

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - Nov 2020



Light up Comberbach

Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair

As I write this short note on a cold and blustery day, I know winter is nearly upon us. The news about the latest lockdown is not good news but I know the community will pull together and help our residents who need any assistance.

During weekend of Halloween it was evident that many residents have entered the spirit of Halloween by using their imagination in dressing up their house.

There were some amazing displays and some budding artists!!! I am sure the small children in the village enjoyed some form of trick or treat albeit probably on a low-key contact.

Web Site

New Government guidelines have meant that we must operate our own web site for Parish Council business, statutory notices, financial accounts etc. The new website can be found under: - <https://Comberbach-pc.gov.uk/> We will be adding to the web site over the coming months and any Society that would like

their details on the web site should contact the Parish Clerk.

The existing Comberbach.com website and Community Face Book sites will continue for non-Parish Council business.

Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Many will have noticed that the Sid has been deployed on The Avenue and by the Spinner Car Park.

Certainly, my experience from manning the equipment is that the device does slow down most motorists. Of course, you are always going to get some who will break the speed limit wherever they are.

I would like to thank the volunteers; - Sean Mahoney and Neil Leah, who are new residents to the village, as well as Jeffrey and Ola Dodd, Vicky Moran and the Councillors who responded to the request to assist in the data capture of driving using excessive speed through the village. Drivers caught doing 36 mph and over will be sent a letter by Cheshire Police.

CW&C will be installing a black box in 2021 to assess the speeds through the village.

Based on the experience of using the sid for the next 3 weeks I think it likely that we will review our budget next year to include the purchase of our own sid which we could then deploy on the roads with a team of volunteers to change the location from time to time.

Covid Testing

Please see details of the address and contact information for the new Covid testing site on Leicester Street, Northwich (separate notice).

Christmas and New Year

Let me wish all residents a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year with the hope that we will all be able to see our loved ones over the festive period. Special thanks must go to all the volunteers who have helped the Community in whatever capacity over these last 6 months.
*John Ryder, Chair,
Comberbach Parish Council*

Just a few words from your local PCSO Diana Wiggins

During the winter months we tend not to see much of our neighbours – but during these strange times I feel that we should be looking after each other more than ever.

If you have any concerns for your neighbours, maybe not seeing them for a few days or just have concerns in general it is always advisable to contact 101 (non-emergency). Maybe checking if they need any essentials or have any appoint-

ments nearby. A lot of elderly people will not have any close family. The odd visit or phone call can make all the difference to them.

There are local Police surgeries held outside the Post Office at present. The dates for these are on the local community boards.

*Regards
Diana Wiggins*

Comberbach Village News Team

On behalf of Ron, Irene and myself, I would like to thank all our contributors for their continued support in these difficult times. We would also like to thank all those who deliver copies of the newsletter, many of whom have been doing the task for numerous years: Carol Heyes, Anne Ainsworth, Lyn McCulloch, Doreen Heywood, Fisher family, Julie Trehearne, Anne O'May, Anne Eyres, Lyndsey Entwistle, Janet Woodward, Anita Robinson/Frank Baguley, Hazel Taylor, Jeni Ellaby / Erica Hadley, Pat Sudlow, Pauline Thom, and stand by distributor John Darwin.

Thanks also to Jeff and Ola Dodd who have very efficiently taken on the task of counting out the newsletters and getting them to the distributors. It was great

to see other members of the village volunteering to deliver during the lockdown period; the speed at which the Community Support facebook page was set up and help offered; and the various initiatives of community activity that have helped to make this year more tolerable. It seems that 'community spirit' is a positive that we can take from this year and we thank all those who have been involved.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, despite whatever restrictions are in place, and best wishes for 2021.



Memorial Hall Report

The Memorial Hall reopened at the start of September with much reduced capacity, but fully Covid-19 secure and risk assessed, ready for hirers. We hosted a couple of birthday parties and welcomed back some of our usual regular hirers and were delighted to book in lots of new ones too. We soon realised a large number of other local village halls had chosen not to re-open, which wasn't surprising, seeing the huge amount of paperwork we filled in, criteria we were required to meet, and physical changes and additions to the building itself. Along with school halls and gyms being temporarily out of bounds, it meant we benefitted, and our diary filled considerably, which was

brilliant for us on many levels, not least financially. We're a non-profit making charity and regular hirers are our lifeblood. Our usual dance school, dog training, karate and yoga classes returned, and we also welcomed pilates, fencing, a textile group, plus a full day and a couple of evenings of cheerleading.

Sadly of course, on 5 November this will all grind to a halt for a month, but we hope to welcome everyone back as soon as possible afterwards; always keeping within whatever government guidelines state. Liz Cook has worked so hard keeping things going and keeping lines of communication open with hirers as guidelines changed,

sometimes on a weekly basis, so I am hugely grateful to her.

Our next project, when we are able, is to makeover the outdoor space between the Hall and the Rec Area. We know this won't come cheap so we'd love to call on the village community to help; there will be plenty of tasks that require no skill at all, just time and effort! We'll report back in the new year.

*Nikki Lord
Hall Committee
comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com
Nikki - 07721 501181
Liz - 07771 638324*

Light up Comberbach

The idea for Light Up Comberbach came from a friend who lives in New Mills in the Peak District. Unable to host a lantern parade this year, they held a Light Up Festival in September. I thought it was an idea worth stealing to bring some extra light to the dark nights and give the village another reason to come together and do something to

make people smile - the fete seems like a long time ago.

Walking around the village has been a lovely experience this evening, it is a great atmosphere. Some people have made a huge effort and really used their imaginations.

Thanks to Steve Howard and the fete committee for the leaflet, to the team of people who delivered them and to the village of Comberbach for going with it.

*Helen Gardner
PS lots of photos and comments on facebook*

Comberbach Nursery and Primary School



A Very Warm Welcome Back to School!

It is like we have never been away! The children have quickly settled back into school life, and there has been a real 'buzz' in all of our classrooms - the children and staff have not stopped smiling. The children have loved telling us their Summer stories, and we have loved listening to them.

We are adapting to the challenges and changing the ways we work. We started by having a Socially Distanced Macmillan Coffee morning. It proved to be a great success and opportunity to raise much needed funds for an amazing charity which helps to provide and give support to people in need.

Virtual Assembly

We celebrated Harvest Festival in school with a virtual assembly. Parents were able to see it online through our social media platforms and we had an abundance of donations which we donated to The Mid-Cheshire Food Bank. We promoted BNF Healthy Eating Week which took place at the end of September. Healthy Eating Week celebrates and promotes healthy eating, as well as food provenance, cooking and being active. Over the years, it has become a focal point during the school calendar to promote

health! Dolce, our school meal provider, also launched their new hot menu for the Autumn term.

Be Bright Be Seen

Our newly-appointed Junior Safety Officers (JSO's) are Daisy Kinsey & Owen Major. Working in partnership with Cheshire West & Chester Council's Road Safety Officers and Cheshire Constabulary, they help to promote road, neighbourhood and personal safety. The focus of their first safety messages for October was on Be Bright Be Seen, concentrating on wearing bright clothes throughout autumn and winter; also how to stay safe when enjoying Bonfire Night on 5 November.

We encouraged the children to keep moving and to be more active during Walk to School Week 2020. For some of our parents this could mean walking from a little further afield. Our 5-day challenge took place from 5 - 9 October. There was a prize for the child who walked the most miles at the end of this week!

Nursery News

In Nursery the topic is "Getting to know you." They have been finding out lots of things about each other and talking about family life, how we are all different, the need to look after each other and be kind, and of course lots of baking. They have made egg muffins, pear crumble and oat biscuits! To celebrate national curry week, they made their own vegetable curry too. They have also been learning about autumn time and harvest.

Year updates

Reception Class' topic this term is called 'Getting to know you'. They are focusing on The Everywhere Bear. The class made self-portraits. In Phonics they have focused on Rhyme & Alliteration and learning to use the Phonics hero app at home and at school. Whilst in Maths they are sorting, comparing and exploring patterns.

Year 1 have written a wanted poster for The Big Bad Wolf and they have been testing materials to understand and quantify whether a specific material or treatment is suitable for a particular application.

Year 2 have been learning all about Space and discovering facts about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. In English they are planning their own stories in the style of 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. Rather than catching a star, they have their own ideas such as catching the moon or a rainbow.

Year 3 quality text is '*The Night Gardener*' by the Fan Brothers and they have been using it to inspire their writing. In science they have been learning about plants and they dissected lily flowers to find all of the different parts. In RE they were learning about how Hindus view God and how Diwali is celebrated. In geography they have been finding out about our place in the world. They are looking forward to creating clay animal sculptures in their art lessons starting with a virtual tour of Chester Zoo.

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Year 4 have been learning about plastic pollution and the effects on the planet. They're making sculptures using wire and recycled plastic that is inspired by their learning and the artwork of Alexander Calder.

Years 5 have been researching Slavery and in science they are experimenting with forces.

Years 6 have had a Soup kitchen, using vegetables from our own kitchen garden. They are researching Evolution and Inheritance in Science and have written a discovery narrative - what did Darwin discover?

Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing body has a vacancy for Parent Governors and we would like to invite

parents of children currently attending the school to apply. If you are interested in being part of a team that is excited about continually improving Comberbach, especially if you have experience of school governance or change management, please contact the school office or *Mrs Dakin at Head@comberbach.cheshire.sch.uk* for more information.

Friends of Comberbach School (FoCS)

Too ghoul for school

Local residents may have seen the display of creatively carved pumpkins in the school garden during October. These were entries for the school pumpkin competition, which raised over £50. This money will go towards our current fundraising target of revamping the school libraries. Drive-in movie night – unfortunately this has had to be cancelled.

Virtual Burns' Night

We are also planning to host our popular Burn's Night quiz & supper, albeit in a virtual form, on Saturday 23 January. Nikki Lord has agreed once

again to take on the mantle of quiz mistress and we are hoping to deliver the 'haggis, neeps & tatties' supper in home delivery hamper format. More details to follow.

Tea towels: Christmas gift idea?

As a further fundraising initiative, as Christmas looms, we are printing tea towels decorated with the children's self-portraits. They will be available to order from November, priced as follows: £5 for 1, £9 for 2, £12 for 3.

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

A message from Cheshire West and Cheshire

App to report issues to the Council

Please find below information on downloading the new mobile app 'Report IT'.

The app is available to download from both the Apple and android app store by simply searching for Cheshire West and Chester.

To do this follow these simple steps:

- 1 Go to you Apple App Store or Google Play store - from where you download all of your other apps
- 2 Search for Cheshire West and Chester
- 3 Click on the install button to download it.

For help on how to use the new app please see the link below
<https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/440740855/cac24b70b6>

Coronavirus Testing

Below is the link for booking a test. The nearest test site in Northwich is on Leicester St next to Aldi.

Residents with symptoms can book an appointment at the new sites on the national portal at: www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are a new continuous cough, a fever, or a loss or change in sense of taste and smell.

Regards
Lynn Gibbon
Marbury Ward Councillor



Comberbach WI



The Marbury Meet-up



Harvest

Locked down, but not out!!

Here we are in Tier 2 lockdown, so meetings are a big no-no, but as the saying goes, where there's a will, there's a way! We have had to cancel everything through to Christmas, but all sorts of inspiring speakers have been booked to appear on Zoom by Cheshire Federation for our members and other WIs to enjoy.

Zoom zooming

Some of our WI members have already taken part and have enjoyed the talks and overall experience. We are also trying to get our members Zooming, but we need enough people to make it viable, so we are taking baby steps and are going to Zoom a quiz and have a virtual coffee morning/or afternoon first to try it out.

Keeping in the loop

The Committee has worked hard ringing round all our members to

the WI INSPIRING WOMEN

make sure everyone is ok, supported and to just have a friendly chat. We don't want anyone to feel isolated - things are difficult enough as it is. It also gives our members the chance to keep us informed and to tell us anything they want us to consider or do. Sian Chandler has been doing a fantastic job of compiling and producing our monthly newsletter, "Ramblings", which is also keeping everybody in the loop and everyone in our WI is welcome to contribute so the content varies from month to month.

The newsletter has been well received and goes out as an email to most members and as a delivered hard copy to those without access to email. Our WI ladies enjoy reading about members' trips out, what they have been doing as well as having anecdotes, gardening reports, cookery items, recipes to try and the occasional puzzle to solve.

Marbury Meet-up

We did manage to have a Marbury Meet-Up, which involved bringing a snack lunch and a chair to the picnic area and we spent a pleasant time chatting, catching up and having a stroll afterwards, despite the damp and chill. Sara Smith has hosted a group of six (5+1) under her garden awning to chat about books but these gatherings will soon stop, as sitting outside in October/November is of limited appeal now the weather is becoming decidedly autumnal. So the WI is alive and kicking and we are not about to let Covid KO us! We have to look ahead to the spring and hope that things will ease soon.

Janine Hampton (President)



**Deadline for
newsletter articles for
Jan / Feb is 2nd
January 2021**

Comberbach Community Christmas' Event

Following the great success early this year of 'Front Garden Fete', the Fete Committee are busy preparing a new event for the village: 'Comberbach Community Christmas'.

We all know that Christmas this year is going to be different, and we may not be able to do the things that we would normally enjoy, or hold the company of those we would normally see, so your local community will be all the more important.

The Fete Committee, will therefore be bringing you 'Comberbach Community Christmas'. The event will comprise the following, all of which have been selected in the interests of full compliance with social distancing guidance:

- 1 **Snowman / best decorated house competition.**
- 2 **Snowman Trail.**
- 3 **Pop-up wood fired pizza takeaway from The Outback Pizza Company.**
- 4 **Santa sleigh tour of the village (by Vale Royal Lions club).**
- 5 **Pop-up street corner carols and brass.**

Look out for the Fete Committee newsletter that will be coming through your door soon. This will include more details of how to take part, how to submit your pizza order, and what to expect, but to whet your appetite....

Best Snowman and Decorated House

Build your best snowman or festive creation and display it prominently in your front garden. Don't wait for the snow to come though! Get building

with whatever you can lay your hands on. Think annual scarecrow competition, but festive with (Christmas) bells on! Use your tinsel, baubles, fairy lights and get creative! There will be prizes for the best snowman / creation and also the best decorated house.

Entries to be on display from Saturday 5 December onwards with judging the following weekend (Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 December).

Snowman Trail

All snowman and decorated house entries will be included on a Christmas village trail map. This will be issued on Friday 11 December. The trail route can then be followed on foot allowing you to enjoy all the entries at a leisurely pace, and wonder at every creation in turn.

Pop-up Pizza Takeaway

The Outback Pizza Company will be visiting the village on Saturday 12 December, bringing their Pop-up pizza takeaway to the Memorial Hall car park. Making fresh cooked pizza with only the finest ingredients, this is a real treat and something new for Comberbach. All pizzas are cooked to order in their mobile wood fired pizza oven.

Their conversion of a Landrover Defender into mobile wood-fired pizza oven, makes for a fresh mouth-watering takeaway. Orders are to be made in advance when a late afternoon / early evening collection time is provided. There are limited slots so don't miss out! More details on how to order will be published via social media and



will be in the fete newsletter to arrive through your door soon. Contactless payment will be available on collection in accordance with Covid guidelines. For every pizza purchased The Outback Pizza Company have kindly agreed to be make a contribution to the Village Rose Queen's chosen cause, which this year is The Brian Tumour Charity. For more on the Outback Pizza Company including their menu and testimonials, visit: <https://www.theoutback-pizzacompany.co.uk/>.

Santa Sleigh Tour of the Village

We are told by Vale Royal Lions Club that Father Christmas will be paying us a visit on Friday 11 December, touring the village by sleigh. Accompanied by

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members of the Vale Royal Lions club, Santa will pass along our side streets, so listen out for his signature 'Ho! Ho! Ho!' and a keen eye will also see his magic reindeer.

Pop-up Street Corner Carols and Brass

On Saturday 12 December the Bostock Band will be visiting the village. Splitting into a series of brass quintets, they will be popping-up and playing carols and other festive melodies. First playing outside the Chapel, they will then move on to many locations across the village, so no matter where you live, they will be performing a slot near you! There will be a bucket collection, again in aid of the Rose Queen's chosen cause, The Brain Tumour Charity. Keep your eyes peeled on social media for more details of all

Comberbach Village News
of the above, as to be released soon.

Get Involved!

We hope you enjoy the events that the Fete Committee put on, but it won't be possible without volunteers coming forward. We are actively looking for more people to join us, to share the fun and enjoyment that comes from being part of this great group. Maybe you are new to the village, or have had a change of circumstance giving just that little bit of time that is needed to get involved. Please contact us via at fete@comberbach.com or via our facebook page: www.facebook.com/comberbachfete. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Fete AGM

This year, due to Covid restrictions, it is anticipated that the Fete AGM may need to be held

via internet conference call. If you would like to attend, please contact us with your email address so that you can be sent a link to join the meeting.

Saturday 5 December onwards

Display your snowman / creation and best decorated house entry

Friday 11 December

Snowman trail issued

Friday 11 December

Santa sleigh tour of the village (by Vale Royal Lions club).

Saturday and Sunday 12/13 December

Walk the snowman trail and entry judging.

Saturday 12 December

Pop-up wood fired pizza takeaway from The Outback Pizza Company.

Saturday 12 December

Pop-up street corner carols and brass

Friends of Anderton and Marbury

FoAM Photo Competition is still on!!!!

Entries now being taken.

If you want to print your own (maximum size A4), you can post them or top them off to:

Jim Jeeves % The Ranger's Office, Marbury.

Entries can also now be made by sending a file of your entries to: jim.foam@icloud.com

Files need to be accompanied by:-

Name of Photographer - With contact details

Title of Photos and Category - Maximum of 4 per entrant

(Wildlife Flora; Wild life Fauna; Landscape; Work, Rest and Play)

The files must be the finished photo (cropping and editing is the responsibility of the photographer). Full details on FoAM's website: foam.merseyforest.org.uk

- click on 'Photographic Competition', or contact me on Jim.foam@icloud.com

Recommended reading

I have just finished reading a book, "*Growing up with Foreigners*" by Peter Frank. The book documents the fascinating lives of his parents, who separately fled Europe at the outbreak of World War II. Henry and Christine met and married in Devon and looked for ways to support a family.

As a refugee Henry worked on several farms and nurseries in Devon and Hampshire. He took a correspondence course with the RHS and secured a job as head gardener for a lieutenant-colonel in Denbighshire. From there the family moved to Warburton, near Lymm, where Henry managed a plant nursery owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Between 1953 and 1978,

Henry and Christine Frank ran Marbury Hall Nurseries and had a stall on Northwich Market. The story is both entertaining and moving.

The book is published by Pegasus and is available from most book sellers.

Mary

Comberbach Methodist Church

New Vestibule

'The New Vestibule is now finished and looks amazing. With the addition of internal spot lights it really is wonderful to just look through and gaze at how awesome and inviting the inside of the Church looks.

Many thanks to everyone (too many to mention) who have made this possible. Everyone is very welcome to come on a Sunday at 11am, but with the Covid rules you have to let us know if you would like to come by letting me know beforehand: bob.woodcock@hotmail.co.uk or 01606891771 to 'RESERVE' your seat'.

Robert Woodcock
(Senior Steward)

(please note services will not take place in November due to lockdown rule changes)

We were very pleased to be able to open the Chapel in time for our Harvest Festival on 27 September, when the Congregation brought items for the Foodbank Collection. We have many restrictions in place so we can only accommodate approximately 35 at each Service.

No singing

To comply with the rules, our building has to be kept well ventilated and is therefore relatively cool, so please come prepared. We are not allowed to sing - humming yes, but not always easy with a mask and glasses! The words of the Hymns are put onto the screen for us to follow, whilst Alan plays them through on the Organ. Our Sunday School Children are having monthly get-togethers on Zoom and the Choir are also meeting up, which is good fun, but a bit tricky to keep together with the time difference that comes with a Zoom Sing. The Sunday School has now decided to raise money for a Toilet Twinning Charity in Nepal, by means of home collecting boxes. Each toilet costs £60.

Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, we are supporting the Mid-Cheshire Food Bank for our Christmas Appeal, using the Reverse Advent Calendar attached to your Newsletter. The idea of this is that each day during December, we take something from our food cupboard, and put it in a box for the Food Bank. If you then email Gail Woodcock we

will arrange for the boxes to be collected. Your contributions will be very much appreciated. We thank the Newsletter Team for including the Calendar. (As usual anyone wanting to give smaller donations to the Food Bank can leave them inside the back door of the Chapel).

Collection for NSPCC

Unfortunately, due to Covid, our Village Carol Service will not take place this year, but we will still be having a Collection of Toys and Gifts for the NSPCC. This will take place between 12 noon and 2pm on Sunday 13 December, on the Chapel front lawn. Gifts are requested for Children from four years upwards, including Teenagers.

We really hope to be able to have some form of Carol Singing, socially distanced of course!, possibly singing at strategic places in the Village. We will notify you of this nearer the time

As well as our Weekly Services, there will be a Christmas Day Service at 11am, again with reserved seats.

Do you live by yourself, are over 75 years old and will be alone in Comberbach on Christmas Day?

If so then Dennis and I would love to cook and deliver a Christmas meal to your house on Christmas Day. Please do get in touch by 1 December: you can do so by phoning 01606 891755 or leaving a note with your contact details at the post office.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Helena O'Byrne

P.S hopefully any lockdown rules in place at the time will allow this to happen, we will plan for it to go ahead and be in touch if there is a problem.

Mid-Cheshire Food Bank

1 Tinned fruit	2 Washing up liquid	3 Beakfast Cereal
7 Shampoo	8 Soap	9 Sponge Pudding
13 Chocolate Bar	14 Tea Bags	15 Tinned fish
19 Jam	20 Fruit Juice	21 Biscuits

For the cost of a cup of coffee each day, build up a Food Bank Box during Advent

Reverse Advent Calendar

4

Shower gel

5

Biscuits

6

Rice Pudding

10

Hand Wash

11

Soup

12

Toothpaste

16

Pasta Sauce

17

UHT Milk

18

Coffee

22

Rice Pudding

23

UHT Custard

24

Tinned Meat

Contact: Gail Woodcock, gailforce9@hotmail.com for Collection

Comberbach Art Group

Well our usual exhibition week-end has been and gone, since we could not hold an exhibition this year our chairwoman has been hard at work on the computer to compile a virtual exhibition of work we have been doing over the last year, some

of the results of which are shown. Through the summer we have been able to paint in groups of up to 6 in various gardens but as the weather worsens and restrictions get tighter I don't think we will be able to continue doing this so

may not see much of each other for a while. I hope we will carry on painting and look forward to catching up when we are able to do so.

MB



Fred Moores & Son Ltd
Building & Joinery Contractors

Mr John Moores

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Northwich
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Mobile: 07899 651669
Email: fredmooresbuilders@gmail.com

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Contact Bryan Jackson
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Email: bryanjackson@mail.com

1st Comberbach Guides and Senior Section

Guides and Senior Section members are working together at the moment.

In September we welcomed three Brownies who have moved up to Guides. We hope you enjoy being part of us. Sadly we had to say bye for a while to Kim, one of our Young Leaders, as she has gone to university. In Marbury Park we lit a fire (there is one area where we are allowed to do this) and toasted marshmallows round it. We drank hot chocolate and ate cake to wish Kim good luck.

Marbury Park has been the venue for our meetings this

year. It's easier for us to keep socially distanced. While there, we have boiled water and made hot drinks on portable stoves, been tracking, played games including a water game to demonstrate mindfulness. Activities and games in the dark are different but good fun.

Zoom meetings

When not in Marbury we meet on Zoom. As part of the 'Be Well' theme we've meditated, discussed fairness and how we are coping with the COVID-19 restrictions. We've also made a weather predictor and played lots of games - our favourite is 'Who am I?'

Poppies

Over half term we've been making poppies to hang round the village war memorial on 11 November. Then it's back to alternative weeks in Marbury and on Zoom.

Christmas this year is going to be very different for everyone. Even so, despite the restrictions we hope everybody has a happy Christmas. We look forward to a happier and safer 2021.

Keep well.

Guides and Senior Section



1st Antrobus and Comberbach Cub Group



Virtual Bake Off

Cubs usually meet at Antrobus school hall on Tuesday evenings, but we have moved online this term. We had a baking night to tie in with The Great British Bake Off restarting.

Everyone was given a baking kit to make either a batch of cupcakes or a large cake. The



results were brilliant, as you can see from the pictures of Edward and Jess, with their cupcake creations. Star baker was one of our newest Cubs, Bethany P, who made a delicious looking red velvet sponge with buttercream icing.

Science badges

We have also made our own

basic compasses out of a paperclip and a milk bottle top, and balloon rockets. These activities count towards the scientist badge and next term we will do four more experiments to finish off this badge. The Cubs always enjoy getting a badge completed!

Online monster making

This week we made Halloween themed models out of clay – this worked really well online as Becs, one of the leaders, taught the Cubs different ways of working with the clay to make some inventive pieces of art.

What a collection of monsters, bats, spiders and pumpkins we created! They will be painted at home over the holiday and we look forward to seeing the final models after half term.

RC

A Bird's Eye View

Spooner McSpoonface

Although as I write this Halloween is rapidly approaching, I think this year I will not relate any scary, animal related stories.

Rather than add to the nightmare we have all been living through I will instead share some things that have put a smile on my face this year. If the autumn migration on the flashes was rather hampered by the high-water levels, the early summer's migration was spectacular.

In early June, Neumann's was visited by up to 4 different spoonbills, with 3 the most seen at any one time. They are large and incredibly odd looking birds; they have white plumage (including a crest in the breeding season), thick black legs and huge yellow-tipped black spoon shaped bills. They were joined by 2 avocets who made their first ever breeding attempt on the flashes. Unfortunately the nest failed, but hopefully they will be back to try again next year.

These sightings were topped for me by regularly hearing up to 3 different cuckoos around the park and flashes. This after many years of hearing none, or having birds that pass quickly through. One of the few benefits of getting up at the crack of dawn was an encounter with a cuckoo on Dairy House Meadows. I heard the unmistakable call and located the bird in a distant tree top by spotting its distinctive profile; wings angled down, tail up and swaying from side to side. A few minutes later the bird flew low over my head, almost hovering as it passed over me. It went back and to constantly calling, before it realised I was not another male cuckoo to chase away, and then

promptly disappeared over the far hedge-line. Magical!

Twilight Treasure

I finally tracked down a pair of grey partridges alongside Cogshall Lane after years of trying, and then saw the pair again a week later, just like London buses. Their name does not do justice to the beauty of their subtle grey/orange-brown plumage, and their ability to merge into their surroundings is remarkable (no wonder I could not find them).

I was trudging back despondently to the gate I had used to enter their field earlier, thinking I had failed yet again to find them, only to discover them not 20 feet away from where I had first entered. I had walked right passed them, so good was their camouflage and their hunkered down hiding technique.

My personal highlight of the birding year was seeing one of Cheshire's rarest irregularly breeding birds in display flight. Hearing a male nightjar's amazing almost machine-like churring song, on a hot and sultry June evening, created a huge sense of anticipation like listening to an orchestra tuning up. The churring sound grew longer and louder until, just on dusk, this breath-taking bird burst out of cover flying only feet in front of us at head height. Even in the half-light you could clearly see it's brown-grey, cryptic plumage, dark eyes, white wing flashes and even the bristles which surround its beak. These are used like a cat's whiskers to alert it to the presence of the moths it eats and also for protection for its eyes. Its flight reminded me of one of those stiff winged mechanical bird like toys and at the start of its display it clapped its wings together above its head, like a

conductor waving their baton to draw our attention to the performance to follow. It alighted on the tree branches above our heads a few times, continuing to sing. You could only feel that you were in the presence of something utterly strange and beguiling. With more sympathetic forestry management we could have more of these unique birds in Cheshire.

Hedgehog Hooray

At home, after years of no or at best single sightings, we seem to have not one but 2 resident hedgehogs (like London buses again). We can only hope that they use the newly installed hedgehog home over winter.

They probably will not be as demanding as the male black-bird who, during the breeding season, took to perching on the kitchen windowsill and peering in, seemingly asking where his fruit was. If that did not have the desired result he would fly from the garage to the window and back until you responded.

Nature's fireworks

What certainly caught my attention in early August was the best lightning storm I have ever encountered in Britain, and certainly the longest lasting anywhere. The sheet lightning lit up the distant sky, nearer to it was so bright at times that it hurt your eyes and allowed me to see all the way down the garden even in the darkness. In truth though it did get a little too close for comfort, one flash and thunderclap merged as they overlapped. The windows rattled and the house shook as a result, it sounded like that last big rocket at a fireworks display going off. I was relieved to find that the roof was still attached afterwards.

continued...

...continued

Best Bittern

Before you think all this has gone and passed you by, do not despair because bittern season at the Coward reedbed at Marbury Park will soon be upon us. I am going to suggest, rather controversially, that we are blessed with the best place to see them in the North West. There may be more elsewhere in the region, but their reedbeds are vast and dense while ours are compact and conducive to actually finding and viewing this

Comberbach Village News
often elusive bird. At the start of this piece I did say I would stay clear of any spooky stuff but I am afraid I cannot resist.

After years of trying I did finally see the Marbury Lady this year by the edge of the nursery. Some people will have you believe that she is only a fantastic wood carving, but it did not feel like that though when I knew nothing about it and first saw her face looming out of the early morning mist!
JB



Great Budworth Parish Church

Coronavirus update

Advent and Christmas Service
The Ministry Team will be meeting in November to discuss and plan for the Advent and Christmas Services this year which, because of the current restrictions due to Covid-19, will necessarily be different from those we are all used to. I'm sorry about this but am sure that everyone will understand, and we look forward to welcoming as many people as we safely can over this period. We will of course publicize the Services as soon as possible via the Weekly Sheets, Parish Magazine and other local publications as well as via the Church website.

The Revd Alec Brown.

We did continue to hold services since re-opening in August until the November lockdown. Things were, however, very different: no singing, Communion in one kind only (Bread), no shaking hands or hugs, sitting 2m or more apart, facemasks and still litres of handgel

We were just so pleased to see each other though, and the fellowship was great, albeit all socially distanced.

Due to recent lockdown restrictions it is likely that all services will be online on [facebook@greatbudworthchurch](https://www.facebook.com/greatbudworthchurch)

Services for December

(subject to review of lockdown)
Sunday 6

8am Holy Communion

10.30am All Age Worship – Toy Service? TBC

(Due to Covid-19, we have procedures in place, which includes a limit on the number of people who can attend any one service. This requires everybody to book in with our churchwarden Mrs Pauline Ridgway pauline_ridgway@hotmail.com (underscore after Pauline) phone: 01565 733494. Facemasks have to be worn in church. Thank you for your help with this.)

*The Revd Alec Brown
Vicar of Great Budworth.*

Migrations

Against an azure blue and almost cloudless autumn sky the vapour trail of a passenger plane is seen on high, while directly underneath skeins of migrating geese are heading in their hundreds for their winter home; and those of us whose feet are firmly planted on the ground and may soon not wander very far, depending on our ranking and our tier, can only wonder and marvel at the freedom to come and go as once we could and would, before the virus and the various lockdowns came; but in spite of everything that binds us at present so tight we know it's for our common good and that it's right and also that in time it will surely pass and then, like the migrating birds and the high flying passenger planes, we'll all be able, God willing, to stretch our wings again.

© The Revd Alec Brown, Arley, Cheshire. 11 October, 2020.

Report from Comberbach Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesdays 15 September and 27 October 2020

Virtual Meeting Regulations

The Parish Council meetings continue to be held using Zoom in accordance with current regulations.

Land at the Recreation Area

The Parish Council is continuing to look at options for the future use of this land including the proposal that it becomes a Skate Park or Pump Park. The Council will investigate costs, grant funding options and seek advice from Rospa and suppliers before making any decision. Recreation Area

The Chairman and Dave Meakin have repaired some damaged fence posts and the Council has agreed a budget to purchase more posts to strengthen the whole fence. Looking after the village Residents are requested to please pick up after their dogs to keep the village clean and

tidy for everyone. Also, those residents with hedges etc that border footpaths please ensure you cut back any overhanging branches so as not to obstruct the footpath.

Reporting issues to Cheshire West and Chester Council

CWAC have an app for reporting issues and faults on the highway, streets and green spaces. To log reports follow the steps below:

- 1 Pinpoint the location on the map
2. Take a photo of the fault
- 3 Select a category and provide more information
- 4 Submit

All reports are sent immediately to the relevant service to deal with, and through the 'Report it log' on the app it's easy to check the status of all reports.

The app is available to download from both the Apple and

android app store by simply searching for Cheshire West and Chester.

Parish Council Award

The latest recipients of the Award were Helen Gardner, Graham Raeburn and Beccy Corney. Well done!

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboard by the village store and on the new Parish Council website: www.comberbach-pc.gov.uk

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8 December at 7.15pm.

During the Coronavirus situation, Parish Council meetings will be held remotely. Members of the public are welcome to listen and/or watch meetings and should contact the Parish Clerk for details:

parishclerk@comberbach.com
or 07759 212449.



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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>

John Eaton Handyman Services

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3 Cogshall Lane, Comberbach
Please call on 07966873932
johneaton303@hotmail.com

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Great Budworth Garden Club

Report for November

Shorter days, longer nights, the autumn tints are stunning, and our gardens are still very colourful. This is the time when we can split clumps of perennials and put them in other bare parts of the garden, whilst the soil is still warm from the summer, or alternatively pot them on for next year. You can plant all your bulbs now, including tulip bulbs, without any fear of tulip fire.

Green tomatoes on the windowsill

Our tomatoes are all out of the greenhouse now, and any green ones are left to ripen on a windowsill. We have had a good crop this year, but I hear from others that they have had a poor harvest. We only have a few squashes and two pumpkins left now, and they are also coming in soon.

Virtual produce

The virtual produce show was a great success, and many entries were received causing lots of fun. The longest runner bean, 15ins, was won by Jo Munnery; the Wonky Veg competition was won by Joan Broughton for her 'cheeky' tomato, and by Dawn Freeman for her smiley moustache bean! Bottles of prosecco will be coming their way soon.

We have had trouble with a wasps' nest at our house, and I tried to get rid of it myself, but after being stung several times, had to call in the expert. The Queen wasp was over an inch long; nasty things!

Sadly we have lost two loyal long term Garden Club members, Geofrey Lomas and Neville Francis, our condolences go to their widows Elaine and Marilyn. We are so sorry

and will miss all the support they gave to us, and their happy, cheerful faces in the club.

This is a dreadful time in our lives, and it is still ongoing, with now a second wave of coronavirus. We do not know what next year will bring, but be assured that friendship and the club will continue, somehow, sometime, somewhere.

Wishing you a safe and contented Christmas and new horizons in the New Year 2021.

I will give you an update for the future, as soon as I can with these covid19 regulations.

Thank you for your support as always.

Jean Davies.
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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		
Dog Training Puppies	Monday	4.45-8.15pm		
Yoga	Wednesday	8-9pm	Alison Rostron Yogapilatesali@gmail.com	07460 805880
Karate	Sunday	5-6pm	Andrew Wilson	07388 869985
	Monday	5.45-6.45pm	Web site: www.cheshirekarate.co.uk Email: Cheshire.shitoryu@gmail.com	
Adventure Babies	Tuesday	9-3pm	Laura	07739467242
Calligraphy	Tuesday	1.30-3pm		
Pilates	Thursday	9.15 - 10.15	Carole Rowley	07773 782717

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	01606 891218
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
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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
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Useful contacts:

Village web site	www.comberbach.com	
Marbury Park Rangers		77741
Homewatch		892568
Village Memorial Hall - bookings	07771638324 / 07721501181 (Liz/Nikki) or comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com	
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	Alan Woodcock	891248
Great Budworth Parish Church	Rev A Brown	891324
Fete Committee	Steve Howard	01606 891316