

Halton Village

NEWSLETTER



November, December 2019 & January 2020

HALTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL

In this issue Brian Thomson gives an update on the progress of the closure of RAF Halton, Jane MacKinnon has news on the refurbishment of the bus shelter and Harold Pearce writes about how the heritage of the airbase might be conserved once the RAF has left.

Various events are advertised including the popular Christmas lunch where tickets are limited so be sure to book early.

We are now entering the season of firework displays and as usual everyone needs to be responsible around them and to make sure pets are kept indoors.

The winter may bring snow and ice so please take care walking and driving through the village and check on any neighbours living alone who may need your help.

Finally, as this issue covers the festive season, we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.



Halton Village Christmas Lunch 2019

Friday 6th December 12.30 for 1.00

In the Village Hall

If you are over 60 and live in the Parish of Halton you are invited.

The lunch is funded by the Halton Charities so tickets are free
You will have a full Christmas lunch, Christmas pudding, coffee, mince pies and mints with wine and soft drinks

Please book your ticket with Mike Jimson, secretary to the Halton Charities

Telephone: 622702

Email: mikejimson@aol.com

Booking will be available from Monday 4th November until Friday 29th November

Tickets are limited, and are on a first come first served basis so don't delay!

If you would like transport to and from the event, or would like a vegetarian meal

please tell us when booking





**ST MICHAEL & ALL
ANGELS CHURCH**

Nine Lessons and Carols Service



**December 22nd
4.00pm**

Halton

Everyone Welcome





PRESERVING HALTON'S HERITAGE

Halton has an historically rich past that it deserves to be very proud of. The Parish holds links stretching back to settlements in the Neolithic Period (3,400 BC), the Iron Age, Roman occupation, a listing in the Domesday Book (1086) and the Post Middle Ages estate ownerships (Fermors and Dashwoods). Thereafter, in 1884, Alfred de Rothschild, second son of Lionel, chose this estate to build the outrageously flamboyant French Renaissance-styled chateau as an extravagant weekend party retreat. He demolished the existing Halton House and moved the main house to its present position. There he entertained royalty, statesmen, diplomats, politicians, actresses and society beauties, the first guest being Edward, Prince of Wales.

In 1918, the Halton Estate, then in the ownership of the Crown, became the location for the birth of the Royal Air Force – the world's first air force, formed from the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service under the direction of the first Chief of the Air Staff Sir Hugh Trenchard (later Viscount Trenchard). He foresaw the significance of aircraft engineering in future military conflict and the RAF Apprentice Scheme was born. The RAF Halton legacy is vast and includes “Trenchard Brat” graduate Sir Frank Whittle (inventor of the jet engine), presentations of the Honours of the Queen's Colours, and at Princess Mary's RAF Hospital Halton (closed in 1995), the first large scale use of penicillin and involvement of the invention of the kidney dialysis machine followed by becoming the second hospital in the country to have a renal unit.

The Trenchard Museum, Flight Heritage Centre and associated archive (collectively referred to here as the Museum) house a collection of memorabilia and historical items that mark the illustrious story of the RAF achievements at Halton. The Museum was formally opened on 29 June 1999 by Viscount Trenchard, grandson of Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Trenchard, as part of the station's 80th anniversary celebrations. The exhibits cover the building of Halton House by Alfred Rothschild, the Army and RFC manoeuvres of 1913 leading to the extensive military use of the estate during the First World War, the RAF takeover in 1918, and the Apprenticeship years 1920 - 1993. The Museum also covers the RAF Hospital and Dental School, the Halton railway and the churches. In addition to the Museum and Halton House, there are a number of other significant assets within the Parish including the World War 1 trenches, monuments and memorials and the Rothschild Bridge and other garden features within the curtilage of Halton House.

Following the announcement, in 2016, that the RAF would be withdrawing from Halton, an undertaking was secured from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) that any future development would facilitate the preservation of the memory of the site's military heritage, including the collection in the Museum.



The Parish Council, as a primary stakeholder in the closure process, is looking to ensure that the full Halton heritage, covering the various periods of Halton's history, is preserved in a permanent and sustainable Heritage Visitor Centre located in Halton. The purpose of the Visitor Centre would be to care for and conserve the Museum objects, to exhibit them for the enjoyment of local people and visitors, to continue with the current educational programme (STEM and school curriculum events) and to contribute to a new vibrant focal point for the village.

To this end, the Parish Council has been working with the Museum and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) to establish how this may be achieved. While this initiative is still in its early stages, we are pleased to report that it is gaining a wide stakeholder support.

VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS

One of the facilities that a thriving village needs, and that is currently absent from Halton, is an area of land given over to allotments for use by the community. This is especially relevant now as the demand for allotments will likely increase in the Parish due to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) inclusion of 1,000 homes, an increasing societal awareness of personal well-being and awareness of environmental issues including climate change.

Parish Councils have a legal obligation, under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, to investigate the provision of land when certain criteria are triggered. The Parish Council believes that the RAF Halton site closure provides an opportunity for land to be allocated for allotments, as part of the future site development proposals. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) was made aware of this allotments opportunity in March and requested that we made a case for them appropriating some land for this use. The case is being developed which sets out:

- The legal/statutory responsibility to provide allotments,

- Calculations of the size of the land area,

- Potential locations within the parish, acknowledging this remains uncertain in the absence of a Development Masterplan (required by the VALP),

- A need to acquire allotments early in the disposal process.

The next steps for the Parish Council will be to obtain a full set of locational criteria from the DIO to undertake an objective appraisal of all potential allotment locations by March 2020.



VALP UPDATE

The latest version of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) has added an extra 1150 houses near Milton Keynes at the behest of the Inspector.

The Plan itself is still going through review and modifications by the Inspector. AVDC have suggested some proposed modifications to the plan in line with the directions from the Inspector. You can find these on the AVDC website at https://www.aylesburyvalecdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/VALP%20table%20of%20suggested%20modifications.pdf

The Inspector is considering these and he will then publish via AVDC his proposed plan changes. These changes will then be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks. This consultation will be limited solely to the proposed changes to the Plan, and not parts of the plan accepted by the Inspector. These changes will include the policy document relating to Halton so you will have an opportunity to comment again.

From the AVDC proposals there are improvements in the wording relating to protecting heritage and sports assets. Equally there are some inappropriate words relating to lifting the green belt and walking to Wendover to use the facilities. However the Inspector may change this and it is these changes we can comment on.

The Inspector has said he expected to publish his version for consultation by early October at which point the consultation period will start. So by the time you read this there may be a consultation starting.

All comments go to the Inspector and he decides what changes if any are made to his proposed wording probably in November unless it slips anymore. The Inspector will then issue his final binding report and the Council adopts it - say December.

The expectation is that the VALP will only have a life of 5 years or so before the new unitary council generates a new one. Until then once adopted by AVDC the Local Plan will have legal force.

Only then can the council start preparing SPD (Strategic Planning Documents) for Halton. This will include the master planning for the 1000 houses planned for Halton. This SPD which should contain all the information about housing and facilities will go out for consultation for a 6 week period. This will give you an opportunity to comment on a more detailed plan probably in 2020.

Brian Thompson



BACK IN THE MISTS OF TIME

The Halton paper round

Back in the mists of time, Star News in Wendover ran most of the newspaper delivery services in the area including a big round in Halton. Ben Thompson secured the job of the 'Paper Boy' for Halton Village in 1998 and unbeknownst to him, started a dynasty that was to continue, uninterrupted, for 21 years. His sister, Faith, succeeded him and then the round was taken over by Kate Waddams followed by James MacKinnon who served the village tirelessly until it was time for them to move on too.

The round was then taken on by the Smith boys, Jack and Freddie, the previous occupants of The Old Post Office and at the same time Kate Thompson did the Sunday paper round. The weekday round was then passed on to the Pearce family, firstly Tom and then for the last 5 years, Luke who we think has probably done the longest stint.

When we say passed on, it really was as we just used to tell Star News that it was being taken over by someone else! Shortly after Tom took over the round, the business passed to the Co-op and then to Budgen's and it became much more formalised - they seem to want to do their own recruiting and payment doesn't come in a brown envelope any more.

I became aware of the service when we moved here about 15 years ago and I think that it is fair to say that the era of the Smith and Pearce sons' deliveries can be characterised as having highs and lows but they did (usually) deliver, come rain or snow, before heading off on the school bus (until it got too expensive) into Aylesbury.

Luke is now off to university so resigned as of mid September, finishing (as far as we are aware) a 21 year run of the round being run by the children of 5 families all living within a 100m of each other!

Although we can't claim a record such as the barmaid at the Red Lion in Wendover, this can certainly attest to the close camaraderie in Halton Village and you never know, it might continue into the future.

Jill Pearce

LOST

LOST – gold signet ring engraved inside with the words 'North Africa' and a date. This ring was lost about 18 months ago and it has just occurred to me that it might have gone missing whilst on a dog walk in the area. As it is irreplaceable and of huge sentimental value, I would be most grateful for any information about it. Jill Pearce- 01296 624472



SUMMER TEAS IN THE CHURCH

From June until September Church members provided afternoon teas for villagers, walkers, friends and families. We had some lovely sunny afternoons when visitors enjoyed sitting outside to chat and enjoy the surroundings.

Many thanks to all who made cakes, served the teas, washed up and especially to all those who popped in for tea and cake.

The good weather helped donations reach the record amount of £1350 which has been put to the upkeep of the Church and its surroundings.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Annual Remembrance Day Service will be held in St Michael & All Angels churchyard on Sunday 10th November. The service will begin at 10.45am at the War Memorial.

HALTON SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Halton Singers will hold their Christmas concert on Tuesday, 3rd December 2019, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £6. There will be a bar and tickets will be limited so get them early!

The Halton Singers will also be performing at the RAF Gala charity concert on Saturday, 7th December, 7.30pm at St George's Church, Chestnut Avenue. The RAF Voluntary band will be playing. Tickets can be bought on the door and all money raised will go to Rennie Grove.

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 music night which meets in the Legion In Chiltern Road Wendover one Tuesday each month. The next music night is November 19th and will feature local BAND "Fret Heads"

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.



CALL FOR LOCAL SANTAS



Call for local Santas to take to the streets for local Hospice care.

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity are putting out a call for Santas of all ages to take to the streets of Haddenham and Wendover this December.

After the success of last year's event in Wendover which saw over 320 Santas run, walk and scoot 2km through the town raising over £2,000 for local hospice care, the Charity has added an additional event this year in Haddenham.

The Santa Dash will take place in Haddenham on Sunday 1st December and in Wendover on Saturday 21st December.

The Santa Dashes are suitable for all the generations, making this a great Christmas event for all the family. All entrants will be provided with a Santa suit to make a splash of seasonal colour through the streets.

A very special visitor will join the ever popular Florrie Bear to set the crowd of Santas on their way, cheer everyone on and say hello to all the children.

You can register for the events online at the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity website at fnhospice.org.uk/events/santa-dashes/, with Early Bird discounts

BOOKS TO BORROW

If you are ever short of a book to read there is a bookcase in the small meeting room just outside the clerk's office. Several books have been donated for villagers to borrow. The donation of more books is always welcome. Please note that this area is only open during the clerk's office hours.



BUS SHELTER

Some of you may have noticed that the bus shelter is falling into disrepair and needs urgent attention. The Parish Council has been working with personnel from RAF Halton to scope and deliver a programme of refurbishment.

1 April 2018 saw the centenary of the Royal Air Force, which was about reflecting on success but also about looking to the future. RAF Halton decided to celebrate in a very generous manner, by pledging to deliver 100 local community projects under the banner - RAF Halton Centenary. We are beneficiaries of this project and volunteers from the Station will be working on the bus shelter (weather permitting), over one or two weekends. At some point you will see the bus shelter dismantled before it is rebuilt and we plan to retain the current design in keeping with the village. As the shelter is a popular location for local notices we will also be incorporating a new notice board. If you are passing when the work is in progress please come and say hello to the volunteers. Project updates will be posted on the Council website and Facebook page.

VILAGE RECYCLING

November	Wednesday	6	13	20	27	
Garden Waste						
Blue Bin & Food Waste						
Green Bin & Food Waste						
December	Wednesday	4	11	18	*27	
Garden Waste						
Blue Bin & Food Waste						
Green Bin & Food Waste						
January	Wednesday	3	**9	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 NOTE dates marked * are not Wednesdays but Friday

PLEASE NOTE dates marked **are not Wednesdays but Thursday



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

FACEBOOK & 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

November

6	Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.30am
10	Remembrance Sunday service	Churchyard	10.45am
19	Wendover Music Night		8.00pm

December

3	Halton Singers Christmas Concert	Village Hall	7.30pm
4	Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10.30am
6	Over 60s Christmas lunch	Village Hall	12.30 for 1.00pm
7	RAF Gala charity concert	St George's church	7.30pm
11	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
22	Carol service in St Michael & All Angels Church		4.00pm

January

22	Parish council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
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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 January 17th, 2020.

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