



THE PRATTLE



Issue No. 144

Halton-with-Aughton

Aug/Sept 2025



To all our readers and
advertisers,

Have a Great Summer!

Jan & Dave
Editors

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
halton-prattle@outlook.com or tel **01524 812679**

DISTRIBUTION & GENERAL ENQUIRIES: **CAROL** on **01524 811444**

TREASURER: **BRIAN** on **01524 811444**



DEADLINES for Oct / Nov 2025

Copy: Wed 10th Sep 2025
Adverts: Wed 10th Sep 2025
Delivery: Fri 10th Oct 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

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been a recent spate of anti-social behaviour in and around The Centre. Incidents have included disturbing private hires and user groups, riding bikes on the MUGA, playing with lighters and aerosols, and climbing on the roofs. It has also included criminal damage, with a window of a neighbouring house

broken by thrown rocks. The police are aware and have visited a couple of times and will work on identifying the culprits.

If your children visit The Centre without an adult, please discuss appropriate behaviour with them, since, when asked to stop, the staff and members of the public have been subjected to rude behaviour and foul language.

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ST WILFRID'S PARK UPDATE

The outcome of another grant application should be known soon; if this is successful, then the plans for new play equipment can begin again. In the meantime, the remaining swing will have to be removed since it was deemed a safety risk by a recent independent safety inspection, due to rot. The council considered replacing the timber but decided that this would be a waste of money given the refurbishment plans.

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 on the following dates:

- Wednesday 10th September 7:15pm
- Wednesday 8th October 7:15pm

Luke Mills, Parish Clerk

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



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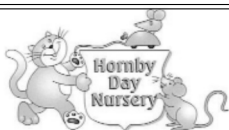


DOG MESS

Before the walking football could start on 16 July **FOUR** lots of dog mess had to be cleared up. People of all ages use the field, including young children.

Please clean up after your dog.

Norman Wilson



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VILLAGE NEWS

BURTON & RIGBY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, AUGHTON

(in the Parish of Halton with Aughton)

The Trustees of the Burton & Rigby Educational Foundation will be meeting in September 2025 to consider applications for grants on behalf of pupils and students attending educational establishments other than primary schools.

Under the terms of the trust the trustees will consider applications from candidates who are boys or girls resident in the Parish of Halton with Aughton who, in the opinion of the trustees, are in need of assistance, and who will not have reached their nineteenth birthday by 1st September 2025. The trustees are keen to attract applications from all sections of the community and particularly from those families where any grant from the trustees will make the biggest difference. If applicants are eligible for the pupil premium grant it would be helpful if that is stated in the application.

Awards are made at the discretion of the trustees and in the allocation of benefits the trustees are required to have regard to the promotion of education in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. Applications, in the form of a letter,

should set out details of the school or other educational establishment attended and information available about the educational progress of the candidate. Letters should be sent to Mrs A Bowring, Clerk to the Trustees, Burton & Rigby Foundation, Hawkshead Farm, Halton Park, Lancaster LA2 6PD by Friday 5th September 2025.

Please note: Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. The letter of application should include the full name, age and date of birth of the pupil/student on behalf of whom application is being made.

HEARTS OF HALTON W.I.

Members of the Hearts of Halton WI joined the National Federation meeting by Zoom this year which was the first year of a virtual AGM.

The decision was taken in order for as many members as possible to access the meeting and also make a considerable saving on the rental for a large venue (The Royal Albert Hall costs around £65,000).

So, from the relaxed setting of a member's conservatory, we could listen to the speakers and vote on the resolution chosen this year, "Bystanders could be lifesavers". This campaign will be featured in local and national news and was chosen to address the imbalance of female lives



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saved by Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation compared to males.

We also had an entertaining address by Angel Swarbridge of “Chateau” fame, and internationally known artist Emma Bridgewater, who has designed a mug to celebrate the 105th birthday of WI.

WI continues to grow and in the last 12 months 22,000 new members have joined.

WI provides educational opportunities via the WI Learning Hub and the majority of courses are free.

At a local level, we have our meetings in the Centre at Halton on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the upstairs meeting room at 7:15 p.m.

Last month we held the Chairman’s quiz where our knowledge was tested -

famous actors, women in history, cartoon characters, geography, literature, to name a few areas. It was very friendly and all teams were within a few points of the winners. It gave us a chance to chat between rounds and get to know our new ladies a bit better.

The weather influenced the picnic and a group of us went to sample the coffee and cake in the Red Door instead.

The Monday Milers Walking Group is a chance to meet some of the members in a social context if you are thinking of joining the WI. Last month the walk went to Sunderland Point, taking a picnic lunch, and hearing the history of Sambo’s grave. Ladies supported the Air Ambulance buying from a charity stall set up there. It is usually held on

the Monday following our group meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

The August outing to Liverpool is now full and everyone should know where they are meeting the coach. The autumn programme includes a solicitor talking about Estate Planning and a proposed trip to the Grand Theatre.

If you are interested in coming along or would like to chat about our group please drop Debbie an email on secretaryheartsofhalton@gmail.com - it will be great to hear from you!

LITTER PICKS

Dates for our summer litter picks are below. These are family friendly and suitable for all ages and abilities, with a 'star picker' trophy up for grabs! All litter picking kit is provided, you only need to bring yourself (wearing suitable clothing, footwear and gloves!) and your enthusiasm, we'll provide the rest!

- Saturday 16th August

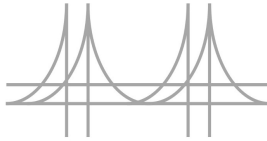
- Saturday 20th September

We meet at the Centre Petanque pitch at 1pm. Please register no later than the Wednesday prior to the pick (via social media or email me on samathajanehicks@gmail.com) to reserve your free slice of cake and drink. Certain areas of the village can be physically demanding due to the volume of litter and the amount of walking required. They therefore require a minimum of 2 willing and able adult volunteers and are unsuitable for children. Given that our core team of volunteers are now in their 70s and 80s, I worry we will no longer be able to routinely clear these sections without support from the wider community. Our amazing volunteers make such a difference in our lovely little village - please join us if you can!

CARDS FIGHTING LONELINESS

Our campaign will be returning in October and this will be our 5th year of existence! During August I will be appealing to the children of the village to participate in a **very** special appeal for cards, to help a member of our community celebrate a monumental birthday in the early autumn. I can't say too much about this (as they will likely be reading this article!) but will appeal via our dedicated Facebook group 'Fighting Loneliness One Village at a Time.' I'm hoping to have a beautiful bundle of handmade cards to mark this

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VILLAGE SERVICES

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

SURGERY: Halton Medical Centre, 110 High Rd 811226. Doctors and nurses are available for consultation from Halton Surgery throughout the week.

Prebookable appointments only - please call 01524 720000. Please note if there are no clinicians available at Halton Surgery, it will be closed that day.

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

incredible occasion, please do keep an eye in the group for details and get involved!

In September I will begin appealing for general cards to welcome all of our recipients back to the campaign, and hope to have plenty of cards ahead of the first deliveries being made at the start of October. If you have links to a local school or childcare setting, please do invite them to participate.

If you know someone who lives in Halton that might appreciate receiving a card over the winter months, please get in touch via the campaign Facebook page, or alternatively via email to samanthajanehicks@gmail.com to make a nomination. We always have room on our list for a new recipient!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING

Unfortunately our June meeting at The Centre didn't proceed as planned, as we failed to meet the required number of members in attendance. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th September at The Greyhound pub at 19:30. If you have an idea or suggestion to make Halton a safer, friendlier or more connected community to live in, we'd love you to join us and share your thoughts. Sometimes, it's the smallest ideas that spark the biggest changes!

Sam Pritchard

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HALTON LUNE TRUST

The Trust next meets on 27 October 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.

CATON AND BROOKHOUSE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and that the June rain is a

thing of the past. We met for a coffee morning at the Station Hotel at 11am on July 3rd and then on July 24th we had a visit to Barton Grange then on to Blackpool Tower for afternoon tea and finished the day in Cleveleys.

August will find us back at the Station for coffee on the 7th and two weeks later on the 21st we are off to Ripon market and their Workhouse and a visit to Hawes on the way back.

In September our coffee morning is on the 4th and our visit is to Newby Hall for the Autumn Flower Show. For further information please contact Ally Whitfield on 01524 770827 or 07738 912923.

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



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

The
Centre@
Halton

NEWS FROM ST WILFRID'S C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Happy Summer Holidays!

School finished for the summer on 18th July, and children will return on 2nd September.

At the time of writing, we still have a few key events remaining: Sports Day, the production, and saying goodbye to a couple of staff members and our fantastic Year 6 children.

Looking back on my second year as headteacher, it is incredible to reflect on all the things that have happened. I am delighted that we were able to introduce our six core Christian values: Wisdom, Respect, Perseverance, Trust, Kindness, and Creativity. We have also built on our vision of "Love God, love each other, and love learning."

I was very proud to launch our new website and to establish a school

presence on Facebook. Going forward, I aim to increase our Facebook profile next year. However, I am pleased with our 200 followers already!

We have made a significant decision to reduce our intake from September 2026 from 35 to 30. This will mean that soon we will have no split classes—a positive move forward, I believe, for our school. I was also pleased with our Ofsted inspection that took place in November, where we achieved a "Good" rating in all areas. We will now build on this encouraging result and aim high in our future developments.

Moving forward, I would really like to develop the vegetable garden area at the front of the school. We have made some progress this year, but we are far from where I would like us to be. We need a person or people who could commit to helping us get up and running, but more importantly,

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maintaining the area. If you feel that some disruption for deliveries and this is something you could support, during the work being undertaken, please contact the school.

We will continue to host our Halton for all your care and support Community Tea events for the more towards our school. We have a great senior members of our community— school community, and it is wonderful dates to be in the next issue. I also plan to see us all working together for the to have a school open day so that benefit of our children. Please do have people considering sending their a lovely summer, and we will see you children to our school can come and back in September! see us in action.

Over the summer holidays, we will be **Mark Curwen** undertaking significant building work Headteacher on the roofs of three classrooms— those closest to the library. I trust that this will have minimal impact on the community. However, there will be

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THE CENTRE @ HALTON

Halton Community Association Charity No. 115206

Enquiries: Office 01524 811316
office@haltoncentre.org

Bookings: Carol 07981 743959
bookings@haltoncentre.org

Website: haltoncentre.org

Ticketsource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/
haltoncommunityassociation

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Monday-Friday 2pm-5pm

School and bank holidays 11am-5pm

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

Actual opening times may vary
depending on volunteer availability.

UPDATES FROM THE CENTRE

It is a shame to start our Prattle update with this but, sadly, we have had a recent spate of anti-social behaviour in and around The Centre. Incidents have included disturbing private hires and user groups, riding bikes on the MUGA, playing with lighters and aerosols, and climbing on the roof. When asked to stop, our staff and members of the public have been subjected to rude behaviour and foul language. If your young people come to The Centre without an adult, please have a discussion with them about safe and polite behaviour.

There is no Soup and a Song or Luncheon Club in August. Keep an eye on our newsletter for the confirmed dates for the autumn.

Salsa nights continue at the Centre @ Halton this summer - hosted by Lancaster Area Salsa, the new LA Salsa XS parties are currently scheduled for 30th August, 18th October and 29th November. They offer a great night of dancing and music and run from 7:30pm to midnight, with the bar available for alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments. Admission is £10 cash on the door. Please see Lancaster Area Salsa online for further details.

At the time of writing, the new Pickleball equipment is on its way to us! Sign up to the newsletter for details of a taster session, hopefully in September, for those who are new to

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the sport. If you are already familiar with the game, get your team ready and anytime the hall is available, you can hire the space and kit to play.

Our Christmas Craft Fayre will be on Sunday 30th November from 3pm to 5pm. Craft stalls are now available to book for £15 each via the Ticketsource link above. We welcome both new and returning stall holders. Valley Church have kindly agreed to host Santa's grotto and other children's activities again upstairs.

Are you a project manager or do you have experience with construction and building? We are looking for a project manager or advisor to help us get going with our 'Outside Toilet and Changing Places Access' project that has been in the works for a few years now. We don't have anyone with this working experience on our team at the moment but are keen to get started as soon as we can. If this is something you could

help with or would be willing to take on, please get in touch on office@haltoncentre.org

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

Library Outreach until end of July - Fridays 2-5pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm

LA Salsa XS Parties - 30th August, 18th October and 29th November.

Above correct as at 8th July 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: 10am-1:30pm; Lauren 07398 312544 term time only

Halton Baby & Toddler Group: 9:15-11am; 811316, term time only

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 M2

Board games: 2-4pm Free. M1

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

Walking Football: 10–11:30am £3. John 01524 418753

Line Dancing: 10:00 – 11:30pm 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

Thursdays:

Hartbeeps Lancs Baby & Toddler (music): 9am-1pm Term time only 07834818493

Pilates: 9:30-10:30am 07799068191

Gentle Exercise class: 11-12 noon Cheryl 07711 335807

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

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

Fridays:

Indoor Bowling: 2-4pm 811316

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

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

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

Saturdays:

Lego Club: 10:30-12:30pm 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
811316 (except Aug & Jan)

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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.
(please ring The Centre 811316, or
look out for posters).

Luncheon Club: 12:30-3pm, (please
ring The Centre 811316, or look out for
poster)

3rd Thurs Gardening Group 10:45am

Red Door, email:

haltongardeninggroup@gmail.com or
message/telephone Kath Pink,
Secretary, on 07900 416961

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

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

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- Sat 16 Family Friendly Litter Picks, meet at the Petanque pitch at the Centre at 1pm. See page 6
- Sat 30 LA Salsa XS Party. 7:30pm-midnight @ The Centre. Bar. £10 at the door.

SEPTEMBER

- Mon 15 Free Square Dance Taster evening - Centre 7:30pm. Bring a mug.
- Sat 20 St Wilfrid's Heritage Open day 10:30am-4pm. See poster on page 34
- Sat 20 Family Friendly Litter Picks, meet at the Petanque pitch at the Centre at 1pm. See page 6
- Sun 21 St Wilfrid's Harvest Festival 10 am
- Thu 25 Neighbourhood Watch Meeting at The Greyhound pub at 19:30.
- Sun 28 Aughton Village Harvest Festival, 7pm. St Saviour's Church

ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sat 18 October | LA Salsa XS Party. 7:30pm-midnight @ The Centre. Bar. £10 at the door. |
| Sat 29 November | LA Salsa XS Party. 7:30pm-midnight @ The Centre. Bar. £10 at the door. |
| Sun 30th November | Christmas Craft Fayre & Santa's Grotto, The Centre, 3pm to 5pm. |

WHAT'S ON ENTRIES

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

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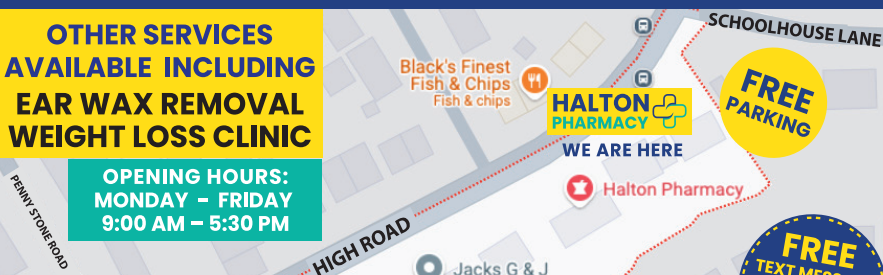
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HALTON GARDENING GROUP

GARDEN SAFARI

A big thank you to everyone that came to the 2025 Garden Safari and to those lovely people that donated plants and other items. You all helped make it a very enjoyable weekend for everyone, despite the efforts of the rain clouds. It was a pleasure to open our wide array of gardens for you, sell some plants - all good value - and best of all chat about plants and catch up with old friends. Next time we need more courgette plants!

THE KING'S VISIT

Our Gardening Group felt honoured that two of our members were invited to shake hands with the King when he came to receive the Keys of the Castle on June 16th. Monica Williams told him about our Safari and that we had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. The trophy is displayed upstairs in the Community Centre. Do go and see it if you haven't before. It is in a beautiful cabinet made and designed by a local

craftsman. It is beside HCA's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

GETTING INVOLVED

The group does not charge fees but makes money from plant sales and safaris. We are a practical group and work on small areas and planters around the village as well as the Memorial Garden, the Burial Ground and outside the Centre. We have tools which can be used by you if you don't have your own as you work alongside our members. Some members are interested in wild flowers. Are you? Our next big activity will be bulb planting in the autumn. Come and tell us what you would like from the Group - meetings, outings, talks? Our next Open Meeting will be at the Red Door on Thursday 18th September at 10:00am.

Monica Williams

HGG Chair

haltongardeninggroup@mail.com



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RECENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to our usual activities, we have had hires for birthday parties, christenings and other gatherings. One highlight was the well-attended talk by local author Lisa Nicholas. Lisa writes 'cosy crime' and she gave a fascinating talk about her books and the process of writing. Our AGM was held in early June, and we are delighted that Michaela Bernard and James Turner have joined our hall committee. We have also been busy with further improvements to access to the hall and have refurbished the bark chippings in the children's playground. Many thanks to the village volunteers who turned out in the rain to do the work on the playground.

ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

After a break for the summer holidays exercise classes with Gabi Crossley will resume in early September: circuits at

9:30 and Pilates at 10:30. 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 also be meeting in the hall some weeks during the summer; for more information about their activities and membership see their Facebook page and website. On August 3rd we host the Aughton cycle race with around 70 competitors. The race is well marshalled, but please take care on the local roads that morning.

We will also be using the relatively quiet summer period to make further improvements to the hall by having the hall floor sanded and revarnished, and by improving storage facilities at the hall. We will be announcing any other events 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 07484 660174 or email to aughtonsecretary@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO BARK MULCH

During periods of hot, dry weather, gardeners often face the challenge of keeping plants hydrated and soil healthy. One of the most effective and natural solutions is bark mulch. This organic material not only helps conserve water but also improves soil structure and supports long-term plant health. In this guide, we'll explore how to use bark mulch effectively in your garden, its key benefits during summer, and how to get the most from it with simple best practices.

WHAT IS BARK MULCH?

Bark mulch is made from the outer bark of trees, typically from softwoods such as pine, spruce or larch. It comes in different grades, ranging from fine to coarse chips, and is commonly used to cover soil around plants, trees, shrubs, flower beds and pathways.

As well as offering a neat and natural finish to your garden, bark mulch provides numerous practical benefits—particularly when temperatures rise and rainfall is limited.

WHY USE BARK MULCH IN HOT WEATHER?

Helps Retain Soil Moisture - One of the biggest threats during hot spells is moisture loss from the soil. Bare soil quickly dries out under direct sunlight, meaning more frequent watering is needed. Applying a layer of bark mulch helps trap moisture in the soil, reducing evaporation and keeping roots hydrated for longer.

Enriches the Soil Over Time - As bark mulch slowly decomposes, it adds organic matter to the soil. This improves its structure, increases nutrient levels and supports the growth of beneficial microorganisms, creating a healthier growing environment.

Regulates Soil Temperature - Mulching with bark helps to moderate temperature swings by insulating the soil. In hot weather, it keeps soil cooler, helping to protect delicate roots and reduce plant stress. It also helps retain warmth in cooler evenings, offering consistent growing conditions.

Reduces Soil Erosion and Compaction - Heavy watering, wind and foot traffic can lead to erosion or compacted soil. Bark mulch forms a protective layer that reduces surface run-off, minimises disruption and keeps your soil in better condition throughout the season.



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HOW TO APPLY BARK MULCH IN THE GARDEN

- Choose the right type - there are several types of bark mulch available:
 - o Fine mulch: Suitable for vegetable patches and flower beds
 - o Medium mulch: Ideal for borders and shrubs
 - o Large bark chips: Perfect for decorative paths, tree bases and long-term coverage.
- Ensure your mulch is well-composted or aged, as freshly chipped wood can temporarily draw nitrogen from the soil.
- Prepare the area - before mulching, it's important to:
 - o Remove existing weeds: Mulch helps suppress new growth but won't kill what's already there.
 - o Water the soil thoroughly: Mulch locks in moisture, so it should be applied to already damp ground
- Apply an even layer - Spread bark mulch evenly across the surface, aiming for a depth of 5 to 7 cm (2 to 3

inches). Take care not to pile mulch directly against plant stems or tree trunks, as this can encourage rot or pest problems.

- Maintain and top up - Over time, bark mulch will decompose and become compacted. Check it regularly and top it up as needed to maintain full coverage and effectiveness.

BEST AREAS TO USE BARK MULCH

- Around trees and shrubs
- In perennial flower beds and borders
- On garden pathways and foot traffic zones
- Under hedges and ornamental planting
- In raised beds or vegetable gardens (using fine mulch)

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- Applying mulch too thinly – Less than 5 cm won't offer sufficient protection
- Skipping the watering step – Soil should be moist before mulch is laid
- Mulching over existing weeds – Always clear them first



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- Piling mulch too close to plants – Leave space around stems to prevent disease

SUSTAINABLE AND LOW MAINTENANCE

Bark mulch is a natural by-product, often sourced from the timber industry, making it a sustainable and environmentally responsible option. It reduces the need for chemical weed control, conserves water, and improves soil organically, all with minimal effort required.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you're looking to protect your garden during summer heat, bark mulch is one of the most effective tools at your disposal. It helps retain moisture, enriches soil, regulates temperature, and keeps weeds at bay — all while giving your garden a smart, well-kept appearance.

By applying bark mulch now, you'll save time on watering and enjoy a healthier, more resilient garden all summer long.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How often should bark mulch be replaced?

A. Typically, once per year. However, you may need to top it up more frequently if you notice it thinning or decomposing more quickly.

Q. Is bark mulch suitable for vegetable gardens?

A. Yes, especially fine bark mulch. Just make sure it's well-composted to avoid nutrient lock-up.

Q. Does bark mulch attract pests?

A. Properly aged bark mulch does not typically attract pests. Avoid piling it too high against plants or trees to prevent hiding spots for insects.

Q. Can bark mulch affect soil pH?

A. Over time, bark mulch may slightly acidify the soil. This is usually minimal and beneficial for most plants, but if you're growing species that prefer alkaline soil, monitor pH accordingly.

If you would like to order a bulk bag delivery of bark mulch then please call the team at Logs Direct for more information on 01524 812476 or visit www.logsdirect.co.uk

Phill from Logs Direct

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**.

September 3rd Halton
October 1st Over Kellet
November 12th Halton (note: this is the second Weds)
December 3rd 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

NEWS FROM THE 1ST HALTON SCOUT GROUP

It has been another busy few months – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all just come back from a 2 night Group Camp at Littledale Scout Activity Centre, near Caton, which was a very hot weekend. The Squirrels joined the Beavers during the day on the Saturday, completing all sorts of outside activities, including everyone having a go on the Assault Course, Archery, Boulderling, Crate Stacking, Tomahawk Throwing and much more. The Cubs also spent the Saturday morning completing their Athletics and Athletics Plus badges and the Scouts had a go with Bushcraft knives and axes. We also had a go at making popcorn over a fire, which was a big success and enjoyed by all. Then on the Sunday plans were shuffled around so that tents could be taken down in the dry before the light rain that was forecast in the afternoon. All then went on a short 4 mile walk in the afternoon.

Following Group Camp the Beavers have just spent a day at Leighton Moss with other Beavers from across the district, and the Squirrels have spent a day at Silversapling Guide Campsite in Silverdale along with other Squirrels and Rainbows from across Lancaster and Morecambe.

As the summer term draws to an end it is almost time for our summer break, but the work of our volunteers doesn't stop there. There is lots being done to plan for next year as well as having a

well-earned rest, but we also have some major jobs to do at the scout hut. Towards the beginning of August solar panels and a battery system will be being installed on the building, this will not only save on our annual electric bill but will also make the building completely carbon neutral. The system is estimated to generate more each year than we are currently using. This

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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

should make a big difference and allowing funds to be spent in ways that can further benefit all of the young people in the group. Thanks must go to Halton Lune Trust who have funded £12,500 towards this project and also to The Harris Charity for a further £6,000.

Also over summer we hope to get chance to repair the drains which run under our driveway as they are currently in a poor state and constantly blocking up. There are lots of other small tasks to complete and if anyone has any time or materials they would be willing to donate it would be much appreciated.

We are, as always, on the lookout 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. If you are interested in any way, or have any questions, send an email to robert@haltonscouts.org.uk.

We also have our large building on Foundry Lane which is available to hire for your birthday parties and events - 3 hours for just £50. It's a great venue with a large grass area outside. You can see pictures on our website or if you would like to have look round, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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 the junior league season complete the all conquering U13 team have a 100% record and look forward to a play off for the overall championship in September. The other junior teams have all had decent seasons and the women and girls team finally won a game in the recent Lancaster Festival, having run a few teams very close in earlier games. The U11 softball, U13 and U16 teams have all entered the Summer Cups and, of course, the U13s (coached by Halton's Jeff Stobbart) will have realistic hopes of reaching the final.

The First XI were second in the league at the time of writing and are going well, the seconds have often struggled but won their last game and hope to put a run together to get them out of the relegation zone. The Sunday team has generally fulfilled its objective of bleeding young players in a semi competitive environment under the watchful eye of Halton's Martin Davis. The T20 team should qualify for finals day; unfortunately half the team are away that day so they may struggle, but younger players will get their chance.

On a social level the club is thriving, the golf day raised around £3000 and the newly installed draught beers have driven a massive uplift in bar sales, helped by the busy social calendar planned by Halton residents John Hewetson and Beth Laverick. The

recent Italian night was a great success, the next event is a Quiz hosted by Halton quiz captain Barry Lees. A curry night is planned for August.

With the potential to be promoted to The Northern League in 2026 and the largest junior section in the area the club provides a great opportunity for anyone looking to support local sport as a sponsor, volunteer, player or coach. So if you, your family or business would like to get involved in the club please contact Halton resident and Torrisholme CC President and Junior Chair Mark Drinkall on 07368 944220 or email: drinks@torrisholmecc.co.uk

Mark Drinkall,

4th July 2025.



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THE PRATTLE QUIZ No 69

1. The longest direct flight from London goes to which city?
2. Name the mountain range which separates Argentina and Chile?
3. Which list currently ends with oganesson?
4. Whose art work is sold and authenticated by the Pest Control Office?
5. What links a Bombay Sapphire gin bottle, the Albert Square pub and the first postage stamp?
6. What is the capital of Vietnam?
7. Which city is home to the German Museum of Books and Literature?
8. What did Thomas Austin notoriously introduce to Australia in 1859 ?
9. What shipping forecast area is named after an English city?
10. What contains 42 vowels and 56 consonants?
11. What was Phil Tuffnell's nickname?
12. Name the Glen Miller hit about a train from New York to Tennessee.
13. Which Shetland Island is known for its knitting style?
14. Which iconic Grunge anthem was inspired by a deodorant?
15. Which Jewish festival remembers the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt?
16. Which Australian city is home to The Gabba?
17. Name the forest that lies in Belgium, France and Luxembourg.
18. Which North Yorkshire town was recently named as one of the UK's happiest places?
19. Which is the leading UK peer-reviewed medical journal?
20. Lancashire Blues is the theme tune for which television series?



Thanks to our Quiz Master, Roddy!

Answers on page 34

SQUARE DANCING

CLUB NEWS

On Mon 28 April Mary, David, Angela and Alex were presented with their certificates and SSD dangles, having completed their first programme of Square Dance. Congratulations. With more practice the SSD programme will soon become second nature to you.

On Fri 2 May, Sarah, Maurice, Maureen, Sonia, Aprille, Darren, Katherine & Roger were presented with their plus dangles having completed the plus programme. Congratulations. All you need now is lots of practise.

During May and June we had 5 visitors. Dee from Cirencester & Stuart from Colorado, USA in May, then Noel, Glenys & Joan from Western Australia in June, who were all here on holiday. It's always lovely to get visitors from other clubs, especially from overseas. We presented them with our club dangles as a memento of their visit.

Some of our members went to the dance event at Symonds Yat with Johnny Preston from USA calling. Sadly, this will be his last UK event due to his health. I hear that this event will move to Bournemouth next year with another American caller Bronc Wise.

Beginner classes will be starting again at the Centre at Halton, with a FREE taster evening on Monday 15 September; 7:30pm start until 9:30 pm followed by extended SSD for the more experienced until 10pm. Information flyers are available. Regular beginner sessions will

continue on Mondays from 22 Sept, 7:30-9:30pm, £4.00 per session inc refreshments. Bring a mug!

Square dancing is easy to learn. No partner is needed. It's for anyone over 14, but under 16s must be accompanied. All you need is to be able to hear the caller, walk unaided, like to socialise and enjoy a laugh. We look forward to lots of you coming along to have a go and find out what square dancing is all about.

See you in a square.



Carol Holman 07981 743959

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

SQUARE DANCE **FREE** **TASTER NIGHT**

Monday 15th September

7.30pm – 9.30pm

Doors open 7.15pm

The Centre @ Halton,

Low Rd, Halton, Lancaster LA2 6NB

No partner needed.

**No fancy footwork. Bring your friends,
families, partners or just yourself.**

info Contact; 07981 743959 website: <http://www.oceanwavers.co.uk>

Bring your own mug for refreshments please

BUS SERVICES IN BRIEF

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

Monday to Saturday: Single tickets £3 (£1 after 7pm)

TO LANCASTER

No 49 from High Road: 0722, 0754 (NS), 0807, 0922, 0957 then at 22 & 57 minutes past the hour until 1522, 1601, 1657(SO) 1757, 1848, 1857, 1948

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 (last direct bus back from Carnforth 1832)

No 49 from High Road: Mon-Sat; 0947, then hourly until 1447, 1547 (SO), 1647, 1747

TO KIRKBY LONSDALE (last bus back 2015; most journeys continue to Ingleton, and many to Settle and Skipton; see <https://klch.co.uk>)

No 81/82 from Low Road: 0614 (NS), 0654 (NS), 0704 (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; 0705, 0750, 0905, 0930, then 1/2 hourly until 1500, 1530(SO), 1630 then hourly to 1930

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

SO – Saturdays only NS – Not Saturdays Sch – School days only

Hol – School holidays only NSch – Saturdays and School Holidays

Sundays and Bank Holidays: Single tickets £1

TO LANCASTER

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: itslancaftermorecambe@lancashire.gov.uk



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CHURCH NEWS

ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. CHURCH

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

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

Clergy: Fr. John Paul Evans,

Deacon Stephen Pendlebury,

St. Joseph's Church

Slyne Road, Lancaster, LA1 2HU

Tel: 01524 32493

ST WILFRID'S HALTON

St Wilfrid's Junior Church

Junior church meets on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month during term time at 10am. For



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

On the first Sundays, 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.

The Church is here for you!

Baptisms and Weddings: If you would like to make a booking for a baptism or wedding, please contact Revd Susan on 01524 822128 or revsusan.seed@btinternet.com.

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 prayer requests for specific

people, places or situations. (Details are kept confidential). Contact Revd Susan at revsusan.seed@btinternet.com.

St Wilfrid's Heritage Open day

Saturday 20th September 10:30am-4pm

Tours up the tower

Children's activities

Refreshments & Stalls

St Wilfrid's Harvest Festival

10 am Sunday 21st September

Please bring offerings of tins/dry goods for the homeless

Aughton Village Harvest Festival

Sunday 28th September 7pm.

St Saviour's Church

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Tel: 07709096363

St Wilfrid's Heritage Open Day



The beautiful historic Church of St Wilfrid's Halton will be open

Saturday 20th September 2025
From 10.30 am - 4pm

Come and see the unique Sigurd Cross in the Church yard
and visit this lovely church building.

The following attractions will be available:

Tours up the Tower
with wonderful views of Lancaster and the Lune valley.

Viewing of the Sigurd Cross in the Church yard
This is a unique tall and imposing cross
which shows scenes from
the Viking story of Sigurd, the Dragon Slayer.

Children's activities.

Light refreshments available all day

Cake and craft stalls.

A beautiful historic Church building where you can find some
peace and light a candle to remember a loved one.

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

1. Perth, Australia
2. Andes
3. The Periodic Table
4. Banksy
5. (An image of) Queen Victoria
6. Hanoi
7. Leipzig
8. Rabbits
9. Plymouth
10. A Scrabble set (English language version)
11. The Cat
12. The Chattanooga Choo Choo
13. Fair Isle
14. Smells like a Teen Spirit - Nirvana
15. Passover
16. Brisbane
17. The Ardennes
18. Skipton
19. The Lancet
20. Coronation Street



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THE CHURCHES OF HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

RECTOR Rev'd Susan Seed

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

Tel: 01524 822128

E: revsusan:seed@btinternet.com

ST. WILFRID'S HALTON

Services in August

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3 | 10:00am Family Communion |
| 5 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 10 | 8:00am Holy Communion |
| | 10:00am Family Worship |
| 12 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 17 | 10:00am Family Communion |
| 19 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 24 | 10:00am Family Communion |
| 31 | 10:00am Family Communion |
| | 6:00pm Taize Service |

Services in September

- | | |
|----|---|
| 7 | 10:00am Family Communion |
| | 4:00pm Families@4* |
| 9 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 14 | 8:00am Holy Communion |
| | 10:00am Family Worship |
| 16 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 21 | 10:00am Harvest Festival &
Junior Church |
| 23 | 9:00am Morning prayer |
| 28 | 10:00am Family Communion &
Junior Church |
| 30 | 9:00 m Morning prayer |

ST SAVIOUR'S AUGHTON

Services in August

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 10 | 11:30am Morning Prayer |
| 24 | 11:30am Holy Communion |
| 31 | 7:00pm Evening prayer |

Services in September

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 14 | 11:30am Morning Prayer |
| 28 | 7:00pm Harvest Festival |

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: St Wilfrid's – 4th May – Myla
Rose Freeman

Live streamed services:

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

* At Slyne with Hest Church Hall.

THERE'S **FREE** CLEAN ENERGY FALLING ON YOUR ROOF RIGHT NOW!

(UNLESS IT'S NIGHT TIME, THEN THERE ISN'T)



LET'S BE REAL. THE GRID IS EXPENSIVE, FOSSIL FUELS ARE MESSY, AND YOUR ROOF IS JUST SITTING THERE DOING NOTHING. IT COULD BE WORKING—SOAKING UP THE SUN, POWERING YOUR HOME, CHARGING YOUR EV, AND STORING ENERGY LIKE A TOTAL OVERACHIEVER.

 **SOLAR PV** - BECAUSE SUNSHINE IS FREE

 **SOLAR BATTERIES** - BECAUSE NIGHTS EXIST

 **EV CHARGERS** - BECAUSE PETROL STATIONS ARE SO LAST CENTURY

WHY CHOOSE GREEN WAVE?

- **LOCAL EXPERTISE**
(WE'RE BASED RIGHT HERE IN HALTON)
- **ONLY RESPONSIBLY SOURCED EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS**
(BECAUSE QUALITY MATTERS).
- **CUSTOM SOLUTIONS THAT FIT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS**
(LIKE A TAILORED SUIT, BUT FOR ENERGY).



SLIDE INTO OUR INBOX (OR JUST CALL, THAT WORKS TOO)



[WWW.GREEN-WAVE.ECO](http://www.green-wave.eco)



[INFO@GREEN-WAVE.ECO](mailto:info@green-wave.eco)



01524 932020



NAPIT



CERTIFIED

(OH, AND WE'RE MCS CERTIFIED. SO, YOU KNOW... WE'RE LEGIT.)