

SEPTEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

High Halden Parish Council Newsletter



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER. OUR AIM IS TO PRODUCE AND DISTRIBUTE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY ON A REGULAR BASIS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER OR HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH US PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK

In this issue:

- COMMUNITY ORCHARD
- ALLOTMENT UPDATE
- WILDFLOWER PLANTING
- JUBILEE PARK UPDATES
- RANSLEY FIELD
- SAFETY INSPECTIONS
- ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
- THANK YOU
- COFFEE MORNINGS
- HIGHWAYS UPDATES
- SPEEDWATCH
- YOUR VILLAGE HALL

CONTACT US... The Parish Clerk — Louise Goldsmith

Email: clerk@highhaldenparishcouncil.co.uk

Tel: 07900 693572

Find us on 

A Community Orchard for High Halden

If you would like to 'adopt' a tree please contact the Clerk



Earlier this year ABC were awarded a Coronation Living Heritage Fund (CLHF) capital grant to support the planting of community orchards or expand existing ones across the borough to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III. All fruit trees, along with planting sundries, will be supplied for free in winter 2024. We applied for some trees and have been awarded 30 fruit trees. Our thinking is that parishioners will 'adopt' the trees and tend to these as part of a community orchard. The orchard will be located next to our allotments. Trees will be planted in January and we plan to hold community event days. If you are interested in an adopting a tree as a commemorative/memorial tree for someone in your family or you just fancy being part of this project please contact the Clerk.

Allotment Update

Despite the weather we are delighted to see our allotment garden looking so great and that the allotment holders are beginning to see the fruits of their labour. All of the costs associated with providing allotments in the village have been covered by S106 funds which includes further funding for maintenance. None of this could have happened without the kind offer from Terry Haigh to lease some land.



Wildflower planting

We also have access to S106 funding for the capital purchase and provision of a wildflower meadow and are actively looking for sites within the village. Please do get in touch if you have any suggestions.

YOUR JUBILEE PARK

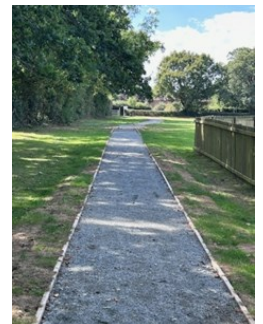


New handrail

Our ongoing maintenance involves regularly replacing the handrails on the bridges. We recently replaced the one below which had disappeared!

New Footpath

We have recently installed a multi-user stone path on the lower recreation ground from the bridge near to the children's play area to the road. We hope this will improve access by foot in wet conditions.



Football News

S106 funding has paid for further works to improve the drainage on all the football pitches. We hope this will assist all the football teams. The Parish Council has passed on their congratulations to Brewmasters who had quadruple success this season. The Club won the DFDS Kent Sunday Junior Trophy for the first time. This was in addition to the Club winning the Peter Pain Trophy, the Division Two Trophy and the Sheber Challenge Trophy.



Congratulations!

Vandalism

Sadly, we are still experiencing issues with vandalism at the recreation ground. One of the man hole covers was stolen which presented an immediate hazard and the palisade fencing around the playground is regularly being damaged. We will continue to act on any reports of damage we receive information and arrange for repairs.

Our thanks to volunteers from 'Life is not an Xbox' who have carried out some of the repairs for just the cost of the materials.
Please do report any concerns to the Clerk.



Multi-generational fitness and community space

Many thanks to all those that replied to our survey or attended consultation events. We have now drawn up draft tender documents. In terms of funding we have had confirmation from ABC that we can access £49,000 from the Ransley Field development and £70,289.40 from the Sicklefield development for the project. A further figure in the region of £60,000 is due from the Hopes Grove development. ABC has therefore advised that the Parish Council should delay the project until this funding has come forward. The additional funding will enable us to provide a much higher specification for the equipment. We hope the project will be completed by next Summer.

RANSLEY FIELD — We recently met with representatives from Sage Homes to discuss the landscaping and overall presentation at Ransley Field. Sage Homes has recently taken over managing the site from Southern Homes. The representatives agreed that the site is not presenting well and that remedial works are urgently required. We await an update as to what action they will be taking.



Annual Inspections

Your safety is paramount.

Each year the playground equipment at both Jubilee Park and Hookstead is inspected and we are currently working through a list of remedial works.

We have also instructed Aspire to carry out our bi-annual tree survey on parish council land which includes Carters Oak on the village green.

**STAMPING OUT
ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR!**

Report
ONLINE

A quicker way for you to report crime and incidents

Receive your confirmation email and reference number immediately

Go to www.kent.police.uk/report

Kent Police Update and Anti-social behaviour in the village

We are continuing to work with all the agencies regarding the incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village and PC Darren Laker also attends these meeting.

Kent Police has stressed the importance of reporting anti-social behaviour incidents. You can report an incident anonymously.

However big or small report it! These reports will help the Police with their intelligence and should increase the police presence in the village.

The best and quickest way to report a non urgent incident is online at www.kent.police.uk or use the link below
[Report antisocial behaviour | Kent Police](#)

The Parish Council would like to thank all the 'silent heroes' in the village that regularly clear litter from the roads, paths & verges outside their homes and in communal areas

Please take care when picking up litter !



WE KINDLY ASK THAT ALL VILLAGERS WHO HAVE A PUBLIC PATH RUNNING ALONGSIDE THEIR PROPERTY TO PLEASE KEEP YOUR HEDGES & VERGES CUT BACK AS REGULARLY AS POSSIBLE. This will help pedestrians avoid having to walk too closely to the roads and being snagged whilst walking in the dark.

Community Coffee Mornings

A member of the Parish Council is available to talk to you at the coffee mornings held on the first and third Friday of each month in the village hall.

Ask your councillors

Highways Improvement Plan

We continue to work with KCC on improvements to the roads in our village. Current projects are as follows:

The gateways at Hopes Grove have now finally been removed along with some of the 30mph signage at the entrance to Hopes Grove and hopefully you agree that the area now looks less cluttered?

Unfortunately, KCC has advised that the environment has not changed since the last review and that there is no further evidence of a safety issue with crash data to change that decision and KCC will therefore not be extending the 30mph zone. We will keep pressing for an extension to the 30mph speed limit.



Perseverance has paid off and KCC has finally agreed with us that if the bus stop was shortened they could create at least one parking space. This would still give the bus the minimum metre requirement to approach, straighten up in line with the kerb, and exit the bus stop safely. The Community Engagement Officer at KCC is preparing a design and cost for the scheme.

A scheme to refresh and make the school keep clear markings enforceable is still progressing and will hopefully move towards the Traffic Regulation Order stage soon.



Final thoughts

Yes, we agree the BT box on our village green is an eyesore. We will continue to report the damage to BT. BT has advised us that this is a Listed kiosk so it is protected under English Heritage. In addition to that the area does not have full mobile signal from all four suppliers so BT will not consider removing it.

ABC has agreed to install a new waste bin on the path behind Little Robhurst to replace the one that was taken away.



YOUR VILLAGE - BE INVOLVED !



Speedwatch for High Halden

We have an established speedwatch scheme but are always keen to have some more volunteers. Training will be provided and you can do as little or as much as you want. Please do contact the Clerk if you would be willing to help.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Come along to our council meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at The Village Hall @ 7pm.

For more information contact Louise the Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@highhaldenparishcouncil.co.uk

Tel: 07900 693572

Facebook





The War Memorial Village Hall

Are you new to the village or always wondered what is happening in the Memorial Hall



MONDAY

CRAFT CLUB - 10am - 2pm

BROWNIES - 4pm - 5.30pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 7pm - 2nd Monday of each month



TUESDAY

YOGA 4 LIFE - Hatha Yoga 10am - 11.30pm - Chair Yoga 12pm - 1pm

FISH & CHIP VAN - 4pm - 7.30pm

WEDNESDAY

TABLE TENNIS - 9am - 12pm



THURSDAY

LADIES DARTS - 10.30am - 2pm

FRIDAY

THE POST OFFICE - 10am - 11.30pm

COFFEE MORNINGS - 10.30am - 12pm - 1st & 3rd Friday of each month

CITIZENS ADVICE - 10am - 12pm - 3rd Friday of each month

SHORT MAT BOWLS - 2pm - 4.30pm



SATURDAY

LITTLE LOTUS HOLISTIC YOGA - 9am - 10am

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our Horticultural Society meets regularly and holds shows in the hall as well as quiz nights and other social gatherings



YOU CAN ALSO HIRE THE HALL FOR FAMILY EVENTS, MEETINGS ETC AT VERY REASONABLE RATES

Tel - 01233 743747 Email - hhwmh.bookings@gmail.com

