

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 2015

11th May
6th July
7th September
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 weeks are racing past and we are well into spring. Since my last letter I can report on a successful bonfire although it does seem a long time ago now. We were blessed with fine weather and the firework display was pronounced the best ever. However with increased costs the event still made a small loss. To avoid increasing the ticket price we need to attract more visitors so please everyone bring along as many friends as possible this year. We have lost our Post Office so we will be without one of our ticket sales outlets but as usual they will on sale at the Parish Club and all the councillors will have a supply. But more about this later in the year.

Our remembrance ceremony at the cenotaph was attended by almost thirty residents which was very pleasing. We were also joined by a young soldier who was passing through Mere on his way home to Urmston. He had flown in to Brize Norton only that morning from a training exercise in Alberta, Canada. We all thought that was a lovely gesture and were sorry he had to leave immediately as he was anxious to see his family. As this 100 year anniversary was a special occasion, after the wreath laying we all enjoyed coffee and cakes at the Parish Club.

The bypass is well under way now and in November Linda and I were invited to a 'start of works ceremony' to mark the beginning of the construction. Linda has more details of this and the on going work later in this letter. You may be interested to know that the Highways Agency are shortly to be re-named Highways England.

In December, Rostherne Church held their annual carol service and Mere Parish Council were asked if one of our councillors would like to read a lesson. John Patterson very kindly did this on our behalf. It was a lovely service and the congregation were served mulled wine and mince pies before we went home.

We are still waiting for the roads and pavements and the traffic islands at Mere crossroads to be cleared of weeds and discarded road signs to be removed both in that area and in other areas of the parish, for the new speed limit to be enforced in Clamhunger Lane and if there is a solution to be found for the problem of heavy vehicles driving along Winterbottom Lane to the Paper Plant. You can rest assured that Mere Parish Council is continually pursuing all these matters with Cheshire East. Some of the potholes have been filled but immediately others appear and as bollards are replaced others are knocked down. Some litter picking has been done by CEC but it is a relentless task. Some of you may have noticed that the pavement along the A50 from the Kilton to Mere Corner has been resurfaced. A rather pointless exercise as 70% of it will be demolished when work begins on the approaches to the bypass.

A lot of work preparatory to the bypass is being undertaken by the environmental agency. Hedges are covered in netting to prevent birds nesting, and bird scarers

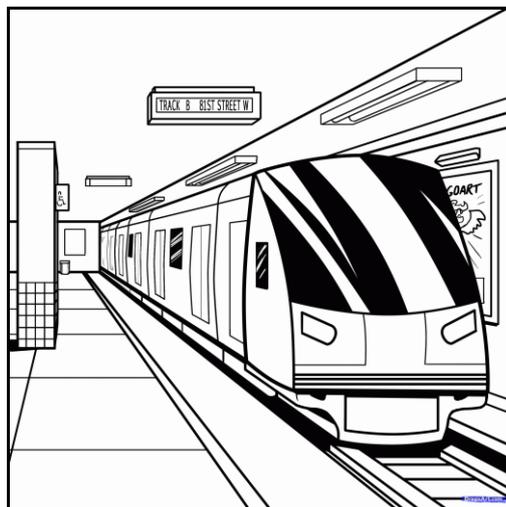
have been placed in some of the woods for the same purpose. Newt fences are in position to catch the migrating great crested newts and new badger setts and newt ponds are being constructed. Several stretches of hedging have been uprooted and the more observant may have noticed the clumps which have been left standing. These are areas of Japanese Knotweed, a noxious weed, which needs special treatment to destroy it and stop it spreading.

Every four years the Parish Councillors have to submit their nomination to the Returning Officer if they wish to stand again. There are eight seats available for Mere Parish and if more than eight people submit a nomination paper then an election will take place on 7th May. The residents of Mere will receive a polling card to use at the Mere Parish Club polling station. If only eight people put their name forward then no election will take place and those eight will become Councillors of Mere.

Finally I hope you like the new photograph of the eastern of Mere Hall on the front of the Newsletter.

**JEAN DUNCALF
CHAIRMAN**

HS2



HS2 has gone very quiet at the moment and apparently no more announcements are to be made until later in the year. So that means that no confirmation (or otherwise) will be made about the Hoo Green to Wigan part of the two HS2 lines until at least after the election.

Earlier in March, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that plans for a link to Heathrow airport had been dropped. This was quietly issued via a written answer to a parliamentary question, and now means that HS2 will link to neither any London airport nor HS1 (The Channel Tunnel). Apart from that, it's all fairly quiet pre-election.

Back in January, the Department of Transport had its knuckles rapped (again) by Margaret Hodge of the Public Accounts Committee, when her report 'Lessons from Major Rail Infrastructure Programmes' criticised them for failing to fully justify the enormous expenditure on HS2.

A new transport plan published recently 'Northern Powerhouse: One Economy, One North' highlights - unsurprisingly – how lacking local and regional transport links are across the region. Six regional routes are identified as either needing to be constructed or upgraded, the total of which represent a cost per mile not dissimilar to HS2. It will be interesting to see where the new Government's priorities lie, although I'm not getting my hopes up.

Compensation-wise, the government continues to wriggle away from entertaining any notion of a 'Property Bond' despite HS2 Action Alliance's (the anti- HS2 group sent from the gods to fight our corner) dogged persistence.

LISE HOUGH

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES



Flower arranging classes are held on a regular basis throughout the year at the Parish Club, organised by N.A.F.A.S. (The National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) Anyone interested in attending should contact Pam Dimeloe on 01925 262399.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LOCAL POLICEMAN

*Mike Dawber, our local policeman, has been named the North West's Best Country Crime Fighter for 2014 by the NFU Mutual at an award ceremony in London. Mike has delivered a range of crime prevention initiatives which has led to a significant reduction of farm crime in the Knutsford area. He has managed through hard work to unite the community in their fight against crime. **Well done Mike.***

MORE AWARDS FOR THE MERE

The Mere Golf Resort and Spa won the prestigious award for Best Marketing Tourism Campaign at the 2014 Marketing Cheshire Awards. This accolade was won for the resort's 'Summer at the Mere - Served to Perfection' campaign. More recently Tracey Wilkinson and her team were delighted that The Mere was voted 'Best Wedding Venue' in South Manchester.

DESERVING OF AN AWARD!

A Mere resident, Verona Stott, along with other members of the Macmillan Knutsford Committee was included in a shortlist of nominations for 'Knutsford Community Champion' for her commitment to raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support but unfortunately was not successful.

MERE CORNER HOUSE

Long time residents of the parish will know that the garden at the front of Mere Corner House behind the Cenotaph has been unchanged for over fifty years ever since the local Post Office was housed there. So it was surprising to see a fence erected to enclose a garden area by the new tenants Jason and Lisa. It certainly looks very different but the area in front of and behind the house was definitely in need of a bit of TLC. I noticed that Jason has tidied the pavement along the stone wall from his house up to the cenotaph along both the A50 and the A556. This is always such an eye sore and we are most grateful for his efforts.



BOB FAWCETT

Bob is an active member of Mere Parish Council, served as Chairman from 2005 until 2007 and at present is Planning Officer and the liaison officer with Manchester Airport. He has lived in Mere since 1975.

Bob was born in Cleveleys and attended Rossall School where he played in the rugby team and was a keen swimmer. Whilst at Rossall he was a member of the Royal Navy Cadets and his training was carried out during visits to Royal Navy ships during the school holidays.

On leaving school in 1952 he joined the Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy Reserve. He served as mate on the Eboe, the Sobo and Calgary amongst others and finished as navigating officer on the passenger ship Aureol sailing from Liverpool to West Africa in the Elder Dempster Line.

He married Pauline in 1960 and shortly afterwards abandoned her for ten months whilst he was in HMS Exmouth in the Submarine Squadron at Faslane. However she obviously didn't hold it against him as they are still together 55years later having two sons, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Bob served on many vessels including HMS Roebuck in the Dartmouth Squadron. He captained a minesweeper and worked in Naval Intelligence. In Faslane they entertained Princess Margaret and in 1977 after The Queens Review of the Fleet in the Solent, as Captain of HMS Hodgston, he attended a dinner with Her Majesty and Prince Philip on the Ark Royal.

In 1960 he left his exciting life in the Merchant Navy to join the electrical industry from which he retired in 1998 as Company Director with Edmundson Electrical.

Before he moved to Mere he belonged to the Thornton Cleveleys Round Table and was Chairman in 1968. He is a member of The Royal Naval Sailing Association, Royal Yachting Association and the Blackpool and Fleetwood Yacht Club. He served as Commodore of the latter in 1970 and remained a trustee until last year. He is a keen dinghy sailor and owned an Osprey which he raced during his time at the yacht club.

With his family and friends he has spent many holidays sailing in the Mediterranean but nowadays is content to spend more leisurely holidays cruising. Now Bob concentrates on golf which he plays at Mere where he was Captain in 1991 and President in 2001, and at Knutsford Golf Club. He is a member of Mere Parish Club and a keen bowler.

Bob enjoys working with the Council thereby making a contribution to the community.

JEAN DUNCALF



SPRING ROAD REPORT

In November Madam Chairman Jean and I were invited to attend the opening ceremony for the new road together with other local Parish Council Chairmen, the Highways Agency, Costains and George Osborne. It took place near the large compound on the left before the Lymm roundabout and unfortunately was pouring with rain. George made a short speech and was given a spade to dig the first sod and we were then invited back to the Swan Hotel for coffee.

Representatives of Costains will be attending all our Parish council meetings until completion of the bypass and the de-trunking of the existing road. Chris Burrows will be replacing John Williams as Community Liaison Officer due to John's retirement, however they will be working together until Mr Burrows is familiar with all aspects of the project. Mr Williams stated that the work was currently fourteen days ahead of schedule. Some of the work being carried out in the field next to the A50 is archaeological and three cremation pits have been discovered dating back to the Bronze Age. Mr Williams said he would ensure a copy of the report would be sent to MPC for their archives.

The next step in the bypass is creating new homes for great crested newts and new setts for badgers. The earth moving would then start. The entrance to The Mere is still under discussion. MPC will try and ensure that there will be as little disruption as possible during the road construction.

As far as maintenance of the existing and surrounding roads are concerned we are hopeful that the flooding problems on the small service road have been rectified, however in various places bollards are missing or badly damaged, but some litter picking appears to have taken place.

De-trunking of the existing A556 – Alan Newnes of MRA is arranging a meeting with MPC, Cheshire East and Costains which he will mention in his report.

LINDA REYNOLDS

MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We are really pleased to see the progress Costains are making with the building of the new A556. As I have mentioned before, the de-trunking of the existing A556 is of great importance and we will have only one chance to have our input at such an early stage. We will be working together with the Parish Council and Cheshire East to put the residents' concerns and ideas to the relevant authorities. If you have any comments about the de-trunking please feel free to contact me as soon as possible.

The Residents Association's AGM was attended by over 60 people and was a great success, I would like to thank everyone who attended. A lady asked a question on the evening which Costains could not answer but have since sent me the answer.

Question. *Once the new A556 has been finished what will be the route to ride my horse to Altrincham.*

Answer. *The Non Motorized User (NMU) track alongside the road will tie into Cherry Tree Lane. From there they can ride onto Tom Lane then the first part of Yarwood Heath Lane, over the M56 motorway bridge (leading the horse as the parapet is not high) and then continuing along Yarwood Heath Lane and over the*

bridge across the two lanes of the A556 (where it joins onto the M56) which leads quite nicely onto the much quieter Bowdon Island and then onto the A56 and Altrincham.

Altogether a much quieter and safer route on horseback than they currently have. I have no information about parking horses in Altrincham!!

Alan Newnes
Chairman Mere Residents Association

MANCHESTER AIRPORT NEWS SPRING 2015

Manchester Airport developments continue apace in 2015

A meeting was held with local councillors at Manchester airport on Tuesday 10th March to discuss changes and the effect it will have on residents within the airport zone.

The developments and improvements are as follows:-

(a) CUSTOMER SERVICES

The metro link is currently one year ahead of schedule and should be completed this year.

The service will provide a train every 12 minutes to and from Manchester.

(b) PLANNING UPDATE

A new 4 hotel will be built near to the station.*

There will be access to Terminal 2 to cope with the growing numbers of passengers using the terminal.

(c) AIR SPACE CHANGES

For some years now NATS who are responsible for the development of airspace in the UK and Europe have been updating flight paths and aircraft movement in the UK to improve safety and reduce expenditure. This has been a long process and it has taken until now for Manchester Airport to be involved.

The improvements to the current system will be targeted at:-

Stacking

Glide paths for landing

Taking off

This planning will be sympathetic to local noise and attempt to provide routes which minimise interference.

There will also be considerable cost saving to the operators.

We hope that these developments will help local residents.

(d) TRACK MONITORING SYSTEM

A new track monitoring system is being developed following aircraft taking off. The new system will improve all data associated with flights and their noise which is drawn to the attention of the residents around the airport. There are 15/16 noise monitors always active.

This system is managed in AUSTRALIA!!!

ROBERT FAWCETT

PARISH NEWS FROM THE AIRPORT – MARCH 2015

Iraqi Airways launches two new routes from Manchester Airport

On Sunday 15th March, the first Iraqi Airways flight from Manchester to Sulaymaniyah departed from Terminal 1 at 22:00 There are two flights operating per week; one to Erbil and another to Sulaimaniya, both in Iraq, Kurdistan.

Manchester is now the only airport outside of London to offer these routes with Iraqi Airways, and the airline has also revealed ambitions to start future routes to Basra and Baghdad.



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Emirates launches second daily Airbus A380 service to Manchester Airport



As of 1st February 2015 the Emirates Airlines service between Dubai International Airport and Manchester Airport, currently operated by a Boeing 777, will be replaced with an Airbus A380. The introduction of the second daily A380 means that half of Emirates' 16 daily flights to the UK will be operated by an A380 from February. The second daily A380 will increase Emirates' capacity from Manchester by 13%.

Cathay Pacific Airways resumed passenger services to Hong Kong on Tuesday 8th December. Operated by Boeing 777-300ERs; the new 12-hour, four times a week service is the only direct, non-stop service to China outside of London. Hong Kong was the second largest un-served market (behind Bangkok) until the launch of the service. The service has got off to a great start achieving 90%+ load factors in January 2015 and we continue to work closely with Cathay to build on this promising start and raise awareness/promote the service to our 'catchment area' and beyond.

At a gala dinner in Manchester last week, Rupert Hogg, Chief Operating Officer at Cathay Pacific, spoke about Cathay's direct flight from Manchester to Hong Kong, commenting that the ambition was for it to move to a daily service. The service only launched in December, so it's great to see that there is the potential demand there for it to increase from its current four times weekly service. Rupert also compared Manchester to Hong Kong, saying the city is "a great trading hub" with a "can do attitude."

MERE PARISH CLUB

This quarterly report finds our club looking forward to an exciting future. We have finally negotiated a compensation deal with the Highways Agency for the loss of Tabley Parish Hall. the monies will be used to build a new function room and kitchen at Mere Parish Club and will be available to both Mere and Tabley residents. Our thanks go to many individuals and organisations who have worked closely together to make possible the position we are in today. Special mention to the Mere Estate who have extended our lease to fifty years. The plans have gone to Cheshire East and we await their response. So the first phase is completed, phase two will be - planners permitting - the build, and thirdly will be to make it work, which in the long term is the most challenging. The club will look to encourage residents of both parishes to make full use of an already excellent facility for both social and sporting

occasions. We have a first class hard working committee who have driven the club forward into the successful position we find ourselves, in this our twentieth year. Winter activities are drawing to a close, and the bowling season starts on the last day of March. Our first team is back in the first division so good luck to them. We will always welcome new bowlers, and have teams of all abilities, both male, female and mixed. Please call in at the club if you would like to participate, a warm welcome will be assured. Our quiz nights continue to be very popular, the next one, on April 18th, will be in aid of Tabley Church, helping to keep this lovely place of worship going. Good food and good company will be the order of the day, so call in if you would like to enter a team. The club looks forward to a bright future!

ALAN GREENWAY
CHAIRMAN

HOWARD KEEL, WILLIE MORGAN AND MERE GOLF CLUB

Recently I learned that some of Howard Keel's ashes were scattered by Willie Morgan at the first tee on Mere Golf course. I believe this is fairly common knowledge in the parish but not something I knew about. In the 1970s Willie Morgan was a famous player at Manchester United and by a coincidence he has recently moved to live in Mere with his wife Kay. So when I got in touch he was only too pleased to explain his connection with the Hollywood star.

Howard Keel was famous in Hollywood in the 50s and starred in musicals such as Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Showboat, Kiss me Kate and many others. Between 1981 and 91 he became known to a new audience when he appeared as Clayton Farlow in Dallas on TV. If you are too young to remember the musicals I'm sure you remember Dallas.

He was very fond of the UK and made many concert tours over the years performing in towns and cities throughout the country including Manchester. He was also a very keen golfer. Willie is also a golf fanatic and naturally enough with playing for Manchester United he was a member at Mere. Willie was good friends with singer Johnny Mathis, who in fact was Willie's bestman, and who also played golf at Mere when he was performing in concert tours over here. Johnny Mathis and Howard Keel shared the same promoter who asked Willie if he could arrange for Howard to play a round of golf. This was 1987 and was the beginning of a long friendship between them with Willie crossing the Atlantic many times to visit Howard.

Not long after the two of them became acquainted Willie was asked if he would organise a charity golf tournament in aid of the NSPCC and he asked Howard if he would host it. Thus the Howard Keel Charity Golf Tournament was born. Howard attended every year until his death, interrupting the filming schedule for Dallas in order to do so.

Another good friend of both Howard and Willie, and a fellow golfer, was Harold Riley the Salford artist and photographer. So in 2004 when Howard Keel died and his wife requested that Willie arrange for some of his ashes to be scattered at Mere, Willie asked Harold to join him in carrying out her wishes.

Willie had a long and illustrious football career playing for Manchester United from 1968 – 1974 scoring 34 goals and serving as team captain between 1972 and 74. He was capped 31 times for Scotland and reached the final of the world cup in 1974.

Since retiring from football he has appeared in numerous TV and Radio shows and taken part in celebrity golf tournaments. Recently he has been promoting his recently published autobiography 'On the Wing' with book signings and dinners.

He still loves his golf and can now step out of his garden onto the course at Mere.

JEAN DUNCALF



Willie and Kay with Judy Keel and Harold and Asraf Riley scattering

TO RAISE A SMILE

I spotted this in a magazine:

A teacher handed out a colouring page to her class. On it was a picture of a duck holding an umbrella. The teacher told her class to colour the duck in yellow and the umbrella in green.

However little Johnny, the class rebel, coloured the duck in bright red. The teacher asked him: 'How many times have you seen a red duck?' Little Johnny replied: 'The same number of times I have seen a duck holding an umbrella.'