

Meare and Westhay Village News

June - July 2023

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Editors News

Firstly an apology. It would seem I was mistaken in saying the Picture of the organ was from the Church. It was in fact a picture of the Community chapel organ, which no longer exists.

I would like to personally thank Steve Edwards who has been looking after our online magazine and website for some years now and has helped me out many times. He is also responsible for my love of the Peregrine Falcons in Glastonbury. Thanks Steve

So we now have a new website, have a look, the new website address for the Parish **Meare Parish Council – Somerset, England (meare-pc.gov.uk)**. All of the Parish councilors have new email addresses as well. They are printed on page 21.

Our Printers, Walton Press have now changed names, same fantastic service just a JUMP to a different name!

Well those that know me would know I took to the streets of London Friday 5th May to sleep overnight and make sure I have my space down the Mall for the Kings Coronation. It was cold, dusty and a bit damp round the edges but what an experience.

Then to come back and have such a fabulous time Sunday at the Park. So many people making memories. It was a great turnout, and great fun. I missed out on the fabulous afternoon tea at Westhay, as my dog insisted I entered her in the dog most like her owner competition. I have no idea why!



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As of April, Walton Press has now officially merged with Jump! Whilst we have been acquired by Jump since 2019, we felt that renaming would benefit the company and our customers...

This merger will allow us to provide you with even better service and more resources to meet your printing needs. At the same time, Walton Press and Jump have been working towards a sustainable future, spearheading the movement for socially and environmentally responsible printing.

For more info, please find us on:

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Would like to Mention

The three Old Ladies

The three old ladies at the Friday Post Office and Coffee morning as pictured in the last Village News, would like to thank the 2 Colins for their help, at least we weren't left "locked in the Lavatory" as the saying goes, from Friday to Saturday. Thank you from all of us.

Pharmacy Time Changes

The opening times and days for 3 of the local pharmacies has change so please have a look on page 30 for updates.

Phil Peace running for LEWA Conservancy

On the 24th June 2023, I will be running the LEWA Safari Marathon, in Kenya. It is reputedly one of the hardest marathons in the world, run at 5500 feet above sea level, in 35 degree heat.

Why you may ask? Well, honestly, initially my answer would have been, to find a challenge to mark my 50th birthday. However, since starting training over 6 months ago and giving myself the time to research this amazing event and the work done by TUSK and LEWA Conservancy, I can now answer that I am doing it to make a real difference to the lives of the people living there and the animals, including Black Rhinos and Grey's Zebra who are protected.

Briefly, the LEWA Conservancy is "conservation that is also about people". At LEWA, not only are we able to protect from poachers and grow the endangered species, but also support, educate and provide health care and running water to the community that relies on the reserve for its existence. To find out more visit the LEWA website: <https://www.lewa.org>.

By running this marathon, I hope not only to raise awareness, but also to contribute in my own small way. My challenge has been to raise £2000. So far, by running the Paris Marathon, with a Rhino on my head, and leaning heavily on my very loyal and generous friends and family, I have managed to raise £780. If you would like to contribute and help me reach my target, please go to: <https://gofund.me/403b5828>.

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Meare and Westhay Village Hall

At the A.G.M. on 4th April the existing trustees stood down and didn't stand for re-election, so the nominated candidates were all duly elected.

These were ; Hazel Degregorio

Rosie Lander

Tim Hoskins

Paul Bradley

At the moment we are getting to grips with the situation and looking at ways to move this forwards.

The Parish Council have agreed to take back the running of the playing field leaving the trustees to concentrate on fund raising for the hall. We have several ideas to work with, with some already confirmed.

Table Top Sale 18th June - Does anyone have items we could sell on behalf of the village hall please. Please drop in to anyone of the trustees.

July TBC- Organise an Open Gardens event, tea/coffee cake from the Church rooms.

Aug TBC- Jumble Trail with Cake Sale

Aug 5th August - Car Park stewarding 3pm to 11pm. Anyone available to help park cars at Herbies Field for the Glastonbury Extravaganza. Three people required.

Sept TBC - Fork'n'Ale Night. Pie and Pint night and music. Anyone with contacts for pies and ale. (Other alcohol will be available).

Nov 18th Glastonbury Carnival Collecting - Anyone interested in volunteering for this?

If you have an event you would like to see us organise, please let us know. We will need helpers to either run events on behalf of the Village Hall or assist us with events we put on.

We have also made the decision to just post on one village Facebook site because having to deal with many replies on different sites gets quite complicated. So we will share to Meare and Westhay News site only. Just like our Facebook page and you will be able to see our updates directly.

In order to achieve our goal we will need everyone across our community to support and work with us. This way we can make it happen.

Rosie Lander

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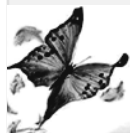
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Meare Community Chapel, Thought for the day

Have you ever imagined what our world would be like if we all got on with each other very well? Happiness, without mumbles and groans. Agreements reached via solid discussion, but without venomous arguments from spoilers who can not see the good in anything. People speaking to each other on the street, without the head down, don't look at me concept. Why wouldn't this idealised view of life be something that is possible?

People can be intolerant, biased, racist, rude, think only of themselves, greedy, gluttonous and self-indulgent. By striving to be better than our neighbours, we may not treat them kindly, or even give them a second glance in the street. Not everyone suffers from every weakness, but some folks just seem so bad. What about the rest of us, could we break out of our unhelpful ways and start to see the good in people? Could we even get along with folks we haven't seen eye to eye with recently – perhaps an apology to mend the gap and create a bridge between us. What a step forwards that would be – admission of an error or apology for something spiteful you said when provoked, but didn't really mean it.

Jesus encouraged us to not only love our neighbours, but love our enemies too. It can be easy to see a need or someone that is struggling, but easier to turn a blind eye than to help. What if this year, when you spotted a need, you thought that you may not be able to solve the problem, but could lend a hand and help out a little. If we all did that, maybe we could start to get along rather better than we do with each other. It may not be the ideal world of my first line, but it would move us gently forwards in the right direction. Of looking after each other, and helping out when and where we can.

Perhaps this should be our thought for the year or life, and not just for the day. If we kept it going, could we make a difference? Would peoples hearts soften and start to think about others before themselves? Give it a try and maybe you may start to see a difference. □

At the beginning of the year, the Meare Community Church congregation started to pray each week for a specific area of Meare, and working towards Westhay. We started at Stileway, followed by Glastonbury Road, Porter's Hatch and Church Lane. Recently we prayed for Downs Orchard, St Marys Road, and Meareway lane. We will keep going until we get to the end of Westhay. If you have any specific prayer request, please email and let us know so we can 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: The double service/mini conference on Good Friday was well attended and enjoyed by many from Meare, Street, Wells, Wedmore, Somerton, and Henley. The worship music provided by the Henley Worship Band was very uplifting and much appreciated by all there – as was lunch. We aim to host a similar event next Easter. All are welcome. Topics coming up are below:

- 11 Jun Relationships – Matthew ch5
- 25 Jun Strife and Life – Matthew ch6
- 09 Jul Criticism – Matthew ch 7
- 23 Jul The way to heaven – Matthew ch7
- 06 Aug Miracles and what we can learn -Matthew ch8

Outgoing Village Hall Committee

We are deeply saddened and disappointed to announce that the former trustees of Meare and Westhay Village Hall and Playing Field charity and the CIO have taken the difficult decision to stand down as trustees of both charities. The situation with the public works loan and the Parish Council has become untenable and the individuals involved mean it is unlikely to be resolved to enable us to move forwards.

This village hall is the closest it has ever been to being built and it is through the hard work and determination of the outgoing trustees that have brought it this far.

The project is shovel ready. We have secured planning permission by commencing the build last month with a Preferred Contractor on board having tendered the reduced scale build.

We would like to thank those who have supported us in recent years and feel a great deal of pride in what we have achieved.

Please visit the below link for the AGM minutes, presentation slides and the Chair's report: <https://meareandwesthay.uk/cgi/Pages/CHallMin.pl>

Janet Westover, Alan Wren, Rita Wren, Colin Westover and Zoe Masterson

Searching for Robert Fletcher - a family history journey

It was a cool April morning that found ourselves in Meare. Our family history journey had taken us from Ledbury circa 1940, Bristol 1919, Bath 1886, Compton Dundon 1700's and now we are in 1600 Meare.

The Fletcher family never stayed in one place, constantly moving, we came across our potential ancestor living in Meare as the parish priest or rector for St Mary's. We were lucky that parish records had survived, in many cases family records such as parish records of birth, marriages and death were easily destroyed. The Robert Fletcher we were interested in was parish priest from 1632 to 1678 -46 years. We think he would have been in his early 80's when he died. He was married to Christian Arnell in 1634 at St Mary's church. Christian was from Shapwick and according to the records from Oxford University, Robert at the time was vicar of the parish of Meare. He had taken up the post in 1632.

Robert Fletcher was able to read and write, one of the records from Oxford University states that he studied for his BA in 1632 and a MA in 1645. He studied at Magdalen Hall. I don't believe this is the same college as it is in the 21st century as according to the history of Oxford University it now stands where the current Hertford college is situated.

Robert was not born of aristocratic stock as the record above does state "pleb". Why he became a priest we cannot find any records and I am currently trying to confirm his birth record as he was not born in Bitton but maybe in Clifton Bristol.

Robert was priest when Charles 1st was king of England before the English Civil War. The Common Day prayer book would have been used in the church. Between 1645 and until the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 the church in Meare could not use the common Prayer book and conduct its services in the Anglican form of worship. To survive it had become Presbyterian.

Presbyterian worship during this period meant that priests could not give sermons from the pulpit but from the chancel steps. This type of worship is not the same as Presbyterian as we know of today, but a similar type and it was accepted by the parliament of the 1640 and 1650's. Once the monarchy was restored then the usual form of Anglican service could be used. For the church not to be destroyed during the civil war period like so many may be testament of the vicar at that time.

The internal aspects of St Marys church would have been different then today, I suspect that the altar would have been much simpler and of

course the stained-glass window above would not have been evident. But where my husband Nigel Fletcher is standing would be the same place as his ancestor would have stood & of course where he had been married.

The reason for our visit was to see for ourselves the landscape of the Somerset levels and to visit the church. Nigel (Fletcher- it was his ancestor that we were seeking) and I were trying to find a memorial for Robert, but it is difficult as during this time several Roberts are in the parish records; birth and death records not very clear or consistent. From the floor of the nave and near the altar we can see slate memorials around the 1600's. As parish priest of over 40 years, it could be possible that he would be buried at the church. Robert may be buried somewhere under the pews or under the raised Altar. Unless a restoration project occurs, we will never be able to confirm this.

Many thanks to Gloria who made us very welcome and had done some research for us, the coffee and biscuits much appreciated. All the best for your 700 celebrations, my church of St Hilary's in Killay Swansea celebrates their 100th in 2026; yours 7x a lifetime- enjoy!

Eileen R Fletcher, Swansea

Bin Collection Dates :- kerbside by 6 am		
Wednesday 7th & 21st	June	Garden Waste only
Thursday 15th	June	Recycling & Refuse
Friday 2nd , Thursday 9th, 22nd, 29th	June	Recycling only
Wednesday 5th & 19th	July	Garden Waste only
Thursday 6th & 27th	July	Recycling & Refuse
Thursday 13th & 20th	July	Recycling only

St. Mary's Church

We recently had a request to visit from someone in Australia who had traced a relative who had been baptized at Meare in the 18th century! Records from this period would have been placed in the Somerset County archives as are most documents prior to mid 20th century. rather than being stored by the church and PCC. We do however welcome the many people who have over the years come from the UK and overseas to visit St Mary's and Meare due to their family connections here.

SERVICES at St Mary's Church, Meare

Sunday 4th June 11:00am Trinity Holy Communion
Sunday 2nd July 11:00am Holy Communion

We now go back to our usual first Sunday of the month service having had our special May service in the marquee on Meare playing field. Our curate Revd Keiron Rowley took the service and on 24th June at another special occasion he will be fully ordained at Bath Abbey.

Other services in the Glastonbury churches of St Johns and St Benedicts are listed on the noticeboard by the gate to the church.

In the church porch the latest Diocesan list of fees for weddings and funerals is displayed. There are no fees for baptisms however.

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Announcements

Hubert Victor King, Late of Home Farm Stileway and the Caravan, Glastonbury Road Meare, passed away on the 19th March 2023 **aged 86 years**. The cremation took place at Mendip Crematorium on Friday 14th April 2023 by Street Funeralcare. Donations in memory of Victor are for the Royal Agricultural Bereavement Institution.

Pearl Chivers, nee Whitcombe and Gillian Bereford, Nee Hurd, Both late of Millbatch, Meare have both passed away. Many will remember them in their early days in Meare.

Brian Grenter late of A. S. Grenter & Son, The garage, Meare was living in Street. Brian enjoyed drawing and painting and did many paintings of the village, such as the Church and local attractions. He also held classes at Crispin Hall in Street.

The Death has been announced of **Jane Bow**, late of The Laurels St. May's Road, Meare. She will be remembered by many for her lovely cakes and Sunday lunches while at the Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay.

Youth Group Fund Raiser

The car wash was a great success, we are very grateful to Abbot's Way School for offering to host the youth group fundraiser. Cakes were donated by Meare school and the community.



The youth group will be supported by MWFT to put on another extra large table top sale where there will be a raffle with exceptionally big prizes to be had, Godney gathering tickets to name one. Look out for raffle ticket sales and a free youth event soon to be publicised.



Kings Coronation Parish Celebrations

Meare School

“We all wished very hard for the weather to clear for our Coronation Celebration, and so it did – here’s to the power of positive thinking!



Our day of fun started with crafting a crown, thanks to Chris and Nicky from the village who kindly brought in all the materials and guided the children through the making, as well as teaching a few royal facts to the children along the way! Chris and Nicky commented on how **beautifully behaved, polite and engaged the children were across the whole school.**

The Coronation of our own King and Queen in St Mary’s Church was a resounding success too, thanks to our local Vicar David for organising a replication of the main event. The children really felt like they were part of history, and their singing nearly blew the roof off the church! We then paraded back to school where the sun came out for our Coronation tea party. **Thank you to all the many families who joined us and made this event feel extra special** – it felt like a real community event and we look forward to more like this. Ms Isherwood”

Tribute: Meare School Coronation service at St Mary's Church.

**"Yellow viz-jackets like coronation robes
Crowns, golden, red and blue sparkling in the sunlight
Children fit to be royalty and bright stars of the future
Processions, poems, prayers
They sang and shouted "God save the King" three times
And marched joyfully to their
Playground picnic party!!!"**



The Youth Group held a tombola stall at the event which completely sold out and with this they are pleased to say they are nearing £2,300. With the pending race night jointly supported by a united team of volunteers from MPAG and MWFT plus giving individuals. We will be flying towards our first purchase.



Dog show

Our fun village dog show was held as part of the coronation weekend community event. We had a lot of entries and some wonderful wagging tails. We had six classes and these were kindly judged by Abi who was visiting the village for the weekend.

Prettiest Female

1. Amy Collins with Maggie
2. Elizabeth Norris with Tuppence
3. Roland and Eva Jackson with Luna



Most Handsome Male

1. Chris Neal with Kofi
2. Nell Fermor with Digby
3. Cory Power with Bentley



Best Senior Dog

1. Lyn Read with Poppy
2. Tom Aug with Stilton
3. Joan Morgan with Dusky



Waggiest Tail

1. Caroline Sanderson with Lily
2. Joan Morgan with Dusky
3. Lily Mellick with Lottie

Best Trick

1. Arlo Aug with Buster
2. Abigail Hoskins with George

Dog Most like it's Owner

1. Caroline Sanderson with Lily
2. Jodie Green with Kroeger
3. Abigail Hoskins with George

Scarecrow Competition

All the entries to the scarecrow competition were really great, such talent in the Parish. **Well done to the winners (see front cover), Westhay Opportunities Centre. Second was Rob & Jo Franks and third was Hannah Roberts.**

Coronation Cake

Thanks to **Steph Moss** for this wonderful coronation cake., which was cut and distributed on Sunday.



A big thanks to “Polden Hills Young Farmers club who put on a good show with a demonstration of their Tug of War skills. The club has both a men’s and women’s team.



They traditionally do very well in competitions. The Coronation event was an opportunity to practise ahead of their forthcoming competitions at the County Rally next weekend at East Quantoxhead. Once they had “pulled” a few times, it was over to the gathered audience to have a go, urged on by our compère Mr Rob Franks, both young and old had a go and thankfully, apart from a few slips, everybody left all in one piece!



Other games to tax the mind. Including “Line of Rule,” who could put the 9 monarchs in order,

past present and future from Queen Victoria to Prince George ? This proved to be a lively discussion amongst many, and it wasn’t always the oldest and most senior members of our community who got it right! We also had a “lucky square,” game to try and predict where King Charles had lost his crown! This was won by R .Baker of Stileway.

Community Coronation Celebration Team

We were absolutely delighted to see so many parishioners on the playing field, on May the 7th, to join in the celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III.



Planning began as soon as the date for the event was confirmed, so quite a lot to pack in over a few months. Its always difficult trying to provide something to suit all ages, but as the saying goes “team work, makes the dream work!” It was certainly the case this time with members bringing ideas and talents together.

It was good to see the children joining in with everything on offer and the refreshments went down very well (perhaps we should have got more carrot cake)!

All in all it was a very happy day, which we hope you all enjoyed and to crown it all off the sun shone. Thanks all for coming Janice Bradley on behalf of the Team

Westhay Schoolroom Committee

Westhay Schoolroom Events (Registered Charity No.288021)

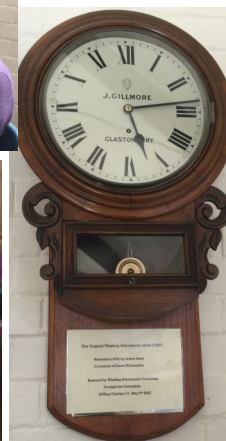
June 3rd	10:30 pm	Café Westhay Then the 1st Saturday
July 15th	6:30pm	Village Barbecue

King Charles III Coronation Tea.

Some sixty people attended at the Schoolroom Westhay for the Coronation Tea. The sun shone for the best of days so far this year. Afternoon tea was provided by ladies from the village who volunteered both their time and baking skills for everyone who attended to enjoy.

Whilst the afternoon was free, donations to the value of £142.00 were given, which was donated to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. Those who attended were able to view the original School clock c1870 which was restored by the Schoolroom Committee to mark the Coronation.

Richard Brown – Secretary.



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Ladies Group

Well the talk from Paul Farrant on Cake decorating went down very well. Those who had a go at making Roses seemed to have a lot of fun doing it. Unfortunately it was very warm in the hall and mine started to melt, so I hope everyone else's stayed in shape. Well at least we know how to do them in the future.

The following Thursday events coming up at the Ladies Group

June 15th	Michelle Blackmore form the owl sanctuary
July 20th	Croque / Games on the playing field

Bird Boxes and Camara A Winning Combination

It was a real privilege to deliver this new wildlife equipment to the children of Meare Village Primary School last week and join in their assembly with their Eco-Council.

Huge thanks goes to Gwilliams of Edington and Jo Hellier for nominating us for this Heart of the Community Award with Make a Difference Locally for the upcoming King's Coronation.

With this grant of £500 we have been able to purchase a wooden bird box, a hedgehog feeding station, a remote wildlife trail camera and a bird box with a solar-powered wifi camera to view inside.

We're hopeful that local wildlife will take up residence soon and that the school children can enjoy observing them and learning more about nature.

We also have a Barn Owl box which has been assembled and is ready to be put up at the playing fields, to enhance the biodiversity of this wonderful space in our community.

Many thanks again to MADL and for Jo Hellier through Gwilliams of Edington for nominating our cause.

Janet Westover, Alan Wren, Rita Wren, Colin Westover and Zoe Masterson



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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
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	



Meare & Westhay Fundraising Team

By the time you read this article, the most recent event to help finance a local sports facility for Meare & Westhay Youth will have taken place.

Horse Race Night at the Church Rooms, jointly presented by the Meare and Westhay Fundraising Team (MWFT) and Meare Parish Activity Group (MPAG) was completely sold out two months in advance with a waiting list of keen punters. It seems that the prospect of betting on a winner alongside a ploughman's supper and dessert, plus advance booking of 5 drinks from the gin bar at £20.00 was too much to resist for the parishioners of Meare and Westhay! We will be sharing details of how much money this event has raised as soon as we can.

Prior to this, MWFT had been able to increase the pot of money for the sports facility to £2,250 with 50% of the 100 clubs proceeds from March & April added to the fund. Contact us if you would like to join.

Following the success of the February **Table top Sale**, an expanded version will be held on **Sunday 18th June from 2.00 – 5.00 pm** in both the Church Rooms and adjoining car park. Tables cost £10.00 each and need to be pre-booked. Cake and cream teas will be available, so now is a good time to clear out the garage and attic or to pop along to grab a bargain and meet up with friends and neighbours. If you don't have enough to fill a table, the Village Hall Committee would welcome donations of items they can sell to raise money to build the new village hall. Contact any MWFT volunteer or email: meareandwesthayfundraising@gmail.com to reserve your table.

We hope you have also enjoyed the Spring flowers at Porters Hatch and Kirlegate as well as the wheelbarrows recently planted to celebrate the coronation. Next Breakfast, 18th June. Meare & Westhay Fundraising.



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Colin Foster	Pilgrims way, Stile- way, BA6 9SH	Cllr.foster.c@meare- pc.gov.uk	07734753 113
Victoria Winters	12 The Levels, BA6 9SE	Cllr.winters@meare- pc.gov.uk	01458 860459
Alvin Neale	57 St. Marys Road, BA6 9SR	Cllr.neale@meare- pc.gov.uk	01458 860277
Tristan Foster	13 Glastonbury Road, BA6 9SN	Cllr.foster.t@meare- pc.gov.uk	07739350 968
Alan Wren	88 St. Marys Road, BA6 9SS	Cllr.wren@meare- pc.gov.uk	01458 860537
Nicola Hoskins	5 Alexanders Close BA6 9HP	Cllr.hoskins@meare- pc.gov.uk	07789275 250
Lee Gage	7 The Levels BA6 9SE	Cllr.gage@meare- pc.gov.uk	01458 860492
Gayle Richards	7 The Levels BA6 9SE	Cllr.richards@meare -pc.gov.uk	01458 860492
Teresa James	6 The Levels BA6 9SE	Cllr.james@meare- pc.gov.uk	01458 860738
Jane Field	Sunnyside Farm, Shapwick Rd, BA6 9TT	Cllr.field@meare- pc.gov.uk	075002 20588
Gerard Tucker Parish Clerk	Langata, High Street, Aller, TA10 0QN	clerk@meare- pc.gov.uk	07854379 938

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

Clerks Report

Meare Parish Council Statement on the subject of the Village Hall

The previous Trustees who managed the Meare and Westhay Village Hall and Playing Field Committee decided recently at their annual general meeting not to stand for reelection. Meare Parish Council wishes to thank each of them for their time, support and dedication.

Social media statements have implied that the Parish Council has been unsupportive of the proposed new village hall. The council applied for the submission of the successful planning application, provided land for the development, borrowed a significant sum of money to prove to grant funders that the parish is fully supportive of the project.

Unfortunately, despite repeated requests to liaise closely with the council, the previous village hall committee failed to provide the information required to demonstrate that the project was being managed appropriately. Sight of their business plan, funding strategy, timescales and preferred build contractors were denied and questions raised by the council remained unanswered for reasons of confidentiality, despite councillors having signed a Non-disclosure Agreement. You will understand councillors surprise that within a week of the March meeting of the Parish Council, the footings for the new hall were installed!

Four new Trustees have been nominated and appointed to the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council very much looks forward to working openly with them for the purpose of building a much needed new facility for the benefit of the whole community.

Village website change.

www.meare-pc.gov.uk – have you visited it yet?

It is probable that many parishioners have already accessed the new website and hopefully found it easy to navigate and find the information required. The previous website was prepared and managed by **Steve Edwards**, who for many years has diligently added and removed numerous attachments, reports and notices. The Parish Council is indebted to Steve for his dedication and thank him enormously for his input.

There are a number of reasons why the Parish Council has taken the decision to fund and provide a new website, including:

- * For many years, Parish Councillors have received and communicated using their own personal email addresses. Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) this approach is discouraged, as it is considered best practice to have dedicated email addresses for each Councillor.
- * When the Parish Clerk changes, as one day it inevitably will happen, the transfer of all the information held on file can be easily transferred to the new clerk.

Cllr Jane Field researched the most cost effective way of delivering the change to provide dedicated email addresses and found that Netwise, our current provider specialized in supporting Town and Parish Councils. They also offered as part of their package the provision of a new website.

Steve Edwards has been most supportive of the new site and has helped with the transfer of data. For this, the Parish Council are most appreciative as they are also to the dedication provided by Jane Field.

Gerard Tucker, Parish Clerk

Somerset Council Home Library Service
<p>If you are someone who loves reading but is unable to get to their local library for health, mobility or caring reasons you may be interested in this service.</p> <p>Somerset Libraries offer a service where a Library Volunteer will visit a person in their home and deliver library books to them on a regular basis. You can have between 1 and 20 books at a time. Your Volunteer will choose books for you by authors you enjoy and topics you are interested in. They will visit you as often as you like and will stay for a cup of tea and a chat if you would like them to. For more information contact: Phone: 07814 079831 Email: kirsty.jenssen@somerset.gov.uk</p>
<p>Somerset Age UK Age UK provide support services and activities to make life better in Somerset. See below for more information.</p>
<p>Information and Advice and Help with Benefits: Tel: 01823 345613 Email: infoandadvice@ageuksomerset.org.uk</p>

<p>Aging Well to Improve the Health of Older People Tel: 01823 345626 Email: ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk</p>
<p>Falls Prevention Sessions to Improve Balance and Strength and Increase Confidence. Tel: 01823 345614 Email: fallsprevention@ageuksomerset.org.uk</p>
<p>Memory Connections Service offers weekly sessions [in person & online] which include a programme of enjoyable & stimulating activities for people living with mild to moderate dementia. Tel: 01823 345613 Email: infoandadvice@ageuksomerset.org.uk</p>
<p>Toenail Cutting Service: for Over 55s A fee is charged Tel: 01823 345610 Email: tnc@ageuksomerset.org.uk</p>
<p>Somerset Age UK The Wellbeing Service The Wellbeing Service is made up of different elements to help individuals feel less lonely, always listened to and given the support they need and is for anyone over 60 in Somerset.</p>
<p>Chat and Map: Helping to solving a wide variety of issues. It starts with a chat and ends up mapping what daily life is like and finding solutions to make daily life so much better.</p>
<p>Walk and Talk: supports older people who would like to benefit from fresh air and being more active but either don't feel very confident about going out by themselves, or who just enjoy some company. Clients are matched with a suitable volunteer who will call for the client at their home & go for a short walk.</p>
<p>Wellbeing Friends Scheme is about matching older clients with a friendly volunteer for a weekly home visit to provide companionship and a window to the outside world.</p>
<p>Friendly Phone Calls Service offers the chance to hear a friendly voice on the phone and is for older people who may find themselves feeling lonely or isolated.</p>
<p>How to Join the Wellbeing Service: The service is tailored to individual's needs so they may ask you some questions to help discover which element of the Wellbeing Service is the right one for you depending on your needs and preferences. They will then register you with the service Call: 01823 345615 Email: wellbeing@ageuksomerset.org.uk Visit: www.ageuksomerset.org.uk/wellbeing</p>

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.

For all enquiries including bookings please email the Parish Clerk, Gerard on **clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk**. He will reply as soon as he can.



Meare Church Rooms

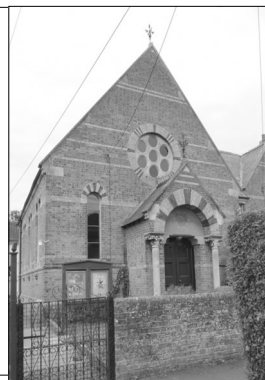


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**Meare
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Church**
Contact
Maggie
Ludbrook on
07943445676



Shipham - Street Bus 668				
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	
Street - Shipham Bus 668				
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

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

Issue	Deadline	Distribution
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Oct /Nov	1st Sept. 23	1st Oct. 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.

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