

SPOTLIGHT

Slyne-with-Hest Newsletter - May 2026



A Strong Start for Our Village

The Newsletter team has been genuinely encouraged by the response to the first issue of our village newsletter. Thank you to everyone who sent kind messages, feedback and suggestions for future content. It is clear there is real appetite for a shared space that brings together what is happening across Slyne with Hest.

In our first issue we asked for your help in choosing a name. We received a range of thoughtful and creative suggestions. Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute. We are pleased to share that the winning name is "Spotlight". It reflects exactly what this newsletter aims to do; shine a light on village life, community activity and the work taking place behind the scenes.

Several residents told us they enjoyed having local

updates brought together in one place and that it helped them feel more connected and better informed. That feedback matters. Spotlight exists to reflect the life of the village. It works best when it includes news from clubs, community groups, schools, events, local achievements and the everyday moments that make Slyne with Hest what it is.

If you have something to share, we would love to hear from you. This might be an upcoming event, a recent success, a regular activity that welcomes new members, or a piece of village history worth revisiting. Please get in touch and help us build each issue together.

A Request for Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help support the newsletter and wider Parish Council communications, and we'd love to hear from you.

Continued overleaf

In this newsletter you can expect:

What's On

Events, groups and notices

Where to Get Help

Local services and contacts

Community Profiles

Volunteers, clubs and initiatives

How to Help

Clear asks where support is needed, for example warm spaces, befriending and lifts

Get Involved

Read it, share it and help shape future editions





Logo Design

We would love to hear from anyone in the community interested in designing a logo for Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council - no design experience necessary. We are looking for a simple, distinctive design that captures the spirit and character of the village, whether inspired by local landmarks, surroundings, or what the community means to you.

Your design could become a lasting symbol of the parish, used across letterheads, signage, and publications for years to come. You might choose to include landmarks such as

the Memorial Hall, Canal Bridge, Stocks at Throstle Grove, or Foreshore Views, but this is entirely up to your imagination.

This is your chance to leave a creative mark on the parish and help shape how our community is represented. Please submit your design(s) with a short description to clerk@slynewithest-pc.gov.uk by 31 July.

Newsletter Delivery

We are also looking for a small number of volunteers to help deliver the community newsletter. This involves delivering to a few nearby roads just three times a year

and usually takes around 30–45 minutes. It's a simple but valuable way to support the community and help keep residents informed about local news, events, and updates.

Whether you'd like to use your creativity, support local communication, or simply lend a hand, your contribution will make a meaningful difference to our community.

If you are happy to help, please get in touch at clerk@slynewithest-pc.gov.uk Please include "Layout", "Logo" or "Delivery" in the subject line so we know which role you are interested in. We'd love to hear from you.

Securing the Future of the Memorial Hall



If you have ever been to a class, a club or a community event in Slyne with Hest, you will know how central the Memorial Hall is to village life.

For more than 100 years, it has provided a space for children to learn, for groups to meet and for neighbours to come together. It sits at the heart of the village, though few of us see the work and expense involved in keeping it running.

Today, however, the Hall is under real financial pressure. Heating alone now takes around 20 percent of its annual income, and costs are expected to rise again in 2026. At the same time, the building requires ongoing repairs, both as a heritage property and because its heating system is ageing. Together, these pressures are making it harder to keep the Hall financially sustainable.

A significant part of the challenge is simply keeping the heat in. Some of the insulation

is outdated and in places there is none. The windows are nearly 50 years old and single glazed, and some of the wooden frames are beginning to deteriorate. This means the Hall uses far more energy than it should to stay warm and comfortable.

The management committee has already begun acting. With support from external grants, work has started to improve the building's condition and reduce energy loss. Earlier this year, funding from the Lancashire Environmental Fund enabled essential damp repairs in the entrance and stair areas. A further grant application has been submitted to improve insulation throughout the Hall, with a decision expected in June.

Replacing the windows is the next major step. The plan is to install modern double glazing in frames that reflect the Hall's original heritage appearance, improving energy efficiency while respecting its character.

Grants will help, but they will not cover everything. The Hall depends on local support, and the committee is grateful to those who have already become Friends of the Memorial Hall and are making regular contributions.

Fundraising events will continue throughout the year, raising vital funds while bringing people together. As a shared space used by all generations, the future of the Memorial Hall ultimately rests with the community it serves.

If you are able, please consider attending events, becoming a Friend of the Memorial Hall, or encouraging others to do the same.

Your support will help ensure this important village space remains open, welcoming and fit for the future. If you're interested in becoming a friend of the memorial hall, email shmh_admin@btinternet.com or call 01524 956817.




Open 8.00am to 4.00pm during term time
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infinitypreschool.co.uk
infinitypreschools@gmail.com

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Appointments available with a qualified, HCPC-registered podiatrist.

10b Manor Road, Slyne with Hest
07841987195 | Online booking - www.manorpodiatry.co.uk

Parish Update: Repairs, Resilience and the Road Ahead

It has been a busy few months for the Parish Council, combining practical problem solving, new facilities and important discussions about the future of our village.

The Rec - Acting on a Long-Standing Problem: Many residents will have noticed that the main entrance path to the Queen Elizabeth Recreation Ground has been closed. This decision was not taken lightly. Persistent heavy rainfall has gradually eroded the surface, making the path unsafe.

The underlying drainage issues sit with Lancashire County Council Highways. Although remedial work is on their schedule, there is currently no confirmed timeline. Rather than wait, the Parish Council is acting within its powers.

Kerbing is being installed and landscaping reshaped to redirect water into the existing drainage system. A new entrance is being created further down, with a gate leading onto a woodland path that reconnects with the stone path inside the Rec. The former tarmac area is also being landscaped to

sit more naturally within its surroundings.

The Zip Slide - Progress Despite Setbacks:

Installing the new Zip Slide proved more complex than expected. When contractors began groundworks, significant groundwater was discovered beneath the site, requiring additional engineering to secure the foundations properly.

That work has now been completed and final installation is underway. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Zip Slide may already be open. If not, it is expected to open shortly.

We know there has been real anticipation. Taking the time to resolve the ground conditions properly means the Zip Slide will be safe, durable and ready for years of use.

Keeping Slyne with Hest Clean:

Over the past year, a small group of committed residents has organised regular litter picks across the village, collecting around 50 bags of rubbish. Unfortunately, a significant proportion has been dog waste.

The Parish Council

thanks everyone who has given their time. To support this effort, new bins have been installed at Hatlex Bridge, near the play park by Slyne Pharmacy, and at the Memorial Hall bus shelter.

A New Defibrillator at Slyne Pharmacy: A public access defibrillator has now been installed at Slyne Pharmacy, thanks to the cooperation of the building's owner. This is the first time this part of the village has had direct access to a unit. In a cardiac emergency, minutes matter. Having a defibrillator nearby could make a lifesaving difference.

Slyne Cemetery: The Parish Council manages Slyne Cemetery on Bottomdale Road. Its rules and regulations are being updated to reflect changes in legislation and the rising costs of maintaining the cemetery to the standard the community expects. Full details will be published on the Parish Council website once finalised.

These projects reflect the ongoing work required to maintain and improve the facilities our community relies upon.

More than books: Library services in and around Slyne with Hest



Did you know that residents of Slyne with Hest have access to both a permanent local library and a mobile library service?

Bolton le Sands Library is our nearest full service library and offers free access to books, audio books, newspapers, computers, free WIFI, and a welcoming place to spend time. It also runs regular activities for all ages, including sessions for children, social groups, and free classes.

Bolton Le Sands Library Opening Times

Monday 9am to 2pm
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday 9am to 5pm
Thursday 9am to 6pm
Friday 9am to 5pm
Saturday 9am to 2pm
Sunday Closed

Alongside this, the Mobile Library visits Slyne with Hest every three weeks,

stopping at Hest Bank Memorial Hall and Arden Close. The mobile library is fully accessible, carries a wide range of books and audio books for all ages, and offers a simple way to borrow and return items close to home.

Using the mobile library really matters. Regular use helps protect the service and ensures it continues to visit the village, particularly for residents who find it harder to travel. If you see the van, please do pop in and use it, even if it's just for a quick browse.

Both library services are free to join and open to everyone.

Useful Contacts and Information

Bolton le Sands Library
Lancashire County Council
Library Service

Website: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/find-a-library/bolton-le-sands-library>

Telephone: 0300 123 6703

Mobile Library Timetable

The mobile library visits Slyne with Hest every three weeks.

It stops at:

- Hest Bank Memorial Hall from 10:30am to 12:15pm
- Arden Close, Slyne from 12:20pm to 12:35pm

Please note that times and dates can change at short notice. For the latest information, visit the Lancashire County Council website and search for "mobile libraries", then select "find your nearest stop". Updates are also displayed in the window of the Memorial Hall nearest the main entrance, as well as several of the village notice boards.

CARNFORTH & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Musical Director - David Lamper

COME AND SING EVENT



and



Summer Concert

with

Songs from the Shows



Join us for a free choir session - all voices welcome!

When:	Saturday 4 July 2026
Where:	Hest Bank Memorial Hall, Hanging Green Lane, LA2 6JB.
Come & Sing:	2pm - 5pm
Picnic:	5pm - 6pm
Concert:	6pm - 7:30pm
Concert Ticket:	£15 includes a glass of wine/prosecco or fruit juice.



See social media for more details



More Than a Football Club: The Moments That Made Us



On a cold January afternoon in 2019, Slyne with Hest came from two goals down to beat Hesketh Bank 4–3. Bottomdale Road was packed, the crowd was loud, and the match became one of those moments people still talk about years later.

Three years earlier, after severe weather made the home pitch unplayable; the club moved a cup tie to Lancaster City's Giant Axe. The game went ahead under floodlights, giving young supporters a night they will never forget and keeping the fixture alive when it could easily have been lost.

These moments capture what Slyne with Hest Football Club has been about since 1957. It is not just competitive football, but resilience, community and belonging, passed down through generations at Bottomdale Road.

That sense of continuity is visible on the pitch itself. John Norfolk played for the club in the early 1970s. His son Ian Norfolk represented Slyne with Hest in the 1990s. Today, a

third generation continues the story, with Isaac Norfolk playing full back for the First Team in the 2025/26 season. Few clubs can point to that kind of living history.

The same is true of many long-standing members. Chris Knowles, now in his eighties, was the club's original chairman and has been playing, running and supporting the club for over 50 years. Players such as Ian Campbell, Dave Campbell, Nick Askew, Chris Knowles, Clive Moorby, Mick Heaton and Dave Heaton all played in the same team as John Norfolk, forming the backbone of an era that still shapes the club's identity today.

Today, the club runs a First Team in West Lancashire League Division One and continues to grow its junior and girls' teams, creating a clear pathway from grassroots to senior football within the village.

From First Kick to First Team

The First Team is managed by Eric Hollings and plays in Division One. The club also runs an Under 16 Girls

team managed by Mark Joyce, and an Under 12s team in the Sunday League under Rusty Speak. Halton Juniors Under 18s use the facilities for training and match days, strengthening the local pathway for young players.

What Comes Next for the Club

Plans are underway to extend the changing rooms into a clubhouse with a viewing café, bar and function room. The aim is to create a welcoming space for families, supporters and the wider community. Fundraising and grant applications are already in progress to help make this next chapter possible.

Be Part of the Next Chapter

New players are always welcome, especially for the ladies' and junior teams. Volunteers, sponsors and community partners are also invited to support match days and the clubhouse project.

To get involved or find out more, contact Club Secretary Dave on: 07830 142 511.



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MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS :

Tabletop Sale

Crafts, bric-a-brac, vintage, toys, clothes, etc., - a great opportunity to sell preloved items or come along for a browse and see what gems you can find! **FREE ENTRY** Refreshments.



Tables £10 for 2m table or £16 for 2. To book your space use either:
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GFFO>
the QR code, call 01524 956817 or
shmh_admin@btinternet.com



Serving Up the Truth about Slyne with Hest Tennis Club



Situated opposite the Memorial Hall, Slyne with Hest Tennis Club has been part of village life for over 40 years. With two all-weather courts, floodlights for evening play, and a small clubhouse for post-match cuppas, it's a friendly, welcoming place for players of all ages and abilities.

Yet despite being right on our doorstep, many people don't realise how accessible and down-to-earth the club really is. We caught up with Chairman Martin Brownjohn to clear up a few common myths.

Four myths about tennis at Slyne with Hest

Myth 1: Tennis is expensive

Not here. Membership starts from just £10 a year for juniors and £70 for adults, less than a monthly gym membership. Once you've joined, court use is free, and if you don't have a racquet, the club can often lend one.

"We try to keep costs as low as possible," says Martin. "We're a community club run by volunteers, not a business. Our priority is getting people out on court enjoying themselves."

Myth 2: It's all very competitive

While the club runs friendly tournaments and teams for those who enjoy a challenge, most members simply play for fun, fitness, and fresh air. "A lot of members come for a relaxed hit after work or to meet new people," Martin adds. "It's as social as it is sporty."

Myth 3: You have to be young and athletic

Far from it. Members range from schoolchildren to retirees in their seventies, each playing at their own pace. Social sessions focus more on enjoyment than winning. "It's never too late to pick up a racquet," says Martin.



Myth 4: It's hard to get involved

New members are always welcome. The club runs open days and beginner sessions throughout the year, and there's always someone on hand to offer tips and a warm welcome. "Just turn up and introduce yourself," Martin smiles. "You'll be on court in no time."

A club with community spirit

Over the decades, the club has hosted junior coaching, charity tournaments, and community events. The floodlights mean

locals can play year-round, and the cosy clubhouse remains a popular spot for tea, cake, and conversation. "It's not just about tennis," Martin reflects. "It's about friendship, fresh air, and keeping the village active."

If you've ever thought about giving tennis a try, now is a great time to start. Beginners are welcome, and there's no pressure to be good, just to enjoy it.

Visit clubspark.lta.org.uk/SlynewithHestTennisClub or email slynetennissecretary@gmail.com

HESTHOGS



Why care about hedgehogs? Many people remember the excitement of seeing their first one. That magical moment when a hedgehog appears quietly at dusk, emerging from a day's sleep to roam and forage for food.

Sadly, hedgehog numbers have been declining for decades. Monitoring since the 1990s shows a steep fall in population. Hedgehogs in Britain are declining at roughly the same rate as tigers globally. Estimates suggest numbers have dropped from around 35 million in the 1960s to fewer than one million today.

The good news is that hedgehogs still live around our village. They may pass through your garden at night without you ever knowing. Hedgehogs can travel up to two kilometres in a single night while searching for food. The problem is that many gardens are fenced off, forcing them onto roads.

You can help by creating a small "hedgehog highway". Simply make a 13 cm x 13 cm hole in a fence or wall to allow hedgehogs to pass through between gardens. This size lets hedgehogs through but keeps most domestic pets out. If you create a hole, you can register it on the national map at www.hedgehogstreet.com to see how gardens are being linked across the country.

Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to join in. Linking gardens locally could help hedgehogs move safely without having to cross roads.

Competition

Send a photo of your hedgehog highway to shanishaker@gmail.com and you could win a hedgehog highway sign made from recycled plastic.



Other helpful tips

- Look out for Hedgehog Awareness Week from 3 to 9 May 2026. More information is available at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk
- If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, contact Lanes Vets on 01524 67777. They provide a 24 hour service. If you take a

hedgehog to the vet, please text Rowan Worsman on 07833 772357. Rowan lives locally and has many years of experience nursing hedgehogs back to health so they can be released into the wild. Please do not phone.

Slyne with Hest Environmentalists is a local group working to improve our environment. The group meets monthly and discusses topics such as renewable energy, local organic food, waste reduction, the Repair Café, hedgehog conservation, and more. You can find the group on Facebook if you would like to learn more or get involved.

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THE HEST BANK

WHAT'S ON THIS SUMMER!

May – August



UPCOMING EVENTS

13th May – New Menu Launch Day

Come and try our brand new dishes!

23rd - 25th May – Family Fun Weekend

Fun for all ages across the whole weekend!

30th May – Paint & Plant (Kids Event)

Decorate your own plant pot & plant some flowers 🌻

20th June – Charity Day

Supporting Bay Search & Rescue & Lancaster Uni Sailing Club

5th July – Garden Craft Day

Make & decorate your own Bird House or Bug House

18th July – Kids Summer Break Party

Celebrate the start of summer holidays!

15th August – Fairy & Gnome Home Workshop

29th August – End of Summer Kids Party



WEEKLY QUIZ NIGHT

Every Wednesday - 8:30pm
Traditional Pen & Paper Quiz
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MORE TO COME...

We have a wide range of DAILY OFFERS AND EVENTS happening throughout the summer.



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Activities at the Church Hall

The Hall was built to replace a former hall which had passed its sell-by date.

It is now an energy efficient new build which provides resources for the churches and is available to the community and for individual bookings.

Email: swhchurchhall@gmail.com

Website: hallbookingonline.com/slynewithhest



Children's Groups

Junior Table Tennis	Mon 5pm – 6pm	Martin Wakelin martin@raquetstringer.co.uk
Shining Stars Nursery Group	Tue 9am – 11am (term time)	Val Gill robertgill145@btinternet.com
Baby Group	Thu 10.45am – 1.45pm	Lauren Hayton laurenhayton@outlook.com

Dance & Fitness

Pilates	Mon 9.30am – 10.30am Wed 8.30am – 9.30am Thu 9.30am – 10.30am Fri 9.30am – 10.30am	Pam Knight knight.pam@googlemail.com
Pilates	Wed 6.30pm – 7.30pm	Kym Walton kymwalton@hotmail.com
Table Tennis	Mon 6pm – 7pm	Martin Wakelin martin@raquetstringer.co.uk
Weights	Mon 8.30am – 9.30am Fri 8.30am – 9.30am	Pam Knight knight.pam@googlemail.com
Zumba	Thu 6pm – 7pm Fri 10.45am – 11.45am	Kate Kirkley katekirkley2@gmail.com
Zumba Gold	Mon 10.45am – 11.45am	Kate Kirkley katekirkley2@gmail.com
Zumba Gold Seated	Mon 11.45am – 12.45pm Fri 2.30pm – 3.30pm	Kate Kirkley katekirkley2@gmail.com
Zumba Toning	Wed 5.15pm – 6.15pm	Kate Kirkley katekirkley2@gmail.com

Community/Interest/Support

Knit and Natter	Mon 2pm – 4pm	Brenda Mills brendamills1946@aol.com
Food Collection and Coffee	Thu 10.30am – 12pm	Martin Wakelin martin@raquetstringer.co.uk
Bible Study Group	Thu 10am – 11am	Martin Wakelin martin@raquetstringer.co.uk
Body and Soul	Thu 2pm – 3pm	Val Gill robertgill145@btinternet.com
Families @4	First Sun 3.30pm – 5.30pm	Reverend Susan revsusan.seed@btinternet.com
United Reform Church Services	Sun 11am - 1pm	Val Gill robertgill145@btinternet.com
Ladies of Note	Wed 7.45pm – 9.30pm	Sandra Lumb sandlumb@hotmail.com
Red Rose Harps	Alternate Tue 1pm – 4pm	Val Gill robertgill145@btinternet.com
Hest Bank Ladies	First Tue 7pm – 9.30pm	Val Gill robertgill145@btinternet.com
Parkinsons Support Group	Fri 12pm – 2pm	Patricia Howard path1946@icloud.com
Bare Writers' Group	Alternate Tue 10am – 12pm	Allan Bolton abolton00@gmail.com
WI	Third Thu 7.30pm – 9pm	Janet Alexander swhwipresident@gmail.com
Art Classes	Wed 11am – 1pm	Jean Palmer jcpalmer123@icloud.com
Mothers' Union	Fourth Wed 2pm – 4pm	Reverend Susan revsusan.seed@btinternet.com

VILLAGE SPORTS

Tennis Club	clubspark.lta.org.uk/SlynewithHestTennisClub email: slynetennissecretary@gmail.com
Football Club	Club Secretary Dave Passant: 07830 142 511
Bowling Club	www.slyne-with-hest-bowling-club.org.uk Stephen Watkinson: stewockey@googlemail.com

Activities at the Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall was built in 1922 as a living memorial to the soldiers of the village lost in WW1, for future generations to enjoy a sense of community through social activities. It is available for hire to the community and for individual bookings.

Email: shmh_admin@btinternet.com

Website: slynewithhest.org.uk



Children's Groups

Little Sloggers Cricket Academy	Sun 8am - 11am	Ryan - 07944 900246
Slyne with Hest Infinity Preschool	Mon – Fri 9am - 4pm (term time)	01524 874331
Slyne with Hest Brownies (in Scout & Guide HQ)	Wed 6.15pm - 7.30pm (term time)	Joyce - 07534 380004
Slyne with Hest Guides (in Scout & Guide HQ)	Wed 7.30pm - 9pm (term time)	Joyce - 07534 380004

Dance & Fitness

Pilates	Mon and Thu 9.30am - 10.30am	Kym - 07721 408088
FitSteps Fitness	Mon and Thu 10.30am - 11.30am	Kym - 07721 408088
St Martins Junior Karate Club	Mon 6pm – 7.30pm Wed 6pm – 8.30pm Sun 8.30am – 9.30am (1st Sun only)	Chris - 07739 669326 Paul - 07984 912668
Morecambe Irish Dance Academy	Tue 4pm - 6pm	Shay - 07852 515123
Scottish Dancing Class	Tue 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Sep – May)	Graham - 01524 67245
Robinson Read School of Dance - Juniors	Wed from 4.15pm Thu from 4.15pm	Karen - 07729 798963
Jennifers Dancers – Street Dance	Thu 4.45pm - 7.45pm	Jennifer - 07970 096051
Your Kinda Yoga – Chair Yoga	Fri 1.30pm - 2.15pm	Helen - 07927 690256

Community/Interest/Support


Over Sixties Club	Alternate Mon 2pm - 4pm	Mrs Western - 01524 823988
Parish Council	Third Mon 7pm (except Aug)	Clerk - 07767 628999
Good News for Everyone	Last Mon 7pm - 10pm	Ken - 01524 822708
Slyne with Hest Local History Group	First Wed 2pm - 3.30pm	Janet - 07484 246777
Community Coffee Mornings	First Sat 10am - 12pm	Doreen - 01524 596817
Matilda's Mission	Second Sat 10am - 12pm	Chelsie - 07806 569270
Prophetic Witness Movement International Morecambe Bay Branch	Quarterly Sat 3.30pm - 9.30pm	Diane - 01524 855323



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Westmorland Homecare Lancaster & Morecambe
25 Brock Street, Lancaster, LA1 1UR | westmorlandhomecare.co.uk
lancaster@westmorlandhomecare.co.uk | Call us 01524 956240

The Thorns: A Small Home with a Big Heart



The staff and I would like to welcome you to the Thorns Retirement Home. We provide a happy and warm environment with excellent standards of care for people over the age of 65 years. Long or short term stays accepted. To contact us please: Telephone 01524 822558 or email us at:

info@the-thorns.co.uk.

We look forward to meeting you.

Grand Village Quiz

Join us for the big village brain off! Come and show us what you know and maybe win the trophy and a prize. Fun evening, bar and raffle.



Tickets: £10 for a team of 4 – 6 from either:
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GFTH>
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: MEMORIAL HALL EVENTS :