



Newsletter

August, September and
October 2024

Editorial

One of the many enjoyable things about living in Halton Village is the opportunity to experience the various flypasts that occur throughout the year as a result of the RAF being stationed here. On two occasions this summer villagers have been treated to a flypast by the Red Arrows. On June 8th they had flown over Buckingham Palace for the King's birthday and continued northwards and over Halton. Then, at RAF Halton's Annual Reception held on July 10th, they flew over Halton House and onto Abingdon and Bournemouth.

We are also lucky to have so much open green space around the village with the woods and canal providing lovely areas to walk in. Whatever the weather this summer, get out and explore our beautiful countryside.



Parish Council Priorities 2024—2025

The closure of RAF Halton

We will continue our work to get the best outcome that we can for our community.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the RAF Halton Allocation is now complete. (The consultation day took place in the Village Hall in January). This now allows us to resurrect our work on our draft Neighbourhood Plan. (The consultation day took place in January 2023, but work was halted, and our efforts were re-directed into the emerging SPD). Our Neighbourhood Plan will now cover the whole Parish, including the entirety of the RAF Halton site. Our draft Design Guide will also be developed to include a Landscape Strategy for the Parish.

Street Lighting Review

Working with other Parish Councils, we are developing a Street Lighting Policy, see article on page 5.

Speed-watch and Bridge-watch

We wish to recruit volunteers and set up teams that can report speeding traffic, and overweight HGVs using Perch Bridge to the relevant authorities for prosecution. Training and support will be given.

Pavement Parking

We want to prevent parked cars blocking our pavements for pedestrians, especially wheelchair users and families with buggies. This will also halt damage to our curbs and pavements. See article on page 3.

Devolved Services

We all pay our rates to Buckinghamshire Council, part of which goes to verge maintenance. We wish to explore devolved services whereby the funding for verge maintenance comes directly to the Parish Council. We can then take local control, and care for our verges.

Village Hall

The exterior walls and large glass window at the rear need restoring and redecorating. This will require specialist quotations and bid writing for grants to fund the work.

Community Events

We will continue to support Halton Socials with a calendar of events to bring the community together.

Communications

We continue to develop our website as a source of information. All Parish Councillors are receiving Comms training so we can improve the quality of the information that we share with you on our Social Media pages and this Newsletter.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these projects as a volunteer, then we would love to hear from you. Please email clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk with your contact details and get involved in shaping and improving our beautiful Parish.

Car Parking

Although there are not many parking spaces in Halton, parking on the roadside for short periods is acceptable. However, please avoid parking or partially-parking on the pavement. Pavements are not designed for cars and, over time, the surface can become uneven or cracked, causing trip hazards.

Parking on the pavement can cause difficulty for people with a disability, the elderly, people with an injury or recovering from surgery and parents with young children. Please help the Parish Council to improve pavement safety by:

- Not parking your own vehicle on the pavement.
- Leaving a polite note on the windscreen of any vehicle you see with wheels on the pavement.

Cards with the following details will be available in the entrance to the Village Hall:

Hello,

I wanted to make you aware that parking your vehicle on the pavement creates a hazard for people that need to use the entire pavement area (perhaps they have restricted mobility or use a pushchair or wheelchair). Cars can also cause damage to the pavement surface and kerb stones.

If you need to park here, please park completely on the road in future.

Thank you very much for your understanding.

If you have a specific need to park on the pavement, please email the Parish Clerk clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk or write to Parish Clerk, The Parish Office, Halton Village Hall, Old School Close, Halton, HP22 5NG

On Demand Bus Service for Halton Village

Good News! We have been reporting on this subject for two years, but we are finally there. The 'on demand' buses will start running in the next couple of months. The scheme is badged as Village Connect - Aylesbury and there will be a small fleet of 16-seater minibuses which are equipped to take wheelchairs.

Bookings will be made in advance or in real time through an App, website, or by phone. The service will run between 6am and 7pm Monday to Friday.

Recognised bus stops can be used, but anyone living more than 400m from a bus stop can request a more convenient stop. The buses will connect villages which do not currently have a bus service, with destinations such as Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Wendover Station.

A single ride will cost between £2.50 and £4.50 and Bucks Council's free bus passes can be used. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Buckinghamshire Council has promised to leaflet every household in the Parish when it launches.

As soon as we have a launch date, we will publicise it on the Parish Council's website and on the Halton Hub, so if you have Facebook and have not already joined the Hub please do so.

The bus service is funded for 3 years by the government's Rural Mobility Fund. The funding will be extended if we use it. If we don't use it, we will lose it - so let's all use it!

Street Lighting

In July, representatives from four of the surrounding villages met with the Environmental Lead and Parish Clerk of Halton Parish Council to discuss street lighting and with a view to developing a street lighting policy for the Parish.

A number of our street lights and lampposts need replacing and we are anxious to make sure that we are as environmentally friendly as possible with our choices. Several options were discussed including the pros and cons of night-time lighting reduction strategies, alternatives to the use of white LED bulbs (which have been replacing the older less energy-efficient sodium lights across the country but have a detrimental effect on insect populations) and sustainable maintenance contracts for street lights.

There were useful contributions from all the parish representatives and it was agreed that each parish would look into a different aspect and report back at a meeting to be held in September. The Halton Parish representatives will be looking at the cost and effectiveness of orange and red bulbs which are being used in other counties.

After the group's next meeting, we will let you know the results of everyone's findings and how we intend to proceed.

Parish Office

This month we say goodbye and thank you to Sarah Stobbs who has been our Bookings Clerk for the past couple of years. Sarah will be joining her husband at RAF St Mawgan and we wish them well on their new posting.

We are delighted to announce that we have recruited Suzanne Cheshire to our team. Suzanne has 30 years experience of building community partnerships, fund raising for projects, health and safety and risk management. Her duties are Bookings Clerk and Caretaker for the Village Hall, and Assistant Clerk. Suzanne starts on 1st August and will work 15 hours per week spread over three days in the parish office.

Kingfisher Signs

The traditional iron Kingfisher signs by Halton Bridge were looking very sad and unloved. Colin Brockbank offered to arrange and pay for their restoration. We contacted the Canal and River Trust (CRT) to learn that they no longer wanted the signs on their land, as they were planning new signage for the refurbished tow path. Colin was given permission to rescue our Kingfisher signs and they have been restored to their former glory and adopted by the Parish Council whose care they are now in. Thank you Colin! It is lovely to see them displayed on the bridge.

The CRT commissioned new signage for the canal towpath. The signs are in their new branding, so that all signage throughout the UK canal system looks the same. Unfortunately, the signs are not in keeping with Halton's rural setting, so we met with the Wendover Canal Trust (as they funded and fitted the signs on behalf of the CRT). We are pleased to report that we have agreed a way forward, to reduce the negative impact that the signs are having on our canal environment, and the work will take place by the end of October. Thank you for your emails and comments on the Hub.



Halton Social Committee

Halton's social scene continues to thrive, with April's casino night attracting an enthusiastic crowd of glammed-up gamblers. Congratulations to Nick Venner, who scored a dramatic final win on the roulette table.

The Halton Social Committee is having a break over summer and will be back in the autumn with a wine and cheese evening (date to be confirmed). To find out more about this and other upcoming events, please email haltonsocals@gmail.com and we will add you to the mailing list. Do also let us know if you'd like to get involved with organising village socials - the more the merrier.

Music in Quiet Places

A total of 53 people attended the Music in Quiet Places concert on Saturday 22 June. From the ticket price of £15, £3 went to the church for a total of £169. In addition, the profits from the donation bar also went to the church. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this an excellent event, especially Kate Chennels who produced the delicious canapés.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission guided tours of the churchyard

There is still time to book a place on one of the Commonwealth War Graves tours at St Michael & All Angels church that are being run on Thursday 1st and Sunday 11th August. Both tours start at 2pm and tickets are free, but advance booking is essential as numbers are limited (see Eventbrite link below).

The tours last an hour and a half. You will hear about the history and work of the CWGC and you will look at the stories of some of the Service personnel buried in the churchyard. The men and women commemorated there include personnel from Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Poland, as well as the UK. The youngest is Ellen Mabel Lambert who died in the service of her country aged just 17 and the oldest is Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Stuart Burnett KCB, CBE, DSO who was 62.

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/.../cwgc-tours-2024-halton...>

Churchyard Tidy

Thank you so much to Flight Sergeant Sarah Glenister-Hobbs and her team from the Central Training School, RAF Halton, who recently volunteered to spend an afternoon in the churchyard. They cleared overgrown graves, weeded flower beds, trimmed bushes, cut down long grass and edged the path. And thank you to Brian for organizing and thank you to Les and Hugo for working so hard.





Above: Fun and games at the Casino Night in the Village Hall. **Below:** Drinks and nibbles during the interval of the Music in Quiet Places concert at St Michael and All Angels.

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
	Wednesday 31 July	Wednesday 31 July
Wednesday 7 August		Wednesday 7 August
	Wednesday 14 August	Wednesday 14 August
Wednesday 21 August		Wednesday 21 August
	Thursday 29 August	Thursday 29 August
Wednesday 4 September		Wednesday 4 September
	Wednesday 11 September	Wednesday 11 September
Wednesday 18 September		Wednesday 18 September
	Wednesday 25 September	Wednesday 25 September
Wednesday 2 October		Wednesday 2 October
	Wednesday 9 October	Wednesday 9 October
Wednesday 16 October		Wednesday 16 October
	Wednesday 23 October	Wednesday 23 October
Wednesday 31 October		Wednesday 31 October

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

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to carolinewaddams@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01296 624458 before October 18th, 2024.

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

Useful Telephone Numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council – Fiona Richardson	01296 626073
Village Hall Booking Clerk—Suzanne Cheshire	07565 797049
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

Parish Office

Fiona Richardson our Parish Clerk works on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.org.uk

The Parish Council website can be accessed at www.halton-pc.gov.uk