

# Meare and Westhay Village News April - May 2023



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## Table of Content

Editors News .....	4
Would Like to Mention .....	5
Westhay School Rooms .....	7
Announcements .....	8/9
Ladies Group .....	9
Meare Community Chapel .....	11 / 12
Meare Youth Group .....	13
Steet & Waltons Men's Shed .....	14
MPAG .....	13
Meare & Westhay Fundraising Team .....	15 / 16
Meare and Westhay Events .....	18
St. Mary's Church .....	19
Useful Telephone Numbers .....	20
Parish Council Members .....	21
Meare Village Primary School .....	22
Allotments .....	22
Bin Collection .....	22
Clerks Report .....	23 / 24
Meare and Westhay Village Hall Update .....	25 / 26
Halls and Meeting Places .....	28
Bus Timetable .....	29
Magazine Dates & Contact Information .....	30
Local Chemist opening times .....	30

## Editors News

Firstly, Happy Easter Everyone! Well the last warm space took place in March and it has been great chatting to so many of you over the winter months. We are so lucky to have so many wonderful Ladies in the parish who have been there to help so many others. I just love the community spirit that keeps growing in this Parish.

Many have asked in the past why we have different fund raising groups in the Parish. Each group putting on different events in the parish for different reasons. This year two of them MPAG and MWFG have joined forces to help the youth group raise money for a sports facility. They will be holding a Horse Race night on the 20th May and we hope to see lots of you there, for a night of fun.

MPAG started the ball rolling for King Charles III coronation Celebrations on the 7th May. Together with few volunteers from other groups and in the Parish, it looks like it will be another fabulous celebration, (please contact MPAG if you would like to be involved). Don't forget we also have Westhay School Rooms unmissable tea party, so we have plenty to look forward to.

I have updated the Bus timetable. It has altered by a few minuets at some stops, so please check.

Did you know that Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival has been named the winner of the People's Choice category in the Creative Lives Award. In 2022, the many clubs that make up the carnival procession put aside their traditional rivalries to collaborate on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Pageant.

Creative Lives, the charity which champions community and volunteer-led arts activity, held its annual awards on 7 March at the Aspire venue in Leeds. Congratulations to all involved.

Don't forget to vote for your Villager of the Year by the 14th April. Details of how to do this are on the clerks report on page 22.



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## Would like to Mention

Why not pop into the Post Office on a Friday morning, have a drink and a biscuit, get your stamps, have a laugh and see what is happening in the parish. It's far from boring as you can see from the pictures, some people just don't want to leave. One lady had to be carried out. Picture sent in by Colin Foster.



### **Meare Graveyard maintenance, flowers and memorials.**

The grass cutting season is now underway but it would be helpful if all floral arrangements and tributes could be kept to the stone plinths around the headstones and plaques leaving the grass areas free. Shrubs and rose bushes should not be planted in the grass either as the roots can undermine the soil and headstones. Wreath wires, artificial and plastic flowers which can blow away and be broken by mowers and strimmer's, should now be removed please. Great care is taken by our contractor but we would like to avoid any mishaps.

## **The Railway Inn Charity Tractor Run**

Tractor Road Run 🚜 (Land Rovers welcome), is £10 per vehicle on Good Friday, April 7th 2023. Meeting at The Railway Inn, Meare, BA6 9SX at 10am, leave at 11am. The run is approx. 20 miles with a mid-way pub stop. Returning to The Railway Inn at approx. 2.30pm. Filled rolls are available. Money raised is supporting Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. Call Ivan for further info 07891939055

## **Fix IT**

If you have something electrical that needs fixing, why not take it to the next Fixy. Local volunteers gather and repair items for a small donation. For more info Visit [somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy](https://somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy).

Date for 2023: St. Benedict's Church 10am-12pm: May 20, July 15, Sept. 16, Nov. 25 St. Edmund's Hall 10am-12pm: April 15, June 24, August 19, Oct. 21, Dec 16

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## Westhay Schoolroom Committee

The 2023 AGM was held in January, in his report the Chairman Tony Moss, reported that the events held in 2022 were well attended, especially the Queens Jubilee Tea. We hope to mark the Kings Coronation this year.

He also reported that the Schoolroom Committee had donated the sum of £418.00 to various charities, in the past year.

Café Westhay continues to be a regular welcome feature of village life, being held on the first Saturday of most months, between February and December.

Unfortunately the Schoolroom Committee has been hit, as has everyone else, with the surging cost of electricity; mainly caused by the high standing charges which everyone has to pay.

It is therefore regrettable that we will have to raise the hire charge to £9.00 per hour, simply to cover the increased cost of electricity.

We are of course grateful for the rate relief that we receive from Mendip District Council.

Richard Brown. Secretary & Trustee

The following events were arranged for 2023:-

<b>Westhay Schoolroom Events (Registered Charity No.288021)</b>		
Copies of two Parish Tith Maps are stored at the Schoolroom; one was made in 1844 the other in 1884. Required to be made at the parish expense, in order that taxes and tithes could be levied on the land. Current parish boundaries no longer match those shown on the maps. Originals, held at County Museum at Taunton.		
April 1st	10:30am	Café Westhay
April 3rd	7:30 pm	Committee Meeting
May 7th	3:00 pm	King Charles Coronation Tea Party
June 3rd	10:30 pm	Café Westhay <b>Then the 1st Saturday of each month until November</b>
July 15th	6:30pm	Village Barbecue
September 22nd	7:30pm	Harvest Service & Sale
December 18th	7:30 pm	Carol & Christmas Music

## Announcements

### **Christine Woodward passed away 14th February 2023, Aged 71**

This is Timon and Theo, Christine's sons. Very sadly, Christine passed away this afternoon at 15.00 (of course, she chose Valentine's Day to break our hearts!), I held her hand as she went and it was a peaceful departure. Her breathing calmly quietened until silent and finally the battle had come to a tranquil end. I've written a little tribute that I will repost here, but thank you to everyone who has shown their support for her recently, but also over the years, she appreciated it even if she never admitted it:

"It's a strange thing to update my Instagram/Facebook with the sad news of my Mother's passing knowing that she was ALWAYS the first person to like any new posts. Always. Sometimes she'd like a post before I'd even uploaded it. I don't know how, but she did. Classic C. Woodward, capable of the impossible. But sadly and surreally, not this one. There's a dark empty hole where your like should be, Ma and a cold empty space where you and the dogs would endlessly sit on the sofa, which gradually became lying and fast became sleeping. Christine Alexandra Woodward, you truly were something else, an unflinching battle-axe of a single Mother and a force to be reckoned with while you fulfilled the numerous duties of our absent Father from day dot, without any complaint whatsoever. "Just get on with it!" being very much your mantra, a much more impatient version of the Nike slogan "Just Do It!". A terrible cook by your own admission, not even able to make a cup of tea, boiling the kettle only half-way to save on electricity, but I wouldn't have changed it for the world. A village legend, the bluntest tongue in all of the land, people would travel far and wide to receive your painfully direct (but time saving) advice, and let's face it, people would travel far and wide to avoid it, too. You truly were scared of NOTHING...it would have been helpful if you were scared of at least something...

A world without you sat at home in Somerset hotly anticipating the phone ringing and it being one of your boys (sons, I mean) or sat waiting for my Green Facebook light to pop up with promises of London-bound news makes as much sense to me as water beginning to run up hill, snow being red or you giving me a more normal name like a more normal person! In the great words of Norm Macdonald: "I'm not a Doctor, but I'm pretty sure if you die, the cancer dies at the same time. That's not a loss. That's a draw". Mum, you never lost a battle in your life and I won't let anyone say that you did 23/01/1952 - 14/02/2023

P.s. Thank you for always preparing our warm electric blanket 1 hour before we got into bed in the Winter, it really was the best feeling in the world. Now it's your turn to sleep well x"



### **Announcements cont.**

**John Willcox Baker** passed away on the **12th January 2023 age 99**. The funeral was held on 10th February 2023 and saw a full Community Chapel, with many of the family and friends supporting Eden, John's widow. The service was led by Mike Strange. Funeral Directors M Franks & Sons. Donations for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance if so desired.

**Harold Spencer**, Late of Meare, passed away on **5th January 2023 aged 88**. The funeral service took place on 27th January 23. Funeral Directors M Franks & Sons.

**Pamela Sylvia Martin** of Glastonbury (late of Meare), passed peacefully away on **15th January 2023 aged 78** Her funeral service was held at St. Mary's Church Meare on 31st January 2023. Funeral Directors G Holland & Sons. Donations for Cancer Research.

**Raymond Bunn** of Ashcott Road, Meare

**Tony Whitcombe**, of Walton, late of Meare, passed away suddenly at his home, with his loving wife Levena, beside him, on the **8th January 2023, Aged 70** years. Tony will be sadly and greatly missed by his family and friends. A funeral service was held at St. Mary's Church, on Friday 3rd February 2023, followed by an interment in the church cemetery.

### **Ladies Group**

Well the ladies group had a lovely afternoon at Yeovil Octagon Theatre watching the long standing play Mousetrap. Very funny, very well acted, we now know who did it, but have been sworn to secrecy.

March saw the final Warm Space Lunch, held by the Ladies Group. We would like to say a massive thank you to all the ladies who volunteered to, Setup, cook, bake, dish up, wash up, serve, clean down and tidy away on each occasion. We especially like to thank others who do not attend the Ladies group for your very kind donations of delicious cakes and to the Parish Council for their funding that made these lunches possible. We have had a fantastic response of at least 20 people per lunch and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

The following Thursday events coming up at the Ladies Group

April 20th	AGM followed by Bingo
May 18th	Sally Smith's talk on Ballooning

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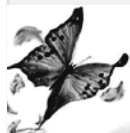
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## Meare Community Chapel

### Thought for the day

In our Home Group, we've been looking at prayer and what it means to us. We've looked at the topic of, 'Asking for others' and how this simple request is often a great help to people at their time of need.

People are often surrounded and totally absorbed in everyday life in all its distractions and busyness; there is almost no time to breathe. When a major event occurs, an illness, a car accident of someone close in the family, the death of a friend in the village, they become overwhelmed by it all.

That is especially true at times like these that we are asked to pray for the needs of others. Prayer is a way of talking directly to God, and this is open to everyone; you don't have to be 'special', religious, go to church, or be an Anglican Archbishop. God listens to all our prayers. He even knows what we are going to pray about, before we actually do, as He knows our hearts.

Not every prayer is answered immediately, or in the way we expect. God has His plan and often it is much later that we understand how things have happened for the best, and not in the way we thought. Pain and suffering are much more tolerable when shared; very much harder on your own to cope with. The Bible at 2 Corinthians ch1 v3-4 says, *"<sup>s</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion the God of all comfort, <sup>t</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."* Sharing your suffering can bring comfort.

At the beginning of the year, we started to pray each week for a specific area of Meare, and working towards Westhay. So far, we've prayed for Stileway, Glastonbury Road, Porter's Hatch and Church Lane. Muddy Lane, Bramble Close and The Levels will have followed, by the time this goes to print. If you have felt blessed, you could email and let us know. If you have any prayer needs, we would be happy to include you in our prayers. In the book of Philippians ch4 v6, the Apostle Paul wrote, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* If you have not considered prayer as a means for seeking comfort in times of distress, you only need to ask God. Send your prayer requests to Meare Community Church - prayer line; **mearechapel22@gmail.com**

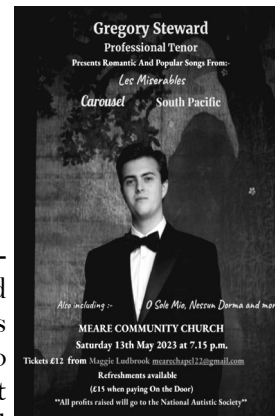
## News

Coming up on 7th April, Good Friday we have a double teaching service. The format has a service with a teaching message and live music from the Henley Worship Band, followed by lunch. After lunch, there will be a second teaching message also supported by the Henley Worship Band. Please come and join us for one or both sessions of this interesting approach to the message of Good Friday. Topics coming up are below:

- 2 Apr Warning against boasting
- 7 Apr Good Friday double service,  
Speakers: Akin George + Mike Strange
- 16 Apr A warning to the rich
- 30 Apr Encouragement to persevere
- 14 May Encouragement to pray
- 28 May The Beatitudes – Matthew 5

Gregory lives in Shapwick and has recently graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he studied voice with Tim Richards and qualified with an honours degree. Prior to commencing his studies he was a joint specialist voice and trumpet scholar at Wells Cathedral School.

Gregory's real passion is opera and he hopes to pursue this as a career along with performing recitals such as the one on Saturday 13th May at Meare Chapel. He was winner of the Taunton Young Singer competition and a semi finalist in the prestigious Somerset Song Prize, a National competition for singers up to the age of 25. He was also a semi finalist in the Two Moors Young Musician competition. He performed the lead role of Aeneas in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas at Wells Cathedral School and has also performed with Somerset Opera in the chorus of the Magic Flute, La Boheme, Yeoman of the Guard and Carmen. He has sung with the nationally acclaimed Tenebrae as well as with the Wellensian Consort and the choir of St John's College, Oxford. After successfully auditioning for the BBC National Chorus of Wales, he has performed in Britten's War Requiem and Handel's Messiah, both at St David's Hall. Most recently, he was chosen to sing in a Masterclass given by Simon Leper, one of the two répétiteurs in conjunction with the BBC's Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.



## Meare Youth Group

The youth group were pleased to announce at the recent Parish meeting in February that with the support of MWFT and volunteers we have raised £1172.50.

The youth group would like to thank all the stall holders that attended the table top sale and all the punters who enjoyed the superb donated cakes and spent their time and money at the event. It was a superb start to something very special being possible for our community. The next event is a car wash at Abbots Way School which will have occurred with hope as another success when this article is printed. So, prepare yourselves for a Race Night in the church rooms on the 20th May and a XL table top sale on June the 18th.

Any families or youth in the village who wish to respond to the youth questionnaire can still do so via the web link <https://forms.gle/boxHJy85buhpdvd19>. If any young people in the Parish or their families would like to be more involved, please contact via email. [youthareformeare@gmail.com](mailto:youthareformeare@gmail.com) We would like to encourage any young person with their families support to attend an event and join the youth group. There are no membership requirements. We would like to set up some fun events locally to provide a safe supported activity at least once a month to kick start regular youth events. Watch this space.

## MPAG

MPAG held it's Burns Night Supper on January the 21<sup>st</sup>, and it was a great success. Thank you to all those who attended, hope to see you all again next year!

We hope to continue with our smaller events, quizzes, Bingo etc, throughout the year, so keep an eye on all the usual Parish social advertising sites.

Janice Bradley Secretary MPAG



## Street & Walton Men's Shed

The shed continues to thrive and we have increased our membership since the start of the year and all sessions are well attended, but there is always room for more and if you are interested please contact me using my contact details below or look on our web site at [www.streewaltonmensshed.wixsit.com](http://www.streewaltonmensshed.wixsit.com).

We are open two and a half days a week at Hempitts Farm, Hempitts Road, Walton, BA16 9QS at the following times:

Mondays: 9am to 12:30pm (mixed session)

Tuesdays: 9am to 4:30pm (**Mixed session 12:30pm to 4:30pm**)

Thursdays: 9am to 4:30pm (Mixed session 12:30pm to 4:30pm)

Our plans for the future are to continue to provide a place for the older person, both male & female to be able to work & socialise with others, our large workshops have tools and machines of every description, including 4 lathes for the use of beginners up to skilled users.

Future events include the Glastonbury Craft Faire in the Town Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 10:30 till 4pm (this is also the same day as the next Glastonbury Repair Café in St Benedict's Church from 10am to 12pm.) we will be selling easter themed items along with our usual items.

We are still accepting donations of any tools or machinery that you may have cluttering up your shed or garage, please contact me through the contact details below.

If you would like more information about the shed, how to join and what we can do, please contact Brian on 01458 443940 or Email

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Brian



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## Meare & Westhay Fundraising Team

### Table top Sale, Sunday June 18th.

Stall holders (pre paid & booked ONLY) 2-5pm (set up 1-2 for stall holders).

As the recent table top sale was such a success, raising **£672** for the Youth Group, we will be doing it again to raise them more money for a sports facility in the parish.

It will be in the church rooms and the car park this time so we can have 20 tables of goods for sale. There will also be refreshment in the form of cakes, cream teas and drinks available to buy, (any home made donated cakes will be gratefully accepted).

Tables will be on a first come pre booked and pre paid basis so please don't arrive on the day expecting a table as I'm sure we will be sold out. Please let me know if you want a table at £10 inside or outside and you will be sent the booking form. The outside tables will have more space so please book one of these specifically if you feel your goods will not all fit on one table .

### Get set for blooming Summer colour

For the past few years and with the help of some amazing volunteers and plant donations from parishioners, The Meare and Westhay Fundraising Team (MWFT) has financed the upkeep and looked after several planted areas, for parishioners and visitors to enjoy.



Thanks to Victoria Winter and Roger Stacey providing heavy machinery, and two weekends' work by our volunteers, the overgrown area next to the Church rooms has been turned into a tidy and attractive car park, with bulb-filled troughs, barrels and beds.

This year's bulbs are also popping up in the planted areas at The Meare sign, Porters Hatch, Kirlegate and Back Lane and a petrol mower has been offered to us so it should be easier to cut around the bulbs this summer as it was taking ages with a strimmer!



Grass cutting around the area with rose bushes opposite Porter's Hatch will now be taken care of by the Parish Council's appointed contractor to minimise the danger to our volunteers.

This year we plan to reduce the height and number of shrubs and plants in the flower bed at the Meare sign as you enter the village, due to concerns that they could distract drivers as they negotiate the bend.

Following the success of the wheelbarrows planted up last year for the Queen's Jubilee (despite the long drought!), we will once again put them out at Kirlegate and Porters Hatch in time for the King's Coronation. The barrows will be removed once the plants are no longer in flower.



Our intrepid volunteers, Lyn Appleton and Lee Gage who do the lion's share of the gardening in all these areas, hope you enjoy the colourful displays in our planted areas as you walk around the village. They would welcome help from anyone living nearby to tidy up any rubbish that appears and to provide much needed water during the growing season so that all the planted areas stay looking attractive.

Meare & Westhay Fundraising



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**MEARE & WESTHAY FUNDRAISING TEAM (MWFT)  
and MEARE PARISH ACTIVITY GROUP (MPAG)  
JOINTLY PRESENT**

**HORSE RACE NIGHT  
SATURDAY 20th MAY**  
In the  
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## **St. Mary's Church**

Easter preparations started on 29<sup>th</sup> March when Meare school children processed in Easter bonnets to St Mary's Church for a special end of term service.

**EASTER weekend** : We shall be decorating the church on Saturday 8th April at 10.00am onwards so if anyone would like to contribute flowers or an arrangement in memory of a loved one please come along.

### **St Mary's Church Services**

**Palm Sunday 2nd April** 11.00 am Holy Communion

**Good Friday 7th April** . St Mary's is open for reflection & private prayer. We will also be holding our usual Friday coffee morning 10 - 12.00 pm in the Church Rooms with hot cross buns as well. **No Post Office though.**

**Easter Sunday 9th April 11.00 am HC**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April** Joint benefice 10.00 am HC service at St Benedict's Church in Glastonbury

**Sunday 7th May 10.30 am-11.15 am in the marquee at Meare Playing Fields a Special King Charles 111 Coronation Celebration Service, All welcome**

This service is part of the Meare and Westhay village events and celebrations planned for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May and will be followed by the community lunch. We look forward to seeing you all there or at St Mary's Church which will be open over weekends during the summer months.

**Wishing you a happy,  
healthy summer**

**From All at St Mary's  
Church**

A picture sent in by Colin Foster of St. Mary's Church showing the organ in around 1960.



Bird in Hand Pub <b>Opening in the Summer</b>	
Childline	0800 1111
Domestic Violence Hotline	18007997233
Highways Faults (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm )	0300 123 2224
Home Library Service contact Kirsty Jenssen – email: kjenssen@somerset.gov.uk	07814 079831
Little Starlings, Meare, Gemma Clark, Childcare Services, littlestarlingsmeare@outlook.com	01458 781595
Meare Church Rooms Hiring Enquiries, contact Janice by phone or at Janice.bradley3@btinternet.com	01458 860597
Meare Community Church, Ring Maggie Ludbrook	07943-445676
Meare Manor	01458-860449
Meare Village Primary School	01458-860228
Mendip District Council	0300 303 8588
Mind email info@mindinsomerset.org.uk or ring	01749 233115
St Mary's Church Mon-Fri 09.00 - 13.00	01458 834281
Parish Paths Liaison Officer	01458-860537
Police non-emergency	101
Railway Inn	01458-741428
Samaritans	116 123
Street Light Faults	0845 6010 939
Western Power (For Power Cuts)	0800 6783105
Village Poppy Appeal Charlotte/Elizabeth	01458-860865 07866-080194
Yoga Classes (Steph or Bridge)07764-935167	07712-897498
Yoga Classes Francesca 07909144414 or Andrew	07521132931
Post Office Opening Times, Meare Church rooms, Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm, Pop in for a coffee too!	

Parish Council Members			
Chairperson Chris Bennetts	Crysnal, Westhay BA6 9TN	chris@baysystems.ltd.uk	01458 860393
Colin Foster	Pilgrims way, Stileway, BA6 9SH	colinjfoster@aol.com	077347 53113
Victoria Winters	12 The Levels, BA6 9SE	torslook@hotmail.co.uk	01458 860459
Alvin Neale	57 St. Marys Road, BA6 9SR	violetfarm@btconnect.com	01458 860277
Tristan Foster	13 Glastonbury Road, BA6 9SN	tristanfoster@aol.com	077393 50968
Alan Wren	88 St. Marys Road, BA6 9SS	alanwren2411@gmail.com	01458 860537
Nicola Hoskins	5 Alexanders Close BA6 9HP	cllrhoskins@gmail.com	0778927 5250
Lee Gage	7 The Levels BA6 9SE	Leejgage@gmail.com	01458 860492
Gayle Richards	7 The Levels BA6 9SE	rustie.richards@gmail.com	01458 860492
Teresa James	6 The Levels BA6 9SE	Councillorteresajames@ gmail.com	01458 860738
Jane Field	Sunnyside Farm, Shap- wick Rd, BA6 9TT	janefielduk@gmail.com	075002 20588
Gerard Tucker Parish Clerk	Langata, High Street, Aller, TA10 0QN	MearePC@aol.com	078543 79938



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Meare Village Primary School

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Like all schools, we have high targets to improve standards in education and you will have the opportunity to constructively support the success of the school. You don't have to be an expert in education and we welcome interest from all walks of life to bring different perspectives and views. These roles are a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people. If you are interested in our children's future, have energy and enthusiasm, and want to help with the direction of the school's future, please contact the Chair of Governors/Headteacher on **01458 860228** or email **office@meare.school**.

## Allotments

You must be a member of the parish to have an allotment subject to availability. Located at the end of Bramble Close. Yearly membership is £10 & rent £20 pa. Please Contact John Shaw on (01458 860040) or email him using, [Johnshaw59@btinternet.com](mailto:Johnshaw59@btinternet.com)

Bin Collection Dates :- kerbside by 6 am		
<b>Thursday 13th</b> & Wednesday 26th	April	Garden Waste only
<b>Friday 14th</b>	April	Recycling & Refuse
Thursday 6th, 20th & 27th	April	Recycling only
<b>Thursday 11th</b> & Wed 24th	May	Garden Waste only
Thursday 4th & 25th	May	Recycling & Refuse
<b>Friday 12th</b> & Thursday 18th	May	Recycling only

## **Clerks Report**

### **Villager of the Year**

There are many people who steadfastly work quietly away to ensure that tasks in and around Meare and Westhay are completed. Others dedicate many hours of their time to ensure that the organisations and activities of the parish continue to the benefit of others. Some people are simply great neighbours, looking out to the needs of the elderly and infirm, providing care support, running errands or simply being there with a shoulder to cry on. Why not acknowledge the enormous value of those who do so much for our parish and nominate them for the Villager of the Year award. There are a few guidelines and rules to follow when nominating someone. They are:

- ◆ Nominated people must live in the parish
- ◆ Parish Councillors cannot be nominated
- ◆ The award is for an individual, not an organisation or business.
- ◆ Applications are to be supported by a short statement as to why this person is considered worthy of an award.

To nominate someone for this award, send an email to the Parish Clerk at the following address - **mearepc@aol.com** by **Friday 14th April 2023**. All nominations will be considered in confidence and the winner will be announced at the Annual Parish Assembly in May.

Go on, make someone's day, you know they deserve it!

### **Finger posts**

A fingerpost (sometimes referred to as a guide post) is a traditional type of sign. There are many examples in and around the villages of Meare and Westhay. Indeed, the Parish Council commissioned the renovation of the finger posts recently and many have observed and approved the decision to renovate the signs. The posts are traditionally made of cast iron, although some (not in our parish) are made of wood.

Legislation was enacted in 1697, allowing magistrates to place directional signs at crossroads. They became compulsory in 1773 when the Turnpike Roads Act was introduced. For the next 200 years or so, the humble finger post quietly did its job, directing traveler's and assisting with navigating around the country, particularly the rural communities.

In 1933, the Colour and font used on a finger post was standardized. Just a few years later, in an attempt to confuse an invading enemy, finger posts were removed during the war and not reinstated until the late 1940's. The next change came in 1964 when the Traffic Signs

Regulations act was passed which allowed local authorities to erect signs other than finger posts. When signs were originally designed and located at junctions, the 40ft articulated lorry had not evolved and some signs have subsequently fallen foul of tight turns and damage. The parish council became aware that the finger post on Shapwick Road pointing towards Burtle was constantly being hit by long, high sided vehicles, with the unsuspecting motorist wondering why they were being directed into a private drive, rather than towards Burtle. To overcome the problem, the sign has been redesigned, with the word Highbridge being replaced with H Bridge. It appears that not everyone is happy with the alteration!

First and foremost, the Parish Council has correctly followed legislation and guidance. The amendment to the sign is permitted. However, should the Council wish to revoke the decision to amend the sign and replace it with the original one, there is a problem. Councils, once having taken a decision are restrained from revisiting that decision for a minimum of six months. I suspect that parishioners will either wish to see the old sign returned, are happy with the amended sign, or simply don't mind either way! The parish council will gather opinion over the next few months and if required, revisit the original decision.

#### **Meare Parish Council supports the Village Hall project**

I observe there may be some misunderstandings on the PC's support for the new Village Hall. Councillors are aware of the need for a new facility, the playing field, which is owned by the PC seems the ideal location.

The playing field is owned by the PC and the field and the new build village hall programme is currently managed by the Meare and Westhay Village Hall and Playing Field Committee (MWVH) . The PC applied for and obtained planning consent and have secured a £200,000 loan. An agreement between the PC and MWVH has not yet been reached as to the triggers when the loan will be released. There is an expectation that the loan will be used as match funding for other grants. On receipt of a schedule of works, identified sources of additional funding shared and a programme of works agreed, the parish council will release funds accordingly. What the council are trying to avoid is having a partially built hall that cannot be used, money for completion has run out, yet the loan obtained still has to be paid.

I remain convinced that providing all parties involved are prepared to work together, the problems explained can be resolved. Gerard Tucker – Clerk . P C Meetings, Monday 17th April and Monday 15th May.





## Meare and Westhay Village Hall Update

### Progress

Since our last update and tender process, we are delighted to have selected a preferred contractor Melhuish and Saunders Ltd, based in Glastonbury. We have been working with them, our structural engineer and our architect, looking at different value engineering options to reduce the overall build costs. A number of these options are now being priced so we can get a firm quotation for the build costs.

We are having on-going discussions with the Parish Council regarding the Public Works Loan conditions. This is the loan that the PC agreed to give as a grant to the Village Hall charity in July 2022, however unfortunately this has not yet been resolved which is impeding further fundraising efforts. We hope to be able to agree the loan conditions soon, to enable further grant seeking success.

### Events

On 24<sup>th</sup> January, we held an open meeting where we presented our latest progress update and the plans for the hall. This was well attended with questions raised by the community and addressed. A copy of the slides can be found on our website:

**<https://meareandwesthay.uk/cgi/Pages/CHall.pl>**

On 4<sup>th</sup> April, we will hold our AGMs for our two charities that are currently in place: 7.30 to 8.30pm Meare and Westhay Village Hall and Playing field Charity No 1063258 and 8.30 to 9.30pm Meare and Westhay Village Hall Charity No 1200097 at the Community Church on Church Path, Meare.

There are two charities currently as we have recently registered a new CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The original charity is unable to place contracts so cannot actually build the village hall, so we require a CIO in order to do this. We are in the process of transferring the assets from the old charity to the new CIO, hence there are two charities at present. Nominations for trustees have been invited with a closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (noting this date will have passed by the time this comes to print).

### Events cont.

Following the success of our Children's Christmas Craft workshop last December, we will be holding an Easter craft workshop for children on 1<sup>st</sup> April. All ages are welcome and it should be a fun family session making Easter crafts.

### Fundraising

At the time of writing we are also planning our two Mosaic Workshops taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> March which we are delighted to say are fully sold out, with a long waiting list in place. They proved to be so popular, we have put on a second workshop on and we're looking forward to making some beautiful mosaic birds.

Aside from attending our fundraising, don't forget you can also do your bit to help raise funds by shopping at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). Unfortunately, AmazonSmile no longer donates to charities however easyfundraising is still proving a worthwhile support with over £775 raised to date!

### Facebook Page and Village Website

You can read all our latest progress updates on our Facebook page. Search for 'Meare and Westhay Village Hall' and share it with friends and family within the community.

As always, if anyone has any questions or would like to know more about the work we are doing to bring this project to fruition please email, [meareandwesthayvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:meareandwesthayvillagehall@gmail.com). The Trustees are more than happy to answer any of your questions.



The poster for the Children's Easter Craft Workshop features a header with three images: a basket of white eggs, the Meare & Westhay Village Hall logo, and a group of rabbits. The text below the header reads: 'Meare and Westhay Village Hall Trustees are excited to announce our upcoming Children's Easter Craft Workshop Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 10am to 12noon At Meare Community Church on Church Path Bring your children along to have fun together making creative Easter crafts. Enjoy pompom making, paper crafts and card decorating'. Below this is a row of three images showing a paper bunny, a pom-pom chick, and decorated Easter eggs. The bottom section of the poster includes the price '£6 per child, to include an easter snack.', the note 'All materials included.', the booking email '[meareandwesthayvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:meareandwesthayvillagehall@gmail.com)', and the statement 'All proceeds will go to DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal' flanked by small basket and bunny icons.

**Mrs Diana Monk**

MSSCh, MBChA

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The Schoolroom consists of a main hall, a kitchen and a small meeting room.

The cost of hire is £9.00 per hour, this includes electricity, the use of the kitchen and crockery, also the use of table and chairs.

Hirers are expected to clean up after use, and to remove any rubbish from the premises.

For bookings contact Anne Moss. tel. 01458. 860853.

Secretary. Richard Brown. e-mail. **richard-**

**brown5069@btinternet.com**

### The Muddy Lane Playing Fields.

The field has a car park for up to 30 cars, a children's park and play area and a Petanque terrain. Dogs cannot be exercised on the playing field, although dogs and their owners can use the public footpath to access the network of footpaths in the surrounding fields. The footpath has been diverted and now runs around the perimeter of the playing field. Details of the diversion were published in the June - July 2021 edition of the Meare and Westhay Village News. The field can accommodate outdoor sports and events. Booking via the Meare and Westhay website:- [MeareandWesthay.com/cgibin/pages/vhpf\\_bookings.pl](http://MeareandWesthay.com/cgibin/pages/vhpf_bookings.pl). Please read the term and conditions.



Meare Church Rooms

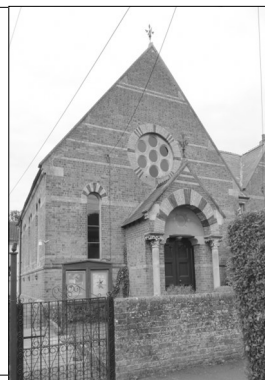


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Hall Address	Post Office opening times
The Church Rooms	Friday
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Meare	
Somerset	Also used for voting
BA6 9PU	

**Meare  
Community  
Church**  
Contact  
Maggie  
Ludbrook on  
07943445676



<b>Shipham - Street Bus 668</b>				
Shipham The Miners Arms (W-bound)	07:25	10:00	13:00	15:50
Cheddar Tweentown (E-bound)	07:33	10:08	13:08	15:58
Cocklake The Post Office (S-bound)	07:42	10:17	13:17	16:07
Wedmore The Mall (S-bound)	07:46	10:21	13:21	16:11
Mudgley Mudgely Cross (SE-bound)	07:50	10:25	13:25	16:15
Westhay Turnpike House (S-bound)	07:55	10:30	13:30	16:20
Westhay The Post Office (SW-bound)	07:56	10:31	13:31	16:21
Meare, opp Millbatch	07:58	10:33	13:33	16:23
Meare Post Office (near)	07:59	10:34	13:34	16:24
Meare, outside St. Mary's Church	07:59	10:34	13:34	16:24
Stileway Bus Shelter (E-bound)	08:00	10:35	13:35	16:25
Brindham Community Hospital (S-bound)	08:07	10:42	13:42	16:32
Glastonbury Chinnock Road Spar Shop (W-bound)	08:09	10:44	13:44	16:34
Glastonbury Town Hall (S-bound)	08:14	10:49	13:49	16:39
Street Strode College (E-bound)	08:22			
Street Crispin Hall (NW-bound)	08:25	10:57	13:57	16:47
Street Sainsburys (NE-bound)	09:30	11:02	14:02	
<b>Street - Shipham Bus 668</b>				
Street Sainsburys (NE-bound)	08:50	11:25	14:30	
Street The Library (SE-bound)	08:55	11:30	14:35	17:00
Street Strode College (E-bound)				17:05
Glastonbury Town Hall (N-bound)	09:05	11:40	14:45	17:13
Glastonbury The Queen's Head (E-bound)	09:06	11:41	14:46	17:14
Glastonbury Chinnock Road Spar Shop (E-bound)	09:10	11:45	14:50	17:18
Brindham Community Hospital (N-bound)	09:12	11:47	14:52	17:20
Meare Rice Farm (NW-bound)	09:17	11:52	14:57	17:25
Stileway, opp Bus Shelter	09:18	11:53	14:58	17:26
Meare, opp St Marys Church	09:19	11:54	14:59	17:27
Meare, opp Post Office	09:20	11:55	15:00	17:28
Meare, adj Millbatch	09:20	11:55	15:00	17:28
Westhay, opp The Post Office	09:22	11:57	15:02	17:30
Westhay Turnpike House (N-bound)	09:23	11:58	15:03	17:31
Mudgley Mudgely Cross (N-bound)	09:27	12:02	15:07	17:35
Wedmore The Borough Yard (N-bound)	09:32	12:07	15:12	17:40
Cocklake The Post Office (N-bound)	09:35	12:10	15:15	17:43
Cheddar Tweentown (W-bound)	09:44	12:19	15:24	17:52
Shipham The Miners Arms (NE-bound)	09:52	12:27	15:32	18:00

## Magazine Dates & Contact Information

Material received after the deadline may not be included.

A copy of Meare & Westhay Village News is available from the village website: [www.meareandwesthay.com](http://www.meareandwesthay.com)

Please send all articles and advertising to Caroline Sanderson (editor) at:- **MeareandWesthay@gmail.com** or ring on **01458**

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
Apr / May	1st Mar 23	1st Apr 23
June/July	1st May23	1st June 23

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Meare & Westhay Village News welcomes all and any contributions to the magazine. However it should be remembered that any views or comments expressed are those of the individual contributor and do not in any way reflect the opinion of the magazine, the editor or the Parish Council. The editorial team also wish to make it clear they reserve the right to amend, edit or omit any article or contribution in the interest of legality, public decency, availability of space or any other reason.

Invoices for advertisements will be sent by myself, Mrs Caroline Sanderson and must be settled prior to the appearance of the advert in the magazine.

**Knights Pharmacy, Feversham Lane, Glastonbury, BA6 9LP, Mon-Fri 8am – 7pm, Sat 9am – 3 pm, closed Sunday 01458 834986**

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