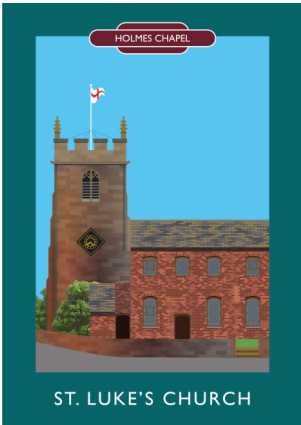




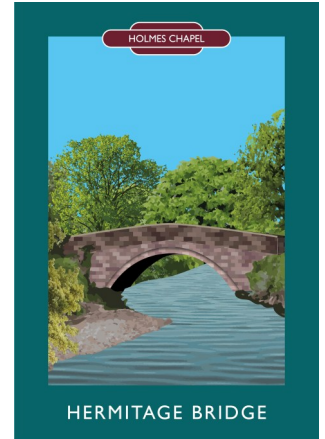
Holmes Chapel Partnership Community Newsletter Issue 129 APRIL 2025

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

April brings us spring sunshine (hopefully not too many showers) and Easter holidays. It's a busy time for the Churches and plans are being laid for the summer months: in particular the 80th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th and looking further ahead to the Summer Celebration weekend.



It's not just about Harry - have you seen these artworks down at the station? The unveiling ceremony saw Holmes Chapel make it onto the BBC regional news - again! See inside for more pictures.



HOLMES CHAPEL FUN RUN

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

VISIT:

www.hcpartnership.org.uk/HCfunrun

Date: Sunday 11th May 2025
Location: Dane Meadow
Time: 9.30am
Entry: £2

Have you entered for our **Fun Run** yet? Do you want to raise money for your favourite charity by doing a couple of circuits of the Dane Meadow in May? See inside and on the Partnership website for full details.

Holmes Chapel Partnership with the help of publicity firm TMC won an award from Marketing Cheshire for Harry's Home Village Tours. For a full report, see inside.



HCP AGM
HOLMES CHAPEL PARTNERSHIP

LOCATION
The Massey Room (Upstairs at St Lukes Church Hall)

DATE
Monday, 28 April 2024

TIME
7:00 PM

JOIN US
www.hcpartnership.org.uk
info@hcpartnership.org.uk

2025 AGM

This month it is the turn of Holmes Chapel Partnership to hold our AGM and in May we are organising our annual

Walk to School

to coincide with the VE Day celebrations on **May 8th**

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

Chairman's News April 2025



Harry's Home Village Tours Award

We recently received prestigious recognition at the **Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards**. Notably, the Holmes Chapel Partnership received the accolade for **New Tourism Business of the Year**, a testament to the significant impact this project has had on the tourism sector in 2024, increasing visitor numbers and elevating the profile of the village.

Launch of Harry's Home Village Self Guided Tours

I am delighted to announce the introduction of self-guided maps for Harry Styles fans visiting the village this year. This innovative initiative comes in response to the ongoing demand for the Harry's Home Village Tour.

The self-guided maps are designed to cater to Harry Styles fans who visit Holmes Chapel on a whim, ensuring they can fully enjoy the village and its rich heritage. By providing these maps, visitors are empowered to independently explore the village's many connections to the internationally acclaimed pop star. This flexible format builds on the success of last year's guided tours, which were highly popular but sometimes unable to meet the high demand, leaving some fans disappointed.

The transition from guided tours to self-guided maps represents an evolution in how the Holmes Chapel Partnership engages with visitors. This change is not only practical but also aligns with the broader trends in tourism, where flexibility and independence are increasingly valued by travellers. By offering self-guided maps, the Partnership will continue to highlight safe walking routes, discourage graffiti and support the village's numerous independent businesses. We are adapting to the needs and preferences of modern tourists, ensuring that Holmes Chapel remains an attractive and accessible destination.

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the Partnership is now focused on supporting other community-driven events throughout 2025. We are working with the schools and the community to organise our annual **Walk to School** event on **May 8th**, we have a new venture: **Dane Meadow Fun Run** on the **11th May 2025** and then we will be supporting the Vic Club at the **Village Fair** on the **6th July 2025**.

You will find more information on all these events in this edition of the Newsletter.

Peter Whiers
Chairman

 **AGM**

HOLMES CHAPEL PARTNERSHIP

 **LOCATION**
The Massey Room (Upstairs at St Lukes Church Hall)

 **DATE**
Monday, 28 April 2024

 **TIME**
7:00 PM

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info@hcpartnership.org.uk

2025 AGM

Marketing Cheshire Tourism Awards 2024/2025

On March 6th Marketing Cheshire held their Tourism Awards ceremony in Chester Cathedral. The awards celebrate the people and businesses behind Cheshire and Warrington's tourist sector which contributes £3.41 billion to the region's economy and attracts more than 50 million visitors to the area every year. The shortlist for the awards was announced in November when Holmes Chapel Partnership's Harry's Home Village Tour (HHVT) was nominated as a finalist in three categories: best Tourism Marketing Project of the Year, Best Experience and New Tourism Business of the Year.



We won an Award for HHVT!



Pictured at the ceremony receiving the Award are Peter Whiers, Chair of HCP, (2nd right) Mandie Maddocks of Sam Dale's aka Harry Styles Central for the Tours (3rd from left) and Karoline Morgan of TMC Strategic Communications (2nd from left) who has steered us competently through all the media interest Harry Styles generates.

Artwork at Holmes Chapel Station Unveiled

On March 1st the sun shone and the artwork at Holmes Chapel Station was officially unveiled. Graham Blake, our Station Manager and Tony Wright of The Friends of Holmes Chapel Station did the honours after Peter Whiers and Hazel Sutcliffe of Holmes Chapel Partnership who co-ordinated the project had said a few words of thanks to all those who made it happen.



The artists Eamonn Murphy who produced the stunning images of Holmes Chapel and Victoria Holland who added the cheery image of Harry Styles were in attendance as well as representatives of the funders, the Parish Council and local fans of the musician. The BBC came along to film and interview and Holmes Chapel once again featured on the regional North West tonight news programme!

The funding for this art project was provided by the Cross Country Community Engagement Fund

with support from Northern, the second largest train operator in the UK, with 2,500 services a day to more than 500 stations across the North of England. Additional funding came from the Community Cinema which unfortunately could no longer operate after the film supplier's business closed down. We are very grateful to them for funding this project and to Tony Wright for putting in the grant application to Northern.

We hope you agree that the pieces of artwork brighten up the station for us all and not just for the Harry fans who enjoy having their photo taken with his portrait.



HOLMES CHAPEL FUN RUN

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

VISIT:

www.hcpartnership.org.uk/HCFunrun

Date: Sunday 11th May 2025

Location: Dane Meadow

Time: 9.30am

Entry: £2

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

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



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

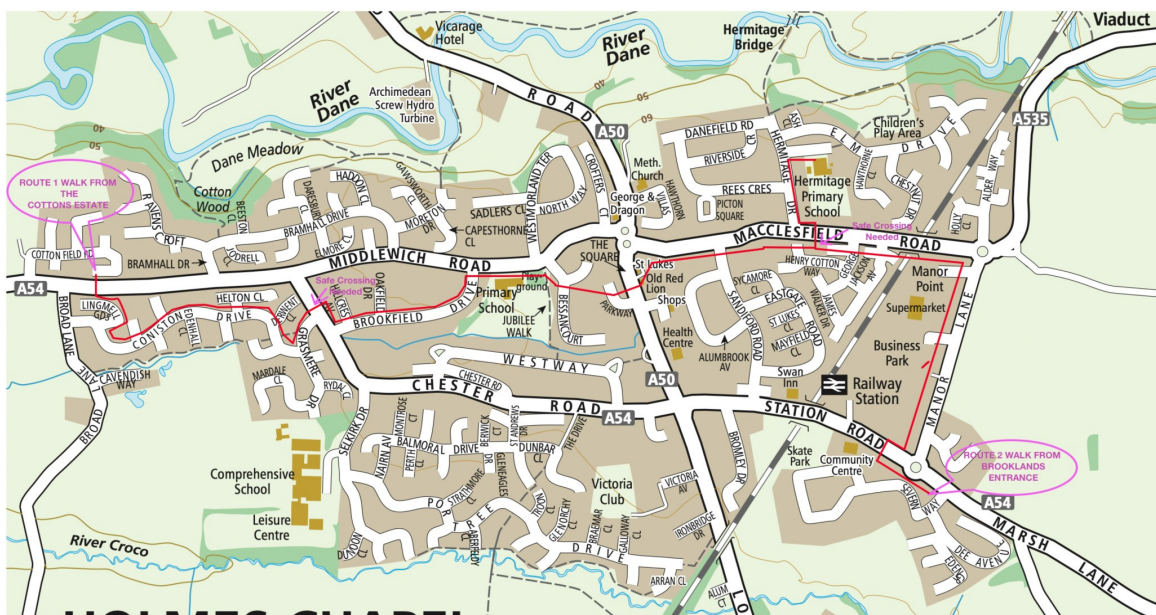


WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 2025

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

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

You are welcome to join us along the route, or take your own.



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



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

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

Parish Council News



Report on Annual Parish Meeting 2025

It was lovely to welcome Councillors and residents to our Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th March at the Holmes Chapel Community Centre.

After a warm welcome from our Chair Cllr Chris Jackson, we were delighted to welcome Kerry Shea and Jade Stone from Everybody Health & Leisure (EHL) who talked about the great work being carried out by the charity both here in Holmes Chapel and the wider Borough. EHL is more than just a provider of leisure centres. They are committed to serving and supporting Cheshire East residents to improve their health and well being. They run many classes for those recovering from illness and injuries, plus do a lot of work for the community such as the monthly lunch club and weekly stay n play sessions held at our Community Centre. They even operate a charitable trust, which provides small grants to aid those excelling in sport. Find out more by clicking the following link:

[Everybody Health & Leisure • About Us](#)

Cllr Jackson, rounded off the evening with his Chair's report updating residents on the work carried out by the Parish Council over the last year, which included the two very successful village-wide events of the D-Day Commemorations and Summer Celebration. He also talked about the projects we have completed over the year and advocacy we have carried out on behalf of residents including calling for highways improvements in the village and more. [Click here to read the Chair's report.](#)

Thank you to all those who attended to support this event and we look forward to seeing you next year!



6.30pm Church Bells ringing out in celebration

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

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

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

VE Day 80 'A Shared Moment of Celebration'

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

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

8th May marks 80 years since this momentous day and we will be celebrating this in the village of Holmes Chapel. Keep an eye on the Parish Council's website [VE Day 80 | HCPC](#) for various activities taking place around the village on and leading up to the 8th May. Grateful thanks to Sam Dale's and Morreys for generously donating the gas for the beacon and to our local fire officers for supporting the lighting of the beacon.

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NEWS

Parish Council News cont...

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



Monday 5th May VE Day at Byley Village Hall 11-5pm - children's activities, exhibition, film show & illustrative talk (2.30pm). For more information please click on the following link: [VE 80 at Byley: RAF Cranage](#)

Thursday 8th May Village Events:



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



Holmes Chapel Community Centre

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

4th - 6th July – Summer Celebration Weekend!



Friday 4th July 6-11pm – Given the huge success of this event in the last two years, the Parish Council is funding the closure of London Road through the centre of the village again to enable residents to come together and enjoy a relaxing evening in our remarkable historic centre! There will be live music and local businesses serving great food and drinks.

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

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

Sunday 6th July 12-4pm – Holmes Chapel Village Fair

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



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

There are currently still pitches available but these will fill up soon. If you're keen to get involved please email hcvillagefair@hotmail.com and ask for a booking form which you will need to complete and return. Your stall will not be on the list until a booking form is received!

Centenary Milestone: Holmes Chapel Cricket Club Joins Cheshire Women's and Girls' Cricket Leagues

Holmes Chapel Cricket Club has announced its entry into the Cheshire Women's Cricket League and the Cheshire Girls Cricket League for the 2025 season. This marks an exciting new chapter in the club's centenary year, as it proudly expands its involvement in women's and girls' cricket.

The club's amateur women's team is largely made up of mums and sisters of boys who play in the club's junior teams with no prior cricket experience. After starting to learn the basics of the game last summer, the women have made good progress during winter indoor training as they prepare for the League.



Natasha Tottey-Gee, a member of the women's team, solicitor, and busy mum of four commented: "It's amazing to see how far we've come in such a short time, having only started last summer and that's all down to our incredibly patient coaches who make sure every session is full of fun. We know we're not about to win the league, but we come together every Sunday because it's a great group of ladies, who all want to be active, enjoy ourselves and progress our women's team together."

Sponsored by Sibelco, Holmes Chapel's women's team is being coached by members of the men's squad, alongside Lucy Pearson, a former England cricketer and village resident. Lucy represented England from 1996 to 2005 and was twice named England Women's Cricketer of the Year. Her deep insights into the women's game have been invaluable, guiding the team through its early stages with confidence, enthusiasm, and a focus on development.

Paul Cudby, head coach of the women's team, shared his excitement: "It's been an absolute pleasure watching this team develop their skills to a level where they can debut in the League this season. Lucy's insights into the women's game and her light-hearted approach has created an environment where the team can relax and develop their skills without any pressure. This team's upbeat mentality is its greatest strength, and I'm confident that will be a key asset in the upcoming season."

With International Women's Day just around the corner, Holmes Chapel Cricket Club is excited to be part of the broader movement of women and girls embracing sports and championing this year's theme: Accelerate Action.

"I'm proud of our club's commitment to elevating female participation in sport," commented Lucy Pearson. "Many of our players have spent hours at the clubhouse, cheering on their children or siblings, and now they can step onto the field and discover the joy of cricket firsthand. Playing a team sport offers tremendous mental and physical health benefits and, as these women have discovered, cricket is a wonderful way to improve both."

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Following the success of the women's team, Holmes Chapel Cricket Club has this year formed a girls' team for players aged 8-11, further strengthening its commitment to developing young cricketers in the community.

The girl's Dynamos team has entered a soft ball league this season and is trained on Friday evenings by members of the women's team, moving to Thursdays in April. Both female teams are actively looking for new members, no experience required, to help grow women's cricket in Holmes Chapel.

Based at The Victoria Club in Holmes Chapel, the cricket club has 12 active teams and runs training sessions for players of all abilities from aged 5 upwards. Free taster sessions are available to anyone interested in trying cricket. For more information please visit: [Holmes Chapel Cricket Club](https://www.holmeschapelcricketclub.co.uk).

Tom Ford, Holmes Chapel's Olympic Rower, in the news again!

After winning a gold medal in the rowing eights at the Paris Olympics, Tom Ford headed off to study for an MBA in Cambridge. The world class university is famous for many things, one of which is the annual Boat Race between it and Oxford. Who better to add to your team than a gold medallist, you would think?



There is great rivalry between the two universities and a spat has developed about the eligibility criteria for the rowers. Oxford University Boat Club (which has only won the race once in the last six years) is creating waves! They claim that the post graduate teaching qualification (PGCE) is a diploma and not a degree. This would render the under 23 rowing champion Matt Heywood ineligible to row for Cambridge, as well as two squad members of the women's team.

In a separate development gold medallist Tom has also been prevented from rowing for Cambridge on April 13th because of the so-called 12 year rule, which stops anyone competing if it was more than 12 years since they started an undergraduate degree course. Tom enrolled for his undergraduate degree at Newcastle University in 2011 so he has, quite literally, just missed the boat. The rule was agreed by the two boat clubs after the double Olympic champion James Cracknell rowed for Cambridge in 2019 at the age of 46. So despite having competed in a number of test races with the Cambridge crew, he will not be rowing in the 2025 Oxford versus Cambridge Boat Race.

Holmes Chapel U3a News



Report for u3a Monthly Meeting March 13th

An audience of over 100 people turned up to watch Joy and Kevin Siddall perform their 'DNA of British Musicals'. They were as entertaining as ever and helped to remind us of all the Musicals and songs we used to know and watch through the years. Most of our Musicals originated in USA, but over the years British composers worked together to produce some excellent shows. Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice were among the first British composers, but even their story wasn't straight forward. We had French influence with Cameron Mackintosh's Les Miserables, which is now in its 40th year. Then the Scandinavian influence of Mama Mia. Joy and Kevin sang songs from all of these well-known Musicals.



There are so many shows on in our theatres now, that we are spoilt for choice. Our Out and About group, run by Heather Jones, provides many chances to go to the theatre, for which we are very thankful. This was a really successful meeting and I am sure we will see Joy and Kevin again sometime in the future.

At the Monthly Meeting of Holmes Chapel & District u3a in April, the speaker will be **Philip Caine**, author of the Jack Castle and Shackleton Blister series of Adventure Novels. He will be sharing his life story which led to him becoming a published author. "**Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again**" is the title of his talk –on Thursday **10th April** at 10am in Holmes Chapel's Methodist Church. The meeting is open to Members and non-members. Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting, when guests have the chance to chat to other members.

HOLMES CHAPEL CHURCHES TOGETHER WALK OF WITNESS GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL 2025

- * 11.00 a.m. Joint Service in the Methodist Church led by Rev. Anna Carrington
- * Followed by Hot Cross Buns
- * 12.20 p.m. Assemble outside St. Luke's Church Hall
- * 12.30p.m. Walk of Witness begins
- * We walk in silence behind the Cross to the Precinct. There are several stops for a Reading, a hymn and a prayer
- * We finish outside St. Luke's Church
- * A short walk ; probably $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. JOIN US !

EASTER SERVICES for our 3 Churches; Methodist, St. Margaret's Catholic, St. Luke's will be displayed on the Churches Notice Board by the Zebra Crossing.

Christian Aid Week 11th - 17th May 2025



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

On Sunday May 11th, we will be holding a United service for Christian Aid at Holmes Chapel Methodist Church at 10am. A representative from Christian Aid North West will be speaking about the work of Christian Aid during the service- all are welcome! We would love to see you! Normal Sunday morning services will be held at St Margarets and St Lukes as usual. Envelopes will be available in our 3 churches on Sunday 11th May for your donation. When completed they will need to be returned to your church or taken to nominated collection points in the village as indicated on the envelopes.

Alternatively we hope that you may feel able to donate using this On-Line Platform instead, specifically for Christian Aid Week in Holmes Chapel, found by using this link online: [Please scan the QR code to donate or Go Online at https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/holmes-chapel-group](https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/holmes-chapel-group)



We will also be collecting donations of your loose change and notes outside the main entrance to Sainsburys and Costa Coffee in Holmes Chapel as well as outside Aldi for periods during Christian Aid week,

and will have envelopes available there if you prefer. Look out for our collectors in red tabards!

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

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

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



Memory Café

offers a warm welcome

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

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

When do we meet? **Tuesday 1 and 15 April.** 10.00am – 12.00pm (1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings every month) On **Tuesday 29 April**, you are welcome to join us for a coffee at Goostrey Home and Leisure.

Where do we meet? Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

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

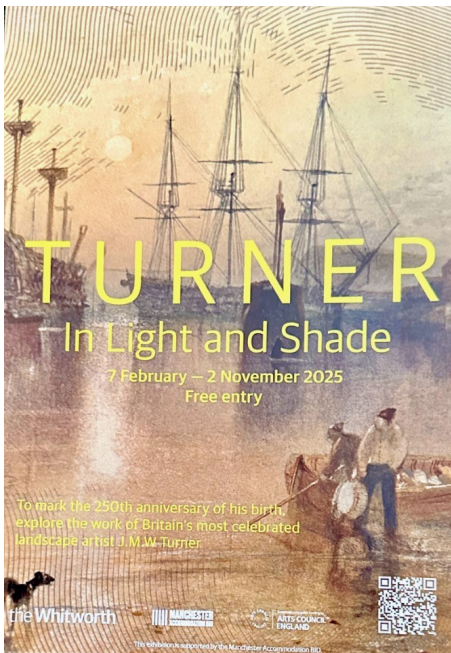
Anything else? Memory Café is open to those registered with Holmes Chapel Health Centre.

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

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

The first time in 100 years!

If you travel on one of the half-hourly trains from Holmes Chapel Railway Station to Manchester Piccadilly Railway Station, on arrival there are four exits. Take the escalator down to the Fairfield Street exit - this exit is situated towards the southwest section of the station. It leads to Fairfield Street, where you'll find the station's taxi rank. Cross the road at the traffic lights, turn left and take the short walk to the D bus stop, under the bridge supporting platforms 13 and 14.



This bus route serves the Whitworth Art Gallery which is showing some of JMW Turner's lesser known work as part of the 250th anniversary of his birth.

The exhibition is very special - it includes the prints from Turner's celebrated Liber Studiorum collection. It is the first time in 100 years that the entire set of 71 published prints has been on display!

Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) is still one of Britain's most renowned landscape painters and he continues to inspire generations of artists. The exhibition explores his remarkable series of landscape prints, the Liber Studiorum; 'Book of Studies'. These were published in fourteen parts from from 1807 to 1819, when he was at the height of his fame.

The prints were made in collaboration with a new generation of mezzotint engravers and elevated and transformed the print medium. Turner made topographical studies gathered on his sketching tours across the United Kingdom and Europe. The artist created the Liber Studiorum prints in collaboration with some eleven professional mezzotint engravers. Turner engraved several of the plates himself and meticulously supervised the work of those not engraved by his own hand. *"I laboured at my plate and with the painter's aid was placed among my brothers scrapers to become an artist"*; Thomas Goff Lupton, engraver 1848.

To the right is an image of the print 'Solway Moss' by J.M.W Turner (artist and etcher) and Thomas Goff Lupton (engraver). The impending storm is perfectly rendered through the oppressive dark clouds which give way to clear sky beyond. Turner believed that the prints reflect the five categories of landscape painting; pastoral, mountainous, marine, historical and architectural.

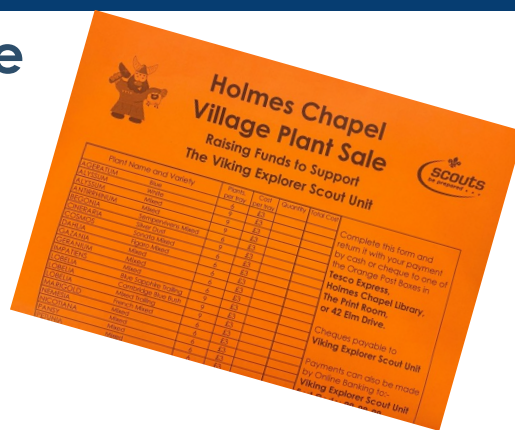


The set of published prints are displayed alongside the Whitworth's celebrated watercolour paintings, offering a fresh perspective on Turner. If you are interested I hope you have the opportunity to visit, I have been twice so far! The exhibition runs until the 2nd November 2025.

Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale

The annual Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale takes place again this year, to help raise vital funds for our local Viking Explorer Scout Unit (VESU).

The sale offers a top-quality range of locally grown bedding plants, baskets and tubs. These are all pre-ordered and available for collection or delivery on **Saturday 17th May**.



These orange order forms are currently being delivered to homes around Holmes Chapel during the last week of March. Order forms can also be downloaded from www.vesu.org.uk. Once completed they can be dropped into one of the Scout orange boxes in Tesco Express, Holmes Chapel Library, The Print Room or you can send by email. **The last date for orders is 27th April.** There is no minimum order and payment can be made by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Are you a **local business or organisation** purchasing plants this year?



Holmes Chapel Village Plant Sale

Top Quality & Locally Grown

Raising Funds for The Viking Explorer Scout Unit





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

Orange order forms are being delivered throughout the village
NO MINIMUM ORDER & WE CAN DELIVER!

Extra forms can be obtained from
The Print Room or downloaded from www.vesu.org.uk
The closing date for orders is Sunday 27th April 2025

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

Collection or Delivery of your order on Saturday 17th May
Not going to be in on 17th May?
Speak to us about alternative delivery arrangements

Bank Transfer payment facility is available

For more information - Please contact Nicola on 07732 262752

Would you consider buying them from the group to boost their fundraising? Please contact us.

The Explorer Scout Unit provides 14 – 18 year olds with opportunities to develop their physical and personal abilities through a structured programme of activities which follows the national Queen's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh award schemes.

Their fundraising helps pay for valuable resources for the group, supports the running costs and maintenance of their HQ, and the purchase and insurance of its camping, canoeing and climbing equipment.

If you have any queries please contact Nicola - 07732 262752 or Email: VikingExplorers8@gmail.com

Thank you for your support.

Snippets of News!

Speed limits again!

Cheshire East Highways is carrying out a speed survey between 26th March and 3rd April on Middlewich Road - probably the section between the motorway roundabout and the start of the 40mph limit. It apparently involves a lane closure. Hopefully this will lead to an extension of the 40mph limit so that it starts as soon as motorists leave the roundabout. Given that there are houses whose owners need to access their drives on this stretch, it seems only logical. Another argument in favour of this is that the 40mph limit begins as soon as you leave the roundabout on the Middlewich side.

Could this lead to the current 40mph sign being converted to a 30mph? This would be another logical step in favour of safety and pedestrians, as the pedestrian crossing would then be in a 30mph limit as opposed to a 40mph limit.



Council Tax

We have all had our Council Tax bills by now for 2025-2026 and are probably relieved that the increase is 5% and not 10%.

Looking over the borough it is interesting to see the cheapest and the most expensive places to live. Taking the cost for a Band D property (sort of half way between Band A and Band H) The most expensive is Nantwich at £2414* and the cheapest are Macclesfield Forest, Wildboarclough at £2254 and Little Warford, that comes in at £2254 as well.

Holmes Chapel is £2348 which makes it more expensive than the surrounding villages but we do have facilities we can walk to and they have to pay for car parking to use them - or get on their bike!

Brereton £2285 (this argument of lower Council Tax was used to try and persuade the residents of Bluebell Green to stay in Brereton during the attempt to change the boundary!)

Cranage £2288, Goostrey £2305, Twemlow £2291

It's fun!

It has health benefits!

so let's
Keep Singing!

Saturday 12 April 2025

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

10.00am

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

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

Keep Singing -2nd Saturday of every month

HHVT goes Self Guided

As reported elsewhere, Holmes Chapel Partnership, alongside its PR team from TMC Strategic Communications, won New Tourism Business of the Year and were highly commended for Best Tourism Marketing Project of the Year.

As a small volunteer-driven organisation, the Partnership is proud of the positive impact the guided tours had on Holmes Chapel. However, it has been decided for the 2025 season to offer self-guided maps instead, allowing visitors to independently explore Holmes Chapel's rich heritage and its many connections to Harry. There have been various challenges that have led to this decision: manpower (changes to employment regulations, contribution of time by volunteers), financial considerations and problems with access.

The self-guided maps will be available to download from the HC Partnership website. This flexible format allows fans to explore the village at their own pace, building on the success of last year's guided tours and aligning with the Partnership's goal of highlighting safe walking routes, dissuading graffiti and supporting the village's many independent businesses.

Chair Peter Whiers, explained: "The influx of Harry Styles fans to Holmes Chapel remains strong and, while the guided tours were popular, some fans were disappointed last year when tours were unavailable or sold out. The self-guided maps ensure every visitor can enjoy their time here, regardless of when they arrive. Our voluntary partners at the train station and Sam Dale & Sons will continue to offer a warm welcome and local insights to fans, as I'm sure will the wider village community."

Spring comes to the Dane Meadow



On the first warm Sunday a stroll across Dane Meadow showed that spring had really arrived. Whilst the main pond is still settling in there are early signs of life. There was one pond skater and two mating frogs dived for the depths when disturbed. Keep your fingers crossed they will spawn. The small pond was teeming with over 20 frogs, all in good voice (once they had adjusted to people being present) and lots of frogspawn, as the picture shows.

During the March session the Friends of Dane Meadow spread woodchip on the path through the copse where the small pond is situated. There is more to spread and the rest of the wild flower seeds to be sown next to the newly renovated pond. Why not join us at our next session?

Tuesday 8th April at 10am - meet at the bench where the pile of woodchip is half way down the bridle path.

Here we go again!

The Swan Inn closed its doors again with almost no warning at the end of February. The car park is fenced off and the rocks along the forecourt have been re-instated. A sad state of affairs! It looks as though Samuel Smith's Old Brewery would like it to be open as they are advertising for a management couple. Are they going to have the chance to get a viable business up and running?



Samuel Smith's Brewery has some very particular rules:

Nearly all licensees in tied pubs are tenants, enabling them to live in the pub and make their own business decisions, so long as they sell the brewery's beer. The managers of Samuel Smith's pubs are direct, salaried employees and do not enjoy the freedoms traditionally afforded to landlords.

Everything is centrally mandated by the brewery. Not just the beer, which is usual, but the decor and the food as well – even down to the crisps!

Most noticeably the pubs must be a mobile, tablet and laptop free zone – that is the rule for the customers, although they can pay by mobile! Is

this policy viable nowadays when our phones serve as calendars, maps and a general source of information? No one wants people to be glued to a screen instead of engaging in civilised conversation in the pub, but such an authoritarian approach is a complete mismatch with a place where people go to relax – the idea is to attract customers not put them off!

It is a shame for the people who have tried to make a go of The Swan and for the community in general that it has closed. If another potential management couple comes along, let's hope they are given the opportunity to run the pub successfully.



You are invited
on
Saturday 5 April 2025
to a concert given by
Wendy Nugent
3.00pm
Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

We are delighted that Wendy, a renowned concert pianist, has offered to 'lift the spirits' of our Community as she performs 'a colourful mixture of piano music from popular classical pieces to arrangements of pop favourites!'

Wendy says, hopefully something for everyone, just a taster of the programme, will give us something of Chopin to Abba and even Harry Styles is recognised!

Supported by the Memory Café, this concert is in memory of Wendy's Dad, Bill Duke, and all those who lived and are still living with dementia.

Refreshments will be served after the concert.

We ask all who attend to please give generously to the collection at the concert in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.



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

'Tuesday Friends'

8 April

at

Holmes Chapel Methodist Church

2.00 – 4.00pm



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



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

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

Should you require more details, please telephone 01477 537679



Help at Home

Getting older can come with some challenges but remaining in your own home does not have to be one of them.

If you are aged over 50 living in Cheshire one of our Home Helps could support you to maintain your independence and keep you living in your own home for longer.

We offer a fully flexible service allowing you to choose which tasks we complete during your appointment time on the day, this includes cleaning, collection of prescriptions, shopping or companionship, we will ensure continuity of staff who will get to know you and your needs and will work with you to make your life easier and you will pay one hourly rate regardless of the tasks conducted.

The service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm every week of the year with the exception of Bank Holidays.

Our amazing team of Home Helps are:

- Carefully selected and interviewed including a Disclosure and Barring Service check to ensure your safety
- Reliable, trustworthy and work to high standards
- Food hygiene certified and fully trained
- Friendly, caring and approachable
- Able to help you gain access to other services



We now have availability in your area to support, to find out more about this valuable and well regarded service call the team on 01606 305002 or you can email us at homehelp@ageukcheshire.org.uk.

Interested in becoming a Home Help?

If you are interested in finding out how to become a Home Help with Age UK Cheshire email the team at homehelp@ageukcheshire.org.uk quoting reference HH25 and a member of the team will be in touch to tell you more.

Contact us:

 **01606 305002**

 **homehelp@ageukcheshire.org.uk**



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 www.ageukcheshire.org.uk

WHAT'S ON

your Library 

Holmes Chapel Library Adult Events

Local History Talks

- **Congleton Curios** Tuesday 18 March at 11am. Hiding in plain sight, discover quirky aspects of Congleton's heritage.
- **Salt in Cheshire** Tuesday 15th April at 11am. Discover the fascinating history behind Cheshire's salt industry
- **Serendipitous Science** Tuesday 20th May at 11am. Discover some of the accidental discoveries that have changed our lives.

These are FREE drop-in events, no booking required. Refreshments available and donations appreciated.

Home Library Service

Do you, or someone you know, struggle to get to the library due to health or mobility issues?

If you live in the Holmes Chapel area, our volunteers can deliver books to your home FREE of charge



Call the library for further details

Craft Tea & Chat

Thursdays weekly at 11am 

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

Family History

Thursdays Monthly at 2.30pm

Learn & share tips tracing your ancestors with our friendly group



Barclays Bank

at Holmes Chapel
Library: **Monday, Thursday & Friday**
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





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 April 2025

Saturday April 5th - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Elizabeth Harrison
 Saturday April 12th - Lach Dennis Village Hall. Organist: Tim Walker
 Saturday April 19th - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Philip Randles
 Saturday April 26th - Byley Village Hall. Organist: Phil Brown

For more information please contact David Monks on 01477 532935

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 8 'TILL 10PM

LIVE MUSIC

AT THE **GEORGE & DRAGON**



THE **PHOENIX** BOYS

CHARITY NIGHT IN AID OF GAIN

(GUILLAIN-BARRE SYNDROME)

PLAYING SONGS FROM THE **60'S & 70'S** PLUS **OPEN MIC**



Spring Litter Pick

Come along and help to tidy up Cranage

Sunday 13th April

Meet at Cranage Village Hall at 10am

Our Patron Sponsors

OUR PATRON SPONSORS

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

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www.hcpartnership.org.uk/patronsponsors

Holmes Chapel Partnership – Working with the whole community