

SCHOOL NEWS

The children and staff enjoyed the Easter break and are looking forward to being in school for the rest of the spring term.

Before school broke up for the holidays the children were busy with Easter activities, such as completing the Easter trail, egg decorating and creating Easter gardens. The school Easter service was broadcast via YouTube so that all parents, guardians and families of the children could watch and enjoy it, as we know they all miss attending these services and events, just as we miss them being there. I am constantly amazed at how the staff and children adapt and embrace technology to ensure that we can all share the children's learning experience.

The process for recruiting the new head has started, with the children having the opportunity to meet the shortlisted candidates. We hope that it won't be long before this is finalised and the new head can be announced.

Richard Elias - Governor



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BUDWORTH BULLETIN

May 2021



Nick Hopkinson attends his Thanksgiving Service in the Parish Church on Thursday 15th April, to mark the end of his year as High Sheriff of Cheshire. Pictured with him are Jackie Wass (left) and Shirley Humphreys (right).

Our High Sheriff Steps Down

A service of thanksgiving was held in the Parish Church on Thursday 15th April, to mark the end of our own Nick Hopkinson's year as High Sheriff of Cheshire. Social distancing was scrupulously observed.



Lesley, Nick's wife, delivers a reading

It has been a strange year for Nick, with many Zoom meetings, but our thanks and congratulations go to him in achieving so much – with the help and support of his wife, Lesley – in fundraising for a wide range of Cheshire projects, most of which are aimed at improving the lives of the young.

Projects that Nick has either initiated or supported include: providing 600 tablets (i.e. of the IT variety, not pharmaceutical!) for patients isolated in hospitals, a new free warehouse for food bank re-sourcing, and

'scrounging' (his word) hotel accommodation for frontline NHS workers who needed to isolate from their families. He also collaborated in the launch of a brain scanner appeal for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, in the opening of a new youth centre in Warrington and in supplying 1,000 hampers for disadvantaged families. Oh, and there was the Who Cares? public arts project, which involves artists and sculptors creating and displaying their

works in public spaces.

Whilst the year has not panned out as Nick had planned, he quickly adjusted to the extraordinary demands and strictures of the pandemic and resolved that he would nevertheless pursue his charitable goals with vigour: his achievements are a testament to his success. That said, Nick was at pains to remind everyone that he could not have done all this by himself – and indeed, at the end of the service, he presented awards to a number of local people who, in a variety of ways, had supported him.



Nick, with Margaret Cross (left) and Christina Westwell (right) with their awards



June & Bob Wilkinson with their awards

JOE CLEMENSON

A Requiem Mass was held on Tuesday 20th April to honour Joe's sad death, following a long illness.



Joe and Trudy (pictured) have lived at 3 Westage Lane for more than 30 years and have many friends across north Cheshire. They first met at a dance at the Jesuit School he attended in Derbyshire and they went on to have two daughters and grandchildren, divided between Wincham and Italy.

Joe's career in technical management was with ICI initially and later with Brunner Mond, where his interest centred, not on big commodity chemicals, but on an ICI speciality, sodium bicarbonate. To market such premium products you need to know your customers, so Joe's work took him all over the world, not just across Europe, but also much of Asia, India, and Australia. It may have been pretty interesting, but aircraft meals can lose their novelty!

When he was at home Joe put his practical skills to good use adapting his home and he also enjoyed dinghy sailing and playing tennis with friends both here in Cheshire and in Anglesey.

SCHOOL 100 CLUB DRAW

The winners for January are:-

1st prize: 71 - Peter Morris (£25)

2nd prize: 36 - Janine M Jans (£10)

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CHURCH NEWS

Sunday May 2nd 8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship

Wednesday May 5th 10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday May 9th 10.30am ROGATION SUNDAY

Rogationtide Service with The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester – service in Church and finishing with a short walk around the village.

Thursday 13th May 7.30pm ASCENSION DAY – Holy Communion

Saturday 15th 1.00pm First wedding of the year! Please pray for Melissa Carver and James Pentecost who will be getting married, and for their guests – all 13 of them!

Sunday 16th 8.00am Holy Communion; 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 23rd 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 30th 8.00am Holy Communion; 10.30am Parish Communion

Wed 2nd June 10.30am Holy Communion

We will continue to have two online services per month. Please continue to book in with Pauline Ridgway 01565 733494 or pauline_ridgway@hotmail.com

Evensong at Arley Chapel is postponed at the present time.

Christian Aid Week – Sat 8th to Sun 16th May: you may receive an envelope through the door and, if so, do please return as directed or drop off in Church – thank you and please support Christian Aid's annual fund-raising venture if you can.

Church Teas and Summer Fair

The resumption of our very popular weekly Church Teas in the Parish Hall in Great Budworth, and the holding of the annual Summer Fair, will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Parochial Church Council, and any decisions will be publicized as soon, and as widely, as possible. Please bear with us!



FREE

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Contact:

Sue Scott
01606 891352



NJ Garden Maintenance

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At our April meeting we were Zooming again. We are getting better at joining up to the meeting. Our speaker, Janie Ramsay, a past Director of Sotheby's, joined us on screen from the South of England to tell us about the Duchess of Windsor's amazing collection of jewellery, which Sotheby's sold following her death in 1986, with the proceeds going to the Louis Pasteur Institute.

Janie gave us an in depth talk on the history of the jewels and where some of them ended up after the auction. Fashions have changed so much and now it seems almost indecent when we consider the money that had been spent to create the pieces. The Duke of Windsor certainly lavished his Duchess with very posh bling! Janie was an excellent speaker and we all enjoyed her talk.



The Duchess, wearing her amethyst and turquoise jewels

We carry on Zooming in May, when Sheila Leonard will tell us about the restoration of the Steamship 'Danny' on the River Weaver. We hope that when the lockdown is ended we can have an afternoon sailing on the Danny. A link will be sent to members two days before the meeting, which is on Wednesday 5th May at 7.30pm. Please join at about 7.20pm to give us time to settle!!

Some WI members have joined County Zooms, where we enjoyed a talk by the first lady Red Arrow pilot and a Zoom talk from a Mastermind contestant.

The rambblers ventured on a local walk in April and we hope that one day soon we'll be able to enjoy a pub lunch.

The book club are reading 'The Signature of all Things' by Elizabeth Gilbert and – most optimistically - we have booked the Parish Hall for the long awaited Jumble Sale for Saturday 18th September.

Take care everyone, we are getting through this!

June Wilkinson tel. 891534

FREE TO A KIND LOVING HOME

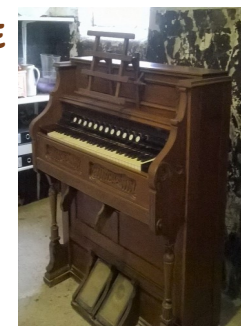
The McGuigans' Harmonium

Comes complete with fond memories of Christmas Eves past.

Happy to live in a dry outbuilding.

Contact Caroline on: 01565 733285

carolinemcguigan1@icloud.com





... to Natasha Robins

With the help of her mother, Jane, Natasha has been clearing the soil and fallen leaves which have accumulated against the sandstone walls of the Lower Pump House (see pic). Natasha is undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, as part of which she needs to carry out a total of 24 hours' voluntary work. COVID restrictions about personal contacts have made this difficult to achieve, but so far Natasha has spent six hours excavating the Pump House, allowing the walls to dry out after years of accumulating debris and tree root growth. This is very welcome news to the Parish Council, Heritage Society and Unitary Councillors, all of whom have funded recent renovation work to the structure there. Another part of the Bronze Award requires Natasha to undergo skills training. In this, she has been supported by her father, learning woodworking skills and the use of power tools, resulting in some very attractive bird boxes.



Well done, Natasha!

... to Malcolm Torrance & Bob Wilkinson

For removing the dead pleached lime tree on High Street, digging out the old wet soil to a depth of a metre, backfilling the hole with crocks (for drainage) and planting a new lime tree in the hole. Phew! It was exhausting just recounting that!

... and to The Garden Club

For their generous donation to the Budworth Bulletin.

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

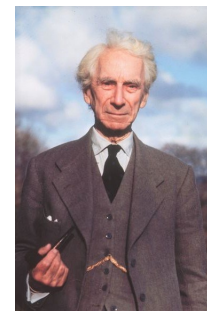


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dined by everyone in the area, though he was famously 'tight' with his own money and did not readily entertain from home. When I visited their house, Russell was married to his fourth wife, Edith, a charming American. Sylvia Jones, a friend of mine who lived in Portmeirion, would go for afternoon tea and a couple of times I accompanied her. Sylvia was very frightened of Bertrand Russell and would always ask first if he was going to be there when she visited. There had been so many whispered, shocking but unverified, stories about him locally that she was understandably nervous. One of his visitors was Jimmy Saville, who made what one must suspect were unlawful visits to the local hospital in Minffordd.



When Russell died, he left everything to the Peace Movement. His wife had money of her own and returned to the USA. I was lucky enough to buy from the house a sofa (possibly Russian) and three tables, all of which I still have. I also bought from Lady Russell a set of salad servers and a bottle opener with handles formed to look like a black swan, again Russian, I think. Anyway, when the Antiques Roadshow came to Arley Hall a few years ago I went with my daughter and took them to find out more, as they were easy to carry. When we finally got to Wayne, the 'Expert in 20th Century Antiques and Art Deco', and I explained the Bertrand Russell connection, he replied "Oh yes, Bertie Russell, he has a band in Liverpool", which made us both giggle - clearly, despite his interest in the 20th century, he had no idea who Bertrand Russell was!

On a final note, during a fun day out with Sylvia, we went to a village in Mid-Wales to look at an antique shop. It was a lovely sunny day and we were walking down a street of terraced houses and outside on the pavement a young woman was making a dress in cornflower blue cotton, using a treadle sewing machine. Naturally, we stopped to talk to her and the woman took the dress from the sewing machine and gave it to Sylvia (who had cornflower blue eyes) saying, "You can always say you wore the first dress made by Laura Ashley." As we know, from those beginnings 'Laura Ashley' became a world famous and global fashion brand.

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Further Memories of Portmeirion

Kay Bashford

The original land and house on the site of which Portmeirion was eventually built were owned by an eccentric old lady. She lived with a pack of mongrel dogs and she would read poetry to them. When she died the land was so overgrown it took five days to make a clearing for the hearse to get through to the house! Afterwards, in 1925, Clough Williams-Ellis bought the house next to the estuary and grounds for under £5,000, intending for it to become a hotel. In 1931 he also managed to buy The Castle and driveway, thus gaining extra accommodation.

One of the great characters residing on the Portmeirion peninsula at that time was Michael 'Micky' Burn, who was born in Buckingham Palace because his father was Secretary and Solicitor to the Duchy of Cornwall Estate. When he was studying at Cambridge, Micky, who was bi-sexual, reputedly had an affair with Guy Burgess (later the renowned Soviet Spy). Then, in 1947, whilst working for The Times, he married Mary Booker, following her divorce from her first husband before the War. Mary already had two daughters, the younger of whom, Benitha, married Sir Osmond Williams, the owner of a family estate next to Portmeirion.



Micky and his wife Mary in their Welsh cottage

Micky and Mary went to live in one of Clough's cottages. Mary, a former London socialite and actress and a great beauty, was 15 years older than Micky.

Apparently, she had lived in Paris with a Prince in fine style, surrounded by beautiful furniture and had a small part in the 1933 film 'The Private Life of Henry VIII', starring Charles Laughton as Henry and Merle Oberon as Anne Boleyn. Mary and Merle became close friends and were part of the 'Portmeirion Set', who would gather round the swimming pool with midnight picnics - and no costumes allowed!



After Mary died, Micky would occasionally sell pieces of furniture to pay for a roof repair or some other building maintenance and I was very happy to buy some lovely pieces direct from him, as he said he didn't want to sell anything to Portmeirion. As a footnote: Micky was also a WW2 hero, serving as a Captain in the Commandos. He was captured after the St Nazaire Raid and imprisoned in Colditz. There is even a 2009 award-winning documentary film, 'Turned Towards the Sun', about his exploits. This photo (left) was taken during the filming.

Across the other side of Portmeirion, overlooking Portmadoc, a house was rented by the philosopher, Bertrand Russell (pictured, next page). Of course, he was wine and

GARDEN CLUB

As the Lockdown is easing, we were able both to hold an extended outdoor plant sale in April (pictured below) and to give members sunflower seeds for our autumn competition. I have more if anyone missed out on that. The weather was beautiful and members came and went all afternoon. Everyone said how wonderful it was to have our camaraderie back at last. All sales money from plants was given to the National Gardens Scheme and £278 was raised. Thank you very much for your generous gifts of plants, and for buying many others as well.

Our members Jane Fairclough and Bill and Lesley Anderson opened their beautiful gardens, so giving a lovely afternoon for members to enjoy. Thank you for allowing us to see them: there were many compliments. Three members (pictured) had each won a bottle of prosecco in the Garden Club Newsletter competitions during lockdown, and they were presented with their prizes.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11th May on Zoom. John Foley will entertain us from his Holden Clough nursery in the Ribble Valley, giving us seasonal inspiration for our own gardens. Members will receive details nearer the time. We hope that this will be the last Zoom, as restrictions are lifted more in June.

For any information about the club, please contact me.

Jean Davies
01606 892383 & 07899 93683



Jo Munnery, Linda Enderby and Joan Broughton with their prosecco prizes



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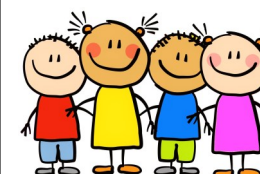
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CHILDREN & GROWN-UPS!

Have you written your children's short story yet?

The deadline for entries is
Monday 31st May.

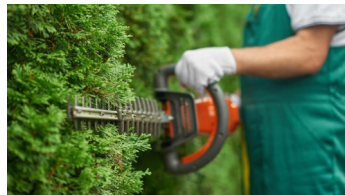
See April's Bulletin for more details
or email:
annalee1@btinternet.com



Please
tell us a
story!

HEDGE/TREE CUTTING & THE LAW

A recent query sent to our Parish Clerk raised the question of the extent to which birds and their habitats are protected by law. The enquirer had spotted Scottish Power cutting hedges hard back and was concerned at the impact this would have on any nesting birds. She asked our Clerk if Scottish Power were breaking the law. The answer, in short, is that they almost certainly were not: in an emergency Scottish Power have wide powers when it comes to maintaining our electricity supply. Nevertheless, this does raise the question of what we as ordinary citizens are legally entitled to do - and when - when it comes to affecting the habitat of wild birds. If, like many of us, you are uncertain, then you may find the following of interest.



It is an offence under section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs. So, it's wise to avoid hedge cutting and tree pruning during the main breeding season for nesting birds, which usually runs throughout March to August each year. This can be weather dependent and some birds may nest outside this period, so it is important always to check carefully for active nests prior to cutting.

If you are unsure what to do, you can contact RSPB Wildlife Enquiries on: 01767 693690 (9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday). Note that the RSPB do not enforce the law in these cases - it is the responsibility of the Police to do so. However, the RSPB can provide advice to the Police where appropriate.



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GREAT BUDWORTH CRICKET CLUB



Another cricket season is nearly upon us and the club is busy preparing itself following the disappointment of missing so many matches last season due to Covid.

The club plays no league cricket and is always looking for new members: senior, junior, male and female players are all welcome. Regular matches are played from May through to August with weekly

practice sessions. The club has a good social side with regular post-match BBQ's.

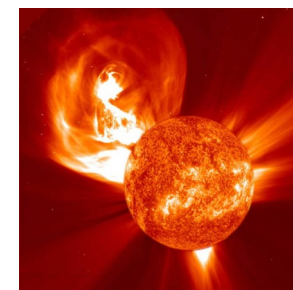
All home fixtures are played on the Arley Estate cricket ground, which is one of the most scenic in the county, if not the whole country. This spring has seen upgrades to the outfield drainage and to the playing surface of the pitch.

Anyone interested in becoming either a playing or a social member should please contact the club at GBCCnewplayers@outlook.com.

CORONAL MASS EJECTION (CME)

This is nothing to do with the virus, but could be equally damaging to humans! Periodically our Sun burps out a huge swarm of electrically charged particles, like a billion-ton bowling ball hurtling through space. Fortunately, the sun is a terrible bowler so most shots miss our planet.

However sometimes it scores a direct hit – the last major impact was in 1859, with smaller ones in 1989 and 2003.



The potential damage to our way of life is of international concern: communication satellites will be knocked out, power grids will burn out - it will take months to restore normality and the cost could amount to £3 trillion globally. Estimates suggest that a major event occurs roughly every 150 years, so we are overdue for another! Astronomers watch the Sun constantly, so we will know when a CME is coming - they take two or three days to reach Earth, so governments

will have time to prepare for the inevitable disruption.

Tony Flynn.