



Halsall News

April 2025



POSTER Competition

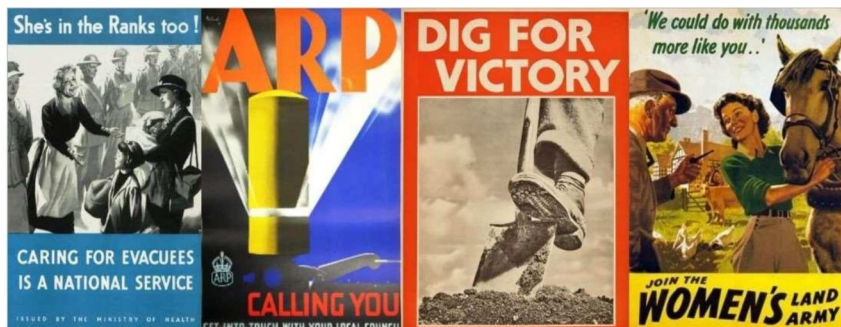
8th May 2025 is 80th Anniversary of VE Day
(1945 End of WW2 in Europe)

Halsall Parish Council would like a poster exhibition in the War Memorial Hall to commemorate the contributions made by all Halsall residents to the wider war effort.

- Competition will judged in 3 groups primary (5-11), secondary (12-18) and adult
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes of £100, £50, and £25 per group
- In the style of the WW2 posters, hard copy A4, or digital file such as JPEG
- Inspiration from internet and halsallhistory.co.uk/home-history/

For further information please contact Halsallnews@gmail.com

Deadline for entries: Sunday 27th April



Dancing

Music



Sunday 4th May
HALSALL VE Day Fete & Party
Shirdley Hill Green

Fancy Dress

from 2pm

DJ

ARTISAN CRAFT STALLS
BOUNCY CASTLE
FACE PAINTING
ANTIQUE VEHICLES
FOOD STALLS
TEA TENT
FUN GAMES
AND MUCH MORE...





**St Cuthbert's are throwing open the doors of the church.
Friday 9th May to Sunday 11th May 2025**

We would like to get to know you (or get to know you better)

There will be something for everyone from tours of the work in the graveyard,
to displays and trails in church, tea and cake and lots more..
Get the date in the diary and come and join in....
More information in next month's magazine.



**Discussion with worship exploring the theme of
finding hope and reconciliation in a hurting world?**

Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm
St Cuthbert's School (due to flooding in the Millenium Centre)

11th, 25th March and 1st, 8th April

**On 18th March all church volunteers are invited to safeguarding training
7pm – 9pm with the Diocese.**

You are welcome to come to all or some of the sessions.

Saturday 17th May

St Cuthbert's Church

Organ recital with the world famous Professor Ian Tracey

Tickets £10.00 including a glass of wine
(alcohol free options available)

Children under 16 free

Tickets from church or Pam Carr 07947 359437



The Rector Writes

Here we are again at that beautiful time of year, when we can sense new life emerging and the longer, brighter days encourage us to look up and out. The work that has been done by the 'butterflies and bees brigade' and 'proud and tidy teams' are clear for all to see. Yet at the moment, the wider world seems a harsh and unforgiving place.

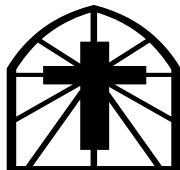
Some of you reading this will be able to remember the Second World War. Sadly, 80 years on, we see conflict and violence enacted in more parts of the world than ever. The First World War was supposed to be 'the war to end all wars', and in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nation's came together to write a body of International Law that would protect human rights, protect civilians caught in armed conflict, and ensure that genocide could not happen again: we are probably all left wondering what went wrong? There are no easy answers, but part of our response should be to intentionally remember and, in doing so, bring the past into the present; and where we can, bring hope and reconciliation. It's something we can all choose to do and its importance in building community cannot be over emphasised.

In bringing the past into the present we need to take care. In a context where many people are traumatized and angry we need to speak gently. We need to try to build each other up, as is happening with Southport after the tragic events of last summer, and in smaller ways with the VE celebrations and the "growing together" weekend in May here in Halsall.

Building a more Christ-like world means recognizing our common humanity and accepting that none of us is perfect or has all the answers. In standing with Jesus, the victim of appalling violence, we also stand with him in the resurrection, the total antithesis of destruction and death.

It is an amazing if profoundly disturbing way to try and live. Why not join us at one of our services over the coming month, and take time to ponder what it would mean for you, your family and our communities to work towards such a Christ-like world.

Susan



Service in the
United Benefice for
April 2025

As we come to the end of Lent and inhabit Holy week so we can celebrate Easter, what acts of kindness and generosity can we share with each other and our wider community?

Sunday 6th April the fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Wednesday 9th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 10th April

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

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion with distribution of palm crosses
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist and distribution of palm crosses
11.00am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist <u>and distribution of palm crosses</u>

Holy Week

Monday 14th April

7.30pm	St Thomas' <u>said Eucharist with Stations of the cross</u>
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Tuesday 15th April

7.30pm	St Thomas' said Eucharist with Stations of the cross
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Wednesday 16th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW holy Communion
7.30pm	St Thomas' said Eucharist with Stations of the cross

Thursday 17th April

9.15am	St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
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Maundy Thursday

1.30pm	St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
7.30pm	St Thomas' Holy Communion and vigil to 10pm

Friday 18th April

10am	Stations of the cross and walk from Our Lady's to St Thomas'
------	--

Good Friday

2pm	St Cuthbert's Vigil around the cross
-----	--------------------------------------

Easter**Saturday 19th April Easter Eve**

7.30pm	St Thomas' Easter Eve vigil and renewal of baptismal vows
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Sunday 20th April Easter Day

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist for easter with Easter egg hunt
11am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist for Easter with Easter egg hunt

No mid-week services 21st April to 26th April**Sunday 27th April Second Sunday of Easter**

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist for Easter
11am	St Thomas' All age Eucharist for Easter

Wednesday 30th April

11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
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Thursday 1st May **NO services****Sunday 4th May**

8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion marking VE day
11am	St Thomas' CW Eucharist marking VE day

**A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us at any of our
United Benefice Services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.**

THE CHURCH OF ST CUTHBERT, HALSALL

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

SANCTUARY LIGHTS



APRIL

1st	Rose Serjeant
1st	Nellie Balshaw Edwards
3rd	Keith Styling (Birthday)
3rd	Margaret Heaton (Birthday)
5th	Les Marshall (Birthday)
7th	Roger Baldwin (Birthday)
8th	Nellie Edwards (Birthday)
10th	Vera Styling (Birthday)
11th	John Banks (Birthday)
12th	Thomas Balshaw
13th	Joan Halsall
13th	Maureen Ainscough
14th	Jack Williams (Birthday)
17th	Angela Pilkington
17th	Brenda Helen Rhodes
17th	Edward Sumner
19th	Florrie Pilling (Anniversary)
21st	Catherine Bullough
23rd	Lawrence Baldwin (Anniversary)
27th	Gladys May Core (Birthday)
29th	Harriet Louise Rimmer (Birthday)



Access to St Cuthbert's Church

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

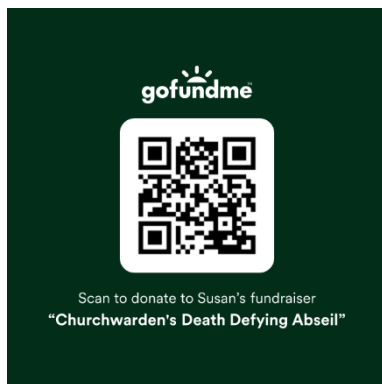
Carol Ward 07522 206664

Help St Cuthbert's raise money for the ramped access into the graveyard



Carol ?

Please sponsor our churchwarden Carol Ward
who is abseiling 100 feet from the top of
Anfield Football stadium in aid of church funds on
Sunday May 18th



Every little counts, so please help if you can and
encourage Carol in her mad challenge.

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



St Cuthbert's is responsible for funding everything we do as a church. Despite what some people think, none of our activities are directly funded by the Diocese or the National Church. Whilst we have recently been fortunate to obtain a grant of £50k from the Archbishop's Council (part of the Church Commissioners), we need to find another £40k to complete the project to ramp the path to the standard needed as a grade 1 listed building and to work towards repairs to the West Window and the roof.

If you are able to support us, if you can, please give via



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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



FRIENDS OF ST CUTHBERT'S

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

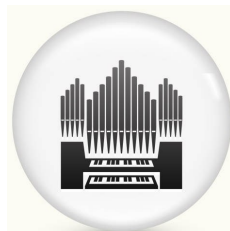
There is a minimum donation of £20 per year to join, but you can then choose how much and how regularly you donate.

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

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

Help Support St Cuthbert's Church

**Come and hear the
world famous organist
Professor Ian Tracey
(Resident Organist at Liverpool Cathedral)**



**Play the organ in the medieval jewel that is St Cuthbert's
Church,
Halsall, L39 8RN**

Saturday 17th May 2025 at 7pm



**Tickets £10 including
cheese and a glass of wine
(non-alcoholic options available)
Children under 16 free**

**Tickets from St Cuthbert's Church or
Mrs Pam Carr (Churchwarden)
07947 359437**

Money raised will go to church funds

Growing together weekend

St Cuthbert's Church

9th to 11th May 2025

Friday 9th May 6-8pm

Informal evening of food and chat about church
and our hopes for the future ending with a short Communion Service

Saturday 10th May

10am to 3pm

Open church with displays, tours, trails and quizzes, music, nature,
refreshments, plant sale and conversation.

3pm to 5pm

Informal drink and chat in the Saracen's Head

Sunday 11th May 9.30-10.30am

Our usual all age Communion Service

Sunday 4pm to 5pm

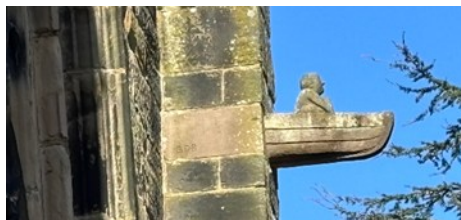
Interactive family service in St Cuthbert's school
thinking about creation

Come and join us and help us to dream some dreams.

St Cuthbert's has been at the centre of the community for hundreds of
years and we want to be part of it for hundreds more.

**Why not come and 'say hi' over this special weekend and help us to
create a vision of how we can grow together?**

You would be most welcome



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

**Residents should phone 999 in an emergency
and 101 to report a crime and obtain a crime incident number.**
Local contacts are for local issues and consultations only.



**Warm Spaces Sefton and St Thomas' Church
Luncheon Club.** Every Wednesday afternoon 12.30-2.30pm

**Change of venue due to flood damage in the Millenium
Centre**

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

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- 4 Complete the payment for your vehicle.
- 5 Schedule a convenient vehicle pickup along with paperwork handling.

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What our happy customers are saying...

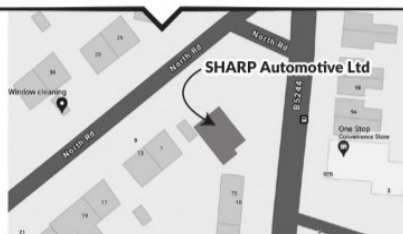
"John viewed my car on a Friday, agreed figures same day and collected Monday. I didn't have to move from my house. Highly recommended". Samantha G, Scarisbrick

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



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SMOOTHIES LUNCH

DOG FRIENDLY KIDS MENU FREE PARKING SPECIALITY LATTES FRIENDLY STAFF

Wild Root is a plant-based café located on New Cut Lane, Halsall, proudly rooted in our community. Many members of staff, including the owner Charlie, grew up and live in Halsall and attended Halsall St Cuthbert's Primary School, fostering a deep connection to the area.

Wild Root is not only for vegans, but people who are health conscious or wanting to increase their plant diversity in their diets. Everything at Wild Root is made in house from wholefoods and can be enjoyed in a cosy, welcoming atmosphere, reflecting the values of the community we've grown up in and continue to serve.

MON- SAT 9AM-4PM
SUNDAY 10AM-4PM



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One-Off Users £15 per hour, Regular Users £10 per hour
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Cathy Smith 07935 657880
HalsallTrust@gmail.com

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

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Cathy Smith 07935 657880

HalsallTrust@gmail.com

HALSALL ST CUTHBERT'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Tuesday Evenings from 6pm or Saturday.

Contact Miss Hampson at School Tel : 01704 840253

HALSALL PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for private lettings

Please contact Miss Hampson at school

For details of charges and availability

Tel : 01704 840253

SHIRDLEY HILL ACTIVITY CENTRE

Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill L39 8SG

Hourly Rate £20.00

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Tel : 07944 441850

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Burscough, L40 5TP

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Whats On

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

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair	Mary Lyons	01704 840607
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Wright	07817 056145
Councillors	Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167
	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395
	Vacancy	
	David Adams	07795 083885
	Keith Wright	07507 209674
	Beth Roberts	07961 697064
	Julie Ferguson	07415 099652
	Paul Barker	07786 797466
	Chris Pyne	Clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk
	Cathy Smith	07935 657880
Parish Clerk		
Hall Booking	Marilyn Westley	Cllr.MWestley@westlancs.gov.uk
Borough Councillor		07738 680752
	Alexander Blundell	Cllr.Blundell@westlancs.gov.uk
	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk
County Councillor	David O'Toole	01695 421056

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH Next meeting 7:30pm 9th April 2025 At Memorial Hall L39 8RN

May 2025 MAGAZINE

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

Contributions by Email to halsallnews@gmail.com

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

NEWS FROM HASALL PARISH COUNCIL

Halsall Parish Council meets on 2nd Wednesday of each month, next meeting is 7:30 pm 9th April at Memorial Hall Recreation Ground.

PLANNING (Full Details available at westlancs.gov.uk)

Planning Applications

T/2025/0019/TPO, 5 Willow Brook , remove and replace 5 trees
--

2025/0176/FUL, 165 Carr Moss Lane, rear extension

2025/0180/LBC, La Mancha Cottage, blocking up a window
--

Planning Decisions

T/2025/0034/TPO, 76 Moss Road, reduce branches and crown lift

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

Halsall Parish Council elected Mr Paul Barker of New Street as a **Co-opted Parish Councillor** at a meeting on 12th March. Thank you to all the applicants that showed an interest.

A few days later Council Andy Timon resigned so there is another **Councillor vacancy**. 10 Residents have until 8th April to ask WLBC to arrange a By-Election. If a By-Election is not requested, then the Council will fill the vacancy by written applications. Please contact the Parish Clerk for application forms after 9th April.

The Council approved a £300 grant to Shirdley Hill Community Association to help organise an **80th Anniversary Commemoration of VE Day**. This will be a village fete on Shirdley Hill Green Village on Sunday 4th May starting from 2pm (See event advert of Page 3) and a Beacon lighting ceremony led by Rev. Salt on Thursday evening 8th May.

Halsall West End Cricket Club applied for a £500 grant to replace ground maintenance equipment. Any voluntary organisations looking for a grant for 2025/26 should contact the Parish Clerk.

The Council has contributed £1128 to the cost of producing the **Halsall News magazine** for 2024.

Damaged road signs on New Cut Lane and Gregory Lane have been repaired following recent reports made on Love Clean Streets App. www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/report-it-on-the-go/

You can send a photo of a pothole, or a damaged sign, mark it on a map and you receive a reply when it is fixed.

There is a major LCC highways project to **replace all temporary pothole fixes** along the 4+ mile length of A5147 (Gorsuch Lane, Halsall Road, New Street, Southport Road etc) all the way down to Maghull, Sefton boundary. This should include a full resurface of the Gregory Lane mini roundabout. Work should have been completed on 28th March.

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

Following comments on Facebook about HGVs using canal bridges the Canals and Rivers Trust were asked for dates of recent bridge inspections and safe weight limits; Morris Lane 2017 - 44 Tonnes; Northmoor Lane 2020 - 40 Tonnes; Summerwood Lane 2019 - 40 Tonnes.

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

HALSALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD AND HALL TRUST

Halsall Parish Council is Trustee for the Hall and Recreation Ground which is a self-funding Charity no 521111 regulated by the Charity Commission.

The Council has successfully reclaimed £3600 from insurers for damage due to **Storm Darragh in December**. Damaged trees have been removed, and the Memorial Hall roof has been repaired.

The Annual meeting of the Halsall Parish Electors will be merged with the Annual meeting of the Trust in May (date to be confirmed in next edition).

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

Mary Lyons, Chair ,and Chris Pyne, Parish Clerk

Clerk@HalsallParish.gov.uk

New Parish Council Website :
halsallparish.gov.uk

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- cremation plaques
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cleaning, regilding and replacing



Grave Tending Service

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

The service includes:-

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

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

www.ormsbymemorials.co.uk find us on Facebook

Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition



Judging starts at the beginning of June for the 2025 competition and can continue right through until the end of August if we progress to the final rounds. After spending 4 years in the Champion Class we have now automatically been passed back into the Large Village Group. Fingers crossed!

2024 Judges Reports

It is interesting to look back on the judges reports for last year.

This is what the first set of judges said -

This is truly a Best Kept village, not pretty, picturesque or packed out with flowers, but neat tidy, few weeds or litter, no graffiti and a sense of community pride and volunteering. On our first visit the Scarecrows were just out and looked magnificent. On our second visit the Competition had ended and the ones that were left looked tatty and forlorn which was a shame.

What was good?

- The noticeboards making use of the windows
- The children's play area which was litter free
- The actual cricket pitch
- The church buildings
- The gardens picnic table & notices and especially the bug hotels!
- The well kept private properties
- The re-used telephone box (though we did wonder what a stranger would make of it in the dark!)
- The bug hotels, flowers, dog bowls etc at the village hall/shop
- The school which would have done really well as an outstanding feature

What could be improved?

- The weeds around the steps at the bakery shop
- The weedy graves and plastic wrappings in the church grounds
- Perhaps the bus shelter could be brightened up?
- A few more wildflowers in the gardens for the insects

Overall well done I hope you go through to the second round. The map was a bit tricky with the scale

This is what the second set of judges said -

An excellent map to follow with all the relevant details on it .The properties were maintained to a high standard with well-kept gardens. All round the area, especially the school, scarecrow figures could be seen, even the telephone box had a figure in it. Lots of nature for the children in the area, with bug hotels outside the cricket pavilion and within Bishops Walk

Just goes to show how different judges see things quite differently!!

Halsall Village Proud & Tidy Group



Progress!! Planting and sowing has started in Bishops Walk, dead hedges have been increased and fences have been mended. Many thanks to all those involved in helping get this far! We will be having some more working parties in April as follows -

Saturday	5th April	10am to 12 noon
Monday	14th April	1pm to 3pm
Thursday	24th April	1pm to 3 pm

If you would like to come along and join us please just turn up on the day and you will be made very welcome



For further information about our group please contact Eleanor Wroe elliwroe@hotmail.com or 07817 55 75 33 or Enid Banks enidbanks@aol.com or 07977 920 956



Please join us for Halsall's GB Spring Clean on

Saturday 12th April at 10am

Meeting at The Memorial Playing Field

Please wear gloves. Hi-viz vests, bin bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Together we can make a real difference!

Conor and Clare Edwards

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BOWLING GREEN THERE !

This is something we hear so often from visitors & locals when they discover there is a bowling green at the Saracen's Head.

Admittedly, over recent years, the green has been surrounded by tall hedges, so not obvious that we are here. We are hoping to change that by reducing the height of the hedges and creating a 'window' through which people can see the green.

There has been a bowling green at the Saracen's Head for many years. A brief search of old maps show that the area currently occupied by the green is marked as far back as 1873, although neither the pub or green are actually named. What we can tell you is that the green was definitely in use in 1956, when the Saracen's Head Bowling Club was established.



The official opening of the club took place on Saturday 14th July 1956 by President George Lydiate & Chairman Edwin Stephenson.

Since then the club has hosted thousands of league games, countless competitions and has been supported by hundreds of members over the years.

We are reliant on our membership for our income & annual subscriptions cover the lease payments and the upkeep of the green itself. We would love to expand our activities and improve our facilities, but we need to attract new members to achieve this.

If you would like to try crown green bowling we would be more than happy to welcome you here at the Saracen's bowling Club.

We can offer something for everyone..

- League bowling in 6 local leagues for those who want a competitive game
- Social bowling twice a week on Thursday and Sunday afternoons from April to September for those who just want a friendly game. All abilities welcome.
- Visitor access to the green on Social bowling days. You are welcome whether you want to play bowls, or just come along and meet new people for a cuppa and a chat.

Coaching for those who want an introduction to the basics before they give bowls a try at the socials



For more information

- Call Lynda on 07435 971762

Visit our website and Facebook page

<https://saracensheadbowlingclubhalsall.wordpress.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/saracensheadbowlingclub>



The Bees and Butterflies Brigade (April 2025)



A mid-summer garden full of butterflies is a true delight and the most common UK species do well because they are able to feed and breed on plants that grow in gardens. Now, 80% of our butterfly species are in decline, drastically threatened by habitat loss, climate change and pollution. They need our gardens more than ever.



If you have a garden, whatever the size, you can make an enormous difference to butterflies by growing a few choice plants on which they can stock up on nectar. This will give them the energy they need to find a mate or enter hibernation. Plants like native primrose, aubretia, lungwort, honesty, English bluebell, and forget-me-not provide nectar for butterflies early in the year. Later, wallflower, hebe, purple-topped vervain, ice plant and Michaelmas daisy are all magnets for butterflies.



Growing buddleia, the aptly named "Butterfly Bush" is one of the best ways to support butterflies from late summer onwards. To make the most of your buddleia, cut it right back (by about two-thirds) in March or early April. This way it will bloom in late-summer, in time for the emergence of the most colourful butterflies – Red Admiral, Peacock, Tortoiseshell and Comma. Dead head your plant immediately after flowering to promote a second flush of blooms. Then cut it back by half in November to prevent strong winds from damaging the plant. It will then provide a feast for your butterflies year after year.



It is not just nectar plants that butterflies need. They need plants on which to lay their eggs and which their caterpillars can eat before they pupate. The Orange Tip butterfly, for example, lays its eggs on Garlic mustard, which grows in Bishop's Walk. The Red Admiral, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell lay their eggs on nettles – but finding a patch of nettles in a safe, sheltered, sunny location is not so easy for them as it once was. If you have room for such a patch in your garden, think twice about the strimmer or the herbicide – those nettles could be the source of next year's beautiful butterflies.



The next meeting of The Bs will be on Sunday 27th April at 2pm in St Cuthbert's Memorial Garden. We will be continuing our planting of the woodland garden for bees, butterflies and other amazing wildlife.



I hope to see you there!



Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com



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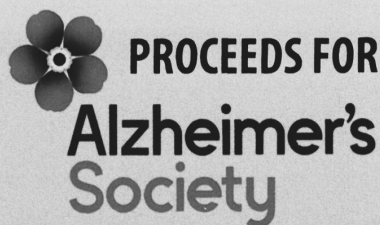
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