



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 130 MAY 2025

WELCOME TO THE MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Early May brings busy times for Holmes Chapel Partnership. There is our annual Walk to School event which this year coincides with the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th. The Parish Council have organised celebrations later in the day. On May 11th we are holding our first ever junior Fun Run in the Dane Meadow.



Every runner gets a medal!
Come along and join the fun of
the Fun Run on **May 11th**.
For full details see inside.



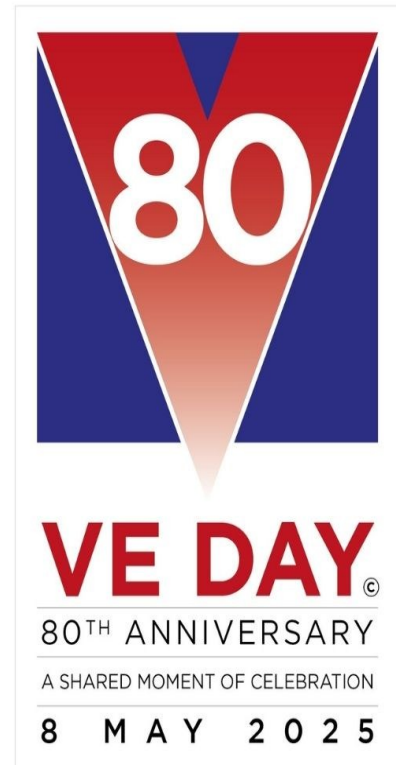
Walk to School

Walk to school in red, white and blue on **May 8th** as part of our ongoing campaign to get **Safer Walking Routes to School**.

And safer walking routes for everyone who ventures out on foot in Holmes Chapel.



Durham Cathedral was the magnificent setting for this year's Royal Maundy Service. Which Holmes Chapel resident received Maundy money in recognition of services to the community? See inside for the full story.



Who are the Makers in the Valley? If you want to find out more, read the article in this issue by local artist Jo Green to see what is being planned.

Best Wishes from your Partnership Team
For more information visit www.hcpartnership.org.uk

Chairman's News May 2025



April brought us a nice spell of good sunny weather, which I hope does not turn out to have been our summer for 2025! But it allowed us all to get out into the garden, cut the grass, do a bit of weeding and dust off the BBQ. So, on the subject of getting outside and being active, I would like to remind you all of our forthcoming **Holmes Chapel Junior Fun Run**, to be held on the 11th May 2025 at 9.30am, entry is just per person £2.

If you are aged 4 to 16 and would like to fundraise for a charity or a local group, or just like running and getting medals then please consider taking part in Holmes Chapel's very first fun run this May. The route round the Dane Meadow is approximately 2 kilometres with disabled access and accessible routes available. To take part, fill in the registration form on our website at <https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/hcfunrun> , or if you would like to volunteer as a steward, then e-mail us at Info@hcpartnership.org.uk.

Additionally, if you are reading this and know of a family or friend who might be interested, then please let them know. From my own experience with my own family and grandchildren, they all lead very busy lives packing in as much into their weekends as possible, so it's quite possible they would really enjoy this family event and would be pleased to hear about it.

Staying with our being more active theme, I would also like to invite you to take part in our annual **Walk to School** event, to be held on Thursday the 8th of May with two groups following two different routes that will take you to either one of the primary schools. Our aim is to highlight the difficulties faced when walking to school, or anywhere, in our village. All are welcome to join us along the route or take your own.

We continue to highlight our concerns about narrow pavements, speeding traffic and the lack of safe crossing points to the Highways team at Cheshire East. The two railway bridges present a challenge to pedestrians of any age! We have long campaigned for a crossing on Macclesfield Rd, which must be crossed to get to the Hermitage School from Saltersford Gardens and the new Victoria Mills estate. There isn't even an indication to incoming motorists that this is a school route, despite our requests for new signage warning of the nearby school.

The event coincides with the 80th anniversary of VE Day, so please come dressed with some red, white and blue accessories. For more information, visit our website at www.hcpartnership.org.uk/walk-to-school-week

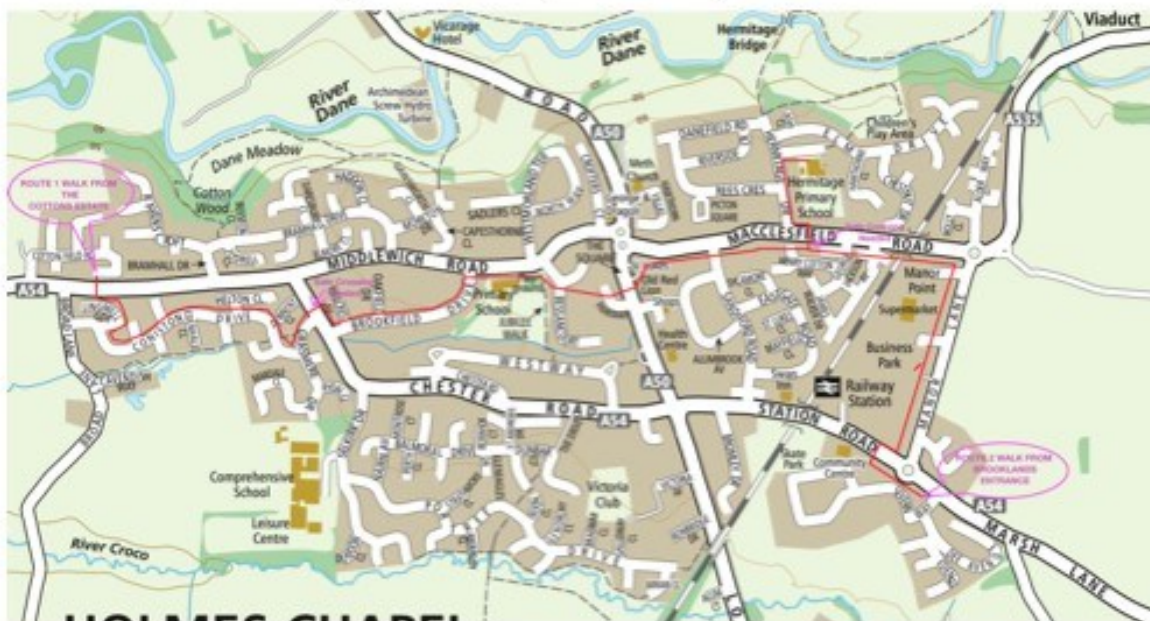
Peter Whiers
Chairman, Holmes Chapel Partnership

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 2025

Holmes Chapel Partnership invites you to take part in our annual Walk to School event on Thursday 8th May.

With two groups following two different routes that will both take you to either of our Primary Schools, our aim is to highlight the difficulties faced when walking to school, or anywhere, in our village.

Meet at either start point by 8.15am. You are also welcome to join us along the route, or take your own.



We continue to highlight our concerns about narrow pavements, speeding traffic and a lack of safe crossing points to the Highways team at Cheshire East. The two railway bridges present a challenge to pedestrians of any age! We have long campaigned for a crossing on Macclesfield Road, which has to be crossed to get to the Hermitage School from Saltersford Gardens and the new Victoria Mills estate. There isn't even any indication to incoming motorists that this is a school route, despite our requests for new signage warning of the nearby school.



The event coincides with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day so please come dressed with some red, white and blue accessories.

For more information visit www.hcpartnership.org.uk and livingstreets.org.uk

HOLMES CHAPEL FUN RUN

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

VISIT:

www.hcpartnership.org.uk/hcfunrun

Date: Sunday 11th May 2025

Location: Dane Meadow

Time: 9.30am

Entry: £2

Are you aged 4-16? Are you fundraising for any charities or local groups, or do you just like running and getting medals? Then take part in Holmes Chapel's very first Fun Run this May!

The route round the Dane Meadow is approximately 2km, with disabled access and accessible routes available.



To take part please fill in the registration form at the link above. To volunteer as a steward email: info@hcpartnership.org.uk



Parish Council News



Overnight Works - London Road

There is, at present, a collapsed sewer on the former Fison's site on London Road. This is being worked on by United Utilities (UU) and unfortunately, causing night time disturbance as the problem is dealt with.

UU have supplied the following information:

"We are maintaining and improving the sewer network in your area to help deal with the demand from growing communities, improve how it copes during periods of heavy rainfall and make sure it's kept in tip-top condition.

What will our work involve?

- *Ongoing sewer tankering to prevent foul flooding.*

How this may affect you

We understand roadworks can be inconvenient and our team will do all they can to minimise any disruption for you and the local community.

- *We have ongoing 24/7 tankering in the area whilst we look to rectify an issue with the sewer.*
- *We apologize for any inconvenience this is causing; we will try to minimize inconvenience where possible.*
- *We are looking to rectify this issue as soon as possible. This tankering is beneficial to reduce the risk of flooding in the meantime.*

Thanks for your patience while we're carrying out this work. You can still use all your facilities and appliances that generate wastewater as normal while the work takes place.

The work to repair the sewer has not yet been scheduled - more information has been requested and further updates will be provided when available."

Parish Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Steve Allott there is a vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled through a co-option process. Anyone who is interested in applying to join the Council should email the Clerk at clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk Applications close on 14th May and new member will hopefully be appointed at the Parish Council meeting on 22nd May.



6.30pm Church Bells ringing out in celebration

8.30pm Churches Together Service
St Luke's Church, Holmes Chapel

9.30pm Reading of the Tribute followed by lighting of the Beacon
St Luke's Church grounds

Holmes Chapel Parish Council warmly invites you to attend this act of Commemoration

VE Day 80 'A Shared Moment of Celebration'

VE Day or 'Victory in Europe Day' took place on Tuesday 8th May 1945 and marked the official end of World War II with Germany formally surrendering.

On that day millions of people celebrated the Allied victory in Europe, with street parties, singing and dancing. At 3pm on that day, Winston Churchill made a national radio broadcast announcing that war had ended in Europe. The Royal Family led by King George VI appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to wave at the crowd below. The King also gave a radio address paying tribute to those who lost their lives and calling for lasting peace.

8th May marks 80 years since this momentous day and we will be celebrating this in the village of Holmes Chapel. Keep an eye on the Parish Council's website [VE Day 80 | HCPC](#) for various activities taking place around the village on and leading up to the 8th May.

Grateful thanks to Sam Dale's and Morreys for generously donating the gas for the beacon and to our local fire officers for supporting the lighting of the beacon.

Parish Council News cont...



Other events happening in and around the village (this will be regularly updated on the Parish Council's website):

Monday 5th May VE Day at Byley Village Hall 11-5pm - children's activities, exhibition, film show & illustrative talk (2.30pm). For more information please click on the following link:

[VE 80 at Byley: RAF Cranage](#)

Thursday 8th May Village Events:



Holmes Chapel Methodist Church 3pm - Mel Baines will be singing war songs followed by tea and celebration cake!



Holmes Chapel Community Centre

VE Day Disco
3.30 - 6pm
£4 per child with a bouncy castle and disco!



4th - 6th July – Summer Celebration Weekend!

Friday 4th July 6-11pm – Given the huge success of this event in the last two years, 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.

Saturday 5th July 10-3pm – Everybody Event at the Holmes Chapel Community Centre. Come down to the Community Centre for a fantastic afternoon/evening of fun! There will be lots of fun activities for all ages! Keep an eye out for more information on what will be available.

Saturday 5th July – Holmes Chapel Chorus Concert in the Holmes Chapel Leisure Centre will have a 40th Anniversary Concert in the evening times and prices tbc.

Sunday 6th 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!



Holmes Chapel Village Fair

Sunday 6th July 2025, 12-4pm

Holmes Chapel's Annual
Community Summer Event
Craft & Gift Stalls, Rides, Dog Show, BBQ
Classic Cars, Licensed Bar, Dane Sound Radio

Hosted & Organised by The Victoria Club

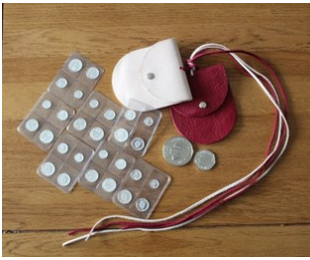
STALLHOLDERS

This year the stalls are being organised by
Holmes Chapel Partnership

Stall fees continue to be low at only **£20**
(£15 for non-profits)

Email **hcvillagefair@hotmail.com**
to book your pitch

Maundy Thursday at Durham Cathedral



The heartfelt thanks and nervous excitement began in January for Dorothy Davidson as that is when a letter from Buckingham Palace dropped through her letter box advising her that she had received the honour of her name being submitted to be a Maundy recipient. This year the Maundy recipients were chosen from the North of England and Scotland; the number of recipients is equal to the King's age, so Dorothy was one of seventy-six men and seventy-six women chosen to attend the Royal Maundy service at Durham Cathedral.

Deriving from Jesus' commandment to his disciples at the Last Supper to 'love one another', traditionally the Monarch would show his love and service by handing out gifts of food and clothing to the poor. Over the years this has evolved with the Monarch now handing out symbolic specially minted coins to recipients who have been selected for their outstanding Christian service and for making a difference to the lives of people in their local communities.

Dorothy writes, "As many will be able to imagine, Alex and my visit to Durham was one which will be very memorable for the rest of our lives. The city was adorned with red, white and blue and most of the residents in our hotel were also attending the Maundy Service, so conversations flowed leading to a most friendly atmosphere. Maundy Thursday started early for us with a walk to the castle for 8.30am where we met fellow recipients and chatted over teas and coffees. In plenty of time, Air Force cadets escorted us into the cathedral where we could admire the magnificent architecture and 'people watch' as we waited for the arrival of the Yeomen of the Guard and the various processions before the fanfare hailed the arrival of the King and Queen.



Prior to the start of the service, the Bishop of Norwich, the King's Almoner, spoke to the recipients and assured us that both he and the King had read all one hundred and fifty-two biographies so I felt quite pleased that Holmes Chapel will have had a mention in Royal circles!

We were very fortunate to have seats in the nave, and quite near to the front, with recipients being seated at the end of pews. At a set time during the service, the King walked through the Cathedral, greeting each recipient with a warm handshake and words of thanks. Yeomen walked behind the King carrying the purses on magnificent gold plates which I understand had been brought for the occasion from safe keeping at the Tower of London.

All too soon the service finished but just as happens at our own Church, Holmes Chapel Methodist, Alex and I were almost the last to leave the Cathedral as we were chatting and meeting many different people encountering some 'small world situations'. Once outside, there was more meeting people and spotting a Guide badge on the jacket of one of the four children who had had the important job of carrying a nosegay gave me a reason to have another interesting conversation. We did not have too long to wait before another fanfare and pealing of the Cathedral bells signifying the King and Queen were leaving the Cathedral. They were all smiles, as we were, after this once in a lifetime experience."

Harry Styles runs a marathon...and signs a letter!



His image is with us around Holmes Chapel, but the man himself has been busy it seems – in training for one thing, as he ran the Tokyo Marathon in early March. He took part in the 26.2 mile race alongside 38,000 other runners and managed to cross the finish line in under three-and-a-half hours, which placed him above 20,000 others. His time was 3:24:07, according to the Tokyo Marathon's official website, which is apparently faster than the average pace for men in the sport. The musician came in 6,010th place out of the 26,706 runners who completed the marathon.

Having launched the Ed Sheeran Foundation in January, Ed Sheeran has written an open letter to the UK government calling for immediate and long-term funding for music education. The letter, which is co-signed by a number of big names including Elton John, Coldplay, Central Cee, **Harry Styles**, Dave, Stormzy and Robert Plant, urges Keir Starmer to commit £250 million towards music education. The initiative highlights five areas that the government can focus on to improve standards: music funding in schools, training for music teachers, funding for grassroots venues and spaces, music apprenticeships and a diverse music curriculum.

“Dear Sir Keir Starmer, we are writing collectively as artists, civil society and industry, appealing to your personal belief in music and the promise of opportunity for all under Labour,” the letter begins.

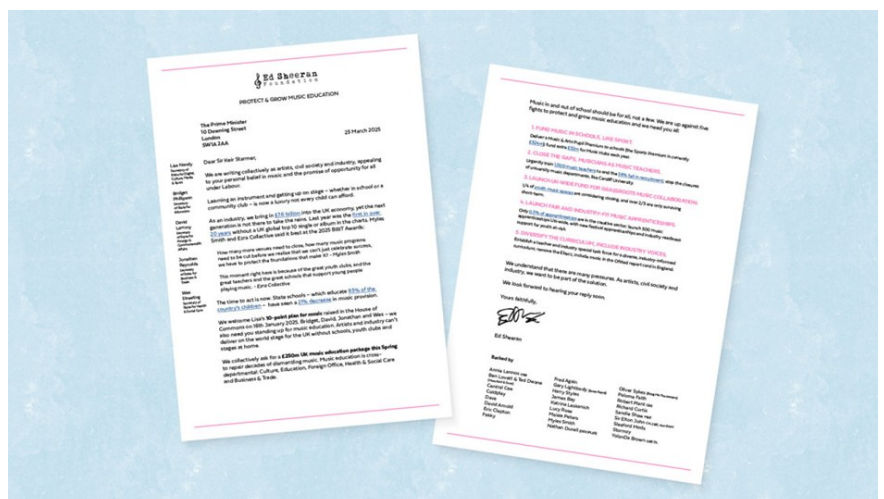
It goes on to argue that the music industry brings £7.6 billion into the UK economy each year, but says “the next generation is not there to take the reins” as many young people cannot afford to learn an instrument.

“Last year was the first in over 20 years without a UK global top 10 single or album in the charts,” the letter continues. “The time to act is now. State schools – which educate 93% of the country’s children – have seen a 21% decrease in music provision.”

“We collectively ask for a £250m UK music education package this Spring to repair decades of dismantling music. Music education is cross-departmental: Culture, Education, Foreign Office, Health & Social Care and Business & Trade.”

“We understand that there are many pressures,” it concludes. “As artists, civil society and industry, we want to be part of the solution.”

Whether being “part of the solution” means that the signatories will contribute financially and not just add their famous name, is not clear. Ed Sheeran is already putting his money where his mouth is in terms of musical education, but maybe the others will chip in a bob or two to support grass roots music too? Harry Styles has wealth estimated at \$120 million, Stormzy has a mere \$24 million, while Elton John is estimated to be worth a whopping \$650 million!



Discover Local Artistry at Makers in the Valley Sunday May 18th!

Escape the ordinary and enjoy a delightful day of creativity at the brand-new Makers in the Valley market on **Sunday, May 18th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**

Located in a charming barn **opposite Bidlea Dairy (CW4 8DS)** in Cheshire East, this market will showcase a curated selection of unique, upmarket handcrafted goods from talented local makers. Browse beautiful keepsakes, captivating artwork, and more – perfect for finding special gifts or treating yourself.

Enjoy a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where you can meet the artists and learn about their craft. Plus, Bidlea Dairy is conveniently located nearby for delicious ice cream, drinks, and cakes to complete your family day out.

Makers in the Valley is a new venture that will be bringing local artistry to various scenic locations across Cheshire East in the future, so don't miss this inaugural event!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 18th**, and come and support your local creative community. If you'd like to book a stall or have any questions please feel free to contact the organisers on makersinthevalley@gmail.com

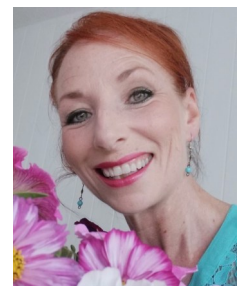


The poster features the 'Makers in the Valley' logo at the top. Below it, text reads: 'CALLING ON TALENTED ARTISTS AND STALLHOLDERS WHO SPECIALISE IN HIGH QUALITY, HANDMADE GOODS TO JOIN THE MARKET AND BE A PART OF THIS EXCITING NEW INITIATIVE.' A dark grey bar contains the event details: 'SUNDAY 18TH MAY - 10AM - 4PM', 'MAKERSINTHEVALLEY@GMAIL.COM', and 'OPPOSITE BIDLEA DAIRY CW4 8DS'. At the bottom, three small images show a brick building, a stall with a green tablecloth, and a large ice cream creation.

Goostrey Flower Club

May Meeting - Thursday 8th May 2025 1.30pm-4pm
Lower Withington Parish Hall SK11 9DY

We are delighted to welcome Debbie Davies to Goostrey for our May meeting. Debbie's journey into floral design began in 2013 having returned to the North West from a career as a professional dancer which took her all over the world, and as a make up artist in London. Drawing from her extensive background in dance and make-up artistry, she now creates innovative floral designs that reflect her diverse artistic experiences. Her demonstration is aptly entitled Colours of Life.



Our members competition this month is entitled Shades of Green with all entries to be in the hall by 1.30pm.

Also this month there will be a sale or exchange of seedlings, cuttings and plants. Please bring along any spare plants you may have from home.

Christian Aid Week 11th - 17th May 2025



This Christian Aid Week Holmes Chapel Christian Aid Group stands alongside

the most poor and needy around the world. In Guatemala, the climate crisis is destroying crops and causing hunger for Indigenous communities. But with training, farmers like Aurelia are fighting back. Aurelia has faced extreme heatwaves that have killed her crops, but through Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, she's learning to grow resilient crops, make fertiliser and conserve water. She's sharing this knowledge with others, helping her community build a sustainable future. This Christian Aid Week, please give to support farmers in the fight against hunger and the climate crisis.

On Sunday May 11th, we will be holding a United service for Christian Aid at Holmes Chapel Methodist Church at 10am. A representative from Christian Aid North West will be speaking about the work of Christian Aid during the service- all are welcome! We would love to see you! Normal Sunday morning services will be held at St Margarets and St Lukes as usual.

Envelopes will be available in our 3 churches on Sunday 11th May for your donation. When completed they will need to be returned to your church or taken to nominated collection points in the village as indicated on the envelopes.



Alternatively we hope that you may feel able to donate using this On-Line Platform instead, specifically for Christian Aid Week in Holmes Chapel, found by using this link online:

[Please scan the QR code to donate or Go Online at
https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/holmes-chapel-group](https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/holmes-chapel-group)

We will also be collecting donations of your loose change and notes outside the main entrance to Sainsburys and Costa Coffee in Holmes Chapel as well as outside Aldi for periods during Christian Aid week, and will have envelopes available there if you prefer. Look out for our collectors in red tabards!

For those with smart Phones, there will also be a QR code with our collectors and also on the laminated poster on the village board.

Alternatively, cheques payable to Christian Aid can be sent to Caroline Wood, 53 Coniston Drive CW4 7LB or our Treasurer, 89 Needham Drive Cranage CW4 8FB

However, we hope that this On-Line Platform will work well for you this year and we appreciate and thank you for your ongoing support for Christian Aid.

Any queries, please call Caroline Wood (Holmes Chapel Christian Aid Co-Ordinator) on 01477 535746 or 07742930346

Holmes Chapel U3a - Monthly Meeting April 10th



This month's speaker was Philip Caine, who is the author of the Jack Castle novels and Shackleton Blister novels, which will soon be made into a TV series.

He spoke to us about his very varied, adventurous career, starting as a chef at a very young age and later becoming a hotel manager. This led on to a career working in many unusual countries and situations such as the North Sea oil platforms and rigs, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia.

He spent 7 years in Baghdad and 3 years running oil service companies in Dubai. His talk was very humorous and full of incidentals, including the support of his long-suffering wife, who was finally able to join him in living in Dubai. At one point he was even involved with talking to a member of the KGB and two 'dodgy' Russians! You couldn't make it up!

Anyway, after he retired he was persuaded to start writing books and he has used his knowledge and experience in the novels he has written. It seems that anything he touched became successful and led on to better things. Philip's talk kept us fascinated right up to the last moment. He also thanked us afterwards for being such a good welcoming audience!

Next month, on **Thursday May 8th**, we welcome John Wallace back again. He spoke to us before about 'Ten Thousand Years of Bling' in Alderley Edge and was very entertaining. His talk this time is entitled **Overpaid and Over Here** and will introduce us to the culture and music the American GIs brought over with them in WW2. This coincides with our **VE Day celebrations** later in the day in the village. I hope that as many of you as possible will come and listen. It will be a wonderful way to start off the celebrations.

Clonter Fair & Car Boot Sale

Sunday 7th September 10am - 4pm

Are you a crafter, artisan producer, a local group raising funds? Or maybe you are having a spring clear out and have a host of treasures ready for a car boot?

September 7th may seem a long way off but it will be here before you know it.

The Clonter Fair & Car Boot is a great day out for all the family, inside and outside the theatre in Swettenham Heath. There will be stalls, car booters, live music, food and drink, classic cars, dog show and traditional games. All in aid of Visyon and the Clonter Farm Music Trust.

Stall & Car Boot pitches are available to book now - email events@clonter.org. For more info visit <https://clonter.org/event/clonter-fair/>



News from Home Grown



We have had a good start to the year. Our seed sowing in March was well attended and, in April, we made sure we topped up our beds with more broad beans and strawberry plants. The herb planters were given a tidy up and are now growing really well.

May is a brilliant month for us. Our dig will be on **Saturday 3rd May**. We hope that some of the seeds sown in March will have germinated and are brought back to us so we can plant them into our beds. After this, on Saturday 17th May, we will be having our annual Plant Swap.

Home Grown in Holmes Chapel Annual Plant Swap Saturday 17th May at the George and Dragon, 10am until 12 noon

This year it is being held in the George and Dragon grounds. Here you can park, for free, for the morning. Martin, Simon and the team will be opening early so you can buy yourself one of their lovely coffees or even a cheeky tippie whilst you look over the plants.

As always, this plant swap is free. You can bring some plants and swap them but you don't have to. You can just take some plants. There is no charge.

We are hoping to have a good selection of tomato plants, including a beef type one called Costoluto Fiorentino which were grown with seeds given to us by Four Oaks Nursery, and also lots of other fruit and vegetables.

We try to keep the house and garden plants separate from the fruit and vegetables. And we will have plenty of plants pots for you to take, for free.

We are so grateful to all our supporters and the team at the George and Dragon for showing such community spirit.



Come and join the Celebration!



Thursday 8 May

**You are invited
to a concert with Mel Baines**

Mel entertains singing well-known songs from
the war time years.

3.00pm

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

**Please stay for
light refreshments
after the concert**



**If you have a flag
to wave, do bring
along to add to the
fun atmosphere**



Holmes Chapel Railway Station Corner *by Tony Wright - May 2025*



Visiting Manchester Art Gallery!

If you travel on one of the half-hourly trains from Holmes Chapel Railway Station to Manchester Piccadilly Railway Station you can easily transfer (down steps and escalators) to the tram connection to St. Peter's Square. Across the road is the splendid Manchester Art Gallery. (Or it is an interesting 10-15 minutes walk via Canal Street, by the Rochdale Canal, and Princess Street).

I recently asked the Curator of Fine Art at the gallery, Hannah Williamson, a question. If you only had time to view three things during a visit to the gallery what would she recommend?

Hannah kindly responded with the three items (and the caveat that, whilst there is much to see, she likes people to see the latest things revolving around their current agenda) discussed on this page.

Number 1 - 'Women's Work: a Medley' by Florence Ann Claxton - **in gallery 7**. F.A. Claxton lived from 1838 to 1920 and was a satirist, cartoonist and illustrator. The image of her 1861 painting shown here,



portrays figure-groups in an enclosed space set on the clifftop. This bright, colourful painting is part story, part satire and part allegory. A multitude of figures are arranged into roughly six narrative groups, all of which relate to a subject of debate in the second half of the 19th Century: woman's work. The painting contains 34 figures, each satirising an aspect of the challenges women faced in finding useful work.

Number 2 - **in gallery 12** - 'It may be nothing, but it could be something' by Faisal Hussain. An illuminated road barrier, vinyl text, LED lamp, plastic. Hussain critically examines urban counter-terrorism measures. He exposes and challenges prevailing assumptions about what, if anything, can make us feel more secure in an age of terrorist threats.

Number 3 - **in gallery 10** - 'Six Acts' - by Sonia Boyce. This six-screen film and wallpaper installation lasts 15 minutes. Boyce worked with the Manchester Art Gallery team, invited artist-collaborators and gallery visitors to make a new commission for the exhibition to explore how the politics of gender, race and sexuality in the gallery's 18th and 19th century painting displays can be reconsidered for today.

I always enjoy visiting Manchester Art Gallery on Moseley Street, Manchester. It also has a wonderful shop and café!

Learn, Laugh & Live (Holmes Chapel u3a)

Learn, Laugh & Live is the mantra of the national u3a of which we are part. When you are no longer working full time and/ or retired, you may be looking for opportunities to try something new and meet new people.

This is where the Holmes Chapel & District u3a comes in. It's a self-help organisation, whose remit is to involve local people in continuing to learn and teach each other new skills, gain new experiences and enhance their lives. It is not a matter of gaining qualifications, but if you manage to brush up your language skills in, say, French or Spanish, then that is a bonus. If you fancy leading a new group – be it nuclear physics or fiddlywinks – and you can find 5 or 6 like-minded people, then, then we will support you to set up a new activity group.

We now have about 80 different activity groups available for our roughly 900 members, so there really is something for everyone to enjoy. Our next **Open Morning** will be held at 10 am on **Saturday 6th September 2025** at **St Luke's Church Hall** (behind Tesco), which is a key opportunity for local residents in Holmes Chapel, Goostrey and adjoining parishes to find out more about all the activities we run. Membership currently costs just £10 per year.

HOWEVER, there is a catch. To keep all these activity groups going, there needs to be a Committee of Trustees who take responsibility for keeping our activities legal, compliant and financially sound, and we have to be registered with the Charity Commission. Every year or two we need new recruits, when our hardworking trustees need to stand down. And that time is now. At least **three new committee members** – including a **Committee Secretary** - are needed by our AGM in June. If you have experience of committee work from your previous employment or from another voluntary organisation - or are prepared to learn - we appeal to you to come forward to join us now. We work together as a team, it's immensely satisfying and fun too. We are **run by members for members**.

Without enough trustees, we cannot continue. If our u3a had to be dissolved, we know it would cause a great deal of disappointment to our members who rely on it for trips to the theatre or other outings, not to mention all our other activity groups - from Art to Zumba, or Bridge to Yoga. Please do come forward, join our organisation, get involved and volunteer to help us to run it.

You can reach me at:

info@holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

Ruth McNeil, Chair - Holmes Chapel & District u3a

Find out more: www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk



Charity No. 1148276

Holmes Chapel & District u3a

urgently seeks

A Committee Secretary

With 900 members and 80 activity groups
Run by Members for Members

Come and help us run our u3a

Contact: info@holmeschapelu3a.org.uk



www.holmeschapelu3a.org.uk

By The Bridge - Fostering Fortnight



Fostering fortnight runs from the **12th – 25th of May 2025**.

Now, the annual celebration of all things fostering has announced its theme for this year: The Power of Relationships. Local fostering agency By The Bridge are proudly celebrating in the Cheshire community.

By the Bridge was founded by foster carers over twenty years ago – so they know all about building relationships and just how powerful those bonds are. They are a therapeutic agency putting emotional healing and development at the forefront of everything they do in order to support children and young people who have experienced trauma.



The power of relationships isn't just about the bonds between foster parents, children and the fostering team. By the Bridge have taken it one step further and are proud members of the Cheshire community. They are supporting local teams and events from football and dance to rubber duck racing! By the Bridge even have their own sponsored goat named Trevor!

They are heavily involved in local organisations and believe that being actively engaged with the wonderful community of Holmes Chapel and Cheshire breeds positivity and light that extends beyond even the fostering world.

Recently they have seen success in supporting youngsters in Crewe FC and Cheshire County Netball Academy U15s and U17s for their upcoming Welsh tour!

There are so many children in need of loving supportive homes in our area and foster parents to raise them to be happy, healthy and successful adults who, in turn, help build a better future for generations to come. Supporting fostering relationships means supporting our own communities and the wonderful children and adults who foster.

For those people who might be interested in fostering in our area, the power of your relationship with fostering can start now! There are lots of myths and unknowns about fostering, and many people don't realise how different fostering journeys can be. Our Cheshire community has foster parents who provide emergency and short term fostering, long term fostering and even parent and child fostering to help support young people from the very start. The power that foster parents' relationships with young people can have even on a short-term occasional basis cannot be undersold!

By the Bridge are happy to offer further information to anyone wanting to learn more about fostering in Holmes Chapel and Cheshire, just call 0800 644 6230 or visit their website at www.bythebridge.co.uk you can also follow their fun in the community on Facebook or Instagram at By The Bridge with Cambian . You can meet the team at their Styal office at their May opening day on the 21st May!

The Village Bridge Club 25th Anniversary Celebrations

The Village Bridge Club in Holmes Chapel recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Formed in 2000, there are still a few of the original members playing bridge each Tuesday morning, who have been joined by many new members over the years. We wonder how many hands have been dealt, slams bid and made, packs of cards used over those years?



We are a very friendly club, currently with around thirty members. Meetings are held at the Victoria Club each week for regular duplicate bridge sessions. We welcome new players and guests and do our best to find partners for an individual player who is interested in joining or just visiting,

A competitive bridge session was enjoyed on 8th April with some welcome prizes as part of our celebrations, followed by a very pleasant meal at the George & Dragon. There was cake, with boxes delivered to several members who were unable to join us for the meal. Thanks to the staff for looking after us so well.

If you'd like to know more about the Club or enquire about playing with us, please contact Sue on 07970 416371 or email sue@taylorcrew.co.uk.

Open Garden



*In conjunction with
the Milk Maid
Marchers*

Saturday 10th May / Sunday 11th May

10.30am to 4.00pm

Broad Hey Lodge, School Lane, Brereton CW11 1RT

Tea Coffee and Cakes provided by the Milk Maid Marchers

Bring and Buy Plant Stall

Admission free. Donations to the Christie Foundation welcome

Have Your Say on the Future of Cranage Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation Opens



Cranage Parish Council is inviting residents and stakeholders to comment on the draft Cranage Neighbourhood Plan.

This consultation, carried out under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012, will run from Friday 2nd May to Sunday 16th June 2025.

The Neighbourhood Plan will shape how our parish evolves over the next 10 years, influencing development, protecting green spaces, and supporting the needs of our community.

What's in the Plan?

- Policies to enhance rural values and protect valued green spaces
- Preservations for walking and cycling routes, and bridleways
- Safeguards for community facilities

Where to View the Plan:

At the website for Cranage Parish Council:

www.cranageparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Printed copies are available at:

- Cranage Village Hall
- Devere Cranage Estate (Reception)
- Hollins Farm (Reception), Hermitage Lane, Cranage
- Holmes Chapel Library
- Holmes Chapel Community Centre

How to Respond:

Fill out the online consultation form on the website as above, using the SUBMIT FEEDBACK button

Or:

Email your comments to clerk@cranageparishcouncil.gov.uk

- Fill out one of the paper feedback forms which are with the paper copies and send to Cranage Parish Council, c/o 1 Church Walk, Holmes Chapel, CW4 7AZ
- Write to Cranage Parish Council with any comments at the address above

Friends of Goostrey Station are Celebrating Again!

Spring 2025 saw FoGS receiving more awards for our work to improve Goostrey station.

In February, we won the Community Engagement Award from Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) and so we have a tenth totem to display at the station. This award recognised the variety of ways in which FoGS are involved with local people. For example, we ran a stall at Rose Day and we contributed to Goostrey Parish Archive's transport exhibition during Goosfest. We also helped Jodrell Side WI with their project to create a coronation wall-hanging. And Debbie Goldsmith regularly leads workshops for children at Goostrey Art Studio and in towns like Crewe and Bury.

We were successful in the CBKS photo competition too. 'Keeping Up Appearances' received enough votes from our supporters to secure second place.

In March, FoGS were invited to attend the 20th Community Rail Awards in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where we were competing against 75 Community Rail Partnerships and over 1000 volunteer groups. Just over 50% of the 227 entries were shortlisted, including all four that FoGS submitted. Through public voting we were placed third for our photo. And we achieved enough points in the category It's Your Station to be in the top 4 out of 40 volunteer groups, so we received a platinum certificate (unfortunately it wasn't made of metal - just paper!).



Left to right : Maggie Sidebotham, Gavin Hollinshead, Megan Dingle, Fraser Wilson, Louise Willis, Craig Sidebotham



Christina Burgess

WHAT'S ON



Memory Café offers a warm welcome

Who comes? People living with dementia (ie those with dementia and their carers) : widows and widowers who have lost their partner to dementia : people who enjoy a chat, are aware that they need to be meeting people and those who particularly like to help people living with dementia.

What do we do? chat, laugh, reminisce : sit and 'people watch' : look at books : colour or paint : play table games : tackle a jigsaw or a quiz : have a sing-song : play a game of curling or skittles.

When do we meet? **Tuesday 6 and 20 May** 10.00am – 12.00pm

Where do we meet? Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

Is there a charge? For those who are able, we ask for a donation popped in the pot please.

Anything else? Memory Café is open to those registered with Holmes Chapel Health Centre.

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

Do you feel like some company or an afternoon to help lift your spirits? If so, we look forward to seeing you at **'Tuesday Friends'**

at
Holmes Chapel Methodist Church
13 May
2.00 – 4.00pm



'The Misfits' will entertain with their popular songs for feet tapping or singing along and telling amusing stories to make us a smile!



A quiz on the tables if you fancy a challenge, and a cup of tea/coffee and cake are all part of the afternoon.

No set charge but, if you are able, please pop a donation in the pot.

Should you require more details, please telephone **01477 537679**

your Library **Cheshire East Council**

Holmes Chapel Library Adult Events

Local History Talks
Tuesdays - 11am to 12pm

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 20th May | Serendipitous Science | Learn about some of the accidental discoveries that have changed our lives |
| 17th June | Brindley's Mill | Learn about Brindley's life and the workings of his eponymous mill |
| 16th Sept | Nether Alderley Mill | Discover the history of this unique mill |

All talks are FREE, no need to book & refreshments are available

Home Library Service
Do you, or someone you know, struggle to get to the library due to health or mobility issues?
If you live in the Holmes Chapel area, our volunteers can deliver books to your home FREE of charge
Call the library for further details

Craft Tea & Chat
Thursdays weekly at 11am
Bring your own craft & enjoy a cuppa with like minded folk

Family History
Thursdays Monthly at 2.30pm
Learn & share tips tracing your ancestors with our friendly group

Barclays Bank
at Holmes Chapel Library: Monday, Thursday & Friday
9.30am to 12.30pm
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 | 9.30am - 1pm |
| Sunday | Closed |

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



so let's
Keep Singing!

Saturday 10 May 2025

Come and join us for a fun morning singing popular songs chosen by those who attend – will your favourite be amongst them?

10.00am

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

No musical talent necessary, just come and enjoy!
We sing for about an hour followed by chatting over coffee/tea and biscuits.

Keep Singing - 2nd Saturday of every month

Our Patron Sponsors

OUR PATRON SPONSORS

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

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|  <p>MASSEY FEEDS Focused on nutrition</p> | <p>MASSEY FEEDS</p> | <p>www.masseyfeeds.co.uk Massey Feeds, Holmes Chapel Mill Holmes Chapel Cheshire CW4 8EE Tel 01477 536300</p> |
|  | <p>HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL</p> | <p>www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk Holmes Chapel Parish Council 1 Church Walk Holmes Chapel Cheshire CW4 7AZ Tel 01477 533934</p> |
|  | <p>DUTTON BUILDERS MERCHANTS</p> | <p>www.duttonbuildersmerchants.co.uk Dutton Builders Merchants Dutton Business Park, Holmes Chapel Road Middlewich Cheshire CW10 0QZ Tel 01606 738491</p> |
|  | <p>TMC CREATIVE LTD</p> | <p>www.wearetmc.com TMC Creative Ltd The Space 35-37 High Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 1AX 01260 295700</p> |

For further details on Patron Sponsorship please visit our sponsors page
www.hcpartnership.org.uk/patronponsors

Holmes Chapel Partnership – Working with the whole community