

## In Memoriam

**Brian Skinner** aged 82 years, beloved husband of Valerie, much loved dad of Thomas, John and Helen, a treasured grandad, dear father-in-law and lifelong supporter of Burnley FC. Though he no longer lived on Fir trees Lane, he was well known as the school caretaker and volunteered at various village events, selling programmes and raffle tickets.



**Les Townsend** was an original 'Highamer' having been born in Laneside. Later he lived with his wife Beryl and two sons, Mark and Adam on Rake Top Avenue. He was one of the parents of boys in the late 1970s who formed Higham Boys' FC. He assisted with training and his late son Mark was the captain of one of the teams. Les was a hardworking Parish Councillor, taking responsibility for the Lengthsman and helping with the Village Clean Up days. Les was always ready for a chat as he walked round the village with his two dogs.

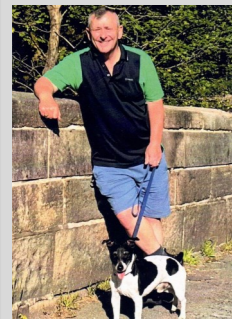


**Jackie Meredith** was the beloved wife of John, a dear sister of Alan and sister-in-law of Kathryn. She passed away peacefully on 8th February in the Royal Blackburn Hospital surrounded with family and close friends at her bedside.



'A beautiful, fun-filled lady,' a wonderful person and inspiration to many,' the best thing in the world', a good friend to so many in the village', a lovely and vivacious lady', 'it was a privilege to have called her a dear friend'. These are just a few of the comments that have been used to describe her, that John has received.

Jackie was born in Failsforth and also lived in Derbyshire. When she came back north to Higham with her husband John, she threw herself into village social and fundraising events, including the Scarecrow Festival and annual fairs. She became a Parish Councillor, taking over responsibility for the Spout, an organiser of the Best Kept Village Competition and used her crafting talents to decorate the Village Hall for the Seniors' Christmas party. She will be greatly missed.



**Nicholas Swinbank (Swinny)** who died on 16th December 2023 was formerly of Sabden Road. A well known sportsman and family man, Nick's funeral service was held at St. John's Church, Higham on 28th December 2023

Our deepest condolences to their families

## Birth

Terry & Val Butterfield are proud to announce the birth of their grandson Harry Joseph who was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Adam and Sarah Butterfield in Sheffield. A brother for Anna.



## Village Hall

The last few months have been very busy, but successful. We have welcomed back to the committee Heather Swindlehurst and Keith Widdop, Lucy Willighan has joined us as a new member. Simone Koch has now taken over as secretary. Thanks to all committee members for their support. Fund raising has been increased with over £800 raised at the Race Night and £400 on the Rock & Roll evening organised by John Clegg. Thank you to all who helped. Following the changes in organisation of Santa at the Four Alls, we received a donation of almost £300, thank you to John Metcalfe and John Harrison. A donation of £95 was also received from the Christmas Fair.

The Ginjammers Evening at the beginning of March was another successful event organised by John Clegg, which raised £353.

The fundraising and donations will help with some more essential maintenance. The Ginjammers Evening at the beginning of March was another successful event organised by John Clegg, which raised £353.

**John Meredith Chairman**

## Hughie Rings The Bell

Hughie Higginson, with the support of his good friend, Freddie Xavi, has reached two important milestones. Hughie has rung the 'End of treatment bell' at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and he and Freddie recently fronted the Rooftop Play Area Appeal, which raised £364,176, thanks to their effort and donations from the public. Well done boys!



## Four Alls.

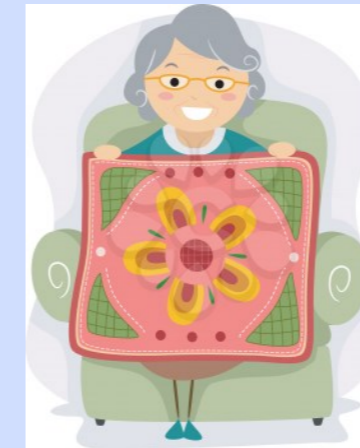
The Four Alls goes from strength to strength with rave reviews on line, Trip Advisor and in the Burnley Express of 22 Feb 2024. Michael and Marina have ensured that this village pub is known for its lovely, friendly staff, good choice of food and drink at reasonable prices and good value for money.

The menu changes frequently but usually features the customers' favourite, the chef's delicious chicken and hock pie. Once again the Four Alls is the centre of village life



# HIGHAM Spout

News and views from the village of Higham



## MAY FAIR Weekend 4, 5, 6, May

We look forward to holding another great event with **crafts, puppet shows, farmers market** and, of course, **maypole dancing** amongst other things. Look forward to seeing you then. As usual we would be grateful for any help you can offer.

Please contact Val on 07530345079 or Heather on 07713121275 if you feel you can donate food or give us some of your time over the weekend.



## Scarecrow Festival

August Bank Holiday  
24th, 25th, 26th August



The theme for this year is 'OUT OF THIS WORLD' so get your thinking caps on! Can we beat 70+ scarecrows this August Bank Holiday weekend?

## Annual Village Meeting Friday 17th May 2024 Village Hall 7pm.



### Come and join us

This is an open meeting held each year in the village hall to all residents and organisations that put events on throughout the village. Come along and meet your Councillors. Find out what has been happening in the village over the past year. Have your say on future projects. Join us for some light refreshments. We really hope to see you there.

# HIGHAM with West Close Booth PARISH COUNCIL

Vice Chair: Diane Perrin [chairman@highamparishcouncil.com](mailto:chairman@highamparishcouncil.com)  
 Clerk: Patricia Rosthorn Tel 07931 687175 38 Acres Brook Rd, Higham, BB12 9BY  
[clerk@highamparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@highamparishcouncil.com)  
 Meetings 3rd Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

## TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR JACKIE MEREDITH

It was with great sadness that we had to announce in February that Councillor Jackie Meredith had passed away. Jackie was a well-respected, dedicated Councillor who was proud to represent the Village. She made a significant contribution to the work of the Council which included being the Editor of this newsletter and in supporting the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition and Senior Citizens Christmas Party. Jackie was a much loved and valued member of our community, and we miss her dearly. Thank you, Jackie for everything that you did. It was an absolute privilege to work alongside you!

Diane Perrin, Vice Chair



This edition of the 'Spout' marks the retirement of our Parish Councillor and Chairman, Michael Tetley. He has served our local community in a variety of ways over many years. He first joined the Parish Council in February 2008. He stepped down for health reasons in 2017 but returned in 2018 and resumed the Chairmanship in 2019. He has led the Council well with the benefit of his extensive knowledge of our community, coupled with his practical knowledge and down-to-earth approach. He will be greatly missed and the Parish Council and Higham thank him for all he has done.

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## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair, held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November was a lovely event! There were lots of visitors keeping the stallholders busy. There was a variety of stalls to choose from including crafts, games, tombola and raffle. Father Christmas was also kept occupied meeting children in his grotto in church. As always the refreshments were extremely popular and there were lots of delicious meals, snacks and cakes on offer.

In all we raised just over £1,000 for church funds - a great success!

The committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped and supported us in any way. We were grateful for donations of food as well as the plentiful items for our tombola and raffle. Many thanks also to those who gave their time to help in the village hall and church on the day.

## Higham Book Club

The inaugural meeting of the Higham Book Club took place on 15 June 2022 and has continued to meet on the last Tuesday of every month in the local Village Hall. As well as being a brilliant way of sharing our love of reading and initiating friendly discussion about authors, genres, characters, plot twists and turns it's also proved to be a good social event enabling members to catch up with each other over some nibbles and the odd glass of wine! There has been a cinema outing to see the Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry and we are hoping to be able to persuade an author to come and talk about one of their books at a future meeting.

The first book we chose in July 2022 was 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak and there have been some interesting titles over the course of the last 18 months with some of our favourites featured below:

Madeleine Miller: Song of Achilles  
 Clare Chambers: Small Pleasures  
 Rachel Joyce: Perfect  
 Donna Tartt: A Secret History  
 Anna Ellory: The Puzzle Women  
 C J Sansom: Dissolution  
 Eleanor Anstruther: A Perfect Explanation  
 Thomas Hardy: Far from the Madding Crowd  
 Margaret Atwood: Hag Seed

## Burnley Film Festival 2024

The Burnley Film Festival will take place at Higham Village Hall on Saturday 18 May and will attract film makers from across the country to Higham for an afternoon of film screenings and awards to the winner of the famous 'Burnley Trophy' for best film. The film festival is the first time the event has been held at the Village hall and we are hoping for a sellout on the day.



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## Higham 125 Club

Congratulations to our lucky winners so far in 2023-2024. We still have availability so why not join us and have the chance of winning £125! It costs £ 5.00 per month by standing order, or £60 for the year, with one prize every month of £125.00. If you would like to do so please contact Heather Swindlehurst on 07713121275 or Val Butterfield on 07530345079 for more details.

Latest winners :

October No 104  
Gareth Storey



December No 111  
Kath Sutcliffe

February No 57  
Clive Mayor



November No 34  
Pam Fitton



January No 35  
Julie Fox

Good luck to all our members!

## Church

In November we held our annual Remembrance Service, Tim Mason played the Last Post. The service was followed by very welcome bacon butties in the Village Hall, served by our May King, Noah and his mum.

Also in November was our Saints and Souls service, a special service where we light a candle to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. Many thanks to everyone who donated a gift for our Toy Service. All the toys were passed on to Bernardo's and handed to children who would otherwise not have received a present.

In the lead up to Christmas we had a lovely Christingle service, a service of traditional lessons and carols.

Our **Pizza and Praise** group meet on the last Friday of each month for a time of family praise, worship and fun. All youngsters are welcome, accompanied by an adult.

**Essence group** - we meet on the first Wednesday of each month, at the Refectory at St Anne's. Everyone welcome.

**Confirmations** will be celebrated at St John's with Bishop Jill, on Wednesday 24 April.



Though it seems a long time ago now, the Seniors' Christmas Party, was as enjoyable as always - with music from James Cockerill, an excellent meal from The Cabin caterers, and an extensive set of raffle prizes and a quiz, all in the setting of our refurbished Village Hall, beautifully decorated for Christmas. Thank you particularly to Cllrs. Lucy Willighan and the much missed, Jackie Meredith for organising it all and, of course, to our perennial bar staff, Terry and Patricia. There were around 60 people in attendance - including Borough and County Councillors, Mayor Brian Newman and Howard Hartley, who were very welcome.