



Halsall Newsletter

March 2026



The year!

January brings the party for new year's,
Time for laughter, fun and cheers



February brings pancake day,
All the children shout, "Hip, hip hooray!"



March brings the sun back again,
No more igloos or snowmen.



April brings farm animals back,
All the eggs begin to crack,



May brings farmers with their crops
Don't forget their chequered tops.



June brings flowers, we watch them grow,
They stand like soldiers' row on row.

July brings the burning heat,
Burns our fingers and our feet.



August brings summer to an end,
But don't worry, autumn is still my friend.



→ END

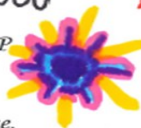
September brings fun, whilst red and orange show,
As we watch the once green grass begin to glow.

October brings spooky thrills,
No more summer or daffodils.



Boo!

November brings fireworks POP
Will they even ever stop?



POP

December brings the snow and ice,
I guess this weather... is supposedly nice!



By Evie and Amelia xx

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
	Sarah Mitchell	01704 889237
Verger		07808 064996
P.C.C. Secretary	Mike Stephenson	07749 676868
P.C.C. Treasurer	Colin Throp	01704 841281
Organist	Glenn Howard	01704 840485

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chair	Mary Lyons	01704 840607
Vice Chair	Noel McCarthy-Thomason	07485 151395
Councillors	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
	Cathy Smith	07935 657880
	Marilyn Westley	Cllr.MWestley@westlancs.gov.uk 07738 680752
Parish Clerk	Alexander Blundell	Cllr.Blundell@westlancs.gov.uk
Borough Councillor	Jane Marshall	Cllr.Marshall@westlancs.gov.uk
County Councillor	Leon Graham	07856 930907

April 2026 MAGAZINE

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

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.

Halsall Proud & Tidy Group



Saturday March 21st 10am

Please come and join us in Bishops Walk to carry out our BIG annual tidy up. There are fences to mend, brambles to clear, dead hedges to repair, ground to prepare and plenty more to keep us all busy!

If you would like to know more please contact

Eleanor Wroe - elliwroe@hotmail.com or 07817 55 75 33

Or Enid Banks - enidbanks@aol.com or 07977 920 956



Sorry to report that The Lancashire Best Kept Village will not be taking place this year. The main sponsor, Barton Grange Garden Centre, has been sold and a new sponsor has not yet been found. In addition, the present chairperson and secretary are both retiring so the decision was taken to give 2026 a miss and regroup for 2027. Of course, we will still be helping look after our village as we usually do for residents and visitors alike.

LUNCHTIME CLUB

St Aidan's Hall, Shirdley Hill

11th march 2026

25th March 2026

8th April 2026

22nd April 2026

**From 12 pm
Hot meal and chatter
All are welcome**

Road Issues in Halsall

The Parish Council has been asked to support residents who are concerned about vehicles speeding along many of the small rural roads in our area. People are particularly concerned about speeding at the 60 to 30 mph transitions, along Renacres Lane, Halsall Road and New Cut Lane. Concerned residents have also asked about the possibility of extending railings by the school close to Bishops walk, for the safety of children and parents/carers.

Since these are issues that come under the remit of Lancashire County Council (LCC), we brought them to the attention of LCC Cllr Leon Graham. Leon has advised he will do all he can, but that the Police and LCC rarely reduce speed limits unless there have been a lot of serious road accidents on that area of the road. We will continue to monitor the issue and lobby for appropriate action.

Potholes have become a greater problem than ever after the cold and wet weather throughout January and February. Residents are encouraged to report any potholes or other highway problems to Lancashire County Council through the 'Love Clean Street' app which is free to download and use. Let us know if you need help to download or use this app.

You need to search for Love Clean Streets on the App store or Google Play Store on your mobile phone or tablet.

Set Lancashire County Council as your home authority.

You are advised to take a photo of the problem if possible and attach this. You are able to pinpoint exactly where the problem is on the map. You can use this app to let Lancashire Council know about a wide range of issues such as streetlights that have gone out, dangerous overhanging tree branches, road signs that are missing or damaged, flooding and drainage problems as well as potholes.

Councillor L. Graham confirmed that Lancashire County Council will be painting all road lines at the junction of Summerwood Lane and Halsall Road in the near future.

Our Parish Clerk will be going to police surgery in February and will report back on the various traffic matters raised and discussed, as well as any action that is being taken.

Halsall Parish Council



THE VILLAGE BAKEHOUSE

DELIGHT IN OUR FRESHLY
BAKED PIES AND CAKES,
ENJOY A DELICIOUS
BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
MENU, AND LET US CATER
YOUR NEXT PARTY. DINE
WITH US OR TAKE YOUR
FAVORITES TO GO.

OPEN DAILY
9 til 3



HALSALL PLAYING FIELDS, HALSALL ROAD, HALSALL

Call 01704 840916 to book a table



The Rector Writes

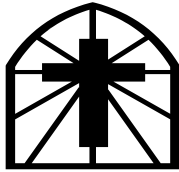
As I sat and listened to the young care worker I was struck by her compassion and concern that, in her exhaustion, she was not only letting down the people she was being asked to care for, but also her colleagues. She described the daily challenge of trying to do her best in the face of staff shortages and her own growing fatigue. She had been working extra shifts to cover colleagues who had been ill and others off with stress. She apologised as her frustration spilled over into tears. "I am no hero," she said.

The current narrative around many illnesses such as cancer is framed around the metaphor of battle. Those involved as patients or carers, nurses and doctors, are called "heroes". If they have sufficient resources and courage, they will defeat the unseen enemy. That narrative portrays those working in health and social care as invincible saviours – who, even though stretched to the limit, will ultimately triumph. It implies that with enough research and pooling of knowledge we will defeat cancer or heart disease or dementia or any other illness, and regain a sense of certainty about the world and our place in it.

The reality of course is different. There are no winners or losers. Perhaps a more realistic metaphor around illness and old age is one of "exilic journey". In the Bible we read the story of the Exodus of the Israelites escaping from slavery in Egypt. It is the story of a diverse community journeying together through the desert wilderness, uncertain about when or where their journey will end - a journey surrounded by fear and uncertainty. They were called to trust in God's promise to bring them safely into the promised land, even though they had no idea how and when that might be. There are many echoes of that story in the 40 days and 40 nights Jesus spent in the wilderness that the Church remembers during the season of Lent, continuing through March this year.

As I sat in silence, hearing the distress of the young carer, we held that moment together and found a way to journey on, not as heroes, but as two people striving to do their best in a challenging and uncertain world. It is so important to create safe spaces where we can listen to each other's stories without judgement, and in doing so enable us to be our unique selves. For life is not a battle and we are not heroes, rather life is a journey to be treasured and embraced, with all its twists and turns.

Every blessing, Susan



Service in the United Benefice for March 2026

Regular services every Sunday:

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:

Sunday 8th March – Celebrating families and superheroes

9.30am St Cuthbert's School celebration of families

11.00am St Thomas' Church Parade with St Thomas' School and uniformed organisations.

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday

Usual Sunday services in both churches

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

See information about Holy Week and Easter





Every Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm in the Millennium Centre, with refreshments

24th February: What is inclusion and what does the parable of the Prodigal Son tell us about it?

3rd March: What does inclusion look like as a member of the Tsedaqah Community?

10th March: What does inclusion look like from a primary school perspective?

17th March: What does inclusion look like when we read 1 Corinthians 12?

24th March: What does inclusion look like when working with refugees?

All are welcome to come along. Let us pray and explore together what it means to strive to be generous and hospitable and strive to offer a radical welcome to all.

**HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL
MEET 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH
Next meeting
7.30pm
11th March 2026 at Memorial Hall**

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

SANCTUARY LIGHTS



MARCH

1 st	Christine Grimshaw
2 nd	Mildred Patience Looker
3 rd	Maurice Simpkin
4 th	Dave Sephton
5 th	Christopher James Prentice
6 th	Mary Kenyon
7 th	Tony Gaskell
8 th	Leonard Blundell
8 th	Thomas Porter
10 th	Jean Ann Haslam
16 th	Wilfred Henry Gill
17 th	John James Knowles
18 th	Tom Thompson
19 th	Edward Banks
19 th	William Charles Bond
20 th	Mary Ann Blundell
20 th	Michelle Jeannie Williams
22 nd	Derrick Ainscough
24 th	Dorothy Eva Ann Sarah Pritchard
24 th	Leslie Abbott
24 th	Barbara Mary Ball
24 th	Shirley Orme
25 th	Daisy Gibbons
27 th	Joyce Elizabeth Mawdsley



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 CVS
Supporting Local Communities

Warm Spaces Sefton and St Thomas' Church Luncheon Club.

Every Wednesday afternoon 12.30-2.30pm (approx.)

Back at St Thomas' Millennium Centre, Church Lane, L31 4HL

All welcome for a simple meal, conversation and laughter.

MAN WITH VAN

REMOVALS & SINGLE ITEMS COLLECTED AND DELIVERED.

SHED & GARAGE CLEARANCE.

HONEST & RELIABLE, LOCAL.

ANYTIME, WEEKENDS, EVENINGS.

CONTACT MICK 07807 789072

Step back in time and see the



PROCEEDS FOR



Sat 11 APRIL 2026

11am - 4pm

Vintage & Classic of all kinds!

- **Vintage & Classic Vehicles & Tractors •**
- **Miniature Engines •**
- **Miniature Train Rides •**

**Music ,Refreshments, BBQ, Ice-Creams
and MUCH MORE**

**Alderlee Park, Turning Lane, Scarisbrick, PR8 5HR
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

For more information and bookings contact

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

- 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

Car selling, made easy.



SHARP

AUTOMOTIVE

Sell your car in 5 easy steps

- 1 Contact us via email or phone with your car details.
- 2 Arrange a convenient appointment for a buyer to visit your home or workplace, presenting ID for car inspection.
- 3 Receive a confirmed written offer.
- 4 Complete the payment for your vehicle.
- 5 Schedule a convenient vehicle pickup along with paperwork handling.

A competitive, if not the best price offered for your car

What our happy customers are saying...

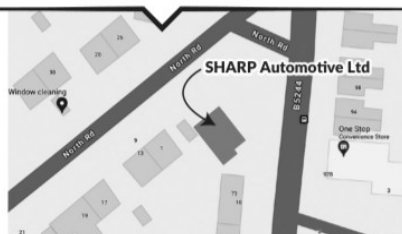
"John viewed my car on a Friday, agreed figures same day and collected Monday. I didn't have to move from my house. Highly recommended". Samantha G, Scarisbrick

"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



79 Rufford Road
Southport PR9 8LL
01704 331341

info@sharpautomotive.co.uk
www.sharpautomotive.co.uk





**MASSAMS
Supplies Ltd**

ESTABLISHED FOR
OVER
40
YEARS
OVER 40 YEARS

**LANDSCAPE
HORTICULTURAL
BUILDING SUPPLIES**



March Into Spring Savings..

Decorative Aggregates 20KG	£4.99 OR 5 FOR £22
Topsoil 25LT	£2.99 OR 10 FOR £25
Farmyard Manure 40LT	£3.99 OR 3 FOR £10
Clover Bark 100LT	£12 OR 3 FOR £32
Clover Tomato & Salad Grow bag	£6.99 OR 3 FOR £18
Clover Grow Bag	£4.50 OR 3 FOR £12
Flower Grow 50LT Compost	£5.99 OR 3 FOR £16

INCLUDING: MULTI PURPOSE | TUB & BASKET | ERICACEOUS COMPOST

TEL: 01704 840265

WWW.MASSAMS.CO.UK | INFO@MASSAMS.CO.UK

RENACRES HALL FARM | RENACRES LANE | HALSALL | L39 8SE

MON- SAT
SUNDAY

DINE IN

wild root

TAKEAWAY

9AM-4PM
10AM-4PM

PLANTBASED

CAFE

COFFEE BRUNCH

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.



FLOWERS



PLAY



WELLNESS



GIFTS

NEW CUT LANE, HALSALL, PR8 3DL, ENGLAND

NEXT TO THE RSPCA...



01704 562002
www.wildroot.kitchen



ANDREW ROUGHLEY

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

13-14 CENTRAL SQUARE,
MAGHULL, LIVERPOOL.
L31 0AE

Direct
Cremation
From £999
(exc. third
party fees)



0151 433 8820

INFO@ANDREWROUGHLEYFUNERALS.COM
WWW.ANDREWROUGHLEYFUNERALS.COM



THE ONLY INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS IN MAGHULL

We are a family run funeral service with a friendly, caring and dedicated team with over 54 years combined experience of looking after families at what can be a most difficult and distressing time.

- Located in Central Square, Maghull
- A personal service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (no call centre)
- Modern, quiet and welcoming premises
- Private chapels of rest with no visiting restrictions
- Funeral Plans through Golden Charter, one of the largest plan providers
- Covering all areas

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



192 ★★★★★ Reviews



"I am privileged to remain an Independent Funeral Director working alongside my original team, offering all our help & support as we have always done since opening in 2020"
Andrew Roughley



Halls for Hire

ST AIDAN'S HALL

Hourly rates are as follows

One-Off Users £20 per hour, Regular Users £15 per hour
Kitchen, amplifier & speakers, projector & screen, ample parking
Cathy Smith 07935 657880
HalsallTrust@gmail.com

MEMORIAL HALL and PLAYING FIELD

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

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

£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

Renacres Lane, Shirdley Hill L39 8SG

Hourly Rate £20.00

Kitchen, projector & screen, ample parking, outside area

Please contact Angela Harding for availability

Tel : 07944 441850

MLS INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**The Hunter Family Funeral Homes in
Aughton and Burscough**

Personal • Caring • Independent



Margaret Hunter
Dip.F.D.

Lisa Hunter
Dip.F.D.

Sally Hunter
Dip.F.D.

24 hour personal service
Private chapels of rest
Memorials supplied & erected
Pre-paid funeral plans available



01695 424888

20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton,
Ormskirk, L39 5DZ

01704 891555

22a, Liverpool Road North,
Burscough, L40 5TP

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Covering all areas



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

FAMILY - HONESTY - RESPECT



COURTFIELD LODGE CARE HOME

**Providing quality, person centered care for those that
need 24-hour Residential, or Residential Dementia Care.
Call us today to book a viewing.**



**Courtfield Lodge Care Home, 81a Marians Drive,
Ormskirk, L39 1LG**

**Telephone: 01695 570 581 | Email: admin.courtfield@wecaregroup.co.uk
www.wecaregroup.co.uk**

The Phantom Carriage of Birkdale Cop

During our day to day lives, many of us will drive along the Birkdale Cop which connects us to Birkdale itself, Ainsdale and Kew. The road has that rural, peaceful feel about it, being surrounded by farmland and wildlife. Prior to living in Halsall, it was one of my preferred routes to take when visiting family from my previous home address in Orrell, Wigan to Kew Road in Birkdale. I recall one autumn evening in which I was traversing the Birkdale Cop after sunset and spotted a large Barn Owl on a wooden fence post, just watching my Mini Cooper pass by. Despite the location now being more populated than ever with the construction of an entirely new neighbourhood, it has somewhat maintained its open space aesthetic.

It may come as a surprise to the reader, that many sites of paranormal encounters in Britain take place on our historic roads. Through my research, I have uncovered that the Birkdale Cop is no exception. It's on the doorstep of Halsall, viewable from bay windows of Heathey Lane, yet many residents are unaware of its ghostly legend or should I say legends, if you include phantom animals too! During the late 20th century, tales began to circulate around Halsall and Southport of the supernatural nature. A road the locals were all too familiar with, being the site of something rather unbelievable. So much so, some travellers refused to take the Birkdale Cop after dark alleging that the pitch-black isolated roads, were haunted.

The first documented encounter originates with a shoe-repairer of Birkdale in 1933, by the name of Mr Hanson. The gentleman was walking the long stretch of road (merely a track of rocks and dirt back then) to his elderly mother's cottage in Scarisbrick, one Spring night. The air felt unnaturally cold and eerily quiet that evening, the shoe-repairer later recalled. Around 20 or so minutes into the journey, his jovial whistling was cut short by the distinct sound of clattering hooves and carriage wheels rumbling from over the hill ahead. This was still a common means of transportation in 1930's Halsall, so the noises were not too alarming at least, initially. As the wooden vehicle approached the peak of the hill, it became visible in the silver moonlight. Two large, black horses pulled along a funeral carriage, again black in colour. The driver, clad in a smart coat and top hat guided the reins with an assertive thrash. The very sight unsettled Mr Hanson deeply, whom was completely alone and in darkness, on this long stretch of road. It was far too late in the day for a funeral, perhaps the carriage was transporting a body to Duke Street Cemetery for a private committal?

He pondered, albeit briefly. However, as the carriage trundled closer at greater speed from the decline of the hill, Mr Hanson's heart nearly stopped in his chest with fright. The driver of the carriage, perched on the top was not a living man at all. A skull grinned under the top hat, alongside skeletal hands that clutched the horses' reins. Before the astonished shoe-repairer could utter a gasp, the carriage vanished within the blink of an eye, into the night air. The story was shared amongst the immediate communities of the time, with other locals then corroborating Mr Hanson's accounts with their own eye-witness testimonies.

The phantom carriage of Birkdale Cop was last reported in 1987, by a family travelling to Southport in their car. The ghostly vessel did not come close enough for them to see the driver (fortunately!) but they did witness it disappear into a field. That's not to say the carriage does not still visit the stretch of road during spring nights, perhaps witnesses do not speak of their encounters in fear of ridicule, in our modern world. Whatever the truth of this tale, it brings to life a seemingly mundane country road into the realm of folklore. No longer do I drive the Birkdale Cop after dark, yawning after a long day of work, awaiting a brew by the fireside. My mind is wandering, debating where Mr Hanson's tale originated fact or mere folklore?



If you enjoyed this local ghost story, please do follow my social media channels for more. I create content under 'The Jack O' Lantern' on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook.

Until next month, stay spooky!

Ray Turner

HALSALL PARISH COUNCIL

**Halsall Parish Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month.
The next meeting is 7.30pm on 11th March at the Memorial Hall, Halsall.**

Events and news

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

Warm space

St Aidan's hall in Shirdley Hill is a designated warm space. Lunch is served every two weeks on a Wednesday for member of the community. Lunch-time club this month will be 12:00 noon on 11th and 25th March.

St Aidan's Hall

The Hall is currently being decorated by volunteers. We would like to thank all those involved and are looking forward to the renovated space.

Grants approved

A grant of £500.00 was awarded to the Bees & Butterflies group to purchase trees to be planted along the edge of the Memorial Hall playing field. The exact location will be decided based on drainage and other considerations. Planting is targeted for 22 March. Appreciation was recorded for all the amazing work undertaken by the Bees & Butterflies volunteers.

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

Woodland opposite the Memorial Hall

A working group is currently attempting to complete the constitution and establishment of a new charity that will take responsibility for the ruins of the old rectory and woodland opposite the Memorial Hall. This land was sold to the Moores family by the Church Commissioners and has now been offered to the community through the Parish Council.

The area is fenced off, and no work has yet been undertaken on the land. The area is very overgrown, but following a couple of site visits we are developing plans. We know that many local people are interested in the project, and we hope to secure the support of local companies as well as volunteers to help clear some of the overgrowth and create a useable woodland area for the community. Much has yet to be decided, and various permissions obtained but a lot of paperwork has already been undertaken and once the land has been officially handed over, we can put out a call for volunteers and start work in the area.

We will bring you more information about progress on the project over the next few months and plan to prepare an exhibition for the summer fair that will detail the plans, including access and safety issues as well as various timelines.

Ongoing road issues in Halsall

Please see page 5 for an update from the Parish Council

Mary Lyons - Chair and Cathy Smith - Parish Clerk

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.westlancls.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

Planning applications

2026/0055/FUL The erection of a new outbuilding to the rear of the existing property. The Willow House 1 Halsall Farm Grove Halsall Ormskirk Lancashire

2024/0547/FUL relating to Hedge & Tree Planting, Environmental Management Plan and bird boxes. Mill Brow Farm 98 New Street Halsall Lancashire L39 8RS

Certificate of Lawfulness - Use of glasshouses, yard and buildings for B8 use to the rear of 19 Summerwood Lane Halsall Lancashire Ref. No: 2026/0058/LDC

2025/0937/PNP Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required. Ambrose Farm Carr Moss Lane Halsall Ormskirk Lancashire L39 8RY

Planning decisions

2025/1005/FUL Decision: Planning permission granted. Proposal: Introduction of new Part M compliant disabled access ramp to replace existing access steps and path Location: St Cuthberts Church, Halsall Road, Halsall, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 8RG

Halsall War Memorial PlayingField 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 didn't get one in your Christmas stocking, and 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. All money raised goes towards supporting the Halsall War Memorial and Playing Field Trust charity.

Events

The following are being planned for this year. Not all times and dates have been decided, and more events are likely to be organised, but all will be advertised well in advance.

- Children's Easter party – 9th April
- Bingo night
- Summer Fete – 2nd August
- Children's Halloween party
- Children's Christmas party
- Christmas lights switch on

Mary Lyons - Chair and Cathy Smith - Parish Clerk

JAMES WIGNALL LIMITED

CONSTRUCTION

5 Dicconsons Lane Halsall L39 7HR

e-mail jwignall@clara.co.uk

www.james-wignall.co.uk

All types of work undertaken

Refurbishments · Alterations · Joinery · Interiors

Contact

James 07974 390752 Office 07929 588513

M. Wignall

Plumbing and Heating.

- All types of plumbing and heating work undertaken.
- Bathroom specialist
- No job too small
- Free estimates
- Gas safe registered



Contact Michael on:
01704 841136
07854 914102
mtwignall@clara.co.uk



ORMSBY MEMORIALS

Monumental Stonemasons

A long established family business specialising in the design and manufacture of new memorials and the renovating of existing memorials. We provide a professional, friendly and quality service.

We specialise in:

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



Grave Tending Service

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

The service includes:-

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

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

25A CEMETERY ROAD, SOUTHPORT, MERSEYSIDE, PR8 6RH

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

www.ormsbymemorials.co.uk find us on Facebook



ozzyjamespropsandprints



rinting

Low Cost Printing - Fast Turnaround



**Banners - Posters
Vinyl Graphics
Advertising Boards
Roller Banners
Promotion & Event Printing**

www.ozzyjamesprints.co.uk

Email: hello@ozzyjamesprints.co.uk

Unit 5 The Boxworks - Heysham Road - Aintree - L30 6UR



0151 662 1211



0151 662 1211

We are local, experienced doctors offering private GP consultations in a clinical setting, or in a patients home if required, allowing you the time and space to discuss any health needs or concerns you may be experiencing. When necessary we can refer to either the private or NHS sectors for specialist care depending on your preference. The benefits of using our services are flexibility, short waiting times and longer consultations. We have full access to blood tests, imaging (x-rays, scans etc) and Pathology.



R & B Clinical

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

To book an appointment call **01704 773229**, or visit www.randbclinical.com/book
www.randbclinical.com / randbclinical@gmail.com /
 Facebook : randbclinical

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.

CHRISTOPHER DIGGLE

JEWELLERS • MAGHULL

2 Hours Free Parking
Maghull Central Square
18 Westway, Maghull L31 0DQ
www.christopherdiggle.com
0151 306 6225



cdigglemaghull

- Jewellery Repairs in Store
- Jewellery Cleaning
- Bespoke Design
- Engagement & Wedding Rings
- Diamond & Gemstone Jewellery
- Silver Jewellery
- Children's Jewellery
- Pre-Owned Jewellery
- Sekonda Watches
- Valuations
- Watch Repairs
- We Buy Gold



☎ 07788 189 891
Out of hours available

✉ heatingdoc.999@gmail.com

We specialise in targeted boiler and heating system repairs, where other companies often just replace whole units and appliances thoughtlessly and unnecessarily - at your expense!



Covering the whole of Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester.

Specialists in boilers and heating system repairs



- ✓ Gas
- ✓ Boilers
- ✓ Heat pumps
- ✓ Solar
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Electric heating
- ✓ Smart controls
- ✓ Installation
- ✓ Emergency
- ✓ Fault finding and repairs

Expert work, not guesswork

LANCASHIRE UPHOLSTERY LTD

**SPECIALIST IN UPHOLSTERY
FOR OVER
HALF A CENTURY**

Work done by our own tradesmen

Ring for a free estimate

Ring on
01704 535820
or 07889 451226

NOW IN HALSALL



The Bees and Butterflies Brigade



Trees are amazing organisms aren't they? They reach strong branches way above our heads, anchor the soil beneath our feet, provide us with cooling shade and clean the air we breathe. They are beginning to give up other secrets, too. Did you know that trees communicate with each other through the release of chemical compounds into the air? Scientists now know that when we walk under groups of trees that we consider beautiful, the chemicals affect our circulatory system and our sub-conscious so that our blood pressure lowers. A woodland walk, therefore, makes us feel relaxed and refreshed. Trees, it seems, are good for us.



They also bring many other creatures near to us so that we can enjoy them. Many of our native trees host a whole world of other seen and unseen organisms, from the tiny threads of fungi amongst their roots, to beetles hiding in rugged bark, caterpillars curled in leaves and songbirds feeding and nesting in their canopies. According to the charity "The Woodland Trust", a mature English Oak tree (*Quercus robur*), the titan of trees, can support up to 2,300 different species, 326 of which depend on oak for survival. Even as a sapling the oak gets to work providing food and homes for wildlife and because oaks can live to over 1000 years old, they can support wildlife for centuries. We are lucky to have oak trees in St Cuthbert's churchyard and in other small woods around Halsall. See if you can spot our newly planted oak saplings on the canal-side near Hill Bridge – they are small now but will be wildlife power-houses in the future if we respect and care for them.



Every tree we plant helps to make a better world for people and nature, so I'm delighted to tell you that the Parish Council has approved the planting of five native trees on the most northerly boundary of the Memorial Playing Field. Three of these trees will be a variety of Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata*) called "Paul's Scarlet" whose blooms are a stunning deep pink; the other two trees will be Rowan trees (*Sorbus aucuparia*). Both hawthorn and rowan bear nectar-rich flowers loved by bees and produce berries that are quickly eaten by birds such as blackbirds, song thrushes and fieldfares. Both are tough, small trees that will support an impressive number of wildlife species as they mature.



If you fancy helping to plant a tree for the future, join us on The Memorial Playing Field on Sunday 22nd March at 2pm. I'll be showing you all how to prepare the planting holes and how to plant, stake and mulch the trees. Dress for the weather, wear gardening gloves and bring a spade if you want to get stuck in! I'll see you there.



Clare Edwards (cedwards1144@gmail.com)



**Are Moles, Magpies or other pests causing
you a problem?**



Then you need a Pest controller

Call Ian on 07563 210902

**Local, Licensed and totally reliable
With over 40 years of experience**



SPL

**PAINTING &
DECORATING**

- YOUR LOCAL DECORATOR
- COVID COMPLIANT
- NO JOB TOO SMALL
- CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

07866 767 977

**QUALITY - RELIABLE
CLEAN & FRIENDLY SERVICE**



TOWN VETS

TEL: 01704 535233

Email: contact@town-vets.co.uk

Southport Practice

19 Church Street , Southport, PR90QT

Mon-Fri 8:30am-6pm Sat 9am-12pm

**Surgery at Massam's Supplies, Halsall is
Suspended until further notice.**

Please call the practice to make an appointment.

**Our aim is to give you the best advice from an local veterinary team
and give your pet the greatest of care.**

We offer a collection and delivery service .

SIMON BOUNDS GARDEN MAINTENANCE

SIMON BOUNDS GARDENER

We cover Merseyside and West Lancashire

Private and Commercial

All Year Round

FREE ESTIMATES

01704 840480

07832 291080





JOIN US TO SING: VIVALDI'S GLORIA & PERGOLESINI'S MAGNIFICAT

*NO need to have
sung these before!*

- Sat 21st March 2026, 11am-5pm
- Optional public performance with orchestra at our Spring Concert (Sun 29th March 3pm)

£15 per person (Pay at event
or via Ticket Source
[ticketsource.co.uk/ormskirk-
music-society](https://ticketsource.co.uk/ormskirk-music-society))

Hot drinks & music (on loan)
provided

St Michael's Church Hall, 6 Church View,
Aughton, Ormskirk, L39 6TQ

ormskirkmusicsociety.org.uk

Registered charity: 512004

EROS

Homecare Services Ltd



Call us for a free assessment:

01704 808 227

**Providing Highest Quality
Care Professionals in your home**

Office - 1 Shakespeare House,
37-39 Shakespeare Street,
Southport PR8 5AB

Email: admin@eroshomecare.co.uk

www.eroshomecare.co.uk





Ladies Pop-up Shop & Fun Fashion Show!

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT UP TO 70% OFF!**

Colours.

**[FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS**



**Friday 13th March 2026
In aid of St Cuthberts Church**

Halsall Primary School, New Street, Halsall, L39 8RR

Doors open 7pm, show starts 7.30pm

Tickets: £6 *bring your own drink and nibbles*
Tickets to be purchased in advance

Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

For tickets and more information please contact:
Sue Goldstraw - 07792479205 - suegoldstraw61@gmail.com



Halsall History Group presents
“A Murder on the Leeds Liverpool Canal ?”



A presentation by Dot Hawkes from Ormskirk Heritage Hub

on the 1832 Death of Elizabeth Trelfall

Friday 17th April 2026 7:30pm

Halsall Memorial Hall, Recreation Ground, Halsall Road.

Free Admission (Donations to the Group)



Please join us for Halsall's GB Spring Clean on
Saturday 21st March 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



Ormskirk Music Society

Choir and Orchestra

Directors: Dan Adams & Jim Cooke

Spring Concert

Sunday 29th March 2026

3pm

Ormskirk School

Wigan Rd, Ormskirk, L39 2AT

Vivaldi

Haydn

Beethoven

Pergolesi

Gloria

Symphony 101 (The Clock)

Coriolan Overture

Magnificat

£12, £5 (student/U18)

£25 (family - 2 adults, up to 4 children)

Online: ticketsource.co.uk/ormskirk-music-society

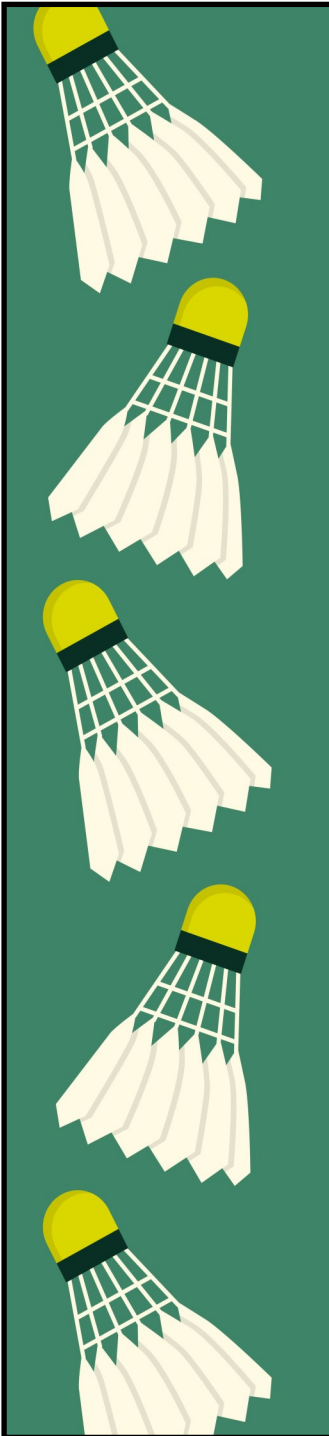
Buy on the door

details correct at time of going to press



ormskirkmusicsociety.org.uk
Registered charity: 512004





HALSALL BADMINGTON CLUB

WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS (over 16's)
Improvers, experienced or returners to the game.

All are welcome.

come and play for pleasure & exercise
(We are NOT in a League)

THE CLUB PLAYS EVERY THURSDAY
7.30 TIL 9.30PM

St. Cuthbert's School Hall
New Street
Halsall
L39 8RR

For details contact
Margaret : 01704 840305

or

Dave : 017918 659716

or just come and join us on Thursday evening
very low fees & refreshment provided

J7

ARCHITECTURE



Looking to extend or improve your property? We specialise in residential developments, extensions and alterations to Listed Buildings, buildings within Conservation Areas and areas of historical significance.

We undertake the following services:

Concept design / feasibility studies
Planning Applications
Building Regulations Applications
Construction drawings
Tender drawings
Interior design
Landscape design

Get in touch for a no obligation consultation to discuss your requirements and explore your options.

We look forward to helping you unlock your property's full potential!

Web: j7architecture.co.uk

Tel: 07850 973249 / 01704 617702

Email: info@j7architecture.co.uk

Social: [@j7_architecture](https://www.instagram.com/j7_architecture)

arb Architects
Registration
Board

Orchard House, Summerwood Lane, Halsall, L39 8RG

RIBA 