

# HALAM NEWS

MAY 2011



Please remember to send articles and other info (birthdays, exam success, upcoming events etc) for the **HALAM NEWS** by 25th of each month to:

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

You can also drop them in to The Manor House, Radley Road. Articles may be edited or held over due to space constraints.

Sponsorship of each edition is £10.

Thanks to **Sarah Fowler of Radley Road** for sponsoring this edition

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Welcome to Halam to **Howard & Ann Godfrey** who have moved to Manor Fields and to **Nick and Sally Dutton and family** who have moved into Greenacres, Radley Road
- Good luck to the **Marchant** and **Miller** families who have moved to pastures new!
- There are a raft of 50th birthdays this month, with **Sandra Fraser, Simon Fowler and Graham Podmore** all hitting the **BIG 50** Congratulations to them all!

## WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Frankfurt**

Answers to this month's competition should be submitted by email to [halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk) by the 15th of May. Include your name and address on the email! The clue for this month's European destination is: "I was walking along Unter Den Linden to where JFK delivered a famous speech" Where have I been? Good luck!!

## HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd May** (June meeting on Tuesday 7th) Meetings at 7.30pm (please check venue for May) **Glenys Herbert 812335**



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[www.brionnais71.fr](http://www.brionnais71.fr)



## ROWENA CROSTON WEDS



Congratulations to Rowena Croston of Radley Road, Halam and Phillip Clegg of Wallasey who were married in Cheshire on April 9th. The happy couple are now living in Norwich.

## TWINNING OPPORTUNITY FOR HALAM

We have been contacted by Christine Browne who is a resident of a small village called Ceron in the Burgundy region of France, who are looking to "twin" with a similar village in UK and they have identified Halam as a possible partner. In order to take this forward it will be necessary to set up a twinning committee and anyone interested in participating should contact **Marina Thompson** on 814026

## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD, MAY 2011

What a dreadful winter we have had and what a wonderful spring. We really are in debt to the Gulf Stream and the warmth that it brings for our relatively mild winters. We should forgive the Gulf Stream this last winter for having a temporary loss of memory - perhaps like some of us it is getting old.

We live at 55 degree North in latitude and were we to walk around the globe at that latitude we would walk through Lithuania, Russia, Kamchatka, Alaska, Hudson Bay and Labrador and we would be walking through snow in all these places this Easter apart from Lithuania. Yet as I gardened on Good Friday in the heat I was surrounded by a blizzard of brimstone, butterflies and orange tip butterflies which had been brought out of their ghostly forms by the warmth. Is there anything as glorious as the English Spring? The cold winter has resulted in the death of many of the shrubs in the garden and the church yard. At Ashdene we have dug up 45 shrubs and in the church yard we have had to dig up some 20 shrubs, but this brings new excitement and planting opportunities. However the loss of our 80 year old Pawlonia tree in the garden at Ashdene has been a great disappointment. Thirty three years ago when we came to live in the village there were 3 large Pawlonia trees, the other two were down School lane but these sadly disappeared 10 years or so ago. The Pawlonia comes from China and is also known as the "Foxglove" tree or "Empress of China" tree. It was little known in this country until about 1920 when Kew Gardens acquired about 15 specimens. It gave four specimens to Buckingham Palace Gardens and one to Wells Cathedral garden and one to Canterbury - the rest it kept. The Pawlonia has become an invasive weed in parts of the USA because the moist, warm climate of California and the moist spring of the south east seaboard have been instrumental in its spread. It was first planted in the States as an ornamental tree in copses and groves and it is these early plantings (now mature trees) that have led to a new type of theft. Chinese gangs have been entering public and private gardens with chain saws and escaping with the trunks of the trees which is prized by the Chinese to make coffins and bridal dowry chests. Another use has now been found and this is the making of surf boards as the wood does not need glazing and is prized by most professional surfers.

So we end on a Easter note. The last principal tree in Halam is no more but there are young seedlings of it in the village and one especially in church yard which was planted by accident as the seedling was in pot of cranesbills which I planted in the church yard in 2004. Halam will therefore still have a glorious Pawlonia in due course and this time in a public space

**DAVID HERBERT**

[halam.news@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halam.news@hotmail.co.uk)

## HARRY RICKETT 1927 - 2011

Harry had been connected with Halam all his life. He was born in Halam House, to which his parents had moved from Craddles cottage in 1922. He went to the village school and then to the Grammar school at Southwell. He left grammar school to become an apprentice bricklayer at the age of 16, at Nix's the building firm in Oxton. There he stayed for some 20 years and then moved to work with his father who ran a transport and coal business. At a young age he joined the Home Guard after a bit of jiggery pokery. He was under the command of Mr Tomlinson and their headquarters was the Reading room cottage. He was under age when he attempted to join the Home Guard at first, Mr Tomlinson having asked him his age and Harry answering truthfully "I am 15 sir". He was told to go back home and when he returned the next week he was told to give his age at over 16 and this he did. In 1944 he signed on to join the Navy but this career was not pursued because of the cessation of hostilities. Harry embarked on a career of builder which he proudly carried on with well until his middle 60's. He gave up work reluctantly but was always able to give advice to his two sons to aid them on their own individual businesses. This then is the broad bare outline of his working life but tells us little of him as a person

Harry met Joyce his first wife whilst he was digging a ditch in Calverton at Coghills hosiery firm (where Joyce worked) and so emboldened, in 1961 he built their marital home in the grounds of Halam house. This was known as Halam Dale

They moved to Halam House for a short period to help with the shop and petrol pumps, and coal business that his father was involved with. They were there for 2 years before moving back into Halam Dale. These were happy years during which his family was born - Andrew, Patrick and Jill. This happiness was cut short by Joyce's untimely death after 26 years of marriage.

Harry then had a renaissance of spirit and life as he tried to get over the great sadness of his loss. He joined a number of reprobates in the village, going on expeditions to fish in Scotland, to take part in wild goose chases in winter months, and sea fishing at Whitby and Bridlington. He entered into the spirit of his new found friendships by mimicking their cheating at scrabble and their love of healthy tots of whisky. All the time he had an inscrutable quality but suddenly he lost the desire to shoot and fish and developed a strong respect for life so much so that he would not "hurt a fly" or a spider and did not wish the hunt to cross his land.

His life was transformed once again at Hazleford Ferry 20 years ago. He noticed a very attractive widow in distress because her car had broken down. He did the courteous thing, lifted the bonnet and with it his hopes rose too. He married Margaret the following year and she became a great support to him. With her support he became a champion of the open garden weekend in Halam & had a regular stream of visitors each year who came to admire his garden and ask him advice Gardening thus became his great love, as did travelling and he and Margaret travelled widely around the globe. They did so much together and were so good for each other that these last few years were for Harry a golden age.

Harry was wise, caring, thoughtful and generous with his time and advice. He always was active in maintenance of the church fabric and this he did at his own expense He never spoke ill of anyone and had great delight in his grandchildren. He would always get the whisky bottle out immediately any of the reprobates turn up and loved to reminisce about their shared adventures. He was uncomplaining and this was evident in the last miserable 4 months of his life when he had so much to bear, yet even then he delighted in his visitors. For him his life was to be enjoyed as "last of the summer wine". He will be sadly missed by Margaret his wife and his children Andrew, Patrick and Jill and their families. The village has truly lost one of it's sons.

**David Herbert**

We would like to Thank everyone for their support and kindness at this sad time and our thanks also go to the Waggon and Horses for providing the food and drink after Harry's funeral

**The Rickett family**

### ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL APRIL 2011 SERVICES



<b>May 1</b>	08:00	Holy Communion
<b>May 8</b>	11:00	Sung Eucharist
<b>May 15</b>	09:30	Family Communion
<b>May 22</b>	11:00	Sung Eucharist
<b>May 29</b>	09:30	Family Communion (Jt service)
<b>June 5</b>	09:30	Blessing of animals service

<b>Revd Canon John Smith</b>
<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>
<b>John Quarrel</b>
<b>Revd David McCoulough</b>

### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HALAM

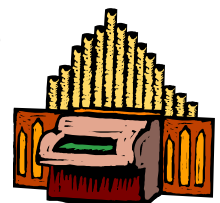
#### **Organ Recital**

**Philip White-Jones**  
Assistant organist @  
Southwell Minster

**Sunday**  
**22nd May 2011**

**7.30pm**

**Tickets £8 (inc glass of wine)**



Contact : Karin Lindley 815854,  
Alec Wells 813491 or David Herbert 812335  
Email karinlindley@hotmail.com

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING — 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011 AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Simon Bust, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Andrew Paris & Marina Thompson **Apologies:** Di Parrish

### **Matters Arising:**

- 1) Mr Harry Rickett died this afternoon. Mr Rickett was a long standing member of the parish council. The parish council observed a minute's silence
- 2) Jubilee Tree – a suitable replacement is still to be sourced
- 3) Police speed monitoring – Andrew Paris will talk to John Whittaker regarding revitalising Community Speed Watch and police support will be sought
- 4) Beat Officer to be invited to a future parish council meeting (and other "guest" speakers?)
- 5) W.I. notice board has been repaired

### **Chairman's Review:**

Simon Bust reviewed the past year. There had been monthly parish council meetings plus addition meetings to discuss specific matters – thanks to all who attended. Planning issues had been important again this year, but the District Council had generally been in agreement with the parish council. County Councillor Andy Stewart had been most helpful with support and information over the year, including providing funding for the village hall, and a new bench at the end of Holme Lane. He also helped to get work done on the drains in the village.

The big issue this past year had been the refurbishment of the village hall. The hall had been greatly improved and thanks were given to Marina Thompson and Glenys Herbert for all their efforts in getting the work done. Unfortunately there had been a major set-back due to a burst pipe at the start of December and repair work was subject to an insurance claim. The replacement floor in the main hall was due to be laid imminently.

The Open Gardens event went well and was well attended. The Harvest Supper/Games Night was a success, but it was felt that the evening should be split in future into a traditional style Harvest Supper, and then on a different date, a Games Night. Andrew Paris and Tony Denyer were congratulated on the erection of the Halam Lancaster Bomber Memorial, and a memorable dedication event. The parish council were happy to have supported the planning application for the memorial and to adopt the site to provide insurance cover.

The Chairman thanked the parish councillors for their work and support over the year. Thanks also to Mrs Janet Simmons (auditor) and to the clerk, Patrick Rickett, and to Mandy Rickett. Chris Bevans was also thanked for cleaning the bus shelter.

### **Open Meeting:**

The question was raised of the parish using the school hall for more events and activities. This is already possible, and Andrew Paris will discuss the publicising of this at a future governors' meeting. It was agreed that there would still be a need for a village hall even if the school was used more.

## PARISH COUNCIL NOTES — 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011 AT 7.30PM

**Present:** Simon Bust, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Andrew Paris & Marina Thompson **Apologies:** Di Parrish

**Matters Arising:** A drain cover was stolen from the verge outside the pumping station. A horse put its foot down the hole and fell, throwing its rider who had to be taken to hospital in the air ambulance. Please be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police immediately. Missing covers can be reported to Nottingham County Council on 08449 808080. end\_of\_the\_skype\_highlighting calls cost 3p per minute from BT landlines (inc VAT). Mobile and other providers costs may vary

**Village Hall:** Work is now complete, apart from the replacement floor in the main hall (following the burst pipe flooding). The floor is being laid imminently. Once the floor is down, the hall will be open for lettings. The drying out of the hall following the flood has resulted in an electricity bill of over £1,000. This will be the subject of an insurance claim for the excess heating costs.

Halam School PTA raised over £200 for the hall refurbishment from the recent school quiz night. Marina Thompson will pass on the parish council's thanks. Solar Panels – to be discussed at a future meeting.

A further insurance claim is being made to replace the lead which was stolen recently from the village hall roof.

**Householders should check their houses for lead theft, e.g. lead flashing on roofs, porches or round chimneys.**

### **Bomber Memorial**

Andrew Paris reported that the memorial service and dedication had gone very well. The church service was attended by around 150 people and there were over 200 people at the memorial site for the dedication ceremony. Relatives of the airmen had travelled from Australia as well as from all over the UK to be at the events. It was a memorable day.

**Halam Twinning** The mayor of the French town Ceron is investigating the legal aspects of a proposed twinning. More information will be available shortly.

**Celebration of the Royal Wedding** The Waggon & Horses is serving breakfast on the day and will have a large screen TV for the event. Later there will be a "Posh Picnic" on the school field, followed by a Royal Quiz in the pub.

**Home Monitoring Services** Waiting for further information from Cllr Andy Stewart

**Open Meeting** Matters raised: 1) Support for the village pub 2) Possible duplication of facilities village hall/school hall

**Planning:** Manor Farm, Radley Road: householder application for the erection of an orangery to the rear – supported unanimously

**Finance:** Unanimously to pay: auditor 2009/10, cost of bag of salt, insurance for the Lancaster Bomber Memorial, dog bin payment and contract, and bus shelter cleaning bill. Also agreed to reimburse Marina Thompson for replacement kitchen units (from insurance claim)

**Date of Next Meeting:** Village hall, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – **7.00pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, followed at 7.30pm by the May Parish Council Meeting**

## HALAM LANCASTER BOMBER MEMORIAL

In the early hours of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 1943, Lancaster ED823 belonging to 1661 Heavy Conversion Unit took off from RAF Winthorpe, near Newark. At 1.25 am the aircraft crashed in to a field off School Lane, just eight miles from the airfield. Tragically all seven crew members were killed in the crash.

I read about the accident a couple of years ago and felt that the events of that sad night should not be forgotten, and that the loss of seven lives in our parish should not go unmarked. So Tony Denyer and I set about trying to raise funds, find a suitable site, and get a stone appropriate for the memorial. The County Council's "Local Improvement Scheme" helped with funding, the Trustees of Norwood Park leased us some land at a pepper-corn rent, and Lafarge Aggregates and Concrete donated a six and three-quarter tonne boulder from their Mount Sorrel quarry. The memorial became a reality.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April this year, 68 years to the day since the crash, we held a memorial service in Halam church, followed by a dedication ceremony at the memorial site. The events were very well attended; over 200 people stood in silence as the Last Post was sounded at the stone. Tony and I managed to contact six out of seven of the families of the airmen, and we were delighted that four sets of relatives were able to come to the dedication. At the service were the son of the plane's navigator, the brother of the bomb-aimer, and the brother of the rear-gunner. The pilot's nephews and nieces came all the way from Australia to be present at the dedication. It was a most memorable and very moving day.

Our thanks to all who helped to bring the memorial to fruition, and to all who gave donations to the project. There are still some outstanding planning and legal costs to be settled so further donations would be gratefully received.

Andrew Paris & Tony Denyer  
Halam Lancaster Memorial Group



The first **Choir** rehearsal for the children will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm for approximately one hour at Church. There is still room for any further applicants who can just turn up on the night, or have their parents contact **Glenys Herbert** on 812335.

From May onwards the **Library** van will call just once every 4 weeks stopping outside Halam School at **11:15am**. Dates are: **May 4, June 1 & 29, July 27, August 24, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14**



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The Waggon will be opening for coffee every weekday from 9am starting 4th May. With a great selection of coffee's to choose from, Danish pastries and cakes, why not drop in and try us out?



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