

Halton Village



NEWSLETTER

May June & July

A Personal Perspective

Brian Thompson – Chairman of the Parish Council

‘May you live in interesting times’, is an old English expression which purports to be the translation of a traditional Chinese curse. In all senses of that expression it seems very apposite to use it in our current situation. The death and disruption caused by Covid-19/Coronavirus pandemic is truly frightening and upsetting. The way out of this disaster will be long and hard.

Not only is the virus indiscriminate, its impacts severely threatens the aged and vulnerable in society. While the lockdown and social distancing are the right thing to do, it is not without consequences. Those who felt lonely and isolated beforehand probably feel more so now, just as those who were anxious before now feel even more anxious. If you are feeling these impacts then please do contact the Halton Hub.

However I do believe there are some real positives that have come out of this situation already. Let me share with you some of those positives which we should all recognise and feel good about.

The human spirit in Halton is alive and well. We should recognise and applaud the local volunteers and helpers who made the Halton Hub a reality, and provided a safety net for the vulnerable people in our community. They stepped up to the mark when needed. I would also like to commend the good neighbours of Halton who have been looking out for and helping their near neighbours where they can. It demonstrates to my mind how a good community can work to make things better for everyone.

Our enforced lockdown, and fine weather has had some unintended consequences. Either working in our front garden or while we are exercising in the area I have had some long and rewarding chats with a number of residents. Although always held at a safe isolating distance from each other,



and their family and progress from there. The sense of urgency which normally accompanies our modern lives has been removed, and you have the sense that we have time to listen and get to know each other just a bit better.

I have also been very impressed with the vast majority of people taking good care to maintain a safe distance away from everyone else either along the footpaths in the area or in the shops. It is all about doing what is right.

I heard a comment on the radio that someone thought the birdsong had apparently got louder, and I must confess I can hear them a lot better than I used to. I have put this down to a drop in background noise due to fewer cars around and fewer planes in the skies. You have to conclude that Halton is generally a very quiet place at the moment and one of the better places to be while this storm rages around us.

Obviously we should recognise the people who are on the front line of this struggle - from the NHS workers, the emergency services, the delivery people, health centre, shop workers and everyone else who helps us all live and survive. I expect when this is all over we may actually discover how the personnel of RAF Halton have made their contribution through logistics support, the Nightingale hospital through to whatever. I am sure it will be a tale worth hearing.

As I write this I understand that the lockdown has been extended for another three weeks, and the actual lifting of it may be very considered and phased. Of course we will not be truly through this until there are drugs to treat the virus and a vaccine to stop it spreading. While we all wait for this we need to keep optimistic and be good neighbours. Keep safe.

Summer Prayer

The church has been closed during this lockdown period and normal worship has been disrupted. Here is a simple prayer for those during the Coronavirus outbreak.

*Lord Jesus Christ
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.*

Amen.



The Halton Village Hub



The Parish Council has set up a new Facebook Page to encourage better communication and providing you with useful information. On Facebook search **Halton Village Hub** and then **follow**. To build a community around the page we have set up a **Group**, just click on the beautiful photograph of our church (thank you Paul Waddams) and ask to join. Then you can post your own thoughts and pictures and we can get the Village talking – so important in these difficult and uncertain times.

Halton Village Hub on the Ground

To support our residents through these difficult times we put flyers through every door and set up a volunteer network. First of all a big thank you to our ten volunteers who have shopped and delivered on demand for our residents, with very positive feedback.

Anyone who needs help with shopping, transport to medical appointments, prescription delivery etc. please call one of the following numbers and we will put you in touch with one of our volunteers:

Ann Jimson 01296 622702/07759408458 |

Jane MacKinnon 07789838331 |

Mary Duly 01296 623060

A reminder that Budgens in Wendover is now delivering shopping. Phone them on 01296 625864 or email them at budgenswendover@gmail.com

Fresh fruit and veg can be delivered by the greengrocers at World's End who can be contacted on 07462 088837 or 07462 088839, email shop@theworldsbestfruit.online



Open Gardens—A virtual feast

One of the consequences of the Covid-19 lockdown is that some of us have spent time in the garden catching up on all those chores we had put off for ages. It would be a shame if the results of all that effort could not be shown in having an open gardens. Unfortunately social distancing and the lockdown do not make it possible. However with the internet many things are possible – my daughter has explained to me how she and her partner had had a virtual dinner party with some friends! So the thought is to have a virtual open gardens to show some of the Spring gardens in the village. This will be done by taking a short video of some gardens and putting the resulting ‘tour’ up on the Parish Council web site/face book site.

If it is well received we may try to repeat the exercise at the start of July to show the summer plants.





Halton Boys

The RAF Halton Aircraft Apprentice Scheme was the brainchild of the late Marshal of the Royal Air Force Viscount Trenchard of Wolfeton, commonly known as the father of the Royal Air Force. He took the 'traditional' idea of an Apprenticeship and interpreted it in a novel way. The scheme contained significantly more than the seeds for the future growth of a skilled workforce and a fundamental building block of the service. It had a strong and important public-facing aspect to it with an offer of a good education to 15 and 16 year old boys from less privileged backgrounds, promising solid prospects in their service careers and, later, in civilian life. Meritocracy in the new air service was very much a favourite project of Trenchard who arranged that the top apprentices from each intake should be awarded cadetships to the RAF College at Cranwell, which was to prepare them alongside the entrants from public schools and universities for full careers in the service, with promotion prospects to the highest ranks.

Apprentices distinguished themselves in WWII. They took part in all of the major campaigns. Sadly over 2000 gave their lives, over 10% of the school output at the time. Their names are recorded in a Roll of Honour on display in St George's Church. Over 1200 apprentices were decorated for gallantry with one winning the Victoria Cross.

When the scheme ended in 1993, 40,000 boys had graduated from Halton and another 12,000 from the other smaller apprentice schools. Of these, over 20% were commissioned with 110 achieving air rank. One of these became the Chief of the Air Staff and several others served on the Air Force Board. Seventeen were knighted and countless others awarded state honours. In later life many made huge contributions to the country as policemen, doctors, surgeons, lawyers and test pilots as well as in the church and education.

Few of our residents will remember RAF Halton Apprentices marching behind their pipes and drums though the village to the airfield where a variety of aircraft was based for engineering training purposes; or the days when they provided physical training, drill and band displays at the village annual fete. However, a book 'Halton Boys' that seeks to tell their story through the individual accounts of the people who were there, will be published in June. Written by author and historian Sean Feast, in close co-operation with former apprentice Group Captain Min Larkin, this 100,000-word hardback includes an appreciation by Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armitage, also an ex apprentice, and a foreword from the current Viscount Trenchard, grandson of the founder.

Published by Grub Street at £20, the book will be available from Min Larkin the RAF Halton archivist or Francis Hanford curator at the Trenchard Museum.

Min Larkin

Halton Quiz

Halton Quiz

Rearrange the first letters of the answers to spell out a welcome visitor to the garden.

1. What aircraft regularly use Halton Airfield?
2. The commonest tree in the churchyard?
3. Which family did Rothschild replace when he became the owner of the Halton estate?
4. Who make their home at Halton House?
5. *Vulpes vulpes*
6. Which long distance footpath passes through Wendover Woods?
7. In which month is there an annual outdoor service held at St Michael and All Angels?
8. Is this bird the littlest on the canal?
9. What does the commemorative silhouette in the village represent?

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Answers in the next edition of the Newsletter



What is missing from the Halton skyline?



Village recycling

May	Wednesday	6	13	20	28	
Garden Waste						
Blue Bin & Food Waste						
Green Bin & Food Waste						
June	Wednesday	3	10	17	24	
Garden Waste						
Blue Bin & Food Waste						
Green Bin & Food Waste						
July	Wednesday	1	8	15		
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

PLEASE BE AWARE* - AVDC have made the decision to suspend Garden Waste collections and sign-ups for the time being.



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-Kevin Towler	01296 622390
Church Warden-Don Knight	01296 622603

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 July 17th, 2020.

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