

BUDWORTH BULLETIN

June 2015

SCHOOL NEWS

The children had a wonderful afternoon of Maypole Dancing, with afternoon teas, Pimms and a raffle organised by the Friends of the School (FotS). Thank you, as always, to all of you who supported the event, but a particular thank you to Shirley, who gives so much of her time to help teach the children the dances each year.

Our next FotS event is one to which the whole village community is invited: 'Budfest' will be on Saturday 20th June, from 6pm on the school field. There will be a bouncy castle, stalls, raffle, live Ceilidh, with the Flaxmere Band, licensed bar and a BBQ. This is very much a family-friendly event and we would love to see as many villagers join us as possible. If you would like to run a stall or could offer to help with setting up or donating a raffle prize, we would be very grateful. Please contact the school office for more details.

A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Improvement

There are some further road closures ahead as a result of the A556 road improvement works. These are as follows:

Date	Duration	Details
1-5 June	5 nights	(9pm-5am) A556 Chester Road: Bowdon Island to Bucklow Hill.
8-9 June	2 nights	(9pm-5am) A556 Chester Road: Bowdon Island to Bucklow Hill.

Further information is available on the Highways website: <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/>

GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Proposals for Restricted Parking – The proposals outlined in the last Bulletin were discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11 May 2015. There were differing views as to the appropriateness of the proposals especially for those who do not have off-road parking. There was some support to take the proposals forward and to continue to address difficulties experienced by some residents gaining access and exit from their off-road parking space, as well as improving road safety for the village residents. The Parish Council agreed to the formation of a working party to be led by Cllr. Torrance consisting of councillors and members of the village. The working party will report back to the next Parish Council Meeting on 07 July 2015.

Saturday Parish Councillor Surgeries – At the last meeting, the Parish Council decided to stop providing surgeries bi-monthly on a Saturday. Few members of the electorate attended these sessions and so the council decided to use other methods to try to increase public participation. The Public Forum is now firmly established at Parish Council Meetings and the Parish Council pages on the Parish Website will provide a section for the public to raise issues. The Parish Clerk will also update the Parish Website with contact details for all Parish Councillors.

Street Furniture on Westage Lane - The Parish Council agreed to fund street furniture to be made for the roadside posts on Westage Lane and High Street. The finials are being specially made and will depict a view of the church. We are grateful to Peter Davies and Guy Potter for all their work in relation to the street furniture.

Annual Parish Council Meeting – The meeting took place on Monday 11 May and was well attended by members of the public. The Chairman, Peter McAndrew, gave a vote of thanks to

Caroline Marshall, Parish Clerk, for all her hard work in her first year in the post. He also thanked all the Parish Councillors who served on the last Parish Council for their support and for all that they had achieved on behalf of the local community. He expressed appreciation and gratitude to Bill Anderson, Bob Wilkinson and Peter Davies who have given outstanding service as Parish Councillors but had decided to stand down at the election. He also thanked John Hickey for his excellent service as a Parish Councillor for the last eight years. The Chairman congratulated all the Parish Councillors on being elected to serve on the Parish Council for the next four years and gave a warm welcome to Hilary Brudenell, Robert Collier, Hazel Forwood and Marie Kershaw, who have all been elected to the Parish Council for the first time. The Chairman gave a report on the performance of the Parish Council over the last four years and outlined the actions taken on behalf of the Parish. He concluded that all the feedback received suggested that the Council had done a good job. (The full Chairman's Report is available on the village website. Contact details for councillors will be posted on the village website and included in the next Bulletin.)

Upper Pumphouse – The restoration work on the Upper Pumphouse will begin in the near future. The work will be costly - in the region of £6,000. The Parish Council have agreed to fund this but it will take a major part of their financial resources. Financial contributions from any other local organisations would be welcomed.

Peter McAndrew
Chairman, Great Budworth Parish Council

PARKING IN GREAT BUDWORTH VILLAGE

A number of residents who attended the last Parish Council and Annual Parish meetings raised concerns about the controlled parking options that had been presented for consultation at an earlier public meeting.

Okay. Time to take a step back. In response to residents' concerns, the Parish Council has formed a working party consisting of Parish Councillors and interested villagers to gain YOUR views and then to consider what action, if any, needs to be taken.

We intend to look into, consider, and appraise as many options as possible and to report back to the village with our findings.

Hence the questionnaire enclosed with this Bulletin. To make it relevant we really need your address, but if you insist on anonymity, so be it. You can complete the questionnaire online (at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8WQJ2BM) or you can complete the paper copy included with this Bulletin. (Hint: completing it online will enable us to analyse the findings very much faster!)

The views of each and every household in the village of Great Budworth count.

Once the analysis is complete the working party can start its appraisal.

We will keep in touch via the Bulletin, the village website (www.greatbudworth.com) and the village notice board (in the top pump house).

When we have had a chance to inwardly digest the information, we will have an informed debate, culminating in a meeting (open to all) in the Parish Hall and will then put proposals to the Parish Council.

This process will be thorough but will conclude as fast as possible. Thank you for all your help,

Cllr. Malcolm Torrance
Chairman, Parking Working Party

June in the Garden

by Tom Acton, Former Head Gardener at Arley Hall

This is the month that a number of herbaceous plants start to flower – Oriental Poppies, Aquilegias, Alliums and of course many shrubs: Viburnums, Philadelphus and the odd early flowering Buddleia.

Buddleia alternifolia with pale blue flowers in small clusters along its graceful stems can be grown as a small weeping standard, or against a wall or fence and, if pruned hard back straight after flowering, will repeat its show of scented lilac blue flowers year after year.

Peonies, Oriental Poppies and a host of other well-known flowering plants provide scent and food for bees and other insects, as well as the glory of their flowers throughout the month.

Needing light shade and moist soil are the candelabra Primulas in many colours – a glorious sight around a pond. They flower for about six weeks and can be followed by another long flowering primula – Primula florindae, with its flowers like a giant Cowslip.

Meconopsis, the Himalayan Blue poppy, and its various forms, needs acid, moist soil. Grandis and Lingholm varieties are both true perennials and can be raised from seed, but best bought as plants.

GARDEN CLUB

The May meeting had much content: there was the final holiday payment to make, a plug plant given out to all members to grow on for our September Show, plus a very entertaining speaker in Chris Mortimer and his Garden Dreams. We visited his garden two years ago in Lancashire and were aware of his extrovert architecture and his sense of humour when telling a tale. He was thanked enthusiastically by Bernard Keogh.

The June event is a members-only evening, when local gardens will be visited before going back to the parish hall for strawberries and cream, and an entertainment by Sam Youd.

There is a full-day coach trip to Jacqueline Iddon's (*pictured, right*) Stones & Roses gardens on 24th July, with coffee, lunch and afternoon tea all included, at a cost of £28, and on this occasion members can bring friends and family. This has to be booked and paid for in advance and your immediate contact is myself. The club membership is full, and there is a waiting list in operation.

Jean Davies (01606 892383 / 0789 993 7683)

The East Garden Arley Hall (Jane Foster and Tessa Holmes) will be open for the NGS on **Sunday, 28 June**, 11am – 5pm, £4.50. Access via the entrance shop to Arley Hall Gardens.

In addition, Jane will be opening her garden on **Tuesday, 30 June**, 6 – 8pm. Entrance £5 (including a glass of wine) in aid of Samaritans. Access via the front of the hall.



The members are practising hand-bell ringing so that they may do a peel of bells on the 100th anniversary of the WI in Great Britain. We have a repertoire of three songs - so the result will be something like 'Name that Tune!' This will be in September, so more details later, but it is great fun and thanks go to our very patient tutor!

The resolution regarding the distinction between nursing and personal care which is often unfairly assessed brought a no-win result, so the decision will be left to our representative at the AGM at the Royal Albert Hall. We were very grateful to Peter McAndrew, who came to explain the finer points of nursing care funding.

Great Budworth WI will be represented at the Buckingham Palace garden party by Heather Bailey on 2nd June, so have a good day, Heather! We look forward to hearing all about it.

Ten ladies enjoyed the afternoon tea experience at La Belle Epoque in Knutsford in May and tasted the most delicious treats - good for the ego but not so good for the waistline !!!!

Many thanks for the cakes and plants, which were sold for our funds on the Whit Bank Holiday and to our helpers who were waitresses for the day.

The June meeting is on Wednesday 3rd June, at the Parish Hall, when the speaker is Roy Willis, who will tell us about his Adventure in North Pakistan. The competition is for a piece of brassware and the teas are by Sue Ormson and Jenny Baldwin.

We have a visit to the Stones & Roses garden at White Coppice, Lancashire on 16th July, leaving the

village at 12.45 by coach. Names to Lesley Anderson, please.

A warm welcome to Royston, Susie and Melissa Flude, who recently moved into Gable End, Southbank. We hope you'll all be very happy in your new home!

CHURCH NEWS

Sabbatical

In theory, the clergy are eligible for a period of sabbatical leave, usually three months, every seven years – so this year, after 22 years as an ordained minister, I will be taking my first sabbatical, of two months only, in July and August, with the possibility of the third month at some time in the future. During this time I will not be undertaking any parish duties in either Great Budworth or Antrobus, or any duties as the Rural Dean, even though I will still be around for much of this time. All services during July and August will be covered and appropriate arrangements have been made for weddings, and will be made for any funerals which need to take place while I am out of action. The purpose of a sabbatical is to make time for prayer and reflection, study and writing, as well as relaxation, and as part of my sabbatical I will be undertaking a walking pilgrimage from Chester to Bardsey Island, off the tip of the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales, which will probably take me about 10-14 days in total. I will be following an ancient pilgrims' route, known as the North Wales Way and will, for the most part, be sleeping rough as I travel. It isn't being my especially strong suit, I may or may not be reporting on my progress, but I will be taking pictures along the way and probably keeping a journal. On my return I hope to undertake some research into pilgrimage and especially into the role and place of water - holy wells and springs - in Christian spirituality.

Rev'd Alec Brown

Vicar, St Mary & All Saints Church

Sue Scott has a rotating compost maker on a stand that she no longer needs and would be glad to give it to anyone who would like it.

For further information, contact Sue on 01606 891352

GT. BUDWORTH ARCHAEOLOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY WEEKEND – 23RD TO 25TH MAY

Here's what you missed! Some of this may come as a surprise!

To start the weekend, Jonty Trigg, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Liverpool University, handed round a flint arrowhead, dating from the Neolithic/Bronze Age, found in the fields on the south side of the village last year. It's now known that there were human beings here 10 thousand years ago. A polished stone axe, in the Manchester Museum, was found here in the 1920s, and there was a barrow (burial mound) in fields just north of the village.

Sophie Lindon, a student of Evolutionary Anthropologist, gave us a demonstration of how deer antlers were used to make flint arrowheads and knives sharp enough to skin animals (see picture, right).

Over the weekend, experienced volunteers from Bidston Community Archaeology Group, dug a number of test pits, finding lots of evidence from the Victorian period in the upper layers, and an inscribed piece of lead thought to have been a seal from the 18th Century. However, clay soil and spring growth made it hard work getting to the deeper levels. We hope they can continue their explorations later in the year.

Alan Bailey, who put together the programme for the weekend, led a very interesting tour through the village. You might think that Budworth looked much the same many hundreds of years ago, but most houses would have once been a single room, with timber and wattle and daub walls. They would have had a fire in the middle of the earth floor with a hole in the thatched roof to let the smoke out. Change came in the 17th Century, when bricks started to be made in the brickfield at the bottom of Smithy Lane. As the wattle and daub was replaced, brick walls allowed upper floors and brick chimneys to be added. In the 19th Century the Arley Estate spent a great deal of money renovating the houses, resulting in the very attractive look we see today.

Old maps show that the route of the now A559 road has changed since the 18th Century. The road coming from the north went over the area now occupied by 1 & 2 Dene Cottages, built in the late C19th – and there was a dog-leg at the bottom of Budworth hill – that would slow our C21st traffic!

According to the Professor of Geology at Liverpool University, who visited Great Budworth recently, this area was covered by a glacier 1 km thick 18,000 years ago. As the ice sheet melted, it scoured the ground leaving the contours of the ground as we largely see them today. With this in mind, a party led by Robert Steele, walked through the 50 ft. deep Dene Gorge, a most dramatic and scenic sight, between the village and the Dene House. The Kershaws had very kindly given special permission for this.

A group also walked up to the five-sided moat behind Belmont Hall, with Richard Legh the owner, and Robert Steele leading. There is much speculation about the history of the moat, and the island it surrounds. It seems likely that it was associated with the Cistercian Monastery at Norton Priory, but sadly all the records from there were lost at the Dissolution of the Monasteries. We were then invited into the Hall, a 1750 Grade 1 listed building, to view the elegant plaster work on walls and ceilings.

Altogether a fascinating and thought-provoking weekend! If Alan Bailey can ever be persuaded to organise anything similar again, hopefully more children and villagers will come along.

*Sincere thanks to all those who have donated and returned their **Christian Aid** envelopes. If you have not done so already - and would like to - please return envelopes to the Vicarage by the beginning of June. Thanks once again.*

Rev. Alec Brown

Lesley Anderson is hosting a Quis Quis clothes sale at Bakery Cottage in aid of Francis House Children's Hospice on **Thursday 18th June, from 11am until 4pm**. Please come, all welcome. The clothes are lovely and modern and at reasonable prices, mainly summery tops.

Thanks to an editorial clanger in last month's Bulletin, some Budworth ladies are now confused as to when the Ladies' Lunches are. So, just to be clear: these are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of every month. The next lunch will therefore take place on

June 18th. Hope to see you ladies there!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 3rd: Parish Hall, 7.30 pm. W.I. meeting (Speaker: Roy Willis).

Saturday 6th: Arley Cricket Ground, from 1.00pm. GBCC cricket match.

Tuesday 9th: Various gardens in Great Budworth, from 6.00pm. Garden Club, members-only evening.

Thursday 18th: Bakery Cottage, 11.00 - 4.00pm. Quis Quis clothes sale in aid of charity.

Thursday 18th: Red Lion, Pickmere, 12.30 pm. Ladies' lunch.

Saturday 20th: School field, 6.00pm onwards: 'Budfest'.

Sunday 28th: East Garden, Arley Hall, 11.00am - 5.00pm. Garden open under the NGS scheme.

Tuesday 30th: East Garden, Arley Hall, 6.00pm - 8.00pm. Garden open, proceeds to Samaritans.