

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

<i>Cllr Jean Duncalf (Chairman & Assistant Planning Officer)</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830324</i>
<i>Cllr John Patterson (Deputy Chairman)</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830677</i>
<i>Cllr Bob Fawcett (Airport Liaison Officer)</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830407</i>
<i>Cllr John McGuire</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830043</i>
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<i>Cllr Linda Reynolds (Planning Officer)</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830202</i>
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CLERK

Miss Kathryn J Whitlow: 9 Siddall Street, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7AF
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THE MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

Mr Alan Newnes *Tel: 01565 830637*

HOMEWATCH CO-ORDINATOR

Miss Kathryn J Whitlow *Tel: 01606 47480*

MERE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2015

26th October
7th December

7.30pm at THE MERE

All residents are entitled to attend Council meetings, if you want to keep up to date with current issues in the Parish, then come along and listen.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The AGM in May saw several changes to the Council as Neil Stott, Ian Hodgson and Ted Cadman stood down after many years as council members. We have to thank all three for their dedication over the past years and are sorry to lose their help and support.

We will not lose sight of Neil altogether as he will continue to arrange and supervise our bonfire celebrations in his usual efficient manner. Thank you Neil.

We are very pleased to welcome two new councillors, John Wright, a local farmer who has lived in Mere all his life, and John McGuire a semi-retired businessman who has lived in Mere for twenty seven years.

During the past few months work on the bypass has made great progress and Linda has an update on this.

Alan Newnes the Chairman of Mere Residents Association is monitoring the de-trunking of the A556 and has some worrying concerns. Read his report in this newsletter.

The current state of the A556 and the A50 continue to be an on-going problem with an increasing number of potholes which despite our best efforts CEC are reluctant to address. Mere Corner is an eyesore with weeds which have not been touched or pavements swept for at least two years. At this point I must thank Jason who lives in Mere Corner Cottage for continuing to clear the weeds from his gateway along the wall up to the cenotaph and my friends Susan and Linda who regularly join me in litter picking around Mere Corner.

The problem of heavy vehicles using the totally unsuitable Winterbottom Lane has not been resolved and we are now pressing for CEC to provide more passing places.

Clamhunger Lane is still awaiting signs to reduce the speed limit. The necessary police notice was in the Knutsford Guardian several weeks ago so it seems once again CEC are dragging their heels. It is now four years since the start of negotiations.

I recently attended a presentation by Highways England at Sandbach Town Hall re the introduction of a 'Smart Motorway' between junctions 16 and 19 of the M6. This entails hard shoulder running between these junctions which should relieve the congestion on a very busy section of motorway and hopefully lessen the accidents. Emergency refuge areas will be provided for breakdowns and cameras will monitor speed at regular intervals. This system has been in use successfully on many other motorways and provides additional capacity at a reduced cost. Whilst this does not directly affect Mere we all suffer when a blocked motorway causes

chaos on the roads through the parish.

At our last meeting we were made aware of an on-going investigation by Lancashire Constabulary in respect of fraudulent use of people's names and addresses which are then used to obtain credit cards for example. One theory is that external letter boxes are being raided and a resident of Mere was concerned that he had been such a victim. Police advise that all such boxes should be checked and made secure.

The latest photograph on the cover is very topical at the moment as farmers all over the country protest at the low cost of milk in the supermarkets. Dairy farmers are under extreme pressure and most are working at a loss. This situation cannot go on and before long more and more dairy farmers will be driven out of business and the sight of cows grazing peacefully in the fields will be a thing of the past.

This year our bonfire will be held on Saturday November 7th at the Parish Club when we will have our usual bonfire, exciting firework display, tasty barbecue and multi prize raffle. This year Cllr Gail Coenen of High Legh Council has kindly offered to publicise the event enabling us to sell more tickets. These will be priced the same as last year £6 before the event and £7 at the gate and will be on sale at the Parish Club and from members of the Council. The bonfire will be lit at approximately 6pm and the fireworks display will start at 7.15pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible - please bring your family and friends- to make this year the best ever.

We were all disappointed at the recent Council meeting to find that the plans for Mere Corner were still not available. However we were pleased to hear that the area will include some green landscaping and we live in hopes that the area will be a little more attractive than it is at present.

JEAN DUNCALF
CHAIRMAN

MERE HALL FARM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1910.

MERE HALL FARM,
BUCKLOW HILL, Near Kautsford.

EDWIN BRADSHAW & SON

Have been instructed by the Exors. of the late Mr. JAMES LOWE to

SELL BY AUCTION

25 Fat & In-Calf Heifers and Young Stock,
9 Powerful Draught Horses,
In-Foal Mares, Colts,
Modern Implements, Loose Effects,
About 115 Tons of Rye Grass, Clover,
and Meadow Hay,
About 5,000 Bushels of Oats,
100 Loads of Wheat, 150 Tons of Straw,
Seed Potatoes, and Effects.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

SALE AT 11-30 O'CLOCK.

NOTE. The Horses include some useful animals. The Cattle are a nice lot, being of good colour. The Implements are modern, and the Produce was well housed and will be found in nice order.

For further particulars apply to—

MR. A. C. CUTLER,

Solicitor, KNUZZSFORD;

and the Auctioneers, 96, Whitworth Street, Manchester; and Stretford. Telephone 3990.

R. HULTON & Co., Ltd., Printers, Manchester.

Messrs. B. GOODALL & Co., of Unicorn Stables, Altrincham, will run a VEHICLE, leaving Altrincham Station at 10-45, to the place of Sale, at a charge of One Shilling each. Messrs. B. Goodall & Co. will be much obliged if those desirous of attending the Sale by this means will book their seats before the day so that they may know what provision to make.

Above is a copy of a catalogue detailing the auction in 1910 of the stock and implements from Mere Hall Farm following the death of the tenant James Lowe. Note the advertisement by R Goodall & Co. of Unicorn Stables, which reads: "Messrs B GOODALL & Co, of Unicorn Stables, Altrincham, will run a VEHICLE? leaving Altrincham Station at 10.45 to the place of Sale, at a charge of one shilling each. Messrs R Goodall & Co will be much obliged if those desirous of attending the Sale by this means will book their seats before the day so that they may know what provision to make." What sort of vehicle I wonder – probably a pony and trap.

James Lowe had been the tenant since 1903 and unfortunately had died at a young age. This very interesting document was shown to me by Alan Faulkner whose family have farmed at Mere Hall Farm since 1910.

During the 1800s part of the farm buildings had been used to house a brewery. The malt kiln was located in the west side of the building, the shire horses used to pull the carts and work the land were stabled in the single storeys. A ratchet and winch crane was located above the east archway which was used to load produce from horse drawn carts driven underneath.

The complex was state of the art at the time, boasting an underground water storage chamber, diverting water from the roof. Complemented with underground manure storage facilities using a hand operated slurry lifter.

On the death of James Lowe, William Faulkner, who was cousin to the deceased, took over the tenancy and ran the farm in the traditional manner with arable crops, dairy cows, sheep, pigs and poultry. He was married to Elizabeth and they had three children William, Jenny and John. In the 1930s William married Gladys Bloor from the next door farm Hulme Barns. The couple moved to Big Tree Farm at Dunham as tenants of Lord Stamford who became a good friend of all the family. They had three children Alan, Catherine and Ruth.

William senior died in 1957 and John and Jenny continued to farm at Mere Hall with Jenny being the driving force. It was she who negotiated the purchase of the farm in 1947. They employed two or three men one of whom was Mark Arnold, a hard worker who stayed with the family for many years. Horses were used to work the land which grew crops of wheat, oats, hay, swedes, kale, potatoes and mangolds. During the war years Land Girls who lodged at nearby Bucklow Manor were employed at busy times. Often an Irishman would live in the shant to help with some of the heavy work such as harvesting the potatoes. These were all dug with a fork for four pence a score i.e.; twenty yards of digging. Were these 'the good old days'?

An average of thirty six cows were milked and the churns left on a stand at the farm gate for collection by Hicksons who lived at the end of Hoo Green Lane. They then took all the local milk to a central dairy. Alan thinks they were amongst the first owners in the area of an automatic milking machine – an Alfa Laval. In 1941 three bombs landed in the vicinity of the farm. One in Chapel Lane and one in a field across the A556, which is now The Circle, both of which exploded as they hit the ground and a third which landed in the farm yard and didn't explode until the next day when it left a huge crater and blew off the slates on the cart shed. After the war tractors began to take over from the horses and a Fordson Standard was purchased. Alan remembers a 1922 International on the farm but has no idea where it came from and as far as he can remember was never in working order. He came across a photo in a magazine, taken by John Faulkner in 1950, of the same tractor with the contributor wondering what became of it.

Both John and Jenny died in the late 1960s. Alan was now married to Helena and still living at Big Tree Farm with their eldest son Ian. In 1970 they moved to take over Mere Hall Farm where Elizabeth and Andrew were born. Alongside the

arable farming and for a time pig farming, Alan kept hens and the fertile eggs they produced were delivered to Liverpool to be used in the manufacture of vaccines. For many years he reared poussins. Every seven weeks 37,000 day old chicks arrived, four weeks later having reached the required weight they were despatched and the sheds were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected ready three weeks later for another batch.

When Alan took over the farm he employed 'Fred' a German POW a willing and industrious worker who remained with them for many years until illness forced his retirement. Alan still keeps in touch with his son Paul. During the 80s and 90s Alan invariably had local youngsters, both boys and girls working on the farm. They helped with everything, feeding the hens, cleaning the poultry sheds, picking turnips and when they got older, even driving the combine. One of these boys went on to manage a 2000 acre farm in Dorset for Sainsburys and another farms 3600 acres in Stratford on Avon for Ragley Home Farms. The latter, Jon Parker, had a regular column for four years in The Farmers Weekly and in his final article he recalls the time spent on 'the farm across the road' where he worked every weekend and school holiday doing whatever was needed to earn money to buy a BMX bike! By the age of thirteen he had decided an agricultural career was for him. He writes... 'The farmer who inspired me and who I owe a great deal of gratitude to is Alan Faulkner of Mere Hall Farm. Alan gave me opportunity, experience and information.' Sadly in these days of health and safety and rules about the employment of youngsters these opportunities no longer exist."

In 2000 Alan and Helena semi-retired to a self-built house next door to the farm where they live a less stressful life looking after grandchildren, playing bowls and bridge and socialising with their many friends. Their two sons Ian and Andrew now run the farm with occasional help from Dad and have converted redundant buildings into a successful Business Centre.

JEAN DUNCALF

OUR LOCAL HOTELS

During the summer The Mere successfully hosted the three day Boodles Tennis Tournament for the third consecutive year, and also the R & A Open championship which had returned for the seventh year. Sous chef Mark Egan was crowned winner of the 'Love Cheshire' Sous Chef challenge and the hotel was awarded a 'Certificate of Excellence' from TripAdvisor. The owner of The Mere, Mark Boler commented that 'Hospitality and Events are what we do.'

Mere Court, our other prestigious hotel, won the Best Cheshire Venue award for NorthWest Country Weddings for the third year running.

RURAL CRIMEWATCH

The Rural Crimewatch Scheme, for which our local police officer Mike Dawber has received recognition, has been awarded cash for efforts made to reduce crime in the area. This will be used to fund extra warning signage. Recently Mike organised a farm machinery security marking day at the Parish Club. He had negotiated a group discount with Datawag and interested farmers had their farm machinery fitted with a sticker containing a multi level forensic marking system. Supported by NFU Mutual it is hoped this system will make the machinery less attractive to thieves.

MERE CLUB IS A FARMER'S DREAM COME TRUE

Mere Club is a farmer's dream come true

The late Mr. Joseph (Joe) Whittaker, who lived at Knowles Pit Farm, Mere, cherished an ambition, but did not live to realise it. For years he dreamt of a social club which would bring more community life to the scattered population of Mere.

He tried to get something started but the same stumbling block always dogged his efforts—funds. Then he lost his life in a road accident.

Mr. Whittaker were alive to-day he would be a happy man, for his dream is a reality, and what was formerly Mere Parish School is now the Memorial Social Club—a fully licensed establishment where men, mostly farmers and farm workers, meet every week night, in an atmosphere even more convivial perhaps than that of the average village "pub". They play darts, dominoes, billiards or snooker, or chat over a pint of beer, and they can take their womenfolk along.

Before Mr. Whittaker died he had started collections, aided by Mr. John Hewitt and Mr. Tom Hickson, of Winterbottom Farm, who carried on the good work, organising competitions, drives and dances. When they had more than £1,100 in hand, Dame Fortune took a hand in the guise of Colonel Langford-Brooke, who offered to give the closed school to the parish on condition that they ran a licensed bar and "really made it go."

This was arranged and five months ago the school reopened as a club with 20 members. Profits from the bar and various efforts have resulted in a balance sheet barely £40 less than the original, after the rooms have been furnished and amenities provided. The membership is now nearly 300 and the committee is laying out a bowling green, with minds going ahead to the time when they will have tennis courts, football and cricket pitches.

Where officers are concerned, the club is guarding the rights of Mere parishioners and no outsiders are allowed on the com-

mittee or in executive posts, but it ends there, and members from as far away as Aeneas, Warrington, Sale, Urmston and Rudheath attend regularly.

OFFICIALS

Club officials are: President, Colonel Langford-Brooke; chairman, Mr. Hickson; vice-chairman, Mr. E. Shore; secretary, Mr. John Preston, of Knowles Pit Farm; assistant secretary, Miss Irwin Whittaker; treasurer, Mr. Edward Whittaker. Trustees are Colonel Langford-Brooke, Mr. Henry Whittaker and Mr. James Brett.

Each week a dance and a whist drive are run alternatively and various competitions are held. Two dart teams are in the Knutsford League and Mere "A" occupied third position in the league table until last week when they lost 6-3 to the Builders' Arms.

Club darts champion, by the way, is Bill Barnes, and according to the Christmas handicaps, E. Thomas is top billiards player, while John Jones won the snooker competition and Tommy Ikin was the dominoes "champ."

A tablet is soon to be erected in the club to the memory of the men from the Parish of Mere who fell in the two world wars.

The newspaper cutting reads as follows:-

"Mere Club is a farmer's dream come true.

The late Mr Joseph (Joe) Whittaker, who lived at Knowles Pit farm, Mere, cherished an ambition, but did not live to realise it. For years he dreamt of a social club which would bring more community life to the scattered population of Mere.

He tried to get something started but the same stumbling block always dogged his efforts – funds. Then he lost his life in a road accident.

If Joe Whittaker were alive today he would be a happy man, for his dream is a reality, and what was formerly Mere Parish School is now the Memorial Social Club – a fully licensed establishment where men, mostly farmers and farm workers, meet every week night in an atmosphere even more convivial perhaps than that of the average village 'local.' They play darts, dominoes, billiards or snooker, or chat over a pint of beer, and they can take their womenfolk along.

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A tablet is soon to be erected in the club in the memory of the men from the Parish of Mere who fell in the two world wars.”

This very interesting newspaper article, which is almost certainly from the Knutsford Guardian, was found in the effects of the late Mrs Hetty Davies nee Whittaker who died recently aged 96. The article is not dated but Hetty is referred to as Hettie Whittaker and she was married in 1950. Joe Whittaker was tragically knocked off his bike and killed on New Years Day 1946 as he was on his way to visit his friends the Fryers, probably the nursery family. So this dates the item somewhere between 1946 and 1950 probably nearer the latter as Joe had not saved up enough money when he died.

The Edward Whittaker referred to as 'treasurer' is in fact Edwin (Ted) Whittaker who I'm sure is well remembered in the area. In fact his widow Vera recently celebrated her 95th Birthday at the Club. Tom Hickson and John Hewitt lived on Winterbottom Lane, and the Brett family and the Barnes family lived on Mere Corner in the cottages which were demolished in the 50s in order to widen the road. Tommy Ikin was the Colonel's batman during the war and lived at Bucklow Hill.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND ARRIVES IN BUCKLOWHILL



Around 200 premises in the local area are now able to upgrade to fibre broadband. This is great news for anyone running a business or multiple devices requiring internet access.

Check the Connecting Cheshire website (www.connectingcheshire.org.uk) to see if your home or business can be upgraded, and then contact your service provider for a quote for this service. It doesn't happen automatically, and it may be a good idea to shop around as there are many good deals out there.

This new service is available for those residents using cabinets 1 and 3. If you find, when you access the website, that your premises cannot yet access fibre broadband then this is probably because you are served from cabinet 2. This is the dark green box across the road from the entry to The Mere. Upgrading this box has been delayed by the need to relocate services caused by the construction of the new bypass. The good news is that this box should be enabled for fibre broadband sometime this autumn.

John Patterson

MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

It is good to see the progress of the new A556 and Costains the contractor are doing their best to minimize any disruption. Mere Residents Association and Mere Parish Council are working together to influence the De-trunking of the existing A556. We had an initial meeting with Cheshire East and Costains to put over our concerns. These included signage around the Mere area, parking restrictions, maintenance, speed limits, foliage, traffic lights, lighting and more. We are meeting again at the end of September, hopefully by putting our concerns forward at this early stage we will influence how the area will look after the new road is completed.

We are still concerned by the lack of maintenance around Mere and with the help of the Parish Council we will achieve an improvement. Airport noise is still a big problem, if you are disturbed by aircraft noise please ring 08000 967 967 and report the problem.

Alan Newnes
Chairman

MANCHESTER AIRPORT NEWS 2015

Manchester Airport continues to develop plans to proceed with their long term development. A route and services update has been announced from the July Managing Directors report. This update will be of help to those wishing to plan specific flights in the coming months.

ROUTES AND SERVICES UPDATE

***AIR LINGUS** has announced a number of frequency increases in the UK.*

Manchester is a part of this and will see a 10% increase in seats this winter versus the same period last year, seeing up to six daily flights daily (Airbus A 320)

***RYANAIR** will also increase their Dublin-Manchester operation from five to six daily (Boeing 747-800s)*

***VUELING and IBERIA (IAG)** have confirmed that there will be an increase in their summer frequencies. Vueling will increase to daily operations and additionally analysis is on-going regarding operating services from Rome, Malaga and the Canaries, using away based aircraft (Airbus A320s)*

***AUSTRIAN AIRLINES** have confirmed that new daily services will commence on the 10th September. Services will commence with a 105-seat Fokker 100 aircraft, and will operate 5 times a week over the winter period.*

***EGYPT AIR** recommences five services to Cairo from the 9th July using Boeing 737-800s. The airline aspires to provide a year round service, should bilateral discussions between the UK and Egyptian authorities provide Egypt air permission to continue services throughout the winter.*

***FLYBE** have published their winter 2015/16 flying schedule which includes a frequency increase on their existing twice daily Amsterdam service to six daily services from November.*

***LUFTHANSA GERMAN AIRLINES** will upgrade their third Munich service from the current Airbus A 319 operation to A320 on the start of the winter season.*

***SAUDI AIRLINES** intend to introduce their new Boeing 787-900s on their existing four per week services to Jeddah.*

***SCANDINAVIAN AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS** have confirmed additional growth from winter 2015 increasing services on Copenhagen from fourteen to nineteen per week.*

***THY TURKISH AIRLINES** have introduced four weekly in June. They will now provide a further three weekly flights.*

***JET 2 .com and JET HOLIDAYS** have launched “twilight check in” People can drop their luggage at the Jet 2 .com/Jet2 Holidays check in area in Terminal 1 between 1500 and 2000 the night before their flight. All they have to do is to make sure they have checked in on line before hand. Then they can fully relax on the morning of their holiday in the knowledge their bags will be securely waiting for them at their destination. This brand new service is currently being trialled at Manchester Airport with the airline looking to make it available at other bases in the near future.*

***THOMSON AIRLINE** will be increasing capacity at Manchester Airport in summer 2016 through a new route to Aruba.*

THOMAS COOK AIRLINE will have new routes to Los Angeles and Boston. The airline will launch the services in May 2016 operating twice a week using Airbus A330-200 aircraft.

EASY JET celebrated flying its 10 millionth passenger through Manchester in June. Easy Jet launched their first flight to Manchester in 2008 and are now carrying over 2 million passengers a year to a range of business and leisure destinations with new routes to Split Kefalonia Marseille Pisa and Porto for summer 2015.

NET JETS EUROPE has based a bombardier challenger 35 at the business aviation centre. The luxury jet company offers wealthy clients the chance to fly in style with 25 and 50 hour “Jet Cards” on offer (likened to pay as you go). The firm’s ultimate aim is to have clients to become part owners in planes with a whole range of services on offer for those who become part of the elite club.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me
Bob Fawcett 01565830407

ROAD REPORT AUTUMN 2015

Whilst we are undergoing the trials of the road works relating to the A556 upgrade the council are having regular meetings with the contractors Costains to mitigate the effects for the residents and commuters.

All residents should have received notification of the road closure between Bowden Island and Bucklowhill, 21st September for two weeks and diversions. It was agreed there should be more manpower to direct traffic particularly at Bucklowhill and key junctions. There should also be warning signage on the gantries on the M56 and M6.

The speed limit on Chapel Lane and Rostherne Village is to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

Relating to the side roads – Costain have undertaken a pre-condition survey and will repair any damage after the completion of works. With the increase in traffic on Hulseheath Lane Costains are to provide passing places and repair ditches and verges.

Chapel Lane will be closed for two weeks from October 5th to 25th and Costains will be notifying residents.

Designs for the Mere Junction are almost complete and the council will be meeting with Cheshire East Council in the next few weeks.

If you have any queries please contact the Community Liaison Team on 07824 303403/07717 838978 or email A556HAIL@costain.com

LINDA REYNOLDS

MERE PARISH CLUB

September is officially the first month of Autumn and quite often it provides spells of fine calm weather - an 'Indian summer' - let's hope this year turns out to be one! At the Parish Club, the crown green bowls season is coming to an end. After last years team successes, our men have had a poor year. Our A and C teams both relegated, the B team a creditable fourth in the third division. The ladies teams have fared better however. The Knutsford league team challenging for promotion, and our mid-Cheshire team maintaining a high standard in a league of high quality. The highlight of this year has been the success of our youngsters, Will and Mark Bushell, who were the winner and runner up respectively of the Cheshire junior merit competition. The pair then went on to represent the county in the national junior crown green bowls tournament at Rhos-on-Sea. Well done to them! I make no apology for repeating my assertion that bowls is a sport for any age and all abilities. Mere provides a friendly environment run in a democratic way. Call in, we can advise and help with tuition.

Our planning application is still in the doldrums. We wonder if anyone actually exists in Cheshire East Planning department, it appears to us to be an automated answer machine! Going into seven months after applying, we wait on. Our efforts to improve parish facilities and join with Tabley whose hall will be demolished next month, a casualty of the new road scheme, seems to have turned into a 'Spanish Inquisition' type saga. We do however remain positive, with support of both parish councils, Highways England, George Osborne, and our ward councillor, we are confident in eventual success. Perhaps we have been a little naive in the presentation of our application, but with the mitigating circumstances due to the loss of Tabley's hall, we did not foresee any great stumbling blocks. By the time of the next newsletter we hope plans will come to fruition.

Winter leagues of snooker and dominoes are about to begin and we still have Monday and Thursday whist drives. These are supported mainly by senior citizens who for some may be their only weekly outing. Numbers are decreasing so any new players will be warmly welcomed.

Socially our quiz nights are extremely popular, and with regular bookings, including a wedding, the club remains in fine shape. Our members come from Sale to Northwich, Wilmslow to Lymm, we would love to see more from the parish enjoy the facility. Before we know it, bonfire night will be here!

Alan Greenway
Chairman

TO RAISE A SMILE

A child asked his Grandma: Was Joan of Arc real? She started to tell him the story when he interrupted: But how did he get all the animals into the boat?

A five year old asked her Grandad if Grandma used to be his girlfriend? He explained that he used to be a frog and whilst hopping about one day, this lovely young lady, who happened to be Grandma, picked him up and kissed him and he changed into a handsome prince. She thought for a moment before her withering put down: But Grandad you're not handsome!

Standing in the park I wondered why frisbees grow larger the nearer they get. Then it hit me!

Tommy Cooper told a joke about his talking tortoise. To put it to the test he told it to go down to the shop and buy a paper. A year later he went out of his front door and nearly stepped on his pet. 'You've been slow' he complained 'you've been gone a year and where's my paper?'

'Well if you're going to be like that I won't go' replied the tortoise.