



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 116 APRIL 2024

WELCOME TO THE APRIL NEWSLETTER!

April starts with a bang: Easter Monday and April Fool's Day!
We have lots of news of our community as usual - we hope you enjoy what's on offer.
There are plenty of opportunities to get involved as well.



We are holding our AGM on April 15th - please come along and find out a bit more about what we do and help us to make a difference! Further details inside.

Harry Styles

Our local star is, as always, in the news!

Holmes Chapel Library has a series of interesting talks, the first of which is on April 16th about our industrial heritage at the Lion Salt Works



Tuesday Friends invites you to a Ukelele concert on 9th April and if more music is what you want return to the Methodist Church to Keep Singing on 13th April!

We have an update on our Safe Space project



The Holmes Chapel Partnership and The Villages Mag
working together for a safer community.



We have updates from Holmes Chapel Parish Council on village issues like the installation of Fibre Broadband and the Reclaim our Footpaths project.

Cranage gets a look in as well!

And Goostrey Station has been winning more awards!



Best Wishes from your Partnership Team!

For more information visit www.hcpartnership.org.uk

Chairman's Update: A Year of Success for the Harry Styles Walking Map

It has been just over a year since the inception of the Harry Styles Walking Map by the Holmes Chapel Partnership, and what a year it has been! With over 5,000 visitors and 4 TV crews making the pilgrimage to Holmes Chapel, Mandeville's, and the Twemlow Viaduct, our village has seen a significant increase in footfall.

Even during the wet winter months, Harries have continued to visit, braving muddy banks and wet fields to pay homage at Harry's Wall. Local businesses have seized the opportunity to cater to these visitors, with references to Harry in various locations around the village. But it is time for us to elevate our offerings and ensure that visitors have a truly memorable experience in the village which we are proud to call our own.

I am excited to announce that the Holmes Chapel Partnership will soon launch the official guided tour of Harry's Home Village. We aim to kick off with Saturday morning guided tours in June 2024 and are seeking to recruit and train local guides, to work in pairs, to lead groups of Harries on this special tour. We are particularly interested in recruiting Harry Styles fans aged 16+, but more senior individuals may also apply. We are looking for candidates who can confidently lead a group with enthusiasm, whilst being organised, punctual and patient. As we are anticipating a significant demand, we are looking to add to the Saturday morning tours with some weekday tours throughout July, August, and September 2024.

To meet the anticipated demand for these positions, we will be holding a half-day assessment session at the Holmes Chapel Community Centre on the morning of April 20th, 2024. If you would like to join us in bringing Harry's Home Village to life for visitors from near and far then go to our website and register your interest at <https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/jobs/harry's-home-village-tour-guides>

As the Partnership's focus is to support the local businesses within our village, we also plan to produce a tour guide booklet that will carry advertisements which will enable our village visitors to see what's on offer across the village, for purchase of Holmes Chapel memorabilia, gifts, food and drinks. Those businesses wishing to be included in this guide should register your interest at <https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/guided-tours>

Peter Whiers
Chairman
Holmes Chapel Partnership



AGM

HOLMES CHAPEL PARTNERSHIP



LOCATION

The Massey Room (Upstairs at St Lukes Church Hall)



DATE

Monday, 15 April 2024



TIME

7:00 PM



JOIN US

www.hcpartnership.org.uk

info@hcpartnership.org.uk

2024 AGM

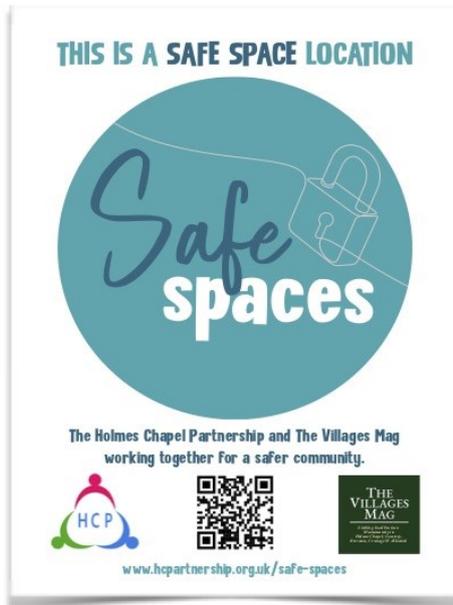
Save the Date!



We are holding our annual **Walk to School day on May 23rd** this year. The theme proposed by Living Streets is Magic. We hope you will join us! More details in the May edition of the Newsletter.

Safe Spaces

Offering young and vulnerable people a safe retreat when out and about in the village.



Have you seen this logo in shop windows around our village?

Any location with this logo is part of the Holmes Chapel Safe Space Scheme, which was introduced last year by the Holmes Chapel Partnership, working together with The Villages Mag.

We're very lucky to live in a lovely village where our businesses are friendly and welcoming, but for younger or elderly people who aren't used to being out on their own, or anyone new to the village it can be tricky to know where to turn when help is needed.

It can be something as simple as asking directions or needing to use a phone when a mobile has run out of battery - after all long gone are the days of public pay phones! Or it could be something more serious such as a bullying incident, feeling intimidated or having a fall and you need somewhere to wait until you can be picked up.

11

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 11 SAFE SPACE LOCATIONS:

Holmes, Gifts & Interiors, The Bottle Bank, Holmes Chapel Library, Holmes Chapel Community Centre, Holmes Sweet Home, Sam Dale's, Sandwiches Direct, Phil Davies Butcher, Miola, A Stroke of Magic, Morrisons

Hope from the **Bottle Bank** said: "We're really pleased to have this scheme available for people visiting Holmes Chapel shops and to be a part of it. The team at the Bottle Bank are always happy to help anyone who needs it."

Our Safe Space locations aren't just in the village centre, the Community Centre is also taking part which is helpful for anyone using the train station or the skate park. We even have a Safe Space location at Goostrey Home & Leisure at A Stroke of Magic.

Jade, General Manager at **Holmes Chapel Community Centre** said "Being a part of this scheme means a lot to us. It signifies our commitment to providing a secure and supportive environment for individuals."

For more information:

Please visit our website or scan the handy QR code above.

<https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/safe-spaces>



HOLMES CHAPEL PARTNERSHIP



Join our team

Treasurer

We need someone to oversee the financial affairs of the Partnership including ensuring proper records are kept and that effective financial procedures are in place, as well as monitoring and reporting on the financial health of the organisation.

The Holmes Chapel Partnership is currently navigating through finding private funding following the decision by Cheshire East to withdraw funding for Partnerships from 2023. You will be instrumental in helping us reach our sponsorship goals to keep the Partnership and the Christmas Market going in the future.

This role would especially suit someone wanting to get back into finance after a career break, or to continue using finance skills following retirement. Some experience of charity finance and fundraising is desirable, but not essential.

We are looking for a commitment of approximately four half days per month, possibly more at busy times such as leading up to events like the Christmas Market and Santa Sleigh runs. The work can mostly be done from home, but attendance at monthly committee meetings and some events will be required.

CAN YOU HELP?

Holmes Chapel Partnership is an independent voluntary organisation whose purpose is to facilitate projects which benefit the whole community in and around Holmes Chapel.

**Visit our website: www.hcpartnership.org.uk
Drop us an email: chair@hcpartnership.org.uk**

Parish Council News



Holmes Chapel Annual Parish Meeting

It was fantastic to see some of our residents at the Holmes Chapel Annual Parish meeting held on 19th March at the Community Centre.

Following a warm welcome from our Chair, Cllr Chris Jackson, 4 representatives from the Holmes Chapel Youth Council - Marcus, Amber, Charlie and Brianna - shared an update about what they had been working on. It was fantastic to listen to these enthusiastic and passionate young people talk about why they wanted to be part of the Youth Council, what they had achieved so far, their hopes for the future and some of the challenges they face as young people living in our Village.

Lucie Ferneyhough, Community Development Officer for Cheshire East Council, then talked about her role and the support Cheshire East is able to provide to residents, community and faith organisations in Holmes Chapel. She wanted to publicise a new initiative called the Connected Communities Noticeboard where businesses can offer services such as volunteer hours and community groups can access extra support.

Cllr John Clowes spoke about an initiative being led by the Parish Council called **Reclaim the Pavements**. He talked about the aim of the Parish Council to make pavements safer for pedestrians through the cutting back of vegetation to make them wider for users and to prevent streetlights being blocked out. A small team has been surveying the streets of Holmes Chapel and writing to households where vegetation is impeding the footpaths. It's been a positive campaign so far and once the bird nesting season is over, another survey will be carried out. Cllr Chris Jackson, our current Chair, rounded off the evening with his Chair's report updating residents on the work carried out by the Parish Council over the last year, which included the two very successful village-wide events: the Coronation Lunch and Summer Celebration. He also talked about the advocacy we have carried out on behalf of residents including strongly opposing the proposed introduction of car park charges.

Fibre Broadband in the Village - an update

Residents will be aware of concerns across the village surrounding the installation of telecommunication poles to allow full fibre broadband. Late last year there was a significant outcry when Airband installed poles on Ravenscroft. This resulted in a public meeting on 10th October 2023 with Airband and Digital Cheshire, and the poles were subsequently removed from Ravenscroft and the area from the Digital Cheshire contract.

A meeting was arranged in March between the Parish Council and representatives from Openreach and Digital Cheshire. Openreach was asked about their current and future plans for Holmes Chapel. The following are key points from that meeting:

- When Openreach refers to the Holmes Chapel area this includes other parishes who are served from the Holmes Chapel Exchange not just the village (Over 5000 homes)

- The team working in the Holmes Chapel area also work in other areas and will move between them depending on work required.
 - The long-term aim is for 75% of the Holmes Chapel area to have access to full fibre broadband. Residents can check if they have access to full fibre broadband on the Openreach website and register an interest in having it. The following link will take you to that website: [Ultrafast Full Fibre Broadband | Openreach](#)
 - Where there are already ducted wires, these can be upgraded. The issues are where there is just buried armoured cabling or where ducting finishes partway up a road.
 - The cost of digging up roads is very expensive. In some areas poles may be the only financially viable solution.
 - If a resident has a complaint about an Openreach pole they should complain via the contact details shown on the pole and all complaints will be investigated.
 - Openreach has to weigh up cost versus provision. Whilst their objective is to provide as much full fibre as they can - it has to be within a set cost point.
 - Openreach has confirmed that they will not install poles in the area without first consulting the community.
 - Other companies can use Openreach poles but Openreach is not allowed to use poles owned by companies such as Airband.
- Openreach has no current plans to install fibre on Ravenscroft.

We hope this helps to provide an update for residents. The Parish Council has no authority or legal power to stop any telecommunications company from installing poles. But we will advocate on behalf of residents and raise concerns on your behalf where required. If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk by emailing clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

Key Dates for 2024

Please save these dates into your diaries and be sure to get involved! We would love to see lots of you at these events!

Thursday 6th June – D-Day Commemoration

6th June marks 80 years since the D-Day landings. We will be marking this in the village through a Churches Together Service at 8pm followed by the reading of a tribute and lighting of a beacon in the grounds of St Luke's Church at 9.15pm. More information can be found on our website:

[Summer Celebration | HCPC \(holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)

Summer Celebration Weekend – 5th to 7th July

Join the village for a weekend of celebration and fun!

Friday 5th July 6-11pm – Given the huge success last year, the Parish Council is funding the closure of London Road through the centre of the village again to enable residents to come together and enjoy a relaxing evening in our remarkable historic centre! There will be live music and local businesses serving great food and drinks.

NEWS

Saturday 6th July 2-9pm – Everybody Event at the Holmes Chapel Community Centre
Come down to the Community Centre for a fantastic afternoon/evening of fun! There will be live bands including a Meatloaf Tribute act and lots of fun activities for all ages! Keep an eye out for more information on what will be available.

Saturday 6th July 7pm – Holmes Chapel Chorus Concert in the Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre. “For the Love of Music” concert is taking place – tickets cost £10 and bring your own picnic for an interval with a difference!

Sunday 7th July 12-4pm – Holmes Chapel Village Fair

Head down to the Victoria Club for great family entertainment - stalls, fair and much more! More info to follow!

Keep up to date with all the information for the Summer Celebration via our website: [Summer Celebration | HCPC \(holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk)

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Friday 5th July evening event and the 6th July family event at the Community Centre. Please contact the Clerk if you are able to offer some time by emailing clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk or calling 01477 533 934. Thank you!

Cranage Parish Council News

The next community **Litter Pick** in Cranage is on **Sunday 7th April**.

Meet at Cranage Village Hall at **10am**

All equipment is provided. Please come along and help to keep Cranage looking its best. Tea, biscuits and a natter back at the Village Hall afterwards.

For more Cranage news see the Spring Newsletter at

<https://www.cranageparishcouncil.gov.uk/post/latest-newsletter>

Keep Singing

The three Saints to celebrate during March and April set the theme for Keep Singing in April. We will be singing our way around the UK. The Keep Singing favourites of Danny Boy and the Skye Boat song will be part of the journey but we will also be recognising an English Country Garden and a rousing Guide me o thou great Redeemer – do come and see whether your favourite song has been included – if not, you can suggest for it to be included another month.

Remember, no musical talent is necessary, Keep Singing is for all 18+ years who just enjoy singing and also recognize the health benefits of a good sing. We sing for about an hour and then have a chat over coffee and biscuits.

Keep Singing 13 April. 10.00am – 12.00pm. HC Methodist Church





Join our team

Newsletter feature writer

Our newsletter is sent to over 1000 email contacts each month. We aim to provide relevant information to residents of Holmes Chapel and the surrounding area, to keep them informed about what is going on.

We're looking for someone with an eye for a story and a passion for local issues who can research and write short local interest articles to be published in our newsletter.

Articles could be anything from proposed changes from Cheshire East to new Partnership projects or local events.

The candidate will work closely with our newsletter Editor to craft engaging copy that informs and motivates residents to engage with local issues.

Excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential, as is a strong attention to detail and an ability to meet deadlines. Prior experience in copywriting, content creation, or a related field is preferred but not essential.

This should take no more than 4 hours of your time per month. You would be working from home although attendance at monthly committee meetings will be required.

CAN YOU HELP?

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Drop us an email: chair@hcpartnership.org.uk

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Good Friday Churches Together Walk of Witness

GOOD FRIDAY 29th March

- 11am Joint Service in St. Luke's
- 12noon Hot Cross Buns in St. Luke's Church Hall
- 12.30. Churches Together Walk of Witness. A short walk to the Precinct and back with Hymns and Readings

Memory Café

It was a different morning at Memory Café in March – a morning of singing, quizzing and enjoying bacon butties!



5G guitar group entertained and we sang along to old favourites - we were on 'Top of the World' as well 'Rockin' all over the World'! there was a bit of Cliff Richard and The Beatles and those songs with really good choruses – Hi Ho Silver lining and it's 'no, nay never no more will I play the Wild Rover!' 5G had chosen twelve songs but we did encourage an Encore as well

The aroma of the bacon cooking whet all our appetites and at the interval bacon butties were enjoyed by all, along with the challenge of the quiz. Memory café quizzes at the moment are working through the letters of the alphabet – this one was all answers beginning with the letter M – I think the quizzers are waiting in anticipation for the 'X' week – that will be a challenge to set 25 questions – all ideas welcome please!



2nd and 16th April are the dates for the next Memory Cafes.

As there are five Tuesdays this month, on the 30th, Memory café will take a trip out for morning coffee.

HC Methodist Church is the venue for the cafes – lots of fun and fellowship between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

More details: dedavidson1@aol.com / Tel: 01477 537679.



Village Fair - Holmes Chapel, Sun 7th July 2024



We have had a fantastic response from stallholders for this year's fair at the Victoria Club. There are a few pitches left so don't miss the opportunity to showcase your crafts, business or community group and raise some funds. Email: hcvillagefair@hotmail.com for further information and a booking form.

Stalls are £20 (£15 for charities and non-profits).

You can follow all our updates and find out more about our stallholders and activities on the day on our Facebook page:

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

Dane Meadow Update



If you look carefully you can see that **The Shady Pond** has frogs and frogspawn, so spring has definitely arrived! The blackthorn is in blossom and the leaves will soon be appearing.

The Friends of Dane Meadow spent a couple of happy hours barrowing more woodchip donated by Alan Bethell and finished transforming the swampy path into a walkway. We were rather pleased with the end effect so there is another picture! The broken board on the dipping platform next to the pond has also been replaced by the Parish Council, Do go and admire and maybe think about joining us for the April work session; the second Tuesday (9th April) at 10am. Email info@hccpartnership.org.uk and you can be added to the email group and receive more details nearer the time.

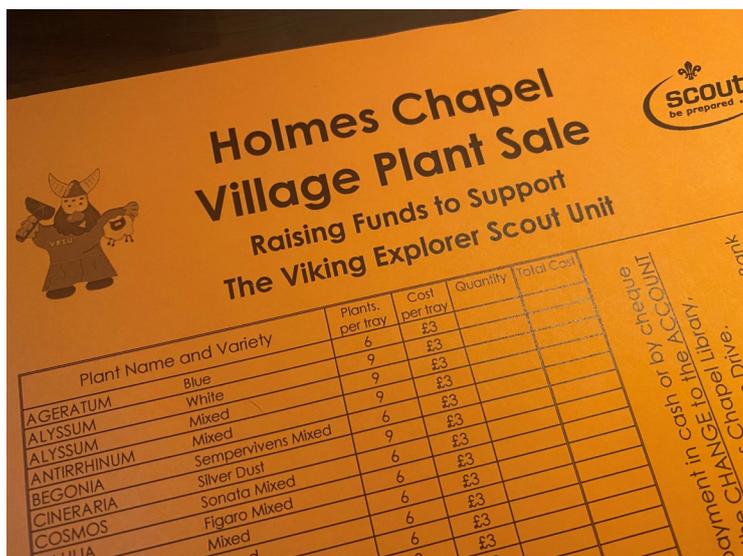


The Parish Council and Friends of Dane Meadow have put a lot of effort into providing a waste bin down by the picnic tables. The bin is so well used that it got too much for the volunteers who carried the full bags up the hill to be left next to the bin near the main gate for collection. The Parish Council now pay for it to be emptied. The price for this service has increased substantially but the Council has agreed to cover the costs for another year.

The bins (there are also bins at every entrance) are of great benefit to all of us who wish to enjoy a litter and poo bag free green space so....

← **PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!**

Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale



The annual Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale helps raise vital funds for our local Viking Explorer Scout Unit (VESU).

The sale offers a top-quality range of locally grown bedding plants, baskets and tubs. These are all pre-ordered and available for collection or delivery on Saturday 18th May.

These orange order forms are being delivered to homes around Holmes Chapel. You can also download forms from www.vesu.org.uk or pick one up from The Print Room.

Completed forms can be dropped into one of the Scouts orange boxes in Tesco Express, Holmes Chapel Library, The Print Room or you can email them to VikingExplorers8@gmail.com. The last date for orders is 21st April. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or bank transfer. Please follow the payment instructions carefully on the order form as the bank details and name of the account have changed.

The Explorer Scout Unit provides 14 – 18 year olds with opportunities to develop their physical and personal abilities through a structured programme of activities which follows the national Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh award schemes. Their fundraising helps pay for valuable resources for the group, supports the running costs and maintenance of their HQ, and the purchase and insurance of its camping, canoeing and climbing equipment.

There is no minimum order for the plant sale and every order will help with the Scouts fundraising. If you have any queries please contact Nicola on 07732 262752.

Thank you for your support.

Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale

Top Quality & Locally Grown

Raising Funds for The Viking Explorer Scout Unit

A wide selection of bedding plants, hanging baskets & tubs are available to order, as well as plants suitable for filling your own hanging baskets and pots

Orange order forms are being delivered throughout the village

NO MINIMUM ORDER & WE CAN DELIVER!

Extra forms can be obtained from
The Print Room or downloaded from www.vesu.org.uk
 The closing date for orders is Sunday 21st April 2024

Drop your completed form into one of our orange post boxes at Tesco Express, The Print Room or Holmes Chapel Library

Collection or Delivery of your order on Saturday 18th May
Not going to be in on 18th May?
Speak to us about alternative delivery arrangements

Bank Transfer payment facility is available
 For more information - Please contact Nicola on 07732 262752

Tuesday Talks at Holmes Chapel Library

2:30 pm Tuesday 16th April

Lion Salt Works, Northwich



An illustrated presentation
by Mike Tingle, Volunteer Guide

Until 1986, LSW was the UK's last
open-pan salt works.

Who introduced the open-pan salt production method?

How was (and is) Cheshire salt obtained without mining?

What were *lumpmen* and *wallers*?

Why did the open-pan process die out?

Hear about its history and £10 million renovation,

and learn how various grades of salt were produced for a variety of uses at home and across the World.

Free Entry Donations to the Salt Works are welcome

Next talk: Tuesday 14th May – **Nether Alderley Mill**

Tuesday Friends



Organised by Stuart Gammon, the ukulele group is growing in numbers as is their repertoire of songs to play and this month, the ukulele group have offered to come along and entertain at **Tuesday Friends**.

Tuesday Friends is becoming a very popular outing especially for any who feel like a change from being at home and would like to meet and chat with other folk. The ukulele group will entertain but also encourage a sing along to the well known songs. An interval will give the opportunity for chatting and answering quiz questions over tea / coffee and cake. It is the homemade cake that is very much appreciated especially by some who live alone and no longer feel enthusiastic to bake themselves a cake! If you think you may enjoy this afternoon, please come along to **HC Methodist Church** on **Tuesday 9 April** between **2.00 and 4.00pm** – a warm welcome awaits.

Everybody Health & Leisure helps Malcolm get his life back after Open Heart Surgery



Everybody Health & Leisure member, Malcolm Stoddard, completed Everybody's 12 week **Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme** with Specialist Health Advisor, Victoria. Malcolm joined the programme after completing the NHS Phase III Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, after undergoing open heart surgery.

Before taking part, Malcolm lacked self-confidence after his cardiac event which affected his day-to-day life. Since taking part in the Rehab programme, Malcolm's fitness level and self-confidence have significantly improved.

Malcolm is full of praise for the programme:

"I got involved in Everybody's Phase IV Cardiac Rehab programme as I needed to continue my recovery journey, improve my confidence and reduce any fear I was feeling. After having a heart attack, I needed to learn how to socialise again.

Everybody's health team have been fantastic and really helped me to achieve my goals. I recommend Everybody's Health programmes to anybody and who has been in a similar situation to me. I believe it quickens up the recovery process."

Victoria Clarke, Specialist Health Advisor at Everybody Health & Leisure is also proud of his achievements:

"Malcolm has worked very hard over the past 12 weeks. He is very motivated and dedicated in attending the classes on a weekly basis. His fitness and confidence have improved dramatically since I first met him. He has a more positive outlook on life and now knows his limits. Malcolm has been a pleasure to work with."

To find out more information about Everybody's Phase IV Cardiac Rehab and other lifestyle programmes visit www.everybody.org.uk/what-we-offer/get-fit-and-healthy/health/ or contact the Everybody Healthy team on, ebhealthy@everybody.org.uk

Supported by  **everybody** HEALTH & LEISURE *Let's support each other through this difficult time.*



BEREAVEMENT GROUP FOR SUPPORT AND COMFORT

A safe and supportive environment to share your grief and loss.

Are you struggling with the loss of a loved one? Do you feel like you have no one to turn to? Join our Bereavement Group and find comfort in a secure and welcoming space. Our group offers peer to peer support and the opportunity to meet others who are also going through a similar experience. You don't have to go through this alone.

Come along for a chat at our next meeting at Holmes Chapel Community Taste for Life Café on: **Every Tuesday at 7:30pm**



Holmes Chapel Station Railway Corner

by Tony Wright - - April 2024



Walking up to Holmes Chapel Railway Station from the Village Centre as the sun rises in springtime is magical! My spirits are never low but the experience of the sights and sweet smells of the morning together with the sound of birdsong always raises them even further! One of my personal favourites, *Turdus merula*...

On this recent morning I was on my way to the annual Photography Show in Birmingham at the National Exhibition Centre. The early 07:28 Northern service to Crewe allows you to catch the Edinburgh train which drops you off at the Exhibition Centre well before the opening time.

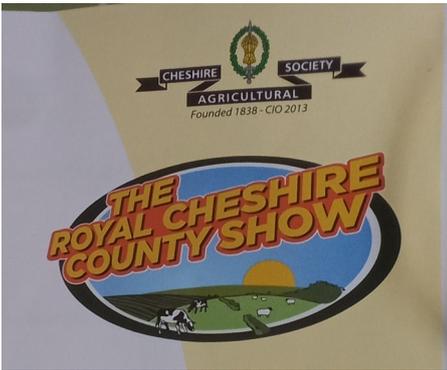
Although the event is over four days, I only attended on the Saturday this year. This allowed me to arrive back in the Village in the early evening with time to have a glass of beer.

We are so fortunate to have three venues in the village; the George and Dragon, the Old Red Lion, and The Beer Emporium Bottle Bank. On this occasion I popped into the Bottle Bank because they were serving the Ossett Brewery's 'White Rat' ale.

I do love Holmes Chapel!



An Award for Exceptional Endeavours



If you have an interest in flowers, gardens, floral design and artistry, you will have probably come across Dorothy Monks!

She was nominated by the Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes to receive the Capesthorne Millennium Cup, awarded by the Cheshire Agricultural Society for 'Outstanding Service' in a volunteer capacity.

The criteria for nomination included:

Long-standing Association,
Distinguished Leadership,
Significant Innovation,
Meretorious Achievement.



Quite a list! However Dorothy ticks all the boxes. She is in her ninth decade and has lived in Holmes Chapel for many years. She has long been active with the WI and with flower arranging groups, both locally and nationally. She still drives around the country, as she is in great demand for demonstrating flower arranging. She runs workshops where she passes on her skills to others and competes in flower arranging competitions. She has entered the Royal Cheshire Show many years running, displaying her artistry and general wizardry with flowers - and as a result has collected a whole heap of prizes, including "Best in Show" on more than one occasion.

She and husband David have opened their garden to the public at least once a year for many years, offering tea and delicious cakes as well as the chance to admire the design and colourful planting. They have thereby given themselves a lot of extra work, but have raised many thousands of pounds for charity.



Dorothy missed out on the cup (she has no time to clean silver anyway!) but at the Cheshire Agricultural Society's AGM at the end of February she was presented with a very well deserved Highly Commended Certificate by Sir William Bromley-Davenport of Capesthorne Hall.



This month on **Thursday April 11th** at 10am in the Methodist Church, Holmes Chapel u3a will have a light-hearted journey with songs and stories.

Joy and Kevin Siddall will be entertaining us with a musical tour of the British Isles. They will be stopping for musical comfort breaks at towns and cities to share stories, fun and songs from a variety of musical genres. It is guaranteed to leave you with a musical ear worm and a smile.

Their performances are a mix of songs and stories that last around 60 minutes. They sing solos and duets, accompanied by high quality backing tracks, an acoustic guitar and on occasions a ukulele, using their own PA system.

On **Thursday May 9th** David Shaw is visiting us

As a minister and Authorised Person of Marriages I have steered many couples through the (sometimes complex) legalities and then conducted the ceremony. I have always enjoyed observing and studying human behaviour and I have had a ring-side seat to much comedy and, alas, some tragedy. This talk is a reflection upon times of argument, acts of revenge, untruth, excess alcohol and police presence.

David Shaw says 'For genealogists it may be of interest if I work through the marriage certificate with reference to events in history together with some latter-day quirky stories.' Do come and join us for these meetings. It is always good to see a full audience for these talks, as they are always entertaining.

Christian Aid - Lent Lunches - A Big Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who supported us at the 4 Lent lunches and Music Recitals that we ran through March at St Luke's Church Hall. At the time of writing, I am thrilled to announce that we raised the magnificent net sum of £1263 which will be sent to Christian Aid to help the needy around the world. Many thanks must go to those who made soup and biscuits, donated fruit and bread and who helped in any way. We could not have done it without you! This sum also includes £461 which was given as donations for the musical recitals held in St Luke's Church after the Lent lunches and special thanks must go to Wendy Macdonald for kindly organising these events.

Christian Aid Week is due to start on Sunday 12th May – look out for the red envelopes in your churches and for the volunteers in red tabards and buckets who will be collecting in Holmes Chapel during the week. If you feel you would like to help us with the street collection, please speak to Caroline Wood on 07742930346 or 01477 535746- she will be very happy to chat to you!

Thank you to everyone who supports Christian Aid in and around Holmes Chapel. Caroline Wood, Co-Ordinator Holmes Chapel Christian Aid Ecumenical Committee

News from Goostrey Station

We've won more awards!

Friends of Goostrey Station are thrilled that they've won the **prize for an Art Project** was presented on 12th March at The Grange Theatre, Northwich during the 21st Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) award ceremony.

Over the last 2 years, vice chair of FoGS and professional artist **Debbie Goldsmith** has led two projects to mark significant events in our nation. One project was to celebrate the **Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth**; the other commemorated **the Coronation of King Charles**.



During 2022, Debbie worked with teachers and pupils at Goostrey Community Primary School to produce the **Platinum Plaque**. They were helped by A level students from Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and by mosaic artist Tracey Cartlege. The finished Plaque can be seen in the shelter on the Crewe platform at Goostrey station. A film was made to record the children's thoughts about the jubilee, and this is still available on YouTube.

During the weekend of the coronation in 2023, members of our local community joined Debbie at her studio in the restored wooden building at Goostrey station. Adults and children were decorating small clay **Coronation Discs**. After colouring, glazing and firing, the discs were attached to the platform planters.

Many thanks to all who helped Friends of Goostrey Station to win their ninth award in the CBKS competition since our volunteers adopted the station in 2012 - a remarkable achievement!



Left: Tracey Cartlege and Debbie Goldsmith with the Platinum Plaque

Middle: FoGS members Debbie Goldsmith and Christina Burgess at the CBKS awards

Right: Beavers doing their best! Winning photo

Friends of Goostrey Station won the national Community Rail photo competition. The award ceremony took place on Monday 18th March in Swansea in front of over 400 guests. There were 180 entries in 19 categories - so we are thrilled to have achieved first place in one of them. But we wouldn't have won without votes from the public. Many thanks for your support.

For more information about FoGS, please have a look at our website or phone Craig Sidebotham on 01477 544111.



Spring Coffee Morning

St. Luke's Church Hall, Holmes Chapel.

Saturday, 13th April - 10.00 – 12.00

£2 Drink and biscuits

High Quality Tea Towels £2

Laura Ashley Aprons £5

✦ Raffle ✦ Books ✦ Jigsaws ✦

✦ Cakes ✦ Jams ✦ Lucky Bags ✦

The Spring Has Sprung by Phillip Carr

The Spring has sprung ... a leak, it seems
And dashed away my hopes and dreams
Of strolling barefoot through new-grown grass
Warmed by the Sun's rays as I pass
But no, the rain in torrents teems
Turns the gutters into streams

Turbid turbulent rushing racing
Breaching banks, the land embracing
Hold on! It's stopped. Before me lies
A vista lit by silvered skies
A heron wades then takes to wing
A new day tomorrow: what will it bring?



WHAT'S ON

Tuesday Talks at Holmes Chapel Library

2:30 pm on 2nd Tuesday of each month [but 3rd Tuesday in April]

16th April

Lion Salt Works, Northwich

Until 1986, LSW was the UK's last open-pan salt works.

How was (& is) salt obtained from underground without mining?

Who introduced the open-pan process to Britain?

Why were *lumpmen* and *wallers* so called?

Hear about LSW's history and £10 million renovation.

Learn how various grades of salt were made for different uses.

Donations to the Salt Works

14th May

Nether Alderley Mill

NAM, owned by the National Trust, is operated by volunteers.

Who built this unusual-shaped mill? And **when**?

How is it powered?

What makes its 19th Century machinery unique?

Hear its history, & learn how it still processes high quality organic wheat into stone-ground wholemeal flour for sale.

Donations to the Mill

11th June

The Stanleys of Alderley

The Stanley family were Lords of the Manor of Nether Alderley for over 300 years until the 1930s.

How did the Norman Audithley family become the Stanleys?

When & why did they move from Alderley Hall to Alderley Park?

Why did Lord Stanley close the local pubs?

What is the legend of the Eagle & Child shown on their crest?

Learn the answers, and more of their family history.

9th July

Old Oswestry

Rather than old parts of the town itself, this talk is about one of the best preserved Iron Age hill forts in Britain.

When was it built?

How long was it occupied?

Who lives there now?

What were the strange hollows on the West side used for?

Come for a virtual walk around this English Heritage site, to learn about its history, development & an unanswered mystery.





Next Film Showing... April Film



Wicked Little Letters

Certificate 15 102 Minutes

Location: Holmes Chapel
Community Centre

Date: Thursday
25th April 2024

Tickets: £6
Doors Open 6:30 p.m.
For 7:30 p.m Showing

Places are on a first come basis,
Seats cannot be reserved

Taste for Life Café & Bar available pre performance

Two cinema tickets are shown, one above the other. They are yellow with black text and have perforated edges. The top ticket says 'CINEMA', '*****', and 'ADMIT ONE'. The bottom ticket says '*****' and 'ADMIT ONE'.

Tickets

Available in advance from
Holmes Gifts & Interiors
(2-3 Church Walk) Holmes Chapel
**Holmes Chapel
Community Centre**
(Station Road CW4 8AA) Holmes Chapel

Tickets also available on the door

When people in Littlehampton--including conservative local Edith--begin to receive letters full of hilarious profanities, rowdy Irish migrant Rose is charged with the crime. Suspecting that something is amiss, the town's women investigate.

Starring: Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley, Timothy Spall

Holmes Chapel Library Adult Events

Gardening Club

Thursdays Monthly
at 230pm

Join us for chat, hints and sharing tips over refreshments



Tuesday local history talks at the Library



16th April: The Lion Saltworks
14th May: Nether Alderley Mill
11th June: The Stanleys of Alderley
9th July: Old Oswestry

Talks start at 2.30pm
FREE Drop-In

Family History

Thursdays Monthly
at 2.30pm

Learn & share tips tracing your ancestors with our friendly group



Craft Tea & Chat

Thursdays weekly
at 11am

Bring your own craft & enjoy a cuppa with like minded folk



Make Friends with a Book

Every Friday at 2pm

A shared reading group, where we read a book aloud & discuss it over refreshments



Barclays Bank

at Holmes Chapel Library: Monday, Thursday & Friday
930am to 1230pm
1pm to 4pm

Book appointments on events.uk.barclays/local or call 0345 734 5345

Opening hours

Monday	10am - 5pm
Tuesday	10am - 5pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	10am - 6pm
Friday	10am - 5pm
Saturday	930am - 1pm
Sunday	Closed



Ask library staff for more information or call us on 01477 689550

Our Patron Sponsors

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WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ORGANISATIONS BELOW FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE HOLMES CHAPEL PARTNERSHIP

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For further details on Patron Sponsorship please visit our sponsors page

Holmes Chapel Partnership – Working with the whole community