

REPORT TO: Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 18 June 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment
SUBJECT: The 'Heart of Halton' Plaque Scheme
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Halton has many famous places, people and landmark events, all of which have in some way shaped Halton and the towns and the parishes within the borough. Currently no one record of the achievements, places or people has been brought together in one celebratory scheme. This report sets out proposals to establish such a scheme – 'The Heart of Halton' which would be similar to the Civic Trust's Blue Plaque scheme. It will seek to identify and celebrate where Halton's achievers, people and activities took place or lived.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) The Board comments on the proposal to establish the Heart of Halton scheme**
- 2) Subject to the Board's agreement, a further report be brought before the Board, setting out the costs and operational requirements for implementing the scheme**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The towns of Runcorn and Widnes and the various borough Parishes have much to be proud of. From ground breaking scientific achievements to contributions to popular music and contemporary society being born or bred within Halton's boundaries.
- 3.2 The achievements and innovation may have happened elsewhere had it not been for the way in which Halton became a centre of excellence for a number of companies and individuals who decided to build their businesses or homes in the area. Examples of Halton's rich and varied heritage can be found in appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.3 To celebrate this eclectic mix of Halton's heritage it is proposed that plaques be erected on buildings etc which will signify where a significant aspect of Halton's heritage can be attributed to. In cases where buildings no longer exist, the plaques could be incorporated into adjacent street furniture etc.
- 3.4 To complement the plaques, online Web based maps will be developed, highlighting the location of the plaques and what they signify. This will be supported

from time to time with leaflets or other publications. An example of the maps is shown in appendix 2 of this report.

3.5 The plaques will also offer a cost effective way of developing heritage trails using the Web based maps, or for providing historical information to residents and visitors to the borough.

3.6 The proposal to establish the Heart of Halton scheme is at the exploratory stage. Subject to the Board's comments, a further report will be brought before the Board, detailing the costs, insurance, maintenance and legal implications of implementing the scheme.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Halton Economic Development and Tourism Strategy has specific policies on tourism which states that Halton will develop the tourism offer of the Borough to support the Liverpool City Region, and other brands as advised by the North West Development Agency, and in so doing ...*"will place the emphasis on investment in quality attractions which make a positive contribution to the overall quality of life and opportunities for employment for residents, potential new residents, and visitors ..."*

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications arising from this report

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The provision of such a scheme would enable walking tours of the borough to be undertaken at very little cost. It would also allow online investigation into the local areas past. *"To ensure all children and young people in Halton enjoy a healthy lifestyle that helps them to achieve physical and emotional well being"*

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

To show Halton entrepreneurial legacy and the factors which influence the shaping of Halton. *"To foster a culture of enterprise and entrepreneurship and make Halton an ideal place to start and grow economic activity"*

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of such a scheme would enable walking tours of the borough to be undertaken. *"To promote a healthy living environment and lifestyles to protect the health of the public, sustain individual good health and well-being, and help prevent and efficiently manage illness"*

6.4 A Safer Halton

The provision of such a scheme would enhance neighbourhoods, creating an understanding of past and present history, to be valued by those currently living there. *"To create and sustain better neighbourhoods that are well designed, well built, well maintained, safe and valued by the people who live in them, reflecting the priorities of residents"*

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

An appreciation of the Cultural Heritage that has made Halton what it is today will aid in the understanding of new projects and areas of local interest. *“To enhance, promote and celebrate the quality of the built and natural environment in Halton including tackling the legacy of contamination and dereliction, to further improve the borough’s image”*

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Implementation of the scheme represents a low risk. The risks involved are largely concerned with trying to ensure that the information displayed on the plaques is both accurate and valid. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the information is correct.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of this Act.

Appendix 1

THE HEART OF HALTON

As The Civic Society have a Blue Plaque scheme for Famous people, The Heart of Halton scheme could encompass a scheme for notable events/ activities/ people that have made Halton what it is today.

Instead of just celebrating characters it can be anything, from the people working on the atom bomb at the Waterloo Centre to the Silver Jubilee Bridge. Thomas Mottershead VC to Nicola Roberts band member of Girls Aloud.

Over 100 examples of that which could be incorporated are listed below.

| Type of item | Who/What/ Where/ When |
|--------------|--|
| People | <p>Thomas Mottershead VC Lewis Carroll John Hutchinson John McClelland, William Gossage Frederic Muspratt Holbrook Gaskell Henry Deacon William Smyth (c.1460–1514) who became Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, then Bishop of Lincoln and who built the grammar school Richard Barnes (1532–1587) who became Bishop of Carlisle, then Bishop of Durham Richard Bancroft (1544–1610) who became Bishop of London and then Archbishop of Canterbury.[9] Ludwig Mond, co-founder of Brunner Mond & Company. Sir Robert Mond (1867–1938) became a chemist and archaeologist and his younger brother Alfred Mond, 1st Baron Melchett (1868–1930) became an industrialist, financier and politician.[98] Charles Glover Barkla (1877–1944) who was born in Widnes was the winner of the 1917 Nobel prize in physics Thomas Wilkinson (1898–1942) of the Royal Naval Reserve, was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously in World War II Jack Ashley MP (b. 1922) Gordon Oakes MP (1931–2005) Andrew Higginson (b. 1977) is a professional snooker player Melanie Chisholm (b. 1974), was born and went to school in Widnes, is a former Spice Girl who was known as Mel C or Sporty Spice.[105] K Kim Cattrall (b. 1956), actress and star of Sex and the City, was allegedly born in Widnes. When Cattrall was less than a year old, her family moved to Canada. [106] Alistair Taylor (Mr Fixit for the Beatles) b 1935 D 2005 Became Gen Manager of Apple Records. Robert Done Footballer Played for Liverpool b:1904 d: 1982 Martrin Roscoe. Classical Pianist b:1952. Many Classical Albums, now teaches Royal Northern College Of Music. Derek Twigg. MP Mark Carlisle MP Paul Sherwen. B 1956. Professional Cyclist Alfred Young (16 April 1873 – 15 December 1940) was a mathematician Thomas Hazlehurst was born in 1816 in Runcorn His son Thomas Hazlehurst (1816–76) was involved with the business. He was a Methodist</p> |

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| | <p>who paid for the construction of 12 chapels and three schools in the area. Sir John Chesshyre (1662–1738), a prominent lawyer Nathan Alcock (1707–79), a noted physician Rev. Thomas Alcock (1709–98), Vicar of Runcorn, and writer and cider maker Edward John Smith (1850–1912), captain of the Titanic, purchased a retirement home in Higher Runcorn but never lived there because of his death aboard the Titanic Thomas Henry Hall Caine (1853–76), a novelist and playwright, was born in Runcorn Thomas Alfred Jones (1880–56) was awarded the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal during World War I boxer Robin Reid (1971–) attended secondary school in Runcorn The singer Nicola Roberts (1985–) from the British girl band, 'Girls Aloud,' comes from Runcorn.</p> |
| Events | <p>Leblanc process 1880s significant numbers arrived from Poland and Lithuania 1885 Widnes became a parliamentary constituency In 1974, as part of the Local Government Act 1972, Widnes Borough Council was abolished and its territory amalgamated with Runcorn to form the borough of Halton In 1507 a grammar school was established in Farnworth Widnes Vikings Rugby League Widnes Rugby Union Football Club Runcorn was a small, isolated village until the coming of the Industrial Revolution. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries it was a health resort 18th cent port began to develop on the south bank of the River Mersey During the 18th century water transport had been improved in the area by the Mersey and Irwell Navigation Trent and Mersey Canal. Runcorn to Latchford canal, and the Weston canal which gave better access to the Weaver Navigation system In 1868 the Runcorn Railway Bridge May 21st. In 1894 the Manchester Ship Canal was opened In 1926 four chemical companies merged to form Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). Southgate development designed by Sir James Stirling The Runcorn Ferry Runcorn Linnets FC. Runcorn history as a port stretching back to medieval times</p> |
| Places | <p>St Bede's church Roman Catholic church dated 1847 St Maria's church Roman Catholic church dated 1864 Bridewell, Farnworth Former bridewell dated 1827 Wayside pulpit, St Mary's church, West Bank Octagonal red sandstone ashlar pulpit The Saxon Queen Aethelflaed built a fortification on Castle Rock in 915 A.D Snig Pie House", but is now the "Mersey Hotel Water ditches surrounding Norton Priory The Sandstone Quarries Tanning and WW1 associated bits from Runcorn Rocksavage Hall Mariners' Mission, Irwell Lane 1831* Halton Castle 1071*^ Runcorn Town Hall, Bridge Street Weston Old Hall Chesshyre Library, Halton Village Halton Vicarage Seneschal's House, Halton Village Halton Old Hall, Halton Village 'The Tricorn', formerly a wing of Hallwood Hall No. 31 Main Street, Halton Village Norton Priory</p> |

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| | <p>Lodge Main Street, Halton Village Rock Farm, Main Street Halton Village Hollybank House, Main Street, Halton Village Nos. 125-127 Main Street Halton Village Halton House Halton Village 53, Holloway, Runcorn 58, High Street, Runcorn 71, High street, Runcorn Bridgewater House, Runcorn Brookfield Farm Runcorn Camden House, High Street, Runcorn Royal Hotel, Bridge Street, Runcorn The Elms, Weston Road, Runcorn Cavendish Farm, Weston Weston Cross & The Grange, Weston Old Hall, Weston Old Hearse House Parish Church, Runcorn Almshouses, Holloway Elim Chapel Carnegie library Egerton Street Cottage Hospital Spiritualist Church Stonehills House, Runcorn Welsh Chapel, Runcorn</p> |
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Appendix 2

Example of online maps

The current draft of this map can be found at:

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=101430745735614573546.00044b5f67615d1c5b9a7&z=12>

Heart Of Halton

A description of People, places and Events that have made the Borough of Halton what it is today.

Blue Pins signify interesting places

Red Pins Signify Listed Buildings, some of which also play a part in Halton's Heritage.

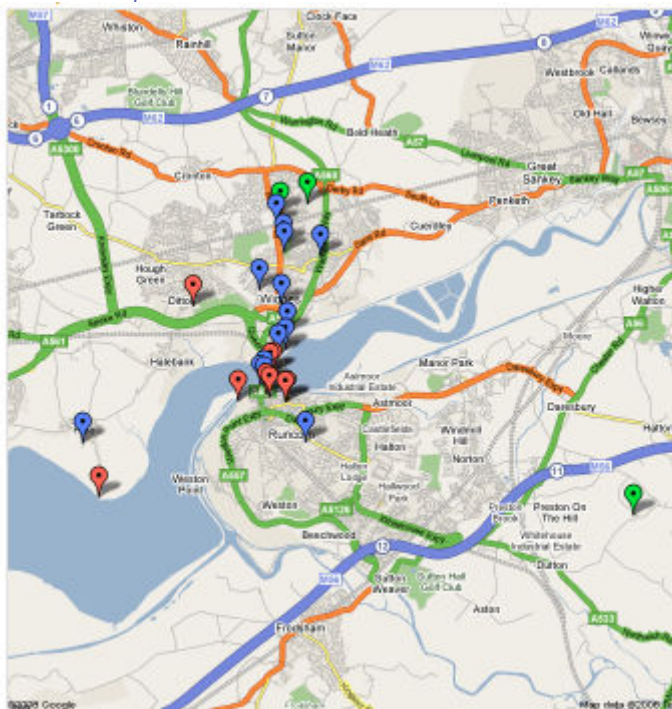
Green Pins indicate where someone famous is from and who they were.

2 views - Public

Created on Apr 21 - Updated < 1 minute ago

By iain.bisset

[Rate this map](#) - [Write a comment](#)



[Example of the text for each of the pins above](#)

[The Birthplace of the Childe of Hale](#)

Hale is famous for its quiet nature, cottages and countryside, but most of all for its most famous inhabitant who lived here more than 300 years ago. His name is John Middleton and was born in Hale in 1578, but is more commonly known as "The Childe Of Hale"! Even before he was 20 years of age, his height reach a staggering 9 foot 3 inches.

John Middleton died on August 23rd 1623, as entered into the Hale Church death register. His name is given and "Childe Of Hale" is written along side in pencil. His grave lies on the south side of St Mary's church surrounded by iron railings.

[Silver Jubilee Bridge](#)

The construction of the Silver Jubilee Bridge was started on April 25th 1956 and was opened on July 21st 1961 by H.R.H. Princess Alexandra of Kent.

In 1975 work was started to widen the bridge and this was done by Consultants, Mott Hay and Anderson. Contractor were a consortium of Leonard Fairclough and Redpath Dorman Long.

The extended bridge was opened by The Minister of Transport on 24th March 1977. At 330m the bridge is one of the largest steel arch bridges in the world