

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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CLERK

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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 2016

October 24th
December 5th

7.30pm at THE MERE, WA16 6LJ

*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 REPORT

Our Parish Council AGM in May saw the end of the successful two year's chairmanship of Jean Duncalf and the start of my term. Jean has lived in Mere for forty years and to say that she will be a tough act to follow is an understatement. I am pleased to say, however, that for one-year Jean will act as my deputy and that gives me a great deal of reassurance.

I have lived at Mere Hall for the past fifteen years and in the Knutsford area for eleven before that. I have been on the Parish Council for about three years. For most of the time that I lived in the area I have seen little change in Mere. That was until the start of construction work on the bypass in 2014 which has changed everything. I hope that the road works are not causing you too much inconvenience, especially those of you who use the A50 frequently. On the bright side, we only have some seven months to go before the new A556 becomes a reality.

When I last looked at the Mere section of the new A556, I expected to see a building site. I was surprised to find that it now looks like a real road even to the point of appearing to be covered with asphalt. This reminds me, one event in which I hope you will take part is the "Welly Walk" along the length of the new road organised by Highways England and Costain on 30th October. Tickets cost £5, bookable online, and proceeds go to Children's Adventure Farm Trust. It will be a great chance to see the road before it becomes covered by traffic. The event is pushchair and wheelchair friendly, so I'm not sure if you really need wellies.

Just to remind you that our Council Meetings are open to the public but few members of the public come along to see what we do. If you would like to come to the next meeting, which is on 24th October at 7.30pm at The Mere, you are very welcome to do so.

John Patterson
Chairman

MORE ON MERE'S UNIQUE AA BOX

My husband Lionel chanced on an article in a motor cycle magazine about a Manchester man, Eric Poynton who was a member of the AA Patrol service. From 1951 – 1960 his beat included the A556 and the A50 with his headquarters the AA Box at Mere Corner. As we all know this distinctive yellow and black box still stands between the two busy roads and is now a listed building. The lane on which the box stands is still technically a private road and in Eric's time it had to be closed off once a year with a chain to preserve its status. It was, and still is, prone to flooding and deterioration. Eric persuaded council road surfacing gangs to dump surplus loads of chippings there which he laboriously spread himself before getting the council men to roll them. The patrol man was responsible for cleaning the Box and its contents whilst keeping an eye out for passing AA members in order to give them a salute.

The junction was a well-known accident black spot and the box itself had twice suffered from collisions and for a while there was a First Aid hut there. The AA Box carried spare special bulbs for the traffic lights but if the lights themselves failed Eric had to do single handed point duty sprinting between the two sets of lights until the police arrived.

Happily there were less stressful moments in a period that now seems curiously innocent. On fine days families would picnic under the chestnut trees on the broad grassy verges beside the A50 watching the cars go by.

There was a more human touch to patrol work in those days and Eric got to know Tom, the council lengths man who cut the verges, Arthur his opposite number in the RAC, and the local traffic cop in his 'Green Goddess' Rover 90 saloon who always pulled up for a chat. Eric took his breaks at Mrs Jones' large, green wooden transport cafe situated on what is now the Tabley Junction with the M6.

With the by-pass nearing completion the A556 or B5569, as it will become, should return to quieter times, but sadly not the A50.

JEAN DUNCALF



The AA salute again, outside the AA box at Mere Corner, where Eric served from 1951 to 1960. Today it's a listed building

MERE PARISH BONFIRE

Our bonfire will be held this year on Saturday November 5th at the Mere and Tabley Community Centre. Please make a note in your diary and make sure you don't miss this event. There will be the usual magnificent firework display and food will be available to purchase. Tickets will be available from Council members at £6 in advance or £7 on the night at the gate. Children 5 years and under free.

The bonfire will be lit at 6pm and the fireworks start at 7:15pm



A MAP OF OLD MERE

Recently an old map of The Bucklow Union dated 1897, showing Mere and the surrounding villages, surfaced from the Council archives.

Strangely it had been found by a monk who was clearing out some things at his monastery in Peterborough. This enterprising monk tracked down Neil Stott who was chairman of the council at the time and asked if he would like it. He had no information as to where it had come from or how long it had been at the monastery. So that remains a complete mystery.

Neil was delighted to receive it and gave a donation in return. This was in 2003.

We plan to hang a framed print in the new club house and we are having extra prints made for interested residents at a cost of £20. These will be on sale on the raffle table at the bonfire event on November 5th.

Don't miss this opportunity to obtain a record of the village of Mere in times gone by.

FENTONS FARM FOODS



Mere Parish Council currently employs Dominic Fenton to maintain various grassy areas in the parish, keeping them tidy and improving vision for traffic. He also regularly mows the grass around the cenotaph which I think you will agree always looks well cared for.

Dominic and his wife Jo have recently opened up a small farm shop at Briddon Weir Farm, Cherry Tree Lane, Rostherne selling, vegetables, eggs, logs, plants etc. Also locally reared beef, lamb and pork are available. It is always good to have fresh produce and Rostherne is not too far to go for it or alternatively a delivery service is available.

Details can be found on Facebook or phone 07730 583886

ROAD REPORT AUTUMN 2016



As you will be have seen the works on the new by-pass are proceeding at quite a rate and it is on schedule to open by the end of March 2017. The new bridge on the A50 is operational but only single lane until the end of November. Considerable work is taking place at the M56/Lymn round about and the small roundabout will come into operation towards the end of the year. Unfortunately all this work means there are going to be road closures. A list of which is below:

Please note that all works may be affected to adverse weather and are subject to change.

The A50 will be closed overnight (9pm to 5am) on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd September between Mere junction and West Lane at High Legh whilst work is completed around the new A50 bridge. There will be access for residents as far as Bucklow Hill Lane from the High Legh direction. Residents at Mere Hall should access via the staffed closure at Mere junction.

On the morning of Friday 23rd September the single lane running will be removed and the A50 will be fully open.

The M56 eastbound access at junction 7 will be closed overnight (9pm to 5am) on Friday 16th September .

The A556, M56 J8 & M56 J7 w/b exit will be closed overnight (9pm to 5am) southbound between Bowdon roundabout and Bucklow Hill for five nights commencing Monday 19th September with the last closure being on the night of Friday 23rd September whilst we install new street lighting.

Chapel Lane will be closed from the A556 Chester Road to Hulse Heath Lane (access will be maintained for residents) from Monday 12th September to Friday 16th September and then again from Monday 14th November to Friday 23rd December whilst the bridge works and the new road alignment are completed.

Millington Lane will be closed between the A556 Chester Road and 1, Millington Lane 24 hours a day from Monday 19th September to Friday 11th November whilst the bridge works and the new road alignment is completed. Access will remain from the A556 Chester Road for Bucklow Manor and via a signed diversion route from the A56 for all other premises including Avec Cookers.

A556 N&S and M56 W/B exit - Total closure from Mere to Bowdon to carry out the next phase change. Work starts on 30/9 for three nights.

Total closure of M6 junction 19 – commencing 3rd October for one week. The closure will be in place overnight between 21:00hrs and 05:00am.

M6 JUNCTION 19 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Highways England are carrying out a public consultation on two options for Junction 19 to improve the traffic flow from the M6 onto the new by pass. It will run the five weeks from August 17th to September 23rd. There will be a public information exhibition Saturday 17th September 10am to 5pm at the Curzon Cinema, Toft Road, Knutsford, WA16 0PE. Brochures are also available from Knutsford Library, Malthurst Esso Petrol Station and Knutsford Services. There is also a website at the following address: <http://WWW.HIGHWAYS.GOV.UK/M6-JUNCTION>

A556 DE-TRUNKING

A Public Meeting is to be held on Saturday 19th November at Costains compound on the left of the Lymm roundabout, to announce the plans for the de-trunking.

HALLOWEEN WICKED WELLY WALK



This was postponed from earlier in the year due to bad weather. It will now take place on Sunday 30th October. It is a 6.5km charity walk along the route of the new road and all the money will go to the Children's Adventure Farm Trust. It will be a real family event with diggers and other heavy construction vehicles being available en route for exploring children and adults alike!! It is a ticket only event and for more information visit "welly walk A556" website.

CHESHIRE GATEWAY

Tatton Estate Management Limited want to concrete over more than a million square feet of virgin green field at the Bowden roundabout (Junction 7, M56) to create a logistics and science park called "The Cheshire Gateway". However, Stop The Cheshire Gateway Action Group has distributed thousands of flyers to local communities in Bowden, Knutsford, High Legh and Mere and has obtained coverage in the sale and Altrincham Messenger and the Warrington Guardian. The group will then send representatives to the Planning Inspectors hearings on the Cheshire East Local Plan on September 15th where they will speak in opposition to planning and legal experts representing the developer. If you wish to support this action contact Ged Mann at <mailto:STOPTHECHESHIREGATEWAY@GMAIL.COM>

Linda Reynolds

MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The New A556 is taking shape. After completion the existing road will be de-trunked, Costains are having an 'Open Day' at their compound on Sunday 20th November where the plans for the de-trunking will be on display. I would ask you attend so you can put forward any concerns you have for the de-trunking. We will only have one chance to get this work done to our satisfaction so please attend. Families are welcome and some of the large machinery will be on site for people to view. The Residents 'Association and Parish Council are jointly working together with Cheshire East to hopefully get the best plans for these works.

Alan Newnes

KNUTSFORD REX PROBUS CLUB

The above club meets at Mere and Tabley Community Club (formerly Mere Parish Club) at 10am normally on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

The schedule of speakers is as follows:

<i>22nd September</i>	<i>A Laugh on the Ocean Wave! by Brian Price</i>
<i>6th October</i>	<i>A Geologists View by Peter Webb</i>
<i>27th October</i>	<i>A Tribute to Tommy Cooper by Peter Turner</i>
<i>10th November</i>	<i>My Part in the 2013/14 Clipper Race by Dr Richard Brook</i>
<i>24th November</i>	<i>Disney and Music by Brian Green</i>
<i>8th December</i>	<i>The Dreadnought Era by Jerry Bentley</i>

However there is much more to Knutsford Rex Probus Club than the Speaker Meetings and anyone interested is urged to visit their super new website knutsfordrexprobusclub.org.uk where you will find further details.

GEORGE DUNCAN

The George Duncan suite at the Mere is a reminder of the famous golfer who was the golf pro at Mere from 1934 – 1962.

George was the first post First World War winner of The Open Championship in 1920 at Royal Cinque Ports, Kent and played for Great Britain in the Ryder Cup in 1927, 1929 and 1931. He was playing captain in 1929 when Great Britain won at Moortown Golf Club in Leeds. He was well known for his fast pace of play, simply walking up to the ball, immediately taking his stance and whack...!

He is buried in Rostherne churchyard and in 1914 in the course of their duties PC Mike Dawber and PC Roger Holt discovered his untended grave. By coincidence George was the son of a village policeman and Mike and Roger, sad that his grave

was uncared for thought it only fitting that they as village policemen should undertake to tidy it.

After requesting permission from the minister Rev Philip Robinson and ascertaining that there were no living relatives Mike and Roger set to and the accompanying picture shows the result of their hard work. Well done.



MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB

Work on the new function room is now well under way. As you may have seen, new signs have been erected at the entrance to reflect the joining together of Mere and Tabley to create an excellent facility for both parishes.

The committee are pleased with our choice of builder - Stanley Construction - who are keeping to schedule with a finish date of early December. There was however a serious occurrence on Friday 19th August, when a Claas Loadall forklift machine was stolen from the builders compound. If anyone saw anything, please contact the Police on 101.

The bowling season is once again drawing to a close. We have eleven teams playing in various leagues and Val Taylor's Thursday afternoon friendly team who enjoy a social couple of hours without worrying about winning or losing! Four teams have almost certainly gained promotion - men's A, ladies B, Friday league B and Norley afternoon team. The men's C are in a nail biting finish, very close to promotion from division 5.

The beauty of the game of crown green bowls is anyone can play, of any ability and any age. We have club members from teenagers to nonagenarians! Speaking of teenagers, our congratulations to Jack Bushell who recently reached the quarter finals of the all England Junior Merit held in Coventry.

The snooker and domino leagues will begin in September, which reminds me to clear the snooker room of tables, chairs, carpets and other objects pushed in there during alterations!

We continue to receive good support from Knutsford Rex Probus Club, whose fortnightly meetings have had to be moved from room to room depending upon where the builders are working! This also applies to the Monday and Thursday whist drives, who have been put in every nook and cranny to play. Our apologies to these and other groups for short term inconvenience .

The community club is well used and financially stable. The reason for this is the fantastic group of people who help run the bar, prepare food and generally help run events. The budget will be severely tested in the coming months. Despite compensation from Highways England for the loss of Tabley Parish Hall, an extremely welcome grant of £5000 from Cheshire East, other grant sources which are being chased tirelessly by club member Ian Hodgson, unforeseen extra costs i.e. new fire regulations and discovering the existing roof needs repairing will be hard to absorb. Our treasurer, Roger Thorp, is keeping a watchful eye on progress.

Back to our club members, I pay special tribute to two whose efforts are invaluable to us. Both approaching their eightieth birthdays, Ken Barker has been green keeper for more than 30 years, and Geoff Owen, our first chairman, still makes sure you can get a first class pint by keeping the pipes in pristine condition.

Finally next time the newsletter is printed, the new function room should be up and running. We would like to see more locals using this facility. So please feel free to come and view if you are thinking of having a celebratory event or looking for a meeting room.

Alan Greenway

Chairman.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT

The A556 by-pass has divided the community of Mere but it is now a fact and those residents who opposed it, including me, have to accept it. There are however a number of measures taken to protect the environment, some of which are new.

In total 239 mature trees, 117,000 square meters of shrubs and trees and 7.5 km of hedgerow are to be planted.

Several bat boxes have been built in strategic places some of which are already being used. And six innovative bat 'hop-overs' are being constructed using vegetation and fencing to guide bats safely over the road where it has crossed existing flight lines.

A network of 21 ponds will provide new habitats for the area's population of great crested newts and aimed at boosting the local numbers as well as providing watering for small mammals such as water shrews.

A local conservation group will manage the 3 barn owl boxes and hopefully expand the local population of these birds.

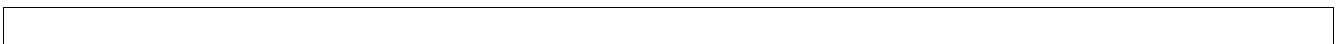
Mammal tunnels under the road will provide safe crossings for badgers, hedgehogs, voles and also amphibian species such as newts and frogs.

An innovative green bridge will span the road providing a route for bats, badgers and other wildlife and as importantly providing access for the local farmer to reach his fields on the other side.

Landscape planting, including new native woodlands and species rich grassland will enhance existing habitats, with nesting and foraging birds amongst those benefitting.

Together these measures and initiatives will, in a small way, compensate for the huge damage caused by the construction of the by- pass.

JEAN DUNCALF



SMILE A WHILE

SAT NAVS!

*I have a little sat nav, it sits there in my car, a satnav is a driver's friend, it tells
you where you are
I have a little satnav, I've had it all my life, it's better than the normal ones,
my satnav is my wife
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive, 'it's 60 miles an hour' it says,
you're doing 65
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake, and tells me that it's
never ever safe to overtake
It tells me when a light is red, and when it turns to green, it seems to know
instinctively just when to intervene
It lists the vehicles in front, and all those to the rear, and taking this into account,
it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device, for when we leave and lock the car
it still gives its advice
It fills me up with counseling, each journey's pretty fraught, so why don't I exchange
it and get a quieter sort?
Ah well you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed, it washes all my
shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff, I do wish that once in a while
I could turn the damn thing off.*

MORE!

*What do you call a girl who keeps standing in the middle of a tennis court?
Annette.*

*What do you call a vicar on a moped?
Rev.*

*What do you call a man lying on your doorstep?
Matt.*

*Never take the shell off a racing snail. **It makes them sluggish.***

JEAN DUNCALF

With thanks to contributors to various papers and magazines