

MERE MATTERS

AND SO DOES WEST KNOYLE

Your community magazine
and guide to local events



October 2008

DR ANDREW MURRISON, OUR LOCAL MP AND MERE RESIDENT, WRITES

The weight of my mailbag tells me the proposed wind farm at Silton is causing a great deal of unhappiness. I have had letters and e-mails about it from as far away as Canada. Actually, Silton is in North Dorset and so just outside my constituency, but a significant number of my constituents would be affected by the plans so a while back I crossed the border to inspect the site, which lies in the middle of verdant open countryside. Residents fear that these intrusive power stations will be popping up all over the Blackmore Vale and Cranbourne Chase. I share their concerns.

It would not be so bad if onshore wind turbines could make a real dent in our carbon footprint. The inconvenient truth is that they will not. Onshore wind turbines are little more than a cheap fig leaf to hide the embarrassment of our failed energy policy and an over-reliance on fossil fuels that has come with the failure to plan in a timely manner. Someone has failed to recognise that Britain is an island. Would it not make more sense to site giant turbines in estuarine locations and out at sea? Why have we not harnessed our inexhaustible tidal resources?

Let us hope that our opposition will prevail and the wind farm at Silton will go the same way as the Cucklington application that a vigorous local campaigning effort managed to overturn.

The toll from our stretch of the A303 continues to grow. I have just seen a response from the Highways Agency that brings news of another safety study set up to inform any future bid for funding. It is progress of sort.

At the beginning of September, I attended Salisbury District Council's exhibition in the Grove Buildings to learn all about its housing plans for Mere and environs. We should be clear, housing policy is a function of central government that local authorities administer. It can't be much fun being a councillor.

There is undoubtedly unmet local housing need that must be addressed – I see it in my constituency advice surgery and when I visit local homelessness charities. The causes of it are complex and draw us into

all sorts of essentially political debates. However, you don't have to be a town planner to recognise the number of previously used sites around the district that should be developed before we start concreting over what remains of our countryside.

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. 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 can raise questions in a public session before the meeting starts. The next meeting will be **on Monday, 6th October** at 7.30pm in the Andy Young Pavilion.

The Chairman writes:

The Parish Council is not usually invited to comment upon planning applications in neighbouring districts or counties but an exception was made by North Dorset District Council in the case of an application to erect 6 x 120M wind turbines at Silton. Mere Parish Council recommended to North Dorset District Council that the application be recommended for refusal for several reasons: visual impact, adverse environmental impact, impact on highway network and lack of local employment.

The Parish Council also agreed to hold a public meeting to discuss Salisbury District Council's latest consultation document 'Our Place in the Future'. At the time of printing we are in negotiations with SDC to arrange for an officer to be present at the meeting in order to answer any technical questions, so I am afraid that we cannot yet publicise the date.

For information on Parish Council activities; minutes, agendas, contact numbers etc. please view the Mere website: www.merewilts.org; or contact the parish clerk:

e-mail: lindseywood@merewilts.org

or ☎: 01747 860701.

Rodney Coward, Chairman, Mere Parish Council

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED AT THE IMPACT OF 12,400 MORE HOUSES ON SOUTH WILTSHIRE ACT NOW

The total amount of housing demand identified by Salisbury District Council for Mere and the surrounding villages – Zeals, West Knoyle, East Knoyle, Kilmington, Maiden Bradley, Stourton, Sedgehill and Semley is 211 (i.e. 111 private sector and 100 affordable), which falls well short of 510 proposed in the ‘Our Place in the Future’ public consultation document. Why? Because the Core Strategy plan for the next 20 years has to conform to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) figure of 12,400 for the whole district in order to be found sound by the Secretary of State. Salisbury District Council is being forced by the Secretary of State to plan for more houses in Mere and the surrounding villages than Salisbury District’s own surveys have found necessary.

How was the 510 figure calculated? The RSS indicates a desired split between the numbers of urban and rural dwellings. The response to the previous consultation showed a preference for a distribution of dwellings across the district and officers believed this to be an appropriate and fair way to achieve this. The overall rural figure was divided by SDC officers between Community Areas on the basis of existing populations and facilities, which is how they arrived at the figure of 510 for the Western Area.

I urge EVERYONE who is concerned at the impact of 12,400 houses on South Wiltshire, and who feels the RSS is unreasonable to write to the Government Office for the South West before 24th October. Information is available at: http://gosw.limehouse.co.uk/portal/regional_strategies. Emailed responses can be sent to: rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk

Responses to the ‘Our Place in the Future’ document, which could ask SDC to redistribute the extra houses elsewhere in the district - as our infrastructure is unlikely to be able to cope with so many houses in the Western Area, and the impact on the countryside will be massive, should also be sent by 24th October to Salisbury District Council.

Catherine Spencer, Salisbury District Councillor

MERE WEATHER

August was a disappointing month with only nine days without rain. We had a total of 124 mms (4.88 ins) of rain. Last year we had 69 mms (2.72 ins). Most days were cloudy with cool wind, but we did have one hot day on the 30th.

September has started with the same weather, up to the 13th we had 72.5 mms (2.85 ins) of rain and only three days with no rain, fortunately including the 13th for the carnival. Let us hope the second half of September will be better with perhaps an Indian Summer. We certainly have not had an English one so far!

Peter Durkee



MERE POLICE NEWS

Most of us feel safest when we are at home, and we have the same routines every day. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to complacency, and we forget about the little things that we can do just to make ourselves and our homes that bit safer.

We are very fortunate living in Wiltshire as we live in one of the safest counties. However, from time to time it is worth taking stock and looking at our home security to make sure we are doing all that we can to keep ourselves crime free.

To help you in this, Wiltshire Police have recently republished their information on Home security advice in leaflet form. It is packed with information ranging from home security to dealing with strangers at your front door. It also explains the purpose of Neighbourhood Watch and how to set up one in your immediate area if one is not already in place. If you are interested in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, or would like to gain access to Wiltshire Police's Community Safety/affairs department,

which has a number of experienced officers that are available to advise you on all aspects of community safety, please contact me.

Michael Tryhorn, PCSO, Mere Police Station

☎ 0845 408 7000 ext 749817

e-mail: michael.tryhorn@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

MERE SURGERY

Flu Clinics

A Flu Vaccination Clinic will be held at the surgery on the following Saturday, please contact the surgery to book your appointment time:-

Saturday 11th October

9.00am – 1.00pm

If you are unable to attend on this day further appointments sessions will be offered during the week.

We would encourage all patients who are “at risk” to contact the surgery as soon as possible to book your appointment. Telephone requests for an appointment should be made after 1pm.

The Department of Health classifies patients with the following conditions as “at risk”:-

- All patients aged 65 and over
- Asthma
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease including Chronic Bronchitis and Emphysema
- Diabetes
- Chronic Heart Disease
- Chronic Renal Disease
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Patients who have had a Stroke/TIA
- Patients with Multiple Sclerosis, or other degenerative diseases of the Central Nervous System
- Immunosuppression including patients on long term steroids
- Carer's

If you do not fall into one of the above risk categories but would still like to be vaccinated, please contact the surgery after the 1st November 2008 when an appointment will be offered to you if we still have vaccine available.

If you have any queries regarding flu vaccinations please do not hesitate to ask at the surgery.

Changes to Surgery Sessions from 15th September 2008

Mere Surgery will be offering late evening and Saturday morning additional sessions for pre-booked routine appointments only. To book these appointments, you must telephone the surgery during normal surgery opening hours; otherwise you may not be able to be seen.

The new sessions will be held at the following times:

Monday (weekly)	18:30 – 20:00
Saturday (one every 4 weeks)	09:00 – 11:00

During these times, for visits and urgent health problems, you should telephone the surgery where your call will be automatically diverted and dealt with by the Out of Hours Service.

Important

For Emergencies, you should attend the Accident & Emergency Department of your local hospital or dial 999:

***An emergency is a critical or life-threatening situation, and includes things like: chest pain or suspected heart attack, head injury, severe loss of blood, severe breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, deep wounds, suspected broken bones.*

Angela Pitman, Practice Manager

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

MERE AND DISTRICT LINKSCHEME

Transport requests - ☎ 01747 860 096

In October we look forward to our main money raising event when the Mere Literary Festival takes place. Adrienne Howell has arranged the usual stimulating programme and we look forward to meeting many of you at the different events.
Molly Burden

LINKSCHEME LITERARY FESTIVAL

13th -19th October 2008

The second Monday in October sees the start of the Mere Literary Festival and we look forward to seeing you at the various events. The outline programme appears on the inside front cover of this issue (with thanks to Mere Matters) and if you have not had a full programme delivered, copies are available at the TIC/Library where you can also purchase tickets.

The festival is a fun way to support your Linkscheme which last year responded to over 950 requests from the community.

If you entered the story competition, you will be interested in the adjudication and awards on Festival Sunday when the results will be announced, certificates awarded, stories discussed, books sold and tea taken. If you can offer a cake for this event, do please contact June Lampard ☎ 01747 860876 or Melody Parfitt ☎ 01747 861383.

Adrienne Howell & the Lit.Fest.Group ☎ 01747 860475

MERE CARNIVAL 2008

Report

Wow! After Trowbridge, Mere has put a benchmark down for all the other carnivals on the Wessex circuit to follow. We put in an order for sunshine and we got it, so we have to be doing something right. There were over 50 entries in the evening and the trend seems to be smaller floats i.e. carts towed by a light vehicle. With 22 judges on the streets of Mere, a fair result was had. The overall champions were The Kipling Juvenile carnival club from Shaftesbury. As a veteran of 60 years

associated with carnivals, I think carnivals are assured for many years to come in some way or another.

The day started with the children's procession, which was led by the Silver Town Band of Shaftesbury. This was followed by the Mere carnival royals of Princess, Zoe Boorn, and her three attendants: Nicole Gent, Madeline Howden and Felicity Howden. They led a very good procession of extreme quality, which has not been seen for a long time in Mere. Well done all of you. The afternoon champion was Alexandra Morgan from Frome with The Spirit of the Butterfly.

Clive Hazzard was overwhelmed with the response of this year's event. "It was marvelous", he said. Events leading up to carnival day were very well attended and very successful, and a special thanks to all the people of Mere for their most generous support to the Mere carnival, and also to the hard working committee without which there would be no carnival.

Ron Cake, Procession Secretary 📞 01747 824137

Thanks for Prizes

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who so generously donated prizes to myself for use during Carnival Week.

Jill Christie. Ethos Candles. The George Inn. Mere Pharmacy. Jeans Electrical. Mere Co-op. Lou's it. W.H. Davie & Son. Golden Valley. Neal's Yard Remedies. Nisa Foodstore. Stourhead Farm shop. Waltons of Mere. Mr Trevor Lucas. Mrs Evelyn Flower. Mrs Elizabeth Hames.

And also to those who wished to remain anonymous.

Many thanks to you all.

Sue Jeans, On behalf of Mere Carnival Committee

Pippa Schofield – Fully Trained Experienced Cook

Classic & Contemporary Menus for all occasions.

Telephone: 01747 840347

Raffle Winners

The Raffle was drawn on Carnival Day and the winners were;

Christobelle Kriticos	£100.00	Lucinda Berry	£75.00
S Pepper	£50.00	Collis	£25.00

Congratulations, and a thank you to the Hill Brush Company for sponsoring the tickets.

Mere Carnival Street Collection 2008

Thank you to all those who collected at the processions and especially to all those who donated. A Street Collection Permit was issued by the district council. The permit was granted to Mere Carnival.

Promoter: Clive Hazzard

Permit number: SC01091

Name	Amount	Name	Amount
Mere Football Club	£171.31	Trevor Lucas	£40.51
Derek Sealy	£148.73	Jenny Walker	£34.86
Neil Francis	£116.84	Mark Davey	£33.13
Collecting Float	£103.05	Sue Sadler	£31.85
Fire Brigade	£92.32	Mary Herbert	£24.99
Clive Hazzard	£80.60	Diane Davey	£24.24
Peter Hazzard	£65.56	Ben Howden	£21.89
Maggie Durkee	£54.50	Daniel Cooke	£21.65
Nick Guy	£52.81	Walter Sadler	£20.18
Irene Lucas	£47.73	Paul King	£10.28
Robin Cassell	£43.39	Sara	£9.78
Mark Cassidy	£43.14	Jenny Bevis	£8.89
Kieran Crockin	£43.06	Glen Barter	£5.29
Roy Sims	£42.07	Total Collected:	£1392.65

Carnival needs more money every year to survive, the cost of the insurance increases each year and we have to pay all entries appearance money, even having first aid cover costs money.

Once these and any other costs have been met we donate to local good causes.

Trevor Lucas - Mere Carnival Secretary ☎ 01747 860859

MERE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Rehearsals are in progress for MADS Autumn Production of *Ladies of Spirit*, a comedy by Georgina Read, which is being performed on 20th 21st and 22nd November, and will help lift your spirits before the onset of winter. Tickets will be available next month at Mere TIC, and this production is in memory of Simon Farnfield with the proceeds going to his and Claire's infant son, Joshua.

Members took time off to take part in Mere Carnival as a walking group *Merely Pantomime*, and this is a 'mere' reminder that pantomime returns to the Lecture Hall stage in the Spring.

The next MADS meeting is on Monday October 20th at 8.00pm in the Drama Room - a week later than usual to avoid clashing with the Literary Festival.
Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

MERE FILM SHOWS

After the wonderfully funny film for Carnival Week last month we turn the true life drama for our Literary Festival film this month with the much acclaimed film 'The Edge of Love' (15) the story of the intense friendship between Dylan Thomas's wife Caitlin and his first love Vera. Full details on page 25 for details

The film won glowing reviews from the critics on its release earlier this year and is an excellent film, not to be missed. It stars Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller, Matthew Rhys and Cillian Murphy.

Dates for Your Diary:

Friday 7th November – 'Mamma Mia!' (12) starring Meryl Streep, Julie Walters, Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan.

Friday 5th December – 'The Duchess' (15) the story of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, starring Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes

Mary White ☎ 01747 861257

<p>REMEMBER! COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE MONDAY 20th OCTOBER</p>

The Walnut Tree Inn Advert – Full page

“NORTHANGER ABBEY” IS COMING TO MERE

Following the huge success of *Persuasion* and *Far From The Madding Crowd*, The Dorset Corset Theatre Company is bringing its new adaptation of Jane Austen’s gripping gothic satire **Northanger Abbey**, to Mere on 4th November in its tour across the south this autumn.

The storyline revolves around Catherine Morland’s hopeless addiction to Mrs Radcliffe’s lurid and macabre gothic novel ‘*The Mysteries of Udolpho*’. In Bath she falls for the witty Henry Tilney, whose family invites her to the dark and sinister Northanger Abbey. Excited by the prospect she readily accepts, but is she any safer there? At Northanger Abbey, Catherine’s over-active imagination causes her two worlds to collide as fantasy gets in the way of reality. Can she separate the two? To find out, come along to The Lecture Halls on Tuesday 4th November at 7.30pm. The play runs for just under two hours.

The Dorset Corset Theatre Company was founded by Helen Watts, Fiona Davis and Ed Burnside in 2005. The directors came together to tell classic stories in a lively and unique way and to fill a distinct gap in terms of professional theatre provision in Dorset.

Northanger Abbey is their third production having enjoyed critical success with their acclaimed productions of *Persuasion* (2006), and *Far From the Madding Crowd* (2007).

As part of the project, the company runs an apprenticeship for graduating drama school students. The scheme is unique in the area and offers young actors a fantastic springboard into the profession.

Helen Watts, Ed Burnside, Fiona Davis ☎ 01747 861348

MERE GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 8th October at 7.30pm in the Grove Buildings when **Gordon Cottis** will give a talk on **Plants for a Winter Garden**.

After such a miserable summer a bit of interest in our gardens over

winter might lift our spirits. Gordon Cottis of Belmont House Nurseries specialises in hardy cyclamen, snowdrops and hellebores. He will be talking to us about how we might enhance our gardens over winter, using slides to illustrate his talk.

Gordon will be bringing plants from his nursery. Visitors will be very welcome.
Caroline Cook 📞 01747 861797

Maclachlan Advert - ¼ page

Compton Smith advert - ¼ page

Midforest Building Services - ¼ page

MOTHERS' UNION & OPEN MEMBER'S GROUP

Our next meeting will be held in the Grove Buildings at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th October. (**Please note:** this meeting is on the first Tuesday this month). There will be our AGM followed by Readings, Poems, Prayers, etc. of your own choice. There will be tea and cakes and also a raffle.

Thelma Ings ☎ 01747 860262

MERE WOMENS INSTITUTE

Our next meeting will be held in the Grove Buildings at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 2nd October. Members will be looking forward to Christmas and sharing ideas for craft and cookery projects.

During the month we shall also be joining members of the Wessex Group for a talk on "The History of Punch and Judy", and the Annual Wiltshire County Meeting will be held in Salisbury at the end of the month.

Recent events have included a Garden Meeting and a Ploughman's Lunch, both hosted by members.

Molly Burden ☎ 01747 860007

ROSEMARY GODDARD CENTRE

Did you see us in the Carnival? Life does not stop at 60 years of age, it has only just begun, and old age; what's that? The Day Centre is for mature people in need of companionship, social interaction and fun.

Enthusiastically trained by Sue Marks, our Tai Chi demonstration at our 20th anniversary party in July so impressed Age Concern that we have been invited to do a demonstration, at the City Hall in Salisbury, on 1st October, which is the International Day for Older People.

Old age cannot catch up with us as we are off to the pub for lunch, visiting the Sherborne Garden Centre to see the wonderful Christmas decorations, and planning a Tea Dance. And that is all before Christmas. You see, the main advantage about being 'older' is that the

kids believe you are incapable, so you can leave them to plan Christmas whilst you are out having fun! Now I know that there are a lot of you out there in Mere and surrounding areas sitting day after day at home feeling lonely and miserable, but you don't have to be; it only takes one telephone call to Lynette ☎ 01747 861646 and your life can be changed for ever. Everyone of our Guests say they were nervous about coming at first, but now the visit to the Rosemary Goddard Centre is one of the best events of their week. So come on and give us a call!

The Rosemary Goddard Centre is successful due to an amazing group of people – the Volunteers. I know that all of us are so busy these days, but I wonder how often any of us get that feeling of real fulfilment, receiving heartfelt praise and thoroughly enjoying ourselves. Well, all of us can by giving, at most, one day a month to helping at the Centre. I am short of a washer-upper on the 3rd Friday of the month and that only takes an hour of your time but makes a tremendous difference for the Guests. Maybe if you are reasonably fit and able to carry the container, you may be prepared to help deliver lunch on a Friday once a month. If so contact Peter Smith ☎ 01747 860236.

Meanwhile watch this space – there are lots of things planned which I hope you will wish to be part of, in whatever way you can.

Lynette Elliott (Organiser) ☎ 01747 861646

THE FRIENDS OF FIVES COURT

It's pretty old news by now, but The Friends' Autumn Fair on Saturday August 30th (the day that the sun shone) was a success beyond anything we could have imagined! Our warmest thanks to everyone who contributed in any way at all to the success of this enterprise, and especially to all the many people who came on the day and supported our efforts. In case you hadn't heard, the Fair yielded an astonishing £900-plus towards garden projects for the Residents. Thank you!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

CANCER RESEARCH UK - MERE BRANCH

The Committee is holding its Annual Autumn sale on Saturday 25th October at the Lecture Hall from 10.00am. Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, raffle, Tombola, etc.

S Thomas ☎ 01747 860586

RSPCA – CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE SALE

On Saturday 1st November in the Lecture Halls from 10.00am until 12.30pm.

Cakes, Raffle, Tombola, Competitions, Christmas cards, etc and Childrens Books.

Please support us.

Peter and Sue Howell ☎ 01747 860623



MERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesday, 7th October 2008

“The Hunt for Stourton Castle”

Stourhead before the Hoare Family

*by Martin Papworth
of The National Trust*

7.30pm Grove Buildings



WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

POLES APART

On Thursday 9th October in the Hinton Hall, Tisbury at 7.30pm, **Poles Apart** by PAUL MORRISON returning once again to entertain us. Paul is an accomplished public speaker including radio, TV, and adventure travel lecturing. He comes back to Tisbury by popular demand. This talk looks at the Yukon Territories of Canada, its wildlife, and the Inuits who live in this bleak tundra and beautiful varied landscape, and compares it with Antarctica the 7th continent, visited by only a few people each year. Here we see the penguins, leopard seals and whales in this scenically awe inspiring place. Entrance £2.00. Refreshments.

TABLE TOP SALE

On Saturday 18th October in Hinton Hall, Tisbury from 10.00 –11.30am. Bric-a-brac, books, DVD tapes, cakes, produce, etc, Raffle, Refreshments. Any contributions gratefully received by Debbie Carter ☎ 01747 871311 or Mary James ☎ 01747 870446. Do come and support your local Wildlife Trust. *Mary James* ☎ 01747 870446

DI Woodworx Advert - ¼ page

Richard Robins Advert - ¼ page

Two Counties Golf Advert - ¼ page

BECOME A LOCAL TREE CHAMPION

As the miserable summer slides into history there is one thing guaranteed to cheer us up – the spectacular autumn colours of our trees. Now a new partnership that includes the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire County Council and the Tree Council is taking the first steps towards setting up a Tree Warden scheme that will make sure these wonderful giants are preserved for, and enjoyed by future generations.

The partnership is inviting anyone who would like to become a tree warden, or is just interested in looking after their local trees, to attend a day of talks and activities at Dinton Village Hall on Monday 6th October at 10.00am. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. An additional evening talk will be held at a later date for those who are unable to make it.

Tree Wardens are volunteers who believe that trees add immeasurably to the quality of their neighbourhoods and who are prepared to put a little time into carrying out or encouraging practical projects. It is a national scheme run by the Tree Council, but while neighbouring counties have them, Wiltshire has never established one.

“Our aim is to recruit a Tree Warden in every parish,” says Sarah Wilkinson, the Trust’s Biodiversity Action Plan Officer. “The plan is that they will be co-ordinated by the County Council and as the new Wiltshire Council will come into effect in March, this is a good time to get the scheme off the ground so it is ready for the spring. We would like people to come along to our event who may be willing to become a warden, or who would like to get involved”.

Places are limited and booking is essential, so please register with Leonie Washington Campbell at the Trust on: leoniew@wiltshirewildlife.org, or phone 01380 725670. If you can’t attend the event, you can still register your interest in the scheme as we need to find out how many people would like to be involved.

Sue Litherland, Communication Officer 📞 01380 725670

MERE MUSEUM

The Mere Schools exhibition has attracted a lot of interest and many favorable comments, and one or two people have already contributed their school memories to our collection. We'd like more please! A notebook is provided in the exhibition for your use, or you can give us your pre-written recollections if you would prefer. This is a golden opportunity for you to help us preserve Mere's past for the present and for the future. No contribution is too large or too small!

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

FRIENDS OF MERE MUSEUM

A reminder to everyone that The Friends of Mere Museum have invited **Paul Atterbury**, of **The Antiques Roadshow** to give a talk entitled 'Behind the Scenes at the Antiques Road Show'. This will be held in the Grove Buildings on **Tuesday evening, November 25th**. Tickets will go on sale in the last week of October and will be available from Mere Information Point.

Please remember that on this occasion Mr Atterbury will not be discussing objects or giving valuations. But he will give answers (as far as possible) to any questions about the television programme that you may bring with you.

A further reminder. Don't forget that the AGM of The Friends will be held in the Grove Buildings at 7.30pm **on Tuesday 21st October**.

Jenny Wilding ☎ 01747 860908

GROVE BUILDINGS RESTORATION FUND

The result of the '100' Club Draw, drawn after the Morning Service in St Michael's on 7th September by Mrs Pat Isom:

- 1st Prize (£20) - No. 134 Mr John Cox
- 2nd Prize (£15) - No. 139 Mr T Lucas
- 3rd Prize (£10) - No. 125 Mrs P Walker
- 4th Prize (£10) - No. 127 Generously Returned

Thank you again for your wonderfully warm welcome and your generosity. As always, you've surprised me - especially in these difficult times. Happily, we have some new members, who asked to join, which is lovely.

Over the past year your contributions have gone towards the painting and refurbishment of the exterior of the building. The Grove Building is very lucky to have such stalwart supporters.

Valerie Ransley 📞 01747 860964

MERE BOWLS CLUB

The Club ended the Season on a high note winning the Westbrook League for the third year in a row, and also winning the Winn Green Tournament.

For the first time Mere entered the Salisbury Mens' League and performed well.

The following Club Tournaments have now been completed:-

Singles: Winner - Shaun Woods. Runner Up – Richard Coombs

2 Wood Singles: Winner - Shaun Woods. Runner Up – Don Butchers

2 Woods Pairs: Winners - Mary Butchers & Stan Clarke. Runners Up - Teresa Read & Peter Dethick

Mixed Pairs: Winners - Terry Byrnes & Maureen McCormack. Runners Up – Mary & Don Butchers

The Presentation Dinner will be held on Thursday, 20th November at The Olive Bowl
Teresa Read 📞 01747 860289

MERE SWIMMING POOL

Well, what can I say this year!!! Yet more rain!!!! We have paid out an enormous amount of money for fuel and have not managed to make enough in return. Due to changes in the law, we have had to find a NPLQ lifeguard, who needs to be on duty. Never mind, we shall not be beaten. If anyone in Mere has a current NPLQ qualification, PLEASE let me know. Call Sally Howell on 01747 860644.

The more I look around at other pools, the more I realise that we need a cover, enabling us to be open every day. Just imagine the revenue!!!

I am also working on a brown sign indicating the pool location.

Any questions?

Sally Howell 📞 01747 860644

TISBURY & DISTRICT SPORTS CENTRE

A facility provided by Salisbury District Council,
serving the western parishes of Salisbury

Are you fed up with not seeing any results from doing the latest fitness trend? Have you ever thought of returning to good old faithful aerobics?

The word aerobics may well conjure up images of Jane Fonda in leg warmers and spandex, but these are well and truly things of the past. Aerobics has continued to have the staying power where other fitness trends have tried and failed. Great health benefits can be obtained from a fun group atmosphere. Here is what aerobics can do for you:

- Strengthen your lung and heart muscle, and stimulate blood circulation around the body.
- Lower your blood pressure and cholesterol.
- Burn calories and aid weight loss.
- Ease stress and give you a general feeling of well-being.
- Increase your body strength so you are less prone to injury.
- Improve the shape and tone of your body.
- Improve co-ordination.

All our fitness classes at the Sports Centre contain an element of aerobics, from Circuits to Prime Fitness and Step to Spin. There is something to suit everyone and everybody, whatever your age or fitness level. So come on, give it a go, and start to feel the benefits that aerobic exercise can give you.

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

WILTSHIRE MOVIOLA
in association with
MERE PARISH COUNCIL
proudly presents

The Edge of Love

(15)

Wife. Husband. Friend. Lover.

A story of broken promises, passion, betrayal, the shadow of war and the constant threat of imminent death, focussing on the intense friendship between Dylan Thomas's free-spirited wife Caitlin and his first love Vera. Starring Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller, Matthew Rhys and Cillian Murphy.

In the Lecture Hall
Wednesday 15th October at 7.30pm
(Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKETS £5.00

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Georgina's Ramblings

This month I have been reflecting and thinking about why we are here and whether we are really helping the community, so I'm sharing with you comments from the people that know us best.

What our kids say:-

"I hope that's not my mum, I haven't finished....."

"My wellies are full of water but I don't care"

"How much time have we got? – good, let's go and play!"

"Can I really take it home?"

You know you get it right when a little girl says to you: "When I grow up I want 4 brothers all called Colin" (Colin has proved a huge hit with the kids here!)

"I don't want to go to school I want to stay at Footprints....." (I'm sure that this individual says the same about school!)

What our parents tell us:

"It's a Godsend, I can work and know that my child is not only safe but happy here, in fact he doesn't stop talking about the staff, other children and what he's been or is going to be doing – in fact he cannot wait for the next day!"

"It's a Godsend – that just sums it up for me."

"Flexible and approachable staff and managers that leave me confident that my children are safe and that I can ask for help in emergencies without worrying about the response, I'd sum it up by saying 'Carefree Childcare'".

"All of the staff are so warm and friendly no wonder my child wants to stay a bit longer every time".

What Ofsted say:

Mary Daniel gave us 3 items to rectify; all of which related to procedural issues and were addressed or rectified within 2 hours of the completed inspection report! The better news was that Mary found the environment and attitude of our staff both of the highest calibre, and really appreciated the emphasis that is placed on meeting the needs of the children and their carer's.

What I say:

I feel proud to be a part of a team that works hard every day to deliver excellent care to those who trust and rely on us. Thank you to all of the team, our supporters, volunteers and committee, I am proud to be a part of Footprints and the work that we do here.

“What’s on at Footprints” Dates for your Diary

Open day 26th September – 1400 – 1700; come and meet the community, activities and enterprise as well as the Learning Zone and Kidzone activities to sample.

The Snow Ball 20th December – 1900 - 2359; get out your best Christmas outfit and join us for a buffet, entertainment and disco from 1900 – 1200. Details to follow next month.

‘Mere’s got talent’ – from now until Christmas, we are opening our facility as a gallery: if you have anything that you would like to share with the others please come and see how we can help you display your talent to the community.

If music is your talent we are looking for groups of singers of all ages and styles to perform at the Snow Ball. Auditions will be happening in November come and see us to arrange yours....

Kidzone

Again we have seen our numbers swell and hope to continue to attract more children - we have spaces for a further 10-15 children per session.

Continuing the excellent work in Kidzone, Lesley and the team have focused on British Food Fortnight so the children will be cooking and eating healthy, locally produced food and appreciating where their food comes from and how it gets to the table.... Being healthy is also about being active, so we are making the most of the milder weather and playing outside most days sending home a tired but happy child.

Moving on to half term – yes already! Kidzone are proud to announce ‘Harry Potter Week’, the week will commence by joining ‘Hogwarts’. Going through the week we will be learning some magic with the magician, a flight in our car and our friends at the Hawkeyery will be bringing in an owl or two to deliver the certificates of wizardry in the grand finale at the end of the week - our Graduation Ceremony. Please book your spaces as soon as possible so that we can guarantee enough spaces for all of our budding Wizards!

Footprints says adieu to Natasha who returns to college but will be back for the Christmas break. Thank you Natasha from all of the Children and Staff.

Important facts about Kidzone:

We are available for part sessions

Funding is available if you are on a low income

We accept childcare vouchers

Help is available to apply for Working Families Tax Credits

We are ofsted registered

Children's Centre

We are moving forward and are fortunate to have recruited Debbie Eveleigh to run a 'new mum's' and toddlers group and a parents, baby and toddler group. One of the aims of these groups is to support the additional needs of those of us in the community with a disability whether it is parent or child. These groups kick off on Tuesday, 30th of September at 9.30am.

Starting also on the 30th September will be the opening of:

"The Waiting Room", a drop in coffee shop open from 9.00 – 10.45am on Tuesdays and 2.15 – 3.30pm on Thursdays, where you can 'wait in the warm' and catch-up with what's happening in the community.

From 3rd October we will be opening a crèche for those of you that would like to have some time to lunch or indulge in a beauty treatment on alternate Fridays. Please come and book your place with Jane or Debbie.

Learning Zone

After many false starts – following the merger at Wiltshire College we have the final programme, please contact Michelle to book your space. *Also remember that if you have a talent that you would like to share with the community come and talk to us about using our facilities.*

Volunteering at Footprints

We are urgently looking for a group of new volunteers to help run the 'Waiting Room', provide both formal and informal support to others in the community and help with fundraising. Volunteering gives you the chance to meet new people, learn new skills and build your qualifications. You will be treated equally within the team, including training.

So if you have a few hours that you would like to give either regularly or on an ad hoc basis do come and see us, Colin and Carole are both on hand to tell you about life as a volunteer with us.

If you are reading this and needing a friend come and find us we are here to help you whoever you are. Remember – Life is best when lived in love and harmony.

Georgina Shaw-Halford, Footprints ☎ 01747 861108

WEA course tutored by Jenny Sheppard

Starting on Monday 6th October

Giotto in Padua:

the Arena Chapel Frescoes

7 sessions 2.00pm – 4.00pm

at Footprints, Duchy Manor Site

Fee £49.00

Free if in receipt of a means tested benefit

For more information and to book a place, please
contact Michelle Rendall ☎ 01747 861108

MERE SCHOOL

September 2008

We are very pleased to be back at school after a short, but wet, summer holiday.

The start of a new term has woken us all up and switched our brains back on! We are sure that this year will be just as eventful as the last.

We are very excited about the clubs this term and we are very grateful to all the staff who give up their spare time for our enjoyment.

This term lots of children have started at Mere School - so many young ones that we have had to divide them between 2 classes - Blue and Amber. We also welcome many new children across the school.

Everyone has settled in really well and we are really enjoying our hot dinners - Thank you Mrs Maynard!

Claudia Emby and Victoria Solomon

BARN BUDDIES

This year The Barn Buddies are planning an Open Evening just before Christmas so that friends and family can join us singing some carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments.

Full details will be in the next edition of Mere Matters, but in the meantime, please keep our provisional date of 19th December free.

Further details about Barn Buddies, a youth club for all young people in school year 2 and above, are available from me.

Tim Merrell ☎ 01747 860195

POPPY DAY HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTORS

Remembrance Sunday falls on 9th November this year. For two weeks prior to this poppies will be available in shops and from house to house collectors. Do you feel you could lend a hand with house to house collections in your neighbourhood?

Particularly: Shaftesbury Road, Causeway, The Hollow & Hollow Rise, North Rd, The Yews & Steep St, Kingsmere and Underhill Close

Your help would be very much appreciated, especially in view of our commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Royal British Legion still offers a huge amount of help for veterans in need, from previous campaigns as well as today's.

Your generosity with time or cash would be very much appreciated. Any offers, please ring me.

David Ransley ☎ 01747 860964

Join us for
Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday 5th October
10.30am

This service will be followed by a
'Bring and Share Lunch'
at 12 o'clock in the Grove Buildings.
Everyone is welcome but you must book a seat in
advance - please see Gilly or Wendy after the
10.30 services on 21st or 28th September
(or phone Gilly Gristwood on 861768).



You are invited to bring non-perishable goods (see below) to the
Harvest Thanksgiving Service; they will be forwarded to
Salisbury based 'Trussell Trust'.

Soup (tinned or packet)	Noodles	Baked Beans (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)	Fruit (tinned)	Vegetables (tinned)
Rice pudding (tinned)	Meat (tinned)	Sugar (500mg packs)
Sponge pudding (tinned)	Fish (tinned)	Pasta (500mg packs)
Milk (long life, UHT, dried)	Coffee (instant)	Tea bags
Rice (500mg packs)	Biscuits	Breakfast cereals
Fruit juice (cartons long life)	Chocolate/snack bars	

The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity working to alleviate poverty, deprivation and
despair in the UK and overseas.
(www.trusselltrust.org)

ST LUKE AND ST TERESA

South Street
Wincanton

Centenary Celebrations

On Friday, 17th October 2008, there will be a celebratory Mass at 5.30pm for the centenary of Ss Luke & Teresa. Following the Mass there will be a party with a hog roast to be held in Wincanton Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome.

During the fortnight starting 13th October there will be exhibitions of old photographs, memorabilia etc.

The 15th October will be the commencement of the flower festival in the church.

You are all welcome to come in during the days of this important fortnight between 9.30am and 5.00pm to view the exhibitions and to have a cup of coffee/tea and a chat with parishioners.

“ROARING 20S” IN AID OF THE PARISH OF UPPER STOUR

“ROARING 20s” is the exciting new show from the producers of “Victorian Music Hall” and promises to be even more spectacular – featuring Egyptian Sand Dancers, Barbershop Quartet, Magical Tap Dancers and Les Can Can Girls.

This stunning new entertainment is all in aid of the four churches of The Parish Of Upper Stour and will be staged at Bourton Village Hall on Friday 17th October and Saturday 18th at 7.30pm.

Their previous show sold out, leaving many people unable to get tickets – so don't miss out this time.

Tickets are priced £6.00 in advance, £6.50 on the door and £5.00 for over 70s and are available now from Bourton Shop, Bourton Garage, Zeals P.O. and from Anne Corrie ☎ 01747 840860.

THE REV'D CHRIS MOORSOM, RECTOR OF UPPER STOUR, WRITES:

Change and decay

Autumn is a season of 'mellow fruitfulness' or of 'falling leaves and decay' depending on your view of things. In the church calendar, it's a time we traditionally thank God for the Harvest (in the hope that the farmers will have found something worth harvesting after the wet summer!), and turn our minds towards the more sombre themes of commemoration of the departed as we move into November.

The well-known hymn, 'Abide with me' puts it this way:

***Change and decay in all around I see,
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me.***

This pattern seems to be reflected in the financial world too. As I write there's been another financial scare with AIG (a large American insurance firm) threatening to go bust, and in general a sense of depression surrounds any discussion about money.

Yet, I also heard some financial experts talking about the necessity of recession after a period of growth (16 years according to them), and that those who make lots of money in the good times have to expect to be brought back down to earth sometime.

For those of us with little to spare, this is no real comfort. BUT it would be naïve and foolish to expect life always to getting better, for there to be no setbacks or problems.

So too for our spiritual health: some may feel things are reaching a low ebb, and certainly in main stream religion it appears that commitment to church activity has been experiencing a 'recession' for some time. But then history tells us that this is nothing new: for example, did you know

that in the mid-16th Century, St. Peter's church had nearly become a ruin before the Stourton, and later the Hoare, families rebuilt and improved it?

Change and decay will happen: but the important thing for our generation is: are we also sowing the seeds for new growth to happen in the future? For the past 3 years or more, the parish of Upper Stour has been supporting Tim Heaton, who has just been ordained Deacon at Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 27th September, and is now continuing his training as Assistant Curate among us.

I have no doubt that all this will bring many blessings to our Church and community life. So as Jesus's parable of the sower makes clear, our job is to get on and sow the seed of Christ's gospel, and the Lord of the Harvest will bring a plentiful harvest.

Grant, O harvest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

The annual Christmas Charities Fair

will be held this year in the

Grove Buildings

on Saturday 22nd November

All the usual stalls and fun

CHURCH SERVICES IN MERE AND WEST KNOYLE

OCTOBER 2008

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

Each Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)
Each Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Each Friday	8.00am	Holy Communion (CW1)
	5.30pm	Evening Prayer

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

Sunday	5th	10.30am	Harvest Thanksgiving (CW1)
		<i>NB: No Sunday Club</i>	
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday	8th	7.30pm	"Start the Month" Holy Communion (CW1)
Sunday	12th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	19th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)
	26th	10.30am	Parish Communion (CW1)

The United Reformed Church

Mere Contact: Mrs E Burfitt, Tel: 01747 860685)

Sunday	5th	11.00am	Rev'd Hazel Barkham
	12th	11.00am	Rev'd Stella Sivyour
	19th	11.00am	Rev'd Margaret Laurie
			Holy Communion
	26th	11.00am	Kate Shotter

The Methodist Church (Tel. Gillingham 01747 823777

Mere Contact: Mrs M Siderfin: Tel: 01747 861370)

Sunday	5th	6.00pm	Rev'd Ros Hollingsworth
			Holy Communion
Sundays	12th	6.00pm	Rev'd Gordon Elford
	19th	6.00pm	Mr Mike Rawlins
	26th	6.00pm	Rev'd Jane Ashplant
			Church Anniversary

The Roman Catholic Church, St Mary's. (Tel: 01985 212329 – Fr. Bede Rowe

Mere Contacts: Teresa Read: 01747 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	5th	9.25am	Holy Communion (CW1 trad)
	12th	6.00pm	Harvest Festival (Refreshments afterwards)
	19th	9.25am	Matins/Songs of Praise
	26th	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 OCTOBER 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; MSC Mere Social Club; YC-Youth Centre

1	Wed	2.00pm	Alabaré (also 29th)	GB
		6.00pm	Karate (every Wednesday)	L
		7.30pm	Friends of St Michaels Church AGM	St Michaels
2	Thur	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 9th & 16th)	L
		10.00am	Mere Art Group (every Thursday)	MH
		2.00pm	Line Dancing (every Thursday)	GB
		2.00pm	Bridge Club (every Thursday)	L
		7.00pm	Guides	L
		7.30pm	Womens Institute	GB
3	Fri	6.30pm	Barn Buddies (every Friday)	BSF
4	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
5	Sun	12.00pm	St Michael's "Bring & Share" Harvest Lunch	GB

5	Sun	2.00pm	Mere Footpaths Group walk	CP
6	Mon	9.00am	Tiddlers & Toddlers (also 13th & 20th)	L
		6.00pm	Slimming World (every Monday)	L
		6.00pm	Beaver Scouts (also 13th & 20th)	YC
		6.45pm	Cubs (also 13th & 20th)	GB
		7.00pm	Scouts (also 13th & 20th)	YC
		7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	AYP
7	Tue	2.30pm	Mothers Union	GB
		7.30pm	Mere Historical Society	GB
8	Wed	10.00am	Mere Charities Applications	L
		2.00pm	Whist Drive	GB
		7.30pm	Gardening Club	GB
9	Thur	5.00pm	Rainbows (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		6.15pm	Brownies (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
		7.30pm	Guides (also 16th, 23rd & 30th)	GB
10	Fri	10.00am	Merely Women (also 31st)	GB
11	Sat	9.00am	Flu Clinic (by appointment 01747 860001)	Surgey
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning	CC
12	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Club (also 19th & 26th)	GB
		6.00pm	The Bridge	GB
13	Mon	7.30pm	Lit. Fest. "When Swan Lake Comes to Sarajevo"	GB
14	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L
		2.30pm	Lit. Fest. Memory and Story	L
		7.30pm	Lit. Fest. "Two Local Heroes"	GB
15	Wed	2.30pm	Lit. Fest. "It's a Vet's Life"	GB
		7.30pm	Lit. Fest. Literary Quiz	GB
15	Wed	7.30pm	Mere Films: "The Edge of Love"	L
16	Thur	2.30pm	Lit. Fest. "Diary of a Reluctant Green"	L
		7.30pm	Lit. Fest. "Pepys and the Playhouse"	L
17	Fri	2.15pm	Lit. Fest. Writing Workshop	GB
		7.30pm	Lit. Fest. An Evening with Michael Dobbs	GB
18	Sat	10.15am	Lit. Fest. Coffee and talk by Liz Jones	GB
		10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning & Traidcraft Stall	CC
		2.00pm	Lit. Fest. Children's Event	Library
		7.30pm	Lit. Fest. "A Powerful Journey"	CC
19	Sun	3.00pm	Lit. Fest. Awards Ceremony	L
20	Mon	8.00pm	MADS Meeting (Drama Room)	L
21	Tue	7.30pm	Friends of Mere Museum AGM	GB
24	Fri	7.30pm	London Forest Choir	MH
		7.00pm	SDC Development Community Forum	L
25	Sat	10.00am	Cancer Research Autumn Sale	L
25	Sat	10.30am	Drop In Coffee Morning with RG Bric-a-Brac	CC
28	Tue	9.00am	Foot Care Clinic	L

BOOKING MEETING HALLS IN MERE

To Book the Lecture Halls: ☎ Ann Read 01747 861486

To Book the Grove Buildings: ☎ Isabel Howell 01747 860297

MERE INFORMATION POINT, THE LIBRARY

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& DEATHS: For appointments telephone 01985 213435

COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Material for the November 2008 issue should be sent to Graham Avory, Little Tawny, Pettridge Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DG (tel. 01747 860439) or alternatively handed in at The Information Office, The Library, Mere (in an envelope marked 'MERE MATTERS') by 4.00 pm on **MONDAY, 20th October 2008**. E-mailed contributions will be most welcome, but please telephone the Editor for details. Would contributors please add their name and a contact telephone number.

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