

HALAM NEWS

DEC 2011



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

halam.news@hotmail.co.uk

You can also drop them in to The Manor House, Radley Road. Articles may be edited or held over due to space constraints. Sponsorship is £10 per edition. Thanks to this month's sponsors:

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WHERE HAVE I BEEN?

The answer to last month's quiz was **Newark, New Jersey**.

Answers should be submitted by 15th Dec by email to halam.news@hotmail.co.uk Include your name and address on the email! The last clue for 2011 is :

There is a grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza

Where have I been? Good luck!!

HALAM & DISTRICT W. I.

The December meeting will be at 7:30pm on **Tuesday 6th** in the Village Hall.



The January meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd

Glenys Herbert 812335

I would like to thank everyone who came to pay their last respects to John at his funeral on 1st November. I know he is now at peace, but after 50 years of marriage, I will miss him more than words can say. He will always be with me in spirit. Thank you all again.

Maureen Pykett

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

- Good luck to Graham Cullen, Headteacher at Halam School who will be taking up a new headship in January.
- Congratulations to Cy Holmes who recently had his 18th birthday
- Congratulations to Stephanie McCracken who was 21 on 19th Nov

THANK YOU.....

- * To the editor's band of "little helpers" who deliver the Halam News come rain or shine, they are: Richard Brown, Sarah Fowler, Tony Hallam, David Herbert, Kate Hill, Glenda Hutchinson, Patricia Kells and Don Reid
- * To Halam School for Halam News photocopying facilities!
- * To everyone who turned up to help on the latest Churchyard gardening day

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE WAGGON

- * **Thursday 22nd Dec** - Carols around the fire, 7pm
- * **Christmas Eve** - open Noon to 1am, food served until 9pm
- * **Christmas Day** - Bar only Noon - 2:30pm & 7:30pm - Midnight
- * **Boxing Day** - open Noon until Midnight, food served Noon - 9pm. There will be a Halam themed Quiz of the Year, at 9:30pm!!
- * **New Years Eve** - Noon - 3pm Bar & Food service
- * **New Years Eve Party** - 5:30pm till Late! Come and see the New Year in with us, and enjoy a buffet (cash donations welcome!) and any profits will be donated to the Waggon's chosen charities.

NOTES OF THE HALAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2011

Present: Andrew Paris (in the Chair), Sarah Godfrey, David Herbert, Glenys Herbert, Janet Simmonds **Apologies:** Simon Bust & Chris Bevans

Matters Arising: Local Development Framework - Andrew Paris reported on the District Council's consultation documents for the Landscape Character Assessment and the Allocations & Development Report. He proposed responses for the Parish Council - approved unanimously.

Village Hall: Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey outlined the brief for, and operation of the proposed village hall committee. These were agreed in principle to operate for the next twelve months with a review at the end of the financial year. Sarah Godfrey will circulate the written report to the other parish councillors.

Halam "Twinning": Marina Thompson has contacted the French villagers and report that due to the little interest shown by Halam residents this scheme is to be put on hold.

Dangerous Trees on School Lane: County Council Highways have now started work on the trees along School Lane.

Pot Holes, Radley Road: still awaiting work by the County Council Highways. **Pot hole problems can be reported online at**

www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems or call 08449 80 80 80

Open Meeting: Matters discussed – 1) Kissing-gate at the top of Windmill Lane – meeting has been arranged after the Chairman's return with the County Council to discuss further; 2) Grit bin – still awaiting our "free" issue: County Councillor Andy Stewart to progress; 3) Turnpike Drains – work has started on repairs; 4) Edges of the lanes in Halam are in poor condition – Cllr Stewart stated that budgetary constraints mean that it is unlikely that any major work would be under taken. The Chairman made the point that at least poor road conditions tend to slow speeds and discourage use of the lanes as "cut-throughs"; 5) Christmas tree – unanimously agreed that the PC should put up the usual tree in front of the village hall; 6) Improved play equipment at Halam School – this is an issue outside of the Parish Council's remit and control; 7) Street lights – many of these are not working in the village – **street light problems should be reported online at www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads/road-design-and-maintenance/report-road-problems or by phoning 08449 80 80 80**

Correspondence:

1) Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue: Queen's Diamond Jubilee beacons – passed to Glenys Herbert and Sarah Godfrey (Village Hall Committee) to form part of next year's celebrations

2) Newark & Sherwood Homes: AGM – Simon Bust invited to attend

3) NALC: AGM Wednesday 16th November – Sarah Godfrey to attend

Planning: Two, The Cottages, The Turnpike: Householder application to demolish existing conservatory and replace with single-storey extension – agreed to support unanimously.

Finance: unanimously agreed to pay External Auditor fees for the 2010/11 accounts.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th December 2011, 7.30pm in the village hall

halam.news@hotmail.co.uk

JUNE MCKENZIE (1920 - 2011)

June was born in 1920 in Brandon, Warwickshire where her father was a farmer with farms also in Cheshire and the Midlands. Her early life was spent on a busy farm under the care of a governess, but this was all too confining for June who had, by the age of 12, developed a very sure sense of purpose and what she wanted out of life. This independence of thought was clearly seen in her marriage to a farm hand from Scotland - Ian McKenzie, in 1942 in the village of Wolston, Warwickshire

June and her husband bought Challand farm, Halam shortly afterwards and began the very ambitious task of restructuring it. They went into Turkey breeding - she soon became a member of the turkey federation and her opinion was keenly sort by the farming community country-wide. She then established kennels for reception of dogs and cats and this business still runs to this day. On the death of her husband in 1980 she realised that she should think of relinquishing the farm and in fact she did so in about 1990. June then moved into Southwell and lived at Eastfield House until 2000 when she moved into a retirement flat at 65 Westgate

This then is the bare bones of a most amazing life - she was no ordinary lady, but because of her drive and infectious enthusiasm she was able to collect so many friends who, before they realised it, were doing her so many favours and seemed glad to be doing so. She was a champion of sustainable farming before the term had its present-day connotations; her knowledge of plants and propagation was legendary and she was tireless in the amount of effort she put into her gardening and her friendships. In the last 11 years of her life at the retirement flats she developed the council land behind into a garden and it became so colourful that garden groups from all round the county would visit her. She would gladly provide great trays of propagated plants for charitable garden openings and was always able to give sound advice on the easy ways to propagate difficult plants - it was only one year ago at the age of 89, did she give up this great half acre garden and settle for a small plot behind her flat. She worked to an exacting timetable - she gardened from 4am until 10am on a summer morning and then would rest a while in order to write to world leaders - and many would reply to her promptly - her address book even had two addresses for the Dalai Lama! She would then have a nap and then by 6pm was back into the garden. She was generous with her time and for 20 years would collect moneys at the gate at Ashdene for village open gardens and for the National Garden scheme. In winter months she would hold court in the Saracen's Head from 11am until 2pm and gave an open invitation to any who would wish to join her. Among the many things she said the following stand out vividly :

'The man who worries night and day about the dandelions in the lawn will find it a great relief to start to love the dandelions. Each blossom is worth more than a gold coin as it shines in the sunlight- it is attractive to the things that make our life possible- the insects.'

'Love the things that are nearest to you and love intensely.'

She was still active in her mind up until the day of her departure and we in Halam can really say how grateful we are that she dwelt among us.

She's gone to meet her maker
The Almighty up on high.
It won't be long before she makes
A garden in the sky.

We come from earth, we return to earth and in between.....we garden

David Herbert

JOHN WILLIAM PYKETT (1939 - 2011)

Born in 1939, John's early years were sharpened by his close relationship with the soil and land of Halam - little wonder that he spent all his formative years working on farms. It was for him a source of great happiness and joy and it mattered to him. He had the support of so many well-wishers in the farming community of Halam.

He attended Halam school and left at the age of 15 to begin his working life on Mr Hoggard's farm - and I doubt if there is a farm in Halam that he did not work for at some time or other. It was as a well-respected farm worker that he married Maureen in 1961 and they moved into a cottage on Back Lane

His meeting with Maureen was purely a matter of chance because it took place out of Halam - John had actually given himself an evening off to go cultural and had gone to the Southwell Ideal dance hall, as he did regularly on a Saturday night with the Sharman lads. This chance meeting at the dance at Southwell resulted in a strong and unshakeable bond which, despite misfortunes in their lives, caused them to become ever stronger. This was put to the test when in 1973 they became the proud parents of their daughter Jane, a delightful but severely disabled angel. In 1979 they had their son Ben. John, Maureen and Ben placed Jane at the centre of their lives, and despite the pressures on the family, John helped them to win through with care, love and quiet dignity .

John's main love was the land: over the years he worked at Bankwood Farm, and with Frank Reynolds at Farnsfield. In 1963 he became the tractor driver for Sir Steven Gibson at Manor Farm and later for the Griffin Family. John moved away from working on farms in the 1970's and joined the council as a Cleansing Manager in 1995 where he continued until his retirement. In that year the family moved to a bungalow on Back Lane - a property which made their care for Jane much simpler.

Their beloved daughter Jane died in 1994 and at about that time John started to suffer from a chronic condition which was to severely disable him over the last years of his life - but despite this he remained cheerful and for many years was to be seen continuing the age-old tradition of older Halam inhabitants, of sitting on the bench at the crossroads by the Old Plough - encouraging drivers to cross this notorious travel spot and more often than not encouraging them to stop and have a chat.

These days it is rare to speak of one who remained so close to the place of his birth, so close to the real and only home he knew, surrounded by those who he knew and trusted and who had learned to honour and respect him for what he was: a kind, loving, hardworking chap who, despite problems, considered himself fortunate in his life.

David Herbert

ANYONE FOR SCRABBLE?

Is anyone interested in a fortnightly game of scrabble (possibly down the pub!) and even a village scrabble championship?
Contact me if you are! Thanks
David Herbert 812335



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