on page 20.

Next month we return to the renewed opulence of the Lecture Hall on Thursday 24th April with the Oscar-winning film 'The Lives of Others'.

Mary White 01747 861257

MERE GARDENING CLUB

“Growing for Showing” with Chris Yates

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings.

Some of you may know Chris Yates and his wife, Judy, as owners of the Scented Garden in Littlebredy where they restored a Victorian walled garden. As Chris will explain, they have recently moved.

With a repertoire of ten talks, Chris is a very popular speaker with gardening clubs and is returning to Mere for the third time. He has no formal horticultural training but has learnt from years of practical experience. He is a member of the RHS Daffodil and Tulip Committee, their national daffodil judge and also county judge for general horticulture. Chris breeds daffodils and is a keen photographer.

This talk should give plenty of practical tips and encourage the many of you, we hope, who plan to put in an entry for our summer show. He will

be illustrating his talk with slides, with Judy managing the projector. All viitors are welcome

There will be a plant sales table and Chris will also bring a selection of books for us to see.

Reminder: Subs (£5.00) are now due and will be collected at the beginning of the meeting.

Caroline Cook 01747 861797



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, 11th March 2008

Annual General Meeting

Followed by

“The Battle of Stalingrad”

The great battle explained by an eminent Historian

by Dr Michael Jones

7.30pm Grove Buildings

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

This is a reminder to everyone who may have need of the Mere and District Linkscheme. We are a registered charity devoted to assisting people with transport needs in our local community.

Our drivers give their time freely and are more than happy to assist. They do not get paid for the hours they give. They do get reimbursed

fuel and running costs of their cars at the rate of 40p a mile. Therefore it works out that a round trip to Salisbury General Hospital at Odstock costs about £20.00.

Our service is free at the point of delivery, but clients are asked to donate what they can afford towards the cost of the journey. We do not turn people away because they cannot afford to travel. Last month client contributions made up 57% of the cost of travel.

It must be understood that Linkscheme has to raise the 43% shortfall itself. We do have donations from local parish councils but have no money given to us directly from local or central government. We do not have a grant from any source. Please try to remember this when donating, but also remember we are here to help and we only expect you to give what you can afford.

Barbara Thomas, Secretary, M&DL 01747 863441

Linkscheme users please note:

Requests for transport, please phone:01747 860096

For any other information, phone 01747 860007

Molly Burden

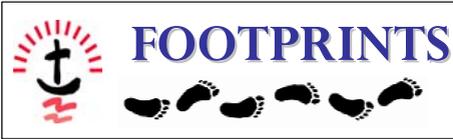
LITERARY FESTIVAL SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Marion Molteno, a prize-winning novelist and short story writer is the senior judge for this year's writing competition. The author, who was featured in the BVM last year, won the David Thomas Award for her novel *A Shield of Coolest Air*, and *If You Can Walk You Can Dance* was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

Your story, on any topic but with a maximum word count of 2,500 words, could win you the top prize sponsored by Conundrum.

Entry forms with full details of the Open, Local and Junior Sections are available at the Library, other outlets and on line at www.merelifest.co.uk. This is the festival's new website and the Linkscheme is very grateful to Simon Hingley who has taken on the job of Festival Webmaster.

Adrienne Howell, Lit.Fest.Group



HOLIDAY CLUB

During the Easter Holiday Kidzone at Footprints will be running its Holiday Club from 31st March to 4th April. This is open to ALL primary school age children (4-11's) who do not have to attend Mere Primary School. The Holiday Club is open from 8.45am – 3.15pm, and charges £3.00 per hour, which includes breakfast and an afternoon snack, but children do need to bring their own packed lunch. We are planning a full range of activities, including games, arts and crafts. If anyone from the community has “hidden talents” – perhaps musical, artistic or sporty that could benefit Holiday Club, we'd love to hear from you. Also, we have a growing need for board games and footballs; so if you have these cluttering up your loft perhaps you'd consider donating them to us?. For more information: ☎ 01747 861108

Bull Pits Advert - ½ page



MERE FOOTPATH GROUP

WALKS in 2008

Sunday	6th April	Local Walk
Sunday	27th April	
Sunday	18th May	
Sunday	22nd June	
Sunday	13th July	
Friday	18th July	Moonlight Walk, starting at 7.30pm
Sunday	17th August	
Sunday	7th September	
Sunday	5th October	
Sunday	2nd November	Starting at 1.00pm

All walks start from main car park in Mere at 2.00 p.m. unless stated. Car sharing where possible. Dogs on leads welcome. Bring picnic tea if you wish. Further details from the Post Office nearer each date.



MERE MUSEUM

The new exhibition, 'Trades in Mere, Old and New', opened at the beginning of February to great acclaim, and will run until the end of April. You will notice not only our glittering new show-cases, but a completely re-organised Museum. We hope our public agrees that the new arrangement is a great step forward, making the Museum *even more* user-friendly!

The next exhibition will be about schools in Mere, and we have some exciting plans in hand, some of which we shall keep under our collective hats for now. But we would like to hear from anyone who was a teacher (or other staff member), or a pupil at any of the several schools that once existed in Mere. We would like to collect your written memories of Mere schools and hope to feature these in the new exhibition. We would be glad to see photographs, too, especially if you can put names to all the faces! We have, of course, quite a number in the collection but will be delighted to see others. Please bring any material, marked

for the Curators' attention, to the Museum, and we shall be in touch with you. Or e-mail: meremuseum@btinternet.com. Thank you!

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

The next fundraising event held by the Friends will take place on Tuesday 1st April at 7.30 p.m. in The Grove buildings. Bill Moore, Curator of Gillingham Museum is a presenter for **The Mary Rose Trust**, which works to raise money for the preservation and display of Henry VIII's famous warship that sank in 1545 and was raised from the seabed in 1982. Tickets will cost £7.00 and will be available soon from the Mere Information Point or from members of the Friends' Committee. The evening will be rather more than just an illustrated talk; For example, you will have a chance to taste traditional ship's biscuits, and mead (if we can find a supplier!). Watch out for posters with more information! The money raised will be shared between The Friends of the Museum and The Mary Rose Trust.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE: The Friends' **Annual Plant Sale** will take place on Saturday 3rd May – put the date in your diary now!

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The mist is clearing; things are becoming clearer. The action plan looks something like this:

1. MADS will be taking part in the celebration of the re-opening of the newly re-furbished Lecture Hall in April, see page 11 for details

2. The Autumn production, our first full-length foray onto the new stage (with storage under) will be dedicated to the memory of Simon Farnfield, our sorely missed lighting and sound technician.

**REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE
MONDAY, 17th MARCH**

3. To this end: There will be **play readings** in the Drama Room in the Lecture Hall (this is open regardless of the major works below) on **Tuesday 4th March at 7.30 p.m.** in order to find a suitable play. ANYONE and EVERYONE who is interested in seeing what goes on at a play reading and/or would like to be involved in the production in any way, whether or not you are a current member, will be most warmly welcomed. It will be an enjoyable evening's entertainment in its own right: do join us!

MADS is also looking for **a pianist** who would like to work with the company when required - particularly in a pantomime year (Spring 2009 will see the next panto). This would entail attending rehearsals as well as all the performances themselves. If anyone is interested in knowing more, please contact Adrienne Howell, 01747 860475.

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th March at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. The speaker will be the Rev'd Paul Barnes and the subject: "Easter". There will be also be a Bring and Buy stall for "Overseas Friends".

We shall be having Corporate Communion at the 10.30am service on Wednesday 5th March. We will then repeat this on the first Wednesday in each month.

Womens World Day of Prayer will be on Friday 7th March at 2.30pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Pettridge Lane, Mere.

Thelma Ings 01747 860262

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Fives Court plans to hold a Coffee Morning on **Saturday 19th April at Fives**. The Friends will be supporting this event, running our own stall and one of our special 'short sharp raffles'! Make a note in your diary NOW and look out for details in the next edition of Mere Matters.

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Elizabeth: the Golden Age (12A)

“Woman, Warrior, Queen.”

Cate Blanchett reprises her role as the Virgin Queen in this visually sumptuous historical drama, with Clive Owen as a dashing Walter Raleigh. Plenty of intrigue and action and of course the Spanish Armada!

In the Grove Building
Friday 7th March at 7.30pm

(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £4.50

Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

For more information call Mary White on 01747 861257

Visit our website at www.moviola.org

MERE CROQUET CLUB

On Saturday 16 February the Club Green was opened up to enable all the growing list of potential members, and any other interested parties, to view the site, assess the work to be carried out and give people an opportunity to get to know each other.

There was a very encouraging attendance and the general consensus seemed to be that, for our purposes, it will be possible to be playing on the grass much sooner than at first envisaged. This was endorsed by several experienced croquet players who came along.

Nevertheless, whilst ground clearance has already commenced a lot still remains to be done and working parties will be organised in the very near future. Funding is being sought from several sources to provide storage, equipment and the necessary cover for those attending.

Disabled access is being studied and does not appear to present any insurmountable problems.

Solicitors have been engaged to finalise the legalities of acquiring the lease. This side of things is well in hand.

It is still not possible to announce subscription fees yet, but the intention remains to keep these as low as possible.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on (01747) 860873.

Rex Roberts

MERE BOWLS CLUB

At the AGM, Colin Read stood down as Chairman. A presentation was made to him by the Captain, Arthur Holberry, who thanked him for all he had done for Mere Bowls Club over many years. The following Officers were elected:- Chairman - Phil Walker, Secretary - Teresa Read,

Treasurer - Peter Dethick, Captain - Arthur Holberry, Vice- Captain - Mike Oram, Fixtures Secretary - Elayne Walker, GreenKeepers' Representative - David Howell, Committee Karen Guy & Mary Butchers. Greenkeepers - Mike Oram, David Howell, Stan Clark & Richard Coombs.

The Club has now entered the Salisbury & District Men's League as well as The Westbrook League. At the end of last Season, work was carried out on the Green, which it is hoped will remedy the problems with flooding. The Season will start on Saturday, 12th April at 3.00pm, and on Saturday, 19th April at 3.00pm, there will be a special Session for all those who have never played before, but would like to "Have a Go". Coaching will be available.

For more details please ring Teresa Read on 01747 860289.

MERE PRE-SCHOOL

Spring Fashion Show

Mere Pre-School (registered charity 1027052) is holding an exciting event this spring in order to raise funds for developing a pre-school garden where the children can learn about growing and enjoying plants. A ladies fashion show will be held on Friday 18th April at The Grove Buildings in Mere.

It will be hosted by the professional company; Travelling Trends, who promise a fun evening with the opportunity to buy high street fashions at bargain prices. Expect to see recent end of line clothing (sizes 8-20 available) from big name stores shown off by a team of volunteer models.

The clothes will be available to try on prior to purchase and card payment facilities are offered. There will also be a raffle to boost the fundraising. Tickets cost £5.00 (to include refreshments) and the doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00 pm start.

Do you have difficulty cutting your toenails?

If so, why not ask me to help? For £10 a time I will soak your feet in

a foot spa with soothing oils and cut your toenails.

For more details ask Mary Merrell. Phone: **01747 860195**

Tickets are available from the following outlets in Mere: Lou's It Hairdressers, Mere Pre-school. Due to number limitations, we are sorry, but tickets will not be available on the door so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Further information and tickets can also be obtained from Louise Harlow on 01747 860647 or Val Hambleton on 01747 861038.

MERE SCHOOL

February 2008

This week is very exciting in school as it is art week - we are enjoying ourselves. We have a professional artist (Janine Drayson) helping us to create large collages. Each class is making their own based around an environment such as woodlands or desserts. Everyone loves art week, as it is a chance for us to be creative.

Not that long ago, several musicians came to Mere School to talk about musical instruments. We all sat in the hall whilst they played loads of tunes to us. One by one, they stood up and talked about their instruments. We all had to use an instrument - our voices! We were split into two groups, some doing one tune and the others doing another one at the same time. It turned out quite well.

At Milton School two weeks ago, some of us went to an archaeology day. We had to make a big shelter out of sticks and elastic bands. In the morning, we also made some 3-D triangles to help keep the shelter upright and we went on a website on the computer about bridges.

Mere Museum has very kindly given us a show cabinet so that we can look at items from the museum. Some of the younger children think that it looks a bit like a shower but it means that we will be able to look at very delicate, old things.

Every Friday one of our classes produces an assembly for our parents - we do one each term. Rev'd Barnes takes an assembly every fortnight and he also helps us at football club.

A little while ago two of us went to Gillingham School for an able pupils English day. The day was based on literacy, but closely linked to ICT. It was really interesting. Two other children went to another maths session like this. They learnt about binary numbers. These children go to a maths club at Gillingham School each week.

Last week we had another 'Special Person to Lunch' event. We can invite a special person to have lunch with us. We meet them in the corridor and take them to the school hall to eat lunch. Everyone enjoyed the Sweet 'n' Sour chicken and the caramel shortbread went down well too! After the delicious lunch the adults enjoyed a cup of coffee and a mint.

Green class had a lady come to visit them to talk about Chembakolli. Chembakolli is a little village on the edge of the forest, which is owned by the Adavasi people. The Chembakolli children only go to school if they have some money and if they do not have work to do (like looking after their brothers and sisters). They sometimes have pets, which are normally cows. Green class have learnt a lot about Chembakolli and they were the featured school on the Chembakolli website.

Yellow class have had a visit to the Church. They were learning about the special parts of a church and Rev'd Barnes showed them around.

Emily Hill, Seth Guy-Knapp, Lauren Hillier, Jonathan Wells, Charlotte Emby, Arabella Murrison, Gary Gatehouse, Tom Curtis, Charlotte Summerfield, Emily Maidment

“THE BRIDGE”

“The Bridge” will be held in the Barn at Barrow Street, the “Barn Buddies” venue, on Sunday 9th March from 6.30 to- 8.00pm. For more information please telephone: Mark Dunham 01747 861146 or Paul Barnes 01747 863313

*THIS PAGE IS SPONSORED BY
MARILYN and SAM of
THE FRUIT SHOP in THE SQUARE, MERE
TELEPHONE: 01747 860300*

BARN BUDDIES

It's not a very funny joke, but I'll tell it anyway!

Jesus walked into a Tax Collector's office, leaving the door open behind him. A blast of wind blew-in through the open door scattering papers across the room. "Hey you!" shouted the angry Tax Collector, "Were you born in a barn?" "Actually, yes I was!" replied a smiling Jesus, bending down and retrieving the papers.

Because of where Jesus was born, barns have always been special places for Christians, but it wasn't until I came to Mere that I discovered just how special they could be!

Mere is the only place I am aware of that has a Youth Club that meets in a barn. **Every** Friday between 6.30 – 8.00pm the barn at Barrow Street Farm is open to any young person between the ages of 7 – 12. The club, as I'm sure you already know, is called '**Barn Buddies**'.

The barn provides a perfect, safe space for youngsters to let off steam after a week cooped-up in school. They can choose to play football, cricket, badminton, Table Tennis, table football, netball, or something less organised, like tag or dodge ball.

There is a well stocked Tuck Shop, a computer room, and an area with comfy seats if they want to just chill and chat to a friend. The youngsters who come clearly have a great time, and I must admit to still being a kid at heart as a visit to Barn Buddies is always one of the highlights of my week, even if I always seem to go home with bruised shins from misplaced (?) tackles.

Barn Buddies was the brain child of Tim and Mary Merrell who I am pleased to say are still the leaders. So parents, there is no excuse for your youngster saying: "I'm bored" on Friday evening – we'd love to

welcome them to Barn Buddies. Lifts can be arranged if required, and all adult helpers have received CRB clearance.

Rev'd Paul Barnes

For more information call Tim and Mary Merrell on 01747 860195.

MERE TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Approaching the end of the season our 9 teams are all doing very well. The Under 9s and Under 11s have recently been promoted and will be facing new challenges. The Under 15s are battling with Trowbridge to top their division. The Under 13s and Under 16 (Girls) look set for a mid-table finish.

The better weather will soon see the Under 7s and Under 8s catching up with their postponed games and with the Under 10s goal - tally at an all time high, things are looking good for the Club.

Our next fund-raising event will be a Bingo evening on Friday, 28th March, starting at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings, which we hope will be well supported. League membership fees, Insurance, FA Affiliation fees for next season, plus providing enough equipment, means we need a substantial amount of money to keep the Club functioning. However, seeing the teams doing so well and so many young people enjoying their football makes it all worthwhile.

Neil Francis, Chairman, Mere Town Youth Football Club.

Leaping Frogs have more space to 

Leaping Frogs Kindergarten is not only growing in popularity but also in size with its exciting outdoor play and garden project in its new sports field at Angel Lane. The kindergarten that cares for children 2-5 years at The Old Chapel, Boar Street in Mere has exciting plans to use the area for outdoor play and gardening activities. If anyone in the local community would like to lend their expertise or make a donation to get this project up and running PLEASE call Becky or Victoria on 01747 861186.

Planned fundraising activities by parents of Leaping Frogs:-

Cake Stall at 9.00am on 14th March 2008 in the Square.

All proceeds to the Kindergarten's Garden Project

Duck race in Mere on 15th March 2008

Sponsored walk at Stourhead on 1st May 2008.

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for February, drawn after Morning Praise on Sunday 3rd February by Madeleine, Felicity & Joshua Howden and Matthew Wells, was:

1st Prize	(£20) - No. 84	Generously Returned
2nd Prize	(£15) - No. 5	Mrs P Cooper
3rd Prize	(£10) - No. 134	Mr J Cox
4th Prize	(£5) - No. 150	Mrs G Haines-Jenkins

Valerie Ransley 01747 860964

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday 26th March, Mr Derek Remington will give us a sentimental journey to India. Those who have heard Derek before will look forward to seeing his slides and hearing his reminiscences. We meet at 2.30 p.m. as usual and anyone is very welcome to join us in the School Hall at the rear of the Methodist Church in North Street.

Mary Siderfin: 01747 861370

REV'D COLIN MARSH, U.R.C. MINISTER, WRITES:

On 31st March, I retire after being Minister at Mere URC for nearly 8 years. But, I realise that I have not been very visible locally, due to living in Shaftesbury and having only 25% of my time allocated to Mere. So in case you are still wondering who I am and what I do, I thought I would take this last opportunity to explain a little about myself and what has been happening over those years.

I moved from Buckinghamshire to Shaftesbury in 1993, as Minister of Shaftesbury and Blandford United Reformed Churches, each then

receiving 50% of my time. In 1999, the Shaftesbury congregation left its premises, began worshipping with the Methodists, and entered discussions about becoming a united church. This led to the formation of Bell Street United Church in January 2001.

Meanwhile, following discussions with Mere URC, I was invited to become Minister there, at the same time reducing my commitment at Shaftesbury, where the church also has a Methodist Minister. Several churches sharing a Minister is nothing new, of course, but it does mean that one's attention is constantly shifting, and it is not so easy to have any impact on a particular community.

I am therefore very pleased to have seen the development of the Footprints* project, and to have been a link in the chain of events that led to its formation. It began when the Wessex Synod of the URC decided to set aside a large sum of money for special posts in local churches. News of this was shared at a meeting of Synod in 2002, after which our local Church Meeting discussed it and brought it to Churches Together in Mere and District.

A working group was set up, and a proposal by Rev'd David Linaker led to a successful application for funding for a Young Families Peer Support Worker, and in September 2004, Rachel Porter was appointed to this post. Less than three years later, the project's Management Committee acquired the use of part of the former Duchy Manor School, and set up "Footprints"*, which now provides facilities and courses for various sections of the community, well beyond the original remit.

You might or might not believe that all this is God at work, but to those of us in the church, this is a real answer to prayer.

*For information on "Footprints", telephone 01747 861108

Lifestyle Landscapes advert - ¼ page

EAST WINDOW RENOVATION PROJECT

At St Michael the Archangel Parish Church

The "Call my Bluff" evening, arranged by Pat Isom, was a resounding success. Her two teams with Michael Hannon keeping order as Chairman kept us enthralled and entertained. The sum raised for the appeal was £644.00. Congratulations and grateful thanks to all involved.

Alert-All Bridge Players for a further event on Saturday afternoon at 2.00pm 1st March. There will be a Bridge Competition in the Grove Buildings. Please contact Mrs C Bixby 01747-860594.

Our Fund Raising Activities to restore the East Window to its former glory are nearing completion. However, you may still:

Have Your Name in Lights That is in Leaded Lights.

An opportunity for YOUR name to be remembered in perpetuity. If you wish to contribute to the renovation of the East Window your name is to be inscribed on a framed facsimile of the completed window, which will be on permanent display in the church. Space remains on the architect's drawing for you to pick a pane and print your name. An artist will write your name in its pane again on the final drawing in indelible ink forever.

For further details please see the display of photographs of the East Window currently on show in TIC at the Library, or contact: Karyn Sheppard, Co-ordinator 01747 860680 or Judy Bickerstaff, Treasurer 01747 860335.

SUDAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

Many thanks for the collection of stamps and post cards I have found in the church porch. Keep up the good work! These raise funds for the re-building of schools and churches in Southern Sudan, destroyed in the ten years war in that part of Africa. Nothing to do with Darfur, which is 1,200 miles away!

Please do not put Christmas and Greetings cards in the box for Sudan.

Peter Durkee

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

Good Friday - Procession of Witness

This will take place on Friday, 21st March, when the Cross will be carried to the top of Castle Hill, where it will be erected. Please meet in The Square from 11.00 am for the start of the Procession at 11.15am. All are very welcome to come along and join in and help carry the Cross, including the youngsters. Afterwards there will be Lenten Lunches in the Grove Buildings, Mere from 12.30pm.

Easter Floral Crosses

Help will be needed to make up the floral Crosses, which are put outside all the Churches in Mere for Easter Sunday. No experience in floral arranging is needed. Please come along to the Grove Buildings on GOOD FRIDAY, 21st March at about 1.45pm.

EMMAUS 08

Jesus invites you to accompany him on a journey of discovery.

As we travel we will share our stories and listen to his.

Our journey will begin on Sunday April 6th at 5.00pm in The Grove Building, Mere, and we will



then meet together for about an hour at the same time each Sunday for 10 weeks.

On the evening of Tuesday 17th June there will be the opportunity for those who wish to be Confirmed by Bishop Stephen of Ramsbury.

If you would like more information or to book your place please contact Rev'd Paul Barnes (01747 863313) or Rev'd Mark Wood (01985 845212)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Service this year will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mere, on **FRIDAY, 7th March 2008 at 2.30p.m.** The Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Guyana, and the theme is "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". The Speaker will be Rev'd. Hazel Barkham, and refreshments will be available afterwards

Teresa Read 01747 860289

Church of St Michael the Archangel

“THE FINAL JOURNEY”

A meditation in words and music for Good Friday describing the last days of Christ's life on earth.

21st March at 2.30pm in the church

Choral excerpts from

“Olivet to Calvary”

by J H Maunder

will be sung by A Mere Chorale
and members of St Michael's Choir.

Conductor: Tony Boardman

Organ: Peter Mason

The music will be combined with readings from the Gospels and three hymns for choir and congregation and will last about an hour.

Church of St Michael the Archangel

Easter approaches and we invite you to join us in celebration.

Palm Sunday 16th March

We remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem.
Procession followed by Parish Communion.
Please meet in the Square for 10.30am.

Good Friday 21st March

10am Stations of the Cross for Children
(followed by hot cross buns)

Procession of Witness leaving the Square at 11.00am.
The Cross is carried by volunteers and
erected on the top of Castle Hill.

2.30pm The Final Journey
Words and music to commemorate Christ's last hours
(see notice on page 31)

Easter Eve 22nd March

8pm Service of Light when the Easter Candles are lit.

Easter Sunday 23rd March

Parish Communion 10.30
The Celebration of the year.

Christ's Glorious Resurrection !

Start the Month

On the first Wednesday of every month, there is a quiet
service of

Holy Communion

in **St. Matthew's Chapel** (in St Michael's, the Parish Church)

at **7.30 pm**

No sermon.

No music.

Not just for those who are unable to come to church on a
Sunday, this is an opportunity to

Start the month

and take time out from the busy-ness of life

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

MARCH

The Parish Church, St Michael The Archangel (Tel. 01747 863313)

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	4.30pm	Evening Prayer

Sunday Club is held in the Grove Buildings at 10.30am Services

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service With distribution of posies
			<i>NB: No Sunday Club</i>
Sunday	2nd	4.00pm	Evening Prayer with Hymns (Please note change of time)
Wednesday	5th	7.30pm	Start the month: service of Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Passion Sunday
	16th	10.30am	Palm Sunday. <i>We meet in the Square for 10.30am</i>

Holy Week

Monday	17th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Tuesday	18th	10.30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday	19th	10.30am	Holy Communion
		12.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday	20th	7.30pm	Holy Communion followed by The Watch and ending with Compline at 9.30pm
Good Friday	21st	10.00am	Stations of the Cross for Children
		11.00am	Procession of Witness
			<i>We meet in the Square</i>
		2.30pm	'The Final Journey' <i>Music & Readings for Good Friday</i>
Saturday	22nd	8.00pm	Easter Eve 'Service of Light'
Easter Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
			<i>NB: No Sunday Club</i>
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Combined Benefice Service: Songs of Praise to be held at St Mary the Virgin, West Knoyle NO 10.30am service at St Michaels

**The United Reformed Church (Tel. Shaftesbury 01747 853304
Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt: Tel 01747 860685)**

Sunday	2nd	11.00am	Margaret Bodey
	9th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	16th	11.00am	Rev'd Caroline Wareham

23rd	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh Holy Communion
30th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie

**The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777
Mere Contact: Mr D Lawley Tel: 01747 860338)**

Sunday	2nd	6.00pm	United Service at Bell Street United Church, Shaftesbury Farewell service for Rev'd Colin Marsh
	9th	6.00pm	Dr G Tapper
	16th	6.00pm	Mr Alan Beale
	23rd	6.00pm	Rev'd David Bridge Holy Communion
Wednesday	26th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together
Sunday	30th	6.00pm	Rev'd David Bridge

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Tel: 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe) Mere Contacts: Teresa Read, 860289 & Winn Richardson, 861004

Every Friday		10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday		11.30am	Mass
Maundy Thursday	20th	8.00pm	Eucharistic Mass of the Last Supper St. George's, Warminster
Good Friday	21st	NO MORNING MASS 3.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Easter Sunday	23rd	11.30am	MASS - unless altered – Please check beforehand

Children's Liturgy Service on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month.

On the 1st Sunday of the month - there will be Coffee after Mass together with the sale of Fairtrade produce.

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

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service
	9th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
	16th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
	23rd	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad.)
	30th	10.30am	JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE

(Songs of Praise)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2008

AYP-Andy Young Pavilion; BSF-Barrow Street Farm; CC-United Reformed Church Centre; CP-Main Car Park; DMS-Duchy Manor School; GB-Grove Buildings; L-Lecture Hall; Lib-Library; Lynch-Lynch Community Centre; MH-Methodist Church Hall; SM-St Mary's RC Church; YC-Youth Centre

A reminder. The Lecture Halls, except for the upstairs Drama room, remain CLOSED, but should re-open on 1st April.

1	Sat	10.00am	Fair Trade Fortnight Community Stall	The Square
			<i>This will focus on Fair trade Gifts for Mothering Sunday on 2nd</i>	
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
		2.00pm	Fund raising Bridge Competition	GB
3	Mon	6.00pm	Beavers (also 10th and 17th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 10th and 17th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 10th, and 17th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	CC
		7.30pm	Mere Parish Council	AYP
4	Tue	6.30pm	St Michael's PCC Meeting	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Carnival AGM	AYP
		7.30pm	MADS Play Reading in the Drama Room	L
5	Wed	2.00pm	Alabaré (also 19th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	DMS
6	Thu	2.00pm	Line Dancing (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	CC
		7.00pm	Guides	CC
		7.30pm	Women's Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
7	Fri	12.30pm	Lent Lunch (also 14th and 21st)	GB
		2.30pm	Womens World day of Prayer	SM
		4.00pm	6.00pm Dr Andrew Murrison MP (MP's Surgery)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (Every Friday)	BSF
		7.00pm	Mere Film Shows "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"	GB
8	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC

9	Sun	6.30pm	"The Bridge"	BSF
10	Mon	8.00pm	MADS meeting in the Drama Room	L
11	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	CC
		2.30pm	Mothers' Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
12	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together - Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
13	Thu	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 20th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies also 20th)	GB
		7.00pm	Guides (also 20th)	GB
14	Fri	09.00am	Leaping Frogs Cake Stall	The Square
		10.00am	Merely Women (also 28th)	GB
18	Tue	7.30pm	Church Meeting AGM	CC
21	Fri	11.00am	Procession of Witness	The Square
		2.30pm	The Final Journey (Words and Music)	St Michael's
22	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
25	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	CC
26	Wed	2.00pm	"Friends Together"	GB
		2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
28	Fri	7.00pm	Mere Town Youth Football Club –Bingo Night	GB
29	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC

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Machlachlan Advert ¼ page

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

THE FOLLOWING CLINICS/ADVICE CENTRES ARE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

CITIZENS' ADVICE: Tuesdays: 10.30am to 4.00pm
Private Appointments telephone 01722 327222

REGISTRAR **By appointment only**
OF BIRTHS Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am
& DEATHS: For appointments telephone 01985 213435

COPY DATE FOR APRIL ISSUE

Material for the April 2008 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (tel. 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, 17th March 2008.** E-mailed contributions welcome, but please telephone the Editor for details. Would contributors please add their name and contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

**Mrs Jane Kennedy, Ash Tree Cottage,
Kilmington Common, Kilmington (tel. 01985 844740)**

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