

BERT HUNT

Bert Hunt, probably the oldest resident in the community, enjoyed his 97th birthday on 13th February. Bert is a well-known and much-loved villager. His daughter, Sally reports on the day.



Dad enjoyed his 97th birthday at home with his family (all in his care bubble I hasten to add!) Our usual birthday lunch, courtesy of the G&D, was not possible so we opted for the next best thing, homemade fish and chips with all the trimmings, including a glass of champagne (although I think Dad preferred the beer!). He had two cakes made for him: Shirley's legendary sponge cream cake a homemade coffee and walnut. He thoroughly enjoyed his day and finished the afternoon off watching (or rather snoozing during) the rugby! When asked in advance what he would like for his birthday, he quipped "Another one!" He still has his sharp sense of humour and never fails to make us laugh!

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BUDWORTH BULLETIN

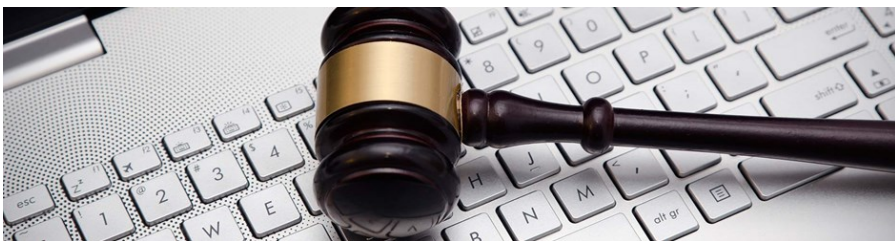
March 2021



We are delighted to announce the outcome of our Great Budworth Online Auction, which was such an outstanding success, thanks to the support and generosity of people in our village and its surrounding area.

Jim Martin, Chairman, Church Restoration Appeal

See report, page 2



We had such a wide variety of lots, all of which received at least one bid – and with some attracting multiple offers. Overall, the auction raised £26,417. Several cash donations were also made, totalling £7,240. Costs were low, at £1318, resulting in a fantastic profit of **£32,339**. This has made a much-needed significant contribution to Church funds and so, after such a challenging year, allows us to make further progress with important restoration projects.

In total there were 76 lots, all kindly donated by people living in and around the village, for which we extend our warmest thanks. The lots were wonderfully varied, too: from some priced at less than £50 to others into four figures, with an average winning bid of around £350. Where there had been some feverishly competitive bidding we were helped even further by some of the prize givers offering a second lot to the underbidder – double thanks to them!

We are grateful to our long-term supporters who enthusiastically joined in the fun of the auction, as well as many new friends - some from quite a distance away - who followed us on Facebook or WhatsApp or through introductions from local clubs and societies. There were 120 people registered for the auction, all of whom took part either as active bidders or by giving cash donations.

The saying goes that 'Where there's muck there's money', and so it was with June and Bob Wilkinson's good old vintage farmyard manure fetching £1000! Anne O'May's offer to knit a bespoke Aran jumper became so popular that her knitting needles will be clicking away until well after lockdown to keep up with demand! We are very fortunate to have Arley Hall nearby: they are very generous supporters with their many and varied prizes, which always give that extra dimension to our auctions.

A huge thank you to all prize givers and bidders as there would not have been an auction without all our supporters. My thanks also go to the Committee, along with Maggie, Paula, Anna and Donna, who made this such an outstanding event for all.

Jim Martin,
Chairman Church Restoration Appeal

THE FLOOD WATERS RECEDE



Parish Council chairman, Rob Collier, recently attended a meeting (via Zoom) of Marbury Ward Parish Council Chairs to discuss the widespread flooding which occurred throughout the ward in recent weeks and which has caused so much damage, distress and inconvenience. Here in Great Budworth we are especially concerned about the impact on the lower pumphouse—recently the subject of considerable expense by both the Parish Council and the Heritage Society. The photo shows the pumphouse covered in salt residue as a result of the extensive flooding in the area.

The main actions agreed at the meeting were as follows:

- Consider options for localised storage of sandbags and central storage in Northwich.
- Request that CW&C:
 - ◊ initiates a programme of drainage clearance at appropriate intervals, rather than responding reactively to events as they unfold;
 - ◊ instigates a programme for road sweeping, to help prevent blockages occurring;
 - ◊ works with local farmers to ensure drainage ditches and land drains etc. are maintained.

CW&C did eventually undertake remedial work on Friday 19th February, when a large digger came and excavated more than eight tonnes of sand and other materials from the culvert adjacent to the A559 (pictured)! It would be reassuring to hear that some of the above recommendations will be implemented so that flooding of this severity doesn't happen again.



Dog Walking

If you are located in the Great Budworth area and are looking for a local caring dog walker, I am available for daily walks, toilet/feeding and general care and attention visits. For your dog's individual requirements/needs, please give me a call.



Emma: tel 01606 891 229; 07704 074 979

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CHURCH NEWS

At the time of writing (15th February) the Church is still, sadly, closed for public worship – though it remains open for funerals and for private prayer on Sundays. The situation will be discussed at the next Ministry Team Meeting on 23rd February, after the Prime Minister's announcements on 22nd February, and by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) on 15th March – a 'cautious but irreversible' roadmap will, we hope, be outlined before then! We will keep everyone posted and details of all the online services can be found on the website, as well as on the noticeboards.



The Restoration Appeal online Auction

On behalf of the PCC and the Restoration Committee, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the organization and management of the virtual auction. Thanks, too, to all those who donated such wonderful prizes and, of course, to the successful bidders, as well as those who were unsuccessful but contributed nevertheless to the total - an amazing sum of over £32,000 was raised! Well done everyone!

All the various permissions and so on for the works have finally now been granted, and members of the Restoration Committee and I will be making the necessary arrangements for contracts and start dates in the coming weeks. At some point in the not too distant future there will be a lot of work going on in and around the Church – for which we have many of you to thank, as well as many others living within and beyond the boundaries of the (ecclesiastical) Parish. It is as wonderful as it is reassuring to know how much our beautiful Church is appreciated, loved and valued by so many people – once again THANK YOU!

The Revd Alec Brown.



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GARDEN CLUB

The weather in the early part of the year has been extremely cold, and our gardens have been totally dormant. Nature is marvellous and spring does arrive, no matter what! Each day something new appears, and we see colour in a corner, and birds on the feeders.



Daffodils in the Davies's garden

Spring is everybody's favourite time in the garden and this year we have new hope for life, and for members to meet and share their passion for gardening.

Everything is planned in the club, but on hold until we get the 'go ahead' to meet and enjoy. We have had committee meetings on Zoom, which has now become normal. We are holding our first Zoom meeting for members on our usual meeting night, Tuesday 9th March at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Phil Smith, ex-head gardener at Wollerton Old Hall. Phil is now an independent gardener. His talk is called 'The Fragrant Garden'.

We have a very small pond in our garden and, despite the weather, frogs come and spawn each year. They are governed by the length of light in the day, too. We cover the pond with a net, because herons are keeping a beady eye out for a frog spawn meal!

So with the daffodils and more spring flowers every day, we are busy Garden Club members, looking forward to summer.

Jean Davies

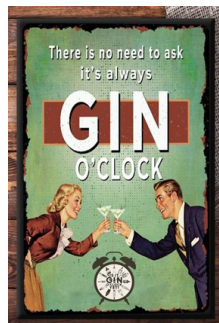
07899 937683; 01606 892383

Thank
you
so
much!

From the Bulletin to the ladies of Great Budworth WI ... for their very welcome donation of £50. In a year in which the Bulletin has missed the donations it usually receives from some of the regular fundraising events that take place throughout the year, every little helps - as a certain well-known supermarket says!



In February Dr Helen Naylor, who is a member of the Westminster Speakers Club, gave the WI Zoom members a talk on 'Gin, from the Slums to the Savoy'. It was an eye opener into the gin journey. We are very fortunate to hear the variety of speakers that are available via the



Zoom programmes, but the downside is that not all members have access to this technology and sharing the screen is not an option until the lockdown is lifted. Nevertheless, we make the best of the situation we are in and hope it is not too long before we can get together in the Parish Hall. Until then we carry on.

In March we have as our speaker Judy Theobald, a journalist for 30 years. Judy is a light-hearted speaker who'll keep our peckers up. She has worked mostly in Lincolnshire as a radio presenter and editor and we look forward to her talk.

The Cheshire WI were to have celebrated 100 years since their formation in 1920, but after the opening service in Chester Cathedral last February everything else was cancelled. They asked us to plant a tree to commemorate the occasion. We in Great Budworth decided that we had enough trees in the village, but have planted an oak tree—kindly donated by Shirley Almquist—in the Ice Cream Farm car park and we hope it will flourish: it might even get a plaque if it survives floods, frosts, snow and goats !

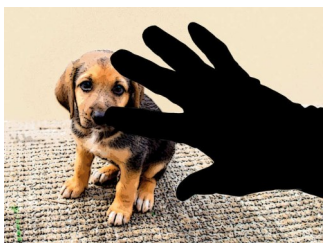
Take care, ladies, some have already had their vaccines and hopefully we will all be back on track for a happy healthy year.

June Wilkinson 891534

WATCH OUT – THERE'S A DOG SNATCHER ABOUT!

Many dog owners will already be aware of the spate of dog snatching that is going on throughout the country. The following is the gist of a post on a Lymm FaceBook page.

There was an attempted dog snatch at Arley Hall three weeks ago. A man in a white van with a white sliding door approached a single lady asking questions whilst attempting to stroke the dog and unclip its lead. She managed to walk away, though he reappeared and followed her home. A few days later a dog was taken near Grappenhall Heyes. Please be careful—and if your dog is not already microchipped, do consider having it done. These people are ruthless.



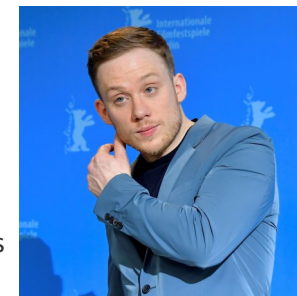
THE IPCRESS FILE



It's probably fair to say that the vast majority of Great Budworth residents are old enough to remember the cinema release of 'The Ipcress File', the film that – along with 'Alfie' – set Michael Caine on the road to film stardom. Many of us saw it in the cinema at the time (and who can forget that memorable theme tune?). Well, ITV have now commissioned a six-part serialisation of the Len Deighton best-seller – and a small part of it will be filmed in Great Budworth. We are told that the serialisation will stick closely to the book, which is set at the height of the Cold War.

Filming in Great Budworth will take place all day on Friday 5th March, mostly inside the George & Dragon pub. Some exterior shots will be filmed in the morning, when residents and visitors will be asked to park their vehicles out of sight in nearby roads and garages. The film company have applied to CW&C to institute a temporary Stop/Go system to halt through traffic during the filming of scenes, though emergency vehicles and care workers will, of course, be allowed through and given priority access.

The series will star Joe Cole, pictured (Gangs of London, Peaky Blinders) as the iconic Harry Palmer, and Tom Hollander (The Night Manager, Rev). Those of us with fond (and some not-so-fond!) memories of the filming of 'War of the Worlds' can be assured that this filming will be shorter and much less disruptive!



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The Waste Incinerator at Lostock ...

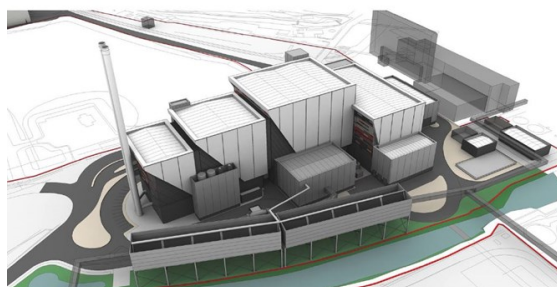
... has reared its head again! During February a public consultation took place about proposed changes to its capacity and HGV numbers. The site is the TATA factory on Griffiths Road, linking Manchester Road to the A556/King Street roundabout. The incinerator will burn waste and produce electricity.

The story goes back to 2004 when Cheshire County Council revised its Waste Local Plan, proposing a Thermal Treatment Plant on the land, with a view to reducing the amount of waste going to landfill sites. Government permission was given for a plant in 2008, but the plans were substantially revised in 2012, with the proposed plant being greatly enlarged. Despite many local objections, the go ahead was given for TATA to build an incinerator with a planned throughput of 600,000 tonnes of waste a year, with 262 HGVs arriving and leaving the site daily. **This incinerator is now being built on site.**

Meanwhile, however, new partners have come on board with TATA. Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) will be financing the project, and FCC Environment (a UK waste and resource company) will operate the facility. This partnership is seeking permission to enlarge the facility yet again. They intend putting forward a planning application in early summer 2021, when there will be a further opportunity for the public to express their views. The application will request an increase in waste throughput from 600,000 to 728,000 tonnes a year and an increase in HGV visits to the site from 262 to 434 a day.

An Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed increased development is due to be completed. The decision on the application will be made by the Dept. of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with CW&C as a Consultee. A good deal of opposition has already been expressed about the development by organisations in the area and by both local MPs (Esther McVey, Tatton, and Mike Amesbury, Weaver Vale). Anyone interested in further information about the campaign opposing the incinerator can view the report published in the current issue of OurTown, which is available on the Great Budworth website under the 'Budworth Bulletin' tab.

The illustration here is of the completed site which the Partnership has produced. The stack will be 90 mtrs/295 ft. high, and the building will be roughly the size of Wembley Stadium. The site is due south of Great Budworth and will feature prominently on our skyline for decades to come.



SCHOOL NEWS

Well, it may have been the effects of lockdown and the weather, but it felt as though this was a very long half term and I know the children, staff and parents have enjoyed the week's break at the end of it.



Remote learning has continued for all children, with the exception of the children of key workers, and the teachers have continued to set online learning, posting videos and Q&As, using MS Teams and hosting the occasional live Zoom call for the children to catch up with friends and have a chat. The teachers recognised that the children were spending a lot of their school day looking at screens and so planned a Wellbeing Day which involved the children completing activities that involved no screen time, such as an art challenge, designing a board game, keeping moving/dancing and building a reading den, amongst many things. The children who are still attending school have also been enjoying forest school activities to make the most of being outdoors when possible.

You may have noticed, if your lockdown walk took you past the school, that during the half term break the safe zone in the playground was being refurbished, with brand new play equipment being installed. When they return to school fully, the children will be able to enjoy playing on the new galleon, story telling area, chalk/white board and music panels. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school when it is safe to do so.



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NEAR EARTH OBJECTS (NEOs)

On 16 August 2020, a piece of space rock about five metres wide passed within 3000km of our planet at a speed of 12 km per second. This is the closest recorded that an asteroid has come without hitting the atmosphere, but had it done so it would have burned up as a bright meteor.

Compare this to the Chelyabinsk airburst in 2013 (pictured) when a 20 metre wide asteroid exploded above that city causing widespread damage and injuries. The smaller rock of 16 August was not detected until after it had gone through about two hours later.



Despite the NASA Spaceguard programme, which was started in the mid 1990's, there are still problems in identifying all potentially dangerous asteroids (NEO's) which may be heading our way. You have probably seen the films *Deep Impact* and *Armageddon*, which highlight the growing concern about NEO collision. Spotting these asteroids before they become a danger is imperative and to that end two surveys are currently being undertaken: the first and more successful is the Catalina Sky Survey based at the Stewart Observatory in Arizona. This has discovered about half of all 18,000 known NEO's and continues to add more each year.

The other survey is called Pan-STARRS, short for Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System, which is based in Hawaii and comprises two 1.8 metre telescopes near the summit of Mount Haleakala. Their wide field of view, high image resolution and fast exposure times mean they can cover large areas of sky every night and then, when a suspicious object is detected, information is passed to observatories across the world so that follow-up work can establish the orbit and size. There are 897 large NEO's (bigger than 1km) and none is likely to be dangerous in the foreseeable future.

The next category contains 8,400 rocks between 140m – 900m in size: still big enough to cause severe damage – and some of these are predicted to come close. One example, named 99942 Apophis, at 370m wide will make several approaches to Earth in this century, with the first on 13 April 2029 at a distance of about 31,000km, then again in March 2036, but somewhat further away. However, thanks to the efforts of astronomers patrolling the skies with their careful surveys, the risk of Armageddon is very small and diminishes every day.

Wishing you all clear skies, Tony Flynn.

TREES FOR CLIMATE



CW&C's Total Environment Team are currently running a project called Trees for Climate. This is a partnership with Mersey Forest and focuses on new woodland creation schemes to help with offsetting carbon emissions. To be eligible for the scheme, a minimum area of 0.5 hectare of land should be available, which can be either privately or publicly owned (though privately owned land that does not have public access qualifies only for a reduced grant). It must be available for new woodland creation, not filling in gaps in existing woodland. The funding pays for the

purchase and planting of the trees, as well as a small contribution towards ongoing maintenance whilst the trees get established. The programme will be running for a few years after starting in 2020. Mary Lavery, of CW&C, is in the process of identifying potential projects for Year 2, which would mean delivery in the autumn/winter 2021 (subject to any further Covid-related delays).

Mersey Forest does have other funding streams for smaller scale tree planting schemes or planting for schools, so if anyone has these needs instead, they should contact Mary.

Mary has been engaging with town and parish councils within the borough but is also interested in speaking to interested private owners who have land that satisfy the criteria. Her contact details are: Mobile: 07769 910 127

Email: mary.lavery@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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SCHOOL 100 CLUB DRAW

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1st prize: 71 - Peter Morris (£25)

2nd prize: 36 - Janine M Jans (£10)

Prizes will be handed out when we can.