



Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 127 FEBRUARY 2025

WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

January brought us some extremes of weather - lots of rain , some snow, some freezing temperatures and wind. But also these crocus - a promise of spring for February!



On a chilly but sunny January morning the Parish Council invited Olympians Tom and Emily Ford to officially open the phone box painted gold in their honour. For the full story - see inside.



The groups who helped Santa do his rounds at Christmas reap their rewards!

Cranage Parish Council have been busy repairing this foot path - no more slipping and sliding! More details inside. And if you fancy stretching your legs, Holmes Chapel Partnership are helping to organise a Fun Run in May down in the Dane Meadow - could you help?

And lots more besides! We have news from lots of organisations offering help, information, entertainment - and the chance to get involved yourself.



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

Chairman's News February 2025



Well, here we are in February, where on earth did January go? You may recall that just last month I suggested that you might want to think about joining a local club or society, but if you don't want that commitment, then you have an option to come and join the Partnership. When I say join, I'm not talking about signing up to a club which requires you to attend weekly, monthly or whatever. What I'm suggesting, is that you get involved in something that we do throughout the year. And what we do varies quite considerably. Most people will

be aware that we organise the **Christmas Market & Fair** in December. But we also organise many other events and activities throughout the year, some of which will only take a few hours in the year, whilst others require a slightly bigger commitment. So, to give you an idea of the sort of things that you could get involved in, I thought I'd just run through some of the activities we are planning to do this year.

Something that we do throughout the year is the **Community Speed Watch** activity on Macclesfield Road. Now you might think that you don't want to get involved in something like this, but we don't do this exercise to catch people speeding. We do it as a deterrent which slows vehicles down and make drivers think about the dangers to pedestrians at this location just next to the entrance to the Victoria Mills Estate. At this location many parents need to cross Macclesfield Road to get to their children to the Hermitage Primary School, but it's a tricky location for both drivers and pedestrians. We have been campaigning for some time to see a **pedestrian crossing** installed, but until one is, we will continue with this activity. We know that this activity on its own, will not get a crossing installed, so we need to work with the School, Cheshire East Council and Holmes Chapel Parish Council and others to get some agreement on the need for a crossing before we have any serious injuries or worse. So, if you have experience of driving projects that need a bit of determination and tact, and you have a bit of spare time, your support could be of great assistance to the Partnership.

Another activity that we started in 2024 was the **Harry's Home Village Guided Tours**. News of our tours literally went global reaching an audience of 1.9 billion people, which resulted in the Partnership conducting over 45 guided tours during the summer of 2024. We would like to repeat this exercise this year and will be looking to get the ball rolling very soon. But we need to consult with all parties involved and see how things can be improved to make visits to Holmes Chapel even more memorable for Harry's fans.

In the summer we are looking to organise the stalls at the **Holmes Chapel Village Fair** at the Victoria Club in July and will be looking for support from volunteers on the day.

And finally, if you love nature and being outdoors, our **Friends of Dane Meadow** subgroup meet once a month at 10am for an hour - usually on the second Tuesday. Jobs to be done are raking paths and keeping them clear, looking after the new trees and cutting back vegetation. Just bring yourself along appropriately dressed (nettles, thistles and bare legs are not a happy combination!) and with some gardening gloves.

If you would like further information on any of the activities above, and perhaps one or two I have not mentioned then go to <https://www.hcpartnership.org.uk/jobs> where you will find full details.

Santa Sleigh Update

Another busy year for Holmes Chapel groups with Santa's Sleigh!

For over 40 years Santa's Sleigh has been a well-loved tradition of Christmas in Holmes Chapel and the surrounding villages. On December evenings, local voluntary groups bring Santa and his sleigh around the neighbourhood so that excited children can meet Santa at their doorstep.



The groups collect their cheques: £275 for each sleigh outing.

The sleigh visits as many roads and estates as it can across Holmes Chapel, Cranage, Brereton and Goostrey throughout December - regardless of the weather, which was a bit wet on occasions!

The sleigh first appeared at the Holmes Chapel Christmas Market on 1st December and then had 15 nights going house-to-house round the local area, along with three Primary School visits plus an appearance at Lowe's Farm Shop with some real reindeer!.

Santa and his elves were provided by a different local group for each outing. The money collected is pooled and divided between the groups. This provides a welcome boost to funds for many, whilst others choose to donate their share of the money to local charities such as the Alzheimer's Society, Middlewich Food bank and St. Luke's Hospice. Groups involved this year were:

Brereton Scouts, Bridge the Gap, Hermitage Primary School PTA, Holmes Chapel Community Pre-school, Holmes Chapel Chorus, Holmes Chapel Guides, Holmes Chapel Scouts, Holmes Chapel Viking Explorer Scouts, Holmes Chapel U13 Rugby Club, Holmes Chapel Velo and Holmes Chapel Tangent / 41 Club.

Peter Whiers, Holmes Chapel Partnership Chair, said:

"Seeing smiling faces and getting thanked by children, parents and older people on our route makes the hard work of running the sleigh all worthwhile. We can only keep the sleigh going with help from volunteers each night, and the groups who take Santa round the village.

The money raised by the sleigh runs supports many local causes, as well as keeping the sleigh up and running, so thank you to everyone in Holmes Chapel and the surrounding area who made a donation this year.

The Partnership team are extremely grateful to Will Burnham and the Shed Crew, who played a major part in the sleigh rebuild in 2022 and continue to offer help to keep it on the road. Our thanks also to Lowe's Farm for stabling the sleigh and reindeer through 2024, Hopley Tyres for supplying batteries to keep the sleigh lighting and sound system powered, and to Sam Dale & Sons for looking after it during December."

Olympians Open Gold Phone Box!

On 3rd August 2024 at the Paris Olympics, Holmes Chapel's Tom and Emily Ford won gold and bronze in the men and women rowing 8s. It has been 116 years since siblings have won medals in the same Olympic Games and the Parish Council wished to provide a permanent reminder of this exceptional achievement. To that end, on Friday 10th January, the Parish Council was delighted to welcome Tom and Emily Ford, and their family, to the village to officially open the phone box outside Mandeville's - painted gold in honour of their tremendous sporting success.



It was a beautiful blue-sky day and the gold phone box glistened as we gathered outside to watch Tom and Emily officially open the phone box with the cutting of a gold ribbon. This phone box is a distinctive feature of our village, made even more important by being a location for one of our defibrillators. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, attendees moved to St Luke's Church Hall. Our Chair, Cllr Chris Jackson talked about his personal history of rowing describing how difficult both physically and mentally the sport is. He shared how proud Holmes Chapel was of our Olympians and what a privilege it was for the Parish Council to honour their achievements in this way. We then showed a short video highlighting Tom and Emily's achievements.

One of the aims of this event was to inspire our young people. Members of our Youth Council had been invited and they were given the opportunity to interview Tom and Emily. Through their interesting questions, we got a glimpse into the sheer commitment, resilience and drive needed to excel in your chosen sport. We also got a taste of just what it is like to win an Olympic medal and some of the obstacles they have had to overcome throughout their sporting careers. Following the interviews, we presented Tom and Emily with the banners that had been produced and displayed in the village back in August.

Alongside our MP Sarah Russell, Ward Councillors, Parish Councillors and representatives from community organisations, we were also delighted that representatives from our local primary schools were also able to attend and have the opportunity to meet Tom and Emily and take a look at their medals.

Tom and Emily were appreciative of our efforts:

"It has been such an honour that our achievements have been recognised within the village. The family has been connected to the village for over 100 years which has made it even more special. We are very proud to not only represent Great Britain but also Holmes Chapel and our local community."

It was a very special day and the Parish Council sends our congratulations to Tom and Emily Ford for a wonderful achievement – we are very proud of you!

To see more photographs of the event, visit the Parish Council website:

<https://www.holmeschapelparishcouncil.gov.uk/post/olympians-open-gold-phone-box>



Parish Council News



Parish Council Budget 2025/26

At the meeting of the Council on 12th December 2024, the budget for the coming year was set. This year the council agreed an increase to the precept equating to an extra £3.51 per average (band d) household per year - resulting in a total income of £279,992.

We continue to provide many ongoing services for the village - examples including CCTV, Christmas lights and tree, the community centre, tree planting and St Luke's church floodlighting. In addition, the Council are constantly looking to make improvements in Holmes Chapel - next year the projects include installing outdoor gym equipment, looking at introducing a youth club, celebrating 80 years since VE Day and the annual Summer Celebration Weekend along with many more - for the full list refer to our 5 year plan for capital spending on our website.

The full details of the budget for 2025/26 can be viewed on our website:

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

New Artwork at Holmes Chapel Station

Holmes Chapel Partnership has been working with the Friends of Holmes Chapel Station with the aim of brightening up the station, not only for residents who travel regularly, but also to create a good impression on the many visitors who arrive at the station from all over the world.

With the help of the local Community Rail group we successfully bid for funding from the Cross Rail Community Engagement Fund for the design, creation and installation of artwork by the artist Eamonn Murphy. He has created artwork for other stations along the Crewe Manchester line – this is a sample of his work:



You will have to go and see for yourself what Eamonn has produced for Holmes Chapel – but not yet!

The installation is due to take place at the end of February and we plan to unveil it on March 1st.

We have a bit of a surprise in store too!

Holmes Chapel Railway Station Corner

by Tony Wright - February 2025

Railway Closures 2025!



Network Rail has drawn our attention to our railway closing dates during 2025. Greek Street bridge is a two span railway bridge located just south of Stockport Railway Station, spanning the West Coast Main line on our Crewe to Manchester line. The bridge structure carries a major roundabout intersection in Stockport. This means that the replacement works will cause significant disruption to both the railway and highway network. The original bridge was constructed in 1958 and it has now reached the end of its life and needs to be replaced. Network rail say the new bridge will ensure train services along the west coast mainline are safer and more reliable for years to come.

The existing structure, which is made up of about 200 concrete beams, will be demolished with the road above it, then rebuilt. Before the bridge is replaced Network Rail will be undertaking some preparation works including the installation of a temporary scaffolding bridge to allow for the diversion of utility services.

The project timeline – start on site works ; 17th March 2025, road closure; 31st March 2025 to Spring 2026. The closure of Greek Street roundabout and nearby roads will mean that the road is closed for approximately one year. The railway closure timetable shows that the railway will be closed as follows:

Railway confirmed closures: 00.10 Saturday 19th April 2025 to 05.00 Tuesday 22nd April 2025 **4 DAYS**; 00.10 Saturday 2nd August 2025 to 05.00 Saturday 23rd August 2025 **21 DAYS**; 00.10 Saturday 11th October 2025 to 05.00 Monday 13th October **3 DAYS**.

There are also three days proposed (but not as yet confirmed) between the 25th December 2025 and the 27th December 2025. Network rail is currently working with their train operating partners and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to coordinate alternative transport options – details are not available at the moment.

Further information as it becomes available: www.networkrail.co.uk/greekstreet



SAVE THE DATE!

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

Home Grown in Holmes Chapel



Most gardeners are getting itchy fingers. They really want to get sowing those little seeds that promise so much for the coming year. At Home Grown in Holmes Chapel we are so fortunate as Four Oaks nursery gave us lots of packets of vegetable and flower seeds for free. These will be used when we have our first dig of the year.

On Saturday, **1st March**, we will not only be having our first dig of the season, but will be hosting our annual seed sowing session. We will be based **in the Precinct**, not at the Health Centre. Please don't park in the Health Centre car park for this event. We don't want anyone to get a parking fine.

As usual, we will give each person two seed trays. After filling each cell with seedling compost, you put one or two seeds in every compartment, cover with the compost and insert a label. Then you simply take the trays home and place them on a warm window sill and watch the seedlings come up. In May just bring back one tray to Home Grown and we will plant them in our beds for the whole community to enjoy. Everything is provided for you, trays, seedling compost, seeds and labels. There is no cost to you. All we ask is that you bring us back one tray of seedlings.

Because of the Health Centre parking fines, our annual plant swap will now be at the **George and Dragon** on **17th May**. You will be able to park, for free, in their car park for this event. Martin, Simon and their team are looking forward to hosting this community event and we hope that lots of you come along.

Watch out for our display in the Tesco window from **4th March**.

Carol Singing - Thank You



You may recall the appeals made through a previous Partnership news letter for our Community to especially support the 2024 Christmas Eve Community Carol Singing on the patio at the George and Dragon. The reason being was for us to acknowledge one of the legacies of Eileen Lomax who twenty three years ago had the inspiration to bring our Community together to help to celebrate Christmas.

Our Community definitely turned out, it was estimated that 2024 might have been the busiest year yet. In memory of Eileen, this year the collection was for the Alzheimer's Society and we wish to thank those who gave so generously through the bucket collections or online and special thanks to the George and Dragon who made the total donation up to £1000.



When Eileen moved away from Holmes Chapel thirteen years ago, she passed on the organisation of the event to her friends and this year, Eileen's family were delighted to receive a video showing them that the tradition of Community Carol singing in Holmes Chapel on Christmas Eve has continued.

Stroke Survivors Support Group

Stroke Survivors was created in 2018 in direct response to the lack of support for people who have survived a stroke.



We have 4 groups which are set up to provide this support and supply information for stroke survivors in Crewe, Sandbach, Alsager and Nantwich.

We empower stroke survivors to recover, reclaim and rebuild their lives after stroke. We gained charity status in July 2024 of which we are very proud.

Our aim is to eliminate social isolation for people who are at their most vulnerable. We provide a safe and relaxing environment, peer support and practical tools to help rebuild confidence and develop new ways of communicating.

We give emotional support, assistance with wellbeing and the opportunity to make new friends with people who have experienced the trauma of a stroke. We also encourage essential trips/events/guests as part of a survivor's wellbeing, future development and social contact.

Our provision is different to other groups as we provide a dedicated quiet location to enable our Survivors to hear and concentrate on engaging activities without interruption - an essential part of healing. The range of activities we deliver follow key guidelines that are found to benefit and encourage Stroke Survivors with their unique difficulties. We want them to feel that they matter and are valued as members of our community.

We are starting a group in Holmes Chapel! The first session will be on Monday 7th April from 11.00 – 13.00 at the Victoria Club

We are really excited to be able to bring our group to Holmes Chapel but we would appreciate any help and support that you could provide with spreading the word to your community. We are an independent group so receive no statutory funding so would appreciate any financial assistance to help us get off the ground too.

If you would like to discuss any further then please contact me on 07852826582.

Liz Bedson
CEO Stroke Survivors Speech & Language Support Group

Holmes Chapel Stay n Play Group



Holmes Chapel Community Centre: A Haven for New Parents and Toddlers

In the heart of Holmes Chapel, a dedicated group of volunteers is making a significant impact on the lives of new parents and their toddlers. The Holmes Chapel Community Centre, operated by independent charity, Everybody Health & Leisure, hosts a vibrant meet-up group, providing a welcoming space for parents to connect, share experiences, and support each other.

This initiative is run entirely by volunteers and has become a cornerstone of the community. It offers a variety of activities for toddlers, fostering early social skills and providing much-needed respite for parents. The group's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the volunteers, who have created a nurturing environment that benefits everyone involved. Parents have praised the group as an invaluable resource, highlighting the sense of community and support it provides.

One parent shared, *"It's a fantastic place to meet other parents and let our children play in a safe and friendly environment. The volunteers are amazing and truly deserve all the credit."*

Pat, one of our inspirational volunteers went on to say:

"Our Stay n Play group in Holmes Chapel strives to be inclusive and welcoming to all children and adults to provide support, fun, and social development of children through play whilst giving adults the opportunity to socialise with other adults".

The Holmes Chapel Community Centre's toddler group is more than just a meet-up; it's a lifeline for many new parents, offering friendship, advice and a sense of belonging. All involved are incredibly grateful for the volunteers' efforts, which have made a lasting positive impact on countless families.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about the opportunities available [Join the volunteering Team here](#)

Holmes Chapel Singers

Holmes Chapel Singers' Musical Director, Mel Levy, is keen to encourage people to take up choral singing, so she is starting a small group for aspiring singers where she can help them to develop their singing skills and gain confidence. Mel says participants don't need to read music or to have any past experience, they just need to love singing, even if it is only in the shower!



The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 5.30 to 6.30 at Holmes Chapel Community Centre, initially for 6 one-hour sessions starting on 25 February. The cost will be £30 for the six sessions. Anyone interested in participating in this new group ("Holmes Chapel New Singers Choir") can contact Mel by email: levymelanie@hotmail.com.

The Singers' next concert is on March 29th at the Methodist Church, an evening of French music "From Paris to Bordeaux". The soloist in Faure's Requiem will be the amazing Hugo Robinson, from Chester Cathedral Choir. As well as singing for us, past audiences will remember his incredible piano skills - and he will be playing again!

The concert will also include a performance from the Co-operative Wind Band - so there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Tickets will be available shortly, please check on the website: <https://www.holmeschapelsingers.co.uk/>

U3a Update



Unfortunately we can't report on the January talk because the snow and ice got in the way and it had to be cancelled.

But for the February meeting we have:

Wings on my Sleeve: A Snapshot of Naval Aviation in the Cold War Years (on the Carriers HMS Eagle and Ark Royal)

The talk is given by Julian Bond:

"Not many of the public will be aware of the part played by Fleet Air Arm aviators, operating in the most hostile of environments and during years 1965 to 1977 where the Flight Safety record was appalling, and dozens of young men lost their lives on the Scimitar, Sea Vixen, Phantom and Buccaneer without the publicity of today's highly connected age. We were also part of the nuclear deterrent at the time. My talk is highly informative, drawing from personal experience about the challenges we faced! I completed 450 Carrier Deck landings by day and 35 by night"

Date : 13th February 2025 at 10.00

Venue : HC Methodist Church

We look forward to seeing you there – remember you don't have to be a member of the u3a to attend!

Holmes Chapel Ecumenical Christian Aid Group

HomeMade Soup Lunches and Music Recital 2025



What

Soup Lunch - homemade soups, bread, homemade biscuits or fresh fruit and tea or coffee served from **12noon till 1.00 pm**

When

Weekly for 4 Fridays during Lent on Mar 7th, Mar 14th, Mar 21st & March 28th 2025

Where

St Luke's Church Hall, Holmes Chapel

Pay on the door - **£5.00 per person**

For many years now, Holmes Chapel Christian Aid Committee has organised a home-made soup lunch during Lent. We are pleased to be able to run these again this year to raise funds to help those in great need around the world.

Please note the dates- it will be 4 weeks only during Lent and will be held on Fridays of March 7th, March 14th, March 21st and March 28th as indicated above.

Each of the lunches will be followed by a Music Recital at St Lukes Church at 1.15pm

All are welcome. Free of charge and donations to Christian Aid welcome at the church.

The Recitals programme will be as follows:

7 th March	St Luke's Community Choir
14 th March	Stephen Haigh- Organ
21 st March	Slipper Band
28 th March	Wendy McDonald- Organ

Everyone is welcome to attend both events or either event- we look forward to seeing you all for light refreshments, friendship and easy conversation! Drop in when you can!

Any queries- please contact Caroline Wood on 01477 535746/07742930346
Co-ordinator Holmes Chapel Ecumenical Christian Aid Group

Christian Aid Annual Quiz Evening, Holmes Chapel

A very big **thank you** to everyone who supported our Winter Quiz Evening at St Lukes Hall on Friday January 17th. We raised a fantastic total of £577 before Hall Hire expenses which will be sent directly to Christian Aid to help the needy around the world. Once again a very big **thank you** for your continued support!

Owing to the popularity of this event, we are hoping to run a Summer Quiz event on Friday 9th May 2025 during Christian Aid Week for 2025..

Please speak to Caroline Wood on 01477 535746/07742930346 to register your interest!

News from Cranage

Improved Footpath!



Residents of, and visitors to, Cranage can now enjoy a significantly improved walking experience thanks to recent upgrades to one of our local footpaths – the section running up behind Glebe Farm off the A50, which also forms part of the Dane Valley Way. The previously muddy and slippery trail has been widened and resurfaced, making it accessible and easy to navigate all year-round. The project, initiated by the Parish Council, aimed to address concerns about safety and accessibility along the popular walking route. With the new surface, walkers and joggers can now traverse the footpath comfortably, regardless of the season. "It is great to see this improvement come to fruition," said Councillor Hocknell, a member of the Parish Council. "The footpath is an essential part of our community, and we wanted to ensure that everyone can enjoy it safely."



The upgrades include a wider pathway, along with a durable surface designed to withstand varying weather conditions. This enhancement not only promotes outdoor activity but also encourages community engagement as residents explore the beautiful surroundings. The project was funded by the Parish Council for the benefit of our community. As the seasons change, this upgraded footpath promises to be a valuable asset for all who enjoy the great outdoors.

Cranage Village Hall - 2024 and 2025

2024 brought some memorable events to Cranage Village Hall. From the Beer Festival, where local brewers, vendors, and musicians came together to create a fantastic summer weekend, to the Halloween Murder Mystery Night, it's been a wonderful year of community togetherness.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're exploring exciting new events, including a potential outdoor cinema night under the stars and a cyber security training session to support online safety in our community. We'd love to hear from you! Are there any events or activities you'd like to see next year? Your ideas will help us shape a calendar full of enjoyment and connection for everyone.

As always, we warmly welcome volunteers to support these projects and events. Whether you'd like to lend a hand at an event, help with a seasonal litter pick, or get involved in other community activities, we'd be delighted to have you join us. Please contact us via social media or by filling out the form at www.cranagevillagehall.co.uk/contact.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the hall this past year. Here's to an even better 2025! Get off to a good start with our **Quiz night on Saturday 1 February, tickets costing £5 each. Bring your own drinks and snacks.**



News from Friends of Goostrey Station

Joseph Harrop - half a century working on the railway

What a lovely surprise! Last year Lynn Gerber contacted Friends of Goostrey Station through our website friendsofgoostreystation.org because she thought we might be interested in a photo of her grandfather Joseph Harrop. Of course, we are!



Joseph was born in March 1895 and started work as a porter at Goostrey Station in January 1911. In the photo, Joseph is seated on the left of the bench. But who are the other men? Could they be Mr Lockett, Mr Brandreth, Mr Thompson or Mr Wilde who were living in station cottages at the time of the 1911 census? If you can identify either of these people, please get in touch with FoGS chair Craig Sidebotham on 01477 544111.

In September 1914, at the start of WW1, Lynn's grandfather volunteered for the Royal Marines and he was wounded at Gallipoli. On his return to civilian life at the end of the war, Joseph trained as a signaller at Eccles and he was subsequently employed at several stations on the Crewe-Manchester line. When the system was modernised in 1959, he changed job and became a porter again.

After WW2, Joseph received a commendation for his devotion to duty in Goostrey Home Guard. In 1927 he had joined the St John Ambulance and the training he received allowed him to lead the ambulance section.

On his 65th birthday, Joseph was given a gold wrist watch by British Rail. When he retired in October 1961, officials presented him with a long-service certificate and he received a clock from the staff at Goostrey, Holmes Chapel and Sandbach stations.

Joseph's granddaughter Lynn has provided FoGS with a precious glimpse into the life of someone who worked for half a century on the local railway. She described him as a lovely man who was well respected. He was an active member of the labour party and, as a keen gardener, he was also secretary of the Allotment Association and the Gooseberry Society. She added that 'it's a really nice feeling to know that my grandfather's story is still being remembered'.

Pronunciation Poem

I came across this by chance and having spent a few years teaching English as a Foreign Language it struck a chord. People always say English is easy – which it obviously is if it's your mother tongue and okay, there aren't gendered nouns and we don't have to change the article to match the case, but the PRONUNCIATION is a nightmare. I hope this poem gives you a little insight into the hurdles non-native speakers have to overcome. It was one of two written by a Dutch traveller and writer.

Editor

*I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough.
Others may stumble but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?*

*Beware of heard, a dreadful word,
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead - it's said like bed, not bead,
And for goodness' sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt.)*

*A moth is not the moth in mother,
nor both in bother and broth in brother.
And here is not a match for there,
nor dear and fear for bear and pear
And then there's dose and rose and lose -
just look them up - and goose and choose,
and cork and work and card and ward,
and font and front and word and sword,
and do and go and thwart and cart -
come come, I've hardly made a start.*

*A dreadful language? Man alive.
I'd mastered it when I was five.*

What's On

'Tuesday Friends'

11 February 2.00 – 4.00pm

A warm welcome awaits you whether you come on your own, with a partner or with a family member or friend.



Roy, Pete and Jilly, their visiting accompanist, will entertain with well-known songs, monologues to make us laugh and jokes to either amuse or make us groan!

A fun quiz is either a talking point or a challenge at the tables or just come along and listen or 'people watch' over cups of tea/coffee and cake.



We look forward to seeing you at

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

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

Should you require more details, please telephone 01477 537679



Monthly Community Event: All ages welcome as we Bridge the Gap - from the young to the young at heart - babies and toddlers to grandparents and the wider community

Bridge the Gap at Hermitage

Monthly 10am to 11am

You are invited to join us for refreshments and to join in or watch some activities with the staff and children

Month	Date	Planned activity (subject to change)
February	Friday 14 th February	Mindfulness crafts and activities – Mental Health
March	Friday 7 th March	Shared Play – Lego, construction, jigsaws
April	No Bridge the Gap this month – Easter Holiday	
May	Friday 9 th May	Craft
June	Friday 13 th June	Shared play – Lego, drawing, construction
July	Friday 11 th July	Junior End of year Show

- All ages welcome as we Bridge the Gap - from the young to the young at heart - babies and toddlers to parents, grandparents and the wider community
 - No need to book just come along
 - Refreshments—tea, coffee, biscuits and cold drinks

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 February 2025

Saturday February 1st - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Philip Randles

Saturday February 8th - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Tim Walker

Saturday February 15th - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Phil Brown

Saturday February 22nd - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Martin Atterbury

For more information please contact David Monks on 01477 532935



so let's
Keep Singing!

Saturday 8 February 2025

Come and join us for a fun morning singing

Songs from the Shows

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

HOLMES CHAPEL SUPPORT GROUP
for ST LUKE'S HOSPICE
present a

BLUES, ROCK & AMERICANA NIGHT

WITH

5-BAR BLUES

SATURDAY MARCH 22nd 7.30pm till LATE

VICTORIA CLUB HOLMES CHAPEL
LICENSED BAR FISH & CHIP SUPPER

TICKETS £20

From Dennis Eborall

07939 150 906

dmeborall@hotmail.com



A warm welcome awaits at Memory Cafe

On the first and third Tuesday mornings of every month, a fun time is enjoyed by all who attend.

For those who wish there are choices of activities -
colour or paint : play table games
tackle a jigsaw or a quiz : join in a sing-song
a game of curling or skittles : look at books

If activities, don't appeal, it is an opportunity to chat, laugh, reminisce or to just sit and 'people watch'

The cafes particularly welcome people living with dementia (people with dementia with their carers) but if any of the activities appeal to you, or you would like to encourage a friend or family member to just 'give it a try', please come along or telephone **01477 537679** for more details.

4th and 18th February

10.00am – 12.00pm

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

your Library



Holmes Chapel Library Adult Events

Cookery & Gardening Group

Thursdays Monthly
at 230pm

Join us for chat, hints and sharing tips over refreshments



Family History

Thursdays Monthly
at 2.30pm

Learn & share tips tracing your ancestors with our friendly group



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 us for further details



Craft Tea & Chat

Thursdays weekly
at 11am

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



Make Friends with a Book

Every Friday at 2pm

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



Barclays Bank

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

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

Opening hours

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

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

HOLMES CHAPEL FUN RUN

Date: Sunday 11th May
Location: Dane Meadow
Time: 9.30am

This is a new, one-off, event for 2025 to fundraise for the Kenya trip. £2 entry fee, plus all entrants are encouraged to get sponsorship to go towards their own local group or charity.

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



Please register your interest in taking part, either as a participant or a volunteer steward, by emailing info@hccpartnership.org.uk



Our Patron Sponsors

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

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www.hcpartnership.org.uk/patronsponsors

Holmes Chapel Partnership – Working with the whole community