

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



February 2008

EDITORIAL

You will have read in the last edition of “Mere Matters” that there is a new official Mere website on the World Wide Web. If you have access to the Internet, you can now put out for recycling each edition of “Mere Matters” once you have read it as it is replaced by the next one safe in the knowledge that you will still have access to the contents via your computer, should you want to read it or look up past happenings. The text of each edition, starting with the December 2007/January 2008 edition, will be available for download to your computer from the Mere website in pdf format. As a reminder the website address is: www.merewilts.org

Times are getting hard enough as it is, without the added expense caused by mindless hooliganism. Please read the report of damage to OUR swimming pool on page 12.

I never thought that I would be able to say: “you read it first in “Mere Matters”, but it has happened! After including a report in the last edition about the new Hollyfield school in West Bourton, which has its roots in the recently closed Stourbridge House school here in Mere, I was surprised to read a prominent and well illustrated feature about this new school in the “Daily Telegraph” of 13th December, a fortnight after “Mere Matters” had been published. Wonders will never cease!

Graham Avory, Editor

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion on Monday, 4th February 2008

The Chairman writes:

I would like to congratulate everyone on the tremendous festive lights throughout the town. As usual, the judging of the Christmas lights took

place the week before Christmas and I can report that Richard & Rosemary Adams of Denes Avenue won the shield and a Roberts Radio, which was kindly donated by Jeans Electricals. We would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Raymond Hill for donating the Christmas Tree for The Square. I am sure you will all agree that it was a wonderful tree this year. I must thank Clive Hazzard, Richard Hughes, George Jeans, Michael Jeans, Rodney Snook and Richard Coward for helping me in meeting the annual challenge of erecting the town's Christmas tree & lights, an achievement made easier by the help of the Hill Brush Company in allowing us the use of its cherry picker and driver.

Every December the Parish Council has to set its budget for the following financial year and this year we spent over four hours discussing the resources and budgets for the Parish Council's facilities, responsibilities, and service. We eventually approved a Precept on Salisbury District Council of £71,577.00, which will be an increase of 5.97% on a Band D property using SDC's provisional tax base figure. The increase is due largely to the fact that the new cemetery needs some drainage work and the fact that we will now be building reserves for any repair and maintenance costs on our sporting facilities. We have applied for grant funding for a new all-weather cricket wicket and associated cricket supplies, and we are hopeful that our applications will be successful and cricket will get 'off the ground' this year.

I am happy to report that the Audit of the Annual Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2007 was carried out and the external auditor signed the certificate of audit. I would like to thank the Parish Clerk for her hard work in preparing the accounts.

The Mere website www.merewilts.org is now fully functioning and running well. We hope you are all making full use of it for information, publicity and advertising. The Parish Council's agendas and minutes can all be viewed on the website. *Rodney Coward, Chairman*

MERE WEATHER

Having said last November that it had been a dry month with only 19 mms (0.75 ins) up to the 17th, that night the heavens opened and in the

next two days we had 42 mms (1.65 ins). The total for the month was 111 mms (4.37 ins). Last year we had 130 mms (5.12 ins). We had several sunny days but with cold winds. The first and last weeks of December were wet, with five days of frost in the middle. It was generally mild for the time of year. The total rain was 121.5 mms (4.78 ins). Last year we had 135 mms (5.31 ins).

The total rain for 2007 was 1304.5 mms (51.36 ins) compared with 1028 mms (40.5 ins) in 2006.

January started much colder with a sharp frost on the 5th, a gale on the 10th and some sleet on the 11th. Total rain up to the 12th was 66 mms (2.6 ins). *Peter Durkee.*

MERE LECTURE HALL TRUST

(Charity Number 202620)

Secretary to the Trust

The Mere Lecture Hall Trust is an independent charity with a Christian ethos, which through the Lecture Hall provides facilities and grants to meet cultural, educational or welfare needs in Mere and the local area. These activities are funded by the Trust with income derived from the Mere Lecture Hall and other properties.

The Trustees are seeking to appoint a part time Secretary to support the Management Committee, attend meetings, take minutes, deal with correspondence and act as a point of communication for the Trust.

It is expected that the position will involve 6-10 hours per month for which all necessary Expenses plus an Honorarium will be paid. The successful applicant should have good communication and IT/word processing skills and be particularly supportive of the work of the Trust.

For further details, please write to:
Mrs Jane Morgan, Secretary to the Trust, 39 Coppice Street,
Shaftesbury. SP7 8PD.

Closing date for applications is 29th February 2008.

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE

The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone with a Wiltshire postcode or to anyone outside of Wiltshire registered at Mere Doctors Surgery.

The practice at present has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

Contact Details: -

Mere Dental Practice

Duchy Manor

Springfield Road

Mere

Wiltshire

BA12 6EW

Telephone: 01747 860365

The practice is sited in the school grounds, first building on your left when you go through the school gates.

DIABETIC EYE SCREENING

**CLINICS TO BE HELD AT THE MERE SURGERY
IN DARK LANE**

25th – 27th MARCH 2008

31st MARCH – 3rd APRIL 2008

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT AT
RECEPTION**

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE

MONDAY 18th FEBRUARY

The great

GROVE BUILDINGS MYSTERY

Now you see it -

now you don't...

Last January two of the red upholstered chairs went missing.

A search revealed nothing

Then by mid-summer they re-appeared.

In September, four of the irregular-shaped small tables (kept in the far right corner) went missing...

Searches have revealed nothing

**CAN ANYONE SEE SOMETHING
THE COMMITTEE CAN'T SEE?**

Please contact the Grove Building Committee Chairman
Russell Carpenter
Tel. 01747 861365

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

The Friends of Fives have been collectively somewhat dormant over the Christmas/New Year period, but we are delighted to pass on, on behalf of Sarah Hill (Home Manager) and the staff at Fives, the brilliant news that **Fives Court was named 'Wiltshire Home of the Year'** by the Orders of St. John Care Trust, which runs a total of 20 homes in Wiltshire. This is a tremendous achievement and very well deserved, and The Friends join Mere in general in congratulating everyone involved.

Please watch this space next month for an announcement of the Friends' next fund-raising event. We may sleep but we never close!

Happy New Year!

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, 5th February 2008

“Everyone is Living in the Wrong Place”

Barbarians, Romans and Others: 300BC to 800AD in 50 minutes

by Mr Tony Davies

7.30pm Grove Buildings

Tuesday 19th February 2008

ANNUAL PARTY

Tickets @ £14.00 each to include supper and entertainment.

+ Pay bar.

For tickets call:

***Peter Platt-Higgins on 01747 860809 or 07767 418928
or Rose Cox on 01747 860962***

Don't delay – limited availability!

7.15 for 7.30pm Grove Buildings.

ROSEMARY GODDARD DAY CENTRE

This year we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. There have been many developments over recent years with changes in our funding regime resulting in the need to be more rigorous with our paperwork

and organisation. Several of our Trustees who have put in long service feel this is the right time for them to retire. I am sure our Guests will want to thank them warmly for all their efforts to keep the Centre going.

We have been very lucky to find enough new Trustees to carry on, and we are very grateful to them all for agreeing to take on the responsibilities involved. They include our new chair, Lenka Stokes, and John Churchill who is taking over as treasurer.

With our Organiser, Lynette Elliott, back from her extended leave and hopefully revitalised, we look forward to continuing to provide a Centre where older Mere people can meet for friendship, activities and outings, and a hot meal. She is assisted by a good team of volunteers who are very much appreciated. However, we could do with more help and anyone interested in joining a rota to help on the occasional Monday or Friday would be welcomed with open arms. Please ring Lynette (01747 861646) if you would like to know more about what would be involved.

Many thanks for all those who supported us at the Christmas Fair. Jill Christie and Laura Ford were joint winners of the quiz. Answers are displayed at Waltons, the Information Point in the library, and Jill Christie's shop. Our thanks go to Roger Wilding for compiling the quiz, which has made a valuable contribution to our funds.

We are planning something suitable to celebrate the past 20 years and toast our future. Watch out for more news next month.

Caroline Cook (Secretary) 01474 86179

~ MARMALADE MAKERS ~

It's that time of the year again! The oranges will soon be in the shops so could I ask all marmalade makers to remember to make a few extra jars for the Church Fete Stall. Just let me know and I will be happy to collect – Jams and pickles also very welcome.

Thanks very much [in anticipation!]

Pat Isom 01747 861776

Walnut Tree Inn Advert – Full page

Rural Arts Wiltshire present

Chris Newman and Marie Ni Chathasaigh

The innovative harping of Marie Ni Chathasaigh and the virtuosity and versatility of English guitarist Chris Newman has been heard all over the world and they will be performing in the:

Grove Buildings

On Friday 29th February at 7.30pm.

Book your tickets now at Mere Information Point in the Library or by phoning Maggie Durkee on 01747 860163.

Come along for a great night of entertainment

Tickets just £6.00 £5.00 for senior citizens
and only £3.50 for children and students.

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

It is very gratifying to be able to report some good news at the start of a New Year.

In the last issue of Mere Matters an appeal was made for potential members to come forward and register their support. As a result, there are now more than enough people to ensure the viability of the project and their enthusiasm is very much appreciated.

An acceptance of the lease for The Yews ex-Bowling Green site offered to us has now been submitted, which will provide a ten-year tenancy.

Early steps will be taken to bring the ground up to useable standards, but a great deal of work needs to be carried out to achieve this. A significant number of people have offered to help in this respect. This is most encouraging and we are most grateful to them, spreading the workload will both speed things up and simplify the job for all concerned. If you have, or know of someone else who has, serviceable

equipment such as a roller, petrol mower, etc. that is no longer required, please let us know, we can promise to give it a good home.

It is intended to keep the subscriptions down to as modest a level as possible, obviously the more members who register the easier this will be. Therefore, if you are interested in joining us and have not yet responded, please do, you will be welcomed with open arms. The contact is Rex Roberts on (01747) 860873 or e.mail: rexroberts@ba126ed.fsnet.co.uk

SWIMATHON 2008

This Charity Swim raises funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and takes place on Saturday 19th April at Wincanton Sport Centre 12noon – 4pm.

Team of four more/training partners needed to swim up to 1km each (up to 40 lengths) If interested please contact:

Judy Phillips on 01747 860835

MERE SWIMMING CLUB

HELP!!!!

I went up to the pool on Monday, 21st January 2008 only to be completely horrified by the state of it. The tarpaulin had ripped due to heavy objects having been thrown in, the safety poles were in the water, the loo brush and a spanner were also in the pool. That means that someone has gained illegal access to the pool. I was so distressed that I called the Western Gazette photographer to come and see and report on our plight. Considering that we will be opening hopefully in April, we are now facing huge bills to clean and prepare the pool.

We are in desperate need of donations.!!

We also need volunteers to man the pool throughout the summer season (April - September). They will be given First Aid training by a qualified trainer. We are asking them to give up two hours a week. If

you have any free time, enjoy sitting by the pool in the sun, we would love to hear from you (over 18 please).

An emergency AGM will be held on the 6th March at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavillion ,.

Please come along and support YOUR pool.

For further details please call Sally Howell on 01747 860644 or 07813 183115

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13th February 7.30pm Grove Buildings
followed by

Thorngrove: A Very Special Nursery

A talk by Tony Davies

Our AGM, during which elections will take place, begins the evening.

We will then be welcoming Tony Davies for another of his enjoyable talks. Tonight he will be telling us about Thorngrove Nursery, which was established in 1968 and is a unique venture for Scope, the largest organisation working for people with cerebral palsy. The garden centre enables disabled people working under the guidance of trained staff to develop their horticultural skills in a commercial environment.

The nursery has gained an excellent reputation for cultivating a full range of plants, from shrubs and conifers to summer and autumn bedding, for both commercial and private use. It is also renowned for its hanging basket and window box service.

Tony will be illustrating his talk with slides and will bring plants from Thorngrove. Visitors are most welcome

Caroline Cook 01747 961797

DI Woodworx advert – quarter page

Lifestyle Landscapes – quarter page

Maclachlan advert – quarter page

Tisbury & District Sports – quarter page



MERE MUSEUM

A new year, and new showcases to match! We expect delivery of our long-awaited showcases on 1st February, and when the new exhibition opens to the public on Tuesday 5th February everyone

will be able to see why we are so excited. The new cases will be very much smarter, moveable – which gives us flexibility in how each exhibition is presented, and they will provide us with much-needed storage space underneath.

As a part of this project, the Museum is buying an extra showcase which will live at Mere School. The school will find lots of ways of using the case to stimulate early interest in Museums in general, but we hope that the children will enjoy selecting items from the Museum's collection to make their own displays.

The new exhibition will be called: 'Butchers, Bakers, Candlestick-makers: Trades in Mere Old and New'. In addition to old photographs, objects and documents, we hope to present a picture of Mere in the days when there were scores of businesses to be found along its streets, and lots of opportunity to find references to old Mere families. We hope you will enjoy the show!

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

THE FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

Friends are reminded that the special preview of the new exhibition will take place on Monday evening, 4th February at 6.30pm.

It will be a special event because we shall be unveiling not only a new exhibition (see above) but also our brand new showcases (fingers crossed!). Preview evenings are held especially for Friends, but if you would like to join this dynamic group of people, do come along and join on the night. We look forward to welcoming you.

Jenny Wilding 01747 860908

DO YOU PLAY A WIND INSTRUMENT?

Clarinet, flute, recorder, oboe, bassoon? Anyone keen to make music on a weekly/fortnightly basis? Beginner or otherwise! Please contact:

Judy Phillips 01747 860835

MERE DRAMA SOCIETY

So many wonderful (and some just plain wild) ideas surfaced during our January meeting about what MADS will present in the Spring (when we are without our usual stage which has, for the moment, totally disappeared) that I am unable to give any clear details just at the minute. But Something **WILL** Happen, rest assured. More soon.

In the meantime, MADS is promoting and supporting (we are in charge of refreshments!), a musical evening to be held at The Grove Buildings on Friday 29th February 2008 at which the performers are Chris Newman (on 'blazing guitar') and Maire Ni Chathasaigh (with a 'dancing harp'). See page 11 for details. *Jenny Wilding 01747 860908*

MERE FILM SHOWS

Before anything else let me assure everyone that for this month's film I **DO** have "The Licence"!!and the film **WILL** take place in the Grove Building as advertised!

The film on Friday 8th February is 'Ratatouille' (U), an animated film, which all the critics described as excellent, one of the best animated films to be produced and which they said would be far more appreciated by adults than children! Added to this, it has just won the prestigious Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Film. Certainly, those I know who have seen it have loved it, and I hope you will too. Full details will be found on page 18.

Don't forget that the Grove Building is a smaller venue with a smaller audience capacity so it will be necessary to Book Early to Avoid Disappointment!

For your diary, next month's film will be 'Elizabeth – The Golden Age' (15) on Friday 7th March, also in the Grove Building.

Mary White 01747 861257

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

At the beginning of 2008, we look back on 2007 as our busiest year to date, having received 969 requests for transport from 210 different users. 643 requests were from residents of Mere and 326 from the surrounding villages. 143 people from Mere used the Linkscheme and 67 from the villages. We are very grateful to the 30 drivers who have enabled us to meet these requests. ^

We would like to thank Di Potter for compiling another quiz and congratulate the winners Heather Gillard, Steve Chaplin and Mary White. If you would like to check you own answers or find out those you did not know, a list is displayed in the notice box next to the Co-op. Thank you to all who took part and helped to raise £65 for the Linkscheme.

We would also like to thank the person who has kindly sent a donation of £25.00.

Molly Burden 01747 860007

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th February at 2.30pm in the Grove Buildings. This will be a meeting of members own poems, readings or prayers on love or marriage, as this meeting is during Marriage Week (10th-17th February).

Thelma Ings 01747 860262

MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be in the Grove Buildings at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 7th February, when Teresa Amey will speak on "Line Dancing - Health Benefits from Dancing." We intend to put into immediate practice some of the things she will be telling us. Visitors will be very welcome.

Molly Burden 01747 860007

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

Ratatouille (U)

"A comedy with great taste"

A brilliant and witty animation.

In one of Paris's finest restaurants, Remy, a determined young rat, dreams of becoming a renowned French chef. Remy and his pal Linguini set in motion an hilarious chain of events that turns the City of Lights upside down!

**In the Grove Building
Friday 8th February 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

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for December 2007, drawn after Morning Praise on 2nd December 2007 by Jonathan Wells and Joshua Howden, was:

1st Prize	(£60)	-	No.163	Mr P Dethick
2nd Prize	(£40)	-	No.128	Mr & Mrs P Smith
3rd Prize	(£20)	-	No. 20	Mr P Watson
4th Prize	(£10)	-	No. 75	Mrs S Shotter
5th Prize	(£10)	-	No.165	generously returned

(to celebrate our 200th member)

The Result of the Draw for January 2008, drawn after Morning Praise on 6th January 2008 by, Charlie, Joanna & Edward Ford and Sebastian Robbins was:

1st Prize	(£20)		No. 28	Generously returned
2nd Prize	(£15)	-	No. 190	Generously returned
3rd Prize	(£10)	-	No. 112	Mrs G Anderson
4th Prize	(£5)	-	No. 152	Mrs E A Ings

Valerie Ransley 01747 860964



Holiday Club

During the Half Term Holiday (18th – 22nd February) Kidzone at Footprints will be running its Holiday Club. This is open to ALL primary school age children (4 -11 years old); they do not have to attend Mere Primary School. The Holiday Club is open from 8.45am – 3.15pm, and charges £3.00 an hour, which includes breakfast and an afternoon snack; children need to bring their own packed lunch. The theme of Half Term Holiday Club will be “*Under the Sea*” and a full range of activities is planned including games, arts and crafts and maybe even cooking! For further details please phone the Playleader: Karen Brown on 01747 861108.

Musical Evening

An evening of folk, gospel and blues music from “**THE OLD BLUE BAG BAND**” (Mary Ridgewell – violin, Elinor Tolfree – woodwind, Harry Debrett – banjo, Colin Marsh – guitar, Geoff Simms – bass) on Thursday 14th February from 7.30pm. Admission absolutely free, but a collection will be made to raise funds for Footprints. Refreshments will also be available.

Adult Education

The Spring term has started very well, with several courses up to full complement. Don't forget our 2 session workshop “Trees, Roots and the Web – a Family History” on Monday 3rd & 10th March, 10am to 1pm. This is a wonderful chance to trace your family history. It will look at traditional sources of information and also modern, computer based opportunities. A few places are still available; please phone Footprints on 01747 861108 for more information.

Manor Farm Vets - Half page advert



EXTRAS

BICYCLE SECURITY

Please put this date in your diary!
Saturday 8th March, at Footprints, Springfield Road
from 10.00 - 11.30am there will be a
bicycle security marking session completely
FREE OF CHARGE.

We are hoping to have a couple of capable people on hand
who will give bikes the "once-over" for routine
maintenance problems. Tea and coffee will be available.
For further information please ring FOOTPRINTS on 01747 861108.

WILTSHIRE SCRAPSTORE

Will be at Footprints, Springfield Road on
Thursday 7th February from 2.00-4.00pm.
Take the opportunity to stock up with all craft needs
from a huge selection and all at very reasonable prices.
For more details please ring FOOTPRINTS on 01747 861108

REPORT FROM MERE SCHOOL

January 2008

Welcome back to a new term and a fresh new year. We hope you had a fantastic and thrilling holiday and we hope you enjoyed it.

We went to Salisbury Playhouse and watched 'Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood' just before Christmas. We went on 5 buses and sat down in our seats very near the stage. Halfway through, we all had a tub of ice-cream. We had a great time!

Mere School choir went to Fives Court and The Day Centre to sing some Christmas songs. Bryony Adams, who was in the choir said: "it was fun because you got to talk with your friends". The choir sang 'Ding Dong' and 'The Gift' and were kindly given sweets.

Before Christmas, we had our Christmas performances. We hope that everyone who came had a good time because we did! 'Scarecrow's Christmas' was a very good play about giving and sharing and 'The Stars Come Out for Christmas' was about giving an award out for the best thing about Christmas. Beth, the star of Bethlehem, won the award. We are looking forward to next year now!

Get your dancing shoes on and get ready! The Christmas disco was a real 'wanna be there' one! Loads of people came. The night was split into 2 hip swinging parts - the young ones had their disco at 6.00pm and the older ones from 7.30 – 9.00pm. All the parents came to pick everyone up and they had a really nice time.

Near the Christmas holidays, Mrs Williamson asked us to bring our wellies to school. The whole school (including playgroup) went out onto the field and suddenly a helicopter appeared from the distance and we saw a red figure waving at us! IT WAS FATHER CHRISTMAS! He was in a Royal Navy helicopter and it circled the field and landed in the middle of the field. Each class went over to look at it and we asked some questions. Then we went to the edge of the field and saw it fly off again.

Christmas dinner was the winner of Mere's Christmas celebrations! Everybody loved the food and after their hard work it was fabulous. We were all very grateful and we were given little chocolates at the end. We made our own Christmas hats. What a great day!

On the last day of term, we had our carol service in St Michael's Church. Rev'd Barnes made this a special occasion for us. We did Christmas readings, sang Christmas songs and the choir and recorders performed. This was a lovely end to an exciting term.

*Megan Cotton, Nicole Gent, Jake Francis, Tom Curtis,
Charlotte Emby, Arabella Murrison, Chris Martin, Michael Catley,
Toni Hooper, Charlotte Summerfield, Jake Sanger, Edward Ford,
Charlie Guy-Knapp, Rhys Newman, Tom Wakeling and Liam Reilly*

BARN BUDDIES

The Barn Buddies have continued to meet weekly at Barrow Street Farm on Friday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Over 150 young people aged from school year two upwards have attended throughout the year. Our youngest members are aged 6, and we also have some in their late teens who attend, now taking on the role of assistant leaders.

There have been many highlights throughout the year. We had monthly barbecues through the spring and summer, where we were pleased to welcome friends and family, and it was good to see Mums and Dads staying for the whole evening, having their supper with their family and then playing together. This was also an opportunity for people to just visit and see what we do.

We were pleased to host a Barn Dance that was organised by The Bridge in aid of the East Window appeal at St Michaels Church. It was good to see so many people there, and we hope to have further similar events during this year.

We had two Open Days in 2007, one in March to celebrate the new floor that we had installed. The floor had been paid for by generous donations received from all areas of our community, local businesses and organisations, individuals and families. All were very kind and helped out. We were pleased to welcome representatives from the Duchy of Cornwall and from the Bishop of Ramsbury's office. Our local MP was unable to get to that evening, but we were pleased to welcome him a few weeks later on a special visit.

Our Open Day in the Autumn was an opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us over the years, and we were pleased to welcome a representative of Screwfix, and Bishop Stephen, the Bishop of Ramsbury.

During the year, we have of course also welcomed the new vicar, Paul Barnes, and it is good to see him participating in so many energetic games with the young people.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit us, please do feel free to pop in. Even if you don't have any young children who might be interested do come and see what we do, this is a project that we hope can reach all corners of the community.

I must thank all of the volunteers who turn up each week to help run the Barn Buddies. The children can meet in a safe and friendly environment, and new members are always welcome.

Tim Merrell 01747 860195

ALERT - ALL BRIDGE PLAYERS

Come to an afternoon of BRIDGE

in the **GROVE BUILDINGS**, Church Street, Mere, at

2.00pm on SATURDAY, 1st MARCH

£20.00 per table including Tea

In aid of St Michael's Church East Window appeal.

PRIOR BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Contact:

Mrs C Bixby
"Ansty", The Island
Edgebridge, Mere
WARMINSTER
BA12 6DB
Tel: 01747 860594

THE FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Mere is fortunate to have a number of beautiful and historic buildings, which are entrusted to us to maintain and refurbish for future

generations. One of these buildings is the parish church of St Michael the Archangel.

The Friends of St Michael the Archangel was formed to foster interest in our ancient Parish Church and to provide funds for the adornment and improvement of the building and its furnishings.

If you value the church building even if you do not worship there, you can become a Friend of St Michaels. 'Friends' will receive an annual newsletter and be invited to any Friends of St Michaels' events. The names of Life Members are inscribed in a specially bound book kept in the Church. HRH Prince Charles became the first Friend on the roll in 1976.

Individual Life Membership is £30 and Individual Annual Membership is £5. Donations are always welcome and if you are a tax-payer you may wish to Gift Aid your membership fee or donation.

If you are interested, please complete the Membership Form, which can be obtained from Waltons of Mere, Mere Library or St Michael's Church. Alternatively please complete the slip below, and a membership form will be sent to you.

Do join - thank you.

=====

Please send an application form to:-

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel No:.....

Return slip to:
Membership Secretary - Mrs Lindy Elliott, St Peters Cottage, Church Street, Mere, WARMINSTER, BA12 6DS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MERE & DISTRICT

Lent Course 2008

“Pathways of Prayer”

Twice every Tuesday during Lent at

10.30am - Mere URC Church Room &
7.30pm - Parish Room, Zeals Church

12th February	Path of Holiness
19th February	Path of Social Justice
26th February	Devotional Path
4th March	Sacramental Path
11th March	Contemplative Path
18th March	Charismatic Path

You are welcome to attend all or any of these meetings.

For more information about these courses contact: 840221 or 863313

Lent Lunches in the Grove Buildings

Fridays:

**8th, 15th, 22nd and 20th FEBRUARY
7th, 14th and 21st March (Good Friday)**

Bring a Friend. Come and enjoy
Homemade Soup
Roll Butter and Cheese,
Coffee or Tea for £2.00

Home-made produce, etc

In aid of Christian Aid and CAFOD

FR BEDE ROWE, PARISH PRIEST OF THE CHURCH OF ST GEORGE IN WARMINSTER, SERVING ST MARY'S MASS CENTRE, MERE, WRITES

Here comes Lent.

Lent this year is about as soon as it can be. Ash Wednesday occurs on 6th February - it seems that Christmas has only just gone, when the next great festival comes along.

Lent, of course, is dependent upon the date of Easter, and although moves have been made to have the date of Easter fixed, these have not been taken up. To fix Easter it is calculated for a specific Sunday through the year (Easter would be defined as the first Sunday following the first astronomical full moon following the astronomical vernal equinox, as determined from the meridian of Jerusalem.) By the way, if this makes sense to anyone and if anyone knows how to calculate this please do NOT tell me. My life is too short!!!

All you need to know is that the earliest possible date for Easter is 22nd March (which will happen in the year 2285) and the latest possible date is 25th April (which will happen in 2038).

We can now see how far we have gone from being a Christian country, as our school will remain open with, begrudgingly, giving only Good Friday and Easter Monday off.

But, apart from such gripes... What is all this about?

Well let me tell you. On the Feast of the Epiphany, we announced time. We announced the dates of Easter, Ash Wednesday, Pentecost and Corpus Christi. By doing this, we remember that it is us, the Church, who decides when the great feasts and festivals of the Church fall. All things are centred on the date of Easter, the resurrection of the Lord. This is not the realm of our government, of fiddling by silly people. This is our job, our time, our faith, and if it makes things a little difficult, well... tough.

It is of no great importance theologically if we celebrated Easter on a more stable date, but on balance, I think that I prefer the bizarrely complicated way we do it at the moment, with golden numbers, dominical letters and eparchs (*Diocesan Bishops in the Eastern Catholic Church – Ed.*). After all, God created time, He can look after it perfectly well!

CALL MY BLUFF''

In aid of St Michael's Church East Window Appeal

***Saturday 2nd February 2007 @ 7.00pm
in The Grove Buildings***

- *Gentlemen v. Ladies* -

Once again, by popular request, two teams will attempt to deceive each other about the meanings of some unusual words. Keeping order will be Michael Hannon as Chairman. The Rev'd Paul Barnes will lead the team of 'Gentlemen', Peter Knapp and Mark Dunham. Mrs Jenny Wilding, aided and abetted by Angela McDonald and Wyn Richardson, will represent the 'Ladies'.

This promises to be another entertaining evening. There will be a bar, and light refreshments will be served in the interval. Tickets are available at £7 each [which includes your first glass of wine] from the Information Point in the Library or from 16 Homefield, Mere [01747-861776]. Tickets are limited, so get your bid in early!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

On Wednesday 27th February, Mr Clive Upton of the Tear Fund will bring us news of Afghanistan and the work of the Tear Fund. We meet at 2.30 p.m. as usual and anyone is very welcome to join us in the School Room at the rear of the Methodist Church in North Street.

Mary Siderfin: 01747 861370

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".

Teresa Read 01747 860289

MERE POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection in Mere for 2007 was a brilliant effort and many, many thanks are due to those who trudged from house to house and to those who made room and appropriate security arrangements on their shop and office counters.

We hit a record for Mere in 2007 of £2,894.20. An increase of £376 on the previous year. The details are:

	£
House to House Collections	1,287.25
Static Boxes (Shops, Public Houses etc.)	766.57
Church Collections	588.88
Wreaths	211.50
Anonymous Donation	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL	2,894.20

THANK YOU ALL!

David Ransley, 01747 860964

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH BELLS

We are delighted to welcome the Band from Manaton, Newton Abbot, to ring a Quarter Peal on Saturday, 2nd February 2008, from 12.00 Noon to 1.00pm at St. Michael, The Archangel church. It is good for all eight bells to be so 'exercised' once in a while, and we hope that not only will you enjoy the sound of this age old tradition, but be inspired to come along and join our Band of bell ringers in Mere! If you are interested, please contact Mike Durkee on 01747 860163, or me.

Sue Birch, Tower Secretary 01747 861703

St Michael, The Archangel, Mere

YOUR PARISH CHURCH

Ash Wednesday February 6th

Easter approaches.

**Services of Holy Communion with Imposition Of
Ashes when we are marked with the Sign Of**



**The Cross with ashes as a reminder of
our human frailty and our need
for God's forgiveness and healing.**

10.30am Traditional Language (BCP)

7.30pm Common Worship 1 (CW1)

Everyone is very welcome

**Less than 2 months to Easter, the highlight of the
Christian calendar!**

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

FEBRUARY

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	3rd	10.30am	Morning Praise
		(NB: No Sunday School)	
		4.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Please note change of time</i>

Ash Wednesday	6th	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) with Imposition of Ashes
		6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) with Imposition of Ashes
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Informal Worship (Songs of Praise)
	24th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

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

Sunday	3rd	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	10th	11.00am	Brian Collis
	17th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	24th	11.00am	Rev'd Colin Marsh
			Holy Communion

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 25th FEBRUARY – 9th MARCH 2008
There will be a Community Event

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

Sunday	3rd	6.00pm	Rev'd. David Bridge
			Holy Communion
	10th	6.00pm	Mrs Margaret Whitford
Sunday	17th	6.00pm	Mr Brian Collis
	24th	6.00pm	Mr Ken Harvey
Wednesday	27 th	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together

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

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)

Sundays 9.25am Holy Communion (CW1 trad)

Note: BCP indicates Book of Common Prayer 1662

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

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY 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; YC-Youth Centre

A reminder that the Lecture Halls remain CLOSED until 1st April

1	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (Every Friday)	BSF
2	Sat	9.30am	Cake Stall	The Square
		10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning	CC
		7.30pm	Call My Bluff	GB
4	Mon	6.45pm	Cubs (and 11th, and 25th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (and 11th, and 25th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (Every Monday)	CC
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
5	Tue	7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
6	Wed	2.00pm	Alabaré (also 20th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (Every Wednesday)	DMS
7	Thur	2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	CC
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (Every Thursday)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (and 14th and 28th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (and 14th and 28th)	GB
		7.00pm	Guides	CC
		7.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (Every Thursday)	MH
8	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (and 22nd)	GB
		12.30pm	Lent Lunches (Every Friday)	GB
		7.00pm	Mere Film Shows "Ratatouille"	GB
9	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
10	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (and 17th and 24th)	GB
		7.00pm	"The Bridge" (and 24th)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (and 25th)	GB

11	Mon	7.00pm	Scouts (and 25th)	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World (and 18th and 25th)	CC
12	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	CC
13	Wed	6.00pm	Karate (and 20th and 27th)	DMS
		7.30pm	Mere Gardening Club	GB
14	Thur	2.00pm	Bridge Club (and 21st and 28th)	CC
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (and 21st and 28th)	GB
		5.00pm	Rainbows (and 28th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (and 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (and 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (and 21st and 28th)	MH
15	Fri	12.30pm	Lent Lunches (and 22nd and 29th)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (and 22nd and 29th)	BSF
16	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning & Traidcraft stall	CC
17	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (and 24th)	GB
18	Mon	7.00pm	Slimming World (and 25th)	CC
19	Tue	7.30pm	Mere Historical Society Annual Party	GB
20	Wed	2.00pm	Alabaré	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (and 27th)	DMS
21	Thur	2.00pm	Bridge Club (Every Thursday)	CC
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (and 28th)	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (and 28th)	MH
		7.30pm	Conservative branch AGM	GB
22	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women	GB
		12.30pm	Lent Lunches (and 29th)	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (and 28th)	BSF
23	Sat	10.30am	Drop in Coffee Morning & Rosemary Goddard bric-a-brac	CC
24	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club	GB
		7.00pm	"The Bridge"	GB
25	Mon	6.45pm	Cubs	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts	YC
		7.00pm	Slimming World	CC
26	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	CC
27	Wed	2.00pm	Friends Together	GB
		2.30pm	Methodist Church Afternoon Get Together	MH
		6.00pm	Karate	DMS
28	Thur	2.00pm	Bridge Club	CC
		2.00pm	Line Dancing	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony	MH
29	Fri	12.30pm	Lent Lunches	GB
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies	BSF
		7.30pm	Irish Folk Concert	GB

