



PARISH PRATTLE



Issue No. 37

Halton-with-Aughton

June/July 2007

This is our first issue as editors of the Prattle. Should you have any suggestions for new ideas please e-mail them to us at haltonprattle@btinternet.com!

Many thanks to Helen Bardsley for holding the fort and editing the last issue!

In this issue, don't miss:

- Our new feature - Local Interests and Hobbies, with the first article by Fred Ayres. Do you do something interesting? Please let us know!
- The Arts Event in Lunesdale
- Support Your Community - Renew Your Parish Lottery Ticket or Buy Your First!
- Details of the Garden Safari
- What's on in Halton & Aughton!

Jan & Dave

PLEASE NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS BELOW

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PRATTLE

ARTICLES to: haltonprattle@btinternet.com

WHAT'S ON to: prattle.watson@btinternet.com

DISTRIBUTION problems: Carol on 811444

Written articles to EXPRESSIONS HAIR, or tel 811444.

Advertising copy to PAULA or HELEN on 811766/812679.

DEADLINES for Aug / Sep:

Copy: Wed 11th July 07

Adverts: Wed 11th July 07

Delivery: Fri 3rd August 07

Advertising Rates

Box Ad: £10

Double Box Ad: £20

All adverts are published in good faith.

The Editorial team can offer no guarantees as to the quality of services advertised.

THE CHURCHES OF HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON

ST. WILFRID'S, HALTON

Rector

Rev Pauline Bicknell,
The Vicarage, 2 Summerfield Drive,
Lancaster, LA2 6AQ Tel: 822128
email: pauline@bicknells.freemove.co.uk

Services in June

- 3rd 8 am Holy Communion
10 am Parish Communion
(with URC)
10th 10 am Parish Communion
17th 10 am Parish Communion
24th 10 am Parish Communion

Services in July

- 1st 8 am Holy Communion
9.30 am at Halton URC
8th 10 am Parish Communion
(Sunday School prize giving)
15th 10 am Parish Communion
(St Wilfrid's School Leavers'
service)
22nd 10 am Parish Communion
29th NO SERVICE, Group service
at St Saviour's, Aughton.
*Time to be confirmed, please
see church notice boards*

ST. SAVIOUR'S, AUGHTON

Services in June

- 10th 11.30 am Holy Communion
24th 11.30 am Morning Prayer

Services in July

- 8th 11.30 am Holy Communion
22nd 11.30 am Morning Prayer
29th 7.00 pm Evening Prayer

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Services in June

- 3rd Ecumenical Service at
St. Wilfrid's
10th Mr. David Seward
17th Rev. Yolande Burns
24th Rev. George Barton

Services in July

- 1st Rev. Yolande Burns -
Ecumenical Service
8th Rev. Roy Chapman
15th Rev. Yolande Burns
22nd Mr. Michael Pickles
29th Rev. Geoff Lear

Coffee Mornings

Our June coffee morning will be on Saturday 2nd June and your hostesses for the morning will be Mary Simpson and Angela Blowes.

The July coffee morning is on Saturday 7th July when the CHIMPS will be asking you to join them for an enjoyable morning.

We look forward to seeing you on these dates to purchase tasty home-made goodies and share fellowship.

From the Registers

Halton Registers: Baptism -

- 8th April. Mia Alice Paterson
13th May. Ruby Grace & Lily Rose
Keates
27th May. Phoebe Elizabeth Hill

Aughton Registers: Funerals -

- 29th March. Eileen Makinson

**DEAR FRIENDS,
MODERN TECHNOLOGY!!**

Sending an email sounds so simple doesn't it? For those of you who use email regularly you'll know that for the most part it is, but then suddenly, for no good reason everything goes hay-wire. What seems like a very abrupt and unsympathetic message appears on the screen.

'Invalid user name or password.'

Or worse still -

'This programme has performed an illegal operation and will shut down.'

The innocent sender (me!) has performed the same connecting up routine for the last dozen or so emails without a problem but now things have become complicated, and try as I might, I usually find myself shutting down the whole programme anyway.

It always happens when I want to send something quickly - usually a last minute deadline for the church magazine!

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My user name and password are exactly the same as I have been using for the past 8 years or more and I certainly haven't done anything illegal! Impatiently I shut down and try again and this time I am connected straight away - why? What was different? I'll never know I suppose!

However it set me thinking about communicating with God. There is never a problem with an invalid user name or password and there is no fear that we

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have performed an illegal operation as we turn to him. He doesn't shut down if the words we use aren't quite as articulate as we would like. He doesn't tell us to switch off and try again or come back another day.

We can offer him prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession, arrow prayers in the middle of a busy crowd or long thought out prayers in the midst of silence or solitude. He is always there ready to listen and he accepts our prayers with love, never turning us away or ignoring us.

Computers, the internet and email are wonderful inventions but their power is limited. God is always available and his power and love are never limited.

God bless you all - Yolande

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Tues & Thurs 12.30 - 3.30 pm

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Details from Jane Gott on

07751 907358

HAFFNER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Haffner Orchestra celebrates the end of its 30th season on Saturday 16th June in the Ashton Hall (Town Hall) in Lancaster at 7.30pm.

World-renowned soloists Elizabeth and Raphael Wallfisch (who is also President of Haffner Orchestra) will be playing the Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello. Other pieces to be played are Overture "Leonora" no 3 by Beethoven and Symphonic Variations by Dvorak. The concert will also feature the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece by Arthur Butterworth called Coruscations.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.haffnerorchestra.org, or by ringing 01524 770503 or 32878 for credit card sales.

ABBNEYFIELD AGE CONCERN

The next Open Event at Abbeyfield will be on Wednesday June 20th, at 2.00pm, when a speaker from AGE CONCERN will talk about the wide range of advice, support and services that this Charity offers for older people. This is a subject of interest to everyone who is in that sort of age-range themselves or who has a relative in it. So come if you would like to learn more.

This event will also be a meeting of the Tuesday Club, replacing the meeting scheduled for June 19th. The nominal Club entry charge of 50p, including free entry to the raffle, will apply. Regular Club members please note this change of date. Other Club dates for June and July will be normal. In August the Club will take a summer break, resuming in September. The Sunday evening hymn-singing on the third Sunday of every month will continue without interruption. All the dates are given as usual at the end of this article. The Fashion Show that we hosted in April was well attended, with plenty of mutual satisfaction for customers and sales-women. We are hoping to provide more public events of various kinds in the autumn.

Long live the Prattle again! As a result of our announcement in the April number our piano has gone to a new home and the Garden Room is a bit less cluttered.

We have welcomed two new residents and the house has settled back into a steady rhythm. A reminder that if you think you might one day be interested in moving in, it is wise to get on the waiting-list by contacting Janet Elliott (823801) or Loraine (811910). This does not incur any obligation to take up a vacancy, but it is necessary to be on the list in order to be offered one.

We have also had a change in our "Local Service Manager", the roving staff member appointed by Abbeyfield UK to be responsible for the House's overall management. We were sorry to lose our previous LSM, Karen Duffy, to a job with Age Concern; but we are more than happy to welcome back Fiona Moncur who was briefly with us two years ago.

Tuesday Club dates: Tuesday June 5th, Wednesday June 20th (see above), Tuesday July 3rd, 17th, 31st. All at 2.00 pm.

Hymn-singing: June 17th, July 15th, August 19th. All at 6.30 pm.

BED AND BREAKFAST

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in

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ART EVENT IN LUNESDALE

**May Bank Holiday to 17th June 2007 at
the weekends**

This year the **Lunesdale Studio Trail** is celebrating its **10th anniversary**, with the biggest trail yet. To commemorate the anniversary the invitations will be in an exciting new format and incorporate a full colour poster on the reverse showing images of individual artist's work. They are available from Steve Stalker at the Top Shops in Halton, and from Hilary Carr at the Studio at Lune Cottage, Aughton, or from any artist featuring on the website www.lunesdalearts.co.uk and also from Tourist Information Centres.

But you don't need an invitation to come - just follow the red and white signs which will take you along the highways and byways to the studios. Once there you can pick up a brochure and plan your itinerary. There is also be a special 10th anniversary collection of post-

cards showing examples of work of all the artists, collected together in a Perspex case and available to buy from each studio. This year there are **18 artists and craft workers** who will open their studios to show their work to the public. Studios will be open starting with **Bank Holiday weekend Friday 25th May 2007** and weekends thereafter until **17th June**.

JUNE BAKER SINGERS

40 STRONG CHOIR

Singing For Your Pleasure,
A Varied Selection of Music & Song.

SAT 30th JUNE 7.30pm
Halton Youth & Community Centre
£4.50p inc wine or refreshments

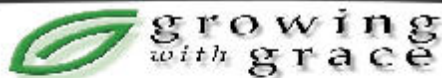
Tickets from:
Carol 811444, Maureen 811854,
Stalkers Newsagents or
Expressions Hair

Buy Early – Tickets Limited.

If you have visited some or all of the studios before, this is a chance to catch up with new work being produced. The studios are found at Aughton (Hilary Carr Paintings at Lune Cottage), and continue into Lunesdale to locations at Bentham, Tatham, Wray, Melling, Wennington and various points in between.

An interactive map on the website www.lunesdalearts.co.uk gives full details of where they all are, as does the map on the invitation brochure.

Many of the artists involved are directly inspired by this beautiful area, producing paintings, drawings, ceramics, craft items, sculpture, stained glass, jewellery and videos. Work is available to buy at studio rather than gallery prices, but there is no obligation - artists are simply keen to show their work to interested viewers. So venture into the rest of your Parish and beyond, delight in the wonderful scenery on your doorstep and enjoy



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Studio Opening times: 11am to 5pm
Open Dates: Friday 25th May, Saturday 26th May, Sunday 27th May, Monday 27th May, Friday 1st June, Saturday 2nd June, Sunday 3rd June, Friday 8th June, Saturday 9th June, Sunday 10th June, Friday 15th June, Saturday 16th June, Sunday 17th June

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HALTON W.I. NEWS

At our March meeting one of our favourite Speakers, Mr. Maurice Steele, brought his superb slide show entitled 'Cumbrian Ramble in Search of Orchids' and explained that it took him five years in his quest to photograph all Cumbria's species of orchids. Starting on the shores of Morecambe Bay, he travelled the length and breadth of the County, and as the wonderful scenery unfolded, suddenly a spot appeared, and the camera honed in, pinpointing a rare orchid. Some orchids were of inconspicuous colour, relying on their scent to attract insects for pollination; others had beautiful flowers but no scent, its colour being the main attraction. From the sand dunes on the coast, to remote areas of the National Park, some of these Cumbrian orchids are rarely found elsewhere in Britain.

An Eskdale sheep farmer, Mr. Steele's love of botany and photography must surely rate him an asset for Cumbria's archives. His beautiful slide show, excellently narrated, including very apt poetry, was warmly welcomed and appreciated by his audience of members, husbands and friends.

In April we had a visit from Nurseryman Mr P Foley, who gave us good advice on planting shrubs and flowers. He then answered questions on garden pests, and why plants were not thriving etc.

A very enjoyable evening was spent at Hornby for the Group meeting. After an excellent hot pot supper we were entertained by Pete Nelson, a local comedian, who literally had everyone 'in stitches' with his jokes and impersonations.

Iris Suthers

EXHIBITION

An exhibition was held at the Halton Youth & Community Centre on Sat & Sun 5th & 6th May.

The plans of the extension to the car park were displayed at the centre with a continuation of the link path to Low Road, lighting the car park. The plan also included the positioning of the re-sited children's play area close to the hall, particularly important for children attending preschool playgroup and families in general to enable parents to monitor children at play on various amenities available at once.

The plans for expansion of the Community centre were extremely well drawn with lots of interesting innovative points including solar panels but they did not include some of the basic needs of the general users. Much more work is needed to make the plans successful but a good start is made.

There were plans for a new skate park which drew a terrific amount of interest from all the young people who came to view. The plans for a totally refurbished ball park and for a playground were a big hit too.

Visitors were asked to comment by post-it notes to suggest what they would like on the playgrounds, or where they has seen a particularly good piece of equipment for instance. A climbing wall was also mooted and the traverse style seemed to be the most popular and probably the most possible too.

Winners of the competition to design a playground were: 1st Joint entry Olivia & Ben Wilson: 2nd Matthew Khan: 3rd Imogen Khan.

The whole area of change is a joint project between Halton Community Improvement Group H.C.I.G., The Parish Council and Halton Youth & Community Centre H.Y.A.C.C. with support from Preschool Playgroup, Toddler Group and Football groups.

Funding begins with the community and the Halton 500 Parish Lottery is your way of supporting this major project, allowing the start of matched funding. Large grants have been applied for and we hope that this time we will be successful in providing a versatile sports and leisure area for all.

Carol Holman

D.J.Platts

(Of Caton) Est 1988

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**APPROVED CAR
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HALTON GARDEN SAFARI

The Halton Garden Safari will be held on Sat 14th & Sun 15th July, 11am - 5pm. Tickets & Map £3 on the day, accompanied under 12's, free. Tickets are valid for both days, and are available from all gardens with an 'OPEN GARDEN' sign. A plant stall, and the usual refreshments are available.

Most gardens are in the village, so please walk if you can as parking at most gardens is extremely limited - disabled only. We are hoping for 12 gardens this year.

Hint - Make your way to 'Whins Brow' off the High Rd across from the Butchers and if you don't pass another

open garden on your way start there. If you have any plant donations or would like to help with teas etc ring Carol 811444.

OPEN GARDEN AT LINDEN HALL, BORWICK

This annual Haffner Orchestra fundraising event will be held at Linden Hall, Borwick on Sunday 10th June 2007 at 2pm. Teas, plants and produce will be available and music will be performed by various ensembles consisting of Haffner Orchestra players.

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Ann and Bob Clegg, Directors of this family run business, reside in Halton and, therefore, have a special interest in providing the local community with specialist advice and superior quality products.

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All our products are made to measure to meet your specific requirements including windows, doors and porches. We fit fascias, soffits, barge boards and replacement double glazed units. No job is too small! If you would like to take advantage of our free, no obligation quotation service, just telephone 01524 410077 for an appointment.

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EXPRESSIONS HAIR NEWS

Thank you to all our customers and friends for your donations of Easter eggs and cash for the children of 7 local care homes & schools.

You gave Easter eggs to 69 people from: Hala Grove, Lancaster community children's home, Alexandra House, Primrose House Trust, South Avenue Community Home & Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust and £61.30 cash to Bleasedale House School.

Letters & cards of thanks from the children and carers are posted in the salon if you would like to view them.

LUNESDALE LAWN

TENNIS CLUB

Ball Lane, Caton -

"Wimbledon of the North"

Come and play grass court tennis in Caton. All Standards Welcome

Contact Secretary on 015242-22202 or WWW.LUNESDALETENNIS.NET

HALTON PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

- Reg. in England No. 04836213
- Reg. Charity No. 1042229 •

Where learning is fun!

Pre-school/foundation stage (3+):

Mon, Wed & Thurs 12.30-3pm

Tues & Fri 9.15-11.45am

Playgroup (2+):

Mon & Wed 9.15-11.45am

Admissions/enquiries phone 07939 646 625 or e-mail haltonpreschool@aol.com



EXPRESSIONS

For the **WHOLE** family

161 High Road, Halton.

Tel: **811392**

Air conditioned

OPEN: Tuesday - Saturday

Concessions Gift Vouchers

Gents Special: Thurs. £5

ORIGINS OF SAYINGS OR PHRASES

In the 1400's a law was set forth that a man was not allowed to beat his wife with a stick thicker than his thumb. Hence the saying 'the rule of thumb'.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were supported on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattresses tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. hence the phrase ... 'good night, sleep tight'.

In pubs, ale used to be ordered by pints and quarts. When customers got unruly, the bar tender would yell at them 'mind your pints and quarts, and settle down'. It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'.

In Elizabethan times the dining table was a board on trestles - hence accommodation was for 'bed & board' .

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AT HALTON YOUTH & COMMUNITY CEN- TRE

The Community Centre Committee are working hard to provide new activities for the young people of the village. We have booked an instructor to take a circuit training class for 11 year olds to adults on a Thursday evening 6 - 7pm.

We need equipment for this and are hoping that local businesses or parishioners may wish to donate or sponsor an item. These items include mats, body bars, beanbags, arm weights, hoops, skipping ropes and steps. If anyone has any of these items lying around we would appreciate them.

We are also hoping to organise a regular games night on the field during the school holidays for families to attend. If anyone is able to help organise activities it would be appreciated. We will be able to use the centre's equipment. If we need to pay an instructor to take the sessions there will have to be a charge.

Please watch out for posters!

For more information please contact Maureen Richardson Tel 811854.



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DID YOU KNOW....

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden...' and thus the word **GOLF** entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time television was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for monopoly than the US treasury

Coca-Cola was originally green!

Men can read smaller print than women but women can hear better!

HALTON 500 - Parish Lottery

The parish lottery is just about to start its fourth year. The Lottery runs from July to June. Tickets are £10 per year. Numbers, drawn monthly, offer 19 prizes from £50 to £500. Winning numbers are advertised in the Prattle.

July & Aug - £50 Sept - £50 - £100

Oct & Nov - £50 Dec - £50 - £100 - £250 - £500

Jan & Feb - £50 Mar - £50 - £100

Apr & May - £50 Jun - £50 - £100 - £250

All money raised is used to part fund village improvement projects.

Any Community project must provide funds raised by the community as their contribution when applying for grants.

Come on, support your village & community and help to improve the open spaces and amenities for all. Don't forget you could be a £50 - £500 winner too.

Buy or renew your tickets now!

You can choose & collect your numbers from the Halton 500 stall at the top shops on Saturday 9th June from 10 am to 3 pm.

Can't manage this date?

Please complete the form overleaf to pay by standing order, or otherwise fill out the application form below, add your Cash or Cheque (made payable; - 'Halton Community Improvement Group') and place in a sealed envelope marked 'Halton 500' and return to:-

Carol Slinger, 3 Meadowfield,
Stalkers Newsagents, High Road or
Expressions Hair, High Road

Tickets will be delivered a.s.a.p (for more information ring 811027)

PARISH LOTTERY FUND - HALTON 500 APPLICATION FORM

Please let me have (No of tickets required) @ £10 each:

enclosed £.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Signature: _____

PARISH LOTTERY FUND – HALTON 500

APPLICATION FORM & STANDING ORDER MANDATE

TICKET HOLDER'S NAME _____

NO OF TICKETS REQUIRED _____

TICKET HOLDERS BANK _____

BRANCH _____

BANK ADDRESS _____

SORT CODE _____ - _____ - _____

ACCOUNT NAME _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

**PAYMENT TO NATWEST BANK –
HALTON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP**

SORT CODE 01-54-90 ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

AMOUNT OF FIRST PAYMENT £ _____

DATE OF FIRST PAYMENT ~ 1ST JULY 2007

And on July 1st annually thereafter: £ _____ until further advised

SIGNATURE _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL NO _____ POST CODE _____

REF. NO. H500/ _____

(Office use only)

POLICE INFORMATION

Police website:

www.lancashire.police.uk/halton.html

Email: Annette.Hoover@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

P.S.C.O. Annette Hoover can be contacted at: Carnforth Police Station via voicemail on 01524 596463; or 07775 977741; or Lancaster Police Station 01524 63333

15/03/07 to 08/05/07

1. O/night 20/03 to 21/03, window smashed at White Lion.

2. Between 6.30 & 7.15 pm on 24/03, a silver Golf was stolen from Littledale Mews, Kellet Lane, Slyne.

3. Between 24 & 26 Mar, Mill Lane, North West Engineering had quantity of steel sheets & aluminium castings stolen from building, door locks forced.

4. Whitegates, Carus Park, greenhouses glass smashed. Second time recently.

5. Ten year old boy caught shoplifting on 1st Apr at the Village Store, dealt with by P.C. Winder by means of a £40 fixed penalty ticket, taken home and spoken to with his parents.

6. Some day-old lambs & some sheep food were stolen from Far Highfield Farm between midnight & 3 am on 7th Apr. A vehicle which the farmer reported as suspicious later checked out to be all in order and not connected to the theft, but we can only re-iterate the importance and value of the community reporting anything they feel is suspicious to the police so it can be checked out.

7. Bronze chippings taken from locked warehouse by forcing a sliding door, sometime over the Easter weekend. A vehicle seen in the area was later eliminated from police enquiries.

8. Copper wire taken from Halton Mill substation some time during last 3-4 months.

9. A car was damaged by stone coping being thrown at it.

HRH Princess Royal visited the Thoroughbred Rehabilitation Centre on 15 March.

Operation bike-safe started from 1st Apr until 30th Sept. This concentrates on identified routes popular with motor cyclists, to deter speeding/enforce violations. It is hoped this will save injuries and lives on the roads in your area.

Pact priorities for this month included vehicle noise/nuisance at Crook o' Lune and motor cycles speeding through villages, esp. B6254 and from Redwell to Halton.

There have been several "sneak-in" burglaries in surrounding areas, so police are warning the public to take extra care when out in the garden. Always lock doors and garages to help prevent this opportunistic type of crime.

P.C. Winder has now moved to his office job and his successor has not yet been named.

WHAT'S ON IN HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON?

BUS SERVICES IN BRIEF

Timetables available in library.

No 49 Daytime, every 1/2 hr to Lancaster
Halton - Lancaster 18 to and 12 past hour
Lancaster to Halton 10 to and 20 past hour
No 431 to Morecambe Mon -Sat.

Halton War Memorial 0916 & 1333.
from M'cambe (Morrisons): 1235 & 1630
Evenings and Sundays

No 81A & 81B Halton to Lancaster at
10 mins to, hourly.

No 81A Halton to Kirkby Lonsdale Via
Caton Hornby, Gressingham Arkholme .
2 hourly from 11.28

No 81B Halton to Kirkby Lonsdale Via
Caton Hornby, Wray, Wennington. 2 Hourly
from 10.28

AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL:

BOOKINGS 812344

COMMUNITY CENTRE: BOOKINGS 811444

Mondays:

Playgroup 9.15-11.45: 12.30-3pm 07939646625
Taylor School of Dance, 3.45-8.30pm

Tuesdays:

Playgroup 9.15-11.45 07939646625
Indoor Bowls 1.30-3.30pm 811198
Stretch & Tone 7-8pm 811558

Wednesdays:

Playgroup 9.15-11.45 & 12.30-3pm 07939646625

Thursdays:

Mother and Toddler 9.30-11.30 812410
Playgroup 12.30-3pm 07939646625

Movement & Mobility 4-5pm 811854

Circuit Training 6-7pm 811854

Fridays:

Playgroup 9.15-11.45 07939646625

Saturdays:

Halton Rangers (Junior) 10.30
N. Wilson 811684 or G. Jacks 811742
Senior football. 1-4pm Ian Black 07817746359

Sundays:

Junior football Hotshots. J Hudson 811348

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesdays:

Chimps term time URC 10-11.30am 811854
Country Dance 7.30 -9pm School
Cub Scouts: 6.45 -8pm term time 811051
Brownies: URC 6 .15- 7.30pm 67148
Youth Community Bus 7-9pm - HYACC

Wednesdays:

Rainbows: URC 6.15-7.15. 811469 / 811829

Thursdays:

Carpet Bowls, 8pm Aughton Hall. 812344
Tots Story Time 2.30-3.00 term time, library

Fridays:

Scouts: Scout Hall 6.45-9pm. 811051
Folk Group, Greyhound.

Weekdays

Kids Club 8-9am & 3.15-5.45pm, URC
824447

FORTNIGHTLY EVENTS

Tue: Lunesdale Camera Club URC 7.30pm 733020

Tue: Abbeyfield Tues Club, 2pm. 811910

Thur: Greyhound Quiz Night 8.30pm

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st Sat: Coffee Morning at the URC

2nd Sat: Rough Stuff Cycling 811843

Last Sat: Scout paper collection

Last Sun: Quiz Night, Halton Social Club

2nd Wed: Parish Council. 7.15pm HYACC

3rd Wed: W.I. at School 7.15pm Iris 812272

Last Wed: HYACC meeting 7.30pm 811444

SERVICES

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DOCTOR: Halton Surgery 811226 Dr Hobbs

Mon 4-5.30pm Tues 2-3.30pm Fri 8.30-10.00am

POLICE SURGERIES: 6.15-7pm Top Shops Wed:

6th June, 4th July, 1st Aug

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

email: prattle.watson@btinternet.com: Tel: 811444 ... or call in at Expressions Hair

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

Sat 26th&
Sun 27th Lunesdale Studio Trail 11 am - 5 pm *free*

June

Fri's, Sat's & Sun's

from 1 - 17th Lunesdale Studio Trail 11 am - 5 pm *free*

Sat 2nd URC coffee morning, 10 am,
hosted by Mary Simpson & Angela Blowes

Thur 7th Start of Circuit training 11 yrs - adult, 6 - 7 pm HYACC

Sat 9th HALTON 500 Stall- Top Shops, 10 - 3 pm
buy or renew your tickets

Sun 10th Open Garden at Linden Hall, Borwick, 2 pm

Sat 16th Midsummer Social Dance with 'Jacob's Join' Supper & Floaty
Frocks 7.30 - 10.30 pm HYACC

Sat 16th Haffner Orchestra concert, Ashton Hall (Town Hall) 7.30 pm

Wed 20th W.I. Speaker J.Braithwaite 'Betsy the Scullerymaid' 7.15 pm

Wed 27th HYACC meeting AGM 7.30 pm

Sat 30th June Baker Singers - 7.30 pm £4.50 inc wine. HYACC

July

Tues 3rd W.I. Strawberry Tea H.Y.A.C.C. - 2 pm
Speaker Barry McQueen

Thur 5th Community Tea - St Wilfrid's School 2 pm

Thur 5th Start of Movements & mobility for the more mature -
Free taster class 4 - 5 pm HYACC

Sat 7th URC coffee morning hosted by C.H.I.M.P.S. 10 am

Sat 14th Halton Garden Safari 11 - 5 pm

Sun 15th Halton Garden Safari 11 - 5 pm

Wed 18th W.I. Speaker Anne Kingston - Arabian Dancing 7.15 pm

Sat 21st Halton Park Open Garden 2 - 6 pm

Sun 22nd Halton Park Open Garden 2 - 6 pm

JOTTINGS FROM THE PAST, NO 17 ...

Water Power ... By Bill Hosfield

When global warming is always in the news and there is constant talk of making use of more renewable sources of energy, my thoughts turn to where this area got its energy from in years gone by, 'Water Power'.

In Halton, both the Lune and its feeder streams were employed to provide motive power for its industries. As early as the year 1252 there were two water powered corn mills and one water powered fulling mill in the parish, and there were still two water powered corn mills here in the mid sixteenth century, one of these being powered by the water from the Lune and the other by what was then called the 'Kirk Beck', or as it is now known the 'Cote Beck'. In the mid eighteenth century, this beck was the source of power for a blast furnace in Foundry Lane, whilst at the same time the wa-

ters of the Lune were turning no fewer than six water wheels to power the village's two iron forges. By the end of the eighteenth century a cotton mill on the bank of the Lune was using water from the river to turn a breast wheel that drove it's machinery. In the early nineteenth century there were advertised for sale two water wheels that had driven one, or possibly two silk mills on the banks of the beck at Halton Green. The 1820's saw the building of a flax mill on the site of the iron forges at 'Force Bank', this being also powered by water from the Lune. Later on, this mill became a cotton mill that was in use as such until 1941 when it still relied entirely on water from the river for it's power. In the 1830's the corn mill on the river side had three water wheels, each one being sixteen feet in diameter, these being later replaced by just two wheels, and this mill relied on water power until its closure around 1960.

The most extensive user of water power in the village, however, was the oil cloth industry which came to the village around 1870. At first it used the original water wheels that had driven the 'Force Bank' cotton mill and the 'Bottom End' cotton mill, but, as the industry expanded, these were replaced by water turbines supplied and installed by the world famous firm

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of Gilkes and Co. of Kendal who also added two more turbines in the early 1900s. In the heyday of the oilcloth industry virtually the whole of its energy was derived from the Lune, for despite some people having interpreted the tall mill chimney that once dominated the site as indicating a change to steam power, this was in fact used to serve three Lancashire Boilers that provided the heat for drying the oil cloth, the only steam power being that used by one or two small donkey engines that drove a few isolated machines.

At the 'Force Bank Cotton Mill' a single water turbine was driving around 180 Lancashire Looms and ancillary machinery, with all the power being transmitted around the mill by belts from horizontal line shafting. A second turbine at 'Force Bank' powered both the 'kiver shop' and the 'colour shop', whilst a third turbine situated at the 'Middle Mills' powered the 'printing shops',

'Varnish Shops' and 'Rubbing Shops', plus driving a mortar mill. Here again the power was transmitted over quite long distances by line shafting and wire rope drives. The fourth turbine was sited at the 'Bottom End Mill' where it drove the embossing machinery, hoists, joiners shop and generated the whole of the electricity for all the mills.

In the late 1940's Messrs F. Bamber took over some of the old oil cloth mills to process animal feeds and they harnessed the two turbines that had survived at 'Force Bank' to provide electricity for their milling machinery. Unfortunately, some years later, a large flood caused severe damage to the water intakes that were never restored, and so ended the age of water power in Halton.

Halton was not the only place in the Lune catchment area to make use of water power, for some of the water in the river that passed through Halton would have previously turned mills on its tributaries such as at Caton, Wray, Bentham and Sedbergh, as well as on many other smaller sites. After leaving Halton the river was again harnessed at Skerton to drive a large corn mill, and also mill(s) in Lancaster. It was at Halton, however, that the waters of the Lune were most fully exploited to provide power. Maybe in the future someone will turn again to this free and environmentally friendly source of power.

Bill Hosfield, June, 2007.

LOCAL INTERESTS & HOBBIES ...

BEES AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR GARDEN

by Fred Ayres

Once a familiar site in rural gardens, beekeeping is currently enjoying a new surge of interest. Bees are vitally important to both the environment and the food chain. They are the major pollinating insects in the UK, without which over 75% of wild flowers would cease to exist within 10 years. Fruit and vegetable growers would be similarly affected.

Wild bees live in hollow trees and cavities in cliffs. Today, bees are kept in hives with moveable parts which permit regular inspection and honey extraction without significantly interfering with the colony.

During the winter bees huddle together around the queen in a cluster

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the size of a rugby ball, containing 10,000 to 15,000 bees. In Spring the queen will start laying an ever increasing number of eggs and at her peak could be laying up to 2,000 eggs per day. The queen can choose whether to lay fertile or unfertile eggs. Fertile eggs hatch out into worker bees (females) and unfertile eggs hatch into drones (males). All eggs hatch into larvae on the fourth day after laying. Once hatched the larvae are carefully tended and fed by worker bees. On day 9, the larvae are sealed into their cells and allowed to pupate. Worker bees emerge as fully developed bees on day 21 but drones do not emerge until day 24.

During the summer months a worker bee has a life span of 4-8 weeks. For the first two weeks she will remain within the hive and act as a nurse bee.

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Her duties will include caring for larvae, attending to the queen and generally keeping the hive tidy. In week three she will move to the entrance and help to guard against potential honey and larva thieves.

For her final weeks she will act as a foraging bee looking for supplies of pollen and nectar to bring back to the hive. At the height of the season there could be anything up to 60,000 bees in the colony.

Drones contribute nothing to the hive. Their sole purpose is to mate with virgin queens, after which they die. At the end of the season, any drones in the hive are evicted. They do not survive the winter.

If the hive loses its queen, or the queen is not laying as vigorously as the colony would like, or the colony becomes over-crowded, the bees will raise a new queen. They choose one or more fertile eggs and enlarge the cell it is in to about three times the normal

size. When the egg hatches, the larva is fed with a special food, Royal Jelly, and its cell sealed on day 9. New queens hatch on day 16 but the first queen to emerge immediately sets about killing her potential rivals.

Whilst this is a perfectly natural process for the bees, it presents problems for the beekeeper. Normally, once a queen cell has been sealed all the foraging bees will gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive, together with the old queen, to find a suitable site for starting a new colony. Known as a swarm, this can amount to some 30,000 bees. As a rule, the swarm will settle on a nearby tree whilst scout bees try to identify a suitable new home. This could be in a hollow tree, chimney pot, cavity wall or, very occasionally, in an empty hive put out by the beekeeper especially for this purpose! The beekeeper tries very hard not to lose swarms as these are

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the foraging bees that bring in the honey.

Meanwhile, back at the hive, the bees patiently wait for a new queen to hatch. A few days after hatching, the new queen will take the first of several mating flights during which she will mate with about a dozen different drones. If she does not mate within 10 to 14 days, she will be unable to do so. After her last mating flight she will return to her hive and not leave again until she does so as part of a swarm. Queens can live up to six years but rarely live more than two seasons.

During the period mid April to mid July, a beekeeper must inspect each hive carefully every 7-9 days. This is to ensure that the bees are in good health, the queen is laying well, the hive is adequately provisioned with honey and pollen, and to watch for the creation of queen cells. Once new queen cells are spotted, the beekeeper can carry out a procedure known as artifi-

cial swarming which fools the bees into thinking that they have swarmed. For the rest of the summer the beekeeper can sit back and let the bees bring in the honey, which is normally harvested in mid September. In an average year a hive will produce around 50lbs of surplus honey, although in a very good year that could increase to 150lbs or more.

As the season progresses the queen reduces her laying rate and usually stops altogether by October. This means that the number of bees in the colony reduces steadily until it reaches between 10,000 and 15,000, and the cycle begins all over again.

Keeping bees is a fascinating hobby and one enjoyed by a number of people in the parish. For further information visit www.lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NEW

07/00322/CU - Change of use and conversion of North barn to a 3 bedroom holiday let with associated works to form new field access at Laverick Hall, Laverick Road, Halton

07/00486/FUL - Construction of a dormer to the rear and increase height of external walls and ridgeline at 30 High Road, Halton.

07/00488/FUL - Creation of a recreation area and car park at HYACC

07/00490/FUL - Erection of a garden room extension to the side at Lune Cottage.

TO APPEAL

07/00037/REM - Resubmission of application 06/01196 for the erection of an apartment block comprising of 31 two and 2 one bedroom units (33 total) with associated car parking and servicing at Halton Mills.

GRANTED

07/00206/FUL - Revised access and vehicle turning area for approved barn conversion 02/00580/CU.

07/00337/FUL - Construction of a dormer window to the rear 8 Harrowdale Park.

REFUSED

07/00155/FUL - Erection of a dormer window to the rear at 40 High Road.

07/00160/FUL - Retrospective application for the retention of platform on bank of River Lune to rear of Whitegates.

TPO's

Permission granted to remove individual branches and thin crown of ash tree adjacent to 195 High Road.

Permission granted to remove tree limbs from trees at the Rear of 4 The Gardens.

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HALTON YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Bookings Information 811444

Did you know that each and every person of this parish is a member of Halton Youth & Community Centre.

It is a non-profit making Charity and held in trust for the parish and is run by a few volunteers who need more people to take an interest in her.

Numbers were insufficient at last year's HYACC AGM last June, according to its constitution, to officially hold the meeting, but we continued unofficially, for the benefit of those who did attend. It is essential that parishioners attend this yearly meeting so we can continue providing this worthwhile and busy venue for everyone.

Please come to this years HYACC AGM on Wed 27th June at 7.30pm

Anyone who would like to help in anyway at the Community Centre will be welcomed with open arms.

CCTV

This is now up and running. Only 2 committee members have access & will only look at recordings if an incident - problem - or dispute arises. All matters regarding CCTV recordings have a strict code of conduct and they will be adhered to. The CCTV was installed for the sole purpose of protecting the building and its users.

Lighting

The new wall lights with dimmer switches have now been fitted making a lovely atmosphere for evening parties & dances.

Community Bus

The community bus will remain at the HYACC on a Tuesday evening 7 - 9 pm as it has been so successful for the foreseeable future or until it is needed elsewhere. Youth leaders are wanting to back young people seeking grants to improve their facilities, but need input

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& ideas and they strongly require local adult support and commitment to proceed. Ring 811854 or visit the bus.

NEW SESSIONS

Circuit Training 11 yrs - adult

Starts Thursday 7th June 6 -7 pm £3 adults & £1.50 under 19's. Registration forms must be completed beforehand and can be obtained from Maureen on 811854

Movement & Mobility Class for the more mature person

Starts Thursday 5th July - 4 pm to 5 pm with a Free taster session. Registration forms must be completed beforehand and can be obtained from Maureen on 811854 Come along and find out what's involved. £2.50 per session thereafter.

English Country Dance Classes

Previously held at school will be commencing at HYACC in September 412754

EVENTS in HYACC for JUNE

Midsummer Social Dance with Jacobs
Join & Floaty Frocks on Sat June 16th
7.30 - 10.30 pm £3.50

The June Baker Singers, a 40 strong choir will be singing for your pleasure with a varied programme on Sat 30th June. £4.50 inc wine or refreshments. Please get your tickets in advance so numbers can be catered for and to avoid disappointment through lack of seating.

**Tickets from Carol 811444,
Maureen 811854, Stalkers
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HALTON MILLS

Although everything appears to have been quiet over the past few weeks, we have been very busy preparing a formal complaint concerning the development so far. This has now been sent and we are turning attention to responding to the appeals against refusal of the two riverside apartment blocks.

We had an overwhelming community response of almost 500 letters when these planning applications were put before the Planning Committee and whilst the Inspectorate will take these into account, the value of letters concerning the appeals cannot be over emphasised. You can comment either by letter or online at the Planning Inspectorate website, preferably before 11th June.

Letters should be sent to the following address:

Nicholas Patch,
The Planning Inspectorate,
Room 3/18A Eagle Wing,
Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,
Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

To comment online go to:
<http://www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/pcsportal/casesearch.asp>

The following information should be included in letters:

Planning Appeal reference:
APP/A2335/A/07/2042851

This relates to the block of 36 apartments to the East of the children's play area, Planning Application 07/00202/REM.

Planning Appeal reference:
APP/A2335/A/07/2042910

This is the block of 31 apartments located at the western end of the site, Planning Application 07/00037/REM.

Both applications are for mostly three storey apartments on the riverside, with natural stone walls and slate roof, although extensive use of glass and rather a monolithic appearance. They can be viewed on the LCC web

site under "Planning Applications" at http://planapps.lancaster.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/tdc_home.aspx (Applications 07/00202/REM and 07/00037/REM)

These were turned down for the following reasons, which you might like to use as the basis of your comments:

1. The development does not comply with policy H12 of the Lancaster District Local Plan, or with the Parish Plan, in that the design, density, scale and layout are not appropriate for this riverside location in the village.
2. The development does not reflect local distinctiveness.
3. The development does not comply with Policy EC7 of the Lancaster District Local Plan in that it provides for additional housing development in advance of the delivery of further employment related uses required to provide the correct mixed use balance on the site.

At the end of the day, it is hoped that the balance of residential will be less dense, lower level and with adequate open space and landscaping.

Best wishes

Halton Mills Group for Responsible Development.

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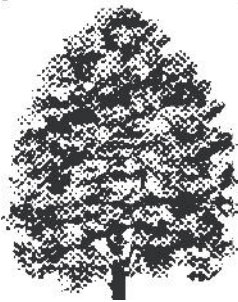
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

In his letter to the Parish Prattle (April/May 2007) Mr Walkden criticises the Parish Council for not supporting his bid to initiate a full service Post Office within Halton Village Store. He goes on to claim that the Parish Council acted in a rather underhand manner and had not fully considered the best interests of villagers. Nothing could be further from the truth!

The granting of a licence to operate a post office rests entirely and exclusively with the Post Office. The Parish Council is not even consulted. At no time did Mr Walkden inform the Parish Council that he was applying for a licence and most Councillors only became aware of his interest through reading his letter in the Prattle.

The former Post Master informed the Parish Council in mid 2006 that the village post office was up for sale and subsequently informed the PC and villagers that no offers had been received. This resulted in the post office's closure, a matter of great concern to the Parish Council.

Whilst everyone would like to see a full time post office operating in Halton, the only valid option currently available is the offer by Ashtrees Surgery to incorporate a post office in the Old Rectory. Although initially it is only planned to open for three days per week, the Council has been told that the hours will be extended if there is the volume of business to justify it.

Fred Ayres,
Chair of Halton with Aughton
Parish Council



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A vacancy exists for a Parish Clerk. Principal duties include the running of the Parish Office (currently from home), publishing meeting agendas, producing minutes for all council meetings, liaising with contractors and outside bodies, actioning the council's decisions, acting as the council's financial officer, keeping the council's financial records and managing the burial ground and allotments.

Ideally the successor should have knowledge of local government procedures and should be able to demonstrate good organisational skills, confidence in dealing with the public and have computer competencies, preferably in Microsoft Office.

If not already held, the applicant will be offered training to achieve the qualifications required for Parish Clerks at Quality Parish Council status. Hours of work will be by prior agreement and based on a 10/12 hour working week with occasional evening work. An appropriate salary will be given based on local government guidelines.

To apply please forward your C.V. and a letter explaining the qualities you could give to this key role to:

The Acting Clerk, Carol Slinger,
3 Meadowfield, Halton, LA2 6PT.

Closing date for applications is Friday 15th June 2007.

PARISH HANDYMAN

A vacancy for a Parish handyman exists for a caring person to carry out minor repairs and maintenance work in the Parish. The position also includes litter-picking, sweeping and light gardening work. Hours will be flexible; approximately 8 per week at an hourly rate of £5.50

To apply please write to
The Acting Clerk, Carol Slinger,
3 Meadowfield, Halton.

Closing date for applications is Friday 15th June 2007.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Contact: The Clerk, 811027
Full minutes displayed on Notice Boards

City Council Elections

Mr Paul Woodruff was elected as City Councillor for Halton with Aughton Ward.

He will be replaced by another constable (unnamed as yet) who will work alongside PSCO Annette Hoover in the parish.

Parish Council Elections

For the first time for many years there were enough candidates for the Parish Council to be elected by the parish.

Your elected parish councillors are:

Brian Jefferson
Carol Holman
Carol Slinger
Fred Ayres (Chairman)
Gordon Suthers
Paul Woodruff
Romana Forster
Tim Sarney

Clerk Resignation

Carol Slinger, who has been Clerk for many years, has resigned her position. She has worked tirelessly for the parish, far exceeding her expected hours every week. As you will have noticed she has become a councillor herself. Carol intends to continue unpaid until a replacement can be found. (Position advertised elsewhere in Prattle)

PC Winder

PC Winder is no longer the community beat officer for our village. He has worked hard for this community and we are sorry to see him leave. The council thanked him for his diligence over the years and wished him well in his new post.

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Handyman needed.

Our Handyman has resigned for personal reasons. Thank you, Geoff, for the work you have done. The parish is looking for another handyman.

(This position is advertised elsewhere in this edition of the Prattle)

Doctors Surgery / Post Office

Although there have been various problems delaying the start of work things are still moving forward. Once these difficulties have been resolved and the practice is up and running the Post Office will follow.

No exact dates can be given at the moment but more information should be forthcoming soon.

War Memorial & Garden

The wall joining the Memorial and the Jubilee Garden has been taken down and is currently being relocated on the link between the two.

Pointing, capping and the laying of flag stones will then be undertaken over the next two - three months.

Skate Park

It will be sometime before enough funds can be gathered to build a new skate park but the park now is coming near to the end of its life.

It is so well used that the council have decided not to close it but to refurbish with similar materials to bridge the gap until we get a go-ahead for the new build.

(Contractor wanted to refurbish the skate park- ring 811027)

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