



Flag Flying Dates

There are no official flag flying dates in February

HALAM NEWS

February 2026

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of Halam News please send your article (as you would like it to be printed) using the details at the bottom of this page by the 25th of the month for inclusion the following month. All content is included at the discretion of the Editor.



Bin Collection Dates

Green (Mon): 9th, 23rd
Brown (Fri): 13th
Silver (Mon): 2nd, 16th
Teal (Tues): 17th



Parish Pump



Printing of the Halam News

Over many years the Halam News has relied on volunteers from within the village, with access to good quality printers, to print and collate our monthly newsletter. Our current printing arrangement ends this Spring and so I wanted to put a call out to the village to see if anyone is help is able to help with printing from April onwards. If you think you might be able to help, please drop me an email at halam.news@hotmail.co.uk and I can explain more about what is required.

Life Saving & Defibrillator Training

Halam WI were delighted to host, in collaboration with Halam Parish Council, a "Life Saving and Defibrillator Demonstration" led by John, a volunteer for East Midlands Ambulance Service, in support of the national WI campaign "Bystanders can be Lifesavers". Thank you to everyone who came along to learn critical skills from CPR to how to use a defibrillator - we came away armed with lots of hints and tips about how to help a patient in an emergency scenario.



Halam Christmas Charities

The Halam charities date back to legacies from the 17th and 18th century, left by wealthy village "worthies", originally to provide "bread and coal" at Christmas. Under the terms of these legacies, the funds must be given to parishioners of Halam, so the trustees of the charity fund, made up church and parish council representatives are tasked with distributing a modest sum to village residents.

Some years ago, it was decided to give a Christmas gift to every retired person in Halam. After much consideration this was amended to a gift given to every household where one of the people living there was over 60. It was felt that Coop gift cards was an appropriate & convenient way to distribute the charity's funds.

Any household is at perfect liberty to opt out of the Christmas charity gift – and many do. The distribution list is reviewed at the trustees annual meeting at the start of November. At that meeting the trustees also compile the list of eligible households. It is surprisingly difficult to keep track of those who have turned sixty, and which houses need adding to the list, so apologies to anyone who was eligible last year who was missed (or would like to opt out of the scheme) – please let the charities' secretary **Deborah Woods know on 813897**, or speak to the church wardens.

Save the Date: Bags 2 School

The next Halam School "Bags to School" collection will take place on Thursday 26th February. By getting involved in the collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards & wardrobes & donate unwanted textiles – this can include adults' & children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags & soft toys, (please refer to www.bag2school.com for full details). Bags should be left outside the school office (under the entrance shelter if raining) before 9am on the day. If you can't drop on the day, please contact Gemma Bust (07813 923575) to arrange to drop your bag.

Halam WI

Our February meeting is on Tuesday 3rd at 7:30pm where we look forward to welcoming Halam resident Professor Paul O'Shea for his talk entitled "Science & Medicine - This Time it's Personal". Looking ahead to March we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March - we aim to keep official business to a minimum and enjoy a quiz hosted by Julie Fleming straight afterward the AGM - there will be wine and nibbles! For more information and news from WI please follow us on Facebook and Instagram @HalamWI or email halamvillagewi@gmail.com



Farnsfield Walk For Parkinson's 2026

This year's fundraising walk will be held on Saturday April 25th. As in previous years this will be a circular walk from The Plough PH with a start time of 10.30am to 11.00am. Full details are being finalised but the plan is to publish these over the next few weeks to give plenty of time to sign up for this very popular family event. Last year we managed to raise the amazing sum of £5,100 bringing the total achieved over the past five years to over £23,000 for Parkinson's UK. It would be great to see all of last year's walkers return and hopefully encourage some new participants to come along. Please watch this space for more information on the walk. Any queries can be raised through John Butler on 07870 948297 or Bruce McDowall on 07759 137634.

Bruce McDowall



Halam School News



During January we all settled back into the school routine after our lovely Christmas break. Halam School had an unexpected visitor...Snow!!! Although there wasn't a lot we still managed to have some fun in the snow.

Recently we have had a few new pupils join Halam School, they have settled in well and made lots of new friends.

DAaRT lessons started for Oak Class where we are learning about Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Training over 10 weekly sessions. These have given us lots to think about.

On 21st January we welcomed Reverend Mary and Jeremy as they joined us in Collective Worship. The School Council held a bake sale to raise money for playground football posts on 23rd January.

We are looking forward to Caunton Tennis Club coming into school for tennis taster sessions in every class. Finally, in December we had a very positive SIAMS (church) inspection. Please see Halam School website to read the full report which we are all extremely proud of.

By Martha and Vesper

Dingbats

Last month: "Think outside the box" / "Side Burns"

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St Michael the Archangel



Although it seems a long time ago now, we would like to thank everyone for their generosity over the Christmas services, the amount we were able to send to our two chosen charities totalled £740.28 which was a magnificent amount.

The informal service on February 15th will be on the theme of 'Love' – these services are slightly shorter and much less formal than the Communion Services, they are usually followed by coffee and biscuits giving time to chat. At these services we like to give younger people an opportunity to read, so if you have a child who would like to read a short piece then please let the churchwardens know.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which this year is the 18th February with a service in Edingley church. A Lent course will be at the Scypen each Wednesday of Lent commencing on 25th February, meeting at 2.30p.m. for an hour of discussion led by Rev. Mary Foden-Currie. Thank you for all your support.

February services everyone welcome.

1st February: Candlemas - 11.00am Morning Prayer

8th February: 2nd Sunday before Lent - 11.00am Holy Communion

15th February: Sunday next before Lent - 11.00am Informal Service theme 'Love' followed by refreshments

18th February: Ash Wednesday - 10.00am Service at St. Giles Edingley

22nd February: 1st Sunday of Lent - 11.00am Sung Eucharist

25th February: Lent Course - 2.30pm At The Scypen

Contacts: Priest - Rev. Mary Foden Currie 01623 479838 Wardens – Penni Wells 01636 813491 – Briony Dickinson 01636 812569

Food Bank: There is a collection point in the Church porch. Very many thanks to all who contribute during these very difficult times.

Message from Rev. Mary

I walked into my garden to feed the birds and discovered some brave flowers surviving the wintry weather. There was winter jasmine revealing its delicate flowers; hardy cyclamen and even a paper-white daffodil. Nature longs to give.

February 2nd is Candlemas when we symbolically turn from the Christmas season to the time of reflection in Lent. Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas bells.

Then on February 18th Lent begins, there is a service at 10.00am in St. Giles, Edingley – all are welcome as we begin our Lenten discipline (do I have to give up chocolate biscuits !)

On 27th February we remember George Herbert a priest and poet who lived in the 17th century. In 1624 he was ordained deacon at the age of 36, he was ordained priest and became the vicar of Bemerton near Salisbury. He desired to give God all that he was – twice a day at 10.00a.m. and 4p.m. the church bell rang and he, his family and the villagers that could, gathered in the church for worship. Sadly, he died of TB at the age of 39.

So, enjoy the longer daylight hours. May we all experience the deep love of Jesus as we serve one another in our community. Thank you for all you do for the food bank and one another.

Every blessing, Rev. Mary





Report for Halam News: Halam Parish Council Meeting - 7.30pm on Thursday 8th January 2025 held at Halam Village Hall



Please Note: Official parish council minutes will be available after they have been approved at the next parish council meeting. Scan the QR code to link to the website.

Present: Catherine Blackburn, Chris Denyer, Andrew Paris, Ganesh Subramanian and Charlie Wright

Apologies: Simon Bust

Absent: Chris Bevans

The Chair welcomed all councillors to the first meeting of 2026.

Approval of Minutes and Matters from Previous Meeting

1. After discussion, the previous meetings minutes were amended and accepted.
2. The process for writing and approving the notes for Halam News – to be discussed at the next parish council meeting.
3. Jax Thornewill has offered to donate an artificial Christmas tree to the parish council – agreed not to accept due to lack of storage room. Mrs Thornewill to be thanked for the offer.

Open Meeting: Nothing to report this month.

Update from District Councillor

County Cllr Bruce Laughton reported that the county council's budget had been set for the coming year and shows a marked increase.

The budget for road repairs and maintenance, however, has been cut to less than 50% of last year's budget. The proposal to form a unitary authority (and abolish district councils) for Nottinghamshire is to be discussed further. The final outcome is still uncertain.

The Reform majority county council are wanting to remain at County Hall in West Bridgford. The cost of bringing the hall up to usable standard is £30m, and would mean that the new building at Hucknall would not be used by the council.

Cllr Laughton stated that his role will continue to be keeping the county council to account, and fighting for improved services for the residents of North Muskham and Farnsfield.

Finance

Agreed to pay: 1. village hall cleaners & 2. replacement light in the male toilets

The amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) left in the parish council was discussed. This will need to be spent for the benefit of the parish before the end of January 2027.

Village Hall

Maintenance schedule

1. village planters have been re-seeded
2. Christmas tree and decorations have been taken down
3. Clerk to send for Legionella testing kit
4. Light in female toilets has been replaced
5. Wine glasses – Mr & Mrs Reid have offered ongoing loan of wine glasses. Agreed not to buy any for the village hall.
6. Clerk progressing quotes for quotes for redecorating the village hall
7. The village grit bins are full – the salt/grit is to be used on the public highway and pavements only.
8. One of the village hall heater is broken – Clerk to arrange repair/replacement

Allotments: Nothing further to report this month.

Roads & Hedges

1. Replacement finger-post at the cross roads – Financial Office to obtain prices
2. Halam Hill – the road is being narrowed by soil and vegetation encroaching on the roadway. Clerk to write a strong letter to County Council Highways requesting urgent attention. Parishioners have raised concerns about pedestrians on Halam Hill where there is no footpath.
3. The Turnpike opposite Strickland Farm – the pavement is obstructed by vegetation and a broken fence. Clerk to investigate and speak to the landowner(s).
4. Parking on School Lane – vehicles are still parking too close to the junction with the Turnpike causing a dangerous obstruction. Clerk to write to the school. District Cllr Penny Rainbow will be asked to get the local police involved with this ongoing problem.



Calendar of Events

The Chair to circulate a list of possible parish council events throughout 2026.

Correspondence

Expiry of Domain Name – this may be an old (redundant) domain. Chair to liaise with Chris Bevans to sort.

Lengthsman Scheme

The previous work scheduled has been completed and the invoice will be submitted for payment. There is a small amount of funding left in this year's budget. Chris Denyer to take photographs of areas for proposed work – weed and moss removal. Chris Denyer and Clerk to liaise with contractors to see what work can be done within the budget.

Biodiversity

Chris Denyer circulated suggested an example biodiversity policy and biodiversity actions plan. All councillors to contact Chris Denyer with action suggestions in line with these documents.

Planning: None this month

Planning Decisions: None this month

Date of next meeting

Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Members of the public are reminded that they are welcome to attend any parish council meeting to find out about the work of the council. There is an opportunity to raise issues with the parish council at the meeting during the open part of the meeting



DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 2026

CLLR PENNY RAINBOW

(Ward member for Southwell)



Marie Curie Campaign

At the last meeting of NSDC a motion was put forward to adopt the Marie Curie campaign for Council Tax exemption for the terminally ill.

After a debate, the motion was put to the vote and was agreed unanimously.

Officers have been tasked with developing an appropriate policy for Council Tax Exemption for those with a terminal illness, or a partner or family member within the same household as part of a reduction scheme.

Members agreed that the priority was to commence the scheme as soon as possible with a view to expanding it in the future.

Subject to cabinet approval, on 20th January, the proposed scheme could be commenced on 1st April. Then subsequent conversations with other organisations can be held.

A letter has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging him to consider the implementation of a national policy to provide council tax exemption to all residents diagnosed with a terminal illness or those council tax paying residents who reside with a person so diagnosed.

Future First Careers Expo

NSDC held its 8th Careers Expo at Newark Showground on 13th November 2025.

Students from 10 schools across Newark and Sherwood and Lincolnshire attended on the day.

The number totalled 1289 from years 11 - 13.

53 exhibitors filled the Lady Eastwood Centre, representing a mix of local and national businesses, training providers and further educational institutions. From apprenticeships and vocational training to university pathways and emerging industries, students had the chance to ask questions, gather advice and discover opportunities they may not have previously considered.

These included Murphy Ltd, RWE, Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust, GXO and British Sugar..

Educational exhibitors included Newark College, NTU/Brackenhurst, Nottingham College, AcademyTransformation Trust and West Notts College.

243 Minster School students from year 11 attended, the highest number of students from any school.

Another very successful careers expo.

Bookings from both schools and exhibitors are already underway for November 2026.

Cllr Penny Rainbow, Local Member for Southwell Ward



District Cllrs Karen Roberts and Peter Harris Report for February 2026



Details are on the Council's website - see The Council - Calendar of Meetings for links to each of the papers and reports. There have been few meetings since our last report in November

The Inspector's decision to allow the planning application at St Michael's Close, Halam is concerning. Although opposed by the Planning Committee as being in open countryside and against policy, the Government's Inspectors allowed the appeal against the refusal. The Inspector said that as there was not a 5 year housing land supply - based on the Government's huge increase in housing land requirements, after the N&SDC had completed its last land availability assessment - they would be allowing the development. This has severe implications for other land adjacent to the villages and town of Southwell.

Over the past few months, Karen chaired the Life Chances for Girls Working Group, which has been dedicated to identifying ways to improve opportunities for girls in Newark and Sherwood District.

The working group and officers have developed a set of 20 recommendations to enhance existing initiatives and strategies, a few are outlined here:

Designing Inclusive Spaces for Girls: we want to collaborate with suppliers and architects, to ensure that parks and outdoor spaces supported by the Council - reflects the needs and voices of girls. Creating environments where they feel safe, welcome and represented.

Promote Female Role Models: A targeted volunteering initiative that encourages female professionals to speak in secondary schools and colleges. To help young women visualise broader career paths, challenge stereotypes and build confidence.

Feelings of safety: Highlighting NSDC's commitment to Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation, whereby we will ensure residents understand the Council's commitment to delivering effective responses to domestic abuse, our staff will receive training and we provide a safe, supportive environment for residents seeking help or information.

For more information is at the Council website on the Cabinet papers for Jan 20 2026

The ending of the District and County Councils in 2028 is still taking a huge amount of officer time and energy. The costly reorganisation is opposed by the majority of residents, but the Government insisted that a scheme is was put forward. It has not responded to the proposal to have two new authorities, splitting the county north and south.. The new Councils will be decided by the Government from a range of options but most of which split the county into two halves, north and south. We are still uncertain how Southwell's and the village's voice. However there will be a significant reduction in your voice, an possible influence. At present there are four. This will be decided by the Government and election to this post[s] may be in 2027, but the Government has allowed some councils to defer their election and a number of Councils elsewhere in the country have decided to do so. Karen and Peter continue to challenge the costs of this - and the lack of a voice for the villages and town.

The Cabinet also decided to change its Leisure Company Active for Today into an agent of the Council. You will be aware tat the Southwell Leisure Centre, previously leased to the NSDC and run by A4T is now wholly owned by the Trust with no involvement of A4T from April. Users will be contacted by the Trust about their programme for repairing the pool and future plans directly.

Peter Harris and Karen Roberts

