

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - Mar 2022



Hare in wild flowers by Jill Stephens

Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair

Precept

At the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that we would increase the precept from last year's income receipt of £22,655 to £23,736 for the year 2022/23. This represents an increase of 4%. This precept increase is approximately an extra £1 per household for a band D property. The increase is necessary to cover increased costs including maintenance for the recreation area, insurance cover, data storage and web services along with any salary increases. We have not requested an increase in the precept for the past 2 years. Through good financial management we have had the ability to use the precept efficiently and build up reserves to fully fund the purchase of new equipment such as the pump track last year, and the proposed new swings.

Recreation Area

The recreation area and equipment are our major asset which is used by many residents both from and around the village. The play equipment is now nearly 20 years old and we are seeing a necessity to replace the equipment over the coming years. As an example, the cost to replace the multi tower and slide would be in excess of £50,000.

We are currently investigating the costs for a replacement swing, with additional swing facilities to include a basket/cradle, and it is hoped that a replacement will be installed in the next 3 months once we have agreed a preferred supplier.

Many thanks to Richard Chandler and John Darwin for their help in renewing a length of the wire

fencing surrounding the play area and the fields. Having the ability to do this with volunteers reduces the cost and allows us to build up reserves for replacement equipment.

Village Task Force

A number of volunteers have agreed to help with cutting back overgrown grass on the pavements around the village and to clear any weeds from the edges of the roadside. A date has been set for Sunday 3 April. If there are any other volunteers willing to help please either call me or contact the Parish Clerk. Contact details at back. Bags and Hi Vis vest will be provided. New volunteers are most welcome.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Val McDermott is liaising with villagers to set up a committee to agree what the village want to promote during the Jubilee festivities. The Parish Council have allocated funds to include the purchase and lighting of a beacon and a big lunch project. The committee includes Val McDermott, Liz Cook, Steve Howard, and Comberbach Primary School. Please contact Val or Liz if you want to join the committee or have any ideas on what you would like to see during the 4 day celebrations 2nd /5th June.

HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline

Non-statutory consultation
I attended one of the open house sessions at Anderton.

The current plan is to deliver a hydrogen pipeline to Tata Winnington and an underground storage facility on King Street.

The route is made up of two possible options

Option A

West of Northwich travelling along south of A49

Option B

East of Northwich travelling across open fields around Comberbach and crossing the A559

At the open day I was told that the preferred option is Option A
The statutory consultation launches September 2022.
More details can be found on the Interactive map on website www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk
Email info@hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk

Recycling Bins

Just a reminder that the green waste bin service resumes March for those who have paid the fee.

All householders in the village will now have received their two additional bins for recycling. A number of residents have already contacted Parish Councillors to say that some residents have left their recycling bins at the front of the property.

Where residents have a side path or back yard/garden bins should be located there and not at the front of the house in full view of neighbouring properties.

Waste refuse bins should be left out by 7am on the morning of the scheduled collection and removed that day to a safe storage place.

Thank you for your cooperation
John Ryder
Chair

Extract from CW&C document regarding Soot Hill - Road Closure

An emergency closure of Soot Hill was implemented on the morning of 28 December 2021 due to the collapse of a substantial retaining wall that supported the highway. The Council cordoned off the area to protect the public. An adjacent building was damaged by falling masonry and remains closed to the public.

Current situation

It is not currently safe to access the site due to the risk of further collapse material falling onto the site. Engineers have formulated a plan to stabilise the site. High voltage cables have been exposed and are suspended above a void. Generators are available on standby should a

further slip interrupt the electricity supply.

The first stage of the stabilisation process is to prop the building to protect it from any further collapses. Once this is done the high voltage cables will be switched off to allow the safe removal of any remaining collapse material. The generators will be deployed to maintain electricity supply to the local area.

Once these initial works are implemented the site will be safe enough to access to investigate the cause of the land slip.

The Council is currently working with its contractors to stabilise

the site and then move on to stage two: the repair of the collapsed retaining wall and adjacent carriageway. Major works will be required to repair the wall and carriageway, including the diversion of essential services.

It is likely that the road will remain closed for a period of at least 12 months. The extent and duration of the work will depend on the findings of the investigation. The response to the land slip is being progressed as promptly as possible, but it is important that it is done in a careful manner to ensure the safety of those undertaking the works and those adjacent to the site.

Village litter pick: Big Bag Challenge

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean takes place from 25 March - 10 April. The idea is to fill a bag with litter. (Please take a photo and send to the newsletter email on back page).

Rather than have a specific date for a litter pick it is probably best to have litter picking equipment (picker, bags and bag holders, hi-vis jackets) available during this period, enabling people to do it when it suits. If you want to borrow equipment it will be in a box at the side gate at 18 Burgamot Lane. Please return after use.

If anyone has been given equipment in the past which they no longer need or use, could they please return as above. Please take care when litter picking:

- wear hi-vis vest
- don't pick up broken glass or

- sharp objects
- be cautious and aware of traffic on lanes, better to work with other/s
- best for young children to do pavements and parkland
- leave bags tied up and tucked in besides a public bin

Whilst we obviously want Comberbach to be litter free, the challenge is national so you could do any 'grot spot' known to you. Happy picking! KW

Comberbach Village Newsletter

Help needed

The newsletter production team is sadly depleted and we need help to inject some new life and ideas into the newsletter.

If anyone has a good idea for a regular feature, maybe a recipe page, craft page, walking routes etc. please get in touch. It is not a massive commitment as there are only 6 copies a year.

Notice of Review of Constituency Boundaries

The Boundary Commission for England is holding an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England, and invites you to have your say on its proposals. Go to bcereviews.org.uk to view the proposed new constituencies for your area and share your views before the secondary consultation closes on 4 April. You can also speak at a public hearing in your region - find your nearest hearing and book your attendance at bit.ly/bcepublichearings. The 2023 Boundary Review will rebalance the number of electors in each constituency, and the number of constituencies in England will increase to 543. Follow @BCEReviews to keep updated.

Environmental issues

Ambassadors for the environment

As there were no takers for this role we have simply listed a few ideas below. It would be great if a younger resident, or residents, would take over this role.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

10 simple ways to reduce your carbon footprint and plastic waste

- 1 Use a reusable water bottle, avoid buying single use plastic bottle (cans and glass are better for recycling).
- 2 Save soft plastic (not foil lined bags or biodegradable/compostable bags). Tesco, Sainsbury's and the Co-op have on site collection points. (Tesco's is a large cage outside the entrance).
- 3 Sheldons of Knutsford (sheldonsonline.co.uk) do doorstep delivery of milk in returnable glass bottles 01565 634509. Some charities do collect the tops off plastic milk bottles.
- 4 Use fewer wipes as they often contain plastic. Never flush down the toilet. Better to use a spray

and paper kitchen roll or a cloth.

5 Replace shower gel with soap bars, shampoo bars also available.

6 Use concentrated washing powder and fabric conditioner. Powder and dishwasher tablets are available in cardboard packaging.

7 Minimise packaging, buy loose fruit and vegetable or use reusable nets.

8 Go paperless whenever possible.

9 Buy local produce when available, seasonable produce also requires less storage and transport.

10 Use more local products/producers: milk is locally produced.

Local initiatives:

In Comberbach there is the Milk House

In Northwich 'Weigh of the World' encourages use of your own containers for dry food items with refills of liquids also available.

Northwich Library also runs a 'nappy library' where parents can trial reusable nappies to encourage reduced use of disposable nappies.

Village Initiative

Being lucky enough to live in a beautiful village, we all enjoy our wonderful surroundings and environment. That said, it is clear to all that we need to look after our planet for ourselves, our wellbeing and our children.

Carbon footprint

At the January Parish Council meeting the topic was raised and ideas discussed on how Comberbach could work together to reduce our carbon footprint.

Whilst recognising the efforts of individuals, families and groups already engaged in trying to reduce the impact on the environment – hopefully we can do more.

Perhaps it could be something as simple as hanging out washing, when possible, rather than using the tumble dryer or it may be to promote doorstep milk deliveries in glass rather than buying plastic bottles.

The local school and volunteers are already growing fruit and vegetables to teach children

where food comes from and how to grow it. They always welcome extra help.

Further to that initiative it would be an idea to have allotments in the village if we could find a suitable plot of land.

Other ideas are to start a 'Men (or women) in sheds' where people could come together and use the space for projects or make bird boxes/tables or bat boxes for example.

Greener living

It is intended to arrange an open day in the Memorial Hall to highlight current initiatives, develop and encourage new ideas and to promote 'greener living'.

If you would like to take part in the open day, please contact:

Val McDermott on 01606 891075
or email valmcdermott6@gmail.com.

Comberbach Methodist Chapel

We celebrated our 143rd Chapel Anniversary on 13 February, when the Chair of the Chester and Stoke on Trent District, Rev Helen Kirk, led our Service. This was a time for being grateful for our past history, thinking about our present time, as we come out of the pandemic and looking forward to the future.

The Choir took part in the Service, their main Song being "Let all the People Praise Thee", when the Congregation joined with them, singing "O God our help in ages past".

Light Bites

Since Christmas we have had four excellent Lite Bite Sessions, with everyone enjoying being together over Lunch, celebrating Birthdays and trying to complete the Quiz Questions!

A four week Lent Course will begin via Zoom on Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm. One of the Leaders will be our Minister, Rev Frances Ballantyne.

We have a Mothering Sunday Family Service half way through Lent, on Sunday 27 March at

11am. This will be followed by a Good Friday Service at 2pm and an Easter Sunday Communion Service at 11am.

Bible Study

Sessions will re-commence on Thursday 28 April at the home of Mrs Ida Meakin in Goosebrook Close, commencing at 7.30pm. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of these Sessions. Rev Frances would like participants to read Luke 24 vs 13 - 33 prior to the first meeting.

Memorial Hall Report

The Memorial Hall is busy with regular group bookings and as members of the committee, financially that is great news! Sundays have become something of a party hub, with most weeks having one, if not two, booked in. Again, all good for the maintenance and future of the hall.

There is a new Baby Sensory & Songs group starting in April on Friday mornings, so watch out for details on our Facebook page which is great way to check what's going on. Our regular hirers are able to post on the page and we try to share many of these onto the Comberbach Community Facebook page.

As mentioned in these reports before, we were fortunate to have been offered significant grants and funding through lockdown and from other applications, which has funded a new central heating system and a complete change of our lighting.

Our next major projects are the clearing and turfing of the enclosed outdoor area, and internal redcoration. We're really excited about these, as cosmetically they will make a big impact.

We were delighted to receive a generous donation of over £1,000 from the Indoor Bowls Group, who met for years at the hall, but who have recently disbanded. They chose to transfer their remaining funds to us, and we are very grateful to Jim Bradley, who organised the indoor bowls with Rena, and the rest of the indoor bowlers. This does mean we have two indoor bowls mats which we are happy to donate to anyone who can make use of them. They are huge things, but if anyone knows of any group starting up or one which needs a replacement, or any contacts generally, then please contact us.

If you're interested in booking the hall for any reason, contact either me or Liz and we'd be happy to help. Plan ahead for parties as we do get booked up.

The hire costs are £15.00/hour for the main hall, and £7.50 for the small hall, or £20.00 for both. Free Wi-Fi included, and there is a reduction for local community groups.

Nikki Lord 07721 501181

Liz Cook 07771 638324

comberbachmemorialhallbookings@gmail.com

Cheshire West Mobile Library - move to full timetable

Good News - The Mobile Library service has at last moved to a full timetable and will be visiting Comberbach Village Hall on Tuesdays at 10.55am-11.25am every 3 weeks from today 22 February.

For more information

For times of routes and further information, please visit Mobile library service (cheshirewest-andchester.gov.uk)

New for 2022! Comberbach Fete – Village Ambassador

The Comberbach Village Fete Committee is pleased to announce the introduction of the new role of Village Ambassador for this year's fete which will take place on Saturday 25 June 2022. The role follows on from the tradition of the Rose Queen with the new Village Ambassador raising money for their chosen charity as well as representing the voice of young people in our village and the wider community.

We are inviting any young person from 10-16 years old to apply for this position, which runs from June 2022 to June 2023. We are offering the successful candidate a cash prize of £50 as well as a donation of £50 towards their nominated charity.

Make a real difference

As well as providing a great opportunity to develop confidence and interpersonal skills, this role offers the chance to make a real difference: with the support of the Fete Committee, the village ambassador has the potential to raise £100s for their cause and to feed into local decisions.

The Village Ambassador will be expected to be present on fete day but will not be required to take part in a procession, parade round the school field or wear a dress or suit (unless they wish to) - jeans or joggers fine! The Committee's aim in creating this new role is to develop the traditional

Rose Queen position into a role that is inclusive, relevant and appealing to young people today.

If you would like to apply, please contact fete@comberbach.com.

The deadline for submitting applications is 31st March 2022.

Amanda Greenwood & Lynda Bigmore

A Right Royal Fete

Save the date a right royal fete!

Comberbach Jubilee Village Fete - Saturday 25th June

The Village Fete takes place on Saturday 25 June and we hope to be back on the school field with all the usual stalls, games and sideshows, as well as a full programme of arena entertainment.

This year's theme is the Jubilee, so closer to the time, we will be reminding local residents to decorate their houses and gardens in line with this regal theme.

More details about the fete will follow in due course, but for now, get the date in the diary for now, get the date in the diary!



A look at Comberbach in the past - Comberbach and the “Commotion”

The July 2020 edition of the newsletter included an article on the Early History of Comberbach by Robert Steele. (Available online on the village website www.comberbach.com). This article details events from the mid-16th Century onwards. Thank you Robert.

In the last article we saw what is known of the early history of Comberbach and ended at the Reformation and closing of the monasteries in 1536 – 39.

The commotion time

It is easy to make this sound like a simple buying and selling of the old monastery lands but actually it was a complete reshaping of society, with local power struggles for land and influence. One person who lived through it called it “the commotion time.”

Firstly in 1536 Henry VIII started to close the monasteries and Norton Priory, which owned half of Comberbach, was in the first group; suddenly half the land now belonged to the King, shortly afterwards the other half owned by the Order of St John of Jerusalem followed. The local gentry sensed the opportunity to enrich themselves; the Warburtons of Arley took a lease from the King for the Great Budworth land and argued with the Duttons of Dutton about who should control the church, its tithes and other income.

Problems

This led to all kinds of local problems of violence and intimidation, finally settled by the Court of Marches, the King's Supreme Court in the North. Its ruling was that neither should and that everything should go to the King, and that the Churchwardens, who controlled not only the church but also local care of the poor, education (what little there was) and possibly even the repair of the roads, bridges, etc. (as was certainly the case thirty years later under Queen Elizabeth), should be elected by the congregation

excluding Warburton or Dutton tenants. This is absolutely extraordinary, with the gentry excluded and everyone voting; it's not going to happen nationally for three hundred years and one can guess it settled nothing, leading to more intimidation and disharmony.

Other plans

Now in 1544 it becomes clear some people had other plans. On the 1st July one John Grimsditch bought all the Comberbach and Great Budworth land from the King. Grimsditch was at the Royal Court in London and must have known the right people. His family were long time officials in the local government of Cheshire, known as the Palatine, and lived at Grimsditch Hall in Lower Whitley and presumably he had local connections.

This is clear because on 15 July he sells it all to Robert Eaton who probably lived in a house on the corner of Barrow Lane and Sandiway Lane close to the site of Sandiway Farm and who was believed to have been a lawyer. However, in November he obtained a licence to sell all the land to his cousin, John Eaton of Crowley.

Wheeler dealing

A licence was needed because of the amount of land involved. John then sold the land in parcels to local people, usually with the sitting tenants as part of the deal as they could not afford to buy the land they farmed. In Great Budworth there is an exception where two brothers, Edward and William Malbon, are able to buy about 120 acres for themselves. One of them had been the steward of the land for the canons. This “wheeler dealing” was commonplace and fortunes were made.

Sir John Deane

Another example was Sir John Deane who founded the grammar school. The head of the government body selling the monastic

land and his key officials were his neighbours in the old buildings of the monastery of St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield in London, and he was able to buy land and property which enabled him to fund the establishment of that excellent school.

St Bartholomew was the parish church of the area and Deane was the vicar so he was neighbour and parish priest to these people. Warburton's earlier lease was cancelled and the ruling on the church replaced with Henry awarding the Great Budworth church and its tithes to help fund and maintain his new Oxford College Christ Church.

Common land taken

In the next twenty years common land in the area was to be enclosed taking from small tenants the right to graze their animals, making their lives harder. The common land was divided on a percentage basis between the freeholders of the township, thereby increasing the holding and wealth of the bigger farmers and the gentry.

The extent of the common land in Comberbach is not clear but some old maps refer to the land going from the Spinner up Gibb Hill as Comberbach Common. As the years passed tenants changed and some properties were bought and sold and of course some families died out, such as the Duttons of Dutton who were such a power in the fifteen hundreds and Marbury of Marbury.

First historian

But we get another glimpse of the village in 1666 when the first real historian of the area, Sir Peter Leicester from Tabley, writes about the village. We find that the village is owned by a variety of freeholders: the Warburtons own seven small tenements, the tenements once held by Marbury are now in the hands of Edward Piggott of Cogshall, John Gleave of High Leigh owns others and intriguingly one George Low of Hartford who seems to have a wide range of investments and lots of land but who, to me anyway, is a mystery.

Big land owners

By the nineteenth century big land owners dominate: Hugh Smith Barry of Marbury Hall, William Eaton of Comberbach House, which stood at the top of Gibb Hill, and Peter Jackson of Cogshall. Also still existing are eight to ten small farmers often with another trade to supplement their income.

The last stage of this story is the selling of the freehold to individuals as the big estates broke up and were sold. Dairy farms became dominant but that too changed.

Here the historian stops but the question is what comes next and that remains to be seen!!

RS



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations Bank Holiday Thursday 2 June 2022



Comberbach Platinum Jubilee Off Street Party

Comberbach Primary School
Gates open 12 noon
Party Starts 12.30pm
Street Competitions 2 to 4pm

Beacon Lighting Ceremony

Spinner & Bergamot
DJ 7 to 9pm
National Anthem & Beacon
Lighting 9.15 to 9.30pm

Other Events Planned

Craft a Crown
Letters to the Queen
Weekend Treasure Hunt

Why not volunteer to co-ordinate your street's party
Join the Committee to help organise events
All timings & events are subject to change

Watch this space

Charity

SUNDOWNER

FUN RUN



FRIDAY 6TH MAY 2022

MARBURY COUNTRY PARK, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE

5K RUN 7PM (£6 in advance; £7 on the day)

1K KIDS' FUN RUN 6:30PM (£3 in advance; £4 on the day)

Enter online at <http://sundownerfunrun.niftyentries.com>

LICENSED BAR | CAKES | MUSIC | REFRESHMENTS | BBQ

Organised by Comberbach Village Fete Committee. All proceeds will be donated to the retiring Rose Queen's nominated charity.



Comberbach WI



We are now well into 2022 and happy to say that January is behind us. It was better than expected, due to a welcome and unusually high amount of sunshine we experienced. My fears about restrictions were unfortunately proved correct, as we had to cancel January's WI meeting since Omicron was been spreading rapidly and we needed to keep members safe by not taking risks.

Health and well-being

Things improved sufficiently to allow our February meeting to go ahead and our WI welcomed Kate Hurst, the phyto-physic, to talk about winter health and well-being, much needed at this time of the year! Some of our members said she was one of the best speakers they had

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

heard in a long time, and her talk was enjoyed by all who attended. Lindsay Entwistle gave the vote of thanks.

The Committee has been busy meeting on Zoom, and has pressed ahead with plans for the spring. Speakers are booked and we are planning a visit to Dunham Massey to view the Winter Garden when the spring blooms are at their best. They also have a golf buggy vehicle at Dunham for those who are unable to walk very far, so that might prove useful!

Spring is a lovely time of year and I hope that the blooms and blossoms will not be spoiled by adverse weather. The bulbs in my garden are well through and should be flowering soon, providing some long awaited colour outside, and I am sure that the gardens in the village will be colourful too.

Birthday plans

Plans are also well under way to celebrate Comberbach WI's birthday in April. This will be held at the Memorial Hall on 4 April...more to follow! We hope to see as many of our WI members as possible at the event, and with the better days and lighter evenings, we might feel more inclined to venture out. We look forward to seeing you!
Janine Hampton. President.

2nd Comberbach Brownies

It's been good to be back meeting in the Sunday school room and have lots of fun. We've been theming our activities to empower the girls by working on the theme 'Our World, Our equal future', towards an interest badge, My Rights, and being part of the United Kingdom and a world- wide Guiding family. We want the girls to know how special and unique they are.

Burns Night

On Burns night we hilariously learned a Scottish dance, displayed the Scottish flag and tried traditional foods - porridge, cranachan and Irn Bru being favourite although cock a leekie soup and haggis were also tried. In preparation for Thinking Day we received letters from

Brownies in a Mobberley unit and we replied to those girls.



Candlelight

By candlelight we marked countries where there were also Guiding units and sang 'This little Guiding Light of mine'. We are also looking at women who

are our heroines for International Women's day. The girls are finding out some details of the woman they have chosen and we'll share this with the other Brownies at a unit meeting.

Team work

Next half term we plan to do some team working activities in which the girls need to support and help each other linking to St David's Day and St Patrick's Day. By the end of the term we will have prepared a Promise cheque book for our Mums as they are important women in our lives and also women in the Easter story. By then spring and hopefully better weather will be with us.

2nd Comberbach Guiding team



1st Comberbach Guides

Hurray -we're back indoors. Thank you to the Methodist Church for keeping us warm.

Before Christmas we had a Harry Potter night, made poppies for Remembrance Sunday and made items for the Christmas tree in the Chapel using odds and ends from our craft boxes. We finished the term with a Christmas party -

lots of games, hot chocolate and biscuits.

After Christmas, we became a little more serious. We started working on the Live Smart skill builder. First we looked at the nutrition of what we eat and then cooking a nutritious meal. This was followed by a stalking game to use our senses and a challenge to build a bookcase

from a cardboard box. Hopefully we'll be able to finish the skill builder after half term.

Guides are always busy, happy and friendly. If you are aged 10 -14 and fancy trying Guides do come and see us. Warm welcome guaranteed.

The Guides

Marbury Senior Section

It's not possible to meet on Mondays anymore. We all seem to have extra commitments on Mondays; so we now meet with the Guides on Wednesdays. We spend the first hour with the Guides and then have an hour doing Senior Section stuff. It just means that some of our activities take two to three weeks to complete instead of one.

We spent the time before Christmas getting to know each other better. There are now six of us. We talked a

lot about the activities we liked to do. One night we had session playing trid-dominoes, helping each other to place them correctly. Another night we had a go at making Christmas puddings.

After Christmas we started on our Feel Good skill builder. Following on from talking about nutrition with the Guides we investigated how the colour of food can affect your mood. Then we tried to cook a meal using five different colours -not easy. Next

we devised fitness routines for a baby or toddler, ourselves and for older people. In a future session we'll be investigating our own personalities and how we cope with different situations.

Later in the year we plan to hold our 24hr event, go up Great Budworth tower, perhaps try bellringing and later sit down as a unit to Christmas dinner. So - lots to do.

Marbury Senior Section.

"adopt-a-drain"

This links with the village clean-up day on 3 April to continue to maintain clear gutters and drains.

The idea is that you keep an eye on a drain near your home to clear the leaves and other potential 'drain-blockers' so that

when it does rain, surface water can easily enter the network. We should make it clear that we're only talking about surface water drains. Not everyone has a drainage grid outside their house, but if you do, and are happy to help then even a few minutes a month with a brush and shovel can make a big difference!

In an ideal world this shouldn't be necessary but councils are understaffed and have strains on their budgets, so maybe if we can do this small job it would help.



Colouring competition winner

The Winner of The November/ December Newsletter Colouring Competition Marla Pelosi with her prize. Welcome to Marla and her family who have recently moved to Comberbach.



Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Cheshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

Find a walk for you

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cheshire (part of the Walking in England website – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs

and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Gardening Month by Month - Jobs for March and April

March

Mulch bare soil and borders
Move evergreen shrubs
Reseed bare lawn patches
Mow lawns
Prune bush and shrub roses
Prune shrubs like dogwood
Tidy up climbers
Hoe young weeds

Flowering plants:
Divide overgrown perennials /
stake herbaceous perennials eg
peonies
Split polyanthus after flowering

Plant bulbs for summer
Sow hardy annuals
Sow sweet peas outdoors and
pinch out tips

Kitchen garden:
Sow vegetables outdoors
Plant early potatoes

April

Feed lawns
Plant aquatic plants
Plane evergreen trees and
shrubs
Prune early flowering shrubs

Protect young plants from slugs
and snails
Weed regularly
Deadhead daffodils (and the
swollen ovary behind), let
leaves wither.
Sow annual climbers and
grasses
Continue sowing and planting
vegetables outdoors
Plant container grown fruit
trees.

Happy gardening!
SW

Ladies Club

A year of activities

In January some of the members enjoyed a belated Christmas lunch at a local hostelry during which some plans were made for the coming year.

We can look forward to a variety of activities from a theatre trip, a garden visit, an art session to a range of other events often including food and drink.

A small group gathered at the bowling club in February, ostensibly for a games evening which really morphed into an evening of conversation with drinks and nibbles.

A walk (with lunch of course) is planned for March; whilst in April our knowledge of antiques will be improved (as will our appreciation of cheese and wine).

UR

Great Budworth Church

Burns Night

The total raised at this wonderful fund raising dinner and auction, for PCC funds, at The George and Dragon in January was £17,005.00 – the highest amount ever raised at a Burns Night event – so huge thanks once again to the organizers, diners, donors and bidders! And of course to the staff at The George and Dragon!

Thank You Everyone!

Restoration works

One of the last internal projects will shortly be completed – handrails to the pulpit steps – and three weeks of external re-pointing on the north and south chancel and clerestories' walls will begin on 21 March. Scaffolding will be put up and taken down daily. At some point there will be various works undertaken in the Churchyard, including repairs to the east boundary wall and, hopefully, the releveling of some of the

paths in the Churchyard and the provision of handrails at key points along the path leading down to the Lower Churchyard.

Dates for the diary

Tues 22 March

7.30pm PCC Meeting in Church

Wed 23 March

12noon – National Day of Reflection

Sun 10 April

10.15am Palm Sunday procession from the Parish Hall in Great Budworth, followed by The Liturgy for the Passion

Maunday Thursday 14 April

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper followed by the Vigil till 10pm

Good Friday 15 April

2pm Meditations on the Cross followed by Evening Prayer at 3pm

Easter Day 17 April

8 and 10.30am Holy Communion and Festival Eucharist for Easter. No service at Arley Chapel.

Sunday 24 April

PCC Accounts Meeting following the 10.30am Parish Communion Service

Friday 29 April

7.30pm Concert in Church with The Condate Singers

Tues 10 May

7pm Licensing Service for The Revd Christina Westwell (as Associate Minister for the Parishes of Great Budworth and Antrobus) with The Bishop of Birkenhead, The Rt Revd Julie Conalty, followed by refreshments

Sat 21 May

9.30am annual Boyd Walk around Antrobus Parish, starting from St Mark's Church, Antrobus

Sun 22 May

10.30am Rogation Service and short walk around Great Budworth village with The Bishop of Stockport, The Rt Revd Sam Corley.

Data driven decisions

Covid-19 milestones come and go, and as we approach the second anniversary of that first and all encompassing lockdown, we're probably all wondering about the imminent lifting of all restrictions, recently announced and, so we're told, a decision driven by the data; but just how sound a decision is this some are asking, and what about the various tests and periods of self-isolation we have all got so used to over the last two years? It's guided by the science we're told, though clearly for some this has not allayed their fears, perhaps we're just so cautious now that we fear so great a change, and should we not welcome this development with open arms, staying alert but not alarmed; though for many I'm sure the old and by now so familiar line of hands and face and space will be with us still for quite some time.

© The Revd Alec Brown
10th February, 2022.

The Green Hearts Initiative - Comberbach Primary School Garden Team

During February the school garden took part in the Green Hearts Initiative, an event promoted by the Climate Coalition. The school children, parents and the community were asked to make 'green hearts' to display in the school garden to symbolise how much they care for and respect the environment. The result achieved was a quite beautiful and creative array of hearts, which cheered up the garden through a very stormy, grey and dull end to the month. In addition a letter was sent to the local MP, Esther McVey, making her aware of our work in the school garden and how close to 'heart' these issues are to people in the community. The success of the initiative is evident in the amazing photographs of the hearts in the

garden. Not only does it show how much the children care for the environment it also makes them more aware of the issues caused by climate change.

This is only part of what we do in our school garden though: Since spring 2021 children, parents and volunteers have been shaking off the cobwebs, waking up the worms and planting vegetables and flowers. Heritage cucumbers were a big favourite last summer, but the children also provided pumpkins for Halloween decorations and have loved trying kale and spinach. Year 6 students used vegetables from the garden for their fabulous soup kitchen.

Twice a week parent volunteers are taking small groups of

children into the garden to sow, tend, harvest and learn about these processes. At the end of last summer we had enough produce for parents to take some home as well as produce being offered to the community. Our aim is to do even more of this in 2022.

If you live locally, please come and have a look at what is growing in the garden.

We post information and messages on both the school and the Comberbach community support Facebook pages; further information about the Climate Coalition can be found on their website.

*Comberbach Primary School
Garden Team*



Great Budworth Garden Club

Signs of Spring

The days we have been waiting for are here at last. Restrictions mostly lifted, signs of spring, and Garden Club members wanting to join again.

The AGM went well, with many people paying their subscription for 2022/3.

Andrew Bushell and Henri Giller retired from the committee, but Neil Harvey took over as treasurer, and Julie Treharne in the role of organising holidays and trips out.

Peter Davies has been the treasurer for 21 years, he has done an incredible job and the club is in a good financial position. He will continue as deputy treasurer to show Neil the ropes!

All the remaining committee were re-elected en bloc, so we



have a 'new year and new start' at last. Events Cards were given to paid-up members and we can look forward to an excellent year ahead.

The last time to pay your subscription is 8 March; if we do not receive your payment by then, we assume you have retired from the club. You will always be able to attend some

meetings as a guest. I would like to thank all past members for wonderful support over the years.

The membership is now full until the AGM in 2023.

The meeting following the AGM was a fantastic presentation of slides with talk by Dave Brotton, titled Local Wild Life. He was thanked by Linda Enderby.

The next meeting is on 8th March at 7.30 when we have a talk on heucheras from the owner of the award winning Plantagogo.

For any information about the club, please contact me in the first instance,
Jean Davies
0789993 7683
mrsjeandavies@gmail.com
com<mailto:mrsjeandavies@gmail.com>



CWAC - Your new recycling and waste collection service

"From boxes to bins, it's clean, easy, and green!"

March heralds a change in the bins provided by CWAC, a black one for non-recycled household waste, a red lidded (plastics, glass etc.), a blue lidded (paper, card etc.) and a small food waste bin. The green bin (garden waste) is now by subscription and if you have made payment for 2022 you will have received a sticker to place on the bin. If you have received

the new bins it implies your property has been assessed as being able to accommodate them. (If you think there has been a mistake then contact the council on 0300 123 7026). There is a DROP IN EXHIBITION Tuesday 15 March at Waitrose, Northwich 11am - 2pm

It does mean a lot of bins per household. Luckily most properties in the village have a garden, a garage or a side passage so we would ask residents to be considerate of neighbours and put the bins out of sight where possible after they have been emptied.

Creative Corner

This month first item on Creative Corner features a poem written by a Comberbach resident.

Social Media

Twitter was once the sound of birds
Now it's meant for your own words
Squeezed into one hundred and forty characters
Thoughts, opinions, whatever matters
Maybe insulting, maybe it flatters

Facebook finds you hooked
When was it last you looked?
Keeping in touch you stipulate
Nosy parker's paradise any rate
Job recruiter may decide your fate
For business it's considered essential
For publicity and growth potential
Showing the world your image, your lifestyle
With best photos, locations you compile

Share your video on YouTube you think
Will create a following, cause a stink
Videos showing all sorts of stuff
People doing DIY, people being tough

Linked-in for business professionals
Promote and share credentials
The business world is ever-changing
New careers always in the making

WhatsApp text to see what's happening
Very useful when you're travelling
All over the globe, keep in touch
Mums and dads like that very much
Friends, groups as well for such and such

Snapchat, new kind of camera they say
To talk, play, learn your own special way
Don't need to spell or bother with writing
Some may find that more exciting

Facetime using different devices
To see, speak, no matter the prices
Share photos, videos, messages around
With family, friends you have found

Social media, today's tech creation
Moments of despair, moments of elation.
EMP

Comberbach Art Group

The art group continues to meet every Monday morning, we are all enjoying creating many different styles of work which I hope you will be able to view

at our annual exhibition later in the year.

As the weather improves it might even tempt us to do some

more outdoor painting which we enjoyed when we could during lockdown.

MB

Paintings below by Sue Stringer



Creative Corner *continued*

The second item is an account by Donna Marie on how she decided to write and publish a book. The book is available at Comberbach Post Office and through Amazon.

Donna Marie Clarke -Trusting Hunter Becoming a Writer

"Here we go again, we had better put the kettle on for this!" That's the kind of comment I quickly got used to hearing from my primary school teacher, every time it was my turn to hand in my story project in class. I loved writing stories and my teacher always said that it showed in my work. I never had enough paper to fill.

Adventure stories were my best topic, with Enid Blyton being my favourite author.

When I wasn't playing with friends or writing stories for school, you would find me tucked away in my room reading *The Famous Five* or *Secret Seven* books. I had them all. Books were my escapism, I loved the feeling of being lost in a story. All the battles of a rough childhood being forgotten in that moment.

From that early age, I wanted to be a children's book author, but then as I got older, life just got in the way. My love for reading continued, moving on from children's adventure to romantic suspense, but writing books just became something that other people did.

Then lockdown hit, and the world was suddenly plunged into the unknown. With nowhere

to go, no one to see, and a few disappointing books later, I finally decided to pick up a pen and start writing my first book. With a plot and characters already mapped out, I set myself a 12 month goal. For my first book I decided to self-publish through Amazon, giving myself more time for my writing to develop further and to create a back list. I also enlisted the help of a company in America with bringing the vision of my front cover alive. Although this was a challenging process at times, with lots of help and support, it

was all made worth it the moment my book went live and I had achieved my goal.

I am now currently working on the follow on book - 'Forever Hunter', and have a third book in the pipeline, which I hope to submit to a traditional publisher in the near future.
DC

Thanks to them both for their contributions. Calling the creative people of Comberbach to send in their articles for future editions.



Some Useful Telephone Numbers/ Web/ email addresses

Police

Police Non-Emergency and PCSO 101

PCSO Diana Wiggins (20322).
diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

NHS

NHS 111

Utilities

Scottish Power/ electricity. 0800 0015400.
United Utilities/ water. 0345 6723723

Village services

Comberbach Nursery and Primary School. 01606 891336

Spinner and Bergamot 01606 891307
Comberbach Post Office 01606 891316
Comberbach Memorial Hall bookings
07721501181 Mon-Fri 2pm - 6.30 pm
comberbachmemorialhallbookins@gmail.com

Marbury Ward Councillors

Councillor Lynn Gibbon
lynn.gibbon@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Councillor Phil Marshall
phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Councillor Norman Wright
norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Local authority

Cheshire West & Chester Council 0300 1238123
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

You can report Highways and StreetCare issues online at:
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/
contact-us/report-it or 0300 1237036

MP for Tatton

Esther McVey:
officeofesthermcveymp@parliament.uk
(01565 632181)

FOAM

The Friends of Anderton and Marbury:
www.foam.merseyforest.org.uk

Comberbach websites

Comberbach websites providing information about the village, contact details, groups and organisations, events, past copies of newsletters, council meetings and links to Facebook pages.

comberbach.com
comberbach-pc.gov.uk



Facebook groups

If you are on Facebook there are 3 relevant village groups:

Comberbach Community Support
(admins - Helen Joan / Ann Barr)

Comberbach Memories
(admins - Wayne Garnett / Kevin Goulding)

Comberbach Village Buy/ Sell/ FTGH
(admins - Ali Brennan / Lynda Bignmore / Louise White)

They are 'private' groups, easy to join but are strictly for people with present or past connections to the village. The relevant groups have an 'about' section giving an outline of conditions.

The Support group just requires a couple of questions to be answered and the Buy/Sell group requires an 'invite' from another member. They are interesting and can be useful in providing current information.

There are also Facebook pages to visit:
Friends of Comberbach School
Comberbach Fete.

The contact details of parish councillors, village groups and meetings at the Memorial Hall and Chapel can be found on the back pages.

A Bird's Eye View

Wind Woe

Marbury Park and the surrounding area has been a bit quiet of late. There is always something to see though. The bittern, although more reclusive than some years, has not gone into full Howard Hughes mode and has been seen enough to make those cold dusk visits worthwhile.

The RSBP Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January was a welcome distraction although, as usual, a lot of our regular feathered friends decided to stay away. At least the house sparrows turned up this year and my list was helped by a last gasp collared dove and a hoard of starlings, so it was not a total disaster. Proceedings were not helped by the horrendous gusts battering the garden. I think birds dislike strong winds, it is hard to fly in, landing is made difficult and the approach of predators is masked. Garden birds seem to retreat to the safety of nearby woods in conditions like these, at least temporarily.

Lemon Landing

An hour watching anywhere, particularly in your garden, is never time wasted though. I often wonder how much has slipped through the net over the years when I am not looking. As an example, this year is the first time I have ever seen a yellowhammer in the garden. This beautiful lemon-yellow headed bunting, with its rich orange-brown flanks is still relatively numerous locally. In the summer you can hear its 'a bit of bread and ...no cheese' song, sung from hedges and trees along the back lanes of the village. It is not in general a garden bird though, being mainly a shy, farmland, ground-feeding bird. My hopes of seeing one had gone up in the last few years after my neighbours had seen them in their garden.

Then, out of the blue, I looked out of the kitchen window and saw 2 males feeding around the floor seed tray. Of course, they took one look at me and both flew off, but were fortunately re-found later in some shrubs. They were seen the next day then not again until 6 weeks later when 3 more appeared. I like to think their range has expanded and they will visit more regularly, but maybe not, whatever the case it was certainly worth the wait to finally see them in the garden.

Blackbird Back

Our tame male blackbird is still coming; I have not tried to feed him from the hand yet but he waits only inches away as you put food out for him. We also have a part white (leucistic) male blackbird who comes regularly, he must be the offspring of other mixed colour birds we have had in the past. Their genes must still live on in this beautiful 'magpie'.

So, if you are stuck for something to do for 10 minutes, look into your garden, who knows what delights you might find there to brighten up a dull winter's day? An over-wintering male blackcap recently spent a day with us, by rights he should have been in the Mediterranean area or even Africa, but in all likelihood was from the German population, of which about 3000+ (and counting) now winter over here with us. We have also had a male reed bunting, a siskin and a regular male great spotted woodpecker visit. What could you be overlooking in your garden?

JB

Just a few words from your local PCSO Diana Wiggins 20322

At last the lighter evenings are upon us – it seems to have been along winter.

Hopefully with the pandemic behind us we can now get back to some normality.

There will be regular dates advertised regarding Police surgeries in the community. These can be viewed on the local notice boards around the village and also on the Marbury website.

I can be contacted via email:

diana.wiggins@cheshire.police.uk

Works mobile (not monitored 24/7) 07989671047.

Remember to look after each other and stay safe
Diana Wiggins

Report from the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at Comberbach Memorial Hall

BT Exchange Senna Lane

The Parish Council continues to chase up this matter with BT as nothing has happened since the grass was cut during autumn.

Financial Matters

The Parish Council considered various financial reports in order to agree the budget and precept for 2022/23. The Responsible Financial Officer anticipated the sum of £8k to be available at year end to transfer to the reserves. Members discussed future projects including the zip wire landing strip and replacement and new multi play unit, all of which would need large levels of funding, although it was hoped that some grant funding could be

achieved. Members discussed cost inflation which was affecting council funds and approved a new online storage solution which would improve capacity. The approved budget is available on the council's website.

Recreation Area and Pump Track

The council has invited quotes for a new swing set for the Recreation Area as new swing legs could not be installed due to fittings not matching the existing frame. The council has agreed a 3 year maintenance contract for the Recreation Area to give certainty around the budget and ensure a consistent service is maintained.

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboards

at Gibb Hill, Post Office and Bus shelter at the recreation area and on the Parish Council website:

www.comberbach-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council meeting dates 2022-23

10 May; 5 July; 6 September; 1 November; 13 December; 10 January; 7 March 7.15pm in Comberbach Memorial Hall

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council.

Any queries please contact the Clerk,

Denise French:

clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

A committee has been established to help plan the events over the weekend of 2nd to 5th June and anyone interested in joining or helping over the weekend, please get in touch with either Val on 07793917490 or Liz on 07771638324. Thanks

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Parish Councillor information and meeting dates

All Parish Council meetings are held on a Tuesday.

Meeting dates:
2021: 14 December;

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

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

2022: 18 January; 8 March.

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	07970 499227	Senna Lane (lower to Mather Drive), Marbury Road, The Moss
Jim Bradley	Currently on compassionate leave		
Richard Chandler	Crows Nest House Crownest Lane Comberbach CW9 6HY	01606 892 157 07933 087560	The Avenue (to the Spinner), Warrington Road (from the Spinner, Budworth Lane Crownest Lane
John Darwin	Brook Cottage Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	01606 891410 077888 27933	Bracken Way Kennelwood Road Fox Lea & Freshfields Broadacre
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 077939 17490	Cogshall Lane Outer Cogshall
Parish Clerk	Denise French clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk	07759 212449	

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Contact Bryan Jackson

Tel. 07853748011

Email: bryanjackson@mail.com

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	Helena O'Byrne	01606 891755/07702693206
Love to Dance	Mon,	4 - 8.45pm	Zoe Buckley	
	Wed	4 - 7.30pm	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	6 - 7pm	Andrew Wilson	07388 869985
	Sunday	4 - 6pm	cheshire.shitoryu@gmail.com	
Wild Yoga	Tuesday	9.30am	Kelly	07922534076
Yoga	Wednesday	8 - 9pm	Alison Rostron	07460 805880
			yogapilatesali@gmail.com	
Tots gone Wild	Wednesday	10.15 - 11am		
	Friday	10.15 - 11am		
Calligraphy	Thursday	1.30 - 3.30pm	Brian Sudlow	01606891722
Cheerleading	Friday	5 - 6pm	Megan Berry	meganberry_@hotmail.co.uk
	Saturday	10 - 11am		

Chapel

Brownies (2nd)	Wednesday	6 - 7.20pm	Lynda Flynn	891571
Guides	Wednesday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Anne O'May	891156
Marbury Senior Section	Wednesday	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	07725 150 928
			Rob Doel	891789 / 07526 723516

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 Friday 22 April**

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	
Sunday School Room Hire	Alan Woodcock	891248
Great Budworth Parish Church	Rev A Brown	891324
Fete Committee	Rebecca Matzen fete@comberbach.com	07725954349