



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 135 October 2025

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

October is traditionally harvest time but the crops have ripened earlier than usual so some, like blackberries, were already finished in August. There is a fantastic wealth of fruit this year and the autumn colours are promising to be spectacular. Get yourself one of our walking maps - either from the Partnership website (**Walking and Cycling Routes**) or a paper copy from the Library or the Parish Office and take a walk on a sunny day to admire the countryside round our village as the leaves turn gold.

Walks Around Holmes Chapel

Take the opportunity to discover
the walks on your doorstep!

SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN



**Macclesfield Road needs
a pedestrian crossing!**

**PLEASE ADD YOUR VOICE
TO OUR CAMPAIGN!**

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

To access the countryside one of the best routes is Hermitage Lane, so our campaign to have a crossing could help you too - even if you are not taking a child to school!

And sticking with the theme of being active - why not go exploring by train and discover the delights of the local hostleries along the line? More details inside.

The Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership
proudly presents the

Rail Ale Trail

<https://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk/days-out/rail-ale-trail-1/>

SCAN ME

Huge thanks to our generous sponsors:

DISCOVER CREWE

CHESHIRE PUB COMPANY

Launched to coincide with the UK-wide Railway 200 celebrations

200



Holmes Chapel Partnership's project to provide places to go for help, if you are out and about in the village and feel unsafe, is being refreshed. See inside for more information.

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

Chairman's Update - October 2025



As the dry hot summer becomes a distant memory and the autumn rain and wind prevail, Holmes Chapel Partnership is preparing for a very busy and community-focused few months ahead.

Our biggest event of the year, the **Holmes Chapel Christmas Market**, is already shaping up to be something special. This year's market will take place on **Sunday 7th December**, when the centre of the village will once again be transformed into a festive wonderland of stalls, music, food, and entertainment. Stall bookings are now almost complete but I would still encourage local businesses, crafters, charities, and community groups to put their names on the reserve list – stuff happens and you may still get a place! The Christmas Market is always hugely popular, attracting visitors from across the region, and it offers a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work, raise funds, or simply be part of Holmes Chapel's much-loved celebrations. Booking details and a link to the online form can be found on our website.

From the start of September, I was especially pleased to welcome **Bespak** as a new Patron Sponsor. Many of you will know Bespak as Holmes Chapel's largest employer, and we are delighted to have their support. If you run a local business, you may also wish to consider becoming a **sponsor** of the Christmas Market. Sponsorship is a wonderful way to raise your profile while also showing your commitment to supporting our community, and you will find sponsorship details on our website.

Alongside preparations for the market, Santa is already organising his schedule of visits for December. Most of the teams have confirmed their willingness to help him out and the detailed schedule will be ready for the next Newsletter.

Earlier in the year we were excited to launch the **Harry Styles Virtual Tour**. As many of you know, Holmes Chapel has become a pilgrimage site for fans of Harry Styles, who grew up here. With the Virtual Tour, we've created a unique way for fans across the world to discover the village and the places linked to his early years. From the bakery where he once worked to familiar local landmarks, the tour provides a special connection to Holmes Chapel's most famous former resident. Fans can purchase the tour directly from our website, with proceeds supporting future Partnership projects and events.

As always, the strength of the Partnership lies in the energy and support of our residents. Whether you join us at an event, volunteer some time, or simply spread the word about what's happening, every contribution helps keep Holmes Chapel thriving.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the coming weeks — whether at a planning session, in the village centre, or (before long!) sharing a mulled wine together at the Christmas Market.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Peter Whiers

Chairman, Holmes Chapel Partnership

www.hcpartnership.org.uk

HOLMES CHAPEL CHRISTMAS MARKET & FAIR 7TH DEC 2025 3PM - 7PM

Plans for the 2025 Christmas Market and Fair are well under way - after all, it's just over two months away. The event is always held on the first Sunday in December, which falls on the 7th of the month this year.

The Holmes Chapel Partnership has been busy so far with the stage already hired and the entertainment booked, all indoor and outdoor stalls are now full and the fairground rides have been booked.

Despite all stalls being allocated, the application form is still open on our website for anyone who would like to join the reserve list. Things will, and do, change between now and the event so those on the reserve list do generally end up with a stall - even if it's a little last minute sometimes!

Thank you to Katy at The Villages Mag for our new logo and designs.

We are currently in the process of recruiting sponsors for the event. If this is something you would like to get involved with please email chair@hcupartnership.org.uk for more details. Thank you to all the local businesses that have already agreed to sponsor the event. So far these are:

Bespak, Duttons, Hurstwood Holdings, The Holmes Chapel Parish Council, Massey Feeds, TMC, Laura Wilson School of Dance, Hipswing and The Villages Mag.



And if you'd like to get involved and help out on the day we're always on the look out for volunteers. You won't have to be on duty for the whole event, you could just volunteer for an hour and there are plenty of things to do before and after the event. For an idea of the sort of things we need help with please visit our website:

<https://www.hcupartnership.org.uk/xmas-volunteers>

Santa is Making Plans for his 2025 Visits!

It's not just for the Christmas Market that planning has to start early! Santa's manager is already busy organising his schedule for December – starting on the 1st and running through to the 19th. As usual local organisations will be taking out the sleigh around Holmes Chapel and the surrounding villages. They will be collecting door to door (you can start saving your coins and notes already!) to boost their funds or just as a fun activity to raise money for their chosen charity. Look out for the detailed schedule in the November edition of the Newsletter and on our notice boards.



Dane Meadow Update



The cornfield annuals that the Friends of Dane Meadow planted next to the new pond have more or less finished flowering and hopefully will have set seed for a show next year. The brambles have also grown enthusiastically (as brambles do!) We spent the last work session in September cutting them back so they don't outcompete the flowers.



It has been an amazing year for fruit - there have been the apples in the Home Grown orchard, crab apples by the former Bird Hide and a magnificent crop of sloes (see photo) on the trees planted on the slope behind the pond—sloe gin, anyone?



A few weeks ago now a new bench was installed in the Dane Meadow. It was donated by her family in memory of Imogen Tothill who died tragically young. It looks out onto the river and the woods (see photo right) and is the perfect spot for some peaceful contemplation.

The next Friends of Dane Meadow session is on **Tuesday 14th October - we meet at 10am at the picnic tables** . If you would like to join us and do your bit for Holmes Chapel's green space, do come along. We would be delighted to see you there! For more information contact info@hccpartnership.org.uk.

Parish Council News



Tesco Window - book now for 2026!

Calling community organisations, there are plenty of free spots available next year for community groups wishing to make use of the Tesco Window to advertise their activities. Please contact the Clerk by emailing clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk to book your two week slot for 2026! Please note this is for community organisations and not for business advertisement.

Celebrating 10 years of the Holmes Chapel Community Centre



The official opening 10 years ago

We are delighted that this year marks 10 years since the Parish Council bought the Community Centre on behalf of our residents and signed an agreement with Everybody Health and Leisure (EHL) to operate it.

For the last 10 years the Parish Council and EHL have worked closely together to ensure the centre provides real community-based facilities alongside the gym and fitness classes.

It's not just a gym! The centre provides a wide range of opportunities for community use.

These opportunities include 'Stay and Play' for toddlers and guardians, Sport & Social for over 50s, a monthly Lunch Club offering a 2 course lunch with tea and coffee, and summer afternoon teas every month. The centre also offers health and lifestyle support through falls prevention and balance classes, mobility and strength classes, weight management and a healthy lifestyle programme, plus support to stop smoking. The site offers themed events such as Halloween Parties, Wreath Making sessions, monthly sound bath sessions, in addition to being able to hire out the meeting rooms for private events and celebrations. The skate park is also a great asset to the site.

We are delighted that Padel Courts will soon be installed at the site, which combined with refurbishment to the changing rooms will be a fantastic addition to the community centre offering.

Look out for exciting events to mark 10 years of the Community Centre and why not pop down and check out all it offers for yourself. The EHL staff are very friendly and only too willing to help.

Reclaim the Pavements

For the last two years the Parish Council has been running a campaign to 'Reclaim the Pavements' in Holmes Chapel. This involved walking the pavements of the village and looking for hedges, trees etc.... that are overgrown and impeding the footpaths



Parish Council News cont...



We wrote letters to households and contacted Cheshire East and other bodies, where vegetation was overtaking the pavements or blocking streetlights. We had some good results with many hedges and vegetation being cut back. A huge thank you to all those households who listened and acted on our concerns. Now the bird nesting season is over, it's a great time to cut back your hedges and trees! Representatives from the Parish Council are once walking the streets and we will send letters to households where simply cutting back vegetation would make the pavements much more accessible to all residents. Why not make a head start and cut back your hedge today! Thank you! Please take a look on our website for more information about this campaign:

<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/reclaimthepavements>

Council Meetings

Want to know more about what the Parish Council does? Why not attend one of our Council or Committee meetings. They are held most Thursdays at 7pm in the Academy Suite of the Community Centre. A list of dates for all the meetings are available on our website along with the latest minutes and agendas:

<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings>

Strategic Planning Task Group (SPTG)

Can you help us plan for the future of Holmes Chapel?

We are a small task group of Holmes Chapel Parish Council who are exploring how we can prepare a strategic plan for the future of Holmes Chapel. We have previously prepared our Neighbourhood Plan but would like to update it and take a wider look at how we see the village developing in the future.

*Nothing stays the same and Holmes Chapel will probably grow putting demands on schools, roads, health service provision and many other aspects of our village life. We would like to influence that change with an overall plan so it is not a result of piecemeal and disconnected development. **But we need some expert help.***

Are you a local resident with skills that could help us? We are looking for people with suitable planning expertise who also have a direct interest in how Holmes Chapel develops and can spare some volunteer time.

We are happy to meet for an informal chat to explain a bit more about our aspirations and how you might help. Please contact the Clerk at

clerk@holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk

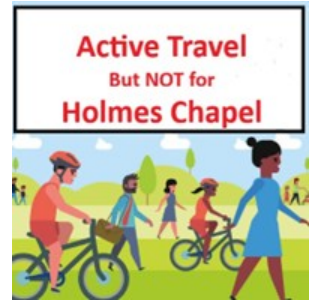
Background information

The Holmes Chapel Neighbourhood Plan (HCNP) was 'made' in April 2017, prior to Cheshire East making their Local Plan in July 2017 (CECLP) and subsequently the CEC Site Allocations and Development Policy Document (SADPD) adopted in December 2022.

See description and role of SPTG at: [Task Groups | Holmes Chapel Parish Council](#)

Active Travel Update

In our August edition Roy Hayhurst wrote an article about the Active Travel Consultation carried out by Cheshire East Highways and encouraged people to respond and express their disappointment that we were being consulted about a policy for which Holmes Chapel would receive no funding and therefore nothing in the way of infrastructure to make it safer for residents to walk and cycle.



The sums involved:

- Cheshire East Council received significant grant funding, including over **£2 million** from **Active Travel England's** fund in 2023 and 2024
- **£813,292 Consolidated Active Travel Fund** allocation to support high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Additionally, community groups in Crewe and Nantwich can apply for grants of up to **£9,999** to encourage walking and cycling for everyday travel, funded by the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Year (STTY) scheme.

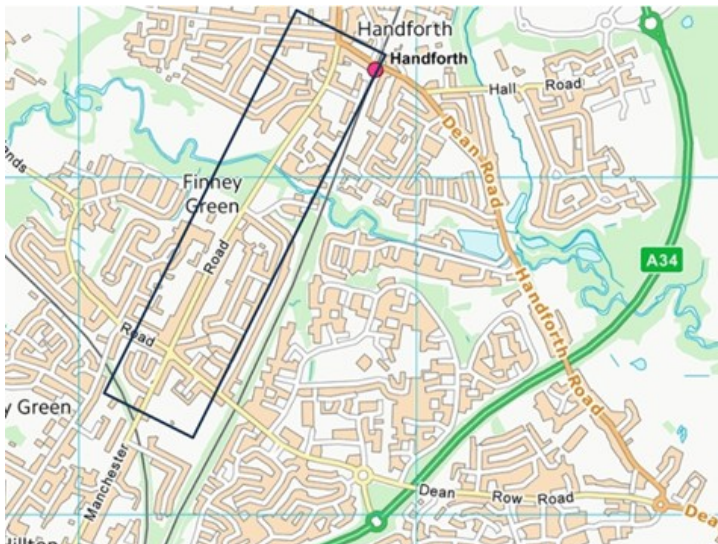
And this is where the money is being spent - or at least £1.3 million of it

Work started on **18 August 2025** to develop a new **1.5 mile** walking and cycling route between Wilmslow and Handforth.

As part of the scheme, CE Highways are:

- Installing a new segregated cycleway
- Installing two new toucan-controlled crossings for pedestrians and cyclists
- Improving Stanneylands Road junction including additional pedestrian crossing and a new cycle gate - a feature used to separate the movements of bicycles and cars at busy junctions
- Introducing a bus stop bypass - used to route walkers and cyclists behind the bus passenger boarding area
- Installing improved signage along the length of the route
- Reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph

The work is being completed in phases and the initial phase of this project will take approximately 32 weeks to complete – diversion routes will be in place.



Congratulations to Handforth on getting this walking and cycling infrastructure for the benefit of their community – maybe we could get some tips on how to be successful in attracting funding to Holmes Chapel?

Active Travel Update cont...

In their responses to the Active Travel Consultation the Parish Council and Holmes Chapel Partnership provided a list of much less expensive projects – like reducing speed limits and a zebra crossing for Macclesfield Road. These would have a greater effect on a greater number of people than transforming at great cost a very short stretch of road into a walking and cycling paradise! By the way perhaps someone could report what happens at either end of this 'Walking and Cycling Eden'?

Congratulations also go to Brereton ...

... on getting these traffic calming measures as you approach Brereton village along School Lane. The fences indicate the beginning of a residential area and, as the name suggests, a Primary School. However a 30mph limit sign as well as the roundel painted on the road would be a useful addition?



The Parish Council has suggested a similar symbolic gateway for roads leading into Holmes Chapel – as yet to no avail.

Harry Styles is certainly taking active travel seriously! He completed the Berlin Marathon in an amazing 2 hours 59 minutes and 13 seconds. A sub 3 hour marathon is considered a landmark achievement for amateur runners. He registered for the race under the name Sted Sarandos and wore a head band and sunglasses in an attempt to remain incognito – which he seems to have managed – at least until the finish!



Safe Walking Routes to School - Campaign for a Crossing

In the September Newsletter we announced our intention to start a campaign to get a crossing on Macclesfield Road. We are putting together a dossier of evidence to support the need for a safe way to get across Macclesfield Road if you live east of the railway line or on the Victoria Mills estate.

This was our job list:

- We will be seeking the support of the Primary School.
- We will be conducting a pedestrian and vehicle count on Macclesfield Road at the start and end of school.
- The Speedwatch team will continue to monitor speeds.
- We will be collecting data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID).
- We want to create an online petition and short travel survey.

This is what we have achieved so far:

√ We have the full backing of the new Headteacher at the Hermitage School, Adam Young.

√ We have carried out the first pedestrian and vehicle count. Between 8.30 and 9am on Thursday 18th September **210 cars and 26 vans headed west and 167 cars plus 41 vans and a couple of HGVs headed east**. Over 30 pedestrians - half of whom were children scrambling to get across the road when there was a gap in the traffic.

√ The Speedwatch team has been out and recorded a few vehicles travelling at 40mph during school run time.

√ We have created a petition on our website so that you can add your voice as part of the evidence – please go on to the website and add your name.

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

SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN



Macclesfield Road needs a pedestrian crossing!

We are compiling a dossier of evidence to present to Cheshire East Highways to persuade them of the urgent need for a pedestrian crossing over Macclesfield Road.

This would benefit anyone on any of the estates to the East of the village getting to Hermitage School, as well as anyone walking to Manor Lane and the various businesses located there.

- We have the support of Hermitage Primary School
- We will conduct a pedestrian and vehicle count on Macclesfield Road during busy school times
- The SpeedWatch team will continue to monitor speeds on this road
- We will collect data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID)
- We are collecting signatures from residents

FOR FULL INFORMATION AND TO ADD YOUR VOICE TO OUR CAMPAIGN VISIT:

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



HCP Chair, Peter Whiers, helps pedestrians cross a busy Macclesfield Road during our Walk to School Event.

Holmes Chapel Safe Spaces Update



Last month the Northwich Guardian reported the worrying details of two attempted abductions of teenagers on their way home from school.

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive swiftly contacted parents to alert them to this potential threat, including details of a similar situation at another local school.

In 2023, Holmes Chapel Partnership, supported by The Villages Mag, launched the 'Safe Spaces' scheme so anyone in Holmes Chapel who feels threatened, intimidated or in need of some adult support can seek help in several locations throughout our village. These locations all display the 'Safe Space' sticker in their window.

Anyone needing a safe space will be able to wait inside the location and, if needed, the adult there can make a call to a parent, carer or police.

Although nothing of this nature has been reported in Holmes Chapel, it's an important reminder that we should all be aware of potential dangers, particularly when interacting with strangers.

The High School outlined these guidelines for personal safety which can apply to all of us, not just children getting to and from school:

- **Plan a Safe Route:** choose a safe and well-lit route, avoiding isolated areas like alleys, parks, or quiet car parks
- **Walk with Others:** walk with a friend or in a group whenever possible
- **Stranger Danger:** Don't talk to or accept lifts or gifts from strangers. It's often recommended that parents and children have a "code word" for pick-ups
- **What to Do if Unsafe:** Trust your instincts. If you feel you are being followed; cross the road, move towards a busy area, and tell a trusted adult what is happening
- **Emergency Contacts:** Know how to contact parents or another trusted adult in an emergency. In case of immediate danger, know to call the police on 999
- **Communicate Regularly:** Maintain an open line of communication with your children, so they feel comfortable talking about any concerns they may have about their journey to school

Locations taking part in the Safe Spaces scheme include Holmes, Gifts & Interiors, Holmes Chapel Library, The Bottle Bank, Holmes Chapel Community Centre, Holmes Sweet Home, Sam Dale & Son, Phil Davies Butcher, A Stroke of Magic, Sandwiches Direct and Morrisons.

We welcome any commercial location to join the scheme. They must have public liability insurance and be open to the public.

We want everyone who lives in or visits our village; especially young people, vulnerable adults and anyone feeling generally unsafe, to know that they are not alone and that help is nearby.

For more details please visit our website:

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



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

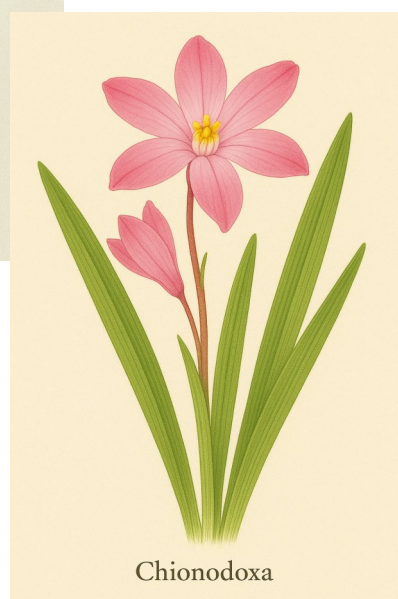


I am very pleased to share with you our Autumn bulb planting for the Spring showing in 2026!

I do hope that residents of Holmes Chapel and the many visitors using Holmes Chapel Railway Station notice our pocket gardens and planters on both the Crewe and Manchester platforms together with our various forms of artwork and displays.

In the Autumn of 2025 we are planting some 480 bulbs for the Spring 2026 display. The main flowers we hope to display are shown here.

We are aiming for 'Amber Azure' displays to provide an array of colour to Holmes Chapel Railway Station. The vibrant yellow miniature daffodils always offer a cheerful and warm welcome to Spring, perfectly contrasted by the deep, regal purple of the large flowering crocuses. We hope that adding the soft pink 'Glory-of-the Snow' showcases its charming blooms and the mixed dwarf Irises complete the displays with their intricate patterns and rich shades. I hope our efforts provide a floral display as the Winter chill of 2025 gives way to the warmth of Spring in 2026!



Crewe to Manchester Real Ale Trail Number 1

The Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership are pleased to have launched the Crewe to Manchester Rail Ale Trail Number 1!

by Tony Wright



After months of detailed discussions and background work the Rail Ale Trail is now up and running.

We are determined that the primary goals of the rail trail should be:

- To encourage train travel.
- To encourage patronage of local pubs and villages/towns.
- To offer enjoyment and entertainment to people ('a day out on the train').

The Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership
proudly presents the

Rail Ale Trail

<https://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk/days-out/rail-ale-trail-1/>

Crewe, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Goostrey, Chelford, Alderley Edge, Wilmslow, Styal, Handforth

to/from Manchester Piccadilly via airport via Stockport

SCAN ME

Drink cask-conditioned beer

Travel by train

Win a prize

Visit local towns and villages

Launched to coincide with the UK-wide Railway 200 celebrations

Pubs in Handforth, Styal, Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Chelford, Goostrey, **Holmes Chapel**, Sandbach, and Crewe are taking part. In **Holmes Chapel**: the **Beer Emporium**, the **Red Lion** and the **George and Dragon** are involved.

I have included the following information on the website about our village: Holmes Chapel Railway Station was opened on 10 May 1842. The village developed around the crossroads and the church, and now has a population of around 6,000. On 10 July 1753 there was a great fire; the church, some cottages and the Red Lion survived, but there is no record of any injuries or deaths.

Real Ale Trail cont...

The Square is the village focus, with shops and cafés and an annual Christmas Fair. The central hub is also a Conservation Area. St Luke's Church dates from the 1500s and has seven bells in total, six dating back to the early 1700s.

The Holmes Chapel Viaduct, spanning the Dane Valley, was completed by the Manchester and Birmingham Railway Company in 1841. It has 23 splendid brick arches, each with a span of approximately 60 feet.

Things to do in and around Holmes Chapel:

- walks around the village, along the Dane Valley, including to and from the viaduct, and also along the Dane Meadow via the Cranage Weir.
 - a visit to the shops, bakery, cafés and library.
- a visit to the various sites associated with Harry Styles, including 'Harry's Wall' at the viaduct.

The idea is to enjoy a scenic day out on the train. Choose from over 20 pubs not far from the local railway station. 16 stickers can be collected in total for a free, branded baseball cap from the organisers. The trail is intended to be enjoyed at a leisurely pace and not all in one day. Advice is given to drink responsibly and respect fellow pub-goers, villagers, rail passengers and staff. There is no deadline to complete the trail.

Cheers!

Further details: <https://www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk/days-out/rail-ale-trail-1/>



AUTUMN LITTER PICK

The next community LITTER PICK is on

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER

Come along and help to keep Cranage looking tidy, put the date in your diary. Meet up with your fellow litter pickers at **Cranage Village Hall at 10am** and do your bit for Cranage. All equipment is provided.

For more information please contact Councillor Hurst who kindly organises these litter picks for the parish.

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4th
10am – 12 noon

ST LUKE'S CHURCH HALL

HOSPICE CHRISTMAS CARDS
CAKES - LUCKY BAGS - RAFFLE

ADMISSION £2

includes Coffee/Tea and Biscuits

**Holmes Chapel Support
Group for
St Luke's Hospice**



Wildflower Meadows in Cranage

Over the summer months, our dedicated *Friends of the Wildflower Meadows* volunteer group gathered every Monday evening over an eight-week period to help care for and protect our new meadow areas (see map). Their main task was the careful (and often onerous) removal of unwanted plants such as dock, thistle, and ragwort. While these species have their place in nature, in our meadows they can quickly take over, preventing more delicate wildflowers from flourishing. By removing them before they had a chance to set seed, our volunteers have helped prevent a much bigger problem in the years ahead.

It has been particularly heartening to see yellow rattle thriving in some areas. This unassuming little plant plays an important role in reducing the vigour of coarse grasses, giving space for other wildflowers to take hold. Alongside it, we have spotted an encouraging mix of grasses, self-heal, ox-eye daisies, and other meadow species beginning to establish themselves. As we expected, the meadows are developing gradually – wildflower areas often take several years to reach their full glory – but we are pleased to say that each site is off to a promising start.

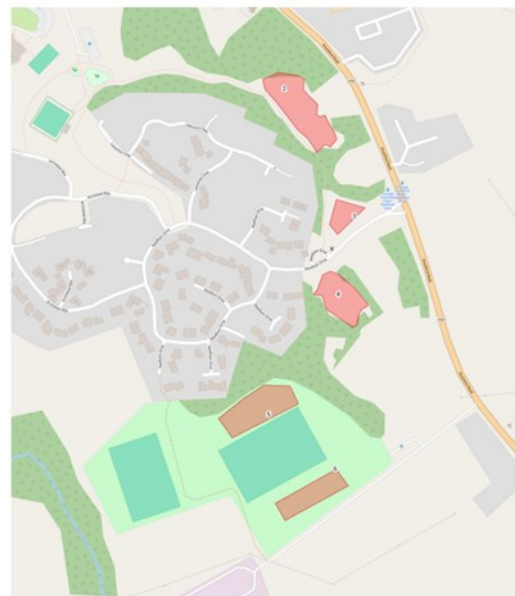
The meadows are due to be cut for the season any day now, if they haven't been already. The hay will be left for a couple of weeks, giving seeds time to scatter before it is removed. Taking the hay away reduces soil fertility, which in turn helps wildflowers thrive by giving them a better chance to compete with more vigorous plants.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the next stage of development. We are planting around **2,500 plug plants** across the meadow areas to introduce new species and strengthen those already present. This work will be carried out by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, with valuable support from our own volunteer team.

In addition, our orchard fruit trees – which have been settling in nicely – will receive their annual pruning in November to help them grow strong and healthy in the years to come.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who has contributed time, energy, and enthusiasm to this project. The meadows are already showing signs of becoming a wonderful haven for wildlife and a beautiful space for the community to enjoy.

Sue McKay



Goosfest Set to Soar



The 18th Goosfest Arts and Music Festival runs for 10 days from Friday October 3rd, with another packed programme designed to give as wide a choice as possible to local people.

The last weekend in September saw a packed weekend of art and memorabilia displays and workshops, in and around the village. The last of the workshops is on Thursday October 2nd, with a demonstration of mozzarella cheese-making by Claire Burt at Bidlea Dairy.

Then the music festival begins the next day, with an evening of Americana music by 'Fine Lines' at Goostrey Village Hall – and finishes 10 days later with a return visit by Bridgewater Hall organist Jonathan Scott, giving an organ recital at St Luke's Church.

In between, there are plenty of events to choose from – some sold out but a few with tickets remaining. So, check out the website Goosfest.com to see what's coming up, and which events still have tickets for online sale.

Throughout the 10-day festival, there's a display of autumn flower arrangements by Goostrey Flower Club, in St Luke's Church.

If you're going to any Goostrey event, please help us to spread the word. If you've enjoyed our events, we'd be so grateful if you could follow us on Facebook or Instagram @goosfest to stay up to date with event news and a few behind-the-scenes peeks. And if you leave us a review on [Facebook](#) or [Google](#), your words will help us grow and attract new visitors, to keep Goosfest thriving for years to come. It only takes a few minutes, but it makes a huge difference.

Looking ahead, if you have any other comments or feedback that might help us plan future events, please email us at info@goosfest.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Goosfest is an annual non-profit-making festival of music and arts designed to offer high quality events to local people. Run by volunteers, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, from joining the organising committee to offering help at events, providing food or accommodation for entertainers, delivering leaflets or joining the bar rota. Please email info@goosfest.com if you'd like to find out how you can get involved to support next year's autumn festival.

Main festival schedule:

Friday 03 Oct:

Goostrey Flower Club Goosfest Display 'The Bounty of Nature' opens in St Luke's Church until Sunday 12th

8pm: - A concert by 'Fine Lines' – Goostrey Village Hall

Saturday 04 Oct:

8pm – The Not Quite Big Band – Goostrey Village Hall

NEWS

Goosfest cont...

Sunday 05 Oct:

7pm: 'Fiesta!' talk and book signing by travel journalist Daniel Stable – Goostrey Village Hall

Tuesday 07 Oct

8pm: Buzz Comedy Night – Goostrey Village Hall

Wednesday 08 Oct

10:30am: Goostrey Guild Goosfest Lecture about Sir John Barbirolli - St Luke's Church

7.30pm: 'Caitlin', a play about the wife of Dylan Thomas – Goostrey Village Hall

Thursday 9 Oct

2.30pm: Classical Recital followed by afternoon buffet, The Swettenham Arms

8pm: singer/songwriter Danny Bradley – Goostrey Home & Leisure. Supper available beforehand.

Friday 10 Oct

7pm: 'Goostrey Goes to Stoke' – buffet supper followed by Robbie Williams tribute act - Goostrey Village Hall

Saturday 11 Oct

7.30pm – 'Disco Inferno' West End show – Clonter Opera Theatre

Sunday 12 Oct

4pm – Jonathan Scott Organ Recital – Goostrey Parish Church



Stoptober

Are you thinking about taking part in

Stoptober this year? 🚭

Don't go at it alone. Combining behavioural support and treatment is the best way of stopping smoking and One You Cheshire East are here to support you with their free, 12-week, Be Smoke Free programme.

Find out more here, let's get you booked in ready to start:

www.oneyoucheshireeast.org/smoke-free/



38 Great North Runs!

The Great North Run is a half marathon, covering a distance of 13.1 miles (21.1 kilometres). The course begins in Newcastle, proceeds through Gateshead and South Tyneside, and concludes in South Shields. It attracts approximately 60,000 runners which makes it the biggest half marathon in the UK, if not the world. The first Great North Run was held in 1981 – 44 years ago – and Holmes Chapel resident Alex Davidson has run it 38 times which is some achievement!

Alex says "This year on September 7th was my thirty eighth Great North run. I was aiming to complete the run in 2hrs 30mins. The weather was warm but cloudy at times, with a nice breeze as I neared South Shields. The crowds were large and noisy, as they cheered us on. I eventually made it to the finishing line in 2hrs 30 mins and 20 seconds, shame about the 20 seconds over my target!

I would like to thank everyone who supported me by giving to the Christy Charity, I have so far been able to collect over £790. I discovered through a running and church friend, Jill Booth, who also did the GNR, that there was a problem: the finisher's medal features a mis labelled map of Sunderland and the River Wear instead of the Tyne!"



Goostrey Flower Club Meeting

October 10th at 2pm

Lower Withington Parish Hall

This month we welcome Leanne Williams who comes from Welshpool. Leanne passed her demonstrators test in 2019 and took her pre-national test in October 2024 with a view to taking the actual test in March 2026. She is the education representative of Mercia and North Wales and is studying for her teaching certificate. Her interest in flowers started at the age of 14 after watching a NAFAS demonstration. She trained at Bishop Burton College and aged 21 worked as an event florist in Bermuda. She returned four years later, got married and had three children and ran her own shop in Welshpool for 13 years.



We are really looking forward to seeing her demonstration and would welcome any visitors to come and see what the flower club is all about and maybe win one of her designs in the raffle.

We meet in Lower Withington Parish Hall on the second Thursday of every month and the meeting starts at 2.00pm. We look forward to seeing you at club where you will be made most welcome.

News from FoGS

This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of the modern railway. The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened on 27 September 1825 and the 26 mile journey, powered by Locomotion no 1, transformed how we travel. Throughout 2025 there are events to celebrate the past, present and future of railways and to explore how this British invention has shaped our lives and our livelihoods. More information can be found on the Railway 200 website.



One example is Poet Laureate Simon Armitage's poem with the title The Longest Train In The World. Simon can be heard reading it on YouTube in a film made in Marsden, West Yorkshire where he grew up.

Locally there have been a variety of activities to mark the bicentenary. Goostrey Primary School pupils displayed work at our station about being transported to new places by art. The Footpaths group created two walks from Goostrey station, one to Chelford and one to Holmes Chapel, to support Railway 200's Walk for Rail Memories, a fund raising activity for Alzheimer's Research UK.

Friends of Goostrey Station organised an event during Goosfest. This included planting a tree, burying a time-capsule and sampling cupcakes with a Railway 200 logo. Over the summer, members had worked with Goostrey Parish Archive to create eight metal boards which record the history of our station in images and text. They were unveiled on the day. One focuses on the building that was on platform 2 from 1891 until it was removed in the 1960s. Another tells the story of the nationally important oil depot at Twemlow. Readers can learn more about the residents of station cottages. And they can find out about former employees like Joseph Harrop and Christopher Ashmore who worked as porters and signalmen. The boards are an excellent way to honour the past history of Goostrey station and to enrich the experience of passengers who use the Crewe-Manchester line.

Would you be interested in joining FoGS? Our aim is to ensure that our community is proud of Goostrey station. For more information please contact Craig Sidebotham on 01477 544111.



WHAT'S ON



Holmes Chapel
Community Centre

PUMPKIN FLOWER

MAKING SESSION

MONDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
11:30AM - 1:30PM / 6PM - 8PM

Served with
beef hot pot
& crusty roll

£25 PER PERSON

everybody.org.uk



Holmes Chapel
Community Centre

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Friday 24th October - 5.00pm - 8.30pm

£7.50
PER CHILD
ADULTS
GO FREE

Bouncy castle
Popcorn Machine
Disco
Best dressed competition
Open bar for adults
+ bar food menu

everybody.org.uk



Calendar Art Group Sponsored
by



Free of Charge!
Limited spaces available
Beginners welcome

Creating Art for your wellbeing
Painting Village's in Cheshire

30th September 10.45am to
12.15pm at St Luke's Hall Holmes
Chapel thereafter 2nd Tuesday
of the month
Please email
calendarartgroup@gmail.com
or call 07812 392334 to reserve
your place

Led by a qualified Creative
Therapist



so let's

Keep Singing!

Saturday 11 October

This month with live music provided by
the Phoenix Boys Band

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

WHAT'S ON



Stroke Survivors Singing Group



Where - Sandbach Rugby Club, Bradwall Road, CW11 1RA, **Time** - 12pm - 1pm, **Cost** - £2.50

When - Wednesday

10th September

1st October

29th October

19th November

26th November

3rd December

10th December

Where - Christmas Choir Concert, Union Street Baptist Church, **Time** - tbc

When - Sunday

14th December,

Builds Confidence, Sense of Community and Belonging, Improves Mental Health, Cognitive Skills & Fun!

Contact 01270335061 or just turn up!

Charity Number 1209208



Holmes Chapel
Community Centre

CONNECTING everybody

AIMED AT PEOPLE WITH YOUNG ONSET DEMENTIA (UNDER 65)

Connecting Everybody is a friendly group for people under 65 living with dementia, offering fun games and activities to stay active and social while meeting others in a relaxed setting.

*Eligibility criteria applies

EVERY THURSDAY
10.45AM - 12.15PM

TO BOOK, CALL US ON:
01477 689557

everybody.org.uk



Whether you are new to the village, adjusting to changes in life or simply seeking company, you'll find friendly faces and a warm welcome

at

'Tuesday Friends'

Set up after Covid to combat loneliness with friendship, understanding and the magic of live music, it has become a much looked forward to and popular afternoon for chatting, laughter, singing along and enjoying tea and cake!

Meeting, the second Tuesday of the month at

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

2.00 – 4.00pm

We look forward to seeing you

14 October



1st MULTI SPORTS EVENT FOR NEUROLOGICAL CHARITIES AND GROUPS

TUESDAY 28th OCTOBER 2025, 1PM-4PM



Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss Square, Crewe CW1 2BB

Teams of 6-8, Lead by Volunteers!!!

Refreshments available

Rotate around 7 'Chair based' Sporting Activities in the Sports Hall which will include

Bocca, Archery, Bean Bag Throwing

Our Objectives are to bring together Charities and Community Groups in Crewe and surrounding areas to bridge Social Gaps in Neurological Conditions.

Information-Dawn Clark thethursdayclub@gmail.com, Liz Bedson strokesurvivorgroup@gmail.com

Event Sponsored by



Charity No. 1209208

WHAT'S ON

CHARITY NUMBER 1209208

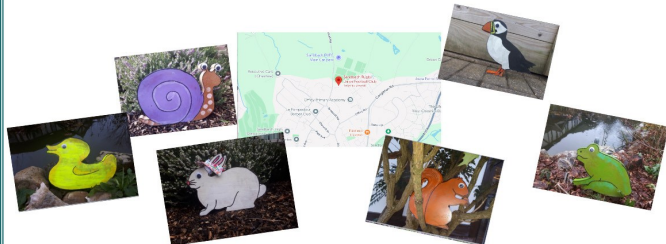


OUR '3RD' ANIMAL RACE NIGHT

DATE - 10th October 2025

7pm to 10pm, doors open 6.30pm

WHERE - SANDBACH RUGBY CLUB, BRADWALL ROAD, CW11 1RA



COME AND SUPPORT OUR BIG FUNDRAISER FOR 2025.

WILL **SNAIL**, **PUFFIN**, **DUCK**, **RABBIT**, **SQUIRREL** OR **FROG** BE THE VICTORIOUS CHAMPION IN 2025!!!

FUN FAMILY NIGHT OUT, SAUSAGE AND CHIPS SUPPER INCLUDED IN THE PRICE, ALL WELCOME.

ONLY £10 ENTRY.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM OUR GROUPS OR STROKESURVIVORGROUP@GMAIL.COM



Holmes Chapel
Community Centre

SEND SILENT DISCO

WEDNESDAY
29TH OCTOBER

2PM -4PM

£5.00PP

+ JUNIOR DISCO

5PM -7PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

inclusion@everybody.org.uk

OR CALL US ON:

07506 317055

Breakaway Dance Club

Sequence Dancing to live electric organ music at 7.30 pm each Saturday evening.

Open to all.

None dancers welcome. Just enjoy the music.

Help given if you wish to learn to dance.

Bring your own Drinks

£5 admission fee

Interval with bingo and a raffle



Programme for August 2025

Saturday 4th October - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Phillip Randles

Saturday 11th October - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Phil Brown

Saturday 18th October - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Tim Walker

Saturday 25th October - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Elizabeth Harrison

For more information please contact David Monks on 01477 532935



Memory Café



A lovely occasion, to welcome people living with memory challenges along with family members, carers and friends from the village.

Where? Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

When? 7 and 21 October

Time? 10.00am – 12.00pm

The café offers a variety of activities

- For those who enjoy a challenge – quizzes on the tables and jigsaw puzzles
- For those who enjoy fun and competing – table games
- For those who enjoy reminiscing - opportunities to discuss books and photographs
- For the creative – painting and colouring
- For those who enjoy some exercise – a game of indoor curling or skittles
- And for all – a sing song and cups of coffee/tea and biscuits over a relaxed atmosphere for socialising and making new friends

More details: dedavidson1@aol.com

Tel: 01477 537679

Our Patron Sponsors

OUR PATRON SPONSORS

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

	HURSTWOOD HOLDINGS	www.hurstwoodholdings.com 40 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP Tel 0161 220 1999
	MASSEY FEEDS	www.masseyfeeds.co.uk Massey Feeds, Holmes Chapel Mill Holmes Chapel Cheshire CW4 8EE Tel 01477 536300
	HOLMES CHAPEL PARISH COUNCIL	www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk Holmes Chapel Parish Council 1 Church Walk Holmes Chapel Cheshire CW4 7AZ Tel 01477 533934
	DUTTON BUILDERS MERCHANTS	www.duttonbuildersmerchants.co.uk Dutton Builders Merchants Dutton Business Park, Holmes Chapel Road Middlewich Cheshire CW10 0QZ Tel 01606 738491
	TMC CREATIVE LTD	www.wearetmc.com TMC Creative Ltd The Space 35-37 High Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 1AX 01260 295700
	BESPAK	www.bespak.com Bespak London Road Holmes Chapel CW4 8DE 01477 537112

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

Holmes Chapel Partnership – Working with the whole community