



The Parish Magazine

& *Community News*

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

June & July 2021

MID SUMMER EDITION

In This Edition

News from the Vicarage

Football Focus & the Origins of Some of the Teams

GVH Activities - Groups Getting Back Together

Regeneration of Hampstons Well

*Growing & Thriving With God
in Our Community*

Church Directory - who to contact ...



Vicar	Cathy Helm	07471 890 827
Lay Readers	Ruth Abbott Basil Keys John Morris-Best	342 5032 936 1403 327 7873
Churchwardens	Nigel Griffiths Ivor Thomas	336 3621 07887 895 707
Deputy Churchwarden	Tony Carter	336 5446
PCC Hon. Secretary	John Vinson	336 8350
PCC Hon. Treasurer	Bryan Blakeman	336 7435
Gift Aid Secretary	John Miles	336 4972
Verger Duties	Ann Warr - Services Judy Redmond - Open & Close Sue Church - Housekeeping	336 2747 336 3643 336 2228
Safeguarding Officer	Ivor Thomas	07887 895 707
The Friends of St Nicholas' Church	Robin Cowan - Chairman Gill & John Miles - Administration	306 4587 336 4972
Music & Singers	Alison Carter	336 5446
Mothers' Union	Ann Rudd	336 1513
Junior Church	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
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Bell Tower Captain	Jane Davies	353 0074
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The Bluebell

A fine and subtle spirit dwells

In every little flower,

*Each one its own sweet feeling
breathes*

With more or less of power.

There is a silent eloquence

In every wild bluebell

*That fills my softened heart
with bliss*

That words could never tell.

Anne Bronte 1820-1849

Rev Cathy Helm

The Vicar Writes . . .

I took this picture of our dog Meri a few years ago and of course, it's all a matter of perspective!

Over the last year our perspective on life has changed dramatically, we have come to appreciate the unwavering commitment of NHS staff, delivery drivers, carers, farmers, funeral directors, and foodbank volunteers to name a few. We have also heard the cries of those who have been marginalised, the climate crisis has finally been recognised as a real crisis and we have had the space and time to consider what is really important to us. There was an advert early on in 2020 which talked of having 20:20 vision, perfect vision. I think it was suggesting after the elections and changes in 2019 that in 2020 we would see things more clearly. Now we are halfway through 2021 and are able to reflect on the year past, are we seeing life in a new way or do we just want it all to go back to 'normal'?

The current St Nicholas' church building is now in its 300th year. The stonemason's mark over the door dates 1721, although the church is built on much older foundations. It made me consider all the considerable changes since then, the joys and sorrows, the



people, families, and visitors who have been through the doors. Having a beautiful, old and well-loved building within the village is testament to God's presence with us, but also countless generations of faithful people who have found it a place of comfort, joy, prayer and God's presence through wars, plagues and pandemics and will continue to do so for generations to come.

The church may have been built before the advent of the Industrial Revolution, and seen changes beyond the comprehension of the villagers of 1721, but God's love and faithfulness have not changed.

Jesus said:

'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness.' John 10:10

He wasn't promising an easy life, but a life full of God's love, mercy, blessing and grace, a life that gives the resources needed to cope with the challenges of life, a fresh start.

I wonder what God's perspective is as he sees our world in 2021? It's easy to just see the pain, the destruction and the suffering, but perhaps from God's perspective can we see the hope for recovery, the promise of new life, the kindness of the stranger, the sacrifice of the loving, the generosity of the humble, the justice of the wise..... all reflections of the character of our ever-loving God.

David wrote in Psalm 46:

'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells ... The Lord Almighty is with us.'

So, if you're still wondering how I got Meri to stand on top of those stones, I suggest you may need to change your perspective!



And finally ...

A memo from God:



'If life happens to hand you a situation you cannot handle yourself, do not attempt to resolve it.

Kindly put it in the SFGTD [Something for God to do] box. It will be addressed in my time not yours.

Once it is placed in the box, don't hold on to it.'

'Always remember the greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground!'



Cathy

Football Focus

It's a Parable of Life

Rev Sam Wells – Vicar of St Martins-in-the-Field, London



A THOUGHT FOR TODAY



There's a typical airport scene in a film of postcolonial crisis.

Recall 'The Killing Fields' or 'Hotel Rwanda'. The blades are whirring and a last cluster of westerners just make it on board before the helicopter lifts them off to safety. As for those left on the ground: well it's best not to think about it.

A similar logic seemed to be at work in the short-lived plans for a European Super League. Real Madrid's president announced this was to 'save football.' But the model of salvation on offer was that a dozen clubs are airlifted out, and as for the Aston Villas of the league, let alone the Grimsby Towns: well it's best not to think about it.

There's something powerful at work here that's almost primal, and runs through the heart of Christianity. It's the question of what salvation fundamentally is. Is it a sense of profound belonging, at peace with God and one another? Or is it more about escape, about finding a way to get out of life alive, about thinking as long as I'm rescued, everyone else can make their own arrangements? All of us, in a weak moment, faced with a profound crisis, might focus on our own interests, and perhaps feel bad about it later. But what about when we portray salvation on those terms? What the Super League was promising was salvation – but only for a dozen clubs. The offer was whispered, 'this can airlift you out of the risk of genuine competition and the rest can fight it out on the ground – we can save football'.

In the 1880s, several of our leading football teams, including the likes of Manchester City, Everton, Southampton and Fulham, were founded by local churches, seeking to foster healthy rivalry among young men of the parish.

The clergy saw football as a parable of life. Footballers face adversity and disappointment, but by working together, in a team where everyone's role is vital, they can find a common goal, and discover gifts in themselves and others that they never knew were there.

Elite football's a business, and it's naïve to forget that. But it's also a game, and events have shown us that a system that takes away the consequences of losing, and excludes the vast majority of players, has ceased to be a game at all. In the end, there's only one society that has no promotion or relegation, and that's heaven. As I see it, heaven is genuinely for everybody, and no one is finally left out. Ultimately, that's the only kind of league to which it's worth belonging.



CHURCH NOTICES

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ann Hudson for using lockdown to use her creative skills writing a book called 'Kissed by Sun and Wind' outlining her memories of sailing around the Mediterranean islands of Corsica and Sardinia in the 1980s.

AFTERNOON TEA

Afternoon Tea in the Vicarage Garden, [hopefully, restrictions and weather permitting]

on Saturday 3 July 3.00 to 5.00pm (*Please check the website to confirm details*)

CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday 11 July at 4.00pm A service in church for all ages as we anticipate the end of lockdown.

Reflect, Connect, Hope

An opportunity to come and remember those we have lost in the last year, to give thanks for all those who have worked so hard to save lives, and to look forward with hope.



For those who may not have heard our news, I will be leaving the parishes of Burton and Shotwick in a few months time. I have recently been appointed Priest in charge to the parishes of Dacre, Watermillock and Matterdale in the Ullswater Mission area just to the west of Penrith in Cumbria. There are three churches with an established lay team and with other mission opportunities in the area working along with the local Methodist church. It has clearly been God's calling to these parishes and His timing. It is a part time position and will, therefore, enable me to be closer to my mum and also allow me to have more time with Steve and at our place in Scotland. Jonny will be staying on the Wirral, Amy will be moving to Chester and the dogs will be with us!

We are moving from Burton, mid-September and will be starting in the new post in early October. It is going to be hard for us to leave here, but there is a strong Lay team, a committed PCC and a vision for growing the church. I am confident that as you continue to be God' people and continue to grow and thrive that He will sustain and guide you.

A prayer for our Churches

Heavenly Father, we pray for your courage, wisdom and leading in the weeks and months ahead. Times of change are unsettling and worrying and we pray for confidence in your good provision, in your love for this church and in your desire to see this church continue to flourish and grow. May we hold on to your promise. *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.'*

Proverbs 3: 5,6

Cathy

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there are wooden pews with blue cushions. A large, ornate window with a Gothic arch is in the background, letting in bright light. A white vase with flowers sits on a table in front of the window. A sign with a crescent moon and star is visible on the wall. The text is overlaid on a dark grey semi-transparent box on the left side of the image.

***From the
Parish Registers***

Wedding

1 May

**- Stephanie Newport-Booth
& Alexander Fraser Hind**

Interment

26 April

- Anthony Hyland

Funerals

27 April

- Valerie Cooke

18 May

- Helen Hulse

Looking back over the past fifteen months there have been many heartening stories of people helping neighbours and friends. Some of these stories have appeared in the news, most have not.

We would like to share how the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Down and Dromore in Northern Ireland helped local children.

The Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Down and Dromore had planned to get involved in a 'Grub Club' during 2020 Easter and summer holidays by providing a team to prepare and serve meals twice a week, to children suffering from 'holiday hunger'. This was organised by Mount Merrion Church. When the plans had to be altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mothers' Union quickly adapted and offered their support in different ways.

Every week during the school summer holidays, a mini-boot camp and packed lunch giveaway took place instead, on the green in the middle of the estate. Free for all to join and attend by up to 30 people each time in order to abide by social distancing and Coronavirus gathering laws at the time.

When asked why Mount Merrion Church wanted to provide this service, the team said:

'The Grub Club idea and now this mini-boot camp and packed lunch giveaway simply reflects our heart for the community we are part of. During the pandemic we have sought to work in partnership with others to provide for the most vulnerable and isolated in the area. It is clear that finances are tight and through the uniform recycling scheme that we are currently running and this weekly give-away, we hope to share something of the love of Jesus in a practical way.'

How inspiring! In spite of all our anxieties we still marvel at God's world – the green of the new leaves, the beauty of the blossom on the trees, the birds loving the rain and the Christ-like kindness of people.



*Packed Lunch
Giveaway*



LOTS OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES!

We continue to have a very busy time at school. Our Easter Experience had to take place in school rather than church. Thank you so much to Cathy and her team for organising the activities. We very much enjoyed them.

We have sadly said goodbye to one of our Robins class teachers and wish her well in her new career. We have also been pleased to welcome Miss Bevins to the class and our team. It has been a very busy time for her getting to know us all.

There is so much going on at the moment - sports competition events being held in school at the same time as other schools - forest school activities and so much more. We also had a sponsored fitness activities event recently (enormous thanks to our PTA for organising the event) which raised just over £1,400. We are planning to use this money to buy some resources for our forest school activities.

Best Wishes,

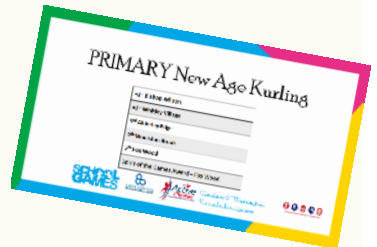
Suzanne Roberts

Head of School

WE'VE WON A TROPHY !

We have been competing locally in virtual sporting events this year due to Covid restrictions.

During the Winter Games, we beat our local cluster schools to become winners of the Kurling and Athletics events. This meant that we then had the opportunity to compete in the County finals against the other winning schools throughout Cheshire and Warrington.



We came 3rd in the Athletics County finals which is an incredible achievement in itself, but we won the Kurling County final.

This is a fantastic effort from all children involved and especially the children from Eagles class who scored highly enough to form a team and represent us.



Easter at School

This was our version of a quite literal, 'big welcome', just like Jesus received when he rode into Jerusalem.

Tales from the Wirral Foodbank

It's now mid-May and little has changed since our last tale set in mid-March. A few more distribution centres have re-opened, but largely to replace time slots at centres where churches are starting to be used more frequently. We're serving about the same number of clients and this is still markedly lower than in 2019. That seems to be because there are other sources for emergency food, perhaps with less stigma than the foodbank.

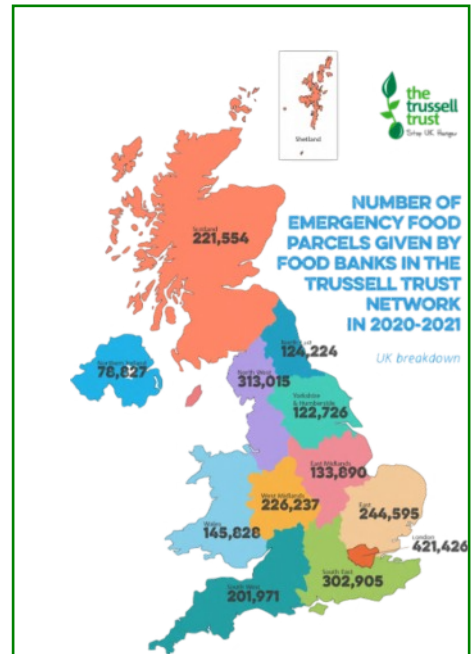
Trussell Trust, the organising charity behind many of the UK's foodbanks, reports that demand for foodbanks has increased dramatically across the country, but neither Wirral nor Liverpool foodbanks are seeing this increase – a testimony to Merseyside's community spirit, rather than a lack of need, we fear.

Despite saying that we're serving fewer clients than in 2019, it's still around 130 people a week who are helped by your donations of food and money. The food is obviously the urgent need, but the help provided by the foodbank's dedicated Citizens Advice Bureau (Ask Us Wirral) counsellors to fix the underlying cause means that we see a largely different 130 people each week.

As always, many thanks for your support, which makes all the difference to so many people.

WIRRAL FOODBANK
EMERGENCY FOOD
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE
IN CRISIS

EVERY
DONATION
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.




VOLUNTEER & DONATE

DONATE MONEY

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

wirral.foodbank.org.uk





*Burton Village
The History of
Hampstons
Well*

(Courtesy of WWW.OLDWIRRAL.COM)

This small well located on the outskirts of the village has possibly served the iron age settlements at Burton Point and the Anglo Saxon settlement of Burton since 900.

The earliest known written records are dated 1602/03 in the manor court book where it is referred to as Patrick's well, located on one side of Congreave bounded by the mill, Denna Lane and the shore.

There are frequent references in the records of the manor court concerning its upkeep. The constables of Burton were charged with cleaning the well each year and all able bodied men of Burton were required to help under pain of a fine of six pence.

The court also passed by laws raising funds for its maintenance from the villagers, to prohibit washing clothes at the well, or turning well water out of its course.

By the 19th century it had become known

as Hampstons Well, after a family who had lived in Burton since the sixteenth century.

At the turn of the 20th century a pump had been installed on the well to help extract water by hand. There are no records of this pump only a couple of photographs have confirmed this, as the pump has long since vanished.

In later years the well became surplus to requirement and like many others fell into dilapidation. The overgrown remains of the well were restored in 1975 by Ellesmere Port Council as a tribute to the memory of Councillor Horace Edgar Green who died on the 15th September 1973, ages 86 years. He had served the community faithfully as a councillor of Neston for twenty eight years and was chairman of the council from 1947 to 1948.

Article courtesy of OldWirral.com

Friends of Hampstons Well

A 'Friends Of Hampstons Well' group has been established for the site on Station Road, Burton. We will be working alongside with Chester West and Chester Council to bring life back to the site and to restore it to its former glory.

During lockdown, interested residents and members of the public from the surrounding areas visited the Well on their daily constitutional, and some people, attending to their civic duties, started to clear the brambles away from the steps to reveal this special ecological site.

As the months went on, volunteers were able to clear the steps, the thorny brambles, the weeds, and the nut-sedge weed from the edges of the pond. Slowly, Hampstons Well was being cleared so members of the public were able to walk along the path, down the steps and over the cobbles around the pond.

In February 2021, we were invited to an online meeting with CWaC Council to look at what needed doing at the site. Together, we are forming an action plan. Should any one like to become a committee member or volunteer for 'Friends of Hampstons Well', please contact us via

Facebook: [Friends of Hampstons Well \(Burton\)](#) or email [us at](mailto:us@friendsofhampstonswell@outlook.com)

friendsofhampstonswell@outlook.com or contact one of the committee members:

Chairperson - Susan Samuel

07941 154073

Secretary - Bethan Colburn

0151 336 6220

Treasurer - Barbara Rivers

0151 336 2972

There are lots of ideas, from lots of different

perspectives, from different people around the country, of activities which could be held at the site. From poetry readings to educational visits, to seasonal celebrations – this site is rich with history in Burton.

We are keen to make plans for how to look after and permanently maintain the site, preserving its nature of and protecting the wildlife within. It is cosy, nestled just off the road, which many walkers would have gone straight past heading towards the scenic Burton Marsh. However, if you take a minute to go on to the site, take a seat at the bench or look in to the well, this modest place brings an extraordinarily generous amount of calm and serenity.

For more information and to get involved, go to [Friends of Hampstons Well](#).



Burton & Puddington

Gladstone Village Hall



Saturday, 5 June

Burton Village Farmers' Market

On the field. 10.00am to 2.00pm. Free entry and parking, but please walk if you can. We're bringing together the best local and award-winning producers and artisans again.

Come for a coffee, delicious cake from our GVH fundraising stall and many other food-to-go options, too.



Saturday, 26 June

Village Hall Attic Sale

Where preloved is reloved!

On the field. 9.00am to 12noon. Free entry and parking, but please walk if you can.

We'd love to find new homes for our best bric-a-brac. Refreshments will be available. Pitches are limited and £5.

email: info@gladstonevillagehall.org to book.

Friday 2 July, 7 - 11.00pm

Folk, Blues & Beyond

'Simple Folk' are bringing back this popular night, to our Sports Pavilion. It's open mike, for anyone to join in. Free entry and, of course, the bar will be open

Saturday, 10 July

Summer Treasure Hunt

Take up the challenge and work out the clues along a short circular route from the Village Hall, for a chance to win some super prizes. Families welcome and a kids scavenger hunt is available on request. Adults £2.50, under 14s £1. Refreshments available and the bar will be open.

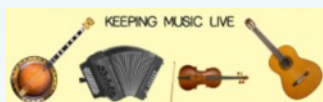
To book your time slot go to <https://forms.gle/gREKn9E954Chozbk8>

Field-side Bar

We'll also be opening our field-side bar on certain Saturdays throughout the Summer and would love to see people from our local community there. Keep your eyes out for our sign popping up on the front lawn.



Gladstone



Burton & Puddington Gladstone Village Hall



For information about activities at GVH, go to www.gladstonevillagehall.org

Bowls

The Bowls Club is back on the green and social events are being organised. From 21 June, fixtures with clubs in the Chester League resume. We welcome new members, including beginners. We have three league teams, two mixed who play their matches on a Monday evening and a ladies' team that plays on a Wednesday afternoon. The bowls season runs from April to September. Click here to find out more or contact us at bowls@gladstonevillagehall.org

Cricket

After a successful 2020 season, Burton Cricket Club 1st XI gained promotion to the UK Fast Cheshire Cricket 4th Division, a superb achievement when you consider that Burton didn't even have a league side 3 years ago. The club also plays friendly fixtures on Sundays and Thursday evenings, helping to give all members a good opportunity and choice when it comes to playing cricket. The club welcomes any interest from any age or ability but would ideally like to see more children getting involved. Outdoor training and coaching sessions are available, weather permitting. As we get back to a new normal, we would love to see new faces coming to watch, play or even just enjoy a drink from the bar, so from everyone at Burton Cricket Club, we hope to see you soon. For a full list of fixtures, please visit burtoncheshire.play-cricket.com

Snooker

The Snooker (and Billiards) Club is in action again with games of up to 4 members. Click here to find out more or contact us at snooker@gladstonevillagehall.org New members are welcome.

Tennis

The Tennis Club has enjoyed a busy start to the season. Social mix-ins have started on Tuesday evenings from 7pm where members are welcome to come along and play friendly tennis. We have coaching sessions available on Fridays for children and adults which are proving very popular. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Dan at tennis@gladstonevillagehall.org

Burton & Puddington Gladstone Village Hall



Walking Group

A long established and friendly walking group who are always on the lookout for new members. We typically walk on either Sunday or Saturday about three times a month. The Sunday walk is about 6 to 9 miles long. Good walking boots, a packed lunch and an even number of legs are the only prerequisites. Saturday pub walks are far less rigorous and are typically three or four miles culminating in a pub lunch. When not under Covid restrictions we meet at the GVH at say 9.00am and then drive to the walk in shared cars. We have recently restarted our walks and our groups are between 8 and 15 in number. We also have other social events such as barbecues and Hot Pot Suppers, and during the Lockdown we have Zoomed into a weekly light-hearted quiz. Come and join us, call on 336-4297, or email on magnamola@aol.com. A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Classes & Groups

Pre-Schoolers – Popcats, music and movement on Tuesday mornings.

Contact: Claire – 07805 152843

Schoolers – Kids' Karate on Monday and Wednesday evenings

Contact: 07795 325889

Exam Preparation – For those preparing for 11+ exams we have tutoring with Louise.

Contact: cando11pluswiral@mail.com

Adult Karate Classes – Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Contact: 07795 325889

Pilates – Thursday evening with physiotherapist Heather.

Contact: cppilates@outlook.com

Yoga – with Lorraine on Tuesday evenings and Chair Yoga on Monday mornings.

Contact: LorraineYoga@outlook.com

Smooth Moves – a music and movement group for the more mature participant,

Thursdays 2.00 to 3.00pm, with ex professional dancer Bernadette.

Contact: 0151 648 0695

Summer at Ness Gardens



Please keep checking our website <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/> and social media channels for updates.

Ness Botanic Gardens, the Visitor Centre, Gift Shop, and Plant Sales are Open

The Botanic Kitchen Cafe is open for indoor dining as well as takeaways from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

Visitors and Members are welcome every day from 10.00am with last admission at 4.00pm.



NBG Photography Competition 2021

The Ness Botanic Gardens photography competition encourages everyone to explore the great outdoors and record how inspiring plants and gardens can be.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Creative Workshops

We offer a range of creative courses at Ness. Why not join us to learn a new skill, develop existing knowledge or simply try something different.

[Click here](#) for more details.



School Visits at Ness Botanic Gardens

Since the inception of Ness Gardens in 1898, each iteration of its guardians has sought to educate and inform the next generation of budding horticulturalists. Today is no different, we welcome a variety of Early Years and Primary aged pupils to sample a cornucopia of botanical wonders. [Click here](#) for more information.



In the Garden

with Flori Bunda



Enjoy the Beauty of the Garden

The garden had an explosion of colour recently with daffodils, muscari and bluebells. Tulips followed on. Lady Macon (camellia) was so late to flower, but to date still has a few blooms. The new dahlia (El Paso) is growing on well and several cuttings are flourishing.

The holly bush, totally out of control, has now been drastically 'pruned' giving more light to the shrubbery. There is a blue fir tree in the same area and we had tenants in the bird box. It was a family of great tits.

The greenhouse was full of seedlings, most of which are now



'hardening off' in various parts of the garden offering shade and shelter if necessary.

A summer jasmine growing up the garage wall had to be cut down. A rose (Absent Friends) has now taken its place.

The sweet peas grew into healthy plants and are now planted out.

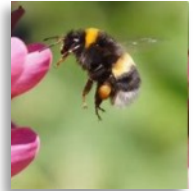
The sweet peas varieties include Royal Hospital, Chatsworth and Heaven Scent and the rest are unnamed mixtures.

In the present climate it is doubtful whether the flower shows will be held.

Ground elder is very unwelcome, but with the ground being wet, recently it is easily pulled out by the roots.

The rhododendrons are lovely – red, dark pint and almost maroon are flourishing as the rain came just in time. They were suffering in the dry conditions.

Many bumble bees are seen and heard in the garden. Jenny Wren is often heard, and Robbie Robin is very tame. Mr and Mrs Bullfinch have deserted our feeders, but there are plenty of green goldfinches.



Tasks to be getting on with ...

- Water pots and containers if they become dry
- Spring flowering shrubs can be pruned after flowering
- Wash out pots and trays prior to storage

Most importantly, enjoy your gardens.

Flori Bunda

BURTON MERE WETLANDS

A Big Wild Summer Ahead

Summer cannot arrive soon enough for us all here. After some erratic Spring weather, we had the coldest April on record followed by the wettest May. It's not only been frustrating for people wanting to spend more time outdoors as we emerged from the latest lockdown, but challenging for birds and other wildlife hoping to have a successful breeding season.

As lockdown restrictions continued to gradually relax through spring, we have reopened more of our facilities, to the point of having our three hides open since Monday 17 May. This includes the wonderful new Border hide, built to replace Inner Marsh Farm hide which was retired last year after 28 years' service. We're already getting glowing feedback from visitors about how they're enjoying the improved views and space at Border hide.

The visitor centre remains closed until the final step of the roadmap out of lockdown in June, however visitors may enter to browse and order our range of bird food, feeders, binoculars and scopes, although much of this can be done outdoors if preferred. We'd love to help you attract more wildlife to your garden, or get you kitted out to get even closer to wildlife on the reserve by choosing the right optics for you; have a friendly, no-obligation chat with the team here, and if you do buy from us, you're supporting more conservation work at your local reserve.

Speaking of wildlife on the reserve, it's been an exciting couple of months. The bluebells in Gorse Covert were stunning as ever and drew plenty of people back for their first visit since the latest lockdown. .



Bluebells at Burton Mere



Choose the Right Optics



Marsh Harrier



Bittern



Spoonbill



Whinchat

However, the birds stole the show, with as well as our abundant waders, ducks and egrets, a pair of marsh harriers establishing a nest in the reedbed again – something which happened for the first time last year, but the reserve was closed during the first lockdown – with excellent views of courtship and food-passes from Marsh Covert hide.

Also in the reedbed, the appearance of a male bittern in mid-March was a novelty for the time of year, even performing the distinctive “booming” mating-call, and is still present two months later, though the presence of a nest is so far difficult to confirm. We are watching with great anticipation to see if we have another new breeding bird at Burton Mere Wetlands.

A handful of spoonbills returned in April, though spending the majority of their time at Parkgate, and do not seem to be making any attempts to nest. We had an excellent Spring migration for spotted redshanks and whinchats. Even more exciting, from a birdwatcher’s perspective, was the week we experienced three rarities, with the common crane, Bonaparte’s gull and the glossy ibis all being seen in mid-May!

Looking ahead to June and July, we hope to return to near-normality, including trying to get some events going again. We’ve had our family quiz trails running since last month, but the summer months will play host to the national RSPB campaign of Big Wild Summer, with lots of fun and engaging activities for our family audiences to get involved with at our reserves from June to August.

For full details and news, check our website blog at rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands and you can follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or call us on 0151 353 2720

Burton Village Gardens



National Garden Scheme

Gardens open for charity

Sunday 27 June, 11.00am to 5.00pm

Gardens open:

Briarfield - The Rake

Burton Manor - Walled Garden

Trustwood - Vicarage Lane

Tickets can be pre-booked but it is not essential and you can just turn up and pay on the day. [Click here](#) to pre-book

Refreshments

Home-made teas will be served in the Sports and Social Club behind the Gladstone Village Hall. Drinks and biscuits will be available in Burton Manor Glasshouse.

Refreshments in aid of

Claire House Children's Hospice



Admission

Adult Ticket £5.00

Child Ticket Free

Neston Library

You can now visit the library to borrow books and for pre-booked computer access. Social distancing guidelines are in place and face coverings should be worn unless exempt. Our order and collect service is still available.

Holds have now resumed and usual loan periods and charges resumed on 17 May. Libraries are now fine-free for children aged 0 to 12 years so they will no longer be charged for any overdue items.

email: libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone: 0151 337 4670

Opening Hours

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm

Tuesday: 2pm to 6pm

Wednesday -Saturday: 10am to 1pm



Community Collect

You can also pick up free Covid-19 home testing kits for those without symptoms For further information please [click here](#).

Reading Friends Befriending Service

The Library team at Chester Storyhouse is launching a new 'Reading Friends' service as part of The Reading Agency's befriending programme for Cheshire West and Chester. We are all in need of a bit of extra support just now, so if you would like some reading recommendations, help with choosing books or just a bookish chat, we're here to help.

Just contact us with your name and phone number, tell us the last three books you read and enjoyed and a preferred day and time, and our friendly library staff will give you a call. Contact the library on 01244 409113 (Option 2) or email: library@storyhouse.com

Young Readers - Storyhouse

Tuesday 5pm to 6pm via Zoom

Young Readers is here for 2021! Are you aged 14-25 and love to read? Join Young Readers, a new book club for young adults. Here we will chat about all things book-related and work with the Storyhouse Library team to curate the Young Adult section of the Library.

For more information www.storyhouse.com/post/blog/young-readers

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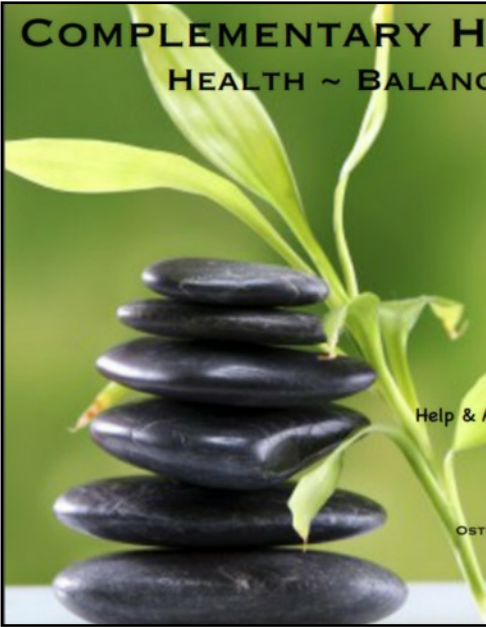
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Community & Society Information

Due to the Government's Covid-19 restriction most Societies are unable to hold meetings at the moment but when the restrictions are lifted eventually they are sure to want to offer interesting and informative programmes of events

THE BURTON SOCIETY

For information please contact Janey Griffiths 0151 336 3621

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For information please contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

BURTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Promoting & protecting the interest of Burton Village
Membership is open to all residents of Burton
An annual charge of £5 per household is payable from April
burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk

BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

For information please contact Robert Thrift on 0151 336 1771

BURTON WALKING GROUP

For information please contact Gilly Mansfield 0151 336 4297

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

For information please contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

For information please contact 0151 336 6154 or email, burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

LOCAL POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) LINDA CONWAY

You can contact Linda by emailing linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or by calling her
Police Mobile Number 07824 609048.

You can also reach Linda at: www.cheshire.police.uk/little-neston-and-burton

Facebook: Little Neston and Burton Police

Twitter: LilNestonBurPol In an emergency, dial 999.

For general enquires and non-urgent assistance, dial 101.

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Magazine Administrator - sue@suebirch.com***

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