

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

Details of Church events are on page 15

- Wednesday 1st, 7.30pm.** Parish Hall. WI meeting.
Sunday 5th, 10.00am-4.00pm. All Fours Farm. NGS garden opening.
Monday, 6th, 10.00am-4.00pm. All Fours Farm. NGS garden opening.
Monday, 6th, 2.00-4.30pm. Parish Hall. Church teas.
Tuesday 7th, 10.00am. Parish Hall. WI walk.
Saturday 11th. GB Tennis court. Kay Cup tennis tournament.
Tuesday 13th, 7.30pm. Parish Hall. Garden Club meeting.
Thursday 16th, 12.30pm. Hayhurst Arms. Ladies' lunch.
Sunday 19th, 1.00pm. Tattenhall Cricket Club. GBCC cricket match.
Friday 24th, 7.30pm. Parish Hall. St George's Day party.
Saturday 25th, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Parish Church. Bridgewater Singers.
Wednesday 29th, 6.00pm. Arley Cricket Ground. GBCC cricket match.

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BUDWORTH BULLETIN

April 2026

**St. George's Day
Celebration**

**Friday 24th April in our Parish Hall,
Smithy Lane, at 7.30pm**

A cold buffet of traditional English foods, live music and bar (cash and card accepted). Red and white clothing encouraged, although optional. Please come and join us to celebrate.

**Tickets £15 each Available from:
Lesley Anderson (07709 765784),
Gill Spencer (07773 052418), Richard Elias (07988 123635)**



In March John Stirling came to speak on 'Companions of Honour', but his talk was very similar to his talk last year on 'Toytown to Buckingham Palace'. This was fine for those who hadn't heard his previous talk but not so good for those who had heard him before. He is still an excellent speaker to listen to, though, and can tell a good tale. We had an entertaining evening and enjoyed the company, chatter and cake.

Six members went to the WI Annual Spring meeting at Nunsmere Hall to hear the Lord Mayor of Chester and Will Kirk (pictured), the craftsman from the Repair Shop, speaking. Will is just as nice in person as he is on the TV.



Tickets for the Cheshire Show are available through the WI and if members want to take advantage of this offer then they can be ordered at the April meeting. We are encouraging members to enter the show to put on a fine display of cooking and crafts in the WI marquee at the show on Tuesday and Wednesday 16th and 17th June.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our annual Jumble Sale on the 28th March. We hope to receive lots of saleable clothes, household goods and bric-a-brac, followed by a busy but rewarding day of organizing and selling!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st April in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker, John Brennan, is a green badge guide of Chester (pictured left, but I'm sure you didn't need to be advised of that) and he is taking us on a virtual tour. We shall walk around the city in the comfort of our Parish Hall !! This is possible because we now have a large wall-mounted TV screen: we hope that technology will not let us down! We look forward to a new experience and possibly seeing



nooks and crannies in Chester we didn't know existed. Visitors are most welcome.

(cont'd on next page)

ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS

Events in March/April

MARCH

Sunday 29th Palm Sunday
 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
 10.15am Procession from the Parish Hall to church
 10.30am Holy Communion with the reading of The Passion

APRIL

Wednesday 1st 10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments
 8.30pm Vigil in church until 10pm – come for as long or as little as you want

Thursday 2nd Maundy Thursday
 7.30pm Holy Communion

Friday 3rd Good Friday
 2.00pm Meditations on The Cross
 3.00pm Short Evening Prayer

Sunday 5th Easter Day
 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
 10.30am Family Communion for Easter Day

Monday 6th 2.00pm – 4.30pm Church Teas commence in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 8th 10.30am Craft & Natter in the Old School

Thursday 9th 1.30pm Play & Praise in church TBC

Sunday 12th 10.30am Matins BCP

6.30pm Holy Communion Common Worship

Sunday 19th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP

10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship

6.30pm Evening Prayer at Arley Chapel BCP

Wednesday 22nd 10.30am Craft & Natter in the Old School

Thursday 23rd 1.30pm Play and Praise in church

Saturday 25th 7.00pm for 7.30pm Spring Concert with the Bridgewater Singers

Sunday 26th 10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship

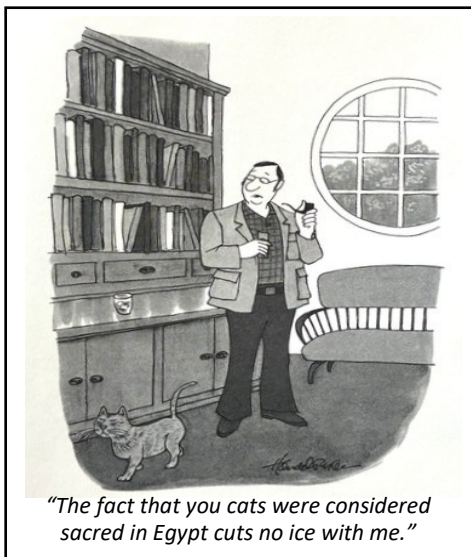
2.30pm Forest Church at Arley Chapel our 4th birthday!

*Wishing all our readers a happy
and peaceful Easter holiday*



For ten days in March, residents of Great Budworth were united in concern as to the whereabouts of Lulu, a Russian Blue cat, owned by - sorry, who owns - Jenny McKay. Lulu eventually emerged, presumably when she grew tired of the novelty of bivouacking. These cartoons are a tribute to our feline friends. Welcome home, Lulu!

"Dogs come when they're called; cats take a message and get back to you later."
- Unknown



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(cont'd from previous page)

Ramblers

The group walked around Lostock Green in March, passing Holford Hall, over the Holford Moss and back to enjoy lunch at Rachael's home. It was a good walk on a sunny day followed by a tasty lunch: a perfect walk enjoyed by all. Our next walk should be on Tuesday 7th April, leaving the Parish Hall at 10am. This is the day after the bank holiday, so it is to be confirmed.

Book Club

The group are reading "The Promise" by Damon Galgut.
June Wilkinson

NGS GARDEN OPENING

All Fours Farm

Colliers Lane, Aston by Budworth
Sunday 5th and Monday 6th April
1.00am—4.00pm. Entry: £5; children FREE
Tea, coffee and cake

All Fours Farm is a traditional and well established country garden with a wide range of roses, hardy shrubs, bulbs, perennials and annuals. You will also find a small vegetable garden, pond and greenhouse as well as vintage machinery and original features from its days as a working farm. The garden is adjacent to the family's traditional rose nursery.



Good news!
Church Teas re-commence on
Monday 6th April
2.00-4.30pm



We would love to see you. Grab a friend and come along for a cuppa and a cake.

We still have a few dates to fill, so if you think you can help (whether by simply baking or helping to run the event), do please contact one of us: Margaret (07732324001) Maggie (01565 777262)

TENNIS CLUB

At last, the lighter evenings are here and we have so much to look forward to

The first tournament of 2026 is The Kay Cup on Saturday 11th April at Great Budworth. Everybody is welcome so please pop along, enjoy the tennis and meet the committee and members. Raising funds towards the pavilion extension, we will be watching the Grand National and having a sweepstake, in addition to a raffle. Lunch will be served in the Bowling Club pavilion. Let's hope the sun continues to shine.

Social play, walking tennis and coaching sessions will continue throughout the year.

Joanie Deakin

The court is a fantastic village facility and there for all to enjoy. If you fancy joining us, contact our membership secretary Richard Chandler 07933087560 to have a chat about membership and coaching sessions. For existing members, a reminder that your membership fees are now due. If booking the court as a guest, you will be given the combination code to gain access to the court.

QUESTIONS:

1. Which cancer is diagnosed in at least 50,000 men each year in the UK?
2. Which cancer – when it isn't caught soon enough and goes on to spread around the body – kills over 12,000 men each year in the UK?
3. But which cancer is not the subject of an automatic national screening programme ?



The answer: prostate cancer.

There is a simple blood test for prostate cancer – called the PSA test – which every man aged 50 and over is entitled to take at his GP surgery, even if he is symptom-free. The test isn't infallible – it can produce false positives and false negatives - but there are a number of men in our village who are grateful that taking this test caught their cancer early enough for it to be treated. If in doubt – ask to take the test. And don't delay!

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BRIDGEWATER SINGERS



The Friends of Great Budworth Church

invite you to a

Spring Concert with

The Bridgewater Singers

in the Parish Church

Saturday 25th April, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Refreshments

Entry FREE - but donations very welcome!

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A warm welcome ...

... to newcomers Angela and Patrick Nolan and their little elderly shih tzu dog, Buddy, who goes out for only short walks these days. They have moved into the bungalow at the junction of Westage Lane and Heath Lane. Angela and Patrick enjoyed the Big Boys' Breakfast, where some of you will have met them. It's a big move for them as



they had moved from their family home in Audenshaw after 38 years and for Angela even more so, as she had grown up there. They have three sons in their 20s: one currently globetrotting and twins who live and work in the Manchester area. As a family they enjoy occasional games of golf and tennis together and socialising with friends. With the move to Great Budworth they're looking forward to country walks hereabouts and getting to know their neighbours.

Ladies' lunch in April

The next Ladies' lunch will be held at the Hayhurst Arms on Thursday 16th April at our usual time of 12.30pm. These lunches are always a very pleasant gathering. I do hope we have a good attendance - it's so lovely to get together! Do let me know first please.

Hazel Forwood 01606 89190



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Friday 22nd May
in the Parish Hall, Smithy Lane
Doors open at 7.30pm; starts at 8.00pm

A quartet of soloists from the Northern Chamber Orchestra on violin, viola and cello bring us an intimate performance of exquisite music, featuring familiar favourites and some undiscovered gems.

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katyhopkinson23@gmail.com
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SCHOOL NEWS

We've got some exciting news to share! From the Summer Term, Mrs Davis-Hilliard will be stepping into the role of Head of School. We're absolutely delighted and know you'll join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved appointment. Mrs Davis-Hilliard has been a fantastic member of staff at Antrobus for the past 15 years, teaching across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. During that time she's also completed a master's degree in education and recently achieved her NPQSL (National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership). While she'll certainly be missed at Antrobus, we're very lucky she'll be bringing her experience and enthusiasm to Great Budworth.

What's been happening...

Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils recently headed off for a one-night residential at Petty Pool and had a brilliant time. They tried their hand at archery, tackled the climbing wall and even ventured out on a night walk through the woods. There were lots of smiles, a few wobbly knees, and plenty of stories to tell when they got home!



We also celebrated World Book Day, with children and staff coming to school in their cosiest pyjamas and sharing their favourite family storybooks. It was a lovely, relaxed day full of reading, storytelling and a lot of comfy outfits.

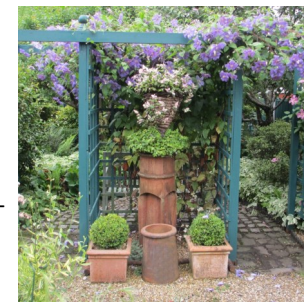


With the days getting brighter and spring just around the corner, we're looking forward to more outdoor fun and making the most of our beautiful school grounds.

Lois Grogan,
School Administrator

(cont'd from previous page)

A special mention should also go to one of our own committee members, Dawn Freeman, another dedicated supporter of the National Garden Scheme. At each meeting Dawn runs a small plant stall, selling plants from her own garden as well as those generously donated by members - always at very reasonable prices. Her table was particularly well stocked this month and proved extremely popular, raising almost £100.



Next month's expert talk, on Tuesday 13th April, will also celebrate the arrival of spring. Entitled *Spring Has Sprung*, it will be delivered by one of the husband-and-wife teams, Nigel and Samantha Hopes, professional horticulturalists who run Hopes Garden Plants nursery in Halesowen in the West Midlands, specialising in interesting and unusual garden plants. There will be plants to buy, too!

We'll also be holding one of our popular mini-member competitions: bring along a small selection of spring flowers from your own garden displayed in a jam jar. With so many talented gardeners and creative members among us, the competition is sure to be fierce - and the parish hall will look and smell absolutely wonderful.

You can also keep up to date with everything we're doing through our new Facebook page. Simply search for **Great Budworth Garden Club**.

Finally, for those who receive your Bulletin in time, we'll be attending the Maker's Market in Antrobus on 29th March. We'll be selling garden plants, books and plant pots, and sharing a stand with the Cheshire Jam Man, who will be bringing along a delicious array of jams in support of Lymphoma Action, a charity that supports people affected by cancer. I hope to see you there!

Julie Treharne Bush, Chairlady
07792108549/julie.treharne1@btinternet.com

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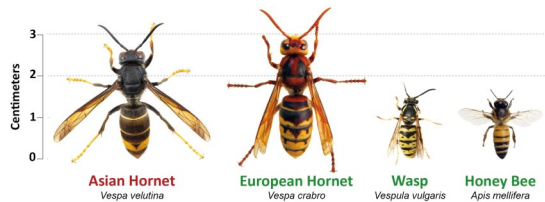
01606 350793 or 07977 105380

GARDEN CLUB

March is always a wonderfully busy time for gardeners. There are still winter beds to tidy, soil to warm and prepare, pots and tools to clean, seeds to sow, and plans to make. It's the season for deciding what might need moving or dividing, what sadly hasn't survived the winter, and what new plants or features might bring fresh life to the garden, whatever size it may be. And, of course, all this takes place whilst we navigate the typical March weather - rain, wind, the occasional frost - balanced by those uplifting blue-sky days when the birds are singing and you can feel that better weather is not too far away.

Our March meeting was just as lively and full of activity. A packed room first heard from local beekeeper Julia Young, who spoke to us about the yellow-legged hornet, also known as the Asian hornet, and the potentially devastating impact it can have on insect populations, including our own honey bees. These hornets are likely to be coming out now, so if you spot one, please report it to the nearest beekeeping association so they can try to locate and remove the nest. The hornet is slightly smaller than the European hornet, with an almost entirely dark body, an orangey-yellow fourth segment, and distinctive yellow tips on its legs (see the picture here for comparisons).

Our main speaker was the renowned gardener and highly respected RHS speaker, Maureen Sawyer (pictured below). Maureen has created the remarkable garden, Southlands, in Stretford, with Duncan Watmough. Southlands features a Courtyard Garden, Mediterranean Garden, Shade Garden (pictured on next page), Gravel Walk, Kitchen Garden, Pond Garden and Woodland Garden and is definitely one our club would like to visit. The garden opens to visitors by appointment and on selected days through the National Garden Scheme and so far has raised an impressive £50,000 for charity.



Maureen's talk, entitled *Annual Review*, was perfectly suited to this time of year. She grows most of her plants from seed, a method that can be challenging but is certainly one of the most economical and rewarding ways to fill a garden with seasonal colour and interest. Her photographs were stunning and gave us plenty of inspiration, particularly when it comes to combination and companion planting. Like Maureen, I'm very fond of cosmos, and she showed us a beautiful planting of *Cosmos 'Antiquity'* - with its rich burgundy blooms - combined with lavender and *Verbena bonariensis*. It looked absolutely wonderful. I must admit I headed out to buy some

seeds later that week and I suspect I wasn't the only one feeling inspired!

(cont'd on next page)

GREAT BUDWORTH CRICKET CLUB

The club AGM took place at the Cock O' Budworth on Tuesday 3rd March.

Club Chairman, Richard Kershaw, gave his annual report, reflecting on what had been another successful season. The club had played against a number of stronger teams, which was reflected in the results, but steady development had continued.

The 2026 season is Great Budworth Cricket Club's 20th anniversary and a number of initiatives are planned to recognise this milestone.



On Sunday 5th July, a fixture will be held for the Peter McAndrew Cup. Friends and spectators will be very welcome, with refreshments to be provided during the day.

Looking ahead to the end of the season, the awards night will take place this year at Great Budworth Parish Hall on Friday 25th September.

A new club kit to recognise the anniversary is also going to be available.

Richard acknowledged the efforts of three individuals who, after long service to GBCC, have stepped down from their roles:

Iain Ritchie and Mike Barker have spent many hours over the years helping with maintenance of the ground at Arley.

Likewise, Alec Brown has retired from his role as fixture secretary, handing his little book of phone numbers on to Stewart Whitlow.

The efforts of these three gentlemen were acknowledged and each was presented with an engraved tankard.

Club captain Pete Taylor added his thanks during his own report.

Weather permitting, completion of the outdoor net at the Arley ground will take place from the end of March, and a 'spring clean-up' is planned for the weekend of 25th April.

A provisional fixture list for the summer has now been drawn up and each month's Bulletin report will include that month's matches. April's matches are:

Sunday 19th Tattenhall (away) 1.00pm start

Wednesday 29th Barnton over 40s (home) 6.00pm start

More details of the club's activities can be found on our Facebook page.

For membership or sponsorship enquiries, please contact the Club secretary at gbccnewplayers@outlook.com

Simon Batey

A HISTORY OF GREAT BUDWORTH

It is strange that Great Budworth attracts so many tourists, artists and filmmakers but has not until now been the subject of a comprehensive history: but now we have a book, launched on 7th March, introducing people to the fascinating history of the village we all know.

This wonderful book, full of colourful illustrations, is authored by local historians Alan Bailey and Robert Steele.

The story starts with the Ice Age when Cheshire was covered by a glacier between one and two kilometres thick! When it retreated, Budworth was left on the ridge that remained, running from Pickmere to Comberbatch. Ever wondered why the hill between the village and Comberbatch is so steep? The answer is in the book!

There's a description of recent excavations, Roman coins and drawings of flints which may resemble something you found in the garden recently! And a map of Roman roads in Cheshire, with another which shows how the otherwise straight road from the north was diverted by the Romans as it approached Budworth to avoid the steep hill.

After the Romans came the Saxons, who gave the village its name, and then the Normans and Hugh Lupus, who put Cheshire on the map. This book records details about the village from the Domesday Book. It's intriguing to see how many families there were and the acreages they were farming. And there was a priest!

The Saxon Church would have been timber-framed and possibly on the site of the current Church. Only 30 years after the Domesday Book the Baron of Halton gave the Church and the living of Budworth to the Augustinian Canons of Norton Priory. You may be surprised to learn of the responsibilities of an ecclesiastical parish which persisted until 1894!

The book treats us to a detailed description of the building of the church through the years. Do you know the source of the red sandstone? Worship was closely linked to Rome, but of course with the Reformation the statues and decorations were replaced by whitewash on all the walls. The king took Norton Prior, and its local holdings were sold to John Grimsditch, of London, and subsequently to an Oxford College which remains the owner to this day. One family that survived this upheaval was that of the Canon, who worked and lived in Great Budworth with his mistress and children!

The book gives an introduction to the Dutton/Warburton dynasty which has played

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Alan Bailey (left) and Robert Steele (right)

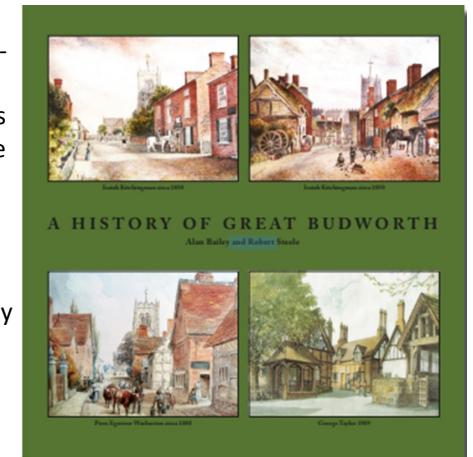
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such an important role in the area ever since about 1174. Possibly of greatest interest to current inhabitants is the description of how houses developed from basic hovels accommodating workers for the Lord of the Manor or Church. There are colourful illustrations of mediaeval houses. Bricks were only introduced to Great Budworth in the 17th century. Which is the earliest brick building in Budworth and where did the clay come from? There's a wonderful chapter about schools in Budworth, another about the sale of most of the houses by the Arley estate in 1948, and the provision of water to the village. Finally, many of the picturesque houses are shown – maybe yours is among them!

To find out, buy this outstanding book for £30. Copies can be obtained from:

The Ice Cream Farm, CW9 6ND
Comberbatch Post Office, CW9 6BQ
The Hollies, WA4 4PG
The Spinner and Bergamot, CW9 6AY
The Cock O' Budworth, CW9 6HB
The George & Dragon, CW9 6HF

They can, of course, also be bought from either of the authors, Alan Bailey (baileyalan4@gmail.com) and Robert Steele (rjsteele@btinternet.com).



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