

# BUDWORTH BULLETIN

## March 2015

### Skywatch

A partial solar eclipse will be visible from all of Britain on the morning of 20 March (cloud cover permitting). Viewed from Cheshire, the moon will cover nearly 90% of the sun at 9.30am. This remarkable event starts at 8.35am as the moon moves between us and our nearest star and finishes at 10.40am. To watch safely do not look directly at the sun without a smoked glass filter or special solar viewers (likely to be on sale in shops nearer the time!). Alternatively you can project an image of the sun through a large piece of card, with a pinhole in it, onto a wall or floor.

The night sky this month is dominated by the constellation Orion to the south and to the left (east) is the very bright planet Jupiter, shining by reflecting sunlight. The planet Venus is visible in the west after sunset and will be close to the crescent moon at 6.15pm on 22 March, when you may also be able to see Mars slightly below them, if the horizon is not too obstructed. Happy viewing!

*Tony Flynn*



We celebrated our 83<sup>rd</sup> Birthday in fine style. Lord Ashbrook gave a lovely talk on the life of his mother, who, as Miss Elizabeth Egerton Warburton, became the first President of Great Budworth WI.

He gave an insight into Lady Ashbrook's life as a young girl, a mother, and as the heiress to the Arley estate and the gardens and painting which came later in her life. It was a delight to hear a story so sincerely told by a son about his mother. The cake was cut, photos were taken and we took tea together.

Two weeks later, for the 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday party we had a meal at the Cock O'Budworth, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was followed by homemade entertainment. Eat your heart out Pam Ayres!

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we have Hazel Bradley who will speak on "Old Testament Wives". As a young girl, Hazel featured in a radio programme, so she was an early radio star and is a delightful speaker. The competition is a photo of your mother and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

The Vale Royal Group meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March when Sheila Johnson will tell us about growing up with the Beatles, lucky girl!



A warm welcome to Helen and Gordon Healiss and their two children, Isabelle and Emma, who recently moved into Fairfield Cottage on Warrington Road. We hope you'll be very happy in your new home!

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### The Landscape of Cheshire

Friday 6th March, 8.00pm

Mid-Cheshire College, Hartford Campus

Chester Road, Northwich

Visitors: £1.50

Our own Fred Owen is giving a talk at the Northwich & District Heritage Society on *'The Landscape of Cheshire'*. Fred will review the factors that have shaped Cheshire from the rolling countryside to the ridges of Tegg's Nose, Alderley Edge, Helsby Hill, Beeston and Peckforton. His talk will include a visual ramble pointing out some of the less often noticed features of the cobbles and sandstone cliffs.

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### GREAT BUDWORTH C. of E. PRIMARY

This half term, our school enjoyed a theme week based on Rudyard Kipling's story of "The Jungle Book". Pupils across all the year groups learnt what the story was about, through reading the original, watching the Disney film version and reading abridged stories. The children really enjoyed finding out about the different characters and spent time learning about where the different animals now live in the world and what a jungle is like. Lots of jungle adventure stories were written and all the classes enjoyed creating jungle artwork, some of which is shown here. The highlight of the week was a visit from members of the Image Theatre

company who enthralled the children with a musical version of the Jungle Book story. Some of the pupils were chosen to dress up and act small parts, whilst all the school learnt the choruses to the songs that helped to tell the story.

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## GARDEN CLUB

Another large crowd was in the Hall in February to attend the AGM, pay their subscriptions and be given the new Events card for the year ahead. Full reports were given by the Chairlady and the Secretary and the accounts were presented by the Treasurer. The club is in a good financial position and to that end the members will be given a free party in August to celebrate 15 successful years of the Garden Club.

There was a presentation to Victor Wood, who has taken fantastic photographs on every occasion over the past years. The committee wished to thank him for this wonderful work and Richard Fenby gave him a framed certificate on behalf of the members.

The Chairlady, Jean Davies, thanked the committee and members for the amazing support and friendship over this time, and told them they could expect a very exciting year ahead.

Following the AGM, the chair was taken by Andrew Bushell, who introduced the speaker, Malcolm Dixon (*pictured*), from Hooksgreen Herbs in Staffordshire. We were shown his award-winning stands at the Flower Shows and his interviews with celebrities such as Alan Titchmarsh. There was time to explain various herbs and we were shown how and where to grow them. He was ably thanked by Hazel Forwood.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10 March, when the speaker is Sarah Hopps who will be talking about Gardens of Europe. The next holiday payment will be due and there may be an opportunity to admit some new members from the waiting list.

For further information please contact me in the first instance: Jean Davies 01606 892383 or [mrsjeandavies@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjeandavies@gmail.com)

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### ***Wouldn't it be great if dogs could clear up after themselves?***

*The school field is in regular use by pupils and village children for many sports, learning and leisure activities.*

*It is very important to keep the field clean to provide a safe and healthy environment.*

*Please could all dog walkers ensure that their pets do not foul the school field.*

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## GREAT BUDWORTH HERITAGE SOCIETY

### Housing Development in Cheshire West & Chester

Chester West Council has a new Local Plan. What's that about? Well, now it has been thoroughly vetted by a Planning Inspector and approved by the Council, the Local Plan, Part 1, will guide planning decisions on all development and land use across the Borough until 2030.

That's good news, because it lessens *some* of the uncertainties over possible development here and nearby. For example, no building should be allowed in the Green Belt here – as will occur near Chester. Further, “the Plan will protect ... unique and significant heritage assets ... and their settings”. That sounds like good news for conservation areas and listed buildings.

As recent planning decisions around Cheshire have shown, however, there's going to be a lot of new housing and the Inspector has consistently relabelled the total targets for different areas to “at least”, instead of “in the region of” – which may make a few building companies smile!

All told the Local Plan sets a target of at least 23,500 new houses in West Cheshire by 2030. The towns will have the biggest numbers; Northwich, for example will get at least 4300, including 950 at nearby Wincham. Villages like Great Budworth lie in the “Rural Area” of West Cheshire where consent already exists for 4,175 new houses overall. However, much of this total lies in “key service centres” (e.g. Tarporley). As the plan says, “This means there will be little if any need for additional allocations in rural areas.”

The only doubt concerns which smaller villages may be designated “local service centres” and allowed some new housing (in part 2 of the Plan - to follow). This depends on ‘sustainability’, or what facilities are available in them. Perhaps it's for the best, then, that Budworth doesn't score very highly, having no shop or doctor's surgery.

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### JIM WYLLIE

Jim died peacefully at home on the 11th February and was buried at a private family service at Tinwald Church, Dumfriesshire, on Wednesday 18th February. Our sympathy and thoughts go to Christine and their family. A memorial service was held in a packed Parish Church on Monday 23rd February. We hope to include in the next Bulletin an appreciation of this much liked and respected member of our community.

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## GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Restricted Parking** – Parish Councillors had an urgent meeting with a representative from the Highways Department and the Cheshire Police Traffic Liaison. We showed them that vehicles are being parked over driveways and informed them that residents are becoming increasingly frustrated that no action is being taken. We discussed signs that ask people to park with consideration and not to be an obstruction and were informed that these had not been successful in other areas and were not enforceable. We discussed a resident

parking scheme and agreed that this would be time consuming to arrange and was not enforceable. It was recommended that a restricted parking scheme would probably achieve the best results. The scheme would have signs informing that there was restricted parking within the village and that people should only park in the designated areas. These signs would be placed on High Street before the Mount and in Church Street before the junction with Smithy Lane. The permitted parking areas would be designated by markings or studs and we agreed that they should be highly visible but as sympathetic as possible. Areas that were not marked would be designated no parking areas and would be passing areas for vehicles. We discussed how this scheme would be enforceable and how we could arrange for some enforcement for occasions when the village was busy with vehicles. We were warned about creating issues with local residents who had been issued with parking fines and who may be angry that this has occurred in the area where they live. The outcomes of the meeting will be taken forward by the Parish Council and will include the drawing up of a restricted parking plan for the village; approval being sought from the Department of Transport; the exploration of markings/studs for the permitted parking areas that would be sympathetic to a conservation area; and public consultation arrangements with local residents to discuss implementation of the restricted parking. The plan will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Parish Council Elections** – The local elections will take place on 07 May 2015 for parish councillors for Great Budworth Parish Council. The council has eight elected councillors and all are up for election. This is an exciting opportunity for local residents to put themselves forward to serve for 4 years as a parish councillor. Being a parish councillor is a responsible and rewarding position. Parish councillors are able to make a substantial contribution to improving and maintaining our special village. Anyone who is interested to find out more should contact the Clerk to the Council, Caroline Marshall on 01606 783294, or discuss the role and responsibilities with any parish councillor. (*See February Bulletin for names and contact details of Parish Councillors.*)

**Cheshire Pride** – Each year Cheshire Community Action organises a Community Pride Competition for the Best Kept Village, and for many other awards. The parish council are interested in entering the competition as there will be many positive outcomes for the village. The parish council has allocated funding to support the work needed and additional planting in village areas. To enter a small group of willing volunteers are required. If you are interested please contact Lesley Hopkinson at Lesley@hoppyhome.co.uk to discuss further.

**Parish Council Meetings** – Open to the Public – The Parish Council welcome members of the public and the press to meetings. A standard agenda item – Public Forum - is placed high up on the agenda for members of the public to raise issues with the council. Please make the most of this opportunity. The next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 02 March 2015 at 7.30pm.

*Peter McAndrew – Chairman of Great Budworth Parish Council*

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## NORTHWICH CLEAN TEAM

I am a Comberbach resident who, after constantly complaining about the increase in litter, decided to join the Northwich Clean Team. This is a group of volunteer litter pickers who meet about every month to target areas of litter within Northwich but can also (or instead) just adopt areas near to our homes. We now have a small team of four volunteers in Comberbach who regularly collect litter from the roads through our village.

My 'patch' is Budworth Lane and Gibb Hill but unfortunately, due to the lack of any verge, I am unable to complete the section down to the crossroads on the A559.

If there is anyone in Great Budworth who is interested in joining the team to help with group picks or simply to collect litter in and around Great Budworth village you can contact the group at [northwichcleanteam@aol.co.uk](mailto:northwichcleanteam@aol.co.uk) or 01606 41510. After completing the form you will be given a litter picker, a high visibility vest and some green sacks. Should you want to discuss anything or need more information I can be contacted on 01606 891540.

*Kathryn Wharfe*

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## Readers' Forum

*A place where you, the reader, can express an opinion about local affairs - always bearing in mind the common-sense rules laid out in last November's issue.*

From Fred and Jeanette Owen (01606 892690):

We had a wry smile at this Agenda item of the 12 January 2015 Parish Council Meeting:

**"12. Readers' forum in the Budworth Bulletin** To discuss the addition in The Bulletin of a readers' comments and views section which could potentially be used for personal or political purposes and/or to criticise the Parish Council and decide whether the Parish Council wishes to continue supporting financially the Bulletin."

Even to consider explicit financial threats like this opposes free speech in a democracy. To us it is inconsistent with the theme of the Parish Council's declared 4 Year Strategy of 'Engagement, Participation and Action' and all that it entails. We have tried to engage constructively about democracy with this Council over the last five months through their Surgery and Public Forums to no avail. It has been a waste of our time.

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## CHURCH TEAS 2015

Thanks to everybody who attended the coffee morning and put their names on the rota. If you weren't able to make it to the coffee morning, we still have dates to fill, so if you are able to help, just call Margaret on 07732 324001 or Maggie on 01565 777262.

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## GREAT BUDWORTH TENNIS CLUB NEWS

We have just had our AGM and another successful and fun year playing tennis at Gt Budworth, Birchwood Indoor Tennis Centre and Roc Tennis Centre at Hartford. Roc is an inflatable tennis centre at Hartford which is an excellent and

convenient place to play when the summer weather is over and dark nights are upon us.

Our main tournaments are the Grand National (Parker Cup) Tournament, the Cussons Shield Summer Tournament, and the Kay Cup, which is played at the beginning of the season. Social tennis can be played at any time. We would like to invite anyone interested - even beginners - to get in touch with us, as we would love to see some new members in our club and to organise some coaching, depending on numbers interested.

The people to get in touch with are either Ric or Nicola Burgess, who are our Chairman and Secretary Tel. 01606 892670. Email: [nicandricburgess@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nicandricburgess@tiscali.co.uk)  
Please do give TENNIS a try.

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## ***MARCH IN THE GARDEN***

*By Tom Acton, former Head Gardener at Arley Hall*

All types of roses can be pruned this month. Rose pruning is necessary to develop a vigorous, healthy, well balanced plant with good-sized flowers. Hybrid Tea and Floribunda Roses should have all dead and weak growth pruned out completely, then all last year's growth cut back to two or three buds from the older wood - the plant will then produce strong, vigorous growth from these buds with good-sized flowers. Shrub Roses and Climbers will also respond well to pruning that stimulates young growth.

Late summer-flowering shrubs should also be pruned towards the end of the month, including Buddleia, Caryopteris, Ceratostigma, the flowering nutmeg (Leycesteria), Hydrangea paniculata, Arborescens 'Annabelle', Cornus and Lavender - again taking last year's growth down to about two or three buds from old wood. If not done already, all fruit tree pruning should be completed this month, and where necessary, feeding any of the above plants. All planting of bare root shrubs and trees should also be done this month.

When ground and climate conditions permit, vegetable growers will be able to sow and plant a full range of summer vegetables and salads.

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## **ST. MARY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

**Funerals** – rest in peace Jim Wyllie whose Memorial Service took place in Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> February,

### **Dates for the Diary**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30am

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Palm Sunday Procession from the Parish Hall at 10.15am followed by the Liturgy for Palm Sunday in Church at 10.30am

### **From the Vicar**

Over the last month or so the Church of England has been very much in the news, from the ordination of the first woman Bishop to the equally unprecedented pre-election pastoral letter released by the House of Bishops. The former brought forth a lone protester in York Minster, crying “Not in the Bible!” while the latter has divided opinions, with the not unsurprising question from some in the media as to “who will rid us of these meddlesome bishops?” Behind the scenes the Church has, in its usual way, been working quietly, consistently and constructively in all sorts of areas of life, from human trafficking and slavery to the precarious position of Christians in the Middle East – but these are much less newsworthy of course. The Church has also, through General Synod, released a number of reports about the present and future life and health of the Church of England, including a very interesting report “Released for Mission” about the church in rural England. These reports have all been discussed and debated in General Synod and we in the Dioceses now await our turn to discuss, debate, plan and act.

The reports are of course set against a background of gradual decline in Church membership and attendance over the last few decades, with some exceptions in some parts of the country, and a growing realization that the churchgoing landscape has changed radically over these decades. In this parish, as with most across the Diocese, and with the exception of baptisms, most of our figures are down on the previous year, though not significantly – apart from income – has gone down quite markedly over the last few years (in this respect please also see the personal piece on Christian giving from the Editor of the Magazine, The Rev'd. Chris Rees). My prayer is that from all these various reports will come real and practical strategies for helping parishes across the country, from inner-city and urban to suburban and rural, as they reach out to their communities with the good news of the Gospel.

Lent is a time for prayer, study and reflection and as we think about the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus for each one of us, let us resolve to do all that we can to “discern God's hand in all his works, and his likeness in all his children”.

May God bless each one of us in this coming month.

*The Rev'd. Alec Brown*

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## ***Last Minute Reminder!***

*Just to jog your memory about the two RTA shows coming up in the Parish Hall at the beginning of March:*

***Ian Sherwood*** – Thursday 5th March, 7:00 for 7:30pm Tickets £10

*A lovely, original, singer/songwriter, instrumentalist and story-teller from Canada. His music dances the line between folk and pop.  
Just the thing to cheer you up on a dank and chilly March evening!  
**The Last Supper** - Friday 13th March, 7: for 7:30pm Tickets £8  
A performance piece where chosen members of the audience are invited to eat and drink with the cast while they perform  
scenarios based on the last words of several very different individuals.  
Intriguing and not to be missed!  
Contact: Jan on 10606 891019 or Lynda on 01606 891571*

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## LADIES' LUNCH

The March Ladies' Lunch will take place on Thursday, 19th March.

Meet at the Red Lion in Pickmere at 12.30.

We hope you'll join us.

Phone Hazel Forwood on 891908 if you need more information.

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## MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Check [www.greatbudworth.com](http://www.greatbudworth.com) for an up-to-date calendar of events*

**Monday 2nd:** Parish Hall, 7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting. Members of the public welcome.

**Wednesday 4th:** Parish Hall, 7.30pm. WI Meeting. Speaker: Hazel Bradley

**Thursday 5th:** Parish Hall, 7.00 for 7.30. RTA presents Ian Sherwood

**Friday 6th:** Hartford Campus, Mid-Cheshire College, 8.00pm. Talk: 'The Landscape of Cheshire'

**Tuesday 10th:** Parish Hall, 7.45pm. Garden Club. Speaker: Sarah Hopps

**Friday 13th:** Parish Hall, 7.00 for 7.30. RTA presents 'The Last Supper'

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Church, 10.30am. Mothering Sunday Service

**Friday 20th: COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL BULLETIN**

**Friday 20th:** everywhere in the Northern Hemisphere: partial eclipse of the sun

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Hall, 10.15am. Palm Sunday Procession from the Parish Hall, followed by the Liturgy for Palm Sunday in Church at 10.30am

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