

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - May 2019



Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair

Elections

The Parish Council elections have been undertaken, with no necessity to hold elections as the nominations have been approved as unopposed. CWAC received 6 nominations for the 8 seats on the Parish Council; therefore, there is no necessity to hold an election for the Parish Council as the election is classed as 'uncontested'. The councillors elected are as follows: -

John Ryder
Steve Hornby
Jim Bradley
Rena Bradley
Jill Johnston
Bob Holt

The Annual Meeting to be held 14 May will appoint the Chairman and Vice Chairman. I would like to thank and put on record the work of Councillor Kevin Goulding who has

decided to stand down.

We therefore have two vacancies to fill on the Parish Council and I would welcome any support that can be given.

Recreation Area

Please note that the facility will be closed week commencing 13 May for the refurbishment of the soft play area surface.

A number of coloured pencils have been replaced and volunteers have completed a repaint of the pencils.

A number of residents have requested that they would like children's or family names added to the pencils. We will make contact with suppliers to assess costs and a minimum quantity needed. More information will be given in the next issue as well as via the website and school.

Highways

The Council have written a strongly worded letter to the Chief Executive of CW&C on the state of the roads through the village and to ask why our successful bid for "patching" of The Avenue has not been completed.

PCSO

At the time of writing this update, we have been advised that the Police are undertaking speed enforcement in the village through the use of a speed gun. It will be interesting to see the results!!!

Finally, a big thank you to the volunteers who undertook the litter pick and collected 8 bags of rubbish.

*John Ryder,
Chair, Comberbach Parish
Council*

Village Clean Up

On 6 April, 10 villagers turned up to collect litter in the village and surrounding lanes. A total of 8 large bags were filled with assorted litter. There was the usual food wrappers, cans, plastic and glass bottles; the most unusual item was a snooker cue.

In recent weeks, as well as the usual large number of Special Brew cans, a number of small silver canisters of nitrous oxide have been found in the lay by on Budworth Lane. Inhaling this gas removes oxygen from the lungs, thus giving a 'high', and can be fatal when combined with alcohol. Worrying to think that this dangerous activity is taking place by the roadside, possibly by people driving.

A big thank you Jeni, Bev, Sue, Jill, Irene, Ted, Michael, Jonathan and Steve who turned up on 6 April and to the regular team who work in and around the village. KW



Memorial Hall

We have a Baby Massage class due to start in the Memorial Hall during May. Sarah Gregory is running the classes, so if you are interested or know anyone else who might be, contact Sarah on sarah@hotmail.com.

The Memorial Hall AGM takes place on Monday 20 May at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along and join us, just turn up on the night.

Questions, queries and suggestions

If you have any questions, queries or suggestions regarding the Hall, please contact me.

Nikki Lord - Hall Chair
07721 501181
nikki.lord@live.co.uk

Poppies

Calling all knitters (ladies & gentlemen)! The hall committee would like as many knitted Poppies as we can make. This is to make really lovely displays for REMEMBRANCE DAY.

If you would like a pattern, please ring 891005 @ we can help.
Many Thanks in anticipation.

Comberbach Art Group

Comberbach art group members' continue with our painting sessions on Monday mornings behind the Methodist Church and also will be taking part in Northwich Art Shop's Grand Day Out 2 on Saturday 27 July at Northwich Memorial Court, Chester Way, Northwich, CW9 5QJ.

Entry is free and there is no need to book tickets, just come along on the day and see us. There will be over 20 local artists as well as community art groups and demonstrations which will be running throughout the day.

OH YES IT'S FREE!!

To reduce waste we are being encouraged to reuse and recycle items rather than throw them away. To support this the newsletter is launching a space for you to offer items you no longer need free to other villagers, in the style of Freecycle.

To kick start this the following are offered free to anyone who may want them.

Bike suitable for older girl/adult. Not in bad condition but needs checking. Contact 01606 891540

A selection of golf clubs including irons, woods and putter. Contact 01606 891540

If you wish to advertise anything in the next edition (July) please forward details of the items and contact information to newsletter@comberbach.com

PCSO

Just a few words from your local PCSO

Below are the dates for the next post office surgeries:

Fri 10 May 3.30-4.30pm
Fri 17 May 9-10am
Wed 22 May 1-2pm

Further dates will be advertised on the Cheshire police website and the local notice board. If you have any issues or concerns please attend one of the surgeries to discuss further.

Speed enforcement

This has been carried out on Warrington Road, where there were 3 offences captured. Further enforcement will be carried out within the area.

If you have any concerns regarding vulnerable or elderly residents within the community please contact myself via 101, facebook, twitter or email.

Are you concerned about your neighbourhood? Do you know if you have a neighbourhood

watch scheme currently active in your area? If you have any enquires regarding this please contact myself and I can provide you with the details.

Also please sign up to Cheshire Alert for monthly updates regarding your community and what the local pcso/officers are doing in your area.

Kind regards
PCSO Diana Wiggins

Methodist Church and Sunday School



Special family services

We have recently held two special Family Services - Mothering Sunday, which was led by Mrs Cath Speed from Hartford and on Easter Sunday when the Service was led by Mrs Gillian Main and Rev Andrew Pratt. Gillian, who is one of our Members, is in training as a local Preacher.

There were very good Congregations on both occasions. Our Children and Young People are now practising for the Sunday School Anniversary which will take place on Sunday 19 May.

'Who is my Neighbour?'

The Morning Service at 11am is titled "Who is my Neighbour?"

based on The Good Samaritan, including Songs and Sketches and then at 6.30pm there will be an Evening Choir Celebration with Songs and Readings. One of their new songs is an upbeat arrangement of the old Spiritual "Go Down Moses" A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join with us on this special day.

Sunday School float

Sunday School takes place each Sunday at 11am and new children are always welcome. We hope to have a Sunday School Float in the Fete and the Village Rose Queen and Retinue will be invited to our Special Fete Family Service on the 14 July.

Weaver Valley WI Choir

Every seat was taken on the 7 April for an excellent Concert given by the Weaver Valley WI Choir, when an amazing total of £1,300 was raised for our Refurbishment Fund.

Family film night

Our next event will be a Family Film Night on Friday 24 May at 7pm, showing "*The Greatest Showman*". Adults £3, Children under 16 £1.

There will be refreshments to purchase.

Comberbach Open Golf Championship

Easter heat

I am writing this article having just had the warmest Easter weekend...having written the previous one when it was warm in February...a strange coincidence but one that bodes well for the summer....!

Which brings me nicely to thinking and planning ahead and the world famous Comberbach Open Golf Championship.

The Open

As I told you last time the date for our great golf championship has usually been co-ordinated with the date of a smaller professional event, the so-called Open...we usually arrange our date to be on the Sunday morning of the smaller Open so that their

players can see and learn from us, to improve their game in the afternoon. This year we have been asked to change our date so they are guaranteed better TV viewing numbers...not really the case of course but it sounds good!

So the next Comberbach Open will take place on the morning of Sunday 14 July 2019, a week earlier than normal.

A fun day

It will be held at Antrobus Golf Club, with tee times from 08.00. Their Secretary is already looking forward to seeing us again. Much fun is had every year, and we try to adjust handicaps to get a different winner...

So, all you Comberbach golfers (gents and ladies) put the

date – Sunday 14th July – into your diaries, and let me know at the email address below of your intention to take part... You know you want to...

*Ian Philps,
Organising Committee,
Chairperson*



TV Licensing Email Scam

Phishing

An ongoing TV Licensing phishing campaign, first identified by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in September 2018, continues to be reported to Action Fraud in high numbers.

Fraudsters are sending the public fake TV Licensing emails that are designed to steal their personal and financial information. Since April 2018, Action Fraud has received over 900 crime reports with victim losses totalling more than £830,000.

How you can protect yourself:

- Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details
- Don't assume a phone call or email is authentic, even if someone knows your basic details (such as your name or address). Remember, criminals can spoof phone numbers and email

addresses to appear as companies you know and trust, such as TV Licensing.

- Your bank will never call and ask you for your PIN, full banking password, or ask you to transfer money out of your account.

What to do if you've fallen victim:

- Let your bank know as soon as possible and monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity.
- If you suspect your identity may have been stolen you can check your credit file quickly and easily online. Use a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results.
- If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk, or by calling 0300 123 2040

1st Comberbach Guides

We've not had much chance to meet this last two months. We had a long Easter holiday this year. It's nice to have a break but we missed the fun and friendship of Guides and the chance to learn new and exciting things.

Judging the best chips in Northwich

Nevertheless, we have almost completed our Network Stage 4 badge from the new pro-

gramme. The best part of working for this badge was walking round Northwich chip shops to discover which one had the best chips and sausage, was value for money and offered the best service. It ended up with a toss up between 'Lucky Pete's' and 'The Seafarer'.

This term we've made a start on the Make Change Stage 4 badge, looking at global and local issues and what we could/should do about them.

Challenge

Later in the summer we hope to hold our annual camp. Planning and taking part in camp activities can often be a challenge but always lots of fun.

Sadly a few girls have left us this term so our numbers are a bit low. Guides is a great place to meet new people and make friends. Come and give us a try. You'll always get a warm welcome.

Senior Section Guides

Thank you!

First of all, another BIG thank you to everyone who supported, came to visit and donated to our 24hr musical event at the beginning of March. Thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly £300, which will keep us going for another year. We enjoyed planning, organising and running the event and have now gained our Lead Stage 6 badges. Wonder what we'll do next year?

Cake and tents

During our Monday night meetings, apart from having lots of cake, biscuits and tea, we've been checking out all the tents in the Guide shed. Most of them were ok and we now have enough tents for our camps.

Backwoods cooking

We found time to do some 'backwoods cooking' in Marbury Park. Have you ever had bacon, potatoes, cheese and beans cooked in tinfoil on and open fire and then slapped between two slices of bread? No! You haven't lived. Come and join us and we'll do it again.

Exams

Now we are having a break from our Monday meetings as we are all busy sitting exams. We hope to be back at the end of June. We'll probably end the term with a party/BBQ. So for now you'll not hear much from us - but we'll be around.

2nd Comberbach Brownies

Out and about

This term we are all going to be 'out and about' as we try some of the 'Have Adventures' part of the new programme.

Picnic in the Park

The March storm forced us to cancel our evening in Marbury, so we're trying that again. We're also having 'Picnic in the Park'

at Vickersway in Northwich and going for an 'I Spy walk' round Comberbach.

Looking for answers

The girls will be looking closely for answers to the clues they have been given as they follow a designated route. We'd be grateful if you didn't repaint your front door, move your bird feed-

ers or significantly alter your garden as the Guiders have planned this walk already!

One Rainbow has moved up to join us and has settled into the unit well but we still have some spaces if your daughter is 7-10years old. Lots of fun available!

The Guiding Team

Fete



The fete committee are coming towards their busiest time of the year so there is a lot to report to the readers of the Comberbach Village News.

Rose Queen Confirmed

The 2019 Rose Queen Elect has now been confirmed as Leah Hubbard, and the fete committee take this chance to congratulate her and all of the members of her Retinue on their appointment. Leah has selected the World Wildlife Fund as her chosen charity to raise money for, and she is currently drawing together lots of fund raising ideas for the duration of her reign as Comberbach Rose Queen.

Leah will be crowned as Comberbach Rose Queen on Fete day via the tradition ceremony, taking on the role from Isabel Matzen, who continues to represent the village admirably. Isabel will be attending many other local Fetes and Gala Days in the lead up to Comberbach Fete (to be held on the 29th June), representing the village with aplomb. Thankyou Isabel.

Great Interest in Fun Run 'Sun Downer'

At the time of writing this article The Fete Committee are making final arrangements for the Comberbach Village Fun Run in Marbury Park, as one of our contributions towards Leah's Charity fund raising. Switching the village fun run from a

Sunday to a Friday evening 'Sundowner' with BBQ and bar has proved to be very popular, and with the considerable efforts of Lynda Searby, who has led arrangements, the entry numbers have dramatically increased, currently standing over 130 with two weeks still to go until the start gun.

Maybe the race records will have been broken by the time you are reading this.

Fete Theme is 'The Greatest Show'

The theme for the Village fete is now confirmed as 'The Greatest Show', so think circus acts, ring masters, clowns, jugglers and stilt walkers for your fancy dress.

Imagine you are at P T Barnum's mighty Big Top! The acts are being booked and the entertainment will be non-stop. Barnton Circus will be in attendance to match the theme as well as music from the Bostock Band and the School Choir and performances, The Sara Ferguson Dance Academy, Wirral Samba Drummers and Hartford Gymnastics as well as Ferret Racing (yes you read it correctly!), Cheshire Alpacas and so much more to enjoy.

Douglas C-47 Dakota Fly-by set for Fete Day

We can also announce that, subject to service requirements, the RAF Battle of Britain Memo-

rial Flight (RAF BBMF) have confirmed that Comberbach Village Fete has been booked in for a fly-by. We will be in the hands of the RAF BBMF team, led by Senior Engineering Officer, RAF Squadron Leader Luke Waskett-Booth, whose members will navigate the Douglas C-47 Dakota to pass over Comberbach on Fete day.

With its hugely successful aircraft design, the Dakota became one of the world's most famous military transport aircraft and it saw widespread use by the Allies during World War Two and subsequently by Air Forces and civilian operators worldwide. What a privilege it will be to see this mighty aeroplane over our heads on fete day. We are currently awaiting confirmation of the time of the fly-by which will be non-negotiable, so we will be working our programme of events around this special contribution to Fete Day.

More Fun Being Planned for Autumn and 2020

An early heads up that the committee are also in the process of arranging additional community events, including an informal food and entertainment evening on Saturday 12 October, which is to be held in the village hall, and an evening dinner event programmed for Spring 2020. Watch this space for more details in due course

Comberbach WI

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

The Comberbach WI celebrated its 69th anniversary in style with a party, buffet and many variations of dancing! An excellent buffet was provided by Louise and her team at Mid Cheshire Catering Co. Musical entertainment was provided by the Northwich based Swing Group, Pastry Shoes. What fun! A most enjoyable evening; thanks to everyone who helped to arrange the evening and attended.

The April meeting was all about Bees. Once the business of the evening was concluded the group was enthralled by the speaker – Ed Pearson – The Bee Man. Who knew that there was so much to know and learn about the art of bee keeping? The amount of work required, both by Bees and Man, is extraordinary, in order to make sure we can enjoy a pot of honey.

Members of Comberbach WI welcomed competitors and provided much needed refreshment for the Federation Quiz Final, with 20 teams competing for the first and second place trophies. Federation chair, Jean Harding, read out the questions assisted by Federation Hon.Treasurer, Ann Daughtrey, whilst Veronica Gough and Ann Clemett from the Sports and Leisure Committee marked the papers. Judith Kennedy welcomed members and organised the raffle. The



quiz questions were pitched just right, harder than the heats but with enough challenge. Congratulations to Helsby Hillside WI who won on the night.

Forthcoming events include the Resolution meeting on 13 May,

with a photographic competition on the topic of Spring. All welcome.

For more information www.comberbachwi.org.uk and facebook.

Friends of Comberbach School: raising funds for school resources

Growing our own

Local residents may have seen our display of spring garden contest entries in the school grounds during the month of March. This competition, together with the spring disco, raised £300 for school resources. Some of this money has been spent on kids' gardening gloves and top soil for the raised beds in the school garden, as the school embarks on a serious programme of vegetable planting - with each class doing their stint.

Bingo night: £700 raised

The family bingo afternoon in March raised a further £700, which, combined with the remainder of the disco money, will go towards the purchase of outdoor wellie racks in support of the school's goal of maximis-

ing opportunities for children to learn in an outdoor environment.

Comberfest 2018: community music festival

Our next fundraising event is Comberfest, on Saturday 18 May. Now in its fourth year, Comberfest is a community music festival for all ages. The event starts at 3pm with a programme of entertainment that includes live music, 'Comberbach has got talent', crafts, a bouncy castle, a licensed bar and street food, and runs through until 10pm. In true festival style there are also a number of pitches for festival-goers who wish to camp overnight on the school field.

The organisers will ensure that noise levels are kept to a mini-

mum after dark and will make every effort to minimise disruption and disturbance to the residents surrounding the school. 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.

Download the app

This year, we are selling tickets via an app to enable us to secure match funding. All you have to do is download the app at <https://comberfe.appbuild> and order your tickets. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children in advance, with under 5s free.

Lynda Bigmore, Kepplegate,
The Avenue. T: 01606 892439,
email: lynda@clevercopy.co.uk



My War – An Evacuee in Comberbach

I was five years of age when the War broke out, it was 1939 World War II. I don't remember leaving Liverpool my home, all I know was that I was sent away to Weaverham with my older sister, Margaret, and my brother, Alan; my Mum on the other hand had been evacuated to Comberbach with my younger brothers, John and Jimmy.

The first house we went to was awful, not so much the place itself, but moreover the way we were treated, like animals I felt, I can still remember having to take our meals on the fire hearth. After that, we were then moved to a place called Acton Bridge to live with a Mrs Cowley, lovely woman; my only real recollection of her being that she was a kind and jolly fat woman, I can only describe her as being a bit like the "farmer's wife" in that film about the pigs, 'Babe' I think it was called, she had those same weather beaten rosy cheeks, yet I still pined for my Mum.

Emotional Scars

Unfortunately, our stay with Mrs Cowley was only a short one, as we were then moved on to Comberbach to live with my Mum and my two brothers, although I have very little recollection of this time, what I do remember is that my Mum eventually moved back to Liverpool, leaving me alone with my two younger brothers. I being only five or six years of age at that time, I felt abandoned. It was from this moment on that my own suffering began, on reflection I now realise the War left me with my own emotional scars; War wounds if you like. It was from this point that I was treated not only with contempt, but moreover exploited; I had now become this woman's servant. I can't remember any good times only bad. I remember our younger brother, Jim, was treated very well, but me and John, well, we spent most of our days outside, not being allowed indoors much. The funny thing is, even though I spent six years of my life with this family, I can't really recall what the inside of that house looked like, I suppose it was because we hardly ever spent any time there.

I do however, have vivid memories of holding "our John's" hand when taking him for walks through the village or down the country lanes. I think he would be only three or four and yet no matter what the weather, there we'd be, the two of us, always outside, always together, and you know, we still have a certain closeness, you could even say a bond of shared memories that remains with

us today. John lives in Australia now, but I still think of him and can sense he stills thinks of me, I just feel it.

Yanks marching through the village

Together, holding hands, the two of us would love to watch the 'Yanks' marching through the village and I always remember one of them shouting to me "I'm going to marry you when you grow up!" and for a long time I really believed that he had meant it, thinking that he might one day come back for me, silly I know, but I was only a child after all, and a I one at that. We would shout to these Americans "any gum chum" and in return they would throw us some gum and chocolate, this was the only time we had sweets or 'candy' as they called it. I do know that the Red Cross sent parcels, because I can still remember the jars of syrup, tins of jam and chocolate. I think they were from Canada, because of the symbols on the tins, but I can't be too sure; I am certain of one thing, they were never shared with us, only given to the family of the house.

We kept our money in a "wooden box", money given to us by the people in the village or friendly visitors; I think we must have been the only evacuees in that village, I got the feeling everyone felt sorry for us somehow. We never spent any of our money not any of it, not a single penny; I often thought of that box, because it never got opened, not by us that is. I believed we would be rich one day with all our money.

School in Great Budworth

I went to Great Budworth School, I walked there and back every day, it was a long way, and sometimes it seemed like I had walked miles. I hated the walk to school, not because of the distance but because I had to pass the woods, I was scared, I always ran past. Sometimes I took my brother over to the Italian Prisoner of War Camp; they would talk to us through the wire fence and once I remember them making me a ring from a threepenny bit.

I remember that there was always a surprise for me when I got home, like the day's dishes to wash, the garden to weed or blackcurrants and raspberries to pick. I must admit these were some of my happiest moments, my time picking fruit that is; I remember waving up at the window at the man of the house, he was an invalid, sitting up in bed he would look out into the garden and we used to smile back



Mary (front) with other Comberbach Children at the Recreation Area

at each other. He was the husband of the house, but I never got to see him or speak to him, but I always felt that he was a lovely man, unfortunately he passed away.

Before school, my job was to gather the eggs, there was always this cockerel waiting to attack me, I wasn't pecked if I wore my wellies and Mac, but it was a daily dread. I remember the garden being like a little allotment with the addition of poultry sheds and the lavatory at the end of the garden.

Rupert in the newspaper

I quite often wet the bed during my six year stay and would be reprimanded severely for these accidents. The lavatory at the end of the garden, however, also got me into a great deal of difficulty. Firstly, I found it very difficult to balance properly on the large wooden seat, and often sitting too far forward, had me scared of slipping into the bowl itself, I would accidentally wet the front of the seat, something the woman of the house forbade. Secondly, the "lavvy" also became my own little sanctuary, this is where I often sat and read the Rupert strips in the newspaper, I loved to read, but I wasn't allowed books or much recreation with friends, I would often become engrossed in the stories, even today I can still hear the noises the village children made as they chatted and played whilst I sat there reading, I didn't care, I was content in there in that "Lavvy", until, that is, I heard that familiar "Mar...ryyy..., where are you? Are you in that toilet? What are you doing in there?"

"Chapple"

Then there was "Chapple" I hated chapel, every Sunday we attended, the sermons seemed to last for hours and we were not allowed to move or chat to the other children. If we did giggle or talk, the daughter of the house would tell on us and there'd

be trouble. I sang in the choir at the Methodist Chapel, often solo, I think I must have been very good at singing because people would come to see me. I loved singing and would often sing to my brothers; we became very close.

We had a special occasion in the village, some important person was visiting, I don't know who they were or what they did, only that I was the one chosen to present the bouquet. As I climbed the steps to the Dais, I remember this lady sitting there quite erect; I took one look at her and dropped the bouquet into her lap and proceeded to run back down the steps. Everyone including the lady thought the whole thing quite amusing, but not the lady of the house, when we got home, she 'let me know' what she'd thought, more wet knickers!

Paraffin and brown paper

Head lice was another ordeal, as she would search my head. I would be so afraid of her finding anything, I would literally wet myself. Woe be tide if she found anything, first came the 'hiding', then my head would be covered in Paraffin and wrapped in brown paper, the worst was when it had been finally washed, she would then make me dry my waist long hair with my hands, no towel, just rubbing it with my palms. I remember supper often being a single, mould covered biscuit.

My Mum would visit, I don't know how often, but it seemed she only stayed five minutes or so. I ran all the way home from school when she visited, I was afraid to tell her that I wanted desperately to go home because I was afraid of the lady of the house. I think that during that War I had lost my childhood but more importantly I missed out on my parent's love. I was a little mum looking after two brothers. I was there six years in total, I always longed for home. I wanted toys to play with and a normal life, a childhood. I always felt that I must have been very naughty for someone to dislike me in the way this woman did.

The day that the War ended

I can't really remember the day I went home but I know it must have been the day the War ended. I only remember holding my Mum's hand very tightly, I never wanted to let go of it ever again. I was now eleven years old, the last time I had put money into our wooden box it was too heavy to move, six years pocket money left behind, we were not allowed to take it home. But who cared, freedom was more important!

Comberbach Primary School

As we start a new term, we are looking forward to the launch of our new Curriculum. Whilst children still learn in class with their teacher they will also learn in areas which include Humanities; covering national curriculum objectives for Geography and History. They will be getting creative in Art and Design, Technology and Music, and including aspects of well-being and community cohesion. All of our teachers have a passion for specific learning areas and we are looking forward to getting started.

Class 4 Residential

In March our class 4 children went on their school residential to Robinwood. Set in the heart of the countryside in Todmorden, this experience is always very popular as it offers exciting and enjoyable opportunities for the children. They children participated in rock climbing, alien hunting, bouldering, the night line and we are pleased to say they all survived the piranha pool! Friends of Comberbach School

(FoCS) held a Hot Cross Bun afternoon on Tuesday 16th April; it was a lovely afternoon of music and entertainment. Our year 6 children were on hand to serve whilst parents, grandparents and carers enjoyed an afternoon of talent.

Ecobricks

Our school council continue to promote to reduce plastic pollution. The idea is you stuff an empty plastic bottle with plastic packaging, cling film, crisp packets, and other similar waste stuff that goes in the bin and ultimately ends up in landfill or the oceans. If you can contribute to our collection with an Ecobrick we have a drop off in the school foyer.

Class 1 'Great Outdoors day at Marbury Park'

The Northwich Educational Partnership is launching their next new project for the primary school children of Northwich and we are excited to be able to be involved. Class 1 took part in celebrating nature and learning outdoors at Marbury Park. It

was a great opportunity for the children to engage positively with nature in this beautiful part of Northwich, which we are so lucky to have on our doorstep. Such activities improve the mental health and wellbeing of our children and raise awareness of the fantastic resources that we have for nature and curriculum enrichment in our local area.

Comberbach Nursery & Primary School
EYFS Outdoor Stay & Play Morning
Wednesday 8th May 2019
8.45am – 10.00am

All current Nursery and Reception children and families welcome!



Prospective Nursery and Reception families welcome!
 (please telephone the school office on 01606 891336)

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*Brendan McGuire 2 Broadacre,
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 www.villagegardeners.co.uk

A birds eye view

Cold in Congleton

Before throwing myself into the manic spring migration season that grips Marbury Park every April and May, I had some unfinished business to attend to.

After two cancelled trips I finally found myself in the centre of Congleton in early April. Unfortunately, this coincided with a day that started briefly sunny only to end in heavy rain and a bitter easterly wind. Just the type of day then to be spent walking along the banks of the River Dane.

It is not the prettiest stretch, trapped as it is between two hulking great road bridges, any birdsong smothered by a cacophony of traffic noise. Its banks entombed in many places with concrete, and the rest strewn with litter. Despite humanities best efforts a few precious natural gems still survive here.

We saw grey wagtails, their tails and legs constantly bobbing as if in time with the ever changing current. There were kingfish-

ers, like darting electric blue flashes as they passed us along the river. They were joined by a male goosander, an imposing duck with a bottle-green head, black back and white breast. They are known as 'sawbills' because of their heavily serrated long red bills which they use to grab fish.

Dipper Delight

The bird we had to come to find was proving a bit more elusive though. The dipper is not a rare bird in Cheshire, but they are scarce and highly localised and unless you journey to the streams and this river below the imposing hills at our eastern border you will probably never see one. It is certainly worth getting wet to see one though as they are remarkable birds.

They always make me think of a blackbird who has had too much Christmas pudding. They have a pure white bib, a chestnut belly and head and a black back. Our first sighting was brief as one shot passed us and went under the bridge; after 20 minutes of searching, we

finally relocated it. Their white bib makes them surprisingly difficult to pick out against running water. We watched while it gathered moss for a nest; later, much further upstream, we found it again, miraculously clinging to the lip of a weir as it fed along it.

Our final sighting involved a pair of dippers in the pouring rain. They would wade out from the gravel bars in the river with their heads under water, as if snorkelling. In deeper sections they would disappear with a plop into the fast water, only to reappear moments later downstream, popping up like plump brown corks.

They never noticed us, and the endless stream of cars going passed overhead never noticed them either. Two parallel worlds split apart, but if you ever find yourself in Congleton with 10 minutes to spare and you look beneath those bridges you will join them again.

JB

Ladies Club

An enjoyable evening at the Memorial Hall was had in March. There was a demonstration of Tropics body products, all of which are cruelty free and natural with some suitable for vegans. Everybody tried the products as they were passed around and Hilary Houghton had a facial.

We were again in the Memorial Hall in April with an 'Antiques

Roadshow'. This was organised by Sue Finlayson who invited a friend along to assist her. We took along our antique items and between them they gave us a valuation and an explanation of the history of each piece. It was a very interesting evening.

In May we have a change of date as we are going for an informative tour around the

Japanese garden at Tatton Park, followed by a drink/lunch.

Dates

May 22	Tatton Park	
June 17	Afternoon Tea	
<i>(This may be held on 18 June TBC)</i>		
July 15	Supper party	TBC
August 19	Treasure hunt	TBC

Great Budworth Parish Church St Mary and All Saints

From the Registers

Baptism – welcome to Arthur Williams and Alex Stevenson who were baptized on 7 and 28 April respectively.

Dates for the diary

Sat 18 May

9.30am annual Boyd Walk, starting at St Mark's Church, Antrobus

Sun 19 May

Salt Sunday at Lion Salt Works
12.30 - 4pm

Tues 28 May

7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation Service, St Michael and All Angels, Middlewich

Thurs 30 May

7.30pm Holy Communion Service on Ascension Day

Sun 2 June

10.30am All Age Service for Rogationtide, with short walk around the village

The Boyd Walk

The annual Boyd Walk will be taking place on the morning of Saturday 18th May, starting at 9.30am from St Mark's Church in Antrobus, and anyone who wishes to join the Vicar and others will be very welcome. AW lived of course in Antrobus, and is buried together with his wife Violet in the churchyard at Antrobus Church,

but his most celebrated book "A Country Parish" is a wonderful description of the natural and social history of both Antrobus and Great Budworth parishes, and the walk takes in some of the places mentioned in the book, as well as affording walkers a delightful stroll through some lovely countryside with, at one point, beautiful views across the countryside and the Weaver valley. Please join us if you can - we'll be out for about two- and- a- half hours, and the walking is easy - I promise!

The Revd Alec Brown

Great Budworth Garden Club

Our March speaker was Colin Hickman, who brought tables full of plants to talk about and to sell. His family own Hoyland Plant Centre, a nursery near Sheffield, specialising in agapanthus, clivia and nerines. His talk was very informative on bulbs and how to propagate and provide the correct needs for each plant. He was asked many questions, and was officially thanked by Jerry Bentley.

A stimulating, educational meeting took place in April as Harry Delaney, from Reaseheath College, told members about Aspects of Spring Work. He gave us practical advice with demonstrations of how to plant, prune and protect plants from frost and explained the importance of light and correct watering. This is the most important season for growth, as 21st June is the longest day of the year.

He showed how to graft an apple tree and gave the specimen to Andrew Bushell, who chaired the meeting, to grow on and report back to members. A very full house had an excellent evening and Harry was thanked by Joan Broughton. New members, Ros Barclay, Simon & Sharon Batey and Maggie Earl were welcomed to the club.

The competition of a bowl of spring bulbs made a colourful display and was professionally judged by Eddie Horrigan. Well done to all who entered: the results are below.

1st Joan Broughton, winning an RHS Banksian medal
2nd Jane Fairclough.
3rd Lilian Norbury.

A full day coach trip is booked on Tuesday 6th August to RHS Harlow Carr, near Harrogate. Yes, there is a Betty's tea shop

there! Friends can come with you, but you MUST put names down now, and pay the coach fare of £15 immediately, or we may have to cancel.

The next meeting is on 14th May; the celebrity speaker is Adam Pasco, who was editor of Gardeners' World magazine for many years. This is a special meeting, but guests are welcome on the night. His talk is titled Grow the best Glorious Plants. Members who attend this meeting will be given a plug plant, donated by Eddie Horrigan, to grow on for our September Show

We have many exciting events for members this year, for information about any of these, you please contact me in the first instance.

Jean Davies.

01606 892383 / 0789993 7683

Friends of Anderton and Marbury

FoAM has a busy programme of events during the summer months.

Monday 20 May

FoAM's 20th Anniversary AGM, Quiz and Supper will be held at 7.45 pm in Comberbach Memorial Hall. There will be a charge for supper. To book for the Quiz and Supper contact:

Joanne Redley 01606 44728

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May

Come and find something for house or garden at **FoAM's amazing Bring and Buy Plant Sale** at the Rangers' Cabin in Marbury Country Park from 10am - 4pm. All surplus plants will be welcome. For more information contact:

Jim Jeeves 01606 77688

Wednesday 12 June

Simon Davies will lead a **Photographic Workshop** for true beginners, who have a desire to get to grips with the basics of a technical understanding of photography and are seeking to improve the end results. You will need to have a camera which you can adjust ISO/shutter/aperture; a tablet/phone will not be suitable. There will be a charge of £10. For any more information and booking, please contact

Graham Walker: 07973 114 010 or email: foam.photography@wenlockwich.co.uk

Saturday 15 June

Join FoAM's regular moth trappers at 9.30 am for **Breakfast**

with Moths to see the range of beautiful moths attracted to the traps in Marbury Country Park on the previous night. Croissants and orange juice will be available for breakfast. Donations welcome. This event will take place whatever the weather! For information contact:

Brenda Yates 01565 733197

Wednesday 19 June

Art in the Park will be an evening of sketching outdoors with local artist and tutor Rebecca Yoxall, using pencil and watercolour and Marbury charcoal. In the event of bad weather, we will work in the shelter of Marbury Lodge. You will need to bring something to sit on! Numbers limited, so booking is essential. There will be a charge of £10 for this three hour session, 6 - 9pm. Meet at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge. For information and booking contact:

Brenda Yates 01565 733197

Saturday 22 June

Pond Dipping for Grown-Ups will be a chance for to dip in a net and spend an hour or two experiencing the wonders of pond life. Great fun and a chance to escape the bustle of daily life! Group size will be limited, so booking is essential. Meet in Marbury Lodge at 10am. For more information contact:

Jim Jeeves 01606 77688

Saturday 29 June

The Wildflower Walk in Anderton Nature Park is a two-hour guided walk to view

the varied summer wildflowers in Anderton Nature Park. We'll meet at 10am on Anderton car park. For more information contact:

Mary Jeeves 01606 77688

Wednesday 3 July

Simon Davies will lead a **Photographic Workshop** for those who have attended before, or already cope reasonably well with their camera's basic settings and have used/tried their camera in other than 'Auto/Program mode' and want to develop more complex camera skills. It will also be an opportunity to go even further into the art of composition and learning to find the best ways and means to tackle more tricky photographic approaches. You will need to have a camera which you can adjust ISO/shutter/aperture; a tablet/phone will not be suitable. There will be a charge of £10. For any more information and booking, please contact

Graham Walker: 07973 114 010 or email: foam.photography@wenlockwich.co.uk

Saturday 6 July

FoAM's Picnic in the Park will be a celebration of Summer in the Park. Bring your own picnic or food to cook on FoAM's barbecues from 5.00 pm in Marbury Country Park. For information contact: *Sandra Head 01606 212264 or Joanne Redley 01707 44728*



Report from Comberbach Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2019

Neighbourhood Plan

Representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group updated the Parish Council. The Group had met with a representative of Cheshire Community Action to review feedback from the consultation held in autumn; there had been some interesting points raised during the consultation including a wish for a range of activities in the village, use of existing facilities and cycle paths but these were not planning matters which a Neighbourhood Plan could promote or protect. The Group had been advised that a Neighbourhood Plan would not give any additional protection to the village as sufficient protection already existed under Green Belt provisions. The Group had arranged an open meeting on 21 March to consider the matters raised through the consultation and would update the Parish Council on 14 May. The Parish Council will then decide whether or not to continue with a Neighbourhood Plan and how to progress the matters raised during the consultation.

Recreation Area

The Recreation Area will be the focus of a lot of work during May. The project to replace the Wet Pour safety surfacing will take place during the

week commencing 13 May; the Council has chosen this week to avoid Easter and the Bank Holiday weekends. We are very grateful for grant support from Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund; the CWAC Councillors and the National Lottery Community Fund; the Parish Council has also contributed nearly £8,000 towards the project. The Recreation Area has also recently undergone the annual RoSPA Inspection and no issues were raised.

Meeting Dates for 2019 - 20

The Parish Council approved the schedule of meeting dates for 2019 - 20 as follows:
14 May; 2 July; 3 September; 22 October;
10 December; 21 January; and 10 March.

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 14 May commencing at 7.15pm at Comberbach Memorial Hall. All are welcome.

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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>

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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

Chapel

Brownies (2nd)	Wednesday	6 - 7.20pm	Lynda Flynn	891571
Guides	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Anne O'May	891156
Rainbows	Monday	6 - 7.15pm	Sue Greenwood	76408
Marbury Senior Section	Monday	8 - 9.30pm	Anne O'May	891156
Sunday School	Sunday	11am - 12.00pm	Ian Woodcock	782655
Art Group	Mondays	10 - 1.pm	Midge Broadhurst	01925 266 798
French Language Lessons	Thursday	7-9pm	Nathalie Poutineau	892741

Comberbach Primary School Hall

Toddler Group	Wednesdays	9.30 - 11.30am	Comberbach School	01606 891336
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Anderton Village Hall

Scouts	Friday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Paul Underwood Rob Doel	07725 150 928 891789 07526 723516
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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
Angela Austin			ang.austin@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	www.comberbachpreschool.co.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

May	12	Northwich NCT Nearly New Sale, 1-2.30pm	Grange Jun. School
	13	W.I.Resolutions Evening, 7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	13 -20	Playground shut 1 week for resurfacing	
	14	Gt.Budworth Garden Club -Adam Pascoe	Gt.Budworth Parish Hall
	14	Annual Meeting Parish Council,, 7.15pm	Memorial Hall
	17	PCSO Surgery, 9 – 10am	Post Office
	18	FoCS Comberfest Music Festival, 3pm	Comberbach School
	18	Messy Church, 4.30 - 6.30pm	Chapel
	18	Boyd Walk (2.5 hours), 9.30am	St.Marks Church
			Antrobus
	19	Chapel Sunday School Anniversary, 11am & 6.30pm	Chapel
	19	Salt Sunday, 2.30 -4pm	Lion Salt Works
	20	Baby Massage Class, 7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	22	Ladies Club	Tatton Park
	20	FOAM 20th Anniversary AGM,Quiz,Supper 7.45pm	Memorial Hall
	22	PCSO Surgery, 1 - 2pm	Post Office
	24	Family Film Night - Greatest Showman, 7pm	Chapel
	25/26	FOAM Bring & Buy Plant Sale, 10am - 4pm	Marbury Park
	28	Archdeacon Visitation Service, 7.30.pm	St.Michaels & All Angels Middlewich
	30	Holy Communion Ascension Day, 7.30.pm	Gt.Budworth Church
June	2	All Age Service - Rogationtide, 10.30.am	Gt.Budworth Church
	3	W.I.Governess to King of Brunei Children, 7.30.pm	Memorial Hall
	9	Family Service, 11am	Chapel
	12	FOAM Photographic Workshop, 6pm	Marbury Park
	15	FOAM Breakfast with Moths, 9.30am	Marbury Park
	1.	Ladies Club Afternoon Tea	
	18/19	Royal Cheshire Show	County Show Ground Tabley
	19	FOAM Art in the Park, 6pm	Marbury Park
	22	FOAM Pond Dipping for Grown Ups, 10am	Marbury Park
	29	FOAM Wildflower Walk, 10am	Anderton Nature Park
	29	Comberbach Village Fete	
July	1	W.I. Motion of the Ocean, 7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	2	Parish Council Meeting, 7.15pm	Memorial Hall
	3	Photographic Workshop	Marbury Park
	6	FOAM Picnic in the Park, 5pm	Marbury Park
	5	Deadline for Village News	
	14	Comberbach Open Golf Competition, 8am	Antrobus Golf Club
	14	Rose Queen Family Service, 11am	Chapel
	15	Ladies Club Supper Party	
	27	Northwich Art Shop Grand Day Out	Northwich Memorial Hall