

Halsall News

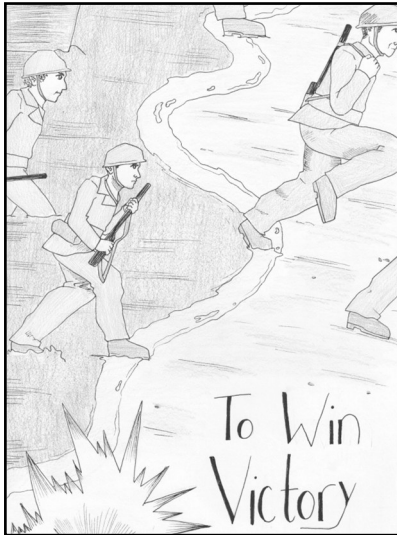
HALSALL HEROES



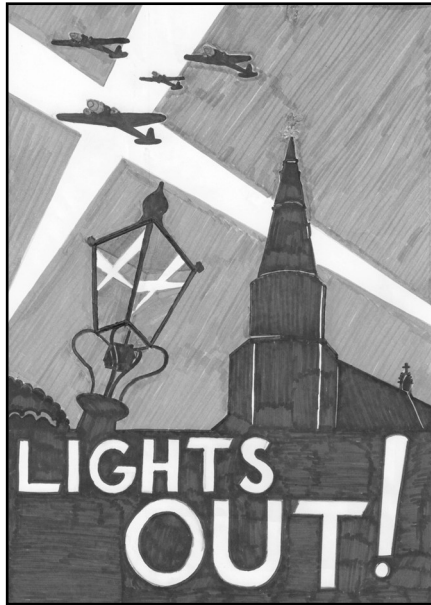
June 2025

VE Day Poster competition winners

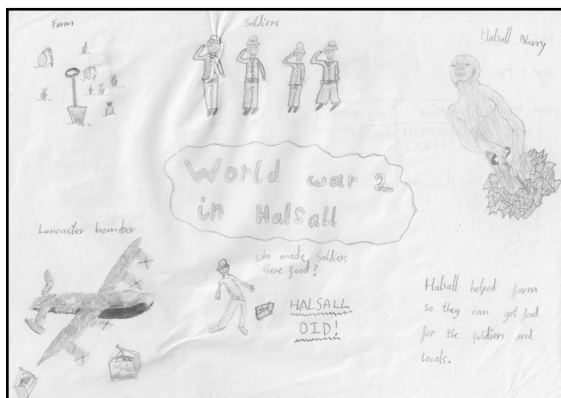
Front cover 1st prize over 18 - B Sinnott



Jess Smith-Radcliffe



Conor Edwards



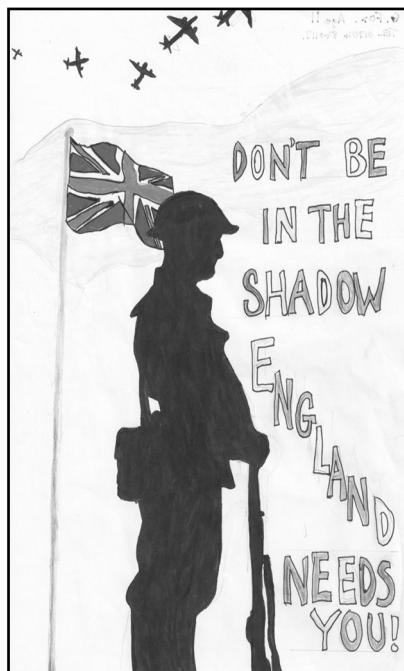
Zahra Shakespeare 1st prize under 18



Theodore Shakespeare



Isabella Ferguson



G Fox



Eliza Whalley



Joint Service with St Thomas'
Celebrating Farming and
God's abundant generosity

Sunday July 20th 2025

10.30am at Hollin House Farm,
Back Lane, Aughton, L39 6SX

Come and see and bless the crops,
watch tractors drive themselves
and enjoy the amazing abundance of God.
There will be something for young and old,
and shelter if the weather is poor.

With grateful thanks to
Andrew and Margaret Webster for hosting.



The Rector Writes

How clean is your car? It can hardly be worse than mine. Sometimes this can be a blessing. Recently I was rummaging in the boot when I spotted an errant till receipt. It was dated 24th March this year, from the Tesco filling station in Porthmadog.

Suddenly I was transported back to the short break Neil and I had in Portmeirion. The first day was a bit grey and rather chilly, but this was followed by a couple of glorious sunny days as we enjoyed the beautiful scenery of North Wales and the immense pleasure of being looked after for a few days.

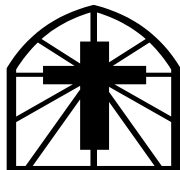
Ordinary things have the power to transport us to remarkable times and places. That is one of the reasons why St Cuthbert's inspires so many. It is not just the architecture, as impressive as it is, but the hymn book dedicated to a long dead relative. It is the ordinary as well as the extra-ordinary that can transport us beyond ourselves.

This is at the heart of our familiar sacrament of Holy Communion. A piece of bread that would normally pass us by as entirely mundane and uninteresting, is transformed into something that speaks of the eternal love of God, that opens the spiritual channel between us and God, that brings to mind the whole Gospel account of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. Another world opens for us in a small piece of bread and the merest sip of wine.

The incredible thing is that God can work the same way through each one of us. When we are attuned to the presence of God in our lives, we mere mortals become vessels in which the Holy Spirit finds a home and through which the light of Christ shines, to bring hope to the people we encounter. Each one of us has the potential to bring to life a world of love and hope as we go about our daily lives. That is at the heart of building community and was at the heart of our growing together weekend in May.

Thank you to all who joined us over the three days. We hope to be able to share the outcome of the community survey soon.

God Bless Susan



Service in the
United Benefice for
June 2025

As we mark the Ascension of Jesus and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, how can we care for our community and our environment in ways that enable all to flourish? Come and join us as we learn and grow together.

Sunday 1st June seventh Sunday of Easter

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Church without walls)
11.00am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist

Wednesday 4th June

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 5th June

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 8th June Pentecost

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Holy Communion
11.00am	St Thomas' Church Parade
4.00pm	St Cuthbert's outdoor picnic and worship in the graveyard (bring a teddy, a picnic and something to sit on)

Wednesday 11th June

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 12th June

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 15th June Trinity Sunday

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion (with Messy Church)
11am	St Thomas CW Eucharist

Wednesday 18th June

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 19th June

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 22nd June First Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist
11.00am	St Thomas' All Age Eucharist

Wednesday 25th June

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 26th June

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Sunday 29th June**Second Sunday after Trinity and flower festival at St Thomas' celebrating family**

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
10.30am	Joint Service for Fifth Sunday with Penny Straddling and friends

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us at any of our United Benefice services.

**Access to St Cuthbert's Church**

If you require the ramps to be put over the steps in order to gain access to church services or to visit the graveyard, please ring to arrange a mutually agreeable time.

Carol Ward 07522 206664

THE CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, HALSALL

Rector	The Rev Susan Salt	07730 197656
Curate	The Rev Glen Gardner	0151 287 1686
Reader	David Walker	0151 520 2496
Church Wardens	Carol Ward	07522 206664
	Pamela Carr	01695 423817
Verger	Sarah Mitchell	01704 889237
		07808 064996
P.C.C. Secretary	Vacancy	
P.C.C. Treasurer	Colin Throp	01704 841281
Organist	Vacancy	

SANCTUARY LIGHTS



JUNE

1st	James Edward Cheetham (Anniversary)
2nd	Dorothy Cheetham (Birthday)
3rd	Cissie Balshaw (Birthday)
3rd	Ann Huyton (Birthday)
6th	Elizabeth J Ball
9th	Michael James Yule (Anniversary)
12th	Norman Rhodes
13th	Margaret Dutton
16th	Margaret Balshaw
25th	Mary Kenyon
25th	John Banks (Anniversary)
27th	John Stopforth
27th	George Balshaw (Birthday)
28th	Ken Mawdsley (Birthday)
29th	John Prescott (Anniversary)
30th	Peter Bradshaw (Birthday)

Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition



Judging has now started so we can expect 4 visits from judges over the next 6 weeks, so please pick up any litter you see round and about and keep an eye on the frontage of any property you are responsible for.

Every little helps! Thank you

Halsall Village Proud & Tidy Group



At the time of writing we are all hoping for some rain! The new plants in Bishops Walk are surviving, but not flourishing yet! Luckily, the roots had chance to establish earlier in the month, so on the whole they are doing ok.

Luckily the area is in semi-shade and once we get some rain they will start perking up and spreading to cover the bare ground.



Our dates for working parties in June to weed and tidy up will be posted on the Halsall Community FB page and also emailed directly to all those on our volunteer list

To find out more about our group or to be added to our email list please contact

Eleanor Wroe elliwroe@hotmail.com or 07817 55 75 33 or **Enid Banks** enidbanks@aol.com or 07977 920 956

Sefton Warm Spaces

a space for community
and warmth in Sefton



in partnership with



Warm Spaces Sefton and St Thomas' Church

Luncheon Club. Every Wednesday afternoon 12.30-2.30pm

Change of venue due to flood damage in the Millenium Centre

Now in the **Guide Centre**, behind the
Parish Hall, 288 Southport Road, Lydiate, L31 4EQ

YOUR CHURCH OF ST. CUTHBERT, HALSALL NEEDS YOUR HELP to raise £40K



A huge thank you.

Already, we have had a number of generous donations to help us, and our fundraising thermometer outside church proudly shows we have reached £15k of our £40k target. Thank you. There is still a long way to go but we are so grateful for the support so far.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

as all the money goes directly to us and we can claim gift aid on it if you are a UK taxpayer. This QR code will take you directly to our page.



FRIENDS OF ST CUTHBERT'S

You can also support St Cuthbert's by becoming "a friend". All the funds raised through this scheme are directed to the maintenance and repair of the church building and grounds.

There is a minimum donation of £20 per year to join, but you can then choose how much and how regularly you donate.

For further information please contact info@halsallstcuthbert.co.uk

**Thank you for supporting us.
Without you we cannot be the church we aspire to be.**

New Parish Council Website : halsallparish.gov.uk

Not to be outdone



Rector Susan has foolishly agreed to abseil 150ft
from above the West Door of the Liverpool Cathedral
for St Cuthbert's fundraising efforts
on Saturday 26th July 2025

**She would welcome your sponsorship and prayers as she hates
heights!**

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/susan-salt>





Halsall Scarecrows 2025



June is here and with it, we hope,
your Scarecrows!

We will be looking out around Halsall and the surrounding area for scarecrows and admiring your wonderful ideas.

For those of you taking part in creating, we ask that you display your scarecrow in early June so they can be enjoyed for the whole month.

Our Scarecrow Trail is planned for **June 21st & 22nd**. Trail maps can be purchased on both days **between 11am-4pm**. Please note: **CASH ONLY** purchases are available for trail maps.

Look for us outside Bamber's Solicitors, opposite St Cuthbert's church.

Come and enjoy a walk around our lovely village, spot some scarecrows and maybe even win a prize.

More details are available on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/halsallscarecrows> and will be shared on Halsall Village Community Page.

To support this community event, **St Cuthbert's Church** will be open over the weekend.

Refreshments of tea, coffee, juice, and cake will be available.

Anyone who wants to come along to sing or play a musical instrument in church, to experience the wonderful acoustics, is invited to **COME ON IN** ☐

All will be welcome to have a look around our historic church in-between your scarecrow spotting!

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999
Electricity NW	105 or 0800 195 4141
United Utilities (water / flooding)	0345 672 3723
Flooding - Highway	0300 123 6780
Police Contact (non urgent)	101 OR 01695 566058
Local Police Officers or PCSO's	01695 566444
Street Lighting Fault Reporting Line	0300 123 6780
Fire Safety Helpline	0800 169 1125

POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, 4110 Billy Matthews e-mail
Billy.Matthews@lancashire.police.uk

or alternatively Neil Cronshaw who is the Community Beat Officer
for Halsall at 7176@lancashire.police.uk

**Residents should phone 999 in an emergency
and 101 to report a crime and obtain a crime incident number.**

Local contacts are for local issues and consultations only.

Ormskirk Music Society Choir & Orchestra

Both the orchestra and the choir are always pleased for new members to come and join us. Some of us have returned to music after many years of a break. We have young members too and others of all ages, starting out on their musical journey. We are a friendly bunch and part of your local community so come and give it a go!

- Rehearsals in Ormskirk
- Orchestra - Thursdays 7:45pm; Choir - Fridays 7:30pm
- No auditions
- Music reading not essential for choir
- Varied repertoire: symphonies, concertos, overtures, light music
- Friendly atmosphere & socials
- Four concerts per year

For more information

Choir: call Stephen on 07908688167 or sjhenders1@gmail.com

Orchestra: call Helena on 07595 353104 or hgarritt@talktalk.net



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What our happy customers are saying...

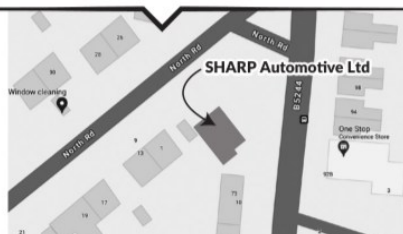
"John viewed my car on a Friday, agreed figures same day and collected Monday. I didn't have to move from my house. Highly recommended". Samantha G, Scarisbrick

"Straight forward transaction, gave £250 more than the dealer offered and allowed me to keep hold of my current car until my new car arrived". Tristan R, Burscough



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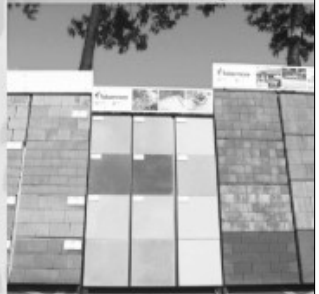
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in collaboration with
wild root

WILD & SEEK

Wild & Seek is a nature-inspired play space designed to nurture children's growth through outdoor, child-led play. Rooted in the latest research on child development, they provide a safe and engaging environment where kids can explore, take risks, and build confidence.

We offer 90-minute "Stay & Play" sessions for children aged 0-6, featuring open-ended natural materials, opportunities for movement, and spaces designed to foster creativity, social connection, and independence. We're open 7 days a week, with sessions running at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 1:30pm.

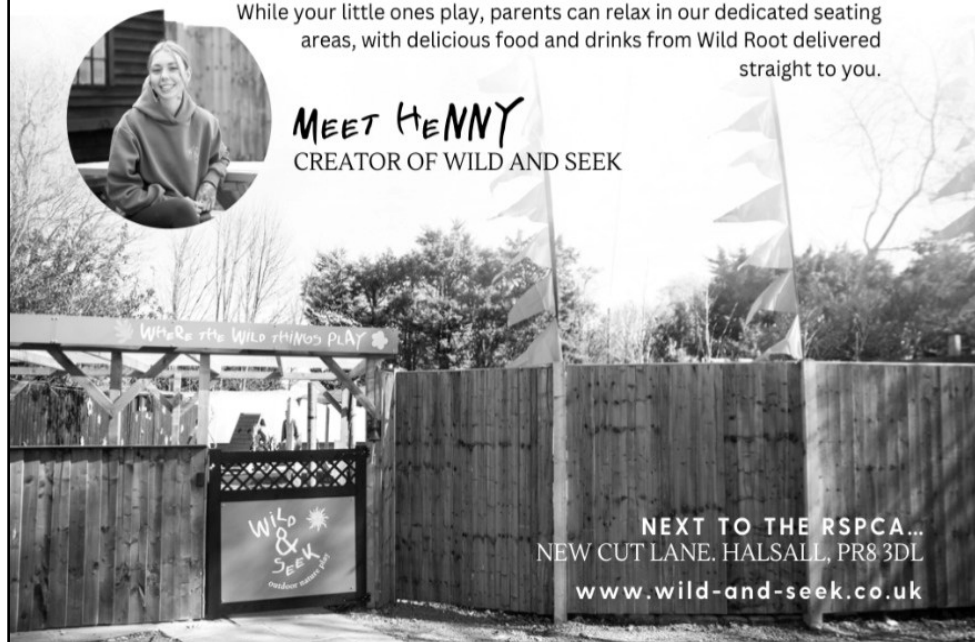
WHERE ARE WE BASED?

We are based at Wild Root. Wild Root is a plant-based café located on New Cut Lane, Halsall, proudly rooted in our community. Many members of staff, including the owner Charlie, and Wild & Seek creator Henny grew up in Halsall, attended St Cuthbert's Primary School, and remain deeply connected to the local community. In fact, Charlie and Henny are siblings with a shared passion for creating enriching spaces for families.

While your little ones play, parents can relax in our dedicated seating areas, with delicious food and drinks from Wild Root delivered straight to you.



MEET HENNY
CREATOR OF WILD AND SEEK



NEXT TO THE RSPCA...
NEW CUT LANE, HALSALL, PR8 3DL
www.wild-and-seek.co.uk

A | R

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INFO@ANDREWROUGHLEYFUNERALS.COM

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If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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One-Off Users £15 per hour, Regular Users £10 per hour
Kitchen, amplifier & speakers, projector & screen, ample parking
Cathy Smith 07935 657880
HalsallTrust@gmail.com

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Available for bookings; days, evenings, Saturdays after 7pm & Sundays

Changing Rooms, Showers, Toilets, Kitchen, Main Hall with Dance Mirrors. Tables and Chairs for 60+ guests.

£15 per hour, £10 per hour for regular users

Catering service available from Bakehouse Café next door

Folding Tables and Folding Chairs available to hire

Cathy Smith 07935 657880

HalsallTrust@gmail.com

HALSALL ST CUTHBERT'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Tuesday Evenings from 6pm or Saturday.

Contact Miss Hampson at School Tel : 01704 840253

HALSALL PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for private lettings

Please contact Miss Hampson at school

For details of charges and availability

Tel : 01704 840253

SHIRDLEY HILL ACTIVITY CENTRE

Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill L39 8SG

Hourly Rate £20.00

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Please contact Angela Harding for availability

Tel : 07944 441850

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Burscough, L40 5TP

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Covering all areas



Whats On

CLUB/GROUP	MEETINGS	CONTACT
1st Halsall Scout Group Boys & Girls age 6-14	Scarisbrick Village Hall Boys & Girls age 6-14	Sue 07792 479205 Jane 07887 685219
Halsall Village Proud & Tidy group	Various working parties around the village	Eleanor Wroe 01704 841216 Enid Banks 01704 567654
Saracen's Head Crown Green Bowling Club	Various Contact Lynda for details	Lynda Hodge 07435 971762
Ormskirk & District Lions Club	Charity supporting local causes Looking for new members	Sylvia Corfield 01704 840705
Yoga	St Cuthbert's School Wednesday from 7.30pm	James McLoughlin 07852 192440
FROGS Friends of Shirdley Hill Village green	9.30am Tuesday & Friday	01704 840607
Jigsaw Library Free to join & borrow	We ask for a donation of a jigsaw then you can borrow as often as you like	Sue Charnock Facebook Page
Halsall Bees & Butterflies Brigade	Meets once a month See article for details	Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com
Halsall Badminton club	Halsall School Thursday 7.30pm	Jim 01704 840908 Margaret 01704 840305
Yoga	St Aidan's Hall Mondays from 6pm	Angela 07513 802976
Pilates	Haskayne Village Hall Tuesday 9.30 - 10.30am Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30pm Thursday 9.30 - 10.30am	Andrea Kerfoot 07540 053002 a.davies11@sky.com

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair	Mary Lyons	01704 840607
Vice Chair	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395
Councillors	Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167
	Vacancy	
	David Adams	07795 083885
	Keith Wright	07507 209674
	Beth Roberts	07961 697064
	Julie Ferguson	07415 099652
	Paul Barker	07768 797466
	Elizabeth Wright	07817 056145
Parish Clerk	Chris Pyne	Clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk
Hall Booking	Cathy Smith	07935 657880
Borough Councillor	Marilyn Westley	Cllr.MWestley@westlancs.gov.uk
		07738 680752
	Alexander Blundell	Cllr.Blundell@westlancs.gov.uk
	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk
County Councillor	David O'Toole	01695 421056

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH Next meeting 7.30pm 11th June 2025 At Memorial Hall Recreation Ground

July 2025 MAGAZINE

**Closing date for Articles and Adverts :
13th June 2025**

Contributions by Email to halsallnews@gmail.com

***All details in the magazine are correct to the best of
our knowledge at the time of going to press.***

NEWS FROM HASALL PARISH COUNCIL

Halsall Parish Council meets on 2nd Wednesday of each month, next meeting is 7:30 pm 11th June at Memorial Hall Recreation Ground.

PLANNING

Planning applications are published for information only. Applications are typically open for comments for only 21 days from publication by WLBC so residents are encouraged to view planning applications promptly at <https://pa.westlancs.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Planning Applications

2025/0227/FUL 86 New Street, single storey extension

T/2025/0034/TPO 76 Moss Road, remove branches

2025/0315/FUL, 7 Shaw Close, garden store to front of property

<u>Planning Decisions</u>

2025/0040/FUL, Malt Kiln Barn, demolish and rebuild. Refused

2024/1107/FUL, 233 Carr Moss Lane, garage to living accomd. Granted

Alleged breaches of planning control should be reported to <https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-enforcement-appeals/breaches-of-planning-control-and-enforcement-notice.aspx>.

The parish council organised a **Parish Meeting** on 14th May and several voluntary organisations reported on their activities in the community. Minutes and copies of their reports will be available at <https://www.halsallparish.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>.

The **Annual Council meeting**, on 14th May, voted Cllr Mary Lyons as Chair and Cllr Noel McCarthy-Thomason as Vice-Chair for the next 12 months.

The **Internal Auditor** has examined the Council's processes and accounts and their report, is available on the website. <https://www.halsallparish.gov.uk/financial-documents/>.

The annual audit process now moves to the External Auditor phase and the public right to view the Council's accounts will be from 3rd June to 14th July. Any questions can be raised with the Council and/or the External Auditor.

The Council approved a **£600 grant to War Memorial Playing Field and Hall** charity to hold an August summer fair at the Recreation ground.

Any voluntary organisations looking for a grant for 2025/26 should contact the Clerk@HalsallParish.gov.uk.

The Council has agreed to replace the two **defibrillator cabinets**, at Recreation ground and Heathey Lane bus stop, in service since 2013, as the keypads have become defective, at a cost of £978.

Halsall Parish Council will be voting on a **new co-opted councillor** at 11th June meeting. (applications closed on 31st May)

Many potholes on A5124 were repaired in late March/Early April including a resurface of the Gregory Lane mini roundabout. The more potholes, blocked drains and damaged road signs that are reported on Love Clean Street App on your mobile phone, the more evidence there is for Lancashire Highways to come out and fix them. So please keep reporting any defects.

The Parish Council Website now halsallparish.gov.uk has been updated. Content now includes more documents, financial records, agendas and minutes of meetings. There is also a new What's On section showing current bookings at the Memorial Hall and St Aidan's Hall. Now easier to find opportunities for one-off party bookings at £15 per hour or new regular event bookings at £10 per hour.

Upcoming events and news are posted on **Facebook Halsall Village Community Forum** www.facebook.com/groups/200983146975703 and there is also a **Shirdley Hill Community Association** Facebook page www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081833388874

HALSALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND HALL TRUST

The Trust organised a children's Easter event which raised a £142 in donations. A summer fair is now being organised for August

The Trust registered for the Gift Aid scheme last year and this year was able to claim £176 donation from HMRC. We would like to encourage more small monthly donations from Halsall residents.

The "Trust" is at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095608597326

Mary Lyons, Chair ,and Chris Pyne, Parish Clerk

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mtwignall@clara.co.uk



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- new memorials
- cremation plaques
- pet memorials
- additional inscriptions
- renovation of existing memorials including:
cleaning, regilding and replacing



Grave Tending Service

We now offer a grave tending service to ensure the good maintenance of graves when loved ones are absent or no longer able to do it themselves. The service can be provided as often as required and to fit in with notable dates.

The service includes:-

- removal of dead flowers and plants, etc and replacing with fresh cut seasonal flowers
- cleaning of the memorial and vase pots
- trimming and edging grass and pruning shrubs where necessary
- full condition report and photographic evidence

-----We offer a free no obligation quotation on all our services -----

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Tel: (01704) 880294 email: memorials@ormsbys.co.uk

www.ormsbymemorials.co.uk find us on Facebook



SHIRDLEY HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
07485 151395

Forthcoming events

Lunchtime Club - St Aidan's Hall, Shirdley Hill

From 12pm
Wednesday 11th June
Wednesday 25th June

Picnic in the Park - Shirdley Hill Green

From 2pm
Sunday 1st June
Sunday 29th June
Sunday 27th July
Sunday 31st August

Shirdley Hill Olympics - Shirdley Hill Green

From 2pm
Saturday 19th July

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The Bees and Butterflies Brigade June 2025



Thank you to everyone who helped with our plant sale and planting over the Open Church weekend in May. You are all so hard-working and supportive! Thank you to all those who bought plants, too – the money raised will help us with our autumn planting projects.

We have lots of reasons to be proud of all the planting we have achieved over the last eighteen months. Not only is it all looking healthy and attractive, but it's starting to pull in our pollinators and other insects. Here are some of the highlights from the Memorial Garden this spring.....



In the dry, mossy areas under the trees, queens of Buff-tailed and White-tailed bumblebees have been flying low over the ground, looking for holes and tunnels where they can nest. They've been using aubretia and lungwort to stock up on nectar, too! In late April there were fledgling blue-tits fluttering around one of our bird boxes (as if it was their home) and I found ladybirds in quite large numbers emerging from dried leaves in our log piles and from under our ha-ha plants. Black beetles often scuttled away when I moved a log or stone – this is great news for hedgehogs because beetles are one of their favourite foods.



In the ha-ha, the ox-eye daisies have been growing strongly and seem to be dominating our wildflower planting this year. Wild carrot, hedge parsley, foxgloves and red campion can be seen, too, but other perennials are taking longer to establish and may not make their presence known until next year. The planting does look lush, though, making a mini-meadow where insects can hide, feed and lay their eggs.



Visits from Orange-tip and Speckled Wood butterflies have made me smile. Whilst a female Orange-tip looks very like a large white (white with black wing tips) the male Orange-tip is particularly beautiful because of the bright orange splash on his white wings. A Speckled Wood is quietly beautiful, with wings of buff and brown which help to camouflage it against bark and foliage. This butterfly usually flies in partly-shaded woodland with dappled sunlight, and I've seen them on shady parts of the canal as well as in the churchyard. Whilst neither of these butterflies are species of conservation concern at the moment, the numbers of both species have dropped significantly since 2019 according to UK monitoring programmes like "The Big Utterfly Count". It's fantastic that our planting is supporting them because butterflies are an indicator species – if butterflies are doing well, then many other species are doing well, too. If you'd like to find out more about UK butterflies and moths, the charity "Butterfly Conservation" has a lovely website where you can find plenty of pictures and key information.



If you have time, choose a sunny afternoon and take a moment to sit quietly beside our wildflowers – it won't be long before nature will reward you.



Clare Edwards

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Friends of the Green (FROGs) annual report 2025

The Shirdley Hill Green is the heart of the village, and the FROGs have had a busy time making several improvements during this year.

The pond is looking good with plenty of water lilies and other waterside plants emerging. Every year we remove some of the bullrushes to prevent them taking over.

Floods took their toll over winter and we lost a couple of trees. We added bark chips to the wild paths and will need to add more again this year to keep them in good order. The raised beds helped mitigate the impact of the flooding. The newly planted raised bed for the shrubbery did very well last year, with bulbs and wildflowers added between the shrubs to fill the space and provide colour until the shrubs are better established. The wildflower patch was also flooded, and a new raised bed was constructed in this area and filled with a donation of topsoil from local farmer Roy Webster. This has been seeded up with good quality wildflower seeds.

The new corner plot is taking shape and the rose and lavender raised bed is doing well with several new good quality David Austin roses planted last year.

Weeds are a constant problem, and we do our best to keep them under control. The sensory plot had a major problem with equisetum (Mare's tails), but we have managed to reduce the impact of these persistent weeds in this area, just by constant removal. The grasses plot, the fernery and other raised beds are looking good and have done well.

Moles are a constant problem on the Green. The mole soil is collected and used, but the molehills can be unsightly until this can be done. James Forshaw does a great job mowing the grass and cutting the hedges.

The birdboxes were well used last year and have all been cleaned out ready for use this year. The log piles provide a haven for the wildlife in the undisturbed wooded areas.

The compost system continues to provide plenty of mulch and nutrients for the flower beds, pots and around the trees.

The 'twigwam' was removed as much had died and was unwieldy. New willows whips have been planted around the base in the hope that they will eventually provide enough growth to create a new canopy next to the pond.

A large Christmas tree was donated by local residents. The Parish Council assisted with funding for lights and about a hundred members of the village came together to celebrate switching on the lights, sing a few carols and enjoy traditional fare. We have recently enjoyed two major events around VE-Day.

The Green is well used by families coming for a picnic for organised event or to play football but especially by the elderly and dog walkers. The pavements in the village are in a poor condition, and the Green provides a safe place for people to walk and exercise.

In the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition, we came top in the garden category.

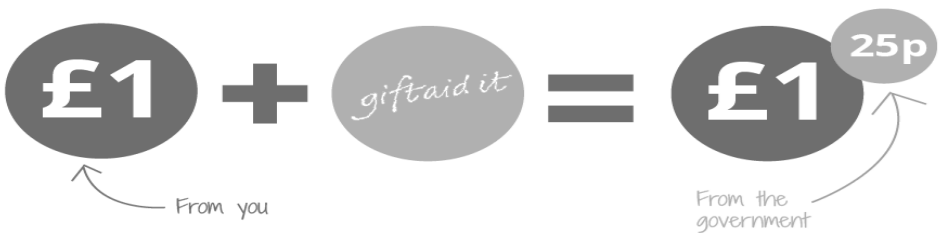
We have had a busy year, and have achieved a lot, but we could do with more help, so if anyone is able to come along and join us, you would be most welcome. We meet at 9:30am every Tuesday and Friday, unless it is pouring with rain and we work throughout the year.

**Mary Lyons (Chair) and
Vincent Williams, Alan Williams, Joe Hellier and Keith Doyle**



The Recreation Ground was purchased by the residents of Halsall in 1949 and became a Charity in 1964. In 2008 the Parish Council became responsible for the administration of the Charity, but it is still held in Trust for the residents of Halsall (it is not owned by the Parish Council).

The 'Trust' needs to raise £20,000 per year to meet its costs to cover the Hall, the Café, Snooker, Cricket & Football facilities as well as the children's playgrounds and open recreational space.



Gift Aid is a potential new source of income and this first year raised £176 donation from HMRC taxman. This has the potential to be a significant source of income. You send us £2.00 and the taxman sends us another 50p.

With digital banking it only takes a few minutes to setup a small monthly donation. We need your name, address inc postcode in case the HMRC want to check that you are a UK taxpayer. (they do not contact you). We will then send you our sort code and bank account number.

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