



My Village News

APRIL 2026

Delivered FREE to 10,000
homes and businesses

Hello and a warm welcome to the April my village news
 Our front cover photograph this month is from Cholmondeley
 Castle Gardens, we are so lucky to have these beautiful gardens on our
 doorsteps
 Another lovely day out could be a visit to Bunbury Mill
 Bickerton Car boot is 11th April 9-1pm and Bickerton Makers Market 12 April
 11 - 3pm
 Tushingam with Grindley School have a circus on Saturday May 2nd from 1
 pm
 Good News in Bunbury as Tilly's and Bunbury Hair, were both finalists at the
 Shop Local Awards 2025
 Forthcoming events include
 Farndon & District Brass band have a concert on Saturday 9th May more
 details on page 54
 Marbury Merry Days Saturday 9th May, and Sunday 10th May details on all
 inside.

See you when we are out and about
 Ann John Adam and our delivery teams

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS EARLY 8TH APRIL

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 Spurstow, Tallarn Green, Tattenhall, Tilston, Thrapwood, Tiverton, Tushingam.

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Disclaimer

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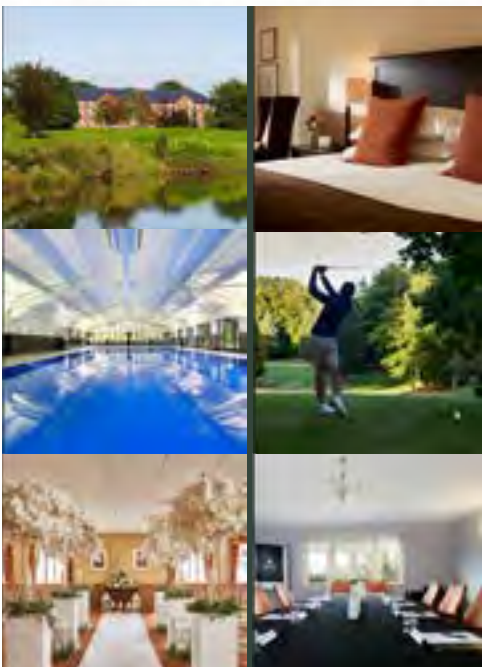
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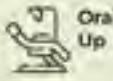


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Local Businesses Celebrate Success at Shop Local Awards 2025

Two Bunbury businesses, Tilly's Bunbury and Bunbury Hair, were recognised at the Shop Local Awards 2025, each making the final five in their respective categories

- Tilly's Bunbury was named a finalist in the Food & Drink Award 2025
- Bunbury Hair was shortlisted for Customer Service Award 2025 and went on to win on the night

The awards ceremony took place on Saturday 31st at Wychwood Park Golf & Country Hotel, celebrating independent businesses from across the region.



Tilly's Bunbury described being shortlisted as a proud moment for the business, thanking their team and the wider community for their support over the past 15 months. They highlighted the role of local customers in helping the business grow, describing the journey so far as one built very much with the village around them.

Bunbury Hair said they were delighted both to be nominated alongside other local businesses and to win the **Customer Service Award**, crediting their loyal clients and their team for the achievement during the salon's three-year journey.

A strong night for Bunbury, and a reminder that small businesses don't thrive on vibes alone. They thrive because people actually show up.

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Date	Return	Tour	Days	Hotel	Price	Single Supplement
Fri 13 Feb	Sun 15 Feb	Abba Voyage Greenwich & London	3	Novotel (Greenwich)	£399.50	£100.00
Sun 22 Feb	Thu 26 Feb	"Llandubbers" Mock Cruise	5	Tynedale (Llandudno)	£549.50	-
Fri 27 Mar	Mon 30 Mar	"Showtime" in Torbay	4	Derwent (Torquay)	£279.50	£90
Fri 10 Apr	Tue 14 Apr	Stunning Sidmouth	5	Royal York & Faulkner	£549.50	-
Fri 17 Apr	Tue 21 Apr	Springtime Splendours of the Lake District	5	Cumbria Grand (Grange-over-Sands)	£549.50	£85
Fri 24 Apr	Wed 29 Apr	Highlights of Holland - Bulbfields River Cruise	6	MS l'Europe	From £1349.50	TBA (enquiry)
Sat 2 May	Fri 8 May	Genus of Southern Ireland - Killarney	7	Brandon House (New Ross) Killarney Towers (Killarney)	£899.50	£195
Sat 9 May	Sat 16 May	Lake Annecy & The French Alps	8	Novotel Tignes (Reims) Saint Gervais Hotel & Spa	£1350.00	£195
Sun 17 May	Fri 22 May	Newquay - Spring into Cornwall	6	Esplanade (Newquay)	£749.50	£100.00
Sun 24 May	Thu 28 May	Wells - Delights of Somerset	5	The Swan Hotel (Wells)	£699.50	£100.00
Sun 31 May	Thu 4 Jun	Highlights of Kent "Call the Midwife to the Garden of England"	5	Bridgewood Manor (Chatham)	£669.50	£100.00
Sun 7 Jun	Fri 12 Jun	Edinburgh, Stirling & The Trossachs	6	Stirling Highland (Stirling)	£699.50	£150.00
Sun 14 Jun	Thu 18 Jun	All about Yorkshire!	5	Crowne Plaza (Harrogate)	£629.50	£150.00
Sun 21 Jun	Thu 25 Jun	"Geordie Land" & North East Top Attractions	5	Holiday Inn (Newcastle Jesmond)	£599.50	£140.00
Wed 1 Jul	Fri 10 Jul	Portugal Pleasures	10	Hotel Cristal (Vieira Praia)	£1909.50	£395.00
Fri 17 Jul	Wed 22 Jul	Sidmouth & The Jurassic Coast	6	Royal York & Faulkner (Sidmouth)	£719.50	-
Sat 25 Jul	Sat 1 Aug	Jersey	8	Durley Dean (Bournemouth) Norfolk Lodge (Jersey)	£995.00	£120.00
Mon 3 Aug	Fri 7 Aug	Summer Charms of England	5	Norton Park Hotel & Spa (Winchester)	£629.50	£140.00
Mon 10 Aug	Fri 14 Aug	Famous Palaces & Gardens	5	The Bull Hotel (Gerrards Cross)	£649.50	£140.00

Date	Return	Tour	Days	Hotel	Price	Single Supplement
Sat 15 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Isle of Wight	6	The Channel View (Shanklin)	£699.50	-
Fri 21 Aug	Tue 25 Aug	Kynren (Show) Newcastle & North East Coast	5	Holiday Inn (Newcastle Jesmond)	£599.50	£140.00
Mon 31 Aug	Sat 5 Sep	Tenby & South West Wales	6	Clarence House Hotel (Tenby)	£650.00	-
Sun 6 Sep	Sat 12 Sep	Ayrshire Coastal Delights Troon, Dumfries House, Isle of Arran or Bute	7	South Beach (Troon)	£799.50	£100.00
Sun 13 Sep	Sat 19 Sep	Ireland's Bantry Bay	7	Seven Oaks (Carrow outbound) Maritime Hotel (Bantry)	£899.50	£105.00
Sun 20 Sep	Thu 24 Sep	Delights of Devon	5	Langstone Cliff (Dawlish)	£699.50	£90.00
Fri 25 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	Isle of Man	6	Empress Hotel (Douglas)	£749.50	£75.00
Thu 1 Oct	Mon 5 Oct	Exmoor the Experience!	5	Yarn Market Hotel (Dunster)	£689.50	£80.00
Thu 8 Oct	Fri 18 Oct	Autumn in Austria	9	Fischerwirt Hotel (Acherkirch)	£1299.50	£100.00
Sun 18 Oct	Sat 24 Oct	Scottish Autumn Tints	7	Royal Hotel (Oban)	£699.50	£95.00
Wed 28 Oct	Sun 1 Nov	Historic Portsmouth & South Downs	5	The Langstone Hotel (Havling Island)	£649.50	£125.00
Thursford Christmas Spectacular						
Mon 9 Nov	Wed 11 Nov	Thursford - Norfolk	3	4* Wensum Valley	£389.50	£55.00
Thu 12 Nov	Sat 14 Nov	Thursford - Norfolk	3	4* Wensum Valley	£389.50	£55.00
Mon 16 Nov	Wed 18 Nov	Thursford - Norfolk	3	4* Wensum Valley	£389.50	£55.00
Thu 26 Nov	Sat 28 Nov	Thursford - Norfolk	3	4* Wensum Valley	£389.50	£55.00
Sat 12 Dec	Mon 14 Dec	Thursford - Norfolk	3	4* Wensum Valley	£389.50	£55.00
Festive Season Tours						
Sat 21 Nov	Wed 25 Nov	Llandudno "Holly & Mistletoe"	5	Tynedale Hotel (Llandudno)	£549.50	-
Mon 30 Nov	Fri 4 Dec	Palatial Christmas Crackers	5	Bridgewood Manor (Chatham)	£549.50	£90.00
Mon 7 Dec	Fri 11 Dec	Turkey & Tinsel at The Auckland	5	Auckland Hotel (Morecambe)	£489.50	£90.00
Fri 18 Dec	Sun 20 Dec	Christmas at the Royal Albert Hall	3	Holiday Inn (Heathrow)	£429.50	£75.00
Wed 23 Dec	Sun 27 Dec	Christmas on the Fyde Coast	5	Doric Hotel (Blackpool)	£715.00	£90.00
Wed 30 Dec	Sat 2 Jan	New Year in Torquay	4	Toorak Hotel (Torquay)	£524.50	£75.00

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Tax year-end checklist

It's not too late to take full advantage of the reliefs and allowances available to you before the end of this tax year on 5 April. Here's a checklist of the key opportunities to consider before the deadline.

Put as much money as you can into your ISAs – the allowance is still £20,000.

Check your spouse or partner has also maximised their own ISA allowance. That could mean as much as £40,000 invested tax efficiently.

Put up to £9,000 per child or grandchild into Junior ISAs. It's a great way to pass money to the next generation, tax efficiently. A parent or guardian will be required to set up the Junior ISA, but anyone can contribute to the investment.

If you're at the point in your life where you're increasing your pension contributions, consider whether you can pay in the full annual allowance. You may also be able to carry unused allowances over from the last three tax years. It's worth checking whether you used your full allowances each year, from 2022/23 onwards.

If you're coming up to retirement and thinking of making a large pension withdrawal, talk to your adviser about spreading the withdrawal over two or more tax years. This could help minimise your Income Tax liability.

Take advantage of your Capital Gains Tax (CGT) annual exempt amount. Your CGT annual exempt amount is £3,000.

If you're a high earner, you may be able to bring your taxable income down by putting more money into your pension or making charitable donations. These can:

- Extend the threshold above which you start to pay additional rate tax, which starts at £125,140.
- Help you preserve your Personal Allowance, which is gradually withdrawn once you earn over £100,000.
- Help you hold on to your Child Benefit, which is gradually withdrawn if one parent in the household earns more than £60,000.

Use this tax year as an opportunity to make use of your annual IHT exemption of £3,000. The annual IHT exemption can be carried forward for one tax year so if you didn't use it in 2024/25, you could gift up to £6,000 before 6 April 2026 and the amount gifted will leave your estate immediately and so won't be liable for Inheritance Tax.

If you own a business, consider taking dividend income instead of or in addition to salary. In this tax year the first £500 of dividend income is tax free and dividend income above the dividend allowance is taxed at lower income tax rates than salary. You may also be able to minimise National Insurance contributions (NICs) too. It is however important to note that dividends are payable out of post-corporation tax profits so professional advice will be essential to determine the best remuneration strategy to optimise tax-efficiency overall.

Undertake a tax health check to ensure that you're taking full advantage of your tax reliefs and allowances.

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TRUSTEES, TOLLS AND TURNPIKES**David Hayns**

After the Romans had left Britain during the fourth century some of the substantially built roads which they developed across the country continued in use, while others decayed due to lack of maintenance. Although in theory the upkeep of main roads later became a responsibility of the individual manors through which they passed, no further action really took place until the passing in 1555 of the great Elizabethan Highway Act. This Act shifted responsibility for roads maintenance from the manor to the parish or township authorities and obliged every parishioner to undertake four (later increased to six) days each year of labour on the roads, or to provide a substitute labourer.

From the late 17th century onwards responsibility for main roads was taken over in many cases by Turnpike Trusts. The early Trusts were operated by the local Justices of the Peace, hence were known as 'justice trusts'. Independence from the Justices, while they did retain some oversight for the trusts, came in 1706. The road across Hatton Heath between Milton Green and Rowton was turnpiked in 1705 by one of the earliest justice trusts in the whole country. This stretch of road later became part of the Chester to Whitchurch turnpike, which followed the 'Old Coach Road' through Barnhill until 1823, when a diversion was built following the present route of the A.41 via what is now Broxton roundabout. Evidence for the former route survives on an old sandstone milestone opposite Barnhill Farm, inscribed '1761 the halfway house from Chester to Whitchurch 10 miles each'. The basic principle of the turnpike system was that the trustees were empowered by Acts of Parliament to levy tolls on users of their roads, so that the money raised could be used to keep the road in good repair. The name 'turnpike' referred to a horizontal bar or 'pike' across each point of entry to the road, the bar being turned to allow access after payment of the toll. Later many of the bars were replaced by gates and the busier gates would be supervised by a tollgate keeper, who often lived in a purpose-built tollhouse adjacent to the gate. Many of the former tollhouses still survive, converted to private accommodation, and can often be identified by projecting bays on the front of the building, with windows giving views along the road so that approaching traffic would be easily visible to the keeper. A possible former tollhouse, serving the Marchwiel to Malpas turnpike, is Clare Cottage, in Church Street, Malpas, on the entry point to the former market town. A photograph survives of another tollhouse, built in the 19th century to serve the Chester to Whitchurch road, which once stood at the crossroads now replaced by a roundabout at Hampton Heath. The site of the former tollhouse, demolished in the 1930s, survives as a substantial grass verge alongside the main A.41, diagonally opposite the Indian restaurant.

Eventually seven turnpiked roads crossed the My Village News area. Besides the Chester/Whitchurch and Marchwiel/Malpas roads, the others were Chester/Nantwich (now the A.51), Tarporley/Whitchurch (now the A.49), Nantwich/Whitchurch (now the A.525), Farndon/Barnhill (part of the A.534), and Huntingdon/Worthenbury (now the B.5130). Just to the north of our area is the A.51 which formed part of the important route known as 'The Great Highway' from London to Parkgate, where passengers embarked for Ireland. On this road, just north of Bunbury, is the area still known as Highwayside. This road declined in importance after Thomas Telford had built what became the A.5 London to Holyhead road, started in 1815. A reminder of the former route is the milestone outside the 'Rising Sun' in Tarporley, indicating 9 miles to Nantwich and 172 miles to London.

The turnpike road from Four Lane Ends to Whitchurch, opened in 1830 and now part of the A.49, was formed by joining together a number of existing local parish roads with some entirely new stretches of turnpike. An example of a 'parish road' is the very twisty stretch from Ridley to Spurstow which is in stark contrast to the next stretch, the die-straight purpose-built 'turnpike' section from Spurstow to Bunbury Heath. A previous attempt in 1819 to establish a turnpike road from Runcorn to Tushingham failed to get Parliamentary assent, possibly because it was planned to cross Cholmondeley Park, something which was almost certainly opposed by Lord Cholmondeley.

Continued on page 74



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New Toptracer-Equipped Golf Driving range and Academy Facility Set to Open in Whitchurch This April

A brand-new golf practice and coaching destination, Ashbrook Golf Zone Driving Range, is set to open this April at Bradeley Green, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 4HE, conveniently located on the Tarporley Road (A49). The new facility promises to bring modern practice technology, expert coaching, and a welcoming community atmosphere to golfers of all ages and abilities across Shropshire and the surrounding counties.

Designed to provide a high-quality experience for both beginners and experienced players, the Ashbrook Golf Zone features a 16-bay floodlit driving range, allowing golfers to practice comfortably throughout the day and into the evening. The range is also equipped with Toptracer Range technology, the same ball-tracking system used on professional television golf broadcasts.

Toptracer technology allows golfers to track their shots in real time, measuring key data such as ball speed, distance, height, and accuracy. The system also offers interactive practice modes and virtual golf experiences, enabling players to compete with friends, play famous courses from around the world, or simply analyse and improve their swing with precise performance feedback.

Beyond the driving range, the venue will house a fully stocked golf retail shop, offering a curated selection of leading golf brands, apparel, and accessories. Golfers will also benefit from professional custom-fit services, ensuring their clubs are tailored precisely to their swing and playing style. In addition, the facility provides club repair services, helping players keep their equipment in optimal condition.

At the heart of the Ashbrook Golf Zone is its coaching programme, led by Robert Ashbrook, owner and PGA Advanced Professional, who brings more than 35 years of experience in golf coaching and player development. Throughout his career, Robert has worked closely with county and national golf development programmes, maintaining strong links with both county organisations and England Golf. Robert's PGA Advanced qualification represents one of the highest levels of professional coaching accreditation within the sport. This distinction reflects his extensive technical knowledge, advanced teaching methodology, and ability to adapt coaching techniques to suit golfers at every level of the game.

"Golf should be accessible, enjoyable, and rewarding for everyone," said Robert Ashbrook. "Ashbrook Golf Zone has been created as a place where complete beginners can feel comfortable picking up a club for the first time, while experienced golfers can access high-quality coaching, technology-driven practice, and professional equipment fitting to improve their performance."

The facility will offer structured coaching programmes for juniors and adults, including individual lessons, group sessions, and player development pathways. Dedicated space within the venue will also allow for junior academies, adult coaching clinics, social golf events, and community gatherings, helping to build a vibrant golfing community in the Whitchurch area.

Ashbrook Golf Zone has also been designed as a social and welcoming venue, with refreshments available on site, food and catering will be accommodated by the amazing facility at The Sheep Shed, with food available to order and be delivered to your golf bay. The facility's flexible event space will enable the hosting of corporate events, junior competitions, group coaching days, and social golf experiences, making it more than just a practice facility, but a hub for golf development and enjoyment. With its convenient location on the A49 between Whitchurch and Tarporley, the new venue is expected to attract golfers from across Shropshire, Cheshire, and North Wales, offering a modern and accessible practice destination in the region.

The opening of Ashbrook Golf Zone represents a significant investment in grassroots golf development locally, providing new opportunities for players of all ages to learn, practice, and enjoy the game.

Ashbrook Golf Zone Driving Range is scheduled to open in April 2026.

For further information about the facility, coaching programmes, or opening events, please contact:

Robert Ashbrook - Tel: 01948 805795

Ashbrook Golf Zone Driving Range Bradeley Green, Whitchurch, SY13 4HE (Tarporley Rd A49)



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PROTECT MALPAS has been started by villagers concerned about the number and size of sites identified for proposed housing developments on local green field sites without any supporting infrastructure being planned or built. Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) has not yet finalised a Local Plan to give guidance on housing numbers and on which sites borough housing development should take place - this is predicted to be completed in December 2026 and sent for approval in 2027, but further delay is feared. In the meantime, Government policy on housing development approval tilts towards developers. PROTECT MALPAS says landowners and developers are taking advantage of the delay in the local plan and preparing applications. Malpas already struggles to cope with the amount of new housing built in the past ten years.

PROTECT MALPAS was formed in reaction to the Diocese of Chester marketing 65 acres of agricultural land they own, adjacent to Wrexham Road and the Sports Club, to developers via agents Fisher German. CWAC has indicated that this land could support 514 new houses. The land includes Ox Heyes, a field of historic importance to Malpas crossed by footpaths and incorporating a line of trees along one footpath called the Twelve Apostles. The fields have been used by generations of Malpasians for walking and pleasure, and are much treasured green space. PROTECT MALPAS understands there are other housing development proposals elsewhere in Malpas which are in preparation.

Joanna Dakin, spokesperson for PROTECT MALPAS said: "St Oswald's has already hit national headlines and is subject to an independent review following disputes between the Rector and parishioners. Now the Diocese is considering bids from developers for this land. The bid deadline was in December. What a PR disaster - do the Diocese think this will result in more support for the church? The Diocese failed to engage with the community, congregation or Parish Council about the sale. A proposed housing development of 514 houses would almost double the size of Malpas putting strain on already stressed services and infrastructure. The proposed access route is via Church Street, a narrow road, notorious bottleneck and - due to parked cars making it single track - is often blocked. Our small village roads and High Street simply do not have the capacity for 1000 plus additional cars."

PROTECT MALPAS aims to work with the local MP, district and parish councillors, and an alliance of seven CWAC parish councils called the Green Belt Alliance who have all expressed concern about speculative and random housing development proposals. All are urging CWAC to update its register of brownfield sites, devote planning resources to urban regeneration and reject premature applications prior to the finalisation of a Local Plan.

They are urging local people to back the campaign, and lobby their local MP, councillors, Diocesan and church officers to voice their anger, concerns and objections. Further information can be found on the PROTECT MALPAS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/3299141186913539 or by emailing PROTECTMALPAS@gmail.com.



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FARNDON

Farndon Community Club Our website also has details of regular classes and other activities currently held including Art Classes, Pilates, Karate, StreetVibes, Dog Handling, and Walking Netball.

If you are looking for a venue, we have a large Main Hall with stage, plus a large studio. Both rooms are suitable for parties and other activities, and both are served by a bar and have access to the kitchen if required. They are available for private hire at very reasonable rates. So if you have a party or other celebration coming up, or you have an activity you'd like to promote, we'd love to hear from you. You can contact us via the website which has a booking request form, by email: contactfcc2024@gmail.com by phone on 07393 601292 or text/phone Hilary Williams on 07966 428673.

In addition, outside our floodlit Multi-Use Games Area has an all weather pitch suitable for 5-a-side football or football training plus a hard court equipped for netball or tennis. There is also a full size football pitch (changing rooms and showers available). If you would like to book any of these facilities this can be done via our website as above.'

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Crewe By Farndon Methodist Chapel hold Church 4 All family services every Sunday at 4pm.

The Butterflies toddler group meet Fridays 09.15 to 10.45am at Shocklach school.

Our Family Fun group meet at the Chapel Fridays 5pm to 6.30pm with crafts, ukelele music and refreshments, everyone welcome.

Please see our website for details

www.crewebyfarndonmethodistchapel.org or contact Roland Twydell on 01829 270116 for further details.

The Farndon Memorial Hall Spring Bingo Night Wednesday 8th April
Doors open at 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm £5 for 10 games and refreshments.
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Further information or to book tickets, contact Nicola 07895 490751 or email farndonmemorialhall@outlook.com.

Farndon Memorial Hall is run for the benefit of the village and is an important part of life in Farndon. The Hall is available to book by anybody, not just village residents, and is ideal for social gatherings,
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HOLT

Kenyon Hall Holt The Kenyon Hall is a traditional village hall and is an ideal venue for clubs, groups, exercise classes, children's and family parties to hold their events and activities.

For more information, please contact Dave.Kenyon.Hall@gmail.com

Holt Local History Society At our last meeting Jonathon Gammond of Wrexham's museum, who gave an entertaining fully illustrated account of the story of the museum building from its original purpose of militia depot to its imminent incarnation as 'The Museum of Two Halves'.

Jonathon's talk traced the history of the museum building from 1857, as it housed militia barracks, police station, law courts and an art school at different stages of its life.

Having survived proposals for demolition, it became the home of Wrexham County Borough Museum and Archives in 1996. The new design has faced the challenge of incorporating two museums in one. Supported by Lottery funding, conversion work has been ongoing since 2021 to incorporate a new gallery displaying the Welsh Football Collection. As Jonathon explained, Wrexham's significance for football has deep roots; the Football Association of Wales was founded in Wrexham in 1876. The football gallery will join other collections celebrating Wrexham heritage in its various forms to create, in a nod to the 'beautiful game', the Museum of Two Halves. The new museum is expected to open later this year.

Dates of next meetings:

Thursday, April 23, 7.30 pm (AGM at 7 pm) The Howard de Walden Family at Chirk Castle 1911-1946, a talk by Jill Burton
£15 annual membership. Visitors £5.

Talks: Community Hall, Chapel Street, Holt LI13 9DJ, Fourth Thursday in the Month. Contact for further information: briansue.payne@btinternet.com

TATTENHALL

Events at the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall.

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Monday 09.15 – 10.15 Queen Bee Fit with Urska Wall

18.00-19.00 Tai Chi with Prem Dunford

19.30-21.00 Iyengar Yoga with Julia Chandler

Tuesday 10.00-12.00 Drop-in Coffee Morning

10.00-12.00 U3A Discussion Group (alternate Tuesdays)

20.00-21.30 Tattenhall Singers

Wednesday 6.00-7.00 Yoga with Lynn Owen

Thursday 09.30-10.30 RAK Pilates with Rachel Kidd

14.00-15.30 Circle Dancing (last Thurs of the month)

14.00-16.00 TOFS (1st Thurs of the month)

West Cheshire Rural u3a The speaker at the West Cheshire Rural U3a monthly meeting on April 16th is Richard Westwood-Brookes. "My Life in the Auction Business" is a talk featuring amusing and surprising anecdotes from the speaker's experience as an expert of 30 years in the auction business specializing in autographs and historical documents.

Join us at the Barbour Institute Tattenhall from 2pm with the speaker slot starting at 2.30 pm. For more information on u3a membership contact our membership secretary at membershipwcu3a@gmail.com

Tattenhall Singers We are a friendly and diverse group of people who share one important thing in common....our love of singing! We meet once a week on Tuesday evening from 08.00-9.30pm at the Barbour Institute, Tattenhall. There is a fee of £5 per session. to read music is not necessary. The only entry qualification is that you 'enjoy a good warble'. We are always looking to welcome new members. Visit our Tattenhall Singers Facebook page, or alternatively email tattenhallsingers@gmail.com or 07710720850.

Circle Dancing We are a newish group of friendly dancers who meet the 4th Thursday afternoon of each month 2 – 3.30 pm. Circle dancing, as its name implies, means we dance holding hands in a circle to a wide variety of music. All dances are taught and newcomers are welcome. Circle dancing is great for your body, mind and spirit. Sessions are £10 and your first time is free Contact Helen Newton at soullife12@gmail.com if you'd like to give it a try.

TATTENHALL VILLAGE MARKET is now at the flacca sports club Tattenhall. We are open every Friday morning 10am till 12pm selling an array of products and lovely coffee in a beautiful setting .

THE TATTENHALL AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Probus Club of Tattenhall and District meets for lunch (normally followed by a speaker), at Gifford Lea, Tattenhall on the second Thursday each month. Although it is a luncheon club for retired PROfessional and BUSiness men, being a rural community members are also from other disciplines. Wives (Partners) are invited to other activities including a Coffee morning on the fourth Thursday and regular social gatherings, for example a Walking group, days out to places of interest. There are also Spring and Christmas special lunches in a different location also including Wives(Partners). We are seeking new members and if you would like to find out more please contact John Mann on 01829782286 or John.Mann100@gmail.

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Malpas Parish Council now meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Jubilee Hall. There will be an "Open Forum" where any parishioner can raise any issue. Also at least one Parish Councillor will be available for a surgery to meet any parishioner to discuss any local at The Old Fire Station, 3-4pm on the first Saturday of the month,

Malpas Bridge Club Wednesday evenings at the Jubilee Hall, Malpas from 6.15pm for a 6.45pm start. For further information please contact Bill

St Oswald's, Malpas

Sunday 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP service with no hymns)

11:00am Parish Communion service with hymns, and a sermon,

5:00pm Evening Prayer short BCP service no hymns or sermon

Wednesday 10:00am Holy Communion (traditional BCP service no hymns)

10:30am - 12:00pm Welcome Cafe

St John's, Thrapwood 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

9:30am Holy Communion (BCP with hymns and a sermon)

Holy Trinity, Bickerton **9:30am Parish Communion**

(service with hymns, a sermon, and refreshments afterwards)

Malpas Backgammon Group meets on Tuesday evenings at 7pm at The Lion at Malpas. All experience levels are welcome to join at any time. Tuition is provided to those who need or want it. For further information contact Graeme Campbell by email: geesea2@gmail.com

Play Bridge Learn, improve, and enjoy playing Chicago on Tuesday afternoon 1.30 to 4.00 with Whitchurch u3a Bar Gate Hall

Regular beginners courses

Contact John 07803 234005

Play competitive duplicate Bridge at Malpas Bridge club Jubilee Hall on Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 10 pm contact bill 07695 181208

One Achord Choir One Achord Choir have recently moved their weekly practices to The Lion at Malpas. We are a friendly, sociable group of ladies all sharing a love of singing. Why not come and join us? Practices are held 7:15 to 9:15pm on Tuesday evenings during school term time, performing several concerts and various other engagements throughout the year. Find out more or get in touch through our Facebook page, website oneachord.org or call Krista on 07522 882874

Malpas Amateur Gardeners. April 9th 2026.

Our speaker on April 9th is Simon Gulliver who is talking on 'Colour Through the Seasons' which is something we all try to achieve in our own gardens.

Simon was a Garden's Advisor with the National Trust, and has worked at Wisley and Birmingham Botanical Gardens. He has studied at Pershore and Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. So we are very honoured that he will be coming to Malpas.

We meet in our new venue, The Young Person's Centre behind the Fire Station at 7.00. Parking is available at the Allport Primary School just opposite the Fire Station, with entrance from that direction also.

Please avoid walking across the Fire Station car park, as the firemen are using it for practicing. All are welcome to our friendly club.

Malpas & Friends Chess Club continue to meet on Thursdays at The Lion in Malpas 6pm to 7pm. The chess element is completely free and open to all abilities and ages, although obviously, as it is a licensed premise, under 18s must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. There is a monthly club championship and there usually a theme to the other meetings, such as "How good is your chess?" "Tactical Exercises" etc.

Also Charles Higgle takes on all comers every four weeks in an online simultaneous match on the chess site "lichess".

There are three Malpas & Friends online team. For those who like to take things slow there is an online correspondence team on the "Gameknot" site. On the "lichess" site there is a Malpas & Friends side in the online 4NCL. They have won their opening games of the year 4-0 and 3.5-0.5 and are currently 3rd in the league. On Chess.com there is a rapid play Malpas & Friends team who have reached the last 16 of the World Chess League.

For further details on any of this contact Charles on 01948 860083, higglecharles@gmail.com or Charles Chessman Higgle on Facebook.

Malpas Flower Club Our Club has another busy month ahead. Our monthly demonstration will take place on Monday 20th April when we are delighted to welcome Vanessa Wellock from Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Her demonstration, titled "Let's talk about Vivienne" promises to be a fascinating and enjoyable afternoon. Please come along and join us for an afternoon of beautiful floral arrangements and friendly conversation, along with a lovely cup of tea. The event begins at 2pm in the Jubilee Hall, Malpas. Then, on Monday 27th April our Area will celebrate its 65th Blue Sapphire Anniversary. The celebrations will begin with a special demonstration by Nick Grounds held in the elegant surroundings of Tern Hill Hall.

See our facebook page for details or contact our Chairman, Janet Blake on 01948 860359

SHOCKLACH

Shocklach Gardening Group

Our next meeting is on Monday, 20 April when our speaker, Anne Harrison, will return with another of her superb talks, 'Planning a Pollinator Garden'. We are constantly reminded of the importance of attracting butterflies and other beneficial insects to our gardens, and I am sure that Anne, with her knowledge and teaching experience, will have lots of helpful advice for us. We meet for a 7:30 pm start in the Chorlton and Cuddington W.I Hall on Chorlton Lane, SY14 7EP and look forward to welcoming everyone there. Information: Wendy Gilpin 01829 250413

CODDINGTON, ALDERSEY & CLUTTON

Coddington and District Parish Council: Please visit our website for all items such as Agendas, Minutes, Council Governance, Councillor contact details and other Parish related matters. www.cheshireparishcouncils.co.uk

WHIST & BINGO at Coddington Parish Room

Whist Drive 4th & 18th April

Bingo 20th & 27th

WHITCHURCH

In St John's Whitchurch each Monday 12 to 4 meet to keep warm, chat with tea and toast soup if you like and tea /coffee and biscuits. All made very welcome come and join us for try if in Whitchurch

TILSTON

1st Tilston Guides invites girls aged 10-14 to join our Guides unit, where they'll explore, learn, and create amazing memories together. Are you ready for fun, friendship, and new experiences? Although based in Tilston we welcome girls from anywhere in the local area willing to travel into Tilston for our sessions on Monday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm during term time. We also do various trips and activities at other times. If your daughter is interested in joining or if you have any questions, please contact Claire and Sarah at tilstonguides@gmail.com

" Save the date !" The Tilston Garden Trail is back this year the weekend of June 20th & 21st.

Flowers and village gardens - a warm welcome and lots to see, with refreshments in the gardens. In aid of St Mary's Church "

ALDFORD

Aldford Village Hall is located in the charming village of Aldford on the Eaton Estate. The well equipped and well maintained Hall is available for one-off and regular bookings. Please email with enquiries to info@aldfordvillagehall.co.uk.

Bingo- Monday 13th April 19.30-21.30

Arts Alive Cinema Night- Friday 24th April: "The Choral". Doors open 19.00. £5 entry. Cash Bar.

Bingo- Monday 11th May 19.30-21.30

Aldford Bowls Club is situated in the scenic village of Aldford.

We are a friendly, non-league, social club where new members, of all ages, are always welcome.

From October to the end of March, we meet at 7pm on Tuesday evenings to play indoor carpet bowls in Aldford Village Hall.

If you've never played indoor bowls before why not give it a try, it's great fun.

We also play outdoors on our Crown Green from April to mid September.

Interested in joining us? For further information please contact Gordon Wright on 01829 770176 or Julie Binnersley on 07484882043.



Aldersey & Coddington WI meets on first Tuesday of the month at Coddington Village Hall. At our meeting on Tuesday 7th April Gill Adlington will be visiting the group to present "Painting for Everyone". We also gather the following Monday after our meeting at Bellis' Country Market at 10.0am for coffee and a chat. The next catch up will be Monday 13th April. For more information on joining our group please contact Linda Harrison 07990 774866.

Broxton and Bickerton WI: : Our meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month in the Bickerton Village Hall at 7.30 pm. On the 29th April we will hear about award winning Erlas Community Garden with Elly Griffiths and Jim the head gardener. Our Coffee Morning, is on the first Wednesday of the month at the Bickerton Poacher. We have two monthly Walking Groups and many other activities. Guests are very welcome. Check our website, broxtonbickertonwi.org.uk or phone Jenny Jones on 01829 847 220

Bunbury WI meets on the second Thursday of the month at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7:30pm. Our April Meeting will be a Social and Quiz and in May we will welcome Linda Barton and Richard Slater - 'use of defibrillator, CPR demonstration and basic first aid'. New members and visitors are warmly welcome. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781.

Chorlton & Cuddington WI. At our meeting in March we enjoyed a very entertaining talk by Nina Olsen who spoke about the challenges of sledging in Norway for charity with a small group of people and a team of huskies.

Our next meeting is at 2pm on Wednesday April 1st when the speakers will be talking about WW2 weddings and the Homeguard. It is in the WI hall on Chorlton Lane and guests are most welcome.

Eaton WI Regular groups such as Learning to Crochet; Art and a Lunch Group continue to prove successful. Eaton WI welcomes visitors to meetings: we meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30p.m. The full programme can be seen on the noticeboard in the Jessie Hughes Village Hall and on the Village noticeboard. Should you require any further information please contact Dianne Ouseley (President) on 01829 733639.



Farndon & District W.I. 2026 April

This month Farndon & District WI will be joined by NatWest. They will be giving us an up-to-date insight into the latest financial scams and frauds, and how to avoid them to keep ourselves and our money safe. There will of course be time for a chat, cake and a cuppa! We meet in Farndon Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Farndon on the last Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact Sarah Scott 01829 270692 or look at our website: <https://farndonwi.weebly.com/>

Holt WI We meet on the 2nd Tuesday every month at 7.30 in the Kenyon Hall on the Cross Holt.

Open evening on 14th April at 7.30pm. At Kenyon Hall Holt LL13 9YL. Sound of the Archers by Vanessa Nuttall a sound engineer and Foley artist on the BBC Radio show. Visitors welcome. Tickets £7. Contact Ann on 07931905587 or agbowdler@gmail.com

Huxley & Hargrave WI. .

Our members enjoyed a very interesting and informative talk about understanding and dealing with Scams .Our speaker explained and demonstrated to us how to use our mobile phones and I Pads to keep ourselves safe .

We are planning trips and events for the summer months at present . We meet from April to October at our summer venue . Hargrave Church Hall 7.30 pm Every second Wednesday in the month . Visitors always welcome . Contact Trish 07866262500 or Connie 01829781298

Marbury WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1.30 from October to March and 7.30 from April to September in Marbury Village Hall. Guests are most welcome.

For further information contact Janet Wheeler on 07713 811636.

April 14th 7.30pm (Evening)

Tina Saunders An Embroiderer's Tale

Competition A Piece of Embroidery

As this is an Open Meeting, visitors are very welcome.

There is a £5 charge for visitors



SPURSTOW

Spurstow Parish Council www.spurstow-pc.gov.uk Please visit us for all items such as Agendas, Minutes of Parish Meetings, Council Governance, Councillor contact details and other parish related matters.

TIVERTON & TARPORLEY

Tiverton Bridge Club Monday evenings 6.15pm play 6.30pm
Contact Barbara Davies 01829 720368

Tiverton Garden Club On the 1st Tuesday of every month at 19.30 in Tiverton Village Hall Huxley Lane Tiverton. £2 members non-members £3
All welcome membership £10 includes 10% discount card for Oakells Garden Centre. Membership enquiries: Email jeanette.devine.jd@gmail.com.

Tarporley and District u3a March 2026

The monthly meeting is held at Tarporley Community Hall.

Doors open at 09.45 and there is time for tea, coffee, biscuits and a chat before the meeting begins at about 10.15 with a few announcements, followed by the talk at about 10.20 and questions to the speaker at about 11.15. The meeting closes around 11.30

On Thursday 23 April 2026 Keeping the Faith

The History of the Royal British Legion.

Ray Hoerty is one of our well-known speakers will tell us the story of Byng's Millions, two men, two women, a Lancastrian poet and a Canadian Medical Officer.

Today we take its name for granted but originally it was merely one of 49 suggestions.

The commemoration of VE Day is next month on 8th May and as this year is the 81st anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe it seems appropriate that we learn the history of the amazing organisation which is the Royal British Legion.

We have much to thank the Royal British Legion for in protecting the memory of veterans and current servicemen and women in all the Armed Services.

You can find out more from the u3a website - <https://tarporleyanddistrict.u3asite.uk> - where

the monthly newsletter is available, as is information on how to join the u3a.

BUNBURY

Absolute beginner line dancing on Mondays 2.30-3.30pm at the Pavilion, £5. Contact Faye, email bickertonbootscooters@gmail.com for more info.

Bunbury Website For more news about what is happening in Bunbury please visit www.bunburyvillage.info. This site is run by volunteers and is intended as a resource for visitors and anyone living in the village or surrounding area. Information includes regular events in the Pavilion and Village Hall, the latest Parish Council news and the annual village day.

Photography Club in Bunbury. If you enjoy taking photos with a camera or phone and want to meet other enthusiasts in a relaxed fun environment with no membership fees or committees please get in touch. Everyone's welcome with all levels of experience from Bunbury and surrounding villages.

As its a new club meeting day still tbc. It could be daytime or evening!
Please contact me for further information and to register your interest.

Carol Wallace 07789668044 or cwallace0910@gmail.com.

BUNBURY GARDENING CLUB meeting at Bunbury village hall on Tuesday 21 April GARDEN CLUB VISIT 6:30 Marsh Lane Frodsham WA6 8NY to Norley Court Garden

advanced date for your diary annual show Saturday the 5th of September new members are always welcome to attend meetings contact Margaret Bourne telephone 01829 260 944 or e-mail mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk
Facebook users: join our Bunbury gardening club page

HUXLEY

Hargrave and Huxley Historical Society

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 13th April at Huxley Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Clare Dudman will be giving us a talk titled John Bradshaw and the witches. Non members are very welcome £3.00. Light refreshments to follow.

Contact: denisecheetham@hotmail.co.uk.

Huxley Film Night Friday 10th April 7.00 for 7.30pm

Huxley Village Hall Huxley Lane CH39BG

"The Choral"

Entrance £5 Wine/beer/tea/coffee/ice cream on sale

Information 07810216399 or 01829781573



BICKERTON

Bickerton Village Hall Website: bickertonvillagehall.com & on Facebook or bickvillagehall@outlook.com

Further information on all regular classes can be found on our website.

New Pilates Class Bickerton Village Hall Tuesdays 10:00 am

All abilities welcome please contact Estelle to book your place

07957 413 887 e-mail Estellebatty@gmail.com

Beginners Line dancing Thursdays 6.30pm £5 (stay as long as you like, tea break & improver dances after 7.30, All welcome In Bickerton village hall.

Email bickertonbootscooters@gmail.com for info!

Bickerton and Egerton Parish Council.

website is www.bickertonandegertonpc.org

Bickerton Tennis Club@ Bickerton Village Hall

Come along and have a game of tennis

Contact Jackie Bourne jackiebourne2756@gmail.com

or Georgia Morris georgia.morris@dtmlegal.com for membership details

Tuesdays from 7pm Club Night, Thursdays All age tuition.

Fridays 9:30pm with We Do Tennis Alex tuition

Holly Trinity Church Bickerton. Good Friday service a quiet reflection at 10am 3rd April. Join us for our service on Bickerton Hill. Gather at church at 6am, leave church at 6:15am, to make our way up the hill to celebrate Holy Communion at sunrise. All are welcome. The service will be followed by breakfast at church no charge. Bank holiday Monday join us for our pop up café for family fun. 10:30 to 3pm there will be an Easter egg hunt, a treasure hunt and a quiz.

BULKELEY AND RIDLEY

The Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council website is now fully functioning. It contains all the latest accounts, minutes of meetings and other relevant information.

Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Council have a new Facebook Page.

Please visit and 'Like us' at: <https://www.facebook.com/bulkeleyandridleyparishcouncil>

[bulkeleyandridleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bulkeleyandridleyparishcouncil)

You may access the website through www.bulkeleyandridleypc.org.uk. Your feed back would be appreciated via the email address given on the website.

BROWN KNOWL

Brown Knowl Methodist Church Minister – the Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly
You are welcome to join us for worship on Sunday Mornings at 10.45am followed by Coffee and biscuits. For any further information please phone or see our website. Details below or contact 01244 535231 for general information.

Website: www.brownknowlmethodist.com

March 29th Palm Sunday 10.45am

April 5th Easter Sunday 10.45am

April 12th We are having a Soup & Pudding Lunch after the service. £10 per Person. Please let Brenda or Wendy know if you want to join us. Brenda: 01829 782470 or Wendy: 01948 820568

May 16th Date for your diary. Cantate Choir will be performing for us again

MARBURY

The popular country fair will take place on Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May 2026 in a picturesque field in the village of Marbury (SY13 4LN), next to St. Michael & All Angels Parish Church and the scenic Marbury Big Mere.

Gates open at 12.30pm, with a packed programme of displays, activities and classic country fair attractions designed to entertain visitors of all ages.

One of the major highlights this year will be appearances by members of The Sealed Knot, the UK's oldest historical re-enactment society and the largest in Europe. Saturday's programme will feature battlefield action complete with cannon and musket fire, while Sunday will include marching displays, a children's army and further skirmishes.

Beyond the main arena and camp, visitors can enjoy a wide range of attractions Pinxton Puppets, a model flying display, classic car and vintage tractor exhibitions, and music from the Wirral Pipe Band.

The church will host a display of floral arrangements.

Weather and aircraft availability permitting, organisers are also hoping for spectacular flypasts from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, featuring the mighty Avro Lancaster on Saturday and the legendary Supermarine Spitfire on Sunday.

Entry costs £7.50 for adults, while children under 16 pay just £1 – or enter free when accompanied by an adult. Parking is free for all attendees.

All proceeds from the event go towards the upkeep of St. Michael & All Angels Parish Church.

For more information, contact 01948 663087 or 07778 604470, visit www.marburymerrydays.org, or follow updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarburyMDays/

Editors note: more to follow in the May issue



BEESTON & PECKFORTON

Beeston Parish Council

Meets quarterly, all residents welcome. See parish council website

www.beestonparishcouncil.co.uk

for dates and agendas, also for regular information affecting local residents

Peckforton Parish **For any Parish enquiries please contact chair: Neil Dyer**
(Peckfortonparishchair@gmail.com)

Clerk: Chris Jones (Peckfortonparishclerk@gmail.com)

Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall, Hill Lane, Peckforton CW6 9TW

Available for hire by the hour, day or half day at reasonable rates. Fully equipped kitchen including glasses and crockery, spacious enclosed garden and ample parking. Ideal for parties, meetings, classes and private events.

Contact pbvhcommittee@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT THE HALL: Sunday 29 March and 26 April. PIT STOP CAFE – tea, coffee and bacon butties on sale from 10.30 am to 1pm. All welcome. Free admission.

Visit www.peckfortonparish.org.uk/PBVH or the PBVH Facebook page for more information on all events including our regular Peckforton Pit-Stop Cafes (last Sunday of month), Craft and Chat (every Weds) and health and wellness classes (Pilates, Tai Chi, Restorative Movement and Sound Bath sessions).



THE FORMER TOLL HOUSE AT HAMPTON

Continued on from page 46

The turnpike which came out of Wales by way of the Holt/Farndon bridge over the Dee, probably established in the early 19th century, followed the route of the present A.534, an ancient trade route which used to bring salt from Nantwich into Wales. However, the turnpiking of the road seems to have gone only as far as Barnhill and the rest of the road to Nantwich was never created a turnpike.

My final turnpike is rather an anomaly. As railways started to reach most parts of the country, from the 1830s onwards, turnpike roads were unable to compete with them in terms of speed of travel and costs for transporting goods. However, no railways came close to the southern part of our area, which may help to explain the Chester to Worthenbury turnpike, not opened until 1853 and laid out on existing country roads. The route is still all classified as ‘B’ roads or minor roads, leaving Chester via Huntington and running in our area through Aldford, Churton, Sibbersfield Lane, Crewe-by-Farndon and Shocklach.

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01829 771133 | Chowley Five, Chowley Oak Lane, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9GA

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