



THE PRATTLE



Issue No. 141

Halton-with-Aughton

Feb/March 2025

Welcome to the first issue of 2025. At the time of writing we had just emerged from a bitterly cold snap of weather. Still, by the next issue spring will be here, gardens growing, bulbs will be flowering and the clocks will have changed. The evenings are already drawing out.

So, whilst you await the better weather, put the kettle on, sit down and enjoy this edition of the Prattle!

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**

ADVERTISING COPY & ENQUIRIES to **HELEN**: email
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DISTRIBUTION & GENERAL ENQUIRIES: **CAROL** on **811444**

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DEADLINES for Apr / May 2025

Copy: Wed 12th Mar 2025
Adverts: Wed 12th Mar 2025
Delivery: Fri 11th Apr 2025

Advertising Rates:

Box Ad: £12
Double Box Ad: £24
Classified Ad: £5 - 20 words



All adverts are published in good faith.
The Editorial team can offer no guarantees as to the quality of services advertised.

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

CASTLE HILL OPENING

We are steadily making progress on preparing to open Castle Hill for public access in the spring. This includes fencing off the steeper banking and new gates. Hopefully a date can be announced for the official opening in the next edition of the Prattle.

ST WILFRID'S PARK REFURBISHMENT

A preferred supplier has been selected. The council is seeking to cover the estimated cost of £50,000 using a combination of council reserves and grants.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The council reviewed recent planning applications for St Wilfrid's Hall and Town End Farm field.

- St Wilfrid's Hall (24/01275/FUL). Erection of a two-storey detached building comprising of eight supported living apartments, part demolition and conversion of St Wilfrid's Hall into six apartments

- *The council supports ways to bring St Wilfrid's Hall back into use. This application is the latest attempt to find a suitable use for the building and seems a reasonable approach. The council will support this application.*
- Town End Farm field (24/01354/OUT). Outline application for the development of 5 residential dwellings
- *The council will object to this application due to the lack of detail. This site is within the Conservation Area and is adjacent to two listed buildings so any development should retain that character, e.g. stone clad. Also, the draft Neighbourhood Plan highlights that the village needs homes of 1-3 bedrooms, not larger properties. It is not clear from this application whether these proposed units meet these requirements.*

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

There is still a Parish Councillor position available for anyone who would like to get involved with the local community and help steer decisions. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

There is always an opportunity at meetings for residents to raise issues or questions. The next meetings will be held upstairs in the Centre at 19:15 on the following dates:

- Wednesday 12th February
- Wednesday 12th March

Luke Mills, Parish Clerk

e: clerk@haltonwithaughton-pc.gov.uk
m: 01524 881 499

QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up like every two hours?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough money?

Why is 'bra' singular and 'panties' plural?



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VILLAGE NEWS

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Our March meeting date has yet to be confirmed at the time of this publication going to print, but we hope it will be held at the Social Club at 19:30 on 13th March. Once confirmed, the date will be published in both Halton community Facebook groups, or email samanthajanehicks@gmail.com for more information.

LITTER PICKS

The final 'low-key' litter pick is taking place on 22nd Feb, meeting at 10 Forgewood Close at 1pm. This pick is only suitable for adults that are physically able to walk up to 3 miles and pick on steep slopes in inclement weather. Our family friendly picks resume in March and are suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Every 'little' picker has the chance to be awarded the 'star picker' trophy for the month, with the winner getting a trophy to take home. All child participants will receive a medal for taking part and can choose a treat from our treat box. There is a slice of cake and a drink for everyone who registers.

To register please email samanthajanehicks@gmail.com no later than midday on Wednesday (the week of the litter pick). Our family friendly picks are taking place on 22nd March and 26th April - we meet at 13:00 at the Centre Petanque pitch.

CARDS FIGHTING LONELINESS

We've had an incredible response to our 4th campaign so far and at the time of writing we are almost half way through. To date we have received 756 cards, which is absolutely AMAZING! I really hope we end our 4th campaign with plenty more cards. We need at least 252 more cards, if every recipient is to receive one in both February and March. If you have a bit of time to spare, please consider creating a card or two for us, with your little ones! Our recipients especially love cards that have been made by a local child. The theme for February is 'the month of love' and for March it's 'a fond farewell from the 4th campaign'. If you would like to see some of the smiles from our campaign so far, please visit our dedicated Facebook group 'Fighting Loneliness One Village at a Time.'

ST NIC FOR A NEIGHBOUR

Mrs Elf has hung up her boots for another year - what a year it has been! We needed 46 gifts to supplement the 80 gifts generously donated by Standfast & Barracks and absolutely smashed our target - our final total was 165 gifts. The fact these were all donated with only 3 weeks to organise is absolutely incredible! This meant that all 126 recipients received a gift, but we were also able to donate 39 surplus gifts to Age UK! Our Christmas card appeal was nothing short of amazing, with 158 surplus cards being donated to isolated residents of Heysham Village, Age

UK., The Glen and Caton Green nursing homes.

This Christmastime our recipients felt the love and warmth of an entire community, demonstrating the true meaning of Christmas - you should all be very proud! If you have played any part in making our 'St Nic For a Neighbour' appeal possible, thank YOU! Your kindness has given 158 people a reason to smile this Christmas with a festive gift and your beautiful Christmas cards have brightened 284 living spaces. What a wonderful community we are! Special thanks to Standfast & Barracks for providing the funds to purchase and wrap 80 of our gifts this year and to Eric and Elaine at The Red Door Cafe for allowing the cafe to be our gift donation point for the 4th consecutive year.

THE 4TH BIG GET TOGETHER

PEOPLE OF HALTON - WE NEED YOU!
Please join us on 29th March at Halton Mill from 14:00-16:00 and help us

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celebrate the end of our 4th 'Cards Fighting Loneliness' campaign! All of our 126 recipients are invited, and they would love to meet the wonderful people that created their cards and donated their Christmas gifts. We're hoping to have all the usual activities; bouncy castle, gentle exercises, face painting, plant a sunflower, crafts, games and more. It's a completely free event (except the raffle) and there are free drinks and a slice of cake for all attendees. The raffle will be raising money to fund our 5th Big Get Together.

Events of this scale take huge amounts of planning and require an army of volunteers. If you are able to volunteer on the day overseeing an activity / serving drinks, or if you would be willing to bake a cake or donate a raffle prize, then please email samanthajanehicks@gmail.com or find me on social media (Sam Pritchard).

HEARTS OF HALTON WI

Hearts of Halton WI met on every 3rd Wednesday of each month in The

Centre @ Halton 7:30pm to 9:30 pm in the Meeting room. Please use the coffee shop door from the link path.

We are looking forward to a New Year of interesting activities, speakers and outings for 2025.

Our 19th February meeting will be a social, a chance to chat about the 4 New Year's Resolutions, where we plan activities from the one we chose to support at our January meeting.

We have a wide variety of interests and some of our meetings in 2025 include hearing from an author about Celebrity Chefs, How to Encourage Bees into your Garden and Supporting Sustainability and Upcycling as well as others relating to health, finance, and how to declutter your home for later on in the year.

We are planning visits to the theatre and also a summer day out.

Tickets are now sold out for the Spring Council Meeting at Lytham with Helen Pankhurst CBE, great granddaughter to Emmeline Pankhurst. Helen is a local,

national and international women's rights activist as well as an international development worker, and author.

If you are interested to come along to our meetings or would like further information please contact secretaryheartsofhalton@gmail.com or message/phone 07970896279

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Story Time*

Join us for a weekly morning of songs, stories, and crafts for pre-school

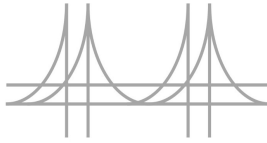
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children. Held every Wednesday 9:00-9:30am – (Term time only)
(*Little Steps Sessions on first Wednesday of every month)

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 - guaranteed. Held every Friday 13:00-15:00.

Lego Club

A drop-in session for anyone who would like to create Lego masterpieces. All you need to bring is your imagination! Attendance is free, just come along. Held every Saturday 10:30am-12:30pm. Please note the Digital Library is available 24 hours a day (includes an online catalogue, download library of eBooks and eAudiobooks plus our eReference library):
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/digital-library/>

HALTON LUNE TRUST

The Trust next meets on 19 February 2025 – if anyone has any applications please submit them to secretaryhaltonlunetrust@gmail.com before that date. Information on grant criteria and applications forms can be found at <https://www.haltonlunetrust.org.uk>
If anyone would like any further information on the work of the trust please contact the secretary on the above email.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND HALTON LUNE HYDRO

I am pleased to report that the 2024 year ended on a high, with green electricity generation throughout, (given the continuation of really wet weather) and £85,000 having been donated to the Halton Lune Trust for worthy causes in and around the Parish of Halton with Aughton. Not all years



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VILLAGE SERVICES

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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

will be as good, so the Trust must average out amounts received when considering grants, but most certainly some compensation for terrible weather for various groups.

2025 then started with flooding early in the morning of New Year's Day and more glacial stone was eroded from the banking upstream, creating a threat to the footpath - and again depositing several tons in the Hydro inlet. Disappointing, but there will be a pile of these rather nice cobbles for use in

gardens, to collect by making contact with the undersigned, as they should be put to good use.

The focus is on keeping the hydro operational with a good maintenance team and "Duty Officers" who visit the hydro each day to take readings and to notify other members of the team should there be problems. We ran a series of DO training courses earlier in the year and thus have a good resource in this area at the moment.

River pollution unfortunately remains a problem, and we understand that the Environment Agency have diverted significant resource to it. Although the formal analysis has yet to be completed, our records show significant salmon and sea trout numbers traversing up our fish pass from early June to mid August 2024, being more than the same period in 2023.

John Blowes MBE CEng

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Hornby Village Institute

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK: HORNBY OCCASIONALS

POTS OF POSSIBILITY HALTON COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Join us Saturday 15th February (10am - 4pm) at The Centre to share your views on what kind of community projects you would like to see funded in Halton. Pots of Possibility has been set up to fund community projects that protect the environment and bring communities together. There haven't been any project applications from Halton residents yet but we're looking to change that! Come along to share your ideas. We will be meeting upstairs at The Centre with lunch provided by a local chef. We hope to see you there!

CATON AND BROOKHOUSE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Happy New Year everyone, we have a full year ahead of us which began with the AGM on January 16th at The Station Hotel.

We are meeting on the 20th Feb for a hot pot lunch at the Station and we are

back at the Station on the 6th March for a get together over coffee and biscuits. Our first visit of the year is a full day in Harrogate on 20th March, coach times will be notified closer to the day. For more information about the group please contact Ally Whitfield on 01524 770827 / 07738 912923.

HAFFNER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Haffner Orchestra will be performing at the Great Hall, Lancaster University on Saturday 1st March conducted by Alex Robinson. Callum McLachlan will be the soloist performing Mozart's piano concerto in D minor followed by the orchestra playing Shostakovich Symphony no 5. Tickets are £17 for adults, 18 and under free. Students and benefits claimants £6. Essential carers free.

Tickets and more information at www.haffnerorchestra.org

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NEWS FROM ST WILFRID'S C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Happy New Year! We trust the year has started well.

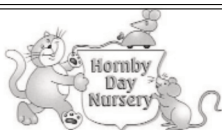
In November, we underwent our most recent Ofsted inspection, and I am very pleased to report that St Wilfrid's received a 'Good' rating in all judgement areas. We are delighted with these judgements and are now looking forward to improving the areas identified for development and to continuing to build on the many successes highlighted. Our report is available on our school website.

We have continued our new tradition called 'Chalking the Doors'. This tradition allows us to remember the visit of the Wise Men and to seek God's blessing for all who enter our school. We also continue to focus each half term on one of our six core Christian

Values (Wisdom, Respect, Perseverance, Kindness, Trust, and Creativity), with this half term focusing on 'Perseverance'.

Over this coming term, learning will include Internet Safety Day, World Book Day, and a week during which all children will visit our outdoor learning space in Wilfrid's Wood. Our School Council and Worship Team are also busy implementing developments throughout our school and ensuring that our children's voices are very much heard.

As a school, we are committed to enhancing our sporting participation and success as we seek to enter more sports competitions and attend events to encourage sports involvement. We are also ensuring, once again, that our Year 2 and Year 4 children have an outdoor education day at Borwick Hall. A major development in the life of our



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school is the proposed reduction of our intake from 35 to 30 pupils. We have gone through a recent period of public consultation and are now reviewing this process at our next Governors' Meeting in February. It is then proposed that the September 2026 intake will be 30, ensuring a one-form entry school for the future, with no split-age classes. I believe this is an important step in the long-term development for the high-quality education of the children in our school. We continue to welcome a record number of our former pupils back for Hot Chocolate 'Drop In' on the first Tuesday of each month, as well as our senior members of the community at our Community Tea.

Community Tea Dates: Wednesday 12th February at 2 pm and Wednesday 19th March at 2 pm.

I wish to thank all of you in the community of Halton and surrounding areas for your continued support of St

Wilfrid's in so many ways. It is always lovely to hear how the events within the school can really benefit our community, and it is wonderful that the community supports our school. This collaboration is what makes our school a wonderful place to be.

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HALTON GARDENING GROUP

Happy New Year to everyone. As I write this article the air outside is rather chilly and wet, with snow on the hills, but in spite of the harsh conditions there are distinct signs of spring with green shoots springing up everywhere. It won't be long before the village is once again in bloom thanks to all the planting that was done last autumn.

Unfortunately, the stone planter at the Halton sign on Low Road was vandalised over the festive period, the bulbs stolen and the top stones all loosened. This is needless damage to a pleasant welcome into Halton and more work for our volunteers and Parish Council.

However, pleasanter things are on the horizon with a joint event organised in partnership with Halton WI on Wednesday 19th March at 7:15 for 7:30pm in the Centre, where a talk entitled "Design a pollinator friendly border" will be presented. If you are

not a member of either group and would like to attend please get in touch. Our very popular Garden Safari will take place over the weekend of **7/8th June 2025**. There is still time to enter your own garden so please do get in touch, otherwise watch out for more information regarding opening times, maps and tickets.

Like many voluntary groups today we are also now struggling to attract new members as some members have left the village and others have hung up their spades. We are a friendly, caring group where long term friendships have been made and much has been learnt from each other, and not just about plants and gardening. We have enhanced the village's outdoor spaces for you to enjoy but also had a laugh and fun at the same time. It's not all about digging and getting mucky! We have organised many social events for members to enjoy too.

We now meet at the Red Door Cafe on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:45am, where refreshments are served in an 'Open Forum' event. Our next meetings are on 20th February and 20th March. If you would like to join us please contact us or come along to one of the meetings.

Contact details: Secretary Kath Pink, mob 07900416961 or Chair Monica Williams, mob 07883908948. Email: haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com



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Website: haltoncentre.org

Ticketsource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/
haltoncommunityassociation

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Coffee shop opening hours:

Monday-Friday 2pm-5pm

School and bank holidays 11am-5pm

Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm from
October to February half term

Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm after
February half term

Actual opening times may vary
depending on volunteer availability.

UPDATES FROM THE CENTRE

When I last wrote we were just about to hold our Christmas Craft Fayre and Santa's Grotto. It was such a lovely atmosphere all afternoon and a great success, raising almost £700 for The Centre. Santa was very busy but the craft activities run by Valley Church made the wait more bearable! Thank you to all the stall holders, visitors, Valley Church, cake bakers, volunteers and of course Santa, for a fabulous event.

We are delighted to say that the New Year's Eve Ceilidh was an absolute sell

out! The event raised £1650 towards Centre projects so thank you to everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the event. Jig-Run-Rig reported the most enthusiastic dancers yet with everyone up dancing all night!

Indoor Bowling have restarted for the new year at the earlier time of 10:30am to 12:30pm every Friday. They are looking to welcome new members to keep the group going. No experience necessary and no need to book. Come along to meet the friendly group for just £3 a session, which includes refreshments.

The next dates for Soup and a Song and Luncheon Club have been confirmed. Soup and a Song will be on Thursdays 13th February and 13th March 12:30-2:30pm. Luncheon Club will be on Thursdays 30th January and 27th February 12:30-3:00pm. Keep an eye

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on our newsletter for future dates. Please remember to book your place in advance on 01524 811316. Luncheon Club is £8 per person, Soup and a Song is £4 per person.

Please note the reduced Coffee Shop weekend opening hours until Sunday 9th February, the Coffee Shop will open 10am to 4pm at the weekends returning to 5pm closing from Saturday 15th February.

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. We are very

pleased to now be able to allow bouncy castles after a change in our insurers. See Prattle What's On pages for contact information of all regular groups, clubs & classes.

NEW SESSIONS & EVENTS

Luncheon Club - 30th January & 27th February 12:30-3:00pm

Soup and a Song - 13th February & 13th March 12:30-2:30pm

Indoor Bowling new time Fridays 10:30am-12:30pm

Above correct as at 7th January 2025

Naomi Turner
Centre Coordinator

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

Scouts: 7:15-9pm during term times,

Scout Hut; scouts@haltonscouts.org.uk

American Square Dancing: 7:30-10pm

Carol 811444

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

Tuesdays:

Tots Play Lancaster: 9am-1:30pm;

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: 10am – 2:30pm

Lauren 07398 312544 term time only

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

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 £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

Walking Football: 10-11:30am £3. John

01524 418753

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:

Indoor Bowling: 10:30-12:30pm 811316

Knit 'n' Natter: 1-3pm Halton Library

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 Paula 07788 974691

MONTHLY EVENTS

MONDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

1st Wed: HCA meeting: 7:30pm

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.

Feb 13, Mar 13 – ring 811316 to book or for more info.

Luncheon Club: 12:30–3pm, Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar date TBA – ring 811316 to book or for more info.

3rd Thurs Gardening Group 10:45am

Red Door, email:

haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com or message/telephone Kath Pink

Secretary on 07900 416961

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WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

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

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- Wed 12 Community Tea 2pm; St Wilfrid's School
Sat 15 Pots of Possibility Halton Community Workshop, 10am - 4pm at The Centre; see page 11
Sat 22 'Low-key' litter picks 22nd Feb; meet at 10 Forgewood Close at 1pm.

MARCH

- Sat 1 Haffner Orchestra Great Hall, Lancaster University. Tickets and more information at www.haffnerorchestra.org
Thu 13 Neighbourhood Watch meeting, 19:30 at the Social Club; DATE TBC
Wed 19 Community Tea 2pm. St Wilfrid's School
Wed 19 Talk - "Design a pollinator friendly border" 7:15 for 7:30pm in The Centre; see page 15
Sat 22 Family Friendly Litter Picks; meet at 13:00 at The Centre Petanque pitch.
Sat 29 The 4th Big Get Together 14:00-16:00, Halton Mill; see page 5

APRIL

- Wed 2 Residents' Surgery in Halton Social Club 7-8pm with Lancaster City Councillor, Sarah McGowan
Sat 26 Family Friendly Litter Picks; meet at 13:00 at the Centre Petanque pitch.

ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- June 7&8 Halton Garden Safari

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

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

AUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

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Charity No. 1135888

You can hire our hall with stage, AV equipment, tables/seating for up to 160, fully equipped kitchen and also obtain private use of our children's playground, picnic benches and garden area and car park - all exclusively yours for only £15 per hour (day time rate) or £20 per hour (evenings): email aughtonsecretary@gmail.com or phone Claire on 07484660174 to request a booking form.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the regular hall bookings, on December 21st we held a very successful pre-Christmas social for villagers with over 50 people attending. This was a lovely way to start the Christmas period with the majority of village families represented. We continued to host birthday parties, the Vale of Lune Young Farmers met regularly in the hall on Monday evenings, and Tuesday morning exercise classes with Gabi Crossley have been well attended.

ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Exercise classes restarted on January 21st after the Christmas break with circuits at 9:30 and Pilates at 10:30 on Tuesday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Gabi at gabicrossley@gmail.com, or just turn

up at the hall. New members are very welcome, and the classes are very friendly and suitable for all ages and abilities. Vale of Lune Young Farmers will be meeting in the hall as usual; for more information about their activities and membership see their Facebook page and website.

We will be announcing our full programme of activities through our usual WhatsApp group and on our Facebook page. If there are activities that you would like to see taking place in the village hall, please do contact us. All suggestions will be very welcome.

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



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REVERENT REFLECTIONS

Many of you will know that I had a major bereavement in my life last September, when my husband Mike died suddenly when we were out walking up Warton crag.

In the months that have passed, I have spent a lot of time out on the shore at Hest Bank walking my dog, Archer. I find great solace in being out in the beauty of creation and especially being beside the sea. I find that my grief comes and goes very much like the tides and the waves on the shore. I would like to share with you a poem by Tessa Wilkinson which I have found very helpful.

The Sea and the Beach by Tessa Wilkinson

The sea seems to illustrate pain and sorrow so well.

It comes in and it goes out.

For a while it is there, overwhelming, covering everything
then slowly the tide turns and it withdraws.

For a while we can see the beauty of the shells, the seaweed
we can rejoice in the patterns in the sand

we can feel the corrugated ripples under our feet
alive to what is around, and beyond.

But then the tide turns and again it is all washed away,
all overwhelmed.

We feel like the crashing of the waves on rocks; raw and out of control, full of anger and rage, battered and bruised.

Tossed about like flotsam wherever we are thrown.

There are so many questions.
Why then? Why them? But no answers.

Then the sea calms and gently the waves lap the rocks
we are soothed and the inner turmoil is calmed.

In time we can learn to move up the beach as the tide comes in.

Out of its reach. Not to be overwhelmed.

The pain is still there, but in control.
We can recognise the pain, revisiting the sadness
acknowledging how much the person is missed.

We learn to turn away and look to the future
knowing the person will always be part of us.

Always loved and always remembered.

Revd Susan Seed.

TRAVELS WITH FIONA!

A YEAR ABROAD TRYING NOT TO LEAVE THE GROUND

Some of you will remember the travel writing I sent to the Prattle when I went on a six month's travel adventure around Europe in 2018. That was lucky, taking six months off work when I was still working rather than waiting till I retired – when I retired, in September 2020, there wouldn't have been any travelling allowed for at least another year.

But I'm just on my way back from ANOTHER travelling adventure. This one took in five months travelling in Brazil (including carnival in Salvador and a month at a Portuguese language school), a month in Peru, a few more weeks in northern Brazil, a trip up the west coast of the USA, four months travelling across Canada from west to east, and a final month in the USA – and I'm writing this in the Queen Mary 2, 2 days out of New York! I did the whole thing (including the journey from the UK to Brazil) on ships, buses, trains and boats, except for a plane journey from northern Brazil to southern California, and a couple of planes in Peruvian Amazonia in order to try and catch up with myself and make sure I arrived at a festival in Brazil on time.

The whole trip was sparked by the murders of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira in Brazilian Amazonia in June

2022. Dom's sister, Sian, taught the choir in Halton for years, and I wanted to support her and her family after this tragedy, so I helped to organise an exhibition about Dom, Bruno and the Amazon, which expanded into a month-long festival about the Amazon which ran during November 2022 in ten venues across Lancaster and Morecambe. I decided I wanted to go to Brazilian Amazonia to find out more about the new Institute that Dom's widow has set up in his name, and to meet the indigenous leader, Nelly Marubo, who spoke at the conference we organised as part of the festival. I also got involved in lots of music and dance, and visited galleries and other centres everywhere I went, trying to learn as much as I could about the First Nations/indigenous/native people of each country I was in, as well as finding stories of Black History along the way. More than six MILLION people were taken as slaves to Salvador de Bahia from West Africa, and there is a lot to learn. I also found out the horrific story of the Great Upheaval of the Acadian people of Nova Scotia, Quebec and New Brunswick in the Canadian Maritimes, where thousands of peaceful francophone farmers were exiled by the British in 1755. Many of them ended up in Louisiana – which is where 'Cajun' music has its origins.

I met an indigenous international fashion designer in Manaus whose work using traditional weaving and dyeing techniques has been seen worldwide: I met a Lancaster scientist based in a remote Amazonian study centre who measures the nutritional value of game caught by indigenous groups living nearby in the rainforest; I was lucky enough to meet Dom Phillips' widow Ale Sampaio, and heard about the institute she is setting up in Dom's name, as well as several journalists and researchers working on indigenous issues in the rainforest. And I got back to an indigenous village in Peru that I first visited in 1984, forty years ago. (And I have just been sent a picture of a new arrival there, a little girl who's been named Fiona after me!)

It's been a momentous year. I don't want to forget any of it, and I want to introduce some of the people I've met to each other, and to a UK and European audience. Many of them came to a zoom '12 months away' party I held in November in three languages – Portuguese, English and French – and I'm hoping to spend some time reflecting and writing, and hopefully putting together a few more, thematic, Zoom meetings to share some of the ideas, music and culture I've come across.

So, I've booked the art lab in Halton Mill for six Monday mornings starting

at the beginning of February which I've called 'Get That Project Done' in order to help me with motivation to get started on this 'reflection and amplification' project. At the time of writing I've already attracted four other people to join me. We'll be working on our own writing or art ideas but also hearing about each other's projects and cheering each other on. The cost is a nominal £36 for the six weeks, to cover room hire: please come and join me if you've got a project that you'd like to do in the company of others. You'll find a link to enrol on the course, a link to get info about any future open zoom events about my trip, a link to my travel blog, and a link to a longer version of this article, on my 'linktree' page, <https://linktr.ee/fionafrank>

Fiona Frank



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NEWS FROM THE 1ST HALTON SCOUT GROUP

Well it doesn't seem long since the last Prattle. There's not too much to report on following the Christmas break; at the time of writing this not all sections have had their first session back of the new year.

Finishing off 2024, the Squirrels and Beavers made some beautiful cards for the Cards Fighting Loneliness campaign. 11 of the Cubs attended a Santa Sleepover down at the scout hut in early December, before finally the Cubs and Beavers came together for a joint Christmas party with different party games and pizza.

Upcoming the Squirrels have a County Earth Tribe day on the 1st Feb, plus

many other fun activities at our weekly sessions. We currently have a few spaces in Squirrels, so if your child is aged 4-6 and would like to join please get in touch. Details of all our sections can be found on the "What's On" page of the Prattle.

Beavers will be spending much of the first part of term working on their navigation skills, drawing and following maps around the local area. They will also be sharing our collections, writing and performing poetry and are looking forward to getting outside for an obstacle course when the nights get a little lighter.

COFFEE SHOP OPENING TIMES

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Monday - Friday	~	2pm - 5pm
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

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USEFUL LINKS

Community run Car Club: www.lancar.org.uk
Halton Juniors FC: www.haltonjuniorsfc.com
Halton Lune Hydro: www.haltonlunehydro.org
Halton Lune Trust: www.haltonlunetrust.org.uk
Halton Mill: www.haltonmill.org.uk
Halton Social Club: email haltonsocialclub@gmail.com
Hearts of Halton WI: Debbie on animalcare.db@hotmail.co.uk
Lancaster CoHousing: www.lancastercohousing.org.uk
Parish Council: www.haltonwithaughton-pc.gov.uk
St Wilfrid's Church: www.achurchnearyou.com/halton-st-wilfrid-church
St Wilfrid's Church of England Primary School: www.st-wilfrids.lancs.sch.uk
The Centre@Halton: www.haltoncentre.org/
The Prattle: email halton-prattle@outlook.com

Cubs this term will be looking at getting some of the older Cubs through the final parts of their Chief Scouts Silver Award, Home Safety, World Thinking Day and like the Beavers, looking forward to being able to get outside in lighter nights and nicer weather.

Unfortunately due to the weather at the end of November the District Scouts annual Knight Activity had to be cancelled, but was swiftly rearranged for the 11th January, we wait and see how Halton Scouts will get on. The event is a night time hiking competition where teams from across Lancaster and Morecambe complete challenges and quizzes at different bases across roughly a 12km route.

We are as always on the look out for new volunteers to join our teams and the roles don't have to be youth facing

or outdoorsy. Volunteering can be fun and is very rewarding, Why not help the younger generation gain new skills to help set them up for life, You'd be surprised how many new skills you could learn yourself. You can volunteer from ages 14 and upwards and we are especially looking for people to join our Squirrel team on a Wednesday 4pm-5pm. If you are interested in any way or have any questions, send an email to robert@haltonscouts.org.uk

Robert Prescott

Group Lead Volunteer
1st Halton Scout Group
Registered Charity : 1039264
www.haltonscouts.org.uk



TORRISHOLME CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

www.torrisholmecc.co.uk

With snow on the ground at the time of writing the season would seem to be miles away but the build up has begun, some senior players have been netting all winter and the club's senior nets at Carnforth High begin at the end of January. Junior nets, also at Carnforth, begin in early March and spaces are still available. If you want to book your child in please contact Mark Drinkall. No need to book senior nets, dates and times have been circulated but if you haven't seen them again contact Mark Drinkall. Players of all abilities, new and old, are welcome.

Perhaps the biggest news of the last month is the signing of our 2025 overseas, Sam Brown, who is a wicket keeper batsman from near Durban in South Africa. Having met him over Christmas I am sure he will make a lot

of friends at the club while hopefully scoring a mountain of runs.

Our registration night for juniors and seniors will be at the end of March or in early April, with senior games and junior practices beginning in late April. If anyone has queries about playing, coaching or volunteering at Torrisholme, about involving their children or becoming a sponsor please contact Mark Drinkall, Junior Chair and Safeguarding Officer on 07368944220 or via email: drinks@torrisholmecc.co.uk

Mark Drinkall,
5th January 2025



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OPENING TIMES - TUESDAY- SATURDAY 9-5

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THE PRATTLE QUIZ No 66

1. Which spacecraft recently went closest to the sun at a distance of 38 million miles?
2. In 2004, Ingvar Kamprad was reputed to be the richest man in the world. Which company did he found?
3. What is the capital of The Philippines?
4. Which liqueur is based upon a secret recipe handed down from Bonnie Prince Charlie?
5. If something is lambent, what is it doing?
6. Who stars as the eponymous hero in the 2004 film Van Helsing?
7. What breed of animal is a Chester White?
8. What is the plant *galanthus* more commonly known as?
9. Name the chemical symbol for Tin.
10. What was The Beatles first chart entry?
11. What is the name of the country residence of the British Prime Minister?
12. What is the total if you add a baker's dozen to one gross?
13. Who was the fourth BBC Doctor Who?
14. Which country has a name that means 'Lion Mountain'?
15. Which artist painted *The Splash* in 1966?
16. Which book opens with the line, 'It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking 13'?
17. Who is Maurice Micklewhite better known as?
18. Which famous European leader rode a horse called Marengo?
19. Which is the only country to cross both the Equator and a tropic?
20. Which band reached number 2 in the charts with the theme song 'A View to a Kill'?

Thanks to our Quiz Master, Roddy!

Answers on page 34



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BUS SERVICES IN BRIEF

Bus Timetables for 81, 82, 580, 581 & 583 now available from Halton Library.

Monday to Saturday: Single tickets £2 (£1 after 7pm)

TO LANCASTER

No 49 from High Road: 0722, 0752, 0807, 0922 then 1/2 hourly until 1522, 1552 (SO), 1737, 1837, 1937

No 81/82 from Low Road : 0703 (NS), 0718 (SO), 0803 (NS), 0808 (SO), 0918 (SO), 0928 (NS), 1008, hourly until 1508, 1608 (SO), 1618 (NS), 1708, 1808, 1908, 2008, 2038, 2108, 2138, 2238)

TO KELLETS, CARNFORTH AND WARTON

No 49 from High Road; Mon-Sat; 0947, then hourly until 1447, 1547 (SO), 1632, 1732

TO KIRKBY LONSDALE (most journeys continue to Ingleton, and many to Settle and Skipton; see www.klch.co.uk)

No 81/82 from Low Road: 0614 (NS), 0654 (NS), 0709 (SO), 0736 (Sch), 0749 (NSch), 0849, Hourly until 1349, 1414 (Sch), 1434 (Hol), 1449 (SO), 1549 (SO), 1604 (NS), 1659, 1749, 1834, 1904, then hourly as far as Hornby until 2304

FROM LANCASTER TO HALTON

No 49 Stand 13; 0700, 0750, 0905, 0930, then 1/2 hourly until 1500, 1530 [SO], 1615 then hourly to 1915

No 81/82 0600 (NS), 0640 (NS), 0650 (SO), 0722 (Sch), 0735 (NSch), 0835, 0935, 1035, 1135, 1235, 1335, 1400 (Sch), 1420 (Hol), 1435 (SO), 1535 (SO), 1550 (NS), 1645, 1735, 1820, 1850, 1952, 2052, 2152, 2252

LAST BUSES BACK TO HALTON FROM

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Kirkby Lonsdale	2015	Ingleton	1958	Caton	2233

SO – Saturdays only

Sch – School days only

Hol – School holidays only

NS – Not Saturdays

NSch – Saturdays and School Holidays

Sundays and Bank Holidays: Single tickets £1

TO LANCASTER (Last bus back: 1815)

No 81/82 from Low Road 0955, 1055, 1155, 1255, 1355, 1455, 1555, 1655, 1755, 1855

TO KIRKBY LONSDALE (Last bus back: 1815)

No 81/82 from Low Road 0927, 1027, 1127, 1227, 1327, 1427, 1527, 1627, 1727, 1827

FROM LANCASTER TO HALTON

No 81/82 0915, 1015, 1115, 1215, 1315, 1415, 1515, 1615, 1715, 1815

Real time bus running info at www.bustimes.org/map

Service 81/82 is run by Lonsdale Buses except the last four journeys from Lancaster to Hornby. Those evening journeys and Service 49 are run by Stagecoach

No service on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day.

DIAL A BUS Book on: 01524 581260; email: itslancastermorecambe@lancashire.gov.uk

SQUARE DANCING

CLUB NEWS

At the AGM in November, our new banners, made by Pauline Seymour, were unveiled and much admired by everyone. The previous year's chosen 2 charities, 'Lyrics & Lunch' & 'Neuro Drop In' were presented with cheques, sharing £787.57 raised by the club. 'Let's Be Friends' – helping homelessness was chosen for the 2024/25 club charity.

Brian and I travelled to the Isle of Wight for a 'Taste of Christmas' dance weekend. It was a really fun filled weekend of MS & Plus, with the hotel providing treats, including mince pies, a wine reception & Santa with gifts. We had a film show of Christmas around the world and Di organised tuition sessions for learner callers at the event, which I attended. The learner callers all had the opportunity to call to a full floor of dancers during the evenings.

Brian always plays the Christmas humbug, grumbling about Christmas music etc but I think he secretly enjoys it. The big storm expected didn't affect us, as we were inside the whole time, but we did get an earlier ferry going just in case.

Our free fun filled Christmas Party was enjoyed by all. There were 40 small prizes for the games and everyone joined in with enthusiasm. The money raised from the raffle goes into our charity pot, standing now at well over £200.00

Back to normal now. The next event will be our Annual Dinner at Morecambe Golf Club in March.

Carol Holman 07981 743959

For more information, photos etc go to our website:- <http://www.oceanwavers.co.uk>





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@rainbowtherapies777

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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.

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Deacon Stephen Pendlebury,
St. Joseph's Church
Slyne Road, Lancaster, LA1 2HU
Tel: 01524 32493

ST WILFRID'S HALTON

ST WILFRID'S JUNIOR CHURCH

There is an activity for children every Sunday. Junior church meets on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during school term time at 10 am. For more information, please email Sandra Dawson at s.dawson135@btinternet.com

On the first Sunday, families can attend the Families@4 service at the Church Hall Slyne and the service on the second Sunday will include opportunities for children to be involved.

REFLECTIVE SERVICE WITH MUSIC FROM THE IONA AND TAIZÉ COMMUNITIES

Sunday 23rd February, 4pm at St Wilfrid's Church. A quiet reflective and contemplative service incorporating times of silence and music from the

Iona and Taizé Communities. Everyone welcome.

ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

Meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm on 13th, 20th, 27th March, and 3rd, 10th April. Please contact Revd Susan at revsusan.seed@btinternet.com for details of venues.

THE CHURCH IS HERE FOR YOU!

St Wilfrid's Church is open on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm. 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

Lancaster City Councillor Sarah McGowan



I will be holding Residents' Surgeries in Halton Social Club or Over Kellet Eagle's Head, on the first Wednesday of the month, between
7pm - 8pm.

February 5th Halton

March 5th Over Kellet

Apr 2nd Halton

May 7th Over Kellet

Come along and discuss in confidence any problems you're having with Lancaster City Council services and I'll do what I can to help. I look forward to meeting you.

**If you can't make it in person, you can email me at
smcgowan@lancaster.gov.uk**

Valley Church

You're Invited

Sundays at 10:30am
The Centre @ Halton

*creating a HOME
to EMPOWER a new
GENERATION*

Exploring faith, have questions about God, want to connect with people or find a place to call home?
Then we'd love to invite you to Valley Church!

Valley Kids also happens every week alongside our services with play, teaching, activities and games.

To find out more check out the website or look us up on social media.

 valleychurch.eu/lancaster
 @valley_lanc
 /valleychurchlancaster



PRATTLE QUIZ ANSWERS



20. Duran Duran
19. Brazil
18. Napoleon Bonaparte
17. Michael Caine
16. Nineteen Eighty-Four
15. David Hockney
14. Sierra Leone



13. Tom Baker
12. 157
11. Chequers
10. Love Me Do
9. Sn



8. Snowdrop
7. A pig
6. Hugh Jackman
5. Flickering
4. Drambuie
3. Manila
2. IKEA
1. The Parker Solar Probe

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FORD SERVICE

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 February

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | 10:00 am Family Communion |
| | 4:00 pm Families@4 at Slyne Church Hall |
| 4 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 9 | 8:00 am Holy Communion |
| | 10:00 am Family Worship |
| 11 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 16 | 10:00 am Family Communion |
| 18 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 23 | 10:00 am Family Communion |
| | 4:00 pm Reflective service with Taizé and Iona music. |
| 25 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |

Services in March

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | 10:00 am Family Communion |
| | 4:00 pm Families@4 at Slyne Church Hall |
| 4 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 5 | 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday service at St Luke's Slyne |
| 9 | 8:00 am Holy Communion |
| | 10:00 am Family Worship |
| 11 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 16 | 10:00 am Family Communion |
| 18 | 9:00 am Morning prayer |
| 23 | 10:00 am Family Communion |

25 9:00 am Morning prayer

31 10:00 am Family Communion

ST SAVIOUR'S AUGHTON

Services in February

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 9 | 11:30 am Morning Prayer |
| 23 | 11:30 am Holy Communion |

Services in March

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 9 | 11:30 am Morning prayer |
| 23 | 11:30 am Holy Communion |
| 31 | 7:00 pm Evening Prayer |

Live streamed services:

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

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Holywell Care Group

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01524 418090
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Transforming Lives with Compassionate, Specialized Care

We are thrilled to introduce Treatment of Disease, Disorder, or Injury (TDDI) as a new strand of our comprehensive care services.

At Holywell Care Group, we go beyond basic support to make a life-changing difference for those in need of specialized care at home. Our nurse-led, custom-designed care packages are crafted for both adults and children, addressing clinical needs while empowering independence, preserving dignity, and enhancing quality of life.

Our clients include young adults living at home with their families, individuals with Learning Disabilities, those facing challenging behaviours, complex needs, and those with Dementia.

Through our TDDI services, we offer a broad range of expert, compassionate care for individuals with conditions such as:

- Epilepsy
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Stroke Recovery
- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Head Injuries
- Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)
- Tracheostomy Care

Our approach combines clinical excellence with heartfelt compassion. We select each care team thoughtfully, ensuring personal, attentive support that honours the unique preferences and needs of each client. Through dedicated care and sensitivity, we empower our clients to flourish in their own homes, where they feel secure and comfortable.

At Holywell, care planning is a collaborative process. We work closely with clients, their families, and healthcare providers to create highly individualized care plans. Our trained nursing and care teams are committed to delivering compassionate, dependable care that enables our clients to live meaningful, fulfilling lives at home, embraced by respect and dignity.

"Kindness is at the heart of everything we do"

Discover how Holywell Care Group can support you or your loved ones through our comprehensive TDDI and complex care services.

Contact our caring team today to begin your journey toward greater independence and a better quality of life.