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Bratts has re-opened its doors to customers recently and are doing their best to ensure your safety. They have been in Northwich for over 130 years, so it has always been—and remains—a truly local shop. Bratts is good for Northwich. The store needs your business, so do try to visit them if you are able. The café isn't open yet but we hope it won't be too long before it is back.

June Wilkinson



Thank you, Jan Redfern from Budworth Heath; and also to Julie McCarthy of New Budworth, both of whom regularly litter-pick through the village and the surrounding country lanes and have done so for many years. And thank you, Andrea at Cob Cottage, for keeping people supplied with jams and eggs.

Thank you!



JOHN EATON

HANDYMAN SERVICES

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please give me a call.

Emma: tel 01606 891 229;

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BUDWORTH BULLETIN

September 2020



The churchyard, summer 2019

THE CHURCHYARD

The PCC would like to apologise for the long grass in the churchyard. As you can probably guess, lots of businesses are not back to running as normal yet, and this is what has happened with the CPS team who come each year and cut the grass in the middle and lower churchyard and do other jobs, too. This is out of our control, but we are hoping that they may be able to return in the next couple of months. We thank everybody who is helping out with mowing/trimming extra bits when they come to attend graves, and those who are helping mow the quiet garden and parts of the lower churchyard. Please bear with us and take extra care when attending graves.

Note: Quite a number of people have commented on how they appreciate the 'wildness' look, with the wild flowers and the grasses blowing and rustling in the wind.

GARDEN CLUB

Our late summer garden colour is usually bright with vibrant reds, yellows and oranges, setting the borders on fire. The cannas (see photo), heleniums, lilies, dahlias, phlox and others are wonderful at this time of the year. The pandemic has renewed many people's interest in gardening and new gardens were started during lockdown. The nurseries have done well to supply our needs and online sales have been tremendous.

Some gardens have finally opened for charity in these last weeks, all by appointment. Our members Margaret and Peter Wilkinson have raised £470 for St Rocco's Hospice. The NGS are planning next year's openings, which will have a new normal after this year's experience.



I've noticed how it goes dark early at night and remains darker in the morning, showing that summer is slowly fading away. It's been a strange time, but our gardens have been a lifesaver and we have had fantastic weather most of the year. My potatoes had blight, but I dug them out quickly, disposed of the tops, and stored the excellent Kestrel potatoes in paper bags. We have a few beans, squashes and lettuce, as well as an abundance of tomatoes to last us through the autumn.

We would have had our produce show in September, but this year there are two fun virtual classes online. Send your photos to Linda Enderby by 25th September.

1. Any amusing wonky vegetable, photographed on a plain background.
 2. The longest runner bean, photographed on a plain background, with a tape measure showing its length.
- There are prizes to be won! Results in the next Bulletin.

We do not meet as a club until the AGM on 9th February 2021, when we hope our 'live' meetings will again take place and the new year is a new start for us all.

Best wishes to everyone,

Jean Davies. 01606 892383

07899 937683

curbishleys roses

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 quality and at realistic prices.

3. **The lack of sensitivity of some road repairs to the unique environment of the village.** Rough patching of the roadway and pavements, as well as the failure properly to replace cobbles, seriously detract from the special character of the conservation area.
4. **Access to Marbury Country Park.** This has been made more difficult by the removal of Forge Brook Bridge (which was on private land) and the permissive footpath alongside Budworth Mere. It means residents and visitors must walk along the narrow Budworth Lane where there is no provision for pedestrians and traffic has increased in recent years.
5. **The general neglect of both the roads and pavements in and around the village and the encroachment of vegetation along footpaths along the A559.**

Parking

Thank you to everyone who responded to our consultation about parking in the village. We received 19 replies. It was interesting to read the various points of view (some particularly vehement!) and suggestions. Unsurprisingly, there was no consensus either for or against yellow lines or any of the other parking initiatives suggested.

We'd like to reassure you that the Parish Council has no preferred group position on yellow lines or other parking restrictions in the village. The consultation was simply to gather the views of current residents and was deemed necessary because parking issues are raised by members of the public at every Parish Council meeting!

The Parish Council has already discussed most of the suggestions made via the consultation (on numerous occasions over the years!). Some of the things we have considered are:

Parking on the Parish Field: This would require a huge amount of investment to allow all-weather/year-round parking - money that we do not have. Even if we were able to invest in improved lighting and a better surface, it is doubtful whether people would be prepared to park there and then walk to the pub, church etc. Encouraging more parking on the Parish Field would also create new problems for the residents of Smithy Lane.

The creation of resident-only parking spaces: CW&C are not interested in supporting or enforcing this.

Removing parking spaces from in front of the top pump house/church: You expressed extremely passionate feelings both for and against this via the consultation.



Would you like to learn more about our village? Do you have memories to share? If so, you are very welcome to join the Great Budworth Sharing Memories group on Facebook. If you don't use social media but have photographs or stories to share, please contact me on 01606 891176.

Jane Robins

Dear Villagers,

Although the Parish Council has been unable to hold a public meeting since the lockdown began in March, we have continued to work on Parish Council business. We have embraced new ways of working and held our 13th July meeting online using *Zoom*. Here is a summary of what we have been doing on your behalf:

Trees

In April we commissioned a tree survey to assess the condition of the 108 trees in the village for which the Parish Council is responsible. The comprehensive report we received advised that only one tree needed urgent attention to remove a partially failed limb and major deadwood. This work has been completed. The report also identified 21 trees that will require work within six months. Six households in the village took the Arboricultural Consultant up on his offer to survey their trees whilst he was working in the village on our behalf.

Lower Pump House

The failure to complete the restoration work on the lower pump house has been a source of frustration for everyone. The Covid-19 lockdown has not only delayed the delivery of the materials required to finish the repairs but also led to the contractor having to furlough staff. Our Chairman has been in constant contact with the contractor and we remain confident that the repairs will be completed shortly. Thanks to a former Chairman of the Parish Council, we now also have a potential Plan B to get the repairs finished if we need it!

Derelict Car

Anyone living in, or even visiting, the village since April can't have failed to notice the derelict car that appeared to have been abandoned at the junction of School Lane and The Avenue. It wasn't abandoned, however, as the vehicle was the property of the owner of the land, so getting it moved was by no means straightforward. Councillors were in regular contact with CW&C, however and, as many of our readers will have noticed, the owner has now removed the vehicle.

Highways

Cheshire West and Chester Council is asking for views on its Highways Service. Here is a summary of our submission, highlighting our priority areas of concern:

1. **The dangers to pedestrians, especially children crossing the road and waiting at the unprotected bus stop on the A559.** CW&C tell us that we have to wait for five incidents of personal collision, injury or death to occur before they will even consider any work to improve safety: this is unacceptable. *We seek a more proactive approach.*
2. **Parking in the village, notably on High Street and between the Church and pub.** Vehicles parked here make access to driveways difficult and in the 'hot spot' they restrict access for emergency vehicles and reduce visibility for traffic coming round the corner. It is also detrimental to the environment of the conservation area. We have suggested signage, yellow lines, bollards, planters, and / or special arrangements for residents and school parking elsewhere in the village, but all these suggestions came to nought in terms of our discussions with CWAC Highways Department.



The WI were delighted to gather at the bowling green on a beautiful August evening to enjoy a game of bowls, but mostly to have a chat together face-to-face instead of on a Zoom screen. It really takes a lot of confidence to get back to a more normal way of meeting and the ladies were keen to get back on track, socially distancing at all times, of course.

We are looking forward to our September meeting in the garden of Southbank House on Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm, when we hope to have our garden meeting in Nid's garden with a special guest: the High Sheriff of Cheshire, our own Nick Hopkinson, is coming to tell us about the history of his job - and we hope he will be in his full regalia. This has to be a first for Great Budworth WI and will definitely be a first for the High Sheriff! Members are asked to bring along a chair and a wine glass (say no more) and we will continue to keep our distance !

The WI has deferred the Jumble Sale to Saturday 24th October at 11am at the Parish Hall to give us a bit more time to let life get back to normal. The arrangements will be as before, but maybe some of the portable items will be sold outside the hall under our new awning. For people new to the village, our annual Jumble Sale has items of exceedingly good quality, comprising unwanted gifts, pre-loved and up-cycled designer clothes and bric-a-brac. More details next month.

The WI has a residential college, Denman College in Abingdon, Oxfordshire (pictured), which sadly is to close. The reasons are many, but the lockdown was the final straw. This will represent a very sad day for WI members who have learned so many skills, thanks to the opportunities presented at the College. I



wanted to do photography, but it was oversubscribed so I did calligraphy instead. Kath Hickson did pastry-making and has made our mince pies ever since. Two members improved their golf swing and a group have been to a singing weekend. A wealth of knowledge, story writing, sewing, various crafts, wine making, silver and jewellery making, and so on, will now just have to be learnt from a computer screen. It just won't be quite the same.

Take care everyone and stay safe.

June Wilkinson 891534

CHURCH NEWS

Coronavirus update

Public worship services restarted at the beginning of August and it has been a great joy to welcome people back to services in church – safely and following all the required guidance, including the mandatory wearing of face coverings.

As part of the test and trace initiative, we are required to request and keep for 21 days the contact details of those attending services (and there are maximum numbers in terms of seating arrangements, in order to comply with social distancing), so please can you make sure you let us know if you want to attend a particular service. Pauline Ridgway (details below) is taking the lead on this, so please contact her. Thank you.

Services in church will be as follows:

September 6th 8.00am Holy Communion; 10.30am All Age Service

September 13th 10.30am Said Morning Prayer

September 20th 8.00am Holy Communion; 10.30am Parish Communion

September 27th 10.30am Harvest Festival (venue tbc – possibly a field!)

October 4th 8.00am Holy Communion; 10.30am Animal Blessing Service (please watch for details of this service, which may not be quite the same as in years past!)

Online services will continue on two Sundays each month and details of these will be posted on Facebook and the Church website.

For the time being singing is, of course, not allowed, but the organ can be played and recorded music used very effectively within the services. Special thanks go to the Churchwardens and a number of others for their assistance in the restarting of public worship - and for your continued patience and understanding in these very strange times!

Services at Arley are under discussion and we hope they will restart in October, with the Harvest Festival.

We are working month by month at the moment with planning of services, so there may be changes at times.

If you wish to attend any of the services, please inform our Churchwarden Pauline Ridgway: pauline_ridgway@hotmail.com or phone 01606 733494.

We are running the NHS Test and Trace system, so if you are attending we will ask you to complete a consent form, if you are in agreement.

It is mandatory to wear a face covering in a place of public worship, so if attending, don't forget your mask! Apologies for all these new guidance rules, but it is what we have to do in order to be open. Thank you for your patience.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRYSIDE VERGES

In July Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) ran a consultation with residents, seeking their views about how they would like the grass verges along our country lanes to be maintained in future.

Unfortunately, we only became aware of the questionnaire after we had put together the July/August Bulletin. However, some of you may have responded before the end of July when the consultation closed.

Currently CW&C cut the full width of verges in rural areas on a six-week cycle, keeping the verges short. However, CW&C Environmental Department are considering a change to that pattern which would encourage the growth of wild flowers and protect wild life. They are considering a possible reduction of cutting to one or two cuts a year, allowing grass to grow whilst keeping the roads safe for all users.

The questionnaire gave respondents four options to vote for, all of them designed to increase wildflowers and habitats for wildlife.

If changes are implemented it will be interesting to see the impact on our local verges.



Congratulations!

To Mike and Charlotte Scanlan, who are now the proud parents of their first child, a boy. Otto, 6lb. 15oz. was born on 8th May 2020. We wish Otto and his parents well.

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Liz Moses

07508 957 499 lizmassageandreiki.com

GREAT BUDWORTH CRICKET CLUB



In common with all cricket clubs, we have experienced a difficult year and the loss of our chairman Peter McAndrew has made the season all the more challenging. Peter was a founder member of the club and his natural enthusiasm drove it forward to be what it is today.

Post lockdown we are back playing cricket on the Arley Estate ground. This is a beautiful place to play and watch cricket. The club has an active social side and in normal circumstances there are regular BBQ's after evening matches.

The first match was played away, against Lymm, on 15th July and since then the club has played four other matches, including a return match against Lymm at Arley. One of the teams we played against was the English Cricket Association for the Deaf (ECAD) Northern Region – although several players were unfortunately unable to play because of the local lockdowns imposed on parts of the North at the end of July! Remaining fixtures for September and October include the annual match against Rowland Flower's XI, a return match against Warrington CC, a postponed match against Mark Bailey's XI and a possible new fixture against a touring Liverpool team. Thanks to everyone for all the hard work on the ground, and for the enthusiasm of members to get playing!

Running a cricket club is a costly business and we thank all those who give us financial support, especially our main sponsor for this season, John Sherrington. We always welcome new members, both playing and non-playing. Membership starts at £30. Please contact Peter Davies on 01606 892383 for more details.

Peter Davies & Alec Brown

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Friendly and reliable service, now taking bookings for this season

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SCHOOL NEWS



Following the phased return to school in June and July, the teachers have been working hard to prepare for a safe and happy return to school in September. This involves a gentle easing back into routine before starting an exciting curriculum. With opportunities for reflection on what lockdown has meant for each child, as well as plenty of time for learning outside as part of our Forest School programme, we are confident that pupils will enjoy being back in school with their friends. We also welcome the new children joining pre-school and reception. We know they will enjoy being part of a village school.

Richard Elias - Governor

LADIES' LUNCHES

It may be too soon for some of us to venture into a Pub for a lunch, but I'm sure there'll be a few who'd like to get out for a little sensible get-together. With that in mind, I propose to try to book a venue with plenty of space, using separate tables or, depending on numbers, one table with us all well spaced out. I'll await responses, but feel it's very important to know not just numbers, but also names, before I book anything—perhaps in September. I'd love to hear from you and am really looking forward to seeing all the ladies I haven't seen for quite some time. Let's all enjoy a good catchup!

Hazel Forwood 01606 891908



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TRIO LOS PARAGUAYOS – WHO REMEMBERS THEM?

I certainly do – they were a very successful Peruvian group who sold millions of records in the 50's and 60's and plinky-planked their way around the world (you can hear them on Youtube) until the likes of Elvis came along and shook us up. Thereafter they continued to tour to ever decreasing audiences, including second billing on a Beatles tour.



On 15 September 1974 the main man, Alberto (seated at the front in this photo), died of a stroke in a hotel in Bayswater; Philips Records' head office in Holland called me to ask me to find out the cost of shipping the body back to Paraguay and to inform the widow that the costs would have to be paid for out of future royalty earnings. I complained that as the HR manager I was used to dealing only with live humans (though with some applicants it was often not easy to be certain). They replied that they couldn't think of anyone else, so would I mind dealing with it.

Without the internet then, it took several hours. BOAC finally gave me a price of £3 something per kilo and said that they would need the exact dimensions and weight of the coffin. It would have to be lead-lined as the journey to Asuncion in those days took 36 hours via Madrid and Buenos Aires. Then, finding an undertaker who knew about such caskets wasn't easy and they needed the weight and height of the body before they could calculate the size and weight of the coffin.

Now I was faced with going to see a grieving widow of one day – non English speaking, I thought - to get her dead husband's dimensions and tell her the bad financial news. And it was getting on for close of play. Luckily, head office then rang again to report that the Paraguayan Ambassador had called to say that a state funeral would take place and he would take over the problem. Apparently this group had been the country's biggest export revenue earner for 20 years!

Unfortunately the ambassador couldn't come until 9pm, which didn't please me much, but I waited by my window, expecting a cavalcade of limos with motorbike outriders to arrive. And then I saw a little man chaining his bicycle to the railings. This was the ambassador!

That ended my involvement with the case. The coffin was met at the airport in Asuncion by the President and accompanied with great pomp to the state funeral. I got home in time for bed: I just had to explain to my wife that I hadn't been on the town, but had been organising the shipment of a corpse to Paraguay!

ALAN FREEMANTLE

A warm welcome to David and Kate Edwell, the new residents of the house known locally as 'Wilma's House', on High Street. They moved from Bowdon in mid-June, along with their 11-year old Maltese dog, Henry, and a few colonies of honey bees. Both previously widowed, they are in fact relative newlyweds and will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary in September.

Since meeting, they have made a conscious decision to pursue their interests and ultimately to leave the sectors in which they were professionally engaged: David (the Environment Agency) is now officially 'playing' with motorbikes, which he loves, at Triumph; and Kate, who manages an insurance company in the City of London, is now taking her professional medical herbalist exams and has already achieved her paramedic qualifications. In due course, and once fully licensed to practise medicine, her apothecary and services will be available to those interested.

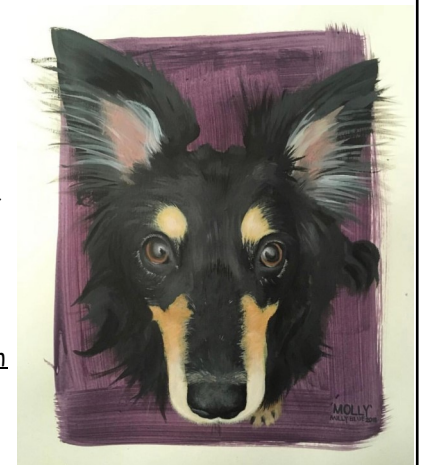
You'll find Kate out walking, probably with foraged herbs (weeds in some people's eyes), gathered locally, in one hand and a dog on the lead in the other. Both Kate and David are keen to meet you all and to contribute positively to this lovely peaceful community which is now their home.



My name is Milly Blue, I am an actor/singer/artist. I lived in the Tailors House in High Street from when I was two until I reached 11, when we moved to Antrobus. I was Emily Oldfield then and went to the village school. Currently, with theatres and venues dark, I am trying to make ends meet by painting

portraits of people and animals, some examples are printed here. I love trying to get the personality into the painting and work from photographs.

My prices start at £180 . Please email me at: millyoldfield@gmail.com or ring me on 07835 152216 to discuss your commission.



Concerned about your water supply?

We recently had to call a plumber to look at the thermostat on our shower. In the hot weather we found we couldn't adjust the temperature. It turned out the thermostat was fine, but the heat controller was jammed by lime scale.

The plumber commented that this was his third call that morning in Great Budworth, where hard water was causing problems!

Talking with neighbours, it has emerged that they have been experiencing similar problems.

Others, ourselves included, are finding residues and scum on the inside of cups and an overpowering smell of chlorine in the water.

If readers are finding issues with the quality of their water supply perhaps you would like to contact United Utilities. Maybe a number of complaints coming from the same area may spur United Utilities to take a close look at the problems here!

Contact United Utilities:

by email: www.unitedutilities.com/contactus

by phone: 0345 672 3723

by post: United Utilities, PO Box 453, Warrington, WA55 1SE

Jenny Bowman



WATCH OUT – THERE ARE SCAMMERS ABOUT!

A village resident was recently sent the following message from a relative. The case described is genuine—and serves as a reminder that we all have to be on our guard against scammers—crooks who are exploiting the current pandemic to steal from us.



"I just got a call from my bank's fraud prevention unit. Nice fella called Lukas. Kind enough to send me a text via my bank's umbrella text number to prove he was genuine and legitimate. Told me how my account was being fraudulently used in Birmingham and confirmed the last four digits of my account number. He reiterated that he didn't need my full account number or pin as he was going to cancel my card, for my own safety. I'd get a new card in three days. As I said, he was very nice, very genuine-sounding and very convincing. All he needed me to do was call out the code sent to my phone.

If I had called out the code, which my bank had indeed sent me - as a warning that someone was trying to authorise a large purchase through my account! - that code would have allowed him to proceed with the transaction and I would have been up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

So, when I told him I'd ring him back, he became much more insistent, saying that he hadn't asked me for my full account number or pin and was in fact helping me. I reiterated that I would ring him back and eventually he hung up the phone very abruptly. I checked with my bank who confirmed it was indeed a scam. Be careful folks. Be on your guard."

... and beware TV Licence scammers!

It is feared that TV Licences for those over 75 may offer a further opportunity for scammers! From 1st August, the BBC will be claiming £157.50 a year from people over the age of 75. Already some have received texts, apparently from TV Licensing, either asking customers to set up a payment plan and requesting their bank details, or saying they are due a refund - THESE TEXTS ARE SENT BY SCAMMERS.

TV Licensing intend to write a **letter** to all those over 75, starting in August, letting them know what action they'll need to take. It will give people plenty of time to set up a payment plan, or to apply for a free licence if they are eligible. Those on Pension Credit are entitled to a free TV Licence. You can pay at a Post Office, or make a payment on line with a debit or credit card at www.tvlicensing.co.uk, or on 0300 555 0298.

SCHOOL 100+ WINNERS

**JULY winners were chosen
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watched on video by the
committee.**

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Dave Hankey**

**2nd prize (£10) No. 27
Jenny Huggins**



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A BATTLE WON

Celebrations marking VE Day and VJ Day may be over, but we couldn't fail to include the following reminiscences of his father by Kevin Davies, of High Street.



My father, Hugh Davies, was born in Liverpool in 1913. He was the fifth of six children, whose parents were part of the large influx of Welsh immigrants who came to the city around 1900.

In 1938, seeking new experiences and horizons, he joined the Territorial Army. War will not have been a complete surprise, although his horizons were about to expand further than he had supposed. He went on to join a Royal Artillery regiment, the 1st West Lancs, and the next three years were to involve him in training at bases in Kelsall, the Midlands and Suffolk.

There had been some heavy set backs for the Allied forces in Northern Europe in 1940 and 1941 and the regiment gave little thought to a posting further afield. Then in December 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Singapore fell in February 1942 and by May the Japanese had pushed the retreating British-led army, Burcorps, over 1,000 miles northwards through Burma into India.

The regiment was posted to India and they sailed for Calcutta in late 1942. There was then a long period of training and acclimatisation in Bengal and Assam whilst a new South East Asia Command was established under Louis Mountbatten. Lieutenant General Bill Slim took command of the 14th Army and between them they set about restoring the morale of a thoroughly demoralised force.

After a failed campaign in the Arakan region of south west Burma, they commenced a second offensive in the region in December 1943. This time, with the troops re-equipped, better supported and with revised training for jungle warfare, Slim would use different tactics. To counter the Japanese strategy of encirclement and infiltration, they would hold their ground and form a defensive box rather than fall back.

They had to move men, supplies and heavy equipment through jungle-covered tidal plains and around Arakan's Mayu mountains. Tropical diseases were common in the heat and humidity, with Japanese forward units a continual threat, their ultimate aim being to take India.

Then in February 1944, on the eastern side of the Mayu range, the Japanese managed to encircle and cut off the area where the 7th Indian Division had established its main administration and stores. The ensuing battle became known as the Battle of the Admin Box. Alongside combat soldiers and their equipment, 8,000 support troops (including clerks, canteen staff and sanitation orderlies) were given rifles and called into action.

The West Lancs were part of this group and my father was responsible for a 25 pounder field gun. Fierce hand to hand fighting took place and key positions changed hands whilst supplies were dropped by parachute for 25 days. The Japanese overwhelmed the main dressing station, murdering patients and doctors; they would hide in the bushes during the day listening for names and information. As darkness fell they would whisper a name or shout an order in the hope of provoking a response to give away a position. Often Dad heard his name "Hughie, over here!". The Japanese strategy was to survive with minimal food and ammunition, restocking as they overcame the other side. So the longer they were held up the more desperate their attacks became, with men running across open ground to attack machine guns and tanks.

When supporting forces finally broke through and the Japanese withdrew this was the first time that British and Indian troops had held and defeated a major Japanese attack. Keen for good news at home, Churchill announced, "The enemy has been challenged and beaten in jungle warfare. His boastfulness has received a salutary exposure." 7th Division went on to support operations at Kohima and Imphal and a turning point had then been reached in the war in South East Asia.

Dad tended not to talk much about the details of his experience. Indeed, soldiers returning from the Far East were advised against it as the Blitz and the war in Europe had passed and people really wanted to move on. So, apologies that much of the detail has been picked up from public records and that there is limited reference to his personal experiences.

During the Japanese retreat southwards through Burma, the West Lancs had reached a place called Singu Ridge, near Mandalay in April 1945. Dad had served with Major John Frith for three or four years by this time and naturally they had developed quite a close relationship. Major Frith was sadly mortally wounded by a stray Japanese mortar at Singu Ridge, we think whilst in a group with Dad. This was a matter of months away from end of the war. A final, and rather poignant, note.

Your local Legal 500 solicitors

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