

Comberbach Village News

Community updates and events - Nov 2019



Parish Council

An informal update from your parish council chairman

Notes from the Chair

The dark nights are upon us, as we make preparations for Christmas and New Year.

Highways

Following the Council writing to the Chief Executive of CW&C about the state of our roads through Comberbach and the fact that although we had been told resurfacing would take place, the project was cancelled.

However, we are pleased to confirm that funding has been allocated in this financial year for resurfacing of The Avenue between Crow Nest Lane and The Spinner. Those who read the Northwich Guardian may have seen the article that confirmed that The Avenue would be closed for resurfacing 28 October for 5 days! As I write this informal note no one has yet communicated on what is actually happening.

Recreation Area

With the amount of rain we have had, and the fact that the water table is higher wherever we go, the footpath surrounding the recreation facilities is becoming very wet and muddy.

In the next few months the Parish Council will need to review costs for remedial work to repair or replace the surface with an alternative material.

If any residents have knowledge or contacts on what type of surface the area should be replaced with, please get in touch with myself or the Parish Clerk.

In the New Year we will be replacing or adding to the number of picnic tables which will have disabled access, as well as new larger litter bins.

Open Meeting and Coffee afternoon

The Council has organised an Open Meeting to coincide with the PCSO attendance and representatives of local organisations.

Save the date Saturday 30 November 1 - 3pm

Finally wishing all readers and residents a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year

*John Ryder, Chair,
Comberbach Parish Council*



Just a few words from your local PCSO

Door to door pedlars

We have recently been made aware of pedlars attempting to sell items/skills/handicrafts from door to door in the area.

In order to sell items door to door a pedlar's certificate is required. A pedlar's certificate can be obtained from the Police force where the applicant resides and is the only form of certificate or licence that allows a person to sell from door to door. A pedlar's certificate issued by any Police force allows

the pedlar to trade in any part of the UK. Selling or attempting to sell items door to door without a pedlar's certificate is an offence. Normally pedlars will be dropped off in an area for a few hours – it is then that the pedlars will begin to operate.

If you have any neighbours who are elderly please make sure that they are ok. The elderly and vulnerable can become an easy target. If you suspect that someone is being taken advantage of, contact the Police

on 101 non-emergency or 999 emergency.

Regular Police surgeries are held at the Post office. All dates of the surgeries are advertised on the notice board at the Post Office and also on the Marbury Police website. If you have any issues or concerns please come along to discuss.

*Regards
PCSO Diana Wiggins 20322*

Methodist Church and Sunday School

Harvest Festival

A lovely day was had at our Harvest Festival on 29th September. The Morning Family Gift Service was led by Mrs Sharon Mayer, the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplain and the Evening Thanksgiving Service was led by Rev David Hill. The proceeds from the Harvest Supper which followed the Service amounted to £96 for Agri-Aid. Approximately thirty gifts and bunches of flowers were distributed to the sick and the elderly. Perishables were sent to the Oasis Centre in East Manchester and the remaining tins etc were donated to the Food Bank.

After singing at both the Harvest Services, the Choir also took part in the Prize-giving Family Service in October when Eighteen Books and Book Tokens were given out to all the Children and Young People from the Sunday School and the Choir.

Our Remembrance Sunday Morning Service will take place at the Village Hall with a Memorial Service being held at the Chapel at 6.30pm, which will be led by our Minister, Rev Tim Simms.

As many of you will have heard, one of our Members, John Hardy, at the age of Ninety, decided to take part in a Skydive to raise money for our Vestibule Refurbishment Fund. This amazing



feat took place on 4 October and to date, he has already raised a wonderful total of £2,030. A Video of his descent was shown at a recent Coffee Morning. Our next Event for this Fund, will be a Wreath Making Evening on Thursday 28 November. This will take place in the Sunday School room at 7.30pm. Tickets are available, priced at £30, from Robert on 07775536898.

Date for your Diary:
28 February - a Concert by Thomas Schulze and friends.

The Winter Lite Bite Sessions are now well underway, with both Kitchen Staff and Customers enjoying a fortnightly get-together, but we would love more people to join us. Please look out for the big Blue Board and if transport is a problem, please ring Alan on 891248. Our last Session on 12 December will be held at the School, when we have been invited to share in their Christmas Dinner.

Bible Study continues to be held each Thursday evening at Ida's home, commencing at 7.30pm.

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 23 November between 10.30am and 12 noon, when we will be raising money for our Maintenance Fund. Cakes, Gifts, Chocolate Tombo-la, Games and a Raffle are just some of the things taking place. Please come and join us.

The Village Carol Service will take place at 2.30pm on Sunday 8 December. The Chapel will be decorated for the Christmas Season and the Christmas Story will be told through Readings, Congregational Carols and the Choir who will be singing many old Choir favourites. Gifts will be welcomed for the NSPCC and Mince pies and Hot Fruit Punch will be served at the end of the Service. During Advent we will be having a Collection of Clothes for the Seamen's Mission in Liverpool, which will be placed underneath the Christmas Tree in the Chapel. Also please listen out for the Carol Singers during the Christmas period, as they wend their way around the Village and surrounding area.

Just a reminder that the Sunday School Room is available for Hire. Please ring Ian on 891579 for Bookings.

Diary

November

- 14 Lite Bite from
12 noon - 1.30pm
- 17 Communion Service at
11am
- 28 Lite Bite
- 28 Wreath Making Evening
7.30pm

December

- 7 Messy Church
4.30pm - 6pm
- 8 Village Carol Service
2.30pm
- 10 Guild Christmas Party
7.30pm
- 12 Lite Bite at the School

- 17 Carol Singing begins
(891248)
- 24 Crib Service at 5pm
- 25 Christmas Day Family
Service at 11am

The Memorial Hall report

Remembrance Sunday Service

I write this at the start of the month, so by the time you read this, our village Remembrance Sunday Service at the Memorial Hall will have taken place. This was a super event last year so I hope this year will be just as well attended and as special.

I must make special mention of an amazing project to produce Comberbach's unique display of knitted and crocheted poppies, which will be a centrepiece of this year's event and for years to come. This was Rena's brainchild and gathered

huge momentum with the idea and knitting pattern shared widely, leading to local shortages of red and black wool! Hundreds of poppies were made, Rena collated them all then spent a day at the Hall, with a team of helpers, creating the final display. A big thank you to Rena and to everyone who contributed: A big community effort; what's not to like!

*Nikki Lord, Hall Chair
891187*

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1st Comberbach Guides

Belated thanks to everyone who supported our Spuds and Puds Beetle Drive last September. It was great fun and helped us to top up our funds. This term we are working on the upcycling badges. To date, we have made boxes from old magazines and poppies from old plastic bottle bottoms. We think they look

very good - but you can judge for yourselves at the Remembrance Day service in the village hall.

Now we are now looking forward to Christmas activities. We are going to do something different this year. Instead of having a party we're going to

Dunham Massey in December. Our numbers have dropped a bit. New members will be very welcome. Come and join in the fun and have a go at our varied and interesting activities.

Senior Section Guides

Three of our members moved up to university in September, so now there are only two of us. It means we can't meet as often. We need new members.

Come on girls - join us.

On the Monday night that we have met we brainstormed ideas and came up with 100 different activities to try. Some are completely crazy e.g. sliding downstairs on a mattress; others will help our community

and gain our various badges. Should be lots of fun with plenty of giggles.
Ann O'May

2nd Comberbach Brownies

September was 'Friendship month' and so we wrote letters to Brownies in 1st Comberbach. We told them about ourselves and were delighted to receive replies and pictures in return. We hope to exchange Christmas cards later. We enjoyed our I Spy walk round the village, challenging us to be more observant as we walk.

We learned to pipe buttercream onto fairy cakes we had baked and we have followed a little more of the new Guiding Programme. We're off on a Dark Trail at Pettypool mid-November for which we have asked our families and friends to sponsor us - not with money but with items for the Foodbank. We'll have a campfire for a sing

song and hot chocolate. We're also having a Christmas treat trip to High Legh Garden Centre for some craft making sessions, a look at all the decorations..... and hot chocolate!!
Happy Christmas! from girls and Guiders

Lynda Flynn

Comberbach WI

the WI

INSPIRING WOMEN



Meeting with VIP's

"Margaret Thatcher" at the Vale Royal Group meeting.

We enjoyed an extraordinary evening with the Iron Lady hosted by the Vale Royal Group at an excellent Venue - Winsford Academy.

Lesley Smith entered the stage in the persona of Margaret Thatcher and spoke at length and in considerable detail about her early life and her rise into political life and then on becoming "The Iron Lady". It was a remarkable performance - whatever your politics, and it was truly believable that Mrs Thatcher was in the room. The evening was hosted by the amazing Bev Langham, Vale Royal Group Chairman, and supported by Gill Targett, Group Secretary and many other WI members.



Lesley Smith as Margaret Thatcher, Bev Langham, Group secretary and Gill Targett, Group Secretary.

Autumn Meeting

Some 700 WI members attended the Autumn Meeting today at the Mere Hotel, Knutsford, an impressive venue. The morning speakers were very interesting and informative. After a light lunch - operated with military precision in view of the numbers, we were honoured to be entertained and enthralled by the guest speaker - The Reverend Kate Bottley. We were all captivated by her talk which covered all aspects of her life, experiences and her relationship with her faith. She was warm, friendly and compassionate - and it was great to hear a room full of WI members having a good time

and laughing together. A great meeting and a memorable day.

WI Christmas Meal

Bookings are now been taken for the Comberbach WI Christmas meal.

Friday 13 December at 7.30pm at Winnington Recreation Club. 3 course meal, tea/coffee and after dinner chocs.

£22 payable on booking at the November meeting, or contact secretary. Bar bill extra. All very welcome.

Next Members meeting

4 November - Annual general meeting. Nominations for new committee members very welcomed.

Sian Chandler

Christine Eves 1951 - 2019

Michael Eves and family would like to express their appreciation to everyone for their kindness, generosity and words of comfort following the death of his wife, Christine, whose funeral took place in the Parish Church on 7 October 2019.

Soulcakers' Farewell Tour

After 35 years of continued performance, 1st & 2nd November saw the current side's final performances of the village Soulcaking play. Support was tremendous with 3 generations of mummers and villagers past & present, some travelling across the country, to see the play performed one more time.

The Ring o Bells at Stretton and the George & Dragon, Great Budworth were packed. Three performances were needed in the final venue at the Cock @ Budworth where families & mummers got chance to share stories of Soulcaking over the years. This was helped by archive photos featuring some very young, slim mummers going back to the original performances in 1985, as well as stories from previous sides who performed in the 1940's and 50's.

We were particularly pleased that Mike & Maggie Suggate complete with son & grandson could join us for the last night. It was Mike who established the current Soulcaking side when he lived here & we were proud to give him an award recognising the many years of pleasure, entertainment & friendship that developed from that.

We also want to thank those who came to see us for their exceptional generosity in supporting St Luke's Hospice. The collection on Friday night around Whitegate & Norley was one of the highest we had, while the Saturday night collection in the local pubs broke all records. In total we collected £687 for St Lukes, over the two nights.

So for us that is it; though we would like to see new people continuing the tradition so that it survives for future generations. Do let us know if you want to be part of that.

Meantime we look forward to Christmas & the mummers will be in fine voice singing Christmas carols in the Cock @ Budworth on Thursday 19 December.

Come and join us at 9-30pm to start the Christmas festivities in style.



The Friends of Great Budworth Church

November

Sun 17	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	6.30pm	Evensong at Arley Chapel BCP

Sun 24 10.30am Parish Communion CW

Thur 28 2pm Play and Praise

December

Sun 1	8am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	All Age Worship Toy Service
Wed 4	10.30am	Holy Communion CW followed by coffee
Thur 5	7.30pm	Evening Prayer (BCP - Book of Common Prayer, CW - Common Worship)

Sun 1 December

All Age Worship

Annual Toy Service 10.30am

You are invited to join us at this special service, at which we collect new toys/gifts for local charities to give out to children in need this Christmas. Please bring the toys/ gifts unwrapped, but wrapping paper along with the item is very welcome.

Church Teas 2019

A huge thank you to everybody who helped with Church Teas this year.

Your support for the teas over many years is so much appreciated, and it raises much needed funds for the general upkeep and running of St. Mary And All Saints.

Whether you are the bakers, table clearers, washer uppers, servers, listeners or visitors, we couldn't do it without you, THANK YOU!!

We raised £3763.44 before costs. Teas 2020 commence Sunday 12th April (Easter Sunday)!

Comberbach Primary School

We have now welcomed the children back into school; the first of our new academic year. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Nursery and Reception class children. The beginning of the school year is always busy and the children have made a brilliant start to the new school term.

In Nursery

What a fabulous first few days! The book of the week was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The nursery children have listened to the story, made some collages of Butterflies, made Caterpillars using the play dough, learned a song about the life cycle of the butterfly and some actions to go along with it!

Class 1

In Class 1 we are reading 'The Bear and the Piano' as inspiration for our writing. Thank you to the talented mum who made and painted the bear for us! We are making sure all of our sentences have a capital letter and full stop. Miss Jones was especially pleased to see words like 'snowflake' and 'frozen' being used. We 'segment to spell' when we are not sure how to write a new word. A fabulous start to Year 1 by all of the children.

Class 2

Year 2 have had a great start to their Friday afternoons! They have been in the garden and dug out loads of potatoes. Keep an eye out to see what they turn into.

Class 3

Year 3 found a strange egg in the playground after the holidays, they are busy writing a letter to the museum to ask for sugges-

tions as to how to care for it. They will also be working as a reporter and writing a newspaper article about the discovery. In science we are learning about plants and what they need to grow well. We have set up an experiment with plants being looked after in different ways and we will be observing them over the next couple of weeks.

Class 4

Year 4 have been busy picking purple beans from the garden that they have been able to take home and enjoy. They have now returned from their school residential and have had an amazing time. They have had three busy days and evenings team building, bouldering, climbing, entering dungeons, caving, crate challenging and archery. They have faced their fears, showed support and most of all had loads of fun!

Class 5

This term Class 5 have researched what life was like for Viking children. They created their own power points and presented them to their class. In English they have been using complex sentences and relative clauses, they have written diary entries and rewritten dream sequences from the book Room 13.

Year 6

This term Class 6 will enjoy structured swimming lessons at Brio, Northwich. As part of the National Curriculum all children in Key Stage 2 must show that they are able to swim confidently and proficiently to a distance of 25 metres. In Comberbach Primary School we extend this learning through to our Key Stage one

children too. This hugely benefits learning outside of the classroom.

Go Run for Fun

A fantastic group of our children attended the INEOS 'Go run for fun' event. This is an international campaign inspiring children to be active through short distance running events. The children were part of 700 young runners who ran, skipped and walked the 2km event in beautiful sunshine. We were very proud of them all.

We are collecting team GB stickers with Aldi's Kit for Schools.

This September, we have entered into Aldi's 'Kit for Schools' promotion. Aldi is giving twenty primary schools the chance to win £20,000 to kick start a health legacy for their school. Also every school that enters completing their Aldi's kit for schools poster with 300 Team GB stickers will also receive an exclusive sports kit! When you spend £30 in store you will be given a Team GB athlete sticker, please ask family, friends and neighbours to help us out by collecting these stickers and handing them into the school office.

Thank you

We would like to say a very special thank you to one of our neighbours, Godfrey Morton. Mr Morton previously donated a hanging basket which we were able to sell in order to raise funds for gardening items within school. Recently Mr Morton has donated a number of bulbs and these will be used in our new poly-tunnel.

Friends of Comberbach School



Too ghoulish for school

Many local residents may have seen the display of creatively carved pumpkins in the school garden during October. These were entries for the school pumpkin competition, which, together with the autumn disco, raised over £350. This money has been used to buy two new netball posts and

lunchtime play equipment for the school.

Fund raising

Friends of Comberbach School (FoCS) has further events planned throughout the school year and hopes to raise somewhere in the region of £4000.

Our next fundraiser is the popu-

lar Burn's Night quiz & supper, which takes place on Saturday 25 January in the school hall. Tickets will go on sale after Christmas, priced at £8, including a 'haggis, neeps & tatties' supper. This is a fun event for the whole community - not just for people with links to the school - so get a team together (maximum eight people) or come on your own and join a team on the night.

Other dates for the diary include our weekend music festival Comberfest, on 6 June.

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

Comberbach Fete Committee



A lorra lorra laffs

Organised by Comberbach Fete Committee, the inaugural 'Comberlaffs' comedy night was dubbed a side-splitting success, attracting over 90 people and raising almost £500.

The evening was hosted by Northwich compere Kevin Dewsbury, who warmed up the audience for first act, Time Out award-winning comedian

Simon Bligh. A fine hot pot supper catered by Helena 'O' Byrne ensured the crowd was well fed before headline comedian El Baldiniho came on stage, rounding off a cracking night's entertainment with a mirth-inducing routine involving magic and props.

The money raised will be used to fund outgoings for next year's fete, with proceeds being distributed to local causes and community projects. The Fete Committee next meets on Thursday 28 November, from 8pm in the Spinner, for its AGM. As well as starting planning for next year's fete, we'll be discussing the possibility of holding a Valentine's Dinner next February. We'd love to see some new faces if anyone is interested in coming along.

Jim Powlson & Lynda Bigmore
Comberbach Fete Committee

Memories of Antrobus C of E School (Spring 1941 to Summer 1943) Brian Maddock, Pointe-Claire, Québec, March 2016

Editor's note: In Brian Maddock's article in the September Edition the following inaccuracies have been brought to our attention.

'Holly Bush Farm sat beside the Wesleyan Chapel.'

'The Millington family lived at Yew Tree Farm, a large farmhouse'.

The correct spelling is 'Phil Rayner'.

Below is the second article kindly sent by Brian and I apologise in advance for any similar inaccuracies.

Comberbach Boys in Antrobus

When I returned from Scotland in early 1941 my parents had to choose a new school for me because I was too old to be able to return to Comberbach Infant School. Barnton and Winnington had bigger schools with several classes and more equipment, but there was no suitable bus service and it was far to walk and somewhat dangerous for a nine-year-old to cycle there because of steep hills and traffic. So the choice was reduced to two rural schools – Great Budworth and Antrobus. The teacher at Budworth had a doubtful reputation. Since I knew some of the children who attended Antrobus from the Frandleby Brow area it decided that I should go there – a bicycle ride of about three miles from home.

Antrobus C of E School consisted of two classrooms and a cloakroom bordering School Lane near its junction with Knutsford Road. The small room was assigned to the infants (the "babies"). A larger room with two fireplaces housed the older pupils. The cloakroom was divided into two portions – one for the girls and infants and a smaller space for the older boys. There was an outside privy for the girls and a urinal corner for the boys.

The Big Room

Miss Dorothy Irene Pearson presided over the "big room". She faced a daunting task. For starters, she was an outsider (i.e. not born locally). Many of the senior pupils nicknamed her "Fanny". Charged with educating a diverse group of pupils ranging in age over five standards using limited and out-of-date resources, Miss Pearson must have faced many organizational challenges each day. She persisted and continued to live in Antrobus for many years. Miss Pearson was a founding member of the Antrobus branch of the Womens' Institute. Late in life, she moved to a seniors' residence in Lymm. She was over 100 years old when she died.

Miss Stelfox was in charge of the infants' room. She lived in Northwich and travelled by bus to Antrobus. The bus schedule was very convenient: the bus to Warrington dropped her off at about 9 am, just in time for school opening, and a bus returning to Northwich arrived at 4 pm when the school day was over. There was a piano in the small classroom so there was much singing. The two teachers had their lunch in the big room while those pupils who stayed at school for lunch ate in the small room before going out to play in the yard. (Many pupils walked home for their midday meal.)

Most of the senior pupils had one main objective – to reach their fourteenth birthday, the official school-leaving age, so they could go to work full-time on the farms or help their father with his small business or go into service in suburban middle-class homes. Because it was wartime older boys were permitted to work ten half-days a year helping farmers so yet another escape strategy was used to great advantage. Once school was over for the day several boys went to help with afternoon chores on farms.

Wireless set

Miss Pearson wanted to buy a wireless set so that her classes could listen to some of the BBC school programmes that were broadcast on the Home Service for an hour each school morning and also during each afternoon. Senior pupils were eager to help to raise money to acquire a wireless. A particular favourite dodge was collecting waste paper for recycling. Newspapers were very thin during the war but farmers often received lime and fertilizers in strong paper bags. As soon as they were emptied some senior boy would alert Miss Pearson as to their availability. Of course, quite a number of boys would be required and the distance was considerable (if a roundabout route was taken!) so the task lasted most of the day. The boys enjoyed a day away from school. The girls thought it was unfair that they did not go on the expedition. (Miss Pearson was probably secretly relieved!) Another ruse to get out of class was to claim that the waste paper being stored in the unused stable at the vicarage needed to be tidied up. Half a dozen lads could spend a couple of hours on that chore. When enough paper had been accumulated it was collected and a small fee went into the wireless fund.

In the autumn two other wartime fundraisers appealed to pupils eager to escape classes. They were collect-

ing acorns (to be used as pig-feed) and rosehips (a rich source of vitamin C) which were in short supply since oranges were very scarce and often reserved for children. Some rosehips were split open to collect their fluffy seeds which were the raw material of "itching powder". The trick was to sneak behind a victim (preferably a girl) and stuff some of the tickly seeds down the back of their neck. It was hard to get rid of the irritant.

On one special day each year pupils were encouraged to bring 10 shillings or a pound to buy a War Savings Bond at the post office near the school. Many homes were unable to afford this.

Another wartime effort was called "Dig for Victory". Senior boys were keen to participate. A part of the playground furthest away from the school was dug up and vegetables were planted. Of course, poles were required to support the runner beans and that was another excuse for escaping the classroom. The tools were stored in the air-raid shelter.

The air-raid shelter had been made earlier in the war. It consisted of a rounded metal frame covered with corrugated steel sheets over which a considerable depth of sand had been placed. It was large enough to shelter all the pupils in case of an enemy raid. (The school itself was an unlikely target, but bombers that had been crippled would release their bomb-load before they crash-landed.) From time to time there was a practice evacuation to the shelter which was cool, dark and damp inside. Just in case there was a real emergency and the pupils would have to remain in the shelter for a long period all had to have an "Iron Ration Box". These boxes were kept in a big carton ready to be rushed into the shelter if an emergency occurred. From time to time we had to check the contents of our boxes. Imagine our consternation when one day we discovered that all the chocolate bars had disappeared. We had a good guess as to who was the culprit.

Punishment

With such a variety in age and ability among the pupils, it was sometimes hard for Miss Pearson to maintain discipline, especially among the boys eagerly awaiting their fourteenth birthday. Occasionally she had to resort to using the cane. "Come out John so and so. Hold out your hand", she would say. All of us would stop what we doing to witness the punishment. Usually, the miscreant was bigger than she and had strong hands that were hardened by farm work. Sometimes the boy would withdraw his hand quickly as she swung the cane. We had to contain our giggles when she missed.

At first, Miss Pearson used a bamboo cane which she kept near at hand in the cupboard ready for use. Quite often the instrument was not there – nor anywhere else to be found. (We knew that the caretaker's son pushed the canes down one of the several rat holes in the floor). One by one Miss Pearson brought new canes from her garden until that supply was exhausted. Then she had to resort to trying to wield a big bean pole that had been used in the school garden. Watching a slight woman trying to use a heavy sapling to cane a big strong boy with a dodging hand was great entertainment for the rest of us.

Miss Pearson lived some two miles away from the school so she used a bicycle to get there. She kept it in the boys' cloakroom to protect it from inclement weather. One day a boy was particularly naughty so she dismissed him into the cloakroom as a punishment. When she was ready to leave for home she discovered that both her tyres were flat. The boy had spent the afternoon pushing a big pin through each tyre many times. They were beyond repair and impossible to replace in wartime. She had to resort to walking to and from school.

The dreaded dentist

All pupils dreaded the visit of the school dentist. The Cheshire County Council provided the service because the dental health of children was generally poor. The dentist was a woman so this raised doubts about her competency. She had to use the bus service to bring her rudimentary equipment. The purpose of her first visit was to examine each pupil's teeth and send a consent form home with each child who required treatment. Quite a few parents refused to consent - much to the relief of their offspring! Not such a bad idea if you saw the primitive apparatus used to drill decayed teeth; it was made of wood and resembled a spinning wheel. The dentist had to treadle the wheel with her foot as she drilled into the tooth with a slowly rotating bit.

A frequent visitor was the Reverend Oliver Tyndale, the vicar of Antrobus parish. He was a bachelor who lived in a fairly big Victorian vicarage not far from the school. All year round he conscientiously visited his flock even though few went to services except for Harvest Festival (mainly to see who had produced the best flowers, fruits and vegetables) and less so at Easter and Christmas. Mr Tyndale had served in the army during the First World War. Possibly his experiences had caused him to have a serious speech impediment which could render his sermons hard to understand. He was given a nickname – "Quack" – which was widely used. Despite this, he was respected for the devoted work he did in this big

country parish. Like Miss Pearson, he persevered in Antrobus till he was forced by health to retire.

My happy days in Antrobus C of E school came to an end in the summer of 1943. Ernie Battison and I were the first pupils in many years to have passed the scholarship exam that earned a place in Sir John Deane's Grammar School in Northwich. Miss Pearson wanted to give us an advantage so she started to teach French to the senior pupils. What a crazy language! Instead of our simple "the", the French used "le" and "la". Their pronunciation was decidedly "funny". It would have helped us more if she had explained nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, etc. to us because this was another strange language that we had to learn at the grammar school. Unlike the other pupils who stayed on until their birthday, we were doomed to have to stay in school until we were at least sixteen. Poor us!

Nevertheless, pupils left Antrobus C of E School able to read and write in well-formed handwriting and they had the basics in arithmetic. They would never forget the multiplication tables, essential in the days before calculators became common.

An anecdote

An amusing story, told to me while I was in my teens, reveals something about the traditional thinking of some farmers almost a hundred years ago.

Miss Gough lived with her elderly parents on a fairly large farm in Antrobus. Few people knew her by name. She had already inherited Senna Green Farm and was expected to inherit her father's property too. An enterprising man became friendly with Miss Gough. He was invited to visit her home one evening. (I don't think they had reached the stage where they would be allowed to sit alone in the parlour!). When it was time for the suitor to leave to catch the last bus back to Warrington it was raining cats and dogs on a cold dark night. Miss Gough kindly offered to take him in the car to the bus stop which was about a mile away.

She brought the car to the back door. (Front doors were only used for weddings and funerals!) The visitor said, "Oh! I'll sit in the front with Miss Gough. 'Tha'll wunna. Tha'll wawk!" bellowed her protective father. The hopeful suitor had to rush down the dark lane, in the cold rain, hoping to reach the bus stop in time.

Ladies Club

After the lovely weather our September walk along the river at Acton Bridge had to be cancelled as it was raining, but that didn't stop us from meeting up for a meal at the Legh Arms, where we enjoyed both food and a good natter. In October some of our members went to the Comedy Night in the Memorial Hall.

Dates

18 November	Memorial Hall FoAM Talk on History of Marbury Hall, Parklands and Gardens 7.45pm
16 December	Pre-Christmas drinks.
20 January.	Christmas meal

On a sad note we lost our very good friend Christine Eves. She will be greatly missed and we send our love and support to her husband, Michael.

Poppies

This is a very big thank you to everyone who has, like me, spent the summer months knitting poppies. It reminded me of the village effort of over 20 years ago to raise funds to build the hall. Special mention of poppy knitters are Ida Meakin, Jan Davies, Brenda Ives, Betty Halliday, Helena O'Byrne, WI Craft Guild, Diane Whipp, Sylvia Kirk, Irene Robinson, Liz Cook and Anne O'May. If I have missed anyone I apologise.

Grateful thanks also to Anne O'May and Liz Cook; we spent a lovely day and a half assem-

bling the Poppy Curtain and having a tea and natter whilst working. Once again, thank you all.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday 10th November at the Remembrance Day Service. Rena Bradley

Diary Date

PC Open Day will be on Saturday 30 November at Comberbach Memorial Hall from 1 - 3pm.

“Miracles” in a Four-Roomed Cottage

Glenside

“Glenside is just a wayside four-roomed cottage in Comberbach but at different times during the past year it has been a Santa Claus Workshop, Hall of Whist, Saleroom, POW Publicity Depot.

From this small house have poured work and ideas to produce £242 19s in 1943 for the Red Cross Prisoner of War Fund.

Miss Edith Ralphs is the ingenious tenant – organiser- toymaker – beggar – saleswoman – publicity agent. She has devoted practically all her spare time and interest to raising more and more money for war prisoners, and set herself a target of £150 to beat.

Her living room has been lined with POW Fund posters and literature and her ‘clock face’ target indicator. Invariably semi completed articles (shortly to be turned into cash for food parcels) lay around. Another room was devoted entirely to materials and completed articles to appear later in a sale or as a whist prize. Miss Ralphs combed the village for scraps of material, oddments and any article from a tin can to a manicure set, for which people had no further use.

Dusters into Dolls

A small cardboard house decorated with some Christmas effects and inserted bulb and battery became a desirable novelty toy. Attractive rag dolls took shape from dusters cardboard and mops. “Glenside” was thrown open for a series of eight monthly whist drives and several bridge parties, as well as periodical “lucky dip” days for which the kiddies saved their coppers. Miss Ralphs has been assisted by Miss Amy Roberts, of Comberbach. Their work has been entirely voluntary.

Gift Sale

The major effort on the 1943 programme was the six week, November – December, gift sale held at the cottage. For almost 12 months Miss Ralphs has been collecting material, and working to produce a large quantity of Christmas toys and gift articles. Gifts from over the whole district were set aside for the “target-smashing” November sale, to which the villagers contributed their own handiwork. The local joiner assisted with required woodwork, and one patient in Northwich Infirmary sent along some exquisitely worked book marks

“for Miss Ralphs’ sale”. The result was £80 15s.

Summer concerts

Summer concerts which he organised, with talented local artists giving their services at the Spinner Pavilion, Antrobus Parish Hall and Comberbach Chapel Schoolroom raised £36 10s.

A jointly organised performance of Handel’s “Messiah” by the Northwich Red Cross Choir in Comberbach Methodist Chapel in November sent the total soaring with another £40 5s. Nearly £50 was the outcome of a year’s whist and bridge at Glenside under the organisation of Mrs Carter at Great Budworth. The Avenue Inn, Comberbach, co-operated with competitions “to the tune” of £5 10s and the sale of lavender bags was another five-guinea brainwave. The 1943 total of £242 10s (an increase of nearly £100 on her target) brings Miss Ralphs’ POW Fund to £360 since the outbreak of war.

1944 Plans

“Next year,” Miss Ralphs told a “Guardian” reporter, “I may be trying a different system, but as long as there are any of our boys in enemy hands I am going on working my utmost for the Red Cross POW Fund”

Northwich Guardian December 1943

Editors note:

£360 in 1943 would be worth £16,648 today



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Comberbach Art Group

Annual exhibition

Comberbach Art Group held a very enjoyable one day exhibition for a change this year. We were pleased to welcome so many visitors throughout the day. So many we sold out of our cakes! Sorry to anyone who missed out.

The people's choice competition was as popular as usual and this year prizes were awarded to the two top scoring guest artists as well as to two members of our group.

The winners

The guest winners were John Mills for "Spring Wave" and Juliet Young for "Arctic Terns".

Comberbach art group winners were Michael Orton for "Autumn on Fire" and Mike Astill for "Dutch Galliot Unloading at the Quay"

I am sure everyone will say they were worthy winners.

Thanks are due to all the members of the group who made the exhibition run smoothly, helping with setting up and dismantling and to the three bakers who made the delicious cakes.

Our regular meetings take place on Monday mornings in the room behind the Methodist Church.



Top left: John Mills "Spring Wave",

Lower left: Juliet Young "Arctic Terns"

Top right: Michael Orton "Autumn on Fire"

Lower right: Mike Astill: "Dutch Galleon Unloading at the Quay"

A birds eye view

Rain Stops Play

The seemingly constant wet weather of late helped to produce a very poor autumn migration on the mere and surrounding flashes. After last year's bird bonanza this year was anything but vintage. Too much water means that wading birds find it difficult to feed and have no margins on which to loaf around on afterwards. I have struggled to find much of note bar the odd green sandpiper on Haydn's Pool, some snipe on Neumann's Flash, and a redshank, male stonechat and some small flocks of curlew on Ashton's Flash. The mere provided a few tern species including a dynamic juvenile black tern seen skimming the mere surface. In a poor year other birds of interest were a goosander and 3 Egyptian geese on the mere, the latter escapee birds seem to be slowly gaining a foothold in the country.

The barn owls were back on Dairy House Meadows but I am not sure that they bred this year. They seemed to go missing for a long time in summer after yet another prolonged period of rain. They resurfaced later but I saw no signs of any young. I missed a few things (as usual!!) including a cuckoo seen and heard around the flashes for a few days in spring, a spotted flycatcher seen in the big wood and a black-necked grebe seen on the mere. This small but beautiful grebe breeds locally at Woolston Eyes Nature Reserve. After breeding there they often disperse to our local meres and lakes before continuing their migration to Europe; it was our turn to be blessed this year.

Every Cloud

Before you get the impression that the year was a right off though, I also need to mention the other

beautiful things on offer round about. It was after all a fantastic year for butterflies, which included a welcome invasion of painted ladies that seemed to festoon any buddleia hereabouts. If you have not got one in your garden yet, then do try to. You can even buy miniature ones to grow in tubs. In good butterfly years they can appear like living sculptures because they are so attractive to these insects. They were joined by good numbers of many different species, which is a relief after some very bad years recently.

Ashton's Flash, in fact, was recognised this summer as one of the most important breeding sites of the (not so!) common blue butterfly in Cheshire. I even had the pleasure of seeing a migrant day-flying hummingbird hawkmoth using its incredibly long proboscis to feed on flower nectar, seen while I was eye level with it from the viewpoint on Ashton's Flash.

The 'B' Word

Winter will soon be upon us and unfortunately our garden birds as well. If you could provide them with seed and fresh water you would make a huge difference to their survival rates.

I have nearly got through this article without mentioning the dreaded 'B' word, but as late November approaches so hopefully does good views of the bittern (what did you think I meant?). It should be waiting in the Coward Reedbed at Marbury Park for those patient/foolhardy enough to search for it. I will see you there then I hope, when there should also be some good starling murmurations on show as well to help pass the time.

JB

Friends of Anderton and Marbury

Upcoming FoAM events Sunday 15 December

FoAM's Christmas Decorations Workshop
Come to our annual workshop to create some stunning decorations for your home from natural materials gathered in the woodlands. No charge, but donations welcome.

From: 10am - 12noon
by the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge

*For information contact:
Joanne Redley 01606 44728*

Saturday 26 January

Bird Walk in Big Wood, Marbury Country Park

How many birds can you identify in the park?

Meet: 2pm at the Rangers' Cabin/Marbury Lodge

Full details and check-list on www.foam.merseyforest.org.uk

Great Budworth Garden Club

Produce Show

We started our Autumn programme with a bang in September, we had the produce show, the announcement of the holiday and two very exciting, fabulous speakers.

The hall was full of people enjoying a cup of tea whilst the judges did their bit.

Many thanks to Sylvia Nichols, who had eight categories to judge in the show.

She was assisted by two committee members, Jan Bashforth and Dawn Freeman, who guided her through the entries, and winners were chosen.

RHS medal

The acclaimed RHS Banksian medal, for the most points in the show, was won by Lilian Norbury, well done and congratulations.

This medal cannot be won by the same person two years running.

Produce winners

Baking apples - runner up - Cara Saxon, winner Dawn Freeman
Eating apples - runner up - Julie Trehane, winner - Liz Watham.
Tomatoes - runner up - June Wilkinson, winner - Liz Watham.
Plug plant - runner up - Victor Wood, winner - Liz Watham.
Dahlia - runner up, Ruth Smith, winner - Jane Fairclough.
Rose - runner up, Margaret Wilkinson, winner - Lilian Norbury
Chutney - runner up - Lilian Norbury, winner - Peter Davies.
Jam - runner up Lynda Giller, winner - Lilian Norbury.

The speakers were Martin and Jill Fish from Thirsk in Yorkshire, who gave a wonderful illustrated talk called Gardening on the Menu. Martin told us how to

grow fruit and vegetables, and Jill told us how to cook with them. They were extremely professional but with fun and humour in their presentation. They were thanked brilliantly by June Wilkinson.

2020 Dorset holiday

Henri and Lynda Giller took names for the members' garden holiday next year to Dorset, and the list is full already it seems; thank you very much for all your work and planning.

There is no meeting in January. The AGM is on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.30 in Great Budworth Parish Hall.

Any information about the club, please contact me in the first instance, and I can pass on your messages to the appropriate person.

Jean Davies.

01606 892383 / 0789993 7683

Your Village Needs You!

Comberbach Fete is about more than putting on a good show. It's about supporting our community. Here are some of the projects that we've been able to fund: • Workbooks for Brownies & Guides • Heritage project • Defibrillator • Soft play equipment for toddler group • School playground extension • Music stands and percussion for the school band. The Rose Queens' nominated charities have received over £20k.

Could you give some time to Comberbach Fete Committee?

Some people have us all wrong. We're not a fusty old committee that sits around pontificating at unnecessary meetings. We're a friendly team of volunteers - young(ish) and old(er)- with busy jobs and lives so we plan efficiently but make time for laughter and banter. One thing we would like to change is our size. This year we organised the fete with a skeleton team of less than ten. If you would like to get more involved in planning the fete and other village entertainment events, we would welcome new members. If you just want to help out occasionally, we'd appreciate any time you can spare.

Come along to our next meeting...
Thurs 28 Nov, 8pm The Spinner & Bergamot



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Report from Comberbach Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2019

Recreation Area Open Meeting

The Council has organised an Open Meeting to which all residents are invited. It will take place on Saturday 30 November between 1 - 3pm in Comberbach Memorial Hall.

The PCSO, Diana Wiggins, will be in attendance as well as representatives of local organisations such as the WI, Newsletter Group and Fete Committee. Come along and talk to your Parish Councillors about the work of the Council and share your ideas for future projects and priorities. Everyone is welcome!

Recreation Area

The Council ordered 60 new name plaques for the feature pencils and they have all now been installed. Two new bins have been ordered from Cheshire West & Chester Council; they are much bigger than the current bins so will keep the Recreation Area clean and tidy. A grant application has been submitted to the CWAC Members towards funding for new picnic tables. The Parish Council is going to replace all 4 picnic tables with wheelchair accessible tables, two of which will be activity tables with games on the table top such as snakes and ladders; noughts and crosses etc.

The Recreation Area is well looked after by Shane Ross and the Council has agreed to pay an additional amount over winter to ensure the area is maintained in a tidy condition. The Council also thanks Dave Meakin for his voluntary work at the Recreation Area.

Noticeboards

The Parish Council has purchased a new noticeboard to be located at the Primary School. A further noticeboard will be purchased to replace the one at the car park.

Vacancies for Parish Councillors

The Council has 2 vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk or have a chat with one of the existing Councillors at the Open Meeting.

Parish Council Minutes are available on the noticeboard by the village store and on Comberbach.com website.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 10 December at 7.15pm at Comberbach Memorial Hall. All are welcome.

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Parish Councillor contact details

Name	Address	Tel numbers	Contact point for
Cllr. John Ryder (Chairman)	26 Burgamot Lane, Comberbach CW9 6BU	01606 891 827	Barrymore Crescent, Burgamot Lane, The Avenue - to Spinner Budworth Lane, Crownest Lane Senna Lane (upper from
Cllr. Jim E Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891 005 07708 633458	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Cllr. Rena Bradley	3 Bracken Way, Comberbach CW9 6QF	01606 891005	Bracken Way, Kennelwood Road, Fox Lea, Freshfields, Broadacre
Cllr. Steven Hornby	Sunny Bank, Marbury Road Comberbach CW9 6AU	07970 499227	Cogshall Lane, Outer Cogshall Mather Drive
Cllr. Jill Johnston	6 Barrymore Crescent Comberbach CW9 6PA	01606 892 121	Goosebrook Close, Brookfield Road, Spinner Crescent, Chapel Close, Reedsmere Walk
Cllr. Bob Holt	8 Cogshall Lane Comberbach CW9 6BS	07739 046775	Senna Lane (lower to Mather Drive), Warrington Road (from the Spinner), Marbury Road, The Moss, Meadow Lane
Denise French, Clerk		07759 212449	parishclerk@comberbach.com

Residents can report any highways and street care issues via CWAC website using the details below:
<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx>

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

Memorial Hall

Brownies (1st Comberbach)	Thursday	6 - 7.25pm	Zoe Jones	783634 07513229863
WI	1st Mon each month	7.30pm	Rosie Rowe	784858
Ladies Club	3rd Mon each month	Different Venues	Ursula Ryder	01606 891827
Love to Dance	Mon, Tues, Wed	4pm		
	Tues, Tots and Seniors		Zoe	07527 514810
Dog Training	Thursday	8pm		
Yoga	Wednesday	8-9:30pm	Beginners and Intermediate	
	Gary Lucas on 07757 547692 :email garylucas365@gmail.com or Facebook at 'gary lucas yoga'.			
AH Maths Tuition	Tuesday & Wednesday	5:30 - 6:20pm	Alex Hornby	07960 882068
Indoor Bowling	Wednesday	1 - 3pm	Rena Bradley	891 005

Chapel

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

Comberbach Primary School Hall

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

Scouts	Friday	7.30 - 9.00pm	Paul Underwood Rob Doel	07725 150 928 891789 07526 723516
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Antrobus School Hall

Cubs	Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm	Rachel Cameron	01606 891023
Beavers	Wednesday	6.15 - 7.15pm	Janet Warburton	854014

Please send contributions to the newsletter to: newsletter@comberbach.com

Articles for the newsletter can also be made to any of the team below either on paper or by e-mail

Kath Wharfe	18 Burgamot Lane	891540	kathwharfe@hotmail.co.uk
Angela Austin	Woodcroft, Marbury Road		ang.austin@hotmail.co.uk

Useful contacts:

Village web site	www.comberbach.com		
Marbury Park Rangers			77741
Homewatch			892568
Village Memorial Hall - bookings	07511302081	Between 2pm & 6.30pm Mon - Fri	
Clerk to the Parish Council	parishclerk@comberbach.com		
Pre-school website	www.comberbachpreschool.co.uk		
Comberbach Methodist Church	Rev Tim Simms		01606 301588
Sunday School Room Hire	Ian Barron		891579
Great Budworth Parish Church	Rev A Brown		891324
Fete Committee	Steve Howard		01606 891316

Dates for your diary

Nov	14	Lite Bite Lunches, 12 noon - 1.30pm	Chapel
	14	Play and Praise, 2pm	Gt Budworth Church
	17	Communion Service, 11am	Chapel
	17	Holy Communion BCP, 8am	Gt Budworth Church
	17	Parish Communion CW, 10.30am	Gt Budworth Church
	17	Evensong 6.30.pm, BCP	Arley Chapel
	18	FOAM Talk - History of Marbury Hall , 7.45pm	Memorial Hall
	23	Christmas Fayre, 10.30am - 12noon	Chapel
	24	Parish Communion CW, 10.30.am	Gt Budworth Church
	28	Lite Bite Lunches, 12 noon - 1.30pm	Chapel
	28	Play and Praise, 2pm	Gt Budworth Church
	28	Fete Committee AGM, 8pm	Spinner
	28	Wreath Making Evening, 7.30.pm	Chapel
Dec	30	Parish Council Open Day, 1 - 3pm	Memorial Hall
	1	Holy Communion BCP, 8am	Gt Budworth Church
	1	All Age Worship - Toy Service, 10.30am	Gt Budworth Church
	2	W.I. Stage & Screen Song Book, 7.30pm	Memorial Hall
	4	Holy Communion CW, 10.30.am	Gt Budworth Church
	5	Evening Prayer, 7.30pm	Gt Budworth Church
	7	Messy Church, 4.30pm - 6pm	Chapel
	8	Village Carol Service, 2.30.pm	Chapel
	10	Guild Christmas Party, 7.30.pm	Chapel
	12	Lite Bite Lunches, 12 noon - 1.30pm Christmas Lunch	Primary School
	13	W.I. Christmas Meal, 7.30.pm	Winnington Rec.Club
	15	FOAM Christmas Decorations Workshop, 10am - 12 noon	Marbury Lodge
	15	Nine Lessons & Carols, 6.30pm	Arley Chapel
	16	Ladies Club Pre-Christmas Drinks	
	17	Carol Singing begins (891248)	
	22	Nine Lessons & Carols, 4pm	Budworth Church
	24	Crib Service, 5pm	Chapel
	24	Crib and Christingle Service, 4pm	Budworth Church
	24	Midnight Mass , 11.30pm	Budworth Church
	25	Holy Communion, 8am	Budworth Church
	25	Family Communion, 10.30am	Budworth Church
	25	Christmas Day Family Service, 11am	Chapel
	27	Newsletter Deadline	
Jan	20	Ladies Club Christmas Meal	
	24 /25	Antrobus Players Snow White 7.30pm	Antrobus Village Hall
	25	FOCS Burns Night Quiz & Supper	Primary School
	26	Antrobus Players Snow White, 2.30pm	Antrobus Village Hall
	26	FOAM Bird Walk in Big Wood, 2pm	Rangers Cabin, Marbury Park

Michael Green MC Private Hire
Thank You

Mike Green would like to thank all his customers past and present for their loyalty and custom during the past seven years that he has been working in the local area as private hire driver. He has enjoyed meeting lots of new people and making friends. He is sorry to be leaving but has decided that it is time to retire from the business.