

## **MERE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Cllr John Patterson (Chairman & Airport Liaison Officer)*

*Tel: 01565 830677*

*Cllr Jean Duncalf (Deputy Chairman & Assistant*

*Tel: 01565 830324*

*Planning Officer)*

*Tel: 01565 830043*

*Cllr John McGuire*

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*Cllr Linda Reynolds (Planning Officer)*

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*Cllr Bernard Reynolds*

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*Cllr Deborah Walker*

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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 2017**

*May 8<sup>th</sup>*

*July 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*September 4<sup>th</sup>*

*October 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*December 4<sup>th</sup>*

*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**

*On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March I was pleased to attend the official opening of the new A556 with many officials from Highways England, Costain, fellow Councillor Linda Reynolds, Alan Newnes from Mere Residents Association and our MP, George Osborne who planted a tree on the Green Bridge.*

*You may not know much about the Green Bridge but this elaborate structure spans the A556 near Belt Wood and is designed to allow wildlife, such as badgers, to move between the wood and the copse on the east side of the road. It also provides a flight corridor for bats. This bridge is one of the few structures of its kind in the country and, whilst it looks a bit stark at present, its appearance will soon be softened by the shrubs and trees that have been planted on the bridge itself.*

*It seems only a short time since last October, from when we went on the "Welly Walk" along the new road which was little more than a construction site. It looked then that there was an impossible amount of work to do in just a few weeks. As you well know, the road is now fully open (completed on time and on budget) and it already seems like it has been there for a long time. I am sure you feel this is a big improvement but there will be more traffic along the A50 through Mere though it is too early to assess the effect this will have on us as residents.*

*Work is now starting on the de-trunking of the old road (Chester Road). In many ways, this work, which is expected to take six months to complete, will be more intrusive to our everyday lives than the building of the A556 as all the construction activities will be close to our houses. Access is already a little complicated, but this is only for a few months and I am sure we will all look forward to using the new footpaths and bridleways when the work is completed.*

***John Patterson  
Chairman***



**The Welly Walk**

## ROAD REPORT SPRING 2017



The new A556 was officially opened by George Osborne and Chief Executive Jim O'Sullivan of Highways England on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March on a glorious sunny day. Most people who have driven down it seem to be suitably impressed with many people claiming a 10 minute reduction in journey time. However, the local signage is not good and appears to have been an oversight, it will be rectified shortly.

The new road is the first major North West project to be delivered in the government's £15 billion investment in the strategic road network up to 2021 and has been delivered as part of the North West Powerhouse initiative improving connectivity to Manchester and the airport. Costains have done a wonderful job, keeping us well informed during the construction and completing ahead of time. Highways England would like to 'thank local people and road users for their patience and support over nearly two and half years while they have worked to deliver this new road on time and on budget'. It has already scooped a number of environmental and considerate constructor awards – including a gold award earlier this week. Unfortunately we still have further disruption whilst the de-trunking of the old A556 has to be completed (renamed B5569). Hopefully this should be finished by October/November.

### **FEW FACTS AND FIGURES**

1.1 Million meters of earth has been moved.

55,000 vehicles per day using the new road.

First ever 'Green' Bridge constructed to be planted with shrubs and other flora to provide an environmental corridor between two woodland habitats.

There are 7 integral bridges and an underpass designed for low maintenance and a life of 120 years.

Six bat hop-overs have been constructed along the new road encouraging bats to maintain their height when flying over the road, avoiding on-coming traffic.

Over 4,000 people have worked on the scheme since November 2014. 95% of the workforce lived within 48 kilometers of the scheme, which supported local economy and kept the local carbon footprint down.

*Wishing you all happy and safe motoring.*

*Linda Reynolds*



***AT THE OPENING OF THE BYPASS***

## **AIRPORT NEWS**

### ***New routes and services update***

*Manchester has now replaced Stockholm Airport in the list of Europe's 20 busiest, ahead of airports in Lisbon, Helsinki, Athens, Vienna, Brussels and other capital cities. Below is a summary of the new routes and services linking Manchester Airport with destinations worldwide:*

- ***Singapore Airlines*** commenced the airline's first ever UK transatlantic flight, connecting the North West to Houston, Texas. In another first in January the airline started the first scheduled Airbus A350 service from Manchester changing to the type for their Singapore/Houston service. This brand-new aircraft boasts a lighter, more comfortable passenger cabin, reduced noise and lower carbon emissions compared to its peers.
- ***Emirates*** from January 2017, all three Dubai services switched to Airbus A380-800 aircraft. The change provides an additional 2,198 seats a week, an 11% capacity increase. One in every 25 passengers who fly from Manchester Airport is now stepping on board an Emirates aircraft.

- *Oman Air* have announced that they will launch a new service to the capital Muscat in May 2017. The daily service will also allow passengers from the region to connect via the city to the airline's selection of onward destinations across the Middle East, Asia and Africa (Airbus A330-200s).
- *Saudia* have announced a twice weekly Riyadh service between June and September 2017. These new flights add Riyadh to our destination network and will result in a daily Saudia operation from Manchester; their other destination is Jeddah (Boeing 787-900s).
- *Cathay Pacific* will commence their sixth weekly frequency to Hong Kong from early December 2017. This move will follow the addition of the fifth rotation in June which coincides with the introduction of A350-900s on the route.
- *Thomas Cook Airlines* have announced their seventh US service from Manchester, with a service to San Francisco to begin in May 2017. The airline has also added capacity to its other US routes (Airbus A330-200s).
- *BA Cityflyer* has confirmed a weekend summer programme for Manchester with a based Embraer 190 operating nine departures per week to Alicante, Faro, Ibiza, London City, Malaga, Mykonos, Nice and Palma. Operations will commence from 18<sup>th</sup> May with an inaugural departure to Malaga.
- *Royal Air Maroc* will commence a new, three times a week, direct flight to Casablanca. Casablanca provides key connections on to other African destinations like Lagos, Nairobi and Accra, flights to will start on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Boeing 737-800s).
- *TAP (Portugal)* have confirmed a second daily service to Lisbon from mid-June 2017. The increase in frequency will facilitate even better connections to their comprehensive route network, particularly to South America (Embraer 190s)

## JOHN PATTERSON



*Our Chairman John is a keen photographer who in October 2016 was awarded an LRPS Distinction (Licentiate) from the Royal Photographic Society for a portfolio of his prints. Many people apply for Distinctions over a year but a few portfolios pass final assessment. John is rightly very proud of this achievement. He is also a member of the Knutsford Photographic society and often wins the monthly print section and was once print photographer of the year for the club.*

*John's interest in photography began when he retired. As his experience grew he realised his earlier attempts were not very good which explained the hitherto puzzling lack of interest from fellow enthusiasts. John prefers landscapes and cityscapes but includes a variety of subjects and his portfolio on his website ([www.johnpattersonphoto.co.uk](http://www.johnpattersonphoto.co.uk)) shows some of these. He only takes three of four shots of a subject as he prefers to walk around, thinking and looking, following advice 'to get out more and take fewer photos' and focuses on the quality of light rather than the subject matter.*

*Most of his photographs are taken in the North West as he has lived in Knutsford since 1990 when he moved from London to Manchester with his job as Partner in the management consulting arm of Ernst and Young, one of the big four accounting and professional service firms.*

*John and his wife Kay are keen walkers and have completed all 214 Lake district hills described by Wainwright, the 95 miles of the coast to coast walk from St Bedes to Robin Hood Bay and the 630 miles of the South West Coast path from Minehead to Poole.*

*For the past sixteen years he and Kay have lived in the lovely surroundings of Mere Hall. They have been married 48 years and have two children and three grandchildren.*

*John has been a member of Mere Parish Council since 2013 and last year became Chairman.*

**JEAN DUNCALF  
2017**

**BEXY BOO DESIGNS**

*Bexy Boo Greetings Cards are designed and produced by Bex Hassett from a studio in the garden of her home in Mere.*

*I met Bex recently and she explained how she had always loved art and design. Her interest began at school and continued at Manchester University where she gained a distinction in Art Foundation. This was followed by a BA Honours degree in London which led to employment with a well known catalogue firm.*

*Marriage and three children kept Bex busy for the next few years but her fertile imagination was still working overtime perfecting her unique designs based on scrabble tiles and cut out shapes. Helped by her Mum, Bex produced enough cards for her to go out and sell personally to local outlets.*

*In 2014 the business, Bexy Boo Designs, expanded and Bex now employs several staff, the Boo Crew, who work both at her studio and from their homes. She now supplies 350 retail outlets and sells through agents whose valuable feedback enables her to extend and improve her range of designs.*

*In 2015 she was nominated for the British Small Business Award, and was amongst 10 finalists chosen from over 600 entries in the Micro Business of the Year section. A category which awards 'companies demonstrating strong revenue growth and a product or service that stands above competition.' In the same year Bex won a 'Henrie' award for the best hand finished card range, and the Cheshire Business Award for the best start up business in 2015. She is extremely proud of these achievements.*

*Having seen reports of her success in the Knutsford Guardian, George Osborne invited Bex to represent Tatton in the Small Business Saturday Event which is broadcast by BBC TV from No 10 Downing Street. A very exciting occasion for Bex. The whole family were included in the invitation to London and were treated to a personal tour of No 10.*

*The latest development is a range of 'Amelie Zoodles' which are designed by Bex's 13 year old daughter Amelie who is obviously as talented as her Mum. These greetings cards are specifically designed for one to six year olds.*

*The business goes from strength to strength and very recently Bexy Boo Designs became Bexy Boo Limited. Bex is never short of new ideas and innovations and looks to the future with enthusiasm. We wish her every success.*

**JEAN DUNCALF  
2017**

### **MERE AND TABLEY COMMUNITY CLUB**

*Our new function room has hit the ground running since its completion just before Christmas. Already hosting two weddings, several big birthday parties and christenings, our committee are keen to make sure events are "special" for the hirers. We have started a games night on Tuesday evenings. This has proved popular with members. We have two indoor bowls mats and members have brought an enormous variety of board games to be sampled. In a world of electronic gadgetry, it's good to be able to interact with actual people!*

*The winter games leagues are at an end, and once again the crown green bowls season is upon us. This year we are fielding an extra team in the Norley afternoon league which will make thirteen teams that our club have in various competitions. Quite remarkable for an "out of town club!" If you have never played before and would like to have a go, Val Taylor captains a Thursday afternoon team for social bowlers who enjoy a chat and cuppa. Alternatively, experienced club players would be happy to give tuition. Please contact myself on 079666565258 for more information. The bowling green and surrounds are looking pristine after a big tidy up by club members. Our greensman, Ken Barker has the bowling surface in good condition for the first games. He will have a new mower this season, long overdue, the old one is over forty years old!*

*Despite the compensation from Highways England, our club finances are stretched due to higher than original spec and increased regulation costs. Our committee and members are working hard to raise funds in various ways. One of which is obtaining a Sunday at High Legh Village Hall to do afternoon Teas. The date is Sunday 23rd April, 1-4pm. All the food will be homemade so please come along and support this event if you can. Alternatively, we are having a tombola, and are looking for prizes, so if you cannot go on the day, we will gratefully accept any contributions. Please leave at the club-open most weekday evenings during the bowls season.*

*A most welcome donation to our club was made recently by the Mere Residents Association, who at one of our Tuesday games evenings presented us with a cheque for £2000 thank you to them.*

*We have started an e-mail system of letting members know what is happening at the club. David Godsmark is responsible for sending these out. Dave has his own particular style which are amusing or bemusing depending on your sense of humour! If you would like to receive these updates, contact Dave at [davidgodsmark@virginmedia.com](mailto:davidgodsmark@virginmedia.com)*



***Alan Greenway, Chairman***

## **MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

*At our recent AGM present were representatives of Cheshire East and Costain to explain how the de-trunking of the old A556, now the B5569 would be carried out and how this would affect residents. We realize there will be some disruption during these works, but were told these would be kept to a minimum during the 6 month programme*

*It was agreed we would donate £2000 to Mere and Tabley community club to help towards the refurbishing costs after the major extension works recently carried out and a cheque was duly presented. We were very impressed with the improvements and wish them well with their very smart looking premises.*

*The new A556 seems to working very well and after early problems with the lights at either end, traffic seems to be flowing freely. I would like to thank Costain for the very professional way they carried out the works and keeping the residents of Mere as involved as possible. Well done!*

*Also discussed at the AGM was the future of the Mere Residents Association. The committee members and myself believe that once the de-trunking has been completed our work has come to an end and feel the Mere Parish Council is better placed to deal with the general day to day problems. I would be grateful for your comments.*

**Alan Newnes**

**Chairman Mere Residents Association**

## **SMILE A WHILE**

*What is the last thing King Harold said at the Battle of Hastings?  
I spy with my little eye*

*Why did the scientist disconnect his doorbell?  
He wanted to win the Nobel prize*

*What do you call a man with cat scratches on his head?  
Claude*

*Why did the Cyclops close down his school?  
Because he only had one pupil*

*A thief broke into my house during the night searching for money. So I woke up and searched with him.*

*As you get older you have to stay positive. For example: 'the other day I fell down stairs and instead of getting upset I just thought wow, that's the fastest I've moved for years'.*