



Newsletter

February, March and April
2023

Editorial

Welcome to 2023. Despite very cold temperatures there have been lots of beautiful sunny days with cloudless, blue skies and sparkling frost. I hope that you have managed to wrap up warmly and get out to appreciate our spectacular surroundings.

In this edition you can read about the Parish Council's open day that enabled parishioners to view the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. If you care about the village and its environment you need to read the plan and comment on it. The article tells you where to view the Plan if you missed the open day.

If enough people are keen to open their gardens, the Village's main event this year will be the Open Gardens. Please see the article inside to find out how to offer to show your garden or how to get involved in other ways.

Hopefully you will all have noticed the new bus shelter in the middle of the village. All we need now is a bus and in this issue you can find out how that is progressing.

Parish Office

Fiona Richardson our Parish Clerk works on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am – 3pm. If you would like to meet with the Clerk at the Parish Office, Halton Village Hall, on any matter, please make an appointment on 01296 626073 or email clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to all the Parishioners who attended Saturday's Open Day to view our proposed Neighbourhood Plan. It was great to see you all and to chat and answer questions about the future of our Parish, what we want to protect, and what we want to gain from new housing development. We were really encouraged at the amount of time many of you gave to reading and considering the plan. We look forward to receiving your comments and feedback on the Plan. The consultation goes on until 5pm Sunday 5th March 2023. You can view the Plan and access the electronic feedback form at:

<http://www.haltonvillagenews.co.uk/parish-council/>

You can complete and submit the feedback form online or print it off to complete and put it in the Village Hall post box. If you have any queries or would like to look at a hard copy of the Plan, please contact our Parish Clerk at np@halton-pc.gov.uk or on 01296 622073.





Highways Report

There have been two accidents in Halton Lane, one on Perch Bridge and one on the sharp bend by the tennis club exit. If anyone has details or photographs, for our records, please could you send them to Fiona, our Clerk.

The Parish Council is trying to collate as much detail as possible about accidents in the parish, such as location, date, time, vehicles involved and what happened. If you are aware of any accidents please send the details to Fiona, our Parish Clerk. Photographs are very helpful and they are the most useful way to support our case to get improvements on our parish roads. If you do send photographs, please ensure they respect the privacy of individuals and do not include people. Thank you in advance for your help.

Icy weather – Please take extra care on all the roads but special care needs to be taken going over Perch Bridge and on the sharp bend in Halton Lane. Both areas get very icy and stay frozen due to the trees obscuring any sun which appears.

Projects – The parish council will be working hard in 2023 on projects to make the roads safer. As always the main issue is funding. We are working closely with the Community Board in the hope they will be able to support some of our plans.

Lighting – The parish council would like to upgrade the street lighting. The first step is to do a survey of current lighting to assess where changes need to be made. If you feel you might be able to help, please contact our Parish Clerk. If you enjoy a walk around the parish and can take photos on your travels and make a few notes this could be the perfect role for you!

Watch your speed, and stay safe!

Bus Shelter and Bus Service

A big Thank You to RAF Halton and especially to Sgt Paul Topping for building our replacement bus shelter. It is beautifully designed and built, and will stand for another generation. Only the RAF could build a structure and then escort it from the Airfield to the village! It took 11 Service Personnel to lift and move it to its location. An impressive feat!

We are now awaiting confirmation (from Buckinghamshire Council) of an On Demand Bus Service for Halton Village. The contract was out for tender over the summer and a contractor was appointed, ready for the new service to begin in the Spring. Unfortunately the contractor has since pulled out, which means that Buckinghamshire Council has to begin the tender process again. We will update you on progress and lets hope for success this summer.



Climate Action Group

A number of Halton parishioners are interested in forming a climate action group to discuss ways in which residents can reduce their carbon footprint and help the natural environment.

Climate Action Wendover has been in existence for a few years now and is already making a difference. Weston Turville has recently established a group called CAWT (Climate Action Weston Turville) and has invited Halton parishioners initially to join them to find out how to form a group and what issues can be acted upon. I have attended one of their meetings and was impressed with the initiatives they have put forward and would urge Halton residents, who are interested in helping our local environment, to contact Caroline Waddams on 01296 624458 so that we can generate ideas and join CAWT.

Climate change and the degradation of our natural environment is a very real issue and this is an opportunity to learn how to encourage our whole community to come up with some feasible solutions that we can all take on board.

Calling Halton Gardeners

Halton Parish Council is calling for gardeners in the village to volunteer their outdoor spaces for the biennial 'Open Gardens' event to be held on Saturday 24th June between 2pm and 5:30pm, if enough gardeners participate. With their cooperation and the help of volunteers, we hope to repeat the success of previous years and showcase horticultural talent, promote an interest in gardening and provide an afternoon of refreshment and delight of our lovely village in the sunshine!

The gardeners have until the end of April to register their details with our Parish Clerk on 01296 626073 or clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk. We need at least ten participants to allow the event to go ahead. Event updates will be made shortly thereafter.

Councillor Vacancy

Do you hate pot holes? If you want to be part of the solution, read on.

Do you love living in Halton? Would you like the parish to be safe for you and your family to walk, cycle and drive through? Could you commit a few hours a month to help keep the parish safe for everyone? If you already spend time walking, cycling or driving around the parish you could be the ideal person to support the work of the parish council.

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a new councillor to work with existing councillors to ensure Halton remains a lovely place to live. The role involves supporting the existing highways lead councillor looking for, and reporting, problems with roads and pavements to the appropriate departments by email or telephone. In addition, the council is working on several exciting new projects to address problems such as speeding, overweight HGVs using Perch Bridge and traffic calming.

It's a great team to work with and you'll feel a lot of satisfaction being part of a team working to make Halton safe and enjoyable to live in.

Why not talk to one of the team and get a feel for how you might be able to help. For more information or to arrange to talk to our highways lead please contact our clerk, Fiona Richardson: clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk



Pace Big Walk

This year's Pace BIG Walk routes will take in the infamous Ridgeway Trail. There is a choice of 18 mile, 12 mile, 6 mile or The Superhero Mile routes. There is something to suit all ages and abilities. This is a great opportunity to set yourself a challenge for 2023 and have some outdoor fun.

By taking part in the BIG Walk, you will not only have the opportunity to explore our beautiful countryside in a completely unique way, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to babies, children and young people with neurodisabilities.

To sign up visit <https://thepacecentre.org/event/the-big-walk/>

Work in the Churchyard

On November 26th last year we had a work party in the churchyard. The RAF provided 22 volunteers who were just finishing their NCO training and the villagers provided sufficient tools to help them do a good job. We split them into three teams so they could work in different areas. The first team worked on the graves behind the Cross of Sacrifice. They dug up the old plants and weeds between and in front of the graves. Top soil was then put down and raked into place before having grass seed put down. The second team addressed the hedge on the north side, cutting it back and reducing its height. The third team focussed on straightening a number of old grave stones that had taken on a rakish angle. By the time they had finished, six had been made safer and looked much neater.

By the end of the afternoon they had completed their tasks and the graveyard was looking a lot better. We are very grateful to the RAF for providing the resources that allowed us to tick a number of items off our 'To Do' list. We would like to thank the local volunteers who came and helped and the villagers who lent us their gardening tools so we could do a good job.

Halton Parish Precept

The Precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax collected by Buckinghamshire Council. Your Council Tax Bill is made up of a list of publicly funded organisations, principally Buckinghamshire Council, our Emergency Services and the Halton Parish Precept.

The Parish Council recognises the current financial climate for our residents (increased cost of living). We are a small Parish and have a duty to maintain our village services, including the Parish office and Clerk and our infrastructure such as our street lighting. Our operating costs are increasing and in this difficult financial climate, the Parish Council has made savings wherever possible.

During 2022, the majority of our improvements and community events were funded by grants where possible. In the village hall, we have changed from a printer contract to a stand alone printer and we have discontinued the village hall water cooler contract. One of our Councillors has volunteered to act as Caretaker for the Village Hall. This was previously a paid role.

During 2023 we will continue to bid for grants to fund village improvements. We are increasing our fees for village hall bookings to ensure they cover the increased running costs. We are joining a Community Energy Contract for the Public Sector and Charities to enable the best possible rates for our utilities. We are also investigating LED light saving options for our street lights. We will be assessing the cost versus safety and security benefits of turning off street lights from midnight. We will continue to seek out opportunities for additional savings throughout the year.

Based on the Council Tax Base allocated to Halton by Buckinghamshire Council for 2023-24, Halton Parish Council has requested a percentage increase of 4.99%. This will achieve an extra £1,769 per annum (total) to the Parish Council's budget. To illustrate, this equates to an increase of £5.87 per annum for a Band D Property. This decision was ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on 25 January 2023.

Time to Get Walking!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again. But where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Bucks has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks>

John Harris, who maintains the website, said “There is so much walking information on the web that it is sometimes difficult to find. Walking in Bucks (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place. So whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you”. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles and longer, and notes on suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to haltonvillage.newsletter@gmail.com or ring 01296 624458 before 18 April 2023.

The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of The Halton Village Newsletter.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 22 March 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
	Wednesday 1 February	Wednesday 1 February
Wednesday 8 February		Wednesday 8 February
	Wednesday 15 February	Wednesday 15 February
Wednesday 22 February		Wednesday 22 February
	Wednesday 1 March	Wednesday 1 March
Wednesday 8 March		Wednesday 8 March
	Wednesday 15 March	Wednesday 15 March
Wednesday 22 March		Wednesday 22 March
	Wednesday 29 March	Wednesday 29 March
Wednesday 5 April		Wednesday 5 April
	Wednesday 12 April	Wednesday 12 April
Wednesday 19 April		Wednesday 19 April
	Wednesday 26 April	Wednesday 26 January

Residents on the Wendover side of Perch Bridge have different collection days and dates, one day later on Thursday each week.

Warm Places

In December, the Parish Council opened the Village Hall as a warm space. Unfortunately there was very little take up and so this was discontinued. Hopefully parishioners are managing to keep warm. However, other villages are continuing to provide warm spaces. The Christian Centre in Wendover, Wendover Community Library and Weston Turville Village Hall are open on various days of the week. Please go to their village websites to find out more information.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council – Fiona Richardson	01296 626073
Village Hall Booking Clerk	01296 622702
Guard Room – Main Point	01296 656211/656503
Wendover Police Office (Wendover Library) - Tues & Fri 10am-12pm	01296 621916
Police Non-Emergency Number	101
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity Emergency	0800 316 3105
Fly Tipping Hotline	0845 330 1856
Potholes notification	08452 380882
Wendover Health Centre	01296 623452
WHC Friends Desk	01296 622565
Halton Community Combined School-Halton	01296 622264
John Hampden Infant School-Wendover	01296 622629
Wendover CE Junior School	01296 669822
John Colet Secondary School	01296 623348
Church Warden-Linda Kynaston	01296 431009