



Newsletter

November and December
2023 and January 2024

Editorial

In the last newsletter we asked if parishioners would like to organise some social events for the village and we are delighted that a social events group has been formed and has already had its inaugural event which was a very successful wine tasting evening. More events are being planned. Please see inside for details.

Speeding through the village continues to be a problem. Please read the highways article which reports on an accident in Halton Lane. Care needs to be taken with the winter coming and with it, potentially icy roads.

As I write this, the canal towpath between Perch Bridge and the bridge in the middle of Halton Village is being resurfaced. Hopefully by the time the next newsletter is issued, this work will have been completed.

Please visit our new village website (see article inside) which we hope will be useful and informative.

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

Closure of RAF Halton

In our last newsletter we updated you on the Strategic Planning Document (SPD) for the Halton site and its public consultation, which was planned for September.

However, the timetable for the public consultation has been delayed. The main reason for this relates to the need to limit the impact of the future residents of the RAF Halton development on the Chiltern Beechwoods' Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The Chiltern Beechwoods SAC is made up of several pieces of woodland the most recognisable being the Ashridge estate near Berkhamsted. Essentially, any new proposed development within 12.6km has to be able to show that its future residents won't add to the visitor pressure on the protected sites. This can be done by providing a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, which is something that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Buckinghamshire Council are working on and must be agreed by Natural England before they can complete the SPD and proceed to the public consultation. As stated in our previous newsletter when we have the details and dates of the public consultation, we will notify every household so that you can have your say on the plans.

New Website <https://www.halton-pc.gov.uk>

We have a new website launching on the 1st of November. Fiona, our Parish Clerk, has designed the website using a package which is specifically created for Parish Councils. Some of the online features which you might find useful include the Village Hall Booking Calendar, allowing you to see what is on in the hall and when it is available for booking. A Booking Request Form can now be completed and submitted from the website. There is also a Planning Tracker, which allows you to view all the planning applications within our parish and their progress.

Please visit the site and take a tour, the information available will improve over time, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvements.

Facebook

The Parish Council currently runs two Facebook pages: Halton Parish Council, which has a limited number of followers, and the Halton Village Hub, our community page, which has a much wider reach. Over time this has resulted in us posting the same information on both pages to maximise our audience. To avoid duplication, we will be closing the Halton Parish Council page, and going forward, all our official posts will be on the Halton Village Hub.

Firework Display

By kind permission of the Station Commander the residents of Halton Parish are invited to attend RAF Halton's annual firework display. Invitations are for residents only; the event is a private event and is not open to the wider community. It is always an impressive display within walking distance, so to avoid parking issues please leave your car at home.

The Firework display is on Wednesday 1st November at 7.15pm on the rugby pitches between Kermode Hall and Halton House.

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

Environmental News

Wildflower verges In October the environment team planted wildflower seed in the four verges that have been designated 'wildflower verges' and have been previously planted with plug plants and bulbs. The seeds are both annuals and perennials so the annuals should flower next summer and the perennials the following one. Hopefully these verges will develop into an attractive display over the next few years. We are thankful to Colin Brockbank who volunteered his time to help with the planting. We also thank the Community Board for funding the purchase of the seeds.

EV charging points Bucks Council has submitted a bid for government funding to install Electric Vehicle charge points in the county. It has agreed to include Halton Village as a site for one of these, in the village hall car park. The project is complex due to land ownership etc so may take time to implement.

Christmas trees We would love you to consider buying rooted Christmas trees this year so that you can reuse them next year. Weston Turville and Halton have been planning a Christmas tree rental scheme which would enable villagers to rent a tree and return it after the festive season and re rent it the following year.

Over 8 million Christmas trees are cut down each year in the UK which is ironic when you hear of the importance placed on planting trees in Britain. By buying a living tree, keeping it watered and fed throughout the year and then reusing it the following year, we can all help reduce the number being felled.

To enable the scheme to take off we will need a supply of trees. This will take time and planning and will involve people donating their tree to the scheme. Initially, it would be interesting to see how many parishioners would be willing to buy a live tree and to care for it in their own (or a friend's) garden.

If you do buy a rooted tree in a pot, place the pot inside a larger pot with no drainage holes, to allow you to water without damage to floor or furniture. It can then be put outside for the rest of the year. Being in a pot will curb its growth so that it is unlikely to have increased too much in height in 12 months. But if it has outgrown your house ask around to see if someone else would like to accommodate it the next Christmas.

The Village Hall

How good to know that our newsletter is being read! I refer to my article in the previous newsletter suggesting that some villagers might consider joining forces to organise some social events in the hall. Congratulations to those who did exactly that, organising the very successful and enjoyable wine tasting evening. Let's keep the momentum going – perhaps something Christmassy?

We moved here as a family 32 years ago, being involved in many community activities through that time and making so many good friends along the way. If you know where I live you may have seen that the house is sold and I shall be moving on shortly to live near my daughter and her family. And hoping that I will be joining in with community there!

We have enjoyed the company of so many of you through all these years but I would like especially to send a message of thanks and gratitude to so many villagers who have been so kind to me over the last tricky two and a half years – kind words, smiles, hugs, gardening, cakes(!), lifts, shopping and many other kindnesses. I shall really miss Halton. Thank you!

Ann Jimson, Chair Village Hall Committee

Anne Jimson

We are very sorry to be saying goodbye to one of our longest serving Parish Councillors Ann Jimson. Ann has served on the Parish Council for over twenty years, holding the roles of Chair and Vice Chair and taking on responsibility for maintaining and developing our village hall into the lovely community space it is now. Ann's achievements are many, she organised fund raising to build the toilets and current entrance to the village hall, a modern kitchen, new flooring, and a new roof that is sympathetic to its Victorian heritage. Ann's leadership also resulted in the hall becoming self-funding through our hirings. Thank you, Ann, for all that you have done for our village and community, and we wish you good luck and happiness in your move to be closer to your family.

Vacancies

We are looking for a new Parish Councillor to take over from Ann and to lead the day to day running and development of the village hall. There is a Village Hall Committee which meets three times a year consisting of two Parishioners and two Councillors who support the role. Responsibilities include: reporting on bookings and ongoing projects at each Parish Council Meeting; liaising with the Booking Clerk and Parish Clerk as needed; overseeing the hall caretaker; monitoring the condition of the hall; managing projects such as redecoration and refurbishment of the exterior.

The Village Hall is a great amenity and if you have ideas and would like the opportunity to make it the heart of our community then we would love to hear from you. Contact clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk

We are also looking for a new caretaker for the village hall. It is a paid role and would suit someone local as it is only an hour each week. Duties include putting the bins out for collection, replacing consumables (light bulbs, soap, toilet rolls) and conducting monthly fire safety checks. If you are interested, please contact clerk@halton-pc.gov.uk

Highways Report

Unfortunately on 21 September we had yet another accident on the sharp bend by the tennis club exit in Halton Lane, the eighth this year. A car travelling from Halton towards Wendover ploughed straight across the corner demolishing the chevron sign. Luckily no one was hurt and the driver walked away without injury. Buckinghamshire Council have replaced the chevron. Now the weather has turned colder and with lots of leaves on wet roads please take extra care when travelling through the village.

The Parish Council is still working closely with Buckinghamshire Council with the aim of making improvements which will help to make the roads safer for all. Sadly any work required will need funding and as we all know funds everywhere are tight. However, we won't give up!

Stuart Holcroft, who many of you know, has now officially joined the Parish Council. Along with using his skills and knowledge to help in a number of areas of our work, Stuart will also be supporting the Highways Team. Our team now consists of two volunteers, who do an excellent job taking care of the MVAS signs and downloading data to produce reports, and two Parish Councillors who will concentrate working on the projects which have been ongoing for some time. In addition, we are investigating using Community Speed Watch equipment. If we go ahead, volunteers will be required to support the project. If you are concerned about speeding in the village and would like to help, watch this space! Better still, let Stuart know you are interested in helping.

Data from both our MVAS signs is starting to show a slight increase in speeding and also in traffic volume. Over a three week period in September, Halton Lane recorded 12,000 vehicles travelling over the speed limit out of a total of 50,673 vehicles. In August, Chestnut Avenue recorded 17,500 vehicles travelling over the speed limit out of a total of 63,000 vehicles. This is traffic recorded travelling in one direction only.

The maximum speed recorded in Halton Lane over recent months is 65mph and in Chestnut Avenue 90mph!

FixMyStreet continues to be the most effective way to report problems: potholes, damaged pavements, overhanging vegetation, worn road markings, flooding, broken streetlights, anything you think is causing a danger to road users or pedestrians. The highways team reports everything they see. However, if you see anything you think needs reporting, please do report it on FixMyStreet. It does not matter if we have already reported the problem, the more reports made the quicker a problem is likely to be resolved.

Overweight HGVs are still using Perch Bridge. There is a project the PC is working on to help reduce the number of overweight vehicles but it is going to take time to implement. In the meantime, if you do see an overweight HGV using the bridge, please note as much detail as possible and pass to the clerk. Photographs are essential and your report should include registration number, time, date and any company name you can see.

If your waste bins are near the road when you put them out and you do not already have a 30 MPH sticker, please consider having one. You can obtain as many as you need from the clerk's office. Every little helps!



Village Social

Eyes down for a full house! We are planning a fun evening of Bingo on Friday 24th November at 7.30 in the Village Hall. Tickets for the event are £10 which covers the evening's prizes and a buffet. Please bring along your own drinks. Please RSVP via email so we can confirm numbers. Also, do we have any budding bingo callers out there? Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Jean Fitt - haltonsocials@gmail.com

Wine tasting event brings villagers together

September saw the newly formed Halton Social Committee's inaugural event: a wine and cheese tasting in the Village Hall, led by Joe from No. 2 Pound Street. Attended by 42 locals, it was a fantastic evening full of conversation and laughter, and proved Haltonians' enthusiasm for meeting up and making use of the hall - especially when there's a good pinot noir involved.

To be added to the mailing list for future events, email haltonsocials@gmail.com.



Village Diary

1 November	RAF Firework Display	Rugby Pitches	7:15 pm
12 November	Remembrance Sunday Service	St Michael and All Angels Church Yard	10:45 am
22 November	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7:00 pm
24 November	Bingo	Village Hall	7:30 pm
17 December	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Michael and All Angels	6:00 pm
24 January	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7:00 pm

Next Issue

If you have anything for inclusion in the next Halton Village Newsletter please email it to haltonvillage.newsletter@gmail.com or ring 01296 624458 before 18 January, 2024.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 22 November 2023, in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Recycling Dates

Green Waste Bin	Blue Recycling Bin	Food Waste Bin
	Wednesday 25 October	Wednesday 25 October
Wednesday 1 November		Wednesday 1 November
	Wednesday 8 November	Wednesday 8 November
Wednesday 15 November		Wednesday 15 November
	Wednesday 22 November	Wednesday 22 November
Wednesday 29 November		Wednesday 29 November
	Wednesday 6 December	Wednesday 6 December
Wednesday 13 December		Wednesday 13 December
	Wednesday 20 December	Wednesday 20 December
Friday 29 December*		Friday 5 January*
	Friday 5 January*	Friday 5 January*
Thursday 11 January*		Thursday 11 January*
	Wednesday 17 January*	Wednesday 17 January*

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

*Estimate based on last year's collection pattern over the holiday period.

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