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MAY & JUNE winners were chosen by a number generator, watched on video by the committee.

### MAY

1st Prize (£25) No 36

Ruth Murphy

2nd Prize (£10) No. 1

Jeff Haw

### JUNE

1st Prize (£25)

Jackie Wass

2nd Prize (£10) Tony Flynn

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# BUDWORTH BULLETIN

July-August 2020



It's sometimes easy to forget that WW2 did not end on 8th May 1945: it was only the war in Europe that had ended. The war in the Far East continued for another torrid three months. In this issue we devote over three pages to the experience of one resident's father, who spent 3½ years as a Japanese PoW.

## GARDEN CLUB

Members have enjoyed their gardens throughout the lockdown. In fact, it is the one thing that has kept us all going. The weather has been perfect and now we have some rain as well. Some NGS gardens are now opening by appointment. Please check online for those near you. It has to be planned, timed and distanced during this pandemic.

We are slowly getting through this, but it's not over yet, and there could be another spike anywhere. The hospitality industry is opening up again, but it will be a NEW normal, with Covid measures in place to protect us.

So when the committee discussed starting Garden Club events again we concluded that it is not safe to do so, given the numbers of members we have. For that reason, all speakers and events are now cancelled until the AGM on February 16th 2021.

We are all very sorry and disappointed to have to do this, but we feel it's the only option at this time. We look forward to our Club's Coming of Age, 21 years old, and all celebrations will begin again, hopefully with no coronavirus or any other problems to worry about. Members who paid their subs this year will have a fee-free 2021!

Potential members need to contact a committee member to be added to the waiting list, as usual. It's been a year for the history books, but we have our friendship and Keeping in Touch Newsletter for any updates.

Do see us around the village to chat and tell us about your gardens. Thank you to those who already do this and have kept our friendship together during this time. Best wishes to you all. We hope you continue to keep safe and well.

Jean and Peter Davies.

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*First potatoes of the season!*

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## **DRAMA IN THE HIGH STREET!!**

Shortly after 11am on Saturday 20th June residents of upper High Street heard a loud screeching noise. Several people looked out from windows and doorways to see a large horse van travelling uphill. It soon became obvious that serious damage had been done to a car parked in High Street: it belonged to a carer who was supporting Ruth and Paul Parker. But the horse van failed to stop and just continued on its journey.



It was clear from bits that had fallen off the offending vehicle that it was light grey or silver. Members of the village WhatsApp were alerted and asked if they'd seen anything and, sure enough, Louise Tottle soon replied, saying that she'd seen the vehicle drive past, with a sandy-haired woman in the passenger seat and, in the rear, a white-headed horse.

At 1.40pm Maggie Earl reported via WhatsApp that an empty van matching that description was parked on Cann Lane, by Guide Post Farm. It was clear from damage to the van that this was the likely culprit, so Maggie took photos of the number plate and a broken panel. A team of Budworth detectives scrambled to their cars to reach the scene: the Bowmans were swiftly followed by Steve Coppel and the Kordels. By now the van was in a lane leading to Guide Post Farm (the Earls' farm, so it was trespassing!).

Steve was still there when the owner returned to the van. She said she had been unable to park in High Street in order to inspect the damage (though she was seen parking up in Westage Lane for a few minutes before continuing her journey), but intended to return later after she had finished her three-hour ride! Steve duly made a note of her name and phone number and took her photo. The carer's car was so badly damaged that it was a write-off, but at least the owner was able to give full details of the other vehicle to her insurance company. She was given the use of another car by her employers and she later posted on her Facebook page her appreciation of the village's support in tracking down the culprit.

And who was the star of this show? .....the Great Budworth WhatsApp! Its content isn't always very serious, but on this occasion it was worth its weight in gold!



*And now for a little light relief ...*

## BING AND ME

By popular request, here is another story of my days in 'the glamorous world of showbiz'.

First, if you've no idea who or what Bing Crosby is or was, FaceTime your gran.

When I worked in the music industry, my hours of work were a very civilised 10am to 6pm. This enabled me to drop Brenda (my future wife) off at her office in Mayfair, park in the company garage (those were the days!) and stroll round to my office in Hanover Square.

One morning I saw a dapper little man sitting on the step. He didn't look like a rough sleeper, so I remained polite and, getting nearer, realised that it was Bing Crosby (pictured). He explained that he had arrived early to begin work on an album – or LP as we used to call them. The hotel breakfast room was not much fun, he said, because of fans wanting autographs (no selfies in those days!). After a few minutes' chitty-chat, he refused my invitation to come inside for a coffee: he was enjoying sitting in the sun in peace.

I knew that the company had just signed him up for umpteenth million dollars for a four or five album deal and after a few minutes I grew nervous about a million-dollar investment being left on the step!

I went back out to see if he would come in, but by then the studio staff were ushering him through to the recording centre. He thanked me for my offer and company and wished me a happy life.

The album was called Beautiful Dreams, but sadly he died the following year on a golf course in Madrid. Don't know what happened to all the dollars the company paid for four or five albums, as Beautiful Dreams was his last.

RIP Vera Lynn – my father was obviously wrong [see previous Bulletin issue].

Alan Freemantle



*A big Thank You to Great Budworth Garden Club for their donation of £40 to the Bulletin funds.*

*All contributions are received very gratefully!*



The WI had a programme of speakers for the year, but meetings have been postponed each month since March. So in June, in true WI spirit, we decided to have a Zoom meeting when members managed to log online to see each other. Many thanks to Sue Ritchie who hosted the meeting and let us all in!

We tried to sing Jerusalem, simply for the novelty of it, but I don't recommend it as easy listening music!! We all took turns to do a 'show and tell' - it was an opportunity to explain what we were doing in the extra time we had during lockdown. Some had de-cluttered, gardens were looking good in the sunshine, many had enjoyed local walks, lots of jigsaws have done the "rounds" and some members had completed the craft items that may never have been finished without this extra time on our hands. Well done, ladies.

For the July meeting we had gained more confidence Zoom-wise and again met online, when even more members managed to log in. We invited David Waters, the BBC Songs of Praise producer, to tell us of the way his career has taken him to meet lots of inspirational people and about the popularity of Songs of Praise, which continues even though it is now straight after Sunday lunch.

Members listened for half an hour and then could ask him questions, which he answered with great honesty. He still didn't tell us how he got Katherine Jenkins up that mountain in a pure white dress to sing 'Amazing Grace', but he did say that she was a great sport and arrived in trainers with her heels in a carrier bag.

We live a month at a time and hope we will manage a garden meeting before the summer is over and the Jumble Sale is now pencilled in for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11am, even if it is half in the Parish Hall and half outside under the awning. Clothes and pre-loved items that need new homes, unwanted gifts etc. are always welcome, as well as jumble and bric-a-brac. More details in the September Bulletin.

June Wilkinson 891534

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## PETER McANDREW

*It is with great sadness that we report the death recently of Peter McAndrew, after a long illness. Peter, of Church Street, was a well-known and popular figure in the village and beyond. We reprint below the eulogy given by Nick Hopkinson at his funeral, which took place on Friday 26th June.*

Peter was a great friend to so many of us. He was a sage of sensible advice and balanced reason and a sensitive shoulder to cry on. His passion for helping people was turbo charged as Academic Director and head of nursing at Salford University where his dedication to people affected by mental health was nurtured and developed. Throughout his very successful career in the health service he was responsible for advances in many areas of mental health....some on a national platform...including mother and baby postnatal care, brain injury care, mental health in deaf communities and after many years as a Samaritan he became one of their main trainers.



Originally from Cheshire before heading over to the other side of the Pennines (the dark side) his other love was sport. But not before he had played cricket with Sir Bernard Lovell (of Jodrell Bank fame) and begun his lifelong love affair with the blue side of Manchester's fine footballing heritage.

His life was fulfilled in so many ways but he told me on a number of occasions that meeting Maggie was certainly one of his happiest moments (alongside City winning the premiership and them buying a house in this wonderful village!). Maggie made him happy every day for nearly 20 years and together they learned lots of new skills, visited many countries (far and wide) and laughed constantly....except on the tennis court where he just had to win every point!

Peter was a huge part of the village community. He was the backbone of the cricket club and a foundation of the parish council. He never missed a village occasion and supported every charity function....he was a prolific bidder in all village auctions. He was also a brilliant right hand man to me at the early cricket club BBQs even though he always seemed to jinx the weather.

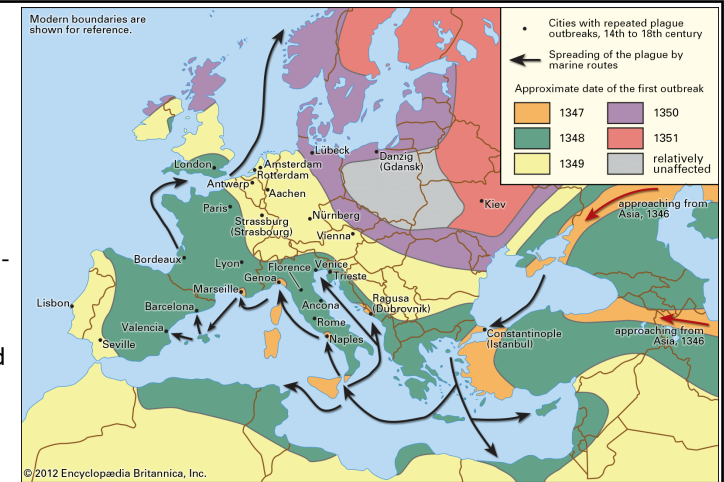
Peter was a fantastic mentor to so many of us. He met a disturbed lad...10 year old Bradley, every week for years...and as a result Bradley's life was changed beyond recognition and he will be forever grateful. He was a magnet for young people and the impact on my own son Oliver and all his grand children was immense.

Peter was a great fun guy and unlike many of us he was able to take it as well as dish it out. I don't think he ever understood why I christened him the 'Butcher of Budworth' but it didn't matter, he laughed along with us all and it wasn't long before he got his revenge! He was a larger than life character who would light up a room with his presence. He loved Great Budworth, the people here and everything about the place...and Great Budworth loved him right back.

Peter was summed up by one of his grandchildren who wrote in a letter to Maggie.....

*(cont'd on next page)*

word 'quarantine' evolved from the Italian for Forty Days. The famous Great Plague of 1665-66 might well have been caused by fleas and rats. It was mainly confined to London. The death toll in London was about 70,000, and 100,000 throughout England. It was nothing like the death toll of 1349 and was not a worldwide phenomenon like the Black Death of that year.



The plague caused by fleas on rats is a bacterial disease and infection is not easily passed by person to person contact. It is usually confined to towns and does not travel as quickly as the 1349 Black Death or Covid 19. In 1350 the Black Death even reached Iceland, where there were very few rats. Rats do not travel far from their nests and would not enable the disease to travel as fast as it did.

We do not know how many people died in Great Budworth in the 1349 Black Death, but there were so many deaths that farms lay untenanted for a few years and the wages of farm labourers increased because of the shortage of agricultural workers.

After our experience of Covid 19, we can understand the likelihood of the Black Plague being a viral disease and why, in the Fourteenth Century, without our medical expertise and knowledge, the death toll reached 30% to 50% of the total population.

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## COVID 19 AND THE BLACK DEATH

by Alan Bailey

Coronavirus—or Covid 19—is the latest of many Epidemics we have experienced in England. There was an epidemic of bubonic plague in Hong Kong in 1894; Alexandre Yersin noticed that there were a lot of dead rats around the streets and he proved that the bubonic bacterium was present in these rodents and that fleas and rats were the main vehicle of transmission of the bacteria to humans. The bubonic plague had killed the rats— and the fleas had feasted and multiplied on the dead rats. Then, when the fleas bit the humans they transmitted the disease to humans. Historians then assumed that all previous plagues were caused in the same way.

In 2001, Dr Susan Scott and Dr Christopher Duncan from Liverpool University wrote a book, 'The Biology of Plagues', in which they examined the historical evidence of all the various plagues throughout history and argue that they had been caused by a variety of reasons.

The worst plague in England and Europe was the Black Death of 1349. It is estimated that 30% to 50% of the populations died and this rate was evenly spread throughout both rural and urban areas in England, Europe and Asia. In 1349 the population of England was about 10 million and about four million people died; in Europe the population was around 80 million, and about 30 million people died. It was a world-wide pandemic, which probably killed about 50 million people worldwide. Whole villages were annihilated and in some villages there was no-one left to bury the dead.

It was previously assumed that this was the bubonic plague and that it had been transmitted by fleas on rats, but Scott and Duncan argue that it was not caused by rats but was a viral haemorrhagic fever ~ like Covid 19, except Covid 19 doesn't cause haemorrhaging. Most history books and websites, however, still say that The Black Plague was caused by fleas and rats.

In 1347 a plague arrived in the port of Messina, Sicily, by sailors who had come from Crimea. Half the ship's crew was either dead or dying. Sicilians went to help the crew and caught the plague, which had travelled from China via the Silk Road to Crimea. The Great Pestilence (or Black Death as it was named in 1823 because of the black blotches that appeared on the skin of victims) was recognised as a directly infectious disease. Michael of Piazza, a Franciscan friar, said, "The infection spread to everyone who had any contact with the disease". Indeed, it was believed that priests who heard the confessions of the dying "were immediately overcome by death." They realised that safety lay in fleeing but this, very effectively, served only to spread the infection.

The Black Death moved as a northwards wave through Europe at an average speed of about 4 km per day and reached England in 1348, but it reached its peak in 1349. This outbreak was a pandemic on a scale never experienced before. Even in the 14th century, the doctors in Northern Italy had established the importance of a forty day isolation period, which became the standard for continental Europe for the next 300 years. The

## CHURCH NEWS

After much discussion, we re-opened the church for individual prayer from 28<sup>th</sup> June. Our decisions must always take account of everybody that may wish to visit the church. We have a duty of care to all, hence the delay in opening for prayer. We are so pleased that we can now allow people in *for individual prayer on:*



**Sundays 11.30am to 4.00pm & Wednesdays 11.00am to 4.00pm**

Weddings and funerals can now take place in church, but with limited numbers in attendance. Please speak to the Rev Alec Brown about these. Please take time out if you get the chance and are able to come and use the church building to sit, gather your thoughts, reflect, pray, and have a time of quietness.

Full directions on social distancing are posted in church. Hand Gel is available.

### The restarting of public worship

The Ministry Team and PCC are discussing the restarting of public worship in the church and have decided to defer this until the beginning of August in order to prepare properly and thoroughly, in terms of risk assessments, types of services and so on. Further guidance from both the government and the national church may also be forthcoming. In the meantime, we would welcome some indication from members of the congregation - and others - of thoughts and feelings towards the restarting of public worship. Please either e-mail, phone or drop a note to any member of the Ministry Team (details in the Church). We look forward greatly to being able to see you all in church again at some point in the future, but we want to get this right and to be able to do this as safely as possible for everyone, hence the slight delay in restarting public worship. We hope that everyone will understand this.

The Revd Alec Brown  
Vicar of Great Budworth and Priest-in-Charge of Antrobus.

*(cont'd from previous page)*

"he taught me to find the joy in everything". Peter's funeral was just the kind of occasion he would have really loved. The formal parade on High Street, the cricketers all doing their guard of honour in their kit with raised cricket bats and the graveside service with so many friends dotted around the graveyard.....he would have loved the playing of 'test match special' too.....It was a fitting tribute to a huge character, a great friend to us all and marvellous partner, dad and grandad. Peter will be very sadly missed we can only pray that he now rests in peace.

Nick Hopkinson

## Summer wines?

**C**oronavirus is depressing so we obviously need something to cheer us up and, as wine is made from grapes, it counts as concentrated fruit as part of our five a day!



Britain is blessed with having the finest wine buyers in the world and while it is really difficult to find a terrible bottle of wine, what one really wants is something that tastes good and is great value! However, we all have different taste buds and my likes may not reflect yours. Here are some suggestions - four white, a rose and two red - that are not too expensive for midweek drinking.

**Vignobles Roussellet Pinot Noir** – France – Aldi - £4.99. Surprisingly good at this price, great wine buying by Aldi. It is a light red wine which has good fruit. I like it served slightly chilled. So much Pinot Noir is disappointing and sold at much higher prices. (Ollie Smith also liked it)

**Vina Sol 2019** – Spain - Asda offer £5.50, normally around £7.50. Torres is a great vineyard to visit on the outskirts of Barcelona - they make some fabulous wines. This is inexpensive, cold fermented Catalan white wine which is clean and fruity and ideal for swigging in the sunshine, especially when on offer.

**Grand Mayne Rose 2019.** Cotes de Duras c£6.75 with shareholder discount. Karen's favourite rose from a vineyard in which we have a tiny equity stake. The wine is very pale pink with lots of finesse and is reminiscent of a Provencal style rose. If anyone is interested I can source it, and it might be available to taste.

**Villa Maria Riesling 2019** – Booths on offer £8.50 in July - crisp, zesty off-dry, lime flavoured New Zealand white wine from an excellent producer at a bargain price (£10.49 at Waitrose). Great with a smoked salmon sandwich.

**Wine Society White Burgundy 2018** £9.95. The Wine Society are absolutely dependable, and this is blended in cooperation with their long-term supplier. 2018 was a good vintage, ripe fruit flavours - clean well-made wine; good value if you want Burgundy on the label.

**Navajas Blanco Crianza Rioja 2016** Wine Society £8.95. I used to work for a Spanish bank, and I like the oaky vanilla flavour of traditional White Rioja. This wine is from a good producer, has a little bottle age and some complexity; it may be a "Marmite wine" as perhaps not everybody would like it.

**Cepa Lebrer Rioja Reserva 2014** Lidl £5.49. Mature Reserva Rioja at a bargain price, pepper, vanilla oak, soft velvety fruit which goes wonderfully with lamb. Often quoted as good value in the press.

Enjoy !

Don Hammond

## Ssssh!

Many of our readers have been outdoors, topping up their Vitamin D!

During the hot weather many of our windows have been wide open for long periods, but if you have music on or friends round, please remember your neighbours – some villagers tell us that they want to be able to enjoy peace and quiet in their outdoor space !



## ICE CREAM FARM TO THE RESCUE !

Our thanks go to Rachel, June and co. at the Ice Cream Farm for helping so many of us through the worst of the lockdown by supplying us with milk, eggs, ice cream and other victuals. We'd have struggled without you !



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(cont'd from previous page)

had been over for three months. People wanted to forget the war and were looking for jobs, homes. A new Government was elected in July 1945 and my father got back to the UK in October 1945. This is why we must remember the war in the Far East and all those who suffered.

My father was incredibly lucky. He must have been very strong mentally and physically to survive, which never showed. He was a quiet, modest man, but I did have to eat all the food on my plate and clean my teeth with very little toothpaste! He died aged 67 as a result of the effects of malnutrition from being a PoW 31 years earlier. Such a shame! We did not know then.

Julian Beavan.

## Healthwatch Survey

Healthwatch are key partners in the health and care system, helping to inform priorities across Cheshire, using the views of local people. To that end Healthwatch have been asking Cheshire residents to complete a survey to tell them about their experiences during this time so they can understand what is working well and what could be improved, as well as considering people's mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic.

The survey is still available online at:  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/rDXMCRK9](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/rDXMCRK9)

Everyone is invited to complete the survey (no deadline has been given). In doing so, you will be helping Healthwatch ensure that their health and care services are tailored to meet our needs, especially in these unusual times.

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*curbishleys roses*

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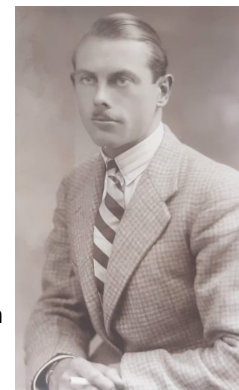
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Well, we didn't expect to have anything to include in a July-August Bulletin - but here we are with another 16 page issue! Of course, it's largely thanks to Julian Beavan's astonishing account of his father's experiences in the Far East—and it's entirely right that we mark VJ Day in the same way that we marked VE Day. But that's the end of war reminiscences, so as for a September issue, that depends on the extent to which normal life resumes!

The Bulletin Team

## WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER VJ DAY 15th AUGUST

My father, Roger Beavan (left), was born in 1909. He went to University, where he studied engineering, after which he joined Vauxhall. He was sent to Hong Kong in 1937, where my mother later joined him and they were married in 1938. My brother was born in 1940.



They moved to India and in September 1941 he joined the Indian Army. After training he was commissioned and sent to Singapore, arriving there in November 1941. My mother, who was left with a two-year old, managed to get a ship back to England - a terrifying experience, with the constant fear of attack by German U-Boats - but they made it safely back.

### Fall of Singapore 15<sup>th</sup> February 1942

Two new British Battleships, HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse, were sent to defend Singapore and Malaya, but both were sunk by Japanese aircraft on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1941 off the coast of Malaya. Malaya capitulated as the Japanese moved south, sometimes on bicycles! They were ferocious fighters and the British had lost nearly all their tanks and aircraft, so were defenceless.

Life in Singapore seemed oblivious to this and my father commented that Senior Command seemed not to have a care in the world. Parties and social life continued right up to Christmas 1941 and into January 1942. Defence did not seem a priority: no trenches were dug, no barbed wire laid and no real plans were formed by General Percival. He thought the Japanese would attack by sea from the South and West - and the big guns were ready. All the troops were spread out along the whole coast of the island; however, they proved to be far too thinly dispersed and unable to defend.

After two weeks of bitter fighting and the destruction of The Causeway (linking mainland Malaya to the island of Singapore), the Japanese crossed over the Straits of Johore and invaded Singapore, which fell on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1942. Around 28,500 British, 18,000 Australian and 67,000 Indian soldiers were taken prisoner, as well as civilians, a



*Lt. Gen. Percival and his party carry the Union Jack on their way to surrender Singapore to the Japanese*

total of around 140,000. This was the largest capitulation in British history. Most of the soldiers had never seen any action and had come to Singapore by sea, straight out of training. There were very brutal killings by the Japanese, including civilian locals, and in hospitals, notably Alexandra Military Hospital, where everyone was bayoneted or shot, including nurses and staff - even those being operated on and bedridden patients. All were murdered. The Japanese were told not to take prisoners.



My father hardly saw any Japanese for two weeks and they fended for themselves, finding water, food and accommodation. The Japanese could not cope with the vast number of prisoners, but escape was almost impossible owing to Singapore being an island: the heat, food, disease, sharks and Japanese air power made escape impossible.

Apart from the murdering there were other atrocities: the Chinese were hated and their decapitated heads were put on spikes and displayed in the streets. There was confrontation between the Japanese and PoWs when up to 15,000 were forced into Selerang Barracks (built for 1,200) because they refused to sign an agreement not to try and escape. The Japanese then shot several PoWs, but they still refused to sign. The Japanese cut off the water supply and they had to dig latrines on the parade ground. Eventually the Japanese backed down and nothing was signed. Many, including my father and his troops, were marched to Changi where they were accommodated in the jail. Another seven new smaller camps were built.

Changi is where my father spent nearly three of his 3½ years. It was a terrible building: cold at night, damp and full of bugs. Built as a prison in 1936, cells were only 8' x 6'. Bed was a stone block in the middle for one person, along with a very smelly hole in the corner as a latrine. Sometimes there were up to five in a cell. Built for a maximum of 800, there were up to 8,000 held there later on, including 400 females and the Headquarters of the Kempeitai Secret Police. There were buildings and tents around the prison as well.



*Roger Beavan commented: "These pictures are not in the least bit exaggerated - there were thousands of them. I made quite a number of crosses like*

Father looked after his men.

Initially, they were not bothered by the Japanese; however it became worse with overcrowding, lack of food and medical supplies and being overworked, with the result that disease was rife. Close confinement meant that it spread easily.

He also kept a daily diary for the full 3½ years, including The Railway. He wrote it as a letter to my mother, rather like a conversation. I think it gave him hope. He became quite religious, probably for the same reason. He kept a few things throughout his captivity: mosquito net, Lilo, tube of toothpaste, small folding table and a clean shirt for when he was released as a British officer. I doubt the shirt survived! But the diary did. These items went everywhere with him, including The Railway, and I am sure they saved his life.

## The Thai-Burma Railway - 'The Death Railway'.

In May 1943 my father was part of 'H' Force, comprising 3,270 men (1,979 British). They went by train up from Singapore to Ban Pong west of Bangkok and near the River Kwai and on the way to Kanchanaburi to the North (where the Railway Bridge is located). 'F' Force had preceded them in April. Both had a high content of already sick POWs because the Japanese had lied about conditions,



which they said would be better on the railway than being in Singapore. The journey from Singapore was 1,808 kms (1,124 miles) and took four days. They were crammed into metal trucks with closed doors. They could hardly sit down; temperatures were boiling by day and cold at night. When the train stopped to refuel the POWs often got nothing, not even water. There was no sanitation on the train and the men had to stick their bums out of the door whilst being held by their colleagues. Terrible. When they arrived at Ban Pong they had to march to their destination, sometimes 20 miles away. As the railway progressed it took longer. In March 1943 the war was going against the Japanese and they brought forward the completion date from December to August 1943. This became known as 'Speedo' and as a result the number of casualties increased. Some 19,000 more PoWs were brought in to work and tens of thousands more Asians. The stage was set for tragedy and the phrase 'Death Railway' was coined. The advent of the wet season brought on even more casualties. I know my father's mosquito net, Lilo, toothpaste and table were invaluable. He had perfect teeth. Most didn't!



*Julian Beavan visiting Changi Gaol, whilst a serving Royal Marine in Singapore*

There were 61 camps established as the railway progressed and the casualties were unbelievable, mainly caused by disease: dysentery 27%, cholera 12%, beri beri 9%, malaria 8%, diarrhoea 3%, malnutrition 2% and tropical ulcers 2%. Often the POWs suffered from more than one ailment. The highest death rate occurred between June and December 1943, which coincided with the time my father was there; a **total of 97,652** overall. When finished, the railway was 415 kms long and opened on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1943 with great loss of life, disease and injury, both physical and psychological.

Father returned to Singapore Sime Road Gaol in December 1943, then back into Changi. They all could not wait to get back there! Whilst VE Day was celebrated on May 8th 1945, my father and his men had to wait until August 15<sup>th</sup> 1945 for the War in the Far East to end and then get back to the UK, where the war in Europe had been