



# The Parish Magazine & Community News

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

February & March 2021

WINTER EDITION

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Who you may need to contact ...*



<i>Vicar</i>	<i>Cathy Helm</i>	<i>07471 890 827</i>
<i>Lay Readers</i>	<i>Ruth Abbott</i>	<i>342 5032</i>
	<i>Basil Keys</i>	<i>936 1403</i>
	<i>John Morris-Best</i>	<i>327 7873</i>
	<i>Ann Rudd (Emeritus)</i>	<i>336 1513</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>Nigel Griffiths</i>	<i>336 3621</i>
	<i>Gian Abbott</i>	<i>342 5032</i>
<i>Deputy Wardens</i>	<i>Tony Carter</i>	<i>336 5446</i>
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>John Vinson</i>	<i>336 8350</i>
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	<i>Bryan Blakeman</i>	<i>336 7435</i>
<i>Gift Aid Secretary</i>	<i>John Miles</i>	<i>336 4972</i>
<i>Verger Duties</i>	<i>Ann Warr - Services</i>	<i>336 2747</i>
	<i>Judy Redmond - Open &amp; Close</i>	<i>336 3643</i>
	<i>Sue Church - Housekeeping</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
<i>Friends of St Nicholas</i>	<i>Robin Cowan - Chairman</i>	<i>306 4587</i>
	<i>Gill &amp; John Miles - Admin</i>	<i>336 4972</i>
<i>Music &amp; Singers</i>	<i>Alison Carter</i>	<i>336 5446</i>
<i>Mothers' Union</i>	<i>Ann Rudd</i>	<i>336 1513</i>
<i>Junior Church</i>	<i>Amanda Ankers</i>	<i>336 3998</i>
<i>Flower Arranging</i>	<i>Sue Church</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
<i>Lay Synod Chairman</i>	<i>Basil Keys</i>	<i>936 1403</i>
<i>Bell Tower Captain</i>	<i>Jane Davies</i>	<i>353 0074</i>
<i>Parish Magazine</i>	<i>Sue Birch - Administrator</i>	<i>271 4278</i>
<i>Administration</i>	<i>email - burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com</i>	



*Snow at First Light in the Ancient  
Churchyard of St Nicholas' Church*

**A FEELING FOR SNOW**

Seemingly dancing  
on blank snow,  
flecks illuminate light  
generating warmth  
in the hearth  
of one's life stone  
where fiery coal burns  
internally  
mined by a harbinger  
holding the breath  
of one's own body and soul-  
riding on currents of  
rebirth, in winter  
*(Adryan Barnathan)*



For more poems click [here](#)

Rev Cathy Helm

## *The Vicar Writes . . .*



### *Prayer*

There's a story of the man who whilst out walking in the hills fell over a steep cliff and managed to grasp hold of a small tree which saved him from falling to the rocks below. He began to shout for help and after some time he heard a voice calling his name. "Who is it?" cried the man. "It's the Lord." the voice replied. "Thank goodness for that." he said and cried out "Help me Lord, if you get me down safely, I'll stop sinning and serve you for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises." said the Lord. "Let's get you down safely and then we'll talk."

"Anything." the man cried in desperation. "OK", said the Lord "let go of the tree. Trust me and let go."

There was silence and then the man shouted "Help! Help! Is anyone else there?"

Do we always want our prayers answered? What if like the man in the story, we feel the answer is asking too much of us? Many people pray, often in times of crisis asking for help. But what if we ourselves are part of the answer to that question? Is that why sometimes we don't pray?

We may pray for peace in the world; what if the peace needs to start with us in our own homes or workplace?

We pray for the lonely; what if our phone call means that someone feels valued and cared for?

We pray for the homeless; what if our volunteering at the foodbank or donating food or knitting squares for blankets is what is needed?

We pray for the environmental impact of so much waste; what if the answer is reviewing our own spending habits, use of energy or supporting Fairtrade?

Perhaps that's why we find prayer so difficult, not because we don't believe God will hear us, but because we're worried He might expect something of us.

When we pray the Lord's prayer, we are committing ourselves to His will and not our own, to forgive others as we are forgiven and to be honest about what tempts us to doubt in God's love or provision.

What we usually pray to God is not that 'His will be done' but that He approves ours!

When we pray it's not so much for God's benefit, it's for our own. We are opening our hearts and minds to allow God to remind us of His goodness, His faithfulness, His provision. We are bringing before Him the needs of the world and in doing so, opening ourselves to being part of the answer.



We are also putting ourselves in that place to receive His comfort, His peace and His mercy. Most of all, when we pray we are putting our trust in Him and not in ourselves. He doesn't want to make life harder for us, He just wants to help us through the hard times we face.

*'Prayer is the place where burdens change shoulders.'*

**A prayer of David:**

Psalm 139: 23-24

*'Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.'*

*Cathy*

## A Prayer for Each Morning

Go with confidence into the day ahead, trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

God will not abandon you, you are the work of His hands - His own creation - and His love endures forever. So go in joy to love and serve the Lord. Amen

***If you're not in the habit of praying, it might just be the time to have a go!***

*We're still in the middle of an ongoing pandemic and for many the stresses and strains of trying to cope can create great difficulty. In times of trouble many people, both believers and some non-believers, turn to prayer. A recent survey said that almost half of all adults in the UK pray. And, even amongst those who say they are not religious, one in five say that they still pray.*

*Prayer is a common practice in which millions participate because it not only makes us feel better but because it can also make a difference. Christians pray not only because it brings peace of mind but because we believe that, in ways beyond our capacity to understand or predict, our prayers along with our knowledge, our actions and our compassion and care for others, all play a part in moving our society and our world in a direction which is good.*

*Our ongoing brush with Covid-19 leaves us all a bit scared. The confidence that we had that with determination we can beat anything is no longer quite as robust as it was.*

*If prayer is a sign of humility, an indication that we can't cope on our own and that we need help, then you would have thought we could all do with all the help we can get.*

***Why not have a go?***



***The new churchyard gates have now been installed.***

***Thanks once again to Robert Barlow from [Mitech Joinery](#) who generously offered the gates at no charge to the church but instead requested that the parish donate to a Covid-19 charity.***

***Thanks, too, to all those who donated to the cause which raised the magnificent sum of £3,726 for Wirral Foodbank.***





## CHURCH FINANCES

To all those who support  
the Church with their donations,

# Thank You !

As with most charities and churches, the last financial year has been a considerable challenge. The results for the year ended 31 December 2020 highlighted just how difficult it has been to make ends meet. It's been a year when church attendance has been curtailed by the Covid-19 restrictions, as were most fund-raising events. Overall, the difference between our total income and total expenditure was a deficit of circa £4,000.

Much of the church's costs are largely 'fixed costs' because they don't vary depending on church activity. These costs include ministry costs payable to Chester Diocese, some vicarage costs and council tax etc. Consequently our annual expenditure in 2020 remained in line with that of previous years.

However, St Nicholas' Church did experience a drop in donations as a result of people not being able to attend services where they would normally place money 'on the plate' or in *Gift Aid* envelopes.

Similarly, the church was also unable to run fund-raising events such as those usually organised by the *Friends of St Nicholas' Church*.

The reason why our church deficit was less than had been expected was because of the generosity of those church members who participate in the church's *Planned Giving Programme* as well as others who support the upkeep of the church building and its ancient churchyard through the *Friends of St Nicholas' Church*. This regular giving, typically a payment each month from your bank account, really makes a difference to our church finances. It helps to ensure that the church and its building remains active and a focal point of community life both now and for the generations to come.

During these difficult times St Nicholas' Church would like to thank all those who give most generously towards the work of the church and the upkeep of its building and churchyard.

If you attend church services and make a donation in cash, or even if you don't manage to get along too frequently but when you do you like to make a cash donation, *will you consider setting up a regular standing order help us balance the books?* A small donation of £20 a month would pay the electricity bill for about 22 weeks and £50 a month would cover the cost for a whole year. If you'd like to help us meet our costs just email

[burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com](mailto:burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com)

It's not easy to thank everyone individually but to all those who have continued to maintain their donations this past year,

# Thank You !

# LENT

Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter and is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and the last week of Lent is called Holy Week.



## When is Lent?

In 2021 Lent begins on Wednesday 17 February and ends on Thursday 1 April (Maundy Thursday). Easter is then from Friday 2 April (Good Friday) to Sunday 4 April (Easter Day).

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

## What is the story of Lent?

Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline

Each year during Lent St Nicholas' Church runs a course to enable people to reflect on aspects of their faith. This year I'm encouraging you to join in with the Church of England's Lent Course. It's easy to use at home in a booklet or daily email and for those who wish to, we can meet weekly via Zoom to share questions, reflections and insights.

Both the book and the accompanying daily reflections encourage us all to think about our calling, how to share our faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.

We are all witness to God's story. For some of us that will be over many years and for others it will be much more recent. While the current restrictions on daily life necessitated by the pandemic present significant challenges, the suffering and isolation many continue to face makes the need for us to share God's love with our communities greater than ever.

Rather than this just being a Lenten discipline, this year's [#LiveLent](#) is a joyful invitation to make sharing God's story a normal part of the Christian life, the natural overflow of a life lived in devotion to Christ.

## What are the key elements of the Lent 2021 resources?

From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April), there will be six reflections for each week, written by Stephen Hance, the Church of England's National Lead for Evangelism and Witness. Each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week. I have ordered 10 copies of the booklet at £2 each. Please let me know if you would like a copy or you can sign up to have the daily reflections sent to your email or app on your phone free of charge. You can find the link on the Church of England website Resources page. [#LiveLent 2021](#)

It would be great if as many of us as possible could engage with this event. Even though we will be in our own homes, through God's Holy Spirit we will be united in prayer and praise.

cathy



Hope & Vision for  
the Future

'Where  
there is  
no vision,  
there is  
no hope'

*Prayer:*

Lord, as we seek to rebuild  
hope and confidence in  
people's lives in the wake  
of the global pandemic,  
we pray for your vision for  
a better future ahead.



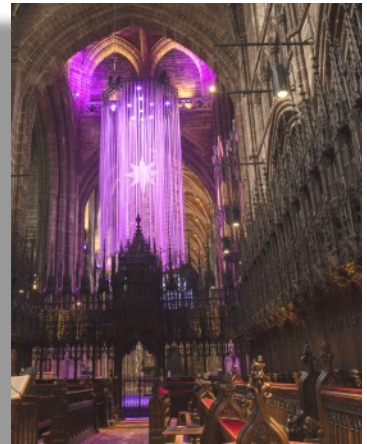
A magnificent art installation called 'Starry Starry Night' by Peter Walker was recently commissioned by Chester Cathedral and put on display during December and January.

It was designed as a stunning visual interpretation of the Star of Bethlehem. It depicts a constellation of stars that are individually suspended from hundreds of gold and silver ribbons.

The effect was both beautiful and very moving.

Starry Starry Night symbolises the night sky with the one star, the star of Bethlehem, suspended in the centre of the installation as a symbol of hope and light for all to see. The central star is between hundreds of others, creating a constellation of much smaller stars around it.

The last twelve months have been difficult for all of us. Here, amid the stars, there is one special star, a star of hope and wonder, a star to inspire us to hope and to journey in faith through 2021.



The logo features the words "christian aid" in white lowercase letters on a red arrow-shaped background pointing to the right.

Your last chance to pick up a really useful

# Recipe Book

Helping Our

A 24 PAGE  
ILLUSTRATED  
RECIPE BOOK



## Favourite Lunches And Munches



During December there was a display at the back of church to raise funds for Christian Aid. On show were small, knitted angels and a 24-page illustrated recipe book produced by the Neston and District Christian Aid Committee. The book contains favourite recipes, both sweet and savoury, donated by committee members.

Thank you for all the generous charitable donations. We collected £130 which will be used to help the poorest people round the world to improve their lives.

The recipe books are titled 'Favourite Lunches and Munches'. I have found the recipes to be very useful and tasty. I have the few copies that are left here at Church Cottage.

If you would like one, I'd be happy to deliver a copy to you - the only request being that you make a donation to Christian Aid of whatever you feel appropriate.

Just phone me on 336 3621.

Janey Griffiths

*For more information about Christian Aid Click Here*







## **WE CAN'T SEE AROUND CORNERS!**

We don't know what the year will bring. At the start of 2020, we had no idea what lay ahead! It is as if everything that is going to happen is around the corner and we can't see around corners! Just like last year, the coming year is bound to have some surprises. Things will happen that we can do nothing about, and we will have to face them as best we can.



We continue to be incredibly well supported by our school families who have been very understanding of the circumstances that schools are in.

Christmas, as for everyone, was a different experience but we were determined to make sure the children had a good time in school. Rev Helm, the children and staff put together a carol and nativity service which we 'Zoomed' out to parents and friends - it really was lovely to have lots of families watching it at the same time (obviously not as good as being together in one room!). The children also had a 'Christmas Day' in school full of fun, games, carols and Christmas Dinner! The term was finished with a pantomime!

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*'Dear God, as we look forward to the year to come,  
We ask that you will give us strength to face with courage  
the things that we can't change,  
And for determination to change the things that we can.'*

***Amen***

---

Helen Friend

**EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER**

# The Language of Trees

In ancient times, trees had an important place in Celtic Spirituality. They were revered for providing shelter, protection, tools, weapons, food, and fuel. It was thought that each tree had its own special energy, and that that energy could be related to the lunar and solar cycles throughout the year.

Huge and mighty trees were held in reverence, and ancient oak groves were considered immensely significant and often central to spiritual worship.

To quote GM Thompson:

"the rich variety of trees and shrubs holds the key to a wealth of inspiration from the natural world, and every part of the tree, even its bark, expresses its spiritual strengths and qualities."

Each tree had its own personal characteristics and attendant myths:

The Birch was associated with cleansing and purification. Bunches of its twigs were bound into brooms used to sweep away negative thoughts and make new beginnings. Patience and determination were also qualities associated with Birch trees.

The Oak was the most revered of all the trees for its size and longevity, and also because it was thought to bestow great power and breadth of vision, along with strength, confidence, determination and courage. Groves of oak were significantly revered as holy places of worship.

The Yew, a tree which can grow to a very great age, has long been associated with death and regeneration. Found in many ancient church yards, it reflects the Celtic idea of wisdom, connections to the past and possibly, previous existences.

Many such Celtic thoughts and practices were absorbed into early Christian thoughts and worship.

The evergreen Pine was brought into the house in Winter. It introduced energy, growth and vitality to the home during the dark days of winter and was associated with powers of purification.

We may not worship trees in the same way as our ancestors, but they are a precious commodity and essential for the health and well-being of our planet.

Courtesy: Friends of Burton Manor Gardens and for more information [Click Here](#)



The gardens have proved a great attraction to people fulfilling their daily dose of walking during the various lockdowns. Without a disposal service, we had to remove the waste-bins which were rapidly filled up, and we're grateful to our strollers for taking their rubbish home with them and keeping the gardens looking spick and span.

Meanwhile work on improvements continues. The roof, gutters and windows of 'The Library', which houses our Offices, Archive and Visitor

Centre, have been repaired and the building has been decorated inside and out. In October we moved into our smart new bookshop in the Visitor Centre and sales boomed for a while until we reluctantly had to close it again during the second lockdown.

Planting has already begun in the walled garden for the new season.

On the other side of the lane the sunken garden looks in fine fettle with its new edgings round the



terrace and the path alongside the fields and the rock walk to the icehouse are looking excellent, although the icehouse has had to remain closed for safety reasons.

Elsewhere in the grounds, work on the construction of the new houses continues apace. Newton House, built in the sixties on the site of the former stables which were damaged by fire, has now been demolished and two new properties in the style of the old stables are rapidly taking shape.

If you would like to become a Friend of Burton Manor Gardens please contact us by telephone, email or by visiting our website

[friendsofburtonmanorgardens.btck.co.uk/](http://friendsofburtonmanorgardens.btck.co.uk/)





# Tales from the Wirral Foodbank

Loyal readers will remember that our mantra is that stuff keeps on changing. It's a new year and new stuff.

What remains the same is that those in need are getting food. And, via the Citizens Advice Bureau and other agencies, advice, and assistance to get back on their feet.

Food and money donations have been holding up (thank you all) and the Trustees have continued to make contingency plans for changes in the Covid support programmes.

The Wirral Council has re-activated the emergency food hub that it set up in 2020. That's in response to the lockdown and higher rate of infection seen in the new year.

As in 2020, the Foodbank is supplying both food and volunteers to the hub and has closed its own distribution centres. Those in need can have food delivered to them by contacting the council's one-stop shops online or by phone.

The majority of food vouchers issued in 2020 were from the one-stop shop's phone line, so this is one thing that's not changing.

The West Cheshire Foodbank is also active and running distribution centres as normal.

*As always, many thanks for your support.*

WIRRAL FOODBANK  
**EMERGENCY FOOD  
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE  
IN CRISIS**



**EVERY  
DONATION  
MAKES A  
DIFFERENCE.**



*Pictures - Wirral Foodbank*

**VOLUNTEER & DONATE**

**DONATE MONEY**

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

[wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://wirral.foodbank.org.uk)



*If you like what you see ...*

*If you received your copy of the Parish Magazine & Community News from a friend or neighbour and would like to be included on our mailing list for future editions, please email us at:*

*[burtonchurchcoms@btinternet.com](mailto:burtonchurchcoms@btinternet.com)*

*Burton & Puddington*

*Gladstone Village Hall*



*What would you like to see at  
Gladstone Village Hall?*



**LIVE PERFORMANCES**

**SOCIAL AT THE BAR - OPEN MIC NIGHTS**

**ART GROUP - DANCE TUITION - LUNCH CLUB**

**KIDS ACTIVITIES - DOGGIE CLASSES**

We're looking ahead to a more social future  
and making plans.

Whether it's a new class or an event from the past you'd like bringing  
back, please help shape our community offering by sending your  
ideas to [info@gladstonevillagehall.org](mailto:info@gladstonevillagehall.org)





# Keep on Keeping in Touch!

As friends who normally meet fairly regularly over lunch, the Hardy Perennials haven't been able to get together as a group at Pollards Inn since last March.

For many, this lack of contact during the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to 'stay safe', has undoubtedly been extremely difficult. Nevertheless, individually we have been able to keep in contact with one another, largely by telephone.

So while matters remain difficult we will try to stay in touch with as many people as possible who normally meet as 'Hardy Perennials'. Stay well and stay safe!

*Linda & Viv*

336 5017 or 336 7435



*Cancelled!*

**STAY  
HOME**

**PROTECT  
THE NHS**

**SAVE  
LIVES**

# *From the Parish Registers*

Funeral

31 December

- James McAllister

20 January

- Paul Dod

5 February

- Mariel Mickle

## Church Services

Sadly, the decision has been taken not to hold services in Church at present.

Services and sermons from Cathy can be found [here](#).

If you wish to join in with people around the country in prayer and praise, the Church of England has a [Daily Prayer](#) and the Royal School of Church Music has a [Daily Hymn](#).

## Thank You

Thank you to all who donated to the Charles Thompson 12 Days of Christmas. We were able to take a big car boot full of food over to the Mission.

# Winter at Ness Gardens

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

## Read Tim Baxter's guide to some of his favourite sights in winter around the Gardens

Winters are not normally associated with business in the garden. Although the main season of weeding is gone, it's the great time of year to see the bare bones of the garden, and to plan and prepare for the coming season.

In many ways, from autumn until the start of spring is the busiest time of year – strimming, felling and making room, and most importantly planting. No gardener worth their salt would find winter a dull time either. A well-designed garden should have something to see all year round, be it bulbs, herbaceous, shrubs or trees.

Similarly, a good veg garden should have a few winter goodies in it too. Winter can be a colourful time in the garden, and many a dark winter's day can be brightened with flowering shrubs. One of the most attractive is *Daphne bholu* 'Jacqueline Postil' (Pine Wood, Rock

Garden), an evergreen shrub with beautiful pink-purple flowers and rightly highly sought after and near impossible to propagate.

Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*) are large shrubs with yellow, orange or red flowers and good autumn colour. Many are

hybrids of *H. japonica* and *H. mollis* (*H. x intermedia*) and Ness has some good examples of these including 'Jelena' (Yellow, various locations) and 'Arnold's Promise' (deep orange, Water Garden). Many of these shrubs have sweetly scented flowers to attract pollinating overwintering insects such as queen bees that emerge on warm winters days. Many have rather insignificant looking flowers but are highly scented and tough.



*Hamamelis x intermedia*



# Winter at Ness Gardens

The flowers of Winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*, near the potting sheds), can survive being frozen solid! By contrast are the Mahonias, many of which flower over winter. Big, bold evergreen foliage and large yellow flowers, these provide an invaluable source of nectar for insects. The commonest is *Mx intermedia* 'Charity'



*Mahonia mayerifolius*

(Pine Wood, Terraces). Sweet box (*Sarcococca* spp. including *S. confusa* and *S. hookeriana*) is an evergreen suckering shrub found in several places in the Gardens including the entrance slope, and the scent from its flowers can fill a room as a cut flower. Winter Jasmine, with yellow flowers (*Jasminum nudiflorum*, Terraces), is always reliable up against a sunny wall.

Many *Viburnum* flower over winter months. The most useful is *V. tinus*, an evergreen with white or flush-pink flowers that makes an excellent hedge. *Vx bodnantense* is a fragrant deciduous shrub with many excellent cultivars, probably the best is 'Dawn' (back of herbaceous border), with attractive white flush pink flowers. For something different, the semi-hardy *Coronilla valentina* subsp. *glauca* (Med Bank) is a small member of the pea family with pale yellow flowers and grey foliage.

Ness has many superb plants with attractive barks and stems. *Cornus* 'Midwinter Fire' (Azalea collection) is a personal favourite. The significant Birch collection is also excellent and personal favourites include the shining bark of *B. cylindrostachya* (Azalea Walk) and *B. utilis* subsp. *utilis* from Nyima La, Tibet (Flint View) with stunning dark red bark.

# Winter at Ness Gardens

Many woodland perennials benefit from the leafless trees by flowering over winter. Two of the most popular include Christmas Rose (Helleborus) and Winter Aconites (Eranthis). Hellebores are a group of 20 species found in Europe and western Asia. Most of us grow one of the many cultivars of *H. x hybridus* of all



Winter Aconites (Eranthis).

number flower around Christmas and New Year, with festive names such as *Galanthus* 'Three Ships' (Specimen Lawn).

shapes and colour, and there are a number located throughout the gardens, especially in the Pine Wood. Winter Aconites are a group of eight species from across Eurasia with yellow or white flowers. *E. hyemalis* is the commonest encountered and there are drifts along the Rhododendron border.

Bulbs are a great way to brighten winter and none is better than the snowdrop. Although mostly associated with early Spring, quite a

## Woodland Snowdrops In Early Spring



# BURTON MERE WETLANDS

## Local Lockdown Exercise & Turning to Nature for Respite

We welcomed in 2021 with frosty mornings and glorious sunsets, but also the introduction of a third national lockdown. Differing to the initial lockdown we're able to keep the reserve open for locals to stretch their legs and find some solace in nature during these challenging times.

Familiar faces from the visitor team are around on the reserve, completing essential safety checks and jobs. Most of our facilities, including hides remain closed, but the extensive trails are open with some wonderful wildlife seen and heard whilst walking, especially woodland birds such as bullfinches and long-tailed tits.

Although our lives are different at the moment, nature continues to move forward unchecked and with Government guidance permitting, the wardens have been busy at work preparing for the spring and all the wading birds that will be returning to breed. They've been cutting back vegetation on the reserve's wet grassland habitat to make the perfect home for the waders to nest, with our iconic avocets expected back from mid-February.

With the arrival of Spring we say goodbye to winter residents on the reserve. Ducks are looking smart coming out of eclipse plumage and pairing up before migration, whilst the familiar sound of pink-footed geese flying over to and from the nearby salt marsh will peak in March as they gather from further south to move back to their Arctic breeding grounds in Iceland and beyond.



*Trails Remain Open*



*Bullfinch*



*Pink Footed Goose*

*Pictures Courtesy of RSPB*





*Hen Harrier*



*Inner Marsh Farm Hide*



*A National Event*



*The Salt Marsh*

We've been treated to some wonderful sightings of the rare hen harriers this winter on the reserve, especially the ghostly grey male. They will also be shortly migrating a shorter distance back to UK moorlands for the summer. The last few months have been exciting with the completion of our new hide. Appropriately named Border Hide, with its proximity to the English and Welsh border, it provides wonderful views over Centenary Pool and the previously more difficult to observe Border Pool, which lies just into Wales. Although it's ready to go, it's something to look forward to in the coming months when hopefully restrictions will ease once again and we can re-open our hides.

Welcoming Border Hide has also meant saying goodbye to our oldest hide on the reserve. As part of the Inner Marsh Farm project we've installed a second predator exclusion fence to provide more vital protection for breeding wading birds of conservation concern. The fence passes through the location of the Inner Marsh Farm Hide so it was a fitting time to say farewell.

For those who can't get to the reserve, the biggest event of the RSPB year is approaching at the very end of January, in the comfort and safety of your own home. The Big Garden Birdwatch is a national event which encourages everyone to take an hour out of their day, this year between 29–31 January, and fill in our survey reporting what birds you see in your garden. Not only is this a great way to connect with nature, but it's citizen science at its best and supports our conservation work across the UK. A pack can be posted out or completed digitally; have a look on [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch) for more details.

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

# In the Garden

with Flori Bunda



## Winter Wonderland - and Icy Garden Paths!

First thing in the morning in the icy weather, the garden looked magical.

However, the garden lacks a certain amount of colour. The purple and white hebe still flowers, but the hydrangea heads are now brown.

They will be cut back once danger of frost ceases.

A new rose, namely

Tottering-by- Gently, was a gift and planted in the rear garden. (I am not represented by that name!).



Needless to say, the holly bush was stripped of all berries by the birds.

The white camellia once again was first to bloom (only one at the moment).

Felice Harris and Lady Macon and an unnamed variety have masses of buds and have been covered over by net curtains and look quite eerie in the darkness.

Usually clumps of *Galanthus nivalis* are visible from the kitchen window. Not so at the time of writing. However, a small clump was spotted, their small white dots clearly visible.

The spring flowering bulbs are already showing and all their blooms eagerly awaited.

The *Buddleia davidii* (butterfly bush) will be pruned hard back in February.

When in bloom, they are a haven for insects.

The geraniums (*Pelargoniums*) have survived the winter so far, as have several rosemary cuttings.

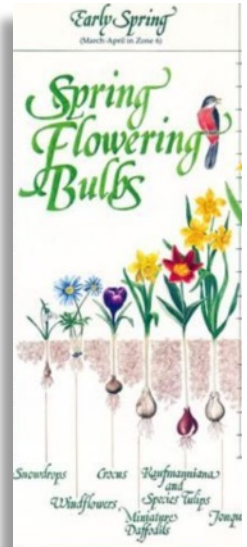
Many birds visit the garden, namely blackbirds, one fieldfare, pied wagtail, chaffinch, gold/greenfinches, blue, great, and long-tailed tits and Robbie Robin. Jenny Wren can be seen in the front garden.

## Tasks to be getting on with:

- Prune roses and buddleia
- Remove any fallen leaves and weeds
- Prepare seed trays and greenhouse

Enjoy the garden and stay safe.

*Flori Bunda*



# Time to make a difference in Burton Village



A Community Projects  
Volunteer Group

Nature has had a hard time due to human activity since the Industrial Revolution and the pace of habitat destruction has increased massively in the last century. It is arguable that the natural world has been pushed up to and possibly beyond the point where it can recover.

Arguably, it is the responsibility of us all to do what we can to slow down the pace of decline and give nature a helping hand. After all, if the ecosystem shifts too much further, then the future of all life on earth could be called into question. Locally, Burton has an important role to play in redressing the balance. The village is a valuable oasis in an increasingly over-developed region and there is so much more that can and should be done. We cannot solve all the problems of the world, but inaction is no longer an option.

Susan Samuel, a village resident has already made a start on improving village biodiversity. To support this initiative money has been raised through the popular pop-up shops in the Old Bus Stop in Burton. This has enabled several nest boxes and roosting pouches to be purchased and erected around Burton as well as in the grounds behind Gladstone Village Hall. In addition bird feeders and a bug hotel have been created. There are also plans to site hedgehog houses in the area in which hedgehogs will be able to hibernate as it is hoped that bat boxes will be installed and wildlife friendly



Nest Boxes



Bug Hotel

planting undertaken in future.

A very generous donation has been received from Gill Nicholson on behalf of Gordale Garden Centre to help provide a home for nature within Burton Village. To this end, 'We Love Burton' plan to meet with the RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands manager with a view to developing a biodiversity plan for Burton. Centred initially around Gladstone Village Hall it is hoped that

the initiative will be rolled out to the wider area as and when funds and volunteers allow.

The 'We Love Burton' group would be delighted to hear from like minded volunteers who would be willing to work together to make lasting changes and make Burton Village an even better place to live - not just for our human residents, but for the vital wildlife that surrounds us, which all too often we take for granted, or even persecute.

Please take the time to get involved in this worthwhile and valuable project.

For more information please contact organiser Susan Samuel on:

0794 115 4073, or by emailing [susanjsamuel@aol.com](mailto:susanjsamuel@aol.com) or by 'liking' the Facebook page 'WeloveBurton'.



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This is a scheme which aims to reduce the number of people speeding by involving the help of the local community.

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The aim is to try and alter drivers' attitudes and behaviour towards speeding.

For many years I have run Speedwatch sessions with some dedicated local residents. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these sessions were suspended as I felt it unwise to continue.

I have carried out a few speed monitoring sessions on my own but would like to see if we can manage some socially distanced ones if possible.

If any residents feel they would like to either observe or assist with a Speedwatch session, please contact me and I will provide further information.

Linda Conway  
PCSO 20410

Email [linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

Mobile 07824 609048







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Beginners and returners are all welcome and equipment can be provided



Contact Andrew Collin

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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](http://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 John Nuttall on 0151 336 7178

### **BURTON BRIDGE CLUB**

For information please contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

### **FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS**

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### **LOCAL POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) LINDA CONWAY**

You can contact Linda by emailing [linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/little-neston-and-burton)

Facebook: Little Neston and Burton Police

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