

Wendover

Guide



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WELCOME TO WENDOVER

Welcome to Wendover and its beautiful surrounding countryside.

Lying in a gap on the northern escarpment of the Chiltern Hills, Wendover is in the Metropolitan Green Belt and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It offers much to both local people and visitors with the countryside around being very popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Apart from the Ridgeway Path, the National Trail that passes down the main High Street of Wendover and along the Horse Path.

There are 65 miles of public rights of way and bridleways criss-crossing the parish. All are in excellent condition, thanks to a dedicated band of volunteers and the Parish Council's involvement from the beginning with the Parish Paths Partnership. These paths will take you over the open chalk downland of Coombe Hill with its impressive monument to the Buckinghamshire men who died in the Boer War, to the shaded woods on Boddington Hill, Wendover Woods, owned by the Forestry Commission. Here visitors can enjoy specially prepared cycle routes, all-ability walks as well as play areas for the children. Mountain biking competitions are held throughout the year in Aston Hill, which is part of Wendover Woods. Walk to the pretty hamlet of Dunsmore in the spring and enjoy the carpets of bluebells, or go along the all-ability Wendover Arm canal path. It has wonderful views of the hills and is home to kingfishers and herons, together with a variety of other wildlife.

On the direct rail route from Aylesbury to London Marylebone, Wendover is well situated with access to the A41, M25, M40 and M1. Many major tourist attractions are within easy travelling distance; Waddendon Manor, Windsor Castle and Legoland to name but a few. The staff at Wendover's Tourist Office, based in the historic Clock Tower, will be happy to help you find something that will interest the whole family.

You will not go hungry or thirsty in Wendover! Whether it is a bar meal or a romantic candlelit dinner for two, you will find something to suit your taste and pocket.

So please take time to browse around the interesting shops, stop and have a coffee or a meal, visit the ancient Thursday market, the monthly local produce market or walk around the historic buildings. Wendover is a very special place and we who live here would like to share it with you.

Wendover Parish Council

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WENDOVER AS IT IS TODAY

With a population of around 8500, Wendover is a thriving community, which caters for young and old alike. There are numerous pre-school groups and the Infant, junior and secondary schools are all on the same campus. For those seeking further education not too far from Wendover, colleges at Aylesbury and Amersham are within easy reach by train. Wendover Youth Centre is a popular meeting place for youngsters from 9-18 and younger children are catered for during the summer play scheme sessions.

There are a number of residential and nursing homes as well as sheltered accommodation for our more senior citizens. A variety of clubs and organisations cater for this age group.

Health Visitors, District Nurses and Practice Nurses assist the resident doctors at Wendover Health Centre to provide the highest standard of medical care for their patients. A wide range of facilities in line with current practice are available. The Centre is continuously updating its resources to ensure that it is in the forefront of health care. Dental and optical care is also available in the village.



St. Mary's Church

For some years now the Parish Church, St. Mary the Virgin, St. Anne's Catholic Church and Wendover Free Church have worked as Churches Together, and have a joint office and shop in Wendover High Street. Various services take place in Wendover Christian Centre as well as St. Mary's and St. Anne's. St. Mary's Church is the 'home' of the Wendover Music concerts and the Centre attached to the Church is used by many local groups for small meetings. The main venue for larger meetings and dances is Wendover Memorial Hall in What' Road. Other meeting places in the village are Wendover Library Room and the Royal British Legion Club in Chalfam Road.

For over twenty years Wendover has been twinned with Liffis in Brittany and regular exchanges take place, not only between the members of the very active Twinning Association but between various other local organisations – choral societies, bands, football teams, police and fire fighters to mention a few! The Twinning Stones outside the Library are permanent reminders of these close links.

Wendover is well known throughout the country for the presence since 1917 of the Royal Air Force station at Halton Camp, on the eastern side of the village. Between 1923 and 1995 the Camp was the home of the Royal Air Force Engineering Apprentices and Princess Mary's RAF Hospital. It is now the Royal Air Force's main basic training establishment for RAF recruits. Graduation parades are held regularly, attracting families from all over the country.

In the eleventh century, a charter was granted allowing two fairs each year as well as a weekly market which is held on a Thursday. In addition to these a monthly local produce market is held. Although tastes and fashions in entertainment change over time, the Charter Fairs in May and October still attract young and old alike.



Charity Market



Wendover Station

There are numerous and varied clubs and organisations in Wendover offering leisure activities to suit every taste – from swimming in the pool with one of the largest retractable roofs in the country, singing, football to gardening. A full up-to-date list of local clubs is available from the Wendover Community and Tourist Office at the Clock Tower, High Street, Wendover or telephone 01296 696759.

Good public transport serves the local community with frequent regular bus and train services. A journey to London Marylebone by Chiltern Lines takes less than 50 minutes. Buses link the village with Aylesbury and surrounding villages. A cycle route connects Wendover with Aylesbury to the north. The opening

of Wendover bypass in 1997 and the accompanying enhancement measures have taken much of the north to south through-traffic from the village centre leaving it a more pleasant place to stop and shop in the varied and interesting shops or have a meal in one of the numerous pubs and restaurants.

Since 1894, Wendover Parish Council has been working for the benefit of the residents of the parish and has, over the years, achieved a great number of improvements to the amenities. Amongst other things, Wendover has excellent play areas, well cared for by dedicated staff and with up-to-date safe play equipment. The street lighting is maintained to the highest possible standards and the Council runs the widely acclaimed Community and Tourist Office in The Clock Tower. In June and December, the Parish Council organises charity markets on the Manor Wiese in the village, with street entertainment.



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WENDOVER'S HISTORY

It has been suggested that the name Wendover comes from the old English for 'White Water', an apt description of the many streams of clear water issuing from the high Chiltern chalk hills either side of Wendover and into the valley.

There is ample evidence of early settlement in the area shown by the existence of the broad band tracks of the Ridgeway, an ancient trade route from Wessex, leading along the hills to the mines of high quality flint at Grimes Graves near Thetford in Norfolk. Many local parishes along the escarpment originated from Roman and Saxon farm estates, which gave them an agriculturally ideal mix of rich vale arable land, foothills pasture and high ground woodland producing fodder for pigs and ample building wood and fuel. Consequently Wendover was relatively important, and its two entries in the Domesday Book indicate an area of about 5700 acres and 175 persons.



Wonderful countryside

Although the church dates from the 12th century, not a great deal is known for several centuries except that Wendover was a Royal Borough passing through many hands and eventually reverting to the Crown. King John granted the holding of a market in 1214, though not continuous, a market is still held each Thursday. However, Wendover's main claim to fame in these early years was to be granted, by Edward 1 in 1300, the right to send two burgesses to Parliament. These have included John Hampden, George Canning and Edmund Burke. This right was only extinguished by the Reform Act of 1832. There is much documentary evidence of bribery and corruption and of mass evictions if tenants did not vote the way the landlord required, as in the case of Lord Verney and his supporters after he had purchased much of the village for this purpose in 1768.

Time must have passed very slowly. The main excitement, according to the Quarter Session



Rape Walk Wildflower Meadow

records, was the regular drunken brawls at the many pubs, of which there were twenty-seven in 1755. Reports also show the cruelty of the times, when in 1698, Mary Harrison was sentenced to be 'whipped at the cart tail through the High Street' (for stealing twenty skeins of thread).

There were the ever present hard times of poor harvests and disease. The Black Death in 1348/9 is thought to have killed a third of the population and seventy-three persons died of plague in 1664. From 1600, when registration began, there were forty 'bad' years, when burials exceeded baptisms.

Agriculture has always been the main employment, though lace making, straw plaiting

and shoe making did help to supplement the meagre wages until 'foreign' competition took away their work.

Wendover lies on the busy route from London to Buckingham and beyond, and, in 1555, it had

nine lanes and taverns for the use of passing travellers. Even today it has, for its size, a large number of pubs and licensed restaurants. The Turnpike Trust of 1721 improved road surfaces, which in winter had been nearly impassable over the Vale clays. A stagecoach ran from The Red Lion to The Bull Inn at Holborn, London, departing at 6.30 a.m. and taking five hours for a price of ten shillings. It returned the same day. A branch of the Grand Junction Canal at Tring was built in 1796 but always leaked badly and was finally closed in 1901. The railway connection direct to London Baker Street was not completed until 1892 and the ease of commuting to London had a marked effect on population growth which, by the 1991 census, had risen to nearly 7000.

A detailed parish map of 1620, commissioned by Dame Willey, the heiress to the Hawtrey family at nearby Chispen, and an Enclosures map of 1794 both show individual fields, their areas and names, tenants, roads and trackways, most of which form a majority of our modern day network of numerous footpaths and bridleways within the parish. The most recent change to benefit the village as a whole was the opening of the Wendover bypass in 1997, which had been first planned in 1937.

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AN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

The Church of St Mary

The oldest building in Wendover is the parish church, which is a third of a mile south of the village centre. It has 12th century origins, but its oldest features date from the late thirteenth century. Particularly interesting are the early 14th century nave capitals, carved with foliage entwined with human heads and wild beasts, and the south door with its halflozenge decoration of the same period. The church was heavily restored in the 19th century, principally by the famous Victorian architect, George Edmund Street, whose best known work is the Law Courts in the Strand. Street's restoration between 1868 and 1869 included designing the fine alabaster pulpit, the roodloft and the three stained glass windows in the sanctuary. He also provided a new north entrance to the church with a new timber porch and marching lychgate leading to the Heron Path.

The Heron Path

Along the Heron Path towards the village centre, is Backbridge House, a large 16th century house, which was re-fronted and its roof altered early in the 19th century. Opposite Backbridge House is Rope Walk Meadow recently planted as a Wildflower Meadow. Further along Heron Path is Winsterton



The Heron Path

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House, a fine Tudor-style house which was built between 1873 and 1877 for the then vicar of Wendover. It is now an old people's home.

The Village Centre

At the centre of Wendover is **The Clock Tower**, which houses the Tourist Information Centre and the Parish Council Office. It was built in 1942 as a market hall and lock-up and extended upwards to a height of nearly sixty feet in 1870, with the addition of the tower and spire. Opposite, the former **Library Institute** (now beauty salon) was built in 1863, and is a good example of the fashionable Victorian Gothic style of the day. The **Old School** (now houses), next to The Clock Tower was designed by Street in 1869, in a more traditional style.

The High Street

The **Red Lion Head**, on the left side of the High Street is one of Wendover's famous coaching inns. It has many old timbers internally, but was refaced about 1900. Further up, on the same side, **Bosworth House** (which is partly 'Antiques at Wendover') is a large 16th century house, with fine Tudor chimneys. Inside there are the remains of 16th century wall paintings, and under the side entrance archway is a vested 14th century basin for holy water.



Red Lion Head

Aylesbury Road

Many of the fine old houses along Aylesbury Road date from the 16th and 17th centuries, but were



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given fashionable new brick fronts in the 18th century. However, The Old Corner House, opposite the Clock Tower, is a fine 18th century building with decorated brick window arches and bricked-up carriage-way entrance. Notice also the large packing stone foundation on the corner. This building was owned by the Lords of the Manor of Wendover and was the centre of the village's turbulent political activities in the 18th century. The Windmill, further out, is said to be the largest in England. It was built between 1796 and 1804 and had its sails removed in 1904.

Tring Road

Bank Farm, on the right facing down Tring Road, is probably



Anne Boleyn Cottages

the oldest house in Wendover, with a brick front of 1700 hiding a large 15th century building. Opposite the early 17th Century thatched cottages are known as Anne Boleyn's Cottages, because they (or perhaps more likely the land on which they stand) are said to have been part of her dowry.

Further out York Buildings are two terraces of late 18th century cottages on the site of Casby Row, where the tenants of Lord Verney, excited for not voting for his nominee in the 1768 Wendover election, built their own houses.



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BUSINESS IN WENDOVER

For many centuries Wendover's economy was based on agriculture but with the introduction of better education, people's choices of employment expanded with the opening of the railway and spread of motorised transport. The number of farms in the parish has declined over the years even though the southern part of the parish is mainly agricultural. Mechanisation and changing fashions assisted the decline in local home based industries such as lace making and straw plaiting, both of which were important means of employment to women and children until the end of the nineteenth century.



Entertainment on the Market Square

Today Wendover is a popular place to live, being only five miles from the county town of Aylesbury and less than fifty minutes' rail journey away from London on the regular Chiltern Lines rail service to London Marylebone. As well as promoting and protecting the general interests of the local businesses, the voluntarily run Chamber of Trade also hopes to attract visitors to the village. The High Street offers a wide range of high quality shops where friendly personal service is assured. Accountants, solicitors and financial advisors also have a presence, along with builders, decorators and gardeners. The weekly Thursday market and the monthly Local Produce Market give other choices and bring in shoppers from outside the village.

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As well as the local residents, many visitors sample the delights of the numerous hostilities. A wide range of eating places cater for all tastes- from traditional British to Indian, Chinese and Italian - there is also a good old fish and chip shop! A full list of Tourism South East accommodation providers for the area is available from The Tourist Office in The Clock Tower. Tel: 01296 696759.

Wendover is a thriving community with a very special character and individuality where trade and commerce flourish.

Chairman Chamber of Trade

RAF TRADITION

The Halton estate was originally the property of the Rothschild family who were responsible for much of the development of the land, including the distinctive Rothschild buildings that still exist around the estate. Halton's connection with the armed forces dates back to before the formation of the RAF when in 1912 the London Defence Forces held exercises in the grounds. With the outbreak of the First World War, the estate was used as a training depot, with the troops being accommodated in tents, whilst the officers enjoyed the lavish splendour of Halton House, a continental chateau that became the centre piece of the estate.

In 1918, shortly after the death of Alfred Rothschild, the Air Council purchased the estate as a home for the newly formed RAF. In September 1919 the School of Technical Training moved from RAF Cranwell to form RAF Halton. In 1920, as part of his long-sighted plan for the re-organisation of the RAF on a peace time basis, Lord Trenchard introduced the Aircraft Apprentice Scheme which was to become synonymous with Halton. The No. 1 School of Technical Training provided a three-year apprentice course, during which the apprentices were taught the new skills

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of aircraft engineering. The apprentices, who were affectionately known as 'Trenchard's Boys' remained at Halton until 1993, when the final entry (no. 155) graduated.

There are few personnel in the Royal Air Force today who have not, at some time in their career, undergone training at RAF Halton. Almost all non-commissioned personnel complete their basic training here, and significant numbers remain for their professional trade training. In addition, all airmen up to and including the rank of flight sergeant attend management and leadership courses prior to substantive promotion. There are numerous short courses run at RAF Halton, ranging from environmental protection studies to media handling, as well as essential work to develop and support the longer-term training requirements of our Service. RAF Halton instructors are deployed world-wide to deliver training in-situ, wherever that is most cost effective. In terms of overall numbers, RAF Halton staff train approximately 20,000 students each year.

RAF Halton's airfield supports the Air Cadets organisation, including providing air experience flights and flying scholarships. Moreover, RAF Halton also houses a handful of lodger Tri-Service organisations, responsible for managing all aspects of training and dental care.



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TOURIST INFORMATION



Wind Clock Tower

If you are new to this area or if you are a visitor your first point of call should be the Tourist Information Centre at the Clock Tower. Many local people enjoy the services offered by Wendover's Tourist Information Centre, which is run by the Parish Council as both tourist and community information office. Wendover Tourist Office have helpful staff who will gladly provide information on places to visit, local events and entertainment plus an accommodation booking service and holiday information service for the whole of the county. Other useful services include information on where to eat, drink and shop locally plus a varied and interesting selection of guides, souvenirs and local produce.

TOURIST INFORMATION TELEPHONE NUMBER

Wendover

The Clock Tower, High Street

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Wendover Christian Centre,
Aylesbury Road 01296 623404
Open from 10.00 – 12.00 Monday to Friday

The Wendover Church Office@St Mary's
11 High Street
Wendover, Bucks HP22 6DU

CINEMAS

Odeon Superplex 0871 2344007
www.odeon.co.uk
High Wycombe UCI 08700 102030

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Aylesbury 0870 1264056

DOCTORS

Wendover Health Centre 01296 623452

DENTISTS

Mrs L. J Raybould 01296 622631
Number 35 01296 624163 or 626019

HOSPITALS

Stoke Mandeville Hospital 01296 315000
Wycombe General Hospital 01494 526161

LOCAL INFORMATION

Wendover Parish Council 01296 623056
Aylesbury Vale District Council 01296 585858
Buckinghamshire
County Council 01296 395000
Thames Valley Police 0845 8 505505
Lleods Chemist 01296 622166
Wendover Library 08452 303232

Heritage & Sons

Wendover's local Funeral Director
& Monumental Mason

146 Aylesbury Rd, WENDOVER,
Buckinghamshire, HP22 6AP,

Tel: 01296 620777

Fax: 01296 620717

E: heritage.wendover@traditionalfamilyfunerals.co.uk



INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS



LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Backs Herald	01296 31800
Backs Advertiser	01296 318300
Wendover News	01296 624270

www.wendover-news.co.uk

SPORT & LEISURE

Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre
 Vale Road, Park Street Aylesbury

Vale Area Office	01296 488555
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Gutmann Sports Centre
 Harvey Road,
 Stoke Mandeville

	01296 484848
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Wendover Swimming Pool
 Wharf Road.

For use by Wendover residents, contact the
 Tourist Information Centre 01296 696739
 for current information.

THEATRES

Civic Centre, Aylesbury	01296 486009
The Elgiva, Chesham	01494 582900
Limelight, Aylesbury	01296 431273
Wycombe Swan	01494 512000
Milton Keynes	01908 606090



Canal Path

YOUTH CENTRE

Wendover	01296 624473
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For a full list of local clubs and societies
 contact Wendover Tourist & Community
 Information Centre, at The Clock Tower,
 High Street, Wendover HP22 6DU
 01296 696739
www.chiltonweeb.co.uk/wendover



Kercher School Of Dance

This Family run business has now been in operation for 34 years and offers professional training in dance and more. The School operates in Aylesbury and has classes suitable for all ages from 2 years to Adult.

Styles we offer are:

Ballet, Modern, Tap, Jazz, National, Street, Disco, Adult Classes, Private Lessons & Singing Lessons
 For more information please contact Linda on: 01296 625763
 or Visit: www.kercherdance.com

The Musical Kidz Company

Runs Weekly Musical Theatre Workshop Classes in Aylesbury and Chesham.

The afternoons run from 2.30-5.30 and are great for those who wish to build up their confidence and creativity skills.

We also offer:

Half Term Workshop Weeks with West End and TV Professionals,
 A Summer Theatre Project, Audition Technique
 and Many Performance Opportunities.

For More info contact KT on 07989 350673
 or Visit: www.themusicalkidz.co.uk





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Email enquiries to :	jan@dc-kaye.co.uk

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Telephone : 01494 864650

The
**Children's
Room**
Day Nursery.



The
**Children's
Room**
Day Nursery

For children aged **3 months**
to 5 years. Full days / Half days
available. Open **Monday to Friday**
from **8am to 6.30pm**, excluding
Bank Holidays and Christmas holidays.
For more information, call us now on
01296 624 889 or visit our website at
www.thechildrensroom.co.uk

Bacombe Lodge
7-9 South Street
Wendover, Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP22 6EP

RESERVATIONS: 01296 622257

ROSSINI

20 High Street, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6EA

www.rossinirestaurant.co.uk