

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - Mar 2020



The Marbury Lady sculpture front and back

Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair

As I sit here about to write my preamble, all I can think about is the miserable weather and the amount of rain that we are encountering. However, we are very lucky not to be in the same position as many parts of the country with flood and storm damage.

Precept

The Parish Council approved that the Council maintains the same band D charge as 2019/2020 for the coming year. A precept of £22,212 has been requested which is an increase of 1.4% and which will cover unavoidable inflation in Council costs. The Parish Council actively manages the budget and costs and its reserves are built up for future expenditure in refurbishing and potentially providing new play equipment in the recreation area. A major proportion of the budget is

set aside for this asset which is used daily by children and families.

Recreation Area

The Parish Council are currently investigating the costs to resolve the issue with the pathway surrounding the play equipment. It is necessary to try and have a better solution than the current gravel pathway which is prone to becoming very muddy after heavy rain. Subject to approval of funds and agreement with the Parish Council, we will be seeking alternative solutions. The cost is likely to be expensive and we will be unable to obtain funding from outside sources as we received 3 grants last year for the soft play wet pour resurfacing. In the coming months new picnic tables and benches will be installed.

Marbury Lady Wood Carving

As a volunteer at Marbury, I wonder how many have passed along Marbury Road and admired the new wood carving. It is well worth a visit to get a close up view of the detail of the carving from Marbury Road and also from the Orchard where you can see the reverse side has a different wood carving.

Finally, I would like to pass on my congratulations to Denise French, our Parish Clerk, who has taken up a new appointment as Democratic Services team leader at Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council. However, we are delighted that Denise continues with the work of Parish Clerk for Comberbach.

*John Ryder, Chair,
Comberbach Parish Council*



Fred Moores & Son Ltd
Building & Joinery Contractors

Mr John Moores

Tel: 01606 892055
Mobile: 07899 651669
Email:

11 Senna Lane
Comberbach
Northwich
CW9 6BD

The Avenue Accountant

Your local accountant based in Comberbach for your accounting and tax needs.

Compliance and advisory services for personal, corporate, partnerships and trusts.

Accounts, Tax, Payroll, VAT and Bookkeeping.

Over 20 years of experience.

Contact Bryan Jackson
Tel. 07853748011

Email: bryanjackson@mail.com

Marbury Lady - Photographs by Dave Atherton



The Marbury Lady is a sculpture by Simon O'Rourke, an artist from Wrexham, N. Wales. It was decided that one of the trees on Marbury Road, which have died due to leakage from a brine pipe, would be carved into a figure that represents some of Marbury's history and Simon proposed a figure of the Marbury Lady. His inspiration was the story or myth of the 'Egyptian Princess'. The roadside view shows her upright and proud, looking regal. The orchard side view shows her with eyes closed and hands clutching her chest, reflecting her sad demise.

(You can see the carving in progress on YouTube).

The myth and reality

The story (myth) of the Marbury Lady is linked to James Hugh Smith-Barry (1748 - 1801), who spent much of his youth travelling abroad. It is said that on one of these trips he met a lovely Egyptian girl and fell madly in love with her. He told her he would send for her later and make her his wife. On his return to Marbury, his family had



arranged a good marriage for him. His protested but was told that if he did not do as they wished, he would be disinherited.

A white misted lady

The myth says he married, as his family wished, and was intending to live happily with his wife until the Egyptian girl, for whom he had pledged his love, suddenly turned up at the door. Their relationship resumed and they had 5 children. She made him promise that, should she die before him, her body would be kept at Marbury. Whilst he did keep his word, upon his death his family moved her body and arranged for a burial at Great Budworth Churchyard. It was then that the hauntings started: a white misted lady floating around the grounds of Marbury Hall, inside the house cupboard doors and drawers would open spontaneously, doors would close of their own accord, and strange sounds would be heard. *(More information both fact and myth can be found online.)*

The Memorial Hall report

There are a couple of brand new regular classes starting at the Memorial Hall over the next couple of weeks:

Karate

Sundays 5pm to 6pm, and Mondays 5.45pm to 6.45pm. Starting 1 March.
Classes run by Cheshire Karate.

Yoga

Wednesdays 6-7pm. Starting 4 March.

Nikki Lord, Hall Chair
891187

nikki.lord@live.co.uk
comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com

A Message from Your PCSO

PCSO Wiggins holds regular Police surgeries which are held at the Post office in Comberbach; dates and times are advertised on the village notice board and on the Cheshire Police website.

Scam Awareness

Recently Cheshire Police have seen an increase in scam and fraudulent incidents being reported. One scam which is concerning it what we call 'Courier Fraud'

Courier Fraud is when a scammer makes contact with the victim, this can be via telephone, email or phone. They claim to be from reputable organisations like the Police or your Bank.

There are many variations of this fraud like for example:

Bank

Scammer rings you claiming to be from your bank saying a fraudulent payment has been spotted on your card and this needs resolving. They will ask for you to ring the number for your bank. This convinces you that the call is genuine, however, the scammer keeps the phone line open at their end so when you make the call you are unknowingly connected straight back to them or their colleagues.

They will ask for your PIN number.

The scammer then sends a courier or taxi to pick up your card from your home. It is possible the driver does not know they are being used as part of the scam.

Police

Scammer makes contact and states that there is a corrupt member of staff within your bank, Post office or bureau de change and the police need your help to identify them.

You may be asked to withdraw a large sum of your money with the purposes of the money being marked by the police or bank to be placed back into the banking system. They say this will help them identify the corrupt person.

On handing the cash over it is taken by the scammers.

Another variation is being asked to purchase an expensive watch, or other high value item, to try and identify counterfeit goods. You will then be told to hand this item to a taxi driver for transfer to the police. The item is then passed to the scammer.

To help protect yourself or family members please read the following advice.

- **Remember**

Your bank or the police will NEVER ask for your PIN, your bank card or for you to withdraw money.

- **Caution**

NEVER share your PIN with anyone. The only times you should use your PIN is at a cash machine or chip 'n pin.

- **Think**

NEVER hand your bank card or any goods you have purchased as a result of a phone call to anyone who comes to your door.

- **Investigate**

If you think you have been a victim of this scam, call the police!

1st Comberbach Guides

Keeping fit

This term we've been concentrating on ourselves - learning the importance of keeping fit and being safe while out and about. One of the older Guides created an obstacle course to mimic walking in the streets.

Each Guide had to round the course in turn while sending texts without walking into any of the obstacles and taking note of how often a 'red light' appeared. It wasn't easy. Another evening we created our own 'warm up' fitness routine.

Bouncing

Just before half term we had a trip to 'Inflation Nation' in Runcorn. It was hard to keep bouncing for an hour. Afterwards we had a fish / sausage and chip supper followed by chocolate cake. A great night!

Spuds and Puds

Our leaders have been busy. They are organising another Spuds and Puds night in the Village Hall on Friday 20th March at 6.30pm. Do come and join the fun. A ticket for a family of four costs £20; adults £7 and children £4. Please let one of the leaders know if you are coming so they know how much food to provide.

Also, the leaders are organising our annual camp. This year it will be at the Scout Centre in Grappenhall at the end of July. They are also looking at going to the Scout 'Strategy' camp in June.

Unfortunately, our numbers are beginning to dwindle. Girls, if you are aged 10 - 13 years please think about joining us. Fun and laughter guaranteed.

Senior Section Guides

Morals, values and keeping well have been our subjects this term. We've had lots of discussions (over tea and cake) and practical activities associated with self-care and women's rights. At one point the discussion of self-care developed into caring for our environment and climate change. Talk about lateral thinking!

Veggie leftover soup

We are now busy planning / organising our annual 24 hour event. This year it will be held on Friday 13 March 5pm until Saturday 14 March 5pm. Our subject will be 'up-cycling' - making something new from something old and using different craft items left over from other activities in a creative way. Saturday lunch will be soup made from left over vegetables. Do come and join

us for tea and cake and maybe try your hand at 'up-cycling'. It's a full weekend for us. After the 24 hour event we'll be gathering our cardboard and sleeping bags for a night in Great Budworth Churchyard in aid of the homeless. Please feel free if you would like to sponsor us.

The following Friday, 20 March, we'll be joining the Brownies and Guides for another Spuds and Puds, Bingo / Beetle Drive in the Village Hall at 6.30 pm. Do come and join the fun.

Senior Guides are always busy. Our numbers are small (there are only two of us at present) so new members will always be welcome. Come and give us a try.

VE Day

The Council would like to know if any local groups have planned any commemorative events for VE Day on or around 8 May.

If residents would like the Parish Council to organise an event please contact the Clerk with any ideas – parishclerk@comberbach.com

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboard by the village store and on Comberbach.com website.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 10 March at 7.15pm at Comberbach Memorial Hall. All are welcome.

Methodist Church and Sunday School

Firstly, just an update on our Carol Singing Collection; after further Donations the total reached an amazing £1,200 for the Chapel Funds. Very many thanks once again.

At the Sunday School Party on 18 January just over twenty children, young people and teachers enjoyed hot dogs, pizzas, jelly and ice-cream, cakes, Nick the Amazing Magician and of course lots of traditional party games!

On 9 February we celebrated our 141st Chapel Anniversary when our Preacher was Mr Peter Adams. The Service focussed on us being a shining light in the World. The Choir sang "Light a Candle" and "Shine a Little Light in the World". In his Talk, Peter happened to mention about Thomas

Edison and the invention of the Light Bulb in 1879. The Chapel foundation stone was laid on the 14 August 1879 and the building completed on the 12 August 1880! Quite an amazing feat in those days!

Our fortnightly Lite Bite Sessions will continue until Thursday 19th March and once again we give a warm welcome to anyone wishing to join us.

Messy Church is continuing to grow and develop. We have welcomed five new families recently with children of varying ages, accompanied by adults of varying ages! It's lovely to welcome grandparents too. The new picture on our Facebook page reflects that Messy Church is for all ages; children learn from adults and adults learn from children. Following

Christmas, we have investigated what strange things were going on down by the river and who Jesus picked to be on His team with activities from making 'God loves you' biscuits, to team work challenges. All finished off with a light tea and plenty of friendly chat. It's amazing what can be fitted into one and a half hours. For more details see our 'Messy Church in Comberbach' Facebook page, or email us at cmcmessy@gmail.com. Next date is Sat 21 March - all will be very welcome.

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 11am and we have recently had some new children joining us. After Easter, practices will begin for the Sunday School Anniversary on 17 May at 11am followed by the Evening Choir Celebration at 6.30pm.

2nd Comberbach Brownies



This term has seen us start our Wild Challenge, organised by RSPB, with planning some activities chosen by the girls to help and to experience nature. One of the plans involves being in Marbury Park but we're leaving that till the nights are lighter. However, the high spot of this term was a Dads and Daughters night when every girl assisted (?) by her dad made a bird box, which will be put up

in Pettypool before the nesting season. Thanks also go to 'Men in Sheds', Hartford, who cut all the wood into shape for us and to Ged who came along on the night. It was great fun for everyone and the Dads seemed to enjoy the cakes and tea as much (or more) than the DIY!! Once the boxes are preserved we'll take them to Pettypool. Other evenings have seen us celebrating Burns Night with

oatcakes, shortbread, haggis and some Gay Gordons dancing. We've also written a Unit story together; everyone contributing a small section. 2nd Comberbach are a small unit at present (11 Brownies) so girls aged 7-10yrs old are welcome to join.

We look forward to a District Family FundraiserSpuds and Puds/Beetle and Bingo night Fri 20th March Comberbach Village Hall 6.30—9ish. Suitable for all ages. Licensed bar and raffle. Tickets are available in advance £20 family (2ad+2ch), £7 adult, £4 child. Please support this event which is benefiting Guiding in Comberbach, Barnton and Winnington.

Comberbach WI

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



2020 started off with a fun filled evening in January – you can always rely on a Beetle Drive to bring out the competitive edge among Comberbach WI members. Our members threw the dice with gusto and there were some very interesting variations of beetles, partially and fully drawn! The winner – Ellen Buckhurst was given a very creative bowl of a variety of cacti.

The guest speaker at the February meeting was Ruth Thomson who delivered a very enlightening talk about the role of women in the War. She detailed the various organisations in which women played a key part in the war effort, with actual stories about the women who made such a difference. Women were key contributors within all the

war organisations - WAFS, The RAF Balloon Brigade, WRENS, factory workers, the SOE, Land Army and the Auxiliary Territorial Service, which the Queen joined as a young Princess. Stories about individual contributions – such as Mary Ellis – whose job was to deliver Spitfires, and on her 100th birthday once again piloted a Spitfire! There was generally a degree of resistance from men to women joining the war effort – especially in the Aviation, however, women more than proved their worth and capability over the duration of the war. Some 7.5 million women contributed to the war effort, which was ground breaking. It seems that once the war was over the majority of them returned to their pre-war occupations, or returned to

their housewife roles. Their efforts were finally recognised in 2005 when the Queen unveiled the Monument to the Women of World War II.

Plans are underway for the Comberbach WI 70th Birthday on April 24th and a full programme is planned for the year. The March meeting will welcome Philip Powell speaking on 'Art from and Alternative Angle'. The April guest speaker is George Pilkington with the intriguing subject 'Even the Birds and Bees do it!' Do come along to join our welcoming members on the first Monday of the month at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.

More information www.comberbachwi.co.uk also on facebook – comberbachwi

Missing a dog in your life?

- Become a volunteer dog cuddler!
- Companionship, fun and friendship
- Dogs to suit your lifestyle
- Completely flexible
- Full support 24/7



01606 800506
BarkingMad.uk.com

I PERSONALLY DESIGN YOUR
DREAM HOLIDAY WITH MY ONE TO
ONE SERVICE AND LOOK AFTER
YOU FROM START TO FINISH. FREE
CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE

travel counsellors ➡

With us...it's personal

Email:
joanne.johnson@travelcounsellors.com
Tel: 01606 570022

Fete Committee



The Fete committee are pleased to announce this year's theme will be "All Creatures Great & Small". We are excited with the plans that are taking shape to bring this to life and look forward to seeing the fancy dress costumes on the day. We hope the theme will be a "roar"ing success, and "ewe" all enjoy the activities, displays, "moo"sic, refreshments and of course the famous pre-Fete Village Parade.

Applications open

Applications for the Rose Queen and her attendants (Retinue) are now open with forms available from the post office and downloadable from the fete Facebook page (www.facebook.com/comberbachfete). Closing entries by 10 March please, ahead of the 12 March Spring Disco being held at Comberbach Primary School, when the successful applicants will be announced (approx. 6.45pm).

All contributions and offers of help before, during and after (take-down) fete day are gratefully received so if you are able to volunteer to help set up, tend a stall or the gate, bake a cake, help to marshal the parade, or you are a dab hand at taking

down gazebos, then please just drop us a line via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/comberbachfete or let our chairman, Steve (your local postmaster), know at Comberbach Post office where we will also post a list of tasks we would welcome help with.

Fun Running

Back by popular demand – Sundowner Fun Run Friday 15th May. After the successful re-launch of the Fun Run last year, we are very happy to confirm this year's event for Friday 15 May.

This early evening event, supported by BBQ & bar, certainly incentivises fast running times along the paths and trails of Marbury Park and is enjoyed by all ages and athletic abilities. Starting at 6.30pm with the children's 1k run, followed by the main 5k race at 7pm.

Pre-entry open

Our on-line pre-entry link will open on 1 March and offers a discounted rate. Visit <https://sundownerfunrun.niftyentries.com/Sundowner-Fun-Run-1K-5K>. Advance entries are £4 for adults and £2 for children (on the day entries will be £5 for adults and £3 for children).

All funds raised will be donated to the 2020 Rose Queen's nominated charity.

Support welcome

As ever, if anybody is looking for an excuse not to run but would like to come along, support would be warmly welcomed, to help to marshal, time, man the bar, give water to finishers etc. Please make yourself known to a member of the Fete Committee or contact us as above.



Comberbach Primary School

NSPCC Workshop

The NSPCC delivered a 'Speak Out Stay Safe' workshop in January. Sessions were delivered with the help of their mascot, Buddy, and covered topics like abuse and bullying in an engaging and age-appropriate way.



Creeping Toad Visit

We were privileged to welcome back to our school Gordon MacLellan. Gordon, aka Creeping Toad, is one of Britain's foremost environmental art and education workers, but his specialism is telling stories. During his previous visits to our school, he succeeded in mesmerising the children, inspiring them to learn, have fun and create stories of their own. He created stories that inspired, enchanted & engaged and workshops that captivated the children when he worked with all classes throughout his two-day visit.

Ofsted Inspection

We were inspected in school on Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 January. The inspection findings will be published in a report for the school, parents and the wider community and can be found on <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Race for life

Teachers and children took part in the world's most important race, Our Race for Life. Children ran, skipped and jumped and our parents generously supported the day. We raised an amazing amount of money of which has now been sent to Cancer Research UK

Young Voices concert

Our school choir attended the Young Voices concert at the Manchester Arena. This is the larg-

est school choir concert in the world. This year's amazing journey to the big concert night saw the likes of Tony Hadley, The Shires, and Ruti! joined by a stadium full of wonderful singing children inspired to discover their love for music.



Inside Out – Mental Health Week

We celebrated the launch of Inside Out Day on Thursday 6 February during Children's Mental Health Week. Inside Out Day calls for children and adults alike to wear an item of clothing 'Inside Out' as a way of making us all stop and think about how someone may look OK on the outside but inside they may be feeling sad or worried on the inside. It is a day to remind us to always be kind and think of others as no one knows how another person may be feeling.

Primary Schools' Art Trail 2020

Schools in the area were invited to create paintings or three dimensional work inspired by the theme 'Standing Tall'. The work was displayed in shop windows in Northwich town centre. Years 2 and 4 produced fabulous art work which was available for everyone to see in the windows of Rosebank Sports and J.S.Trophies.



Eco bricks

Our school Council are collecting Eco Bricks. They aim to collect as many as possible in order to make something creative for our school. An Eco brick is a reusable building block created by pack-

ing clean and dry used plastic into a plastic bottle to a set density. They enable us to take personal responsibility for our plastic use and it is amazing the amount of things that can be created. Around the world people are using Eco bricks to build in a whole new way. From indoor furniture, to gardens, parks, and structures; our imagination is the only limit! If you are able to contribute to school with an Eco brick, we are collecting bottles of 2 litre size and the weight should exceed 600 grams. Please hand them into the school office. More information on how to make an Eco brick can be found online at <https://www.ecobricks.org/how/>

Easy fundraising

Friends of Comberbach School (FoCS) have registered for [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). Raising free funds by shopping online through more than 3,880 retailers with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) – just visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/comberbachschool and follow the simple steps to sign up.

Every time you shop, you'll earn a donation for us and it won't cost you a penny!

Comberbach Tots Group

Our toddler group runs every Wednesday during term time. Why not pop down for a play and a brew and meet other parents whilst the children have a play. It starts at 9am and runs till 11am and costs £2 per session. You can find us on Facebook at [toddlers@comberbachprimary](https://www.facebook.com/toddlers@comberbachprimary)



The National Lottery Community Fund We Did It!

We have just received notification that we have been successful in our bid for 'Active play in Comberbach'. The National Lottery Community Fund have secured our funding for £9,955 and we are now able to start the process in developing a new trim trail for the benefit and development of our children. We are so excited to have been given this helping hand to improve our outdoor facilities.



Looking ahead....

Miss Stobart and her team of volunteers are looking forward to making a start within the poly-tunnel. We look forward to celebrating World Book Day and the fabulous array of children who come into school dressed up as their favourite book character. The Travelling Book Fair arrives giving the parents the opportunity to purchase new books and children to show their love of reading.

Comberbach Bowling Club

After a successful 2019 the Club is preparing for the 2020 bowling season which starts in April. Works are underway on the green and surrounds and there are some upgrades taking place in the pavilion.

The club is keen to attract new members. It does not matter whether you are an experienced or a novice bowler, or if you are interested in taking up

playing the game. All new bowling members will be made most welcome.

We also have social members who take advantage of the facilities, including the licensed bar.

If you are interested in joining the bowling club please call in and make enquiries.

Great Budworth Bowling Club

Calling all 9 - 18 year olds. Would you like to learn to play crown green bowls? Great Budworth Bowling Club is starting a new session for youngsters on Sunday afternoons.

First session will be on Sunday 19 April 2pm. Do come along!
Ring Anne O'May on 891156 if you would like more details.

Friends of Comberbach School: raising funds for school resources

Burn's Night: £1000 raised

Many local residents turned out on a January evening for our ever popular Burn's Night quiz & supper in January, hosted by our lovely and unflappable quiz mistress, Nikki Lord.

Collective brain power

The collective brain power of Rachel Cameron, Sarah Stibbards, Shane and Vicky Ross and Jimmy Cameron (Rachel's father who travels down from Dumfries every year specially for the quiz) triumphed, whilst a packed hall and well stocked bar meant the evening raised over £1000.

Eyes down...

Next on the calendar is family bingo, which takes place on Saturday 25 April in the school hall. Hosted by our resident caller Bex Miller; this afternoon event is a fun activity for all ages, with loads of prizes.

Tickets are a bargain at £3 (£2 for kids), including two



books. This is an event for the whole community - not just for people with links to the school - so please come along and join in the fun.

Summer festival spirit

Our biggest fundraiser is expected to be weekend music festival Comberfest (Saturday 6 June). Now in its fifth year, Comberfest is a community music festival for all ages. The event starts at 2pm

on Saturday with a varied programme of musical entertainment that runs through until 10pm and includes everything from 'Comberbach has got talent' to this year's headline band, Gresty's Wasters. In addition, there will be crafts, an inflatable assault course, a licensed bar and street food. In true festival style there are also a number of pitches for festival-goers who wish to camp overnight on the school field.



We hope to see some of you there and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all local residents for your continued support during school events. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children, available in advance from Friends of Comberbach School. Contact Lynda Bigmore, Kepplegate, The Avenue. T: 01606 892439, email: lynda@clevercopy.co.uk

*Lynda Bigmore, Friends of Comberbach School
T: 01606 892439; E: lynda@clevercopy.co.uk*

More of George Robinson's Memories of Comberbach

George was born in the village on 1927 and died in 1994
(These are Lyn McCulloch's notes from talks given by George.)

From 1928 to 1933 Mrs Connie Jones lived next door to George's family, in The Moss. She later lived in Little Leigh and was well known for her charity bicycle rides. In 1988 she was coming round the bend at Harrison's farm and fell off her bike; she recovered and at the time of George's talk was preparing for her 3rd Marathon for Dr Barnardo's!

Prize winning horse Britannia

Mr Hough from Marbury Farm moved to Stretton and his son and later grandson farmed after him. They used to hunt. Ploughing competitions were held at Anderton. Dick Jones was teamsman for Mr Hough. The horses were decorated with horse brasses and red, white and blue ribbons. Dick Jones used to win first prize with his horse Britannia, there are photos taken in Mr Whalley's field in Anderton.

Lord and Lady Barrymore, from Marbury Hall donated land to the village for the bowling green, war memorial and rec-

reation field. The bowling green itself was laid by local men Mr Evans Snr and Mr Lever. At the official opening, there was a procession with Barnton Silver Band, starting at Comberbach Cottage near the Spinner. The band played 'Onward Christian Soldiers' amongst other things. There were free teas for the children and also for those who had lost someone in the war. Lord and Lady Barrymore also donated the Barrymore Cup to the bowling club, and the annual competition is still held annually.

Terrible snow storm

On 28 January 1940 there was a terrible snowstorm. Iris Sadler had scarlet fever. She was stuck in Northwich and had to come home by taxi. There was six feet of snow, and soldiers stationed in Marbury cleared the road of snow as far as Soot Hill. The cold snap also froze Marbury mere and people were able to skate on the mere. Boys from the village would cycle across to Great Budworth, and a chap called Harry Hornby rode across it on a motorbike with a sidecar!

Bert Trautman

After the war, huts in Marbury Park were used to house German prisoners of war.

Bert Trautmann, the famous Manchester City goalie, was a German POW who spent some time in Marbury. Italian POWs were housed in brick-built buildings near Ideal Gardens, at Cogshall.

Later ICI made Marbury Hall into flats for 'bachelors', and in 1948 the huts were divided into East Park and West Park and local people were able to live there. There was a landing strip for light aircraft in Marbury, on the field behind Home Farm.

During the first half of the 20th century, houses at the start of Senna Lane, on the opposite side of the road to the Chapel, were mainly groups of thatched cottages; two blocks of three, then a pair.

Pipeline to France

During the war the government laid a pipeline to transport oil from England to France in support of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy: this was called Operation Pluto (Pipeline under the Ocean). Pluto went under the village, running under the Bowls Club car park, the site of the old Memorial Hall and the playing field.

Posted by Lyn McCulloch

Show the love for where you live

Village Litter Pick Saturday 4th April

Any volunteers to meet at the Memorial Hall at 10am.

Enquiries to 891540 or kathwharfe@hotmail.co.uk

A birds eye view



Siberian Stonechat photographs by FocalPoint Optics

Siberian winter

On Christmas Eve one skilled and fortunate local birder found a gift that many other bird watchers have had the pleasure of sharing since. He was the third person to spot, but the first to recognise, a stunning first winter male Siberian stonechat on Ashton's Flash. This bird is a first for Cheshire and was only identified conclusively after painstaking observation. This was confirmed by DNA analysis of another 'gift' the little bird left on a fence post in the middle of the flash, collected by a slightly larger man in wellies. After the initial discovery many people descended on the flash to pay homage to a small wonder. I took part in this collective benign madness, or a 'twitch' as it is better known in birding circles, the Saturday after Christmas.

For those walking or jogging past it must have appeared an odd sight when met with a swathe of camouflage-clad binocular botherers staring out over an area of seemingly ordinary land, all trying to locate a tiny bird in a bush. Well it is odd, and rather wonderful as well, that this visiting bird, who should have been wintering in S. Asia or the Middle East, decided to choose our patch to land on instead. Perhaps he knew he would be surrounded by those with his best interests at heart. As I write this, in early February, the apricot chested chat is still here.



Loonacy

I wondered later on if I had found it first would I have recognised the little jewel for what it was, or would I have put it down as an ordinary stonechat and kept walking? It is the first I have seen and experience, like hindsight, is a wonderful thing. I think on reflection I would have kept walking, but if I see one again I think I would now have at least a chance of picking it out. That is partly why I love this hobby because you are always learning. I had another learning experience a few weeks later. I was walking back to the main hide at Marbury mere when I heard a strange, strangled call. To my credit I stopped and looked to see what had caused it, but nothing was visible so I carried on. A minute later another call came from the mere which sounded uncannily like a howling wolf or a coyote. Now I knew I recognised this call from somewhere but it seemed so alien to my current location that I could not place it, nor could I see what was causing it.

As I approached the boat-house I was faced with a number of flustered birders running down the steps towards me asking had I seen a great northern diver on my travels. The penny finally dropped, and I turned back round to face a majestic winter adult cruising the mere like a giant cormorant. It called 3 more times, it's haunting cries cascading along the mere towards me before, less than 10 minutes after it had arrived, this very rare inland visitor took to the skies and departed. It is a call you hear on the soundtracks of many American movies, where the bird is known as a loon. It is eerie and evocative, setting the scene as wild and untamed, something I never thought I would hear so close to home. It just goes to show that anything is possible on our local patch, from loons to lovable lunatics.

JB

Friends of Anderton and Marbury

Saturday 28 March to Sunday 21 June

FoAM Photographic Exhibition at Weaver Hall Museum

The exhibition will be a selection of photographs submitted in our biennial competitions.

They will show a wide variety of ecological and leisure opportunities in Northwich Woodlands. Admission is free during museum opening hours: Tuesday to Friday: 10am-5pm, Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays: 2pm - 5pm
For information contact: Jim Jeeves 01606 77688

Sunday 5 April

Walk Through Marbury's Past

Discover the history of Marbury Hall, Parkland and Gardens from the 13th century up to the 21st century Country Park on a 2 hour/2 mile guided circular walk.

Meet: 10am at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge
This new walk has been introduced following a request made at Mary's very successful talk in November last year.
For information contact: Mary Jeeves 01606 77688

Wednesday 8 April

Spring Photo Bingo

Collect your bingo card from the Ranger Cabin and set

off around the park to snap photographs of the things on your card. Edible prizes for a full house!

You will need to bring a camera or phone to take the photos. Children must be accompanied by an adult, suitable for all ages.

Drop-in: 1 - 4pm.

For information contact: Melanie Bradley: 07884 441441

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 April

Woodworking at Northwich Woodlands

Spend the weekend making an item of furniture out of materials from the park.

This workshop will give you the skills to make a small milking or bar stool.

No previous woodworking experience required as volunteers will help you each step of the way.

There is a charge of £40 for this event: all monies will go to the Friends' Group, FoAM, and will go towards the workshop.
For information and booking contact: Dave James: 01606 77741 or e-mail: david.james@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Wednesday 15 April

Kites and Windsocks

Create a fantastic flying kite or windsock and test it in the park. All materials provided.

Meet at the marquee near the Rangers' Cabin.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Suitable for ages 4 - 104 years!

Drop-in: 1pm - 4pm.

For information contact: Melanie Bradley: 07884 441441

Saturday 25 April

Spring Time in Marbury Country Park

A guided walk at this wonderful time in the park to see the early woodland flowers.

Meet: 10am at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge
For information contact: Mary Jeeves 01606 77688

Saturday 9 May

Dawn Chorus Walk, Marbury Country Park

FoAM's birding experts will again lead this popular event for everyone interested in birds.

Meet: 5am at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge
For information contact: David Bullock 01606 781981



Great Budworth Garden Club

We held our AGM in February and the hall was full of members and guests, despite the really cold and windy night the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly. The chair, Jean Davies, welcomed everyone to celebrate 20 years since the formation of the club. She told everyone that she started it in 2000, and unbelievably she, Peter Davies, and Jane Fairclough, still hold the same positions as chair, treasurer and speakers secretary.

She said they were sadly 20 years older, but looked forward to the next 20 years!

Life membership

Sylvia Godber retired on the night, after also being on committee since the formation, and secretary for the last nine years for which we were very appreciative. Sylvia was presented with a life membership and a garden voucher for her sterling work.

All other members were thanked for their continual support and a new member of com-

mittee, Malcolm Torrence, was welcomed. The garden club goes from strength to strength even after 20 years, a wonderful achievement.

The new Events Cards were given out, and we have a fantastic year ahead celebrating our 20 year anniversary. A year to look forward to indeed.

Bridgewater gardens

Our speakers were Elaine Marchmont and Lynda Anderson, who are volunteer guides and speakers for the new RHS Bridgewater Garden at Worsley, Salford, which is due to open on 30 July this year. They were excellent speakers, showing us how they are creating a stunning 154 acre garden in the North West, the first RHS garden for 20 years. The heritage landscape of the former Worsley New Hall is being transformed by a fantastic team and designed by the iconic gardener Tom Stuart Smith. This is the largest gardening project in Europe and one of the most significant events in the 215 year history of the RHS.

Going to see the sights

The committee had visited last November to see the site and a members' trip is organised for 4 September this year. They were thanked profusely by Sarah Lawton.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10 March at the parish hall at 7.30pm, when another well-known speaker, Stella Exley, will tell us 'All I've ever wanted to do is grow plants'.

This is the last opportunity to pay your annual subscription, or to make contact as to your position as a member. There will be a plant stall and it will be an excellent evening.

Any information about the club see our website, or contact me in the first instance for details. Thank you everyone for continuing to support this wonderful garden club.

Jean Davies

*01606 892383 / 0789993 7683
or mrsjeandavies@gmail.com*



Bluebell Cottage Gardens bluebell walk in April

Report from Comberbach Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020

New noticeboard

The Parish Council has purchased a new noticeboard which has been installed on Marbury Road. It does not have a lock and is for community notices. Please use it if you have anything you think would interest residents and visitors to our village.

Recreation Area

The Council has again agreed a contract with Northwich Town Council to carry out quarterly inspections at the Recreation Area to ensure it is

maintained in a safe condition. The annual inspection by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) will take place in spring. In between these inspections, the Council has a rota of Councillors and volunteers who inspect the Recreation Area each month – thank you to all the volunteers including those who carry out repairs and maintenance to the Recreation Area.

Newsletter

The Parish Council pays for the printing costs of the Newsletter

but also receives income from advertisers. The Responsible Financial Officer will shortly be in touch with current advertisers to confirm that they wish to continue advertising in the Newsletter. If you would like to advertise in the Newsletter as a one off or regularly please contact the Council's RFO, Stephen Penwill, comberbach.rfo@gmail.com

The Parish Council thanks all advertisers for their support which helps towards the costs of publication.

Cheshire West & Chester Council



Win an
Eco-friendly
washing
machine

Eco-communities brings to you a
Sustainable spring fair
For sustainable fashion and more...

Rowton Hall hotel, CH3 6AD.
Saturday, 21 March 2020, 11am - 4pm

Visit: westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk for details.



Cheshire West
and Chester

Parish Councillor contact details

Name	Address	Tel numbers	Contact point for
Cllr. John Ryder (Chairman)	26 Burgamot Lane, Comberbach CW9 6BU	01606 891 827	Barrymore Crescent, Burgamot Lane, The Avenue - to Spinner Budworth Lane, Crownest Lane Senna Lane (upper from
Cllr. Jim E Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891 005 07708 633458	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Cllr. Rena Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891005	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Cllr. Steven Hornby	Sunny Bank, Marbury Road Comberbach CW9 6AU	07970 499227	Cogshall Lane, Outer Cogshall Mather Drive
Cllr. Jill Johnston	6 Barrymore Crescent Comberbach CW9 6PA	01606 892 121	Goosebrook Close, Brookfield Road, Spinner Crescent, Chapel Close, Reedsmere Walk
Cllr. Bob Holt	8 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	07739 046775	Senna Lane (lower to Mather Drive), Warrington Road (from the Spinner), Marbury Road, The Moss, Meadow Lane
Denise French, Clerk		07759 212449	parishclerk@comberbach.com

Residents can report any highways and street care issues via CWAC website using the details below:
<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx>

John Eaton Handyman Services

Handyman
Landscaping Services
Property Maintenance
Local Tradesman

3 Cogshall Lane, Comberbach
Please call on 07966873932
johnneaton303@hotmail.com

PERCY'S AUTOS

- Service • Repair •
- MOTs for Cars and Vans Classes 4-7
- Tyres, Exhausts etc, etc
- All aspects of garage services
- Professional Reliable Service

Tel: 01606 352461
199-203 Witton Street, Northwich
CW9 5LP

ANTROBUS NEW LOOK **Plumber and Handyman**

Antrobus-based, time-served plumber / handyman available Mon-Thurs to fix that dripping tap, dodgy loo, faulty shower or any other domestic plumbing requirement.

Bathroom utilities fitted, flat pack and kitchen units assembled and fitted as well as all types of handyman work considered. No job too small.

Prompt, reliable professional service at competitive prices.

Free estimates.

Call Ian on 07707 995 404 / 01606 891736

SUPERCruise **COMPUTER REPAIRS & IT**

Is your PC grinding to a halt?

Increase the performance & lifespan of your PC/Laptop & send your machine into **SUPERCruise**

- Servicing & diagnostics, including *FREE* anti-virus & spyware
- Hardware Repairs & Upgrades
- Custom Built PC's/Gaming Rigs

Call Joe Hayes 01606 892379
mazterbozz@gmail.com

Hodgkinson Building & Maintenance

K J Hodgkinson - Builder/Bricklayer
Over 30 years experience, Time served

**15 Mather Drive,
Comberbach, Cheshire
07734 252239
kevinh20x@live.co.uk
Fully insured, Free Quotes**

NIGEL MOORES **PLUMBING & HEATING**

Gas Safe Registered
Plumbing & Heating Repairs,
Bathroom Refurbishment,
Underfloor Heating,
Boiler Installation and Servicing

3 Senna Lane, Comberbach,
Northwich Cheshire CW9 6BD

Tel: 01606 891286 Mobile: 07984 038789
Email: nigelmoores1@tiscali.co.uk

Wilcox Rendering Specialists

Call Alan for advice and quotes on

07511 781350

alan@wilcox.biz www.wilcox.biz



*Brendan McGuire 2 Broadacre,
Comberbach, CW9 6QD*

Lawn mowing • Tree maintenance
Hedge cutting • Turfing • Fencing

07716686672 • village.gardeners@hotmail.com
www.villagegardeners.co.uk

What's going on...when, and how to contact the right people

Memorial Hall

Brownies (1st Comberbach)	Thursday	6 - 7.25pm	Zoe Jones	783634 07513229863
WI	1st Mon each month	7.30pm	Rosie Rowe	784858
Ladies Club	3rd Mon each month	Different Venues	Ursula Ryder	01606 891827
Love to Dance	Mon, Tues, Wed	4pm		
	Tues, Tots and Seniors		Zoe	07527 514810
Dog Training	Thursday	8pm		
Yoga	Wednesday	8-9:30pm	Beginners and Intermediate	
	Gary Lucas on 07757 547692 :email garylucas365@gmail.com or Facebook at 'gary lucas yoga'.			
AH Maths Tuition	Tuesday & Wednesday	5:30 - 6:20pm	Alex Hornby	07960 882068
Indoor Bowling	Wednesday	1 - 3pm	Rena Bradley	891 005
Karate	Sunday	5-6pm		
	Monday	5.45-6.45pm		

Chapel

Brownies (2nd)	Wednesday	6 - 7.20pm	Lynda Flynn	891571
Guides	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Anne O'May	891156
Marbury Senior Section	Monday	8 - 9.30pm	Anne O'May	891156
Sunday School	Sunday	11am - 12.00pm	Ian Woodcock	782655
Art Group	Mondays	10 - 1pm	Midge Broadhurst	01925 266 798
French Language Lessons	Thursday	7-9pm	Nathalie Poutineau	892741

Comberbach Primary School Hall

Toddler Group	Wednesdays	9 - 11am	Comberbach School	01606 891336
Rainbows	Monday	6 - 7.15pm	Sue Greenwood	76408

Anderton Village Hall

Scouts	Friday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Paul Underwood Rob Doel	07725 150 928 891789 07526 723516
--------	--------	---------------	----------------------------	---

Antrobus School Hall

Cubs	Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm	Rachel Cameron	01606 891023
Beavers	Wednesday	6.15 - 7.15pm	Janet Warburton	854014

Please send contributions to the newsletter to: newsletter@comberbach.com

Articles for the newsletter can also be made to any of the team below either on paper or by e-mail

Kath Wharfe 18 Burgamot Lane 891540 kathwharfe@hotmail.co.uk

Useful contacts:

Village web site	www.comberbach.com		
Marbury Park Rangers			77741
Homewatch			892568
Village Memorial Hall - bookings	07511302081	Between 2pm & 6.30pm Mon - Fri	
Clerk to the Parish Council	parishclerk@comberbach.com		
Pre-school website	https://www.comberbach.cheshire.sch.uk		
Comberbach Methodist Church	Rev Tim Simms		01606 301588
Sunday School Room Hire	Ian Barron		891579
Great Budworth Parish Church	Rev A Brown		891324
Fete Committee	Steve Howard		01606 891316

Dates for your diary

Mar	5	Lite Bite 12 noon to 1.30pm	Chapel
	10	Parish Council Meeting 7.15pm	Memorial Hall
	10	Great Budworth Garden Club	Gt. Budworth Parish Hall
	12	Spring Disco (Fete)	Primary School
	13/14	Senior Section Guides 24 hr event	Chapel
	14	Sleepout in aid of homeless (Guides)	Gt. Budworth Church
	19	Lite Bite (the last one of the Winter Sessions)	Chapel
	20	Spuds & Puds/Beetle Drive (Guides/Brownies)	Memorial Hall
	21	Messy Church - 4.30pm to 6pm	Chapel
	22	Mothering Sunday Family Service at 11am	Chapel
	26	FOCS Hot Cross Bun Afternoon (from 1pm)	Primary School
	28	FoAM Photographic Exhibition (ends June)	Weaver Hall
Apr	2	Comberbach Chapel Fashion Show (Fizz)	Primary School
	4	Village Litter Pick 10am	Memorial Hall
	5	Walk Through Marbury's Past	Ranger's Cabin
	8	Spring Photo Bingo 1pm - 4pm	Ranger's Cabin
	10	Good Friday Service at 2pm	Chapel
	11/12	Woodworking at Northwich Woodlands	
	12	Easter Sunday Family Service at 11am	Chapel
	15	Kites and Windsocks 1pm - 4pm	Ranger's Cabin
	19	Bowling for 9 - 18 yr olds	Budworth Bowling Club
	24	Comberbach WI Birthday	
	24	Newsletter Deadline	
	25	Messy Church	Chapel
	25	Spring Time in Marbury Park 10am	Ranger's Cabin
	25	Family Bingo	Primary School
Dates for the future:			
May	9	Dawn Chorus Walk 5am	Ranger's Cabin
	15	Sundowner Fun Run 6.30pm (Fete)	Marbury Park
	17	Sunday School Anniversary 11am & 6.30pm	Chapel
Jun	6	Comberfest (FOCS)	
	27	Comberbach Fete	
Jul	9	Comberbach Golf Open	