

# HALAM NEWS

JULY 2011



Please remember to send articles and other info (birthdays, exam success, upcoming events etc) for the **HALAM NEWS** by 25th of each month to: [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

You can also drop them in to The Manor House, Radley Road. Articles may be edited or held over due to space constraints. Sponsorship of each edition is £10.

The sponsor of this edition did not wish their name to be published

## ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL JULY 2011 SERVICES

<b>July 3</b>	08:00 Holy Communion	<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
	09:30 Morning Worship/Rock & Roll Service	<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
	11:00 Baptism Sophie Kitson	
<b>July 10</b>	11:00 Sung Eucharist	<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>July 17</b>	09:30 Family Communion (Jt service)	<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>July 24</b>	11:00 Sung Eucharist	<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>July 30</b>	<b>13:00</b> Holy Matrimony - Clare & Luke	
<b>July 31</b>	09:30 Joint Services & St Giles Edingley	

All readings in July will be from the King James Version of the Bible - it's 400 anniversary!

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## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday 5th July**  
(August meeting -   
**Tuesday 2nd)**

Meetings at 7.30pm  
in the Village Hall

**Glenys Herbert 812335**

Open Gardens raised over £900 this year to be split between the Church and the Village Hall. Thanks to all who took part or contributed in any way!



Halam School Sports Day 6th July 2pm  
Halam School Leavers Service, 21st July at 09:15 in Halam Church

## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK

To Mrs Angela Bracegirdle who will be retiring from Halam School at the end of the summer term. Everyone at the School would like to thank her for commitment and dedication over the years and wishes her well for the future!

## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Denver, Colorado**. Answers to this month's competition should be submitted 15th July, by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) Include your name and address on the email! The clue for this month's destination is:

**"Christopher Wren had nothing to do with the design of any part of this city of 20million people"**  
Where have I been? Good luck!!



All residents are reminded to watch their speed when driving through the village!

## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD - JULY 2011

I have had a blissful few weeks - I have been weeding; I set out on this activity three weeks ago mindful of the fact 'Open Gardens' was at the end of June and the spring warmth and summer rains have brought about a plethora of unwelcome plants masquerading in the borders, on the paths and in the roadways.

Two weeks ago I noticed that an elder tree had taken root in the base of one of the churchyard Irish yews - a position which renders its elimination impossible. This caused me to think that the elder is a dreadful nuisance when in an unwelcome place. Yet in many ways it is a wonderful plant; it graces our byways with great swathes of creamy white in early summer, and provides a bounteous larder of fruit in Autumn. If it were a rare plant only obtainable from garden centres we would be planting it everywhere and boasting about it in our garden promotional leaflets - but instead we despise it because it is so prevalent. Elder gets its name from a middle German word *ael/d* meaning fire - the hollow stems of young branches were used for blowing up a fire from tinder sparks. These hollow stems were also fashioned into pan pipes of flutes and Romans called them Sambucas - after their name for the elder. We get the term 'Sackbut' from this source.

DEFRA has advised on the containment of five weeds harmful to agriculture: Ragwort, two types of thistle and two types of dock, - these spread in meadows and amongst harvested crops, or as in the case of Ragwort - harmful to livestock. But there are other introduced species that are very successful and their planting, propagation or even harbouring is illegal. An example is Japanese Knotweed. This is a graceful plant with lovely flowers and it has one great property - it makes the most wonderful paper. Why can't we make lots of first class luxury paper from this source rather than cut down valuable timber? Some £15 million pounds has been spent getting rid of this weed from the Olympic site in East London. Why not keep it and make our Olympic programmes from its fibre?

A really long day of weeding is a restful experience and quite changes the current of thought - in fact abolishes thought all together - "thumb in bum and mind in neutral" - an apt expression for the state of nirvana which I enter when I weed! I believe weeding is more efficient in aiding health than a rest cure. It is a delightful occupation, especially after summer rain when the roots come up clear and clean. One gets to know how many and various are the ways of weeds, as many almost as the moods and attitudes of my fellow parishioners. Happy weeding folks, and happy gardening during July!

**David Herbert**

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

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### THANK YOU

We would like to thank all those kind people for their good wishes and good turns and offers of help during Tony's temporary disablement following a fall. We feel most fortunate to live in such a caring, neighbourly village!  
Tony & Maureen Andrews.

### CONFIRMATION

Any adults are interested in joining a small group after the summer to think about confirmation, please see the Rev McCoulough after any Church Services or contact him at [davidmcc@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:davidmcc@southwell.anglican.org)

## Laxton Charity Show 2011



# Gymkhana



Proceeds to Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance & local causes



sherwood  
marquees

**Entries:**  
from 8.30am  
**Starts: 9am**

Enquiries:  
Nicki Rowe  
07780 585 299 (pm)  
Debbie Dawson  
07977 666 584 (day)

Classes in:  
Show Jumping  
Style & Appearance  
Working Hunter  
Lead Rein  
Handy Pony

**New** Equestrian Car Boot **New**

## Sat 9th July

Trade Stands  
Refreshments  
Bar from 12pm



Companion K.C. Licensed

## Dog Show

Proceeds to Thornberry Animal Sanctuary



**Entries from 9am**  
**11am Pedigree & Novelty classes**  
**12pm Obedience classes**

Open to all Non -Pedigree & Pedigree Dogs  
Enquiries: Jo Godson 01777 870308



**All Day Fun Obstacle Course**

Gymkhana & Dog Show schedules available on

[www.laxtonshow.co.uk](http://www.laxtonshow.co.uk)

all enquires email: [info@laxtonshow.co.uk](mailto:info@laxtonshow.co.uk)

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES – 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Andrew Paris, Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Janet Simmons **Apologies:** Simon Bust

**Election of New Parish Councillor:** One parishioner had offered to stand as a councillor. Agreed to accept and appoint Mr Chris Bevan to the council

**Matters Arising:** 1) Drain covers on Radley Road are still missing – hazard for walkers and riders. County Cllr Andy Stewart gave a contact number to the clerk to progress 2) Cones on gullies on School Lane – they are there to “familiarise” locals with the new drains/gullies 3) Cllr Bruce Lawson is now head of the Rights of Ways committee. Parish Paths Partnership is currently under review

**Village Hall:** The new floor now has been laid.

**Solar panels** – Sarah Godfrey presented a detailed report regarding the possibility of installing 16 panels on the village hall roofs. There are no grants available currently. The capital outlay would be significant and the payback period would be lengthy (8 to 9 years). Agreed to review the project in the future

**Village Hall Committee:** The committee brief needs to be fully defined and responsibilities agreed with the parish council. Any meetings of the committee would need to be run along the same lines as the parish council i.e. public access, minutes etc. Any expenditure, save for a small float of e.g. £50, would have to be approved by the parish council. Glenys Herbert, Marina Thompson and Sarah Godfrey to consider the status of such a committee with input from NALC

**Adoption of Standing Orders:** Andrew Paris reported back on the proposed new Standing Orders – very little has changed, but the layout is different and they are more formal in some sections. Andrew Paris and Simon Bust to liaise and report back to next meeting

**Halam “Twinning”:** Further correspondence has been received from the French village. **Unless there is interest in Halam to support the idea, and volunteer(s) to organise it, then the scheme will not be able to taken up.**

**Home Monitoring Services:** County Cllr Andy Stewart reported that there would have to be some cost savings with the scheme, but that cases on real need would still be offered the service. Janet Simmons questioned how the criteria of “real need” would be decided. This will be guided by Social Services.

**Open Meeting:** Junction of School Lane and The Turnpike – could a mirror be erected to reduce the danger when emerging from School Lane. Liability/insurance issues make this problematic

**Correspondence:** Training on the Code of Conduct – new councillors will see if they are available to attend

**Planning Decisions:** 1) Evergreen House – conversion of barns to three dwellings: approved by Newark & Sherwood District Council  
2) Manor Farm – erection of orangery: approved by Newark & Sherwood District Council

**Finance:** Unanimously agreed to pay 1) Hutchinsons Flooring – balance (insurance claim), 2) Paint for village hall (reimburse Marina Thompson)

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011, at 7.30pm in the village hall

# HALAM NEWS

AUGUST 2011



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## ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AUGUST 2011 SERVICES

**Aug 7 8:00 Holy Communion**  
**9:30 Morning Worship - holiday service**  
**18:00 Evensong @ Edingley**  
**Aug 14 9:00 Holy Communion @ Edingley**  
**Aug 21 9:30 Family Communion**  
**Aug 28 9:00 Holy Communion @ Edingley**  
**11:00 Sung Eucharist**

Canon J Smith  
Rev D McCoulough  
Rev D McCoulough  
Rev J Quarrel  
Canon J Smith  
To be advised  
To be advised

## THE CHALINZE - KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE

This summer, I will be amongst a party of 10 climbing Kilimanjaro to raise money for a school in Chalinze, about an hour from Dar-es-Salaam. The money will go towards completing a classroom at the school and providing mosquito nets in an area where malaria is a real hazard. Kilimanjaro is 19,710 feet high, temperatures at the top can get to -20, and altitude sickness is a real problem! We hope to do the climb in just over 5 days. I do hope you can give a small amount of sponsorship to this good cause and to spur us on! Donations can be made through this website: [www.justgiving.com/climb2011](http://www.justgiving.com/climb2011) Many Thanks! Neville Croston

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## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday August 2nd (September meeting is on Tuesday 6th)** Aug meeting at 7.30pm in the garden at Ashdene, please bring a sharing plate.  
**Glenys Herbert 812335**



## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Sao Paulo, Brazil** Answers should be submitted 15th August, by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) Include your name and address on the email! The clue for this month's destination is:

**"Maybe JFK Jr came across some red chickens at this Brown University"**

Where have I been? Good luck!!

## TALES FROM THE CHRUCHYARD - JULY 2011

I have had a few very dreamy weeks with strange and wonderful names buzzing through my subconscious. These exotic names come in two groups. The first includes 'Hookers Green'; 'Rowney Olive'; 'Massicot'; 'Bohemian Lake'; 'Gamborge' and 'Sienna Kush', - perhaps stations on the London Underground, or faraway destinations in a travel brochure? The second group includes 'Small Skipper'; 'Meadow Brown'; 'Speckled Wood' "Comma" and "Painted Lady" - perhaps these are code names for Southwell rogues? In reality the first group are pigments used by Impressionist painters to capture their environment, and the second group are the butterflies that are prevalent at present. But why link these two groups together? They come together when we stop torturing our lawns and allow the grass to grow unfettered by regular mowing.

A neatly-mown lawn is devoid of interest and has very few insects as residents. In the churchyard and in the paddocks at Ashdene I have left large swathes of grass growing unhindered, and what a joy this has been - at first we saw the emergence of large areas of bugle and the blue of germander speedwell and then the red of scarlet pimpernel. In the last few weeks we have seen the growth and flowering of so many different grasses of every hue and tone. These areas of un-mown grass are about two feet in height and are homes to thousand of insects and larvae of the summer butterflies. It is no wonder therefore that I have seen hundreds of butterflies around the churchyard and garden as well as soldier beetles, shield bugs and grasshoppers. I shall cut these areas finally in 4 weeks time and remove the cuttings so as not to enrich the soil and thereby ensure that I will have an equally colourful spring and summer next year. So forget about mowing the lawn, let the grass grow and have a nice cool beer instead!

How servile is the meadow grass to reckless winds, or boots that pass

To lay it low, each slender spear that has to wait another year

To have the chance to reproduce,

Then reproduce it will again though bullied by the snow and rain,

For meadow grass is stronger than that tallest monument of man,

So what is learned from meadow grass, why patience! Wait for time to pass

Then rise again, as does the hay, to live and fight another day,

For time will tell, and all will heed the beauty of your noble deed.

For sure, if meadow grass can thrive, then thank your God that you're alive.

David Herbert

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

# JCC

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Elizabeth and David Kinston and their daughter, Sophia, who was baptised by Revd David McCoulough at St Michael's Church on 3 July 2011. Sophia is the granddaughter of Tony and Maureen Hallam, of Back Lane

### ST MICHAELS CHURCH, HALAM CHANGE TO PATTERN OF SERVICES

From September we will be changing slightly the pattern of services. There will not be an 11am service on second Sunday but there will be Sung Evensong at 6 pm instead. This change is to enable me to assist in other villages once a month in the morning. Many villages do not have weekly services and this is one way to help a little!

**Rev David McCoulough**

Paul and Janette Newsome hope that the aerial display and other festivities to celebrate the wedding of their daughter, Jessica, on 23rd July, didn't disturb too many villagers! A wonderful time was had by all!



### BEST KEPT VILLAGE

Judging is imminent, so please make sure that your frontage looks good!



### WAGGON & HORSES NEWS

**WANTED! Darts, Dominoes and Pool** players. We are looking at setting up teams to enter in to the winter leagues, if anyone is interested in playing for the pub, then please contact Chris or Richard on 01636 813109 or pop into the Waggon



**Live Music : Saturday 6th August from 7.30pm**

**The Corndodgers** will be playing live! The Corndodgers are a six piece band based in Nottingham. Mostly they play traditional music mainly from North America, and their music covers a range of genres. Although the music is predominantly North American Folk, it is heavily influenced by Bluegrass, Jazz and Blues.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES – 14TH JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Simon Bust, Andrew Paris, Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Janet Simmons

**Matters Arising:** 1) County Cllr Andy Stewart reported that the drains on The Turnpike were to be repaired imminently.

**Village Hall:** The Insurance claim for the flood damage has now been settled. The claim for the lead stolen off the roof is still ongoing – quotes have been submitted to the insurance company.

The door to the store (old committee room) needs re-hanging.

**Village Hall Committee:** The committee will organise the cleaning of the hall and liaise with the parish council on maintenance matters. It will also organise fund raising events for the hall. Lettings will still be arranged through the Clerk.

**Adoption of Standing Orders:** Simon Bust and Andrew Paris to meet and report back to the next meeting.

**Halam "Twinning":** A small group of villages are interested in taking this further, but it may be that the French village is rather too remote to make twinning worthwhile/interesting. Awaiting further feedback.

**Open Meeting:** Matters discussed – 1) willow tree near ford – over hanging verge and needs cutting back. Not the responsibility of the parish council. 2) Old peoples' bungalow (St Michael's Close) has been empty for some time. Clerk to contact the District Council to find out what the situation is. 3) Mirror at the junction of School Lane/Turnpike – Clerk to contact landowners to advise them to check any liability issues. 4) Hedges obstructing pavements – **County Council Highways are currently looking at overhanging hedges. Please ensure that your hedges/trees do not obstruct any pavements or footpaths.** 5) Best Kept Village competition – **judging is to take place shortly. Please tidy up around your front garden/property so that Halam can be judged favourably.**

**Finance:** Unanimously agreed to pay P & M Ricket – insurance claim money covers this work

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011, **PLEASE NOTE LATER START AT 8.00pm** in the village hall

# HALAM NEWS

SEPT 2011



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## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

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**Founded as a salt trading town this capital city is the 3rd highest in the world.**  
Where have I been? Good luck!!

## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday Sept 6th at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall, when local Orchid Expert, Arthur Deakin will be our speaker - so bring along any ailing orchids and ask his advise!. (October meeting will be Tuesday 4th)  
**Glenys Herbert 812335**



## MUSIC AT THE WAGGON

The next music evening at the Waggon will be on Saturday 10th Sept, from 7:30pm, when a young Southwell acoustic guitarist starting his solo career - "Just Brad" - will entertain us.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Welcome to Trevor and Carole Kemp who moved into Trevor's parents house on Gray Lane on 19th August.

Following success in A levels, we wish the following young residents of Halam all the best as they embark on the next phase of their education at University:

- Amber Brown, who will study Geography at Aberystwyth
- Freddie Hunt who will study PE at Leeds

Congratulations to Katie Hill who recently passed her driving test!



Jessica Newsome and Richard Owen who were married on 23rd July in Southwell Minster. Jessica is the daughter of Paul and Janette Newsome of Gray Lane.

## HALAM CHURCH CHOIR

After the summer recess, choir practice will start again on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm for the children and 7pm for adults. We now have four children in the choir and new members, adults and children, will be very welcome. The children are paid £1 for each attendance at rehearsals and services.

**Alec Wells**

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## ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SEPTEMBER 2011 SERVICES



Sept 4 8:00 Holy Communion  
Sept 11 18:00 Spoken evening prayer  
Sept 18 9:30 Family Communion & Baptism  
Sept 25 11:00 Sung Eucharist & Baptism  
Oct 4 8:00 Holy Communion  
9:30 All age Harvest Thanksgiving

Rev D McCoulough  
Rev D McCoulough  
Rev D McCoulough  
Rev D McCoulough

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD: SEPTEMBER 2011

There has been an invasion of the churchyard and in gardens by a red army of ladybirds. They were on the long stems of grasses, amongst the lush green leaves of the cranesbill and scampering among the needles of the yew and juniper. What has brought about this invasion and what does it portend?

There is no doubt that the dramatic increase is due to the prolonged high pressure, warmth and dryness that we have enjoyed over the last 6 weeks, with the associated proliferation of aphids. Over the last few weeks I have seen these attractive red beetles seemingly sunning themselves on the lichen and mosses of the gravestones and trees - they move quickly, but at present rarely fly as they seem so content to be where they are. They are the gardener's best friend as they feed on herds of aphids, green, white and black, and scale insects. It is this that has helped associate them with benefit rather than ill, and for centuries they have been associated with 'Our Lady', the Virgin Mary, the more so because artists originally depicted her in scarlet cloak.

The seven spots of the common ladybird has been associated with the seven joys and seven sorrows of Mary, but this delightful beetle has a characteristic that many would find enviable - once it has become an adult it stays the same size for the rest of its life!

They have few predators as their bright colour warns potential enemies and when winter comes they hibernate. When spring comes the adults mate and as the new generation hatches the old generation dies out. The ladybird will eat about 5000 aphids in its year-long life and so its benefit to the garden should never be underestimated. If we give ourselves time to look around our environment we would be overjoyed at the splash of colour they provide, - the colour appears and disappears as the beetle dives in and out of the foliage and when we see it we smile and our day has been enriched by them:

'Ladybugs all dressed in red, strolling through the flowerbed.  
If I were tiny just like you I'd creep among the flowers too.'

Before we had barometers our forefathers relied on the ladybird to help forecast the weather - if the ladybird is easily seen in large numbers a spell of fine weather is to be expected; let's hope they return in large numbers for the bank holiday weekend!

David Herbert

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011 AT 8PM

**Present.** Simon Bust, Janet Simmons, Sarah Godfrey, Glenys Herbert, David Herbert, Chris Bevans

**Apologies.** Andrew Paris

**Village Hall.** The harvest supper will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. This year it will be without the games. The games will probably be held as a separate event. More details from Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey will follow.

**Standing Orders.** The standing orders are to be inspected by Andrew Paris ready for adoption in September.

**Parking in the Village.** Complaints have been received about cars parked opposite road junctions. This makes it difficult to proceed onto the road, ie when pulling out onto Radley Road from Back Lane, Grey Lane or St Michael's Close. The parish council request that residents try to park considerately. This also applies to cars parked near the School Lane and Radley Road junctions with the Turnpike.

**Street Lights in St Michael's Close.** New street lights have been installed that unfortunately do not illuminate the front doors on the close.

**NALC** Janet Simmons and Sarah Godfrey will represent the parish council

**Future Chairman.** Andrew Paris is to be asked if he would like to attend "an introduction to Chairmanship" on 13<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Standards Committee.** Newark and Sherwood have asked if anyone wants to be considered to be nominated as a parish representative on the Standards Committee.

**Planning.** An application has been made to enlarge the entrance to "Green Acres" on Radley Road. It was a unanimous decision to support the application on condition the gates were not of a 'solid' construction.

**Finance.** It was agreed to pay £67.25 costs for the parish council election and £111.80 for bin emptying for the year.

**Next Meeting** This will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm.

# HALAM NEWS

OCT 2011



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Welcome to **Ed Bratt, Jo Simpson, Lizzy & Paddy**, who have moved onto Radley Road
- Good luck to **Graham Lennard Jones** with his apprenticeship at Currys & to **Lizzie Lucas** who will be studying for A levels at Oakham School
- Congratulations to **Ant Barrowcliff, Joe Hunt and Alex Reid** who recently graduated in Real Estate Management, Biomedical Sciences and Criminology respectively.
- Sadly we have to report the passing of **Frank Roberts**, formerly of Church Cottage, aged 89, on 24th August following a short illness.

## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Bogota, Colombia**. Answers should be submitted by 15th Oct by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) Include your name and address on the email!

The clue for this month's destination is:  
**Called Turicum by the Romans, this city, the largest in its country, sits on the river Limmat.**  
Where have I been? Good luck!!

## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday Oct 4th at 7:30pm** in the Village Hall with the theme "Middens and Muck" and the competition is for a fancy loo roll cover.  
**November meeting is on Tuesday 1st** at 7:30pm (Village Hall), where David Richard will speak about "My life as a Headmaster". The competition will be for an old school report  
**Glenys Herbert 812335**

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## BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR IN HALAM!

16 year old **Lizzie Lucas** of Gray Lane has invented and is now marketing & selling a unique new product to help overcome the problem of muddy wellies, thereby avoiding dry mud being left at the door and/or trampled through the house. Now in full production the **wellywasher** (one version pictured here) is being sold across the UK. It can be seen at Reg Taylors and Forest Feeds. More info and to buy on-line go to Lizzie's website at [www.wellywasher.co.uk](http://www.wellywasher.co.uk)



## ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL OCTOBER 2011 SERVICES



Oct 2	8:00	Holy Communion	Rev D McCoulough
	9:30	Morning Worship & Harvest Thanksgiving	Rev D McCoulough
Oct 9	18:00	Evensong	Rev D McCoulough
Oct 16	9:30	Family Communion	Rev D McCoulough
Oct 23	11:00	Sung Eucharist	Rev D McCoulough
Oct 30	9:30	Holy Communion (joint with Edingley)	Rev D McCoulough

**November 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30 a.m. Grandparents Sunday** A time to give thanks for grandparents. Why not invite a grandparent to church for this special service?

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

Thanks to the Waggon & Horses for hosting the Halam MacMillan Coffee morning on Friday 30th Sept. £250+ was raised

## GOLDEN WEDDING PARTY

**Glenys & David Herbert** celebrating their Golden wedding with family and friends at Ashdene.

Their actual wedding anniversary is not until November, but the party was held in September to take advantage of more clement weather!

Suggestions as to what David said to cause Glenys to laugh hysterically should be sent to the usual email address please.....!



## CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

There will be a working party in Churchyard on **Saturday 15th October** at 10am, weather permitting! Bring your wheelbarrow, strong gloves, secateurs and trowels plus a sense of humour! In return there will be tea, coffee, beer and buns as well as back ache and stiffness! It should be great fun



## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD OCTOBER 2011

Great Britain signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and committed itself to playing a part in conserving and sustaining the variety of life on Earth. A direct spin off from this was Westminster parliament developing a Biodiversity Plan called 'The Living Churchyard and Cemetery project.' This project has 7 aims:

- \* to enhance wildlife and its habitat in churchyards and cemeteries
- \* to preserve burial grounds as an essential part of historic landscape
- \* to create an atmosphere of benefit to grieving visitors
- \* to encourage educational use of burial grounds
- \* to aid the understanding of our natural and cultural heritage and its importance in creation
- \* to enhance the amenity value of burial grounds

**For the seventh - well you will have to wait until the end of this piece for this gem.!**

What does this preamble have to do with us in Halam? For the last 10 years a number of us have worked in the churchyard and made it into a place of magic, peace and enjoyment. Part of the churchyard is left wild, part is mown and part is planted with a diversity of perennials and shrubs which give colour, pleasure and peace to all that visit it. The churchyard has become not so much a vision of the dead rising up, as the dead providing sanctuary for species whose living space has been cut back. It contains a large variety of natural wild flowers and grasses, it is a haven for insects, vertebrates and invertebrates of all kinds (this summer I have seen both slow worms and grass snakes). Three years ago a magazine described the churchyard at St Michael's as 'a bit of heaven in this frenetic world'. Two years ago when Halam was visited by the Nottinghamshire 'Best kept Village Award' group the churchyard was singled out for praise as an imaginative and ideal answer to churchyard management. Now I have just learned that a body set up by HRH The Prince Philip - the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) is to use Halam churchyard as a role model to illustrate what can be achieved in responsible environmental care. Churchyards represent islands of conservation in an otherwise nature unfriendly world and here in Halam we should continue to do all we can to promote this aim.

And now I come to the 7<sup>th</sup> of the aims; that is **to promote community-based action for the benefit of the environment**. I would urge all of you to give some of your valuable time to the churchyard in Halam - perhaps a short time each month, or a few hours each year - help however small will be most welcome. Why not join in our communal work parties which take place 2 or 3 times a year? - Free tea, coffee, beer and grub - all we ask of you is a stiff back and a lot of sweat for a short period of time! The next working party is on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10 am** - bring a barrow, strong gloves, secateurs, trowels, garden fork and of course a sense of humour!

David Herbert

## HALAM ACTIVITIES



Junior members of the Halam Church Choir  
- Sarah, Isobel, Zoe & Ava. New members always  
welcome. Please contact Alec Wells.



A new yoga class has started in Halam Village Hall  
run by Paula Arnold.  
For details of dates etc contact Marina Thompson  
on 814026

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info@jccdevelopments.co.uk

## Halam St Michael's Church

### ORGAN RECITAL

### ROGER BRYAN

(Former organist at Lincoln cathedral)

Sunday 16 October 2011: 7.30pm

Tickets: £8 (includes interval glass of wine/soft drink) available from:

Karin Lindley (01636 815854)

David Herbert (01636 812335)

Alec Wells (01636 813491)

Or email: karinlindley@hotmail.com

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 22ND SEPT AT 19:30

**Present:** Andrew Paris (Chair), Chris Bevans, Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Janet Simmonds

**Apologies:** Simon Bust

**Matters Arising:** 1) Dangerous trees on School Lane – some dead trees and over-hanging branches could be a hazard. The Clerk to contact Notts CC Highways. 2) Pot-holes on Radley Road – some have been patched but others still need attention. **Please report any particular pot-hole problems either by phone on 08449 80 80 80 or online at [www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems](http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems) - the more people who report a particular problem the more likely it is maybe that the pot-hole will be repaired.**

**Village Hall:** One of the storage heaters needs repair – Clerk to sort. Fire signs and extinguishers to be put in place by Millennium Fire Services.

**Adoption of Standing Orders:** Draft circulated – final adoption to be done next month.

**Halam "Twinning":** meeting to be arranged to discuss further, It was agreed that this was something that would have to be pursued outside of the parish council by any interested village residents.

**Harvest Supper:** Arranged for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 7 for 7.30pm. The event will be in the traditional format of a village supper; tickets are £7.50 each and £5.00 for under 12s.

**Open Meeting:** Matters discussed – 1) Bus shelter guttering needs repair – Clerk to sort; 2) Phone box – still available for 999 calls. Electricity supply details still need to be sorted.

**Correspondence:** 1) NCC Local Improvement Scheme – any particular village "improvement" projects can receive funding from the County Council. 2) Winter Services to Parish Councils: we are still waiting for our grit bin from Notts CC. **Local farmers can receive payment from the County Council for clearing roads – further details from Joanne Horton 01623 520742 / [joanne.horton@nottssc.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.horton@nottssc.gov.uk)**

**Planning:** Ashcroft House, Gray Lane: proposed stables – agreed to support unanimously with the added comment that the stable should be for private use only.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 7.30pm in the village hall

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE WAGGON & HORSES

### SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER

Live music continues after 8pm with a return visit from local contemporary folk band - **The Comdodgers**.



### SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Fancy Dress **Halloween Cocktail Party** - join us from 8pm for frightfully good cocktails! Prize for the best costume!



### SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

**Bonfire and fireworks party** (subject to sufficient demand). £5 adult, £3 child (16 or under). Family ticket £15 (2 x adults & 2 x child). Bonfire lit at **6:30pm**. Fireworks start at **7:30pm**. Pie and pea supper will be available plus bonfire toffee and toffee apples. Tickets available at the Waggon 7th October onwards.



# HALAM NEWS

Nov 2011



Please remember to send articles and other info (birthdays, exam success, upcoming events etc) for the **HALAM NEWS** by 25th of each month to:  
[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

You can also drop them in to The Manor House, Radley Road. Articles may be edited or held over due to space constraints. Sponsorship is £10 per edition. Thanks to this months sponsors:  
**JCC Carpenters**

## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Zurich, Switzerland**. Answers should be submitted by 15th Nov by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) Include your name and address on the email! The clue for this month's destination is: **Named after our post town, this city is the home of Liberty International airport.**  
Where have I been? Good luck!!

## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday Nov 1st** at 7:30pm (Village Hall), where David Richard will speak about "My life as a Headmaster". The competition will be for an old school report. The December meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th**.  
**Glenys Herbert 812335**

## HALAM VILLAGE HALL

A new website has been created to promote the village hall facilities. You can check details & availability, download booking forms & hiring conditions etc. Please check out:  
[www.halamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.halamvillagehall.co.uk)

Experienced **BRICKLAYER** available for all brick work, extensions, block paving etc.  
Contact **Trevor Kemp** on **07724 605 352**

Thanks to all who contributed to the collection for **Marie Curie** - £20.55 was raised.  
**Tony Denyer**

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**01623 541 211**

[info@jccdevelopments.co.uk](mailto:info@jccdevelopments.co.uk)

## SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER - BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS PARTY

£5 adult, £3 child (16 or under). Family ticket £15 (2 x adults & 2 x child). Bonfire lit at **6:30pm**. Fireworks start at **7:30pm**. Pie and pea supper will be available plus bonfire toffee and toffee apples. This event can only go ahead if sufficient tickets are bought in advance to ensure costs are covered.  
**Please buy tickets from the Waggon by 10pm on Wed 2nd Nov**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Nov 29th** - Talk at 7pm in Southwell Library by Graham Anthony about Henry Cotton a Southwell man who heard the distress call from the Titanic
- **Dec 3rd** - Halam School PTA Christmas Fayre. **2pm - 4:30pm**. Crafts, Food, Games - come and join the festive fun!



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Congratulations to Alice Fraser who was 18 on October 4th,
- Congratulations to Imogen Lucking on passing her grade 1 clarinet and piano

## BURNING BRIGHTLY - CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN CHURCH SCHOOLS

2011 is the anniversary of the start of the National Society of the Church of England, and celebrates 200 years of free education in Britain – initiated by the Church. The Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham have been marking the occasion by the pilgrimage of a festive candle signifying the light of Christ in education. The candle has been moving from school to school during 2011 and will be arriving at Halam CE Primary School on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

To celebrate this occasion the school will be holding a special service at St Michael's, Halam at **10.10am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011**. The service will be attended by the children and staff from Halam School and all members of the community are invited to attend  
**Graham Cullen**

## CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Saturday 15th of October was a wonderful day, the weather was fantastic and so was the workforce gathered in the churchyard by 10 am! here was a grand turn out, with over 20 locals enjoying the opportunity to work together clearing up most of the detritus of the last year and making the churchyard for the winter. A very big thank you to all those who helped, and also to those who could not but nevertheless sent their apologies. Another work force day will be on **November 12 @ 10am** but only if weather is decent. Please call 812335 to check if it will go ahead  
**David Herbert**

## CHURCH STUDY GROUP

There will be 2 meetings of the Church Study Group in November. The subject is "Looking at what we do in Church on Sundays". More details are to be found on the village notice board. Rev'd Russell Perry has kindly agreed to lead us. Wednesdays 2nd and 30th November at The Scypen, Radley Road starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome.  
**Tony Andrews**

## ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL OCTOBER 2011 SERVICES



Nov 6	8:00	Holy Communion	Rev D McCoulough
	9:30	Morning Worship & Grandparents Sunday	Rev D McCoulough
Nov 13	18:00	Evensong (Remembrance Sunday)	Rev D McCoulough
Nov 20	9:30	Family Communion	Rev D McCoulough
Nov 27	11:00	Sung Eucharist	Rev D McCoulough

There will be a Service of Remembrance at the Halam Lancaster Memorial on School Lane at 10.45am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Wreaths will be laid and a two-minute's silence observed

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

## WINE TASTING EVENING

A wine tasting is being held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 26th November at 7:30pm**. In what should be a fun village social event, 8 wines will be sampled and cheese and cold cuts will be provided. Tickets priced at £12 (in advance only) are available from **Ganesh Subramanian (812544)** or **Ian Anderson (813913)**



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT THORESBY

- \* **Winterfest Craft Fair** - Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November
  - \* **Winter FoodFest** - Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November
- Many other Christmas musical events - contact **01623 822009** for details

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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - THURSDAY 13TH OCT AT 19:30

**Present:** Simon Bust, Andrew Paris, Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Chris Bevans **Apologies:** Janet Simmons  
**Village Hall:** a village hall committee is to be formed to promote more use of the hall, look after the general running of the hall and to raise funds for the hall. The committee will be composed of both parish councillors and residents of the village; it will report to the parish council. The parish council will take the committee's guidance when allocating and funding raised by the committee. Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey will report back next meeting regarding the final recommendations for operational procedures (e.g. lettings co-ordination)  
**Adoption of Standing Orders:** the version circulated last month was adopted unanimously  
**Halam "Twinning":** Marina Thompson to contact the French villagers and report that there is no progress with this due to little interest shown by Halam residents  
**Harvest Supper:** the event was a great success. The evening was enjoyed by all and £500 was raised for village hall funds. Many thanks to all who contributed and attended to create such a good village evening!!  
**Dangerous Trees on School Lane:** County Council Highways are to inspect the trees along School Lane this month (October)  
**Pot Holes, Radley Road:** County Council Highways will inspect these at the same time as the tree survey  
**Open Meeting:** Matters discussed – 1) Kissing-gate at the top of Windmill Lane – County Cllr Bruce Loughton to sort; 2) Parking on Back Lane – the way vehicles are being parked is greatly restricting access down Back Lane. This could be a real problem for the emergency services. Please park considerately on Back Lane – the police are now aware of this problem; 3) Newark & Sherwood District is bringing in a Community Infrastructure Levy on all new-build properties – this will be about £45 per square meter of new-build; 4) Cllr Loughton reported the great improvement in GCSE results for the County  
**Correspondence:** 1) Parish Council Conference – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov: Andrew Paris & Sarah Godfrey to attend  
2) Local Development Framework: Andrew Paris to report back  
**Planning:** Church Farm House, Radley Road; demolition of a single-storey rear extension, proposed two-storey extension with associated internal alterations and 5 no. window replacement (FUL and LBC) – agreed to support unanimously.  
**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 7.30pm in the village hall

## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD: CHANGE WITH THE PASSING OF THE YEARS. – OR WILD IMAGININGS!

Halam 1824: "They tell me, miller, that you're going to have one of those new fangled windmills." "Aye parson." said the miller "It's no good going on wi' mi old contraption. I can't manage with all the grist they brings me. A new fangled windmill it's going to be, and they b'aint no place to put 'im except topside of Halam. I'm sorry sir if its going to jigger up the view for some of your posh church goers, but..."

Halam 1924: "Yes, even though my folks built the mill way back, it's now out of date and no use to me, and I shall scrap what is left of it." said the miller's great grandson. "I have been approached by some sort of historical society saying that 't would be a sin to do away with the fine old landmark - but I am going to go ahead and knock it down. I hear that they are going to put up big metal tower things to carry electric wires and these towers will march right up the Greet and supply us ordinary folk with electricity some day. People with plenty of money and little to do are saying that it will spoil the view around Halam - but I says - put them up and let's have the wires..."

Halam 2024: In the revamped Waggon and Horses internet boozier and diner the television set was presenting an impassioned appeal by the President of the Society for Preservation of Rural England. "And now I come to the latest proposal made in the name of progress by our very own modern vandals, who wish to tear down the line of graceful early twentieth century pylons close to the village of Halam. This society is going to fight this sacrilege with all its power. Although these structures do not serve any practical purpose these days, these fine old creeper grown monuments of the past stand against the sky as one of the fast diminishing number of relics of an England that is gone. It is the aim of this society to buy the ground each pylon stands upon and..."

'There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.' **Nelson Mandela: 'A Long Walk to Freedom'**

*David Herbert*

# HALAM NEWS

DEC 2011



Please remember to send articles and other info (birthdays, exam success, upcoming events etc) for the **HALAM NEWS** by 25th of each month to:

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You can also drop them in to The Manor House, Radley Road. Articles may be edited or held over due to space constraints. Sponsorship is £10 per edition. Thanks to this month's sponsors:

**Pressed Express**

## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Newark, New Jersey**.

Answers should be submitted by 15th Dec by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) Include your name and address on the email! The last clue for 2011 is :

**There is a grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza**

Where have I been? Good luck!!

## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The December meeting will be at 7:30pm on **Tuesday 6th** in the Village Hall.



The January meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd  
**Glenys Herbert 812335**

I would like to thank everyone who came to pay their last respects to John at his funeral on 1st November. I know he is now at peace, but after 50 years of marriage, I will miss him more than words can say. He will always be with me in spirit. Thank you all again.  
**Maureen Pykett**

## **A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!**

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Good luck to Graham Cullen, Headteacher at Halam School who will be taking up a new headship in January.
- Congratulations to Cy Holmes who recently had his 18th birthday
- Congratulations to Stephanie McCracken who was 21 on 19th Nov

### THANK YOU.....

- \* To the editor's band of "little helpers" who deliver the Halam News come rain or shine, they are: Richard Brown, Sarah Fowler, Tony Hallam, David Herbert, Kate Hill, Glenda Hutchinson, Patricia Kells and Don Reid
- \* To Halam School for Halam News photocopying facilities!
- \* To everyone who turned up to help on the latest Churchyard gardening day

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE WAGGON

- \* **Thursday 22nd Dec** - Carols around the fire, 7pm
- \* **Christmas Eve** - open Noon to 1am, food served until 9pm
- \* **Christmas Day** - Bar only Noon - 2:30pm & 7:30pm - Midnight
- \* **Boxing Day** - open Noon until Midnight, food served Noon - 9pm. There will be a Halam themed Quiz of the Year, at 9:30pm!!
- \* **New Years Eve** - Noon - 3pm Bar & Food service
- \* **New Years Eve Party** - 5:30pm till Late! Come and see the New Year in with us, and enjoy a buffet (cash donations welcome!) and any profits will be donated to the Waggon's chosen charities.

### NOTES OF THE HALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2011

**Present:** Andrew Paris (in the Chair), Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Janet Simmonds **Apologies:** Simon Bust & Chris Bevans

**Matters Arising:** Local Development Framework - Andrew Paris reported on the District Council's consultation documents for the Landscape Character Assessment and the Allocations & Development Report. He proposed responses for the Parish Council - approved unanimously.

**Village Hall:** Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey outlined the brief for, and operation of the proposed village hall committee. These were agreed in principle to operate for the next twelve months with a review at the end of the financial year. Sarah Godfrey will circulate the written report to the other parish councillors.

**Halam "Twinning":** Marina Thompson has contacted the French villagers and report that due to the little interest shown by Halam residents this scheme is to be put on hold.

**Dangerous Trees on School Lane:** County Council Highways have now started work on the trees along School Lane.

**Pot Holes, Radley Road:** still awaiting work by the County Council Highways. **Pot hole problems can be reported online at**

**[www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems](http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems) or call 08449 80 80 80**

**Open Meeting:** Matters discussed - 1) Kissing-gate at the top of Windmill Lane - meeting has been arranged after the Chairman's return with the County Council to discuss further; 2) Grit bin - still awaiting our "free" issue: County Councillor Andy Stewart to progress; 3) Turnpike Drains - work has started on repairs; 4) Edges of the lanes in Halam are in poor condition - Cllr Stewart stated that budgetary constraints mean that it is unlikely that any major work would be undertaken. The Chairman made the point that at least poor road conditions tend to slow speeds and discourage use of the lanes as "cut-throughs"; 5) Christmas tree - unanimously agreed that the PC should put up the usual tree in front of the village hall; 6) Improved play equipment at Halam School - this is an issue outside of the Parish Council's remit and control; 7) Street lights - many of these are not working in the village - **street light problems should be reported online at [www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems](http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems) or by phoning 08449 80 80 80**

#### **Correspondence:**

1) Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue: Queen's Diamond Jubilee beacons - passed to Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey (Village Hall Committee) to form part of next year's celebrations

2) Newark & Sherwood Homes: AGM - Simon Bust invited to attend

3) NALC: AGM Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Sarah Godfrey to attend

**Planning:** Two, The Cottages, The Turnpike: Householder application to demolish existing conservatory and replace with single-storey extension - agreed to support unanimously.

**Finance:** unanimously agreed to pay External Auditor fees for the 2010/11 accounts.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 7.30pm in the village hall

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

## JUNE MCKENZIE (1920 - 2011)

June was born in 1920 in Brandon, Warwickshire where her father was a farmer with farms also in Cheshire and the Midlands. Her early life was spent on a busy farm under the care of a governess, but this was all too confining for June who had, by the age of 12, developed a very sure sense of purpose and what she wanted out of life. This independence of thought was clearly seen in her marriage to a farm hand from Scotland - Ian McKenzie, in 1942 in the village of Wolston, Warwickshire

June and her husband bought Challand farm, Halam shortly afterwards and began the very ambitious task of restructuring it. They went into Turkey breeding - she soon became a member of the turkey federation and her opinion was keenly sort by the farming community country-wide. She then established kennels for reception of dogs and cats and this business still runs to this day. On the death of her husband in 1980 she realised that she should think of relinquishing the farm and in fact she did so in about 1990. June then moved into Southwell and lived at Eastfield House until 2000 when she moved into a retirement flat at 65 Westgate

This then is the bare bones of a most amazing life - she was no ordinary lady, but because of her drive and infectious enthusiasm she was able to collect so many friends who, before they realised it, were doing her so many favours and seemed glad to be doing so. She was a champion of sustainable farming before the term had its present-day connotations; her knowledge of plants and propagation was legendary and she was tireless in the amount of effort she put into her gardening and her friendships. In the last 11 years of her life at the retirement flats she developed the council land behind into a garden and it became so colourful that garden groups from all round the county would visit her. She would gladly provide great trays of propagated plants for charitable garden openings and was always able to give sound advice on the easy ways to propagate difficult plants - it was only one year ago at the age of 89, did she give up this great half acre garden and settle for a small plot behind her flat. She worked to an exacting timetable - she gardened from 4am until 10am on a summer morning and then would rest a while in order to write to world leaders - and many would reply to her promptly - her address book even had two addresses for the Dalai Lama! She would then have a nap and then by 6pm was back into the garden. She was generous with her time and for 20 years would collect moneys at the gate at Ashdene for village open gardens and for the National Garden scheme. In winter months she would hold court in the Saracen's Head from 11am until 2pm and gave an open invitation to any who would wish to join her. Among the many things she said the following stand out vividly :

'The man who worries night and day about the dandelions in the lawn will find it a great relief to start to love the dandelions. Each blossom is worth more than a gold coin as it shines in the sunlight- it is attractive to the things that make our life possible- the insects.'

'Love the things that are nearest to you and love intensely.'

She was still active in her mind up until the day of her departure and we in Halam can really say how grateful we are that she dwelt among us.

She's gone to meet her maker  
The Almighty up on high.  
It won't be long before she makes  
A garden in the sky.

We come from earth, we return to earth and in between.....we garden

David Herbert

## JOHN WILLIAM PYKETT (1939 - 2011)

Born in 1939, John's early years were sharpened by his close relationship with the soil and land of Halam - little wonder that he spent all his formative years working on farms. It was for him a source of great happiness and joy and it mattered to him. He had the support of so many well-wishers in the farming community of Halam.

He attended Halam school and left at the age of 15 to begin his working life on Mr Hoggard's farm - and I doubt if there is a farm in Halam that he did not work for at some time or other. It was as a well-respected farm worker that he married Maureen in 1961 and they moved into a cottage on Back Lane

His meeting with Maureen was purely a matter of chance because it took place out of Halam - John had actually given himself an evening off to go cultural and had gone to the Southwell Ideal dance hall, as he did regularly on a Saturday night with the Sharman lads. This chance meeting at the dance at Southwell resulted in a strong and unshakeable bond which, despite misfortunes in their lives, caused them to become ever stronger. This was put to the test when in 1973 they became the proud parents of their daughter Jane, a delightful but severely disabled angel. In 1979 they had their son Ben. John, Maureen and Ben placed Jane at the centre of their lives, and despite the pressures on the family, John helped them to win through with care, love and quiet dignity .

John's main love was the land: over the years he worked at Bankwood Farm, and with Frank Reynolds at Farnsfield. In 1963 he became the tractor driver for Sir Steven Gibson at Manor Farm and later for the Griffin Family. John moved away from working on farms in the 1970's and joined the council as a Cleansing Manager in 1995 where he continued until his retirement. In that year the family moved to a bungalow on Back Lane - a property which made their care for Jane much simpler.

Their beloved daughter Jane died in 1994 and at about that time John started to suffer from a chronic condition which was to severely disable him over the last years of his life - but despite this he remained cheerful and for many years was to be seen continuing the age-old tradition of older Halam inhabitants, of sitting on the bench at the crossroads by the Old Plough - encouraging drivers to cross this notorious travel spot and more often than not encouraging them to stop and have a chat.

These days it is rare to speak of one who remained so close to the place of his birth, so close to the real and only home he knew, surrounded by those who he knew and trusted and who had learned to honour and respect him for what he was: a kind, loving, hardworking chap who, despite problems, considered himself fortunate in his life.

David Herbert

### ANYONE FOR SCRABBLE?

Is anyone interested in a fortnightly game of scrabble (possibly down the pub!) and even a village scrabble championship?  
Contact me if you are! Thanks  
David Herbert 812335



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