

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - July 2021



Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair



At the end of installation, the man watering is Kyle Evans, European BMX Champion. A member of the highly experienced contractor team

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 4 May and was followed on by the Annual Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council. Due to Covid restrictions and the necessity not to hold face to face meetings last year I have accepted the role as Chairman for a 5th and final year.

Pump Track

Work on the pump track began in early June with the contractors and following the ROSPA safety inspection the track was opened to all. It's great to see the positive comments and feedback on the facility and how the track has turned out to be a magnet for children of all ages. The number of kids riding round the track on balance bikes and micro scooters is great and it's nice to see that the bmx riders are also using the track and everyone respecting each other's space.

Special Thanks

Thanks to Kath Wharfe and her team plus all the helpers in coordinating such a great effort to litter pick and clear any unwanted debris around the village and sur-

rounding countryside.

Thanks also to Richard Chandler, Michael Spencer and Colin Hadley who agreed to rejuvenate and paint the finger posts in the village. Many have commented on the wonderful work and how it has enhanced the area.

Also, thanks to Dave Meakin who helped to replace the wooden boards on the zip line platform.

Fete

Having looked at the day's proceedings I am sure it will be another wonderful day for residents and friends to walk round the village to see the stall and games, as well as food in residents' front gardens.

This year's Comberbach Achievement Award winner is Nicola Ashbrook whose inspiration brought us Lockdowns & Light-ups Comberbach in times of COVID. Very well done and I wish you and your family every success in your new house in Great Budworth.

Speed Indicator Device

In conjunction with Anderton & Marbury we have obtained a grant

of £2000 from Cheshire Police proceeds of crime fund which will be used to purchase a mobile SID for use around the village. The unit will have the ability to record the speed of each car passing, and therefore we will have an accurate picture of the number of cars above and below the speed limit.

StreetCare

We continue to monitor the schedule for grass cutting and the excuses for not completing the task, from staff sickness, COVID and machinery broken.

My personal view is that if a contract is outsourced then if the contractor fails to complete the work schedule or equipment is broken then it is up to the contractor to hire staff or equipment to complete the task or CW&C do not pay the invoice.

We will be chasing the StreetCare team to ascertain when they will be completing the schedule for weed control of the verges and footpaths.

John Ryder

Comberbach Nursery and Primary School

Over the past 12 months, here at Comberbach Nursery and Primary School, we have been thrilled with how all our children have coped during the lockdowns and how they have returned to school so seamlessly. The challenges we have faced have made us all much more resilient and appreciate being all together.



The classrooms and corridors have since been a hub of happiness; filled with learning, teamwork, and laughter! We are so proud of our school community.

The kitchen garden

One of our recent school projects has been working with the local community to develop

the kitchen garden. With help from parent volunteers and residents, we have been able to make our kitchen garden flourish with beautiful flowers, fruits, and vegetables. In preparation for Comberbach fete, we have decorated our flower beds with the theme of earth, wind, and fire. All of our classes have also

been busy making colourful flower windmills to display too.

Community Projects

What a year it has been! We are so excited to be involved with many more projects within the Comberbach community in the near future; working together to share our love for our local area.

We believe that the Comberbach team is much wider than our school gates and we look forward to welcoming members of our local community into school. In the meantime, please follow us on Twitter to see all the wonderful learning happening in school.



Memorial Hall Report

In line with government guidelines, we are happy to say all our regular groups, both adult as well as those for young people, are now able to meet again. We run on limited capacity of course, but thanks to the size of the hall we can accommodate more people than many other local halls. The main hall and the smaller meeting room are in use most evenings, from after-school time onwards, and at weekends too. Many of our groups started to meet in the hall as soon as we re-opened post lockdown, as their usual venues were not opening up. We are delighted they have chosen to keep on meeting in Comberbach; they love the hall, the location and the local interest in their groups!

Regular hirers are bookings that help us stay financially secure, but we're also open for parties

Monday

Small room: Textiles in the Park 10.30am - 2.30pm, Well Heeled Puppy Training 5pm - 8pm.
Main Hall: Karate 6pm - 7pm, Fencing 7.30pm - 9pm.

Tuesday

Main Hall: Love to Dance 4pm - 8.45pm

Wednesday

Tots Gone Wild 10am - 11.15am
Love to Dance 4pm - 7.30pm
Yoga 8pm - 9pm

and one-off meetings too. We had bookings for a few children's birthday parties last month which was lovely!

Even though we're pretty booked up later on in the day, there is plenty of space in the diary for bookings during school hours if you hear of anyone needing a venue. The Hall has always had reduced hire rates for village groups too.

The Committee are in need of new members and the Secretary post is currently empty, so contact Liz or Nikki and/or come along to our next meeting on Thursday 15 July, 7pm.

Nikki Lord 07721 501181

Liz Cook 07771 638324

comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com

Thursday

Hartford Pilates 9.15am - 10.15am
Calligraphy 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Well Heeled Dog Training 6.45pm - 8.45pm

Friday

Tots Gone Wild 10am - 11.15am
Apex Cheerleading 5pm - 6pm

Saturday

Apex Cheerleading 10am - 7pm

Sunday

Karate 5pm - 6pm

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Comberbach Methodist Chapel

For almost three months now, an average of twenty five of us have continued to meet each Sunday morning. Of course, by now, we were very much looking forward to being able to sing once more. However, we are still going ahead with our pre-arranged Songs of Praise on 27 June, humming very quietly behind our masks! Some members of our Congregation were asked to choose their favourite hymn, which was quite a difficult task in most cases, when several came to mind. These will be paired with Readings, Prayers or the stories behind the Hymns.

They range from *"What a Friend we have in Jesus"* to *"Shine Jesus Shine"*.

Our Minister Rev Tim Simms will be leaving us this summer, taking up a new position in Congleton from September. A special Leaving Service will be held at the Chapel on Sunday 25 July at 2.30pm, when we really hope by then, that all the restrictions will have been lifted. Our New Minister, from 1 September, will be the Rev Frances Ballantyne, who is coming to us from Lincolnshire.

Northwich buildings art exhibition

Local artist Ron Stephens has come together with Cheshire West and Chester Council to create an exhibition of paintings and prints of heritage buildings in Northwich and beyond.

Many of the buildings featured have a fascinating story to tell. These histories along with historic photos, that have been preserved for future generations to enjoy, are displayed alongside the paintings at the Weaver Hall Museum, until Saturday 25 September.

Leader of the Council, Louise Gittins said: "This is a wonderful celebration of Northwich's past

depicted in art form. Ron has managed to capture the beauty and elegance of many of our historic buildings, I'd urge everyone to visit the exhibition to find out more about the buildings that give Northwich its unique character."

The paintings are currently on display at the Weaver Hall Museum, London Road, Northwich. Admission to this temporary exhibition is free of charge.

The museum currently has limited opening hours so you are advised to visit the website to check when it is open.



Northwich Townscape Heritage Project

Heritage Buildings of Northwich Art Exhibition

Ron Stephens, local artist - Exhibition of paintings and prints of Heritage Buildings in Northwich and beyond

Saturday 5 June – Saturday 25 September 2021

Small Gallery at Weaver Hall Museum, London Road, Northwich

When Museum is open

Please check museum website for days and times when it is open.
Booking required. <https://weaverhall.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/>

Free admission



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Nature Competition



Villagers of Comberbach, I would love to invite you to join my nature competition, to help the resident creatures of Comberbach. When reading a magazine recently there was an article explaining how our British hedgehog was in danger of extinction and it completely shocked me so I wanted to do something positive to help their plight. I feel incredibly lucky that as a village we still have hedgehogs roaming our streets and I for one want to keep it that way.

I also wanted to give the other nature in our village a helping hand, including our bees. I'd watched a great program on Channel 4 called *"Jimmy's Big Bee Rescue"* that highlighted the need for a Bee highway and I thought it would be easy to recreate this in our village. If we all just planted one bee friendly plant in our gardens (a pot of lavender would do the trick) it would help the bees to travel without getting exhausted. A dish of water in every other garden would also help greatly.

Ideas to help

- Help to make a hedgehog highway (as pictured you can make a hedgehog sized hole in your wall/fence. An entrance and an exit hole would be even better!)
- Make a bug hotel (YouTube and Pinterest have some great ideas for these and kids love them)
- Put a dish of water out for the birds and bugs (stones are a great idea in the dish for bugs to stop the risk of drowning)
- Make a pond (YouTube and Pinterest have great ideas for turning an old washing up bowl into a pond)
- Make a bat box
- Plant some wildflowers (even a small pot is great)
- Plant some Perennial flowers in your garden (they are super easy to grow, come back each year, low maintenance and the bugs love them)
- Plant a tree (not only are they great for nature but for

us too as young trees absorb lots of carbon dioxide as they grow)

- Plant a hedge (as the name suggests hedge hogs need hedges to hibernate and hide from predators)
- Let a patch of your grass grow (we did this last year and attracted some amazing looking moths into the garden)
- Try not to use pesticides in particular slug pellets (hedgehogs are a natural way to keep slugs numbers down without using harmful chemicals)
- Feed the birds (especially in winter time and during the breeding season)
- Plant a shrub or bush (they are great cover for small birds to protect them from predators)
- Donate to a wildlife charity (they do amazing work including re introducing otters back into the wild)
- Plant some vegetables (insects love the flowers of growing vegetables and you get the benefit of eating them)
- Put up a bird box

I'm sure you have many more great ideas. So all I ask is that you do one small thing for nature and for each thing that you do you will be entered into the competition. The more things you do the more times you will be entered.

The prizes are a hedgehog house, a frog house, a bird box, a children's gardening book, a book on rewilding your garden (which is amazing), a hedgehog highway sign that was very kindly donated by Gillian Barrow, and finally a child's membership for the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, kindly donated by Megan Thomas. If you would like to join in just send me an email to laura.parkinson.85@hotmail.com, photos would be welcomed. I will run it up until 2 August.

Good luck and thank you!

Laura Parkinson

Comberbach WI



We're back – after a fashion! We have managed to hold our first Committee meeting in person since lock-down. Committee meetings are not what I would call a joyous occasion, but this one was! It was lovely to see each other in person, rather than on Zoom.

Zoom has its disadvantages, in that you are closed down after 40 minutes, unless you pay, and we were always having to watch the clock, as everyone just wanted to chat! We are now slowly feeling our way back to some sort of normality, with the Hall now booked from July, and activities organized up to Christmas, including the WI Christmas Meal, booked for 15 December at Winnington.

Independence Day

We planned our first meeting back at the Hall to be our "Independence Day", with a 'bring your own snack, drink and chair' to meet up in the garden if the weather permits. It is looking likely that we will still have to adhere to the rule of 30 maximum outdoors though.

The Committee is going to be minus 2 key members at some

the WI INSPIRING WOMEN

point this summer. Lesley Smith and Sara Smith are both moving to the Portsmouth area this summer due to family needs. Lesley has been organizing our speakers and Sara is currently our Secretary. Coincidentally, both Lesley and Sara have bought new homes in the same village – Rowland's Castle, and they will probably be joining the WI there

I hear that their WI start each meeting with a glass of wine – now, there's an idea! Lesley also hosted a garden gathering as a "farewell", starting a very pleasant afternoon off with glasses of Pimm's; 28 ladies had a lovely time just enjoying the sunshine outside, each other's company and Lesley's beautiful garden.

Whilst sitting in the Hall might not feel comfortable for some of our WI members yet, we

are pressing ahead with other activities we can do. We have had another Marbury meet-up; 15 or so turned up (some after I had left) and we were able to sit out in the sunshine, even though it wasn't warm enough to take coats off. We have also organized a lunch at the Spinner and Bergamot as we felt it would be nice to support the new landlord.

Hopefully we will be able to sit outside. We would also like to hold another garden gathering if the weather holds, and it would give those who missed out last time, the chance to attend.

Working on it....

Comberbach Fete is an event the WI has been proud to be a part of, but once again, it has had to be scaled down due to COVID. Elaine Perry kindly offered her driveway to have a small stall selling preserves etc. We hope to be back properly in 2022. COVID has caused problems for everyone, but we have remained optimistic and "thinking outside the box" has become the norm. Onwards!

*Janine Hampton
President, Comberbach WI.*

Comberbach Community Litter Pick

As part of the Keep Britain Tidy annual campaign a litter pick was arranged for Saturday 29 May. Areas within the village and surrounding lanes were targeted by 16 residents and it was good to see children

taking part. The timing of the KBT campaign however wasn't good for spotting litter hidden amongst the lush vegetation of the verges along the lanes. Thanks to everyone who took part, Steve, Kim, Liz, Bear,

Lucas, Seren, Jen, Thibault, Monty, Steve, Rachel, Daniel, Lewis, Julie and husband, and to those who regularly litter pick throughout the year.

KW



Great Budworth Cricket Club

GBCC has made an unbeaten start to the season. The first match was away against Lymm CC. GBCC batted first and scored 116 for 2 in their 20 overs in reply Lymm managed to get 97 for 6.

Following on from the opening success, GBCC secured a comfortable win at home against Moss Hey. Moss Hey batted first and were limited to just 59 with thirteen year old Jack Munnery taking two wickets on his debut for the club. The total was overtaken comfortably by GBCC for the loss of just four wickets.

The third win was a thrilling match against Reynolds CC who scored 114 in their twenty overs. GBCC replied with good innings by Steve Hankey, Paul

Lancaster, Tim Whalley and Doug Toy who hit a four off the very last ball of the game for victory. A BBQ was enjoyed by both teams after the match.

Remaining home fixtures are as follows. Everyone welcome.

July

Wed 7 Barnton 6pm BBQ

Sat 10 Antrobus 1pm

(Kieran Peters
Memorial Cup)

Sun 18 Family Day 2pm

Wed 23 Lymm 6pm

Sun 25 ECAD 1pm
(Peter McAndrew
Shield)

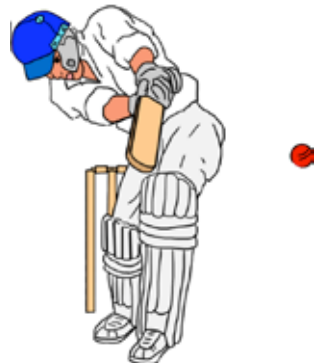
August All matches away
from Arley

September

Sat 11 Lord Ashbrook's X1
11am

All home fixtures are played on the Arley Estate cricket ground which is one of the most scenic in the county if not the whole country.

Anyone interested in becoming either a playing or social member please contact the club at GBCCnewplayers@outlook.com.



Comberbach Front Garden Fete - Flower Power

The sun shone on Saturday 26 June. Was it this that lifted our spirits? Partly, yes, but undoubtedly it was the community spirit and the buzz around the village at the 2021 Comberbach Village Fete. No one knew how the road map out of lockdown would change. Would freedom day pass without delay? Would social distancing still be in place? Nobody knew. It was a challenging brief; a must to avoid congregating en masse, yet wanting to create a fun filled day were we could, indeed, 'get together'.

The ingenious plan crafted (tirelessly!) by the Fete Committee saw a plethora of games and stalls dotted around the village from firm old favourites like tombola's and crockery smash (so organised, they had a skip to hand!), to ingenious newcomers such as 'remote control cars', 'obstacle course' and brain teasers like 'Do you know your Flower Power'?! FOCS channelled their craftiness and many wonderful headdresses were created on the day, whilst the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides and the WI all came to the party with competitions, games and wares.... Helena fired up the fete bbq and, in true O'Byrne style, fed the whole village!

Alice Hopwood stole the show as our stunning Rose Queen, accompanied by her beautiful retinue & epic sword bearer (Lucy MacLeod, Dylan Matzen, Ruby Bigmore, Daisy Flanagan, Grace Flanagan Wilson, Ffion Major, Evie Waton, Esme Ashford, Lily Elson, Alice Flanagan, Isabella Flanagan Wilson, Isla Georgia Jones, Emily MacLeod, Jessica MacLeod, Eve Stacey and Isla Waton) alongside our

retiring Queen, Jess Powlson. Thank you for doing us proud this last year Jess, and in the most challenging of times, with £1600 raised for the Brain Tumour Charity. An outstanding achievement! Alice, we wish you every success for the year ahead, and with your fund raising efforts for 'Dogs Trust' - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Alice-Hopwood.

It's fair to say that the brief to 'achieve the same fun feel as last year but with some added extras' was certainly achieved!

A big thank you to all the local village groups and residents who volunteered and contributed to make Fete Day so enjoyable for everyone, and our much valued advertisers, but especially the Fete Committee who worked so passionately to create a fun community day, planned through the most difficult of years. Never have there been so many extra unexpected hurdles to jump or so many risk assessments and event plans required! A special mention to Susan Marsden for creating this year's 'Comberbach Village Fete Map' to help everyone navigate on the day - Tolkien would be proud!

Competition Results

Thank you to everybody that took part and helped to make the day so special.

Best Front Garden Game:

Winner: Paula Monaghan (Toss the Beanbag, Shoot the Hoop and Obstacle Course)

Highly Commended: Jon Ashford (Radio Control Racing Cars)

Best Miniature Garden:

Winner: Kath Wharfe (The Little Patch)

Highly Commended: Edith's Patch (by Edith, aged 4)

Best Themed Garden:

Winner: 1 Barrymore Crescent

(Floral Arch and 'Bee Kind' Garden)

Highly Commended: 4 Spinner Crescent ('The Power of Flowers' hand crafted mural)

Most Interesting Vegetable:

Winner: Peter Plail (Purple Carrots and Round Courgettes)

Highly Commended: Amelie White (Green Pepper)

Best Made in Comberbach:

Joint Winners: Jane Brighthouse (Vase of crepe flowers), Helena O'Byrne (Ziggy Stardust & Wilhelmina Mouse)

Highly Commended: Lynda Bigmore (Olive's Crabapple Gin)

Congratulations to everybody who took part, especially the winners and thank you all for your entries.

Grand Prize Draw winners have been notified but many thanks to all those who generously donated prizes and to those who purchased tickets.

Comberbach Fete Committee





100th Birthday

On 25 July, Olga Ellis of Senna Lane will celebrate her 100th birthday. Olga has lived in Comberbach for the last 17 years, when she moved here, aged 84 from the family home in Surrey. She left behind a two acre garden which she had almost single handedly created from a turnip field and when she arrived in Cheshire, she set about starting another new garden. Although she now has a gardener, she is still propagating plants and doing what she can. This is pretty indicative of the kind of fiercely independent and indomitable person that she is.

Second World War

Born in 1921, Olga was just leaving school to go onto further education when the Second World War broke out, so her dreams of teacher training college were abandoned and she went to work in the War Office in Whitehall, becoming involved in the distribution of field artillery and anti-tank guns. They were interesting times and she can recall many famous faces coming and going from the offices. In her spare time she volunteered to do fire watching and remembers her time in wartime London as being frightening but exciting.

In 1945 as war ended, she married her husband Raymond who



was in a reserved occupation, working for the Admiralty and stationed for much of the war in Orkney. They lived in Kent and eventually settled in Surrey, having three daughters.

Plants and stamps

Frustrated at her lack of career, Olga threw herself into horticulture and philately, becoming an authority on many aspects of Norwegian postal history, the country from which her family originated. In this field, she is highly respected and has written extensively on various aspects.

She has also exhibited her own material throughout Britain and Scandinavia, winning countless medals. It is a measure of

the respect that she commands in these circles, that two magazines have already printed tributes to her, in the run up to her birthday.

Many interests

In later years, she also studied plant propagation at Merrist Wood Horticultural College and set up a study group with other students, which she was involved with for many years. Over her lifetime her other interests have included pottery, jewellery making, calligraphy and art. She was an accomplished tennis player and a keen cricketer in her youth. Olga moved to Comberbach after the death of her husband Raymond and joined Northwich Philatelic Society, Great Budworth Garden Club and Comberbach WI for a number of years.

She remains in regular contact with her Norwegian family and now has not only three daughters, but six grandchildren and 10 (and continuing to grow) great grandchildren. She will be celebrating her special birthday with a family garden party in Antrobus, when many of her family who live in the South, will be travelling to visit. We're planning a day of food, fun and fireworks in which she will undoubtedly fully participate!



Great Budworth Garden Club

April summary

As the Lockdown is easing, we were able to hold an extended outdoor plant stall in April and also give members sunflower seeds for our autumn competition.

All sales money from plants were given to the National Garden Scheme and £278 was raised. Thank you very much for your generous gifts of plants, and for buying many others as well.

Two members, Jane Fairclough, plus Bill and Lesley Anderson opened their beautiful gardens, so giving a lovely afternoon for members to enjoy.

Thank you for allowing us to see them, there were many compliments. Three members had won a bottle of prosecco in the Garden Club Newsletter competitions during lockdown, and they were presented with their prizes.

Report for May /June

Easing of restrictions, gardens growing at a fast pace, indeed everything is changing around us. Our own garden is well ahead with potatoes, beans, peas and many flowers all planted out and looking good.

Our last meeting on zoom, had one of our favourite speakers, John Foley, from Holden Clough Nurseries in the Ribble Valley. He was as good as always and another trip must be considered next year.



We have had a very cold spring, and the crops and gardens were

about a month behind, but then we had a mini heatwave and it all catches up again. That's English weather.

The club visited the new RHS Bridgewater garden in Worsley on 1 June and were very impressed with the amazing work to provide wonderful gardens, and to show climate change and biodiversity. There are 154 acres, so over the years it will be amazing.

The restrictions have not been lifted as we hoped due to the spread of the Delta variant of coronavirus, so plans for the club had to be changed again.

Speakers and demonstrators have to be re booked to another date. We hope to have a Garden Party in July, but members should check their club newsletter updates regularly to be sure of the date.

The September produce show is on 14 September with the given schedule, sunflower competition and with speaker Melanie Latham talking about chutney. Fingers crossed for all being able to be together indoors by then.

The gardens have been very important to us all, and we can still enjoy our fruit and flowers during this summer.

Jean Davies
0789993 7673
mrsjeandavies@gmail.com



Comberbach Art Group

The Art Group have been able to hold outdoor meetings more often as the weather has improved, (although sometimes not a lot of painting gets done!) but it has enabled us to keep in touch with one another.

Once restrictions on numbers for indoor meetings are lifted we are considering our options if we feel the need to continue to socially distance but we would welcome any new members who may have discovered their artistic skills during lockdown, we

hope to resume Monday morning meetings when we can.

Meanwhile some of our work is here for you to enjoy.

MB

If anyone would like to find out more about the group please get in touch with *midgebroad-hurst@gmail.com*



Message from Colette Walling and Family

Colette Walling (Senna Lane) and her family would like to thank friends and neighbours in the village for their cards and donations for the chosen charity on the recent death of her husband, Chris.

Your kindness is much appreciated.

Comberbach Guides and Senior Section

The 'new normal'

Meeting in Marbury Park each week has become the 'new normal' for us. This term our activities have included outdoor cooking, making a tripod to hold a washing up bowl (some of us got wet when it collapsed), map reading, walking, carrying messages using Scouts pace, crafts and lots of games.

We are beginning to grow again. Several Brownies have moved upto Guides and two girls, who have never been in Brownies, have joined us. Four Guides have moved upto Senior Section and two more will follow them later on in the year. By way of introducing them to Senior Section, Anne is organising the Fish and Chip walk. Hopefully this will take place in late July.

Talking of Anne. She recently celebrated a milestone birthday and should be retiring from

Guides. We won't let her! We gave her a book to record her Guiding memories and look forward to making more memories with her. If you have a particular memory of being part of Guides with Anne please pass it on for inclusion in her book.

Fete day will have been and gone by the time the newsletter comes out. If you managed to visit our Guide Flower Machine - thank you. Hope you found it fun. We had fun painting and making the flowers for the stall.

We still have a few more weeks for more activities in Marbury Park. One night will be run by a Young Leader as part of her activities for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Wonder what she'll have us doing?

'Stay safe and well everybody'
Comberbach Guides and Senior Section.

Ladies Club

Long time no see

Finally the Ladies Club have now met up. It was good to see everybody again after such a long time.

In May, we met in Marbury for a socially distanced picnic with an optional walk through the woods to admire the bluebells. Our June meeting was a walk along the river and canal at Acton

Bridge followed by a well organised and excellent lunch at the Legh Arms with the 16 of us sitting on 3 separate tables.

Having no fixed programme, are planning each month as it happens with somebody coming up with an idea of what we can do in these strange times (usually involving food).

Ursula



A Bird's Eye View

Spring Switch

April became May and May - April this year. April was warm by day and frosty by night, and May well May was mainly awful being wet and cold.

This obviously affected spring migration with May, often the best month, being very poor apart from a spotted flycatcher 'spotted' around the main hide at Marbury. There was a male garganey duck on the flashes, and the wood ducks had some ducklings.

April on the other hand was very good for migrants. There were multiple sightings of ospreys passing over the mere, the calls of cuckoos and the lovely 7 whistling notes of whimbrel were heard around the flashes. The whimbrels spent a lot of time here; they are like a small curlew with a shorter and more down-turned beak. They were joined by little ringed plover, common and green sandpipers, redshank and avocets.

I saw 2 avocets gathering nesting material on Neumann's but sadly nothing came of it. As a recompense the oystercatchers hatched 2 very gangly looking young. There were very smart Mediterranean gulls seen on the mere and beautifully patterned whinchats on Ashton's. Cetti's warblers seem to have spread everywhere judging by the number of their songs exploding out of any likely looking habitat. The star bird was a male ringer ouzel, seen in the fields by the fisherman's path. It goes without saying that I managed to miss this bold 'blackbird

with a white bib'. Although I did have the pleasure of being surrounded by swifts on Neumann's in May.

Home Not Alone

On the home front, early April saw a good variety but small numbers of butterflies on the wing, unfortunately the cold nights seemed to put a stop to that activity. The rare dingy skippers seemed to do a lot better on Ashton's Flash though. I can only hope we have a good summer and see more butterflies later in the year.

Bees on the hand seemed to thrive, with bumblebees particularly numerous. May-bugs were on the wing (you guessed it, in May!) clumsily buzzing around the garden at dusk, the insect equivalent of a bumper car. While I was watching them our 2 resident pipistrelle bats put in an appearance, beetle for dinner perhaps? The hedgehogs are still visiting, I have only seen 2 together but judging by the differences in size I think there might be up to 4 different ones, amazingly. I also watched a life or death struggle between a male sparrowhawk and a starling taking place on the lawn.

The sparrowhawk pinned the starling down and used its wings to shield its prey from any passing predators. The starling put up a brave fight, thrusting its beak repeatedly upwards at the sparrowhawk. There was only going to be one winner though and 45 minutes later all that was left of it was a huge pile of feathers and a neatly removed head, it was difficult and strangely moving to witness, but

I did not intervene and the male sparrowhawk departed soon afterwards carrying with him the food parcel which he would take back as provision for the female at their nest. I only hope the starling had not been trying to do the same.

Birdbrain?

Life then is hard enough for our garden wildlife so help not hinder them at this busy time by feeding them, having a water source, leaving a gap in a fence, by not cutting hedges during nesting season and avoiding slug pellets.

You may get a visit from a male blackbird like ours, who last year took to peering through the kitchen window to demand food. Now he makes a high-pitched call, like young blackbirds do to alert adults to their presence and to beg for food, when he sees us.

On one notable occasion, when I opened the curtains in the morning, he flew up to my window sill and peered in. When I came downstairs there was no food left, he had obviously recognised me as the reason for this and came to my window to get me to remedy the situation. Birdbrain is a compliment not a term of abuse!

JB



St Mary and All Saints Church, Great Budworth

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Are you interested in putting something back into your community around your many other commitments?

Would you like to be involved with exciting and ground-breaking community projects?

Would you enjoy being part of a friendly, hard-working and committed team of volunteers?
Or you are just intrigued and feel you could help the Church in other ways?

We would be delighted to hear from you, please contact The Vicar, The Revd Alec Brown or The Churchwardens, Mrs Margaret Cross and Mrs Pauline Ridgway.

July/August, 2021.

Church Teas

Thanks to everyone who attended the recent coffee morning in Church to look at setting the rota for this year's Church Teas which, we very much hope, will start again from Sunday 1st August – all things being equal! A number of weeks have been filled, but if you couldn't get to the coffee morning and would like to help out, then please give either Margaret Cross or Maggie Earl a ring (07732 324001 and 07970 927161). The final decision as to whether or not to go ahead with the teas will be made after 19 July.

Church Picnic

This will be held on Saturday 24 July from 3 - 5.30pm in the beautiful garden of Don and Karen Hammond at The Butts, Smithy Lane, Great Budworth. Tickets (£5 family and £2.50 individual over 16) are available from Shirley Humphreys, Karen Hammond and Margaret

Cross, and include strawberries and a glass of fizz/soft drink on arrival. Byo picnic and rug, and there will be a bar, music (Grumblefoot - Terry Taylor et al), childrens' trail and a Grand Draw (tickets widely available). It should be a wonderful occasion to meet up again, and many thanks to Don and Karen. Book your tickets now!

Church Services

These are now all back to their usual days and times, including the Holy Communion service on the second Sunday and Arley Evensong on the third Sunday of each month. Until advised otherwise, please continue to book in for services with Pauline Ridgway. There will also be the monthly Celtic Evening Prayer service on the first Thursday of every month, from July, at 7.30pm – in the Quiet Garden, weather permitting.

*The Revd Alec Brown
Vicar of Great Budworth.*

Freedom delayed

A dossier of deeply disappointing data driven by the delta variant; not my words you understand but the highly alliterative summing up of our sad situation by a certain Scottish political correspondent and, just as many had been fearing and expecting, the summer solstice will no longer signal the lifting of all the lockdown restrictions which have so governed our lives and behaviour these last few months, and, while there may be exceptions and exemptions, with wedding couples and venue hosts daring to breathe and plan once again, we know for many the delay will be costly, drear and drab; but will, we also know, give us all more precious time to get those needles into arms and jab, jab, jab.

© The Revd Alec Brown
Great Budworth, 4th/15th June, 2021.

Report from Comberbach Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021

Virtual Meeting Regulations

The Parish Council met on Zoom in accordance with current regulations.

Chairman

The Parish Council voted Councillor John Ryder as Chairman and Councillor Steven Hornby as Vice Chairman for 2021-22.

Policies

As this was the Annual Meeting the Council reviewed its policies to ensure it has good governance processes in place.

Recreation Area and new Pump Track

The Recreation Area had the annual ROSPA Inspection in April and the Chairman accompanied the Inspector. The Inspector noted the good condition of the equipment even though some of it is 20 years old; this was credited to the commitment of the Council and volunteers in working hard to keep it well maintained. A few

minor items were noted and scheduled for repair. A budget to resurface the pathway was approved. The Council has paid an increased insurance premium to include cover for the new Pump Track.

Community Resilience Plan

The Council is looking at developing a Community Resilience Plan that will be used in any emergency situation; this will be discussed further at future meetings.

Lamp post Poppies

Many towns and villages display poppies on lamp posts at Remembrance and the Parish Council has agreed to fund some this year. If residents have suggestions as to where the poppies should be located please contact the Clerk – clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboard by the village store and on the

Parish Council website: www.comberbach-pc.gov.uk

The next meetings are:
Finance Committee – Tuesday 6 July at 2pm at Comberbach Memorial Hall

Parish Council - Tuesday 20 July at 7.15pm at Comberbach Memorial Hall; *this is a change to the advertised date*.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council.
clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk
or 07759 212449.



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Email: bryanjackson@mail.com

Parish Councillor information and meeting dates

All Parish Council meetings are held on a Tuesday.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and can speak during the Open Forum at 7.15pm

Meeting dates:

2021: 9 March; 4 May; 13 July; 14 September;

26 October; 14 December;

2022: 18 January; 8 March.

Annual Parish Meeting – 4 May at 6.30pm

In view of the current situation with Coronavirus all meetings are currently held via Zoom. The ID will be published on the agenda or details can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk.

Agendas and minutes are published on the noticeboard by the Post Office and on the Parish Council website.

Contact the Parish Council as below:

Name	Address	Tel numbers	Contact point for
Cllr. John Ryder (Chairman)	26 Burgamot Lane, Comberbach CW9 6BU	01606 891 827	Barrymore Crescent, Burgamot Lane,
Cllr. Steven Hornby (Vice Chairman)	Sunny Bank, Marbury Road Comberbach CW9 6AU	01606 891075	Senna Lane (lower to Mather Drive), Marbury Road, The Moss
Jim Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891 005 07708 633458	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Rena Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891 005	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Richard Chandler	Crows Nest House Crownest Lane Comberbach CW9 6HY	01606 891 005	The Avenue (to the Spinner), Warrington Road (from the Spinner, Budworth Lane Crownest Lane
Bob Holt	8 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	07739 046775	Mather Drive Meadow Lane Senna Lane (upper: from Mather Drive)
Jill Johnston	6 Barrymore Crescent Comberbach CW9 6PA	01606 892 121	Goosebrook Close, Brookfield Road, Spinner Crescent, Chapel Close, Reedsmere Walk
Val McDermott	14 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	01606 891075 07739 046775	Cogshall Lane Outer Cogshall
Parish Clerk	Denise French clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk	07759 212449	

Please note the new email contact details for Denise French (as above) and the landline number for Val McDermott (correct in the above table)



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

Memorial Hall

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, Wed	4 - 8.45pm 4 - 7.30pm	Zoe Buckley smb.designs@hotmail.co.uk	
Well heeled puppies	Monday (small hall)	4.45 - 8.15pm	Mike Flannery	
well heeled dogs	Thursday	6.45 - 8.15pm	mike@thedogclub.co.uk	
Textiles in the Park	Monday (small room)	10.30am		
Northwich Fencing	Monday	7.30 - 9pm	northwichfencingclub@gmail.com	
Karate	Monday Sunday	6 - 7pm 4 - 6pm	Andrew Wilson cheshire.shitoryu@gmail.com	07388 869985
Yoga	Wednesday	8 - 9pm	Alison Roston yogapilatesali@gmail.com	07460 805880
Tots gone Wild	Wednesday Friday	10.15 - 11am 10.15 - 11am		
Calligraphy	Thursday	1.30 - 3.30pm	Brian Sudlow	01606891722
Pilates	Thursday	9.15 - 10.15am	Carole Rowley cazrowley1@gmail.com	
Cheerleading	Friday Saturday	5 - 6pm 10 - 11am	Megan Berry	meganberry_@hotmail.co.uk

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 noon	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 - 9pm	Paul Underwood Rob Doel	07725 150 928 891789 / 07526 723516
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Antrobus School Hall

Cubs	Tuesday	6.30 - 8pm	Rachel Cameron	01606 891023
Beavers	Wednesday	6.15 - 7.15pm	Janet Warburton	854014

Please send contributions to the newsletter to: newsletter@comberbach.com **Deadline for next newsletter is 27 August**

Articles for the newsletter can also be submitted to the Editor below either on paper or by e-mail
 Kath Wharfe 18 Burgamot Lane 891540 kathwharfe@hotmail.co.uk

Useful contacts:

Village web site	www.comberbach.com	
Marbury Park Rangers		77741
Homewatch		892568
Village Memorial Hall - bookings	07771638324 / 07721501181 (Liz/Nikki) or comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com	
Clerk to the Parish Council	clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk	
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	Rebecca Matzen fete@comberbach.com	07725954349