

Meare and Westhay Magazine

**Congratulations, Sandra Dyga!
Villager of the Year
2024-2025**



August – September 2025

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COVER STORY

As announced in the Clerk's notes in the last magazine, the Villager of the Year Award for 2024-5 was awarded to Sandra Dyga. Sandra is one of those many kind and hard-working people who make our villages such a special place to live.

Sandra writes,

Many thanks to all the parishioners who nominated me for Villager of the Year 2024-5. It was an absolute and unexpected surprise to be presented with the award, together with a lovely etched glass vase and, I have to say, I feel it is very humbling indeed!

We do live in a caring community where we all look out for one another, mostly unbeknown to others, and to live in a parish like ours is possibly more of a rarity these days. It is something to hold dear. I also want to say a big thank you for all the messages that I have received since being awarded this.

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FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, a big thank you to Joe and Sylv who have edited recent issues of this magazine and now move on to new challenges.

Then to introduce myself. My husband and I have lived in Westhay for over thirty years. Initially, with four small children in the family, we became quite involved in the local community. I helped set up the original "Coffee Pot" at the chapel, started the oil buyers' group, and volunteered at, and later worked at, the school. Then as the children grew older, I started working and got involved in activities elsewhere. But now that I am retired I am keen to spend more time in the village and with local people. So when the vacancy for an editor arose, I said I would give it a go. Sadly I do not have the expertise that Joe brought to the magazine, so please bear with me as I learn on the job. Please do send your news, events and other contributions to me. I would like the magazine to reflect the whole of our community as far as possible. You can email me at the address below or, if you prefer to give me hard copy, I am usually at the coffee morning at the chapel at 11.00 every Monday morning. Best wishes to you all.

Helen Mitchell - editor.mawm@hotmail.com

Deadline for October – November issue is 8th September.

Contributions submitted to the magazine will be included as space allows and the editor reserves the right to edit articles.

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FROM THE CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Summer has rolled on and it's been rather glorious weather, hasn't it? The sunshine doesn't stop the wheels of the Parish Council from turning though and work continues on our ongoing projects. Here are some Parish updates:

- **Allotments** –Meare Parish Council continue to work closely with Meare Allotment Association to ensure that maintenance issues at the allotments have a satisfactory outcome. Cllr Alvin Neale meets with Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board soon to discuss drainage issues.
- **Village Hall** –The formal agreement between Meare Parish Council and the village hall trustees is getting very close to being agreed and fundraising remains priority.
- **Banking** – The Parish Council is currently moving their bank accounts from the Coop to UnityTrust Bank. This move will allow payments to be made to suppliers via bacs rather than using cheques that are currently sent out in the post, also negating and saving on postage costs. In addition, funds held for the building of the village hall will benefit from increased rates of interest from those with the current bank.
- **Meare Parish Playing Field and Play Area Update** – The Parish Council instructed a full service on the zip wire in the playing field this year as well as the annual Play Area Inspection in which the play area is declared fully safe to use. We are working through several recommendations within the report, including removing the pole close to the outdoor gym equipment. There is still some work to do to fencing, posts and railings, and we await contractors' dates for when works can commence.

NB: To book the field for an event, please contact me at clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk. A month's notice is preferred, allowing the Parish Council to organise the mowing in readiness for your event and for us to avoid mowing on the day you want to use the field.

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- **Fly tipping** – This has become an increasing problem in the Parish and is reported regularly to Somerset Council. If you do see or are aware of any fly tipping taking place, please do report it to Clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk. We realise that rubbish doesn't always disappear very quickly but can assure parishioners that we do give this problem our full attention.
- **Councillor Vacancies**- In the summer issue of the Magazine, we reported two vacancies for Parish Councillors. Sadly, we also received the resignation of Cllr Nicky Hoskins. After following protocols for the recruitment of replacement councillors, we extend a very warm welcome to Cllr Adam Lusby, Cllr Rosie Lander and Cllr Rita Wren. This was the first time I had been through the process of recruiting councillors, and I learnt a lot. All resignations of councillors have to be reported to the Returning Officer at Somerset Council and notices to recruit are initiated by them. There are two ways to recruit. The first, and preferred route, is to coopt new councillors into the council. The second way, by far the most expensive, is via an election. This is triggered when ten parishioners write to the Returning Officer requesting an election. Then the Parish Council has no choice but to go down this path at great cost to the Parish Council and ultimately you, the parishioners. Fortunately, on this occasion we avoided an election and a bill of up to £4000.00 from Somerset Council, as we only received three applicants for the vacant positions, and they were uncontested. However, this did highlight the need to budget for elections in our next precept. We recently received Cllr Teresa James' resignation and, at the time of submitting this copy, we await news from Somerset Council as to whether an election is required. We wish to thank Cllr James for her contribution to the Parish Council and the wider community during her time as a councillor. Cllr James ran a very successful Health and Wellbeing event in the village at the beginning of the summer, which was very well received.
- **Meare & Westhay Parish Magazine**- some of you may already be aware that Joe Dugdale and Sylv Kerslake resigned from their position as editors of the Parish Magazine. In the last issue we asked for anyone interested in applying for this position to contact us and as a result of the recruitment process, Helen Mitchell was interviewed and was the successful applicant. On behalf of Meare Parish Council we wish to welcome Helen and also say a big thank you to Joe and Sylv for their valued contribution during their tenure as editors. We wish you luck in your new ventures.

That's all from me for now and on behalf of myself and the Meare Parish Councillors, enjoy the remainder of the good weather and light evenings.

If you have any queries about any of the topics covered above, please do not hesitate to contact me: clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS



ADAM LUSBY: I moved to the parish in 1988 having grown up in Croscombe & Wells. Over the next 36 years we moved from Meare to Westhay and back again while raising our two children. My work has taken me far and wide with long periods away from home giving me little time for much else. I now feel the time is right to do anything I can to contribute to the parish. Outside of work I have a keen interest in history, cricket, my grandchildren and anyone who knows me is aware of my love of music, particularly heavy rock.

ROSIE LANDER: I have lived in Meare for 14 years and have previously served on the Parish Council. I am also part of The Meare Parish Activities Group where we put on events for the villagers and then use the profit to help in the community. I am always happy to help out where needed particularly if baking is involved. My other interest is my dogs and we compete in agility (just for fun these days.)



RITA WREN: I was born in Street and lived there for 25 years, moving to Dorset when I got married where I had two children. I moved back to Somerset and have lived in Meare since 2014.

I am very happy to be volunteering to work as a Parish councillor and hope I can contribute in continuing to making our Parish a safe and happy place to live.



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AVALON ARCHAEOLOGY



This summer we are open on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the school summer holidays, 19th July to the end of August.

Special events include Roman days with Marcus Medicus on 20th and 21st August, and a celebration of Haerfest on 31st August. These are drop-in events. Normal admission applies but tickets give access till the end of the year, so its great value!

We have guided tours available on 13th August, 27th August and 24th September. These tours are aimed at adults and are times to fit in with the bus service. They must be booked in advance, but are a wonderful opportunity to learn much more about the creation of the various buildings, and the archaeology they are based on.

September events include an Ancient cookery workshop on 6th September, Home education sessions on 11th September, Viking woodworking workshop on 20th September and Equinox storytelling on 21st September. All require booking.

Our events can always be found here: <https://swheritage.org.uk/avalon-archaeology/whats-on/> which gives more details and how to book where appropriate.

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For items marked *, see further information elsewhere in the magazine.

AUGUST			
Sat 2	10.30	Westhay Schoolroom	Café Westhay
Sun 3	11.00	St. Mary's Church	Communion Service
Sun 3	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Mon 4	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Sun 10	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Mon 11	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Sun 17	11.00	St. Mary's Church	Communion Service – to celebrate St. Mary
Sun 17	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Sun 17	From 13.00	Railway Inn	Sunday Sessions & food
Mon 18	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Wed 20	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	The Romans – Marcus the Medicus (Family drop-in)*
Thu 21	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	
Thu 21	Bookings only	Double-Gate Farm	Ladies' Group Afternoon Tea*
Sun 24	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Mon 25	LATE SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY		
Mon 25	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Sat 30	19.00	Railway Inn	Mouse Racing
Sun 31	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Sun 31	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	Haerfest – Autumn Celebration *

SEPTEMBER

Mon 1	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Mon 1	19.30	Westhay Schoolroom	Committee meeting
Wed 3	8.30	Village Primary Schl	Term starts
Fri 5	20.00	Railway Inn	Live Music: Russ Barnes
Sat 6	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	Ancient cookery workshop*
Sat 6	10.30	Westhay Schoolroom	Café Westhay
Sat 6	10.00 – 16.00	Railway Inn	Railway “Rev Up” vintage vehicle display Sat: Disco at 20.00
Sun 7	10.00 – 16.00	Railway Inn	
Sun 7	11.00	St. Mary’s Church	Communion Service
Sun 7	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Mon 8	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Thu 11	11.00 & 13.30	Avalon Archaeology	Home education sessions*
Fri 12	19.30	Westhay Schoolroom	Harvest Service and Sale*
Sun 14	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Sun 14	12.00 – 16.00	Various homes	Jumble Trail*
Mon 15	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Mon 15	19.30	Community Church	Parish Council Meeting
Thu 18	19.00	St. John’s Church, Glastonbury	Licensing Service for new Vicar*
Thu 18	19.30	Community Church	Ladies’ Group meeting



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SEPTEMBER (cont)

Sat 20	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	Viking woodworking*
Sun 21	9.00 – 11.00	Church Rooms	MWFT Lazy Breakfast*
Sun 21	10.00 – 16.00	Avalon Archaeology	Equinox storytelling*
Sun 21	10.00	St. John's Church, Glastonbury	Joint Benefice Communion Service
Sun 21	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Sun 21	From 13.00	Railway Inn	Sunday Sessions & food
Mon 22	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café
Sun 28	11.00	Community Church	Family Service
Mon 29	11.00 – 12.30	Community Church	Monday Café

For items marked *, see further information elsewhere in the magazine.

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As well as buying stamps, sending mail, etc, you can also return parcels to companies such as Amazon, pay bills and apply for or update your passport.

In addition, you can make deposits and withdrawals for most banks and check your balance. At a time when lots of High Street banks are closing, many will find this invaluable.

The Post Office is in the **Church Rooms every Friday** (except public holidays) from **9.30 – 12.30**. As if this wasn't enough, you can also get a nice cup of tea and have a chat!



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St. Mary's Church

Exciting news!

We look forward to welcoming Rev Alice Watson as our new Vicar for Glastonbury with Meare at a special service at St. John's Church on 18th September. Details are in the diary.



ALICE WRITES: Hello and thank you for inviting me to be your new vicar! I'm really looking forward to meeting people, getting to know you, and discovering what God is doing in Meare.

I grew up here in Somerset, across the levels, and the incredible landscapes we have here have always been important to me and to my connection with God. I've been away from Somerset for all my adult life and so I'm delighted to be able to be "home" again, and really looking forward to putting down roots here. I've most recently been ministering as a university college Chaplain in Oxford, and before that I did my curacy in Northamptonshire. Prior to ordination, many moons ago now, I was a project manager working in the transport industry.

My family is made up of Tom, my husband, and our two children, Jonty and Toby, who are 11 and 9. We also have a lovely lurcher, Pippa, who is looking forward to some good walks. Outside of church I enjoy cooking, reading, and being in nature. I'm also learning to knit (very slowly!).

My welcome service is on the 18th September so I officially start work then, but please do say hi if you see me around, and I look forward to all that is to come.

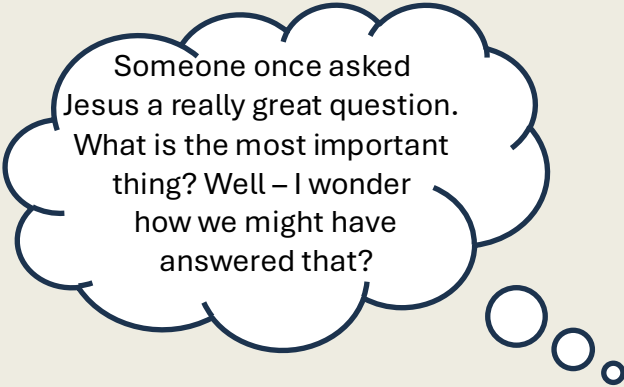
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Meare Community Church



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What is the most important
thing? Well – I wonder
how we might have
answered that?

Jesus' answer was that the most important thing is love – love for God and love for others. We are to “love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves”.

I remember the day when I was heading home down the motorway in sheeting rain. As I pulled off at the exit and reached the busy roundabout, the engine completely died, and I was stuck in the worst possible place. I was on my own – what could I do? In moments, two beefy men had leapt from their car and, despite the rain, pushed my car out of danger and into the layby where I could safely call the AA. And then, without waiting to be thanked, they were gone. People remember acts of kindness like that. They are priceless. They change us.

In the Bible James says that he will show what he believes through his actions - through selfless acts of compassion and love. People like that are the real deal. They transform our community.

One of the things that I love about village life is that people will talk with you. Over time, friendships form, and we start to understand, help, and really care. That is why I really value our Monday Café at the chapel. There's always a good crowd, a warm welcome, and love.

Mike Strange
Pastor

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followed by tea/coffee

Monday Cafe

11-12.30

MEARE AND WESTHAY LADIES' GROUP

New members are always welcome to join our group which meets at 7.30 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at Meare Community Church. We are looking forward to our annual visit to Double-Gate Farm for afternoon tea on 14th August. This must be pre-booked with the committee.

WINTER LUNCH CLUB

Following two successful years, we are planning to run the monthly Winter Lunch Club at the Meare Church Rooms again this winter. We will be offering a hot main meal or jacket potato with topping, dessert and hot drinks. There is no charge, but a donation would be welcome to allow us to continue. Times are 12:00 until 1:30pm (or when the food runs out!). Date for the rest of this year:

Wed 1st October 2025

Wed 5th November 2025

Wed 3rd December 2025

All are welcome and it's a great opportunity to get together. So please pop the dates into your calendar and let friends and neighbours know about it too.

If you need a lift to the Church rooms - please contact a member of the Ladies Group and we will do our best to help.



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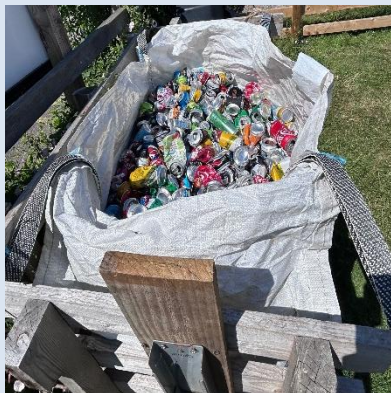
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MEARE & WESTHAY FUNDRAISING TEAM



In 2023 **Meare & Westhay Fundraising Team (MWFT)** started re-cycling aluminium drinks cans to raise money for equipment for the youth of the parish. This money went towards to Multi Gym equipment in the Playground in Meare in 2024. We continue to collect the cans (drink cans only please) to raise money, and on average turn the cans into £50 a month, the Meare Spring Event raising over £100.

Currently we have two collection points in the parish, The Dairy in Westhay and the Playing Fields in Meare; there are hand crushers at both these points. Crushing to flatten them helps to limit the number of journeys to the recycling centre. We also have regular donations from Sweets tea rooms and South West Agility Training who separate them from their normal rubbish for us, which we are really grateful for.

If you want to separate yours from your weekly recycling and can't get to one of the collection points please let any MWFT person know and we will come and collect them from you. Imagine if everyone did this in the parish how much we could raise. Thank you.

LAZY BREAKFASTS: It was decided to take a break from the monthly breakfast for the summer but we will be back with a full English on 21st September. We hope you all have a lovely summer with family and friends.

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN:

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Village life



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, St. Mary's Road

Venue for services (see diary). Contact church wardens for information.

Hilary Sage 01458 860197 hmsage@btinternet.com

Rachel Robinson 07947 049189 robinsonrachelm@btinternet.com



MEARE COMMUNITY CHURCH, Church Path

Venue for weekly services and Monday café, for Parish Council meetings and for the Ladies' Group meetings.

Maggie Ludbrook 07943 445676



MEARE CHURCH ROOMS, St. Mary's Road

Venue for Friday Post Office and café. Hall with kitchen available for community events or private hire. Payment per session.

Janice Bradley 01458 860597 janice.bradley3@btinternet.com



WESTHAY SCHOOL ROOM, Main Road

Venue for monthly café. Main hall, kitchen and small meeting room available to hire. Cost: £9 per hour, includes electricity and equipment.

Anne Moss 01458 860853



MEARE PLAYING FIELDS, Muddy Lane

Liz Horne (Parish Clerk) clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk



MEARE ALLOTMENTS, Bramble Close

Available to members of the parish, subject to availability. Cost: £15 per year membership; £30 per year rent.

David Naylor david.naylor@outlook.com



MEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Chris Bennetts (left) cllr.bennetts@meare-pc.gov.uk

Vice Chair: Tristan Foster (right) cllr.fostert@meare-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: Liz Horne clerk@meare-pc.gov.uk



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Little Starlings 01458 781595 littlestarlingsmeare@outlook.com



MEARE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, St. Mary's Road

Headteacher: Ms Abi Isherwood

Office: Mrs. Glenda Jones/Ms Abi Attree 01458 860228

office@meare.school

Village life



THE BIRD, Main Road, Westhay

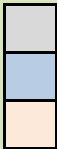
01458 784371

info@thebirdwesthay.co.uk



THE RAILWAY INN, Ashcott Road, Meare

01458 741428



Recycling only

Rubbish and recycling

Garden waste collection

Rubbish and Recycling Dates

AUGUST	7	13	14	21	28	29
SEPTEMBER	4	10	11	18	24	25

BUS SERVICE 668

Service does not operate on Sat, Sun or Bank Holidays
CD: Strode College days only
NCD: Only operates on Strode College holidays
R: Request stop only

668 Shipham - Street	Mondays to Fridays only - No Service on Bank Holidays				
Service Restrictions	CD	NCD			
Shiphams, The Miners Arms (W-bound)	0725	0725	1000	1300	1550
Cheddar, Tweentown (E-bound)	0733	0733	1008	1308	1558
Cocklake, The Post office (S-bound)	0742	0742	1017	1317	1607
Wedmore, The Mall (S-bound)	0746	0746	1021	1321	1611
Mudgley, Mudgley Cross (SE-bound)	0750	0750	1025	1325	1615
Westhay, The post Office (SW-bound)	0755	0755	1030	1330	1620
Avalon Marshes Centre				1333	
Meare, nr Post Office	0759	0759	1034	1339	1624
Glastonbury, Community Hospital (S-bound)	0807	0807	1042	1347	1632
Glastonbury, Chinnock Rd Spar shop (W-bound)	0809	0809	1044	1349	1634
Glastonbury, Town Hall (S-bound)	0814	0814	1049	1354	1639
Street, Strode College (E-bound)	0822				
Street, Crispin hall (NW-bound)	0825	0822	1057	1402	1647
Street, Sainsburys (NE-bound)	0830	0827	1102	1407	

668 Street - Shiphams	Mondays to Fridays only - No Service on Bank Holidays				
Service Restrictions			CD	NCD	
Street, Sainsburys (NE-bound)	0850	1120	1437		
Street, The Library (SE-bound)	0855	1125	1442	1700	1703
Street, Strode College (E-bound)				1705	
Glastonbury, Town Hall (N-bound)	0905	1135	1452	1713	1713
Glastonbury, Chinnock Rd spar shop (E-bound)	0910	1140	1457	1718	1718
Glastonbury, Community Hospital (N-bound)	0912	1142	1459	1720	1720
Meare, opp Post Office	0920	1150	1507	1728	1728
Avalon Marshes Centre	0926	1156			
Westhay, The Post Office (NE-bound)	0929	1159	1510	1731	1731
Mudgley, Mudgley Cross (N-bound)	0933	1203	1514	1735	1735
Wedmore, The Borough Yard (N-bound)	0938	1208	1519	1740	1740
Cocklake, The post Office (N-bound)	0941	1211	1522	1743	1743
Cheddar, Tweentown (W-bound)	0950	1220	1531	1752	1752
Shiphams, The Miners Arms (NE-bound)	0958	1228	1539	R	R

DAVE STOCKMAN

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Paul is Stanley's son and is not involved in the business



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