



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

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 **Andrew Fraser** of Radley Road, for sponsoring this Christmas edition
PETER THOMPSON 01636 814026

A Merry Christmas to all our readers



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- It's a big birthday month with:
 - **Alec Wells** hitting **70** on the 5th
 - **Wendy Miller** reaching **50** on the 17th
 - **Peter Thompson** making it to **50** on Boxing Day (no gloating Mrs Fraser, you're only 5 months behind!!)
- Congratulations to them all!!**
- Thank you for another year of community service to the merry band of volunteers who deliver the Halam News around the village. They are: **Richard Brown, Sarah Fowler, Tony Hallam, David Herbert, Kate Hill, Glenda Hutchinson, Patricia Kells and Don Reid.**

MY HERO

At this time of the year I remember George Rodely, my grandfather's brother, who was a soldier serving with the Northamptonshire Regiment. The date was November 1899 and George was on a ship returning to England after seven years in India. Unexpectedly the ship was diverted to a port in South Africa where the regiment disembarked and moved towards Kimberley in the Orange Free State to join several other distinguished British regiments.

At 5.15am on 28 November 1899, tired and hungry, they reached the south bank of the Modder River and made preparations for a river crossing. Almost immediately they came under sustained fire from the Boers dug in on the opposite bank using their newly acquired and highly efficient Mauser rifles. The battle lasted for eighteen hours and eventually the river was crossed but at a cost to the British of 70 dead and 413 wounded. George was amongst the wounded and was taken to the Orange River field hospital. There he was operated on by Professor Meakin of St Thomas's Hospital who wrote to my grandfather that he had a good chance of recovery. However on 21 December 1899, before the letter arrived in England, George died.

Queen Victoria, then aged 80 years, was displeased with her commanding officer General Lord Methuen, and, shortly after the Modder River battle, replaced him with a distinguished soldier Field Marshall Lord "Little Bobs" Roberts of Kandahar whose appointment led to eventual victory over the Boers.

Tony Hallam

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 4th December - Halam School Christmas Fair** between 2pm to 4pm. Entrance is £1 & includes a mince pie and hot drink!. Any donations of items for the cake stall or tombola would be welcome and can be dropped in to the School Office until Friday 3rd. 
- Thursday 9th December - Halam School Christmas performances** - 2pm and 6pm - arrive early to make sure you get a seat at these perennially popular shows! 
- Sunday 12th December - Halam Church Carol Service** will be held at 6pm. Come along and sing your favourite carols and enjoy mince pies and a glass of wine afterwards & we will be raising money for the Air Ambulance service 
- Thursday 16th December - Halam School end of term Church Service** in St Michael's Church at 9:15am
- Friday 17th December - Halam School annual Coffee and Mince pie morning** for grandparents, Senior Citizens of the village and Governors. 10am in the School Hall 
- Christmas Eve - Crib Service** in St Michael's Church at 5pm, led by the Reverend David McCouigh 

TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD, DECEMBER 2010

November has not been a good month to enjoy the garden - dull, wet and cold. I was however doing a bit of tidying up in the churchyard last week and could not help noticing the Christmas rose, Hellebores Niger.

This is a plant that we are all familiar with. It is native to European Alpine regions (doesn't that make you shiver!) but has been grown for a very long time in Britain. In medieval times it was known as the flower of St Agnes as it was still flowering at the time of her feast day on the 21st January. But there is also a charming legend of its first appearance on earth. The story is that while the shepherds were offering gifts and adoring the Christ Child in the stable, a little shepherd girl stood weeping nearby. It was freezing cold & she was poor and had nothing to offer the baby. But God took pity on her and the Archangel Gabriel descended. Stooping to the ground, he threw aside the blanket of snow and revealed the first Christmas rose blooming underneath. The little girl picked some and took them into the stable to lay on the crib. It is interesting to note that the same legend relates to the poinsettia in warmer climes.

Whilst I was marvelling at the Christmas rose in such dreadful weather I began thinking about the church building which has stood here, largely unaltered, for close on a thousand years. The building has been loved, protected and maintained by countless generations of village folk for whom it has been the centre of their lives. I feel sure that bygone villagers were unconcerned by the relentless and many changes in dogma of the churches teaching down the years, but rather looked on their church as a focal point in distress, in happiness and joy, and a place where they could share their emotions. They continued to have it as their pivotal point during the Black Death, the tribulations of the reformation, the depredations of Cromwell, the certainties of the age of enlightenment; and the uncertainties of the world wars. Now that we are into the 21st century I am heartened by the response of much of the village to continue to support this ancient church financially in the recent and ongoing promise programme. Many have joined work groups in the churchyard and by so doing have cemented the social structure of this place

Now we are forecast a cold and snowy December - so do go outside and lift some of the snow blanket and perhaps you too will find a Christmas rose to look and marvel at, and you will be surprised also at the large number of small seedling that arrive under that blanket. - Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas!

David Herbert

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES — 11TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: S Bust, A Fraser, G Herbert, A Paris & M Thompson **Apologies:** D Herbert & D Parrish

Village Hall: 1) Storage Heaters – some initial teething problems, need some “do not turn off” labels 2) Letting policy – Andrew Fraser to look at the current policy. 3) Need to put a Fire Risk Assessment in place; Glenys Herbert to obtain copy of Southwell W.I. policy and Marina Thompson to prepare draft 4) Fire extinguishers – sitting to be looked at with Newark Fire Check Co. 5) Games night/harvest supper raised £125 for the hall. It was agreed that next year a more traditional harvest supper would be held

Schedule of Halam PC Works The Clerk produced a list of the various meetings/functions carried out by the parish council over the year. This will be discussed further at next month’s meeting and any additions/amendments made

Lancaster Bomber Memorial: Waiting planning approval. Solicitor has been briefed regarding agreement with Starkey Trust. An offer of a stone has been made by Lafarge quarries, Loughborough. Matter progressing

Open Meeting: County Councillor Andy Stewart reported that 1) drains on The Turnpike are being investigated currently, 2) grit box for the village – will check again on availability, and 3) water at top of Radley Road (Oxton Hill end) – scheduled to be worked on in February

Other matters discussed:- 1) Possibility of a community wind turbine in Halam like that at Hockerton – more information needed 2) Conference in Mansfield regarding “Living for Tomorrow” – parish council not on circulation list 3) Grass verge near the ford – County Council responsibility 4) State of top section Gray Lane – has been used by large construction vehicles: County Council Highways responsibility as this is officially a public road 5) Fly tipping, particularly on Holme Lane – there has been several incidents of fly tipping in the parish. This is not only unsightly but can be a health & safety hazard, and is an offence, which carries a fine of up to £50,000 and/or 12 months in prison. You can report fly tipping on line at the Newark & Sherwood website or on 01636 650000. If you see anyone dumping rubbish illegally please note the vehicle description and registration number if possible. The Newark & Sherwood “litter hit squad” can be contacted to clean up any rubbish on public land – call 01636 650000

Correspondence: 1) Community Infrastructure Levy 2) Highways – winter gritting: agreed to buy a 1 tonne bag of road salt for the parish 3) Rights of Way Service Review – Clerk to check if these cutbacks apply to Parish Paths Partnership schemes 4) NALC AGM – Wednesday 17th November: Marina Thompson & Di Parish to attend 5) Notts County Council Services – see separate piece in this Halam News

Planning: 1. The Old Vicarage, Halam Hill: Conversion of detached coach house to self-contained residential accommodation, erection of detached double garage and store building, and widening of vehicular access – approved unanimously, but with the added comment that the accommodation should not be split from the Old Vicarage as a separate property 2. Evergreen House, School Lane: Conversion of barns to three dwellings and erection of detached double garage and store – approved unanimously 3. Land at the perimeter of Norwood Golf Course, School Lane: War Memorial – approved unanimously (this is an application by the parish council)

Finance: 1) Unanimously agreed to accept the proposed budget for 2011/12 2) Clerk’s wages – to be discussed at the next meeting 3) Agreed unanimously to reimburse Marina Thompson for the final few bills for the village hall refurbishment

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 2nd December 2010, at 7.00pm in the village hall. *Please note revised date of the meeting and the earlier start time*

ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
DECEMBER 2010 SERVICES



Dec 5th	08:00	Holy Communion	Revd David McCoulough
	09:30	Morning Worship - St Nicholas' Day toy service	
		We will be following the ancient tradition of electing a child Bishop for the day. Donations of toys and gifts (unwrapped please) will be sent to Family Care - a local charity supporting children and families	
Dec 12th	18:00	Carol Service	Revd David McCoulough
Dec 19th	09:30	Family Communion	Revd David McCoulough
Dec 24th	17:00	Crib service	Revd David McCoulough
	23:15	Midnight Mass	Revd Canon Tony Evans
Dec 25th	09:30	Family Communion	Revd David McCoulough
Dec 26th	08:00	Holy Communion	Revd David McCoulough
Dec 31st	13:30	Wedding	
Jan 2nd	08:00	Holy Communion	Revd David McCoulough

HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.



The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 7th December (January meeting on Tuesday 4th)**
The meetings are in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
Glenys Herbert 812335

BRASS PLAQUE

The Brass Commemoration Plaque with the messages of donors to the organ fund is now in place on the door to the vestry next to the organ. **Alec Wells**

PROMISE PROGRAMME

The Revd David McCoulough, Churchwardens and members of the PCC would like to thank everybody who assisted with the Promise Programme in support of St Michael's Church. Many people contributed their time and others helped with the costs. Responses are still coming in so we don't yet know the final result but many thanks to those who have generously contributed to the support of our lovely Church.
Tony Andrews, Promise Programme Coordinator

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICE REVIEWS

The County Council needs to save £69m next year to allow them to reinvest £39m on services for some of the most vulnerable adults and children in Nottinghamshire. To do this the County Council proposes to change fundamentally the way that services (in general) are delivered. As part of the consultation exercise relating to these changes, the County Council are asking for feedback from as many people as possible.

Proposals

County Councillors have approved plans to review council services to save money to help balance the budget. The Council is now reviewing **each and every service** it provides to identify options to:

- provide the service in a different way and for less money by working with other public, private and voluntary organisations
- raise extra income by focusing on services that are well regarded and in demand
- cease some services which are provided by other organisations.

To find out more please visit:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/newshome/servicereviews.htm

Your views

There are a number of ways you can submit your comments:

online at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/newshome/servicereviews.htm calling 08449 80 80 80

writing to the Council at: Freepost RLUR-UXJJ-ETZZ Nottinghamshire County Council Chief Executive's department
County Hall Loughborough Road West Bridgford NOTTINGHAM NG2 7QP

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