

KIT

The Downholland Newsletter

Spring 2025

Downholland Parish Council

Rector of Lydiate and Downholland

Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School

Haskayne & Downholland Community Association and Haskayne Village Hall

Haskayne & Downholland Residents Association

West Lancs Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Paul Hennessy

Ormskirk School Foundation Trust



DOWNHOLLAND PARISH COUNCIL

I try to be positive about every season, but deep-down spring must be my favourite, particularly with these sunny days we are having and the lighter evenings. The park too is coming back to life after the winter and the daffodils are putting on a great show again this year.

A warm welcome to David Swindells, the new head of Downholland Haskayne CE Primary School, we all wish him the best of success. David is very keen to increase community involvement in the school so if you would like to get involved, please see David's contribution below. The school are also running a project about our local agricultural heritage and the children will be putting forward suggestions to name our farmer sculpture in the park.

Talking of which, Saturday mornings often find me working on the wildflower area around the sculpture, and having now laid the first lot of wildflower turf I could have done with the rain to help it settle in – but sunny days and a watering can it is. Hopefully, by the summer, the area will be full of wildflowers, in time for the Parish Council to erect an information board about the sculpture, and he can have an official opening (when he has a name).

Also, in this addition of KIT, will be the final contribution from County Councillor David O'Toole who is taking his well-earned retirement after 50 years of public service. David has been a friend to Downholland for many years and has always been ready and willing to help the Parish Council and residents both in his role of County Councillor and Borough Councillor. Personally, and on behalf of the Parish Council and Downholland, I would like to thank David for his service and wish him a very happy and long retirement.

David Bond, our Parish Clerk, who works tirelessly to make sure we all stay in line and that all the i's are dotted, and t's are crossed, has been unwell recently and we would all like to wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

I would also like to thank the new volunteers that have begun helping in the park, your help is very much appreciated. We're always looking for more help so if you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

As mentioned in previous editions, local historian Stephen Henders has been researching those men of Downholland who died in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. I am pleased to report that, working with our Parish Councillor Stephen Burgess, a memorial board detailing the fallen has been commissioned in time for the VE Day Anniversary in May. Thank you to them both for all their efforts.

The Parish Council has again entered Haskayne into the Best Kept Village competition, and along with the Residents Association are very keen to keep the village looking good. The Residents Association are running a number of litter picks and are always on the lookout for new volunteers so please see Roy's contribution below if you would like to get involved.

Parish Councillors recently met with Roy Aldwin, a Police Community Support Officer who covers our area. Councillors Ele Gawne and Dianne Cull took Roy on a tour of the village and had chance to meet with local residents. Hopefully, we will see more of Roy in the future. Thanks to Roy, Ele, and Dianne – it was good to see visible policing in the area.

I am proud to serve as a trustee on the board of Ormskirk School Foundation Trust, a charity that provides funding for current and past pupils of the school under the age of twenty-five for educational purposes. There is more information about the charity and how to apply in this edition of KIT.

Hoping for a happy and sunny Easter.

Mike Wainwright
Downholland Parish Council

HEADTEACHER, DOWNHOLLAND HASKAYNE CE PRIMARY

Dear Parish Community, I am delighted to introduce myself as the new headteacher of Downholland Haskayne Primary school. My teaching journey has encompassed roles in schools of all sizes across the northwest. My passion for teaching and making a difference to the lives of children has been at the heart of all roles I have completed. I am passionate about creating a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children at the heart of the community.

This spring, we have many exciting activities planned. Our students have been working hard on a range of fantastic topics and lessons as well as embracing school life. We are looking forward to a fun-filled Easter and summer term, enjoying our beautiful school. We recently enjoyed a fantastic world book day, celebrating a love of reading and stories. We do hope to visit the village hall before Easter and to enjoy a walk through the beautiful village.

We believe that a strong partnership with our community is essential for the success of our children. We invite you to join us in our journey by supporting us in any way possible. If you feel that you can help the school in any way, big or small, please do get in touch.

Our school has places for children aged 3-11 and if you or anyone you may know is interested, please do contact school via email bursar@haskayne.lancs.sch.uk or call 0151 5260614 and we would be happy to show you around as every day is an open day.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

Warm regards,

David Swindells, Headteacher

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID O'TOOLE

The last few months have been extremely busy at County Hall. After months of negotiations together with the two unitarizes Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen we have achieved what we believe to be the best solution going forward for the residents of Lancashire. We now have a combined Lancashire wide devolved unitary authority as opposed to an elected Mayor which would have cost hundreds of thousands and would have taken local decision making away from your local elected representatives.

It has also been that time of year when the council tax for 2025-2026 is agreed. Very soon we will all receive our new council tax bills. We have kept the increase to a minimum even though we have seen massive increases in costs not least the increase in national insurance on our employees and the increase which we must pay in local government salaries.

Lancashire County Council pay millions each year for adult social care for care homes also millions for education plus the increasing costs for SEND children (special educational needs). We have put an extra 10 million in to improving our roads. Unlike many county councils we can do this because we have been prudent and built up our reserves.

The thing I get more emails and calls about are Potholes. As we all know, since last September we have had unprecedented rainfall. You cannot fill wet potholes. We are undertaking a massive tree planting program across the county; I have already seen new trees planted in my very large division including several in my own area.

Spring is on the way, and I am very happy to see an abundance of Snowdrops, Crocus and Daffodils in my own garden.

On the 1st of May 2025, the elections will be held for all 84 County Councillors. I was first elected by you onto the County Council in 2000 after serving on West Lancashire Borough Council since 1975. After serving the residents for fifty years I feel it's time to step aside. I won't be standing for election on the 1st of May. I want to thank your parish chairman for all the support he has given to me during his chairmanship, and also the members of your very active Parish Council.

I wish you all well for the future.

David

HASKAYNE AND DOWNHOLLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Hi Everyone, how nice it has been to see the sun recently - long may it go on.

Thank you to all those who supported our recent music and dancing event with Stephen Higham. This was well attended and raised an amazing £762.36 to go towards activities and projects in Haskayne, Barton and Downholland. We are currently in conversation with The Canal and River Trust to see if we can upgrade the canal tow path through Downholland or at least part of it.

Picnic in the Park 2025

Sunday 11th May 2pm – 5pm

This year we are linking picnic in the park with a VE Day theme. If you like dressing up why not come in 1940s style or wartime outfits. There will be the usual races for children and games to play, treasure hunt, tombola, and refreshments and cake in the hall. We will also have some historical displays. In addition, we hope to see the Downholland war memorial plaque that Downholland Parish Council are installing.

Bleed Kit Training

Tuesday 13th May 8pm

We have bleed kits for use in case of serious bleeding incidents - these are available with the defibrillators in Sumner Avenue and at Haskayne Village Hall. If you are interested in finding out how these can be used, we have arranged a training session at Haskayne Village Hall at 8pm on Tuesday 13th May. Steve Bousefield has kindly agreed to explain to us how we can use these in an emergency. The event is free, please contact Kathy Cunliffe (07563552236) if you would like to attend.

Best Kept Village

The Parish Council are entering Haskayne for Lancashire Best Kept Village this year. Judging usually starts on 1st June. It is helpful if you can continue to keep our streets free of litter and keep the area near your house tidy and free of weeds by the road kerb. We are organising some litter picking/working parties to tidy up the village where needed. The dates for these are: Litter picking on 13th April at 2pm organised by Connor Edwards for GB Spring Clean - meet at The Ship Inn. Also Sundays 27th April 10am, 18th May 2pm, 1st June 10am - organised by Kathy Cunliffe starting at The Old Post Office - these will be litter picking or working parties depending on what is needed or your choice of activity. Litter Pickers and bags available for all dates. Bring spade/brush for working party. If you can join in, just come along - look forward to seeing you.

Best Kept Garden and Best Hanging Basket

The secret gardener is out and about looking at your front gardens and hanging baskets in order to decide the winners of the above awards and the winners will be announced in KIT and on our Facebook page.

Dates for your Diary

Quiz - Sat 13th September 7.30pm

Children's Halloween Science & Fun Party - Sun 26th October 4.30 - 6.30pm

Father Christmas - December date to be arranged

Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree - Fri 19th December

Finally, if you are interested in what you have read above and would like to join our committee, we would welcome you. People bring different skills to the committee, whether it be practical, organisational, financial, ideas, catering, helping with events, publicity, etc. etc. Whatever your skill there is a contribution you can make. Ring and have a chat or call at The Old Post Office to meet Kathy & me.

Roy Cunliffe

Chairperson

01704 841066

roycunliffe@btinternet.com

Facebook Page: Haskayne & Downholland Residents Association

HASKAYNE & DOWNHOLLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND HASKAYNE VILLAGE HALL

Current activities

Mondays	Coffee Morning	11am-1pm
	Residents Association Meeting <i>(2nd Monday of the Month - subject to change)</i>	7.30pm
	Body Tone	6.30-7.30pm
Tuesdays	Pilates	9.30-10.30am & 6.30-7.30pm
	Parish Council Meeting <i>(3rd Tues of month)</i>	7.30pm
Wednesdays	Body Tone	9.45-10.45am
	Wednesday Club <i>(last Wednesday of the month but can be subject to change)</i>	
	The Cottage Garden Society <i>(3rd Wednesday of the Month Not January or June to Sept)</i>	1.30-3.30pm 7.30pm
	Bingo Wednesday 2 nd April	7.30pm
Thursdays	Pilates	9.30-10.30am
Fridays	Available for Hire	
Saturdays	Dogs Trust Dog Training Classes	Morning
	Afternoon Available for Hire	
Sundays	Available for Hire	

The Haskayne & Downholland Community Association (HDCA) continue to run our Village Hall. We have a really good team, who all work together to help with the smooth running of the hall and the various activities. We are very grateful for any help we can get, and it has been great to work alongside the Haskayne Residents Association. If anyone else would like to get involved with anything that's going on at the hall or has any ideas for us to think about, then please get in touch – any help at all is always appreciated! Our email address for any enquiries or to make a booking is haskaynedca2021@gmail.com or ring Dianne on 01704 840175.

Coffee Mornings

Our Coffee Mornings are held every Monday and during the winter months, we were open as a "Warm Space" when we served hot soup and a roll together with hot drinks, cakes and biscuits. We also held a few crafty sessions, bottle painting, card and Christmas tag making. We had a Valentine themed morning in February which included a valentine quiz, and everyone went home with a rose. We meet every Monday morning from 11am until 1pm. Everyone welcome, whatever age! We have a laugh together and are always thinking of new ideas that we could do. We don't charge but any donations are gratefully received which help towards the running costs of the hall. There is a book and jigsaw library available, and we also have homemade cards and gifts for sale with all proceeds going to MacMillan and Woodlands.

Bingo

We recently held our Christmas Bingo which was really busy. Our next Bingo will be our Easter Bingo on Wednesday 2nd April 2025. It's £5 a book and we also have a raffle and Winner Takes All. Refreshments are served but you can also bring your own.

Body Tone and Pilates

Andrea now holds five exercise classes a week, both evening and daytime. Body Tone is on a Monday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 9.45am and Pilates takes place every Tuesday and Thursday at 9.30am and Tuesday at 6.30pm. Both Body Tone and Pilates are for all abilities and a great way to keep fit. Come along and give it a try! Please contact Andrea, who is a qualified instructor, on 075400 53002 for further information.

Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust Dog School team hold classes at Haskayne Village Hall on Saturday mornings. The classes cover foundation training skills such as settle, recall, loose lead walking and four paws on the floor, to name a few. Puppy classes are up to 18 weeks, adolescent classes from 18 weeks to 18 months and adult classes over 18 months. They also hold one-to-one sessions. If you are interested, then please visit the website www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/dog-school/ to fill in an enquiry form.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club takes place usually on the last Wednesday of the month, but this can be subject to change, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. It costs just £2 with optional bingo £1 and raffle 50p a strip. We start the session with five games of Bingo followed by tea, coffee, homemade cakes and a raffle. Members can also play dominoes or just sit and have a chat and a catch up. Di and Myra look forward to seeing everyone, young and old and offer a very warm welcome to any newcomers.

Cottage Garden Society and Plant Sale

The North West Cottage Garden Society regularly meet at the Village Hall, usually the third Wednesday of the month (except January, and June to September). Everyone is welcome to attend, members £1.50, non-members £3.00, which includes refreshments. There is also a raffle and a plant sales table. Members enjoy organised visits to gardens in the Summer months. For further info, check out the Lancashire and North West Cottage Garden Society website. The following talks will be taking place in 2025:

Wednesday 16th April 2025	Wednesday 21st May 2025
'Better Borders' by Maureen Sawyer	'Pin me to the wall- and do what you want with me' by Andrew Mikolajski

Community Foodbank

If anyone wants to donate to our local Foodbanks, please bring any donations to the Village Hall on Monday morning, from 10.30am, or if attending any activities at the hall any other time. There is a box in the main hall to leave any items. Alternatively, please get in touch with Sharon on 07714330430 and we can collect. Thank you!

59er's Club

The HDCA hold a 59er's club every month to help with fundraising for the Village Hall. It costs just £5 a month and the 1st Prize is £100, 2nd Prize £15 and 3rd Prize £10. There are a few spare numbers and if you would like to join, or for further details, please ring Wendy 07802183100.

Children's Parties

The Hall is also available for Children's Parties. A two-hour afternoon party with an hour set up time and half an hour clear away time, costs just £70 with full use of all our facilities. We allow bouncy castles inside the hall as long as they are provided by Boomerang Bouncy Castle Hire, who have lots of different styles and themes, including soft play. Our email address for any enquiries or to make a booking is haskaynedca2021@gmail.com or ring Dianne on 01704 840175. If you wish to book a children's party at the hall, please do not leave it too late as it gets very busy!

THE RECTOR SUSAN WRITES

Here we are again at that beautiful time of year, when we can sense new life emerging and the longer, brighter days encourage us to look up and out. The work that has been done by the 'butterflies and bees brigade' and 'proud and tidy teams' are clear for all to see. Yet, at the moment, the wider world seems a harsh and unforgiving place.

Some of you reading this will be able to remember the Second World War. Sadly, 80 years on, we see conflict and violence enacted in more parts of the world than ever. The First World War was supposed to be 'the war to end all wars', and in the aftermath of the Second World War, the nations came together to write a body of International Law that would protect human rights, protect civilians caught in armed conflict, and ensure that genocide could not happen again: we are probably all left wondering what went wrong? There are no easy answers, but part of our response should be to intentionally remember and, in doing so, bring the past into the present; and where we can, bring hope and reconciliation. It's something we can all choose to do and its importance in building community cannot be over emphasised.

In bringing the past into the present we need to take care. In a context where many people are traumatized and angry we need to speak gently. We need to try to build each other up, as is happening with Southport after the tragic events of last summer, and in smaller ways in our own community such as the school visits to the village hall to join the coffee mornings and all the events the village put on over the year.

Building a more Christ-like world means recognizing our common humanity and accepting that none of us is perfect or has all the answers. In standing with Jesus, the victim of appalling violence, we also stand with him in the resurrection, the total antithesis of destruction and death.

It is an amazing if profoundly disturbing way to try and live. Why not join us at one of our church services over the coming month and take time to ponder what it would mean for you, your family and our communities to work towards such a Christ-like world.

Holy Week

Friday 18th April	10am	Stations of the cross and walk from Our Lady's to St Thomas'
Good Friday	2pm	St Cuthbert's Vigil around the cross

Easter

Sat 19th April Easter Eve	7.30pm	St Thomas Easter Eve vigil and renewal of baptismal vows
Sunday 20th April Easter Day	8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist for easter with Easter egg hunt
	11am	St Thomas CW Eucharist for Easter with Easter egg hunt

Sunday 27th April (Second Sunday of Easter)

	8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's CW Eucharist for Easter
	11am	St Thomas All age Eucharist for Easter
Wednesday 30th April	11.00am	St Thomas' said CW Holy Communion
Sunday 4th May	8.00am	St Thomas' BCP Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Cuthbert's BCP Holy Communion marking VE day
	11am	St Thomas CW Eucharist marking VE day

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us at any of our United Benefice Services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

ORMSKIRK SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUST

The object of our charity is the provision of: Items, services, facilities and grants for the school and scholarships, maintenance allowances or other financial assistance to promote the education of the School's current or future pupils or its past pupils under the age of twenty-five, or their preparation for entry into a profession, trade or calling.

Applying for funding

If you are a current or past pupil of the school under the age of twenty-five you can apply. Examples of the things we can help with: Cost of books, field trips, equipment, tools, special clothing, evening classes, travel for educational enrichment etc.

Visit <https://osft.org.uk/> to apply.

WEST LANCS ARMED FORCES CHAMPION, COUNCILLOR PAUL HENNESSY

Have you ever been a member of the Armed Services? If would you like to talk to like-minded people or need any assistance in your day-to-day life, please contact me and have a chat.

Paul cldr.p.hennessy@westlancs.gov.uk 01695 423872

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS		
Downholland Parish Council – downhollandpc.org.uk		
Cllr. Mike Wainwright (Chairman) 96 School Lane Haskayne chair@downhollandpc.org.uk	Cllr. Eleanor Gawne (Vice) 76 Jackson Close Haskayne e.s.gawne@gmail.com	Dave Bond (Clerk) 01704 534090 clerk@downhollandpc.org.uk
Cllr. Richard Arnold 2 Chisnall Brook Close Haskayne richard-pam@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr. Dianne Cull 92 Park Crescent Haskayne dianneecull@yahoo.com	Cllr. Stephen Burgess 36 Chisnall Brook Close Haskayne stephendburgess@aol.com
Cllr. Steven Thomas 16 Woods Close Haskayne L39 7JL steventhomas68@btinternet.com		
West Lancs Borough 01695 577177 www.westlancs.gov.uk	Refuse Collection, Leisure and Recreation, Social/Council Housing, Planning and Building Regulation Enforcement, Ranger Services, Social Support Services & On street CCTV.	
Lancashire County Council 0845 053 0000 lancashire.gov.uk	Flooding and Drainage, Gritting, Repairing roads include potholes, Recycling centres and Library Services, Blue Badges, Schools, Elections & Birth Deaths & Marriage registrations.	

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Any views expressed do not necessarily reflect Parish Council Policy. Contributions welcome.