



VISIT
HALTON

HALTON HIGHLIGHTS

Issue 2



GET A
TASTE OF
HALTON

TASTE
HALTON

CAFÉ
CULTURE

FEEL GOOD
FOOD

A CULINARY
JOURNEY

RUNCORN • WIDNES • DARESURY • MOORE • HALE VILLAGE • PRESTON BROOK • SANDYMOOR



WELCOME

A MESSAGE FROM CONNOR SLATER

I'm Connor Slater, I grew up in Runcorn amongst a family of food lovers. From cooking with my grandparents and Auntie to training at Halton's Riverside College, Centre of Excellence in Catering & Hospitality, working as Head Chef at Michelin Star Restaurant Mana in Manchester and currently Sous Chef at two-Michelin-starred restaurant, Da Terra, in London. When it comes to food and hospitality, my passion is always about striving to push forward, develop what we do and get better every day. To be recognised for that hard work with a Michelin Star is one of the best feelings in the world.

I am delighted to write the foreword for Halton's first hospitality guide. In an area that spans over 34 square miles there's plenty to feast on, the borough of Halton brings the flavour game to a whole new level. From the coastline of the Mersey Estuary to the thriving countryside. All nestled between the cities of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester, it's the place that blends culture, heritage and nature with a community welcome.

You might know the area as the inspiration and setting for the cult classic 'Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps', but you'll find there's much more on tap these days, including artisan cafés & bakeries, vertical farming walls, dog friendly delis, fine foods and produce passed down

from generations of family traditions - and that's just for starters. Get a taste of Halton on your own foodie adventure, spoonfuls of fresh ice cream straight from the dairy or experience a taste from around the world.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, Taste Halton is your guide to 'sauce' the culinary highlights and mouth-watering delights. From our charming café culture to Halton's very own home-grown heroes. Tuck in and take a bite of everything on offer around the borough.

This bite sized brochure will hopefully serve as an appetizer before you visit, then you can dig in and sample our whole borough for yourself.

**HOT
HOT
HOT**

**TASTE
HALTON**

**GRAB LIFE BY
THE FORK**

**SATISFY YER'
CRAVINGS**

CONTENTS

CAFÉ CULTURE 04

Find out what's brewing and discover some of the independent cafés in Halton. Read our hints and tips on where to find both the café and the culture in the borough.

FEEL GOOD FOOD 16

There are lots of good mood foods to find in Halton, from the sustainable field to fork, supper clubs and artisan ice creams. Get the scoop on where to go for that feel good food fix.

A CULINARY JOURNEY 26

With its waterways and links to the ports, Halton has an affinity with foods from afar that have made the journey to the borough. Discover how history has made an impact on Halton's food scene.

MORE ON TAP 38

Discover even more secret spots, all selected by some of Halton's most dedicated foodies!

HALTON HAPPENINGS 42

Find out the latest goings on in Halton, to get the perfect pairing for your latest foodie expedition.

DELISH

YUM!



CAFÉ CULTURE

The café scene in Halton is becoming as bold as their blends. Whether you're just after a much-needed caffeine hit, or looking for a spot to catch up, we've got the guide to find the finest grinds.

From authentic Italian coffee shipped direct from Tuscany to a classic British brew, everyone's tastes are catered for and can be found somewhere in this borough. Whether it is independent coffee shops in the heart of the community, to cafés within unique spaces found in some of the area's cultural hot spots, you will find your firm favourite. Looking for that laid back vibe, a puppuccino for your pooch or are you a lover of an indulgent cake served with your catch up, there is something for everyone.

Halton's café culture is best served with Halton's art and culture, it is the perfect pairing. Halton's arts and cultural menu is extensive - from enjoying live performances and gigs at small intimate venues, to the stadium shows. There is also a legendary guitar shop in Runcorn, that many famous faces get their instruments from.

Looking for something more zen? Runcorn has a Buddhist temple which hosts mediation sessions, the right blend before a chai latte at one of the independent coffee shops in the Old Town.

PAIRS WELL WITH...

Looking for the perfect pairing? We've selected some of Halton's best offerings, which go hand in hand with our Café Culture picks...

1 Home made crafted cakes and bakes go well with an afternoon of arts and crafts at **Hazlehurst Studios**.
hazlehurststudios.co.uk

2 Get your caffeine fix with some perfectly roasted blends before getting your cultural fix at **The Brindley theatre**.

3 Afternoon Tea pairs well with exploring the heritage of Halton's legendary science and music scene at **Catalyst Science Discovery Centre**.

DIG IN!



THE WHOLE OF THE SPOON

82 Pit Ln, Widnes WA8 9HW

Independent café, The Whole of The Spoon, is located in the village of Farnworth in Widnes and is popular with the locals and visitors to the area. The coffee shop is well known for its laid back atmosphere, friendly staff as well as its menu! Whether it's a medium roast coffee, assorted teas, iced latte, hot chocolate, milkshake or smoothie you want to sip on – they serve it all.

The selection of cakes from local bakery, Emma's Bakery, will leave you spoilt for choice. But be quick, as they sell out fast. Satisfy your sweet tooth with their sumptuous brownies, blondies, chocolate truffle cake or school cake and everything in between – the choices are endless and a reason to return and try them all. They also have an extensive breakfast and lunch menu, from bagels to paninis and hot buttered toast, everything to keep you full all day.

There is also a book swap shelf, with lots of choice of different genres – so take down a book you have read and swap for a new one from the shelf. You can start it whilst enjoying a treat.

With ample outdoor and indoor seating, friendly service and relaxed atmosphere, it is the perfect pit stop for all the family, including the four-legged members who are also welcome to enjoy a puppuccino.



OPEN HOURS

Mon - Fri
8:00 - 16:00
Sat - Sun
9:00 - 16:00

IN THE MOOD FOR FOOD

IN THE LIMELIGHT

THE TERRACE CAFÉ

High St, Runcorn WA7 1BG

When going to The Brindley Theatre's Terrace Café, you can enjoy relaxing views of the Bridgewater Canal, and watch the world go by. Whether you are meeting friends and family for a catch-up, or a bite to eat before watching a performance, you won't be disappointed.

Enjoy freshly home-cooked food, as well as a choice of daily specials. There is a selection of delicious cakes, and the scones are now legendary! If you like to indulge in afternoon tea, where better to enjoy it than at the Terrace Café? (Be sure to book in advance!) In the summer, there is also an outdoor seating area, a lovely spot to soak up the views and the wildlife.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Brindley Theatre is undergoing building work from June 2024 for 22 months. This will include a large café-restaurant and enhancing the Brindley Green to make it welcoming and accessible for all. Please check business hours during this period.



OPEN HOURS

Weekdays
11:00 - 15:00

The Terrace Café is open one hour before most performances.



DELISH!

LUNCH & LEARN
TASTY!

TREAT YOURSELF

GIVE IT SOME (COFFEE) BEANS

HOT HOT HOT

CATALYST CAFÉ

Mersey Road, Widnes WA8 0DF

Spike Island is famous for the legendary Stone Roses gig that took place in the 90s. This man-made island is now home to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum, which is housed in a Grade II listed building. They host interactive exhibitions and workshops, as well as being home to a lovely café, which you can enjoy without paying admission into Catalyst if you're out and about, exploring Spike Island.

You'll be greeted by warm and welcoming staff and a tasty selection of snacks and drinks to choose from. Grab a drink and take in the scenic views of Spike Island, the River Mersey, and the Mersey Gateway Bridge. If bringing the kids or grandkids, they will be kept entertained with the play area outside of the café.

area. Afternoon teas can be booked on weekdays in term time, from Tuesday to Friday and include admission to the Catalyst galleries with all dietary requirements catered for.

DID YOU KNOW?
On the first Sunday of each month at 13:00, Catalyst hosts a free Dementia Café, offering a place to socialise with people in similar situations, in a relaxed setting. Sessions are drop-in, so there is no need to book.

For a special treat, book a Heritage Afternoon Tea, served in the glass-walled Observatory Gallery, with stunning views over the surrounding



8 A Taste of Halton



OPEN HOURS
Tuesday - Sunday
10:00 - 16:00
Plus Mondays on bank / school holidays

THE COFFEE HOUSE

Shopping City, Palacefields, Runcorn WA7 2GX

The Coffee House is a chain of independent coffee shops located across the North West, with one situated in Runcorn's Shopping City. You can take advantage of the free parking in Halton and visit the coffee shop. They serve a special blend of coffee that is roasted in-house and has a well-rounded medium roast, this is a must try for the cofficionado.

For the non-coffee drinkers, the hot chocolate is worth a mention as is the range of teas and chilled drinks. The food menu has plenty of tempting options for both breakfast and lunch, from buttery croissants and sausage muffins to granola yoghurt pots and toasties oozing with cheese. Not to mention the salads, fresh sandwich choices and their speciality mac and cheese - it's easy to see why you might come in for coffee and end up staying for lunch. It's not just the menu that makes it so great, it's also the friendly staff and great service that make it a firm favourite.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Coffee House' also have another location in Widnes!
83 Widnes Rd, Widnes WA8 6BJ



OPEN HOURS
Monday - Saturday
8:30 - 17:30
Sunday
9:30 - 16:00

THAT'S THE TEA

FANCY A BREW?

BREW LANE

170 Milton Rd, Widnes WA8 7JP

Nestled behind the DCBL Stadium, Brew Lane is a great addition to Widnes. This independent coffee shop is owned by Widnes-born Tom Gilmore who also plays for Widnes Vikings as scrum half.

A rugby player knows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and **Brew Lane is renowned for its delicious breakfasts**. Whether you prefer a veggie full brekkie, eggs benedict with smoked salmon, a full English or just a slice of toast, you'll find the portions generous and made with high-quality produce. The lunch menu is varied and includes burgers, toasties, fresh salads and more. Don't forget to check out the daily specials.

The afternoon tea is definitely worth a shout-out, you'll want your camera ready before indulging in the insta-worthy assortment. The cakes and treats on offer are hard to resist - from the soft and gooey brownies to muffins, cookies and waffles, there's so much on offer to hit that sweet spot.

The selection of hot drinks is impressive, and the coffee used in the shop can also be bought to enjoy at home - whether it is whole beans, ground or decaff.

Whether you are heading to the DCBL Stadium for a game or a catch up with friends, be sure to head to Brew Lane for your coffee fix.



DIG IN!

OPEN HOURS
 Monday - Friday
 7:00 - 15:00
 Saturday
 8:00 - 13:00

SATISFY YER' CRAVINGS



THE SHED

Runcorn Rd, Moore, WA4 6TU

The Shed is based in the heart of the picturesque village of Moore and is located close to many nature trails and cycle paths, making it the perfect meeting spot. Whether you are heading out for a stroll, run, hike, cycle ride or walk with the dog, The Shed is a great spot to meet, or head to, as a pit stop to refuel.

With a large car park and outdoor seating, you can sit in the sun and enjoy the wildlife whilst sipping on coffee, tea or hot chocolate. If you'd prefer to sit inside, you'll be greeted by a warm and cosy atmosphere. **Dogs are more than welcome, with free puppuccinos that are sure to get their tails wagging.**

The menu is full of fresh produce and cakes and bakes, coffee and speciality teas, as well as a selection of cold drinks. Why not try an iced honey black americano to kick-start your day? If you go for lunch, there is a huge choice of toasted sandwiches to choose from as well as vegan and veggie options too. Head out and enjoy a walk along the Bridgewater Canal. Take some paper and a pencil and follow the wildlife stations to stencil along the way.



OPEN HOURS
 Mon - Sat
 8:00 - 16:30
 Sunday
 10:00 - 16:00





COMMUNITY FUELLED



CHI CAFÉ

Phoenix Park Ave, Castlefields, Runcorn WA7 2LW

An Interview with Philip Thornton, Manager of CHI Café.

How did CHI Community Café start up?

Back in 2018, we started Creative Health Initiatives (CHI) as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. Our aim was to improve all aspects of health and wellbeing by offering a range of creative, physical and social activities. With the help of Windmill Hill Big Local, we refurbished the café and opened it as CHI Community Café in October 2019.

With it being a not-for-profit organisation, how is it run?

We are a small team which includes volunteers from the local area who are trained in food hygiene and preparation, barista skills and customer service. Without the help of the volunteers, it wouldn't be possible to run and open the café.

What is on the menu?

With this being a café for the community, it is important that the items are not only delicious but affordable too. Customers can enjoy homemade cakes, as well as breakfast and lunch items. One of our remits is to support local businesses so we buy Wirral based Adams & Russell

blended coffee beans as well as a range of delicious Cheshire Farm ice creams.

And you're dog friendly too?

Being in a park, we get lots of dog walkers and have always been dog friendly with free dog treats and we have been known to treat with the odd sausage. Pooches of all sizes are most welcome in the café.

How are you different from the high street coffee chains?

Making our customers feel valued is really important to us. All our staff take the time to talk to our customers and create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. We are also proud to have the only fully accessible changing room and toilet in Runcorn, which is important but not widely available.



"Being a café for the community, it is important that the items are not only delicious but affordable too!"

So what these community activities, what are they all about?

The purpose of the café is to improve the wellbeing of the residents. We have a large community room, which we run a programme of free events and activities from.

We have also been providing free school holiday activities and food (HAF) for children eligible for free school meals and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for four years.

We also fund SEND and young people's activities through our lottery funded 'Parklife' project. We are also able to support local creatives by displaying photography and art works in the café.'

Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit



SO MUCH MORE TO
TASTE

Make the most of your time in Halton and visit some of the Halton Highlights whilst out and about tasting all that Halton has to offer...

- 1 The Shed**

Runcorn Road
Moore, WA4 6TU

theshedmoore.com
IG: [the_shed_moore](#)
- 4 Brew Lane**

170 Milton Road
Widnes, WA8 7JP

0752 247 1430
IG: [brew.lane](#)
- 7 The Whole of the Spoon**

82 Pit Lane
Widnes, WA8 9HW

IG: [wholeofthespoon](#)
Sign up to the mailing list and get 10% off!
- 2 Hazlehurst Studios**

73A High Street
Runcorn, WA7 1AH

hazlehurststudios.co.uk
IG: [hazlehurst](#)
FB: [hazlehurstart](#)
- 5 The Coffee House**

Shopping City
Palacefields, WA7 2GX

0192 871 6363
coffeehouseonline.co.uk
- 8 Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum**

Mersey Road
Widnes, WA8 0DF

0151 420 1121
catalyst.org.uk
- 3 CHI Community Café**

Phoenix Park Ave
Castlefields, WA7 2LW

chi-community-cafe.org
- 6 The Terrace Café**

The Brindley,
High Street, Runcorn
WA7 1BG

0151 907 8360
IG: [thebrindleytheatre](#)

SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT...

If you would like to learn new skills in preparing fresh, healthy meals then check out Fresh Beginnings. They offer hands on classes, that teach you how to prepare home cooked meals from scratch. It's a great way to gain confidence and learn new ways to cook! *Find out more at visithalton.co.uk/food-drink*





FEEL GOOD FOOD

We all want to feel like we are making better choices, especially with our food. Whether it is looking at healthier options, sustainable produce to reduce your carbon footprint or choosing an eatery which has a positive impact on the community. All these factors dish up a serving of good-mood food, that makes it taste even better.

From cafés embracing new and innovative farming methods, powered by renewable energy, to growing methods that avoid the use of chemicals and pesticides, to reducing the carbon footprint of produce, Halton has them all. The feel-good food in Halton is best enjoyed with a serving of wide-open spaces and nature.

What better way to enjoy all this healthy, delicious food, than to get out and about in the borough? We've got Green Flag parks, Trans-Pennine Trails, waterways and cycle paths to get around the region. There are 106 cycle routes and the green belt covers approximately one-third of the land in the borough. If you're a fan of open spaces to explore, we have 10 local nature reserves, 47 local wildlife sites and 12 open spaces of Green Flag standard, so there are plenty of ways to get out and about in Halton's rural hinterland to keep you feeling good for longer.

PAIRS WELL WITH...

After another perfect pairing? We've chosen some of Halton's best offerings, which go perfectly with our Feel Good Food picks...

1 Artisan ice cream is best enjoyed with a walk along the many pathways, cycleways and bridleways in the area.

2 Homemade cakes and bakes made with homegrown produce is the perfect fuel before an adrenaline filled activity such as hitting the dry slope or ice skating.

3 Eat your greens and then get out in the Green Flag parks found in Halton.

GOOD
FOOD
GOOD
MOOD

COMMUNITY
FUELLED

HEATH CAFÉ

The Heath Business and Technical Park, Heath Rd,
Weston, Runcorn WA7 4QX

Heath Café is a unique addition, as it is located in a business park. Heath Park is committed to community well-being and creating a sustainable and net zero environment for future generations.

From the friendly staff and high-quality service to the delicious daily specials, there are lots of reasons to return. Take advantage of the free Wi-Fi while you tuck into your breakfast or lunch.

If you are getting a takeaway, all refreshments are served in environmentally friendly containers which can either be reused, recycled or is compostable or biodegradable.

The community is at the very core of The Heath, with the popular Eat @ The Heath Community Group meetings. These are open to everyone and are a great way to socialise and make new friends. The weekly meetings are every Wednesday 11:30 - 13:30 and the monthly meeting is the last Wednesday of the month which includes a two course meal and entertainment. Booking is required.

Find out more at
theheath.com/community



OPEN HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00 - 16:00

Breakfast from
8:00 - 10:30

Lunch from
11:30 - 14:00

DID YOU KNOW?

An edible wall will be returning to Heath Café in late 2024. Customers will be able to pick leafy greens that are grown using pioneering hydroponic vertical farming technology.

TREAT
YOURSELF

LEGENDARY
EATS

THE BROOKE CAFÉ AT NORTON PRIORY

Tudor Rd, Windmill Hill, Runcorn WA7 1SX

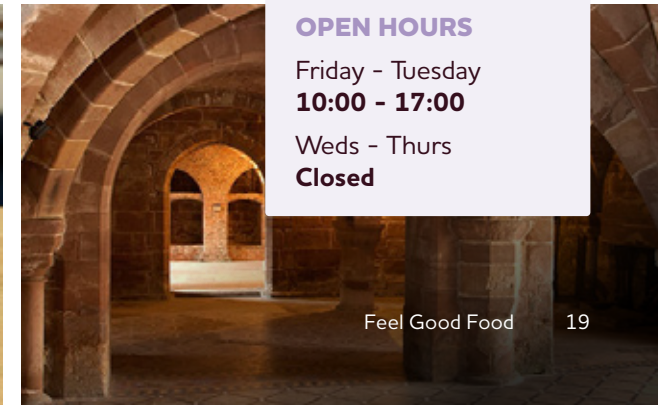
Norton Priory Museum & Gardens is a great place to visit, with its stunning Undercroft, St Christopher Statue and artefacts on display and its beautiful walled gardens. Let's not forget Brooke Café, which is worthy of a visit in its own right. It is operated by Halton Community Day Services on behalf of Norton Priory.

The Community Day Service supports adults with learning disabilities, mental health, and physical and sensory disabilities to learn and develop valuable employment skills. The café's team is made up of professional caterers as well as those supported by the service. They are all extremely friendly and helpful, providing excellent service.

With an extensive menu, from freshly cooked breakfast dishes and sandwiches to a full lunch menu with homemade soups and quiches. There is something for

everyone and all excellent value for money. Looking for something sweet? You'll find it hard to resist the cakes, which are baked fresh on-site. You can also buy Priory Ale in the café, which is brewed in the grounds at Norton Priory and is a must try for any ale lovers.

The café produces its own ice cream which can be bought in the café. Also, fruits and vegetables from the walled garden are used in the dishes and cakes served at the café. For chocolate lovers, the luxury hot chocolate is choccolicious!



OPEN HOURS

Friday - Tuesday
10:00 - 17:00

Weds - Thurs
Closed

SUSTAINABLE GROWING
 PLANT VEGAN EATS POWERED
 COMMUNITY FUELLED

FIELD 28

Chester Rd, Daresbury WA4 5LR

An Interview with Jan Dobbs, owner of Field 28.

What inspired you to start Field 28?

During COVID pandemic in 2020, restaurants were forced to close. The produce that was growing for restaurants and chefs would have been wasted, unless we could find an outlet for it. We decided to start a veg box scheme that could be enjoyed by many local people, whilst avoiding waste.

When the world returned to normal a number of customers continued to enjoy the convenience of the veg box but for others, they preferred to return to a shopping experience, encouraging us to create a small farm shop for them to visit. With the addition of a deli kitchen and bakery, the field chefs use the fresh veg and salad to make deli items which are available in the shop and cafe.

What kind of produce do you offer?

We continue to offer our veg boxes which showcase a journey of seasonal items grown at Field28. In addition to our fresh produce and English Flowers grown on the farm the shop has a range of pantry items, fresh cheese, our own freshly

baked bread and pastries and recently the local Daresbury Ice cream. The Deli café @ Field28 offers a range and homemade items both sweet and savoury served with a range of hot and cold drinks.

So what makes Field 28 unique?

At Field 28, we take pride in using growing methods which always produce high-quality veg, salad micro greens and English flowers without the use of pesticides and biocides. We use a no-dig technique that allows us to ensure that the soil we grow in is improved with each year to preserve its goodness.

Once a month our doors remain open after hours for a Chef and Growers seed to plate dinner using the delicious produce that we grow. In addition to our supper clubs, we also host a series

"Our Seed to Plate Supper Club, showcases the delicious produce that we grow."

GRAB LIFE BY THE FORK



of events throughout the year - from growing experiences to fine dining.

What is something that makes you proud to part of Field 28?

We are proud that our diversity and determination to make Field 28 succeed provides employment for several talented team members and we are extremely grateful to the local people and neighbours who have become valuable customers and really seem to enjoy visiting.

OPEN HOURS

Mon - Tues	10:00 - 16:00	Weds - Fri	10:00 - 17:00
Saturday	10:00 - 16:00	Sunday	10:00 - 15:00



Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit



DARESBURY DAIRY

Penkridge Lake Farm, Newton Lane, Daresbury WA4 4HZ

An Interview with Claire, Owner of Daresbury Dairy

Can you tell us about Daresbury Dairy and the inspiration behind it?

My husband's family have run a dairy farm in the beautiful setting of Daresbury for many generations. Having worked in a marketing role in the food and drink industry I was really inspired by quality, locally sourced ingredients and produce, but with zero experience in making ice cream I took a complete leap of faith to create the best quality ice cream. And armed with a plan and determination, we converted a calf shed into a manufacturing room. We carry the milk across the yard to be pasteurised and then to be made into our ice cream, which can be purchased here at the farm.

What makes Daresbury Dairy ice cream different?

Our beloved Friesian cows graze on the lush pastures and provide us with fresh milk. We only use the finest ingredients and where possible we use fresh fruit for our flavours, to retain the quality and integrity of our ice cream. At the shop we have a



DIG IN!



OPEN HOURS
Weds - Sun
(+ Bank Hols)
12:00 - 17:00

"Each artisan batch of Multi Award Winning Daresbury Ice Cream is inspired by quality, locally sourced ingredients and produce."

scoop cabinet with 12 flavours and around half of these flavours are best sellers that remain on the menu constantly.

We change the rest with various specials. Many of our ice creams are gluten-free and we also make dairy-free sorbets too.

How do you create new flavours for your ice cream?

I am inspired by the seasons, sourcing fresh and readily available produce to be puréed. Because we create small artisan batches, we're able to adapt and create new flavours considering trends, customer requests and national occasions such as Hot Cross Bun flavour at Easter to Mince Pie or Cherry and Amaretto at Christmas. Some of the more unusual requests include a delicious Lychee flavour

to the more unusual Buckwheat flavour – that was an interesting process to get the balance of flavour right, but we did it.

Are you open all-year-round?

We are currently open Wednesday to Sunday and bank holidays. Customers can sit and enjoy ice cream from our scoop cabinet whilst sitting at our picnic benches overlooking the pond or purchase a pack to take home.

In winter months our opening hours do reduce (and we close in January) so it's always best to double check on our website.

Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit



SO MUCH MORE TO
TASTE

Get the endorphins flowing as you make your way around Halton trying the good mood foods...

1 Heath Café

Heath Road
Runcorn
WA7 4QX

0192 824 9883
theheath.com
FB: TheHeathCafe

2 The Brooke Café @ Norton Priory

Tudor Road
Windmill Hill
WA7 1SX

0192 856 9895
nortonpriory.org/cafe.php
FB: NortonPriory

3 Runcorn Hill Park

Highland Road
Runcorn
WA7 4PT

4 Growing @ Field 28

Chester Road
Daresbury
WA4 5LR

0192 574 0685
field28.com
IG: growingfield28

5 Daresbury Dairy

Newton Lane
Daresbury
WA4 4HZ

daresburydairy.co.uk

6 Runcorn Ski Centre

Town Park
Stockham Lane
WA7 6PT

0192 870 1965
runcornski.weebly.com

7 Planet Ice

Earle Road
Widnes
WA8 0TA

0151 420 7930
planet-ice.co.uk

8 Victoria Park

Birchfield Rd
WA8 7SU





A CULINARY JOURNEY

Halton is a part of Liverpool's City Region and has been connected to Liverpool docks since the 18th Century, which in turn had a significant impact on the development of the area which started the Chemical Revolution.

The docks also brought flavours from around the world, with tea, coffee and spice merchants making their way into the area which influenced local food and tastes.

Runcorn boasts one of the oldest delis in the country, with the first shop opening in 1884, listed as a tea and coffee merchant, grocer and provisions dealer.

With new flavours came new beginnings, as families migrated to the area, bringing with them new foods and recipes. These have become a staple ingredient within Halton's food offerings, such as authentic Italian coffee from Tuscany to the smells and flavours of Thailand, you are transported to far-flung places with every bite.

As you take a culinary journey around the borough, take a trip through Halton's surprising and rich heritage which includes, giants, castles, saints and a chemical revolution... there is lots to be savoured.

PAIRS WELL WITH...

After another perfect pairing? We've chosen some of Halton's best offerings for a Culinary Journey around the region...

1 A feast of famous continental meats and cheeses is best served with a historical feast exploring a castle for stunning views.

2 Sip on the authentic Italian coffee and then get a historical fix in the charming village of Hale with its thatched roofs and Childe of Hale statue.

3 Taste faraway flavours and then take a moment to wander through Halton's very own Wonderland and learn the history of Lewis Carroll.



ESPOSITO'S

Victoria Park, Birchfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7SU
81 Highlands Road, Runcorn WA7 4PT

An Interview with Danny, the owner of Esposito's.

How did Esposito's start up?

We started with ice cream vans back in the 70's, when my Dad came over from Italy. I then joined him in the 90's and worked with him in the parks. We then evolved in 2015, when we got an opportunity to tender for an Ice Cream Parlour in Victoria Park. We were successful, and it was from then we began to evolve and branched out into coffee and our cafés. We won the tender for our Runcorn Hill Park café, followed by our Mill Dam Park, Kirkby location in 2021. We have now just opened our latest branch in Court Hey Park in Huyton in 2023.

Is your gelato still as popular as it was in the 70's?

Yes! Our gelato is one of our best sellers. It's authentic Italian gelato, we import high-quality ingredients from Italy to make small batches, using all great ingredients for our flavours.

Can you recommend any signature dishes or drinks that first-time visitors must try?

Definitely try our coffee if you like coffee, it's imported from Tuscany in Italy. We also have



"We import high-quality ingredients from Italy to make small batches of our gelato."



homemade cakes which we sell using all great ingredients. I'd of course try our gelato too. If you're still hungry, or looking for something more filling, I'd recommend our toasted Artisan Sandwiches made on Italian bread. We have some delicious flavours made with high-quality butchers' meats and cheeses - we also have vegetarian options too.

What makes you unique compared to others in the area?

We are English-Italian, so there is an Italian feel to it with the coffee, gelato, and bread. But we have English-style cakes which we make that go down well. We bring the best of Italian and the best of English together, I think that's what makes us unique!

OPEN HOURS

Monday - Sunday 9:00 - 17:00

Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit

**LOCAL
FAVOURITE**

**GOOD
FOOD
GOOD
MOOD**

**KEEPING IT IN
THE FAMILY**

DELISH!

MONKS DELI

2 Granville Street Runcorn WA7 1NE

Family run deli with five generations of expertise. Serving up German cured meats, French cheeses and authentic Italian pasta.

So how did Monks Deli start?

Monks Deli is a family-run delicatessen spanning five generations. Our first shop opened its doors in Runcorn, just a stone's throw from the banks of the River Mersey in 1884, making us one of the oldest delis in the country!

Out of everything that you serve up at Monks, what do you find is the most popular?

Lunchtime is always very busy. As well as our fantastic selection of pies and pastries we also offer an unparalleled selection of lunchtime offerings from our sandwich and salad bar. All our salad is prepared fresh every day and all our meats and cheeses are cut to order. You won't find a fresher or higher quality lunch in town. We don't believe in the 'pre-packed sandwich'.

At Monks Deli all our sandwiches are made fresh to order while you watch, which means you can have exactly what you want! In terms of individual products Johnson's meat pies are definitely our most popular. People in this town grew up on them and they're still made to the same great recipe.



What do you think has allowed Monks Deli to be a success over so many years?

We may have moved around the town to multiple different shops over the last 140 years, but we're still the same family serving fine food with a side of old-school customer service.

None of the above would have been possible without the good people of Runcorn, who have shopped with us for five generations!

What is it that makes Monks Deli so unique?

We're an award-winning delicatessen specialising in the finest produce. From Cheshire pork sausages to local honey, we love to provide our customers with not only the best of British but the best that Cheshire has to offer. We also pride ourselves on our unrivalled offering of continental classics such as German cured meats, French cheeses, authentic Italian pasta and much more.

"We love to provide our customers with not only the best of British but the best that Cheshire has to offer."

OPEN HOURS

Tues - Weds 7:30 - 14:00	Thurs - Fri 7:30 - 15:00
Saturday 7:30 - 14:00	Sun - Mon Closed

Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit

**FAMILY
FUELLED**

**HOT
HOT
HOT**

EM'S COOKHOUSE

140 Birchfield Rd, Widnes WA8 9ED

An entrepreneur's dream come true. To serve and fill some bellies with delicious Thai food.

Can you share the journey behind Em's Cookhouse?

Em's Cookhouse has been a dream in the making since 2018, but I was young with a love for travel, which meant putting that dream on hold. However, with the challenges brought by the Covid pandemic and feeling dissatisfied with my job, I decided it was time to take the leap and make my dream a reality.

Together with my partner, while juggling full-time jobs, we dedicated our weeknights and weekends to renovating a caravan, a process that took about a year and a half.

What sets the flavours of your food apart in Halton?

Our food stands out from what is currently available in Halton. At Em's Cookhouse, everything is cooked fresh to order, with all sauces and spring rolls crafted in-house. Our menu introduces flavours that may be unfamiliar to many, particularly Thai cuisine. I have loved introducing dishes that are so foreign to many people and watching them fall in love with Thai food and even become regulars!



TASTY!

**BUT FIRST...
FOOD**

"I love introducing dishes that are so foreign to many people and watching them fall in love with Thai food!"



OPEN HOURS

**Tuesday - Saturday
12:00 - 18:00**

How do you approach sustainability?

We reduce our environmental footprint by exploring composting options for the minimal food/veg waste generated during prep. Most of our takeout packaging and cutlery are recyclable too, aligning with our commitment to environmental consciousness.

Do you ever host or take part in any special events?

We're located in Widnes, but we're available for private events, weddings, festivals. We also operate at local & private events outside of Widnes, such as, Lymm Historic Transport Day, Glazefest and the All-Girls Rugby League festival at Halton Hornets.

Prepare for your next adventure, see our blogs for plenty of inspiration: visithalton.co.uk/plan-your-visit

SCHOLARS RESTAURANT

Riverside College, Kingsway, Widnes WA8 7QQ

Head to the exclusive Scholars Training Restaurant at Riverside College for a culinary experience not to be missed. With silver service and gourmet food inspired by dishes from around the world you will not be disappointed – and all without the expensive price tag.

Food is exquisitely prepared and served by talented, Centre of Excellence in Catering & Hospitality students who are trained to first class standards by expert lecturers.

Alumni students include Connor Slater, who at twenty-three years old was promoted to Head Chef at Michelin Star Restaurant Mana in Manchester. Scholars Restaurant not only gives students like Connor the opportunity to experiment and try out new styles to inspire their future career, whilst allowing the public to get a taster of things to come.

IN THE MOOD FOR FOOD

FEEL GOOD FOOD



OPEN HOURS

Tues, Thurs, Fri
12:00 - 13:00



COFFEE, TASTE, INDULGE

BIG DRINKS, SMALL PLATES

OTTERBURNS

Otterburn Street, Sandymoor, Runcorn WA7 1YN

Welcome to Otterburns - your spot for all-day indulgence and refined evenings in Sandymoor, Runcorn.

This versatile, south-facing venue transitions seamlessly from a sunlit coffee house offering breakfast, brunch, and lunch to an upscale wine bar and restaurant, featuring British modern tapas and quality wines and beers by night

This family-run business prides itself on using fresh, locally sourced ingredients and delivering exceptional service. Whether you're enjoying a casual coffee or a sophisticated dinner, every moment at Otterburns is designed to be memorable.

COMING SOON

Private Events

Stay tuned for exciting developments as we expand to cater for private parties, from children's birthdays to wedding receptions, our team is dedicated to making your special occasions unforgettable.

OPEN HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 22:00
Friday - Sunday 9:00 - 23:00





SO MUCH MORE TO
TASTE

Travel around the borough on a culinary journey, feed your curiosity and find out more about the surprising heritage...

1 Esposito's

Victoria Park
Birchfield Road
Widnes WA8 7SU

81 Highlands Road
Runcorn
WA7 4PT

espositosicecream.co.uk
IG: [espositodeli](https://www.instagram.com/espositodeli)

2 Monks Delicatessen

2 Granville St,
Runcorn
WA7 1NE

0192 858 0086
monksdeli.co.uk

3 Hale Village

Hale
Halton
L24 4AX

4 Em's Cookhouse

140 Birchfield Road
Widnes
WA8 9ED

0748 211 8260
IG: [ems.cookhouse](https://www.instagram.com/ems.cookhouse)

5 Scholars Restaurant

Riverside College
Kingsway
Widnes
WA8 7QQ

0151 257 2015
riversidecollege.ac.uk/scholars

6 Otterburns

Otterburn Street
Sandymoor
Runcorn
WA7 1YN

otterburns.co.uk
info@otterburns.co.uk

7 Lewis Carroll Centre

All Saints Church
Daresbury
WA4 4AE

lewiscarrollcentre.org.uk

8 Halton Castle

Castle Road
Runcorn
WA7 2BE



MORE ON TAP

TASTE HALTON
DIG IN!
TIME TO GET STUCK IN



Halton is a rural hinterland boasting a range of fascinating attractions, heritage and beautiful natural landscapes.

The area is perhaps best known for its industrial heritage and iconic Silver Jubilee Bridge, however, there is so much more to Halton than meets the eye. From castles, saints and well known tv spots, there is lots to see and do whilst you sample the food from the many independent and unique eateries in the borough.

BITESIZE RECOMMENDATIONS

Claire Whitlow
Owner of Daresbury Dairy

THE RED LION

The Red Lion in Moore is a firm favourite of mine. The food is all freshly cooked and uses locally sourced ingredients. Plus they also serve Daresbury Dairy ice cream on their dessert menu – not to be biased!

*Red Lion, 19 Runcorn Road
Moore WA4 6UD*

Phil Thornton
Chi Community Cafe

THE NORTON ARMS

I recommend visitors to go to The Norton Arms pub, which does a fantastic Sunday roast and selection of cask beers!

*The Norton Arms, Main Street
Runcorn WA7 2AD*

AN EXTRA SLICE

HALE VILLAGE

Take a trip to the village of Hale, it is like taking a step back in time. This charming village, in the borough of Halton, has rows of thatched cottages, cobbled streets and historic architecture that gives visitors a glimpse into its past. It even has its own legend, the Childe of Hale, John Middleton, was said to be 9ft 3 inches. The tale is that he slept with his feet sticking out of the windows. Go and stand next to the Childe of Hale statue, found in the centre of the village.

Take a walk along the river and visit the lighthouse, perched on a sandstone cliff and overlooks the coastline. After working up an appetite, head to the Childe of Hale for delicious pub grub and welcoming atmosphere.

*Childe of Hale, 6 Church End
Hale L24 4AX*

RING O' BELLS

Daresbury is home to some great walking spots, such as Daresbury Firs. Take a stroll through the foliage and serene atmosphere for a peaceful outing. Keep your eyes peeled for local wildlife.

Located just across from Daresbury Firs, you'll find Ring O' Bells the perfect pit-stop for comforting grub post-walk. Originally Daresbury's courthouse in the early 19th century, this cosy countryside pub offers a traditional menu serving the best of British seasonal dishes.

The laid-back, cosy atmosphere perfectly complements your day in Daresbury. They also welcome well-behaved pups in selected areas, including their lovely outdoor gardens.

*Ring O' Bells, 7 Chester Road
Daresbury WA4 4AJ*





LET'S PLAY!



SHAKE IT UP!



VR WAREHOUSE

Level up your day out with VR Warehouse. Immerse yourself in a Virtual Reality. Choose your adventure! Zombies, Music, Horror, Fantasy, escape rooms, you name it, they've got it.

Suitable for adults and families with children aged 8 and above, VR Warehouse promises a unique and exciting experience.

Unit 31 Percival Lane,
Runcorn WA7 4UX

SOCIETY TAP ROOMS

After travelling to an alternate reality, head over to Society Ltd in Runcorn for great times on tap. Their mouth-watering menu serves street food dishes from tasty tacos, juicy burgers, and wings to loaded fries. This trendy tap house and microbrewery also offers Craft and Cask ales, real cider, cocktails, and live music. Sit back and enjoy the lively atmosphere of this vibrant spot.

33 Ashridge Street,
Runcorn WA7 1HU



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visithalton.co.uk



SCAN ME



@visithalton

*See website for full T&Cs

READ
ALL
ABOUT
IT!

HALTON HAPPENINGS

Looking for all the latest happenings in Halton? Look no further! Halton is a vibrant borough brimming with exciting activities and attractions that cater to every taste and interest. From breathtaking natural parks and scenic trails to thrilling activities and interactive museums, Halton offers a wealth of experiences that make it the perfect destination for everyone.

Food lovers will want a slice of Halton's diverse culinary scene, offering everything from cosy cafes and quaint country pubs to trendy artisan bars and those serving dishes from around the world.

Wherever you decide to grab a bite, you'll find something to suit every palate with each bite certain to tantalise your tastebuds.

WOW!

ONLY IN
HALTON



SO MUCH MORE TO
TASTE

WELCOME

Wherever you decide to grab a bite, you'll find something to suit every palate with each bite certain to tantalise your tastebuds.

With so much to see, do and taste, Halton truly has something for everyone.

Whether you're planning a day trip or a weekend getaway, Halton's unique attractions and diverse offerings are sure to make it a highlight of your adventure and with free parking around the borough, you can savour every moment. So, why wait?

Visit our website to plan your trip and discover the best of Halton today!

www.visithalton.co.uk



**SCAN HERE
FOR MORE TASTES**



VISITHALTON.CO.UK

**SHARE YOUR
HALTON FOODIE STORIES...**
stephanie.davies@halton.gov.uk