

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - Nov 2023



Tree at corner of Brookfield and Reedsmere

Parish Council

An informal update from your parish councillors

Notes from the Chair

Autumn is certainly with us, and dark nights are now the order of the day.

Storm Babett certainly focussed on the flood defences around the town centre of Northwich.

With the flooding a couple of years ago in and around the village, the Parish Council did supply sand bags to vulnerable properties and we still have a limited supply of sand bags in the Village Storage Unit at the Memorial Hall.

Casual Vacancy

Following on from the Parish Council elections in May and our note to advertise for another councillor to join the team, I am pleased to advise that William (Bill) Briggs contacted the Parish Clerk to offer his services and nomination. Bill purchased the run-down bungalow in The Moss a few years ago and with its demolition has firmly enhanced the rebuild. He brings with him a wealth of experience to the local community. His nomination as an elected Councillor was confirmed at our September meeting. We now have a full complement of Councillors.

Soot Hill

Whilst we have no official communication from CW&C, rumours circulate that the road will be re-opened by the time readers receive this newsletter. I just hope that CW&C do not decide to focus on the fact that the repairs have completed before the projected end of year project. Nearly 2 years to complete the repair and project should not be considered a success.

Over the next few months, the speed indicator device (SID) will be used both to monitor the speeds of traffic through the village as well as any increase in the number of vehicles.

Grass Cutting and Weed Control

The CW&C web site advises when grass cutting schedules and weed control are to be completed. Its disappointing to note that both schedules had not been completed as the advertised timescales.

I had to make contact with officials as to why the tasks were not completed as identified. Excuses are similar each year. Machinery broke down awaiting new parts, too wet to cut. CW&C confirmed that they only have one mower to cut all the grass in "The Rural".

Verges and Footpaths

A number of residents responded to the request to help clear the footpaths of excess grass growth and cut back the undergrowth. Work was completed on Goosebrook, Cogshall Lane and Warrington Road by the bend at Home Farm. Special thanks to the volunteers: - Kath & Steve Wharfe, Julie Hatcher, Steve & Klm Matthews, Gordon Carson, Sandy & Jo Cameron, John & Liz Darwin, Claire Hornby. In the Spring next year, we will try and organise another clean up.

Freedom Fibre

Work is almost complete on the new underground ducting where there are no existing telegraph poles in situ. Freedom Fibre have advised that they are in contract discussion with 3 Broadband suppliers. It is envisaged that the first residents will be connected to the network in the next couple of weeks. We have suggested that Freedom Fibre and its suppliers make direct contact with residents to offer high speed full fibre broadband. It's proposed that a "Drop In" event be scheduled in the very near future to allow residents to discuss options that will be available, which Freedom Fibre has agreed to.

Details will be on the Parish Council website, notice boards, and Community Facebook once a confirmed date has been scheduled.

Recreation Area

The recreation area continues to be the asset to the village which is used by both local children and children and parents from the surrounding area.

The Parish Council approved a budget to clean and repaint the MUGA court (Multi Use Games

Notes from the Chair *continued*



Arena) and the work was completed last month once the contractor had a window of opportunity to complete without any rain scheduled. Many have complimented on the surface and appearance.

Our October Parish Council meeting also approved the replacement of the existing single bay infant swing with a new 2 bay swing to allow additional swing seats to include a parents and toddler seat as well as a disability type seat.

Work also needs to be completed on the zip line to repair the legs of the unit due to identified

wood rot. We must remember that the play equipment is now 20 years old.

Overgrown hedges

Please could I ask all residents to check if their boundary hedges / bushes are encroaching on footpaths and if necessary, maintain them. Parish Councillors have been receiving complaints that in several areas footpaths are impeded due to the overgrowth.

John Ryder, Chairman

Just a few words from PCSO Diana Wiggins

Due to an increase relating to thefts within the farming community - the below may be useful.

Do you know a farmer....Share this post with anyone you know from the farming community.

Thieves will often target machinery and other farm equipment.

There are 3 key areas where you can be most effective in reducing the likelihood of crime on your farm.

1 To deter: Measures you can use to make it harder for a criminal to identify your farm as an easy target. For example, parking machinery out of sight or removing the keys and locking them in a safe or security cabinet.

2 To delay: Measures you can use to make it more difficult for a criminal to physically break into your building or trespass on your land to take away your property. For example, maintaining fencing, hedges, ditches and gates around the farm building or using an approved hitch lock and wheel clamp on a livestock trailer.

3 To detect: Measures that you can use to help detect if a criminal tries to break into your farm building or attempts to steal your property. For example, installing an alarm system to your farm office or CCTV covering your fuel tanks.

For more advice visit -
Secured by Design - Farm Security and Machinery
#crimeprevention #ruralcrime
PCSO Diana Wiggins

Memorial Hall

Immediately following the Remembrance Sunday service at the Memorial Hall, we will be officially unveiling a new bench, dedicated to the memory of Rena Bradley, our inimitable Treasurer and Bookings Secretary, who died in 2021; a driving force for the Hall for twenty years. The bench is situated to the right of the front doors, where we hope it will have lots of use. Remembrance

Sunday is an appropriate date as it was Rena who initiated and organised the first Village service at the Hall, five years ago. Lots of Rena's friends from the village will be there, including the WI (who made a donation towards the cost) to see Rena's family unveil her bench.

NL

Comberbach Remembrance Sunday Service



Comberbach Memorial Hall
Sunday 12th November 2023
10.15am

Moving out to the War Memorial at 10.45am



Comberbach Chapel

We celebrated our Harvest Festival at the end of September with two excellent Services led by Local Preacher Mr Peter Adams and Mrs Sharon Mayer from the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy. The Chapel was decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables and gifts were brought to the Morning Service for the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank and The Oasis Centre in East Manchester to help feed the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in that area. Approximately twenty-five gifts of flowers and sweet treats were distributed locally. These were very much appreciated.

Our fortnightly Lite Bites have got off to a very good start with thirty at each session. It's so lovely for friends to meet up over Lunch, puzzling over the table quiz and all celebrating each other's Birthdays. The School Year 6 Children also enjoy coming and helping with the waiting-on. Please see the Diary page for the Dates. You are very welcome between 12 noon and 1.30pm. For more information, please ring 01606 891248. Look out for the big blue board outside the Chapel.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service will take place at the Village Hall and will be led by our Superintendent Minister Rev Janet Aspey.

We are holding a Fund-Raising Film Night on Saturday 25 November in the School Room - Matilda the Musical. Doors Open 6.15pm, film starts at 7pm. Adults £5, Children £2.50, including Tea, Coffee or Juice (Hot Dogs/Popcorn/Ice Cream available)



Our Christmas Foodbank Appeal this year, is for "all the little extras" to add to a meal. Sauces, such as bread sauce, cranberry, gravy, mustard and stuffing.

Also, custard, but not with brandy. They would also like some nibbles, eg Pringles in tubes, not crisps in packets as they get squashed. The Appeal will close at the end of November. Items can be dropped off at Chapel on Sunday mornings.

Our Carol Service will take place at 2.30pm on Sunday 10 December to which everyone is invited to hear the Christmas Story told once again through Carols, Choir Songs and Readings. As in previous years Gifts for Children aged from four up to teenagers will be welcomed for the Oasis Centre.

Please also listen out for the Carol Singers as they wend their way around the Village and surrounding areas during the Christmas period. Our first night will be Sunday 17 December. We would love people to come and join in the singing with us, keeping up this age-old tradition. Please ring Alan on 891248 for details of which roads we will be singing on and also keep an eye on Facebook.

The Crib Service will take place on Christmas Eve at 5pm and the Christmas Day Service will be at 11am.

As ever, a very warm welcome to all of our Christmas Services.

Just a reminder that the Sunday School Room is available for hire. *Please ring 891248.*



Comberbach WI

The dark nights are here and the WI meetings will change to the afternoons from Monday 6th November at 2.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Our first meeting will be the AGM when the future committee will be voted for followed by a quiz.

The next meeting on Monday 4th December may be of interest as Pat Rugg will show us the Iris folding technique and we hopefully will produce a Christmas card. This will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

In September we visited the cider press at Dunham Massey. Obviously, it is at its busiest at this time of year when the apples and pears are ready.

They had a great selection of cider and perry as well as fresh apple juice. We had lots of



tastings before we loaded up the cars and drove home.

Our Christmas trip will be to Chester to the Cathedral and the Christmas Markets and then a meal.

At our last meeting we welcomed David Brotten who spoke on Wild life in the North West which was fascinating. We asked him to judge a photographic competition of scenes from nature. Janine Hampton won with Mim Manners a worthy second. They both received Garden tokens as prizes.

In the September magazine I reported that Marjorie Tomsett had moved from the village but however she is back.

But another member Mary Tilley and her husband have moved to Scotland. We wish them well.

We are putting together an exciting list of meetings and trips for 2024.

Within our WI we have a Walking group, a Reading group and a Craft group.

The WI is open to all and you can come and see what you think.

We meet the first Monday of every month in the Memorial Hall. 2.30 pm in the winter and 7.30pm in the summer.

You are very welcome

Lindsay Entwistle – President



FoAM

Monday 6 November

Northwich Woodlands History and its Impact on the Landscape.

Mary Jeeves will give an illustrated talk starting at 7.45 pm in Comberbach Memorial Hall. She examines the effect of historical events in the area on the landscape, especially its trees and flowers.

For further information please contact Mary on 01606 77688 or email mary.foam@btinternet.com.

Sunday 10 December.

Christmas Decorations Workshop.

Join FoAM's annual workshop from 10am - 12 noon in Marbury Lodge near the Rangers' Cabin to create some stunning decorations for your home from natural materials gathered in the Woodlands. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

For more information, please contact Joanne Redley on 07748 654013 or email jarhillcliffe223@aol.com

Village Clean Up

On 1 October a group of villagers took place in a village clean up aiming at tackling some pavements overgrown with vegetation and litter picking. One group tackled the disappearance of the pavement towards Marbury by clearing and digging back the mass of vegetation, including brambles and nettles, and scraping the pavement. It was a very hard task. Others litter picked or worked on another area of the village.

The weather was awful which probably resulted in a low turnout of volunteers so not all that was planned was achieved. Thank you to John Ryder, Julie Hatcher, Claire Hornby, Steve and Kim Matthews, Jo and Sandy Cameron, Gordon Carson, John and Liz Darwin, Kath and Steve Wharfe and also to the Woodcocks for providing useful tools.

Litter picking does take place on a regular basis by a number of individuals and also annually by groups. Thank you to all of you. I have managed to get a new supply of 'Keep Britain Tidy' bags

from the Clean Streets department of CW&C. Please let me know if you need any. They have also asked if they could have an idea of the number of bags collected so could you please drop me an email kathwharfe@hotmail.co.uk, or pm on Facebook so I could do a monthly tally. They will also loan equipment for groups to use given some notice. Please be in touch.

A reminder of the 'Adopt a Drain' request from a previous issue. At this time of year, it would be useful to check any drain near your house and clear away accumulated leaves and vegetation to make runoff more efficient.

To report a blocked drain to CW&C please use the following link - <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/highways/grids-and-gullies>

KW



A bird's eye view

First Meeting

Late October seems a fitting time to tell a nature inspired spooky story. Except this tale contains no ghosts; I have never seen one and I do not believe in them. I am a sceptic with a small 's' so despite spending many years traipsing through Marbury Park at night (which has never bothered me), or returning home along Marbury Lane, I have yet to meet the Marbury Lady. Rather than ghosts then this piece concerns a place and an eerie feeling which was present there even on the brightest days. You often hear about haunted houses, churches, or castles but never about lakes. The lake in question is very old, forgotten by most and neglected by almost all, except the trees and bushes that surround it, cocooning it from the modern world. Even the bird roost that gave it its name has long since been deserted. I didn't know about its long history when I first met it, or the tales of marching Roman soldiers or wondering monks from the nearby Abbey that were associated with it; but I sensed that it had witnessed much through its long existence. It was an autumn day when I first fished it, seeing it through a child's eyes I thought that the fallen trees and branches that covered the margins of the lake were the final resting place of the bones of some great lake monster. The fallen leaves that festooned the water's surface were its scales that had landed there like confetti. The earthy smell of countless fungi only added to the strangeness. I caught little, bar a few tiny loach, but the lake caught me and my imagination and has never left it since.

Green Goddess

I returned a few years later, with more angling experience and a desire to contact the lake's living underwater treasures. In summer it was a very beautiful water, like a lost estate lake; covered with water lilies, damsel and dragonflies fluttered everywhere, coots and moorhens reared their young. Under the surface swan ancient carp and resplendent green tench; these creatures are as beautiful as any of our wild animals but are rarely seen by most people so are not celebrated. I would sit transfixed willing the stream of fizzy, frothing bubbles that erupted by the red tip of my float to lead to it being slowly drawn into the depths, as my bait was consumed by some unseen lake denizen. A flick of the wrist, that moment when the rod feels solid resistance, the

electric shock as you feel the fish kick deep down in the water, the adrenaline rush as you play out the drama that follows. The simultaneous desire to wish for it to end immediately and yet last forever. The urge to already be able to look back at the capture and remember the battle, but knowing that to reach that point you must first conquer your pounding heart and trembling hands. If you are lucky at the end of your net lays a green jewel, a perfect tench, streamlined, dark olive green with darker fins and smooth scales like jade, all topped off with burning amber eyes. The pleasure of returning it safely to the water only adding to the delight. For the angler it is never enough just to see a fish pass by you under the lake's surface. You are only able to believe that something so perfect can exist when it lays in your hand, when at last the mythic becomes real. Samuel Johnson said fishing 'is a worm at one end and a fool at the other', he was right....he just forgot to put happy in front of fool!

Lost Lake

But away from these moments, when you would forget, this lake would make you feel uneasy even on a lovely day. I fished it once all alone on a hot summer's day. The wind was so strong I could hear nothing above it. I had not fished the spot before, behind me lay a narrow grass path surrounded by dense fern beds. It was so strange, the lake looked perfect and yet I could not catch a thing, there were no signs of life at all. During this time, I had the most unpleasant sensation, which only grew as the hours passed. The hairs on the back of my neck bristled and stood up on end, my muscles cringed and burned along my back and I had the overwhelming feeling I was being watched. I could not concentrate, I turned round countless times thinking something or someone must be there, but my eyes met with nothing except the tendrils of the ferns flicking forwards towards me like fingers, as if beckoning me or reaching out to snatch me. The wind was roaring, I could hear nothing else but my pounding heart. It felt as though the lake had slipped its earthly moorings and was drifting in time and space, like it was its own little world. I could not bring myself to walk towards the ferns or through them to see what darkness lay behind their green curtain.

A bird's eye view *continued*

Fear Fear

I never fished the lake alone again. I returned many times, but only with a fishing partner. Strangely on my friend's first visit to the water we both said, unprompted, 'No pranks, no fooling about, no jumping out trying to scare each other'. Why did we say that now? Neither of us had ever felt the need before despite fishing countless other lakes together. Was it because of the sense of strangeness this place created? The fact that you felt if you looked too deeply into the clear water you might see something looking back at you. Maybe it was the peg that was lost behind wall-like rhododendrons, that felt like a maze because it was so difficult to find and then leave again. Or the one that was beneath a canopy of tangled roots that were like the legs of some gigantic spider. This was reached by travelling through the ferns mentioned earlier that towered above head height. You could see nothing above you, and only slightly in front of you. As you pushed your way through, they grabbed and snagged you, seemingly reluctant to let you pass. By the time the golf course had been built the far bank was out of bounds, but there was no way anyone would return through the cloying and clinging ferns at night. So, pretending my rod bag held golf clubs that is the way I would leave.

Fox Trot

The island peg where I caught my tench could only be reached via a makeshift bridge of fallen logs over swampy ground. Once on the island you were completely isolated. On one occasion I heard the foliage behind me twitch and tremble and turned round to see a big dog-fox entering the swim. He was unruffled, just half-sat and

watched me for a while before turning and slipping away to find somewhere else to get a drink.

Looking Back

As I write this I have not been back to the lake for many years. The water has passed through the hands of many angling clubs since I last went. The walk needed to reach it, the lack of places to fish and the difficulty of the fishing cited as reasons for its disposal, but there is another unspoken reason, I think. It is this which remains with me. It is why, when I speak to other anglers, I always ask them if they have fished 'the pool' and get the same type of responses; 'strange place that' or 'an odd little water'. I think now that the only ghosts that ever resided there were the spectral carp that frequented it, rarely seen and less caught. Their flanks like old, worn leather that had been scattered with gold leaf. Descendants of those fish held in the monks' stock ponds perhaps? Some people think that spiritual places like ancient standing stones or cathedrals are a meeting place between two worlds, where the veneer of reality is worn thin, where your certainty over the order of things fades. At this lake you felt the flow of history, not a portal as such but rather a conduit for something that would provoke feelings in you that our ancestors felt. When nature ruled, when danger lay everywhere, when the night was fearful and forests dreadful. This was the lake's timeless and unearthly quality, and this is why I never went back alone. A warning from Mother Nature of what was and could still be again if we continue to neglect her.

JB



Comberbach Fete

AGM: calling all who love our village fete tradition

After a welcome break over the summer holidays, Comberbach Village Fete Committee will reconvene for its AGM on Thursday 16 November when it will elect a new committee and start planning next year's fete and Sundowner events.

The meeting will take place at 7:15pm at the Spinner & Bergamot and we would love to see some new faces. We would encourage anyone who would like to be part of a small and friendly group of volunteers to get in touch or come

along. You don't have to commit to attending regular meetings or taking on a specific role - you can give as much or as little time as you want. It is a great way of getting to know people and making a contribution to village life.

For over 50 years, the fete has been at the heart of our community here in Comberbach. We are lucky to have such a thriving tradition and want to safeguard it for generations to come. In order to do this, we need people!

Lynda Bigmore lynda@clevercopy.co.uk 07866 130093



Comberbach Village Fete A.G.M.

Thursday 16th November, from 7:15pm, The Spinner & Bergamot.

We are looking for new members to help organise the Village Fete and Sundowner Fun Run. *Come along and join in the fun!*



Practical uses of technology – an occasional look at accessible new technologies

A new feature which looks at some more recent technologies; future topics to include Laser Engraving, Home Weather Stations and Drones. Any further suggestions for topics or contributions welcome. Contact details at the back.

3D Printing

When I was a kid the idea of printing anything at home was science fiction, then home computers appeared, and the printers became an affordable reality, and then colour printers. Now if you have a computer then a printer has become almost indispensable.

And now we can get 3-D and you might wonder how you can use them, because you can't do 3-D on your computer like you can write a letter.

So, to help answer this question, let us see what a home 3-D printer can do.

What can you print?

First of all, it can usually only print in plastic, and most commonly it uses polylactic acid, or PLA for short.

Now PLA isn't like most commercial plastics, it is environmentally friendly and is both biodegradable and bioactive (it can be absorbed by the body). This latter characteristic is handy for making temporary structures used to help healing that won't need a further operation to remove them.

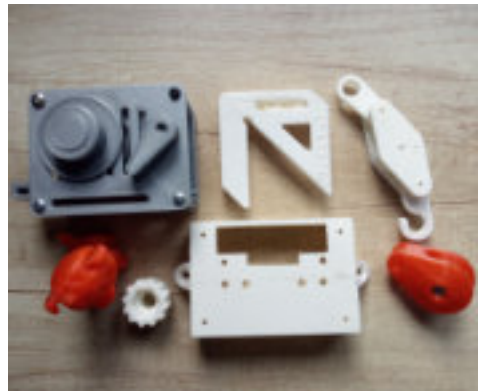
It can print all sorts of useful things from nuts and bolts, through vases and ornaments, to tools and models of all types.

It can print from tiny sizes (I used mine to make tiny model ships' bollards about 2mm high) to large plastic containers, limited only by the size of printer you can afford.

And it can print some incredible shapes and unbelievable objects, limited really only by your imagination. One of my favourites is to print working ball bearings with the balls already in place on the inside.

How do you go from concept to reality

Don't be scared of this process. Most of the time



what you want has been done before and people are happy to make them available, mostly for free, on the internet. All you need is the ability to search the internet and download files onto a memory stick. These files are industry standard computer aided design (CAD) files, but you don't need to know how to create them.

If you really want to do it yourself there is a free online program called TinkerCAD which is simplicity itself to build all sorts of complex shapes.

How does it do it?

You are probably familiar with hot glue guns, well imagine one of these but with a very tiny nozzle (commonly about 0.2 to 0.4mm), controlled by a smart machine and supplied with thin PLA filament on a roll instead of glue sticks.

The machine consists of a bed on which the 3D model is built. and a series of very precise motors and pulleys to move the "glue gun" and the bed.

The model is built up by squeezing the melted plastic in a thin string onto the bed to make a very thin layer.

When you get a 3-d printer it is likely that it comes with a program called a slicer, which converts the CAD model into a load of little slices that it builds the model up from (imagine a loaf of bread with the crust at the bottom and all the other slices piled on it). The printer squeezes out the plastic in the shape of each slice. It uses a pattern of lines and curves to build each slice, from every line touching the next (for a solid area) to fancy zigzags to create less dense parts.

After each layer it lifts the print head up by a fraction of a millimetre and then adds the next



slice. Because the glue is hot it sticks to the previous slice and a built-in fan is used to cool it down so that it doesn't run everywhere.

As you can imagine it takes quite a while to build a big model – hours sometimes.

For very complex parts, the slicer program will automatically generate thin temporary supports which you can easily remove when it is cool.

For most domestic printers the layers are visible on the finished models, but these can be smoothed over with a wipe of a suitable solvent or by fine sanding and polishing.

Professional 3D Printing

There are all sorts of things that are outside the scope (and pocket) of a home user, but it is now a quite mature technology that can produce items in ceramic, resin and metal. Customised prosthetics, parts for jet engines and engineering models are now commonplace, and on a more everyday level, commercial printers can produce full colour 3-d lifelike miniatures of people if a photo is not good enough for you.

By Pancho the Geek



Friends of Comberbach School FoCS

Friends of Comberbach School have two exciting events coming up before Christmas:

Winter Market

A Winter Market will be held on Sunday 26 November at school from 2pm to 4pm.

There will be a range of stalls selling gifts and treats for Christmas including Layer Treats and the Marbury Lady Photography & Gifts to name a

few. A great chance to buy some presents and support the school.

Wreath Making

A Wreath Making Workshop will be held on 7 December at school from 8pm to 9.30pm. Tickets are £30 which includes materials and a glass of Prosecco. This is the second year for wreath making; it proved popular last year so make sure to get your tickets early.

Gardening Tips

November:

Around the garden

- Tidy the garden for winter, but try to leave one area with a small pile of branches/ twigs as habitat for wildlife
- Clear out bird boxes and put food out for birds
- Clean to reuse or throw out old pots and trays (recycle if possible)
- Clean greenhouse thoroughly
- Winter digging
- Keep off lawns in frosts
- Plant bare rooted trees, shrubs and new roses
- Plant fruit trees and bushes
- Protect plants from frost and wind
- Check cuttings made, lightly water if necessary
- Plant tulip bulbs

Kitchen garden

- Lift and divide rhubarb crowns
- Winter prune fruit trees and bushes

December:

Around the garden

- Feed birds
- Winter digging and incorporate organic matter
- Clear paths, repair sheds and fences
- Water plants overwintering under cover sparingly

Kitchen garden

- Earth up tall brussel sprouts
- Bring bay trees and other vulnerable plants under cover

Happy gardening

SW



Recipe

Anzac Biscuits (adapted to be a bit healthier)

Ingredients

85 gms oats (can use quick cook oats)
40 gms muesli
45 gms desiccated coconut
Handful of raisins or dried cranberries
100 gms plain flour
70 gms butter
70 gms sugar
2 tbs golden syrup
1 tsp bicarbonate.

Method

- Oven 180 / 160 fan
- Put oats, muesli, coconut, flour and fruit into a bowl
- Melt butter in pan, stir in the syrup
- Add bicarbonate to 2 tbsps of boiling water and stir into butter/syrup mixture and add to the dry ingredients. Stir until combined.
- Put dessert spoonfuls (1 inch apart) onto baking paper on a tray and bake for 8-10 mins/ until golden, take care not to overcook or they will become brittle.
- Cool on rack.

Kath

Great Budworth Garden Club

We come to the end of the mists and mellow fruitfulness of autumn, as we reach November. Instead, there are frosty mornings and toasty mugs. The garden must be put to bed for winter to regain its energy for spring.

We can plant bulbs, divide and move perennials but must protect the vulnerable plants to save for next year.

We can plant Sweet Peas in pots, ready to be planted out about March, as described by our last speakers David and Pauline Matthewman from North Allerton in Yorkshire. They changed their professional careers mid-life, to grow Sweet Peas. They have been very successful and now supply seeds to many big companies and have won gold medals at Flower Shows. A very interesting evening and they were thanked by June Wilkinson.

The exciting part of the evening was when Julie Treharne, from Comberbach, took bookings and deposits for next year's holiday to famous

gardens in the south of England. We have an excellent thriving club and I was delighted to find that the holiday became fully booked. Any information about this, please contact Julie directly on 07792 108549.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 14 November when Catherine Sobolewska will talk about Design Management and Harvesting a Cutting Garden.

The members Christmas party is on Tuesday 5 December, but tickets must be obtained because of limited spaces in the Parish Hall.

Then there is no meeting in January, and the AGM is on 13 February 2024.

Any other details about the club, please contact me in the first instance.

Jean Davies, Chair.
0789993 7683



Creative Corner

The Piano

Pressing fingers on silken keys
The sound it makes hard not to please
Reading the notes, treble and bass
Every beat of the bar the right pace
Moving up and down, hands and fingers
Fast and slow the tune rises then lingers
Chords right and left, soft and loud
Using white keys; the black standing proud
Fingers together, fingers apart
Making music to gladden the heart
The air is full of melody and noise
Playing and listening two of the joys
The sound of music raises the spirits
Wealth and breadth of it has no limits
Some playing is so accomplished
It's very inspiring for you
Your soul should feel nourished
By the sound and applause too.

EMP

Oxford bound

"Will you look at these fields – they're so very green",
says the man with the broad Scottish accent
as we approach Stafford on the train,
"and just look at the corn standing so tall" he
continues,
as we pass by fields of maize on both sides of
the track,
but what the Scottish traveller doesn't ask
is where all the maize will eventually end up;
Will it be for hungry humans across the planet,
or for animal feed in our seemingly insatiable
appetite for milk and meat?
It's a question we should perhaps all ponder
and especially as we give thanks to God for the
harvest
and remember all those throughout our world
who would be grateful for a single cob of maize to
eat,
let alone a single piece of meat.

© The Revd Alec Brown
Stafford Station, Staffordshire
25 September, 2023.

A region in crisis

Above the newly ploughed field the gulls wheel in
flight
against the bright autumn afternoon's light,
and beyond them the jackdaws cackle and call
as they land and scratch the surface of the soil
looking confidently for whatever they can find,
whilst high above them all
the solitary buzzard rides the thermals and reigns
supreme;
And as I tramp across the grass
and gaze on this tranquil rural Cheshire scene,
I know that parts of our world are anything but
serene,
especially in the land which Jews and Christians
and Muslims call holy
there is today such uncertainty, suffering and so
much pain
as well of course as death and grief and
overwhelming fear,
and I stop to think awhile, to silently pray and to
shed a tear.

© The Revd Alec Brown
Budworth Heath, Great Budworth
15 October, 2023.

Ladies Club

There was a meeting in the Chapel school room
on 18 September when a range of Body Shop
products were displayed and available to order.
As a result of orders placed a commission of £45
was raised and donated to St Luke's Hospice.

The following meeting on 30 October was a
Cheese and Wine Evening with a quiz and a
chance to purchase some cards.

KW



Great Budworth Church

Dates for the diary: November

Wed 1

10.30am Holy Communion, followed by refreshments

Thurs 2

7pm Celtic Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel

Sun 5

10.30am All Age Service for All Saints with Bishop Sam Corley

Sun 12

10.30am Remembrance Service, followed by Wakes Lunch in the Parish Hall

Mon 13

7pm Safeguarding training for PCC members in Great Budworth School

Sun 26

3pm Forest Church (details to be advised)

Mon 27

7pm PCC Meeting in The Old School

Thurs 30

4pm Full Governors' Meeting, Great Budworth School

December

Sun 3

Advent Sunday 10.30am All Age Service for Advent

Sun 10

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Arley Chapel followed by refreshments

Wed 13

5pm Joint Schools Carol Service

Fri 15

10am Cransley Senior School Christmas Service
1.30pm Great Budworth Primary School Christmas Service

Sun 17

4pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tues 19

7pm Equali Christmas Concert in Church

Sun 24

Christmas Eve 10.30am Parish Communion
4pm Christingle and Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Mon 25

Christmas Day 8am Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion

Craft and Natter

Great Budworth Church now run a craft and natter group every 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 10am to 12noon. We meet either in church or in the School House. No matter what craft you enjoy doing (e.g. beading, sewing, woodworking, card making etc) we'd love to see you.

There is a small charge of £2 to cover refreshments. Our next four meetings will be held on

Wednesday 8 November
Wednesday 22 November
Wednesday 13 December

Do come and join us. Contact Anne O'May (891156) for more information.

Great Budworth Cricket Club

he club has continued to enjoy one of its most successful seasons, losing the odd fixture to either the weather or oppositions failure to raise a side.

GBCCs squad is steadily growing in numbers, ability & enthusiasm, allowing us to regularly get 11 players out, despite Club Captain Mark Hankey's obsession for foreign holidays (both Europe & Wales!)

Unfortunately, possibly one of our most challenging fixtures against ECAD (English Cricket Association for the Deaf) could not take place this year, so the Peter McAndrew Trophy was not presented in 2023.

We have enjoyed return fixtures with a side from Warrington CC, being successful on both occasions.

The Treble

It is always satisfying to beat local rivals & we have completed the treble against Lymm Outrington Park this year; particularly thanks to them for getting the game on at their ground early in August in miserable conditions which brought out the best & worst of Steve Hankey's fielding - a mixture of Jonty Rhodes & Bambi On Ice!

Elsewhere GBCC has had fairly easy wins against Reynolds CC, Ashtree CC and Barnton CC.

The final home game of this summer took place on Saturday

2 September against a Lord Ashbrook XI

Invited to bat first, Budworth posted a competitive 160 in their 30 overs. This proved to be a winning score as Lord Ashbrook's side wilted quickly following the unfortunate loss of both Roland & Harry Flower to injury early in the game.

Consistent batting performances have come from Steve Norton, Paul Lancaster & Pete Taylor with a number of impressive innings from new boy Greg Atkins.

Spencer Osborne continues to baffle opposition batsmen with his flighted spin bowling.

We've been able to host a barbecue after each home game at Arley: catering by Mike Barker & others as well as generous liquid support from Richard Kershaw / Holts Brewery, continues to make games against Great Budworth a highlight for several of our visiting teams.

Fines

The club treasurer's strictly applied fines policy for offences such as dropped catches, poor fielding or in fact anything, will ensure the end of season bash is extremely well funded.

The match against a Lord Ashbrook XI reported above proved to be the last match of the season:

What should have been the final away game against Kingsley Cricket Club was

cancelled by the opposition so an alternative single wicket competition was hastily arranged.

8 of the regular players took part in the knockout stages; Matt Hankey eventual winner by beating Andrew Philips by 18 runs.

The end of season dinner & awards night took place at the Cock O'Budworth on Friday 22 September.

Reflections

Club Captain Mark Hankey reflected on what had been the clubs most successful season to date and announced the following awards:

Best batting average.

Steve Hankey

Best bowling.

Spencer Osborne

Players player of the year.

Steve Norton

Finally, the **Peter McAndrew Trophy** (for services to Great Budworth CC) was awarded to Doug Toy in recognition of his outstanding efforts in preparing the ground throughout the year and for his role as Club Secretary.

SB



Comberbach Art Group

Phew!, we finally managed to stage our annual exhibition on Saturday 21 October despite a few hiccups along the way, many thanks to Shane for stepping in with transport for the screens at short notice. Many thanks also to the members of the group and their partners and also Paul and Rosie for their help setting it all up on Friday evening. Thanks also to Ellan, Sue, Hilary N and Hilary K for the delicious cakes which are always popular.

Despite the best efforts of storm Babet which left some of the local roads flooded the weather was kind to us on Saturday and we had a really lovely day for the exhibition. We welcomed about 80 visitors throughout the day, regular faces and some new ones too. There was a total of 152 works of art showing a variety of work, most of which had been done by the members of the group although we did have some paintings from invited guests.

We had our usual competition for the people's favourite, the winners were, for the group Norma, for her painting of Wells Next the Sea, Hilary for Meadow Sunset and for the visitors it was Juliet's painting of One Man and his Dog.

We soon cleared it all away in the evening and now it's back to painting more pictures to do it all again next year.



Guides and Senior Section

Apart from when storm Agnes came through, we've held all our meetings in Marbury Park. Over the last few weeks, we've been Geocaching (it's quite difficult in the dark) and working on our Take Action module. We've become Conscious Consumers, looking at how products are made, where they come from and how they are advertised. We even made up a radio advert (complete with jingle) to promote ethical thinking and shopping. On our last night, just before another storm hit us, we cooked ethically on our Trangias. Over half term we been asked to bring out our inner stylist and create our own fashion

collection with an ethical theme. Then we'll have gained our badges.

We love being outdoors, but now it's time to meet indoors, so we'll be back in the Methodist Church Hall in November.

As the next edition of the Village News doesn't come out until January, we wish everybody a happy, peaceful Christmas and all the best for 2024.

Guides and Senior Section

Parish Councillor information and meeting dates

All Parish Council meetings are held on a Tuesday starting at 6.45pm.
Members of the public are welcome to attend and can speak during the Open Forum at the start of the meeting

Meeting dates:
5 September

Name	Address	Tel numbers	Contact point for
Cllr. John Ryder (Chairman)	26 Burgamot Lane, Comberbach CW9 6BU	01606 891 827	Barrymore Crescent, Burgamot Lane,
Jill Johnston	6 Barrymore Crescent Comberbach CW9 6PA	01606 892 121	Goosebrook Close, Brookfield Road, Spinner Crescent, Chapel Close, Reedsmere Walk
Sandy Cameron	17 Goosebrook Close Comberbach CW9 6BX	01606 891 152	Senna Lane (lower, to Mather Drive), Marbury Road, The Moss
Richard Chandler	Crows Nest House Crows Nest Lane Comberbach CW9 6HY	01606 892 157 07933 087560	The Avenue (to the Spinner), Warrington Budworth Lane Crownest Lane
John Darwin	Brook Cottage Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	01606 891410 077888 27933	Cogshall Lane, Outer Cogshall
Bob Holt	8 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	07739 046775	Mather Drive Meadow Lane Senna Lane (upper: from Mather Drive)
Val McDermott	14 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	01606 891075 077939 17490	Bracken Way & Kennel Wood & Fox Lea & Freshfields, Broadacre
Parish Clerk	Denise French clerk@comberbach-pc.gov.uk	07759 212449	

Report from the Meeting of Comberbach Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at Comberbach Memorial Hall

New Councillor – William ‘Bill’ Briggs

The Parish Council co-opted Bill Briggs onto the Council which means there is now a full complement of 8 Councillors.

Recreation Area

As part of the Council's commitment to enhance and maintain the Recreation Area, the Council agreed to seek quotes for a replacement swing set to provide a 4-seat configuration to replace the current 2 seats. The Zip Wire wooden support is showing signs of wear and investigations will be made around how best to repair or replace. The MUGA has now been resprayed and repainted.

Highways

The Council agreed to ask Great Budworth PC if the Speed Indicator Device can be located on Budworth Lane to capture data and encourage adherence to the speed limit. It was also agreed to contact CWAC about the grass cutting regime

and gulley clearing.

D Day Commemorations

As part of the D Day Commemorations the Council has agreed to purchase an "Unknown Woman in War" statue to be located by the War Memorial and to look at how to commemorate D Day on 6 June 2024 including lighting the Beacon.

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboard at the Post Office and on the Parish Council website:

www.comberbach-pc.gov.uk

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 5 December at 6.45pm 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

Village News Editor wanted in 2024

There is a vacancy for the role of gathering and assembling the content of the newsletter for someone, or even better a group of friends, with more IT skills than me and some fresh ideas for the newsletter. Comberbach seems to have acquired a younger population profile in recent years and this should be reflected in the newsletter.

I have been helping with the Newsletter for a number of years, starting as a helper with Irene when it was printed on the photocopier in the Hall. The Team then became depleted; Norma was in charge then but moved to Little Budworth, Andy moved to Winnington and Angela to Antrobus. By default, I had to take over communication with contributors, assembling content and delivery to the distributors. Since then, the lease on the photocopier ended and we moved to a professionally printed version. Ron has continued to do a sterling job on the printing layout and communication with the print company, a role which does require skill and suitable software. Ola and Jeff Dodd have stepped in and taken over responsibility of distribution to the various distributors which is a great help.

What the job entails: the newsletter is bi-monthly, six copies per year so every two months you have to:

*Communicate with contributors to give notice of deadlines and request contributions

*Create a document (I just produce a large word document using Office), folders of photos and posters, and if content is a bit 'thin' then being a little creative and adding new items.

*Checking of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

*Producing the Dates for the Diary page

*Sending all content to Ron for layout

*Checking and approval of the draft copies prior to printing.

Please contact either myself or John Ryder if you are interested in taking over this role.

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 Bigmore / 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.

Hodgkinson Building & Maintenance

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

15 Mather Drive,
Comberbach, Cheshire

07734 252239
kevinh20x@live.co.uk
Fully insured, Free Quotes

**This space could
be promoting your business
In the village
at modest cost**



Fred Moores & Son Ltd
Building & Joinery Contractors

Mr John Moores

Tel: 01606 892055
Mobile: 07899 651669
Email: fredmooresbuilders@gmail.com

11 Senna Lane
Comberbach
Northwich
CW9 6BD

NIGEL MOORES **PLUMBING & HEATING**

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

3 Senna Lane, Comberbach,
Northwich Cheshire CW9 6BD

Tel: 01606 891286 Mobile: 07984 038789
Email: nigelmoores1@gmail.com

NEED HELP WITH YOUR
IRONING?

PRESSED IRONING SERVICE



**COMBERBACH
COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE
AVAILABLE**
Contact Jane 07761742229

PERCY'S AUTOS

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

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

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	Tues, Wed	4.45 - 7.45pm 4 - 7.30pm	Zoe Buckley smb.designs@hotmail.co.uk	
Well heeled puppies	Monday (small hall)	6.30-8.30pm	Mike Flannery	
well heeled dogs	Thursday	8 - 9pm	mike@thedogclub.co.uk	
Karate	Monday	6 - 7pm	Andrew Wilson	07388 869985
	Sunday	4.30 - 6pm	cheshire.shitoryu@gmail.com	
Wild Apple Yoga	Thursday	10-11am	Kelly Appleton	wildappleyoga@outlook.com
Calligraphy	Thursday	1.30 - 3.30pm	Tom Bebbington	Tom.bebb37@gmail.com
Cheerleading	Thursday	5 - 6.30pm	Megan Berry	apexcheer@outlook.com
	Friday	5 - 7pm		07766745705
	Saturday	10am - 7pm		
Choir	Tuesday	7.30 - 9.30pm	Liz Cook	07771638324
Tumble Tots	Thursday	9-3pm	Laura Barr	tumbletotsmidchesh@gmail.com
Northwich Dance Co.	Wednesday	7.45-9.45pm	Amanda Kirby amanda@northwichdancecompany.co.uk	
Yoga	Thursday	9.30am October to April		

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 - 1.pm	Midge Broadhurst	01925 266 798
Yoga	Mondays	6.30.pm		
	Thursday	9.30am April to October		

Comberbach Primary School Hall

Rainbows	Monday	6 - 7.15pm	Sue Greenwood	76408
Scouts	Friday	7.30 - 9pm	Paul Underwood Rob Doel	07725 150 928 891789 / 07526 723516
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 28 Decembert 2023 (Before if possible)

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
Fete Committee	Lynda Bignore	fete@comberbach.com		07725954349
	Rebecca Matzen	fete@comberbach.com		07725954349
Great Budworth Parish Church	Rev A Brown			891324

Dates for your Diary (for Budworth Church see separate list)

November

2	Lite Bite 12 noon - 1.30pm	Chapel
6	WI 2.30pm	Memorial Hall
6	Woodland Talk by FoAM, 7.45pm	Memorial Hall
8	Craft and Natter,	Budworth
12	Remembrance Service - 10.15am	Memorial Hall
14	Budworth Garden Club	
16	Lite Bite	Chapel
16	Fete Committee Meeting 7.15pm	Spinner & Bergamot
22	Craft and Natter,	Budworth
25	Film Night - Matilda the Musical - 7.00pm start	Memoriaal Hall
26	Winter Market, 2 - 4pm	School
30	Lite Bite	Chapel

December

4	WI 2.30pm,	Memorial Hall
5	PC meeting,	Memorial Hall
5	Garden Club Party	
7	Wreath Making, 7.30 - 9pm	School
10	Carol Service - 2.30pm	Chapel
10	Christmas Decorations Workshop 10am - 12 noon	Marbury Park
13	Craft and Natter,	Budworth
14	Christmas Lite Bite	Chapel
17	Carol Singing first night (891248)	
24	Crib Service at 5pm	Chapel
	Carol Singing at 6pm	Chapel
25	Christmas Day Service at 11am	Chapel
28	Newsletter Deadline, before if possible.	

Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

