

Halton Village



NEWSLETTER

February, March and April 2020



Wolf Moon over Halton village, Image courtesy of Stuart Gabb

The Parish Office

The Parish Office is situated above the Village Hall in Old School Close. There is a supply of stamps in the office and a small letter scale. Parishioners can use the photocopier, 5p for an A4 black and white copy and 10p for colour. A3 is 10p for black and white and 20p for colour. The Parish Office is manned between 9.30am and 12.30pm Mon-Thurs. If there is a faulty street lamp please report it to the clerk, providing an exact location and the number on the lamppost if possible. Mrs Fiona Lippmann, Clerk to the Council can be contacted on 01296 626073 Clerk@haltonpc.org.uk

The Village Hall is available to hire. It can seat 80 people and there is a smaller meeting room for up to 10 people seated. There is free wi-fi and a well equipped kitchen. Please contact Mike Jimson on 01296 622702 haltonvhall@aol.com for bookings.



The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) update

The process for agreeing a Local Plan such as the VALP appears to be long and somewhat exhausting but we are slowly getting there. So why is it so important to us? The plan provides the framework and designates the areas where new houses (in any numbers) will go and, once adopted, will stop wholesale developments outside of those approved areas. In addition it is the vehicle on which protections on some land such as green belt are lifted or changed. So for the community of Halton it tells us very simply during the life of this plan how many houses can be built here, and what the planning constraints on the outlined area are designated for housing. So it is important especially once it is adopted.

So where are we? Let me briefly recap with what has happened so far.

2014 – Process started

2015 – Evidence gathering

2016 – Draft Plan and non statutory consultation

2017 – Publication of proposed submission and consultation

2018 – Examination of the plan and Public hearing (July 2018); initial findings by Inspector.

2019 – Inspectors revised findings after input from AVDC and public consultation on main modifications

2020 – Should be shortly - *Inspectors Report and adoption of the Plan.*

The Parish Council has been very active in protecting Halton as a community and trying to get the best result for the parish.

- In 2016 AVDC published a Green Belt assessment Report proposing to lift the green belt status from the main site at Halton. The Parish Council provided a detailed response identifying errors in that report and questioning the legality of the proposed action by AVDC. This proposal was withdrawn and not included in the proposed submission, although it did suggest in the following Local Plan it may be raised again.

- The proposed plan identified 1000 houses to be built on the footprint size of existing buildings including the reuse and renovation of historic buildings such as the listed barrack buildings on the main site. This is similar in size and scale to the existing buildings. The details of the precise nature of this development will be covered by a Strategic Planning Document (SPD) which at a minimum will include the master-planning information and will be prepared once the VALP has been adopted. The airfield was not included in the Local Plan (at least this one).



- The Parish Council provided a comprehensive response to the proposed submission on the hints at raising the green belt in the subsequent plan, and protecting the heritage and sporting assets. This was followed up by appearing in front of the Inspector during the public examination.
- The proposed modification addressed some of our concerns but not all and the Parish Council have responded to make the points again to the Inspector.

Let me speculate on what will happen next.

Once the VALP is adopted then the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) will move to get an approved plan sorted out for the site. My best guess is that the DIO will have a public consultation/ public event to review a high level masterplan for the site and seek feedback. This will be your opportunity to influence the plan design. Then they will review the responses they have, update their plan where they think it is necessary and go into more detail. This will ultimately feed into an SPD developed jointly with the Planning Authority and which will then go out for public consultation. From this detailed planning applications could then be approved.

The VALP is generally assumed to have a life of 5-6 years after which the new unitary council with its new Planning Department will develop a new Local Plan. I am guessing there are a number of things in that plan we should be interested in.

- The inclusion of the airfield and potentially more housing,
- level of infrastructure provided and requirements going forward,
- A possible attempt to lift the green belt status from the main site if development has not been agreed and started,
- The role of the canal and interaction to Aylesbury Green Town.

I think the bottom line is that there is more to come and you should watch this space.

Brian Thompson.



Aylesbury Garden Town Consultation

Draft Masterplan public consultation now open

A six-week public consultation on the Aylesbury Garden Town Draft Masterplan has begun and will run until 5pm on Friday 14 February.

More details about the consultation, and the opportunity to download and read a copy of the Draft Masterplan document can be found on the Aylesbury Garden Town website.

You can also find a copy of the document in libraries across Aylesbury Vale and in the reception area of Aylesbury Vale District Council and Aylesbury Town Council.

We want to make sure that everyone in Aylesbury has a chance to have their say. Your views, opinions and ideas are important to the AGT team and feedback will be possible through an online survey.

A number of public exhibition roadshows are planned. The final one takes place on Tuesday 11th February – Friday 14th February at the Hale Leys Shopping Centre.

The Halton Brownies

Halton Brownies is a thriving unit for both girls with parents connected to the RAF and local girls. We meet once a week in term time with some days out and Brownie holidays as well. The Brownies are aged seven to ten. In September we moved into a new building which has an enormous hall which is great for playing games and has lots of outside space as well, this has been a very welcome improvement to the programme we can offer the girls.

The unit was formed sixty years ago in 1960 and although there have been enormous changes in the lives of girls in that time it is surprising how little change there has been in what they enjoy doing at Brownies. The favourites are games, adventurous activities, cooking (and eating), arts and crafts, going away, outdoor fun and drama.

This term we are working on a challenge badge developed by Girlguiding and The Royal Astronomical Society to celebrate the society's 200th anniversary. We will be looking at the phases of the moon, making a space station from junk materials, planning a trip to Mars, studying the stars, painting planets using a marbling technique and having a space picnic.

In February we are all going up to London to spend the day at Girlguiding headquarters doing World Guiding activities.



As it is just round the corner from Buckingham Palace the Brownies are very keen for us to take a group photo outside, in fact they seem more excited by that than the planned event!

If your daughter is interested in becoming a Brownie please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus.

Halton Village Hall

Halton Village Hall is the former village school built by the Rothschild family. In its history it has undergone many changes with rooms knocked into one, repositioning of doors and removal of fire places. It has always been a meeting place and some residents of the village first met at dances that used to be held there.

Of late further changes have been made with the improvement of the toilets and kitchen area, replacement windows, plus the addition of the parish office and upper meeting room. During 2019 two major projects were completed with the replacement of the floor with a modern and more durable material and having the whole tiled roof replaced with the inclusion of much improved insulation. All this work was funded by various grants thanks to the hard work of the Village Hall Committee and Parish Clerk who administer the building on behalf of the Parish Council.

However the running costs of the hall have to be met and to this end the hall is made available for hire by outside bodies. At present the hall is in use every day of the week, Monday to Friday with one Saturday morning class each week. The rest of the weekend is used by occasional hirings for parties and courses. This revenue brings in about £1000 per month which covers all costs.

What could you as a resident take part in at the hall? At present there are three art classes, Pilates and mobility classes, Halton Singers, a singing for fun class, Aylesbury Dolls House Club, a Childminder club for disadvantaged children, Kung Fu, relaxation classes for pregnant mums and a family history group. On top of this there is a monthly coffee morning, Parish Council meetings and other Parish uses such as Remembrance Sunday and Open Gardens.

The Village Hall Committee is hoping that further improvements will be made during 2020, the kitchen is due for replacement and the internal fabric of the hall is in desperate need of repair and repainting and tenders are out at the moment for this work to be done.

So if you thought that the Village Hall sits almost unused for the majority of the time think again, it is very well used and paying its way.



Over 60s Christmas lunch 2019

For eight successive years now the Halton Charities have funded this popular event. On December 6th 40 villagers sat down to a full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. Father Christmas arrived with gifts for all as diners finished their meal with coffee, mince pies and mint chocolates. Everyone seemed to have a great time and comments were very complimentary. The organisers would like to thank all the villagers who attended and to thank those who helped tidy up afterwards and especially Tom who did all the washing up. Hopefully Father Christmas gave him a large jar of hand crème on the 25th. We look forward to next year's lunch by which time some more villagers might have become eligible!





Over 60s Christmas lunch 2019





Donald Finlay, DFC, AFC

A few years' ago I was pottering around in the churchyard and noticed an elderly gentleman tending a grave just behind the hedge near the cenotaph cross so I went over to chat. The grave was of Don Finlay, and I asked him if he was related. He replied no, but Don had been kind to him when he joined as an apprentice at Halton.

I also knew that Don's England running vest from the Olympics of 1948 was on display in the Trenchard Museum on camp so I decided to find a bit more about the man.

Don was born in 1909 and represented England in three Olympics. The first was the 1932 games in Los Angeles where he won Bronze in the 110 yards hurdles. In the notorious 1936 games in Berlin he went one better and won Silver. Finally he was English Team Captain at the 1948 Games in London. Unfortunately here he clipped the last hurdle and fell.

He was a great athlete and won his eighth AAA title at the age of 40 at White City. He was also AAA indoor champion in 1937 and 38. He also won Gold at the 1934 Empire Games. All in all not a bad tally.

In 1935 he joined the RAF. When war came he was one of the few and found himself flying Spitfires from Hornchurch as Commanding Officer of 54 Squadron. In August 1940 he was shot down and injured. He recovered quickly and got his first victory in September, shooting down a Bf109. He had three further kills and also was credited with damaging several other enemy planes. Later in the war he had spells in the Middle East and Burma.

After the war he was posted to Halton as Senior Technical Training Officer and regularly took part in the Station games. At the age of 43 he won the 100 and 220 yard sprint, the 120 yard hurdles as well as the long and high jump. In a handicap race he arrived at the tape well ahead of everyone else but turned round and sprinted back down the track which was considered very bad form.

Later he was stationed at RAF Acklington and a chapel window there is dedicated to him. He retired as a Group captain in 1959 and lived in Wendover. In 1966 he was severely injured in a motor accident and paralysed, dying in 1970 partly as a result of those injuries.

Just recently it was pointed out to me that some items of his were being auctioned at a sale in Amersham. What happened to them I do not know



but it would be nice if they joined the rest of his memorabilia in the Trenchard museum on the station that obviously meant so much to him. As 2020 is an Olympic year it would be kind to go and pass the time of day with him and give his stone a pat just to let him know he has not been forgotten.

Don Knight – Church Warden

St Michael & All Angels' Church

The churchyard at St Michael's continues to be well maintained especially with the help of volunteers. Our thanks go particularly to Paul Waddams who has been unstinting in his support and help. 2019 saw the start of a number of changes in the churchyard. Work was undertaken on the scrub bushes and trees that divided the old churchyard from the extension. Over half were removed and a short wooden fence was put in place and the ground was cleared and grassed. The result looks really good and for the first time the churchyard extension now seems part of the churchyard. This year we are planning on doing the other part – again removing the scrub trees and erecting a short fence up to the gate into the extension. It should look much better when it is completed.

In addition in 2019 15 roses were planted alongside the path to replace the old standard roses which were dying. Our thanks go to those who sponsored a rose. This year we will plant another 8 roses to complete the replacement of all roses along the path.

We have received some input about some of the displays on the crematorium graves, which were intruding on surrounding graves, were out of keeping with the rest of the churchyard and were not in compliance with the Diocese of Oxford churchyard regulations. We will be taking action to improve the situation

The ministry team which supports both St Michael's and St Mary's in Wendover has strengthened over the last year and has helped to support St Michael's. Under our vicar Sally Moring we have Nadine Rose as associate priest and Sally Prendergast as curate. Our Nine Lessons and Carols service in December was well attended and it was nice to see a beautifully decorated church with an excellent choir full of people.

Some dates for your diaries:

Pancake day – Tuesday 25th February – the day before Lent

Easter Day – Sunday 12th April

Brian Thompson



The Halton Singers

The Halton Singers will be performing 'Kaleidoscope', their spring show, on the 24th and 25th of April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are available from Don Knight tel: 01296 622603

Musical Villagers

Two Halton Villagers play in bands which regularly perform in the area. John Kumela is a member of SoundProof which meets in the RAFA club at 7.30pm every third Thursday in the month and Nick Dutton plays in Elemental Joe & 2am Blue. Nick organises the Wendover Open music night which meets in the Legion in Chiltern Road Wendover on the last of Tuesday each month. The next music night is Tuesday February 25th. If you are a musician and interested in playing at the Music Night please contact Nick on 0777 174 5422

The evening is free and all are welcome.

Village recycling

February Wednesday		5	12	19	26
Garden Waste					
Blue Bin & Food Waste					
Green Bin & Food Waste					
March Wednesday		4	11	18	25
Garden Waste					
Blue Bin & Food Waste					
Green Bin & Food Waste					
April Wednesday		1	8	15	22
Garden Waste					
Blue Bin & Food Waste					
Green Bin & Food Waste					

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



Useful telephone numbers

Clerk to the Parish Council – Fiona Lippmann	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
Halton Singers-Don Knight	01296 622603
Church Warden-Don Knight	01296 622603

Facebook & the website

We are currently updating and hopefully improving the 'Halton Village Heritage' website and Facebook page. We will be posting notifications of new information on Facebook with a link to the website which we trust will alert parishioners to any newsworthy events or information.

Please follow the 'Halton Village Heritage' Facebook page to keep up to date.



Village diary

February

5	Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.30am
20	'Soundproof'	RAFA Club	7.30pm
25	Open mic/Music Night	The Legion Club Wendover	8.00pm

March

4	Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.30am
11	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
19	'Soundproof'	RAFA Club	7.30pm
31	Open mic/Music Night	The Legion Club Wendover	8.00pm

April

1	Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.30am
15	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
23	'Soundproof'	RAFA Club	7.30pm
24	Halton Singers Spring Show	Village Hall	7.30pm
25	Halton Singers Spring Show	Village Hall	7.30pm
26	Open mic/Music Night	The Legion Club Wendover	8.00pm

Next issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to newsletter.halton@gmail.com or ring 01296 624458 before April 17th, 2020.

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