

Halsall Newsletter

April 2026



COME JOIN US!

MOVIE CRAFTS & GAMES

THURSDAY
9TH APRIL
10:30AM - 1:00PM

**HALSALL MEMORIAL
HALL**

Colouring Competition
Treasure Hunt
Refreshments



Donations to the Halsall War
Memorial, Playing Field & Hall Trust
are greatly appreciated.

A HUGE THANK YOU.

Working together we can do amazing things.

With your ongoing support for ST. CUTHBERT'S HALSALL we have reached **£36k** of the £40k we need to create disabled access to the church and graveyard. THANK YOU.



We need one last big push to raise the final amount so the work can begin

We have now secured planning permission from the council and have accepted a tender for the work so we are close to setting a start date for the disabled access. If you can help us get to our target of £40k please do. Every penny really does count.

In addition to supporting those events please consider giving either a one-off donation or a regular gift to St Cuthbert's 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

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	Mike Stephenson	07749 676868
P.C.C. Treasurer	Colin Throp	01704 841281
Organist	Glenn Howard	07764 478843

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair	Mary Lyons	01704 840607	
Vice Chair Councillors	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395	
	Raymond Brookfield	07771 798167	
	Lesley Stephenson	07813 563239	
	David Adams	07795 083885	
	Keith Wright	07507 209674	
	Beth Roberts	07961 697064	
	Tim Atlay	07721 867605	
	Paul Barker	07768 797466	
	Elizabeth Wright	07817 056145	
	Parish Clerk	Cathy Smith	07935 657880
	Borough Councillor	Marilyn Westley	Cllr.MWestley@westlancs.gov.uk 07738 680752
Alexander Blundell		Cllr.Blundell@westlancs.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk	
	Leon Graham	07856 930907	

May/June 2026 MAGAZINE

**Closing date for Articles and Adverts :
13th April 2026**

Contributions by Email to halsallparishnews@halsallparish.gov.uk

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

Work on disabled access into the graveyard and Church

We are delighted to announce that we are hoping to start work (final permissions and weather permitting) on creating ramped access from the lychgate into the graveyard in early April.

We hope the work will not cause too much disruption for the village or our neighbours. The work is planned for 10 weeks and during the work the church building will be closed. Access to the graveyard will be by the side steps from Halsall Road.

We recognise that the steps will not be accessible for all, so with the kind permission of the headteacher, Ms Kate Hampson, and the interim Bishop of Liverpool, we will move all Sunday services to St Cuthbert's School Hall for the duration of the work.

On Thursdays the midweek communion at 1.30pm will relocate to St Thomas', Lydiate, and morning prayer at 9.15am will take place in The Bakehouse in the village. All are welcome.

Tuesday's coffee and craft morning is going to move to the Halsall Memorial Hall for the duration of the work. So please do come along and join in the chat and the creating if you are free.

We are anticipating the work will start on Monday 13th April, so please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates.

St Cuthbert's PCC.

Songs of Love and Praise

*An evening with David Massam
and Friends*



*An evening of song to raise funds
for the Church and for
Bebe's Hive CIC*



You are invited to enjoy an evening of 'Songs of Love and Praise' with David Massam, in concert
at St Cuthbert's School, Halsall; 7:00pm, Sunday 3rd May . Ticket price £10.

Tickets available via admin@st-thomas-lydiate.co.uk
or Sue Goldstraw 07792479205
suegoldstraw61@gmail.com

Funds will be split between Bebe's Hive CIC and St Cuthbert's Church.
David is a local singer who will lead us through songs from the musicals, hymns and contemporary pieces aimed to stir reflection.

LUNCHTIME CLUB

St Aidan's Hall, Shirdley Hill

8th April 2026

22nd April 2026

From 12 pm
Hot meal and chatter
All are welcome



Congratulations to our fabulous Y5 & Y6 orienteering team who smashed it - coming first out of all schools that competed over two events (even setting a new course record!) Well done!!

Year 6 have been busy thinking of ways to support their chosen charity of the year; Carla Lane Animal Rescue. On the 13th February, they organised a non-uniform day in school and asked pupils to donate items of pet food in return.



We managed to fill Mrs Galley's van with all the bags of donations and it was all most gratefully received by the staff at Carla Lane.

Congratulations to our phenomenal athletics team who won gold at the recent Athletics competition! First out of 16 schools and now representing West Lancs in county finals in Blackpool! Brilliant





The Rector Writes

Spring has a wonderful way of reminding us that hope is never far away. As the days grow lighter, the birdsong grows louder, and the gardens begin to stir back into life, we are also celebrating two pieces of very good news in our parish.

First, I'm delighted to share that our church has been awarded the **Silver Eco Church Award**. This is a real achievement for our whole community. It reflects the many practical steps people across the parish have taken - big and small - to care for God's creation: from reducing waste, to the amazing work of the butterflies and bees brigade in the graveyard, and thinking more carefully about how we live.

The Bible reminds us that humanity is entrusted with the care of the earth. Looking after creation isn't just a fashionable idea - it's part of our calling. The Silver Eco Church Award recognises that we are moving in the right direction, but it is not the finish line. Rather, it's an encouragement to keep going in caring for the world God loves, not just for us but for future generations.

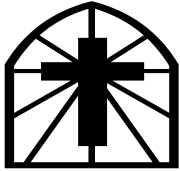
And the second piece of good news? Easter! Easter is the story of life where we expected death, hope where there seemed to be none, and light breaking through darkness. On Good Friday we remember the cross, when everything appeared lost. But Easter morning tells a different story. The stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and Christ is risen.

Easter reminds us that God is always at work bringing new life out of what seems finished. Just as the earth bursts into colour again after winter, the resurrection tells us that renewal is written into the very heart of creation.

Perhaps that's why celebrating Easter and caring for the earth belong so naturally together. Both remind us that life is precious, that hope is real, and that God is not finished with this world yet.

Whether you come to church every week or only occasionally, you would be very warmly welcome to join us at our Easter services. Come and celebrate the joy of resurrection - and take time to notice the signs of new life all around us as well.

With every blessing for a hopeful and joyful Easter, Susan



Service in the United Benefice for March 2026

Regular services every Sunday:

St Cuthbert's in St Cuthbert's School from April 19th.

(Please check social media and our website for latest information)

St Cuthbert's

9.30am. Holy Communion
(1st & 3rd Sundays, Book of Common
Prayer)

In term time alongside the main service:

1st Sunday, Church Without Walls
3rd Sunday, Messy Church

St. Thomas'

8.00am. Said Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

11.00am Parish Eucharist with hymns

In term time:

2nd Sun, Parade Service with Scouts & Guides
4th Sunday, All-age service

Regular midweek services:

Wednesdays	11am	St Thomas' Said Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.15 am	St Cuthbert's, Said Morning Prayer
	1.30 pm	St Cuthbert's, Said Holy Communion with prayers for healing

Special services this month:

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

9.15am St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
7.30pm St Thomas' Holy Communion and vigil to 10pm

Good Friday 3rd April

11am Stations of the cross with Our Lady's Catholic Church, Lydiate
2pm St Cuthbert's Vigil around the cross

Easter Eve, Saturday 4th April

7.30pm St Cuthbert's Easter Eve vigil and renewal of baptismal vows

Easter Day Sunday 5th April

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

BUBBLE CHURCH

St Thomas' Millennium Centre, Church Lane, Lydiate, L31 4HL

Sunday 19th April at 10.45am for around 45minutes

A puppet led short service for young children and their carers

Refreshments from 10.45am. Service at 11am

Come and join the fun.

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH

Next meeting

7.30pm

8th April 2026 at St Aidan's Hall

**Parish Council Website :
halsallparish.gov.uk**

SANCTUARY LIGHTS



April

1 st	Roy Fleming
2 nd	Jean Woods
6 th	Maureen Liliann Williams
7 th	Susannah Dorothy Grimshaw
9 th	Marjorie Hale
10 th	Marie Eve Smith
12 th	Leslie Chadwick
13 th	Maureen Ainscough
14 th	Joseph Doolan
15 th	Ian Huyton
15 th	Mary Hick
15 th	Ronald Coachman
16 th	Bill Ayre
16 th	Beryl Parry
18 th	Barbara Bennington
19 th	Elizabeth Ellen Halsall
19 th	Michelle Williams
23 rd	Julie Ann Wylam
23 rd	Gordon Yorwerth Pryce
24 th	Marjorie Jean Morris
24 th	Dorothy Mary Serjeant
25 th	Ted Waterworth
26 th	Ernest Thomas Davies
26 th	Edna Banks
26 th	Doris Rimmer



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

Sefton Warm Spaces

a space for community
and warmth in Sefton



in partnership with

Sefton Council



Sefton CVS
Supporting Local Communities

Warm Spaces Sefton and St Thomas' Church Luncheon Club.

Every Wednesday afternoon 12.30-2.30pm (approx.)

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LES - 07702 527872

Email: lesrynhart@yahoo.co.uk



Holy Week and Easter 2026

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

- 8.00am St Thomas' BCP Communion & distribution of palm crosses
9.30am St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist & distribution of palm crosses
11.00am St Thomas' CW Eucharist & distribution of palm crosses

Holy Week

7.00pm St Thomas' Mon 30th March, Tues 31st March, Weds 1st April

Said Eucharist with reflections on prayer, scripture and service

11.00am St Thomas' Wednesday 31st March

Said CW holy Communion followed by a simple lunch in Millenium Centre

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

- 9.15am St Cuthbert's said Morning Prayer
1.30pm St Cuthbert's said CW Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday
7.30pm St Thomas Holy Communion and vigil to 10pm

Good Friday 3rd April

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

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What our happy customers are saying...

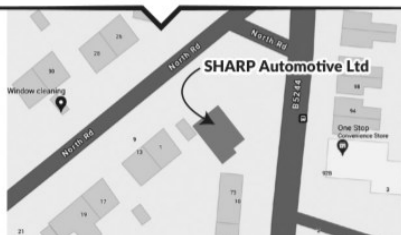
"John viewed my car on a Friday, agreed figures same day and collected Monday. I didn't have to move from my house. Highly recommended". Samantha G, Scarisbrick

"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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MON - SAT
SUNDAY

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TAKEAWAY

9AM-4PM
10AM-4PM

COFFEE BRUNCH PLANTBASED CAFE 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.

Exciting things are blooming here on New Cut Lane! Alongside our cosy plant-based café, Wild Root, we're now joined by some wonderful local businesses – Wildflower, bursting with beautiful blooms and gifts; Reformme Roots, your haven for yoga, Pilates and all things wellness; and Wild & Seek, a magical outdoor play space where little ones can connect with nature.

Pop by, soak up the community spirit, and see what's new!
Head to our website to discover all our upcoming events and workshops.



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GIFTS



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£20 per hour, £15 per hour for regular users

Catering service available from Bakehouse Café next door

Folding Tables and Folding Chairs available to hire

Cathy Smith 07935 657880

HalsallTrust@gmail.com

HALSALL ST CUTHBERT'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Tuesday Evenings from 6pm or Saturday.

Contact Miss Hampson at School Tel : 01704 840253

HALSALL PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for private lettings

Please contact Miss Hampson at school

For details of charges and availability

Tel : 01704 840253

SHIRDLEY HILL ACTIVITY CENTRE

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Whats On

CLUB/GROUP	MEETINGS	CONTACT
1st Halsall Scout Group Boys & Girls age 4-14	Halsall School Hall Boys & Girls age 4-14	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

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www.wecaregroup.co.uk**

Village Coach Trip

Halsall Church are looking to organise a coach trip to Blackpool in September or October. You could have a walk down the promenade, trip up the tower, a meal or go shopping then go through the illuminations before heading home. Cost would be approx £20 for transport. Before we go ahead and book we could do with knowing what interest there would be. If you are interested in a trip then please send a text message to Sue Goldstraw on 07792479205 by 30th April.



THE ARTS SOCIETY CROSBY

Antony Gormley: The Body As A Place
An illustrated talk by lecturer and author Anna Moszynska

2.00 pm on Wednesday 10th June at St. Michael's Church, Blundellsands, L23 8SP

£10 on the door for non-members

For full details visit theartsocietycrosby.org.uk

The Bees and Butterflies Brigade

invite you to

Bees, Bugs & Butterflies!



An interactive family day in the garden of
Rainbag Cottage, Halsall

- ✓ Children's Garden Wildlife trail
- ✓ See garden insects up close
- ✓ Nature things to make and do
- ✓ Meet the experts & learn something new
- ✓ Delicious homemade refreshments on sale



Saturday
30th May 2026



1PM - 4PM

Adults tickets £5

Family Tickets £10

(Price includes entry and activities)

FOR INFO, TICKETS AND DIRECTIONS
CONTACT CLARE

cedwards1144@gmail.com



HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Halsall Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is 7.30pm on 8th April at St Aidan's Hall, Shirdley Hill.

Events and news

These are posted on Halsall Village Community Forum and the Shirdley Hill Community Association Facebook pages.

St Aidan's Hall

The decorating in the hall is nearly completed and is looking very clean and fresh. Unfortunately, some damp areas were found, so these will need to be treated before the decorating work can be completed. Once again, we would like to thank all those involved.

Grants approved

A grant of £500.00 was awarded to the Halsall West End Cricket Club to improve and renovate the playing field. The aim is to improve the grass surface and provide a safe attractive green for all users.

Any voluntary organisation looking for a grant for 2026/27 should contact the clerk@halsallparish.gov.uk

Planning

Planning applications are published for information only. Applications are typically only open for 21 days from publication by West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC). Residents can view and comment on planning applications at

<https://pa.westlancs.gov.uk/online-applications>

Planning applications

Ref:T/2026/0014/TPO, Application received 18 Feb 2026. Application Validated 18 Feb 2026. 66 Moss Road Halsall Southport Lancashire PR8 4JQ. T1 Mature Sycamore Crown thin by 20% to improve light and wind penetration. The tree has co-dominant stems, with included bark running from the base to the union.

Halsall War Memorial Playing Field and Hall Trust

Echoes of Halsall Calendar

The 2026 Echoes of Halsall Calendar sold well over the Christmas period, but there are a few copies left, so if you would still like one, please contact halsallnews@gmail.com or see if there are any left at the Village Bakehouse. The Calendars cost £10.00 each and contain beautiful photographs taken by local people to celebrate our wonderful village. A total of £405.00 was made from the sale of the calendars, which has gone towards the maintenance and upkeep of the hall. We received some very positive feedback about the calendar and would like to produce another one for 2027. Please let us know your ideas for an appropriate theme for the photography competition.

Cricket season 2026

This year's cricket season start on 11th April. Most matches are played at the weekend, so please come along to watch and support your local team.

Events

The following are being planned for this year. Details will be advertised in advance.

Children's Easter party –

9th April from 10:30 until 13:00. There will be a film, crafts and games. Tickets not required, just come along with the children to enjoy the event.

Bingo night – 22nd May

Summer Fete – 2nd August

Children's Halloween party – 31st October

Bingo night – 20th November

Children's Christmas party – 28th November

Christmas lights switch on and Makers Market – 5th December

Mary Lyons - Chair and Cathy Smith - Parish Clerk

**HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL
MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH**

Next meeting

7.30pm

8th April 2026 at St Aidan's Hall

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mtwignall@clara.co.uk



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



Grave Tending Service

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

The service includes:-

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

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Additional services available are: HGV/taxi medicals, minor surgery, vasectomy (minimally invasive technique), steroid joint injections, weight management, menopause management, sexually transmitted infection screening, well person checks and aesthetics

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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

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NOW IN HALSALL



The Bees and Butterflies Brigade



The woodland garden in St.Cuthbert’s Memorial Garden has been flowering bravely throughout March, looking lovely. Gently nodding hellebores and the dainty pink-and-blue flowers of lungworts have been the first port of call for bumblebee queens looking for a quick fix of energy after their long hibernation. I love to see them, because it means our planting, weeding and mulching has been worthwhile. Our next planting session will continue to extend the woodland garden so please come and join us on **Sunday 26th April at 2pm** with gloves and a small spade or trowel at the ready!



Other plants will come to the fore in April to feed our bees. One of my favourites is a compact shrub called Pieris “Little Heath”. It has pretty, variegated leaves and bears delicate, hanging cream flowers that look and smell like the flowers of Lily-of-the-Valley – hence it’s common name of “Lily-of-the-Valley Shrub”. Bees are attracted by its fragrance. Another shrub that looks stunning in April is Skimmia “Kew Green” – there is one in the shady end of the ha-ha by the bridge. It has the power to attract clouds of honey bees and hoverflies with its scent, rewarding them with a feast of nectar, and on warm days we can breathe in its heady fragrance too.



If you’d like to grow either of these plants in your own garden, choose a shady spot with moist, rich soil. If your soil is poor or well-drained, you can always improve it by mixing in some peat-free compost, leaf mould or well-rotted manure. You could under-plant your shrubs with native bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) which will cover the ground where it is not too dry. Or, in dappled shade, try pale-yellow wild primroses (*Primula vulgaris*), loved by butterflies as well as bees. For a sunny, well-drained spot choose Flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) or Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), both of which flower in April and attract precious pollinators.



Since we have lost so many hedgerows, wildflower meadows and woodlands across the UK, our gardens have become critical to the survival of many bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. When you grow a variety of flowering plants in your garden - including plants that flower at different times of the year - and choose new plants that have a bee-friendly logo on the label, then you are undoubtedly doing a great deal to keep our world buzzing and fluttering.



If you and your family would like to learn more about pollinators and other wildlife in a fun way, we’d love to see you at **Rainbag Cottage on May 30th** when you’ll be able to see nature gardening in action, use magnifying lenses to look up close, make a simple bird feeder and enjoy other nature-based activities! Please see our full-page advert for details – it’s going to be a fun-filled afternoon!



Clare Edwards cedwards1144@gmail.com



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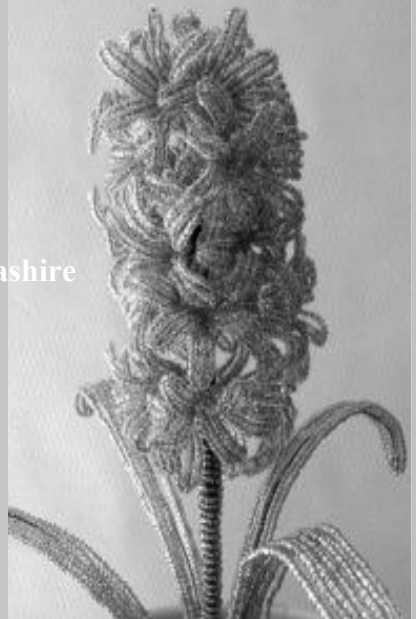
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MAY
22
7:30PM
Bingo!

AUG
02
11AM - 3PM
Summer Fair

OCT
31
11AM - 1:30PM
*Kids Halloween
Party*

NOV
20
7:30PM
Bingo!

NOV
28
12PM - 3PM
*Kids Christmas party
& Santa visit*

DEC
05
FROM 2PM
*Christmas Markets
& Tree switch on*

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**Halsall History Society presents:
'Murder on the Leeds Liverpool Canal'**



**A talk given by Ormskirk Heritage Hub's
Dot Broady-Hawkes.**

**It's 1832: a body is found in the
Leeds Liverpool canal at Halsall.**

Is it murder?

Listen to the evidence and you decide ...

**Friday 17th April 2026 at 7.30pm
Halsall Memorial Hall, Halsall Road, Halsall.**



Everyone welcome - free admission

(with donations to the Halsall History Society)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear residents,

I would like to update you on some important developments regarding the future of Halsall News. In light of recent increases in costs, I've taken time to carefully review our options, and after much discussion, I'm delighted to confirm that Halsall News will continue, albeit with a few significant changes to enhance both sustainability and quality.

To begin with, we will be moving from our previous schedule of ten issues per year to a streamlined format of six issues annually. This means Halsall News will now be published every other month, a change that will allow us to focus our resources and produce even more engaging editions. Additionally, we're excited to announce that every issue will now be printed in full colour, bringing a fresh vibrancy and visual appeal to the publication.

Please take note of the new publishing schedule:

- April (no change)
- May/June
- July/August
- September/October
- November/December
- January/February
- March/April

For contributors, it's essential to remember that the submission deadline remains the 13th of the relevant month. Here are the upcoming deadlines to help you plan ahead:

- 13th April for May/June
- 13th June for July/August
- 13th August for September/October
- 13th October for November/December
- 13th December for January/February
- 13th February for March/April

As we transition to this new format, I kindly request that all advertisers resubmit their adverts in full colour to ensure consistency and make the most of our upgraded design.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact me directly.

Noel McCarthy-Thomason
Editor
halsallnews@gmail.com
07485 151395

A new stage, new stories, and endless possibilities

The **Oak Theatre and Studios** situated within Scarisbrick Hall School on Southport Road, Scarisbrick—marks an inspiring new chapter for the region’s performing arts. This purpose-built venue features 391 comfortable seats, a welcoming social space, and a fully **licensed bar**, ensuring every visitor enjoys an exceptional theatre-going experience from the moment they arrive.

At the Oak Theatre, we offer a vibrant programme of performances: family-friendly shows, innovative new productions, and unforgettable live music events. We celebrate bold storytelling and creative ambition, bringing together visionary artists and engaged audiences who share our passion for shaping the future of live entertainment.

Complementing the main auditorium, **Oak Studios** provides versatile, professional spaces ideal for rehearsals, workshops, classes, and intimate performances. Each studio includes sprung floors, mirrored walls, and access to a state-of-the-art recording facility featuring the Audient 8024 a 36 channel large-format recording console. These resources empower performers and creators to develop, refine, and capture their work with exceptional precision and quality.

Beyond its core educational mission, Scarisbrick Hall School is deeply committed to enriching the wider community. We offer a range of outreach opportunities, including **TCM Holiday Camps** and access to our thriving **Dance School**, helping to nurture emerging talent, broaden cultural engagement, and build meaningful local partnerships.

Opened in 2023 under the Hedley Directorship, the Oak Theatre was founded with a clear vision: to make high-quality drama accessible to all while raising the aspirations of the next generation of performers.

Our programme is open to everyone—whether you’re a lifelong theatregoer or setting out on a new family tradition. We can’t wait to welcome you to one of our upcoming shows.

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8am -5pm

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 Full time, 35 hours

 All year round


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 Term time only


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drink

In aid of St Cuthberts Church, Halsall

Greetings lovers of all things spooky!

Welcome to the April edition of my monthly column, featuring more haunting tales from our beloved Halsall and surrounding areas. Last month, I relayed the infamous phantom horse and carriage that patrols the Birkdale Cop after dark. The gothic vessel traverses the hill, led by a skeletal driver on his way to a funeral from decades ago. Whilst this is one of the most talked about local legends, it is far from the only one. That's right, be careful as you're walking our country roads on these lighter nights you may catch yourself miles from home as the sun sets. Comparatively, we generally feel more safe and secure if travelling in our vehicles after dark being somewhat lesser exposed to the elements. However, there's a local ghost that enjoys stopping cars on the road that meets from the Birkdale Cop to Heathey Lane. Almost all of us residing in the area are familiar with the bumpy, winding stretch of road that brings us into Shirdley Hill. The headlights of our cars illuminating the surrounding fields as we pass by, highlighting the various wildlife that appears during the twilight hours. As sweet as that sentiment may be, something rather more paranormal also lays in wait.

Tales of the phantom hitchhiker of Halsall can be traced back to the 1970's, when the intelligent apparition was first reported. Before I relay the eye-witness account, let's briefly distinguish between a residual and intelligent haunting. When people report sightings of ghosts that walk the same routes, paying no mind to the world around them, we theorise them to be residual. Almost like a live replay of a person from times gone by. This same theory can be applied to paranormal noises such as footsteps, screams and bangs. Many haunted houses report the exact same type of phenomena reoccurring over the years, from resident to resident. The entity cannot communicate as such; it simply replays on a loop. In comparison, an intelligent haunting is something else entirely. The ghost has the ability to speak, move items, send messages and respond to questions. Our phantom hitchhiker falls into this latter category, with most believing him to be a living person.

The story originates in the summer of 1969, when a 21-year-old man named Arthur was riding his motorcycle across the moss, on route to visit his mother in Haskayne. The young man had a red rose and card on his person, sealed in an envelope and ready for his mother's birthday. So, the story goes, he lost control on a tight bend after hitting a bump in the road and was thrown off his motorcycle into the fields, headfirst. Arthur died on impact, being found only minutes later. Ever since, locals and visitors have reported a young man in 1960's motorcycle attire, standing at the side of the road waiving cars to stop for a lift. There are countless reports of kind-hearted individuals stopping over the years and offering him a ride. When he gets into the rear passenger seat, the young man tells the driver how he is on route to visit his mother for her birthday but unfortunately, has had an accident. All accounts report Arthur presenting himself as real as me and you, able to converse rather pleasantly. However, as the vehicle makes its way to the village green of Shirdley Hill, Arthur suddenly goes silent. Eventually, the driver turns around to ensure that he is okay, but the back seats are not completely empty. The seat in which Arthur was sat, still has its seatbelt securely fastened. It is at that time point, the driver realises the motorcyclist has been a ghost the entire time.

If there is any truth to this tale, I can only hope Arthur's spirit eventually finds rest and becomes re-united with his mother. The ghost himself is not scary in the traditional sense but certainly leaves the drivers incredibly unsettled for the remainder of their lives! If you enjoyed this tale, please do give me a follow on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. I create spooky content under 'The Jack O'Lantern.'

Until then, happy haunting!

Ray



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Dawn Chorus Walk around Halsall Church grounds

Saturday May 2nd, meet at Church Gates 4.30am

Celebrate National Dawn Chorus Day, learn how to ID Birds through their song, then enjoy a sausage balm, tea or coffee in the great outdoors. Cost £10 More info given on booking your place.

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