

MERE MATTERS AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE AND
GUIDE TO LOCAL EVENTS



NOVEMBER 2011

By arrangement with New Theatre Publications

Mere Amateur Dramatic Society
Presents



Time Heals, They Say
By Roger Wilding

7.30 p.m. at Mere Lecture Hall
Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th November 2011
Tickets £6 from Mere TIC (in the Library)

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets every month. Whilst it is not a public meeting, members of the public are welcome to come and listen. The Council members are working on YOUR behalf to sustain and improve the quality of life and the environment that we enjoy in the parish - come and hear what they are doing for you! You will be permitted to raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be held in the **Andy Young Pavilion at 7.30pm on Monday, 7th November 2011.**

The Chairman writes:

The Public Meeting held on 26th September to address the deep concerns over the lack of water in Mere's rivers was very well attended and I am only sorry that quite a number of people were unable to get in to the Grove Buildings as it was so full. Present at the meeting were Fiona Bowles from Wessex Water and Christopher Greenwell from the Environment Agency who endeavoured to answer the concerns highlighted in a presentation from some of the residents of Mere. The residents made it quite clear that our rivers are not winterbournes as had been claimed and that they had never before dried to the present condition, even in more prolonged periods of dry weather. Wessex Water admitted that abstraction would have an effect on the water levels in our rivers and it is clear that a large number of parishioners believe that the amount of water abstracted is the cause of low flows. Climatic conditions and the lack of rainfall over recent months is another explanation or contributory factor for our low flows.

Whatever the reason, the fact remains that Mere has no water in its rivers and all the facts and figures given by Wessex Water and the Environment Agency did not provide any sort of a solution to the problem, although both parties were left under no illusion as to the strength of feeling of our residents. At the October Parish Council meeting councillors resolved to write to the Environment Agency with a firm request that a resolution be found and that details be sent to us as soon as possible.

We were very pleased to have Dr. Andrew Murrison, our Member of Parliament, with us at the October Parish Council meeting and he gave a brief overview of the 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England, from which it seems that the boundary of our present constituency will alter and will take in part of North Dorset to become Warminster and Shaftesbury. These proposals are still being considered, however, and whether this is the final decision remains to be seen.

Councillors have also been looking in detail at the Draft National Planning Policy Framework in order to formulate the Parish Council's response to the document before the consultation closes later this month.

Finally, the fifteenth Mere Literary Festival has just drawn to a close, and it has been another marvellous week of events. I had the honour, on Sunday, of presenting some of the prizes awarded in the Poetry Competition, which had entries coming from all over

the country and beyond, and was delighted that the winners of both the Open Competition and the Local Prize, were two Mere residents, Peter Gillott and Colin White respectively. Many congratulations to them both. How fortunate we are to have such talent in Mere!

For information on Parish Council activities, minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please refer to the Mere website: www.merewilts.org, e-mail the parish clerk at: lindseywood@merewilts.org or ☎ 01747 860701.

Mary White, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

GEORGE JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, MERE DIVISION, WRITES

The Localism Bill is now in The House of Lords. Localism in development terms (houses and businesses being built or expanded) cross relates to development planning in the proposed national planning policy document, which is hoped to be reduced to about 50 or 60 pages. At the present time views are being sought on the Government's proposed approach to new regulations on neighbourhood planning. You may think this is of no interest to you, possibly so, however, I would suggest you look at it. An example of the contents is the possible suggestion of Parish Councils determining some planning applications, which would be a radical new approach.

The consultation document is only available to download on line. If you need help, Mere Library will help you log on and print a copy, at 10p per page, or read it off the screen in The Library. The consultation period is 12 weeks, from Thursday, 13th October to Thursday, 5th January 2012. E-mail is how Communities and Local Government would prefer you to respond. For e-mail respond to: neighbourhoodplanning@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively, they would be happy to receive responses by post at: Neighbourhood Planning Regulations Consultation, Communities and Local Government, Zone 1/J1, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London, SW1E 5DU.

Jaki Farrell from Mere Youth Club has agreed to clear some footpaths. Jaki has worked with young people from Bishopstone to clear footpaths this year; therefore The Youth Club will be approaching with some experience of footpath clearance.

The South West Area Board agreed to spend nearly £9,000 on a new Speed Indicator Device (SID) with data gathering on the 5th October. The equipment will be held and managed by Tisbury Community Safety Partnership (TCSP,) but deployed by Wiltshire

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



Council's Highways Department to supplement their existing schedule. A parish or town usually needs to set criteria for Community Speed Watch (CSW) or a Speed Indicator Device (SID). 69% of those present agreed to go ahead, but did question the use of the device in areas where no accidents have been recorded.

Our low river levels were well discussed at a very well attended public meeting at The Grove Building in late September. The Parish Council have since agreed to press The Environmental Agency to get some water back in to our rivers in Mere, noting that Wessex Water has a statutory requirement to ensure water comes out of our taps.

The South West Area Board, which covers our area, has a new Community Area Manager, Stephen Harris. Community groups who cannot easily raise funds should remember that the South West Area Board, at its discretion, can give community grants, usually up to £5,000. For example, Mere Bowls Club gained a grant at the Board's last meeting for a secure store.

Several street lights in Mere are not working. With winter approaching, I am pressing they are brought back in operation quickly.

CF OIL

Community First's new venture that saves you money!

CF Oil is a new social enterprise that will reduce the cost of your domestic heating oil each time you place an order.

All you need to do to take advantage of the scheme is to pay an annual membership fee, which will cover as many oil orders as you need during the course of the year.

Membership costs £20 per year and you normally save more than your membership costs in your first order!

The more people who get together to buy oil, the greater negotiating power of the group. It helps shift power away from the supplier and back to the customer.

The scheme normally works through a volunteer local co-ordinator but CF Oil will act as the co-ordinator until one is appointed. Local Co-ordinators have FREE membership of the scheme.

If you would like to save money on the cost of your heating oil, please join our CF Oil and see how easy it is.

Community First is a charity that works at the forefront of community development to help improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people and local communities throughout Wiltshire and Swindon. If you would like further information on being a member or a Local Co-ordinator please contact our CF Oil administrator: Jess emery by ☎ 01380 732809 or e-mail: oil@communityfirst.org.uk or visit our website: www.communityfirst.org.uk

WILTSHIRE AIR AMBULANCE APPEAL 2011-2012

Wiltshire's Air Ambulance would like to say a huge thank you to all those who have offered support and funds to help keep us flying these past 21 years!

We simply couldn't keep saving lives if the support of the public wasn't as strong as it is. We do not receive any Government funding but rely totally on the public and local businesses to support the running costs of the charity.

2011 sees the Appeal move into a new era by appointing its very own dedicated set of Trustees who will help to shape the future of the Appeal along-side the two new Appeal Staff members Claire Kelly, County Co-ordinator and Caroline Corrigan, County Fundraiser.

Currently the Appeal needs to raise £700,000 to keep the Helicopter flying 19 hours a day 365 days of the year, **but will have to increase income to beyond £1.5 million if the current partnership with the police is not renewed in 2014.**

Everyone in Wiltshire has a stake in the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. **It is an essential service that serves all the people of Wiltshire whatever your age or gender.** We are there for those life and death situations where the speed of the helicopter and the skill of the crew play a major part in the outcome of the patient.

In 2010 Wiltshire Air Ambulance attended 628 different incidents. 12% of these were night rescues. Almost half of all incidents the Air Ambulance attended were Road Traffic Collisions across our county roads or on the Motorways. Other situations include, cardiac arrests, horse riding accidents, work related injury, farm accidents, fires and burns.

WAA can be at an incident within 11 minutes. You may have heard the phrase 'Golden Hour' - this is used to describe the hour directly after an incident has taken place. It is imperative that the injured party receives medical attention within this hour to **minimise** the risk of life changing injuries or in some cases death.

Some of the main ways the Appeal raises the funds include our wonderful Westbury Shop which continues to grow each year; Dot and her dedicated volunteers have now raised over £1.5 million for the Appeal. Our own Lottery continues to bring in thousands of pounds and pays out £1,000 a week to the lucky winner! Our new Fundraising events include Parachute Jumps and The Toubkal Challenge which will see Paramedic Joanne Munday, Claire from the Appeal, and 18 other members of the public climb the highest Atlas Mountain raising funds for WAAA. We wish them all good luck.

If you would like further information on the Appeal or would like to make a donation please contact the Appeal Office on 0845 122 142 or email **info@wiltshireairambulance.co.uk** We are always looking for volunteers to support our work and become one of our wonderful "friends" who help to raise our profile and help us in their local community.

Please do remember to keep us informed on any of your own fundraising events so we can add details to our website - soon to have a facelift - and help to promote your efforts.

Once again, from us all at the Appeal, thank you for your continued support. Without you, we would be grounded

WEATHER REPORT

The rainfall for September was 56mms (2.21ins) and last year it was 76mms (2.99ins). We had gale force winds on the 6th but after the 20th we only had 4mms (0.16ins) of rain, and until the 2nd October we had unusually hot weather of up to 22°C.

October started with a little rain, 9mms (0.35ins) mostly over night. Until the 16th, October has been mainly sunny with Westerly winds and milder than usual.

Peter Durkee

MERE SURGERY

Mere Surgery wish to thank you for being tolerant and patient during our conversion to a new computer system. Hopefully everything is now running smoothly.

You can still book both appointments and order repeat prescriptions on the internet by going to our website: **www.meresurgery.co.uk** and following the links at the bottom of the page. You do need to register for this service if you have not used it before; if you contact the surgery we will be able to issue you with a password and log on details.

The website will be used to update patients on developments at the surgery including details of flu vaccination clinics and at risk groups. Also some of the regularly used patient forms are now available to download from the clinics and services/clinical forms link.

We have now stopped the automatic prescribing of prescriptions each month. One of the reasons for this is because of wasted medications; many drugs were being returned not used each month for various reasons. In the interest of reducing this wastage, we are now asking that you order the medications that you need, when you need them. We would prefer if you ordered using the internet, but you can also still drop the counter side of the prescription into the surgery or phone up to request medications in the afternoons.

You will also notice that the counter side of your prescription has more information on it. This now includes a reminder when you are due for any annual reviews. It requires you to make the appropriate appointments, hopefully allowing you to book follow up appointments at your convenience. If the period when your review is due expires, we will write to you organising an appointment, as we did with the previous system.

Most Wiltshire practices are on this new computer record system, which should allow a more smooth transfer of information if you move house. There are also plans for the technology to be installed in the out of hours, accident and emergency, and the acute medical wards, so in the future (and only with your consent) can your notes be shared with other medical providers that might be involved with your care.

Thank you once again for your understanding during this transition period.

Angela Pitman Practice Manager ☎ 01747 860001

MERE DENTAL PRACTICE



The practice currently has **NHS appointments** available to anyone in Mere, but Jacquie Barnes is the only dentist seeing new NHS patients

The practice has two Dentists:

Mr Stephen Sherrard

Ms Jacqueline Barnes

..and one Dental Hygienist:

Ms Wendy Hester (Mondays only)

..plus a dental therapist

Jay Lonsdale (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Contact Details: -

Mere Dental Practice, Duchy Manor, Springfield Road, Mere, BA12 6EW

☎: 01747 860365

Tuesday 8.45am – 7.00pm (Both Dentists cover evening appts.)

Normal hours 9.00am – 5.30pm (on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Friday.)

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

SHAFTESBURY HOSPITAL

On Wednesday, 16th November, the Friends of the Westminster Memorial Hospital Shaftesbury (Registered charity 281419) are holding a fund-raising event in the Chapel at Huntingford in aid of the X-ray appeal. Coffee, cards, cakes, raffle, and a Bring and Buy Sale will start at 10.00am and finish at 3.00pm.

Please come along and support your local community Hospital that so many of us use. £15,000 is needed to adapt the existing x-ray room to take the new equipment. Cakes and donations of any kind would be gratefully received.

Jenny Wood, Chair ☎ 01747 861582

MDLS LITERARY FESTIVAL

A big thank you to all those who helped and supported the Literary Festival week in any way. We were blessed with fine weather and a happy atmosphere. It was good to see the community coming together to support the work of the LinkScheme.

Mere Matters goes to press as the festival ends so a fuller report will appear next month.
Adrienne Howell & The Lit. Fest. Group

THE COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch runs from October to Easter alternating between the Old Ship Hotel and the Walnut Tree Inn. It is for the people of Mere and District to meet in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone is welcome, do book in advance,

The next Community Lunch will be on Tuesday, 8th November 2011, starting at 12 Noon at **The Walnut Tree Inn**, Shaftesbury Road, Mere. For a £8.95 two course lunch with tea or coffee, please ☎ 01747 861220 to book.

This month at the Community Lunch, **Action for Blind People and Wiltshire Blind Association** would like to meet anyone in the area who is vision impaired to discuss the help and services that they have to offer, and **Independent Vision** will be available for advice on magnifying equipment.

For further details, please contact me. *Lynette Elliott* ☎ 01747 861646

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME Transport Requests - ☎ 01747 860 096

The Management Committee would like to thank the organisers of the Mere Literary Festival for arranging another successful week of events. We would also like to thank all those of you who came to the various events for your help in ensuring that the Linkscheme will be able to continue to provide its present service. In the past year we have received over 1,000 requests from more than 200 people, and we know how much the service is valued.
Molly Burden

SHREEN HARMONY

The choir has now settled into rehearsals for the Autumn and Christmas Season. We meet every Thursday evening in the United Reform Church in Mere and it is always great fun. We are learning a range of new material from around the world as well as the Christmas Classics, and this year promises to be a really great programme of music.

We sang at the 'One World Fair' in the Grove Building on 22nd October and are now concentrating on our Christmas Concert which will be on Saturday, 17th December at

7.30pm also in the Grove Building. As always it will be free admission, but there will be a collection for charity. Mulled wine and a delightful supper will be served, and hopefully a good crowd to help us raise the roof once again. We are also hoping to be able to sing at Fives Court where there is always a warm and lovely atmosphere.

The choir is full at the moment (unless you are a tenor - male or female - you would be welcome), but we do have a waiting list for other parts, and if you ring me on the number below I would be happy to add your name and would contact you as soon as a space became available.

Sandra Fisher ☎ 01747 860424

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

**HM ARMED FORCES?
SERVING or RETIRED?
ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE or ROYAL MARINES?
PRIVATE or GENERAL?**

We have set up a group to help out Mere in times of crisis such as snow clearance, flooding, missing persons etc. We need able-bodied and injured servicemen and women to help their community at such times.

Come along to the first meeting of: **"Heroes Helping Out"**

On Tuesday, 8th November 2011 @1900hrs (7.00pm) in the small lecture hall (opposite the Indian Restaurant)

Contact: Lt. Col. Matthew Botsford ☎ 07789-864650 or e-mail:

info@tupelo.org.uk.

Follow us on Facebook "Heroes Helping Out in Mere"

1 x Free Beer!

TRAIDCRAFT

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS (and your tree) a bit more meaningful this year. I will be stocking special Christmas Decorations this year with the Christmas message as well as a large selection of Fairly Traded gifts which will be available at my sales at St Michael's and the URC over the next month. If you miss these, please come to my 'At Home' in November. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the loyal supporters over the year. The value of the Sales has enabled Traidcraft to support 15 families where the Fair Trade premium gives them hope for their futures.

'TRAIDCRAFT AT HOME' on Friday, 18th November at 'Wits End', North Road, Mere
8.30am - 9.00pm.

Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884

MERE FILM SHOWS

This month's film is '**Brighton Rock**' (15), on Friday, 11th November, a new adaptation of Graham Greene's classic novel – with an excellent cast - about a small-town hood, Pinkie, who marries a waitress, Rose, who witnessed him murdering a rival thug, in order to keep her quiet. But Ida, Rose's employer – played by Helen Mirren – has her suspicions and makes it her business to save Rose from Pinkie's clutches. Full details on page 24.

I am aware that there was some concern at the last film over the quality of the sound and some spoke to Christina, our presenter, about this. Christina and I have spoken several times on the subject and the fault most often lies with the sound quality on the DVD supplied by the distributors. These are not the same DVDs that you buy to watch at home, but are supplied direct to operators such as Moviola or film societies for public screenings. In the same way the trailers of films to come are often of inferior quality, as was the trailer for this month's film, and they bear no relation to the quality of the film itself. Please don't be put off coming to see the film by a poor quality trailer. The film will be very much better than that.

Dates for your Diary: Thursday, 8th December, 'West Side Story' ('digitally remastered' and perfect in every way!) *Mary White* ☎ 01747 861257



MERE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE



The Chamber hosted an Emergency First Aid at Work Course on 26th September, which was well attended and received positive feedback from delegates. This was the first training course of several that the Chamber is planning in order to assist and support local businesses. The next will be Food Safety in Catering (see diary dates below) which is also HSE approved and for successful delegates provides a nationally recognised certificate valid for 3 years. The courses, which are organised by the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce and are run by recognised and experienced trainers, are competitively priced and The Chamber hopes businesses will find them to be useful.

Update on Dates for your Diary:

9th November 2011 **Breakfast Meeting with Sarah Dyke-Bracher of Sowing Seeds**

Sowing Seeds is a locally led funding Programme which supports project ideas. Sarah will be talking to us about Sowing Seeds and its work. 7.45am – 9.00am at The George Inn, The Square, Mere. Please call Julie to book a place on number below.

30th November 2011 **Annual General Meeting**

This year, the Chamber's AGM will be held at The Old Ship Hotel in Mere, to begin at 7.30pm.

6th December 2011 Social Evening

The Chamber would like to invite businesses, whether established, new or maybe just starting out to come along and join us for a social meeting at The Walnut Tree Inn, Mere for 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Chamber and its work and activities, and to see if we can be of help to you. It will also provide a chance to meet other local business people.

12th January 2011 Food Safety in Catering Training Course.

The Food Safety Act 1990 requires that people handling food must be trained in food hygiene. At the end of the course there will be an exam, and a nationally recognised certificate will be issued to successful candidates.

9.00 am – 4.30 pm in the small room at Mere Social Club

Members: £67.00 exc. VAT Non Members: £84.00 exc. VAT

To book, or for further information on any of the Chamber events or meetings, please contact Julie Cousins ☎ 0785 670 0576. If there is anything the Chamber can do for you, please let us know. We are here to help all businesses, large or small.

Date of next Chamber Committee Meeting to be held at Mere Social Club for 7.30pm, Wednesday, 2nd November 2011. You are most welcome to join us at our meetings and if you are interested in being on the committee please come along. More ideas are always essential to keep a Chamber active.

Barbara S Hewitt MSSP Assoc CIPD Chair Mere & District Chamber of Trade

MERE SHORT WALKS

NOVEMBER'S SHORT WALK will take place on Monday, 14th November. Meet at 2.00pm in the Surgery Car Park for a walk of 3 miles around the byways of Mere. Warm up with a cup of tea in The Angel Cafe afterwards. *Janet Way* ☎ 01747 860884

WINCANTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Wincanton Choral Society will be presenting a Christmas Concert in December, filled with festive spirit. It will feature excerpts from Handel's Messiah, Karl Jenkins' A Celebration of Christmas, Morten Lauridsen's ethereal O Magnum Mysterium and a selection of other Christmas favourites. The soprano soloist will be Katharine Hawnt. The performance will take place on Sunday, 11th December at Wincanton Sports Centre commencing at 7.30 pm. Tickets priced £12 (under 18s £6) are available from Netaticket - 01749 813899, or the WCS box office – 01749 838843 from the beginning of November, or on the door. *Alice Griffith, Wincanton Choral Society*

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Building when Malcolm Shannon will talk to us on Herbaceous Perennials.

Malcolm has many years experience as a landscape designer both in the UK and overseas. He will be talking about reliable herbaceous perennials and illustrating his talk with slides. **Visitors very welcome.** Janet Way ☎ 01747 860884



MERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

**Next meeting: Thursday, 3rd November
at 7.30pm in the Grove building.**

Tony Davies of Thorngrove Garden Centre will be our speaker.

We are also looking forward to our traditional Christmas celebration which will take place on Thursday, 1st December.

The County Federation has given advance notice of a Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Thursday, 7th June 2012.

Gillian H Brignell ☎ 01747 861114

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

**The Day Centre for Mere and District, Lynch Close, Mere
Mondays and Fridays 10.30am - 4.00pm**

Here at the Rosemary Goddard Centre (RGC) we are very much looking forward to the festive season. During November the Guests will be making Christmas tree decorations along with our usual activities, whilst I try my hand at Pantomime writing (watch this space)!

We will also be making items for the Christmas Charities Fair table top sale in the Grove Building on Saturday, 19th November 19th, but we really could do with some more lovely things to sell. We are particularly looking for scarves, jewellery, toiletries, toys and small gifts. Our volunteers Jean Rodriguez and Pat Gear have both been working so hard peeling hundreds of apples and making some yummy chutneys and jams to sell, so please come and visit our table. If you have any unwanted items to donate please contact either Jean Rodriguez ☎ 01747 860436 or Pat Gear ☎ 01747 860320. Thank you.

Many thanks to those of you who are using the Co-op Community Support card helping to raise funds for the day centre. If you don't yet have a card, please ask the checkout staff for one; you do not need to be a Co-op Member, and it will cost you nothing. The Southern Co-op Head Office is planning an official launch event of the Mere scheme for

the afternoon of Sunday, 27th November in the Lecture Hall. Please look out for more publicity by the Co-op.

Apologies to any of you who tried to contact me recently on the Day Centre mobile. Please find below the correct number on which you can reach me easily.

Sandie Hawkins, RGC Organiser ☎ 07563 678541

MOTHERS UNION & OPEN MEMBERS GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th November at 2.30pm in the Grove Building. The speaker will be the Rev'd Judith Thompson who will talk about her visit to India.

There will be a "Bring & Buy" stall. Tribute money is now due. The date of the next committee meeting has changed and will now be on Tuesday, 15th November 2011.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

Don't forget the Friends grand **QUIZ** evening: it's on **Friday, 28th October** at 7.30pm in the Grove Building. No tickets are required in advance, but can be bought on the door for a mere £4 – and this includes a Ploughmans' Supper. What a bargain! Do come and support us – we are now fundraising for a potting shed and summer-house to go with the famous new garden!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Have you got yours yet? Tickets, that is, for our Autumn Production of Roger Wilding's play 'Time Heals, They Say'? Performances will be given on Thursday – Saturday, **24th – 26th November** at 7.30 pm in the Lecture Hall. They're £6 each, and selling like hot cakes so do book **now** to avoid total and everlasting personal devastation at missing this once-in-a-lifetime (obviously) world premiere. Remaining tickets can be obtained from the TIC/Library when Staff are on duty (i.e. **not** Monday morning or Wednesdays).

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MADS - Mere Amateur Dramatic Society

Invite you to a Table Top Sale

On Saturday, 3rd December, 2011
from 10.30am to 2.00pm in the Lecture Hall.

Buy a bargain or book a table for £5.
Coffees and teas will be available.

Table bookings: please contact:

Jill Turner, jillybits@btinternet.com ☎ 01747 860334

Jenny Bevis, jennybevis@btinternet.com ☎ 01747 863310

MERE MUSEUM

What an exciting month November promises to be! The participants in the community project we have called '**Make an Exhibition of Yourselves**' are installing their exhibitions as you read this, and the results of their hard work and ingenuity will be on display from **Monday, 31st October**. But, the project doesn't stop there. **YOU** must now go to see the displays and **VOTE for your favourite!** The group displays with the highest number of votes will win cash prizes, so their fate is in your hands. **Voting closes on Saturday, 26th November 26th at 1.00pm** and prizes will be awarded on the following Monday, 28th November at 6.30pm in the Museum.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

First, a reminder that there will be **no preview** of the 'Make an Exhibition of Yourselves' displays, but there will be a prize-giving party instead on Monday evening, **28th November** at 6.30pm in the Museum. All Friends and friends and, of course, participants will be very welcome.

Next, following the huge success of last year's Christmas event ('Dickens at Christmas'), the Friends have invited **Chester House Productions** to visit Mere again this year, and they will present '**Yuletide Tales**', a collection of stories, poems and anecdotes around a festive theme. This event (licensed) will take place on **Friday, 2nd December** at 7.30pm in The Grove Building. Tickets are on sale now at the TIC/Library when Staff are on duty (i.e. not Monday morning or Wednesdays) at £6 each, to include a glass of wine. Last year's event was a sell out – so be sure to get your tickets soon!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

'Friends of Mere Museum'

Friday, 2nd December

Chester House Productions Present

Yuletide Tales

A selection of stories, poems and anecdotes
with a festive theme

Grove Building 7.30pm

Tickets £6 (from the Information Point in the Library)
will include a glass of wine

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The Result of the '100' Club Draw for October 2011 drawn after Harvest Festival on Sunday, 2nd October by Tim Merrell was:

1st Prize (£20)	-	No. 190	Mrs A McDonald
2nd Prize (£15)	-	No. 47	Mrs A Bellars
3rd Prize (£10)	-	No. 182	Mr R Iliffe
4th Prize (£5)	-	No. 17	Mrs J Knapp

Valerie Ransley ☎ 01747 860964



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“The Life of a Queen’s Messenger” Major David Nevil

Tuesday, 8th November at 7.30pm in the Grove Building

The first recorded King's Messenger was John Norman, who was appointed in 1485 by Richard III to hand-deliver secret documents for his monarch. The “Silver Greyhounds” and their historical role are being overtaken by modern technology. **£2 entry for non-members who will be very welcome.**

Our morning talks continue on Tuesday, 22nd November, in the **Grove Building** at 10.15 for 10.30am. The talk will be: “The voyages of Captain Cook”, by John McAlear.

£1.00 entry for non-members who are very welcome.

Caroline Cook ☎ 01747 861797



BRAINWAVE

This month Brainwave would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made our pamper evening such a success as we raised a staggering £2,336 in one evening. We would like to thank all the therapists, volunteers and especially our loyal customers for supporting us.

Now the weather is getting colder we have our winter range in the shop, which is always changing, so pop in and grab a bargain.

We are always needing donations, so if you have anything that you no longer need, please bring it along to the shop where we will accept it with open arms. For further information about Brainwave or making a donation, please contact the Brainwave Shop ☎ 01747 863432.

MERE BOWLS CLUB

Well, the season finally ended with another win for Mere in the Westbrook League. An excellent result and well deserved.

Following our AGM, Arthur Holberry has stood down as captain after ten very productive years and is replaced by Karen Guy, she of newspaper shop fame. Good luck in your new role Karen.

We are still looking for new members for next season, starting Saturday 14th April next year. If you would like to talk to us, please visit our promotional stand at the MERE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL on Sunday, 30th October in the grounds of Mere School. If the weather is OK then we may even open the green for you to have a quick try!

You can also obtain information at the "Make an exhibition of yourself" display in the library/museum from Monday 31st October 2011.

For any information regarding the club please contact Alan Inwood ☎ 01985-844215, Jeff Vigers ☎ 01747-860976, or Karen Guy ☎ 01747 860656

SNOOKER CLUB

Tuesday, 1st November at The Walnut Tree Inn, 7.00pm, is Quiz Night with live music rounds! Ticket includes one free meal, drink and quiz entry, so if you have not yet got your tickets, please contact The Walnut Tree Inn on (01747 861220) direct to avoid disappointment - those who came last year know that it will be a very entertaining evening. The Club offers facilities for players, improvers and beginners of all ages. Ladies are welcome too, so please contact me for details

Kevin Smith, Secretary ☎ 01747 860305

MERE CROQUET AND BOULE CLUB

In spite of the summer that never was, we have managed to enjoy a very good season. Play has been possible throughout, albeit a trifle chilly and draughty on some occasions, just proving the hardy nature of our enthusiastic members.

The outdoor Table Tennis is now in place and was fully funded by a monthly raffle and a most generous member's donation. We now have a choice of Croquet, Boule and Table Tennis on offer.

Our lawn is in excellent shape and proving to be one that visiting clubs are most impressed with. This is thanks to the careful nurturing by Phill Powell. It is a credit to him, and his diligence has benefitted everyone. Julian Mackie undertook the mammoth task of cutting the hedges, both inside and out, a terrific job leaving the green in pristine shape.

There was a most enjoyable exchange of visits with the Lytes Cary Club. After this was another exchange with the Yetminster Club. When we went there we had a resounding victory, totally reversed on their visit here, when we were well and truly trounced, but, in our defence, they did have two all England champions in their team.

Whilst our playing season is not, at the time of writing, quite yet over, it is drawing to a close. It is envisaged that 2012 will see, as in previous years, an opening up in early April.

In the meantime there will be the usual 'Between Seasons Get Together', which will be at The Bell and Crown, Zeals, on Thursday, 16th February, commencing at 7.00pm. (£5 per person, including buffet but excluding drinks). This event is not only for members, everyone is welcome, especially those interested in becoming involved; they can be assured of a warm welcome. All enquiries to me please.

Rex Roberts ☎ 01747 860873

1st MERE BROWNIES

Do you have any unwanted nail polish (used bottles will be fine) that you would be willing to donate to the 1st Mere Brownies for a project that we are undertaking?

Our Wiltshire South Centre at Berwick St James has recently had a new boiler and heating system installed, for which they are fundraising towards the cost. We have purchased from the fundraising committee, a selection of plain tiles, which we will now be decorating (with the nail polish!), after which, they will be returned to Berwick and then displayed on the walls of the shower and toilet block, hopefully for many years to come.

The polish can be left at Jeans Chapel Showroom or Shop or Waltons Newsagent.

Sue Jeans ☎ 01747 860215

MERE SCHOOL

October 2011

At Mere School on 30th September we had our 'Special Person to Lunch' event. This is when we can invite an adult to have lunch with us. We had chicken tikka masala and rice with naan bread. After lunch some of the adults stayed to have a cup of coffee. Our huge hall was full with all of our guests and they had a lovely time.

A small number of children from Mere School were invited to Tisbury School to do an art course. One group made batik banners. We used hot wax and dyes to make them. Other groups composed some music and created a large tile.

We have started our journey to retain The Davison Cup. We played our first match against St Mary the Virgin in Gillingham and beat them 3 -1. Jacob scored 2 goals and Freddie 1. Tom was our captain. We also played a tag rugby match against Milton School and drew with them.

A poet called Valerie Bridge came to work with us as part of the Mere Literary Festival and we all had the chance to write a poem for our music week. This is what some of the children said about it:

"I enjoyed thinking about watery words!" - Mitchell

"The lady's poems were funny" - Carly

We are looking forward to half term and seeing you at our Mere Fireworks Festival on SUNDAY, 30TH OCTOBER 2011 at 3.30 pm.

*Charlotte Berry, Lauren Mead, Joe Demmar, Finnlay Hodge,
Robyn Whitmore and Archie Hill*

REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

MONDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2011

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

'BRIGHTON ROCK' (15)

Sam Riley Andrea Riseborough
Helen Mirren John Hurt

A new version of Graham Greene's iconic novel of evil and innocence, set amid Brighton's criminal underworld and updated to 1964, when Mods and Rockers were rioting across the South coast.

In the Lecture Hall
Friday 11th November, at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00
Available from the Tourist Information Office
(in the Library)

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

AFTERNOON GET TOGETHER

Wednesday, 30th November at 2.30pm in the Methodist School Room. A Quiz afternoon in aid of the Methodist Housing Association - a small donation of at least £1 would be appreciated. Come and bring your friends for a pre-Christmas fun afternoon.

Mary Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Those of you who were able to come to the concert the girls and men of the Cathedral Choir gave in St. Michaels church at the beginning of October enjoyed a wonderful evening of sacred music across the centuries. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the sum of approximately £600 was raised for the church.

Jean Knapp, St Michael's Churchwarden

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Membership

Mere has many attractive and historic buildings, one of which is the Parish Church of St Michael The Archangel. It is important for us to maintain and refurbish this beautiful Church and its furnishings for future generations. "Friends of St Michael The Archangel" was formed in 1976 to foster interest in this and to help to provide funds to achieve it.

If you appreciate this wonderful building, even if you do not worship there, have you considered becoming a life member of the Friends of St Michaels? Friends receive annual newsletters and are invited to events held several times each year. Individual Life Membership still costs only £30 and pink application forms can be obtained in the Church, from Mere Library or by contacting me.

Jean Eyles, Membership Secretary, ☎ 01747 863450

Autumn Bazaar

The Committee would like to express their warm thanks to all those who contributed to the Autumn Bazaar held on 24th September. We so appreciated the generous contributions of cakes, books, bric-a-brac and gifts for the tombola and raffle. Many thanks also to everybody who came to support us and made it such a happy and successful occasion. Your generous support contributed to the remarkable result of £814. Our thanks to you all.

Patricia Stephenson, Hon. Secretary ☎ 01747 860278

MERE PET SERVICES

Dog Walking / Day Care / Holiday Care (Insured)

Reliable, experienced dog trainer.

01747 861336 or 07747753816

St. Michael The Archangel, Mere
Songs of Praise

Sunday, 20th November at 6.00pm.

An informal service where we sing hymns old and new.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES FAIR 2011

Come along to the Grove Building on

Saturday, 19th November

10am to 12noon

For this year's annual Charities Fair

Support local good causes and stock up with stocking fillers for the
Festive Season

Stalls from local charities, plants, tombola and refreshments.

Grand raffle with 1st prize of £100 plus many others.

SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE AT ST MICHAELS

Our **All Souls** Service of Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones will take place at St Michael's on Wednesday, 2nd November at 7.30pm. This will be a quiet, meditative service during which there will be the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of departed loved ones. If you would like the name of your loved one read out during the service please contact Rev'd Paul Barnes. (☎ 01747 863313)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th November. We gather around the memorial by the Clock Tower at 10.45am for an Act of Remembrance before proceeding to St Michael's church for a short remembrance service.

THE REV'D PAUL BARNES, PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST MICHAELS, WRITES:

Whilst on holiday in France last August we visited a village called Oradour-Sur-Glane which is about 20 kilometres from Limoges. I have to admit that I had never heard of Oradour, or the horrendous events that took place there until I read about them in my 'Lonely Planet' guidebook.

On 10th June 1944, a unit of the Waffen SS surrounded this quiet, rural village and rounded up all the inhabitants, separating the men from the woman and children and then proceeded to massacre the whole population. 642 people were murdered that day. The worst atrocity involved the woman and children who were locked inside the church which was then set on fire.

The reason the village of Oradour was chosen by the Nazi army for this evil act is still not known and probably never will be. It has been suggested that it was a reprisal against the French Resistance movement who were very active in the Limoge area, but Oradour was not particularly linked with Resistance activity. It was also suggested that coming four days after the D.Day landings in Normandy it was meant to be a reminder to those in Vichy France that the Third Reich was still in power and was willing to do whatever was required to remain so.

Oradour has been left just as it was after the massacre took place, burned out shells of buildings and vehicles, and as you walk around you can easily picture what it must have been like before 10th June 1944. You see the café opposite the church, the school, various shops, garages and farms, and you can imagine a fairly sleepy community that could never have imagined the horror of what was to take place there.

In the years immediately after the war there must have been a great debate about what to do with the village. I am sure some will have said that the remains of the buildings must be demolished so that a new village could be built on the same site with, at its centre, some sort of memorial to those who died. Rebuilding would provide a powerful statement that evil does not have the last word, that the human spirit of goodness cannot be defeated, and even in this place of darkness and devastation new life has risen from the ashes. It would have been a statement about not being chained to the pain of the past but moving forward into a better future – hope from despair.

However, that wasn't the decision that was made. They decided to preserve the ruined village as a memorial to those who died, and it is still called 'The Martyred Village'. There is an impressive 'Centre de la Memoire' that you have to pass through before you enter into the village that contains displays and archive films detailing the rise of the Third Reich, the occupation of France and the Resistance movement, and testimonies of the events of 10th June. In the final room before entering the village you are

encouraged to write a message of peace and reconciliation, and it was very moving to see how many different languages those messages were written in.

Although it was a warm day I felt a strange sense of coldness and chill as we walked around the village streets. Somehow the evil that had taken place there remained, and I was delighted that visitors were encouraged to walk around in silence as a mark of respect for those who had died, and most people were responding to that request and even the children spoke in hushed tones.

That silence allowed each person to reflect on the horror of war, to think about the innocent victims, the pain they endured, the pointless destruction of what had been a peaceful community. It also made me reflect on more recent similar atrocities and how the human race never seems to learn from the lessons of the past.

For me the most powerful and helpful act on Remembrance Sunday (13th November) is always the shared silence at 11.00am. As we reflect on the horrors of war it is best to be silent, but then having remembered, the greatest tribute we can pay to the fallen is to do all we can to promote peace and reconciliation and work and pray for the day when to quote the prophet Micah, "swords will be beaten into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

QUIET DAY

(under the auspices of the Mere Franciscan Group)

Saturday, 5th November 2011

Led by Canon Michael Welch at

Ivy House, Warminster

10.00am to 4.00pm

Cost £20, to include coffee, lunch and tea

Bookings please to:

Blanche Johnston ☎ 01747 860544 or Canon Welch ☎ 01747 860047



Mere Suchana friends thank all those who came to our Ceilidh, helping to raise over £200 towards an electricity generator, and invite everyone to a

Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy to raise some more,

on Tuesday, 29th November, 10.30am-12.00noon

at Wits End, North Road

(Janet Way's house - ☎ 01747 860884)

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE NOVEMBER 2011

The Parish Church, St Michael the Archangel ☎ 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
Wednesday	2nd	7.30pm	"All Souls" service of Remembrance
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Communion (CW1)
		6.00pm	Evensong (BCP)
	13th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday service Begins at War Memorial followed By procession to St Michaels
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1) Includes receiving and blessing Christmas Shoe Boxes
		6.00pm	Songs of Praise
	27th	10.30am	Holy Communion for Advent Sunday
		4.00pm	'Messy Church' in Grove Building

From St Michael's Parish Register:

Baptism - Hermione Laidlaw

Marriage - William Riddick and Kimberley Benham

Funerals - Jane Lansley, Grace Toms

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt ☎ 01747 860685

Sunday	6th	11.00am	Martin Heal Dr Geoffrey Tapper
	13th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday service Begins at War Memorial followed By procession to St Michaels
	20th	11.00am	215th Anniversary + lunch Rev'd Elizabeth Kemp
	27th	11.00am	Advent Rev'd Margaret Laurie

The Methodist Church (☎ Gillingham 01747 823777)

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin ☎ 01747 861370

Sunday	6th	6.00pm	Rev'd John Page
	13th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine
	20th	6.00pm	Rev'd Helen Caine Holy Communion
	27th	6.00pm	United Service BellStreet, Shaftesbury

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (☎ Warminster 01985 212329)

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

Every Friday	10.00am	Mass
Every Sunday	11.30am	Mass

Children's Liturgy Service each Sunday when help is available.

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: ☎ 01747 830534

Sunday	6th	9.25am	Matins
	13th	9.25am	Service of Remembrance
	20th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	27th	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

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

NOVEMBER 2011

1	Tue	7.00pm	Snooker Club Quiz Night	The Walnut Tree Inn
2	Wed	9.30am	Tai Chi (every Wednesday)	GB
		10.00am	Yoga (every Wednesday)	L
		11.00am	Pilates (every Wednesday)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	MDCT Committee Meeting	Mere Social Club
3	Thur	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Thursday)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		2.00pm	Castle Hill Quilters (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
		7.30pm	Shreen Harmony (every Thursday)	CC
4	Fri	6.00pm	Zumba Dancing (and 18th)	L
		6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
5	Sat	10.00am	Credit Union (every Saturday)	Lib
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
6	Sun	1.00pm	Footpath Group Local walk	CP
7	Mon	9.30am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (every Monday)	L
		2.00pm	Pilates (every Monday)	GB
		6.00pm	Beavers (every Monday)	GB
		6.45pm	Cubs (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (every Monday)	GB
		7.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		7.00pm	Yoga (every Monday)	L
		7.30pm	Parish Council	AYP
8	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		10.15am	Lip Reading (also 15th, 22nd and 29th)	GB
		12.00pm	Community Lunch	Walnut Tree Inn
		2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.00pm	Heroes Helping Out	L
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society Meeting	GB
9	Wed	2.00pm	Whist	GB
		7.45am	MDCT Breakfast Meeting	The George Inn
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
10	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (every Thursday)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (every Thursday)	GB
		7.30pm	Girl Guides (every Thursday)	GB
11	Fri	9.30am	Merely Women (also 25th)	GB
		7.30pm	Moviola/Mere Film Shows 'Brighton Rock'	L
12	Sat	10.00am	Sale + 'Drop In' Coffee Morning	CC
14	Mon	8.00pm	MADS meeting (Drama Room)	L
		2.00pm	Short Walk	CP

18	Fri	8.30am	Traidcraft at Home	Wits End, North Street
19	Sat	10.00am	Christmas Charities Fair	GB
		10.30am	'Drop In' Coffee Morning + Traidcraft stall	CC
22	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		1030am	Mere Historical Society Morning Talk	GB
23	Wed	1.45pm	Friends Together	GB
24	Thur	7.30pm	MADS Play 'Time Heals, They Say'	L
25	Fri	7.30pm	MADS Play 'Time Heals, They Say'	L
26	Sat	10.30am	'Drop in' coffee morning	CC
		7.30pm	MADS Play 'Time Heals, They Say'	L
27	Sun	11.00am	Co-op Community Fun Day event	L
		4.00pm	Messy Church	GB
28	Mon	6.30pm	Mere Museum Prize Giving Party	Lib
		7.15pm	Church Meeting	CC
29	Tue	10.30am	Suchana Coffee Morning	Wits End, North Street
30	Wed	2.30pm	Afternoon Get Together	MH
		7.30pm	Julian Meeting (Upper Room)	GB
		7.30pm	MDCT AGM	The Old Ship Hotel



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BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Hall: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486
To Book the Grove Building: ☎ Richard Jeffries 01747 863425
07950 797273

MERE INFORMATION

For full information on the businesses, societies, attractions and activities in Mere, visit the town's own website; www.merewilts.org

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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

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

**HEALTH MATTERS
ADVICE**

Wednesdays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

**REGISTRAR
OF BIRTHS
& DEATHS:**

By appointment only

Thursdays: 9.30am to 11.30am

For appointments ☎ 01225 713007

COPY DATE FOR COMBINED DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012 ISSUE

Editorial contributions for the December 2011/January 2012 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (☎: 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 14th November 2011**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, please send to: merematters@inbox.com from Monday, 7th November 2011. Would ALL contributors, however they provide copy, please add their name and a contact telephone number.

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES to:

Mrs Jane Kennedy

e-mail: jane.kennedy83@btinternet.com

☎: 01985 844740

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