



THE PRATTLE



Issue No. 136

Halton-with-Aughton

April/May 2024

Welcome to our spring issue. Inside this edition the pages are packed with information about past, present, and future events and village news.

On the next page is some important information from the Parish Council about the neighbourhood development plan and the upcoming informal consultation period. There will be drop-in sessions both at The Centre and at Aughton Recreation Room - details inside. If you wish to learn about and/or have input into this important plan for our villages then please make time to learn about the proposals.

Happy Reading!

Jan & Dave

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PRATTLE

WHAT'S ON INFO, ARTICLES & LETTERS TO THE EDITORS, **JAN & DAVE**,
by email to: **halton-prattle@outlook.com**

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

HALTON WITH AUGHTON PARISH COUNCILLORS

CHAIR: Cllr. Carol Slinger, Tel: 07810 356929; carol.slinger@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr. Chris Coates, Tel: 07426 701155; chris@utopia-britannica.org.uk

Cllr. Anne Lamb, Tel: 01524 811052; annelamb27@hotmail.com

Cllr. Naomi Turner, Tel: 07738 586107; naomismith1210@hotmail.com

Cllr. Claire Buntin; Cllr. Jonathan Sewell; Cllr. Darren Rigby

Parish Clerk & Financial Officer: Luke Mills, Tel 01524 881499;
clerk@haltonwithaughton-pc.gov.uk

LANCASTER CITY COUNCILLORS Sarah McGowan and James Somerville

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - INFORMAL CONSULTATION

The plan is a set of local planning policies which help guide decisions about development in the Parish within the context of Lancaster City Council's District Local Plan. It covers aspects of planning which are important to the parish and not covered by the District Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group has particularly focused on highlighting the importance of various green spaces around the village, so feedback on these proposals would be welcomed.

It has reached the stage where we can ask for informal feedback from residents, so we are planning to make it available for review and comments for four weeks between Monday 8th April and Sunday 5th May.

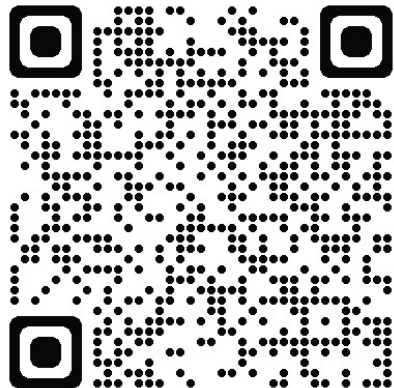
We will endeavour to ensure that the draft plan and response forms are available in various locations, such as:

- The Centre;
- Aughton Recreation Room;
- Halton Mill.

Public drop-in sessions will be held in the Centre on:

- Thursday 25th April between 3pm & 7pm;
- Saturday 27th April between 10am & 1pm.

For those living in and around Aughton a public drop-in session will be held at



Aughton Recreation Room on Friday 26th April from 7pm to 10pm.

The draft plan, supporting documents and the response form can be found on the Parish Council website (<https://www.haltonwithaughton-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>) and via the QR code above.

Following this consultation, the feedback from residents and other consultees will be reviewed and amendments will be considered to the plan, prior to the formal Regulation 14 consultation stage.

Parish Council due to a new job. We would like to thank him for all his time, effort and help over the last three years.

We welcome Darren Rigby onto the Parish Council, who will notionally represent the West Ward of the parish.

Luke Mills,
Parish Clerk
e: clerk@haltonwithaughton-pc.gov.uk,
m: 01524 881 499

PARISH COUNCILLOR CHANGES

We are sad to say goodbye to Joe McAleer who has resigned from the



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07746 857904

infinitypreschools@gmail.com

VILLAGE NEWS

HALTON LIBRARY

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Story Time*

Join us for a weekly morning of songs, stories and crafts for pre-school children. Held every Wednesday 9:00-9:30am - Term time only...

**Little Steps sessions* – First Wednesday of every month (Little Steps is a free reading and play scheme in Lancashire libraries)

Knit & Natter

Come along and have a knit and a natter, share gossip, tips and patterns. It doesn't matter whether you're new to knitting or a 'dab' hand, everyone is welcome - friendly atmosphere guaranteed. Held every Friday 13:00-15:00.

Lego Club

Come along and create Lego masterpieces. All you need to bring is your imagination! Attendance is free, just drop in. Held every Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm.

Please note the library will be closed on any bank and public holidays

CARDS FIGHTING LONELINESS

By the time you read this, our '3rd Big Get Together' event will have already taken place. If you joined us, we hope you had an enjoyable afternoon. I hope to share an update about the event in the next edition.

During early April I will be making the final card deliveries of the campaign, to those who were unable to join us at the event. Once these final deliveries are made, the campaign will take a break



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before restarting for a fourth time in October - I'm definitely ready for a rest! It looks likely we will end our 3rd campaign with 126 recipients on our list - 110 recipients live in Halton and 16 recipients live outside the village (they receive cards via the postal service). Since 01.10.23, we have received 992 cards, 149 keepsakes and 47 raffle / tombola prizes!! The support the community continues to show the campaign is truly amazing. The campaign is completely reliant on child and adult volunteers creating cards for us and, without them, none of this would be possible. If you have been in any way involved - thank you!

Sam Pritchard

FAMILY FRIENDLY LITTER PICKS ARE BACK!!

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to the volunteers that have worked in ALL weathers this winter trying to keep

our village litter free - braving icy winds, torrential rain and in some cases, even snow.

With (hopefully) drier, brighter, and warmer days ahead, our 'official' family friendly litter picks are back up and running until September. We meet at The Centre Petanque pitch at 1pm, unless stated otherwise.

The dates for our upcoming picks are;

Saturday 27th April

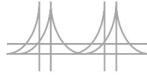
Saturday 18th May - meet at Halton Mill at 1pm.

This pick is part of Halton Mill's 'Wellbeing Day' event, providing some much needed 'wellbeing' for the planet!

Saturday 15th June

We have a medal and treat for all the 'little' pickers, and a trophy for the child that finds the most litter during the pick.

There is a free slice of cake and a drink for all attendees that register with me no later than 48 hours prior to the event. To register, please email



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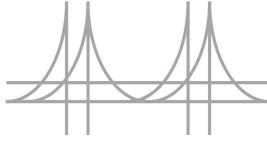
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samanthjanehicks@gmail.com or text 07786623063.

Thanks to the Halton Lune Trust, our cake and refreshments will all be supplied completely free of charge this year! We've also been able to purchase some replacement adult pickers and expand our 'little picker' kit - I really hope it is put to good use!

Sam Pritchard

HALTON LUNE HYDRO

The high electricity prices through 2023 provided a good profit margin, resulting a higher than normal donations to the Halton Lune Trust for distribution to and around the Parish - and hopefully some compensation to individual households that suffered the also higher charges. Our export Power Purchase Agreement for 2024 is, however, back down, so just a matter of attention to maintenance and keeping both turbines with associated

equipment in good order, to deliver as much local "Green" electricity as possible.

So in addition to thanking members of the HLT for their independent efforts when evaluating grant applications, thanks also go to the Hydro supports who share the daily visits to undertake routine checks and tasks.

Aside from this, Fish Trapping is on again from May under Environment Agency direction. This is for fish health checks that go with the year round count of numbers up and down the fish pass - and again, volunteer input is both needed and much appreciated.

All in all, a healthy walk along the river track or above through the woodland area - and just an email to Secretary@haltonlunehydro.org could see you on a volunteer training course quite soon.

More information will be available with a Power Point Presentation at the Hydro AGM Friday 26th April 7:00 for 7:30pm at the Centre.

John Blowes MBE
Chairman & Project Manager

HALTON LUNE TRUST

The Halton Lune Trust is pleased to report that the Revd Jonathan Sewell has been appointed as the new Chair. He is a member of the Halton with Aughton Parish Council, having



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lived in the village for the last twelve years. Brought up in a rural Cumbrian village, his father ran the local limestone quarry at Kirkby Stephen on the Pennines. As an undergraduate at Lancaster University, he regularly canoed at the Halton weir. little did he know that he would retire to the village many years later.

His working life was mostly as a clergyman in London, Winchester and Oxford, also working for the NHS and Prison Services as a chaplain. For leisure he teaches sailing, cycles and fell walks. He enjoys acting, currently in "Ladies Day" at Lancaster Grand Theatre and is an occasional Film Extra. Jonathan writes: "Our villages are extremely privileged to have the benefit of the Halton Lune Hydro and I am pleased to assist in advising as to how grants from the project are awarded.

Some members of our parish have begun to make regular donations to the Trust; we welcome any donations or bequests that may be received furthering the Trust's objectives."

If you wish to know more about how you can contribute to the Halton Lune Trust, or apply for a grant then write to: secretaryhaltonlunetrust@gmail.com.

Halton Lune Trust is registered with the Charity Commissioners, Charity Number 1160975

Full information on the Trust is on the website: <https://www.haltonlunetrust.org.uk>



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HALTON MILL

Hello from all of us here at Halton Mill. We hope you're enjoying the brighter, longer days.

This year, one of our founding members, Chris Coates, retires from his role as caretaker of the mill.

Chris has been a huge part of the evolution and growth of Halton Mill for more than a decade, so much so that you could say he's part of the furniture. Fear not, however, as he will still be very much involved with events and exhibitions going forward. We just want to say a big thanks to Chris, and a warm welcome to Clare Fisher, who has taken on the caretaker role.

There's plenty coming up at Halton Mill events wise this spring, and of course, we continue to host lots of regular meetings, workshops, classes, yoga and fitness sessions, and provide work spaces for many different businesses and individuals.

We also host Super8 Pizza every other Friday, for delicious take away pizza.

April sees the last couple of weeks of our current exhibition, which is free to view so make sure you pop down and have a look. It's a showcase of art by budding local artists and our regular workshop leader Julia Neely. It's on display until April 12.

Following that, from April 15 - June 30, we have another collaborative exhibition of work created by the artists based in our art studios and workshops at Halton Mill.

On Saturday April 13, we welcome Lancaster based 5 piece band The Craic Inn, playing originals, Irish classics, and classic rock and indie covers. Doors open at 7pm, there's a bar, and tickets are £10 via our website www.haltonmill.org.uk, or £12 on the door.

On April 14, River Tours comes to Halton Mill. This will be an interactive, theatrical tour of the River Lune, a partnership between Lancaster Arts and the award-winning Stan's Cafe. This is a free outdoor performance (weather dependent), and is free to enter. See our website for more details. After our first successful Wellbeing Day last year, it's back for 2024 with more vendors and local businesses, more free workshops, and classes for the whole family. Why not make time for yourself and try something new on May 18? Entry is £1 (donation to St John's Hospice). Classes and workshops are free and we run from 10am to 4pm.

Finally, one for the whole family, come and Make Some Noise with award-winning poet Dommy B on June 1. He'll be sharing a surprising story about growing up, and you can expect rhymes, jokes and lots of opportunities to make some noise! Entry is £5 via our website, 2pm-3pm.

Tickets for all of our events can be found via our website.

Nick Lakin

HEARTS OF HALTON WI NEWS

In January, we heard of the work of the National Charity PDSA. The local representative, Sally, gave us a very informative presentation about the locations of the Pet Hospitals they run, which provide life saving services from surgeries and x-rays to vaccinations and managing long term illnesses. Sally also spoke of the 80 year celebration of the Dickin Medal, which is presented to animals in wartimes and active service. You may have heard of a pigeon called White Vision who, in 1943, delivered a message leading to the rescue of the crew of a flying boat which had ditched into the sea near the Hebrides, as well as other stories including cats, dogs and horses. Thanks was given to Sally who chatted with us over tea and cake. In our February meeting we had a pizza supper from The Greyhound and a quiz. Andrea, our President, showed the ladies how the quiz is delivered at the Lancashire Federation. We had

some great laughs comparing the variety of answers to the same questions being fielded. All great fun. Prizes were presented to the winning teams and a booby prize for the final runners up. No losers in our quiz.

Our March meeting will have been held by the time you are reading this report. We will have heard from a historian speaking of 'Women in Textiles'. This links with our planned tour of Standfast & Barracks to see the factory in operation and our joint quilt making project for the charity Quilts for Care Leavers.

We have a varied and interesting programme of events planned for the coming year. If there is anything that grabs you, please come along to one of our meetings on the third Wednesday of the month in the Centre @ Halton 7:15 pm in the Meeting Room or contact Debbie on animalcare.db@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

In April the National Federation Of Women's Institutes are hosting a webinar on the 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife Campaign'. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear about river pollution, listen to bathing water campaigners and find ways to take action in support.

In April our Hearts of Halton Meeting has a speaker telling us about making Free Trade Chocolate.

A glimpse into the future:

May The Prison Service

June Derian House

July The Tippy Filly Gin Maker.

Watch out for the relaunch of our Webpage and Halton on Lune Facebook updates.

Debbie Baxter, Secretary

FREE TENNIS OPEN DAY

Come to Lancaster Tennis Club (Lune Road, LA1 5QU) to try tennis in a friendly atmosphere. There is a FREE Tennis Open Day for families and adults on Saturday April 20th from 12 noon to 3pm.

Very suitable for families & juniors as well as adults of all standards, including beginners. Come & meet our Club coaching team plus current members. We provide racquets & balls AND you can also try the fun game of Pickleball. No need to pre-book. Just turn up.

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FORD SERVICE

NEWS FROM ST WILFRID'S C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we move into the spring, life at St Wilfrid's School continues with great purpose. Looking back since the last Prattle issue, we have achieved so much. Many of our children attended the Young Voices Concert in Manchester and had a wonderful time as part of a 7,000-strong children's choir. We have celebrated 'Safer Internet Day', learning about how to stay safe online. We spent 'Languages Day' learning new words from around the world as well as attending our French Café. Children have also competed in many sporting events against local schools. We have established firm links with the Halton library, and by Easter, all of our classes will have had their initial visit. We still wait in hope for the exterior to

receive its much-needed 'face lift'. We have seen some developments to our grounds too. Thank you to many of our parent volunteers, as work has begun on our garden area, and we hope to use this regularly as a learning opportunity for the children. Our running track developments mean we can use the track all year round and help develop our children's fitness and well-being, and we are hoping to see developments to our Key Stage Two playground over the Easter holidays.

A great new initiative is underway: we are partnering with Bee Adventure to help develop a plot of land at Whinney Hill Farm into a vegetable plot. As I write, two of our four groups have attended and have really enjoyed the experience.

We continue to welcome St Wilfrid's Leavers to our 'Hot Chocolate' drop-in

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on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4pm to 5pm. Even though numbers are reducing, it is still lovely to see former pupils return and catch up.

Our Community Teas, for our senior members of the community, continue to be well supported. The final two dates of the year are as follows:

Wednesday 1st May 2pm–3pm –
School Hall

Wednesday 12th June 2pm–3pm –
School Hall

We really enjoy seeing our school children interact and learn from the senior members of our village.

In the summer term, we are launching a Facebook page that will be open for all to follow. This will give our school the opportunity to celebrate and communicate with the wider Halton community. We believe it is another way that we can engage with our community and keep you all up to date. As we approach Easter, we have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Week as

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a school community before the holidays begin. This will give the children the chance to reflect on the true meaning of Easter. We will also have fun with Easter competitions and the odd piece of chocolate too! We trust you have a wonderful Easter time. God Bless

Mark H Curwen – Headteacher



HALTON GARDENING GROUP

Spring is sprung! As I write this article there is a mixture of sunshine and showers, hopefully not battering the daffodils too much. I'm looking forward to seeing the flower bulbs that the Gardening Group planted last autumn. We had a lovely display in the memorial Jubilee garden last year and it was enhanced this year with the addition of some heritage daffodils, as well as more tulips. Bulbs were put in the planters too and in other sites around the village, providing lots of colour.

Latest news - you may have seen our Facebook site [facebook.com/haltongardeninggroup](https://www.facebook.com/haltongardeninggroup) and we now have a website under construction which you can see at www.haltongardeninggroup.org.uk/. We will add lots more photographs, events, news and information. Keep looking as we will update it regularly.

Looking ahead - our plant sale has become a popular and regular occurrence. Our next sale will take place on 18th May on the field at the Centre. The plant sale opens at 2pm and finishes at 4pm. We have been delighted with the generosity of villagers and people from further afield who have dug deep in their pockets at our previous plant sales and garden gate sales. We hope this year's sale will be a successful one too. There will be perennials from members' own gardens, a range of bedding plants,

herbs and vegetable seedlings, preserves and more. Please give us plenty of space while we are setting up before the plant sale opens and avoid entering the sale area, as it takes time to sort out all the plants.

Join us - more members are most welcome, no gardening experience is necessary. There may be some weeding or other tasks to help with at the Memorial Jubilee Garden for example. We were entertained on a cold February afternoon by digging up tough weeds like docks and comfrey in the wild flower bank on the edge of the Centre field. Many hands certainly made light work. We will add more wild flowers there and in the autumn plant some daffodils similar to the wild ones in the Lake District. More digging may be required! Feel free to join us and contribute whenever you can.

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Our meetings are normally on the 1st Tuesday in the Engine Room at The Mill from 10 am to 12 noon. The April meeting is a week later due to the Easter weekend, on Tuesday 9th April. Subsequent meetings are on Tuesdays 7th May, 4th June, and 2nd July. There's no meeting in August. We resume in September. Members do not have to attend very meeting but we would welcome you any time. We are hoping to get another speaker in the autumn and there will be our AGM. Details will be announced later, check out the website!

We have renewed our affiliated membership of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and we get advice from them. Here's what they suggest for April: deadhead bulbs which helps energy to go back into the bulb for next year. Don't cut off the leaves until they've died gone yellow. Keep deadheading spring bedding to encourage more flower production.

Prune lavenders to tidy them up but don't cut into old brown woody stems as they won't regrow. Keep on top of weeding but let some dandelions flower as they are good for bees.

Fancy making your own compost? It's a much better use of compostable material than putting it in the rubbish bin and then to landfill. It saves money too. Use vegetable and fruit peelings, grass clippings, flower deadheads, chopped up stalks and prunings, shredded paper, and brown cardboard ripped up (remove parcel tape and labels). Definitely no bread, meat, or leftover food. Make a compost bin with old pallets, scrap wood, or use a 'dalek' style bin with a lid. Making compost works best with a mixture of 'green' and 'brown' stuff. A pile of lawn clippings will not do much on its own. Worms will transform the mixture into lovely compost. This process can take a year or so, it pays to think ahead.



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Make leaf mould too, great for compost or mulch to add goodness to your beds. It can take a year or more for leaves to break down but it is good stuff once ready. Put moist leaves in a corner of your garden in a bag with holes for drainage. You can put leaves in the compost bin if space is limited. Or buddy up with a friend or neighbour to make leaf mould or compost.

Give the compost pile a stir now and then. Once the bin is full cover the pile with sheets of cardboard or a bit of old carpet and leave the worms to get on with it. The pile will gradually shrink down, don't keep adding to it - start a new pile! Check the pile, if it looks dark brown dig some out to see if it's ready. Put it through a garden sieve over a bucket, lumpy stuff can go in the new

pile along with any worms you find. My other half made a big sieve that fits on the wheelbarrow so I can sit down and gradually work it through. Then I tip it into a large box with a cover to keep it dry. Sometimes I use partly composted material as mulch round potato plants and they don't mind at all. Grass clippings also make good mulch. It all breaks down and feeds the soil and maturing plants.

To get in touch with us email haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com or call our Secretary, Kath Pink, 07900416961, or come to a meeting. Happy composting and see you at the Plant Sale!

Janet Theobald

AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Run by: Aughton Recreation Room

Charity No. 1135888

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to our regular activities, we recently have hosted several successful events including both adult and children's birthday parties and a karaoke evening. On 16th March a new pop-up restaurant serving locally produced food appeared in the hall and we hope this becomes a regular feature of our calendar of activities. Future dates will be advertised on the "Bull Pen" Facebook page.

ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL AND MAY

Monthly Friday bar evenings restart after Easter on 26th April, with the May opening on Friday 24th. Doors open from 7:00. We stock a good range of drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) plus table tennis and pool are both available. All welcome.

Weekly exercise classes restart after Easter on Tuesday April 16th: Circuits at 9:30 and Pilates at 10:30. Just turn up or contact Gabi at gabicrossley@gmail.com for more information. Exercises

can be adapted for most levels of fitness and ability. Classes will run through to July with a break for half-term on May 28th.

Another village walk is also planned for a weekend in April – check our Facebook page and ARR WhatsApp messages for details.

Vale O' Lune Young Farmers meet in the hall most Monday and Tuesday evenings. The Young Farmers' Club is membership-based, but is open to anyone who has an interest in farming, you do not need to be a working farmer to join. Search them out on Facebook to find out more about their educational, fun and community fund-raising activities.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Halton Lune Trust we will be able to resurface our paths and car park. We expect the work to take over the next few months.

We will be organising additional events as we move fully into spring and (hopefully) the weather improves. These will be advertised on our Facebook page and on the ARR WhatsApp. If there are activities that you would like to see taking place in the village hall, please do contact us.

Any questions about Aughton Village Hall? Contact the Secretary, Claire Athis Schofield on 07484660174 or aughtonsecretary@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON?

All events are at The Centre @ Halton unless specified otherwise

AUGHTON RECREATION ROOM: BOOKINGS Chris Jarvis on 07756102577

email aughtonevents@gmail.com

THE CENTRE @ HALTON: HALL/ROOM HIRE 07981 743959 or info@haltoncentre.org

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays:

Outdoor Circuits: 6-7pm 07745

798337. A £6 Ch £3

Meditation Group: now meets on Zoom. Please ring 07818647345

NEW Yoga 6-7pm Patrick 07399 011744

Scouts: 7:15-9pm during term times, Scout Hut; scouts@haltonscouts.org.uk

American Square Dancing: 7:30-9:30pm Carol 811444

5-a-side: 8-9pm Andrew 074434 26458

Tuesdays:

Tots Play Lancaster: 9am-12:15pm

Lauren 07398 312544 term time only

Halton Baby & Toddler Group: 9:15-11am; 811316

Exercise Classes: Circuits: 9:30am and

Pilates: 10.30am Aughton Village Hall £8 for 1 session, £12 for both

Knit 'n' Natter, Crafts & Chatter:

2-4pm. Free. Ann 811684 and Sallie 812017 M1

Board games: 2-4pm Free

Beavers: 5:30-6:30pm during term times, Scout hut;

beavers@haltonscouts.org.uk

Taekwondo: 6:15-7:15pm Mick 07985125530

Cub Scouts: 6:45-8pm during term times, Scout hut cubs@haltonscouts.org.uk

Wednesdays:

Tots Play Lancaster: 9am-1:30pm

Lauren 07398 312544 term time only

Storytime: 9-9:30am (term time only) for preschool children and their carers. Halton Library

Art Workshops: 10:45am – 1:15pm Julia 0769661351

Walking Football: 10–11:30am £3.

John 01524 418753

Line Dancing: 10:30 – 11:30am Tony

07488 348809 Anne 07923 455939

Squirrels: 4-5pm during term times, Scout hut; squirrels@haltonscouts.org.uk

Pilates: 6-7pm Kate 07799068191

Walking Netball: 7–8pm on MUGA,

inside when wet. £4 07745 798337

5-a-side: 8-9pm Andrew 074434 26458

Thursdays:

Hartbeeps Lancs Baby & Toddler

(music): 9am-1pm TTO 07834818493

Pilates: 9:30-10:30am 07799068191

Gentle Exercise class: 11-12 noon

Cheryl 07711 335807

Carpet Bowls: 7-9pm Aughton Village Hall Email aughtonevents@gmail.com to enquire

Samba Espirito (Drumming): 7-9:30pm Karen 07711 262288

Fridays:

Knit 'n' Natter: 1-3pm Halton Library
 Indoor Bowling: 10:30am-12:30pm
 811316
 The Greyhound Games Night: 7:30pm
 The Greyhound 01524 963769

Saturdays:

Lego Club: 10:30-12:45pm Halton
 Library
 Elite Arts School of Dance: from
 9:15am. Acrobatics, Gymnastics,
 Contemporary dance. 5-18yrs Lauryn
 07490 713992

Sundays:

Valley Church: 10:30am David 07885
 435910

FOOTBALL - Halton Jnr Football Club

Damian 07850 913051

Saturday 9-10:30; 3-6 yr olds

Sunday 9:00-16:00; 7-15 yr olds
 (times subject to fixtures)

Contact secretary@haltonjuniorsfc.com

FORTNIGHTLY EVENTS**Tuesdays:**

Lunesdale Camera Club: venue/ info
 ring David 07903 392021
 Bay Big Band Practice: 2nd & 4th Tues
 7:45pm

Fridays:

Bar and Games Room at Aughton
 Village Hall: 7pm til late. Info ring Ruth
 Keeler on 07789373100

MONTHLY EVENTS**MONDAYS:**

2nd Mon: Halton Reading Group:
 9:30-10:30am Sarah 811160

TUESDAYS:

1st Tues: Gardening Group: 9:30am
 Halton Mill, email:
haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com or
 message/telephone Kath Pink
 Secretary on 07900 416961

WEDNESDAYS:

1st Wed: HCA meeting: 7:30pm
 811316 (except Aug & Jan)
2nd Wed: Parish Council Meeting:
 7:15pm (except August) 07810 356929
3rd Wed: WI (Hearts of Halton):
 7:15pm (except August). Debbie on
animalcare.db@hotmail.co.uk
Last Wed: Halton with Aughton
 Heritage Group: 7:30pm Halton Mill
 contact 07426 701155

THURSDAYS:

Soup and a Song, 12:30pm-2:30pm at
 a cost of £4 per person, ring 811316
 for dates

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

Email: halton-prattle@outlook.com or Tel Carol on 811444

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- Sat 20 Salsa party, 7pm @ The Centre
- Sun 14 3 Bridges 10k run, 11am @ Salt Ayre Leisure Centre
- Sun 14 Triathlon introductory session, 10:30-15:30 @ Salt Ayre Leisure Centre
- Thur 25 A public drop-in session @ The Centre 3pm & 7pm
[see page 2/3]
- Fri 26 Aughton public drop-in session @ Aughton Recreation Room 7pm to 10pm [see page 2/3]
- Fri 26 Halton Lune Hydro AGM 7:00 for 7:30pm @ The Centre.
- Sat 27 A public drop-in session @ The Centre 10am & 1pm
[See page 2/3]
- Sat 27 Family Friendly Litter Pick, 1pm, meet at The Centre
Petanque pitch

MAY

- Wed 1 Community Tea, 2pm – 3pm @ School Hall
- Thur 2 Polling Day @ The Centre
- Sat 18 Family Friendly Litter Pick. Meet @ Halton Mill at 1pm.
- Sat 18 Plant Sale, Halton Gardening Group, @ The Centre 2-4pm

JUNE

- Wed 12 Community Tea, 2pm – 3pm @ School Hall
- Sat 15 Family Friendly Litter Pick, 1pm, meet @ The Centre
Petanque pitch

JULY

- Sat 20 Salsa Party @ The Centre

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

Email: halton-prattle@outlook.com or Tel Carol on 811444

THE CENTRE @ HALTON

Halton Community Association Charity No. 115206

Enquiries: Office 01524 811316
info@haltoncentre.org

Bookings: Carol 079817 43959
bookings@haltoncentre.org

Website: haltoncentre.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HaltonCentre
Like us to keep up to date.

Newsletter sign up: <http://eepurl.com/btqwFX>

Coffee shop opening hours:

Monday-Friday 2pm-5pm

School and bank holidays 11am-5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

Actual opening times may vary depending on volunteer availability.

UPDATES FROM THE CENTRE

As you will be aware, due to staff and volunteer availability, Luncheon Club has not been running this year. However we would love to be able to provide a meal and social time again

and we need your help! For any regular users of Luncheon Club we have emailed out a short feedback form to see what you valued most about Luncheon Club and help us to plan what we could offer in the future. If you have not received one of these forms and would like to provide feedback please contact the Centre Office Team. At the time of writing, the next Soup and a Song dates are still being finalised. Make sure you are signed up to our newsletter to hear when they are confirmed.

The school Easter Holidays run 29th March to 14th April. During this period the Coffee Shop will open Monday-Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm. We will be open over the Easter weekend.

Lancaster Area Salsa returns again on Saturday 20th April. No lesson this time

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just salsa favourites and dancing until late! Doors open at 8pm, £8 cash on door. There will be a fully licensed bar with all bar proceeds going towards The Centre's ongoing fundraising.

If you are (or know anyone who is) a student and would like to gain valuable experience in a working environment, please get in touch. We have volunteer opportunities in the Coffee Shop over the weekend that can go towards a Duke of Edinburgh or similar award or just to give you that first bit of insight. We have availability to hire our Main Hall and Meeting Rooms as a one off or for regular sessions. For more information see haltoncentre.org/

bookings/ or contact our Bookings Officer, details above.

See Prattle What's On pages for contact information of all regular groups, clubs & classes.

NEW SESSIONS, SESSION NEWS & CHANGES

Salsa Night - 20th April - 7pm

New Yoga session Monday 6-7pm from April 22nd

Halton Gardening Group Plant Sale - 18th May 2-4pm

Above correct as at 12th March 2024

Naomi Turner - Publicity Officer

NEWS FROM THE 1ST HALTON SCOUT GROUP

Are there any adults out there looking for an exciting new volunteering challenge? Do you want to :-

Make friends and meet people?

Try new things and challenge yourself?

Get outdoors and get stuck in?

Positively impact your community?

Create vital opportunities for young people?

Make memories that'll last a lifetime?

Then come and join us as a volunteer at Halton Scout Group.

Whatever your skill set there will be a place for you helping out in scouting in Halton. We currently help 65 children, from 4 to 14 years old, learn essential life skills through a variety of activities (many of which are outdoors). We also help a number of 14 – 18 year olds build leadership skills through our Young Leader programme.

If working directly with children isn't your thing then we need help with hut

and equipment maintenance, cleaning, and administration. We are actively looking to recruit a new Treasurer as the current volunteer is looking to hand over the baton to some new blood at our next AGM in November after a number of years of service.

For example here is a taster of what our Beavers (6 – 8 year olds) have been doing this term.

Beavers have been looking at their impact in the community by supporting the Cards Fighting Loneliness campaign, making cards and gifts. By the time you read this they will have met some of their recipients at The Big Get Together and hopefully many happy connections will have been made. They have been to visit Halton Library, checked up on the trees they planted last year and looked at different codes. Beavers are looking forward to an Environment Day and a

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sleepover at the Scout Hut with Squirrels!

So, if you would like to make a difference to the lives of the children in the local area and have fun at the same time, then please get in touch with me via email: john.elliott@lonsdalescouts.org.uk or via mobile on 07963659129. You can also check out www.scouts.org.uk for more information about who scouts are and what we do.

John Elliott
Group Lead Volunteer
1st Halton Scout Group






Plant Sale

18th May, 2 - 4pm

The Centre at Halton

On the field
Free Entry
Cash/BACS/cheques welcome
Please bring bags/boxes

Bedding, perennials, herbs and vegetables, and more!

Email: haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com



Facebook: facebook.com/haltongardeninggroup

Proceeds for village planting projects

CARNFORTH COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

It has done very well, given high utilisation by the general public, groups and twenty two primary schools taking youngsters for swimming and water safety lessons.

With some most welcome grants and use of profits, construction of a building extension commenced in October and is due to be completed early April.

This is for a patron coffee shop upstairs that doubles as a teacher and lifeguard classroom training area, and much needed extra storage and toilets downstairs.

All of the associated profits will go back into keeping charges down and following the charitable objective of financial "break even".

Whilst trying to avoid extra cost, there have been a few unforeseen aspects, including poor ground conditions and a better lift between floors for wheelchair access, so a Crowdfunder initiative can be found when showing the mobile phone the related QR code, should readers wish to assist.

John Blowes MBE Trustee & CEO



TORRISHOLME CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

www.torrisholmecc.co.uk

With the season only a month away as I write and both senior and junior indoor nets well underway we are hoping, as are all local clubs, for a dry spell to help dry out the ground after what has been the wettest twelve month period anyone can remember. By the time you read this Registration Night will have been and gone, games for our 6 junior teams are currently being planned and the senior squads are taking shape with Kiwi Overseas Amateur Connor Cooper arriving on 9th April in time for a pre-season game or two. Work has begun to get the ground and facilities into summer trim, with a large amount of work done by senior players to improve the car park. Key Social and Fundraising events this year will include the Golf Day at Heysham Golf Club on 3rd May, two Halton teams are participating and

anyone interested should speak to Mark Drinkall, details below. The Camping Weekend will make a welcome return (if you like camping!) in August and Curry Nights, a Quiz Night and a Race Night are also in the works.

So here is to a long, hot summer and the thwack of leather on willow. New players, senior and junior, plus volunteers, coaches, sponsors and supporters are always welcome so if you or someone you know is interested in being involved please contact club Safeguarding Officer and Junior Chair Mark Drinkall on 07368 944220 or by email: drinks@torrisholmecc.co.uk

Mark Drinkall,
15th March 2024



Lunesdale Lawn Tennis Club

Ball Lane, Caton LA2 9QN

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LunesdaleLawnTennisClub>

OPEN DAY 5th May from 2pm

Adults, juniors and families welcome

A chance to try out our three wonderful grass courts and two newly installed carpet courts (for year round play)

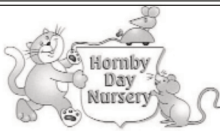
Come and join us for a friendly, fun afternoon whether you're a beginner, a rusty player or a pro.

Tea and cake is provided

Rackets are available to borrow for the afternoon.

THE PRATTLE QUIZ No 61

1. In The Muppets, what type of animal is Spamela Hamderson?
2. Which small, oily fish in the herring family is thought to be named after an Italian island?
3. In a rhyming story by Julia Donaldson, what items of clothing has the fox lost?
4. What word can refer to the heels of a shoe, a golf club or a potato product?
5. In men's international football, who is the all-time leading goalscorer for Brazil?
6. Frederik X became the king of which country recently, after his mother, Margrethe II, abdicated?
7. Anagram: Rearrange the letters in 'BARMAN'S DAY' to find the name of a famous man?
8. Founded in 1876, which Bolton-based baking firm wraps its 'Toastie' loaf in orange wax paper?
9. The mother of which chart-topping pop star, born Peter Gene Hernandez, was a professional hula dancer?
10. What 'C' is a people, culture and cuisine sometimes known as 'Louisiana Acadian'?
11. Whose acting debut was in Hercules in New York and most recent role was in FUBAR?
12. Which psychological condition was defined as a result of a 1973 Swedish bank robbery?



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School & Bank Holidays	~	11am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday	~	10am - 5pm
Weekends between October and February half term	~	10am - 4pm



Last made to order food requests 30 minutes prior to closing
Actual opening times may vary dependant on volunteer availability

The
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13. Which machine, first built and patented in 1835, reaps, threshes and winnows in a single action?
14. What is the common name, derived from the material it produces, of the plant ficus elastica?
15. Bristol, Warwick, Falkirk, Christchurch in England and Christchurch in New Zealand all stand on (or near) different rivers with what same name?
16. Which Germanic creature of folklore, with magical powers and supernatural beauty, shares its name with the German for a two-digit number?
17. In cookery, what term describes pasta or rice that is cooked to be 'firm to the bite'?
18. Which spirit is produced at The Glenturret... Scotland's oldest working distillery?
19. What was the name of the Icelandic Volcano which erupted in 2010, which caused major air traffic disruption?
20. What colour is common to all of the flags of the eight countries that border mainland France?

Many thanks to our new Quizmaster, Björgvin Vigfússon. Answers on page 34



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- offer a wealth of useful advice on how to make having a warm home more affordable;
- check energy bills and contact energy suppliers to help resolve issues;
- identify potential grant funding for insulation and heating.

Alternatively people can have an appointment over the phone and

energy saving measures can be posted to them.

The LEAP service is available to households on low incomes of all tenures – homeowners, private tenants and social tenants.

Visit www.applyforleap.org.uk or call freephone 0800 060 7567 to find out more and apply.

RYELANDS GIANT CAR BOOT

It's on again, Monday the 6th of May at Ryelands Park, as a joint effort between Carnforth Rotary and St John's Hospice. It's subject to the field not having been affected by heavy rain, given the number of cars, and with a suggested donation of £1 per car on arrival.

Entrance for the public is from 8am and concluding at 4pm.

Contact: Secretary@carnforthrotary.org

VILLAGE SERVICES

LIBRARY: Tues, 1-7pm; Wed, 9-1pm; Fri, 1-5pm; Sat, 9-1pm. Tel 0300 123 6703 and 0300 123 6704 for automated renewal service.

SURGERY: Halton Medical Centre, 110 High Rd 811226. Mon to Fri 8:00am-12:30pm and 1:30–5:30pm. **Pre-booked appointments only.**

POLICE: Community police 101, Police station 01524 463333

POST OFFICE: (In the Pharmacy) Mon, Wed, Fri 9:30–12:30 & 1:00–4:00

PHARMACY: Mon – Fri 9:00-5:30; tel 812149, closed Saturdays & Sundays

SQUARE DANCING

CLUB NEWS

The annual dinner at the golf club in March went really well. The food was as excellent as it has been every time we've been. They very kindly made up a doggy bag for a last minute cancellation, minus the ice-cream of course.

Numbers were lower this year due to holidays and illness but we all had a lovely evening of food and dance, called by Trevor Day.

Trevor, Chris, Brian & I went to an excellent dance weekend in Street, near to Bath, in Feb. Dancing Plus, A1 & A2 to an American and a Canadian caller. We popped over to the Clarks outlet village to get our misshaped chocs from the Cadbury shop of course. Tim, the Canadian caller, told us he'd bought loads of chocolate to take back home to his wife - 27 pounds. He didn't elaborate if that was money or weight! Di, Terry, Brian & I took the opportunity to join Viking Squares in the Nottingham area for their 40th Anniversary dance. Mainstream & Plus with Neil Whiston calling. It was so nice to meet up with dancers we haven't seen for ages and in many cases from before the pandemic.

The next event is our Spring Dance on Sat 11 May 6:00-9:30pm with Gene Turner from Yorkshire calling Mainstream and Plus.

During April, May and probably part of June, Friday evening club nights will be held at the Centre @ Halton whilst the Victoria Institute at Caton is being rewired.

We have decided not to have a March intake this year and have postponed recruitment until Mon 2 September in the hope that when the nights are drawing in, people may be more interested in starting something new.

I'll see you in a square on Monday or Friday.

Carol Holman

07981 743959

For our club newsletter, photos and info go to our website:- <http://www.oceanwavers.co.uk>



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LOVERS OF LIVE MUSIC

The Centre@Halton is the chosen venue to support regular rehearsals for a new musical venture for 2024 - Bay Big Band. We meet on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings to work on classic big band arrangements. We have recently competed in The Great North Big Band Jazz Festival and our next event is in Preston - details below. If you would like to book the band or have any questions, please contact me - paula.williams.2410@gmail.com

Wed Apr 3rd & 17th and May 1st & 15th - starts 8pm - £3 *Northern All Stars Big Band @ Jubilee Social Club, Slyne Rd, Torrisholme*

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month, come and enjoy very reasonably priced drinks in comfortable surroundings, listening to some talented musicians brought together from Lancashire and Cumbria to play in this fine 16-piece big band.

Sat Apr 20th & May 11th - starts 3pm - free entry *The Cornerhouse, New Street, Lancaster*

The Luca Brasi Group is a Lancaster-based 5-piece band - expect straight-ahead swing, be-bop and Latin jazz classics of the mid-twentieth century and later.

Fri Apr 26th & May 24th - starts 7.30pm - free entry *Lancaster Jazz Jam, Printroom Cafe Bar, Storey Building, Meeting House Lane*

Come and enjoy taking part or watching. More info here: <https://lancasterjazzscene.blogspot.com/> or look us up on Facebook.

Sun May 5th - starts 2pm - £12 on the door *New Continental, South Meadow Lane, Preston PR1 8JP*

Two big bands for the price of one: Ribble Valley Jazz Band with Halton's very own Bay Big Band.

Sunday May 12th - starts 7pm - £7.50 *The Jack Yerkess Quartet, The Olive Bar, Gregson Arts Centre, 33-35 Moorgate, Lancaster.*

Lancaster Jazz Scene presents the seventh gig in its Gregson Gig Series featuring Jack Yerkess on trombone ably supported by piano, bass and drums, playing their own arrangements of classic jazz melodies in surprising styles. To reserve a ticket, email lancasterjazzscene@gmail.com

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CATON CLUB NEWS

CATON LEISURE CLUB

Spice up your Monday mornings by joining us: come along for our interesting programme of speakers each Monday at 10:30 and chat over tea/coffee and biscuits. Annual membership is just £5 with the first talk free (£3 each meeting thereafter) or £4 for non members.

Speakers for April are:-

8th - Denise Hadley; Lytham Hall;

15th - Louise Buck; A Trip to China.

Those are our final talks for now. We restart in September.

Norma's Chair Exercises continue throughout the summer. Come and loosen up your limbs each Monday 9 to 10 am at the Institute. Join for £5 on the first visit and have the session free, then £2 for further visits.

Bowls continue each Wednesday from 10:00 to 12:00 either indoors or on the green at Hornby.

Please contact David on 01524 812342 for further details.

CATON AND BROOKHOUSE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

January saw our AGM which was very well attended and a good time to catch up with friends, old and new. The committee was voted on and programs for the upcoming year were distributed

with visits as diverse as Chatsworth House and Bolton Market planned.

The first event of the year was a hot-pot lunch at The Station Hotel in February. As the weather hopefully improves we are looking forward to our monthly outings. The first of our coach trips was on March 21st to Boundary Mill. April 18th will see us at Bolton Market and Smithills Hall; prior to then we are meeting for coffee at the Station Hotel on April 4th at 11am. May takes us to Carlisle for the day with a visit to Dobbies garden centre on our way home.

For more information about the Friendship Club or to book please contact Ally Whitfield on 01524 770827 or 07738 912923



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CHURCH NEWS

ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. CHURCH

Saturday Vigil at 6:30 pm, Sunday Mass throughout the year at 10:00am.

Sunday Mass is streamed on our Facebook page - <https://stjosephs-lancaster.co.uk/> for more information.

Clergy: Fr. John Paul Evans,
Deacon Stephen Pendlebury,
St. Joseph's Church
Slyne Road,
Lancaster, LA1 2HU

Tel: 01524 32493



Sundays, 10:30AM, The Centre @ Halton

Our vision is to create a home to empower a new generation! Our desire is to empower you to fulfil all that God has for you and called you to be. We believe that Church should be a home for everyone, no matter who they are or where they've come from.

Each Sunday we have a designated Parent & Baby area and a Valley Kids programme for children aged one and walking to Year 6 of primary school. Our fortnightly discipleship groups meet on Tuesdays for fun, food, friendship and bible study. We'd love to welcome you! Find out more at valleychurch.eu, Facebook or Instagram.

ST WILFRID'S HALTON

ST WILFRID'S JUNIOR CHURCH



Junior church meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month during school term time at 10am.

For more information email Sandra Dawson at (s.dawson135@btinternet.com).

MID-WEEK GROUPS:

Tuesday afternoon House Group. 25 Harrowdale Park, on the first Tuesday of the month at 2 pm. Holy Communion, a cuppa and discussion of a Bible passage. To find out more, ring Revd Helen Leathard on 849495

Thursday evening Bible study and discussion group. Contact Revd Susan for details on 01524 822128 or revsusan.seed@btinternet.com

THE CHURCH IS HERE FOR YOU!

St Wilfrid's Church is open on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Information is available about the history of the church, the stained-glass windows and its unique Cross. It is a peaceful place for quiet reflection or prayer. There are candles available to light to remember a loved one departed, and prayer requests can be left on the prayer tree.



Every week the Churches pray for different streets in Halton and for the village of Aughton. Wherever you live, please get in contact with Revd Susan if you have any pray requests for specific people, places or situations. (Details are kept confidential). Contact Revd Susan at revsusan.seed@btinternet.com.

Baptisms and Wedding and Funerals: Everyone who lives in the Parish of Halton with Aughton is entitled to have their baptism, wedding or funeral at St Saviour's or St Wilfrid's Churches. If you would like to make a booking for a baptisms or wedding, please contact Revd Susan on 01524 822128 or revsusan.seed@btinternet.com

PRATTLE QUIZ ANSWERS

- 20 Red
- 19 Elyafjalökull (A-v-yah-h-fyah-lah-yOH-knuil)
- 18 Whisky
- 17 Al Dente
- 16 Eff
- 15 Avon
- 14 Rubber plant (or rubber fig/rubber bush/rubber tree/Combine Harvester
- 13 Stockholm Syndrome
- 12 Arnold Schwarzenegger
- 11 Cajun
- 10 Bruno Mars
- 9 Warburtons
- 8 Bryan Adams
- 7 Denmark
- 6 Neymar
- 5 Wedge
- 4 Socks
- 3 Sardine
- 2 Pig
- 1





Holistic Therapy Sessions

Relax and Unwind with a Range of
Healing Therapies

<p>Thai Foot & Hand Massage</p> <p>Indian Head Massage</p> <p>Deep Tissue Massage</p> <p>Swedish Massage</p> <p>Pregnancy Massage</p> <p>Seated Massage</p> <p>Hot Stone Massage</p>	<p>Other treatments:</p> <p>Tropic Facials</p> <p>Usui Reiki</p> <p>Blue Star Lemurian Reiki</p> <p>Access Bars</p> <p>Crystal Healing/Massage</p> <p>Aromatouch Technique</p>
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Contact Becky...

07974752610

@rainbowtherapies

@rainbowtherapies777

rainbowtherapies@hotmail.com

The Rainbow Room, Halton Mill, LA2 6ND

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THE CHURCHES OF HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

RECTOR Rev'd Susan Seed

The Vicarage, 2 Summerfield Drive
Slyne with Hest, Lancaster LA2 6AQ

Tel: 01524 822128

E: revsusan:seed@btinternet.com

ST. WILFRID'S HALTON

Services in April

- 7 10:00 am Family Communion
4:00 pm Families@4 at Slyne
Church Hall
- 9 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 14 8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
- 16 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 21 10:00 am Family Communion
and APCM
- 23 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 28 10:00 am Family Communion
- 30 9:00 am Morning prayer

Services in May

- 5 10:00 am Family Communion
- 7 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 12 8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
- 14 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 19 10:00 am Family Communion
- 21 9:00 am Morning prayer
- 26 10:00 am Family Communion
- 28 9:00 am Morning prayer

ST SAVIOUR'S AUGHTON

Services in April

- 14 11:30 am Holy Communion
and APCM

28 11:30 am Morning Prayer

Services in May

- 12 11:30 am Holy Communion
- 26 11:30 am Morning Prayer

FROM ST WILFRID'S REGISTERS

Funerals:

Florence Delia Pinder

Anthony Irving

Live streamed services:

We will be continuing to livestream our Tuesday Morning prayer service at St Wilfrid's onto 'St Wilfrid's Church of England' Facebook page.

The honey bee swarming season will start shortly (April to June).



If you find a swarm, leave it alone and give us a call on 01524 811978. We shall collect it as quickly as possible, and re-house it.



**16 Foundry Close
Halton
Lancaster
LA2 6FE
Telephone – 07740 308422
Email – andrew@asparker.co.uk
Website – www.asparker.co.uk**

We offer support to many small businesses, including self-assessment tax returns and deal with business start-ups along with ongoing support and development. Check our website for the full range of services on offer.

Please contact Andrew Parker for an initial appointment at no cost and let's see how we can help you.

About the business:

Andrew S Parker is a well-established, trusted and experienced firm of Chartered Accountants. We work with businesses and individuals mainly in West and North Yorkshire, Lancashire and across the UK.

We have over 30 years of accounting experience and work with both small to medium-sized businesses and personal tax clients offering a full range of accounting and audit services including tax returns, tax advice, VAT services, payroll and budgets.