



Newsletter

May, June and July 2024

Editorial

Many of you will have noticed that the scaffolding on the church tower has been removed after the completion of the work on the stone window openings. The louvres have been painted and the tower now looks very smart. This refurbishment has been achieved in time for the churchyard tours that will take place in May, organised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and, in June, the Music in Quiet Places concert. There are articles on how to book for these in the newsletter.

With the weather improving and the summer almost upon us, people are venturing onto the newly surfaced tow path from Halton to Wendover. This will be officially opened on 28 June, with activities arranged along the length.

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome two new councillors, Jeremy Lord and Hugo Veloso. We hope they will enjoy their time on the council and will find it fulfilling and rewarding. If you would like to help out in the village but do not wish to join the Parish Council, there is a plea for volunteers to help monitor traffic through the village in an article. We would be most grateful for your assistance.

Halton Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Public Consultation

The Halton SPD Consultation event held in the Village Hall on 21 February was very well attended. Thank you for your support. The Buckinghamshire Council Planning Team and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation Team really appreciated the frank and useful feedback from the local community. As part of that process, many of you spoke to us and we incorporated the common themes that arose into Halton Parish Council's formal feedback on the SPD.

Overall, we found a lot to like in the document – the openness of the site, the maintenance of the sports pitches and facilities, a new school, the protection of heritage assets, traffic calming, junction improvements and cycle routes.

There were a number of minor points that required modification or clarification and there were four areas where we had concerns for the development of the community in line with the SPD. Whilst these were not necessarily within the realm of the SPD, we considered it important to voice the following concerns:

Provision of Health Services

The responsibility for the provision of GP services rests with the Bucks, Oxon and Berks Integrated Care System which lacks any plan to help this area.

Traffic and Highways

According to the VALP Planning Inspector, the simplified planning analysis provided to him by Buckinghamshire Council's Highways Department, was that the car movements by the people who worked at RAF Halton would be offset by the car movements of the new 1000 dwellings. This overly simplistic analysis only points to the failures of the Highways Department and is a major concern to us. In particular they

must consider Halton Lane, which is already a rat run, and has a bridge which is a pinch point and is a danger to pedestrians crossing it.

Infrastructure

We believe the right infrastructure has to be put into place in order to future proof the development, make it sustainable, more resilient and a place where people want to live. Here are some of the thoughts that we have raised:

- All the new dwellings should have super fast broad band cable laid as standard
- Sustainable Drainage Systems must be sufficient for the task
- The new built housing should be on a district heating system
- The housing should incorporate solar panels, heat pumps and rainwater harvesting to address climate change targets

Avoid the errors of the Princess Mary-Gate development

We would like a Master Builder to be appointed for the site to implement proper parking standards and having better oversight of green belt requirements, including the future care and management of the green spaces and parks for the benefit of the community.

The full response can be seen on the Parish Council web site at <https://www.halton-pc.gov.uk/community/halton-parish-council-20383/raf-closure/>

Coffee and Chat at the Clubhouse

Thanks to all who have come along to the Thursday afternoons for coffee and cake at the clubhouse. With the holiday season approaching, we will continue on a once monthly schedule starting on the 9th May at 2.30 pm and thereafter every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Grand Opening of the Wendover to Halton towpath Friday 28 June 2024



A celebration to mark the upgrade of our canal towpath will take place on Friday 28 June from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Robbie Cumming of BBC 4's Canal Boat Diaries will cut the ribbon. Events will include:

- A 'canal fair' in Walnut Tree Meadow
- A teddy bears' picnic for primary age children and an equivalent challenge for secondary schoolchildren
- A quiz along the towpath for pupils on ecology and environment
- Talks by experts on water safety, the environment , ecology and sites of particular interest
- The giving out of a 'passport' which earns a certificate
- A sponsored walk for a local charity
- Kayakers and paddleboarders along the canal
- Music, refreshments and displays including the Cracklewick Morris dancers

Join at Wendover, Halton or anywhere in between. A free shuttle bus at either end of this 1.7-mile towpath will return you to your start point. No entry charge for the event.

Organised by John Colet School, Wendover News, Wendover and Halton Parish Councils, EKFB and Wendover Canal Trust.

Parish Councillors

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Councillor Sue Barber who retired from the Parish Council. Sue has served our community since 1999. Many of you will know that she has worked tirelessly to improve the safety of our roads and pavements. She has ensured pot-holes have been filled, road markings and signs re-instated, pavements cleared, and overhanging trees and hedges cut back. Sue recruited our two brilliant volunteers who collect and collate traffic data to support our road safety proposals to Buckinghamshire Council. Sue has now decided to put her considerable efforts into enjoying her family and her garden. We said goodbye and presented Sue with flowers and garden vouchers at our March meeting.

A Big Thank You Sue, we wish you a happy and well-deserved retirement.

At the SPD Consultation Day we promoted the work of the Parish Council and asked for volunteers to join us and make a difference, particularly with our ongoing work on the closure of RAF Halton. We are delighted to say that we were able to welcome two new councillors, Jeremy Lord and Hugo Veloso who joined us formally at our March Meeting.

Jeremy is a Landscape Architect with considerable experience of working on similar building projects to Halton Woods. His experience will be indispensable to our aims as we move from the SPD to the Planning Application stage of the development. Jeremy lives in the village with his family.

Hugo is a student studying mathematics at Kings College London and plant biology at The Royal Horticultural Society. He works in the parish as a gardens contractor at RAF Halton. Hugo is a member of RAF Halton's Conservation Board, and is passionate about retaining and enhancing the heritage and biodiversity of RAF Halton as it develops into Halton Woods. Hugo's knowledge and experience will be invaluable.

Church Tower Repairs

Now that the scaffolding has come down I think we can safely say the project has finished. Just to remind you how this all started. The stone flaking off the Bell Chamber openings was a sign that they had deteriorated and been eroded by the weather.



Following input from scaffolders, stonemasons and architects we put together a plan and started the process of fund raising. By the middle of last year we thought we had enough to undertake the project, and with construction inflation soaring we felt we had better get going before inflation took it out of our reach. The scaffolding went up at the start of January and it was only then that a detailed survey could be carried out. It was a bit of a shock when it was discovered the amount of repair work

needed was considerably more than expected. It was amazing how everybody rallied around and we were able to get the full repairs done. This is what it looks like now.



I would like to thank the congregation of St Michael's, the community of Halton, the Bucks Historic Churches Trust, the Benefact Trust, The Halton Apprentices and the PCC and clergy. Together we managed to get it done. I should also like to thank EFKN who provided the security fencing and our suppliers: AFIX scaffolding, O.G Stonemasonry and Thompson Bradford Architects. In addition I would like to thank Paul and Jos for helping paint the louvres.

CWGC Churchyard Tours

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is going to start running tours of our churchyard. They are free and will begin during War Graves Week 11 – 19 May. The first one is Monday 13 May at 10.30-11.30 and the second one is 19 May 2.00-3.00. Numbers will be limited to 12 and places can be reserved by visiting www.eventbrite.co.uk and searching for CWGC War Graves Week 2024 – Halton (St Michael) churchyard. There is also a link on the Halton Hub. Or visit cwgc.org to book directly.

Bug Hotels



You have probably seen our two new bug hotels that have been installed on two of our village verges. These are designed to provide shelter and nesting opportunities for a variety of beneficial insects and other small invertebrates. The loss of pollinators in our countryside has become an increasingly important issue and is in part due to insufficient food sources and hiding places. It is hoped that these bug hotels will address the situation locally and increase biodiversity in the area. They were constructed by volunteers from Lindengate and funded by a grant from the Community Board.

Halton Socials

The last village social on 8 March was the Beetle Drive and supper. There were 16 of us competing and the dice were flying! Shirley came out on top in an exciting tiebreaker. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Calling all bridge players: Would anyone like to become part of a WhatsApp group for friendly, occasional bridge games, either meeting at homes or in the Clubhouse? Please contact jean_fitt@hotmail.co.uk



Volunteers Needed

Some residents may have seen our recent request on Facebook for volunteers to help with Community Speed Watch, under the control of Thames Valley Police (TVP). We need teams of three people to operate a hand-held speed camera, gather vehicle information and provide information to TVP. Your safety will be paramount and you will not be asked to do anything that puts you in danger. Times, dates and duration of 'shifts' will be negotiated. In response to our reports, TVP will issue a warning letter to vehicle owners. In other towns and villages, this has resulted in a 95% reduction in re-offending. Repeat offenders will receive a Police visit. If you'd like to help reduce speeding around the Village, please provide your details by email to the address given below.

We also need volunteers to monitor and help the Parish Council to report drivers that fail to obey the 7.5 Tonne Weight Limit signs on Perch Bridge. There are signs of damage to the bridge and road damage may have been exacerbated by the heavy vehicles using the approach roads to the bridge.

Before volunteering for Bridge Watch, you might ask what is the Parish Council doing about this? The blue warning signs at the entrances to Halton Lane (at both ends) are not very visible for HGV drivers. They are surrounded by other signs and are not particularly well placed. We are exploring all possibilities of improved signs, which cost a large amount of money (to be paid by us / grants). We have also previously engaged with Bucks County Council, Thames Valley Police, Trading Standards and individual companies to establish who is the responsible 'authority'. Although we still await confirmation of 'the authority', we have set up a Bridge Watch scheme so that we can capture evidence of large vehicles crossing the Bridge.

There are some other aspects of the Bridge that need to be addressed; safety of pedestrians and cyclists is a concern, as is the closeness of traffic passing in both directions, sometimes at speed. The Parish Council is exploring all options, money being a constraining factor.

There is scope to carry out Bridge Watch and Speed Watch at the same time, with the same group of volunteers. To volunteer for Community Speed Watch and/or Bridge Watch, please email Councillor Stuart Holcroft stuart.holcroft@halton-pc.gov.uk



Music in Quiet Places

There will be a Music in Quiet Places concert this Summer at St Michael's on 22 June. Similar to earlier concerts it will commence with a short guided village walk starting at 6.30 pm. Refreshments will be available from 7.00 pm and the concert itself will begin at 7.30 pm. The programme will consist of Schubert String Quartet in A Minor 'Rosamunde' and Mozart Quintet for Clarinet and Strings. There will be an intermission for refreshments.

Ticket price is £15 and will be available in mid May from either Brian Thompson (brian.thompson12@outlook.com) or from 'Just' in Wendover High Street.



Halton Tennis Club

Whilst planning permission was granted to change the two domes to fixed structures, we have decided to delay the implementation of this change and in the short term change to new much more efficient, environmentally friendly and quieter inflation engines. These have now been installed and will be a big improvement for the environment and energy saving albeit at a £80k cost! The switch to fixed structures is now unlikely to happen until 2030. Permission to install two padel courts was granted. One will be installed in 2025 with the second one likely in 2026/27.

Solar panels have recently been installed on the gym building. A second phase of solar investment may take place at the rear of the site – ground mounted.

Villagers build a Picture of Halton in 2024

The concept of collecting photographs of the fabulous outdoors expressing the personality of Halton that launched in January 2023, delivered an array of stunning scenes. We have seen a blend of bridges, quacks of ducks, spectrums of bunting, snow laden landscapes, idyllic cottage frontages to our very own wildlife hub including kingfishers, badgers and man's best friend the dog.

You will see the selection of Halton photographs appear on the new Halton Parish Council Website in the weeks to come, and throughout the year as our Halton Village Hub Facebook. Please keep your photos and posts coming to the Hub group page where it is a great place to engage with other villagers, share walks, events, and happenings in the village for others to enjoy.

In case you missed it, the Halton Parish Council website was refreshed in 2023, and is full of local information including Parish Meetings, Minutes and useful contacts. Take a look and give us your feedback.

Halton Parish Council in 2023



Looking back to 2023, Halton Parish Council achieved many goals with the support of numerous volunteers. Much hard work goes on behind the scenes and there are many projects in the pipeline. Please enjoy this view of Halton Parish Council in 2023. Remember, parishioners are always welcome to email the council, contribute to the newsletter, and attend the bi-monthly meetings.

GRAB A POT OF TEA TO READ THIS and see the full details on our Halton Village Hub Facebook page.

The highlight list

Parishioners Light Up Social Events, Coronation of King Charles III, Village Hall Revival, Halton Parish to receive Nuffield Pavilion, Queen's Green Canopy, Normal Church Services St Michael's, Summer afternoon teas fund raising, Tower Restoration Project, Music in Quiet Places, Churchyard upkeep across almost three acres, RAF volunteers 19 in number with tools donated by the local community, Meadow Mania planting in Spring & Autumn, Commonwealth War Graves, Technology takes HPC into a new future, Sustainability and the village pot grown Christmas tree.

Thank You and Recognition of Support

- To the Community Board where much time, funding and effort happens. Bidding from the councillors for grants directly supports community projects.
- Buckinghamshire Ward Councillors Richard Newcombe, Steve Bowles and Peter Strachan for supporting HPC with advice.
- To Alex and Andy for maintaining MVAS and providing the data.
- To Caroline and Paul for putting the quarterly newsletter together for printing.
- To Aimee, Ele, Daniya, Jean and Paran for setting up Halton Socials, delivering superb fun and authentic community events in the village hall.
- To the parishioners who came forward when HPC called out with an event initiative at the village hall.

Get in touch. We are here to support and promote projects that matter in the community of Halton Parish.

www.halton-pc.gov.uk

Contact details: bookingsclerk@halton-pc.gov.uk 07565 797049

Village Diary

9 May	Coffee and chat at The Clubhouse	2:30 pm
13 May	CWGC tour of St Michael's churchyard	10:30 am
19 May	CWGC tour of St Michael's churchyard	2:00 pm
22 May	Annual Parish Council meeting, Village Hall	7:00 pm
22 May	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall	7:30 pm
13 June	Coffee and chat at The Clubhouse	2:30 pm
22 June	Music in Quiet Places in St Michael's Church	Walk 6:30 pm Concert 7:30 pm
28 June	Grand Opening of the Wendover to Halton towpath	10:00 am—3:00 pm
10 July	Parish Council meeting, Village Hall	7:00 pm
11 July	Coffee and chat at The Clubhouse	2:30 pm

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin and Garden Waste	Food Waste Bin
Wednesday 1 May		Wednesday 1 May
	Thursday 9 May	Thursday 9 May
Wednesday 15 May		Wednesday 15 May
	Wednesday 22 May	Wednesday 22 May
Thursday 30 May		Thursday 30 May
	Wednesday 5 June	Wednesday 5 June
Wednesday 12 June		Wednesday 12 June
	Wednesday 19 June	Wednesday 19 June
Wednesday 26 June		Wednesday 26 June
	Wednesday 3 July	Wednesday 3 July
Wednesday 10 July		Wednesday 10 July
	Wednesday 17 July	Wednesday 17 July
Wednesday 24 July		Wednesday 24 July

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 July 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—Sarah Stobbs	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.gov.uk