

HALAM NEWS

JULY 2013



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

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 sponsor: **Jane Oakley** of Manor Fields

PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026

SCHOOL EVENTS - EVERYONE IS INVITED!

- ⇒ **School Play - *The Evacuees*, Monday 15th July 6pm**
- ⇒ **Sportsday, Wednesday 17th July 2pm**
- ⇒ **Leavers service, Thursday 18th July 9.30am (in Church)**

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- John and Jax Thornewill are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild - Nyla Bay Galligan on 13th June weighing 6lbs 3 oz. Mum (Emily) and baby are doing well
- Congratulations to Carole and Trevor Kemp on the birth of their grandson Taite Byron on 17th May weighing 8lbs 1.5oz

HALAM & DISTRICT WI



Hallem WI meeting Tuesday 4th June 2013 in Hallem Village

Hall - We all enjoyed a quiz compiled by Julie Paris. Our next meeting will be on 2nd July - Trip to Southwell Care Project's new flower growing venture at Brackenhurst, followed by a drink at the 'Final Whistle'. We are meeting at the care project site at 7pm (not 7.30). If you would like a lift please contact Sarah on 812224

HALAM BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

The Hallem Baby and Toddler group meet at Hallem village hall every other Friday morning during school term times. The group is aimed at anyone living in the village or those who live outside the village but who are thinking of sending their child to Hallem School. We meet between 10am and 11:30am. The next dates are **5th and 19th July**. 19th July will be our last one before summer and, weather permitting, we are planning a visit to the park. Details will be emailed nearer the time.

Caroline Haddelsey carolinehaddelsey@yahoo.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - 13TH JUNE 2013 AT 7.30PM

Present: A Paris (in the Chair), S Godfrey, D Herbert, G Herbert, J Simmonds

Apologies: S Bust, C Bevans

Village Hall: the recent Wine Quiz Evening was a very successful event - any profits going towards buying a projector for the village hall. Many thanks to all who helped with the event. Clerk to organise for the weeds in the village hall car park to be dealt with

Roads: Water at the top of Radley Road (near the Oxtan Road) - work by Highways is now in hand, including the erosion problem along the side of the road.

Trees on School Lane overhanging road and possibly presenting a hazard - one landowner has already been spoken to, and the Clerk will speak to the other to get some removal/cutting back work done

Beech hedge outside Hallem Lodge (along the Turnpike) is encroaching on the pavement - Clerk to speak to the householder

A dead horse was dumped on Holme Lane (under the big tree on the corner) - please keep a look out for any suspicious activity and report to the police of 101 (always use 999 in case of emergency)

Public Consultation - Draft Housing Supplementary Planning Document: Andrew Paris to report back to the next meeting

Renaming of Radley Road: The cost of adding a sign saying "formerly Church Lane" to the Radley Road sign will cost the parish £180. Cllr Roger Jackson has offered to pay for this out of his councillor's fund. Unanimously agreed to proceed

Open Meeting: A provisional date of Sunday 15th September has been proposed for a village fete - more details on page 2 of this edition.

Correspondence:

- 1) Fully inclusive Neighbourhood Planning support for Local Councils - Andrew Paris to report back to the next meeting
- 2) Electoral Review of Newark & Sherwood - Andrew Paris to report back to the next meeting
- 3) Funding Meeting 26 June at Kelham Hall - representative(s) from the village hall committee to attend

Planning: The application for a new dwelling on the land to the rear of The Old Forge, Grey Lane, has been taken to Appeal following refusal of planning permission by N&S DC

Finance: Unanimously agreed to pay for Jubilee Tapestry Frame (funded by Cllr Andy Stewart). Agreed to pay annual electricity bill for the village phone box (£15.16) - 4 for: 1 against

After a detailed review, it was unanimously agreed to sign off the 2012/13 accounts

Item for the next Agenda: Danger from golf balls on School Lane from Norwood Park golf course

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 11th July 2013 at 7.30pm in the village hall

HAPPENINGS AT THE WAGGON & HORSES

Saturday 19th July - Charity Race Night for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets £5 including pie and pea supper plus glass of bucks fizz!

Saturday 27th July - Music Night. Local singer Hayley Rice makes a welcome return to the Waggon (from 8pm)

- Don't forget each Wednesday night is Curry Night!

- Congratulations to the **Ladies Darts Team** (Suzi Anderson, Lynne Campbell, Julie Paris, Angie Shaw, Sally Shaw (captain), Marina Thompson, Carolyn Todd & Alison Walker), who were runners up in the Proctor Cup and won the Chairman's Trophy for the most improved team and consistently attending all games!

- Congratulations to the **Domino Team** who won the Alan Burrell Memorial Trophy!

Thanks to **Bryan & Armstrong Solicitors** (tel 01623 626039) for sponsoring a table at the recent Hallem wine quiz. www.bryanandarmstrong.co.uk



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ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL JULY 2013 SERVICES



July 7th	08:00	Parish Communion	Rev D McCoulough
July 7th	09:30	All age ANIMAL BLESSING service	Rev D McCoulough
July 14th	18:00	Evensong	Anne Godfrey
July 21st	09:30	Parish Communion	Rev D McCoulough
July 28th	09:00	Holy Communion @ St Giles Edingley	Canon John Toy

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TALES FROM CHURCHYARD: JULY 2013

I have sought solace in the last few weeks in walking around the churchyard, as our new garden at 'The Scypen' is a mass of mud and builders' rubbish, and I have marvelled at how lovely even the simplest plants look; the closer one looks, the more beauty one sees. I am very lucky to have the time to admire these plants as even the most common and ordinary plants have values and aspects that I have never had the time to consider before.

We live in an age in which the pace of life seems to increase and people lose their sense of what is important, in the race to meet targets both in time and achievement. So much these days is written about happiness, but not so much about contentment. The hunt for happiness seems to be inexhaustible. When I googled 'happiness' this week I got 208 million results, but when I googled 'contentment' I only got 2.5 million results. A cross-section of the happiness results showed that by far the majority were associated with money, well-being and quality of life. When I looked at the results associated with contentment the message that came through loud and clear was that contentment may be found independent of financial gain; that the key was to be happy with one's lot, and not striving for unachievable targets which diminish happiness and contentment. All the world's philosophers have a common ground in thinking this:

"Who seeks more than he needs, hinders himself from enjoying what he has. Seek what you need and give up what you need not. For in giving up what you don't need, you'll learn what you really do need."

Looking around the churchyard I see plants that were named by our ancestors at a time when aspirations were not so driven as they are today; these names were given only after years of careful consideration and watching over generations. For over 400 years the name 'wort' was attached to plants which were thought to protect against particular symptoms or organs; hence we have lungwort, spleenwort, rupturewort, sneezewort; swallowwort, kidneywort - to name only a few! There is also a lustwort, but I haven't found that growing in the churchyard or in Halam.

One can find in Halam, however, the 'Poor man's weather glass' which is the scarlet pimpernel. Its flower only opens in the sunshine. In many gardens and churchyards we can find 'Love in a mist' also called 'Devil in the bush', because the flowers are carefully hidden by foliage and, when drunk as a tea, can have mysterious and hazy effects on people. So the story goes on, and in the names of flowers we find distilled the knowledge of our ancient forebears. Much of this knowledge is being rediscovered by the modern pharmaceutical industry in the search for more effective treatments for disease. I am convinced that nature has an antidote to most illness. We only have to look at the use of tamoxifen (from yew) digitalis (from foxgloves) and aspirin (from willow bark) to see that we are only just lifting the veil.

And do I want happiness or contentment, if I can't have them both? Then give me contentment, as it is better than chasing rainbows and being disappointed.

David Herbert

Herb or 'erb'?

Don't be disturbed
About the way to say this word.
Pronounce the H, or let it drop,
Botanically it matters not.
These useful plants do so delight,
They'd be amused about our plight.
So say it Herb, or just say 'erb,
Whatever which-way you'd prefer



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HALAM
LATE SUMMER

'tempting fete'
and open gardens

SEPT 15th
1:00 - 5:00pm

The inaugural "Late Summer Fete" is being organised jointly between villagers, Halam WI, Halam & Edingley School PTA & Young Farmers.

Events and activities will be taking place throughout the village including Open Gardens, Teas in the village Hall, Stalls located around the village, Sporting events and Games on the School field (including a Tug of War).

In addition there will be other activities such as a baking competition, creating a "Garden in a Box" and a flower display in Church. Applications for the various competitions will go out with the next edition(s) of the Halam News.

If you have ideas for other events or want to help, please contact Paul Oakley, Marina Thompson, Linda Croston, Chris Bevans or Sara Subramanian.



Potential captions to:
halam.news@hotmail.co.uk
by 20th July.

The best ones (which are publishable!) will be put into a draw for a super prize!

HALAM PRIZEWINNER!

**Institute of Physics -
2013 Rayleigh Medal and Prize**

Professor Ed Copeland, University of Nottingham (& Halam resident). For his work on particle/string cosmology from the evolution of cosmic superstrings, to the determination of the nature of Inflation in string cosmology and to constraining dynamical models of dark energy and modified gravity. Well done Ed (though many of our readers will not have a clue what this means!!)

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HALAM NEWS

AUGUST 2013



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PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING HALAMITES WHO GRADUATED THIS YEAR!



Stephanie McCracken
Marketing,
Newcastle University



Rob Oakley
Media Production,
University of Bedfordshire



Camilla Parkinson
Ancient History,
Birmingham University



Kirsty Reid
Zoology,
Newcastle University



Jack Thompson
War, Peace &
International Relations,
Reading University



Catherine Todd
English Literature,
Cardiff University



ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL AUGUST 2013 SERVICES



Aug 4th 08:00 Parish Communion
Aug 11th 18:00 Evensong
Aug 18th 09:30 Parish Communion
Aug 25th 11:00 Sung Eucharist

Rev P Graves
Anne Godfrey
Rev D McCoulough
Rev D McCoulough

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES — 11TH JULY 2013 AT 7.30PM

Present: S Bust, A Paris, C Bevans, D Herbert, G Herbert, J Simmonds **Apols:** S Godfrey

Village Hall: the clock needs putting up on the wall

Matters Arising: Golf balls – concerns about balls from Norwood Park hitting cars/people on School Lane. Clerk to write a letter to the Golf Club asking them to remind their members of the dangers

Roads: persistent inconsiderate parking is still happening on School Lane (mainly during school drop-off and pick-up times) – official action may need to be taken Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their hedges and trees do not overhang and obstruct the footpaths – this applies to pavements along the roadsides as well as public footpaths and bridleways

Public Consultation – Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document:

Andrew Paris reported on this document. Concerns mainly requirement on developers to provide affordable housing as part of any development scheme

Fully inclusive Neighbourhood Planning support for Local Councils: Andrew Paris reported that this concerns parish/town councils wishing to take on more responsibility for local planning decisions and the support available

Electoral Review of Newark & Sherwood: County Cllr Jackson explained that this concerns the electoral boundary changes to ensure councillors represent similar numbers of electorate. It may be proposed that Halam becomes part of the Southwell ward, or a new “surrounding villages” ward may be created. Unanimously agreed that Halam should be treated separately and differently from a larger town such as Southwell. Chairman to discuss with Cllr Laughton and to write a letter if appropriate.

Renaming of Radley Road: Agreed that the sign should state “also known as...”

Open Meeting: Matters discussed – 1) Phone box – Tony Denyer has offered to tidy up around the phone box/bench area, 2) post box – Clerk to contact Royal mail requesting repainting, 3) a “police” message has been circulating on mobile phones – beware as this is probably a scam, 3) Neighbourhood Watch – seems not to be functioning. Andrew Paris to report back, and 4) Police representative to be invited to a future PC Meeting (October?) – **in the meantime, any non-urgent or suspicious matters should be reported to the police by phoning 101. All urgent/emergency matters should still use the 999 number**

Correspondence: Notts Waste Core Strategy – Andrew Paris to report to next meeting

Planning: None this month

Finance: Unanimously agreed to pay for 1) new village hall tables, and 2) electrical repairs to water heater and room heaters

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th August 2013 in the village hall – **please note later start at 8.00pm**

Elizabeth and David Kinston

with their daughter, Elise,

who was baptised by the

Revd David McCoulough at

St Michael's Church on 7

July 2013. Elise is the second granddaughter of Tony and Maureen Hallam, of Back Lane



POINTS TO NOTE:

- There has been recent “high spirited” behaviour at the top of Gray Lane (junction with Radley Rd) on some evenings recently which disturbed local villagers. Empty beer and spirit bottles were removed and disposed of by a concerned resident. Further incidents may be reported to the local Police.
- At the request of many villagers, the **Parish Council** is requested to; 1) investigate the impact of the recent local flooding, 2) publicise what preventative measures could be taken by residents in future 3) look into how sand bags could be provided, & 4) publicise what villagers can expect from the Flood Warden in such situations.

REFLECTIONS FROM CHURCHYARD: AUGUST 2013

Two significant events in my life occurred in July this year and neither seem linked at first sight. The first event was the delight of strolling in the churchyard and having time to sit without feeling the need to be working in it. This has been possible because of the great help that Kevin Milner and Paul Ackroyd have given through working in the churchyard on a regular basis. The second event was the reception, at my new home, of the first tranche of books from storage in Lincoln; the first I have seen of my books since August last year when I packed them in preparation for our move down the road.

Why are these events connected? One of the first books to emerge from the crates was a book by Sir Bernard Lovell, the astronomer who created Jodrell Bank observatory in Cheshire. His book, 'In the Centre of Immensities' seeks to understand our place in an immense universe in which we are so small. I was thinking of this when I strolled in the churchyard, amazed at the great variety and number of insects around me on the evening of a hot day; unnumbered like the stars in the evening sky. I was pleased to recognise some of the insects and butterflies and give names to them, - how much pleasure this gave me! I began to wish I could identify more and, with this in mind, I turned to my copy of 'The Royal Entomological Society Book of British Insects'. It is a book that makes my head spin. There are 558 families of British insects but only 158 families of mammals in the entire world. There are 24,000 species of British insect, a small percentage of the world's population of insects which number over a million species

To contemplate insects is to come face to face with huge biodiversity, and to contemplate the night sky is to look on unimaginable wonders. Both a study of the insects in a summer churchyard, and a study of a starry pitch-black night bring the realisation that there are so many insects and so many unnamed stars, unknown and unknowable wonders.

Successive generations believe they understand the structure of life and man's place in the cosmos, only to have the next generation disprove and reject former theories. The search for knowledge has become separated from the search for wisdom. As we know more of our planet and its place in the cosmos we realise how delicate the mechanism of our earth is; treating it badly, shrugging our shoulders and hoping for the best is not an acceptable option. Isaac Asimov tells us: 'The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.' Let's strive for wisdom and step lightly in our lovely world.

David Herbert



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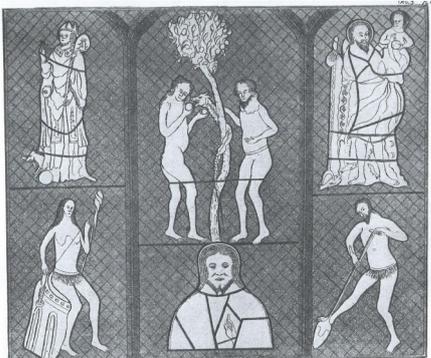
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HAVE YOU SEEN ADAM & EVE?

In the chancel of Halam Church there is a window containing four panels of important 14th century glass including two which depict Adam digging with a T-handled spade and Eve spinning. However in a book published in 1796 there appears this sketch of the window which shows two additional central panels including a remarkable Garden of Eden scene with Adam and Eve and the Serpent coiling around a tree. At some time between 1796 and present day these central panels were removed possibly in either 1862 or 1883-4 when major restorations were carried out. It is unlikely that the glass was destroyed and may well have ended up either being sold or in private hands possibly locally. If anyone has knowledge of the whereabouts of the Garden of Eden scene please contact me on 01636 812580.



Thank you.

Tony Hallam

SHORT OF TIME, NEED A CLEANER?

Or maybe a hand with the ironing?
I am trustworthy, reliable,
hardworking and live locally.
Interested? Then please call **Becky**
on 07980 708410

HALAM & DISTRICT WI

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday 6th August in the Village
Hall at 7.30pm. September meeting on
Tuesday 3rd. New members welcome!



HALAM
LATE SUMMER

'tempting fete'
and open gardens

SEPT 15th
1:00 - 5:00pm

The inaugural “Late Summer Fete” is being organised jointly between villagers, Halam WI, Halam & Edingley School PTA & Young Farmers. Events and activities will be taking place throughout the village including Open Gardens, Teas in the village Hall, Stalls located around the village, Sporting events and Games on the School field (including a Tug of War). In addition there will be other activities such as a baking competition, creating a “Garden in a Box” and a flower display in Church. Applications for the various competitions accompany this edition of Halam News.

Helpers urgently required! Please contact Paul Oakley, Marina Thompson, Linda Croston, Chris Bevans or Sara Subramanian.

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HALAM NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2013



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PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026

MOVING ON TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Having achieved success in A2 exams, the following Halamites will be moving on to further education:

- **Jamie Brown** to do an Art & Design Foundation Course at Newark College
- **Jennifer Cruz** to study English & Spanish at Nottingham Trent University
- **Rosie Goode** to study Geography at Northumbria University
- **Darcy Holmes** to study Biomedical Science at Edinburgh Napier University
- **Alice Keogh** to study Estate Management at the University of Reading
- **Ben Thompson** to study Modern Foreign Languages & International Management at the University of Bath
- **Edd Thompson** to study Economics at the University of Manchester
- **David Todd** to study Nursing at Northampton University
- **Eleanor Winning** to study Geography and Environmental Management at Northumbria University

We wish them all the very best for the future!

Congratulations also go to all those who achieved success in their recent GCSE & AS exams, and good luck with your further studies!

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ORGAN RECITAL

Charles Harrison

(Asst Organist at Lincoln Cathedral)

on **Sunday 6 Oct 2013: 7.30pm**

Tickets **£8** includes glass of wine/soft drink

Contact Karin Davis on **815854** or

email karinlindley@hotmail.com

WAGGON & HORSES LADIES DARTS TEAM

New season starts Tuesday 24th Sept, practice nights Tuesday 10th & 17th Sept, 8pm onwards. All Welcome

WAGGON & HORSES EVENTS

Sat 21st Sept is music night with Platform 58

Fri 27th Sept 9am to 12noon, Macmillan coffee morning

With the Fete and Open Gardens on 15th September, please could everyone help by clearing weeds etc. from the pavements and roads in the village? Please also be tolerant of additional traffic in the village on the day!

HALAM
LATE SUMMER

'tempting fete'
and open gardens

SEPT 15th
1:00 - 5:00pm

The Inaugural Halam Fete is fast approaching and new attractions are being added to what promises to be a fun afternoon:

- Collection of **Tractors** on display
- **Thwaites Shire Horses** and **Dray Cart** will visit at 3pm
- **'Chilli Bob'** from Rolleston

There are also 2 new competitions!

- **Cup Cake Decoration**
Decorate 4 cup cakes in the theme of "flowers" and present them on a plate. There are 2 categories; under 18 & over 18
Entrance fee 50p
- **"Afternoon Tea" Flower arrangement**
Create a small arrangement of fresh flowers using a tea cup and saucer. Entrance fee 50p - Open to all

Entry form for all competitions accompanies this publication

Reminders:

Please donate Tombola prizes plus books and plants (to be sold)

Please volunteer to help on the day



Follow us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/573631479341167/?fref=ts>

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL SEPTEMBER 2013 SERVICES



Sept 1	08:00 Holy Communion	Rev D McCoulough
	09:30 All age service	Rev D McCoulough
Sept 8	18:00 Evensong	Anne Godfrey
Sept 15	09:30 Parish Communion	Rev D McCoulough
Sept 22	11:00 Sung Eucharist	Rev D McCoulough
Sept 29	09:30 Patronal Festival & Joint Benefice	Rev D McCoulough



Henry Nicholas Parkinson (31)
& Emily Catherine Jenkins (29)
who were married on
Saturday 6th July
near Ashbourne.

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HALAM & DISTRICT WI



On the 2nd July the WI had a trip to Southwell Care Project's new flower growing and selling venture at Brackenhurst. We were all impressed with the beautiful flowers, amazing building and the dedication and hard work of the team who set up this enterprise that will benefit both the young people with special needs in the area who will work and learn there, and everyone who will enjoy the lovely flowers.

On the 6th August, we had our annual 'Southwell Footpath walk' arranged and led by our very own Rita. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery and historical commentary. We finished the evening with a well-deserved drink in the Saracens' Head.

The next meeting is on the 3rd September in the village hall at 7.30. This will be a 'business' meeting and catch up.

On the 1st October, we are hosting a demonstration, with tasting, of tea time treats by Bleasby Tea Rooms. It will be in the village hall at 7.30. There will be a charge of £1.50 for this event. New members always welcome!

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES – 8TH AUGUST, 8PM

Present: S Bust, A Paris, C Bevans, D Herbert, G Herbert, J Simmonds

Apols: S Godfrey

Matters Arising: Hedges – residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that their hedges and trees do not overhang and obstruct the footpaths – this applies to pavements along the roadsides as well as public footpaths and bridleways

Flooding – 1) please report to the parish council any particular problems in the village caused by the recent flooding to any specific properties or areas, 2) suggestions please as to what steps could be taken to minimise any such flooding problems in future, 3) the parish council will look as the possibility of putting together a leaflet on flooding information – this is to be covered at the Parish Conference at Kelham Hall at the start of October (Simon Bust & Andrew Paris to attend). 4) It was pleasing to note that the new drains along School Lane and the Turnpike seemed to function well with far less flooding in these areas than on previous freak rain storms

Village Hall: 1) agreed unanimously to waive the hall charges for the recent Wine Quiz event (to raise funds for the village hall), 2) the clock needs putting up on the wall, 3) the flower box at the front of the hall has rotted – Chris Bevans to investigate possible sponsorship of a new one with plants

Roads: any significant pot-hole problems should be reported by phoning 08449 80 80 80 or online on the County Council's website

Electoral Review of Newark & Sherwood: the two alternative proposals are that Halam becomes part of the Southwell ward, or a new "surrounding villages" ward may be created. It was unanimously agreed that Halam should be treated differently from the larger town of Southwell, and would be better served as a member of a ward of a number of smaller villages. Andrew Paris will prepare a draft response and circulate to parish councillors

Nottingham and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy: A Paris reported on this document. Concerns the changes made in line with recent National guidelines

Renaming of Radley Road: agreed that the sign should state "also known as..." This will cost around £200 which will be funded by Cllr Jackson

Neighbourhood Watch: the current Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood scheme has had to fold due to the retirement of the organiser (Terry Reynolds). Andrew Paris is investigating alternatives. It was agreed to ask our beat officer to attend a future meeting (October parish council?)

Open Meeting: Matters discussed – 1) role of independent councillors at district council "cross-party" meetings, 2) the recent "1 in 100 years" storm, and 3) electoral reform

Correspondence: 1) Adoption of the N & S Allocations & Management Development Plan – A Paris to report to next meeting 2) N & S Parish Conference – Monday 7th October – S Bust & A Paris plan to attend

Planning: Householder application for single-storey side extension and pitched roof to existing dormer, Halamdale, Radley Road – agreed unanimously to support the application

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th September 2013 in the village hall – **please note the meeting will start at the usual time of 7.30pm**

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD - SEPTEMBER 2013

The day that the bee slurred its buzz!

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells. (John Keats)*

Yes, we are moving into September and in the churchyard there is a frenzy of insect activity. We are immersed in a soft white noise: bees, wasps and hoverflies are all feeding from the flowers of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and grasses. The sound is faint at first, a kind of thickening of the air as the cumulus clouds sail in. Listen closer and the sound is made up of thousands upon thousands of insects: bumblebees, solitary bees, honey-bees, wasps, and hoverflies, all feeding. The scent is heady, intoxicating; the insects frenetic, visiting as many flowers as they can. The insect music – drunkenly delirious in the sonic swarm – is one of the great joys of summer.

When bees become intoxicated from alcohol consumption from fermented nectar, their balance is affected, and they are wobbly when they walk and they are more likely to stick out their tongue. Inebriated bees spend more time flying. If a bee is sufficiently intoxicated, it will just lie on its back and wiggle its legs. Inebriated bees typically have many more flying accidents as well. Some bees that consume alcohol become too inebriated to find their way back to the hive; some become more aggressive after consuming alcohol - in fact the similarity to alcohol excess in humans is very striking. The only features that we don't share in this situation is the overwhelming desire to sing, declare undying friendship with other males and an unnatural desire to eat kebabs. After a few minutes bees and humans become hyperactive, then uncoordinated and then sedated, then fall asleep.

So as you can see my hours spent in the churchyard studying the natural world have yielded fascinating observations, - 'spree drinking' and 'frolic drinking' - I prefer such terms to 'binge drinking' which is a recent imported term for that great British tradition - the bender! We have been doing it for centuries. Drinking too much is the only thing stopping us drinking from too much - as William Blake says in his 'The marriage of Heaven and Hell': "The road to excess leads to the palace of wisdom. You never know what is enough, until you know what is more than enough."

My observations from nature point out the benefits of occasional alcoholic blow-out as compared with steady every day drinking; the behaviour of a churchyard work party may give me further cause to reflect on this theme.

David Herbert



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HALAM NEWS

OCT 2013



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

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 sponsor: **M R Cards (see advert on p4)**

PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026



ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL OCTOBER 2013 SERVICES



Oct 6th 08:00 Parish Communion
09:30 All age service
Oct 13th 18:00 Evensong
Oct 20th 09:30 Parish Communion
Oct 27th 11:00 Sung Eucharist

Rev D McCoulough
Rev D McCoulough
Anne Godfrey
Rev D McCoulough
Archdeacon Picken

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL THURSDAY 12TH SEPT 2013

Present. Simon Bust, Janet Simmonds, Sarah Godfrey, Glenys Herbert, David Herbert, and Chris Bevans

Apologies. Andrew Paris

Flooding. Glenys Herbert attended the meeting about the Potwell Dyke flooding in Southwell. Her overriding impression from the various agencies in attendance, was that it is up to the householder to take responsibility for their own property. This means ensuring that gullies, drains etc. are cleared of any debris. Whilst there is funding available for flood prevention and damage, groups will have to get together and put forward a good case to access any monies put aside by the authorities for this purpose.

Road Safety. Again there have been numerous complaints about the dangerous parking by parents outside school. Children are being dropped off on the yellow zig zag lines, which obviously is extremely dangerous to the other children who are trying to cross at this point. Parents are also parking at the junction of School Lane and the main road, which means that traffic turning into School Lane can't turn in and is stuck in the way of oncoming traffic.

Parents driving their children to school please try and consider the safety of other children, particularly those who walk to and from school. One of the pupils has been given the role of 'traffic safety officer', so be prepared to see more information on this matter and possibly to be named and shamed!

Village Hall. The harvest supper will be held in the village hall on Friday 11th October. The tickets will be £10 including supper, and £7.50 for under 12's (available from Glenys Herbert, Chris Bevans, Margaret McCracken or Sarah Godfrey). The committee are asking for donations of apple pies and raffle prizes please!

Electoral Review of Newark and Sherwood. The view of the parish council was that we did not want to be joined with Southwell, we thought that it would be far more appropriate to be with other small villages. Although we did submit a letter to state this, our opinions do not appear to have been taken into account. Andrew Paris and Sarah Godfrey are to attend a meeting on the 25th September at 5.30.

Proposed environmental Weight Limit. This is a proposal to reduce the classification of some roads in a triangle between the A612, A614 and the A617. The idea is to enforce lorries travelling through the designated area (including Halam) to use the bigger roads. This will hopefully have a significant effect on small villages plagued with large haulage trucks. The parish council voted to send a letter of support to the scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch. There is to be a new co-ordinator at Newark and Sherwood, Stephanie West. We are also hoping that the beat officer is coming to our October meeting.

Village Website. The council agreed that Chris Bevans should look into creating a new website that will act as a 'one stop shop' for the village. We were inspired by the 'myoxton.org' site. Please have a look at this and pass any suggestions to the parish council.

Severn Trent new water supply pipe. We have been informed that Severn Trent are proposing to lay pipes in a 13m wide trench through the village. The trench will be up to 50m deep where it passes through Halam Hill. There is a concern about the amount of mess and disruption this will cause us all, especially the residents of Radley Road. Sarah Godfrey is to try and get some more details about this.

Any Other Business. Janet Simmonds is to attend the NALC AGM on 13th November. The flowerbox outside the hall is quite rotten in places. It was agreed to have it removed when the Christmas tree is put up.

Next Meeting. Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH ORGAN RECITAL

Charles Harrison

(Asst Organist at Lincoln Cathedral)

on **Sunday 6 Oct 2013: 7.30pm**

Tickets £8 includes glass of wine/soft drink

Contact Karin Davis on **815854** or

email karinlindley@hotmail.com

HALAM & DISTRICT WI



The October meeting is on Tuesday 1st and the November meeting on Tuesday 5th.

Meet at 7.30pm in Halam Village Hall. New members always welcome.

halam.news@hotmail.co.uk

HALAM

LATE SUMMER

'tempting fete'
and open gardens

SEPT 15th

1:00 - 5:00pm

Despite damp and chilly weather, the inaugural Halam "Tempting Fete" was a great success! Much fun was had by all who attended, with c£1000 being raised for good causes in the village!

Thanks go to:

- Teas - WI
- Open Gardens - Paul Oakley and all those who opened on the day
- Shire horses - Waggon & Horses and Thwaites brewery
- Tractors - Pat Rickett & Ian Watson
- Chilli Bob - follow him on Facebook!
- School based events - Halam School PTA, especially Sara Subramanian
- Flowers & vegetable displays in Halam Church - Penni Wells, Gwendy Roe, Peter Glazebrook, East Midlands Orchid Society
- Everyone who helped with the preparations and on the day!



Should a future fete take place it would be great to see a bigger turn out of villagers, and therefore ideas for activities etc. are very welcome (to the Village Hall Committee).

Marina Thompson

Competition Winners

Bake an Apple Loaf - First place: *Caroline Haddelsey*,

Runners up: Penni Wells & Karin Davis

Decorate Cup Cakes - First: *Elizabeth Fraser*

Runners Up: Halam School pupils

Garden in a Box - First place: *Alex Hoggard*

Runners up: Lottie Guy & George Haddelsey

Flower arrangement in a tea up & saucer -

First Place - *Sue Guy*

Runners up - Victoria Starkey & Kevin Milner

Write a short story - First place: *Karin Davis*

Runners Up - Tony Hallam & David Herbert

(stories will be published with next months issue)

Men's Tug of war - *The Farmers*

Ladies Tug of war - *Sandra Fraser's all stars*

Well done to all who entered the competitions!



Photographs by Robert Oakley

HALAM

LATE SUMMER

'tempting fete'
and open gardens

SEPT 15th

1:00 - 5:00pm



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REFLECTIONS FROM CHURCHYARD: OCTOBER 2013

What a lovely Indian summer we are having this last week in September - we have forgotten the harshness of last winter and the spring that never seemed to arrive. We are addicted to the moment and rightly so. Glenys and I have been down in Pembrokeshire for a week - the weather one moment was hot and sunny, then perhaps we had pouring rain and then ferocious winds. The one thing we will remember of those few days was the sunny warm weather- we tend to push other weather forms into the deep recesses of our mind. And so it is with the world around us; we remember seeing the gentle prodding of the milky egret, the rapid flash of a king fisher and the hedges of startling old mans beard. But nature is not just beautiful orchids, wonderful birds but also truly terrible things that exist around us even in Halam. Truly terrible but ingenious things such as parasitic wasps that tenderly leave their offspring a larder of anaesthetised spiders so that their newly hatched grubs may browse on still living creatures; Blood sucking horse flies and mosquitoes which inject anticoagulants into the blood of the host (us) at the same time as sucking our blood. We read of these things at school but prefer to be intellectually ignorant of natures darker side. Walking down school lane regularly in the last few weeks I have been very aware of the impact of the female sparrow hawks on the pigeon population. Every day I have come across recently killed pigeons sacrificed to the need of our sparrow hawks. The female is the hunter in September as the small song birds are quiet and in hiding until they have their new feathers and it is only the smaller song birds that the male sparrow hawk can kill as he is a lot smaller than the female. Even the hedge rows themselves are not devoid of perils and real dangers from the plant life so contained. In School Lane at the moment and in the church yard there are great swathes of white Bryony whose berries just ripening now are deadly poisonous, as are the berries of deadly nightshade which is also present along school lane and the proud seed heads of Hemlock. Perhaps we should talk of the killing fields of Halam!!!

It is no good looking for paradise in the natural world as what is there but a complex interaction of organisms that includes us humans and the beautiful plants, animals and flowers as well as the opportunist organisms that behave true to nature. So enjoy fleetingly the things that we deem beautiful and inspirational around us and remember them.

David Herbert

The Noble Nature

It is not growing like a tree
in bulk, doth make Man better be;
or standing long an oak three hundred year,
to fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere;

A lily of a day
is fairer in May,
although it fall and die that night-
It was the plant and flower of Light.
In small proportions we just beauties see:
and in short measures life may perfect be.

Ben Johnson



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Southwell Saturday Market from **Oct 12th**

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- ◆ Wrapping paper & tags
- ◆ Crackers and much more



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GREENWOOD GIVES GRANTS TO PLANT

To help schools, community groups and parish councils to plant trees in school grounds or on community green spaces, The Greenwood Community Forest Team is once again offering free advice and funding for tree planting of up to £500. This year, thanks to Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Improvement Scheme, funding is available for planting throughout Nottinghamshire. Guidance notes and an application form are available at www.greenwoodforest.org.uk.

ANDY STEWART: 27 MAY 1937 – 6 OCTOBER 2013



Andrew Struthers "Andy" Stewart was born into a farming family in Lanarkshire, Scotland and was educated at Strathaven Academy and the West of Scotland Agricultural College. He showed an early interest in politics and chaired the Strathaven Young Conservatives in 1957-58.

As a young man he saw his farming and political future as lying south of the Border, and in 1961, after marrying Louise McSkimming, a farmer's daughter, he bought the 210-acre Beesthorpe Manor Farm at Caunton. Over the next half-century he built up a thriving arable farm, also becoming a livestock examiner for the Agricultural Training Board.

In 1970 Andy founded a Conservative branch covering his nearest three villages, and in 1975 he was elected to Nottinghamshire County Council. From 1981 he was group spokesman on leisure services.

When he was selected to fight the new seat of Sherwood for the 1983 election, few gave him a chance, even when the Conservatives opened up a big national lead over Labour. But on polling day he beat the Labour lawyer Willie Bach, a future defence minister, by 658 votes.

Tensions were already rising as Arthur Scargill prepared to take on Margaret Thatcher's government over pit closures, and Andy had more miners and pits in his constituency than any other MP. When, early in 1984, Scargill tried to force his entire membership out without the strike ballot required by the union rule book, most of the Notts miners refused to follow him and carried on working. As tempers rose, Andy accused Scargill's flying pickets of pelting working miners' cars with red hot cinders, and he praised the police for protecting the Notts miners. Before long, the working miners had broken away from the NUM and had formed the UDM with Andy's enthusiastic support. When Margaret Thatcher called an election in 1987, his majority over Labour rose, against the national trend, to 4,495.

Andy also gave strong support to local farmers. He demanded a "clear lead" from ministers on the crisis of overproduction, he rebelled against MAFF charging dairy farmers for hygiene inspections and tried to block the appointment of Sir Richard Body, a Tory critic of the NFU, to the Agricultural Select Committee. In 1987, Andy was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture. Their partnership continued when MacGregor moved to Education in 1989 and after he became Leader of the House a year later.

The end of the miners' strike had not brought the miners the job security hoped for, and pit closures – in Nottinghamshire as well as in strong NUM areas – continued, and at the 1992 election Andy was defeated by 2,910 votes by Labour's Paddy Tipping. From 1992 to 1997 Andy chaired the Agricultural Training Board, served on the Rural Development Commission and briefly chaired LANTRA, the training organisation for land-based industries. In 2005 he stood again for Notts County Council, and was twice elected with huge majorities.

Andy regularly attended Halam parish council meetings and worked tirelessly on behalf of our parish at County Council level on such issues as mains drainage, condition of our roads, and the flashing speed sign on Halam Hill. He also used his Councillor's Budget Allowance to help fund our parish notice board, village grit bins and the Halam Lancaster Memorial.

He died at home, aged 76, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Louise, a son and a daughter.

Andrew Paris

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL THURSDAY 12TH SEPT 2013

Present: S Bust, A Paris, S Godfrey, D Herbert, G Herbert, J Simmonds

Apologies: C Bevans

1 minute silence was held in memory of County Councillor Andy Stewart who died on 8th Oct

Matters Arising: 1) superfast broadband – scheme is still developing. Sarah Godfrey is monitoring the situation 2) grit bin location – it was agreed to ask County Council Highways about locating the grit bin in the location originally chosen by the parish council 3) cones on Halam Hill – Clerk will contact Highways to ask why the cones are still on the road

Village Hall: 1) the hall floor is lifting slightly again – heating will have to be left on at a low level over the winter 2) Village Harvest Supper – cancelled due to very poor advance ticket sales 3) the "Tempting Fete" raised nearly £1000 to be split between the village hall, PTA and WI. Many thanks to Marina Thompson and to all who helped to make the day such an enjoyable and successful village event

4) Village Hall Committee have requested that approximately £160 of the money raised by the fete should go towards the purchase of a video projector for the hall. Sarah Godfrey to investigate the costs and practicalities and report back

Adoption of Newark & Sherwood Allocations & Development Plan: this has been previously reviewed in detail. No further action needed at this stage

Renaming of Radley Road: Mandy Rickett to chase County Council

Neighbourhood Watch: Andrew Paris to investigate further. Our local officer PCSO Liam Batey is scheduled to attend the November meeting

Halam website: to be discussed with Chris Bevans at the next meeting

Proposed improvements to water supply to Southwell: Sarah Godfrey reported on Severn Trent's plans to run a major pipeline from the reservoir on Newhall Lane, through Halam and on to Southwell. This will involve 11m wide clearance along farmers' fields, the closure of a section of Radley Road for at least 3 months, and the footpath behind "Applegarth" (Windmill Lane) being dug up for the pipe laying. It was agreed to invite Severn Trent to the parish council meeting to explain these plans and to give further details of the disruption to be caused.

Correspondence:

1) Public Consultation on the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan – Andrew Paris to report to next meeting 2) Touring Plans – this would cost £235 to stage. Decided not to take any further

Planning Decision: Householder application for single-storey side extension and pitched roof to existing dormer, Halamdale, Radley Road – planning application approved by N&S District Council

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th November 2013 in the village hall – **please note the meeting will start at an earlier time of 7.00pm** ** Our local police officer PCSO Liam Batey will be attending

** Severn Trent have been invited to give details of their pipeline plan through Halam

D D Saturday 2nd November — Waggon & Horses **Bonfire and Fireworks** @ 18:30
I A Monday 11th November - **Remembrance Service** at the Lancaster Bomber Memorial from 10:45. All welcome
A T Saturday 16th November - Laxton History Group **Craft Fayre** (Laxton Village Hall) 11:30 to 15:30 £1 entrance fee
R E Sunday 1st December, 2pm - 5pm Southwell & District Lions **Christmas Party** at Minster School (Food and entertainment inc. Halam School Choir) *Further details contact Mel Rose 01636 813074 (especially groups intending to attend) who can arrange transport*
Y S Monday 9th December - 2pm & 6pm **Halam School Performances**
Wednesday 11th December - 2pm, **Senior Citizens Carols & Mince Pies** (provisional time/date)
Monday 16th December - 10am, **Halam School Christmas Service** at St Michaels Church



halam.news@hotmail.co.uk

TALES FROM CHURCHYARD: NOVEMBER 2013

This year's village fete marked the inaugural Halam short story competition. It attracted only three entries; this must have been a disappointment to the organisers, because there is a short story in everyone. A little confidence, time and the opportunity to put pen to paper - or fingers on the keyboard - and a short story will emerge. I was thinking about this a few days ago when doing some planting in the churchyard. So many monuments to former residents of this village and most now forgotten completely by today's residents: what a story they could tell, and what stories we might imagine they could tell!

A few months ago a man researching his family history contacted me, and his story was worth telling. It combines mystery, luck and guesswork as well bringing about admiration for the resourcefulness of folk living in more difficult and testing times

In his family mythology there is a tale of a 4x great grandfather who became destitute at the end of the Napoleonic war. He had been a rating in the navy and had served at Trafalgar. 1808 found him married with two children and, like most naval ratings, without a job as the French threat has receded. It was a difficult time for the country as ex-naval rating and ex-soldiers who had been thrown on the scrapheap flooded the labour market. In 1808 he and his family, living in Harwich, decided to travel to Liverpool in the hope that he might find work as a rating on a merchant vessel. His wife was heavily pregnant and by the time they got to the neighbourhood of Newark she was delivered of a child. The family had been told that the child was christened in a church in the district. Might Halam be the church where the baptism took place? The family had contacted some other 25 parishes previously with this story. In the parish registers I found a baptism for a child of a family en route to Liverpool at about this time; moreover the father was described as a sailor! The names in the register did not tally with those that the family had, however. My source is only Bishop's transcript and I have not yet looked at the original record. This story is sufficiently charged with mystery, however, to make it worth mentioning. The family said their sailor ancestor had become a seller of tinder and that sustained them during the 10 years they lived in Liverpool.

The best tinder obtainable is obtained from the horseshoe fungus, a fungus growing in several places in the parish and which is notable for its very hard outer coat and from its under surface which resembles a horseshoe. If the fungus is split open a brown soft material can be found and if this is pared away with a knife it can be used to generate fire. This is due the fact that a spark will cause a small ember to develop which will smoulder for months. One has only to expose it to the air and blow on it and a small fire will start. The tinder does not need to be kept in a tinderbox but can be kept smouldering within the mushroom itself, simply by closing the mushroom until needed. A horseshoe mushroom could provide tinder for several hundreds of tinderboxes.

I am sure we all remember the story 'The Tinderbox' by Hans Christian Anderson: an impoverished soldier is given a magic tinderbox by an old woman. This story was written about the time of mass demobilisation of armies in Europe. Short stories for children often reflect the physical and political events of the time, hence Hansel and Gretel was a story written during the great deprivation and famine of the 1300's.

Perhaps these few lines will encourage many of you to write a short story!

David Herbert

A CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALAM

Stories, songs, sketches from a Southwell-based drama group (including our own local Thespian Sarah Godfrey); come and enjoy a pre-Christmas treat in Halam St Michael's Church on **Sunday 8th December at 7.30pm!** This promises to be a lovely social occasion and a chance to raise funds for 'Winter Shelter' based in Mansfield, bringing rough sleepers in from the cold. Tickets cost £5 and include refreshments in the interval. Do come and join us!

Tickets available from: Karin Lindley (Tel: 815854); Glenys Herbert (812335); Alec Wells (813419); Sarah Godfrey (812224).





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ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL NOVEMBER 2013 SERVICES



Nov 3rd	08:00 Parish Communion	Rev D McCoulough
	09:30 All age "Grandparents" service	Rev D McCoulough
Nov 10th	18:00 Evensong*	Anne Godfrey
Nov 17th	09:30 Parish Communion	Rev D McCoulough
Nov 24th	11:00 Sung Eucharist	Rev D McCoulough

**At this service we will remember those from the village who died in the war and those who died in the bomber which crashed in Halam. If anyone would like any member(s) of their own family who died in war to be remembered please either write their name(s) in the prayer request book in Church or contact Anne on 814391*

HALAM WI MEETING TUESDAY 1ST OCTOBER



Caroline Goodwin from Bleasby Tea Rooms came to demonstrate baking some of the delicious bread, cakes and quiches that are all made at the tea rooms. We were all very interested to know how she gets such scrumptious results, and particularly interested in trying the food for ourselves! Many thanks to Caroline for a lovely evening.

Suzu Anderson from Radley Road to our next meeting to help us to make some jewellery. Materials will be provided (at a small cost). Non members would be very welcome. **7.30 pm Tuesday 5th November** in the village hall.

WI COFFEE MORNING.

All welcome at Skypen on Radley Road, by kind permission of Glenys Herbert. **Tuesday 12th November 10 – 12am.** £1.50 including tea/coffee and biscuits. There will be a bring and buy stall and also homemade produce for sale. The money raised will go to WI funds.



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Andrew Paris of Radley Road

for sponsoring this months edition

PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026



**A very Happy Christmas to all our readers.
May your days be merry & bright!**

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL DECEMBER 2013 SERVICES



Dec 8th	18:00 Evensong	Rev D McCoulough
Dec 15th	09:30 Family Communion & Holy Baptism	Rev D McCoulough
Dec 16th	10:00 Halam School Christmas Service	
Dec 22nd	11:00 Sung Eucharist	Rev D McCoulough
	18:00 Carol Service	
Dec 23rd	19:00 Carols in the Waggon	
Dec 24th	17:00 Crib Service	Rev D McCoulough
	23:30 Holy Communion	Archdeacon D Picken
Dec 25th	09:30 Family Communion	Rev D McCoulough
Dec 29th	09:30 Joint service @ Edingley Church	Anne Godfrey

Wishing all parishioners and readers a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Many thanks to all who support St Michael's in a variety of ways - cleaning, churchyard work, flowers, financial, visiting, general goodwill etc.

May the light of Christ shine in all dark places this Christmas and always.

Rev David McCoulough

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Belated Happy **60th** Birthday to our very own master butcher **John Stoppard!**
- It's the **BIG 5-0** for **Tracey Holmes** this month!

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A CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALAM

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HALAM SCHOOL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Dec 7 th	PTA Christmas Festival in School 1.30 - 4 pm.
Mon Dec 9 th	Whole School Performance at 2pm & 6pm, Everyone welcome!
Wed Dec 11 th	Carols & Mince Pies for Senior Citizens 2 pm in the School Hall

THE WAGGON & HORSES

23rd December - Carols around the fire @ 7pm

24th December - Let Chris Bevans entertain you into Christmas with requests and the opportunity for you to show off your vocal talents.

31st of December - music, free buffet and free glass of fizz at midnight.

Chris and Richard wish all our customers a Merry Christmas !

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THANK YOU

- The **Editor** thanks the hardy band of souls who deliver the Halam News each month; **David Herbert, Richard Brown, Sarah Fowler, Tony Hallam, Don Reid, Glenda Hutchinson, Kate Hill & Helen Gittings**

Responsible 15 year old available for babysitting
Elizabeth Fraser 01636 815039

Halam in the First World War

As part of next year's centenary of the start of WWI I am trying to find out more about Halam during the "war to end all wars" and the men from Halam who went away to fight. In particular I am trying to find out more about the four soldiers who are commemorated on our war memorial at the school:

John Barker John Clarke
Seth Hurt James S. Stubbs

It would be a wonderful tribute if we could put together some information and perhaps photos of these men.

If you can help at all with the project please contact:

Andrew Paris: 815844 or andrew_paris@yahoo.com

Thank you!



HALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 14TH NOVEMBER @ 19:00 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: A Paris, C Bevans, S Godfrey, D Herbert, G Herbert, J Simmonds **Apologies:** S Bust

Sympathy and condolences were recorded for Tony and Maureen Hallam on the sad loss of their daughter Elizabeth Kinston

PCSO Liam Batey One of our local officers, PCSO Batey told the meeting about local policing and answered questions from the members of the public. Community Speed Watch and the loss of Neighbourhood Watch were discussed – Andrew Paris to investigate further over the next few weeks. PCSO Batey emphasised the need for villagers to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity on the phone to the non-urgent police number 101 or to contact him on liam.batey@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk PCSO Batey was invited to attend Halam School as part of the school's road safety programme; he will also be monitoring any dangerous or inconsiderate parking during morning "drop-off" time

Severn Trent Water A representative from STW and one from Laing O'Rourke (the contractors) outlined the work to be done in the village regarding the new water main being laid from Halam reservoir to Southwell. They answered questions from the floor, and suggested that a further open meeting to display plans and maps to be held in early January when the final plans are in place

Matters Arising: Christmas tree outside village hall – to be erected in early December

Village Hall: Nothing to report this month

Adoption of Newark & Sherwood Allocations & Development Plan: this has been previously reviewed in detail. No further action needed

Renaming of Radley Road: In progress

Neighbourhood Watch: Andrew Paris will circulate information about a replacement scheme shortly

Halam website: Chris Bevans and Andrew Paris to discuss prior to the next meeting

Halam C of E School: proposal to start a part-time nursery for 3-4 year olds at the school. Unanimously agreed to support the proposal

Public Consultation on Gypsy & Traveller Development: Andrew Paris reported on this N & S DC consultation with some proposed responses – unanimously agreed to send consultation as drafted

N & S Community Infrastructure Levy: Andrew Paris reported on this consultation; agreed no response to be made at this time

Open Meeting: matters discussed –

- 1) Cllr Bruce Laughton reported the negative effect that the new Police & Crime Commissioner scheme is having on rural policing
- 2) 20mph speed limit outside school – 2 year waiting list at highways
- 3) Closure of Fiskerton Tip, the Core Youth Centre and reductions to Moorfield Court day centre – parish council agreed to send a letter objecting to these cut-backs

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th December 2013 in the village hall – **please note the meeting will start at the usual time of 7.30pm**

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD - DECEMBER 2013

Christmas is upon us and the usual frenzy has established itself again this year. Does it have to be like this? Can you imagine a year when we have Christmas but without the crowded shops, the incessant playing of Christmas music in the shops, the continual bombardment of Christmas advertisements? Would we all benefit from the peace and quiet of a blessed Christmas? I think we all would.

Looking back to my childhood Christmas did not start in late September as it does now. It started a few days before the great day and this made the day seem very special and not an anti-climax after all the preparation. The only real preparation was the making of the cake and the Christmas pudding, the materials for which were gathered and mixed on "stir up Sunday" The term comes from the opening words of the collect for the day in the Book of Common Prayer of 1549 now used on the last Sunday before Advent:

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Traditionally, families gather together in the kitchen of their homes to bake and enjoy Christmas pudding on a "Stir up Sunday" Parents teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding. Everyone will get a turn to mix, and an opportunity to utter a wish. In some households, elders put coins in the pudding mix and allow children to find them. It is believed that finding a coin brings wealth, health, happiness for the coming year. In modern times, two-thirds of British children surveyed, revealed that they had never experienced stirring Christmas pudding mix. It comes with their parents' preference to readymade-mix of puddings available in grocery stores. This involvement of the whole family was not restricted to the making of the cake and pudding but also to the making of Christmas decorations and cards.

Christmas trees were decorated with baubles and sometimes with lights – but great care had to be taken to avoid clinks of light escaping from badly fitting "Black out" curtains or shutters and thereby an unwelcome visit from the air raid warden with a threat of a fine or worse- public humiliation. The planning of the Christmas meal was a work of art and skill owing to the privations of the ration book and the limit of few eggs, little cheese, little fruit and very little meat. Sometimes neighborly folk would share their ration books to get a bigger joint or fowl to the benefit of everyone. When the day came however it was always a great day and everyone enjoyed their meagre stocking and their one present- usually an annual for children which would keep them occupied for hours as there was no television.

Dylan Thomas in his "A Child's Christmas in Wales", sums up the day

"For dinner we had turkey and blazing pudding, and after dinner the uncles sat in front of the fire, loosened all their buttons, put their large moist hands over their watch chains, groaned a little and slept. The dog was sick. Aunt Dosie had three aspirins, but Aunt Hannah who liked port stood in the middle of the back yard singing like a big bosomed thrush"

In the evening the family made their own entertainment- singing around a piano – and the children tried to keep quiet and enjoy their wonderful annual, then queue up for their hot water bottles to be filled and then to bed

Yes Christmas today is a very different affair but although we have 24/7 Television and choice of so many TV channels, text messages, time spent on PC and Ipads, I doubt if it is as wonderful as those days when people had little and made the most of what they had.....

David Herbert

UPCOMING EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Ben Thompson is climbing Mt Kilimanjaro in the summer of 2014 to raise money for the Children's Society. 2 fund raising events are planned for Halam - Burns Night Supper and a Quiz Night - look out for more info in next months edition!