

MERE PARISH COUNCIL

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<i>Cllr Bob Fawcett</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830407</i>
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<i>Cllr Linda Reynolds (Planning Officer)</i>	<i>Tel: 01565 830202</i>
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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

May 9th
July 4th
September 5th
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 LETTER

After an exceptionally damp and warm winter we are at last seeing signs of spring.

Since my last report we have welcomed Bernard Reynolds to the council. Bernard has lived in Mere for seventeen years and plans to stay as long as his health permits. He retired in 2010 from his business in Manchester to enjoy his golfing although he now spends his time on less active pursuits. He has two children, two grandsons and two great grandchildren.

Sadly we are to lose Bob Fawcett after the AGM in May. After serving Mere for the last fourteen years he has decided to step down. Bob was chairman for two years and has been Planning Officer and an enthusiastic Airport Liaison Officer. We shall miss his contribution and wish him well.

Rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the annual bonfire which was well attended with the firework display hailed as the best ever. I hope you all enjoyed the event and are looking forward to coming along next year and possibly bringing some extra friends as we do need to sell more tickets. The cost of the firework display increases every year.



John and Kay Patterson busy selling wands!

The following day was Remembrance Sunday and it was good to see several residents attend our annual poppy laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. It is an occasion we mustn't forget.



The by-pass is forging ahead despite the rain and a planned walk along the route has been postponed until May.....when hopefully there will be less chance of everyone sinking to their knees. Linda has more news in her report and Alan Newnes has the up to date information on the de-trunking. Plans have been produced for Mere Corner which are a lot more attractive than the present junction. Despite all our efforts we are unable to get the junction cleared of weeds and debris and I suppose we will just have to wait until the area is re-designed. However East Cheshire have cleared the footpath from the entrance to Mere Parish Club up to the Cenotaph and the pavement along the A556 from Tabley to the Police Cottages. And at long last Clamhunger Lane has the speed restrictions in place. However we are still waiting for some action to resolve the problem of heavy vehicles using the totally unsuitable Winterbottom Lane to access the grass drying plant.

Hulse Heath Lane, which is being heavily used due to the closure of Bucklow Hill Lane is still awaiting repairs. Re-inforcement in numerous places where the lane is collapsing into the ditches at the side and the provision of more passing places are desperately needed. Local farmers have been called several times to rescue vehicles which have been stuck in the ditch. A recent attempt at repairs was abandoned so once again we are awaiting action from Cheshire East Council. Considering this problem was highlighted before work started on the bypass I think we have waited long enough.

Once again I must thank Susan and Linda for helping to clear the litter from the area around Mere Corner, and along the A50. Litter is an increasing problem as more and more people seem to have a total disregard for the environment.

The new picture on the front cover is of the Doomsday Oak which grows in the grounds of Mere Hall. The tree was reportedly mentioned in the Doomsday Book which makes it over a 1000 years old. It certainly looks very ancient but is still living and produces acorns and oak apples each year.

This is the last letter I shall be writing as Chairman as I hand over the responsibility to John Paterson at the AGM in May. I have enjoyed my two years at the helm but I leave you in good hands.

JEAN DUNCALF
CHAIRMAN

NEWS FROM THE MERE

A recent fashion show and lunch event organised by Debbie Finch who is lady captain of the golf club at the Mere raised an impressive £16,000 for Genesis Breast Cancer Prevention. Over 240 women enjoyed a champagne lunch and a fashion show provided by Willow Boutiques with further support offered by Pulse of Perfumery.

The Mere sponsored the recent High Legh 10k run for the second year. The Health Club at the resort entered a team and several members of the golf club took part.

The resort will also host the prestigious Boodles Tennis Tournament for the fourth year. The three day event starting on June 15th will be attended by many tennis legends.

ORCHARD CAFE

I spoke to Mollie Hickson who lives in Knutsford and is a regular contributor to St Paul's Church, Tabley magazine. Mollie's grandparents farmed Winterbottom Farm which is now the home of David Norcott whose mother Mary was a Hickson. Mollie's father George was the middle son and as a young man he moved from the farm to a job as farm bailiff at Park Farm in High Legh where Mollie was born. When this job came to an end he moved to the cottage at the junction of Hoo Green Lane and the A50. Here he started a haulage business which included collecting the milk churns from the local farmers and transporting them to the dairy in Manchester.

Next to the cottage, on the site of the former shop and Post Office and now home to a busy car wash, stood a barn. It was probably used to stable the horses when the Kilton was a coaching inn. It was pulled down in the 1930s and replaced by a filling station and a small bungalow.

Mollie remembers lots of rats being disturbed when the building was demolished. While it was being rebuilt the two men in charge came to her cottage for lunch each day. One of these men returned in his RAF uniform years later.

The first occupants of the bungalow were the Wood family who had a daughter Joan who attended Mere School. She and her family were not well liked and didn't mix very well, possibly because they were southerners. No doubt Mere was very insular in those days in common with a lot of other small villages. After a short stay they left and the Thomas family took over. They opened a cafe with Mollie's sister Nellie employed as the cook. They had two daughters and Shirley, the elder, looked after the petrol pumps until she left to join the forces. The younger, Peggy, married into the Harwood family, greengrocers in Knutsford. They had a large shop on the corner of Princess Street now the site of the Santander Bank.

During this time the fuel pumps had a lucky escape when a lorry loaded with blocks of rubber pulled up in front of the Kilton with a punctured tyre. The driver was in the phone box ringing his depot for assistance when he spotted smoke coming from the burst tyre and in no time the whole load was on fire. Mollie was woken by someone shouting 'get up, get up!' and looked out of her bedroom window to see a dense cloud of black smoke from which flying particles of burning rubber were shooting into the air and landing on the surrounding area. Her father dashed out to move his three wagons further along Hoo Green Lane out of danger whilst Mollie and her mother hosed down the garage and the hen house. The fire engine which had rushed to the scene put out the fire and hastily soaked the grass area in front of the fuel pumps to avoid a further disaster. The blaze left a huge hole in the road, scorched and blistered the front of the Kilton and ruined half of a large horse chestnut tree.

In the late 50s the Thomas sold out to the Jones brothers who extended the cafe, started the garage, turned the pumps into self-service and built another dwelling at the back. In the meantime Nellie who had married, moved away although later she returned home to live and took over her old job at the cafe.

David and Jean Marable bought out the Jones' in the 1960s when the cafe was closed and became a shop. Later the The Post Office was moved there from its previous position at Mere Corner in Mere Corner Cottage.

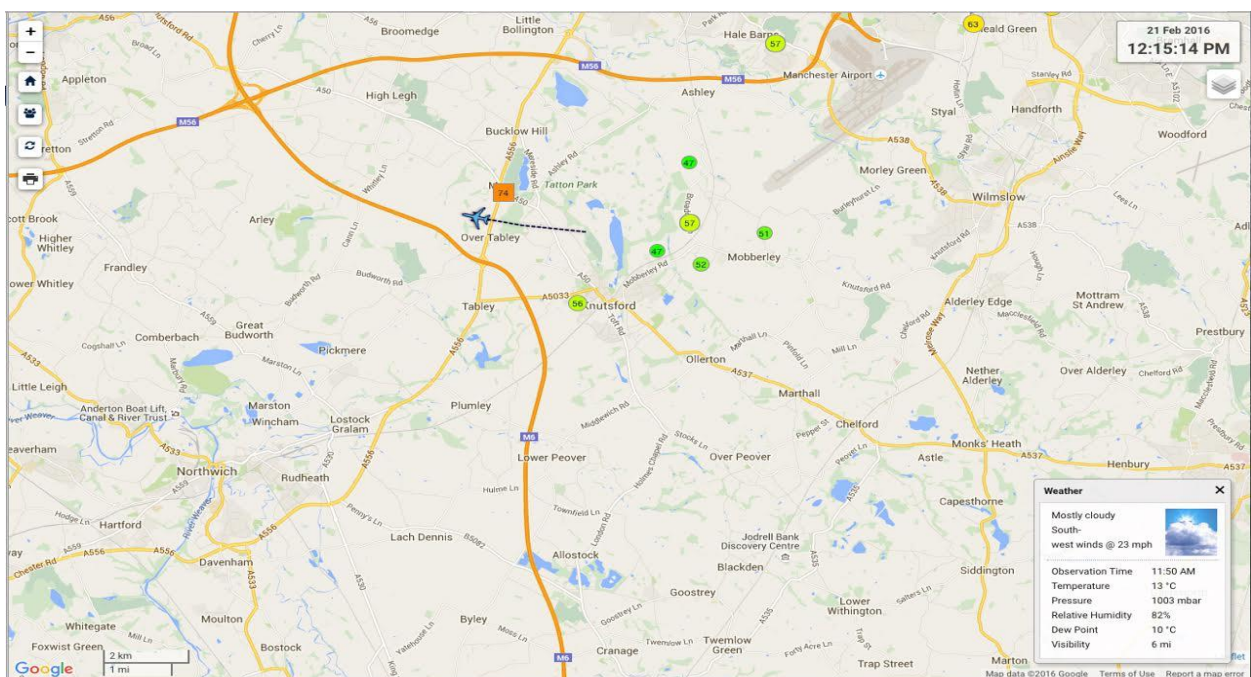
JEAN DUNCALF

NOISE FROM MANCHESTER AIRPORT

One of the benefits of living in the delightful parish of Mere is that we have easy access to the Manchester Airport. Unfortunately, one of the consequences of this convenience is that our peace and quiet is interrupted by aircraft noise. This problem is less than it was a few years ago, thanks to the newer aircraft that most operators now use, but the increase to the number of flights over the years have partially offset this improvement.

I know that some of you have been so concerned about noise on occasions that you have complained to the airport directly. You can continue to do this, of course, but now you can carry out your own investigation into the noise caused by a specific aircraft by visiting the excellent website created by Manchester Airport called Webtrak.

This can be found by going to Manchester Airport's home page and at the bottom you will see a section called "Useful Airport Links". Click on "Noise Disturbance and WebTrak" and then press "Launch WebTrak". I have included a screenshot below showing what you will find.



This website shows all aircraft movements to and from Manchester (delayed by six hours). So if you know the approximate time an aircraft flew over Mere that you thought was too noisy, you can play WebTrak and see what the decibel reading actually was.

In the example above you will see the number 74 in a square (this may be hard for you to see). This shows that the aircraft on the screenshot recorded 74dB as it passed close to the noise monitor near our parish club. If you clicked on the aircraft icon you would find the flight number (FR555), the aircraft type (B738), the altitude (4,600ft at that point) and the destination (Dublin). When there are no aircraft flying overhead the noise monitor will still read quite a high figure during the day of 60dB to 65dB caused by traffic noise on the A556 and A50. You should be aware that the daytime limit for Manchester Airport is 90dB and the night time limit is 82dB. So if the aircraft that you wish to register a complaint about has exceeded these limits, then your complaint is probably justified. It must be added that the way that the decibel scale works means that it would have to be a very noisy aircraft indeed to breach these limits.

The website is quite fascinating in itself, though, and well worth a visit.

John Patterson
22nd February 2016

MERE COURT HOTEL

The hotel started life in 1903 as a large country house called Meadowlands designed and built by the architect Frank Brookhouse Dunkerley as a wedding present for his son William on the occasion of his marriage to Amy Constance. Frank was a well-known Manchester architect, his numerous commissions included Cragside on the banks of Lake Windermere and the Children's Shelter in Chatham Street, Manchester.

The house is an outstanding example of the 'Arts and Crafts' style of architecture founded by John Ruskin who believed in the display of the craftsman's skills. This is demonstrated in the fine illustration of metal work, wood carving, carpentry and glass staining to be found throughout the building. More of John Ruskin's designs can be found in Knutsford. The importance of the house is reflected in the Grade II listing given by the Department of the Environment in 1984 and classification as a 'designated heritage asset'.

Meadowlands was designed with the convenience of the Dunkerley family in mind. Its location allowing them to enjoy the the natural beauty of the countryside but close enough to the city and the established business interests.

The Dunkerleys brought up four children at Meadowlands. Older residents will remember Bill Dunkerley, a grandson of Frank, who ran Mere Parish club for several years. His widow Judy lives in the Old School House. She has two sons Eric and Pip.

In 1955 when the house was purchased by the North Western Gas Board, renamed Mere College and used as a training center for employees.

In 1988 the property was converted to a luxury hotel and conference center.

If the proposed HS2 ever materialises the planned route will take it through the car park of Mere Court!



ROAD REPORT SPRING 2016

There is little to report since it is very visual what is emerging with the Bypass. This time next year it will be almost finished since the deadline is end of March 2017.

Sometime this year Costain are planning to invite members of the public to walk the new route, however it will have to be when the weather improves and conditions underfoot are suitable.

We have a few more road closures due to cables being laid at the Lymm Roundabout which they are undertaking in two halves so that traffic can still negotiate it. These closures will be overnight Monday to Thursday 21.00 until 05.00 and Friday night 21.00 until 06.00.

29th March to 1st April - Bowdon Roundabout Works

Stage 1 - *Two way traffic lights on northbound side of Bowdon Roundabout with total closure of all M56 junction 7 slip roads.*

Stage 2 - *Two way traffic lights on southbound side of Bowdon Roundabout with total closures of all M56 junction 7 slip roads.*

Stage 3 - *Total Closure of A56 Lymm Road.*

4th April to 8th April - A556 switch to phase 3

Total closures of A556 north and southbound carriageway and incorporating total closure of M56 Junction 8 entry slip.

11th April to 29th April (no weekends) - Bowdon Roundabout works

Stage 1 - *Two way traffic lights on northbound side of Bowdon Roundabout with total closure of all M56 Junction 7 slip roads.*

Stage 2 - *Two way traffic lights on southbound side of Bowdon Roundabout with total closures of all M56 junction 7 slip roads.*

Stage 3 - *Total Closure of A56 Lymm Road*

HAPPY MOTORING AND BE HOME BEFORE 21.00 HRS !!!

LINDA REYNOLDS

MERE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The new A556 is making good progress. The Residents Association and Parish Council are in discussion with Cheshire East Council concerning the De-Trunking of the existing A556 and how this will affect residents. Some of our main concerns are, signage around the area, speed limits, parking, especially HGV's parking overnight, road markings, street lighting and land Scaping. If you have any other concerns please feel free to contact me. It is our intention to have our AGM later this year at which time Costains will attend and answer any other issues you may have.

Alan Newnes
Chairman

MERE PARISH CLUB

The Parish Club has much to look forward to this summer. With our plans for a new function room passed by planning department, details are now going out to building companies for quotations. The hope is for the work to take place over the summer months, and be completed by Autumn. This new venture of course, is happening because of the compensation money obtained by Tabley Parish for the loss of their hall.

Meetings are taking place between Tabley and Mere committees to formalise the joining together of the two organisations, and come up with a new name which will incorporate Tabley.

The regular winter games of snooker and dominoes will draw to a close in early April, but the whist drives continue throughout the year on Mondays and Thursdays . More card players would be welcomed as our numbers are slowly dwindling.

We look forward to the warmer weather and the start of the bowling season. Work is well under way preparing the green and tidying the surrounds.

We continue to welcome all kinds of organisations to our club and host many celebratory occasions. From christenings to 95th birthday parties, election days to funeral wakes, drawing no similarities of course!

This summer sees the Queen's 90th birthday. We have already seen "clean for the Queen" weekend which encouraged the community to do a litter pick. It always saddens me to see so many people throwing litter out of vehicles, when it is so much easier to take it home or put it in a bin. We await our Parish Councils meetings to see if any celebrations to commemorate her birthday will be planned.

Our quiz nights prove ever more popular . The most recent attracting 90 people for good food and much brain searching! With plenty of good humored banter, the quizmaster is always right! Many thanks go to the ladies of our committee for their hard work creating such excellent refreshments. The next quiz is on 16th April when the proceeds will go to St Paul's church in Tabley. Another good night and a worthy cause.

Alan Greenway (Chairman)

SMILE A WHILE

An elderly gentleman stopped for speeding told the constable: 'But I am only speeding because I have to get there before I forget where I am going'.

A careful driver is one who just saw the car ahead of him get stopped for speeding.

Politicians may be relied upon to make wise, intelligent and statesmanlike decisions – having first exhausted all other alternatives.

Finally.....our son was driving his truck in Saskatchewan, Canada and switched on the navigation system. The next instruction was turn right after 532km! Distances we can hardly imagine.